



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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 11 A.M. on Thursday, the 23rd November, 1944.

**PRESENT**

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

**SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

(To which answers were laid on the table.)

**Madrassa Education**

Khan Sahib Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY and Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI asked :

2. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether a Conference on Madrassa Education was held at Sylhet in October last?

(b) If so, what decisions were arrived at in that Conference regarding the change in the Madrassa Curriculum ?

(c) Is it a fact that as a result of the recommendations of the said Conference Government propose to introduce Urdu in the Madrassa as alternative to Arabic ?

(d) If so, are Government aware that this measure will strike a death blow to the learning of Arabic ?

(e) Are Government aware that the knowledge of Arabic is essential for understanding Quran, Hadis, Fiqah ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

2. (a)—Yes.

(b) to (e)—Government have received neither a copy of the proceedings of the Conference nor any proposals from the Director of Public Instruction on the recommendations of the Conference.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Who called the Conference—whether the Director of Public Instruction or the Hon'ble Minister ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: The Director of Public Instruction.

Khan Sahib Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Was the Conference called at the instruction of the Hon'ble Minister ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Yes, with the approval of Government.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Did the Hon'ble Minister attend the Conference ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Yes, I attended the Conference.

Khan Sahib Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY : Is it a fact that a decision was made at the Conference that Urdu can be taken up as an alternative to Arabic in the Madrassa ?



The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Yes, in the Conference opinions were divided but at last the members agreed that there should be the alternative of Urdu in place of Arabic.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I know whether it was a mass meeting?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: It was a meeting of some selected representatives only of the Province.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I know whether they were educational representatives or prominent persons?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Both educational officers and representatives of the public.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister recollect a few names at least of the persons who attended the meeting?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Among the M. L. As, Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury and Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur Rahman attended the meeting. Invitation was issued to these two gentlemen and also to Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed but Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed could not attend. Among the Maulanas, Maulana Abdur Rashid and Maulana Abdul Hamid and the Principal of the Madrassa, Maulana Muhammad Hussain attended the Conference.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Did the representatives of the Education Department give their opinion in this important question?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Yes, Sir.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Is it a fact that the question was not discussed on its merit?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Yes, it was discussed on its merit.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Are Government aware that the decision was made after the Conference was concluded?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: No, Government are not aware of it.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Will Government make an enquiry about it?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I don't see the necessity of it. They have already submitted their decision.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Will Government place a copy of the proceedings before the House, before they bring the recommendations of the Conference into operation, in consideration of the fact that they include a very responsible and important public matter namely, Muslim Religious Education?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: The suggestion of the hon. Member will be remembered.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: We have a long list of Starred Questions. If hon. Members put so many supplementary questions relating to one Starred Question, there will be hardly any time to finish the list, with the result that many Questions ready for answers will go unanswered.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister see that a copy of the proceedings is sent to Muslim Members of the House at least?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Very well, Sir, that suggestion will be considered.

### Import of Cotton goods into Assam

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT asked:

3. (a) Will Government be pleased to state under which Ordinance the import of Cotton Goods into Assam for civilians is prohibited?
- (b) Are Government aware that Calcutta shop-keepers are unable to, on account of this restriction, despatch even essential household piece-goods into this Province?



(c) Do Government propose to take necessary steps to relieve this inconvenience?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

3. (a)—Under the Bengal Cotton Cloth and Yarn Movements Control Order, 1944, which came into force on the 21st August 1944.

(b) & (c)—The restriction obviously applies to such household piece-goods as are included in cotton cloth ; but such goods can be despatched by Calcutta Shopkeepers through Messrs. Shaw Wallace and Company, who on the recommendation of this Government, have been appointed by the Bengal Government as sole permit holders for Assam.

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT : In view of the probability that the Bengal allotment was based largely on the pre-war consumption and obviously included a large amount on behalf of Assam which the province always bought from Calcutta, will Government please investigate the possibility of having the two provincial allotments separated so that Assam may not suffer this inconvenience? As things stand at present, if we want to buy, say, half a dozen handkerchiefs, are we to go to Messrs. Shaw Wallace for them?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Unfortunately, that is the position, Sir. But I have asked our Textile Commissioner to see that the disability mentioned by my hon. Friend is removed. He has promised to take up the matter with the Government of Bengal. Failing any suitable reply, I propose to apply to the Government of India on the subject.

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT : Thank You, Sir.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given.)

#### Catering Establishments Control Order, 1944

Mr. A. WHITTAKER asked :

\*109. Will Government be pleased to state with reference to the Catering Establishments Control Order, 1944—

(a) How many establishments in Shillong have been licensed?

(b) What conditions the Deputy Commissioner, Khasi and Jaintia Hills has imposed on owners of such establishments in the matter of the supply of meals?

(c) How many meals are served in licensed establishments to (i) Civilians and (ii) Military personnel?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

109.(a)—4 canteens run by the W. V. S. or Y. M. C. A. for troops, 6 Chinese Restaurants are approved establishments and licenses are under issue.

(b)—(1) 3 course hot meals.

(2) Maximum price Re. 1-12-0 a meal.

(3) Hot meals may only be served between 12 noon and 13.30 hours, and 18.00 hours and 20.30 hours.

(4) Meatless days must be observed and no liver, poultry or eggs may be served or used for the preparation of dishes or for any other purpose.

(5) A meal will not have more than one meat course.

(c)—(1) Very few—probably not more than 1 per cent.

(2) The majority.

Total number of meals served a day is not less than 4,000.



Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Sir, in view of the fact that the majority of consumers who use these Chinese restaurants have already got opportunity of drawing military rations, will Government please consider reducing the number of licenses to the Chinese restaurants when there is another acute shortage of food for civilians in Shillong?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: These matters are being constantly discussed with the Military Authorities and the number has been reduced to 6 from very nearly 30 after discussion with the Military Authorities. If there is room for any further reduction, I will see that such reduction is made.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Thank you, Sir.

### Assam Educational Services

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked:

\*110 Will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken on the Resolution of Maulavi Abdul Mayceed Choudhury, M.L.C., regarding method of promotion in the Assam Educational Services passed by the Assam Legislative Council on the 1st July, 1943?

\*111. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) (i) How many officers in Class II of the Assam Educational Service with less than five years' service have been promoted to Class I since 1941, and (ii) how many of them were so promoted after the passing of the Resolution referred to in Question No. 110 above?

(b) (i) How many officers in Class II have been superseded as a result of such promotions, and (ii) how many of these superseded officers had more than 10 years' approved service?

(c) (i) In how many cases such supersessions were due to the creation of new posts in Class I, and (ii) in how many cases such posts in Class I were created in Departments of Collegiate studies without Honours affiliation?

(d) Whether it is a fact that under the reorganised scheme of 1932, posts in Class I are not created in those subjects where there are no Honours affiliation?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied:

110.—The Resolution of Maulavi Abdul Mayceed Choudhury, M. L. C., is still under consideration of Government.

111. (a) (i)—Six.

(ii)—Three.

(b) (i) (ii), and (c) (i) and (ii)—Supersession as a result of such promotions cannot be helped as promotions are made on compartmental basis.

(d)—Yes; but occasionally Class I posts are created when a College is affiliated in a particular subject upto the B.A. or B.Sc. standard.

### Seats in Murarichand College

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked:

\*112. Will Government be pleased to state the number of seats in the I.Sc. and B.Sc. Classes in the Murarichand College, Sylhet subject by subject?

\*113. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of students who applied for seats in the 1st year I.Sc. class this year in the Murarichand College, Sylhet?

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE being absent, Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA put the Questions on authorisation.



- (b) How many were admitted ?  
 (c) How many students applied for Biology and how many were admitted ?  
 (d) How many students applied for Botany and how many were admitted ?  
 (e) How many students applied for B.Sc. seats in the 3rd year class of the same College and how many were admitted ?  
 (f) How many students applied for Zoology and how many were admitted ?  
 \*114. Will Government be pleased to state—  
 (a) Whether they propose to increase the accommodation in the Chemistry and Physics Laboratories in the Murarichand College, Sylhet ?  
 (b) Whether they propose to increase the number of seats in all the four Science classes and also in all the subjects mentioned in Question No. 113 above in the said College ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

112.—The number of seats available in the I. Sc. 1st-year as well as 2nd-year classes, subject by subject are as follows :—

1. Physics	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
2. Chemistry	..	...	...	...	...	...	100
3. Botany	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
4. Biology	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
5. Zoology	...	..	...	...	...	...	12

In the 3rd and 4th year classes taken together the following seats are available :—

1. Physics.	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
2. Chemistry	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
3. Botany	...	...	...	...	...	...	28

113. (a)—187  
 (b)—100

(c)—50 applied for admission, 18 were admitted.

(d)—87 applied for admission, 60 were admitted.

(e)—36 applied for admission, 27 were admitted.

(f)—16 applied for admission, 12 were admitted.

114. (a) & (b)—Yes, Government propose to take up the construction of additional buildings after the War as soon as funds permit.

### Assam Educational Service

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

\*115. Will Government be pleased to state whether they intend to reorganise the Assam Educational Service in near future ?

\*116. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they have received any representation from the Lecturers and Assistant Lecturers for amalgamation of the three classes of Assam Educational Service or for any other kind of improvement ?

(b) If so, what action has been taken in the matter ?

\*117. Will Government be pleased to state the names of Professors, Lecturers and Assistant Lecturers who have been transferred or absorbed in other departments of the Government since 1st January 1942 (i) showing their present scale of pay (ii) the pay they used to draw at the time of such transfer (iii) the position they hold at present and (iv) the position they held at the time of their transfer from the Education Department ?

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE being absent, Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA put the Question on authorisation.



The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

115.—The matter is receiving serious consideration of Government at present.

116. (a) —Yes.

(b)—It is being examined along with the question of reorganisation of the Assam Educational Service.

117.—A Statement is placed on the table.

*List of officers of Educational Service transferred or absorbed in other Departments of Government*

	(I)	(II)	(III)	(IV)
	Rs.	Rs.		
(1) Dr. S. K. Bhuyan ..	1,000	800	Provincial Publicity Office , Technical Training Scheme under the Central Govern- ment.	Professor, Cotton College, Gau- hati.
(2) Maulavi Abdul Munim Choudhury.	Not known	340	Assistant Recruiting Officer	Ditto.
(3) Maulavi Abul Fazl Syed Ahmed.	Ditto	380 150 S. P.	Ditto ditto	Assistant Director of Public Instruct- ion, Assam.
(4) Maulavi Md. Golam Yahiya Choudhury.	200—10— 250.	215	Assistant Controller of Rationing.	Lecturer, Murari- chand College, Sylhet.
(5) Srijut Gopal Chandra Sarma Barua.	300	195	Assistant Organiser, National War Front Movement, Upper Assam Valley.	Ditto.
(6) Maulavi Misbahul Bar Choudhury.	200—10— 250.	130	Superintendent of Supply ..	Assistant Lecturer, Murarichand Col- lege, Sylhet.
(7) Maulavi Md. Amin Khan.	Ditto	125	Ditto ditto	Assistant Lecturer, Cotton College, Gauhati.
(8) Babu Dinesh Mukherjee. Chandra	450	153	Camp Commandant ..	Ditto.

**Rules for the inspection of Primary Schools**

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

\*118. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether there is any rule for the inspection of Primary Schools ?

(b) Whether the rules are observed by the inspectorate in the districts ?

(c) The total number of Primary Schools in all the districts, separately ?

(d) The number of Primary Schools that have not been inspected in 1943-44, district by district ?

(e) What steps do Government propose to take for better supervision of Primary Schools in the Province and to give increased grant to the local authorities ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

118.(a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—A list showing the number of Primary Schools in all the districts is placed on the table.

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE being absent, Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA put the Questions on authorisation.



List of Primary Schools referred to in reply to Starred Question No. 118(c) asked by Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee at the November Session of the Assembly, 1944

District	Number	
Sylhet ... ..	2,855	Primary Schools.
Cachar ... ..	718	"
Khasi and Jaintia Hills ... ..	494	"
Lushai Hills ... ..	231	"
Sibsagar ... ..	880	"
Lakhimpur ... ..	573	"
Nowgong ... ..	517	"
Darrang ... ..	494	"
Kamrup ... ..	1,222	"
Goalpara ... ..	855	"
Garo Hills ... ..	237	"
Naga Hills ... ..	103	"

(d)—The figures are not handy and it will take time to secure them from the Deputy Inspectors of Schools concerned.

(e)—The question relates to two subjects and the replies are—

- (1) For better supervision of Primary Schools subordinate inspecting staff is being increased by Government as far as possible.
- (2) Additional grants are now given to Local Boards for taking over Venture Primary Schools.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Do the rules allow the Sub-Inspectors to serve in the Food Committees or undertake any other work other than inspection work, Sir?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: This is entirely a new question, Sir, and it has no connection with the question before us.

#### A. R. P. Department

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked:

\*119(a). Will Government be pleased to state whether they intend to abolish the A. R. P. Department?

(b) If not, why not?

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

119(a)—Government do not intend to abolish the A. R. P. Department at present.

(b)—The decision in this matter rests on the recommendation of the General Headquarters to the Government of India.

Mr. E. H. S. LEWIS: Will Government consider the desirability of drafting more duties for the A.R.P. personnel, who by no means are fully employed on their proper jobs?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: This is engaging the attention of Government, Sir. But it is doubted whether they can be utilised elsewhere without detriment to their, A.R.P. duties with which they are at present occupied.

#### Song Publicity Officer, Assam

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked:

\*120.(a)—Will Government be pleased to state whether the Chief Secretary to the Government placed all the facts before the Central Song Publicity Officer as assured by

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE being absent, Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA put the Questions on authorisation.



the Hon'ble Prime Minister in reply to Unstarred Questions Nos. 63-66 asked by Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee, M.L.A. during the last Budget Session of the Assembly ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to lay on the table the opinion of the Central Song Publicity Officer on the matter ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

120.(a)—Yes.

(b)—Government regret that they cannot lay on the table copies of correspondence which is pending with the Central Government.

### Discretionary Grants of the Hon'ble Ministers

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

\*121. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list showing separately the disposal of the discretionary grants by each of the Hon'ble Ministers for the current year upto the 30th September 1944 ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

121.—Statements of grants are placed on the Library table.

### Pay of teachers of the Assam School Service

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

\*122. (a) Is it a fact that Government is going to revise the scale of pay of the teachers of the Assam School Service, and that they have excluded the case of the teachers of Lower School Service ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for such exclusion ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

122. (a)—Government is only examining the question of anomaly in promotions of officers of the Assam School Service in the teaching and inspecting branches. No question of revision of pay is at present under consideration.

(b)—Does not arise.

### Security Prisoner Srijut Harinarayan Barua

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

\*123. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) For how long Srijut Harinarayan Barua of Jorhat, a Security Prisoner, has been kept in Sunamganj jail ?

(b) What are the special reasons for detaining him at Sunamganj ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

123. (a)—Since 7th October 1943.

(b)—Because of reports received of his propaganda activities while detained in the Jorhat jail.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Is it a fact, Sir, that he is living in a secluded area without any companion ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: No, Sir, this is not my information.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: May I know, Sir, whether the district jail is not a better place and a safer custody for him ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, Sir. On account of bad reports received by Government against him, we had no other alternative than to segregate him.

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE being absent, Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA put the Questions on authorisation.



Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: May I know, Sir, if there was accommodation for B Class prisoners in the Sunamganj Jail?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Normally there was no such accommodation, but arrangement had to be made for him.

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: Will Government consider the question of transferring him to the Jorhat Jail, Sir?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Government is not considering any such proposal at the present moment.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Sir, is it a fact that he is losing in weight?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: This is entirely a new question, Sir.

### Transfer of Security Prisoners to their respective Valley

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked:

\*124. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they intend to transfer the Security Prisoners to their respective Valley in very near future?

(b) If not, what are the reasons?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

124. (a) and (b)—Except in cases of misbehaviour or when exigencies of accommodation otherwise require, the practice is to confine prisoners in jails in their own Valley.

### Primary Education Committee

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked:

\*125. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that Government has recently appointed a Primary Education Committee?

(b) If so, who are the members of that Committee?

(c) Whether the Committee has made any survey with regard to the number of primary schools necessary to be started?

(d) If not, how the Committee has arrived at a decision with regard to that point?

(e) Whether any report has been submitted by the said Committee?

(f) If so, whether Government propose to lay on the table a copy of the report?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied:

125. (a)—Yes.

(b)—(1) Mr. S. C. Roy, M.A., (Lond.) I.E.S., Retired Director of Public Instruction, Assam.

(2) Mr. S. C. Goswami, I.S.O., B.A., B.T., Retired Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley.

(3) Maulavi Md. Solman Chaudhury, M.Sc., B.T., Professor of Mathematics, Murari Chand College, Sylhet.

(c)—No, but the Committee have recommended for it.

(d)—On the basis of available educational statistics.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—A copy of the report has been placed on the Library table. Government have not yet been able to discuss the report in a Cabinet Meeting.



Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: May I know, Sir, whether the report of the Committee will be submitted to the hon. Members of this House?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Yes, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I know, Sir, why only some Government pension holders and no outsiders have been taken in the Committee?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Government thought it necessary to appoint a committee of experts.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is it not a fact, Sir, that there was an agitation over this question that the Primary Board should be formed and that it was recommended by several hon. Members of this House that the Board should be formed with both official and non-official members?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: That was long after the formation of the Board, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is it a fact, Sir, that the Committee was opposed by the public?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Government is not aware of that?

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is it not a fact, Sir, that during the consideration of the Primary Education Bill by the Select Committee it recommended formation of a Board consisting of both officials and non-officials?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I do not think so.

#### **Procedure *Re* answering of starred questions when the questioner is absent**

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Mr. Blennerhassett wanted to put Question No. 126 on behalf of Mr. Dawson, but the rule does not permit that. It is only the Member, who is authorised by the Questioner in writing is allowed to put the Question in his absence. But I may suggest a way to Mr. Blennerhassett. He may request the Hon'ble Education Minister to ask my consent for replying to the Questions in the absence of the Member asking it on the ground of public interest.

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT: I gladly welcome your very kind suggestion, Sir, and I do request the Hon'ble Minister to reply to the Questions with your consent.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I gladly accede to the hon. Member's request and seek your permission, Sir, under rule 38 to reply to the Question.

#### **Steamer Ferry for crossing the Brahmaputra**

† Mr. N. DAWSON asked:

\*126 (a) Are Government aware of the public dissatisfaction at the failure to provide a Steamer Ferry crossing between the north and south Banks of the Brahmaputra river at any point east of Gauhati?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state what efforts have been made since the last Session of the Assembly to procure a ferry over the Brahmaputra as stated in Question (a) above?

(c) What efforts do Government propose to take in future in this respect?

(d) What are the prospects of a successful outcome to these efforts?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied:

126. (a)—There is a Steam Ferry, East of Gauhati, run between Kokilamukh and Kamalabari. Government appreciate that there is need for another.

(b)—The Local Board boat ferry run between Silghat and Panpur, was to be replaced by a Steam Ferry from 1st April 1944, but as the prospective lessee Messrs. Agarwalla Bros. have not been able to arrange a suitable vessel up till now the present boat ferry has perforce to continue.

† The Question was put and answered under Assembly Rule 38 although the Questioner was absent.



(c) & (d).—Government tried to requisition vessels for the Steam Ferries in Assam. They also approached the Military authorities for the purpose, but their efforts have so far proved unsuccessful.

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT: Do not Government intend to persist in their laudable efforts?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Yes.

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT: Until success, Sir?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: By all means.

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT: Government must be aware of the wide-spread dissatisfaction which this matter will probably arouse.

#### Pay of Mandals and Kanangoos

Srijut BEPIN CHANDRA MEDHI asked:

\*127. (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they have received copies of the Resolutions passed by the All Assam Mondol-Kanangoo Sanmilan held at Sarupeta on the 30th September, 1944?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken to give effect to Resolution No.5 demanding an increased scale of pay for the Mandals and Kanangoos?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied:

127. (a)—No. They understand, however, that copies have been received by the Director of Land Records and that he will forward them with his recommendations, which will then be considered.

(b)—Does not arise.

#### Encroachment of lands by the Mymensing immigrants in Bandia Chapari in Mangaldai

Srijut BEPIN CHANDRA MEDHI asked:

\*128. (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they have recently received a petition from the Kachari Rayats of Geleidingi, Saikiapara, Medhipara and Gadhiapara regarding encroachments by the Mymensing immigrants upon the cultivated lands within the Assamese Line in Bandia Chapari in Mangaldai?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken or going to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied:

128. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The petition being unstamped, no action was taken on it. The alleged encroachment is a matter for the local officers, to whom the petition should have been addressed. It may be noted, however, that orders were issued in June last accepting a proposal of the Deputy Commissioner to open part of the Bandia Chapari Village Grazing Ground for immigrants and a larger part for indigenous people.

Srijut BEPIN CH. MEDHI: Was any enquiry made by the Subdivisional Officer into the matter?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Government are not aware of that, Sir.

#### Settlement of lands with immigrants

Srijut SURENDRA NATH BURAGOHAIN asked:

\* 129. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether their attention has been drawn to a recent Press Note issued by the Government of Bengal, re-published in the Amrita Bazar Patrika of Calcutta in its issue of October 1926, 2nd Dak Edition, to the effect that the Government of Bengal in pursuance of a resolution carried



in the last Session of the Bengal Legislative Council had requested the Government of Assam to facilitate unrestricted settlement of Assam lands with the Bengal immigrants as a measure of relief to the people of Bengal ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of Assam have since informed the Government of Bengal that their policy regarding the settlement of lands with such immigrants have been liberalised and that they are trying their level best to accelerate the process ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

129. (a)—Yes.

(b)—This Government referred Bengal to its 1943-August Resolution on land settlement and to its implication.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Are Government bound to keep the request made by the Government of Bengal ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Not bound, but it is a question between the two Governments.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Are Government responsible to comply with the request of the Bengal Government in the matter of granting settlement of land to these immigrants ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: They are not bound, but the two provinces are inter-dependent and one is under the obligation of the other.

#### Price of non-controlled foodstuffs

†Srijut BELIRAM DAS asked :

\* 130. Are Government aware that there is grave disparity in prices of food-stuffs specially the non-controlled articles, in different places of the Province ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULA replied.

130—Prices of non-controlled food-stuffs are fixed by the District Officers according to availability and local condition and they are likely to vary.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then comes the next Question standing in the name of Khan Bahadur Hazi Abdul Majid Choudhury.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Question No. 131 is a very important Question. As Khan Bahadur Hazi Abdul Majid Chaudhury is absent, may I be permitted to request the Hon'ble Minister to give the reply ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes.

#### Duty imposed on betelnuts

††Khan Bahadur HAZI ABDUL MAJID CHAUDHURY asked :

\*131. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) What duty has been imposed by the Central Government on betelnuts in the Province of Assam ?
- (b) Whether the duty on "Green" betelnuts has been imposed ?
- (c) If so, on what basis between the "Dry" and "Green" betelnuts ?
- (d) Whether the producers are to obtain license to sell small quantity of "Green" betelnuts in the market to the wholesaler ?

