

Proceedings of the Fifth Session of the Second Assam Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 10 A.M., on Tuesday, the 14th September, 1948.

PRESENT :

The Hon'ble Mr. Lakshesvar Borooah, Speaker, in the Chair, Seven Hon'ble Ministers and fifty-four Members.

Panel of Chairmen

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The following hon. Members will form the Panel of Chairmen for the September Session of the Assembly, 1948 :—

1. Maulavi Abdul Hai ;
2. Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma ;
3. Shri Satindra Mohan Dev ; and
4. Srijut Dhirsing Deuri.

I shall now take up the Starred Questions that were laid on the table yesterday.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given).

Posts of Weaving and Sericulture Demonstrators

Srijut DHIRSINGH DEURI asked :

*1. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) How many posts of Weaving and Sericulture Demonstrators have been filled up from the month of April 1948 to the end of July 1948 ?
- (b) How many of them have been filled up from the Tribal people of the Plains ?
- (c) Whether Peripatetic Weaving Parties have been formed ?
- (d) If so, where are they working at present and in connection with what scheme ?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

1. (a)—Weaving Demonstrators 23.
Sericulture „ 7.
- (b)—Weaving Demonstrators 5.
Sericulture Demonstrator 1.

(c)—Yes. The number of Peripatetic Weaving Parties has been raised to 6 (six) by formation of 2 more parties viz., Tezpur and Goalpara Peripatetic Weaving Parties.

(d)—The Tezpur Peripatetic Weaving Party has jurisdiction over Darrang District and North Lakhimpur Subdivision while the Goalpara Peripatetic Weaving Party, over Goalpara and Garo Hills Districts. They are working in connection with the scheme for concentration of work in smaller areas and imparting instructions in improved methods of weaving and new designs.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: May I know whether these posts of Weaving and Sericulture Demonstrators were filled up on communal basis or on merit?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): It is always the endeavour of Government to give proper representation to all the communities while filling up posts but when suitable candidates are not found from the under-represented community, communal representation cannot be given. For further details, I am afraid, I want notice.

Grant of Geological certificates of approval, Prospecting licenses and Mining Leases to private Companies

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA asked :

*2. (a) Is it a fact that geological certificates of approval, prospecting license and mining lease have been granted by Government to some private Companies for cement, coal, limestone, gold, etc., in Assam?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the names of the Companies to whom certificates of approval, prospecting license and mining lease have been granted?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the name of the Company or Companies to whom mining lease has been granted together with the terms and conditions of such lease?

†**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI** replied :

2. (a)—Yes, but not for gold.

(b) & (c)—Statements showing the information required are placed on the library table, for details of the terms and conditions of the mining leases, the hon. Member is referred to the Assam M. C. Rules, 1941, a copy of which is also placed on the library table.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: May I know whether there is any condition in the lease regarding time limit for starting the work of prospecting.

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am afraid, I want notice of this question.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: I think in that case the answer should have been kept pending till the return of the Hon'ble Revenue Minister.

†The questions were replied to by Srijut Bimala Prosad Chaliha (Parliamentary Secretary) in the absence of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge.

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): All the conditions have been laid down in the Assam M. C. Rules and the leases are governed by those rules.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: I want to know whether any inspection of the prospection has been made by Government according to the rules?

Srijut BELIRAM DAS: Does this question arise, Sir?

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: I want to know whether Government have ascertained by enquiry whether the work of prospection has been started or not.

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): I am afraid, I cannot reply to this question off-hand.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I would like just to enlighten the hon. Member although the question that he has put does not arise. I can tell him for his information that prospecting licenses have been granted to certain Companies for cement, coal, etc., whose names I cannot give at the moment, but I don't think that they have started the work of operations by this time.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That is why the hon. Member wants to know whether any time limit has been given in the lease.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Well, the hon. Member might have known that the license fixes down time limit.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: I want to know whether any report has been received by Government from the Deputy Commissioners concerned that the work of operations has been started by this time.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: This question does not arise from the original question, but I could tell the hon. Member at any rate that if within the time prescribed by the terms of the license the Companies do not take any appropriate action, Government can consider the question of cancelling the license.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: My question is to know from Government whether any report has been received from the Deputy Commissioners about the discovery or find in course of prospection?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: We have not got the Geological Department, so it is the Revenue Department who receives report regarding them.

Settlement of Lands at Barpathar and Sarupathar Mauzas

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA asked :

*3. (a) Are Government aware that settlements have been given recently to many non-indigenous and non-agriculturist people in Barpathar and Sarupathar Mauzas of the Golaghat Subdivision?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to furnish the names of these people together with the area of land settled with each of them?

(c) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative do Government propose to take immediate steps to evict those people?

(d) Do Government propose to take necessary steps against those officers who are responsible for such settlement?

††The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied:

3. (a)—No settlement has been given recently to non-indigenous and non-agriculturist people in the Barpathar and Sarupathar Mauzas of the Golaghat Subdivision.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—A few persons (Deswalis and Noonias) from Bihar occupied some bighas of Government waste land for sugarcane cultivation near Bokajan Railway Station without authority. Steps have already been taken to evict them.

(d)—Does not arise

†Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: May I know, Sir, when steps will be taken?

†Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary): Steps have already been taken, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I take up Starred Questions put up on the table for to-day.

Buildings purchased by Government in Shillong

Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI asked:

*4. (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many buildings have lately been purchased by Government in Shillong?

(b) What amount has been paid for these buildings?

(c) Who made the valuation of these buildings?

(d) When these have been purchased and why?

††The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied:

4. (a)—Four.

(b)—Rs.1,51,475-11-0 has already been paid and a sum of Rs.85,000 is still pending for payment.

(c)—The valuation was made by the Public Works Department.

(d)—These buildings have been purchased lately. It is known to the hon. Member that there is a dearth of suitable accommodation, particularly for Hon'ble Ministers and officers and as a result extreme difficulties are experienced by them in discharging their duties. In order to remove these difficulties Government have resumed the land under relevant clause of the leases concerned after paying suitable compensation for the buildings and other structures.

†Speech not corrected.

†† The Questions were replied to by Srijut Mahendra Mohan Choudhury (Parliamentary Secretary) in the absence of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge,

Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI: ইয়াত যিমান টকা দিয়া হৈছে বুলি দেখুওৱা হৈছে, সেই টকা খিনি কেৱল building ৰ নিমিত্তেহে দিয়া হৈছে নে মাটিৰ মূল্যও তাৰ লগত ধৰা হৈছে ?

Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary): মাটিৰ মূল্যও ধৰা হৈছে।

Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI: এই building বিলাকত যি বিলাক furniture দিয়া হৈছে তাৰ বাবে কিমান টকা খৰচ কৰা হৈছে ?

Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary): সেইটো নতুন প্ৰশ্ন। নতুন প্ৰশ্নৰ নিমিত্তে নটিছ লাগিব।

Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI: আগেয়ে মন্ত্ৰী সকল যি বিলাক ঘৰত আছিল সেই বিলাক ঘৰত থকাত কাম ভালমতে হবপৰা নাছিল নে কি ?

Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary): মূল প্ৰশ্নৰ উত্তৰত কোৱা হৈছে যে তাত বহুত অসুবিধা হৈছিল। সেই অসুবিধা আতৰ কৰিবৰ কাৰণে মন্ত্ৰী সকলক এই বিলাক ঘৰ দিয়া হৈছে। যি সময়ত মন্ত্ৰী সকলৰ দৰমহাৰ বিল অনা হৈছিল সেই সময়ত কোৱা হৈছিল যে মন্ত্ৰী সকলক ঘৰ দিয়া হ'লে ঘৰ ভাৰা ২৫০ টকাকৈ মাহে কাটি লোৱা হ'ব।

Maulavi ABDUL HALIM: Were those buildings purchased exclusively for the Hon'ble Ministers ?

Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary): That is a new question altogether. I want notice of that question, Sir.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: Whether these buildings are occupied ?

Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary): They are all occupied.

Establishment of Forest College at Kokrajhar

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA asked :

*5. Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to establish a Forest College at Kokrajhar ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

5. There is no proposal for establishment of a Forest College at Kokrajhar.

Purchase of Tractors by Government

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA asked :

*6. (a) Is it a fact that Government have purchased some old tractors from Srijut Tankeswar Barooah of Dibrugarh ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the number of tractors purchased together with the price paid for them ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state how and where these tractors are being utilised ?

(d) Is it a fact that some of the tractors are not serviceable and are lying idle ?

(e) If so, who is responsible for the purchase of the unserviceable tractors at the cost of public money ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS replied :

6. (a)—Yes.

(b)—18 Tractors at the cost of Rs.1,98,000-0-0.

(c)—Some of these tractors are working in Orange Forest Reserve after finishing the operations in the Moamari State Farm.

(d)—No. Some of them are lying idle as there are not enough implements such as ploughs and harrows which are expected this Winter.

(e)—Does not arise.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA : May I know from the Government why these tractors were purchased when there were no implements ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS : The implements had to be brought from overseas and the tractors had to be purchased locally.

***Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEB** : Are all these tractors new, Sir ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS : It is already stated that they are old tractors.

***Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEB** : Who examined these tractors and certified them to be in running order ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS : They were examined by the Mechanical Engineer.

***Mr. HARENDRANATH SARMA** : Did Government take into consideration the value of new tractors of the same kind before purchasing these old tractors ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS : This is a new question, Sir. Government had to purchase these tractors because the tractors from Government of India were not received at the time.

Maulavi ABDUL HALIM : মই শুধিব পাবোনে যে এই বিলাক tractor কিনাৰ আগতে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে tractor লাগে বুলি advertise কৰিছিলনে ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS : This question is irrelevant.

***Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA** : May I know the number of the tractors ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS : It is already stated that there are 18 tractors.

Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI : যি বিলাক tractor idle হৈ পৰি আছে সেই বিলাক কাৰ তত্ত্বাবধানত আছে আৰু ক'ত পৰি আছে ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS: It is a new question, Sir.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: May I know how many tractors are lying without use for want of implements ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS: I have already stated that 9 tractors are working in Moamari Farm and 4 in the Orang Forest Reserve.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: Sir, may I know from the Government when can we expect to get the implements from the overseas ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS: I have already stated that we expect to receive the consignment in this winter.

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: Sir, may I know what was the horsepower of the tractors purchased and whether they are larger than the normal requirement for agricultural operation and not economic in running ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS: Though it is a new question and irrelevant, I can say that they are above 40 horsepower.

