



**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 Tuesday,  
the 14th November, 1944.

**P R E S E N T**

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

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**STARRED QUESTIONS**

(To which oral answers were given)

**Fencing of the Chabua and Panitola D. S. Railway Station yards**

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH asked :

\*49.(a) Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department be  
pleased to state whether the Central Government directed the D.-S. Railway authori-  
ties to fence the Chabua and Panitola D. S. Railway station yards in 1940 or there-  
about ?

(b) If so, whether the Central Government's directions were carried out ?

(c) If not, what steps have been taken in this matter ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

49.(a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Does not arise.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: Is it a fact that the Railway authorities  
have fenced the stations ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Yes, so we were  
informed on the 28th November, 1941.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: Will the Hon'ble Minister take it from me.  
as a matter of fact that on the 6th of November last, I found that there was no fencing?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I am prepared to  
accept the statement and will make an enquiry into the matter.

**Running of passenger trains without lights in the compartments**

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH asked :

\*50. Will Government be pleased to refer to the replies to Starred Questions  
Nos. 4, 5 and 6 of Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee, M. L. A., during the last Budget Session  
of the Assembly, regarding the running of passenger trains without lights in the  
compartments and state whether the Railway authorities have since agreed to remove  
the inconvenience felt by the passengers ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

50.—The inconveniences and difficulties caused to civil passengers due to the want  
of light, accommodation, etc., in the trains were brought to the notice of Railway  
authorities for doing the needful, but they have regretted their inability to do  
anything in the matter.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: On what grounds they have regretted their  
inability, Sir ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: As regards light,  
they said that that they were short of electric bulbs and the materials were not avail-  
able.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: What are the reasons as regards accommo-  
dation ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: It is due to conges-  
tion of military traffic.



Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in the Bengal and Assam Railway there is lighting arrangement in the portion between Calcutta and Parbatipur but there is no lighting arrangement in the portion between Parbatipur and Pandu ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Yes, personally I am aware of that.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Will Government again address the Railway authorities and point out to them this disparity of treatment between these two sections ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: In view of the replies given by the Hon'ble Premier to the suggestion of Mr. Lewis in the last Budget Session, we again addressed the Railway authorities in this matter recently and have not heard anything as yet.

### Superintendents of Supply

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

\*51. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) How many Superintendents of Supply have been appointed by them ?
- (b) The names of these Superintendents and their places of posting ?
- (c) How many of them are new recruits ?
- (d) What are their duties and functions in details ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

51. (a)—Eight.

(b)—(1)	Srijut Hem Ch. Datta	...	...	Dibrugarh.
(2)	Maulavi Riazuddin Ahmed	...	...	Jorhat.
(3)	Srijut Jnyan Ch. Bora	...	...	Nowgong.
(4)	Maulavi Amin Khan	...	...	Gauhati.
(5)	Maulavi Azimuddin	...	...	Dhubri.
(6)	Babu Ikshita Ch. Biswas	...	...	Sylhet.
(7)	Maulavi Misbahul Bar Chaudhuri	...	...	Silchar.
(8)	Srijut Surendra Nath Sarma	...	...	Tezpur.

(c)—None. All Superintendents of Supply were recruited from various Government service on Public Service Commission's recommendation.

(d)—They are in charge of the whole supply work in the Districts concerned under the general supervision and control of the Deputy Commissioners. The Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors of Supply and the clerical staff for supply work will work under the direction of the Superintendents of Supply who are directly responsible to the Deputy Commissioners.

In addition they are required to do office work and also at least 15 days touring in a month.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: May I know, Sir, who among the appointees are Assamese Hindus ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Srijut Jnyan Ch. Bora is surely an Assamese Hindu and I think, Srijut Hem Ch. Datta is also an Assamese Hindu.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Was the communal ratio observed in making the appointments ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It was not possible because the Public Service Commission went through a large list of candidates and selected them.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I enquire whether these posts were duly advertised ?



The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: No, Sir. But the District Authorities were asked to send lists of their nominees.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Sir, I could not quite follow the Hon'ble Premier's answer as to why the communal ratio was not observed in making these appointments.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The District Authorities were asked to nominate candidates from their own jurisdiction whom they considered fit for these posts. They recommended the candidates in view of their past experience in different departments, and their lists were sent to the Public Service Commission.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Did any of them belong to Government service?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: All of them barring one belonged to Government service.

Srijut SURENDRANATH BURAGOHAIR: With regard to (d), are these Officers meant for supply work?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The original idea was that these Officers will relieve the Deputy Commissioners in supply work. It was also thought that the Extra Assistant Commissioners and Sub-Deputy Collectors, in charge of supply work, will work in co-operation with the Superintendents of Supply. Wherever the District Authorities wanted the Superintendents of Supply, they were given to them. Just in two instances, frictions between the Superintendents of Supply and the Extra Assistant Commissioners and the Sub-Deputy Collectors in charge of Supply, have come to my notice and I am dealing with them.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Has any of them been recruited from the Education Department?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: So far as I know, four of them come from the Education Department.

### Training in Agricultural Schools or Colleges

Mr. BAIDYANA H MOOKERJEE asked:

\*52. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) How many students have been sent by Government, this year, for training in the Agricultural Schools or Colleges?

(b) What are the names of those students, their castes and places of residence?

(c) The amount sanctioned by Government to each of them as stipends?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA replied:

52. (a)—Four.

- (b)—1. A. N. Md. Ahmed Ghazi—Muslim, Sylhet.  
2. Md. Wahed Bukht—Muslim, Dhubri.  
3. Kamakhyaprasad Kataki—Caste Hindu, Gauhati.  
4. Maswood Ali Ahmed—Muslim, Gauhati.

(c)—Rupees 33-5-0 per mensem.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Is there any fixed quota for sending students to Agricultural Institutions?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Yes. We have four stipends for it.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Do Government consider it necessary to increase the number of stipends?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: It is under the consideration of Government.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Was there any candidate from the Scheduled Castes?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: There was no candidate from the Scheduled Castes, so far I remember.



## Scarcity of milk

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

\*53. (a) Are Government aware that there is an acute scarcity of milk in the Province ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons thereof ?

(c) What steps, if any, have already been taken or intended to be taken by Government to remove this shortage ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA replied :

53. (a)—Production has not been compatible to the demand.

(b)—Due to the increased demand for the untoward influx of milk-consuming people to the Province.

(c)—Improved types of cattle have been bred in the Government controlled institutions and slaughter of milchcows have been prohibited. A scheme, for the multiplication of improved cattle and increased production of milk, is under the consideration of Government.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, so far as Question No.53 (a) is concerned, the answer, given by Government is not a straight one. My Question is whether Government are aware that there is an acute scarcity of milk in the Province ? I want a straight answer, yes or no.

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: The answer given is quite clear, Sir.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Am I to understand that there is scarcity of milk in the Province ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Yes, Sir, there is scarcity of milk in the Province.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Are Government aware, Sir, that this scarcity of milk is mainly due to slaughter of cows ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: We do not admit that, Sir. It is not wholly due to that.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: But is it largely due to that ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: It is partly due to that.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Are Government aware that this slaughter of cows has not been stopped and that it is going on ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: We have taken all possible steps with regard to that, Sir. The Deputy Commissioners have been instructed to see that no milch cow is slaughtered.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Has any Deputy Commissioner taken any action so far and if so, which Deputy Commissioner, Sir ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: I understand, the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar has taken some action in this matter.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Are Government aware that a large number of cattle are being taken practically under the nose of the Deputy Commissioners of Kamrup and Khasi and Jaintia Hills and that no steps have been taken by Government up till now to stop this ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Government have no information, Sir.

Mr. D. B. H. MOORE: Are Government aware that a considerable quantity of milk is being supplied to Chinese and other restaurants in certain districts of the Province ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: We have no information, Sir, but it may be so.

Mr. D. B. H. MOORE: Will the Hon'ble Minister take it from me that a considerable quantity of fresh milk is consumed in these restaurants ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: I accept this statement, Sir.



Mr. D. B. H. MOORE: Will Government restrict the supply of milk to such restaurants?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: We will consider that, Sir.

†Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Will Government treat my complaint to you in this behalf as a complaint for enquiry and redress?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: To what respect, Sir?

†Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: That slaughter of cows is going on indiscriminately before the very noses of the Deputy Commissioners and the Police Officers.

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: We will take all possible steps to stop that.

Srijut BELIRAM DAS: How many prosecutions have been made in this respect up till now, Sir?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: I cannot say that off-hand.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that large herds of cattle pass through Nongpoh every day, where there is a Police Station and nothing is done by the Police officers there to stop that?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: We have received no information of that, Sir.

Srijut BELIRAM DAS: Do Government recognise that this scarcity of milk is due mainly to dereservation of the grazing reserves?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: We do not admit that, Sir.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: As regards Question No.53 (c) the reply is that Government are trying to improve production of milk in Government controlled institutions. May I know from the Hon'ble Minister how many Government controlled institutions are there for milk production purposes?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA:—The Department of Agriculture has been breeding improved types of cattle in Departmental Farms, viz., Sylhet, Khanapara, Shillong, Jorhat, five jail dairies (Tezpur, Dibrugarh, Gauhati, Sylhet and Silchar) and the Mental Hospital at Tezpur. In addition, cattle breeding has been going on under departmental control at the following grazing reserves:—

1. Barapeta	...	...	...	} Notified grazing reserves.
2. Deosiri	...	...	...	
3. Manas	...	...	...	
4. Subankhata	...	...	...	
5. Bunachapari.				
6. Lanka.				
7. Haflong.				

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: Can the public have supply of milk from the Dibrugarh Jail, Sir?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: If there is excess quantity, public can surely have supply.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: May I ask Government particularly, the Hon'ble the Prime Minister, to issue instructions to the Nongpoh Police Officers to watch the cattle that pass through their area and check them? I know personally that even on Sunday last, large herds of cattle were transported through Nongpoh and even if instructions are issued to-day, many of them can be checked at Nongpoh.

†The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Government have already prohibited slaughter of cattle below the age of 9 years. The difficulty is that Police Officers are not experts and they will not be able to see whether the cattle are below 9 years of age. So, a general prohibition like that will be of no avail. But in view of the requests made from various quarters, I will again emphasise upon the Deputy Commissioners to strictly regulate the sale and slaughter of cows, that is, no cow below the age of 9 years should be allowed to be sold or slaughtered.

†Speech not corrected.



Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE Are Government aware that the Sylhet Cattle Farm has stopped supply of milk to the boarders of the Murarichand College Hostels ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA : We have no information, Sir.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Will Government take it from me, Sir, and will they take necessary steps as well so that the students may get the supply of milk as before?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA : I will make an enquiry into this.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : From the reply given to my Question No.53(c), I find that a scheme for the multiplication of improved cattle is under the consideration of Government. May I know from the Hon'ble Minister when Government desire to give effect to this scheme ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA : We have taken up that scheme very recently and it is still under the consideration of Government. If possible, we want to give effect to it from the next financial year.

Dr. C. G. TERRELL : Sir, in view of the acute shortage of milk in the Province, will it not be possible for Government to give us some assurance about granting facility for importation of powdered milk, which would fill a useful gap in supply?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA : The suggestion will be considered by Government, Sir.

#### Estimated yield of paddy during the year

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

\*54. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The estimated yield (in maunds) of paddy during the year 1944 ?
- (b) The normal yield of paddy a year ?
- (c) The prospect of the 'Rabi' crop this year in the Province ?
- (d) The present estimated population of Assam ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA replied :

54.(a)—The total estimated production of paddy according to forecasts published up to date is 2,845,760 tons or roughly 76,835,520 maunds.

(b)—The normal annual yield of paddy is estimated at 3,351,680 tons or roughly 90,495,360 maunds.

(c)—It is too early to say anything about prospects but from the weather and crop reports received from the districts, it appears that the season has commenced favourably for the cultivation of Rabi crop.

(d)—This Department has no means of estimating the present population of Assam. For practical purposes we assume the present civil population to be about 12,000,000.

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Will Government please state the reason why the yield for 1944 is less than the normal produce of the Province in a year ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA : It is due mainly to unfavourable weather.

#### Monthly allowance of security prisoner Babu Sudhir Chandra Nag's mother

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

\*55. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Sreejukta Swarnamoyee Nag of Panchgaon, Police Station Rajnagar, District Sylhet, mother of the security prisoner Babu Sudhir



Chandra Nag now lodged at the Dacca Central Jail has been given the monthly allowance at an increased rate of Rs.24 per month with effect from the 1st April 1944 as per letter No. 10605-HG., dated the 29th June 1944, from the Assistant Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Home Department, Special Section, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam ?

- (b) If so, when the first payment was made and what was the amount ?  
 (c) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

55.(a) and (b)—Payment has been sanctioned and the orders communicated to the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, on the 1st November 1944, but probably not yet made.

(c)—The Assam Government received no intimation of the revised sanction until they received a representation, dated the 4th September 1944, from Sreejukta Swarna-moyee Nag, when they made an enquiry from the Government of Bengal, with the result as already stated.

### Non-receipt of family allowance by some Political Prisoners

Srijut JOGENDRA CHANDRA NATH asked :

\*56. (a) Is it a fact that the majority of the political prisoners who are now under detention without trial are not receiving any family allowance ?

(b) Is it a fact that they applied to Government for the grant of the same ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for refusing to grant family allowances to those detained political prisoners who were earning members of the family ?

(d) Do Government propose to reconsider the matter and adopt a similar attitude as has been done by the other Provincial Governments in this respect ?

(e) Is it a fact that a petty sum as Rs. 12 per month is given to some respectable detenus as their family allowance ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

56. (a)—Yes : the majority of those who have applied for family allowances are however receiving them.

(b)—Eighty-eight applied.

(c)—The reasons are to be found in the resources of the prisoner and his household while he is detained.

(d)—Every case is fully considered on its merits, and Government have no reason to think that their attitude differs from that of other Provincial Governments.

(e)—In two cases allowances of Rs. 10 per mensem are given and in one case Rs. 12 per mensem, to supplement the other resources of the prisoner's household.

†Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : May we know what is the maximum allowance per month paid to the family of a detenu ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Speaking off-hand, it ranges up to Rs. 75.

†Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : Will Government please give the average ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : My learned Friend, Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, has tabled a long list of Questions in which all these figures will be supplied. If my hon. Friend, the Leader of the Opposition, will wait up to the date these Questions come up, he will get the materials he wants.



†Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : May I know what is the pay of a Chaprasi nowadays ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I am not prepared to answer that Question.

†Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY : Has Dalbir Sing, a Congress worker of Dibrugarh, who has been externed from five districts of Assam, applied for family allowance ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : That is entirely a new Question.

### Grievances of Ministerial Officers of Karimganj Civil and Criminal Courts re supply of food-stuffs

Maulavi MABARAK ALI asked :

- \*57. Will the Hon'ble Prime Minister be pleased to state—
- Whether the ministerial officers of both Karimganj Civil and Criminal Courts recently wanted to meet him in a deputation to represent the grievances regarding rice, etc., which they are getting as free rations ?
  - Whether they were allowed the interview ?
  - Whether they submitted representations on various dates through proper authorities for the supply of better rice ?
  - If so, what steps have been taken by Government to remove those grievances ?
- \*58. Will Government be pleased to state—
- Whether they have received complaints from the Subdivisional Officer, Karimganj and the Supply Officer-in-charge of Karimganj Sub-division regarding the very poor quality of rice supplied as free rations from the Surma Valley Rice Purchasing Syndicate ?
  - If so, what action has been taken on those complaints ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

57. (a)—No deputation regarding quality of rice was proposed. Ministerial officers wanted to meet the Hon'ble Prime Minister in deputation mainly for increase of pay.

(b)—As there was no time, the Hon'ble Prime Minister wanted them to let him have the points for consideration in writing.

(c)—Yes, copy of the proceedings of the meeting of the ministerial officers of Karimganj is said to have been sent by the Secretary of the Branch Association to Government and other concerned for the supply of better rice.

(d)—The Surma Valley Rice Purchasing Syndicate was asked to supply better quality of rice.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI : May I know whether any enquiry was made into the grievances ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : The reply will be found in the next Question.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

58. (a)—The Assistant Director of Supply was told this during his last visit and he inspected the godowns of the Syndicate.

(b)—The Assistant Director of Supply in his inspection note has since suggested preventive action which is being given effect to.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI : May I know what is the inspection note of the Assistant Director of Supply ?



The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : That more care should be taken in bagging the different grades of rice separately and that there should be better form of storage. We are informed that as the rice was kept in *kutcha* godowns the bottom bags and grains got wet and became powdery. The Syndicate has been asked to keep the different grades of rice separately so that at the time of cooking it may have some consistency in boiling.

### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

#### Subdivisional Medical Officers of Health

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

14. (a) Is it a fact that the Sub-divisional Medical Officers of Health are not allowed the gazetted status ?  
 (b) Is it a fact that they are not entitled to Second Class travelling allowance and any charge allowance ?  
 (c) Do Government propose to raise the status of such officers in keeping with their responsibility and grant facilities of a Second Class Officer ?

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN replied :

14. (a)—Yes.  
 (b)—Yes.  
 (c)—The matter will be examined by Government.