† Srijut BELIRAM DAS being absent, the Question was put by Srijut BIPIN CHANDRA MEDHI on authorisation.

†† The Question was put and answered under Assembly rule 38 although the Questioner was absent.



(e) Whether the producers can take back "Green" betelnuts to their homes from the market if the rate is found to be unsuitable?

(f) Are Government aware that the red "Green" betelnuts are put under ground in the Province by the producers in ditches for some months in the process of "Mojail" nuts to sell in the market?

(g) Whether any duty on "Mojail" nuts has been imposed?

(h) If so, on what basis between "Mojail" and "Dry" nuts?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY replied:

131.(a) —(h)—The subject matter of the Questions is one with which the Provincial Government has no concern and it is suggested that the hon'ble Member obtains the information required through one of the Assam representatives in the Central Legislative Assembly which is now in Session or from the Assistant Collector, Central Excise, who has an office in Shillong.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: To whose coffer the duty imposed is going?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Central Government.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Does the Hon'ble Minister realise that it entrenches on the provincial sphere of taxation?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: The Central Government imposed the tax in the last Budget Session and it is the Central Excise Department who deals with it.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Does it not amount to double taxation, once as agricultural tax and again as Central excise tax?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It is a hypothetical question involving an expression of opinion.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: In view of this state of things, will the Hon'ble Minister represent this question to the Central Government?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: I am prepared to send all these questions to the Central Government, but I think more useful purpose would be served if the hon. Member sends a representation to the Government dealing with the grievances and we are prepared to forward it to the Central Government.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is not this Government entitled to get their own provincial quota out of this tax from the Central Government?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: No, Sir, the Act applies to all-India.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Will our Government move the Central Government for getting their own share in the matter of duties imposed on the crop of this Province?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: This is a Central subject and the hon. Member has representatives in the Central Assembly through whom these grievances can be ventilated.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: We sent a telegram to the Central Government to this effect and also to one of the Members representing Assam in the Central Assembly, but we got no reply. As it is a double taxation, once as an agricultural tax and again as excise duty, will the Hon'ble Minister take up this matter with the Central Government?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: As I said, if I receive any representation from the persons concerned, we are prepared to forward it to the Central Government.

### **Pay and allowance of Mandals and Kanangoos**

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED, asked:

\*132. Will Government be pleased to state (a) whether they have received a copy of Resolution No. 5 adopted in the 19th Annual Session of the Assam Mandal and Kanangoo Conference held at Sarupeta on 30th September 1944, under the presidency



of Srijut Dhaniram Talukdar, B.Sc., B.L., Chairman of Barpeta Local Board regarding the raising of the scale of pay and increasing the rate of allowance of the Mandals and Kanangoos ?

(b) Whether Government have given attention to this long standing grievance of these poorly paid class of officers ?

(c) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

132 (a) to (c)—The hon'ble Member's attention is drawn to the replies given to Question Nos. 127 (a) and (b) (Starred) by Srijut Bepin Chandra Medhi during this Session.

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED: Will Government please state how long they will take to come to a decision in this matter ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Government cannot say anything in this matter. They are awaiting the recommendations of the Director of Land Records.

### Eviction under the Defence of India Rule 75(A) (I)

†Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI asked :

\*133. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have any scheme for re-accommodation, re-settlement and re-habilitation of the persons evicted under the Defence of India Rule 75(A) (I) ?

(b) If so, what is that ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table all the circulars of the Central and Provincial Governments relating to land requisition under the Defence of India Rule 75(A)(I) ?

(d) Is it a fact that unusual delay is being caused everywhere in the District of Sylhet, in paying persons evicted under Defence of India Rule 75(A)(I) ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state whether any rent has been paid for houses requisitioned in any rural area in the District of Sylhet ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

133. (a) & (b)—No such scheme has been found possible.

(c)—Hon'ble Members will be supplied with copies of such of the circulars, or portions thereof as are not treated confidential, as soon as possible after the Assembly Session. But it is regretted that Government are unable to lay on the table all such circulars for reasons indicated herein.

(d)—No. But in some cases delays occur due to circumstances beyond the control of the District Requisitioning Officer.

(e)—Government are not aware of any such payment being made by any District Requisitioning Officer, but during his last tour in the evicted areas, the matter was brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister, Revenue and the question is under the consideration of Government.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: May we know what steps did the Hon'ble Minister take to implement the suggestions of this House since after the question was mooted during the earlier part of the Session ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Necessary directions have been given, Sir.

### Land Acquisition Cases in 1943 and 1944, in Sylhet District

†Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI asked :

\*134. Will Government be pleased to state the number of Land Acquisition Cases started in 1943 and 1944, in the District of Sylhet with following particulars (a) the date of requisition (b) the numbers of claims under each case (c) the numbers of disputed claims under each case and (d) date on which payment has been made for (i) houses (ii) trees and (iii) standing crops relating to each case ?

† The Questioner being absent, Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA put the Questions on authorisation.



\*135. Is it a fact that all figures relating to assessments and valuation are first put on the records by pencil and then conveniently these are inked ?

\*136. (a) Is it a fact that houses with bamboo structures and with thatched roofs are valued without professional assistance ?

(b) If so, who makes the valuation ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the principles on which these rates are calculated ?

(d) Whether these rates are much below the Public Works Department schedule rates for similar houses ?

(e) Do Government propose to have a schedule of rates for such houses in every district prepared by experts for ready reference of the lay persons who make valuation of Kachha houses or appoint an expert for the purpose of valuation of all the houses requisitioned under Defence of India Rule 75(A)(I) ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

134. The information has been called for and will be supplied if received during the currency of the Session. I am sorry, Sir, this is not yet to hand.

135.—Government have no information.

136. (a) —Not necessarily so. But the rule is that professional assistance is not necessary for structures of this type.

(b) —The District Officer assisted by his subordinate staff, as in all ordinary cases of Land Acquisition.

(c) —The value of similar houses in the neighbourhood.

(d) —Government are not aware but Public Works Department standards are not applicable to the ordinary type of village homesteads.

(e) —The question is under the consideration of Government.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Do Government realise that the schedule which is being followed now is certainly inadequate ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: That question is under the consideration of Government, Sir.

#### **Land Acquisition Case No. 19 of 1943-44 (North Sylhet.)**

†Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI asked :

\*137. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) When the Land Acquisition Case No. 19 of 1943-44 (North Sylhet) was started ?

(b) How many families come under the aforesaid Land Acquisition Case ?

(c) How many of them have been paid full value of their houses and when ?

(d) Whether any of these families have been given any compensation for trees and standing crops falling under the requisitioned area ?

(e) How many persons have been paid business compensation in the District of Sylhet as provided by law and where ?

(f) Is it a fact that the orders of the Provincial Authorities in respect of Land Acquisition Case No. 19 of 1943-44, were flouted by the District Authorities ?

(g) If so, whether Government agree to hold a special enquiry into the matter ?

(h) Whether Government have received any representation for further relief from persons already paid for their houses falling under Land Acquisition Case No. 19 of 1943-44 ?

(i) If so, for what specific relief these applications were made ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

137. (a)—29th January, 1944.

(b) to (e)—The information has been called for. I am sorry, Sir, all the details are not yet to hand.

(f)—No. Government strongly refute the insinuation.

(g)—Does not arise.

(h)—Yes.

(i)—Revaluation of houses, payment of full valuation of houses, raising of rates of tree valuation, immediate payment of balance of compensation.

† The Questioner being absent, Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA put the Question on authorisation.



Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: May we know when did these Questions reach the Hon'ble Minister, as he says he has not been supplied with information from the district?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Some of the informations are at hand, not all.

### Grant of Khas lands to evacuees

†Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI asked:

\*138. Will Government be pleased to state how many petitions they have received for grant of Khas lands to evacuees, in the District of Sylhet together with dates of receipt and disposal?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied:

138.—Government received one petition from the affected people of Patharkandi for provision of Khas Lands in the middle of March last and have taken steps to provide the evictees with lands.

### Re Land Acquisition Case No.19 of 1943-44, (Sylhet)

†Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI asked:

\*139. (a) Are Government aware that the District Authorities of Sylhet seldom grant copies of order sheets, in respect of Land Acquisition Cases?

(b) If so, why?

(c) Is it a fact that the said authorities shelved two such petitions relating to Land Acquisition Case No. 19 of 1943-44?

(d) Is it a fact that one Harendra Kumar Sarma belonging to a village falling under Land Acquisition Case No. 19 of 1943-44 (Sylhet), had died at prime of his life without treatment and proper diet and for want of funds and that the District Authorities on repeated requests, did not give him any payment towards the compensation for his houses?

(e) Is it a fact that the prayer of the wife of aforesaid Harendra Kumar Sarma for help after his death was not attended to by the authorities concerned?

\*140. Are Government aware of the discontent prevailing in the District of Sylhet over Land Requisition matters caused by (i) unusual delay in paying the evicted persons, (ii) inadequate payments made in instalments both for houses and trees and (iii) the absence of any rehabilitation scheme amongst other things?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied:

139. (a) to (c)—Government have no information. An enquiry will be made if a specific complaint is made by the affected persons.

(d)—Government are aware that one Harendra Kumar Sarma, an evictee under Land Acquisition Case No. 19 of 1943-44, Sylhet, died but found that the allegations as to the causes of his death were untenable.

(e)—Government are not aware of it.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Is it not a fact that Harendra Kumar Sarma applied for a certain advance, but he was refused?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Government are not aware of any such application, Sir.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Did Government enquire from the District Officers since after receipt of this Question?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: No, Sir, but I personally made enquiries on the spot when I went to Sylhet, and on an analysis of the allegations and facts brought to notice, those very gentlemen who brought them forward felt satisfied that the allegations had very little foundation to support them.

† The Questioner being absent, Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA put the Questions on authorisation.



Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: May I enquire from the Hon'ble Minister whether the death of this person was due to non-receipt of compensation? Did the Hon'ble Minister enquire about it from the records of the district?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: There is perhaps a record about non-receipt of compensation, but the allegations were made about the death of this evictee.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Was not the death due to lack of medical treatment for want of money?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: No, Sir, no medical evidence could be produced.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: What medical evidence did the Hon'ble Minister require?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Yes, no medical man certified that his death was due to causes suggested in the allegations made.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied:

140. (i) & (ii)—Government are aware that there is some anxiety on the part of the evictees for speedy payment of the balances of compensation but they are not aware that there is any discontent.

(iii)—As regards rehabilitation, Government are not aware that there is even any anxiety on the part of the evictees for such not to speak of discontent.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Do Government realise that this unusual delay in granting compensation has become one of the scandals of this Government?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: All possible attention is being paid to the evictees, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: In view of the repeated questions from all sides of this House regarding this subject, will the Hon'ble Minister issue strict directions to the District Authorities for expediting payment of compensation?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: I have already done so personally as well as on the 'phone.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Does the Hon'ble Minister apprehend that his orders are not always obeyed by the District Authorities?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: They always do obey, but when it is beyond their control and not humanly possible, they may fail on that account.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Do Government not receive complaints that the staff at the disposal of the District Officers is inadequate?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Yes, that complaint has been brought to us, and we are taking necessary steps.

### Security Prisoner Srijut Harinarayan Barua

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked:

\*141. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Why and when Srijut Harinarayan Barua, a Security Prisoner in Jorhat jail was transferred to Sunamganj sub-jail?

(b) Whether he has been suffering from illness and losing his weight?

(c) Whether Government propose either to release him or to transfer him to any other big jail in Assam?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

141. (a)—The hon. Member's attention is invited to the reply given to a similar Question [Starred Question No. 123(a) and (b)] by Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee at this Session.



(b)—Government have no report to this effect.

(c)—The question of transfer is under consideration. Government do not propose to release him.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Will Government take it from me that he is losing in weight, and feeling uncomfortable? He told me so when I was allowed to visit him last time, with Subdivisional Officer's permission.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Our report is otherwise, Sir.

### **Licenses for the purchase of Oranges**

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked:

\*142. Will Government be pleased to state

- (a) Whether the Civil population of the Province will have some facilities this year for buying oranges in markets as in other years?
- (b) Whether licenses have been issued for the purchase of oranges for Civil population of the Province?
- (c) If so, what are the terms regarding (i) sources whence purchase is to be made and (ii) rate at which the sellers are to receive and consumers are to pay?
- (d) The names of authorities who are to issue licenses?
- (e) The names of persons or organisations who have obtained monopoly contract for the supply of oranges to the Military Department?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

142. (a)—Certainly.

(b)—No.

(c) & (d)—Do not arise. The District Officers have notified minimum and maximum prices for different places.

(e)—Government have no information.

### **House Collapse Disaster in the Karimpur Tea Garden, Sylhet**

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked:

\*143. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the report of the special enquiry committee constituted to enquire into the house collapse disaster in the Karimpur Tea Garden has been published?
- (b) Whether they have taken any action according to the recommendation of the Tribunal?
- (c) If not, why not?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

143. (a)—No.

(b) & (c)—The matter is under correspondence with the Central Government.



### Additional holidays for Ramzan

Maulavi MABARAK ALI asked :

\*144. (a) Are Government aware that the Government of Bengal have sanctioned fifteen additional holidays for the last fifteen days of the *Ramzan*, every year ?

(b) Are Government aware that by doing this the Government of Bengal have thus increased the total number of holidays from 80 to 95 days ?

(c) If so, do Government propose to adopt this in Assam ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

144. (a) & (b)—It has been ascertained by a reference that no such additional holidays have been sanctioned by the Government of Bengal.

(c)—Does not arise.

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT. Sir, in view of the widespread dissatisfaction made manifest in this House at the delay in Government operations, will they consider reducing rather than increasing Government holidays ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : We have last year reduced the number of holidays.

### Workshop for the Assam Transport Organisation

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

\*145. (a) Is it a fact that Government wants to construct a big workshop for the Assam Transport Organisation ?

(b) Is it a fact that Samoguri, a place about 20 miles from Nowgong, was selected for the purpose and survey was made but afterwards the site was changed and a site in Shillong was selected for the same, survey was made and some materials were also collected ?

(c) Is it also a fact that ultimately Shillong site has been abandoned and Samoguri has been reselected ?

(d) Is it a fact that one Mr. Sykes, actually a farmer, is going to be in charge of the construction work of the said workshop ?

(e) If so, will Government be pleased to state why Public Works Department is not entrusted with the job ?

(f) What is the estimated cost of the proposed workshop ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

145. (a), (b) & (c)—Yes.

(d)—No. Mr. Sykes, who is an Engineer, was employed to prepare the plans only.

(e)—Does not arise. The work can be more economically carried out departmentally by the Assam Transport Organisation than by the Public Works Department.

(f)—The estimate is under preparation and the figure cannot be precisely stated at present.

### Number of food riots, suicide or deaths due to starvation and economic distress

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

\*146. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement, showing district by district, for the years 1942-43 and 1943-44—

(a) the number of food riots ?

(b) the number of suicide or deaths due to (i) starvation and (ii) acute economic distress ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

146. (a) & (b).—Government have called for a report, but expect that it will take a considerable time to obtain full particulars. In the meantime such figures as are available are given. District Officers were asked to report deaths in which starvation was a cause or a contributory factor as from the 1st August, 1943. They found

† The Questioner being absent, Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA put the Question on authorisation.



it very difficult in practice to ascertain how far death in any specific case was due to starvation or disease, but reported a total of 371 deaths in which lack of food was a contributory factor in the period from August to October, 1943, as follows:—

Goalpara—35, Cachar—41, Sylhet—74, Sibsagar—10, Kamrup—88, Nowgong—118, Darrang—5. Almost all the people affected were distressed immigrants from Bengal. Government ordered cases to be specially reported fortnightly, and figures are available since 1st January 1944, *viz.*, Cachar 15, Nowgong 1, Lakhimpur 5, Kamrup 9, and a total of 30 to the end of October.

Government are not aware of any incident which could properly be called a food riot, though there may no doubt have been cases of petty looting and pilfering which will be reported later.

### Assam Transport Organisation

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

\*147. (a) Is it a fact that Government is going to close down the Surma Valley and Darrang areas of the Assam Transport Organisation ?

(b) If so, why ?

(c) What were the monthly incomes of these two areas during 1944 (to be shown separately month by month) ?

\*148. (a) Is it a fact that Government have recently sanctioned 7 Area Managers and 5 Senior Area Assistants for the Assam Transport Organisation ?

(b) Is it a fact that Mr. Adamson is going to employ several (1) Officers (2) B. O. Rs. and (3) V. C. Os. from the Army in the Assam Transport Organisation ?

(c) If so, what are the reasons for employing men from the Army ?

(d) The names of such employees with their past and present posts, monthly salary and qualifications separately ?

\*149. (a) Who is in charge of the Shillong Workshop of the Assam Transport Organisation ?

(b) Since when he has taken over charge and from whom ?

(c) What are the qualifications of the past and present incumbents ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

147. (a)—These areas have been closed.

(b)—The opinion had been formed that these areas were unremunerative, and the vehicles were required for high priority works elsewhere.

(c)—A statement has been placed on the library table.

148. (a)—Yes. There are 8 Senior Area Assistants and not 5.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Personnel with requisite qualifications could not be secured elsewhere.

(d)—A statement has been placed on the library table.

149. (a)—There is no Workshop at Shillong. There is a small repair garage.

(b) & (c)—Do not arise. Head Mechanic Hari Mohan is in charge of the garage. He took charge on the 11th October 1944.

### Public Health Department Doctors

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

\*150. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The total number of doctors serving in the Province under the Public Health Department during the current year ?

(b) The total number of doctors that served in the Province under the same department during 1939-40, 1940-41, 1941-42, 1942-43 and 1943-44 separately ?

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN replied :

150. (a)—111.

(b)—1939-40 — 120,

1940-41 — 120,

1941-42 — 132,

1942-43 — 129,

and 1943-44 — 133.



**Families affected by the compulsory evacuation near Jorhat**

Srijut SURENDRANATH BURAGOHAIN asked :

\*151. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of families affected by the compulsory evacuation within three days in last April of an area near Jorhat ?
- (b) Whether lands and other facilities have been provided to these evacuees ?
- (c) If so, what is the name of the locality in which lands are provided, the area allocated to each of the families and number of families so settled ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

151. (a)—The information is not available.

(b) & (c)—Government's liability is confined to the payment of compensation including cost of removal. It does not include provision of alternative land though every effort is made by local officers to make this provision. The Deputy Commissioner of Sibsagar has, however, reported that in many cases evacuees prefer to remain near their original homes in order to avail themselves of the opportunity of earning high wages by working on Military projects undertaken on the requisitioned land.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : It is said that information is not available. May we know the reason why information is not available ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : The information has not yet reached us, Sir.

(Starred Question No.152 was not put and answered as the Questioner was absent.)

**Family allowance of Babu Radha Ranjan Deb**

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

\*153. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Why the application of Babu Radha Ranjan Deb for the increase of his family allowance from Rs.25 to Rs. 50 has been rejected by the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, in his letter No. C. 38-557, dated the 14th August 1944 ?
- (b) Whether the said Babu Radha Ranjan Deb stated fully the reasons for the increment of his family allowance in his application ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware that he has been handicapped to maintain his family on account of the restrictions placed on his movement ?
- (d) Whether Government propose to increase his family allowance now ?
- (e) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

153. (a) & (b)—Government have not seen the letter and has called for it from the Deputy Commissioner.

(c), (d) & (e)—The applicant is not detained but only restricted in his movements to the jurisdiction of Jaganathpur Police Station and so there is no reason arising from these orders why he should not be able to earn his living. Government are not prepared to supplement this allowance which in the circumstances is special concession.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY : Do Government think that he is not affected by the high price of commodities ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : It may be so. This particular gentleman was the Private Secretary of the hon. Questioner. We enquired what salary the hon. Questioner gave him and he informed us that he gave him Rs. 25 ; so we have given him an allowance of Rs. 25.

**Distribution of salt in Sibsagar Subdivision**

Srijut SURENDRANATH BURAGOHAIN asked :

\*154. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The *per capita* allotment of salt, if any, laid down by Government for the Province ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that salt has been distributed at the rate of 6½ tolas per head by the authorities in the Sibsagar Subdivision ?
- (c) Whether they are aware that such *per capita* distribution is actually higher in the neighbouring Subdivision of Jorhat, where distribution is done through National War Front authorities ?



- (d) Whether Government propose to direct the authorities of Sibsagar Subdivision to increase the allotment *per capita* and improve the distribution of salt ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

154. (a)—Roughly one maund per 100 population.

(b)—No ; the *per capita* allotment whether the person is an adult or a child is over 34 tolas per month.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—The distribution is all right and so there is no need for further instruction.

#### **Consumer's Co-operative Stores in Sibsagar Subdivision**

Srijut SURENDRANATH BURAGOHAIN asked :

\*155. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of registered Consumer's Co-operative Stores in the villages of the Sibsagar Subdivision ?

(b) The number of other village retailers of the Subdivision appointed for the sale of imported food-stuffs ?

(c) Whether they propose to direct that the quotas of food-stuffs allotted to other retailers be made over to the appropriate Co-operative Stores with a view to avert black-marketing and also to encourage the co-operative movement ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

155 (a).—49 only. 30 more are in the process of registration.

(b)—627.

(c)—Government's view is to encourage healthy growth of co-operative stores but alongside, the *bona fide* dealers also should carry on their ordinary trade. The public should assist the District Supply Staff in detecting black market if the ordinary dealers practise black-marketing.

#### **Wholesalers for distribution of Food-stuffs in Sibsagar Subdivision**

Srijut SURENDRANATH BURAGOHAIN asked :

\*156. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The total number of wholesalers appointed to distribute imported food-stuffs in the Subdivision of Sibsagar ?

(b) How many of them belong to the Ahom Community ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

156. (a)—26 only of which 7 are Co-operative Stores.

(b)—There were two, one of whom has been removed for taking extra charges from retailers, black-marketing and other charges.

#### **Assistant Publicity Officer**

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

\*157. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether any person has been appointed of late as an Assistant Publicity Officer ?

(b) Whether he has been appointed under the recommendations of the Public Service Commission ?

(c) If not, why not ?

(d) The name and qualifications of the person who has been so appointed ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

157. (a)—Yes, if the hon. Member refers to the appointment of Babu Sukumar Chandra Datta who was originally appointed in 1940 and has been confirmed in his appointment as Assistant Publicity Officer on the 1st April 1944.

(b)—No.

(c)—This particular post which he holds was excluded by His Excellency from the services, appointment to which is made on the advice of the Public Service Commission.

(d)—Babu Sukumar Chandra Datta is an M. A. and has journalistic experience.



### Grievances of the Congress Security Prisoners in Sylhet Jail

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

\* 158. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Deputy Inspector General of Prisons visited the Sylhet Jail some time past during the current year ?
- (b) Whether the Congress Security Prisoners submitted at that time a list of their grievances and needs ?
- (c) If so, whether Government will be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the same ?
- (d) What steps have been taken by Government in the matter already and also the steps that Government propose to take in near future ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

158. (a) —Yes, on 22nd July.