†**Mr. HARENDRA NATH SARMA:** Do Government consider that 40 horsepower is sufficient for agricultural need of this country ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS: Sir, this question is not relevant as it has already been stated in my reply that some of these tractors are working in Orang Forest Reserve after finishing the operations in the Moamari State Farm. These tractors are being utilised in the United Provinces also in the Ganges Kadar Scheme, etc., and Government of India purchased those tractors from the Ledo dump.

†**Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE:** May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether these tractors were examined by any Mechanic before they were purchased by the Government ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS: It was already replied that these tractors were examined by the Mechanical Engineer.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table.)

Inter-Dominion Agreement

Maulavi ABUAL MAJID ZIAOSH SHAMS asked :

1. (a) Is it a fact that there was an Inter-Dominion Agreement arrived at in Calcutta on the 19th April, 1948 ?

(b) Whether the Hon'ble Premier of Assam was present at the said Agreement ?

(c) Is it a fact that according to the said Agreement a duty has been imposed upon the Provincial Governments including Assam Government to make it widely known that any Government servant proved to be guilty of dereliction of duty in protecting the lives and properties of the minority community or

†Speech not corrected.

illtreating them directly or indirectly or showing prejudice to any of them shall receive exemplary and deterrent punishment ?

(d) Is it a fact that it has been provided for in this said Agreement that any person creating any fear or sense of insecurity in the minds of the members of the minority community will be severely dealt with ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state whether they made the provision contained in (c) and (d) above widely known throughout Assam ?

(f) Is it a fact that the attention of the Hon'ble Premier, the Hon'ble Finance Minister and the Hon'ble Public Works Department Minister was drawn to these facts by letters to take the necessary action ?

(g) Is it a fact that only the Hon'ble Finance Minister simply acknowledged receipt of the letter and that no reply was given by any other Minister ?

(h) Are Government aware that Minority Boards as contemplated in the said Agreement have been set up in West Bengal and East Bengal and other actions also have been taken to implement the Agreement by those Governments ?

(i) What steps do Government propose to take to implement the aforesaid Agreement ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

1 (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Yes, instructions have been issued to all Deputy Commissioners.

(f) & (g)—Do not arise in view of reply to (e) above.

(h)—Yes.

(i)—The situation in Assam does not call for the establishment of Minority Board and it was not contemplated in the Agreement to have such Board. The Government of Assam have taken all other actions for implementation of the Agreement.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: May I know from the Hon'ble Premier whether he has got letters of request from some members of the minority community to form Minority Board in Assam ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The reply is already there. If the hon. Member refers to that particular term of agreement in question, then I do not think that it is necessary to form such Minority Board. The major minority community in the Province of Assam are the tribals. I would also inform the House that I do not know what information the Pakistan Government might receive about the treatment of the Muslims in Assam ; but so far this Government is concerned they have had only one or two complaints ; one from the side of Karimganj and last year there was an incident at Lumding. But beyond these no specific complaints have come to us. I therefore do consider that it is unnecessary for the Government to form such Minority Boards.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: May I inform the Hon'ble Premier that during the last visit of the Hon'ble Revenue Minister to Dhubri some members of the Muslim Community saw him and explained to him the difficulty which the minority community—the Muslims at Dhubri were experiencing ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: We are not aware of such conditions as to require a Board to be formed at Dhubri. The Deputy Commissioner has sufficient power to deal with any such complaint which may arise in any particular area.

Transport business in Lakhimpur District

Maulavi ABUAL MAJID ZIAOSH SHAMS asked :

2. (a) Is it a fact that in 1946-47 the authorities accepted the tender of some Marwaries in the District of Lakhimpur in transport business in preference to the Assam Transport ?

(b) How many Marwaries received such contract in the year 1946 and 1947 in the Districts of Lakhimpur and Sibsagar ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

2. (a) and (b)—The questions are vague. It is not understood what the hon. Member means by 'authorities' and 'tenders'.

Introduction of Compulsory Primary Education

Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI asked :

3. (a) Is it a fact that Compulsory Primary Education has been introduced from 1st February, 1948 ?

(b) Is it a fact that urban areas and some selected portions of rural areas have been fixed for introduction of the same for the first year ?

(c) In view of the fact that Plains Tribal people are miserably backward in respect of education, do Government propose to introduce the same in the rural tribal areas in the first year ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state why there are no Plains Tribal members in the School Boards of Tezpur, North Lakhimpur, Jorhat and Golaghat Subdivisions ?

Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

3. (a)—No. It is contemplated to enforce compulsion in certain areas with effect from February, 1949.

(b)—A plan has been adopted to introduce compulsion in two such areas, one rural and one urban in each of the 15 plains subdivisions, as can be covered by 25 schools.

(c)—In selecting these areas, the respective School Boards will take into consideration the question of the tribal areas.

(d)—The School Boards were constituted mainly with the representatives of teachers, Local and Municipal Boards and Government nominees who were selected on the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioners, Subdivisional Officers and Deputy Inspectors of Schools.

***Srijut DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI:** In reply to Question (c) Sir,, ইয়াত তেখেতে কৈছে যে "In selecting these areas, the respective School Boards will

take into consideration the question of the tribal areas." Have Government instructed the School Boards ?

Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary): The School Boards have been instructed that at the time of selection they will consider this question.

***Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI:** On what basis the Government nominated the members ?

Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary): The reply is very clear. Government selected the members on the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioners, Subdivisional Officers and the Deputy Inspectors of Schools.

***Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI:** Did they not receive special instructions from the Government regarding tribal areas ?

Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary): They have been instructed to see that the minorities get representation in such committees.

***Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI:** If so, why in Tezpur, North Lakhimpur, Jorhat and Golaghat there is not a single tribal member ?

Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary): Because no suitable persons were found there.

***Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI:** How do Government judge the suitability of a person ?

Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary): The suitability of a person is considered from the standpoint of the purpose he is nominated.

***Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI:** Is there no educated person among the tribals in those areas ?

Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary): I have already replied.

Sericultural Institute at Titabar

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA asked :

4. (a) Will Government be pleased to state what additional schemes have been undertaken by them for extension and improvement of the Sericultural Institute at Titabar ?

(b) Is it a fact that all works for the improvement and development of the Institute have been stopped ?

(c) If so, why ?

(d) Do Government propose to shift the Institute from Titabar ?

*Speech not corrected.

Srijut BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

4. (a)—A scheme for the establishment of a Sericultural Training Institute at Titabar has been sanctioned under Post-War Reconstruction Schemes at a cost of Rs.1,45,000 (Non-recurring) and Rs.25,000 (Recurring.)

(b) & (c)—Reclamation work is proceeding but the rains have put a temporary stop to it.

(d)—In the interests of trainees and of the Rural Development plan as a whole it is considered essential to have the five Institutes of Rural Development, Sericulture, Weaving, Cottage Industries and the Co-operative College located at one place so that all concerned with these Rural Development activities will have a good knowledge of the work of each department. The proposal is to locate them west of the University Site and to have training classes from each Institute grouped together under Rural Poly-technics in each subdivision.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: The replies with regard to (b) and (c) and (d) appear to be contradictory. In (d) Government say "In the interest of trainees and of the Rural Development plan as a whole it is considered essential to have the five Institutes of Rural Development, Sericulture, Weaving, Cottage Industries and the Co-operative College located at one place"—that means at Gauhati. But in (b) and (c) the reply is "Reclamation Work is proceeding but the rains have put a temporary stop to it". It appears that work is going on. If the proposal is to shift that Institute from Titabar to Gauhati, why then that reclamation work is proceeding there and why not the work stopped?

Srijut BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): Originally it was decided to have this Institute at Titabar. But the hon. Member will appreciate that the matter of planning cannot be a static thing. Since the introduction of this scheme we have made plans for establishing some other Institutes such as Rural Development Institute, Weaving, Cottage Industries Institute and Co-operative College. Now it is under the consideration of the Government whether it would not be desirable to have all these five Institutes in one place. Government have not yet come to a final decision but the matter is under active consideration.

Population of different Communities in Tezpur Municipal Town

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN asked :

5. Will Government be pleased to state separately the total number of Caste Hindus, Scheduled Caste people, Plains Tribals, Indian Christians and Muslims in the Tezpur Municipal town?

6. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether these communities represent the Tezpur Municipal Board according to population basis?

(b) Whether the population strength of different communities was considered in giving nomination of members to the Tezpur Municipal Board?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

5.—The total population of the communities named according to the 1941 census is given below :—

Caste Hindus	...	...	...	...	8,305
Scheduled Caste People	...	...	...	...	800
Plains Tribals (Assam Tribes)	...	...	...	...	360
Indian Christians	...	...	...	...	181
Muslims	...	...	...	...	2,191

6. (a)—Besides the Caste Hindus, the Scheduled Caste people and the Muslims, the other communities have no claim to representation on the Tezpur Municipal Board on the basis of population.

(b)—Yes.

Nationalisation of transport on the Shillong-Gauhati and Gauhati-Goalpara Routes

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA asked :

7. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) When do they propose to nationalise the Shillong-Gauhati route transport ?

(b) When do they propose to take over the services and what steps have been taken in this respect so far ?

(c) Whether Government propose to purchase the plant and stock of the Commercial Carrying Company, Limited ?

(d) Whether it is a fact that Government have even now issued some permits for goods transport vehicles over the Shillong-Gauhati route ?

(e) If so, for what period ?

(f) Whether Government are taking over the Gauhati-Goalpara route transport ?

(g) If so, when ?

(h) What other routes are proposed to be taken over by Government in 1948-49 for the purpose of operating goods and passenger traffic thereon ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

7. (a)—From 1st January, 1949.

(b)—Government are taking all necessary steps to implement the decision.

(c)—No.

(d) & (e)—Yes. A few temporary permits valid for four months from 15th

July, 1948, have been issued purely for transport of potatoes.

(f) & (g)—No decision has yet been taken from which date this line will be nationalised.

(h)—The Gauhati-Nowgong route was taken over in January, 1948 and the Nowgong-Jorhat route from 1st August, 1948 for passenger traffic.

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: The answer to Question 7(h) is not to the point. My question was—"What other routes are proposed to be taken over by Government in 1948-49 for the purpose of operating goods and passenger traffic thereon". The answer is about the lines already taken, but about the proposal for any other route, the answer is not there.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Except the Gauhati-Shillong route and the routes that we have already taken in 1948-49, Government do not propose to take any other line.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Have Government taken steps to locate the motor stations that would be required for running the Gauhati-Shillong Motor Service?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Motor station at Gauhati?