#### Grant of allowance to detenu Naba Kumar Bhattacharyya's father

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

15. (a) Is it a fact that Babu Nalini Bhattacharyya, father of detenu Naba Kumar Bhattacharyya of Village Chhotalikha-Dakshinbhadra, Post Office Barlikha (Sylhet), recently submitted an application for allowance ?  
 (b) Are Government aware that the said Babu Nalini Bhattacharyya is invalid and that his only hope of maintenance lay in his only son—the detenu ?  
 (c) Do Government propose to grant an allowance in this case ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

15. (a)—No. Government have received an application from his son which is under enquiry.  
 (b) & (c)—Do not arise.

#### Grant of allowance to ex-detenu Babu Gopal Chandra Das

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

16. (a) Is it a fact that Babu Gopal Chandra Das, an *ex-detenu*, now an internee at Kulaura, recently applied for an allowance ?  
 (b) Is it a fact that his application has been rejected ?  
 (c) If so, why ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

16. (a)—Yes.  
 (b)—Yes.



(c)—Government see no ground for granting him an allowance while he is only under limited restrictions.

### **Monopoly right of trading in food-grains and consumer goods**

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

17. (a) Are Government aware of the sharp fall in the prices of paddy and rice in the Surma Valley, this year ?

(b) Are Government aware that this fall stands in contrast with the high price of other necessities for the cultivators and the cost of production ?

(c) If so, do Government propose to remove the ban on the free and inter-provincial movement of paddy and rice and abolish the system of monopoly buying by Government agencies ?

18. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they invite tenders while granting monopoly right of trading in food grains and consumer goods ?

(b) If not, on what principles monopoly rights are being granted ?

19. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they maintain commercial accounts for their supply business ?

(b) If so, whether Government propose to lay on the table the balance sheet of the business done in 1943-44 ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

17. (a) & (b)—Yes.

(c) No. Government are offering prices which they consider fair in relation to the prices of other commodities and the cost of production.

18. (a)—No.

(b)—Government have granted no monopoly right but have selected agents they considered suitable.

19. (a)—Yes.

(b)—It is under preparation and will be placed before the Public Accounts Committee in due course.

### **Re Supply of Paper for Civilian use**

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

20. Will Government be pleased to state what arrangements they have made for supply of paper for civilian use in the Province ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

20.—Paper is supplied by Mills direct through their accredited dealers and the distribution is controlled by the Paper Controller.

### **Fixation of prices of rice, paddy and other agricultural produce**

Srijut RABI CHANDRA KACHARI asked :

21. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The data on which they fixed the prices of paddy, rice and other agricultural produce ?

(b) Whether in so fixing the prices, they took into consideration the fact that the peasants have to purchase cloth and such other necessities from black-markets at much higher rates of prices compared with the rates at which they have to sell their agricultural produce consequent on the non-availability of cloth and other necessities at controlled rates ?



(c) If not, why not ?

(d) Whether they propose to raise the rates of prices of the agricultural produce in Assam ?

(e) The percentage of the peasantry to the total population of Assam ?

(f) The percentage of the people who live by purchase of agricultural produce from the market ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

21. (a) — The prices of rice, paddy and other agricultural produce are fixed in relation to the prices prevailing in the neighbouring Provinces, cost of production and also prices of other commodities in the Province.

(b) — Yes. Government have taken into consideration the price level of other commodities and effect of their control measures in respect of these commodities.

(c) — Does not arise.

(d) — No.

(e) & (f) — No statistics are available.

### **Re Export of potato from Khasi and Jaintia Hills**

Srijut RABI CHANDRA KACHARI asked :

22. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that they have recently ordered for export of a large quantity of potato from the Khasi and Jaintia Hills to Assam Plains for consumption of the civil population there and issued licenses for such exports ?

(b) If so, what is that quantity permitted to be exported ?

(c) Who are those licensees ?

(d) Whether it is a fact that some of the licensees have sold their licenses to the Marwaris ?

(e) Whether any prices have been fixed for selling potato to the customers ?

(f) If so, what are those prices ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

22. (a) — Yes.

(b) — 1,00,000 lakh maunds table (below 1½" diameter) potato.

(c) — As the licenses are being issued, it is not possible to submit the names of the licensees at present.

(d) — Government have no information.

(e) — The selling price is to be fixed by District Officers on the basis of purchase price and the incidental expenses.

(f) — The question does not arise.

### **Re Removal of Durlavchara Kisan Sabha office**

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

23. Will Government be pleased to state why Lalmohan Roy was asked to remove himself with the office of the Durlavchara Kisan Sabha by the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, on the 25th April 1944 ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

23. — Because his propagandist activities in the Durlavchara area were prejudicial to security.



\*Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY : Is the Kisan Sabha an illegal organisation ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : No, Sir. These Questions were answered, the other day, in reply to a Starred Question and I definitely stated that the Kisan Sabha's office was not removed. This man, whose activities were prejudicial to security, was externed.

### Release of Congress Political Prisoners

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

24. (a) Are Government aware that Mahatma Gandhi has recently announced in the name of the Congress that the Civil Disobedient Movement shall not be launched again ?

(b) Do Government propose to release all Congress Political Prisoners ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

24. (a)—Government have seen certain Press reports, but nothing so unqualified as the hon. Member suggests.

(b)—No. Government hope to release a considerable number on review of their history.

\*Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY : Have Government reviewed the history of the detenus ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Yes. The number so far released is already given in reply to the Question of Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri. I can say that about two-thirds have been released.

\*Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA : By whom the history of these prisoners is reviewed ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : By myself.

### Gun license to Babu Kandarpa Behari Choudhuri.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

25. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the gun belonging to late Babu Kailash Chandra Choudhuri, Zaminder of Joynagar, Chatak, was surrendered by his son and retainer, Kandarpa Behari Choudhuri, a few days after his father's death ?
- (b) Whether the aforesaid Kandarpa Behari Choudhuri afterwards, applied for the renewal of the license of the gun to him ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the gun has been refused to him by the Sub-divisional Officer, Sunamganj and Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that the reason shown by Government for not granting the license is that his father was an accused under Section 302 ?
- (e) Whether Government are aware that his father was acquitted in the case under Section 302 mentioned above ?
- (f) Whether Government are aware that he was allowed to retain his gun up to the time of his death ?
- (g) Why his son, Kandarpa Behari Choudhuri, was not allowed to retain the gun ?
- (h) Whether Government propose to return the gun to Kandarpa Behari Choudhuri ?
- (i) If not, why not ?



The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

25. (a)—Yes.  
 (b)—Yes.  
 (c)—Yes.  
 (d)—The grounds for refusal are that the need for a gun is not demonstrated and Government are not satisfied regarding the suitability of the applicant.  
 (e)—Yes.  
 (f)—Yes.  
 (g) to (i)—The answer is contained in the reply to Question (d).

### Family Allowance to Security Prisoners

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

26. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the basis on which Government have determined the amount of 'family allowance' which is now being given to Security Prisoners ?

(b) Do Government enquire, where necessary, and take into consideration the following factors at the time of determining the family allowances of any Security Prisoner whose guilt has not been established in a Court of Law—

(i) The amount that would be actually necessary for the proper maintenance of the dependents of such a prisoner, and

(ii) the status, position and style of living of such a prisoner and his dependents?

(c) If not, why not ?

(d) Do Government grant any additional amount for payment of Life Insurance premia of those Security Prisoners who had held Life Insurance Policies before their detention ?

(e) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

26. (a)—The principles are that the amount, if any, sanctioned should be that which is necessary, in view of the prisoner's own resources and those of his family to maintain the latter, and should not be in excess of the amount strictly necessary.

(b) (i) and (ii)—Yes.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d) and (e)—No. Government sanction a lump sum for all purposes, and are not prepared to enter into such personal affairs as the payment of insurance premia.

\*Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : The reply to (a) is—"The principles are that the amount, if any, sanctioned should be that which is necessary, in view of the prisoner's own resources and those of his family to maintain the latter, and should not be in excess of the amount strictly necessary". May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether he is of the opinion that it should not be less than the amount strictly necessary ?

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

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Under whose recommendation do Government sanction the amount ?



The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Whenever an application is received from any of these prisoners, we send the application to the Deputy Commissioner for enquiry into the resources of the family. The Deputy Commissioner after proper enquiry sends us his report, and I personally review each case. Sometimes I accept the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioner, and sometimes I enhance the allowance recommended by him, according to my judgment on the facts placed before me.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : May I know who is the real investigating officer ? Is he the Deputy Commissioner, or a Chowkidar or a Constable ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : We ask the Deputy Commissioner ; he generally deposes a responsible Government officer ; sometimes a Police Sub-Inspector or sometimes a Circle Sub-Deputy Collector, i.e., he uses his own machinery.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Will Government please see that in future police officers are not deputed for this purpose ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I do not see any reason for prejudice against the police officers when they merely report about the resources of the family of a prisoner. There should absolutely be no prejudice of the police officers against the families of people who have been detained.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Is it not a fact that these people are detained on the report of the Police ?

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

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : In that case shall I be wrong if I infer that the police officers are prejudiced, and so Government should consider our request in this respect ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : The police officers cannot be prejudiced against the families of the persons they reported against on account of their activities, and they cannot be expected to bear a grudge against their families.

\*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : May I know what amount has been set apart for expenditure on this account ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I cannot give the total amount off-hand, but a very detailed reply will be given to my Friend's Questions which will come up in a day or two.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : May I know whether the question of insurance premium is taken into consideration ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : No, Sir. It is already stated, "Government sanction a lump sum for all purposes, and are not prepared to enter into such personal affairs as the payment of insurance premia".

\*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Is it a fact that instructions have been issued to the District Officers that their recommendation should not exceed Rs. 12 per month ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : This is absurd when I stated that up to Rs. 75 has been granted.

\*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : I was referring to the village detenus, Sir.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I have just now replied that out of 60 people who are receiving family and personal allowances from the Government there are only 3 cases where two get Rs. 10 and one Rs. 12. All others are in receipt of a higher sum. Therefore, the suggestion is absurd on the very face of it.

\* Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA : Are Government aware that life insurance policies of some of the detenus have lapsed owing to their inability to pay the premia ?



The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Government are not aware excepting in those cases where particular detenus may have informed Government that their insurance policies have lapsed.

\* Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA : What steps did Government take in those cases ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Government replied that they were not concerned with the payment of insurance premia.

\* Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : May I know what is the principle under which all allowances are granted ? Is it for the maintenance of the family or merely to show that something has been done ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I have already answered this in reply to Question No.26(a), and I have nothing more to add.

**Family allowance of Security Prisoner Babu Nirmal Kumar Datta Mazumdar**

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

27. (a) Is it a fact that Babu Nirmal Kumar Datta Mazumdar of Habiganj now a security prisoner detained in Sylhet Jail has been given a family allowance of Rs. 30 per mensem ?

(b) Are Government aware that the said Babu Nirmal Kumar Datta Mazumdar has a wife and two children ?

(c) Are Government aware that the sum of Rs. 30 a month is not sufficient for the maintenance of the family ?

(d) Are Government aware that milk is now being sold at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  seers a rupee at Habiganj ?

(e) Are Government aware that the wife of the aforesaid Nirmal Kumar Datta Mazumdar has been ailing for a long time past who is in need of milk as her principal diet ?

(f) Is it a fact that several petitions have been made to Government on various dates for the enhancement of the family allowance of the said security prisoner ?

(g) If so, what action has been taken by Government on those petitions ?

(h) Do Government propose to ascertain from local authorities if it is necessary to enhance the family allowance of the said security prisoner in view of the fact that the price of all the essential commodities has gone up abnormally ?

(i) Do Government propose to enhance the family allowance of the said security prisoner and to make additional provision for the payment of his Insurance premia ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

27. (a) and (b)—Yes.

(c)—This is a matter of opinion depending on the circumstances of the individual case.

(d)—Government are prepared to accept the statement as being true from time to time.

(e)—Government are aware that the lady is not in good health, and accept the statement that she needs a milk diet.

(f)—No. Government have received only one such representation from the wife.

(g)—Government were prepared to consider the matter, but as the prisoner disobeyed the conditions of his parole and has failed to reply to their offer of 4th September 1944 granting facilities to take his wife to Calcutta for specialist examination the matter is pending.



(h)—The Question has been answered in the foregoing replies.

(i)—This Question has also been answered. Government are not prepared to undertake liability for payment of Insurance premia of security prisoners which is a private concern.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : With regard to (g), may I know, Sir, how he disobeyed the conditions of his parole ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : He was given seven days' time to take his wife to Calcutta, but he did not go to Calcutta. After coming back to detention he again applied saying that he could not take his wife to Calcutta on account of his father-in-law's sudden death, and applied for parole. We enquired whether he was willing to take his wife to Calcutta for specialist examination, but he has not intimated his intention as yet.

### Areas requisitioned in Sylhet and Cachar for Defence purposes

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :—

28. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The areas requisitioned in each of the Subdivisions of the Districts of Sylhet and Cachar up till now for Defence purpose ?
- (b) The number of villages and the number of people affected in each of the Subdivisions for the said purpose ?
- (c) Whether Government have up till now arranged for the accommodation of the people so affected ?
- (d) If so, in what way ?
- (e) If not, why not ?
- (f) How the people so affected are to secure places for their accommodation ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

28. (a) and (b)—It is regretted that this information cannot be given in the interests of security.

(c)—(e) and (f)—It is for the affected people themselves to find alternative accommodation wherever it may suit them to live. Government pay full compensation for the land and crops and full value for the houses where these are taken outside urban areas as well as removal costs for transport of household goods. Where land can be made available for alternative cultivation Government have also done their best to provide it, but this is not always possible.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : The answer is "It is regretted that this information cannot be given in the interests of security". May I enquire of the Hon'ble Minister what is the difficulty in giving the actual number of people evicted thereby ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : Similar Questions were asked on a previous day ; exhaustive supplementaries were put and equally exhaustive replies were given while the hon. Questioner was absent. Am I to repeat them, Sir ?

\* Babu DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI : In reply to (c)-(e) & (f), it is stated "It is for the affected people themselves to find alternative accommodation wherever it may suit them to live". Have not the Government any responsibility in the matter ?



The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : Although Government have no statutory responsibility in the matter they have always been trying to do what they can. Government are always prepared to give accommodation and they spare no effort for making this available.

\* Babu DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI : Is it the position of the Government that the Hon'ble Minister concerned is verbally contradicting the answers he has given in writing ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : It is not understood what the Hon. Member means.

\* Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : I wanted to ask whether Government have in any instance actually helped any man in finding land and accommodation ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : Government actually have given accommodation to a large number of people. I was referring to the question of Patharkandi where many people have taken lands on the terms offered to them, and others are still negotiating.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : In which areas in the Subdivision of Habiganj have people been given any shelter or land ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : If you will permit me, Sir, I will inform the House that last January I myself went accompanied by the Additional District Magistrate, Sylhet, to the affected area in the Habiganj Subdivision, and my Hon'ble Colleague, the Civil Defence Minister, also kindly went. Most of the affected people gathered together and asked for lands. In agreement with those people we set apart lands for them. But the fact is that those lands into which they agreed to go they did not.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Are Government aware that the land which was suggested by the Hon'ble Minister as well as by the people, in forest area, has not been given by the Forest Department.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : The fact is, Sir, that those evicted people refused to go there ; so the matter had to be dropped.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Have Government made enquiry into the matter of their refusal ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : No. Government had no occasion to make an enquiry. If requested, I will further look into the case, Sir.

### Classification of Mikirs for Government Services

Srijut DHIRSINGH DEURI asked :

29. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that Mikirs live both in the Hills and the Plains ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the Government had decided that the Mikirs living both in the Hills and the Plains would be considered as "Plains Tribal" in so far as educational matters are concerned ?
- (c) Whether they consider the Mikirs living both in the Hills and in the Plains as "Plains Tribal" in so far as appointments in the Educational and other services of Government are concerned ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

29. (a)—Yes
- (b)—Yes.
- (c)—Yes.



### Water Supply in Mangaldai Town

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED asked :

30. (a) Are Government aware that the problem of water supply in Mangaldai town is very acute ?

(b) Do Government propose to take necessary steps to improve the water supply of the town ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Chairman of the Mangaldai Town Committee in consultation with the Executive Engineer of Darrang prepared a plan and estimate of a tank and submitted the same to Government together with the Executive Engineer's opinion on the 10th March, 1944 ?

(d) Have Government given any consideration to the said plan and estimate ?

(e) If so, what is that ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY replied :

30. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes, Government have taken up the matter.

(c) and (d)—Yes.

(e)—Government have examined the estimate and find that the estimated cost will go upto about Rs.10,500. Government have considered the scheme sympathetically and it is proposed to make a grant covering half the cost, provided the balance is met by the Town Committee either out of its own funds or by taking a loan from Government. The matter is under correspondence with the Town Committee.

\*Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED : Do Government propose to give loan without interest ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY : There are certain rules under which we grant loans to the local bodies if they require. Their cases will be considered in accordance with these rules.

\*Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED : Do Government propose to give loan this year ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY : We have asked the District Officer to enquire from the Chairman concerned. As soon as the Chairman's report is available in the office or to me, I shall try to expedite the matter.

\*Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED : Will Government take early action so that the Town Committee may begin the work in this winter season ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY : I will make every endeavour to make funds available to the Town Committee so that the work may be taken up in this cold weather.

### Re : Dhubri Debt Conciliation Board

Srijut JOGENDRA NARAYAN MANDAL asked :

31. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether there is any work in the Dhubri Debt Conciliation Board except a few pending files ?

(b) If not, whether Government propose to maintain the heavy expenditure of the Board ?