(b) —Yes.

(c) —A copy is laid on the table.

*Copy of a list of requirements for the security prisoners submitted by the security prisoners detained in the Sylhet District Jail*

The following being the minimum requirements of the security prisoners, are hereby placed before the Inspector General of Prisons during his visit in Sylhet Jail, for his information and implementing the same.

*Ration.*—Supplement should be made in the scale of ration for fish and meat, which should be increased to 4 chhataks each, in place of 2 chhataks excluding of course the wastage of scales, bones, etc., or, security prisoners should be given the option of taking the price of their ration (say Rs.3 daily for each) so that, they can get the articles purchased through a Contractor selected by the Jailer. This avoids all unnecessary charges and troubles with the Jail authorities.

*Clothings.*—The clothing shall be given in the following manner :—

Dhuti	...	...	...	5 nos.	} To be supplied once in every six months. Not the stripped jail clothings.
Shirt, half shirt or Punjabi	...	...	...	4 nos.	
Trouser	...	...	...	1 no.	
Towel (Turkish)	...	...	...	2 nos.	
Garter	...	...	...	1 pair.	

*N.B.*—Khaddar Clothes to be provided for to the habitual wearer.

*Winter Special.*—In addition to the general clothings, as above :—

Warm coat	...	...	...	1 no. (once in two years).
Wrapper	...	...	...	1 no. (once in three years).
Flannel shirt	...	...	...	2 nos. (annually).
Warm stockings	...	...	...	1 pair (annually).

*Beddings.*—Bed sheets ... 2 nos. per annum (unstripped).

Pillow cases ... 2 nos. ditto ditto.

Pillow 22" × 18" ... 1 no.

Cotton mattress ... 1 no.

Square mattress ... 1 no.

Blanket ... 2 nos.

Quilt ... 1 no.

Ditto case ... 1 no.

Mosquito net (English net) ... 1 no.

*Headwears.*—Toopi or Pugree 2 at every six months, for habitual wearers and whose religion enjoins wearing of such.

*Foot wears.*—Shoe ... 1 pair (Oxford).

Pump shoe ... 1 pair ,, (annually).

Slipper or sandal 1 pair (every six months).

† The Questioner being absent, Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA put the Question on authorisation.



*Amusements.*—(a) Permission should be given to bring ones own musical instruments stringed or other use.

(b) Radio Set to be supplied by the Government.

*Sports.*—1. (a) Volleyball, one complete set for every twelve players or a lesser number. Shuttle cocks of tolerably good quality are to be supplied one for each set daily.

*Indoor games.*—(a) Playing Cards one set for every twelve or a lesser number of prisoners.

(b) Carrom board of average size for every twelve or a lesser number of prisoners.

(c) Chess, dice, etc., are to be provided for.

*Utensils.*—Provision should be made for the following for each prisoner :—

(a) Bell metal plate of average size	...	1
(b) „ glass	„ „	1
(c) „ cups	„ „	2
(d) Brass or alluminium Mug of $\frac{1}{2}$ seer	...	1
<i>Bed-stead and Furniture.</i> —(a) Wooden Bed-stead	...	1
(b) Table $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. $\times$ 2 ft.	...	1
(c) Chair	...	1
(d) Deck Chair	...	1
(e) Book Shelf	...	1
(f) Bracket with pegs	...	1

*Exercise.*—Parallel bar, ring, etc., should be arranged for.

*Toilets, etc.*—The Cash allowance given to security prisoners in Assam is very inadequate under the present market condition particularly. So this amount of Rs.5 should either be doubled or the articles should be supplied as and in the manner -of the Government of Bengal.

*Lock-up.*—The time of locking-up the security prisoners should be fixed not before than 9 P.M.

*Note.*—Much trouble and annoyance from both sides shall be eliminated, if cash payment of a reasonable amount is made for each prisoner to purchase his clothes, beddings, etc.

#### FOR SYLHET JAIL

1. *Accommodation.*—The berths of the security ward which are very closely situated should be abolished and be substituted by the wooden bed-steads as suggested above.

This masonry work and naturally, the damp under the beddings, etc., affects the health of the prisoner though slowly and we are very keenly feeling it.

2. *Hospital.*—(a) The T. B. Ward on the top floor of the Hospital should be removed.

(b) Dark-room arrangement for examination of the eyes should be made in the Hospital.

(c) Special arrangements for the treatment and extraction of tooth should be made in the Hospital.

For and on behalf of the Security Prisoners,

Dated Sylhet Jail,  
The 22nd July, 1944.

Sd./ L. K. CHAUDHURY,  
President, Managing Committee.

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA re lied :

158. (d)—Government have issued general orders introducing scales of warm clothing, towels, handkerchiefs, socks and stockings, headgear and footwear and details are under scrutiny in the Finance Department. Government have also approved the provision of wooden bedsteads if this can be arranged, and furniture so far as is practicable. The personal allowance has been raised to Rs. 7/8 per mensem. The dietary has been carefully examined by the Inspector General of Prisons, and found satisfactory.



Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Will Government please let us know if these instructions have really been carried out by the Jail Authority ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA : I do not see any reason why they should not be carried out.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Did Government enquire ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA. No : There was no such circumstances. If the hon. Member wants, we may enquire.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Yes, Sir, I want.

### Use of honorific prefix before the names of Security Prisoners

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

\*159. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the prefix "Mr., Srijut, Babu or Maulavi," as the case may be, is not used by Government before the names of the Security prisoners nor any surname is used while making communications with them ?

(b) Is it a fact that in case of the name of the father of a Security Prisoner the same procedure is followed ?

(c) If the answers to (a) or (b) or to both be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reason for doing so ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

159. (a)—It depends upon the nature of the communication. In orders of a statutory nature it is not usual to include an honorific prefix. In other communications Government use the prefix which they consider the person concerned would prefer. The name is stated as it is understood to be normally used by the person concerned.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Does not arise.

### Rice and paddy supplied by Government Agents

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

\*160. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Who receives the payment for rice and paddy supplied by Government Agents to the (i) Army, (ii) Indian Tea Association, (iii) Assam Oil Company, (iv) Railways and (v) Civil Movement Department ?

(b) Whether payment is made by cheques or by cash ?

(c) Who submits the bills ?

(d) Whether Government keep (i) copies of bills, (ii) advices, and (iii) vouchers ?

(e) Whether Government keep original suppliers' bills and also bills of Messrs. Steel Brothers for supply to different parties ?

\*161. (a) Is it a fact that paddy is being milled at various mills on Government accounts ?

(b) If so, do Government keep the milling account ?

(c) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing (i) the milling account of 1943-44 and (ii) the quantity of paddy supplied and rice received by each mill together with the name of the place where such mill is located ?

† The Questioner being absent, Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA put the Questions on authorisation.



\*162.(a) Is it a fact that there were heavy losses at Sadiya, Dibrugarh and Shillong on rice account in 1943-44 ?

(b) If so, what were the reasons for such losses in those places ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

160.(a)—By Agents themselves.

(b)—By cheques and in cash.

(c)—Agents.

(d) (i), (ii) & (iii)—Yes.

(e)—Bills of Messrs Steel Brothers are sent to Comptroller for authorising payment. Other Agent's bills and vouchers are kept in the Accounts Branch of the Supply Department.

161.(a)—No.

(b) & (c)—Do not arise.

162.(a) & (b).—There were some losses on rice due to deterioration while in storage ; but such losses are inevitable owing to non-availability of conditioned godowns and humid climate of Assam.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : What is the amount of the loss ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA. Speaking off-hand without the file, if I may remember aright, it was near about Rs. 34,000.

#### **Re Accounts Food Grains Purchase Scheme**

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

\*163. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Accounts of the Food Grains Purchase Scheme for the years 1942-43 and 1943-44 ?

\*164. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a comparative statement of the food-stuffs, namely, salt, sugar, *gur*, gram, wheat, flour, *atta*, mustard oil, *mugh dal*, gram *dal*, *khesari dal*, *kalai dal*, *arahal dal*, imported by private dealers in 1940-41 and 1941-42 and imported by Government in 1942-43 and 1943-44 ?

\*165. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The names of companies who are acting as Government Agents during the current year for purchasing (i) indigenous food-stuffs and (ii) imported food-stuffs, including names of those who worked as such in 1942-43 and 1943-44 ?

(b) The names of the Distributing Agents of both (i) indigenous and (ii) imported food-stuffs showing the area under their operation separately ?

(c) The names of share-holders and of partners of all kinds of Agencies mentioned in (a) and (b) above ?

\*166. (a) Will Government be pleased to state separately the amount of commission given to all kinds of Agents acting for them during the year 1943 or 1943-44 as the case may be and the balance due if any for the said period ?

†The Questioner being absent, Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA put the Question on authorisation.



(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table copies of agreements made between Government and their different kinds of Agents for the current year ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the amount of money advanced to different kinds of Agents during 1943-44 and from April to September 1944 ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the balance of advance remaining outstanding with different Agents at the end of the year 1942-43 and 1943-44 separately ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

163. —The Balance Sheet for the year 1942-43 was incorporated in the Appropriation Account and a copy is placed on the table of the library. The Balance Sheet for 1943-44 is under preparation.

164. —Preparation of a comparative statement is not possible as Government have not the figures of import by private dealers.

165. (a) —(i) Messrs. Steel Brothers and Company from 1942-43.

Messrs. Eastern Bengal and Assam Commercial Syndicate from 1943-44.

Messrs. Surma Valley Foodgrain Syndicate from 1943-44.

Messrs. Assam Valley Trading Syndicate from 1943-44.

(ii) Messrs. Shaw Wallace and Company from 1942-43.

(b) —(i) Firms mentioned against (a) (i) above also do distribution in addition.

Messrs. Assam Valley Supply Syndicate are also to stock and distribute rice in rationed areas in Assam Valley.

(ii) Messrs. Surma Valley Supply Agency operate in the districts of Cachar, Sylhet and Khasi and Jaintia Hills.

Messrs. Assam Valley Supply Syndicate operate in Assam Valley.

(c) —The hon. Member is referred to reply to Unstarred Question No.74 (a) asked by Maulavi Mabarak Ali in respect of Procurement Agencies. Names of the partners of Distributing Agencies are as follows :—

Messrs. Surma Valley Supply Agency—

1. Rai Bahadur Jebon Ram Goenka.

2. Late Khan Shahib Abdul Kaher.

Assam Valley Supply Syndicate :—

1. Mr. D.D. Lohia.

2. Chandmal Sarowgi.

3. Mr. S. N. Deb, Kumar of Sidli Estate.

4. Maulavi Wajid Ali.

5. Mr. Surendranath Gohain.

6. Quazi T. Rahman.

7. Maulavi Md. Fateh Ali.

8. Rai Bahadur Rameswarlal Saharia.

9. Rai Sahib Daulot Chandra Gohain.

166. (a) —Messrs. Shaw Wallace & Co. Rs.1,22,761 in 1943-44. No balance due.

Messrs. Assam Supply Agency Rs.54,446 in 1943-44. No balance due.

Messrs. Surma Valley Supply Agency Rs.40,257 in 1943-44. No balance due.

Messrs. Assam Valley Trading Syndicate Rs.9,493-15-0 in 1943-44. No balance due.



Messrs. Steel Brothers & Co. Rs.4,62,656 in 1943-44. No balance due.

Messrs. Eastern Bengal and Assam Commercial Syndicate Rs.14,489-12-0 in 1943-44. No balance due.

Messrs. Surma Valley Foodgrain Syndicate Rs.34,297-9-0 in 1943-44. No balance due.

(b)—Copies of Agreement with—

- (1) Messrs. Steel Brothers and Company,
- (2) Messrs. Eastern Bengal and Assam Commercial Syndicate,
- (3) Messrs. Surma Valley Foodgrain Syndicate,
- (4) Messrs. Surma Valley Supply Agency,
- (5) Messrs. Assam Supply Agency,

are placed on the table of the Library.

No agreement has yet been executed by the Assam Valley Supply Syndicate and the Assam Valley Trading Syndicate which are going to be executed shortly.

No formal Agreement was executed by Messrs. Shaw Wallace and Company, terms with whom were settled by exchange of letters from time to time.

(c)—To Messrs. Shaw Wallace and Company in 1943-44—Rs.1,53,00,000.

From April to September 1944—Rs.19,00,000.

To Messrs. Eastern Bengal and Assam Commercial Syndicate Rs.20,00,000 and from April 1944 to September 1944 Rs.52 lakh.

To Messrs. Surma Valley Foodgrain Syndicate Rs.32,00,000 and from April 1944 to September 1944, Rs.27 lakhs.

To Messrs. Assam Valley Trading Syndicate—no advance given in 1943-44, and from April to September Rs.17 lakhs.

(d)—1942-43, Rs.25,54,568 with Messrs. Shaw Wallace and Company, Limited.

1942-43, Rs. nil with Messrs. Eastern Bengal and Assam Commercial Syndicate.

1942-43, Rs. nil with Messrs. Surma Valley Foodgrain Syndicate.

1943-44, Rs.18,89,675 with Messrs. Shaw Wallace and Company, Limited.

1943-44, Rs.5,77,054 with Messrs. Eastern Bengal and Assam Commercial Syndicate.

1943-44, no balance with Messrs. Surma Valley Foodgrain Syndicate.

1943-44, Assam Valley Trading Syndicate were not allowed any advance.

### *Re Purchase of paddy and rice*

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

\*167. Is it a fact that Messrs. Steel Bros. charged at the rate of Rs. 10 per maund of paddy at the time of sale at Cachar but at the time of handing over the stock account to Government they showed the unpaid price to the cultivators at the rate of Rs. 5 per maund ?

\*168. Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara has recently opened stores at different places directly under his supervision for the sale of imported food-stuffs ?

\*169. (a) Is it a fact that in the district of Cachar, Government Agents have drawn the price of paddy of which actual weightment has not been taken ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether this was done with the previous sanction of Government ?

†The Questioner being absent, Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA put the Question on authorisation.



\*170. (a) Is it a fact that recently (i) a consignment of salt was lost on the way from Habiganj to Shaistaganj and (ii) another consignment of a boat load of salt from Ajmiriganj to Maulvibazar?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether enquiries were made to find out the real cause of loss?

(c) If so, what are the results of the enquiries?

\*171. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The names of different commodities lost in transit showing their quantity and price involved during 1943-44?

(b) the names of different commodities lost due to pilferage showing the quantity and value involved during 1943-44?

(c) What steps, if any, have been taken by Government to compensate and to stop recurrence of loss due to the two causes mentioned in (a) and (b) above?

\*172. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the consignment of Messrs. Shaw Wallace and Company are taken delivery of on actual weight?

(b) If not, why not?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

167.—Yes, as it was the prevailing purchase rate at the time *plus* cess. Purchases made at different rates are all booked together at an average rate and the sale price is fixed accordingly. Unpaid price of Rs. 5 referred to in the Question represent the price of seized paddy as fixed by the Magistrate.

(A lower price was fixed apparently for committing offences under the Foodgrains Control Order.)

168.—No.

169. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

170. (a), (b) & (c)—In both the cases losses were reported to be due to accident in the river and enquiries were set on foot which have not yet been completed.

171. (a) & (b)—Losses in transit occur for two reasons, *viz.*, normal loss in transit and loss due to pilferage. As the extent of actual loss due to pilferage cannot be distinguished from the normal loss in transit, maintenance of separate account has not been possible.

(c)—Agents prefer claim against the Carrying Company for any shortage in consignments and amount refunded where case can be established is credited into the Treasury on Government account. Government have recently issued instructions to Agents to lodge complaint in the nearest thana when bags show signs of tampering with and have also insured sugar against loss due to pilferage and are considering the desirability or otherwise of insuring other foodstuffs against the same.

172. (a) & (b)—The transport authorities are not agreeable to give delivery of entire consignment on weight except in cases of damaged bags.

### **Re Export of paddy and rice to Bengal**

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked:

\*173. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) How many maunds of rice and paddy were exported to Bengal during 1943-44 and during the 1st half-year of 1944-45 showing the quantities of export district by district?

(b) At what rates they were purchased and at what rates they were exported?

†The Questioner being absent, Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA put the Question on authorisation.



The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

173 (a)—4,19,455 maunds in 1943-44 and 2,19,998 maunds during 1st-half year of 1944-45. Figures of export are not maintained district by district.

(b)—Purchases were made at and below the control rate and the receiving Province was billed for at those rates charging cess and handling and transport charges in addition.

### Maximum sale price for different food-stuffs

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

\*174. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they have fixed any maximum sale price for different food-stuffs both indigenous and imported ?

(b) If not, what procedure is followed in the matter ?

(c) Whether the respective Agents abide by the directions issued by Government or use their individual discretion ?

(d) Whether it is a fact that Messrs. Shaw Wallace generally charge higher rates than the rates current at the time in Calcutta ?

(e) If so, what are the reasons therefor ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

174. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Yes. Agents abide by Government directions.

(d)—Purchases are not made in Calcutta.

(e)—Does not arise.

### Stocks of food-stuffs in the custody of Supply Agencies

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

\*175. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the stocks of food-stuffs in the custody of the Supply Agencies are verified ?

(b) If so, who verified those stocks and at what interval ?

\*176. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The amount paid by them as demurrage charge to both Steamer Companies and Railways on the Supply Department's account for the year 1942-43, 1943-44 and for the first half-year of 1944-45 separately ?

(b) The reasons for which such demurrage charge was caused ?

\*177. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The amount of loss sustained by Government for (i) loss of stores and (ii) bad stuffs for the years 1942-43 and 1943-44 ?

(b) Who were the persons responsible for the loss of stores in each case ?

(c) Who were the persons responsible for the loss due to bad stuffs in each case ?

\*178. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they are getting any monthly statements of both stock and cash from the various Supply Agents from the very beginning ?

(b) If not, since when they are getting ?

\*179. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they have authorised their Agents to charge in their account for wastage of stock at a fixed percentage irrespective of any actual wastage ?

†The Questioner being absent, Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA put the Question on authorisation.



- (b) If so, what is that percentage and at what interval such charge is to be made ?
- (c) Whose property the commodity becomes after it is deducted from the stock account ?
- (d) Whether any price has been fixed for selling such commodity and whether it is sold in the open or in the blackmarket ?
- (e) Whether any watch is kept over the matter ?
- (f) If so, by whom ?
- (g) Whether Government keep any account of this wastage, centre by centre and commodity by commodity ?
- (h) Whether any commission is charged over the quantity written off as wastage ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

175. (a)—Yes.

(b)—By the Officer deputed by the Deputy Commissioner or Subdivisional Officer at the close of each year and by the Inspecting Accountants at the time of inspection whenever it takes place.

176. (a)—Demurrage charges are included in freight charges and no separate account is maintained for that.

(b)—When big consignments arrive delivery of the whole consignment cannot be taken within the free time of two days allowed by the Steamer Company. The delivery is also sometimes delayed due to inclement weather.

177. (a)—In 1942-43—

(i) Rs. 38,485.

(ii) Nil.

In 1943-44—

(i) & (ii) Figures will be included in the balance sheet which is under preparation.

(b)—Loss in the case of No. (a) (i) in 1942-43 was due to sabotage and persons responsible were the hooligans.

(c)—There was no case of loss on account of bad stuff in 1942-43. For 1943-44 information has been called for.

178. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Question does not arise.

179. (a)—No.

(b) to (f)—Questions do not arise.

(g)—Yes.

(h)—No.

### Evacuation of lands for Military needs

†Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH asked :

\*180. (a) Are Government aware of the distress caused to the Raiyats of the villages of Odalguri, Baghbhari, Nogaon, Dighalibari and others of Dibrugarh subdivision owing to their forced evacuation from their lands at very short notice for military needs?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state, with reference to each group of cases, (i) the time taken by the assessing officer in submitting his valuation report of the properties requisitioned or acquisitioned in the villages mentioned above, (ii) the time taken by the Deputy Commissioner in according his sanction to the valuation report and (iii) the date or dates of actual payments to the Raiyats ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether the evacuated villagers were awarded any portion of the recommended valuation of their properties at the time of their being compelled to quit their lands ?

(d) If not, why not ?

†The Questioner being absent, Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA put the Question on authorisation.



(e) Is it a fact that owing to the failure of the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur to make any arrangement for payment of land revenue of the requisitioned or acquisitioned land and also for the delay made by the Deputy Commissioner in paying their compensation, the evacuees failed to pay their land revenue and for that, their lands have been put up for sale?

(f) Is it a fact that 50 to 75 per cent. of the compensation awarded has been withheld by the Deputy Commissioner?

(g) If so, why?

\*181. (a) Are Government aware of the discriminatory award of compensation for requisitioned and acquisitioned properties in Dibrugarh subdivision?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Government of Assam have framed any rules indicating the principles to be followed, and method of payment of compensation for requisitioned and acquisitioned properties under the Defence of India Act for guidance of the District Magistrates?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether the present Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur has been following the rules?

(d) If not, why not?

\*182. (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing (i) the rate of compensation recommended by the Assessing Officer in 1943 and 1944 for thatch belonging to individual settlement holders and Tea Companies (Indian and European) in Bogdung Mouza requisitioned by the Military and (ii) the amount of compensation awarded by the Deputy Commissioner?

(b) What are the reasons for discrimination, if any?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied:

180. (a)—It cannot but be admitted that requisitioning from its very nature entails some amount of hardship, to mitigate which Government always try their best.

(b)—Government have no information and to call for it would entail additional work on an already overworked staff, resulting in delays in payment of compensation.

(c) and (d)—The assessment of compensation takes time and it is hardly possible to complete it and pay it in whole or in part just at the time of evacuation but the Deputy Commissioner is empowered to make liberal advance payment subject to adjustment against full compensation in due course. Government are not aware whether any advance payment was made in this case. The Deputy Commissioner is handicapped on account of the lack of trained staff in his Requisitioning office and in spite of his best efforts he has been unable to recruit more clerks. Government have now deputed an experienced clerk from Shillong to endeavour to bring the arrears up to date and introduce better methods.

(e)—Acquired land becomes state property and no land revenue is payable on it. As regards requisitioned land which reverts at the end of the period of requisition to the original owner, who continues to be its proprietor during the period of requisition receiving adequate compensation for temporary deprivation of its use, it is the duty of the owner to pay the necessary land revenue and local rate to protect his proprietary right. If he fails to pay, the land is liable to be put up for sale for arrears of land revenue and local rate. It is not for the Deputy Commissioner to arrange for payment of these dues.

(f) and (g)—Government have no information.

181. (a)—No.

(b) & (c)—Yes.

(d)—Does not arise.

182. (a) to (b)—A report has been called from the Deputy Commissioner.



## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

**Assam Junior Civil Service and Assam Civil Service**

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS asked :

110. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) How many temporary Extra Assistant Commissioners have been appointed since 1943 ?
- (b) How many Sub-Deputy Collectors have been temporarily promoted to the posts of the Extra Assistant Commissioners and what is the percentage of such promotion as compared with the total number of such appointments ?
- (c) Whether in the year 1943, it was decided upon by Government that 50 per cent. of all the vacancies (both temporary and permanent) in the Assam Civil Service would be filled up from the Sub-Deputy Collectors ?
- (d) To what extent this decision has been given effect to upto date ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that 94 per cent. of the appointments have been made from outside candidates ?
- (f) If so, why ?

111. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The criterion of promotion from the Assam Junior Civil Service to the Assam Civil Service ?
- (b) Whether Government consider ten years a sufficient period of service to determine the efficiency and ability of an officer for promotion from the Assam Junior Civil Service to the Assam Civil Service ?
- (c) Whether Government propose to consider the cases of all officers, of the Assam Junior Civil Service who have put in a service of ten years or above in filling up appointments to the Assam Civil Service in future ?
- (d) Whether the District Officers are asked to recommend the cases of officers working under them in the Assam Junior Civil Service for promotion at the time of filling up vacancies in the Assam Civil Service ?
- (e) If not, whether Government propose to do so in future ?

112. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The minimum qualification and age limit of a new recruit for appointment to the post of temporary Extra Assistant Commissioner ?
- (b) Whether these have been notified for general information ?
- (c) Whether Government called for applications by notification in the official gazette or in any local newspaper in all cases of temporary appointments of Extra Assistant Commissioners ?
- (d) If not, why ?
- (e) In how many cases, since 1942 extension of service was allowed to the Extra Assistant Commissioners, who crossed the superannuation age ?
- (f) How many retired officers and outsiders above 55 years of age have been appointed as temporary Extra Assistant Commissioners ?



(g) What test was held to ascertain the efficiency of such retired officers and outsiders who were above 55 years of age at the time of appointment?

(h) What general principle is followed in the matter of appointments to such temporary posts?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

110. (a)—Twenty-five.

(b)—Two. The proportion is of course eight per cent. but these temporary promotions have no actual relation with the total of temporary appointments.

(c) & (d)—This is the general practice in relation to permanent recruitment to the Assam Civil Service, and has been adhered to.

(e) & (f)—It is not clear what is meant by "outside candidates". Three of the temporary appointments were cases of re-employment of retired officers to reinforce the overworked cadre, one was an officer of the Burma Government employed for special purposes, and eighteen were of members of the Bar temporarily recruited to provide for judicial work, which was suffering from diversion of the normal cadre to urgent and emergent executive functions.

111. (a)—To put the matter briefly, seniority and merit are the criteria.

(b)—This is a matter of opinion. It has often been advocated, but Government have never accepted such a proposition, in view of the different duties for which the two services are primarily constituted.

(c)—No.

(d)—Not on each occasion, but the opinions of the District Officers on members of the services are placed annually on record and are considered at the time of selection.

(e)—Does not arise.

112. (a) & (b)—A reference is invited to the service rules, which were published in Notification No. 4275-A.P., of the 11th June, 1929, a copy of which has been placed on the Library Table.

(c)—Gazette notifications are published for the purpose of ordinary recruitment by the Public Service Commission. In the case of temporary appointments from the Bar the appointments were made by a special procedure in consultation with the Commission, the District Officers being consulted.

(d)—The reason for not inviting applications from all possible candidates in the case of appointments from the Bar was that temporary officers with experience of the law were required for judicial work, and the District Officers were in the best position to secure suitable candidates of this description promptly.

(e)—None.

(f)—Seven retired officers. Of these the services of two have been since terminated and one is deceased. There were no outsiders appointed above the age of 55.

(g)—The reports of the Commissioner and of District Officers.

(h)—The need for reinforcing the cadres by the services of experienced officers.

### Population of Barpeta subdivision

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked:

113. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the population of the subdivision of Barpeta according to the last Census?

(b) What is the percentage of the Muslims in that subdivision?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

113. (a)—Excluding residents of tea gardens 453,212.

(b)—49 per cent.



**Present Executive Engineer of Sylhet**

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

114. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The length of service put in by the present Executive Engineer of Sylhet in that station ?
- (b) The reasons for the cancellation of his transfer orders from that station ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware that his brother is alleged to be a partner with one Madaris Ali in the contract business under him ?
- (d) The total volume of contract work given by the Public Works Department to Madaris Ali in 1943 and 1944 ?
- (e) Whether his rates were the lowest in all cases ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

114. (a)—Six years and five months.

(b)—In the interest of public service.

(c)—No.

(d)—1943-44—Rs.24,025.

1944-45—Rs.21,283.

(e)—Lowest rates were accepted in all cases with the exception of a very few where lowest rates being absurd the next reasonable lowest rate was accepted.

**Scholarships to Tribal boys of the Dangari Middle English School, Dibrugarh**

Rai Sahib DAULAT CHANDRA GOHAIN asked :

115. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of Government Middle School Scholarships awarded to Tribal boys belonging to the Dangari Middle English School, Dibrugarh, in each of the school sessions of 1941-42, 1942-43 and 1943-44 ?
- (b) Whether Government are aware that these scholarship-holders are all continuing their further studies, maintaining good conduct and progress, in the Dangari High School ?
- (c) Whether they are aware that these scholarships have not yet been drawn by the scholars by reason of the necessary official orders transferring these scholarships to the Dangari High School not having been passed or received ?
- (d) Whether they have recently received any representation from the authorities of the Dangari High School asking for the issue of the necessary official orders making these scholarships tenable at their School ?
- (e) Whether they now propose to issue necessary orders according sanction for the transfer of these scholarships to the said school at an early date ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

115. (a)—One, three and three respectively.

(b)—Yes, except one.

(c)—Yes, as the school was not recognised, the scholarships could not be made tenable there. The school has since been recognised provisionally by the authorities concerned and permission has been granted to make the scholarships of these scholars who are continuing their studies tenable in that school.

(d)—No.

(e)—Does not arise.



**Paddy and rice purchased and delivered by the Surma Valley Food-grain Syndicate and the Eastern Commercial Syndicate**

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN asked :

116. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The total amount of paddy purchased and delivered by the Surma Valley Food-grain Syndicate up to the end of August, 1944 ?
- (b) The total amount of rice purchased and delivered by the same agency up to the above period ?
- (c) The total amount of paddy and rice (to be shown separately) purchased and delivered by the Eastern Commercial Syndicate up to the same period ?
- (d) The total amount of paddy and rice released up to August, 1944 from the stock supplied by the Surma Valley Food-grain Syndicate (figures for paddy and rice to be shown separately) ?
- (e) The total amount of paddy and rice released up to August, 1944 from the stock purchased through Eastern Commercial Syndicate (figures for paddy and rice to be shown separately) ?
- (f) The total amount of paddy and rice supplied to the Indian Tea Association and to the military authorities out of the stock purchased by these agencies ?
- (g) The procedure followed by Government in taking delivery of the stock purchased by these agencies ?

117. Will Government be pleased to state as to who bears the loss of food-grains found to be unfit for human consumption or short in weight ?

118. (a) Is it a fact that huge quantity of rice and paddy of very bad quality and sometimes mixed with water, earth, sand, stone, etc., have been supplied by the Surma Valley Food-grain Syndicate and the Eastern Commercial Syndicate and that a very large stock is already uneatable ?

(b) If so, how much has so far been found to be such and what step has been taken to recoup this loss ?

119. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The names of the partners of the Surma Valley Food-grains Syndicate as well as Eastern Commercial Syndicate ?
- (b) The amount of securities furnished by each of these two agencies ?
- (c) The amount paid to each up to August, 1944 ?
- (d) The balance, if any, to be paid to them for the above period ?
- (e) Rates sanctioned month by month for their purchases of paddy and rice ?
- (f) Commission drawn by each of these agencies up to October, 1944 ?
- (g) The date on which their contract with Government expires ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

116. (a)—Paddy—purchased 6,388 tons—delivered 3,931 tons.

(b)—Rice—purchased 7,791 tons—delivered 6,940 tons.

(c)—Paddy—purchased 5,673 tons—delivered 317 tons.

Rice—Purchased 10,305 tons—delivered 6,395 tons.

(d) & (e)—The figures shown as deliveries above give the information required.

(f)—To the Indian Tea Association—Rice—1,644 tons, paddy — 179 tons. Supplies to the Defence Services cannot be disclosed without the consent of the military authorities

(g)—Purchases by the Agencies are made on behalf of Government and the stocks remain in the custody of the Agents in Government godowns till despatched under Government orders to different places.



117.—Government do not purchase food-grain unfit for human consumption but sometimes it so happens that food-grains coming from distant places like Bihar, United Provinces and the Punjab have to remain in railway wagons for a considerable length of time and then stored in godowns pending disposal. Occasionally some quantities go bad while in storage and only those quantities are disposed of as cattle food, etc., at the best available price and loss debited to cess account which has been opened to meet such ordinary trading losses.

118. (a)—Government have no information.

(b)—Does not arise.

119. (a)—*Partners of the Surma Valley Food-Grains Syndicate.*

1. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Abdul Majid Choudhury, M.L.A.

2. Mr. Hemangshu Sekhar Chakravarty.

3. Khan Sahib Abdul Karim Choudhury.

*Partners of the Eastern Bengal and Assam Commercial Syndicate.*

1. Babu Benode Behari Dutt.

2. Babu Radhika Ranjan Dam.

3. Maulavi Abdur Rahman, M. L. A.

4. Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed, M. L. A.

5. Maulavi Abul Hassan Choudhury.

6. Maulavi Maqbul Hussain Choudhury, M. L. A.

(b)—Rupees 50,000 by each Agency.

(c) Amount paid up to end of August 1944 for purchase of rice and paddy to :—

(1) Surma Valley Food-Grains Syndicate—Rs. 53,00,000.

(2) Eastern Bengal and Assam Commercial Syndicate—Rs. 62,00,000.

(d)—Question is not understood. Agents make purchases out of money advanced to them and the question of balance does not arise.

(e)—The Agents generally purchase at market rates below maximum prices fixed but since 1st October 1944 Eastern Bengal and Assam Commercial Syndicate have been asked to offer the following fixed rates at their godowns—

Amon and Sail rice—Rs. 13-6-0 with bags and Rs. 13 without bags.

Do paddy—Rs. 7-12-0 with bags and Rs. 7-4-0 without bags.

Aus and Boro rice—Rs. 11-4-0 with bags and Rs. 10-14-0 without bags.

Do paddy—Rs. 5-12-0 with bags and Rs. 5-4-0 without bags

(f) —(i) Surma Valley Food-Grains Syndicate—Rs. 46,255-14-0.

(ii) Eastern Bengal and Assam Commercial Syndicate—Rs. 30,549-7-0.

(g)—1st January, 1945.

### **Re Agency for purchasing consumer goods in the Province**

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

120. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The name and address of the agency for purchasing consumer goods in the Province ?

(b) The names and addresses of the distributing agents for the same ?

(c) The total value of the business handled by these agencies ?

(d) The date of the commencement of this business ?

(e) The terms of appointment of these agencies ?

121. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The names and addresses of the partners of Civil Supply Agency of 72, Canning Street, Calcutta—now appointed Calcutta agencies for the Government of Assam ?

(b) The credentials of this Firm and their past business activities ?

(c) The total volume of business handled by them ?

(d) The total amount of commission earned by them from their Assam business ?

(e) The procedure by which they got the appointment as agents for the Assam Government ?



The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

120. (a) — Messrs. Civil Supply Agency, 72, Canning Street, Calcutta.  
 (b) — There are no distributing Agents for consumer goods.  
 (c) — Goods to the value of Rs.10,88,917 up to 30th September 1944  
 (d) — May, 1944.  
 (e) — A commission of Rs.3-2-0 per Rs.100 value of goods.
121. (a) — Messrs. Md. Siddik, Md. Shafik and Messrs. Ferozuddin Md. Shafi.  
 (b) — These are reputed firms of importers of miscellaneous goods.  
 (c) — Goods to the value of Rs.5,54,966 on Government account and Rs.5,33,951 on the account of private merchants up to the end of September, 1944.  
 (d) — Rupees 34,398 (approximately) up to 30th September, 1944.  
 (e) — On the recommendation of the Deputy Controller General of Civil Supplies, Eastern Region.

#### Re Trade Adviser of Government

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

122. Will Government be pleased to state the function of their Trade Adviser in Calcutta and the financial obligation for his office ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

- 122.—The function of the Trade Adviser is to keep a proper check over the activities of the Civil Supply Agency. He is also required occasionally to take advice from the Deputy Controller General in respect of procurement, etc., of consumer goods on behalf of the Assam Government besides keeping contract with importing and manufacturing firms. He draws Rs.900 per mensem besides pension payable by Central Government. For his office establishment a sum of Rs.10,000 (approx.) has been budgetted for 8½ months from 16th June to 31st March 1944.

#### Barpeta M. C. College

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF asked :

123. Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to give a portion of the collective fine realised from the Barpeta town to the Barpeta M. C. College ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYI UR RAHMAN replied :

- 123.—Government have no such proposal under consideration. If the College Authorities can make out a case and submit it through the Deputy Commissioner, it will be considered.

#### Re Special facilities for immigrants' education

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

124. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that the immigrants are very backward in education ?  
 (b) If so, what particular steps they have taken or propose to take to give them special facilities for their education ?  
 (c) Do Government propose to grant scholarships to boys from immigrant community and start schools in immigrant areas ?



The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

124. (a) — Yes.

(b) — Gauhati, Barpeta and Nowgong Local Boards are given special annual grants of Rs.376, Rs.852 and Rs.792 respectively for the primary education of immigrant children. Moreover while distributing new grants for expansion of Primary Education in Rural Areas every year steps are taken to see that some portion of the provision is spent in taking over venture schools in immigrant areas.

Direct grants are also given to deserving schools and Madrasas catering to the needs of the immigrant people.

Nine Government special primary scholarships for Muslims of Assam Valley are also open to immigrants. Besides there are Board Primary Scholarships for immigrant children.

(c) — The question is receiving consideration.

### **Damages to Municipal and Local Board roads by military lorries**

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA asked :

125. (a) Are Government aware of the damages done to Municipal and Local Board roads by the heavy military lorries and buses ?

(b) Do Government propose to draw the attention of military authorities in each area to these damages and ask them to stop their traffic over such roads or to maintain them at military expense on account of the paucity of funds of the Boards ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY replied :

125. (a) & (b) — The hon. Member is referred to the Starred Question No.13 asked by Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee in the last Session of the Assembly and Government's reply thereto. The matter is still under correspondence with the Government of India.

### **Jhalukbari Survey School**

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMIRUDDIN asked :

126. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The total number of seats in the Jhalukbari (now shifted to Gauhati) Survey School ?

(b) How many of these seats are for Muslims, how many for Hindus (including Scheduled Castes) and how many for Tribals ?

(c) Whether in the matter of allotment of seats the percentage of the Muslims on population basis has ever been looked into ?

(d) If not, why not ?

(e) Whether in future Government propose to give adequate representation in the allotment of seats in that school on population basis to the Muslims particularly immigrants, in each of the classes ?

(f) Whether during the life-time of the said institution, any Muslim teacher was ever placed in charge as Superintendent of the hostels ?

(g) If not, why not ?

(h) Whether it is a fact that the present Superintendent of hostels of the said school is a man of Palasbari and remains absent at home from the hostels for three or four days in every week and that he draws hostel allowance in full ?

(i) Whether Government propose to give any chance to any Muslim teacher for the work of Superintendent of hostels on the prescribed allowance ?



- (j) Whether there is any Muslim teacher at all in the said School ?  
 (k) If so, who is he, what is his native district, and how long has he been serving there ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

126. (a)—65.

(b), (c) & (d)—Candidates are selected by the Deputy Commissioners on the results of an entrance examination held by them and with due regard to the communal question in their districts.

(e)—The present procedure is working well and Government do not see any necessity for changing it. Immigrants get due representation from the districts where they constitute a large proportion of the population.

(f)—No.

(g)—This is due to the fact that hitherto the only Muslim teacher was a junior teacher. It was decided that the senior teacher should be the Superintendent of the hostels and so the Headmaster has been in charge.

(h)—The present Superintendent of the hostels is a man of village Sarukuria, P. O. Palasbari. No complaint was ever received that he remains absent from the hostels for three or four days in every week.

(i)—Yes, when a Muslim teacher will become senior enough to be the Headmaster, he will automatically become the Superintendent of the hostels.

(j) & (k)—Yes : The 3rd Master is a Muslim. His name is Maulavi Abdul Wahed. His home district is Sylhet and he has been in the school as 3rd master since 1st March 1932.

### **Supply of quinine to Babu Nani Banerjee, to manufacture quinine injections**

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

127. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Babu Nani Banerjee, B.Sc., of Chhatak in the Sunamganj subdivision has recently applied to Government for supplying quinine for manufacturing quinine injections ?  
 (b) Whether it is a fact that he expressed in his application that the manufactured quinine injections would be sold through Government agencies at controlled rate ?  
 (c) Whether Government are aware that he has already manufactured phenyle ?  
 (d) Whether Government are aware that he requires 60 lbs. of quinine per month for manufacturing quinine injections ?  
 (e) Whether Government propose to help him with the required quantity of quinine for the purpose ?

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN replied :

127. (a)—No such application appears to have been received by Government.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—No.

(d)—Does not arise.

(e)—In view of the existing shortage of quinine it is not possible to supply any quantity of that drug for this purpose.



### Civil suit against the Silchar Municipal Board and its Chairman

Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR asked :

128.(a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the editorial short comments published in the Hindusthan Standard dated 14th October 1944 (Mufassil edition) regarding civil suit brought by Srijut Rabindra Kanta Sen against the Silchar Municipal Board and its Chairman Rai Bahadur Rukmini Kumar Das arising out of a malicious prosecution of the plaintiff by the said defendants ?

(b) Is it a fact that Mr. B. Sen, Additional Judge, Sylhet, has found in the Money Appeal No. 12 of 43 (Municipal Board of Silchar and another appellant *Versus* Rabindra Kanta Sen) as follows :

"From the facts and circumstances I am led to believe that out of grudge, defendant No. 2 (Chairman, Rai Bahadur Rukmini Kumar Das) created papers against the plaintiff (Rabindra Kanta Sen) and eventually prosecuted the plaintiff on charges under section 379 (theft) and 403 (misappropriation) of the Indian Penal Code".

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have taken any action against the said Chairman in view of the grave strictures passed by the Additional District Judge against him ?

(d) If not, do Government propose to take any action for his removal from the Chairmanship ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state how much money has been spent by the Silchar Municipal Board on account of payment of (i) lawyers' fees and (ii) other expenses in connection with the civil suit brought by Rabindra Kanta Sen against the Silchar Municipal Board and Rai Bahadur Rukmini Kumar Das, Chairman and the appeal therefor ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY replied :

128.(a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—No.

(d)—No.

(e)—The information which is not available here has been called for.

### Re development of Hydro-Electricity in the Province.

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT asked :

129.(a) Will Government be pleased to state (i) their attitude to, and (ii) their policy regarding the development of Hydro-Electricity in this Province ?

(b) Whether the subject has been under discussion between the Provincial and the Central Governments ?

(c) If so, how far have matters progressed ?

(d) Whether any of the possible Hydro-Electric projects have been surveyed in this Province ?

(e) If not, is there any proposal to survey any of them this cold weather ?

(f) If so, which ?

(g) If there is no such proposal, why ?

130.(a) Are Government aware that increased yields per acre of grains and other essentials of life from the land under cultivation are now an urgent necessity and likely to become more so as time passes ?

(b) If so, are Government aware that cheap and plentiful fertilisers such as Hydro-Electric Power could make available, are essential for the purpose ?



(c) If the replies to Questions (a) and (b) above, are in the affirmative will Government be pleased to state (i) what steps they have taken to test public opinion on the subject and (ii) what, if any, has been the result?

(d) Do Government contemplate leading industrial development of this Province linked to Hydro-Electricity as soon as world conditions permit?

(e) If so, what is being done now by way of preliminary preparation?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have tested public opinion on this form of industrial development of the Province?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

129.(a)—The Assam Government are acutely interested in the possibilities of hydro-electric development in Assam, but are in need of expert advice, which they are endeavouring to obtain, and which is likely to be available with the establishment of a Central Technical Power Board, recently announced by the Central Government.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Assistance and advice have been promised. The problem has many aspects and it will take time to assess them all. A visit by one expert—Mr. Savage, understood to be a Reclamation Engineer of the United States of America to Bengal and Assam seems assured in December or January next.

(d)—Yes, by Mr. Blenkinsop of the Public Works Department, by the Electrical Adviser, Assam, and others. They have not however been fully investigated as yet by experienced experts in Hydro-Electricity systems.

(e)—Work is being planned by the Electrical Adviser in anticipation of guidance to be obtained through the Power Board.

(f)—This is not yet quite settled.

(g)—The question hardly arises, but the selection of sites for practical surveying depends, as has been indicated, on advice expected.

130.(a)—Yes.

(b)—This is a large subject, since the extent to which artificial fertilisers can increase yield, particularly under field conditions, is still a matter of experiment, and much depends upon the particular crop considered.

(c)—Public opinion has not yet been consulted, save in that the major industries of Assam were consulted in regard to the report to be made to a Fertilisers Mission appointed by the Government of India. The result is not yet known.

(d)—Government do not fully understand the Question. It has been already stated that they are very much interested in the subject, but are as yet unable to state categorically what action will be taken to develop water sources of power. The Electrical Adviser is surveying existing uses of energy.

(e)—This has been already outlined.

(f)—Government have been given ample ground for concluding that public opinion is desirous of a share for Assam in the industrialisation of the country, the interest having been frequently displayed in this House.

**Re Fee simple lands or lands held revenue free including Brahmottar and Debottar and area of lands held under permanent settlement**

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

131. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The total area of Fee Simple Lands or lands held revenue free including Brahmottar and Debottar in each of the districts of the Province separately?

(b) The statutory basis of such tenure and for how many years such tenure has been in existence?

(c) The annual loss of revenue on such tenures taking into account the rate of land revenue paid on similar lands in each district?



- (d) The area of fee simple lands held by tea gardens in each district ?  
 (e) How many of these tea gardens belong to the Indians and how many to the non-Indians ?
132. Will Government be pleased to state—  
 (a) The total area of lands held under Permanent Settlement in each of the districts of Sylhet and Goalpara ?  
 (b) The total amount of revenue which the Government receive annually from the permanently-settled areas in each of the districts of Sylhet and Goalpara ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

131. (a)—The total area is as follows :—

Goalpara	...	...	...	...	99,055 acres.
Kamrup	...	...	...	...	57,917 "
Darrang	...	...	...	...	56,447 "
Nowgong	...	...	...	...	22,703 "
Sibsagar	...	...	...	...	165,164 "
Lakhimpur	...	...	...	...	117,625 "
Cachar	...	...	...	...	140,653 "
Sylhet	...	...	...	...	40,038 "

These figures include Debottar lands but exclude Brahmottar lands which are not revenue free.

(b)—These tenures all continue from the pre-Regulation days ; the exact date on which the different tenures were created cannot be stated without delayed enquiry which Government do not propose to institute on account of the immense labour involved without any corresponding benefit. These tenures have been confirmed by clause (b) of Section 2 of the Assam Land and Revenue Regulations, 1886. For a more detailed history of the origin of these revenue free estates the hon. Member is referred to the introduction to the Land Revenue Manual.