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: At Gauhati and Shillong?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKAR: That is a new question.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: No, it is quite relevant. The Question 7 (a) was—"When do the Government propose to nationalise the Shillong-Gauhati route transport". The reply is "from 1st January 1949," and the reply to (b) is: "Government are taking all necessary steps to implement the decision". Now to implement that decision Government's first duty will be to open such stations at Gauhati and Shillong. Have they selected the sites for that purpose?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: We are proposing to acquire a plot by the side of the petrol pump near about the Cantonment area for putting up our station. In the meantime we will make arrangement to put up the station in another area. This will be a temporary arrangement till the final arrangement is made.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: What about at Gauhati?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: At Gauhati we have already arranged in the compound of the Assam Transport buildings.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Is it not realised that time is very short for establishing the stations?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: The station at Gauhati is still existing. But as regards a station for Shillong we are proposing to acquire a plot of land. In the meantime we will make other arrangements to put up a temporary station.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: But, Sir, the time for appointment of staff for the purpose has already come. What is going to be done in this direction?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Sir, we have got enough time for that purpose.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Are Government then contemplating to take over the existing stations belonging to the Commercial Carrying Company?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : That matter will have to be considered by Government.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE : May I know the number of private buses which have been permitted to ply on the Jorhat-Nowgong route ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : As far as I remember, Sir, there are four such buses whose periods of permits not yet expired.

Stipend at Government Metal Working School at Aligarh

Srijut DHIRSING DEURI asked :

8. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether any stipend tenable at the Government Metal Working School at Aligarh, has been awarded to any student ?
- (b) If so, what is his name and educational qualification ?
- (c) Whether he had any industrial training before ?
- (d) Where and how he is proposed to be engaged after training ?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

8. (a)—No.
- (b)—Does not arise.
- (c)—Does not arise.
- (d)—Does not arise.

Dewan Manik Chand Estate

Srijut DHIRSING DEURI asked :

9. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether a loan of Rs. 50,000 (fifty thousand) was advanced to the Dewan Manik Chand Estate by Government ?
- (b) If so, when ?
- (c) Where the Estate is situated ?
- (d) Whether any portion of the loan has been recovered ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

9. (a) & (b)—Yes on 27th September, 1946, as the Estate which was taken under the Court of Wards several years ago and continued under the management of the Court of Wards even now.

(c)—Major portion of the estate is situated in Cachar District (newly constituted).

(d)—No, the payment of the first annual instalment will be due on 17th October, 1949.

Hailakandi Local Board

Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA asked :

10. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The year in which the Local Board of Hailakandi was superseded ?
- (b) The reasons which guided Government in superseding the Hailakandi Local Board and why the election of the said Board was not held so long ?
- (c) The year in which “The Town Committee of Hailakandi” was superseded ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that a vote of no-confidence was passed on the then Chairman who was subsequently appointed as the Executive Officer of the said Town Committee after its supersession ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

10. (a)—In March 1947.

(b)—The reasons are stated in full in the Notification No.LLB.36/47/1, dated the 26th March 1947, a copy of which is given below.

“The 26th March 1947.

No.LLB.36/47/1.—Government have noticed with displeasure that the Hailakandi Local Board is persistently making default in performing the duties assigned to it by law.

The General election of the Board was held in June 1945. On 23rd August 1945 the first meeting, duly convened, was held to elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman. The election of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman not being regular Government had to annul the proceedings of that meeting and to authorise a member of the Board to perform the executive duties of the Chairman and to convene a meeting for the election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman by the 24th January 1946. As this was not done, Government subsequently authorised another member to perform the executive duties of Chairman and fixed the 24th April 1946 for the purpose. But this time also the Board failed to elect their Chairman and Vice-Chairman. As a result of these failures Government had to appoint, by their order of the 5th July 1946, Chairman and Vice-Chairman under section 12B of the Local Self-Government Act.

Under Local Self-Government rule 22 the ordinary meeting of the Board shall be held not less often than once in every 2 months but this has not been done since the appointment by the Government of the present Chairman.

On the 27th November 1946 a special Meeting of the Board was convened to transact the following items :—

- (i) To approve the acceptance of the resignation tendered by the Hon'ble Maulavi A. Matlib Mazumdar, M.A., B.L., of membership of the Board.
- (ii) To move Government to hold bye-election to fill up the vacant seats caused by the death of a member and resignation tendered by another.
- (iii) To consider and pass the revised Budget of the Board for 1945-46.
- (iv) To consider and pass the proposed Budget of the Board for the year 1946-47.

None of these was approved by the Board.

The Board's Vice-Chairman died on the 13th September 1946 but the Board has not yet elected its Vice-Chairman.

In the circumstances the Governor of Assam being of the opinion that the Hailakandi Local Board is not competent to perform and is persistently making default in performing the duties assigned to it by law and in exercise of the powers conferred on him by Section 85 of the Local Self-Government Act (Act I of 1915), as subsequently amended, directs that the Board be superseded for a period upto the 29th February 1948 from the date of this Notification, and that all duties and powers assigned to the Board during the period of such supersession be performed and exercised by the present appointed Chairman Maulavi Abdul Wahed Chaudhuri, B.A., from the date of supersession.

S. L. MEHTA,

Secy. to the Govt. of Assam, L.S.-G. Deptt.

As regards election, the next general election of all the Local Boards in Assam has been deferred for a period upto the 31st March 1949. A copy each of Notification No.LLB.222/47/12, dated the 31st March 1948, and No.LLB.22/48/2, dated the 18th February 1948, are given below for the information of the hon. Member,

The 18th February 1948

No LLB.22/48/2.—The Hailakandi Local Board was superseded for a period upto the 29th February 1948, with effect from the 26th March 1947, in the circumstances stated in Notification No.LLB.36/47/1, dated the 26th March 1947. The Government of Assam have in the meantime decided to follow the joint electorate system in connection with the next Local Board general elections with reservation of seats for the minorities. For this purpose, it is proposed to introduce "The Assam Local Board Elections [Emergency Provisions] Bill, 1948, published under Gazette Notification No.LLB 222/47/7, dated the 30th January 1948, extending the period of the existing Local Boards to a date not later than the 31st March 1949. If the Hailakandi Local Board is restored on the expiry of the running period of supersession, the newly elected members of the Board will be eligible under section 9(2) of the Local Self-Government Act for holding office for a period of three years with effect from 1st April 1948 and so the Board will be deprived of the benefit of joint electorate system for two years. To keep it in line with other Local Boards, the extension of the period of supersession is considered necessary. The Governor of Assam in exercise of the powers conferred by section 85 of the Local Self-Government Act (Act I of 1915) as subsequently amended, therefore, directs that the Hailakandi Local Board, be superseded for a further period of one year with effect from 1st March 1948, and that all duties and powers assigned to Board during the period of supersession be performed and exercised by the present appointed Chairman, Maulavi Abdul Wahed Chaudhuri, B.A., from the date of supersession.

S. L. MEHTA,

Secy. to the Govt. of Assam, Edn., L.S.-G. & Medl. Deptts.

The 31st March 1948

No.LLB.222/47/12.—Under the powers conferred by section 2 of the Assam Local Board Elections (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1948 (Act II of 1948), the Governor of Assam is pleased to postpone the triennial election of the Local Boards in Assam for a period ending not later than the 31st March 1949.

S. L. MEHTA,

Secy. to the Govt. of Assam, L.S.-G. Deptt."

(c)—In June this year.

(d)—Yes.

Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA: As regards Question 10 (d), Sir, may we know the reason why Government appointed the then Chairman as the Executive Officer when a no—confidence motion was passed against him?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: The reason, Sir, is that no suitable person other than him was found for the purpose at Hailakandi.

Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA: Sir, there is a strong public opinion in Hailakandi that the spirit of democracy has been flouted in the affairs of the Hailakandi Local Board. In view of this, Sir, will Government please see that an election is held at Hailakandi to allow the normal function of the Local Board to be exercised duly or to allow the former Board to function?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Sir, the reply is already there. It is a matter of policy. It was decided that election of all the Local Boards would be done on the basis of joint electorate, and so, steps have been taken to have the election there on that basis. On this consideration and in order to bring the Local Board of Hailakandi in line with other Local Boards, it was decided in the Budget Session to postpone the election.

Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEV: Sir, will Government be pleased to give a chance to the electorate to select their own person as Chairman or an Executive Officer instead of nominating the old Chairman?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Government will consider that when a proposal with that object comes in.

Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEV: Has no other person been found in the Subdivision to be placed as Executive Officer?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: I found a person whom I appointed as such, Sir.

Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEV: But he is the person against whom a no-confidence motion was passed. Is it for the reason that, as his resignation was not accepted by the Board, the Board was superseded and he nominated his own nominee as Executive Officer? It can't be said that after Maulavi Abdul Matlib Mazumdar there is no suitable person in Hailakandi to be a Chairman.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: The aim of the question is not understood.

Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEV: The aim is that the election should be by the Board and not by nomination.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: For this purpose it is said in the notification "The Assam Local Board Elections (Emergency Provisions) Bill, 1948, published under Gazette Notification No.LLB.222/47/7, dated the 30th January 1948, extending the period of the existing Local Boards to a date not later than the 31st March 1949. If the Hailakandi Local Board is restored on the expiry of the running period of supersession, the newly elected members of the Board will be eligible under section 9(2) of the Local

Self-Government Act for holding office for a period of three years with effect from 1st April 1948 and so the Board will be deprived of the *benefit* of joint electorate system for two years." To keep in line with other Local Boards the extension of the period of supersession is considered necessary. It was in the Budget Session, Sir, when this Act was passed, and at that time my hon. Friend was perhaps present.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: Sir, when a Board is superseded the Subdivisional Officer or the District Magistrate, as the case may be, is appointed as *ex-officio* Executive Officer. Why this system has not been followed in this case? At Dhubri Deputy Commissioner has been appointed the Executive Officer of the superseded Board.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: There is no bar, Sir, in this respect. The Deputy Commissioner there is over-burdened to run a big Local Board and hence another officer has been appointed as Executive Officer.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: Sir, is the work of the Subdivisional Officer, Hailakandi, more than the work of the Deputy Commissioner, Dhubri?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: No question of comparison arises, Sir.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: Sir, is it the policy of Government to appoint one as Executive Officer against whom a non-confidence motion was passed?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: It is a matter of opinion.

Formation of a Town Committee at Sonai

Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA asked:

11. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have lately received any representation from the public of Sonai in Silchar Subdivision for establishing a Town Committee there?

(b) If so, do Government propose to consider this demand of the local public so that it is materialised soon?

(c) If not, do Government propose to enquire into the matter?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied:

11. (a)—No representation from the public was received except some resolutions passed at a meeting of the Sonai-Bazar Committee.

(b) & (c)—The Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, has been asked for a report which is awaited.

Grant of mutation to non-Assamese purchaser of Periodic Patta Lands

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN asked :

12. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) Whether any order or notification has been issued to the Sub-Deputy Collectors of the various Circles not to grant mutations when the applicants belong to certain sections of the people of Assam ?