(c) What is the number of cases disposed of finally by the Board in the last three months ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

31. (a) and (b)—The amount of work which the Board is required to do is very small and Government are considering the question of closing it down.

(c)—A total of 20 cases was finally disposed of in July, August and September.



### Monthly Quotas of Controlled Commodities

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI asked :

32. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of letter under Memo. No. SD. 243/43, dated 17th May 1944, from the Supply Secretary of the Government of Assam to all the District and Subdivisional Officers ?

33. Will Government be pleased to state —

(a) The maximum monthly quotas of controlled commodities like salt, sugar, wheat products as given in the said letter ?

(b) The basis on which the monthly quotas of these articles to each Subdivision was fixed for issue ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

32.—A copy is placed on the library table.

33. (a) -Salt— 1,20,000 maunds

Sugar— 40,000 „

Wheat

Products 40,000 „

(b)—On the basis of population and its composition in the different areas.

### Settlement of lands in Assam Valley

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

34. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The total areas of village grazing grounds, village commons, Grazing reserves, Forest reserves and other Government waste lands that have been thrown open to settlement in Assam Valley since 24th August 1943, District by District ?

(b) The areas settled with immigrants including settlers from Cachar and Sylhet Districts and the indigenous people ?

(c) The names, Mauzas, Sub-Deputy Collectors' circles and areas of Grazing grounds, village commons, Grazing reserves, Forest reserves and other waste lands that have been given to settlement since 24th August, 1943 in the District of Nowgong ?

(d) The areas settled with immigrants, settlers from Cachar and Sylhet and the indigenous people of the District ?

(e) Whether Government are aware that big plots of Grazing grounds, village commons and other Government waste lands in the District of Nowgong have been allotted to several big and rich immigrant landowners and their families including minor sons ?

(f) Whether Government propose to direct a sifting and early enquiry by a responsible officer to find out the truth or otherwise of the allegations in the matter and settle the same with deserving landless people ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

34. (a) to (d)—A copy of the last monthly statement of the return called for by the Government of India to show the acceleration of settlement of land in consequence of India's demand for speedy settlement of large areas and in pursuance of Government's land policy is given below. Government do not consider that the labour of collecting details of every individual settlement in each District would be commensurate with the result and so have not called for more detailed figures. They have, however, asked for a statement to show how much of the areas newly settled have been allotted to each community but this has not yet been received.



## Return for the Acceleration of the Land Settlement Scheme for the month of August 1944

District	Area of waste land newly settled with immigrants		Area of land where old encroachments have been regularised by granting settlement		Area of land newly proposed for extension of colonisation by immigrants		Area of land formerly reserved which has been thrown open and settled, either with immigrants or indigenous people, in the interests of the Grow More Food Campaign	
	During the month.	Progressive total upto the end of the month from 1st September, 1943	During the month	Progressive total upto the end of the month from 1st September, 1943	During the month	Progressive total upto the end of the month from 1st September, 1943	During the month	Progressive total upto the end of the month from 1st September, 1943
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Lakhimpur	B. K. L.	B. K. L.	B. K. L.	B. K. L.	B. K. L.	B. K. L.	B. K. L.	B. K. L.
Sibsagar	106 0 0	333 2 2	..	..	..	..	3,261 4 10	11,713 1 16
Nowgong	23 4 5	52,496 4 9	30 2 8	1,527 2 14	1,074 0 0	154,972 0 0	..	24,121 4 4
Darrang	278 2 15	3,651 1 12	14 4 9	2,792 1 15	..	74,753 1 17	616 2 1	84,814 1 11
Kamrup	300 0 0	134,050 1 13	2,324 4 6	19,173 3 11	..	..	3 0 0	5,246 0 16
Goalpara	708 1 8	4,938 4 8	..	..	..	..	..	209 1 7
Sylhet	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	886 4 18
Cachar	..	..	..	22 0 0	..	..	..	*8,870 0 0
Total	1,416 3 8	195,470 4 4	2,370 1 2	23,515 3 0	1,074 0 0	229,725 1 17	3,881 1 11	2,009 0 0
								137,870 4 12

\*Area relinquished upto August, 1944 on expiry of the term of agreement comes to 5,687 bighas.



(e) and (f)—If the hon. Member will give specific examples of the abuse of which he complains Government will institute enquiries but it is not possible to investigate the truth or otherwise, of vague generalisations.

\*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Do I understand, Sir, that the land in village grazing grounds has also been settled for cultivation?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: That is not so, Sir. I have yesterday and on previous occasions made it amply clear that it was not the policy of Government and also stated that if a grazing reserve is abandoned by Government, it is settled.

\*Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA: How is it, Sir, that in Nowgong enormous village grazing grounds have been settled?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: It might be that they have been abandoned.

\*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: May I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the last column of the Return laid on the Table? May I ask him, whether in this column the village grazing reserve is not included? The heading of the column is like this—"Area of land formerly reserved which has been thrown open and settled, either with immigrants or indigenous people, in the interests of the Grow More Food Campaign." Whether this reserved land also include village grazing reserves, or, it does not?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: No. Only land abandoned and not required.

\*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: May I know whether sanction was taken from Government for opening village grazing reserves?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Yes.

\*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: In how many cases?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: I cannot say off hand.

\*Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA: Is it not a fact that instructions have been issued to the Deputy Commissioner to settle village grazing ground in anticipation of sanction?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: That is more than I can tell off hand.

\*Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA: It is up to Hon'ble Minister to answer that Question.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: I have already stated that it is not possible for me just now to give reply to that Question.

\*Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA: As regards replies to (e) and (f) the Hon'ble Minister says, "If the hon. Member will give specific examples.....". Surely, I shall give specific examples, but may I know, Sir, by whom the enquiries will be made?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: By the District authorities.

\*Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA: Whether the Deputy Commissioner will be directed to make enquiries personally?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Yes, if it is desired.

### Engineering Scholarships in Aligarh Muslim University

Srijut RAM NATH DAS asked:

35. (a) Is it a fact that some scholarships have been awarded in August last for training of Assam students in the Engineering Departments of the Muslim University, Aligarh?

(b) If so, who are the recipients of those scholarships?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether the scholarships were advertised before they were awarded?

(d) If not, why not?

(e) Whether the scholarships were confined to Muslim candidate only?

(f) If so, why?



(g) Whether Muslim candidates are also eligible for the scholarships tenable at the Sibpore Engineering College ?

(h) Do Government propose to award additional scholarships to non Muslims for training in the Electrical, Mechanical and Civil Engineering Departments of the Hindu University, Benares or any other University ?

(i) If so, when ?

(j) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

35. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Wajiuddin Chaudhuri and Mohammad Ali.

(c)—No.

(d)—Owing to the shortness of time.

(e)—No.

(f)—Does not arise

(g)—Yes.

(h) and (i)—The matter is under the consideration of Government. The scholarships, if awarded, will be open to members of all the communities.

(j)—Does not arise.

#### **Dangari Local Board Dispensary**

Rai Sahib DAULAT CHANDRA GOHAIN asked :

36. Will Government be pleased to state --

(a) Whether they received a representation, dated the 13th May, 1943 from the public of Saikhowa Mouza, Dibrugarh, protesting against the abolition of the Dangari Local Board Dispensary ?

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

(c) Whether they are aware that the premises of the old Dangari Dispensary are still in tact ?

(d) Whether they propose to take up the question of setting up a Dispensary at Dangari at an early date ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY replied :

36. (a)—Yes.

(b)—As the Dispensary had been closed by the Dibrugarh Local Board for very poor attendance, no action was called for.

(c)—Government have no information.

(d)—This is a matter for the Local Board concerned to take action.

#### **Re Congestion in train and bus services plying between Pandu-Shillong and Sylhet-Shillong**

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

37. (a) Are Government aware of the hardships of the civilian travelling public due to the congestion in train and bus services plying between Pandu-Shillong and Sylhet-Shillong ?

(b) Is it a fact that many passengers have to wait for days to obtain tickets at the Gauhati, Shillong and Sylhet Motor Stations ?

(c) Do Government propose to ask the management of the respective bus services to increase the number of buses in each trip so that no passenger is left behind ?

(d) Do Government propose to ask the Company to make suitable accommodation for those passengers to pass the night for availing the next day's bus ?



The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

37 (a), (b) & (c)—The hon. Member's attention is invited to the answers given to similar Questions (Starred Questions Nos. 40-42) asked by Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee at this Session.

(d)—Government are considering the question whether the waiting accommodation requires supplementing and in what way this could be done.

### High School classes in Dangari Middle English School

Rai Sahib DAULAT CHANDRA GOHAIN asked :

38. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they are aware of the official order given to the authorities of the Dangari Middle English School allowing the opening of High School classes with effect from 1st March, 1942 ?

(b) Whether they received the proposal, dated 27th April, 1943, from the Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Circle, recommending the sanction of a building grant of Rs.1,500 to accommodate the High School classes of the said School ?

(c) Whether they propose to allot the proposed grant to this School during the current year ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

38. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—If funds permit.

### Appointment of Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Schools, Mass Literacy Campaign in the Surma Valley

Babu BALARAM SARCAR asked :

39. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Schools appointed in connection with the Mass Literacy Campaign in the Surma Valley with their names, qualifications and communities ?

(b) Whether the scheduled castes are fully represented in this service ?

(c) If not, why not ?

(d) How do Government propose to fill up the future vacancies ?

(e) What is the minimum qualification required for an Assistant Sub-Inspector of Schools ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

39. (a)—Eight, namely :—

Maulavi Nasibur Rahman	...	Normal passed Matriculate, Muslim.
„ Gazi Ali Nawaz	...	Ditto ditto.
„ Tabassum Ali Laskar	...	Ditto ditto.
„ Abdur Razak	...	Ditto ditto.
„ Hamdu Mia	...	Ditto ditto.
Babu Suresh Chandra Bhattacharjya	Ditto	Caste Hindu.

Kavyatirtha.

Babu Benode Behari Roy ... Normal passed First Grade certificate, Caste Hindu.

(b)—No.

(c)—No normal passed Matric Scheduled caste candidate was available at the time of making the appointments.

(d)—By candidates with requisite qualifications preference being given to those from the under-represented communities.

(e)—Normal Final and Matriculation.



**Re Village Defence Parties**

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

40. (a) Are Government aware that persons living within one mile from the Railway line are required to guard the lines at night ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state who is the person entrusted with the duty of making the panel of such watchers and of granting leave and exemption, in a particular area ?

(c) Is it a fact that the village people receive no wages for such guarding ?

(d) Are Government aware of the hardship of these people as many of them have no protection against rains or winter cold while performing this task ?

The Hon'ble Maulawi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

40. (a), (c) & (d).—The hon. Member is referred to the Motion and Explanatory Note printed at pages 790 to 791 and 801-802 of the debates in the November Session 1943, Volume II, No.9, where all particulars are given. Umbrellas and blankets are provided for the parties.

(b)—The Deputy Commissioner is responsible for the establishment of the organisation.

**Stoppage of the 3 Up-Assam Mail at Nalbari**

Srijut RABI CHANDRA KACHARI asked :

41. (a) Are Government aware that the stoppage of the 3 Up-Assam Mail at Nalbari has been withdrawn from September 1944 ?

(b) Are Government aware that due to the withdrawal of stoppage of 3 UP Assam Mail at Nalbari, there has been dislocation of Mails at Nalbari Sub-Post Office with eight big branch Post Offices resulting in the delay of official and non-official posts ?

(c) Are Government aware that there are regular Upper Class Passengers at Nalbari station ?

(d) Are Government aware that there are large number of Military personnel and contractors in the Nalbari area who have been vastly inconvenienced by the non-stoppage of this Mail ?

(e) Are Government aware that from Nalbari a large number of passengers is to attend daily the courts at Gauhati and that there are many Government officers at Nalbari who are to frequently travel to Gauhati ?

(f) Is it a fact that more than half the cases in the Gauhati courts come from Nalbari side ?

(g) Have Government lately received several representations from the public protesting against the withdrawal of stoppage of this train from Nalbari ?

(h) Do Government propose to urge the railway authorities to restore forthwith the stoppage of the 3 UP Assam Mail at Nalbari ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied.

41. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Probably, but Government have no informations.

(c)—Probably, but Government have no informations.

(d) Government have no information.

(e)—Probably, but the number is not known.

(f)—Probably, but the number is not known.

(g)—Two.



(h)—These questions relate to the administration of Railways which is Federal Subject outside the control of the Provincial Government. On receipt of representations from Nalbari, the matter was referred to the Railway authorities for a reconsideration of the decision to cancel the stoppage of the 3 UP and 4 DOWN Assam Mails at Nalbari, but the Railway authorities did not see their way to accede to our request.

### Settlement of Grazing Reserves and waste lands of Kalaigaon Circle

Srijut RABI CHANDRA KACHARI asked :

42. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that about 4,000 bighas of land out of the grazing reserves and waste lands of Kalaigaon Circle, Mangaldai Sub-division, have been opened for occupation by the immigrants ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that Kalaigaon Circle is an area predominantly inhabited by the tribal classes ?
- (c) If so, why the area has not been opened for the tribals ?
- (d) Whether Government have often given assurance to the tribals that their interests in matters of land settlement would be always safeguarded ?
- (e) If so, whether it has been so done in the case of throwing open of the said areas to the immigrants only ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

42. (a)—A total area of about 17,265 bighas of waste land has been included in the Colonisation area available for settlement with immigrants in the Kalaigaon Circle. No part of this area was formerly included in any grazing reserve.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—There is no bar to the tribal people taking up land in a colonisation area if they so wish. The interests of the tribal people were fully considered before Government decided to include the area under the Colonisation rules. As already stated this area was not formerly reserved and could have been taken up by tribal people at any time if they had wanted it and as a matter of fact they have never wanted it. There are already very large areas in the Kalaigaon Circle practically reserved for the tribals.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Yes.

### Colonisation Officers

Srijut RABI CHANDRA KACHARI asked :

43. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The names of Colonisation Officers in charge of different Districts or Circles of the Province ?
- (b) How many of them are Hindus, Muslims and Tribals ?
- (c) Whether all of them are Muslims ?
- (d) If so, why ?
- (e) Whether any of them is from Tribals ?
- (f) If not, why not ?
- (g) What are the special qualifications or merits needed for being a Colonisation Officer ?



- (h) Whether any distinction on matters of such selection is made on the ground of colour, caste or communities ?
- (i) Whether Government propose to appoint Tribal Sub-Deputy Collectors as Colonisation Officers in the areas or circles where Tribal class are vitally intersted or their people predominate ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

43. (a)—The names of the Colonisation Officers appointed for the different Districts are given below :—

1. Maulavi Muhammad Ali, Kamrup District.
2. Maulavi Abdul Latif, Nowgong District.
3. Maulavi Talmizur Rahman, Darrang District.

There is no Colonisation Officer appointed for a circle.

(b)—Hindus—nil. Muslems—3. Tribals—nil.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Because they were found most suitable.

(e)—No.

(f)—The hon. Member is referred to reply to Question (d) above.

(g)—Colonisation Officers are selected from Sub-Deputy Collectors with survey and settlement training and with sufficient experience who are found suitable for the purpose.

(h)—No.

(i)—In the present circumstances Government do not consider it necessary.

\*Srijut RABI CHANDRA KACHARI : My Question was—"What are the special qualifications or merits needed for being a Colonisation Officer ?" The reply is "Colonisation Officers are selected from the Sub-Deputy Collectors with survey and settlement training...." What is this "survey training," whether it is the Jhalukbari training, or training outside Assam ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : Jhalukbari Training.

\*Srijut RABI CHANDRA KACHARI : Do Government believe that all the Sub-Deputy Collectors other than Muslims are quite inefficient in Survey and Settlement works ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : There is always a degree of efficiency with reference to a particular item of work.

\*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : May I know what is the requisite qualifications of a Colonisation Officer ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : Colonisation Officers are selected from Sub-Deputy Collectors with survey and settlement training.

\*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Do I understand that among the Sub-Deputy Collectors there is not a single non-Muslim officer who is fit for work as Colonisation Officer ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : No, Sir.

\*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : There is no one fit !

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : There is.

\*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Why have they not been selected ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : The question is one of suitability. May I expand my point, Sir ? Colonisation areas are first of all selected by the Deputy Commissioner and set apart with the sanction of Government, and it is for the Colonisation Officer only to give settlement of the area. As majority of these people are Muslims, a Muslim officer is found more suitable for the purpose.

\*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Am I to understand then that a non-Muslim officer cannot be trusted to do justice to Muslim immigrants ?



The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: It is only for the sake of convenience and of suitability that they are selected.

**Special Officer for Tribal people for getting lands**

Srijut RABI CHANDRA KACHARI asked :

44. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether they have recently received a Memorial from the Members of the Assam Legislature belonging to the Tribal plains for appointing a Special Officer for helping the ignorant Tribal Classes in getting lands ?
- (b) If so, what steps Government have taken on the said Memorial ?
- (c) Whether they propose to appoint such an officer ?
- (d) When the Memorial was received ?
- (e) Why so much delay has been made in taking action on the said Memorial ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

44. (a)—Yes.

(b) & (c)—The matter is under re-consideration.

(d)—On 3rd April, 1944.

(e)—Government did not see their way to accept the demands of the memorialists but after a deputation waited on me in August last, the question was re-examined and is now to be re-considered in a Cabinet meeting.