(c)—No such calculation has been made as Government see no point in doing so.

(d)—The area of fee simple lands in each district may be seen in Appendix I to the Annual Land Revenue Administration Report (from which the answers to Question 131(a) above are also compiled). These lands were originally settled in fee simple for special cultivation but Government have no information whether they are all still owned by tea gardens or not.

(e)—The information is not available.

132. (a) & (b)—The area and revenue are as follows for the year 1943-44. The figures are liable to slight variations when land is acquired or sold for arrears of revenue.

			Area		Revenue
					Rs.
Goalpara	...	...	1,518,982	acres	11,411
Sylhet	...	...	2,399,226	"	3,59,160

### Cloth and yarn dealers' Co-operative Wholesale Societies

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

133. (a) Are Government aware that in response to their press communique cloth and yarn merchants have formed themselves into Co-operative Societies in many subdivisions of the Province ?

(b) Whether Government have granted these Societies the necessary facilities for importing cloth and yarn ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state their attitude towards these Societies in respect of supply ?



The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

133. (a)—Yes. Cloth and yarn dealers' Co-operative Wholesale Societies have been formed in some subdivisions and steps are being taken for immediate organisation of such Societies in the remaining subdivisions of the Province.

(b) & (c)—These Societies will not import any cloth and yarn, but will only distribute among their members such quantities of goods as are allotted to each subdivision from imports made by a central procuring agency. Part of the work of procurement is already being done by a Provincial Society, which has recently been registered and which is intended to be a federation of the subdivisional Societies.

#### Extra supply of sugar and flour during religious occasions

Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR asked :

134. (a) Will Government be pleased to give the list of religious occasions and festivals of Hindus, Muslims and Christians when an increased quota of sugar and flour (*maida*) is given to the members of the respective communities and the quantity of such articles given ?

(b) Is it a fact that sugar and flour were given to the Muslims of Shillong during the last *Idd* festival ?

(c) Were sugar and flour given to the Muslims of other parts of the Province ?

(d) Were sugar and flour given to each individual family of Hindus in Shillong during the last Durga Puja ?

(e) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

134. (a)—The hon'ble Member's attention is drawn to Notification Nos :—

(1). SD.24/43/432, dated the 13th July, 1944.

(2). SDB.42/44/4, dated the 15th September, 1944.

(3). SDB.39/44/11, dated the 16th September, 1944.

(4). SDB.39/44/17, dated the 13th October 1944.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The information is not available at this moment.

(d)—No.

(e)—The supply was not made to individual Hindu family because of the extreme shortage of sugar supplies and *atta* or flour during the Durga Puja of September, 1944, but supplies were made to Puja committees.

#### Staff for rationing scheme

Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR asked :

135. (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list showing the names of (i) Rationing Inspectors, (ii) Rationing Sub-Inspectors, (iii) Supply Sub-Inspectors, (iv) Supply Inspectors, (v) Textile Inspectors, (vi) Textile Sub-Inspectors and (vii) Assistant Rationing Officers together with their present pay, scale of pay and names of places where they are posted ?

(b) Of these who are the new entrants and who hold substantive appointments under Government in other departments ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

135. (a) & (b)—The information has been called for, from Deputy Commissioners, and is not available fully in the Secretariat.



### Veterinary Field Assistants of Jaintia Circle

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABDUS SALAM asked :

136. (a) Will Government be pleased to state why the Veterinary Field Assistants of Jaintia circle are not entitled to draw travelling allowance at increased rate of 50 per cent. from 1st June to 31st October, 1944 ?

(b) Is it a fact that the touring officers of other Departments are regularly drawing the same at increased rate ?

137. (a) Is it a fact that advance increments have been given with effect from 1st July, 1944 to all Government servants having less than three years' service and drawing pay up to Rs.60 per month ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state why the temporary Field Assistants of less than three years' service have not been allowed the said concession ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA replied :

136. (a)—The rate was increased to 40 per cent. and not to 50 per cent. All Veterinary Field Assistants have been drawing their travelling allowances at the increased rate of 40 per cent.

(b)—Yes.

137. (a)—Yes.

(b)—This matter has been under the consideration of the Government.

### Deprivation of the requisite quota of salt, kerosene and sugar to Saru Satra and Bor Satra of Garamoor

Srijut BELIRAM DAS asked :

138. (a) Is it a fact that Saru Satra and Bor Satra of Garamoor, with 413 men and women are being deprived altogether of the requisite quota of salt, kerosene and sugar allottable to them ?

(b) Is it a fact that the attention of the Deputy Commissioner of Jorhat, was drawn to this fact by Srijut K. D. Chaliha, M.L.A., (Central) on 3rd April, 1944, and that the Deputy Commissioner ordered thereon on 10th April, 1944, that these villagers could purchase these commodities from any shop ?

(c) Is it a fact that the said Srijut K. D. Chaliha later informed the Deputy Commissioner again, that the shops refused to give them any salt on the ground that these villages were not included in their lists ?

(d) Is it a fact that no reply was given to this representation by the Deputy Commissioner and that the Inspector of Supplies later repeated the previous order of the Deputy Commissioner ?

(e) Do Government propose to enquire into this case and take necessary steps in the matter ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

138. (a)—No.

(b)—On a representation by Srijut K. D. Chaliha, M.L.A., Central, orders were passed by Deputy Commissioner, Sibsagar that they could buy their requisite quota in the ordinary way. In the Majuli each village is not given a definite quota. The shop that was run by the Garamoor Satra was unsatisfactory and was closed and they were allowed to buy from another shop.

(c) & (d)—Yes, the Deputy Commissioner, Sibsagar has passed orders on his supply staff to see that these villagers get their legitimate quota of these commodities from any other shop.

(e)—The Deputy Commissioner, Sibsagar has been instructed to see that they get the same as other villages.



### Requisition of guns in Sylhet district

Maulavi ABDUL AZIZ asked :

139. Will Government be pleased to state—
- Whether it is a fact that a good number of B.L. shot guns were requisitioned in the district of Sylhet in February, 1943, by the order of the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet ?
  - Whether such guns have been requisitioned in any other districts of Assam ?
  - If so, how many such guns have been so requisitioned in each district of the Province (figures to be shown district by district) ?
  - What were the reasons for acquirement of such guns in the district of Sylhet ?
  - How many guns were required by Government and how many were requisitioned and acquired ?
  - How many guns were requisitioned and acquired in each subdivision of the district of Sylhet ?
  - How many guns have been acquired from the Muslims and how many from the Hindus in the South Sylhet subdivision ?
  - Whether it is a fact that the number of guns requisitioned in the South Sylhet subdivision is almost seven or eight times greater than that of any other subdivision in the same district ?
  - If so, why ?
  - Who made the selection of guns for acquirement in the South Sylhet subdivision ?
  - Whether it is a fact that a good many guns from the loyal Muslim families in the South Sylhet subdivision, have been requisitioned and that the guns in the families connected directly or indirectly with the Civil Disobedience Movements have been allowed to be retained ?
  - How many persons were convicted in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movements in the South Sylhet subdivision in 1941 and 1942 and how many guns from such families or persons have been requisitioned and acquired ?
140. Will Government be pleased to state the contents of the circular letter by which the local police authorities were instructed to requisition and acquire the guns and also state the principle on which the selections were to be made ?
141. Will Government be pleased to state—
- Whether any guns requisitioned under the Defence of India Rule 75A (I) in the South Sylhet subdivision have been returned and if so, how many ?
  - On what grounds those guns have been returned and whether they were so recommended by the Police authorities concerned ?
  - How many guns requisitioned from South Sylhet subdivision have been sent outside this subdivision for service ?
  - Whether Government are aware that the South Sylhet subdivision is full of hills and country lakes and the people require guns for the protection of their crops and fisheries besides self-protection ?
  - When the authorities propose to return the requisitioned guns belonging to the Muslims of the South Sylhet subdivision ?
142. Will Government be pleased to state—
- Whether they propose to make good the loss of properties sustained by any gun-holder as a result of the acquisition of gun under the Defence of India Rule 75A (I) ?
  - Whether the authorities propose to issue fresh licenses to those licensees to purchase second-hand guns in case their own ones are kept for an indefinite period for Government use ?



143. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) How many loaded shot gun cartridges were acquired under the Defence of India Rules along with the guns in the Sylhet district and how many of them have been utilised by the authorities and to what purpose?

(b) Whether any price has been paid for them?

(c) If not, why not?

144. Are Government aware that many of these requisitioned guns are being very roughly handled and at times are being used in private hunting purposes?

145. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) What was the period for which the guns were requisitioned in the district of Sylhet under the Defence of India Rule 75 A (I)?

(b) Whether any steps were taken by the authorities to return these guns since Questions were asked in the last Session of the Assembly?

(c) If so, what was that?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

139-145.—The information has been called for from the Deputy Commissioner.

**Re Closing of Government offices for Durga Puja, Idd, X'mas and other religious festivals**

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI asked:

146. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the policy under which Government offices remain closed on the occasions of Durga Puja, Idd, X'mas and other religious festivals?

(b) Is it a fact that Government offices and Institutions are kept closed in connection with religious festivals to enable Government Officers and employees to perform their own religious ceremonies and for rest and recreation?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state why the majority of Government officials of Shillong specially of the Assam Secretariat (Civil and Public Works Department) are debarred from availing themselves of holidays?

(d) Is it a fact that some four or five years ago, Government promised in reply to Assembly Questions asked by Maulavi Mabarak Ali, M.L.A., that none of the Assistants of Shillong Offices applying for permission to leave the station during any vacation would be denied of availing it?

(e) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether Government are acting up to their promise in the matter of giving permission to Shillong clerks who apply for permission to leave the station during any vacation?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state the total number of assistants of the Assam Secretariat (Civil and Public Works Department) who applied for permission to leave the station during the last Puja and Idd holidays and the total number allowed to avail of the same?

(g) Is it a fact that out of 56 assistants of the Public Works Department Secretariat only six assistants were allowed to avail of the last Idd and Puja holidays and the remaining 50 assistants were detained?

(h) Is it a fact that the remaining 50 assistants had nothing to attend to during the said holidays?

(i) If so, will Government be pleased to state why there has been this breach of their promise held out by them in the past in such matters?

(j) Do Government propose to show special consideration to those clerks of Shillong, who reside there without their wives and children either for want of accommodation or financial difficulty, in the matter of leave and permission for enjoying holidays?

(k) Are Government aware that the present Secretaries and Under-Secretaries of the Assam Secretariat (Civil and Public Works Department) are always



very unsympathetic towards those who serve under them in the matter of granting leave and permission ?

(l) Whether the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of each Department of the Secretariat proposes to see to the grievances of the Secretariat staff in such matters ?

(m) Are Government aware that the present Under-Secretary, Public Works Department, is very ill-behaved towards his assistants and subordinate officers ?

(n) Do Government propose to direct him to be polite in his dealings ?

(o) Is it a fact that the present Under-Secretary, Public Works Department compelled the Muslim Assistants of the Public Works Department Secretariat to attend office and work during the last Puja holidays every day including Sundays and entirely closed days ?

(p) If so, on what authority ?

(q) Does the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department propose to look into the matter ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

146. (a)—The policy will be found stated at length in paragraphs 382-383 of the Assam Executive Manual.

(b)—Generally speaking, the answer is in the affirmative.

(c)—Government do not accept the suggestion as being a correct statement of fact.

(d)—A reference to the replies given to Maulavi Mabarak Ali's Questions Nos. 147-150 at the Budget Session of 1938 shows that such an undertaking as is suggested was not given.

(e)—The Question does not arise : assistants are however given all facilities as are feasible in the light of the circumstances at the time.

(f)—In the Civil Secretariat 103 applied and 35 were allowed the concession in full, 60 in part. Only eight were refused. In the Public Works Secretariat 35 applied 11 were given full and 20 part permission, while one was refused.

(g)—No.

(h)—Certainly not.

(i)—Does not arise.

(j)—Individual claims of the sort mentioned are always considered.

(k)—No.

(l)—If any assistant has a grievance he should represent it through the Secretary concerned, who always examines such representations.

(m)—No.

(n)—Government have no reason to suppose that such an exhortation is necessary.

(o)—No.

(p)—Does not arise.

(q)—The Hon'ble Minister will undoubtedly look into any specific matter which is brought to his attention.

### Planning Committee for the Province

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF asked :

147. Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to consider the desirability of setting up a planning committee for the Province for the purpose of formulating schemes for development of every aspect of national life ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

147.—Government will take the suggestion into consideration. It is too wide for a more categorical decision now.



**Government Scholarships tenable at the Medical College, Calcutta**

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

148. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The names and address of candidates with their academic qualification and Division obtained by each for the Government Scholarships tenable at the Medical College, Calcutta, for the Session beginning in 1944 ?
- (b) The total marks secured by each candidate in the examination by the passing of which he qualified himself for his candidature ?
- (c) The names and addresses of the candidates selected and recommended by the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals, Assam, for the scholarships ?
- (d) The names, addresses and the community to which the candidates, who have been awarded the above scholarships, belong ?

149. (a) Is it a fact that one Srihari Das reading in the 1st year class of the Medical College, Calcutta, has been awarded a scholarship with effect from the date he is promoted to the 2nd year class ?

- (b) Is it a fact that the said Srihari Das belongs to the Scheduled Caste ?
- (c) Will Government be pleased to state whether the said Srihari Das was promoted to the 2nd year class ?
- (d) If so, did he secure the minimum pass marks in all the papers and also the aggregate marks required for promotion ?

150. (a) Is it a fact that in the advertisement inviting applications for scholarships in the Medical College it was explicitly mentioned that Hindus need not apply ?

- (b) Is it a fact that there are only two scholarships tenable at the Medical College, Calcutta ?
- (c) Is it a fact that only one scholarship has been declared as awarded ?
- (d) If so, why ?
- (e) Will Government be pleased to state when they propose to declare the award of the other scholarship ?

(f) Is it a fact that the scholarships are intended to facilitate the studies of the scholarshipholders from the very beginning of the session ?

(g) Will Government be pleased to state whether the said scholarships are awarded in proper time ?

151. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Jamshiruddin Ahmed and Alfrid Mahbudur Rahman were candidates for the scholarships tenable at the Medical College, Calcutta for the session beginning in 1943 ?
- (b) Whether Government are aware that the above named Jamshiruddin Ahmed stood 6th in I.Sc. Examination of 1943 ?
- (c) Whether one or both of the above named candidates were awarded scholarships ?
- (d) If one, who was he ?

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN replied :

148. (a) & (b)—A statement which gives the information as far as available with Government is laid on the Library table.

(c)—(i) Srihari Das, Kamrup.

(ii) Maklisur Rahman, Cachar.

(d)—(1) Srijut Srihari Das, Assam Valley Scheduled Caste (Kamrup).

(2) Maulavi Syed Nadiruzzaman, Assam Valley Muslim (Sibsagar).

(3) Maulavi Md. Nayeb Ali, Surma Valley Muslim (Sylhet).

149. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Government have no information but as he was promoted he must have qualified himself for such promotion.



150. (a)—Yes.  
 (b)—Three, including one reserved for a female candidate.  
 (c), (d) & (e)—All the scholarships have since been awarded.  
 (f) & (g)—There was some delay in the award of two of these scholarships owing to the fact that the publication of results of the I.Sc. candidates from the Cotton College, Gauhati, was delayed on account of the loss of examination papers during transit.

151. (a)—Yes.  
 (b)—Yes.  
 (c)—One.  
 (d)—Maulavi Alfrid Mahbudur Rahman.

**Constitution of the Council under the Assam Nurses' Midwives' and Health Visitors' Registration Act, 1944**

Dr. C. G. TERRELL asked :

152. Will Government be pleased to state—  
 (a) Whether the Council to be constituted under the Assam Nurses', Midwives' and Health Visitors' Registration Act, 1944, has yet been constituted ?  
 (b) Whether any meetings of the Council have taken place ?  
 (c) Whether any nurses have yet been registered under the said Act ?  
 (d) Whether any Institutions have been approved and recognised by the Council ?  
 (e) Whether examinations for nurses seeking registration have been prescribed ?  
 (f) The steps taken to implement the assurance given by Government on the floor of the House that the Act would be brought into force immediately ?

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN replied :

152. (a)—Yes, the notification establishing the Council under Section 3 of the Assam Nurses' Midwives' and Health Visitors' Registration Act, 1944 (Assam Act II of 1944) has been published in the *Assam Gazette* of 15th November 1944.  
 (b)—No.  
 (c), (d) & (e)—These are the functions of the Council and it is hoped that the Council which has just been established will take action as early as possible.  
 (f)—The Act has been brought into force with effect from the 15th November 1944.

**Barpeta Government School Muslim Hostel**

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF asked :

153. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education be pleased to state :—  
 (a) Whether he proposes to take necessary steps for the extension of the Barpeta Government School Muslim Hostel with a prayer room attached to it ?  
 (b) If so, when the work is going to be taken up ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

153. (a)—Action has already been taken for extension of the Muslim Hostel of the Barpeta Government High School and funds provided. The question of provision of a prayer room will be taken up as soon as the extension work is complete.  
 (b)—The work will proceed immediately.



**Assam School Service Class II**

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

154. (a) Is it a fact that Maulavi Tayabullah a L. T. teacher was promoted to class II of the Assam School Service in September 1943 ?

(b) Is it a fact that he was then promoted to class I and appointed as Headmaster of a High English School in July last ?

(c) Is it a fact that Maulavi Tayabullah, as a teacher in class II of the Assam School Service is junior to several Assistant Headmasters with B. T. degrees ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing (i) the names of those class II Assistant Headmasters together with their qualifications and dates of their promotions to class II, who have been superseded by Maulavi Tayabulla, and (ii) the reason of such supersession ?

(e) Is it a fact that Maulavi Sahabuddin, a L. T. teacher was promoted to class II in July 1944 superseding many senior and efficient L. T. teachers ?

(f) If so, will Government be pleased to state (i) the names of teachers who have been superseded by him and (ii) the reason of such supersession ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

154. (a)—Yes (he was appointed to be Assistant Headmaster on probation).

(b)—He was appointed temporarily to officiate as Headmaster in class I.

(c)—Yes.

(d), (i) & (ii)—This being a case of temporary promotion Government do not consider that any supersession is involved.

(e)—Yes, he was appointed temporarily to officiate as Assistant Headmaster in class II.

(f), (i) & (ii)—This being a case of temporary promotion Government do not consider that any supersession is involved.

**Muslim Hostel of the Barpeta Government High School**

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

155. (a) Are Government aware that the extension of the Muslim Hostel of the Barpeta Government High School is essentially necessary and that the boarders find difficulty in saying their prayers without a prayer room ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Head Master of the said School has submitted to Government any proposal for the extension of the Muslim Hostel and for building a prayer room there ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

155. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes. The hon. Member is referred to the replies given to an Unstarred Question No.153(a) and (b) asked by Maulavi Syed Abdur Rouf in this Session.



**Assam Sahitya Sabha**

Srijut SURENDRA NATH BURAGOHAIN asked :

156. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether their attention has been drawn to the party political views expressed and imposed upon the last session of the Assam Sahitya Sabha recently held at Sibsagar by its President ?
- (b) If so, do they propose to preclude the Government servants from participating in the new Assam Sahitya Sabha ?
- (c) What is the amount of Government grant allotted to the Assam Sahitya Sabha for the current year ?
- (d) Whether this amount has since been paid to the authorities of the Sabha ?
- (e) If not, whether they propose to withhold payment of this amount of grant for the present ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

156. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Government have no information about one 'New Assam Sahitya Sabha'.

(c)—Rs.1,500.

(d)—The Government sanction was communicated to the Sabha on the 6th November 1944.

(e)—As Government understand that some dispute is going on with respect to the formation of the Executive Committee of the Sabha Government propose to withhold the grant for the present.

**Re Establishment of Co-operative Societies in Villages**

Srijut JOGENDRA CHANDRA NATH asked :

157. Are Government aware that the local authorities of the Goalpara subdivision are not so keen on establishing co-operative societies in the villages ?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA replied :

157.—No.

**Boat Disaster at Pandu**

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

158. (a) Are Government aware that as a result of boat disaster at Pandu in July 1944 several people lost their lives ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have made any enquiry in the matter ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether the party responsible for this disaster has been adequately punished and whether steps have been taken to prevent recurrence of such disaster in future ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRNEDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY replied :

158 (a)—Yes, 20 persons, mostly women, are reported to have been drowned.



(b)—It is stated by the Superintendent of Police, Kamrup, that enquiries are still progressing and that further report will follow when more details will be forthcoming.

(c)—It is reported by the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, that he has asked the Superintendent of Police to take action for prosecuting the ferry lessee if there are materials for the same.

### Coal and flour supply in Shillong

Mr. A. WHITTAKER asked :

159. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The reasons for deterioration in the coal supply to the population of Shillong, shewing the date on which supplies were reduced ?
- (b) The measures they have taken to improve the supply ?
- (c) The date on which these measures, in the opinion of Government, became effective ?

160. Will Government be pleased to state why there was not sufficient flour in Shillong to issue the full ration to civilians for the week ending 21st October, 1944 ?

161. Will Government be pleased to state what is the current blackmarket price per seer of sugar and flour at Shillong ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

159. (a), (b) & (c)—Supplies were reduced from middle of July by the Political Officer, Khasi States. As the coal mines fall within the Khasi States Government are not aware of the reasons or of the measures taken.

160.—Full ration was issued for week ending 21st October but for the following week it was reduced as reserves had run short.

161.—Government have no information.

### Ferry boat tragedy at Amingaon

Srijut BELI RAM DAS asked :

162. (a) Are Government aware that there was a ferry boat tragedy at Amingaon on the 17th July 1944 causing a loss of more than 100 souls ?

(b) If so, what was it due to ?

(c) Are Government aware of the widespread feelings of horror and indignation in this respect throughout Assam Valley, particularly in the Press and the Platform ?

(d) Is it a fact that the Gauhati Local Board, the Anjuman Islamiya, the Hindu Sabha, the Marwari Association and other public organisations sent telegraphic messages about this catastrophe to the Government in the matter demanding prompt enquiry and proper punishment of the guilty persons ?

(e) Is it a fact that there were series of public complaints in November 1943 against the lessee of the public ferry for several malpractices and flagrant breach of ferry rules ?

(f) Is it a fact that complaint from the Chairman, Local Board, Gauhati, and numerous signed petitions from the local gentry, living on the riverain areas were submitted to the Secretary, Public Works Department, sometime in December last for heavy exactions and grave irregularities through sub-lessees committed by the ferry lessee, Gauhati ?

(g) Do Government propose to cancel or suspend the boat ferry license at Amingaon from the lessee in question ?

(h) If not, why not ?

(i) Did the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, take any steps to direct investigation of the matter either by Police or by any non-official body ?



The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY replied :

162. (a)—Yes, but only 20 persons were reported to have died.

(b)—The matter is still under Police enquiry hence it is difficult now to say what was the precise cause.