(b) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the said order ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

12. (a)—Government have issued orders to the effect that clause 6 of the periodic lease issued after 27th September 1919, forbidding transfer of lands of professional cultivators to non-cultivators without the previous sanction of the Deputy Commissioner should henceforward be enforced throughout the whole District of Lakhimpur in all cases of transfer by cultivators including tribal, schedule caste, and *ex-tea* garden labourer to non-cultivators. Government's intention was to extend the operation of the above rule to other districts wherever necessary for the protection of the interest of the *bonafide* cultivators.

(b)—A copy of Government letter No.RS.195/47/200, dated the 2nd August 1948, is placed on the Library table.

Grant of mutation to non-Assamese purchaser of Periodic Patta Lands

Maulavi ABUAL MAJID ZIAOSH SHAMS asked :

13. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have issued any circular, notification or any kind of order, to Revenue Officers in different districts not to grant mutation to a Non-Assamese speaking purchaser of Periodic Patta Land ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to place on the table a copy of such circular, notification or order ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

13. (a) & (b)—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the replies given to Question No.12 (a) and (b) asked by Mr. Kedarmal Brahmin, M.L.A., above.

Governing Body of the Assam Veterinary College

Maulavi Md ROUFIQUE asked :

14. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) If any Governing Body for managing the affairs of the Assam Veterinary College located at Nowgong has been formed by Government ?

- (b) If so, who are the gentlemen appointed to that Body ?
 (c) What principle has been followed or consideration made in appointing the members of that Body ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

14. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Srijut Haladnar Bhuyan, M.L.A.

Srijut Motiram Bora, M.L.A.

Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma, M.L.A.

Maulavi Abu Shama, B.A., Principal, Assam Veterinary College.

Deputy Commissioner, Nowgong.

Director of Veterinary Department.

(c)—Some gentlemen—official and non-official—who were considered suitable for the purpose were selected. No other principle was followed.

Maulavi Md. ROUFIQUE: With regard to 14 (b), Sir, I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister since when this Maulavi Abu Shama, B. A., was appointed Principal, Assam Veterinary College ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: It is a printing mistake, Sir.

Maulavi Md. ROUFIQUE: Is it a fact that all these four non-officials belong to one particular political organisation ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Even then there is no bar.....

Maulavi Md. ROUFIQUE: I want to know "yes" or "no". My question, Sir, is whether all these four gentlemen belong to one political organisation ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Government have no reason to suppose that these belong to one political organisation.

Maulavi Md. ROUFIQUE: Is the intention of Government to introduce party rule in an educational institution like the Veterinary College ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Certainly not, Sir,

Maulavi Md. ROUFIQUE: Is it not a fact that the Assam Veterinary College is a Provincial Institution ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Yes, Sir.

Maulavi Md. ROUFIQUE: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister, how is it that he could find suitable men only from the District of Nowgong and why men from other districts were not taken into consideration.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: It is only for the convenience of management. It is a matter of policy, in order to facilitate early start of the College this was done and after a time Government will

consider this. There may be a Committee which may represent the whole Province but for the present this Body is serving our purpose.

Maulavi Md. ROUFIQUE: Am I to understand from the Hon'ble Minister that this is only a temporary arrangement?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: I have already submitted, Sir, that these are only temporary arrangements to facilitate early start of the College.

Maulavi Md. ROUFIQUE: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether he is going to replace the Managing Body by some other persons?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: As and when necessity arises.

Maulavi Md. ROUFIQUE: Is it not a fact that a Provincial Institution is to be managed by persons of the province and not by men of a single district only?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: It may be, Sir.

Maulavi Md. ROUFIQUE: If so, why the Hon'ble Minister could not agree to replace the Managing Committee with persons representing the whole Province?

(No answer.)

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: Why no Muslim Members of the Assembly from Nowgong District were included in this Governing Body—is it because the Hon'ble Minister thought them unsuitable for inclusion in that Body?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: But there is also a Muslim member there, Sir.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: I did not say Muslim but I say Muslim M.L.A.s?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: The reply is already there, Sir, both officials and non-officials who were considered suitable were included.

***Maulavi SAIYID MUHAMMAD SAADMULLA:** May I ask the Hon'ble Minister to explain the suitability of Muslim members.....

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: It is a matter of opinion. These people were found suitable and so they have been included.

***Maulavi SAIYID MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** That is not my point, Sir. My point is what is the standard of suitability that was present in the mind of the Hon'ble Minister when he selected these people?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: The intention of the Government was to establish a Veterinary College and for that purpose a Managing Committee was necessary to manage the College, those people who

were found quite fit to run the administration of the College were considered suitable and were selected accordingly. But as I have already said, Sir, it is a matter of opinion.

Outbreak of Kala-azar at Dikhowmukh Village

Srijut DHIRSING DEURI asked :

15. (a) Are Government aware that village Dikhowmukh in the District of Nowgong has at present been badly affected by Kala-azar ?
- (b) When the said village was infected with Kala-azar ?
- (c) When the Medical Officer at Nowgong, was first informed and what action was taken by the Public Health Department in the matter ?
- (d) Whether any out-centre was opened for treatment of those Kala-azar patients ?
- (e) What is the total number of deaths up to this date ?
- (f) When did the District Medical Officer go to visit the said village ?
- (g) How many patients are still under treatment ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

15. (a)—No. The village is not at present badly affected.
- (b)—It came to the notice of the Medical Officer of Bhuragaon Dispensary on 17th May 1947.
- (c)—The District Medical Officer of Health, Nowgong, received a representation from the public of Dikhowmukh on the 29th September 1947 for treatment of Kala-azar cases of this area. On enquiry, the District Medical Officer of Health was informed by the Medical Officer In-charge, Bhuragaon Local Board Dispensary that the area was already surveyed by him and of 60 suspected cases detected, 22 were found positive. These cases were brought under treatment at his dispensary. Three cases are still under treatment, seven died and the rest discharged cured.
- (d)—No, as the area is within five miles of the existing dispensary.
- (e)—Seven.
- (f)—On the 16th May 1948.
- (g)—Three.

Opening of a Hospital at the Dhubri Suburbs

Maulavi ABUAL MAJID ZIAOSH SHAMS asked :

16. Will Government be pleased to state what action has been taken on the project of opening a new and up-to-date Hospital at the Dhubri Suburbs with 200 beds ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

16. The matter is under the consideration of Government.

Independence Commemoration Scholarships

Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI asked :

17. Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) How many students have been awarded Independence Commemoration Scholarships for the year 1947-48 ?

- (b) The number and names of plains tribal students who have been awarded Independence Commemoration Scholarships ?
- (c) On what basis the Independence Commemoration Scholarships have been awarded ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that it was notified in the *Assam Gazette* that the Independence Commemoration Scholarships would be awarded to the students belonging to the Backward communities hailing from Backward places of Assam ?
- (e) If so, why the students belonging to the advanced communities have been awarded the Independence Commemoration Scholarships ?

Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

17. (a)—97.

(b)—Middle Vernacular ...

(i) Nagendra Chandra Boro (Boro Tribal).

(ii) Ngisailung Gohain (Fakial Tribal Junior).

College Scholarships ...

(iii) Hakim Chandra Rava (Tribal).

Special College Scholarships.

(iv) Bhudhar Fatowali (Kachari).

Post-Graduate Scholarships.

(v) Sanat Kumar Sonowal (Kachari).

(vi) Mal Chandra Pegu (Miri).

(vii) Jogendra Nath Hazarika (Kachari).

(c)—Scholarships have been awarded generally on the basis of merit, special consideration being given to backward communities and areas.

(d)—No. The Gazette Notification was to the effect that the Scholarships, besides some of them being competitive for all communities, will also be for the particular benefit of good students of backward communities including the Tribals, Scheduled and other backward castes. A part of the amount will also be spent in awarding scholarships to Hills people.

(e)—Does not arise.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I will now take Unstarred Questions fixed for to day.

Leprosy cases in the Mynso Doloiship

Mr. LARSINGH KHYRIEM asked :

18. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have taken any action on the representation of Mynso people, regarding the suspected cases of Leprosy at Thadbamon in the Mynso Doloiship ?

(b) If so, what is that ?

(c) If not, do Government propose to make an enquiry in the matter and take necessary steps to stamp out this fell disease and also to either segregate or send those affected cases to Leper Asylum ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAM NATH DAS replied :

18. (a)—No representation from the Mynso people has been received so far for treatment of suspected lepers.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Yes. The Provincial Leprosy Officer is being asked to investigate.

Foreign Scholarships under the Post-War Development Schemes

Srijut DHIRSINGH DEURI asked :

19. Will Government be pleased to state —

(a) The names of stipendiaries in the Province with their qualifications who have been awarded foreign scholarships up till now under the Post-War Development Schemes for undergoing training on various subjects abroad ?

(b) How many of them went or are going to receive technical and mechanical training ?

(c) Whether any of them went or are going for getting industrial training ?

(d) Whether any of them have returned with requisite technical and industrial training ?

(e) If so, what are they doing now and where they have been engaged ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

19. (a)—(e)—A statement giving the information is laid on the Library Table

Allotment of Private Members business

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : In pursuance of Rule 18 of the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules, I hereby allot in consultation with the Hon'ble Prime Minister the following days for Private Members' Business during the present Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly :—

Friday the 17th September ...
Saturday the 18th and 25th September

} Private Members' Bills,
Motions and Resolutions.

If necessary, one more day will be allotted for Private Members' Business after disposal of Government Business for the Session.

This order shall be subject to my revision, if necessary, from time to time.

I will now call upon the Hon'ble Premier to make a statement of Government Business for this Session of the Assembly.

Statement *re* course of Government Business

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : With your permission, Sir, I desire to make a statement about the course of Government Business during this Session.

2. The Government Business which was fixed for yesterday and to-day will, as arranged, be taken up to day and on the 16th. The business is shown in the

agenda which has been placed on each Member's table. I need not detail it again. If the motions for taking into consideration the Bills mentioned in the agenda are accepted by the House either to-day or on the 16th, we propose that these Bills be considered clause by clause and then passed on the 21st, 23rd and 24th September 1948.

3. On the 20th September we propose to take up the following Government Business:—

(1) Discussion, if any, of Supplementary Statement of Expenditure charged upon the revenues of the Province during 1948-49

(2) Voting on Demands for Supplementary Grants.

4. Any Government Business which remains unfinished on previous days will be taken up on the 27th September 1948. On that day we also propose to place the authenticated Schedule of authorised expenditure in relation to Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 1948-49 and to move the following Government Resolutions:—

(1) Resolution regarding Nationalisation of Transport.