**Encroachment of professional grazing grounds and waste lands in South Mangaldai Subdivision by immigrants**

Srijut RABI CHANDRA KACHARI asked :

45. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether they are aware that a number of immigrants have recently encroached the professional grazing grounds and waste lands of Baghpuri, Karpuri, Moamari, Gerimara, Hetow, Baralimari and Cheriring chaparies situated in the South of Mangaldai Sub-division ?
- (b) If so, whether those immigrants were evicted from those Chaparies ?
- (c) If not, why not ?
- (d) Whether these immigrants will be evicted soon or will be permitted to stay and occupy land there ?
- (e) Whether those lands are not required by the indigenous population ?
- (f) Whether Government propose to give those lands to the indigenous population ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

45. (a) to (d)—Yes, Government have recently ordered eviction of encroachers to be carried out in accordance with their declared policy.

(e)—Indigenous people have made no application for these lands.

(f)—The question does not arise.



# Publication of Special Officer's Report re Professional Grazing Reserves

Srijut RABI CHANDRA KACHARI asked :

46. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they propose to publish for public criticism the Report of Mr. Desai, I.C.S., Special Officer, appointed by the Government to examine the professional grazing reserves for finding out the areas surplus to requirements and available for cultivation ?

(b) Whether copies of the Report will be made available to the Members of the Legislature for their criticism ?

(c) If not, why not ?

(d) Whether the Report is being treated as confidential and is meant for official use only ?

(e) What Reports are treated as confidential and what Reports are not treated as such ?

(f) Whether the appointment of the Special Officer was announced in the Gazette ?

(g) If not, whether it was treated as confidential ?

(h) What are the recommendations, in brief, of the said Special Officer ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

46. (a) to (d)—No. The Report is meant for official use only.

(e)—Reports which are published and not meant for official use only can be made available to the public.

(f)—Yes.

(g)—Does not arise.

(h)—The Special Officer inspected the Professional Grazing Reserves and recommended dereservation where he considered this necessary.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: The reply to Question 46 (a) to (d) is "No. The Report is meant for official use only." Sir, I think, all the hon. Members present in this House remember what the Hon'ble Prime Minister said yesterday that the Report will be published. May I know which statement is correct either the statement of the Hon'ble Prime Minister or the Revenue Minister ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: The statement of the Hon'ble Premier.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Then why this false reply has been given today ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: The reply was made long anterior to the undertaking given by the Hon'ble Premier.

\*Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: Under what circumstances, in the meanwhile, there took place a change of opinion of Government ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: To meet the wishes of a certain section of the House and with deference to a request from the Chair, Sir.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Is it fair, Sir, for the Government to favour some Member and deny the same to other Members of the Opposition ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

\*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Is it not a fact, Sir, that a large number of copies were printed and they could be immediately distributed if the Hon'ble Minister so desired ?

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

\*Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: Then, Sir, as the position of Government has been made clear by replying to Question No. 46, does this Question stands rescinded in view of the statement made by the Hon'ble Minister ?



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

\*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : May I know how many copies were printed and how many distributed ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : To that I cannot reply off-hand, Sir.

\*Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH : Will it be possible for the Hon'ble Minister to issue a copy to each of the hon. Members ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : I shall try to supply one copy of the recommendations to each hon. Member, Sir.

### Recruitment of Extra Assistant Commissioners from the Bar

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI asked :

47. (a) Is it a fact that in 1942 ten Extra Assistant Commissioners were recruited from the Bar on a fixed salary of two hundred rupees per month for a period of two years, after consultation with the Public Service Commission purely for Civil judicial work ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether their services were retained after the expiry of the aforesaid period ?

(c) If so, whether their salary was raised on extension of their services ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

47. (a)—Yes, except that the salary was Rs.400 per mensem.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—No.

### Adjournment Motion *re* Forcible occupation of grazing reserves by Immigrants from Bengal

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Before further discussion on the admissibility of the †Adjournment Motion of Mr. Beliram Das, I would like to know if the Hon'ble Minister, Revenue gives his consent to the ordinary Motion on the identical subject given notice of by Mr. Saveswar Barua. If he gives his consent to that Motion, it would not be necessary to move this Adjournment Motion.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : Regarding giving my consent to this Motion on the Land Settlement policy to be moved by Srijut Sarveswar Barua, Sir, I have already communicated my inability to you to do that, because I do not think that any useful purpose will be served by our holding a debate just now. As the Hon'ble Premier has already declared that copies of recommendations of the Desai Report will be made available to the hon. Members and as from the trend of talks yesterday it appears that they will concentrate on those recommendations mostly, it will be very useful if a debate will be held—a full-fledged debate—on the subject after the hon. Members will have studied them. If a debate is held during this session, the hon. Members will be bound to take to generalisation and so on. So, I think that a very useful purpose will be served if a debate is held in the next Budget Session. Therefore, Sir, in the interest of the debate itself and as Government are anxious to make known every bit of the whole policy and action taken, I thought it proper not to agree to the debate being held in this session. But if the hon. Members are anxious to speak out their minds they might do so on the Adjournment Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : May I take it then that the Hon'ble Minister does not object to the Adjournment Motion being moved ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : I am not objecting to it, Sir.

\*Speech not corrected.

†“This Assembly do now adjourn for the purpose of discussing an urgent matter of public importance and of recent occurrence, *viz.*, forcible and unauthorised occupation of lands set apart for grazing purposes by immigrants from Bengal and acts of lawlessness and breach of peace committed by the trespassers, without any check or hindrance by the authorities”.



The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: If the Hon'ble Minister is not objecting to the Adjournment Motion being discussed, then, I think, I should put the question to the House whether leave should be granted or not. The Motion will certainly give a scope for discussing the entire policy of Government with regard to the oft recurring question of settlement of lands with the immigrants. The grievances the Motion wants to discuss are widespread and have brought about a very unhappy situation leading to riots. I, therefore, give my consent to the Motion being quite in order.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: I think, Sir, it will be better if the Adjournment Motion be moved on a Private Members, Day.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I will see to that. Is there any objection to leave being granted? (After a pause). Then the Motion will be discussed when there is no objection to this being moved. I am to fix the date and time for taking up the discussion of the Motion. I shall do it on the 16th. If time permits, the Motion may be taken up that day. Otherwise it would be taken up on the 17th.

### Statement made by the Leader of the Congress Assembly Party

Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Congress Assembly Party is officially present in this session after the lapse of nearly three years after the suspension of the Constitution in December 1941, and more than two years after its revival in August 1942, with ten of our beloved comrades still in jail and six of us under the disqualification of internment and externment orders. The world has changed beyond recognition in the meanwhile, with possibility of even greater changes. I am grateful, Sir, that you have been pleased to give us the privilege and the indulgence, and through you that of the House of explaining the attitude of our Party in reference to the many problems that face us today as Members of the Assembly.

The first thing that I want to tell you is that the outlook of the Party in reference to work in the Legislature remains the same in spite of every kind of repression on the Members. They shall continue to take advantage of their position in the Legislature to prevent the harm that is being done to the people by the various measures of Government that rule us today, at the same time, to work for the amelioration of the condition of the people in the countryside. I shall be mentioning below a few subjects in which the Party shall take active interest in future.

The attitude of our Party towards the present War by the British Government, which, we hope, will be soon terminating, has been so often repeated and from such exalted authority like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, that I do not want to take the time of the House over it. Only the other day Mahatma Gandhi in his statement offering full co-operation to British Government on certain conditions made the position quite clear and we stand by it. It is only truism to repeat that only free people with a national government can fight the battle of freedom and that a successful all-out war effort for victory for democracy must be backed by the spirit of the people to be free. The British Government including that of India and the Provinces seem to hold an entirely different view and are bent upon doing things in their own way. Up till now they have set at naught all their professions of democracy and freedom in reference to India, and with what they have demonstrated in the policy they have been pursuing hitherto, few are under delusions, about their intentions. It is becoming patent to everybody that the British Government not only do not want to part with power during war, but want to hold India in bondage for all times. They have their own way of winning the war, and I hope they will, but I fear, at the cost of peace of mankind. They think money and arms are all that count; that anybody who seriously talk of democracy and freedom, as the highest incentive for winning victory and peace for mankind, are only fit enough to be in jails and concentration camps, or under orders of internment and externment; that the entire Government machinery must be regimented in such a way which result in denial of food and in the death to several millions of people; that the Press and Platform, after what existence they could maintain, must not criticise Government or not exist at all. In reference to the lovers of freedom, the fighters of Fascism and other evil forces and the advocates of democracy,



whom they have chosen to keep in prison or under restrictions outside, their attitude is the reverse of what humanity demands. Sordid pleasure in suffering seems to dominate the counsels of people in authority from Messrs. Churchill and Amery down to our popular Prime Minister of Assam. To Mr. Churchill the death of three to four millions of Indians is of no consequence because population of India shows abnormal increase every decade ; to Mr. Amery it is kindness to allow India's most revered woman to die in prison only because she is near her husband, and not allow her out for treatment amidst sons and relations. And in so far as our Hon'ble Premier is concerned, he could pass over completely unconcerned the extreme excesses that were committed by the guardians of law and order ; serious injuries to forty-eight prisoners and other injuries to a hundred more being beaten like sheep within folds purposely and deliberately, for faults which were the creation of the jail-staff and underlings are of no consequence ; it is of no consequence to him that hundreds of security prisoners, internees and externees, among whom some are his colleagues of this Assembly, the mode of whose living is not much different from that of his own, against whom no definite charge could be brought in a Court of law, are not offered any allowance for them and their families or in case of a few, are allowed such allowances as he would not offer to his orderly. I dare say it is not a matter of pleasure to him to hear and read about the illness of some of these prisoners resulting as in the case of Sreemati Pushpalata Das, Srijut Siddhinath Sarma and others in complete breakdown in health, but we do know that he takes pride in inflicting sufferings of internment and externment on persons, whom he cannot keep in jail for fear of costs of medical treatment. If this callousness to human suffering were not the guiding motive of the British Government, it is not explainable why these friends could not be released from prisons and freed from the restriction orders, when Gandhiji has unequivocally declared that there is no question of Civil Disobedience and when there is not the slightest exhibition of any violence after Mahatmaji's condemnation of the same.

Nevertheless, we bring no ill-will against anybody. Our grievances are not personal. We are out to fight the evil of Imperialism as being the greatest curse of mankind in the twentieth century, and all the attendant evils that emanate from it. We reappear as a Party only to continue the fight from inside the Legislature, and however thinned our ranks might be and however feeble our voice, it will continue to be raised against this evil, which has brought in its wake so much misery to us. If the Government are under the impression that they would put out this spirit of resistance to evil by excesses and cruelties, they are wrong. They should have realised that repression started in 1931 and continued till 1934 did only sanctify the Independence Resolution of the Congress of 1930 to the fighters of freedom. To-day the August Resolution which is only the reiteration of the same principle under different circumstances, have after this repression became a Charter of Liberty to us. The propaganda agencies of Imperialism wanted to give this sacred resolution many false names but to us, it is nothing more or less than the expression of our resistance to this evil of Imperialism. It is only because we take such impersonal view, that I may utter with equal emphasis, that if the British Government gave tangible demonstration in action of what they professed and are professing in reference to other Occupied Countries in Europe, the whole feeling of distrust and dissatisfaction in the country would dissolve like mist before the rising sun of freedom and mutual understanding.

Sir, the same spirit of resistance to evil determines our attitude towards other Fascist and Imperialist Powers like Germany and Japan. We do not believe in the many things they profess to say and say they do on behalf of Indian freedom, because our experience of Imperialism convinces us that such professions can never be sincere. Although completely unarmed for offering any physical defence, we are determined to maintain this spirit of resistance at all cost, to strengthen the morale of the people against all odds and organise ourselves for unity, self-sufficiency and self-help ; but the Government of the day would not allow even this. This Government know that we did organise a body of several thousand youths devoted to carry out the above objects. But the bureaucratic Government of India, and those among us, whose existence rested on it, instead of encouraging it, crushed it with the might of the bureaucratic



scimitar and our Hon'ble Prime Minister had to admit in his speech in the Budget Session of 1943 that innocents were as much the victims of his law as those whom he called guilty. Yet the interesting fact remains that the Government of India with the assistance of the Provinces have brought into being an organisation, known as the National War Front, for carrying out the identical objects for the successful performance of which they sent thousands of our youths to jail and perpetrated cruelties some of which were ventilated in the Sessions of 1942, March 1943 and even in subsequent Sessions of the Assembly. It has been driven home to us, Sir, that the British Government in India is not as much anti-Japanese as it is anti-Indian. Our attitude, however, has not undergone any change and Mahatma Gandhi and other leaders whose correspondence has recently appeared in the Press have explained our attitude to Japanese aggression under all circumstances in clear and unequivocal terms.

Sir, we recognise war in a country or even on its borders is bound to bring considerable hardship to the people every way and, in my opinion, we should be prepared to tolerate some degree of deprivation. But the way in which the present Government of Assam are managing their food policy, instead of mitigating this hardship, have increased it a hundred-fold, and although loud clamour is being heard from every part of the country, Government are continuing to be completely impervious to it. The same indifference to human suffering, which resulted in deaths of millions in Bengal, is patent in the activity of Government officers even today, and I personally feel that so long as the whole food situation is not dealt with by a Government really responsible to the people, I should almost say, by the people themselves, this state of things is bound to continue. Today nepotism and corruption prevail everywhere. Six to seven agencies including Government operate before consumers can legitimately get food. Government assure fixed profits and commissions to them resulting for the consumers a rise of at least five times the pre-war prices in the open market. But Government do not seem to realise that with indifferent and corrupt supervisors, these agencies deprive the consumers of even that stock which Government probably mean for them in ink and paper, in order that they may sell the thing secretly at much higher prices. The supply which Government are issuing is not in itself sufficient for the civil population due to increased influx of people from outside and when these agencies for distribution join in depriving the quota in the open market, the consequence need only be imagined. Even today, in spite of all the improved figures regarding import of salt, adults in most places are not getting more than 1 *powa* of salt per head per month in open market and black market holds greater sway over the poor villagers than the open market. In most places private shops receive greater encouragement from the officers in the Supply Department than the Co-operative stores, which have ceased to flourish since the adoption of this policy. The inference is much too patent to require any stress. As regards procurement, the agencies have been equally callous to the interests of the growers in the village; we have serious reports of under-selling of paddy in the Surma Valley, due to the machinations of these agencies. The House is going to discuss this matter today on the Motion of hon. Mr. Abdul Bari Chaudhury; so I do not propose anything beyond adding that our duty shall be to point out the defects of such policy till it is changed to one of popular control and free from corruption and vice, in other words, till people become full beneficiaries of the policy and not, as now, victims of it.

It shall be also our duty to bring to the notice of Government and the hon. Members of this House the hardship to the civilian population as a result of evacuation of civil population from certain areas and other difficulties regarding transport, etc., to the civil population with a view to their avoidance and their redress.

But the most immediate task that lies before us is to point to Government and to seek remedy through this hon. House against the great injustice and unmitigated oppression which the Land Settlement Policy, now appearing in the guise of Grow-More-Food Campaign, is committing on the people of the soil and more particularly on the graziers and milk suppliers. You know, Sir, the grave agitation that has been roused in the Assam Valley districts against the adoption of this policy. Some indication



of our attitude in this behalf was given in yesterday's debate over the admissibility of an Adjournment Motion and in view of the possibility of further discussion on the subject I do not wish to say anything more than frankly telling the Hon'ble Ministers that if they want the good will of the people of Assam, they must abandon this policy of settlement of reserves with immigrants and discourage any kind of settlement into them by evicting the trespassers. They must adopt a colonisation policy by which they should first provide landless people of Assam with lands after proper survey ; and only when they have been thus provided, should Government settle such waste lands with immigrants among whom earlier settlers should get preference. This is not an unjust policy or an extravagant claim ; it would be good planning ; it is based on the humane principle of live and let live. I am sure Government realise that executive orders of a Government are not law ; and when even that order is passed with 30 per cent. of the Members of the Assembly in imprisonment directly or indirectly by the orders of the same Government, it cannot have any sanction behind it. I do most sincerely hope and pray that my appeal to Government will not go in vain.

It is superfluous for me to say that we shall work for the enlargement of the elementary liberties on human beings, which in the name of the war, have been practically nullified ; I mean liberty of free movement, liberty of free association, liberty of speech and the liberty of the Press.

I again repeat that we are back here with all good will to the individual Members and parties in this hon. House. We see today as we saw before, the necessity for unity among all communities and interests for the achievement of the common object of freedom of our Motherland. We feel that despite the disruptive forces now let loose among us, we should strive for unity which alone will broadbase the structure of our freedom. I want to assure each and every hon. Member of this House, we shall move for and respond to all such calls for unity. Lastly, we desire to submit with all humility but with equal emphasis that as a party we have never sought for power nor shall we seek any for the sake of power itself. What we have sought for is a rule of real democracy where every man shall not only be free from want, fear and exploitation, but where every man shall live to seek the common good of every human being. May the Will of Providence work for the fulfilment of such a consummation ! (*Applause*).

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I make one submission ? I am really surprised that the indulgence which you have kindly given to the Leader of the Opposition has been abused by him with such a lengthy criticism. He has aired his opinion on the whole administration. I would have been very glad if he had only said about unity among us all and service for the commonwealth of India, but he has criticised the policy of Government and my action. So, I am compelled to say that all the persons who were put behind the prison bar by the 93 Administration were given every facility by me and he was released on medical grounds at my instance but he now criticises my policy.