(c)—Government are, and they are aware that as a tragic event everybody is, feeling sad for it.

(d)—No telegram appears to have been received by the Government from any of the organisations or public bodies mentioned in the Question.

(e)—Government received only one complaint against the lessee in November 1943.

(f)—Government received no complaint from the Chairman, Gauhati Local Board, but received a complaint from the local people.

(g)—The matter is under consideration of Government.

(h)—Does not arise.

(i)—Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, ordered a Police investigation.

### Ferry boat tragedy at Amingaon

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED asked :

163. (a) Are Government aware that there was a ferry boat tragedy at Amingaon on the 17th July 1944 causing a loss of more than 100 souls ?

(b) If so, what was it due to ?

(c) Are Government aware of the widespread feelings of horror and indignation in this respect throughout Assam Valley, particularly in the Press and Platform ?

(d) Is it a fact that the Gauhati Local Board, the Anjuman Islamiya, the Hindu Sabha the Marwari Association and other public organisations sent telegraphic messages about this catastrophe to the Government in the matter demanding prompt enquiry and proper punishment of the guilty persons ?

(e) Is it a fact that there were series of public complaints in November 1943 against the lessee of the public ferry for several malpractices and flagrant breach of ferry rules ?

(f) Is it a fact that complaint from the Chairman, Local Board, Gauhati, and numerous signed petitions from the local gentry, living on the riverain areas were submitted to the Secretary, Public Works Department, sometime in December last for heavy exactions and grave irregularities through sub-lessees committed by the ferry lessee, Gauhati ?

(g) Do Government propose to cancel or suspend the boat ferry license at Amingaon from the lessee in question ?

(h) If not, why not ?

(i) Did the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, take any steps to direct investigation of the matter either by Police or by any non-official body ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY replied :

163. (a) to (i)—The hon. Member is referred to replies given to the Question No.162(a)—(i), asked by Srijut Beliram Das.

### Dereservation of grazing reserves in the Barpeta subdivision

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF asked :

164. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether any proposal for dereservation of certain grazing reserves in the Barpeta subdivision was submitted to the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, by the Subdivisional Officer, Barpeta ?



- (b) If so, on what date the proposal was submitted ?  
 (c) On what date the Deputy Commissioner disposed of the file ?  
 (d) Whether the proposal will be sent to Government from the Deputy Commissioner's Office ?  
 (e) If so, when Government expect to receive the same ?  
 (f) Whether any delay is being made in working out the dereservation scheme in the subdivision of Barpeta ?
165. Will Government be pleased to state—  
 (a) The total area of land in bighas settled or recommended for settlement by the present Sub-Deputy Collector of Barnagar Circle during his whole tenure of office there, on basis of Kabuliati petitions ?  
 (b) How much of the said area was settled with immigrants and how much with others ?
166. Will Government be pleased to state—  
 (a) Whether they are aware that the major portion of the Barpeta town being within the Satra area the Muslims are not allowed to remain there ?  
 (b) The total area of land settled with the (i) Caste Hindus, (ii) Scheduled Castes, (iii) Tribals, (iv) Muslims and (v) other bodies within the Barpeta Municipal area ?  
 (c) The total area of Khas land which may now be settled on premium basis within the said Municipal area ?  
 (d) The total area of Khas land which has been settled on premium basis up to 31st March, 1944 with (i) Muslims and (ii) non-Muslims ?  
 (e) Whether they propose to settle the area of such land now available for settlement with members of deserving communities only ?  
 (f) The total population of the Barpeta Municipal Elaka distributed amongst different communities ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

164. (a) — Yes.  
 (b) — 19th May, 1944.  
 (c) — 11th November, 1944.  
 (d) & (e) — A copy of the Deputy Commissioner's orders has been sent to Government, but only for information as he has been empowered to dereserve lands subject to Commissioner's information.

(f) — No survey work was possible in Barpeta during the rains and the Deputy Commissioner kept the proposals for local discussions with the Colonisation and Circle Officers who will now proceed to carry out his instructions.

165. (a) & (b) — Particulars are not available and Government do not propose to call for them as the immense labour involved in the collection would be incommensurate with the results.

166. (a) — At the time of last resettlement Barpeta town covered an area of 2,604 bighas of which less than 60 per cent. was settled ; almost two-thirds of it belong to the Barpeta Satra. Government have no information whether Muslims are allowed to live in Satra lands.

(b) — Information is not available.  
 (c) — According to the last resettlement report the unsettled area of Barpeta town amounted to 1,208 bighas. A little less than half of this area was reported to be taken up by roads, streams, *Jans*, public places and public buildings and the remainder was available for settlement. No information is available as to the actual area now available for settlement.

(d) — No information can be supplied as the period for which it is required has not been specified.

(e) — Settlement is governed by rules which make no discrimination between applicants on the ground of the religion they profess or the community to which they belong. The Deputy Commissioner is invested with the power of settlement subject to confirmation by the Commissioner of Divisions.

(f) — Information is not available.



**Resuscitation of Chaulkhowa river in Barpeta subdivision**

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF asked :

167. (a) Are Government aware that the Chaulkhowa river in the Barpeta subdivision has practically been dried up since the earthquake of 1930 ?

(b) Are Government aware that as a result, trade, commerce, general health of the town and some fisheries have all been adversely affected ?

(c) Do Government propose to re-consider the question of resuscitating the said river ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

167. (a) & (b)—Government are aware that as a result of natural causes, over which they have no control, the Chaulkhowa river has to some extent dried up in recent years and the value of its fisheries has deteriorated, but they have no information that the general health of the people has been affected ?

(c)—The power to resuscitate rivers does not rest in this Government.

**Re Land Records and Colonisation Staffs in Barpeta subdivision**

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

168. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) What is the total number of Mandals and Supervisor Kanungoes in the subdivision of Barpeta in the permanent Land Records staff and Colonisation staff ?
- (b) What is the numerical strength of the Muslim Kanungoes and Mandals in the above subdivision and what should be their number on population basis ?
- (c) What is the total number of posts filled up in the Land Records staff of the subdivision of Barpeta since 1941 ?
- (d) How many of these posts have been filled up by Muslims and how many by non-Muslims ?
- (e) Whether in making these appointments the question of communal representation was considered ?
- (f) Whether these posts were advertised ?
- (g) If so, whether any Muslim candidate applied for the same ?
- (h) Why claims of the Muslim candidates were ignored ?
- (i) Do Government propose to make future appointments according to population basis ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

168. (a)—(i)—The information is not available in Shillong and there was no time to obtain it from the district concerned before the end of the Session.

**Re Appointment of a Muslim Headmaster**

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

169. (a) Is it a fact that a Muslim Headmaster is going to be recruited direct from outside to Class I of the Assam School Service ?

(b) If so, what are the minimum qualifications prescribed for candidates to that post ?



- (c) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table copies of all the circulars in the matter of appointments and promotions in the Assam School Service issued from time to time ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

169. (a)—Yes.

(b)—B. A. degree.

(c)—There are no circulars on the subject. Recruitment is done according to the rules relating to appointments in the Assam School Service. To remove under-representation of different communities in the Service, Government issue orders from time to time as may be necessary.

### **Re Promotion of Class III Officers of the Assam School Service**

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

170. (a) Will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken or propose to take to remove the anomalies in regard to promotion of class III officers of the Assam School Service both in the teaching and inspecting lines as was assured by the Hon'ble Minister of Education in the Council Session of March, 1944 ?

(b) Is it a fact that Assistant Head Masters have been asked whether they are agreeable to accept posts of Deputy Inspectors of Schools against temporary vacancies with a view to gain experience in the inspecting line ?

(c) If so, how many of them have agreed to it ?

(d) How many of them have been appointed Deputy Inspectors of Schools since then ?

(e) Is it a fact that some of the senior teachers of class III have recently been asked whether they are willing to join inspecting line as Sub-Inspectors of Schools ?

(f) If so, how many of them have expressed their willingness ?

(g) How many of them have been appointed Sub-Inspectors of Schools since then ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

170. (a)—Government are still examining the matter and have not arrived at a decision yet.

(b)—Yes. An enquiry was made but no action was taken.

(c) & (d)—Do not arise.

(e)—Yes. An enquiry was made but no action was taken.

(f) & (g)—Do not arise.

### **Re Bongalmora Grazing Reserve in Laluk Mauza**

Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI asked :

171. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The total area of the Bongalmora Grazing Reserve in Laluk Mauza in North Lakhimpur subdivision ?

(b) The number of registered cattle in the Bongalmora Grazing Reserve, North Lakhimpur subdivision during the years 1941-42, 1942-43 and 1943-44 ?

(c) The total amount of collection made during the said years from the professional graziers as grazing tax ?

(d) Whether it is a fact that with the approval of Government the Sub-Deputy Collector in charge of the circle called for applications from the Raiyats for settlement of lands in the Bongalmora Grazing Reserve ?



- (e) Whether it is a fact that the previous local officer sent a proposal to Government to throw open the Bongalmora Grazing Reserve for settlement with the Raiyats and Government also approved of the said proposal?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that the local officer again sent a proposal against the proposal of the previous officer not to throw open the grazing lands for settlement with Raiyats in defiance of the proposal approved of by Government?
- (g) Whether it is a fact that some portion of the lands in the Bongalmora Grazing Reserve is quite unfit for grazing purposes, but quite fit for cultivation?
- (h) If so, whether Government propose to throw open the Bongalmora Grazing Reserve for settlement with the landless bonafide Assamese of Majuli and other districts?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied:

171. (a)—(h)—Information is not available and has been called for, from the local officers.

*Re Recent epidemic in Baniyachong*

Babu SHIBENDRA CHANDRA BISWAS asked:

172. Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Medical and Public Health be pleased to state—
- (a) The name of the disease that has recently spread in epidemic form and causing death of people at Baniachong?
  - (b) Whether the disease has been researched and diagnosed?
  - (c) If so, who was the officer deputed for the purpose?
  - (d) Whether the Director of Public Health visited Baniachong when the disease was spreading there in epidemic form?
  - (e) If so, whether he recorded the number of deaths?
  - (f) Whether the Medical Officer stationed at Baniachong made any diagnosis of the disease?
  - (g) If so, whether the special officer, Assistant Director of Public Health or Director of Public Health directed any chemical examination for the confirmation of such diagnosis?
  - (h) If the answer to (g) above be in the affirmative, how many cases were chemically examined?
  - (i) Whether Government have received any communication from Dr. M. A. Hussain declaring the epidemic at Baniachong to be of Cerebro spinal fever?
  - (j) If so, whether Government verified the accuracy of such declaration?
  - (k) Whether it is a fact that a detailed report regarding the epidemic at Baniachong was recently submitted to Government by Dr. S. R. Pandit?
  - (l) Have Government published the report for general information?
  - (m) If not, why not?
  - (n) Do Government propose to publish the said report now?
  - (o) Whether Government propose to appoint a committee consisting of independent physicians of all India repute to examine the various opinions given out by various medical men regarding the diagnosis and nature of the epidemic at Baniachong?



The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN replied :

172. (a) — Malaria.

(b) — Yes.

(c) — Assistant Director of Public Health, Southern Public Health Division, Sylhet, District Medical Officer of Health, Sylhet, Director, Pasteur Institute, Shillong and the Malariologist.

(d) — Yes.

(e) — No.

(f) — Yes.

(g) — No. Chemical examination was not necessary for diagnosis of the disease.

(h) — Does not arise.

(i) — Yes.

(j) — Yes. Assistant Director of Public Health, District Medical Officer of Health, Sylhet, Director, Pasteur Institute and Medical Research Institute and the Director of Public Health investigated the matter and found the alleged report to be absolutely false.

(k) — Yes.

(l) — No.

(m) — It was not considered necessary to do so.

(n) — No.

(o) — No.

#### *Re Supply of mill cloth in the Province*

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

173. (a) Are Government aware that people of the Province are experiencing great difficulties for want of mill cloth ?

(b) Are Government aware that since the prices of mill cloth were controlled, its supply has been extremely scarce ?

(c) What steps Government have taken for adequate supply of mill cloth in the Province ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

173. (a) — A shortage of mill-made cloth, especially of the finer varieties, is reported to have been prevailing for sometime past.

(b) — There has been a shrinkage in supplies, which is attributable to a large extent to the strict enforcement in Assam of the prescribed maximum prices, since cloth could seldom be procured by our dealers in Calcutta at prices which would leave them a sufficient margin to enable them to sell within the maximum prices. The immediate cause of the prevailing shortage, however, is a restriction imposed by the Government of Bengal on despatches of cloth from Bengal to Assam with effect from 1st September last, as a result of which a very small quantity (*viz.* 6,000 bales) has come in.

(c) — Several representations made to the Government of Bengal and the Central Government, Textile Commissioner about making cloth available to our dealers at reasonable prices in Calcutta having proved infructuous, Government were compelled to request the Central Government to separate Assam from Bengal Deficit Zone, of which it was a part, and to constitute a separate zone known as the Assam Deficit Zone comprising Assam, Manipur State and the Khasi Hill States. This separation has been made with effect from the 1st November, 1944, and henceforth the Assam Deficit Zone's quota of mill-made cloth, which has been fixed at 4,660 bales a month on an all-India population basis, will be supplied direct



from Bombay Presidency. Attempts are being made to secure the entire quota direct from the Mills at ex-mill prices ; but there are certain difficulties, chief of which is the Textile Control Board's anxiety not to allow any cloth to be supplied by the Mills to the market except through those dealers who received direct supplies from them in the years 1940-41-42 and who are known as their quota-holders. However, the Provincial Cloth and Yarn Commissioner has, during a recent visit to Bombay, been able to secure about 2,000 bales direct from the mills at ex-mill prices with the help of the Textile Commissioner. These bales are being taken delivery of by three agents authorised by him, who will for a small commission of  $\frac{1}{2}\%$  collect and despatch them to certain selected dealers in the Province, roughly one in each subdivision. As it will be a considerable time before consignments from Bombay begin to arrive in Assam, the Provincial Cloth and Yarn Commissioner has arranged with the Government of Bengal to supply to certain representative dealers authorised by him 1,500 bales from the previous combined quota of Bengal and Assam and another 2,000 bales as a loan to be refunded from the Assam Zone's quota on its arrival in Calcutta. These measures, it is hoped, will relieve the present shortage to some extent until a regular flow from Bombay commences.

### National War Front Organisers and Sub-Leaders

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN asked :

174. (a) Will Government be pleased to state, district by district, the names of National War Front Organisers as well as Sub-Leaders ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have appointed any Organiser or Sub-Leader for this work in the villages from the Labour Community.

(c) If not, do Government propose to appoint some one as such from that community ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

174.(a)—There is no Sub-Leader in any National War Front District under the present constitution. However, lists of District Leaders, Deputy District Leaders, District Organisers and Circle Organisers are shown below :—

### List of District Leaders and Deputy District Leaders of National War Front in the Province of Assam

- |   |                                 |                   |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Srijut Bipin Chandra Ghose   | } Joint District Leader.        | Goalpara district |
| 2. Maulavi Mofizuddin Ahmed   |                                 |                   |
| 1. Khan Sahib Maulavi Abul Khair, M. L. C.—District Leader, Gauhati (South) | } Joint District Leader.        | Kamrup district   |
| 2. Srijut Kaliram Barman, B. L. — " " " (North)                             |                                 |                   |
| 1. Khan Sahib Maulavi Muhammad Rofique —District Leader, Nowgong (South)    | } Joint District Leader (North) | Nowgong district  |
| 2. Rai Bahadur Srijut Brindaban Chandra Goswami, B. L.                      |                                 |                   |
| 3. Al-Haj Sirajul Islam ...   |                                 |                   |
| 1. Srijut Sarat Chandra Barua   | } District Leader, Mangaldai.   | Darrang district  |
| 2. Rai Sahib Dr. Hem Chandra Das " " Tezpur.                                |                                 |                   |



*Sibsagar district*

- |  |          |                 |
|--|----------|-----------------|
| 1. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Keramat Ali,       | District | Leader, Jorhat. |
| M. L. A.                                   |          |                 |
| 2. Rai Sahib Kamaleswar Sarma, B. L. ...   | "        | " Golaghat.     |
| 3. Srijut Jogendra Nath Gohain, M.L.C. ... | "        | " Sibsagar.     |

*Lakhimpur district*

- |                              |     |                             |
|------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|
| 1. Srijut Dambarudhar Saikia | ... | District Leader, Dibrugarh. |
|------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|

*Cachar district*

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Maulavi Namwar Ali Barbhuiya, B. L., | District Leader, Silchar.            |
| M. L. A.                                |                                      |
| 2. Maulavi Irphan Ali Laskar            | } Joint District Leader, Hailakandi. |
| 3. Babu Himangshu Sekhar Chakravarty    |                                      |

*Sylhet district*

- |   |     |                                |
|---|-----|--------------------------------|
| 1. Babu Birendra Lal Das                  | ... | District Leader, North Sylhet. |
| 2. " Gopendra Lal Das Choudhury, B. L.    | "   | " Habiganj.                    |
| 3. Maulavi Syed Badrul Hussain            | "   | " Maulavibazar.                |
| 4. " A. Bari Chaudhury, M. A., B. L.,     | "   | " Sunamganj.                   |
| M. L. A.                                  |     |                                |
| 5. Maulavi Abdul Mayeed Choudhury, B. L., | "   | " Karimganj.                   |
| M. L. C.                                  |     |                                |

## ASSAM VALLEY

*Goalpara*

- |                              |     |     |                         |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-------------------------|
| 1. Dr. A. K. Muazzam Ali     | ... | ... | Deputy District Leader. |
| 2. Srijut Rama Kanta Patgiri | ... | ... | Ditto.                  |
| 3. Hazi Mirullah Seikh       | ... | ... | Ditto.                  |

*Gauhati South*

- |                              |     |     |        |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|--------|
| 1. Srijut Lakhinath Das      | ... | ... | Ditto. |
| 2. Maulavi A. Rahman         | ... | ... | Ditto. |
| 3. " Akram Hussain Saikia... | ... | ... | Ditto. |

*Gauhati North*

- |                              |     |     |        |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|--------|
| 1. Srijut M. M. Goswami      | ... | ... | Ditto. |
| 2. " Basanta Kumar Choudhury | ... | ... | Ditto. |
| 3. " Gonga Ram Choudhury     | ... | ... | Ditto. |

*Nowgong North*

- |                                     |     |     |        |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|--------|
| 1. Srijut Dhirsingh Deuri, M. L. A. | ... | ... | Ditto. |
| 2. Maulavi Jahuruddin Mullah        | ... | ... | Ditto. |

*Nowgong South*

- |                              |     |     |        |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|--------|
| 1. Srijut Narsingh Bordoloi  | ... | ... | Ditto. |
| 2. " Jibon Chandra Barkakati | ... | ... | Ditto. |



*Jorhat*

- |                                      |     |     |     |                         |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------------------------|
| 1. Srijut Lakhinath Gogoi            | ... | ... | ... | Deputy District Leader. |
| 2. „ Bidur Chandra Barua             | ... | ... | ... | Ditto.                  |
| 3. „ Rabindra Nath Barua             | ... | ... | ... | Ditto.                  |
| 4. „ Golok Chandra Barua, M.A., B.L. | ... | ... | ... | Ditto.                  |

*Golaghat*

- |                             |     |     |     |        |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| 1. Srijut D. Hazarika       | ... | ... | ... | Ditto. |
| 2. „ P. Kakati              | ... | ... | ... | Ditto. |
| 3. Dr. P. Das               | ... | ... | ... | Ditto. |
| 4. Maulavi Moniruddin Ahmed | ... | ... | ... | Ditto. |

*Dibrugarh*

- |                                    |     |     |     |        |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| 1. Srijut Ghana Kanta Gogoi, M. A. | ... | ... | ... | Ditto. |
| 2. „ D. P. Das                     | ... | ... | ... | Ditto. |
| 3. Maulavi S. H. Ahmed             | ... | ... | ... | Ditto. |

*Tezpur*

- |                                       |     |     |     |        |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| 1. Srijut Dulal Chandra Bhattacharyya | ... | ... | ... | Ditto. |
| 2. „ Ganga Nath Barthakur...          | ... | ... | ... | Ditto. |
| 3. „ Chandi Ram Bora                  | ... | ... | ... | Ditto. |
| 4. „ Annada Kumar Padmapati           | ... | ... | ... | Ditto. |
| 5. Rai Sahib Srijut M. M. Lahiri      | ... | ... | ... | Ditto. |

## SURMA VALLEY

- |                           |     |     |     |        |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| 1. Babu Monmohan Mozumdar | ... | ... | ... | Ditto. |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|

*Habiganj*

- |                                    |     |     |     |        |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| 1. Khan Sahib Nurul Hussain, B. L. | ... | ... | ... | Ditto. |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|

*Karimganj*

- |                        |     |     |     |        |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| 1. Maulavi Abdul Hamid | ... | ... | ... | Ditto. |
| 2. Babu Samarjit Das   | ... | ... | ... | Ditto. |

LIST OF DISTRICT ORGANISERS, NATIONAL WAR FRONT  
ASSAM VALLEY*Dibrugarh*

- |  |
|--|
| 1. Srijut G. N. Saikia—District Organiser, Dibrugarh, Assam. |
| 2. „ D. R. Bora—Special District Organiser, Dibrugarh.       |

*Jorhat*

- |  |
|--|
| 1. Srijut Golok Ch. Bora, B. A.—District Organiser, Jorhat, Assam. |
|--|

*Sibsagar*

- |   |
|---|
| 1. Srijut D. N. Gogoi—District Organiser, Sibsaagar, Assam. |
| 2. „ B. K. Datta—Ditto Ditto ditto ditto.                   |

*Golaghat*

- |  |
|--|
| 1. Maulavi Muhammad Ali—District Organiser, Golaghat, Assam. |
|--|



*Nowgong North*

1. Srijut Mohendra Nath Bordoloi, M. A.—District Organiser, Nowgong North, Assam.
2. Syeed Azizul Haque—Assistant District Organiser, Nowgong North, Assam.