(2) Resolution regarding inclusion of Additional Director of Agriculture as an additional member in the Assam Embankment and Drainage Works Advisory Committee.

(3) Resolution regarding appointment of a Director with powers of a Head of a Department relating to Major Industries and the setting up of an Advisory Body and to carry on the development of Industries according to decision of that Advisory Board, subject to the general control of the Finance Department.

(4) Resolution regarding new scheme of procurement and distribution of cloth and yarn through Co-operative Societies.

(5) Resolution regarding approval of acceptance of the National Cadet Corps Scheme.

In this connection, Sir, I claim your indulgence as well as the indulgence of the House to state that the Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Revenue, on whom as you see from the agenda now published, most of the responsibility for these Bills lay, will be unable to attend the House on account of his illness. Doctor's opinion is that it will not be possible for him to be able to attend the House within the next week or ten days. Therefore the business that has been given to him shall be distributed among other Hon'ble Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries. For this I claim your indulgence and of the hon. Members of the House.

Secondly, I have got also to request a little indulgence on my behalf. The Government of India are going to decide certain very important issues regarding recontrol of cloth and also recontrol of foodgrains. We fully bear in mind the discussion that took place at the time when this House adopted the policy of de-control in reference to various things, not of course foodgrains. In the opinion of Government, I am sure, you will also agree that our view should be placed strongly before the Government of India, pointing out the difficulties which control and de-control have brought upon this Province.

Both myself and the Hon'ble Minister for Food were urgently requisitioned to attend the conference which is going to be held on the 17th and 18th instant. In view of the illness of the Hon'ble Minister for Finance, we have decided that the Hon'ble Minister for Food shall remain in the House and look after the business of the House on his behalf.

So far as I am concerned, I am proposing to leave Shillong this evening or to-morrow morning so that I may reach Delhi in time to attend the conference. In view of this we have arranged certain redistribution of business—I mean till the 20th. I am sure, I shall be able to attend the Assembly on the 21st. In the meantime we are proposing certain redistribution of business of the House, which

I shall inform the Hon'ble Speaker. Sir, I claim your indulgence for this and of the hon. Members.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: May I know the names of the Hon'ble Ministers who will represent the Hon'ble the Finance Minister?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I will be giving these names to you as we proceed with the business of the day.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The business will be now on. Who will represent Hon'ble Mr. Medhi?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: We will distribute the work among the Hon'ble Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries. I will inform you.

As regards to-day's business I am proposing to take up such work which I am undertaking to present before the House and I request you that I may be given precedence in respect of the Bills that stand in my name so that I may be free to go to-morrow.

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: No objection.

Committee on Petitions relating to Bills

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Under Rule 121 (1) of the Assembly Rules, I nominate the following members to constitute a Committee on Petitions relating to Bills for the September Session of the Assembly:—

1. Babu Kamini Kumar Sen.
2. Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma.
3. Maulavi Mahammad Roufique.
4. Dr. C. G. Terrell.

Under the rules, the Deputy Speaker will be the Chairman of the Committee.

House Committee

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Under rule 135 of the Assembly Rules, I nominate the following members to constitute a House Committee for the current session of the Assembly:—

1. Srijut Beliram Das.
2. Srijut Nilmani Phookan.
3. Srijut Siddhinath Sarma.
4. Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma.
5. Moulana Md. Mufazzal Hussain.
6. Mr. Binode Kumar J. Sarwan.

Message re assent to Bills

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Information has been received from the Private Secretary to the Governor of Assam that, under the provisions of section 75 of the Government of India Act, 1935, His Excellency the Governor has assented to the following Bills which were passed by the Assam Legislative Assembly in its meeting held in March-April 1948:—

1. The Assam Finance Bill, 1948.
2. The Assam Local Board Elections (Emergency Provisions) Bill, 1948.
3. The Assam New Motor Cars (Control of Commercial Sales) Bill, 1948.
4. The Assam Revenue Tribunal (Transfer of Powers) Bill, 1947.

5. The Assam Opium Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 1948.
6. The Assam Ministers' (Salaries and Allowances) Bill, 1948.
7. The Assam Speaker's (Salary and Allowances) Bill, 1948.
8. The Assam Deputy Speaker's Salary Bill, 1948.
9. The Assam Local Rates (Amendment) Bill, 1948.
10. The Assam Sales of Motor Spirit and Lubricants Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1948.
11. The Assam Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1948.
12. The Assam Adhiars Protection and Regulation Bill, 1948.
13. The Assam Shops and Establishment Bill, 1947.

Presentation of the Notification under section 296 of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR : I beg to present the following †Notification under section 296 of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923 :—
Notification No.LML.29/48/5, dated the 28th May 1948.
The Notification is laid before the hon. Members.

Presentation of Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for the year 1948-49

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS : I beg to present †† the Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for the year 1948 49, a copy of which has been laid on the table of each hon. Member.

The Societies Registration (Assam Amendment) Ordinance, 1948

Srijut BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : With your permission, Sir, in the absence of the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister, I beg to lay out copies of the Societies Registration (Assam Amendment) Ordinance, 1948, under section 88(2)(a) of the Government of India Act, 1935. Copies have already been circulated to hon. Members.

The Assam Requisition and Control of Vehicles Ordinance, 1948

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : I beg to lay out copies of the Assam Requisition and Control of Vehicles Ordinance, 1948 under section 88 (2) (a) of the Government of India Act, 1935. Copies have already been circulated to the hon. Members.

The Assam Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance, 1948

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : I beg to lay out copies of the Assam Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance, 1948 under section 88 (2) (a) of the Government of India Act, 1935.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : With your permission, Sir, I would like to move my Bills.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Which Bills does the Hon'ble Premier want to move ?

†Appendix H.

††Appendix I.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : I shall just now move the Assam Maintenance of Public Order (Amendment) Bill, 1948. I have already placed the Ordinance before the House.

The Assam Maintenance of Public Order (Amendment) Bill, 1948

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already placed the Ordinance before the House. I now beg to introduce the Assam Maintenance of Public Order (Amendment) Bill, 1948, and to move that the Bill be taken into consideration. In doing so I desire to mention that the circumstances which led to the presentation of the Bill before the House in 1947 and its passage into an Act have not in the least passed away. On the other hand, the situation around us has shaped in such a way that it has become more necessary to maintain this Act in the Statute Book. I would not like to go into details, but the hon. Members very well know that we may be on the brink of some conflagration in reference to what is happening in other parts of India, I mean the situation in Kashmir and any possible repercussion of the move in Hyderabad. Secondly, you have all noticed that an agency is at work in Burma and in South East Asia to alienate certain sections of people, at any rate, from loyalty to their country to allegiance to a foreign power. I mean the Communist Party who are working with the same end in India also. We all saw the evils which the Communist organisation could effect in the recent strike that took place in our Railway on the 19th of May. It is therefore essential for the safety of the State that the Government should have some armoury in their hands by which they can take action for the security of the country as well as of the people living in this land. The Act was already there, but certain modifications were necessitated on account of a ruling of the High Court in a recent case of detention of a Khasi gentleman. All that is proposed to be done by this Amendment Bill is that certain actions which were taken by Government in the meantime, have been sought to be validated. Secondly, by an amendment of section 3 of the original Act the continuity of the orders have been sought to be maintained. These are the two main amendments. Unlike some legislations of some other provinces this Bill wants to maintain the state of law and order as it prevails. I can tell you for your information, Sir, that the policy of this Government is not to infringe the liberty of the people by a sort of general orders. But I am sure it will be agreed that Government must be armed with powers to deal with individual cases of people who want to bring about disruption in the State by invoking authorities from outside and who might create a situation of unrest and lawlessness by certain actions in the Province. The action that has been taken by Government has always been discriminatory and not general.

With these few words, Sir, I beg to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Assam Maintenance of Public Order (Amendment) Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration."

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I just want a little elucidation, Sir. Will the Hon'ble Premier tell us the need of making the effect retrospective under clause 2? Will not the actions of Government be validated by the previous Act passed?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : I could not follow.

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It is stated in clause 2: "For section 3 of the principal Act the following shall be substituted and shall be deemed to have been substituted as from the 2nd April, 1947...". This Bill therefore is going to propound a very dangerous principle of giving retrospective effect to Acts of Legislature which are passed at a very late stage. For example, we are now in the month of September 1948, but the actions of the Government are going to be validated from the 2nd April, 1947. I simply wanted to know why this provision is necessary.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I had already said, Sir, that in order to validate certain actions which Government have taken in the meantime that this Bill has to take a sort of retrospective effect from the 2nd April 1947 when, I suppose, the Ordinance was first promulgated. I have already pointed out the necessity for doing so. It will be seen from the provisions of the Act that what is proposed to be done retrospectively could actually be effected by fresh orders. All that is proposed to be done therefore is a sort of validation of actions which might have been otherwise taken but which is proposed to be done by a validating amendment of the Act.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Assam Maintenance of Public Order (Amendment) Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration".

The question was adopted.

The Assam Legislative Chambers (Members' Emoluments) (Amendment) Bill, 1948

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The next motion that I propose to place before the House is the Assam Legislative Chambers (Members' Emoluments) (Amendment) Bill, 1948.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Legislative Chambers (Members' Emoluments) (Amendment) Bill, 1948 and to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

In doing so I beg to invite the attention of the hon. Members to the term of the Bill which makes this change, namely, that Members will be entitled to get the daily allowance as a first class officer and a conveyance allowance of Rs. 2-8-0 per diem while in Shillong during the session of the Assembly. If it is agreed to by all, it would serve the purpose of meeting the daily cost of the hon. Members in the present price conditions prevailing in Shillong. I need not stress on the point as you all know, Sirs, how prices of articles are rising particularly in Shillong. I personally feel that the Bill goes just as far as to alleviate the hardship and losses that hon. Members have actually to sustain while in Shillong. With these words, Sir, I beg to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Assam Legislative Chambers (Members' Emoluments) (Amendment) Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration."