### **The Sylhet Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill, 1941**

\*Srijut ROHINI KU MAR CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before we proceed further in this debate, I like to enquire whether the hon. Mover of this Bill has made up his mind to withdraw his Bill and leave it to Government to bring in a fresh Bill.

\*Maulavi ABDUL AZIZ: I want to know whether Government would give us a promise that they will bring in a fresh Bill.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Ordinance is an extraordinary measure, Sir. To give an assurance just on the floor of the House as on an Ordinance being promulgated would only be wrong on my part. It is impossible for me, Sir.

Now, as regards the assurance made doubly sure yesterday, I think, I need say nothing. I have assured, Sir, the hon. Members of this House that I shall try to bring in a more comprehensive and less contentious Bill with all expedition, if the hon. Member sees his way to withdraw his.



I should take this opportunity to make one more point clear. I have been accused from two quarters. The Leader of the Planting Group also has accused us of the neutral attitude that we have adopted. Need I tell the hon. Leader of the Group Mr. Whittaker of the salutary effect which that attitude has produced on the opposing parties? It has brought the parties much closer together, and what has evolved from the Select Committee is a compromise which could not have even been imagined unless such an attitude were adopted by Government. I am really surprised to see that instead of supporting the Government attitude, my hon. Friend Mr. Whittaker found it fit to accuse Government.

\*Maulavi ABDUL AZIZ: May I enquire as to when we might have the Select Committee?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I want simply to know what the hon. Member is going to do, whether he is going to proceed with the Bill or drop it. I want a direct answer.

\*Maulavi ABDUL AZIZ: I want to know the approximate time when Government can bring in the Bill.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: I already made a statement yesterday and have repeated the same today. It is not possible to make a statement as regards the approximate time when it will be possible for Government to bring in a Bill. But all that I can assure the hon. Members of the House is that I shall try with all expedition to bring in a Bill of the nature I already indicated.

\*Maulavi ABDUL AZIZ: On the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the Bill.

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

\*Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: While the Hon'ble Minister gave the assurance that he would bring in a fresh Bill, the hon. Mover did not withdraw his Bill. I do not agree that he should have leave of the House to withdraw it now.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Very well, the hon. Member objects to the leave being granted. The Motion cannot be withdrawn. Will hon. Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri proceed with his speech?

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: No, Sir, I do not wish to speak.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall be too glad to support the Bill which has come up to this stage. My hon. Friend Mr. Chaudhuri while remarking yesterday on the various aspects of the Bill was apprehending that this Bill might have the same fate as the one introduced in connection with the Sylhet town alone. But this time the measures are otherwise. The present Bill is of a very extensive nature. It covers all mufassil towns in the district of Sylhet and as a matter of fact, when the Bill was moved it was referred to a Select Committee consisting of certain representatives of this House. The Government took up the attitude that the Committee should be given opportunity to examine the various opinions of persons locally in each and every town in the district of Sylhet. And as a result the committee took the trouble of examining the opinions of both the parties, that is the party which was in favour of such a piece of legislation and also of the people who were not in favour of it. After that the recommendations of the Committee have come before us for consideration and the present recommendations, I am quite sure, are of a compromising nature. I think, Sir, if the House hurry up through this legislation it would not injure the feeling of any of the sections, rather it would do justice to both the sections. I do not share the views of my hon. Friend Mr. Chaudhuri that it may not have the approval of the hon. Members of the other House.

Sir, as to the need and necessity of this Bill, various Members have already spoken in favour of it. We have waited for long seven years during which time Government made no sign of coming forward with any legislation of this kind. And now, because this Bill has come from a private Member, I fail to understand why the hon. Members of this House should not lend their support to it.

With these words, Sir, I support the Motion before the House.

\*Speech not corrected.



The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Does the hon. Mover want to say anything in reply?

Maulavi ABDUL AZIZ : Yes, Sir. I will take only 4 or 5 minutes.

My hon. Friend Mr. Chaudhuri's contention is that such a Bill ought to have been brought by Government and I think Mr. Whittaker's contention is also the same. Because a private Member has brought forward this Bill, so they are not going to support it, otherwise they were satisfied that there ought to have been such a legislation. It has been admitted generally that there is need for such a legislation but the only difficulty is that the author of this Bill happens to be a private Member of this House. We endeavoured to have assurance from Government but Government are not giving us any. They are making vague assurance. They do not give us any approximate time during which period they will bring in such a Bill. In view of this, Sir, I press my Motion and I hope the hon. Members will vote for such a popular right.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Does the Hon'ble Minister want to say anything?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : No, Sir.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : On a point of information, Sir. May I ask the Hon'ble Minister if he will resile from his statement or promise to bring forward a Bill of this kind?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : Sir, I will stick to my statement or promise.

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

The question is :

"That the Sylhet Non-Agricultural Town Tenancy Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration."

Assembly divided

Ayes—10

- |                                  |                                 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Maulavi Abdul Aziz.           | 7. Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hus- |
| 2. Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury. | sain Chaudhury.                 |
| 3. Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan.     | 8. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud  |
| 4. Maulavi Abdur Rahman.         | Ali.                            |
| 5. Maulavi Md. Abdus Salam.      | 9. Maulavi Sheikh Osman Ali     |
| 6. Khan Sahib Maulavi Dewan      | Sadagar.                        |
| Muhammad Ahabab Chaudhury.       | 10. Mr. Binode Kumar J. Sarwan. |

Noes—20

- |                                   |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee.      | 10. Mr. D. B. H. Moore.         |
| 2. Khan Bahadur Hazi Abdul Majid  | 11. Mr. C. W. Morley.           |
| Chaudhury.                        | 12. Mr. R. A. Palmer.           |
| 3. Khan Sahib Maulavi Muhammad    | 13. Dr. C. G. Terrell.          |
| Amiruddin.                        | 14. Mr. W. D. Rutherford.       |
| 4. Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed.      | 15. Mr. A. Whittaker.           |
| 5. Maulavi Mabarak Ali.           | 16. Mr. Benjamin Ch. Momin.     |
| 6. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur   | 17. Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das. |
| Rahman.                           | 18. Srijut Bideshi Pan Tanti.   |
| 7. Sams-ul-Ulama Maulana Abu Nasr | 19. Rev. L. Gatphoh.            |
| Md. Waheed.                       | 20. Mr. C. Goldsmith.           |
| 8. Mr. F. W. Blennerhassett.      |                                 |
| 9. Mr. E. H. S. Lewis.            |                                 |

The question was negatived.

### **The Assam Money Lenders' (Second) (Amendment) Bill, 1943**

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Assam Money Lenders' (Second) (Amendment) Bill, 1943.

I beg to move that the Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

It is known to the hon. Members of this House that while I introduced this Bill, many hon. Members spoke at length on the pros and cons of the Bill and finally they decided that the Bill should be referred to a Select Committee consisting of



certain Members of the House. Before the Bill was referred to the Select Committee, it was also circulated for eliciting public opinion. The volume of opinions received was in favour of this Bill.

Now the relief which has been sought to be given to the debtors by the introduction of this Bill is one which needs very careful consideration of the hon. Members of the House. Sir, the Money Lenders' (Amendment) Act which was passed very recently was found to be defective for not having this amendment therein. The new Money Lenders' (Amendment) Act of 1943 contained a very valuable Section which gives relief to the debtors who mortgaged their property for the money received from the Mahajan. But therein no provision was made as to give immediate relief by way of relinquishing the land mortgaged. Just to give that relief I introduced this Bill and in the Select Committee the Bill was very thoroughly scrutinised. The Select Committee had also made certain recommendations by way of removing some defects which occurred in their mind. I may make mention of the recommendations which the Select Committee has made.

It has been mentioned in the Report that a large number of amendments in drafting, mostly suggested by the Legislative Secretary, were adopted. These will be seen in the Committee's recommendations at the end of the Report.

In connection with Clause 2, it was considered that the intention of the Member-in-charge of the Bill was to include any mortgage in which possession of the mortgaged property is delivered to the mortgagee in lieu of interest or principal, or both, and that the words "usufructuary mortgage of any form or description" must be expanded to meet the intention. The result is in the recommendations below.

It was considered whether "effected" was a more suitable expression than "made" in sub-clause (1) of Clause (2), and it was decided that the word "made" should not be interfered with. A consequential amendment of the words "of such execution" in the Parent Act, by substituting the word "thereof" was also agreed to.

With regard to sub-clause (2) of Clause 2, there was some discussion and the question was whether the sub-clause should be there and whether it should be provided that no appeal should lie against such decision.

In this connection Mr. Aditya, a member of the Select Committee was of opinion that the procedure for the Court to deal with such an application and the scope of the Court's decision therein, should be prescribed either by rules framed under Section 14 or in the Act itself. "As regards appeal", he also opined "in my opinion, the order on such application should be made appealable according as the value of the relief claimed exceeds the pecuniary Small Cause Jurisdiction of the Court". But by majority it was decided that it was not necessary to indicate any procedure, but that it should be provided that no appeal should lie. Although this decision was not unanimous it was agreed to by the majority of the members of the Select Committee.

As regards Clause 3, it was considered that as this Clause stands, decrees passed after June 25th, 1943 (the date on which the Amendment Act of 1943 came into force) and before the date on which the present Bill becomes law would apparently not come within the scope of the Clause. The intention of the Member-in-charge was understood to be to make the provisions of Sections 8 and 9 applicable to all decrees subsisting when the present Bill becomes law, and the recommendation is intended to fulfil this intention. The recommendation of the Committee was that provisions of Sections 8 and 9 were applied to decrees subsisting on the date the Assam Money-lenders' (Amendment) Act, 1943, came into force; and all such decrees shall either be deemed to stand discharged or to be executable only after the amount payable thereunder is reduced in accordance with the said provisions, as the case may be.

So, Sir, my amendments are very simple, and they do not create any confusion in the matter of adjudication of mortgaged properties. This Bill only seeks to remedy the defects which were experienced in the Act of 1943. I therefore hope that the hon. Members will lend their support to my Motion for consideration of the Bill as reported by the Select Committee.



The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Assam Money Lenders' (Second) (Amendment) Bill, 1943, as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration."

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House is committed to the principles of the Bill. On a previous occasion Government treated this Bill with sympathy, and Government would not oppose its consideration now. If the Motion is pressed to a division Government would vote for its consideration.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Motion, but I would not take much time of the House. Sir, I oppose this Bill as it wants to give retrospective effect with the result that orders and decrees passed by the Court long before will be set aside. Sir, if it did not seek to give retrospective effect, I would have been too pleased to support this Bill. But as it stands, I cannot but oppose this Motion.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Sir, on the question of giving retrospective effect to the decrees and orders, this provision was in the original Act itself. I brought forward this Bill in order to remove certain defects in the original Act and not to alter that Act in any way. So Mr. Mookerjee's objection loses its force.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the Assam Money Lenders' (Second) Amendment) Bill, 1943, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

The question was adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : This Bill will come up again on the 20th for consideration clause by clause. Amendments to the Bill are to be tabled before 3 p. m. on the 16th November.

### **Motion re increase of salary of Assembly Members**

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The next \*Motion stands in the name of Mr. Binode Kumar J. Sarwan.

Mr. Binode KUMAR J. SARWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as Government are bringing forward a Bill to amend the Act prescribing the present salary of the Members of the Legislature on the lines indicated by me in my Motion, I do not wish to move it, but I hope every hon. Member will lend his support to the Government Bill.

### **Motion re Reconstitution of the Economic Advisory Board**

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do now proceed to take into consideration the question of reconstitution of the Economic Advisory Board of the Province with a view to make it more representative.

In this connection, Sir, I beg to submit the original history of this Board. This Board was constituted during the 93 Administration; most of the hon. Members of this House as well as outsiders who are serving in the Board were nominated by His Excellency the Governor. I may be permitted to submit that this is a Board on which rests the responsibility for the economic condition of the Province. On this Board the food problem of the Province depends; on its activities transport of foodstuffs and other very important questions rely. This Board is the key to the solution of the food problem and other important things affecting our day to day life. We appreciate that upon the activities of this Committee the present and future prosperity and prospect of the Province depend. We cannot but think that this Committee should be one which must be constituted with the representative people of the Province. While I say that it should be of a representative

\*"This Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take necessary steps to raise the salary of the Members of the Assam Legislative Assembly from Rs. 100 to Rs. 150 per month."



nature, I do not cast any aspersion on my hon. Friends who are serving in this Committee. They are our representatives. They are looking into the interests of the people of the Province. They are really doing good to the people. I should say that they should serve in the Committee with the approval of the people of this Province. They were nominated at a time when there was no Ministerial administration. They were selected for the Committee when the people of the Province knew nothing about it. This Economic Advisory Board was formed during the time of 93 Administration and they were taken in. While I say they were all taken into the Committee during the 93 Administration, I do not make full disclosure of all the facts. After the present Ministry came into being some of the hon. Members of this House were taken into the Committee, namely, Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury and Mr. Kedarmal Brahmin.

(The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Kedarmal Brahmin was from the very beginning.)

I am sorry. My idea always is to see that the Committee should be constituted of members who should have popular support behind them. Probably, the hon. House remember that during the last November Session, I tried that the Economic Board should be reconstituted by elected representative Members of both the Houses. I did not only say that this Committee should be constituted of the representatives of both the Houses but also I advocated the cause of outsiders too. I would also suggest that some outsiders, *viz.*, those who have got the time to spare for the cause of the people of the country should also be given a chance to come to this Committee. Some Members of the two Houses should be elected by hon. Members of both the Houses by the single transferable vote and be taken into the Committee. Sir, I have been told that this Province is now represented in the Board formed under the auspices of the Government of India and the Secretary of this Board represents the cause of Assam. Here I have got some personal objection. This Committee is known as the All-India Planning Committee and in this Committee Assam is being represented by the Secretary of the Economic Advisory Board. From all these facts it will appear that in matters of food and other vital matters like economic condition of this Province, this Province has got a link with the Government of India and the policy that is adopted by the Government of India is being pursued in this Province also. Such is the importance of the Committee. I would again appeal to the House that the House should take into consideration my suggestion that the Committee be reconstituted.

With these words, I place my Motion for the consideration of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Motion moved:

"That this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do now proceed to take into consideration the question of reconstitution of the Economic Advisory Board of the Province with a view to make it more representative."

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: May I intervene on a point of information, as the hon. Mover referred to me by designation. He has declared that the Secretary of the Economic Advisory Board is a member of the All-India Planning Committee. As far as I am aware, Sir, there is no such Committee and if there is any I am certainly not a member of it. What I am a member of is the Transport Committee, which meets in Calcutta every month to consider the programmes of rail and river transport from Calcutta into the province of Assam—both Military and Civil transport; and if the hon. Mover thinks it a very great privilege for me to make this monthly journey to Calcutta under present condition, I shall be only too glad to ask the Government of Assam to put in some other member in this Transport Committee.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this matter has been pursued by my hon. Friend with great persistence. He mentioned that last year also he brought this subject up. I have made the position of Government clear in this matter and I personally thought that there was absolutely no necessity to reconstitute this Economic Advisory Board. It is admitted that in the



Economic Advisory Board representatives of both the Houses of Legislature are present and it has also been stated by the hon. Mover of this Motion that constitution of this Board was in the regime of the 93-Administration. If the personnel of the Board is taken into consideration, I think, my hon. Friend will have nothing to criticise. All I heard from him to say is that he does not grudge to see other hon. Members there but they should be there with the suffrage of the different parties in this House. We have in the past while constituting different Committees tried to come to an arrangement with different groups so that the Leaders of those groups may be represented in Committees. The Economic Advisory Board deals with a large number of subjects which are intimately connected not merely with the rice situation but also with the transport situation as well as coal situation which is looming large in the economics of the Province. Any Board which is to be constituted with the Members of both the Houses of Legislature will not be of much help unless in that Board representatives of the Military who now control most of the transport and representatives of the two methods of transportation, viz., rail and river and also representatives of the Provincial Motor Transport and Assam Transport were there. If this House wants to introduce new members to the Economic Advisory Board.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Premier will continue after lunch.

### Adjournment

(The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 2 p. m.)

(After lunch)

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was on the point of stating before the House that, as at present constituted, the Economic Advisory Board is fully represented by every group, of this House barring the Congress Party. I do not know if my hon. Friend the Leader of the Opposition will care to take a seat in this Board, for in that case I can request His Excellency to include him also in the personnel of the Board. Except that I claim, Sir, that every interest and every Party in the House is well represented. To take seriatim, my hon. Friend Mr. B. Mookerjee is a member of this Board. He not only represents Sylhet but also the Independent Group of this House and he is there also to protect the interest of the Indian tea planters of the Surma Valley Districts. Next is Mr. Kedarmal Brahmin who is also a member of the Board and it is in the fitness of things that he should be there, for he represents the Indian Mercantile community. Surma Valley Muslims are represented at the present moment by our revered Friend Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur Rahman who has long experience of both the valleys, for he was a few years back the Assistant Director of Land Records, knows full well the capacity of the Province to raise food crops and also he has got experience and ability to suggest new methods of cultivation or new areas which we can give to our food supplying cultivators. It was represented to me that, as Buro cultivation forms a considerable part of our total rice supply, some member from that area should also be incorporated. When I placed the matter before His Excellency, he was good enough to select Maulavi Maqbul Hussain Choudhury who comes from the Sunamganj Subdivision, the largest Buro growing area of the Province. The Assam Valley is represented by Khan Bahadur Maulavi Keramat Ali who, as most of the Members will admit, is a man of influence and an Indian tea planter and he can form the counter-part of Mr. Mookerjee in this Board, that is, he can represent the Indian tea planters of the Assam Valley. Lastly, Sir, the tea industry of the European Group is represented by their very able leader Mr. Whittaker who combines in himself the experience of the civil administration of the neighbouring province of Bihar and he also identifies himself with the politics of Assam and of the great tea industry. In him we have got an invaluable worker and a very competent Secretary. Of the Ministry, I have found a place there and I was selected not while I was entrusted with the duty of forming the Cabinet but even while I was an ordinary Member. My hon. Friend Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury, who holds the portfolio of Finance, is a very rightful member in the Economic Advisory Board. Although their recommendation is advisory the recommendation of the Board may impinge upon financial matters of the Province and therefore he should be there. The Upper House was originally represented by Rai Bahadur Rameswar Saharia, an industrialist and tea planter of note from Dibrugarh.