*Nowgong South*

1. Srijut Narendra Nath Sarma, B. A.—District Organiser, Nowgong South, Assam.

*Gauhati North*

1. Srijut Rajat Ch. Sarma, B. A.—District Organiser, Gauhati North, Assam.

*Gauhati South*

1. Srijut Joy Sankar Das—District Organiser, Gauhati South, Assam.

*Goalpara*

1. Srijut Sadananda Das—District Organiser, Goalpara, Assam.

*Mangaldai*

1. Srijut Ambika Ch. Barua, B. A.—District Organiser, Mangaldai.

*Barpeta*

1. Srijut D. N. Roy Choudhury, B. L.—District Organiser, Barpeta, Assam.

*North Lakhimpur*

1. Srijut B. N. Sarma Hazarika—District Organiser, North Lakhimpur, Assam.

## SURMA VALLEY

*Silchar*

1. Maulavi Sirajuddin Ahmed Mazumdar ... District Organiser.

*Sunamganj*

1. Maulavi Abdul Mannan, B.A. ... Ditto.

*South Sylhet*

1. Maulavi Abdul Munim Chaudhury ... Ditto.
2. „ A. H. Md. Abdullah Chaudhury ... Ditto.

*North Sylhet*

1. Babu Sailendra Kumar Chaudhury ... Ditto.

*Habiganj*

1. Maulavi Md. Abdullah ... Ditto.
2. „ Sahabuddin Ahmed ... Ditto.
3. Babu Nani Gopal Roy ... Ditto.

*Karimganj*

1. Maulavi Md. Abdur Rouf ... Ditto.

*Hailakandi*

1. Babu Anil Kumar Dey ... Ditto.
2. Maulavi Abdul Wahab Choudhury ... Ditto.



# LIST OF CIRCLE ORGANISERS, NATIONAL WAR FRONT ASSAM VALLEY

## Dibrugarh

1	Srijut H. N. Konwar	...	...	...	Circle Organiser.
2	" H. C. Barua	...	...	...	Ditto.
3	" Bapuram Bora...	...	...	...	Ditto.
4	" Bihuram Hazarika	...	...	...	Ditto.
5	" Ramesh Ch. Hazarika	...	...	...	Ditto.
6	" Dandidhar Sargari	...	...	...	Ditto.

## Jorhat

1	Srijut Haranath Barua	...	...	...	Ditto.
2	Maulavi Tahir Ali	...	...	...	Ditto.
3	Srijut Krishnakanta Borgohain	...	...	...	Ditto.
4	" Gopal Ch. Goswami	...	...	...	Ditto.
5	" Siba Nath Gogoi	...	...	...	Ditto.
6	" Kamal Ch. Hazarika	...	...	...	Ditto.
7	" Khagendra Nath Mahanta	...	...	...	Ditto.
8	Maulavi Baharuddin Ahmed	...	...	...	Ditto.

## Sibsagar

1	Srijut B. Rajkonwar	...	...	...	Ditto.
2	" H. K. Gogoi	...	...	...	Ditto.
3	" N. S. Gogoi	...	...	...	Ditto.
4	" D. R. Chaliha	...	...	...	Ditto.
5	" K. C. Phukan	...	...	...	Ditto.
6	" D. S. Mahanta	...	...	...	Ditto.
7	Maulavi K. K. Ali Bora	...	...	...	Ditto.
8	" Fizuddin Ahmed	...	...	...	Ditto.

## Nowgong North

1	Srijut Atul Chandra Goswami	...	...	...	Ditto.
2	" Udai Chandra Saikia	...	...	...	Ditto.
3	" Arun Chandra Bora	...	...	...	Ditto.
4	" Sodhan Singh Das	...	...	...	Ditto.
5	" Mahendra Nath Deka	...	...	...	Ditto.
6	Md. Ismail Ali	...	...	...	Ditto.
7	" Osman Ali	...	...	...	Ditto.
8	" Nayeb Ali	...	...	...	Ditto.
9	" Rostam Ali	...	...	...	Ditto.
10	" Faziruddin Ahmed	...	...	...	Ditto.

## Nowgong South

1	Srijut Kalikanta Bora	...	...	...	Ditto.
2	" N. N. Bora	...	...	...	Ditto.
3	Maulavi S. Ahmed	...	...	...	Ditto.
4	Srijut Kamal Kanta Bora	...	...	...	Ditto.

## Gauhati North

1	Srijut Dharmeswar Das	...	...	...	Ditto.
2	" Rajendranath Bhattacharyya	...	...	...	Ditto.
3	" Umesh Chandra Kalita	...	...	...	Ditto.
4	" Paniram Deka	...	...	...	Ditto.
5	" Amrit Chandra Sarma	...	...	...	Ditto.
6	" Hem Chandra Mozumdar	...	...	...	Ditto.
7	" Mahendra Ch. Barua	...	...	...	Ditto.
8	" Madhab Chandra Talukdar	...	...	...	Ditto.
9	" Pabindra Ch. Barman	...	...	...	Ditto.
10	" Bangshidhar Barman	...	...	...	Ditto.
11	Maulavi Mamiruddin Ahmed...	...	...	...	Ditto.



*Goalpara*

1	Srijut Tarini Prasad Das	...	...	...	Circle Organiser.
2	" Sarat Chandra Das	...	...	...	Ditto.
3	" Madan Mohan Das	...	...	...	Ditto.
4	" Khagendra Nath Gaobura	...	...	...	Ditto.
5	" Paresh Ch. Chakravarty	...	...	...	Ditto.
6	" Hemendra Kr. Adhikary	...	...	...	Ditto.
7	Maulavi Abdul Khaleque	...	...	...	Ditto.

## SURMA VALLEY

*Sunamganj*

1	Maulavi Hasan Ali	...	...	...	Circle Organiser.
2	" Sekandar Ali	...	...	...	Ditto.
3	" Martuza Ali Pir	...	...	...	Ditto.
4	" Khandakar Jawad Ali	...	...	...	Ditto.
5	" Syed Abdul Bari	...	...	...	Ditto.
6	" Sariatuddin Ahmed	...	...	...	Ditto.
7	" Abdul Karim	...	...	...	Ditto.
8	" Akhlaque Hussain Pir	...	...	...	Ditto.
9	" Abdus Sattar Pir	...	...	...	Ditto.
10	" Abu Md. Abdur Zaher	...	...	...	Ditto.
11	Babu Sailendra Kumar Roy	...	...	...	Ditto.
12	" Kshitish Ch. Roy Choudhury	...	...	...	Ditto.

*North Sylhet*

1	Babu Bisnupadda Chakravarty	...	...	...	Ditto.
2	" Suresh Chandra Chakravarty	...	...	...	Ditto.
3	" Kalikumar Choudhury	...	...	...	Ditto.
4	" Satyendra Kr. Das	...	...	...	Ditto.
5	Maulavi Md. Asaad Siddique	...	...	...	Special Circle Organiser.
6	" Moizuddin Ahmed	...	...	...	Circle Organiser.
7	" Sayed Eradat Hussain	...	...	...	Ditto.
8	" Rasiduddin Ahmed	...	...	...	Ditto.
9	" Jawadur Rahman	...	...	...	Ditto.
10	" Misbahuddin Choudhury	...	...	...	Ditto.
11	" Abdul Basir Choudhury	...	...	...	Ditto.
12	" Hafiz Ali Choudhury	...	...	...	Ditto.
13	" Abdul Rahman	...	...	...	Ditto.
14	" Azizur Rahman	...	...	...	Ditto.
15	" Syed Masahid Ali	...	...	...	Ditto.
16	" Khandakar Shansunoor	...	...	...	Ditto.
17	" Faizul Hussain	...	...	...	Ditto.

*Habiganj*

1	Maulavi Amir Hussain	...	...	...	Ditto.
2	" Ahmeduzzaman Choudhury	...	...	...	Ditto.
3	" Basiruddin Ahmed Khan	...	...	...	Ditto.
4	" Abdul Gani	...	...	...	Ditto.
5	" Sowab Khan Sodi	...	...	...	Ditto.
6	" Suleiman Hussain Chakaber	...	...	...	Ditto.
7	" Md. Ismail Meah	...	...	...	Ditto.
8	Babu Nripendra Lal Das	...	...	...	Ditto.
9	" Surendra Ch. Acheryya	...	...	...	Ditto.
10	" Narendra Ch. Sarkar	...	...	...	Ditto.
11	" Sunil Kumar Roy	...	...	...	Ditto.
12	" Ramendra Ch. Roy	...	...	...	Ditto.
13	" Mochindra Kumar Das	...	...	...	Ditto.



*Karimganj*

1	Maulavi Jeaor Ali Choudhury	...	...	Circle Organiser.
2	" Abdul Bari Choudhuri	...	...	Ditto.
3	" Md. Saleb Ahmed Choudhury	...	...	Ditto.
4	" Md. Masaur Ali	...	...	Ditto.
5	" Md. Sajjadur Rahman	...	...	Ditto.
6	" Md. Abdul Mannan	...	...	Ditto.
7	" A. Rahman Choudhury	...	...	Ditto.
8	" Md. Abdur Rahman	...	...	Ditto.
9	" Md. Azizur Rahman	...	...	Ditto.
10	" Md. Basiruddin Ahmed	...	...	Ditto.
11	Babu Sarada Charan Dev	...	...	Ditto.
12	" Narendra Ch. Das	...	...	Ditto.
13	" Charitra Kr. Bhattacheryya	...	...	Ditto.
14	" Karunamay Chakravarty	...	...	Ditto.
15	" Mothura Mohan Deb	...	...	Ditto.
16	" Krishna Kumar Singh	...	...	Ditto.

*South Sylhet*

1	Babu Hariprasanna Sen	...	...	Ditto.
2	" Upendra Kumar Dey	...	...	Ditto.
3	" Suresh Ch. Bhattacheryya	...	...	Ditto.
4	" Binode Behari Chakravarty	...	...	Ditto.
5	" Kiran Chandra Das...	...	...	Ditto.
6	Maulavi Abdul Wahid	...	...	Ditto.
7	" Md. Masaddur	...	...	Ditto.
8	" Jamshed Hussain	...	...	Ditto.
9	" Jafir Khan Choudhury	...	...	Ditto.
10	" Abdul Hussain	...	...	Ditto.
11	" Abul Mazid Chaudhury	...	...	Ditto.
12	" Aslam Khan	...	...	Ditto.
13	" Md. Ajmot	...	...	Ditto.

*Hailakandi*

1	Maulavi Mudaris Ali Laskar	...	...	Ditto.
2	" Abdul Wahib Barbhuyan	...	...	Ditto.

## ASSAM VALLEY

*Golaghat*

1	Srijut Gobindra Chandra Barua	...	...	Circle Organiser.
2	" Suresh Chandra Goswami	...	...	Ditto.
3	" Bhadreswar Bora	...	...	Ditto.
4	" Jagaram Saikia	...	...	Ditto.
5	" Lakheswar Barkakoti	...	...	Ditto.

## LABOUR COMMUNITY CIRCLE ORGANISERS, ASSAM

- 1 Mr. Mosses Kaitha—Jorhat.
- 2 Mr. Buduwa Bhanwar—Sibsagar.

(b)—Two Circle Organisers from the Labour Community, viz.—(1) Mr. Mosses Kaitha, Jorhat and (2) Mr. Buduwa Bhanwar, Sibsagar, have been appointed and are working in the two subdivisions.

(c)—Does not arise.



**Re Communications in North Lakhimpur**

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA asked :

175. (a) Are Government aware that with the withdrawal of the Mail Steamer Service during rains, now-a-days the only outlet for North Lakhimpur is the road communication with Rangapara North Railway Station ?

(b) Are Government also aware that the Darrang Motor Transport Company mail contractors running the North Lakhimpur-Rangapara Mail Bus Service has got the monopoly to ply daily a single bus on this route either way ?

(c) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the grievances of the passengers ventilated in Press—particularly in the "Hindusthan Standard" of the 13th November, 1944 under the head line "Pomp of Puja Celebrations in North Lakhimpur" sub-heading "Bus Passengers Difficulties" and the "Assam Tribune" of the 20th October 1944 under the caption "Bus Passengers' Difficulties" describing the sad experiences of passengers who are either left behind for two or three days at Rangapara without any halting facilities or have to secure seats in the bus by paying tips, to the mail bus staff by reason of their being one mail Bus Service only ?

(d) If so, what steps, if any, do Government propose to take to relieve the rush in the mail bus and otherwise to relieve the distress of the passengers ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

175. (a)—Yes.

(b)—(d)—Government are making enquiry.

**Anti-Malarial measures where malaria broke out in epidemic form**

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

176. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to take up anti-malarial measures in areas where malaria broke out in an epidemic form this year ?

(b) If so, what measures Government propose to take to prevent recedence of the disease next season ?

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN replied :

176. (a) & (b)—It is proposed to undertake a survey of the areas concerned and on completion of such surveys anti-malarial measures will be taken as may be found necessary.

**Officers authorised under the Assam Pure Food Act to Inspection unhygienic food-stuffs**

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

177. Will Government be pleased to state whether any restriction has been imposed on officers authorised under the Assam Pure Food Act against inspecting food-grains stored by Government agencies and taking action, where necessary, for unhygienic supplies ?

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN replied :

177.—The answer is in the negative.

**Medical Officers of the Public Health Department**

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

178. In view of extreme dearth of Physicians, general deterioration in public health and prevalence of epidemic diseases in the Province, will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to allow qualified medical men of the Public Health Department the facilities for private practice in the interest of all concerned ?

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN replied :

178.—No.



**Enquiry re refusal of permission to the Leader of the Congress Party to attend Assembly Meeting on the 21st November 1944**

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: On a point of information, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Information from whom?

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Information from the Hon'ble Premier.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: In what connection?

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: It is presumed from a telegram from our Leader that he was refused permission to come here on the 21st.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The circumstances are otherwise, Sir. Before he left on the 18th for Gauhati he asked me whether he could come again for the 20th only. In his original petition he himself fixed the date that his stay would be up to the 18th. I asked him to give me a short note. He gave it to me and I immediately passed order and informed the Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of Police of Gauhati to allow Mr. Bardoloi to come on the 20th. Mr. Mookerjee came to my house on the 19th and in course of conversation he said that Mr. Bardoloi enquired of him on the 'phone whether there was any necessity for his coming to Shillong on the 20th on the discussion of the rice procurement question and Mr. Mookerjee informed him that there was no necessity.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: But I received the reply of my telegram saying, "Your wire regret no permission."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Whose telegram it is?

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: My Leader's telegram.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It is in reply to hon. Member's wire?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: He had only 7 days' permission up to the 18th. Then I passed the necessary orders in his presence and showed him the order. I also sent a wire to the Deputy Commissioner of Gauhati to allow Mr. Bardoloi to come on the 20th and that morning Mr. Mookerjee told me definitely that Mr. Bardoloi asked him on the 'phone whether his presence was necessary and Mr. Mookerjee replied that he need not come.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes, the telegram may bear other interpretation.

**The Assam Revenue Tribunal Bill, 1941**

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The next item is for consideration of further amendments, if any, on the Assam Revenue Tribunal Bill, 1941.

I have got notice of two such further amendments in the name of Maulavi Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: I don't like to move these amendments, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then I am putting this question before the House. The hon. Members are already in possession of the list of amendments which have been made by the Assam Legislative Council on the Assam Revenue Tribunal Bill, 1941. I am putting those amendments to the House.

The question is—

"That in sub-clause 3(b) of clause 3, after the word 'non-official,' the following shall be inserted:—

'Who has been for not less than ten years a pleader, advocate, or barrister, or who has for at least ten years held a judicial office in British India not inferior to that of a subordinate Judge.'

The question was adopted.

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†Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury to move:—

"That sub-clause (3) (c) be deleted.

*Clause 3*

2. Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury to move:—

"That item No. 9 be deleted."

*Schedule*



Then the question is :

"That sub-clause 3(b) of clause 3 as amended stands part of the Bill."

The question was adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in clause 3, the following shall be added as sub-clause 3(c) :—

'(c) No person shall be appointed or retained in the post of President or non-official Member after he has attained the age of sixty years.'

The question was adopted.

The question is :

"That the sub-clause (3) (c) of clause 3 stands part of the Bill."

The question was adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in clause 7, after the word 'appeal' where it first occurs, the words 'or revision' shall be inserted."

The question was adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 7 as amended stands part of the Bill."

The question was adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in the schedule, the following shall be added as item 9".

9. The Assam (Temporarily-Settled Districts) Tenancy Act, 1935 (III of 1935).

1. Application under section 83(2).

2. Application under section 102.' "

The question was adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the schedule as amended stands part of the Bill."

The question was adopted.

A communication will be made to the Assam Legislative Council to the effect that this House agreed to the amendments made on the Assam Revenue Tribunal Bill, 1941.

### **The Assam Legislative Chambers (Members' Emoluments) Bill, 1944**

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Now we will take up the consideration of the Assam Legislative Chambers (Members' Emoluments) Bill, 1944, clause by clause.

There are two amendments, one is from Mr. W.D. Rutherford.

Mr. W. D. RUTHERFURD : I beg to move that in clause 3 for the word 'April' occurring in the first line, the word 'July' be substituted.

My reason, Sir, is that from the month of July Government servants obtained their dearness allowance and I see no reason why the Members of this Assembly should have more favourable treatment in the matter of any increment in salary or allowance.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Amendment moved :

"That in clause 3 of the Bill for the word 'April' occurring in the first line the word 'July' be substituted."

Mr. C. GOLDSMITH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we realise the point of view of the European Group and the principle they are anxious about. They want to be consistent in two things. Firstly, they want to be in line with what has been provided for Government servants, and secondly, they want to make the same rule for Members' salary as also for the Hon'ble Ministers and the Hon'ble



Speaker. We realise and respect their feelings. But as regards the Members, it is a special case different from all others. As regards comparing with Government servants, I have already stated the reasons the other day. As regards comparing with the Hon'ble Ministers and the Hon'ble Speaker, this Salary Bill has a history. Long before the Ministers' salary and the Speaker's salary were talked about, representations were made to the Hon'ble Ministers as well as the Hon'ble Premier verbally since the latter part of 1943. But the Cabinet paid little heed—not until a representation was made in black and white signed by 37 Members of this House in last March that the Hon'ble Premier gave a hope of bringing in a Bill. But there was no time then. The Members were very disappointed and began to think that the Cabinet were only shilly—shallying and were not at all serious, for the budget session passed without achieving anything. Then, we were enlightened that there need not be undue haste as the Government Bill had to be prepared with His Excellency's consent and in the Bill provision for giving retrospective effect could be made. This drove the suspicion from the minds of the Members as to the sincerity of the Cabinet and also the uneasiness in the minds of the Members subsided. All these factors necessitated the present form of the Bill and the clause of retrospective effect taking us back to 1st April. Hearing all these and seeing the persistent labour of certain Members covering so many months carrying back to 1943, I hope the European Group will not press their Motion in the case of Members' salary, for, this we believe, gave the cue and inspiration to the Cabinet to bring Bills for enhancing allowances for the Hon'ble Ministers and the Hon'ble Speaker.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I have heard the hon. Leader of the European Group on the first amendment to the Assam Legislative Chambers (Members' Emoluments) Bill, 1944, and I will be guided by the opinion of the House.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER : I think, I will have an opportunity to speak on the second amendment.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I put the amendment now.

The question is :

"That in clause 3 of the Assam Legislative Chambers (Members' Emoluments) Bill, 1944, for the word 'April' occurring in the first line, the word 'July' be substituted."

The Assembly divided :

AYES—7

1. Mr. F. W. Blennerhassett.
2. Mr. E. H. S. Lewis.
3. Mr. C. W. Morley.
4. Mr. R. A. Palmer.

5. Dr. C. G. Terrell.
6. Mr. W. D. Rutherford.
7. Mr. A. Whittaker.

NOES—24

1. Babu Kalachand Roy.
2. Maulavi Abdur Rahman.
3. Maulavi Syed Abdur Rouf.
4. Maulavi Md. Abdus Salam.
5. Khan Sahib Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahabab Chaudhury.
6. Khan Sahib Maulavi Muhammad Amiruddin.
7. Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali.
8. Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed.
9. Khan Bahadur Dewan Eklimur Roza Chaudhury.
10. Maulavi Jahanuddin Ahmed.
11. Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hus-sain Chaudhury.

12. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur Rahman.
13. Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed.
14. Maulavi Sheikh Osman Ali Sadagar.
15. Mr. Benjamin Ch. Momin.
16. Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das.
17. Srijut Bideshi Pan Tanti.
18. Mr. Binode Kumar J. Sarwan.
19. Srijut Dhirsingh Deuri.
20. Mr. C. Goldsmith.
21. Mr. Jobang D. Marak.
22. Srijut Karka Dalay Miri.
23. Srijut Khorsing Terang.
24. Srijut Rabi Chandra Kachari.

The question was negatived.



The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There are two other amendments. Amendment No. 3 wants to increase the amount. Does the hon. Member—Mr. Benjamin Ch. Momin—want to move his amendment.

Mr. BENJAMIN CH. MOMIN: I am not moving it, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Amendment No. 3 which has not been moved by Mr. Benjamin Ch. Momin was to increase the amount of the salary prescribed by the Bill by Rs. 50. So it would have required the previous recommendation from His Excellency the Governor under section 82(1)(b) of the Government of India Act. But with regard to the amendment which Mr. Palmer is going to move, it wants to reduce the amount. By his amendment Mr. Palmer wants to split it into two parts, fixing the salary at Rs. 100 and a dearness allowance of Rs. 50. So, this amendment does not require previous recommendation from His Excellency the Governor.

Mr. Palmer may move his amendment.

Mr. R. A. PALMER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that in clause 3 for the words "a salary at the rate of one hundred and fifty rupees per mensem" occurring in the 3rd and fourth lines, the following be substituted:—

"a salary at the rate of one hundred rupees per mensem together with a dearness allowance of fifty rupees per mensem, which dearness allowance shall be paid until six months after the cessation of hostilities with Japan."

The views of this Group were well represented by Mr. Lewis the other day and we are fully conscious that in these views we are in a minority. Nevertheless we contend that whatever increment this House may decide as necessary, it should be given as a dearness allowance.

The Objects and Reasons of the Bill make it clear that the increase is needed to meet an abnormal situation created by the increased cost of living and the normal procedure to meet this case is by granting a dearness allowance. Not only have Government themselves, in meeting the same situation in case of public servants, done so, but this granting of a dearness or war allowance is almost universal among all salaried classes. I know of no single case where the situation has been met by an increase in basic pay.

It is hoped that this period of sky high prices will end shortly after the war and we have, therefore, incorporated in the amendment a given date on which the question may be further reviewed. There is no alteration in the total amount suggested and I feel sure the Government will have no difficulty in accepting the amendment and that all Members will agree that, not only in the interest of the public exchequer but from all points of view, the Bill in its amended form would be far more satisfactory.

With these words, Sir, I commend my amendment for the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Amendment moved:

"That in clause 3 for the words 'a salary at the rate of one hundred and fifty rupees per mensem' occurring in the 3rd and fourth lines the following be substituted:—

'a salary at the rate of one hundred rupees per mensem together with a dearness allowance of fifty rupees per mensem, which dearness allowance shall be paid until six months after the cessation of hostilities with Japan'."

Mr. C. GOLDSMITH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my hon. Friend Mr. Palmer has put in a new clause in his amendment, viz. "until six months after the cessation of hostilities with Japan," which is a very uncertain element and I would seek a ruling from the Chair whether an amendment with such an uncertain element can be allowed in the Statute Book.

†Mr. Benjamin Ch. Momin to move:

Clause 3

"That in clause 3, for the words 'there shall be paid to each member a salary at the rate of one hundred and fifty rupees per mensem' occurring in lines 2, 3, and 4, the words 'there shall be paid to each member a salary at the rate of two hundred rupees per mensem', shall be substituted.