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, our Hon'ble Minister has been pleased to introduce this Bill to give relief to the Members of the Legislature while they will be here in Shillong during the session of the Assembly or some other work. Now, the hon. Members of the Assembly are getting Rs. 7-8-0 as daily allowance which the Hon'ble Minister wants to increase to the same standard of the first grade Government servants and also to grant an additional allowance as conveyance allowance to them for the days they will be here in Shillong. I do not see any justification for these additional allowances to the hon. Members at this stage when the whole country—especially the peasant class—has been seriously affected by the floods and a lot of money is to be spent to give relief to the distressed people. Moreover, in Shillong we get the advantage of the city bus and other conveyances at a very cheap rate. If the hon. Members like, they can easily meet their conveyance charges in Shillong from the salary that they get as Members of the Assembly. So, I think, it will be "carrying coal to New Castle" to give allowances to the Members. We should not consider for our own selves, but we should also take into consideration the sufferings and difficulties of the people at large. The Government servants and the subordinate officers, have not yet been given the increase of pay to give effect to the Pay Committee's recommendations. While they are still suffering to meet the increased cost of living, there is no justification for the hon. Members to get extra allowances as have been the object of the Bill introduced. So, I would request the hon. Members to consider whether they are justified to take these extra allowances when they could not give relief to Government subordinate officers and other people in these hard days. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Am I to take that the hon. Member opposes the Bill?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I would only like to refute the allegation made by the hon. Member on the opposition that Government are not doing justice to the poor people in the countryside. It is true that the people are suffering a great deal from the floods, but Government with their limited resources have spent and are spending large sums of money for them in organising relief measures. All that is proposed to be done in this Bill is to put the daily allowance of the hon. Members just on the same category as of the 1st class Government servants and, secondly, to grant them a conveyance allowance while in Shillong during the session of the Assembly. The bus service is, of course, already there in Shillong, but it plies within a certain distance and does not frequently ply. The conveyance allowance that is proposed to be given to the hon. Members will not interfere with the relief that the Government propose to render to the flood affected people. On the other hand, it would afford much more facilities to the Members to discharge their duties. With these remarks, Sir, I would request the hon. Member on the opposition to see whether he should like to continue his opposition.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I put the question.

The question is:

"That the Assam Legislative Chambers (Members' Emoluments) (Amendment) Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration."

The question was adopted.

The Assam Primary Education (Amendment) Bill, 1948

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Primary Education (Amendment) Bill, 1948, and to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

Sir, a slight lacuna was left in the Assam Primary Education Bill which this amendment proposes to fill in. The main provisions which this amending Bill proposes to present before the House are while the Local Bodies named in the Act have been able to find representatives in the School Board, it has not been made quite clear whether Municipal Boards could also come within that category. So, a phrase has been added according to which the Municipal Board and the Town Committee also can find representation in the School Board, i. e., Amendment No. 1.

No. 2 is that no provision was there in the Bill for appointment of Members from Local Bodies, whether a Municipal Board or a Local Board, for their inclusion to be considered as members of the Local Board or of the Municipal Board when such a Local Board or a Municipal Board was under suspension under the relevant sections of the Assam Local Self-Government Act, during the period when such a Board is under suspension Government will be able by this Amendment to nominate Members to the School Boards on behalf of such a Board.

The third thing is that the Town Committee was not considered to have the power of representation in the School Board which has been proposed to be done under this proposed Amendment; and what is more is that if in any Subdivision there are for example two Municipal Boards or a Municipal Board and a Town Committee all these will find representation in the School Board. These are broadly the Amendments that have been proposed in this Bill. As I said they are not very important but nevertheless necessary in order that the School Boards might function as representative bodies.

With these words, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Primary Education (Amendment) Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration by the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Assam Primary Education (Amendment) Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration."

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: Sir, I want to speak only for inclusion of one point in this amending Bill. The Hon'ble Premier proposes to give facilities of representation to the Town Committees and Municipalities; thus a Town Committee if it is allowed one representative will be representing a population of ten thousand or so, or if a Municipal Board is given a representative it will represent a population of 20 thousand or so, whereas a Local Board will get 2 representatives although they will represent a much larger population of 4 or 5 lakhs. My point is that these Local Boards should be given additional representatives because the Local Boards represent the vast rural population and the Municipality or the Town Committee consists of smaller number of population.

In the light of these points, I beg to request the Hon'ble Premier to revise the number of representatives allowed to the Local Boards and give additional representatives on population basis.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Sir, the principle that has been proposed to be followed under this Amendment is that a local body

who lose in revenue should be allowed representation in the School Board. For example, in the terms of the Act that the money that is now given and spent by them whether it be a Local Board or a Municipal Board or a Town Committee will be absorbed in the revenues of the School Board and therefore it is considered that such bodies which actually had to surrender revenues should be given representation. Now, on this question my Friend opposing has agreed with me that these Boards should find representation.

Now, as regards the number of representatives from the rural areas, it is to be seen that the number of representatives from rural areas will be actually very considerable, as the Local Boards who will get additional representation by this Amendment are really the representatives of the rural areas. I personally feel that there is not much argument behind the opposition of my hon. Friend there and I hope, he will withdraw his opposition.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM : I have not opposed, but I only wanted that the Local Boards should be given additional members because, for example, at Dhubri the Local Board has been given 2 representatives ; now there are one Municipal Board having a population of about 20 thousand and a Town Committee having a population of about 10 thousand who will get one representative each but the population of the area under this Local Board is about 5 lakhs. So my point is that the Local Board, in consideration of large population it represents, should get more representatives on population basis.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Assam Primary Education (Amendment) Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration."

The question was adopted.

The Assam State Acquisition of Zamindaris Bill, 1948

The Hon'ble Srijiut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : I may be permitted to make mention here about item No. 15, viz., "to introduce the Assam State Acquisition of Zemindaris Bill, 1948 ; and to move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee". The Hon'ble Revenue Minister expressed his desire that he should be present while the Bill is put before the House. The Bill is not proposed to be finished during the Session. All that is proposed to be done is to refer it to a Select Committee. In view of this it may be agreed that this item may be taken up at a stage when it is possible for the Hon'ble Revenue Minister to be able to be present in the House. He mentioned 20th, I do not know whether he will be able to come then.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I think that may be done.

The Assam Cattle Diseases Bill, 1948

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR : Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Assam Cattle Diseases Bill, 1948, and to move that the Bill as amended by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

Sir, I am very grateful to the hon. Members of the Select Committee who took the trouble to come here to consider this important Bill. They were good enough to go very thoroughly into the Bill clause by clause and I am definitely of the opinion that they have brought improvements on the original measures. The Bill is now before the House. Sir, I hope, that it will be passed in this

Session. Our proposed improvement and development of the masses and the drive that we want to give in the direction of livestock improvements and the prevention of cattle mortality depend in a great measure on this Bill. I hope, Sir, this Bill will be passed.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Assam Cattle Diseases Bill, 1948, as amended by the Select Committee, be taken into Consideration".

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with due respect to the Members of the Select Committee who have improved the Bill a lot, I want to speak a few words on this measure which, I think, are necessary to further improve the Bill.

Even after it has emerged out of the Select Committee there has been a provision that after vaccination of the cattle the owners of the cattle are to pay a prescribed fee and the Veterinary Officer would be authorised to realise that fee ; and also there is a provision that in the case of inability of a person to pay this fee or unwillingness on their part to pay this fee, the Veterinary Officer shall seize the cattle, and the Deputy Commissioner or any other person authorised by him, would be able to dispose of those cattle in order to recover the amount payable by the owner. There is another provision that the persons who bring the cattle to the station for vaccination should remain there to take care of the cattle and for which payment shall have to be made at some prescribed rate. Sir, the people will be hard hit if they are to pay extra amount of fee to the Government. In the case of realisation there might be some difficulties which can easily be anticipated from the misuse of powers of the officers realising the fees. So, Sir, to do away with these troubles it is better to forego the fees. What we are going to do is for the benefit of the people of Assam by helping to stop spread of epidemic diseases. For the improvement of the cattle population, Sir, we should not grudge to spare some extra amount to save the people from this trouble.

Moreover, Sir, the Veterinary Department is a new Department practically and the public has not learnt yet properly how to utilise the services of the Veterinary doctors and Field Assistants. Gradually when the people will realise that much beneficial service has been rendered through the Veterinary Department, then alone such fees can be imposed for vaccination or inoculation. So if that is done the people living in the villages will try to get the benefit of this measure. Besides, the owners or their men should not remain in the quarantine station for keeping the cattle. One or two menials at Government cost may be maintained in each station for the purpose. Owners should take delivery of cattle after vaccination, inoculation and marking.

Therefore, Sir, with these modifications if the Bill is passed, it will go a great way to help the people. And I feel that without these changes, the very purpose of the Bill will be defeated.

Mr. HARENDRA NATH SARMA : Sir, my hon. Friend, Maulavi Abul Kashem, has raised certain points which, according to him, if put in the form of modifications, will go a great way in helping the cattle owners. But the preamble of the Bill runs as : "Whereas it is expedient to take measures to prevent the spread of contagious diseases among cattle in the Province of Assam". So, Sir, it shows that this Bill does not propose to help the cattle owners, but is intended to arrest the spread of contagious diseases among the cattle in the Province. In view of this preamble of the Bill I do not understand if the views put forward by my hon. Friend, Maulavi Abul Kashem, are in order unless my Friend suggests at the same time an amendment to the preamble.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Sir, I see no reason why our hon. Friend, Maulavi Abul Kashem, wants importers of cattle from outside for trade in this Province to be exempted from paying the fee provided by clause 6 (1) of this Bill. The object of opening quarantine stations is to prevent spread of contagious diseases in the Province through diseased cattle imported from outside.

The Bill enables Government to fix routes and seasons for importing cattle and to open quarantine stations where such cattle must be detained for examination by our Veterinary Officers.

The Veterinary Officers are required to vaccinate the cattle against certain contagious diseases and to mark the vaccinated animals with certain marks. And clause 6 (1) requires the importers to pay the cost of vaccination and marking. I do not understand why the people of the Province should bear the expenses and not the trader.

Then again our hon. Friend wants that the cattle should not be required to be detained in the quarantine station. Now if the trader be left free to move his cattle any where he likes then the very object of opening quarantine stations will be frustrated.

So we are not satisfied with the objections raised by our hon. Friend and I hope he will not insist upon them.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as has been explained by my hon. Friend, Mr. Talukdar, that this is a matter for quarantine station only with a view to check people bringing in diseased cattle from outside. I do not think that it will cause any hardship if a certain fee is levied which is meant only to meet the expenses in relation to these quarantine stations and other incidental charges for maintaining such stations which is necessary in the normal course. Considering the value of the cattle, Sir, the introduction of this levy which will not be at a very high rate, as already pointed out, I do not think it will cause any hardship to the people. Therefore, Sir, in consideration of these factors, I hope the hon. Member will not continue his opposition.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :
"That the Assam Cattle Diseases Bill, 1948, as amended by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration".
The question was adopted.

The Assam Assessment of Revenue Free Waste Land Grants Bill, 1948

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Item No.16. Who will represent Government in this matter ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : Srijut Mahendra Mohan Choudhury, Parliamentary Secretary, will move this Bill, Sir.