But, as he went away from the Province during the critical period of 1942, his place has been taken over by Mr. Satyendra Mohan Lahiri who, as is admitted on all hands, is a very good representative of the Upper House. He has got this additional advantage that he represents the Lower Assam and also the rice miller, for his brother has a rice mill. If hon. Members of the House think that the Economic Advisory Board representatives from this Assembly as well as the Upper House are people who are fit to take their seat then there is absolutely no question of reconstituting this Body. What advantage will we get if, instead of one being a member of the Board in his capacity as M. L. A., he is elected by this House? If we go by the groups, it will be admitted that the leaders of the groups have been already taken and if we are to leave this matter for election, Sir, those very persons are sure to be returned by the different groups that are represented. The only thing that could be urged is about my Friends who belong to the Ministerial Party. It may be urged that their representatives have not been elected by the Ministers. But they were selected by His Excellency when there was no Ministry and they have sat there, barring Mr. Maqbul Hussain Choudhury, from the very inception of the Economic Advisory Board.

As I attend every session of the Board which carries out a very onerous function, I can say from my personal experience that nobody thinks of himself but every one thinks of his representative capacity that he is a Member of the Legislature and that every one tries to contribute his little quota for the betterment of the economic situation in the Province. My Friend the Mover of this Motion has not in any way challenged the capacity of any of the members having a seat on this Board. His only objection has been that they should be re-elected from this House. Now the question of election will at once raise very complicated issues—what should be the proportion of Members of Legislature, what number should be elected from the Assembly and what number from the Council? Then again in this House we will have to allocate seats to different groups according to the size of the party. Questions of representation of different interests come in. In this way matters will be complicated. If however this House is wedded to the principle of election by the Members and this Motion is passed, I can convey the decision of this House to His Excellency the Governor. It will be for him whether to accept their recommendation and reconstitute the Body. My request to my hon. Friends will be to keep the *status quo*. As my Hon. Friend the leader of the Opposition was absent when I made a suggestion that he will be good enough to come to help us in the Economic Advisory Board, I will request His Excellency to nominate him in the Board.

\*Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I enquire from the Hon'ble Premier whether the formation of this Board does not lie in the hands of the Ministry? The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Ministry had no say whatsoever in the matter.

Sir, over the Railway authorities, the Steamer authorities and the American Army people who are now operating the Railway in Assam, we have no authority to ask them to come to help us. Not merely that even as regards the representative of the Regional Priority Committee, we have got no hand over them. Then again, sometimes the Regional Food Commissioner of the Eastern Zone formerly Justice Braund used to come and take part in the deliberation. If the matter was left to the Ministry we could not expect these people from other provinces to come and help us in the work which is dear to everyone of this House.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very glad that the Hon'ble Prime Minister with his usual courtesy has invited the Leader of the Congress Party to join in this Economic Advisory Board. It is, as it should be, and I hope the hon. Leader of the Congress Party will be able to take up the responsibility of being a member of this important Body. I see only one difficulty in the way and that is as I have always found that the Congress Party Members do not like to be nominated by Government in any committee (*hear, hear*). Therefore, I hope the Hon'ble Prime Minister will agree to have this body elected from this



House. There should not be any serious impediment in the way of election in as much as we know that the members of the Text Book Committee are elected by both the Houses of the Legislature. So, I think, Sir, the Hon'ble Prime Minister will agree to the suggestion which I put forward.

Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: We are obliged to the Hon'ble Premier's suggestion of our joining the Board. I also heard with attention what my hon. Friend Mr. Chaudhuri has said in the House. I am sorry to say that till I have heard about the subject in greater detail I am not in a position to give my opinion immediately. I shall communicate our decision on Thursday about this matter. In the meantime I should like to make one thing clear that we have at no time accepted any office or any responsibility which is not based on the basis of election.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not add a few words in this discussion specially when my name has been referred to. Sir, as it has been already explained by the Hon'ble Prime Minister that this Board was constituted when there was no Ministry functioning in the Province and from the letter which I received from the Secretary of His Excellency the Governor of Assam I understood that the formation of the Board was entirely in the hands of His Excellency. Sir, the Hon'ble Prime Minister who was an ordinary Member at that time was included in the Board like other hon. Members. So it is quite clear to all the hon. Members that at the beginning the Hon'ble Prime Minister had no hand in the formation of the Board but afterwards when the Ministry was formed he got one or two changes made. Sir, my Friend Mr. Chaudhuri is interjecting that he had hand. Sir, I can say with emphasis that at that time he had no hand. Sir, I also am one of those who do not like the system of nomination but the Board was formed at such a time when the question of election could not be imagined. Sir, when it was pressed to include a member from the Buro-growing area, the Hon'ble Prime Minister readily agreed to it and got it done by His Excellency. Even now, he has asked for suggestions and he himself volunteered to give a definite suggestion that as the Congress group is not represented in the Board, he would be too pleased to speak to His Excellency to have the Leader of the Congress group in the Board. Sir, the hon. Mover wants, as I find in the wordings of his Motion, that the Board should be more representative, but in what sense he really wants to make it more representative, he could not make it clear, whether in the sense so far as it relates to this hon. House or the other House or including those who are not members of the Houses. If the latter be the point, in that case, I should say that both civil and military personnels should be included in the Board. If it is desired that the Board should be representative on the communal basis, then it should include both Hindus and Muhammadans and also representatives from the European group. But what we find in the Board is that all are represented there; moreover the Railway authorities are represented by two persons, the Steamer Company is represented there and the Commerce and Industry, both Indian and European, are represented there. The only point that may be raised is that the Houses have not been properly represented because the Members were not elected. If that be the case and if my hon. Friend wants Sir, I, without meaning anything wrong, volunteer to tender my resignation to make a seat for him. Or if the House so desires, there may be an election as well but that will not make the Board more representative. Sir, the Hon'ble Prime Minister is not responsible for the formation of the Board and I think he should not be blamed for a thing for which he is not responsible though it is not up to our expectation. We may make a request to him, of course, if the House so desires, to the effect that he may bring this matter to the notice of His Excellency the Governor who is the President of this Board and try to give effect to the desire of the hon. Members. Sir, during the last session this point was brought before the House and I must say that at the very outset the Hon'ble Prime Minister expressed his desire that whatever would be the decision of the House on the subject, he would abide by it. But the matter was left there. As he had given the suggestion, it is clear that he is willing to accept the representation of the Congress group, and if any other hon. Member points out that some other group has not been represented, I am sure, he will also



readily agree to accept the suggestion and place the matter before the President of the Board. My hon. Friend wants to know whether election or nomination will be the procedure of representation. I have already said that I am one of those who do not like the procedure of nomination. So far as the representation of the House is concerned, it must be based on election, but in the particular case it entirely depends on the will of His Excellency the Governor. So, Sir, we must wait to hear the decision of the Leader of the Congress group—Mr. Bardoloi; and if he is not willing to act on the Board, he must suggest some other name from his Group. But I must point out one thing which was overlooked at the beginning—that is, the Assamese Hindus have not been represented on the Board. It was a mistake. Now, Sir, I think the Hon'ble Prime Minister will see that if the Leader of the Congress group is agreeable, he should be taken on the Board, but in case he does not agree, someone from the Assamese Hindus should be included in the Board and, in this connection I may be permitted to suggest the name of my hon. Friend—Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri.

Srijut SURENDRANATH BURAGOHAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by my hon. Friend Maulavi Abdur Rahman. The House will remember that during the November session last year the hon. Mover of this very Motion came forward with a Motion of this kind but his Motion then expressly said that the Committee to be set up should be nominated by Government. To this Motion of his I put my amendment saying that the Committee should be elected. So, Sir, it has been my privilege today to find that the hon. Mover has since been a convert to my view. I have found that in explaining his Motion he has made it quite clear that he wants this Board to be reconstituted on the basis of election, at least so far as the Members of the Legislature are concerned; he has made it clear that they should be there on the basis of election and not on the basis of nomination. Sir, as regards the principle of election and the wisdom for doing so, I need hardly say anything. It is quite obvious and well-known to the hon. Members of the House.

The Board, as it is constituted now, sadly lacks in certain elements. I find that out of the seven non-official members of the Board, as many as five are representatives of tea and other industries of the Province. Three of them are tea planters, one belongs to the Mercantile community and the other a mill owner. Excepting the gallant Khan Bahadur from the Surma Valley and my hon. Friend Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury, I do not find any other member representing the consumers, whose interests must be represented on this Board, from the Assam Valley.

So, Sir, I would be glad if the Motion before the House be accepted so that the Board may be reconstituted making it more representative on a broader and wider basis. The Hon'ble Premier has made it clear that he would be guided by the verdict of the House in this matter. With these few words, Sir, I support the Motion.

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEB: Mr. Speaker, Sir, various interests have been represented in the Economic Advisory Board, as has been told by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and other hon. Members of this House. But to me it appears, Sir, that the economic condition of the people of this Province is today being moulded by a very mighty body known as the Commercial Syndicate of Sylhet. Since my hon. Friend Maulavi Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury has joined the Economic Advisory Board as a representative of the Buro-growing area, I would suggest that my hon. Friend Maulavi Abdur Rahman be taken in as a representative of the Commercial Syndicate of Sylhet.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think I will be failing in my duty if I do not say one word on what has been said by my Friend Srijut Surendranath Buragohain. He said that there are 3 representatives from the Tea Industry in the Economic Advisory Board. If he includes my humble self also as one of them, I must at once say that I do not represent tea alone. In fact, I had no occasion to talk on tea on the Board.

Srijut SURENDRANATH BURAGOHAIN: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I understood the Hon'ble Prime Minister to say that the Khan Bahadur represents tea of the Assam Valley.



Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have heard the criticism on my Motion from both the Hon'ble Prime Minister as well as the hon. Members of the House. All that I find from their criticism is that they are at one with me in the sense that this Board performs a very responsible duty towards the people of this Province. I would suggest that this Board should be reconstituted year by year, as this Board will perform a very responsible duty. Instead of giving this Board a long life to enjoy and instead of allowing only one set of people to perform these duties for a long time, the Board should be reconstituted year by year. It will also help in giving the hon. Members of this House an opportunity to send their representatives of both the Houses according to their choice.

Now, the Hon'ble Premier has mentioned that I have not made any concrete suggestion in my Motion as to whether I would ask the hon. Members of the House to recommend to Government that the present Board be dissolved and a new Board be constituted. But throughout my speech I tried to make it clear that the present Board must not be allowed to continue long and that a new Board should be reconstituted with certain Members from both the Houses of the Legislature. So far as the Legislature is concerned they are the representatives of the people. Although the Hon'ble Prime Minister said that as many as 5 hon. Members are representing this House in the present Board and one hon. Member of the other House, I have suggested that at least, 7 hon. Members from this House and one from the other House should be elected and two outsiders to be selected. In my previous speech I also suggested that two outsiders of the Province who have got the interest of economic welfare of the Province should be taken in by the Government at their discretion. But so far as this House and the other House are concerned, the representatives should be taken in after election.

Sir, I have been provoked in this matter to make certain observations on certain points, which I would not have liked, had I not been provoked to say like that. My hon. Friend, Mr. Mookerjee, insinuated that the interests of the Province would not be served by the proposed Board. I would say to him that the interests of the Province, which are very vital and important, will certainly be safeguarded by a set of hon. Members who command confidence of the Legislature of the Province. Let the Houses send their representatives after due election so that there may not be any ground for any body to say that the Members have been nominated or chosen by the Government according to their discretion. That is why I was suggesting that if the Members of the Board are elected on the strength of votes of the Houses, there will be no allegation against them that they would not serve the best interests of the people and the Province at large.

Then my hon. Friend, Mr. Nirendra Nath Deb, just now passed a remark saying that the interests of the mighty body, "The Commercial Syndicate of Sylhet", are not being well served by Maulavi Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury alone and that another mighty man like my humble self should be there. I thank him for his frank suggestion, Sir. If my hon. Friend apprehend that any such mighty person may not get a chance to be in the Board, it is necessary for him to support my Motion.

Then, Sir, I was under the impression that Mr. Whittaker represents Assam in the Central Planning Committee, but now I find that he does not serve in the Central Planning Committee, as he himself has said. I would suggest that some body from Assam should be sent to represent the cases of this Province in the Central Planning Committee.

There has been one suggestion from Mr. Mookerjee whether it would not be possible to wait till the hon. Leader of the Opposition gives final decision on the request which the Hon'ble Premier made a few minutes ago for his inclusion. At this very moment while the Motion is before the House I do not see whether the matter can be kept pending till we hear the final decision of the hon. Leader of the Opposition. In this matter, I say there should be a prompt decision that the Board be reconstituted with representatives from both the Houses—all being elected. If this decision is arrived at then it would be quite up to the hon. Leader of the



Opposition to decide whether he would set up his own candidature or some other Members of his party. Then the matter will entirely rest with the House as to the number to be fixed.

One thing I have been told by the Hon'ble Premier just now is that the constitution of this Board entirely rests with His Excellency. We must therefore believe it and we must admit that this is so. But I apprehend, if it be so, what would be the fate of the recommendations? Suppose we arrive at certain decision that the Board should be constituted in such and such manner and if His Excellency does not accede to the recommendations or wishes of the House, what would be the fate of these recommendations? The Ministry can advise His Excellency and that advice I believe, cannot go in vain. With these words, Sir, I commend my Motion for the acceptance of the House.

\*Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: On a point of information, Sir. Will the Hon'ble Premier please enlighten us, what is the utility of this body now? When there was the 93 regime, it may have had its purpose, but as the normal constitution has come into function, I see no utility of such a body.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker Sir, if I wanted to take shelter on the technicalities, I could have told at the very beginning by pointing out that the wording of the Motion is unacceptable to any Legislature. Both myself and Mr. Mookerjee had tried to impress upon the House that this Economic Advisory Board came into existence at a time when the Legislature was not functioning. When the normal constitution was not functioning and His Excellency had the entire administration under his control under Section 93 of the Constitution Act; it is he who selected certain Members of this august Legislature and invited them to give their opinions on matters which were very vital to the Province. If I remember aright, just after the present Ministry came in, this question was taken up and then it was though whether this Board should be reconstituted. We came to the conclusion that the present body was a much better organisation for the Province of Assam than a purely advisory body either elected or selected from the Members of the Legislature to advise the Ministry only.

The Economic Advisory Board as it is now functioning looks into various matters over which the Provincial Government or the Ministry has no hand whatsoever. As I have been repeatedly informing the House that this is a very big body and at least 30 to 40 members attend at the discussion. Therefore it is futile either for my hon. Friend, Mr. Rahman or for me to say that we can regulate the constitution of this big body which consists of 40 members. Now, Mr. Rahman has, curiously enough, made a concrete suggestion but I could see nothing constructive coming out from his original speech. He now says that this body be reconstituted with 8 members from the Legislature—7 from this Assembly and one from the other House. If he really wanted that, I should convey to His Excellency the desire of this House, then let him say that other members appointed by His Excellency should remain—the official members and the members representing the tea industry, the railways and steamers and so forth. But the Members of the Legislature should be elected from the House. Then alone I could convey the wishes of this august Body to His Excellency. But as his Motion stands, there is no such recommendation. He wants the Ministry to reconstitute the body. As I said at the beginning that I did not like to take shelter on the technicalities and did not declare the Motion as unacceptable to the House. My idea is if the House wants that the representatives of the Legislature on this body should be elected, the House is at liberty to give out their mind in clear terms so that I can convey their wishes to His Excellency. If the House thinks that more suitable representatives of the two Houses of Legislature will be available by means of this elective system, then I am perfectly sanguine that His Excellency would most probably accede to the request of this Legislature. This matter has not been agitated before the other House and we do not know whether our elder statesmen require that there should be an elected representative from their House.



The only difficulty is as regards the Congress Party, but as I have already said, the Leader of the Opposition, if he likes, will be nominated or selected by His Excellency as a member of this Board. But as he is not willing to accept any seat by nomination, there only the difficulty comes in. But this is a matter of policy of the Party, and the stand of the Congress Party may not find favour with His Excellency the Governor. I cannot say what will be the reaction of His Excellency to the attitude of the Congress Party.