The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Yes, I think it can be done. For the hon. Member's information I may refer him to what has been done in the House of Commons. They amended the Government of India Act some years ago with regard to the provision relating to the time of holding General Election in India for the Provincial Legislatures. There also it has been said that the Elections in India for the Provincial Legislatures would be postponed till one year after the cessation of hostilities. So there is a precedent which we can follow and I do not see any harm in putting the amendment in this way. But it is not the function of the Chair to see if any provision of a Bill or of an amendment thereto has been properly couched to have the correct legal effect.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should like to place on record the view held by this Group and I trust also a view held by other Members of this House.

We have heard from the Congress Benches a statement against salaries higher than Rs. 75 per month for Legislators and salaries higher than Rs. 500 per month for Ministers. Surely, Sir, the reasonable attitude for the exponents of these views is to express their conviction by tabling an amendment for the consideration of this House and testing the support for their convictions by putting the amendments to a division. I should like to place on record that the method chosen by the Opposition of absenting themselves from this House on an occasion as important as this is the way of political unwisdom. (*Applause.*) Nor do I think it presumptuous on my part to make a similar statement about the former occupants of the now empty benches behind me, who belong to the Independent Group. There is an apt story told of the Duke of Wellington. The Duke of Wellington in the Peninsular War had some very nondescript allies and some poorly equipped troops. He frequently complained in despatches to His Majesty's Government in London about the scanty equipment and poor physique of his troops. One morning before giving battle, he reviewed his troops and his nondescript allies and turned to his Staff Captain saying : " I don't know what effect such troops have on Napoleon's men but by God ! they frighten me."

Well, Sir, I have sat for many days alongside such professed custodians of the public purse as Mr. Mookerjee, Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri and their henchmen. I have sat here in view of half-filled Congress Benches. If the method of absence is the way these stalwarts are going to defend the public exchequer, then such Legislators frighten right thinking Members of this House. That is all I have to say, Sir, on this general question. I would ask Members of the House to consider the amendment on its merits. The total amount Members receive will remain the same as they are getting now. The amendment relates Members' emoluments to the rise in the cost of living. I would like to submit, Sir, that this amendment is more in keeping with the Statement of the Objects and Reasons made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister than Government's draft Bill.

With these words, Sir, I commend the amendment to the support of all Members of this House.

Mr. C. GOLDSMITH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with Mr. Whittaker in this amended Motion, because we feel that the enhancement of the Members' salary is due to war emergency and therefore Government have brought this Bill. If the Hon'ble Leader of the House agree to the amendment, personally I have no objection.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Sir, I am not prepared to accept this amendment for the very reason that the amount proposed by the European Group is the same as proposed in the Government Bill. In both cases it is Rs. 150 per month. Secondly, at the consideration stage we have supported the Bill as it was moved by the Hon'ble Premier. So we must be consistent in our actions. For these two reasons I oppose the amendment.

Srijut SURENDRA NATH BURAGOHAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with regard to our attitude to the amendments before the House, in the statement that has just now been made by Mr. Whittaker sitting in front of me, I hope, he has not included myself



and my Friends behind me. So far as our attitude is concerned in this matter, we are opposed to any increment of the salaries. Therefore we cannot be a party to any of the amendments that have been proposed before the House.

\*Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the amendment moved by my Friend from the European Group. Sir, the hon. Mover has not altered anything in the amount of the salary of the Members. I do not know whether they want to take the same amount in a round-about-way and get themselves exempted from the levy of income tax.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: On a point of explanation, Sir, I would say that the dearness allowance is liable to income tax like any other income.

\*Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: I would say that the salary fixed at Rs.150 per month will come to near about Rs.2,000 per year and with the addition of some other income it will come to an amount which will be liable to income tax. It is our experience that with the addition of some other income it becomes liable to taxation and we are really paying it.

With regard to the time they have fixed, it is said that this dearness allowance will be given 6 months after the cessation of hostilities with Japan. In the House of Commons the amendment that was made for election is one year after the end of the war. So when they have made it one year why not make it also one year after the end of war here? Again, if even there be cessation of hostilities with Japan, we do not know whether the war will end with the termination of hostilities with that country. War may continue even after that. So I do not think it is quite reasonable that we should be given dearness allowance only 6 months after the cessation of hostilities with Japan. With these words I oppose the amendment.

The Hon'ble. Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I respect the feeling which has prompted the Members of the Planting Group to table this amendment, but I am sorry that I have to oppose it on various grounds and I think on reasonable grounds. It appears, Sir, that the intention of the learned Members of the European Group is that the Ministers be consistent with the treatment that Government have made to their own *pucca* Government servants: as no scale of salaries has been raised but only a dearness allowance in the shape of extra allowance and war bonus on a percentage scale has been granted, we should follow the same precedent. But in substance it does not remove anything from the main proposition in the Bill. They want to keep the increase proposed to the same level as that proposed in the Government Bill, but the increase they want to give is in the shape of dearness allowance.

Now they have put in a time-factor in their amendment, that is, this dearness allowance or increment will continue upto six months after the cessation of hostilities with Japan. Now, Sir, we know it is a global war; the war is going on in various theatres and not merely with Japan. Supposing Japan is brought to her knees tomorrow, the dearness allowance automatically ceases after six months although the war may be continuing in the European theatres, namely, western front, eastern front, southern front and any number of fronts. So long as His Majesty's Government will be at war with Germany the Government of India is also at war with her and war conditions will prevail here. Therefore the wording as it occurs in this amendment may lead to difficulties later on.

Next, Sir, Mr. Palmer in moving his amendment stated that his Motion had come out of the stand taken by the European Group as laid before the House on an earlier occasion by Mr. Lewis. If hon. Members will throw back their memory to that date they must remember that what Mr. Lewis urged was that the dearness allowance must be of the same proportion as that given to Government servants in the same salary level. Now, the substantive salary of the Members is Rs.100. If we are to give dearness allowance on the same proportion—I stated before the House that the money value of the dearness allowance paid to Government servants on the Rs.100 scale is in the neighbourhood of Rs.29—the European Group would have been consistent if their recommendation was that the figure 50 be reduced to 29.



Lastly, Sir, the power of fixing a salary to the Members of the Houses of Legislature is given by the Act. If a Bill is passed to-day on the lines Government have drafted, I have every confidence, Sir, that should things come back to normal and we get plenty to eat and clothe ourselves at a lesser cost than what it is now, the then Members will see their way to have an amendment and bring back the level of salary to what it was in 1937. So, as there is not much in the quantum of increase, and the only question of difference is whether it should be a dearness allowance or a substantial increase, we on the Government side think that the proposal put forward by the European Group may lead to difficulties later on in case the war in the European theatre continues even after Japan is defeated. So, we have got to oppose this amendment.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in clause 3, for the words 'a salary at the rate of one hundred and fifty rupees per mensem' occurring in the 3rd and fourth lines, the following be substituted:—

'a salary at the rate of one hundred rupees per mensem together with a dearness allowance of fifty rupees per mensem, which dearness allowance shall be paid until six months after the cessation of hostilities with Japan'."

The Assembly divided:

Ayes—7.

1. Mr. F. W. Blennerhassett.
2. Mr. E.H.S. Lewis.
3. Mr. C. W. Morley.

4. Mr. R. A. Palmer.
5. Dr. C. G. Terrell.
6. Mr. W. D. Rutherford.
7. Mr. A. Whittaker.

Noes—33.

1. The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla.
2. The Hon'ble Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta.
3. The Hon'ble Maulavi Munawwar Ali.
4. The Hon'ble Srijut Hirendra Chandra Chakravarty.
5. The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi Mudabbir Husain Chaudhuri.
6. The Hon'ble Dr. Mahendra Nath Saikia.
7. The Hon'ble Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhuri.
8. The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman.
9. The Hon'ble Miss Mavis Dunn.
10. The Hon'ble Srijut Rupnath Brahma.
11. Babu Bipin Behari Das.
12. Babu Kalachand Roy.
13. Maulavi Syed Abdur Rouf.
14. Maulavi Md. Abdus Salam.

15. Khan Sahib Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahab Chaudhury.
16. Khan Sahib Maulavi Muhammad Amiruddin.
17. Maulavi Muhammad Anjad Ali.
18. Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed.
19. Maulavi Jahanuddin Ahmed.
20. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Keramat Ali.
21. Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Husain Chaudhury.
22. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur Rahman.
23. Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed.
24. Mr. Benjamin Ch. Momin.
25. Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das.
26. Srijut Bideshi Pan Tanti.
27. Mr. Binode Kumar J. Sarwan.
28. Srijut Dhirsingh Deuri.
29. Mr. C. Goldsmith.
30. Mr. Jobang D. Marak.
31. Srijut Karka Dalay Miri.
32. Srijut Khorsing Terang.
33. Srijut Rabi Chandra Kachari.

The question was negatived.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 3 stands part of the Bill".

The question was adopted.



The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 2 stands part of the Bill".

The question was adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 1 stands part of the Bill".

The question was adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the title and preamble stand part of the Bill."

The question was adopted.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I beg, Sir, to move that the Assam Legislative Chambers (Members' Emoluments) Bill, 1944, be passed."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Assam Legislative Chambers (Members' Emoluments) Bill, 1944, be passed.

(After a pause)

I take it that no debate is going to be held on this matter.

I will put it as a question

The question is:

"That the Assam Legislative Chambers (Members' Emoluments) Bill, 1944, be passed."

The question was adopted.

### The Assam Ministers' (Salaries and Allowances) Bill, 1944

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Now we shall take up the Assam Ministers' (Salaries and Allowances) Bill, 1944.

There are some amendments to clause 2 by Mr. Whittaker.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that in sub-clause (b), of clause 2 of the Bill for the words and figure "Rs.250 per mensem" the words and figure "Rs.150 per mensem" be substituted.

Sir, I do not think I have anything to add to what I said at the consideration stage, namely, that doubling the House Allowance to Rs.250 per month in a town in which the Rent Control Order is said to be operative is inconsistent. The Hon'ble Prime Minister has charged this Group with inconsistency. I suggest that here is an excellent opportunity for the Hon'ble Ministers themselves to be consistent. Since rent cannot be raised by more than 10 per cent., the figure of Rs.150 compared with the previous figure of Rs.125 is a reasonable compromise on the question of House Allowance.

With these words, I commend my amendment to the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Amendment moved:

"That in sub-clause (b), of clause 2 of the Bill, for the words and figure 'Rs.250 per mensem', the words and figure 'Rs.150 per mensem be substituted."

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will follow the learned Mover of this amendment and be brief. I stated the Government point of view the other day and tried to convince the House that the provision made in this Bill does not contravene the Rent Control Order. If we are to go by the strict term, House Allowance, then I see no reason whatsoever for the House Allowance which has been so long provided and drawn by the Hon'ble Ministers. It may be urged that those four Ministers who have got their own houses should not get any House Allowance. I have not yet heard any one complaining of those Hon'ble Ministers drawing the House Allowance so long. The only point to be considered in this connection is as regards furnishing of the House, if the house contains a compound, in keeping the compound in proper order, in gardening and so on, and there cannot be any controversy that the cost of these have gone up very high. It is a fact that most of the furnishing materials have become non-existent and those that are available at tremendously high cost. Further there is the salaries of servants, Chaukidars and gardeners which have soared very high. It is on account of these



conditions prevailing that Government thought that the House Allowance fixed in 1940 are to be increased and after due deliberation they came to this figure.

I have never charged the European Group of inconsistency. On the other hand I respect their feelings. Both Mr. Palmer and Mr Lewis brought in the comparison with Government servants and I had to refute their arguments.

With these words, Sir, I oppose this Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

"In Sub-clause (b) of clause 2 of the Bill for the words and figure 'Rs.250 per mensem' the words and figure 'Rs.150 per mensem' be substituted."

The question was negatived.

### Adjournment

The Assembly then adjourned for lunch till 2-0 P.M.

### After lunch

Mr. A. WHITTAKER : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that after sub-clause (c) of clause 2, the following new sub-clause be inserted as sub-clause (d) :

"2(d) a dearness allowance of Rs.250 per mensem, which dearness allowance shall be paid until six months after the cessation of hostilities against Japan."

I am afraid, Sir, that my amendment is out of order because it involves, if passed, an additional expenditure on the revenues of the Province and I have not yet secured the previous recommendation of His Excellency. It gives me, however, the opportunity of saying that the view held by all the hon. Members of this Group is that the basic pay of the Hon'ble Premier of this Province should be 2,000 rupees per mensem irrespective of any allowance for the cost of living. I would also like to make another point about the amendmant which is coming to the next Bill. If the Hon'ble Premier would like this amendment any better we should be prepared to omit the words "against Japan". We take the view that it is the war with Japan which is choking the communication lines of Assam and so creating economic distress in the Province. The war in Europe is of secondary importance as far as this particular aspect is concerned. We have noted that the Hon'ble Premier takes the view that Members of this Assembly will cheerfully agree to pass an amending Bill to draw lower salaries when the war with Japan is finished and when the economic conditions are consequently easier. I do not propose to move my amendment, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The hon. Member has admitted that this amendment attracts the provisions of sections 82(1) (b) and 82(1)(c) of the Government of India Act and requires the previous recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, because it seeks to increase the financial obligation to be undertaken by Government and also to increase the amount of an item of expenditure "charged on the revenues of the Province", viz., the salaries and allowances of Ministers which are charged expenditure on the revenues of the Province under the Government of India Act. And I would like to point out to the hon. Member that although he has not obtained the previous recommendation from His Excellency, if he wants to press his Motion, I may ask the Hon'ble Premier to say whether he would raise any objection to the amendment. The reason for this is that when the Governor is required to give his act on the advice of his Ministers. So, if the Hon'ble Premier says that he has no objection to this amendment being moved, then I shall presume that he has accordingly advised His Excellency the Governor in favour of the amendment and that there would be available therefore, as a matter of course, the previous recommendation by His Excellency for the amendment to be moved. So, I would ask the Hon'ble Premier to say what he did after getting notice of this amendment and how he has advised His Excellency the Governor in regard to the question of his giving the required recommendation.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, although I am obliged to my Friend, the Leader of the European Group and the



Members of his Group for their kind thought of valuating my worth a little higher than recommended in the Government Bill, I find it difficult to accept the amendment and therefore I advised His Excellency not to grant the previous recommendation.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : On this matter I wish to make a further statement in clarification of what I have already said. The hon. Members would find that all these three Bills—this one, the one already disposed of and the other remaining to be disposed of required the previous recommendations of His Excellency the Governor either under section 82(1)(b) or 82(1)(c) of the Government of India Act or under both. They also required the previous recommendation of His Excellency the Governor under section 82(3) of the Government of India Act to be communicated to the House for their consideration. The hon. Members know that these Bills have been sponsored by Government, and that the House has already been placed in possession of the messages communicated to it from His Excellency the Governor under section 82(3) of the Government of India Act. From these two facts, *i.e.*, these Bills have been sponsored by Government and there are these messages, I have presumed that there were also the previous recommendations of His Excellency the Governor with regard to these Bills also under sections 82(1)(b) and 83(1)(c) of the Government of India Act. Now, what I wish to draw the special attention of the hon. Members is this that whenever any hon. Member would like to table a Taxation Bill or a Financial Bill as contemplated by sub-sections (1) and (3) of section 82 of the Government of India Act or would wish to table amendments attracting the operations of sub-sections 82(1)(b) and 82(1)(c) of the Government of India Act to similar Bills, sponsored either by Government or by any other private Member, he will have to seek the previous recommendations of His Excellency the Governor as required by all or any one of the said provisions of the Government of India Act, as the case may be, and his duty will be to ask for these previous recommendations from His Excellency the Governor. This may be done through Government instead of making a direct reference to the Governor himself, by indicating his desire in the notice of the Bill or of the amendment or amendments, as the case may be. Hitherto the practice we had been following in this respect was this, that when such amendments or Bills were tabled, the Assembly Department used to make a reference to His Excellency the Governor through the Ministry to obtain the required previous recommendations. That was on a misconception of the whole thing, because with regard to obtaining the previous recommendations there is no duty cast on the Chair to make a reference to His Excellency the Governor, for the simple reason that such a matter can be disposed of when an objection is raised on the floor of the House on the score that certain amendments or any particular Bill has not got the previous recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, by asking the Ministry about their attitude in respect thereto. With regard to matters requiring the previous sanctions under the provisions of the Government of India Act there is a duty cast upon the Chair under the Governor's Rules to the effect that the Speaker is to refer the matter to His Excellency the Governor. Hon. Members will note that there is a good deal of difference between matters requiring previous sanction of His Excellency the Governor and matters requiring previous recommendation of His Excellency the Governor. When His Excellency the Governor is to give previous sanctions in regard to a certain matter he is to do it in his discretion and when previous recommendations are to be given by him he is to do it on the advice of his Ministers, because section 82 merely uses the word 'Governor' which means 'Governor with the advice of his Ministers'. If the Ministers advise the Governor to give previous recommendations in respect of a certain matter in a certain way the Governor will not generally go against that advice. In the matter of giving previous sanctions in regard to certain matters, the question becomes different because that is to be done in the discretion of the Authority to grant the same and the Ministry does not come in under the Constitution, although there may be a convention established for consulting the Ministers even in such a matter. This is all for the guidance of the hon. Members, as I have already indicated. But I would again like to say that even if



any Bill or amendments to a Bill, requiring previous recommendation, is sought to be moved without obtaining such recommendation, it cannot be thrown out all at once. The Ministry would be asked if they object to the Bill or amendment, as the case may be, to be moved. If no objection is raised, I would assume that the Ministry would advise the Governor in favour of the previous recommendation being given, and with such previous recommendation is obtained, the Bill or the amendment, as the case may be, will be allowed to be considered.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: No, Sir. But arising out of your ruling, does it not follow that in a taxation or a revenue Bill there will have to be a longer time between the day on which the amendments are filed and the day on which amendments come up for discussion? If amendments are going to be handled in this way by any individual Member surely it requires more than three days for any private Member to make the necessary reference.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes, within three days' time whatever is necessary can easily be done and what I have already indicated would show that no difficulty would be there in the way of the amendments being considered as the hon. Member thinks.

Then, there are no other amendments to clause 2 of the Bill. Then I am putting the question.

The question is:

"That clause 2 of the Bill stands part of the Bill."

The question was adopted.

Then clause 3. There are two amendments in the name of Mr. Morley.

Mr. C. W. MORLEY: I do not propose to move any of my † amendments, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 3 of the Bill stands part of the Bill."

The question was adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 4 of the Bill stands part of the Bill."

The question was adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 1 of the Bill stands part of the Bill."

The question was adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the title and preamble stand part of the Bill."

The question was adopted.

\*The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I beg, Sir, to move that the Assam Ministers' (Salaries and Allowances) Bill, 1944, be passed. I take this opportunity to inform my hon. friend Mr. Whittaker as well as other hon. Members of this House that the Members of my Cabinet have cheerfully accepted the suggestion made by my friend, Mr. Whittaker and through me, to give assurance to this House that if the Bill is passed by both the Houses and receive assent of His Excellency the Governor they will not draw the increased salary for the period earlier than 1st July, 1944.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Assam Ministers' (Salaries and Allowances) Bill, 1944 be passed."

†3. Mr. C. W. MORLEY: to move:—

### Clause 3

(1) That for sub-clause (a) the following be substituted:—

"(a) a salary of Rs. 750 per mensem and a dearness allowance of Rs. 250 per mensem, which dearness allowance shall be payable monthly until six months after the cessation of hostilities against Japan".

(2) That in sub-clause (b) for the words and figure "Rs. 250 per mensem," the words and figure "Rs. 150 per mensem" be substituted.



Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it would be ungracious on my part if I allowed to pass the fine gesture made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in response to a suggestion from the Members of this Group. I am voicing the feeling not only of my own party but of all the Members of all the parties of the House in appreciating this action of the Hon'ble Prime Minister and his colleagues in the Cabinet.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Assam Ministers' (Salaries and Allowances) Bill, 1944 be passed."

The question was adopted.

### **The Assam Speaker's Salary Bill, 1944**

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The next item is the consideration of the Assam Speaker's Salary Bill, 1944, clause by clause. Mr. Lewis has tabled some amendments.

Mr. E. H. S. LEWIS: In view of the voting on the recent amendment to the Members' Emoluments Bill it would be inconsistent on my part to move the first amendment. Therefore I do not propose to move my first amendment. As regards the second amendment\* may I know from the Hon'ble Prime Minister whether I may put it forward or not?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have tendered the same advice in this case as I tendered in my own case.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: As the amendment cannot be moved, the Hon'ble Prime Minister may then at once move the Motion that the Assam Speaker's Salary Bill, 1944 be passed.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I beg, Sir to move that the Assam Speaker's Salary Bill, 1944 be passed.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Assam Speaker's Salary Bill, 1944 be passed."

(After a pause)

I take it that there is not going to be any discussion.

The question is:

"That the Assam Speaker's Salary Bill, 1944 be passed".

The question was adopted.

### **Statement *re* Payment of compensation against requisition of land**

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Revenue Minister was pleased to say that he would give us a statement of compensation which has been already paid and of that which is now outstanding on account of land requisition. If he has that statement, will he please give that statement now?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got some statistics, but I propose in the interest of security not to place them in their entirety before the House. I propose to give the percentages of payments on the estimated amounts for requisitioned areas. The percentage of payment, contrary to what we have heard all these days, Sir, ranges from 42 per cent. to 87.5 per cent. In one case it is

† Mr. E. H. S. LEWIS:

Clause 2

(1) That for the words "the first day of March 1944", occurring in the first line the words "the first day of July, 1944", be substituted.

\*2. Mr. E. H. S. LEWIS:

That after clause 2, the following be added as clause 3:—

"In addition to the salary, a dearress allowance of Rs.250 per mensem shall be paid from the first day of July 1944 up till six months after the cessation of hostilities with Japan."



42 per cent. in another it is 47 per cent. and in the next one it is 65 per cent. and in yet another it is 76 per cent. and then 84 per cent., the highest being 87.5 per cent. More than this, Sir, I cannot and should not disclose as it involves the interest of security. I think, Sir, these speak eloquently and in favour of the facilities and promptitude with which payments have been made.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before you prorogue, I want to know whether all the Unstarred Questions with their replies which have been placed before the House will be published in the proceedings?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: All the replies given to the Unstarred Questions that have been placed before the House will be published in the proceedings. That is the rule.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: One word more, Sir. I have been requested by Maulavi Namwar Ali Barbhuyan to inform the House that he had to leave Shillong on receipt of a telegram that the condition of his daughter had taken suddenly a bad turn whom he had left ill. He has sent me a telegram which I received this afternoon to the effect "inform hon. Member's daughter expired" I am very sorry to hear. He was prevented from attending today on account of this mishap.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I am also very sorry to hear that.

### Prorogation of the Assembly

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: This brings us to the end of the business of this day of the Session. It is the order of His Excellency the Governor that the Assembly is to be prorogued at the conclusion of today's sitting. Here is the order of His Excellency.

#### "ORDER

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 Goulley Clow, hereby prorogue the Assam Legislative Assembly at the conclusion of its sitting of the 23rd November, 1944.

*Shillong ;*

*The 20th November, 1944*

}

A. G. CLOW,  
*Governor of Assam.*

The Assembly was then prorogued.

*Shillong ;*

*The 19th January, 1945.*

}

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

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