Srijut MOHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Assessment of Revenue-Free Waste Land Grants Bill, 1948 and to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

I consider it a great honour and privilege to move this Bill which provides to remove a long condemned disparity between a moneyed class of people and our poor cultivators. Sir, in the early days of the British regime, it was the policy of the then

Government of Assam to encourage cultivation of tea in Assam by the offer of land on specially favoured terms. The first Special Grant Rules were those of 1838, under which one-fourth of the Grant was to be held in perpetuity revenue-free, and the remaining three-fourths were assessed at a gradually enhanced rate, till at the expiration of the 30th year, this area was assessed at the average rate of revenue paid by rice lands in the same district. The next Rules were those of 1854, under which, again, one-fourth of the Grant was exempted from assessment in perpetuity and the remaining three-fourths were assessed at a gradually increasing rate till the expiration of the 99th year, the Grant was to be subjected to moderate assessment.

The first Fee Simple Rules were issued in 1862 by Lord Canning, and Revised Fee Simple Rules were issued in 1874. These Rules continued in force till 1876. Under these Rules, the grants were forever free from assessment of land revenue. The Fee Simple Rules allowed holders of lease who hold grants under the prior rules to redeem their revenue payments. This permission was largely taken advantage of in both the Valleys.

It will thus be seen that there were at least 4 sets of Rules under which a complete grant or a part of a grant was held revenue-free in perpetuity. In Sub-Clause (1) of Clause 2 of the Bill these Rules have been enumerated and the land held revenue-free under them has been defined there as "Revenue-Free Waste Land Grant". The total area of land held revenue-free under these various Rules is approximately 4,80,305 acres.

Whatever justification there might be at the time for such highly favourable terms, there is no justification now for continuation of the said concessions to a very prosperous industry, when side by side the poor cultivating owners of the uneconomic holding is paying a heavy repressive taxation in the form of land revenue, ranging from annas 8 to annas 10 per Bigha or more. That these concessional rates did not contribute to the development of the Industry even in those days, is borne out by the statement of the then Agent to the Governor General, Colonel Hopkinson, who said at the time that "Lord Canning's Rules favoured land jobbing and have not given us an acre more of the tea cultivation than we should have without them". The Introduction to the Assam Land Revenue Manual also mentions that "owing, however, to reckless speculation and the attempts made by Government to foster the Industry at the outset by sacrificing the most necessary safeguard in granting land, many tea concerns collapsed altogether in 1866".

Even at the present moment, this immunity from land revenue has only encouraged many an owner to keep their lands under jungles and trees. Thus even to-day we find that 47 per cent. of Fee Simple Lands in Golaghat subdivision, 41 per cent. in Jorhat subdivision, 50 per cent. in Sibsagar subdivision, 43 per cent. in Cachar district, 84 per cent. in Kamrup district and 66 per cent. in Nowgong district are still completely undeveloped. These undeveloped grants have provided excellent habitations to tigers, bears and other wild animals and are a constant source of danger to the crops, domestic animals and human beings of the neighbouring villages. Thousands and thousands of representations are made every year to the Hon'ble Ministers when touring in those areas.

With a view to removing the disparity and inequality of assesment between these lands under Revenue-Free Waste Lands Grants and other lands in the neighbourhood, Government held in Shillong a Conference on the 21st June 1948, in which the members of all parties including the representatives of the European Planting Group were present. There was then unanimous agreement that these Revenue Free Waste Land Grants should be assessed to land revenue with effect from 1st April 1948 on the following conditions:—

(1) That for the 1st and 2nd year the rate of assessment should be at Re.1 per acre, and

(2) that from the 3rd year, *i.e.*, from 1950-51 the assessment should be at the rates the maximum of which should not exceed the usual rate for the time being for such class or classes of lands in the neighbourhood.

These decisions have now been given effect to in Clause 3 of this Bill

This will now bring all the lands under Revenue Free Waste Land Grants to the level of other lands in the neighbourhood. The revenue that the owners of these lands will be called upon to pay will form an insignificant part of the total cost of their establishments, and will in no way have any hampering effect on the Industry. On the other hand, it will remove a disparity and inequality which the peasants of India have long felt to be a discrimination against the toiling agricultural producers—who are our masters and whom we are pledged to serve.

With these words I beg to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

“That the Assam Assessment of Revenue Free Waste Land Grants Bill, 1948 be taken into consideration”.

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we do not wish to add fuel to the fires of controversy, particularly as the Government of Assam had, before initiating this legislation, invited representatives of the Industry to discuss the abrogation of fee simple grants, and the present Bill implements, as the Hon'ble the Parliamentary Secretary has stated, the decisions which were unanimously reached at the conference.

There is, however, in the Statement of Objects and Reasons and also in the observations which have been made by the Hon'ble Parliamentary Secretary, a suggestion that the Fee Simple Grants were indefensible and against the best interests of the Province. My own view is that this is one of the best bargains any Government had ever made (*laughter* !). When an impartial and objective economic history of this Province comes to be written, it will, I am confident, be recognised that the small inducement offered to attract industrialists to invest substantial sums in the then precarious and hazardous enterprise of the cultivation of tea, contributed more than any other single act to the economic development of the Province. Long before the British Government was established in India the East India Company's experiments on tea cultivation in Assam had been tried. It was indeed, as a result of these experiments that it was recognised that tea cultivation was not likely to be a success. Therefore the East India Company being a shrewd commercial concern suggested that it should be given to private enterprise. The students of history will recollect that the East India Company enjoyed a reputation of keeping what was profitable in their own hands, and would not have allowed private enterprise a chance if it had not been very risky. How many would be prepared to finance uranium mining in the middle of Tibet? How many of us would be prepared to put down solid rupees for such speculative ventures? We would demand some guarantee of return. Tea cultivation, a century ago was, a speculative enterprise, and it was attracted to this Province by the foresight and wisdom of the then administrators of the Province. It has, as I said, contributed more to the economic development of the Province than any other single act. Even at the present time, the economy of the Province depends to a preponderating extent on the Tea Industry. When a depression comes in the Tea Industry as in 1931 and to go back further to the slump of 1922 the whole of the Province is affected as the economic prosperity of this Province is closely linked with the fortunes of the Tea Industry. How many may realise that 9 out of every 11 factory workers in the Province of Assam are employed in Tea garden factories? These statistics ignore the huge army of workers

employed in tea plantation outside the factories. Is it fully realised that with the exception of jute all the other major industries of India—Iron and Steel, Cotton, Sugar and many smaller industries—owe their establishment and their prosperity to heavy subsidies from the State in the form of protective tariffs? By comparison, the cost to the State of establishing the Tea Industry has been insignificant, and the Industry had repaid in taxation very many times and handsomely the benefit received from the Fee Simple Grants. A comparison was made in the Statement of Objects and Reasons and also by the Hon'ble the Parliamentary Secretary with the land revenue paid by the cultivator, but no reference has been made to the fact that the Tea Industry is subject to many more burdens than the cultivator of land. Should not the comparison be made with the taxation paid by the tea plantation? Central Excise alone accounts for the staggering sum of Rs.160 per acre under tea, and the figure is more if account is taken of the Export Duty on Tea exported from India, and as hon. Members are aware the bulk of the crop of Assam is exported. Then there is the Central Income-tax and the Agricultural Income-tax and a wide range of indirect taxes through which the Tea Plantations contribute very heavily to the State. Reference was made by the Hon'ble Parliamentary Secretary to certain observations made by Col. Hopkinson many years ago. We cannot accept Col. Hopkinson as the final judge of the wisdom or unwisdom of establishing Fee Simple Grants. A further charge was made that the Industry was at one time almost revived by speculation. This was very many years ago and speculation at one time should not be sufficient to discredit an Industry—nearly all Industries have had later eras of speculation. Only recently we have learnt that critics of the stock-exchange have been urging that stock exchanges have been responsible for inflation. A spirited reply was given in today's Press by the Chairman of the Calcutta Stock-Exchange to this. I was astounded by the figures which the Hon'ble Parliamentary Secretary gave of the waste and vacant land on tea gardens. I am not aware of the source from which these figures have been quoted.

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

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: I will resume after the lunch interval.

Adjournment

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 1 P. M.

(After lunch)

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before this House rose for the interval I was referring to statistics which had been given by the Hon'ble Parliamentary Secretary in regard to the amount of land left vacant by tea gardens. Fortunately I am now in a position to be able to give a detailed analysis of land held by tea gardens in Assam. I have the actual acreage figures here, but I feel that Members will be able to appreciate the position more easily if I give them in terms of percentages taking 100 per cent. as the whole area held by Tea. Twenty-six and half per cent. of the whole area held by tea gardens is under tea. Roads and buildings account for $8\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.; bamboo and thatch account for another $8\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.; land given to labourers to cultivate amount to $12\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.; grazing land 6 per cent.; fuel reserve for timber $11\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.; unplanted tea areas $14\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.; old abandoned tea land $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.; land capable of development with expenditure $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.; land incapable of development and useless land $5\frac{1}{4}$

per cent. It will be thus seen that 74 per cent. of the whole land held by tea gardens is being utilised for useful purposes at the present time. The accusation quite wrongly levelled that we are harbouring an enormous number of wild animals is, I am certain, quite unfounded. The amount of jungle held by tea gardens is a comparatively small figure, being only $11\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the whole area and this consists of small blocks, for the most part, attached to a large number of tea gardens. We are also entitled to be exonerated from the accusation that we have taken large quantities of land which we are not using. It must also be remembered that since 1933 there has been a tea restriction control. Tea could not be planted on virgin soil with the result that the normal process of expansion was arrested. If, as has occurred at present, there is a limited permission for planting, there is a prospect of some expansion but the Province should consider that prospect not merely in terms of five or ten years but the possibility of the expansion of the Industry in 20 or 30 years. If this land should be taken away from the tea gardens, Assam will assuredly lose its place as a producer of tea for world markets.