It has been suggested that reconstitution is necessary, for there is no representative of the Hindus of Assam—this was mentioned by my Friend, Mr. Mookerjee. But I think it is a slip of tongue; there is no *indigenous* Hindu of the Assam Valley in that Board. But my hon. Friends, Messrs. Kedarmal Brahmin and Satyendra Mohan Lahiri, who are Brahmins, are in the Committee representing the Assam Valley. I think what Mr. Mookerjee wanted to suggest was that a native Hindu of the Assam Valley should be there. Therefore if the suggestion made by me is accepted by my hon. Friend, the Leader of the Opposition, he can function in a dual capacity, *viz.*, he will represent not only the Opposition in this House but in his personal capacity, he will represent the Hindus proper of the Assam Valley.

\*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: We do not think that the Congress can represent the Hindus; they do not and cannot.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Chaudhuri may verily take that stand as he is wedded to the Maha abha group, and the All-India leaders of the Mahasabha have been lately saying that the Congress do not represent the Hindus. Anyway, we are here to be realists, and not idealists, and I think my hon. Friend, Mr. Bardoloi will be the best man to represent Assam Valley Hindus although he may be the Leader of the Congress Party and may not be acceptable to Mr. Chaudhuri.

Now, I come to the concrete suggestion of Maulavi Abdur Rahman. Towards the end of his last speech Maulavi Abdur Rahman has thrown out three suggestions. This is against all parliamentary practice. If he had any concrete suggestions to give he should have adumbrated them in his first speech, so that the Members of the Legislature could consider and discuss them. He knows that after the Mover has exercised his right of reply, none except the Government Member has any right to take part in the debate any more. He suggested that there should be seven Members from this House. I think he will concede that the two Hon'ble Ministers who now sit in that Board should remain. If he concedes that, then I represent the General Administration side and my Hon'ble Colleague represents the Financial side. That leaves only 5 Members. How is he going to distribute the five Members amongst all the different parties? Does he think that the Congress Party should be represented, and if so, by how many? If we are to go by numbers they should get at least two representatives. Similarly, the Ministerialist Party, by number, should get three. So, the Government and the Opposition between themselves get all the five seats. There will be no room for European Planting, Indian Planting and Mercantile Communities. These are the practical difficulties which I see in accepting the suggestion of my Friend, Maulavi Abdur Rahman. Again at the cost of repetition, I say that if the House decides that the Members from the Legislature should be elected, and not selected, then I will convey the desire of the House to His Excellency the Governor.

One word more, Sir, Mr. Rahman, towards the very end of his speech suggested that this body should not have a life of more than a year. I oppose this suggestion. His suggestion means that a member who becomes experienced in discussions and deliberations of the Board should be shunted off as soon as he has gained sufficient knowledge to take an intelligent part in the deliberations of that body whose function is very vital to the Province. The life-time of our Development Boards is 3 years. So, why not make it three years? Why import new blood every year? Even in commercial undertakings any outgoing member of the



Directorate is eligible for re-election. But Mr. Rahman would not allow any member to seek re-election.

\*Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is it not a fact that the life of the present Board has already become more than three years?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It is working since 1942.

\*Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA: On a point of information, Sir. Will the Hon'ble Premier kindly inform us whether the proceedings of the meetings of the Board are published, and if so, how and to whom.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The proceedings are kept, but not published.

\*Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Are they available to the public?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: No.

\*Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I know whether the hon. Members of this House will be supplied with the copies of the proceedings, as is the case with the Communications Board?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The Communications Board's meeting is quite a different matter than the deliberations of the Economic Advisory Board. As I stated before the House, the highest representative of the Military, operating in this Province attends these meetings. Military matters are sometimes included in the discussions. It is no secret that the Assam Government are supplying to the Military all their requirements of rice. Then the Head of the American Army who is in-charge of the operation of the Bengal and Assam Railway from Katihar onwards to Ledo also attends. Sometimes he places before the House facts why he is not in a position to carry more civilian goods to the detriment of carriage of military materials. These things are in the very nature of facts confidential. It is for this reason that the proceedings of the Economic Advisory Board are not published. If my Friends will be satisfied that they would not insist upon those parts of the proceedings but only an extract dealing with the civilian side of the question, I will speak to His Excellency to see his way to accede to the request of the hon. Members.

\*Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: I understand that this Committee.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: How many times the hon. Member will rise? The hon. Member is introducing all sorts of new matters. It is not permissible under Rules. The Hon'ble Premier is very clear in what he has said. That part of the proceedings, which relates to the civilian side of the question, may be made available if His Excellency agrees.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I will speak to His Excellency.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Question is:

"That this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do now proceed to take into consideration the question of the constitution of the Economic Advisory Board of the Province with a view to make it more representative."

The Assembly then divided—

Ayes—7

1. Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri.
2. Rai Sahib Daulat Chandra Gohain.
3. Srijut Surendranath Buragohain.
4. Maulavi Abdul Aziz.

Noes—43

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.



Ayes—7—*concl'd.*

5. Maulavi Abdur Rahman.
6. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali.
7. Mr. Binode Kumar J. Sarwan.

Noes—43—*concl'd.*

5. The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi Mudabbir Hussain 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. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee.
12. Mr. Kedarmal Brahmin.
13. Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury.
14. Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan.
15. Khan Bahadur Hazi Abdul Majid Chaudhury.
16. Maulavi Md. Abdus Salam.
17. Khan Sahib Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahbab Chaudhury.
18. Maulavi Dewan Ali Raja.
19. Khan Sahib Maulavi Muhammad Amiruddin.
20. Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed.
21. Maulavi Ghyasuddin Ahmed.
22. Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury.
23. Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia.
24. Maulavi Mabarak Ali.
25. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur Rahman.
26. Maulavi Muzarrof Ali Laskar.
27. Maulavi Namwar Ali Barbhuiya.
28. Maulavi Sheikh Osman Ali Sadagar.
29. Mr. F. W. Blennerhassett.
30. Mr. E. H. S. Lewis.
31. Mr. D. B. H. Moore.
32. Mr. C. W. Morley.
33. Mr. R. A. Palmer.
34. Dr. C. G. Terrell.
35. Mr. W. D. Rutherford.
36. Mr. A. Whittaker.
37. Mr. Benjamin Ch. Momin.
38. Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das.
39. Srijut Bideshi Pan Tanti.
40. Rev. L. Gatphoh.
41. Mr. C. Goldsmith.
42. Mr. Jobang D. Marak.
43. Srijut Khorsing Terang.

The Question was negatived.

Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Sir, in view of the decision now come to, I can just inform the Hon'ble Premier that, since the principle of nomination is already there, we cannot agree to any nomination from this side of the House. I have also other reasons to refuse to sit in the Board. From the statement made by the



Hon'ble Premier, what I learn is, that the scope of the Board is not conterminous with the scope of the Provincial responsibility. If it were so, I would have suggested that the whole matter should be taken over by the House instead of leaving it to a body which is nominated and which is extraneous to the House. But as the sphere of the House does not seem to extend to the entire activities of the Board we could not properly function there at least in a way by which the decision of our House could be acceptable to the Board. At any rate, from what I have gathered from the Hon'ble Premier I may say that by our inclusion in the Board no useful purpose will be served either to the House or to the public at large.

### Motion re Pay of Lower Primary School Teachers

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to withdraw the first portion of my Motion and with the change I am moving my Motion—  
“That this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take immediate steps for fixing the pay of the Lower Primary School Teachers at least at Rs. 40 per mensem”.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Very well, the hon. Mover may move his Motion with the change.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Motion touches upon the most urgent needs of the builders of our nation, namely, the primary school teachers. It is they who are responsible for building up the formative mind of our boys and girls. It is they who pave the way to higher education in a country. Our industrialists and educators, philosophers and scientists, politicians and legislators—all get their first baptism under these primary school teachers; but, alas! theirs is the most neglected case in our legislatures.

What is their present condition? The basic pay of these nation builders stands between 12—14 rupees per month all over the Province. Through repeated efforts of these people and under the patronisation of some generous individuals some meagre attempts were made here and there and very poor and miserly dearness allowances were given to them here and there; but generally they do not receive more than the meagre sum of rupees fourteen per month, and this, at a period when living expenses have increased three to four times everywhere in Assam—when an ordinary day labourer gets more than fifty rupees a month all over the Province.

Sir, when this is the economic level of our educators—our Gurumahashayas and Maulvisahabs—can we make bold to say that we legislators give due attention to their repeated demands and make all similar efforts to improve their fate? Indeed not. Every time the question of finding money for them comes up, we show this or that pretext, show them our slim purse. But not so even in case of increment of salaries and allowances of the police officials—nor when ‘extra’ ‘special’ demands are made by that notorious Department.

Do we grumble to find out extra allowances for our Hon'ble Ministers and their protégés whenever they come out with any demand? Do we not even press for increasing the salaries of the legislators on the pretext of inflation and high prices of living? Indeed not.

Thus, Sir, our callous indifference to the fate of the educators of our sons and daughters is not only indicative of our abject indifference to the vital needs of the nation building measures; but from humanitarian ends also it amounts to criminal negligence to the fate of a section of public servants. In no civilised country such criminal acts of a Government would be tolerated by the people. And we can only imagine how the coming generations will look at us to read this chapter of achievements of our history of self-government in the country.

And how this cruel indifference has reacted on the primary educational system of the Province? Many a school teacher has been compelled to leave teaching in the primary schools and one can find them here and there in search of fortune in these hey days of military contracts and profiteering. Out of many instances I shall cite only two. Maulavi Mastum Ali—a very efficient teacher of Sunamganj joined the National



War Front as Thana organiser and Behari Lal Das, another efficient teacher of Sunamganj joined the Motor Transport Office, Shillong as clerk. They have been compelled to give up educational service for distressing condition of their families. Many a village school has been closed down due to want of teachers. But this is only one side of the picture. On the other side, the honest teachers who stuck to their job with a religious zeal regardless of this economic plight, have been paying dearly for their steadfastness. There are stories where the poor teachers unable to bear prolonged sufferings, chose to end their accursed life by committing suicide. There are stories when devoted school teachers had to take to various unfair means of living. And as a whole, primary education of the Province today faces complete black-out in coming few years.

A cursory glance over the budget of a primary school teacher may convince any sensible man that the income of a teacher today is not even sufficient for the living of a single individual, let alone maintenance of a family with it.

This, Sir, I think, is sufficient to prove the justness and the urgent character of my Motion.

To come to the economic side of it, I may show that the minimum salary demanded in it, is only meet and proper considering the present conditions of living and the grade demanded therein is only just and humble. The number of primary schools under Government and Local Board aid stands somewhere near 6,233 boys' schools and 910 girls' schools with about 9,675 teachers in this Province. If I am right the expenses incurred per teacher per year do not exceed even Rs. 200 on the average. Now if salaries be increased on the basis of this Motion, the yearly expenses per teacher will be increased by about another 300 rupees. Thus the present total yearly expenses for primary education will have to be increased to Rs. 45,00,000. In Government Budget we find that about 17,00,000 lacs of rupees have been expended for primary school teachers. Now, if the proposal in the Motion is adopted by Government another 28,00,000 lacs of rupees will be required. Herein comes the question where to get the money for this huge expenses. Naturally, Government will seek to curtail the figure and call it absurd. But why? Can we not curtail the expenses incurred for the maintenance of the predatory police system? Can we not approach the Central Government to give us the entire money received from petroleum tax and the like? Can we not increase, say, excess profit tax, etc., to find money for our primary education? Can we not urge the Central Government to cut out its so-called Publicity Department and approach even for loans to gear up our primary education properly? Any amount of loans for building up a sound basis of primary education, Sir, will pay in the times to come and no stone should be left unturned to finance our nation builders of today; because success or failure of all ideas and schemes about post-war reconstruction in this country depends on how soundly we pave the basis here and now through an efficient and broadbased primary educational system.

With these words, Sir, I commend this Motion for the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Motion moved is:

"That this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take immediate steps for increasing the pay of the Lower Primary School Teachers at least at Rs. 40 per mensem".

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN: দীর্ঘকাল যাবৎ আসামের প্রাইমারী স্কুলের দরিদ্র শিক্ষকদের বেতন বৃদ্ধির দাবী জানাইয়া গভর্ণমেন্টের কাছে অনেক আবেদন নিবেদন পেশ করিয়াছি কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় গভর্ণমেন্ট আজ পর্যন্তও তাহাদের ন্যায়সঙ্গত দাবী পূরণ করিবার ইচ্ছা প্রকাশ করেন নাই। দেশের সামাজিক, নৈতিক, আর্থিক, সর্বপ্রকার উন্নতিই নির্ভর করে শিক্ষার উপর এবং সেই শিক্ষার প্রথম সোপান প্রাইমারী স্কুল। আমি গত ৬ মাস যাবৎ আসামের প্রত্যেক জিলায় ভ্রমণ করিয়া দেখিয়াছি যে যেসব স্কুলে পূর্বে ৫০ জনের বেশী ছাত্র ছিল আজ সেইসব স্কুলে ৫-৬ জনের বেশী ছাত্র নাই। কারণ জিজ্ঞাসা করিয়া জানিলাম যে শিক্ষকগণ ৫-৬ দিন খাইতে না পাইয়া স্কুলে উপস্থিত হয় নাই। শিক্ষকদের বেতন একজন চাপরাশীর বেতনের চেয়েও কম। আজকাল কুলি মজুররাও দিনে ২-৩ টাকা করিয়া পায়। যদিও প্রাইমারী স্কুলের শিক্ষকদের নিকট হইতে শিক্ষালাভ করিয়া প্রধান মন্ত্রী ঐ আসন পাইয়াছেন তবুও তাদের বেতনের সঙ্গে সাধারণ মজুরের বেতনের তুলনা



করিবার সুযোগ পান নাই। ১২০ টাকা মাহিনার শিক্ষক কি করিয়া না খাইয়া ছেলেদের শিক্ষা দিতে পারে? এই কথা প্রত্যেক সদস্য বিচার করিবেন। যখনই তাদের এই ন্যায়সঙ্গত দাবি পেশ করিয়াছি তখনই গভর্ণমেন্টের নিকট হইতে উত্তর পাইয়াছি—“আমাদের তহবিলে টাকা নাই”। আমি বলিতেছি যে এই টাকার জন্য যদি tax বসাইতে হয় তাহা হইলে জনসাধারণ সেই tax দিতে রাজী হবে। তারপর Central Government ক্রমান্বয়ে আসামের নিকট হইতে বরাবর বহু টাকা নিতেছেন—এখন সেখান হইতে টাকা আনিবার ব্যবস্থা করা উচিত। আসাম উপযুক্ত পরিমাণে যাহাতে টাকা পায় প্রধান মন্ত্রীর তাহার চেষ্টা করা কর্তব্য। দুঃখের বিষয় এই যে আসাম সমস্ত দেশকে রক্ষা করিতেছে কিন্তু আসাম Central Government এর নিকট হইতে উপযুক্ত পরিমাণে টাকা পাইতেছে না। আমি Karachi, Delhi ইত্যাদি স্থানে দেখিয়াছি যে, যে জিনিষ সেখানে ২০ টাকায় পাওয়া যায় আসামে সেই জিনিষ ২০০ টাকায় বিক্রয় হইতেছে। আসাম আজ ভারতবর্ষকে রক্ষা করিতেছে। আসামের জনসাধারণ সমস্ত ভারতবর্ষকে জাপানী দস্যুর কবল হইতে রক্ষা করিবার জন্য ধনপূর্ণ দিতেছে কিন্তু Central Government আজ আসামের জনসাধারণ ও প্রাইমারী স্কুলের শিক্ষকদের রক্ষা করিবার জন্য যদি এই ন্যায়সঙ্গত কারণে টাকা দিতে রাজী না হয় তাহা হইলে আমি বলিব তাহারা অন্যায় করিতেছে। তারপর যদি টাকার দরকার হয় তাহা হইলে যেন tax বসাইয়া, লোন নিয়া Government যেন টাকার যোগাড় করেন। মন্ত্রীরা এখানে বসিয়া বসিয়া প্রাইমারী শিক্ষকদের সাহায্য বিনা জনসাধারণের শারিরীক, নৈতিক বা কোন রকম উন্নতি করিতে পারিবেন না। এই দায়িত্বপূর্ণ বিষয়ে আমি মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর বিশেষভাবে দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতেছি। শুধু আশ্বাস দিয়া নয়, কথা বলিয়া নয়, কার্যে যেন এটা করা হয়। পানীয় জল, চিকিৎসা ইত্যাদি সমস্যার চাইতে শিক্ষকদের বেতন বৃদ্ধির সমস্যা বড়। যে কোন প্রকারেই হউক—tax বসাইয়া হউক, loan করিয়াই হউক বা Central Government এর নিকট হইতে টাকা আনিয়াই হউক তাহাদের দাবী যেন পূরণ করা হয়। যদি তাহা করা না হয় আমি সংবাদ পাইয়াছি যে প্রত্যেক জিলায় তাহারা সকলেই স্কুল বন্ধ করিয়া চলিয়া যাইবে। তখন মন্ত্রী মহোদয় আর শিক্ষার কোন ব্যবস্থাই করিতে পারিবেন না। স্কুলগুলি সমস্তই ধ্বংস হইয়া যাইবে। আমি বার বার বলিতেছি যে tax বসাইয়া হউক, loan করিয়াই হউক বা অন্য কোন উপায়েই হউক এই শিক্ষকদের বেতন যেন বৃদ্ধি করা হয়। আমি আবেদন করিতেছি জাতি ধর্ম নির্বিশেষে প্রত্যেক মেসার যেন এই মোশন Support করেন। এই বলিয়া আমি এই Motion support করিতেছি।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: At this stage the House should know the attitude of the Government.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Sir, there is an amendment. Let me know about it.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: But that amendment has not been moved.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: I don't think there is any necessity of knowing of the amendment. The amendment is not going to be moved.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad that this Motion has been brought forward in this House, for this enables us to state before the House what we have been doing in the matter of primary education, and what we propose to do in the near future. The House will remember that during the last budget session the hon. Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury brought forward a Bill—the Assam Primary Education (Amendment) Bill—which was negatived by this House. In the course of the discussion of that Bill I made a suggestion that if the Bill be withdrawn, Government would come forward with a more comprehensive Bill in the near future. Although that Bill was negatived by this House, immediately after the session, I looked into the matter and after due consideration I appointed a committee to go into the whole question and to suggest ways and means how to reach that goal, namely, the introduction of compulsory free primary education throughout the Province.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That big question is not now before the House.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: That committee was appointed and the members of the committee submitted their Report only last month which is now being printed and will be considered by the Government in time. I may tell the Hon'ble House that in that Report they have taken up the



question of the scale of salary to be paid to the primary teachers. As that Report is still pending, it will not be possible for me to state in clear terms the attitude of Government with regard to this Motion. But I will place before the House certain facts which may be considered by the hon. Members of the House. As regards the condition of the primary school teachers, there is no gainsaying the fact that they are very poorly paid. No less a person than the *ex*-Member for Education, Health and Lands, I mean Mr. N. R. Sarker, while presiding over the All-Bengal Teachers' Conference said on April 8, 1943:—"It is trite to say that in education almost everything depends upon teachers. But like most simple and obvious truths, this is not recognised in practice. The teacher is a little pitied, almost despised, by the social class he belongs to. Even an ordinary labourer sometimes earns more than a member of the teaching profession, and it often happens that their salary compares unfavourably even with what their pupils earn immediately on leaving school. Such a state of things would naturally make it impossible for the best men to take to the teaching profession and even more for those who take to it to give their best to the pupils in their charge." The present Member for Education, Health and Lands—Sir Jogindra Singh—said in the eighth meeting of the Central Advisory Board that the pay of teachers is an entire scandal in this country. They must be freed from the ordinary anxiety and be given security of tenure and granted adequate means of livelihood. They deserve a high place as the maker of New India. The Central Advisory Board also had a committee appointed to look into the question of recruitment and condition of service of the teachers. This Committee submitted their Report in 1941 and it was adopted at the meeting of the Central Advisory Board on the 15th January 1943. They also say "that they have been convinced that the whole condition of the teaching service in the lower stage of educational system in this country is so unsatisfactory that no real progress can be looked for until and unless the position of the teachers is radically improved." They also say that "teachers, at any rate, in the primary and middle stages on which the efficiency of the whole system must ultimately depend, are being paid at rates inferior to those which apply to most cases of menials. There is, therefore, a great gap between the position that now exists and the lowest standard which the committee can accept as satisfying the essential criterion for the establishment of an efficient teaching service, *viz.*, a teacher should approach his daily work free from the strain of domestic financial anxieties. There is only one way to bridge this gap and the Committee frankly recognise that the minimum recommendations, which would have any prospect of producing teachers of the requisite standard and putting the profession on a respectable basis, will involve financial commitments so vastly in excess of the present public funds devoted to education that most authorities will regard them, at first sight at any rate, as entirely impracticable."

They have in this report suggested a scale of Rs. 30 to Rs. 50 for primary school teachers and they say that...

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think the House is anxious to know what this Government has got to say.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Yes, Sir, I am coming to that. They also say that—

"If progress of any real and permanent kind is to be made in this all important connection, it would be necessary for the Central Government to come to the assistance of Provinces and they recommended that the Central Government should contribute not less than 50 per cent. of the cost of the adoption by any Provincial Government of the scales of salary of the different categories of teachers not less than those recommended in this report."



So, my submission is that even the Central Advisory Board have recommended a scale of Rs. 30 to Rs. 50 and that also for trained teachers with a minimum qualification of Matriculation certificate. They also say that at least 50 per cent. of this should come from Central Government. So, I leave it to the House to consider whether the recommendation made in this Motion can at all be accepted *in toto*.

\*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: To what extent can you give?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: The hon. Mover gave some figures. I think they are not quite correct. For the information of the House I give below the numbers of all primary teachers.

There are three categories of primary schools. (1) Government, (2) under the Local and Municipal Boards, (3) Government Aided. There are about 495 Government Schools, under Local and Municipal Boards about 8,879 and under Aided Schools about 497 and there are some schools which have not received recognition and their number is approximately 993. The total number of the schools is roughly 10,864.

\*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: What is meant by Aided School, Sir.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: A school which receives direct grant from Government.

\*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: What are the scales of pay?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: In Government primary schools the following scales of pay are available for teachers:—

Rs. 15—1—20	per mensem.
Rs. 20—1—25	„ „
Rs. 25—1—30	„ „

These scales vary according to local conditions.

The salary of Local Board teachers varies from Rs. 12 to Rs. 31 per mensem. There is no fixed scale of pay for them, nor is there any difference in pay between the trained and the untrained teachers.

The salary of the Normal passed teachers in Local Board Primary Schools varies from Rs. 15 to Rs. 32 per mensem in the Assam Valley and from Rs. 12 to Rs. 17 per mensem in the Surma Valley.

In the Municipal Primary Schools the salary of Guru teachers varies from Rs. 15 to Rs. 38 in the Assam Valley and from Rs. 12 to Rs. 36 in the Surma Valley.

As to Normal passed teachers in Municipal Primary Schools the salary varies from Rs. 15 to Rs. 40 per mensem in the Assam Valley and from Rs. 15 to 45 per mensem in the Surma Valley.

The average pay of teachers in Board Primary Schools works out at Rs. 13, in Municipal Schools, Rs. 18 and in private schools Rs. 5 in the Surma Valley and Rs. 11 in the Assam Valley.

Now, if we accept this Motion the total cost involved will be more than Rs. 36 lakhs annually. This figure is arrived at on the basis of granting Rs. 40 as pay to the teachers.

\*Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: On a point of information, Sir. May I know if this figure of Rs. 36 lakhs will be required over and above the amount that is being spent at present?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Yes, Sir. This 36 lakhs will be additional.

\*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: What will be the position, Sir, if these last two categories of schools are excluded?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: In that case also, we will require nearly Rs. 30 lakhs.



Government is very eager to better the lot of primary school teachers. The main difficulty has been want of ways and means. I was very anxious to hear from the hon. Member if he had any concrete suggestion to make towards obtaining the ways and means, but he simply mentioned that we can get some money by economising, by cutting down the expenditure or by getting help from the Central Government. As a Hitherto we have not been able to increase the pay only for paucity of funds. A gesture of sympathy towards them, only last year, on the Motion of Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed, we allowed a dearness allowance of Rs.3 per month to the teachers of primary schools under Local Bodies, on the condition that 40 per cent. of the cost would be paid by the Local Bodies, and we have been spending more than 1½ lacs on this account. Some of the Local Bodies could not avail of this for want of funds but their number was very few. Now recently, on the analogy of Bengal, we have allowed dearness allowance of Rs.3 per month to the teachers of the Government Aided schools of the Province. This decision was arrived at only very recently and probably has not gone out as yet. We hope this will go some way to relieve their present distress. This will also involve the Government in another two lacs of rupees expenditure. Again, the Primary Education Committee which we appointed recently have also suggested that the pay for the primary school teachers should be Rs.20 for untrained teachers and Rs.25 for trained teachers. The recommendation of that Committee is still pending consideration of the Government, Sir. I want the hon. Members of this House to be realists and not idealists (Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee: We also want the same thing from the Government.) We want them to be practical and to suggest to me how I can make the best of the present situation. I realise, as I have already said, how pitiable is the condition of the primary teachers. I know how anxiously they are awaiting the result of the discussion of this debate. I am already in receipt of more than one hundred telegrams from different primary teachers' Associations. So I realise that this is not the time for platform oratory, this is the time for action. I want each one of this House to place himself in my position and to say what can be done to ease the situation. If they fully believe in my sincerity, they may leave the matter to me with their valuable suggestions. I shall do my level best in the matter. Of this, I can give them the solemn assurance but beyond this, it is not possible for me to say anything.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make a few observations on the Motion moved by Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy. The question is not a new one on the floor of this House. First of all Mr. Lalit Mohan Kar moved a Resolution pressing for Rs.15 as the monthly pay of the primary school teachers. Again on 25th March 1943, Mr. Naziruddin Ahmed moved another Resolution on the subject and the question was discussed threadbare. Today for the third time we are discussing the same matter. I am sorry, though this matter was discussed so much in this House, the lot of the unfortunate primary school teachers has not been improved. The Hon'ble Minister for Education has informed the House that in some of the Local Bodies the teachers of the primary schools are getting Rs.3 as dearness allowance. I may inform the House that all the credit for this dearness allowance cannot be claimed by the Government. It was on the Motion of mine that Rs.20,000 was imposed as tax on the inhabitants of Sunamganj and after that the Board was able to pay Rs.3 as dearness allowance to these teachers. On the 25th March 1943, the Hon'ble Education Minister in connection with the discussion of the Motion of Mr. Naziruddin Ahmed observed thus: "I need hardly say that I am in sympathy with the object of this Motion. No one will deny that the lot of these primary school teachers is most pitiable, and I realise that they are very much shabbily treated at present; their position is worse than that of the menials employed by the Government. Therefore Government would have been very glad to accept this Motion had it been possible for them to do so within the resources at their command". If I remember aright, while supporting the Members' Salary Bill when introduced in this House for the first time, the Hon'ble



Education Minister said "A needy politician is a public menace". I think the same thing applies to these unfortunate primary school teachers who mould our lives...

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : Sir, about 50 teachers have come from different districts, and the next non-official day is 20th. I therefore submit that we may sit a little late to-day.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Yes, we shall finish this debate to-day even by sitting late, if necessary.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY : What duty do these primary school teachers perform ? If you ask a villager, he will say in a proverb "the duty of a primary school teacher is *गधा पिठाईया मानुष करी*", i.e., metamorphosis of an ass into a human being. There is no denying the fact that they have shaped our lives, and to-day many of us are occupying high position in our society. It is therefore natural that we should have sympathy, and that sympathy should be materialised in our action.

Sir, while supporting the Motion on the 25th March last, I made some observations, which I want to repeat along with the observations made by Khan Bahadur Keramat Ali. The Khan Bahadur said "I hope Government will agree that now that times are very difficult because of the war, the Local Board primary school teachers should get something more than Rs. 12 per mensem and I would appeal to the Hon'ble Minister of Education to reconsider his position and see if something can be done to improve the poor lot of these teachers". At the conclusion of my speech, I said "all the aspects of the Motion have been discussed by the different hon. Members of the House, and the only thing that remains is the final reply of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge. I hope he will not disappoint us, and will give us such a reply that we will go with high hopes, and can give message to the unfortunate teachers that better days for them are coming". I again repeat those words, and ask the Hon'ble Minister if the provincial exchequer is not sufficiently rich to contribute towards the help of the lower primary school teachers, he may ask the Central Government to provide money for the improvement of the lot of the unfortunate and much neglected section of human society.

With these few words, I resume my seat.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have heard the hon. Members, but have not yet got any practical suggestion which the Hon'ble Minister wanted from them. I, myself, am the Vice-Chairman of the Dhubri Local Board, and I have thought over the matter very seriously. We tried to give these poor teachers immediate relief at least for the war time, but we were handicapped in this matter for our inability to raise the local rate beyond one anna six pies. It will take time to move the Central Government, and get money ; the relief is necessary immediately. We raised the local rate to the maximum limit of one anna six pies and by that, we increased the pay of each teacher by Rs. 5. I hope as Rs. 5 is coming from the Local Board fund, Government are giving 60 per cent. above Rs. 5, i.e., they will give another Rs. 7. That makes the increased pay of these teachers, Rs. 12 per mensem over and above what they are getting at present. That is the immediate relief which the Dhubri Local Board has given. If the Government amend the Local Rates Regulation, and allow us to raise it up to annas two, I hope the Board can give more immediate relief. I would therefore give this practical suggestion to Government to immediately amend the Local Rates Regulation.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : The Hon'ble Minister was very sincerely asking for suggestions from the hon. Members of this House. My suggestion in this connection is that as many as 50 hon. Members have signed a representation and submitted it to him recommending that as a matter of immediate relief Rs. 15 as a war-time allowance be given to these teachers. I would urge upon him to see that this recommendation of as many as 50 Members may be accepted immediately, and furthermore, the Motion which Mr. Roy has moved may be accepted by the House for future action, i.e., if better times come, effect may be given to that Motion.



Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Motion. The Hon'ble Minister has admitted that he realises the pitiable condition of the primary school teachers, and he has also quoted the Member-in-charge of Education Department of the Central Government. Sir, several suggestions have been made in this connection. Maulana Saheb has given three suggestions, viz., either by taxation, or by loan or by begging from the Central Government our Government should find out the required amount. Sir, by withdrawing the land revenue remission the Government has saved several lacs of money. For the last 5 years, Sir, the Government is getting a large amount in the shape of Agricultural Income-tax, but it is quite evident to all the hon. Members present in this House that from the budget figures which were placed before us, no extra money was provided for these poor teachers, though it was said at the time of introduction of the Agricultural Income-tax Bill that it will be spent for nation building work and I think, no body will challenge me if I say that this department should get the first preference amongst the nation building works. Sir, the matter is so very urgent that it brooks no delay. Something must be done and done immediately. Sir, only lip-sympathy will not do. By saying this, I do not mean that the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Education is not sincere, but if he is really sincere, if he thinks for these poor people that they cannot maintain themselves and their families with this poor salary it is upto him to find out this money. If he cannot do that, he will be failing in his duty and it would be upto him to decide what course to be taken up by him in future. Sir, it is also well-known to all the hon. Members and specially to a Cabinet Member that the present financial condition of the Province—may be, it is due to some windfalls—is satisfactory and when the Hon'ble Finance Minister will discuss about the present financial position soon, I am sure, he will show us a bright future and a good surplus. If I am wrong, I think, he will contradict me now and here. Sir, where there is a will there is a way. The Ministers are in a better position to know wherefrom they can get the money, our suggestions, we may give, but it is up to the Minister concerned, either to accept or to reject the same. On the floor of this House, we have given suggestions after suggestions for various emergent and important purposes, but very little heed has been given to our suggestions. In spite of that, we are ready to give suggestions and we have given suggestions accordingly, and I hope, in consultation with his colleagues and Chief present here, the Education Minister will give us some concrete assurance. As suggested by my hon. Friend, Maulavi Abdur Rahman, he will give us the assurance that he would give effect to the application that has been submitted to him under the signatures of more than half the number of us present. It is signed by 46 Members, excluding, of course, the Cabinet Members—who cannot give their signatures.

Now, Sir, I will not take more time of the House. I appeal to other Members of this House who, I believe, are also really sincere that when the demand and distress have been admitted by Government there is no more necessity for delivering speeches on the urgency and importance of this subject. It is high time that the Government give us a definite assurance on this matter and allow the poor teachers who have come up here at a great cost and sacrifice to return to their homes with something tangible and real.

With these words, Sir, I support the Motion.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY : I am not satisfied with the reply of the Hon'ble Minister. He spoke about the suggestions about funds. Many suggestions have been given and I shall make one more suggestion that the sum that the Government are getting from the Steel Brothers, who have been purchasing paddy and rice in the Assam Valley, may be utilised and above all things, Government may raise a loan holding this to be a war emergency measure. This, I may say, that I shall stick to my Motion if definite assurance is not given.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Sir, I have little to add to what I said before the House. This morning, a largely signed petition has been handed over to me and I find that they suggest that a dearness allowance of Rs.15 per month should be sanctioned for all the Primary School Teachers of Assam with



effect from the 1st of April. I want to know whether the Local Bodies are in a position to contribute 40 per cent., as they have been doing now, if Government decides to give a dearness allowance of Rs.15. If the Local Bodies plead their inability, in that case, calculating at the rate of Rs.15 per month, the cost mounts upto Rs.17 lakhs. I have very much doubt if the provincial finances will be able to spare a sum of Rs.17 lakhs for this purpose. In the circumstances, I cannot give any definite assurance that this prayer will be accepted but as I have already said, I am in deep sympathy with the object of the Motion, as well as the representation made here. I shall place this before my Hon'ble Colleague and shall try my level best to do as much as we can in the matter.

\*Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURY: On a point of information, Sir. Is the Government prepared to pay immediately 60 per cent. of that Rs.15?

\*Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURI: If the Local Boards agree to come forward with their share of 40 per cent.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: That I cannot say. If the Local Bodies pay.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There is nobody to represent the Local Bodies here. (Voices:—There are Chairmen).

\*Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: Local Boards cannot increase their local rates from the limit fixed. How are they going to give any assurance? The Local Rates Regulation must be changed to increase the local rates.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order. I put the Question: The Question is:

“That this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take immediate steps for fixing the pay of the Lower Primary School Teachers at least at Rs.40 per mensem.

The Question was adopted.

### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 A.M., on Thursday, the 16th November, 1944.

SHILLONG:

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.

The 20th December, 1944.

\*Speech not corrected.