A further point which the Hon'ble Parliamentary Secretary advanced was that Tea gardens had been making enormous profits. I doubt whether the Hon'ble Parliamentary Secretary has studied very carefully the balance-sheets which are produced by tea companies. I concede that there are some companies which are making profits, but there are a large number of companies which are on the subsistence level. These are facing extreme difficulties and this Province is going to have a serious problem to tackle in assisting tea gardens which are unable to pay their way. I have just selected at random a few companies which have done badly in 1947. Now, the year 1947 is likely to be a much better year than 1948. For one thing, there have been heavy increases in production costs. Three annas in the Surma Valley per day and 3 and $\frac{1}{2}$ annas in the Assam Valley have been added to the wages of Labour. A still heavier charge has been the subsidy which tea gardens give for supply of foodstuffs. Rice is being sold at Rs. 5 a maund which has to be purchased at Rs. 24 or even upto Rs. 30 a maund. One can imagine what a heavy loss this constitutes. 1947, as I said, is likely to have been a very much better year. In that year we find that the Cachar and Dooar Tea Company made a profit of £98 from an area of 3,500 acres; the Chargola Tea Association, which has had a rather poor dividend record throughout, made a loss in the year 1947; the Derby Tea Company made a profit of £1,109 from an area of 1,144 acres under tea; the Indian Tea Company of Cachar made a loss of £2,407; the Longai Valley Tea Company also made a loss. And I would invite attention to the Company's dividend record. From 1927 to 1939 no dividends were paid—a period of twelve years! From 1939 to 1943 dividends were paid—a period of four years! In 1944-45 no dividends were paid; 5 per cent. was paid in 1946 and nil dividend in 1947.

If costs and taxation continue to increase, there will be more and more tea gardens on the verge of extinction. There will be the problem of what to do with the labour when tea gardens are compelled to close down. There is the question of what the traders depending on tea companies will do if they go out of business. Though the tea industry have accepted this present legislation, we would ask the Government to realise that the situation is very serious in many gardens—particularly in the Surma Valley. Already the low producing gardens are facing losses, and when the world production returns to normal, many are likely to be faced to close down. There is already a fairly substantial production from Indonesia estimated in the present year at 50 million pounds, and it is anticipated that in two years time, this will increase to 200 million pounds which will give a very substantial surplus over the present world demand.

The price of tea, as you know, is only twice the pre-war level and the cost of production has increased very strikingly, and consequently many tea gardens will have to fight for their very existence. Many of the Cachar gardens may become dependent on the State for their rehabilitation.

* **Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR**: On a point of information, Sir. Is the hon. Member going to oppose the Bill? If he is not going to oppose it, he should not raise all these points.

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: May I resume, Sir?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: Though we have no dispute with Government in regard to this legislation, there are a number of points of detail for which we consider that the Bill is to some extent defective and for these reasons we are proposing that it should be referred to a Select Committee. It is not our intention to delay the passing of the Bill. But experience has shown that any attempt to amend a Bill on the floor of this House is fraught with difficulties. A small Select Committee meeting during this present session could easily make the necessary amendments which we have in view. As a matter of fact, we addressed the Government before—hand explaining that the present Bill would not be entirely in accordance with the agreement which we reached. The agreement was to the effect that we would accept 30 years lease. The present Bill does not secure that. We are advised for this reason that an amendment will be necessary in clause 3 of the Bill. There is also a further point that no safeguard has been given on the question of cost of survey. Experience in the past suggests that this is necessary, because the persons whose land is surveyed has no control over the number or extent of the staff to be appointed or the apportionment of the cost. For this reason we consider that a very simple amendment should be made to ensure that there is a ceiling limit of cost. These are, Sir, comparatively simple amendments which do not affect the principle of the Bill and which, we think, are strictly in accordance with the agreement which we reached with Government. But as I said, we would prefer that this should go to a Select Committee because there we will have the advantage of expert advice for drafting the Bill and making it a satisfactory document.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does Mr. Hardman like to move an Amendment?

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: Yes, Sir. I beg to move that the Assam Assessment of Revenue-Free Waste Land Grants Bill, 1948, be referred to a Select Committee, for report by the 21st of September 1948.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Who are the Members of the Select Committee? And when the Select Committee should submit the report?

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: The Select Committee will submit the report by the 21st of September, and as for members the Hon'ble Parliamentary Secretary in the absence of the Hon'ble Finance Minister, Dr. E. H. Chaudhury, Mr. Harendra Nath Sarma, Mr. Satindra Mohan Dev and the Mover. Three to form a quorum.

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN: May I speak a few words, Sir?

* Speech not corrected

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Let Mr. Hardman finish.

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: I do not want to delay the matter. One meeting would be sufficient and it should be held on the 21st September.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There will be one difficulty. The 21st, 22nd and 23rd September have been allotted for consideration of the Government Bills, clause by clause.

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: It might be 20th or even earlier. I shall be unfortunately away tomorrow, but any date after that will suit me.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There is another difficulty, Mr. Hardman. The Report of the Select Committee must be in the hands of the Members 7 days before the motion for consideration of the Bill is made.

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: I think there will be very little discussion during the consideration of the Bill, clause by clause. This is purely the question of implementation of the agreement with Government by the Tea Industry. The Bill still can get through in the present session. I am not anxious for it to be delayed. I can assure the hon. Members that there will be very little discussion at the subsequent stage on our side.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: You want the Committee to sit tomorrow?

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: Unfortunately I am compelled to be away tomorrow. Let it be Thursday, the 16th September.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: In the morning?

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: After the day's business, say at 3. 15.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: All right. Then I put the Amendment.
Amendment moved:

"That the Assam Assessment of Revenue-Free Waste Land Grants Bill, 1948 be referred to a Select Committee consisting of—

- (1) The hon. Parliamentary Secretary in the absence of the Hon'ble Finance Minister,
- (2) Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury,
- (3) Mr. Harendra Nath Sarma,
- (4) Mr. Satindra Mohan Deb, and
- (5) The Mover.

Three to form a quorum. The Report of the Select Committee to be submitted by the 16th of September 1948. Is that the proposal?

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: Sir, 17th would be better to get the report approved by the Members and submit.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I read the Amendment again. "That the Assam Assessment of Revenue-Free Waste Land Grants Bill, 1948 be referred to a Select Committee consisting of,—

- (1) The hon. Parliamentary Secretary in the absence of the Hon'ble Finance Minister,

- (2) Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury,
- (3) Mr. Harendra Nath Sarma,
- (4) Mr. Satindra Mohan Deb, and
- (5) The Mover (*i.e.*, Mr. J. S. Hardman).

Three to form a quorum and the Report to be submitted by the 17th of September 1948".

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, nobody would be more pleased than myself to see that the Assam Assessment of Revenue Free Waste Land Grants Bill, 1948, is passed in this very Assembly Hall as I myself have tabled a Resolution to the effect that out of such assessment the aided school teachers' hard lot might be improved. So I hope that the money that is coming from this assessment will go to the assistance of these unfortunate aided school teachers.

While congratulating Government for bringing this Bill and also the representative of the tea industry who has so lucidly given us a treat regarding the tea industry—how it has developed and how it has benefited the country—I should like to say that this is a simple legislation which was overdue from 50 years before. For the last 50 years or more these very useful lands had been given free to the tea industry to exploit its wealth to the extent to which it was capable of doing, without paying a single farthing to the coffers of the Government. I would also quote as Mr. Hardman has already done that for roads, buildings and other essential purposes the tea industry has got 1,03,689 acres of land; under bamboo, thatch and other plantation crops or useful crops they have got 1,03,613 acres. That means nearly 1½ lakhs acres of land have been occupied for thatch, bamboo and other things. Certainly they have not allowed the neighbouring villagers to take thatch, fuel and other things from their grants free and they must have undoubtedly earned about 15 lakhs of rupees at least every year from this thatch and bamboo without paying a single farthing to Government. Then they have 1,52,746 acres of *khet* land. That also means that they have earned in the way of rental 15 to 16 lakhs of rupees every year from the *khet* land. Then they have grazing land of 70,355 acres. When we are at logger's head to get grazing land for our cattle, as many as 70,355 acres of grazing land have been reserved for the tea industry. Again they have under reserves for fuel and timber 1,31,385 acres of land. But not a single farthing has been given to us. For instance, at Jorhat for one "Thak" fuel we have to pay the tea and other authorities 5 to 10 rupees. Then they have 1,75,938 acres which is suitable for tea but not yet planted. If it is not suitable for tea industry that might have been returned to the Government long ago. Next they have 48,948 acres under them which is capable of development with considerable expenditure of capital, *i.e.*, afforestation, drainage, etc. I do not think the tea industry will exploit this. So this might be thrown open to us. They have 20,434 acres as land of extremely doubtful character. All this land might be given to the flood-affected people like those of Majuli. Lastly the tea industry have under their possession 41,826 acres of land which is under water or otherwise impossible for cultivation. This might be also very easily given to those people who have been suffering, years in and year out, from flood and other calamities. So on the whole actually 8,77,188 acres are under tea. After showing all these things I would quote the Hon'ble Revenue Minister's speech in the last Budget session. "The grantees have enjoyed the land without payment of revenue for more that 50 years and the purpose for which these grants were issued revenue-free does not exist now and the holders of these grants have made enough profit from the grants. There is no reason therefore why they should not now pay revenue to Government at the prevailing rate for similar land in the locality, especially those grantees who are setting up a

Zamindari system by letting out land within the grant to new tenants on payment of rent. Some of the grantees have transferred such grants at speculative prices". So for 50 years they have been occupying so much land and out of this they must have earned at least 50 crores of rupees. Government at least would have got 20 crores within these 50 years if these lands had been utilized by the people. There is no reason, therefore, why they should not pay similar rents as obtain in the locality. But this Bill has not contemplated that as yet. It is only an achievement like local rates. "Especially those grantees who are setting up a Zamindari system by letting out land within the grant to new tenants on payment of rent. Some of these grantees have transferred such grants at speculative prices". That is also a fact that lands have been disposed to other people and to people who are land grabbers who take land today and sell them tomorrow. "Government are considering how these grants which cover about 2,75,140 acres of land can be assessed at the ordinary rate of revenue". Thus if these lands are acquired the assets of Government will increase and at one rupee per acre as land assessment it will bring a sum of Rs.2,75,140 into the State coffers. They have paid nothing to Government for the rents they realised from the tenants and other people from selling timber, thatch, etc. They have not paid a farthing for exploiting the forest resources. That is why I shall bring another point for discussion regarding forest revenue which has been taken by them.

So if this be the case, I should be forgiven if I do not mention all the benefits that have been catalogued by my Friend who represents the tea industry. This tea industry is responsible for the uneconomic condition of the country. They have stood on the way of development. The British Imperialist exploiters have amassed immense wealth in their country. They should remember the wage of annas three given by them to a labourer with "jabra" rice and penal provisions which they operated on them. To get 3 shillings dividend by the shareholders of the tea industry paying annas 3 a day to a labourer, they have earned so much. They have earned enough by exploiting our virgin soil and exploiting our half-starved labourers under the provisions made by the then imperialist Government against these people. How can we forget all these benefits that have been so long enjoyed by the tea industry depriving our half-starved people? Would it be reasonable for the fat-salaried people of the tea industry to say that the time is very hard for them to think of improving the emoluments of the hard-worked labourers? This is only the beginning of enactments as other enactments shall have to follow. What they are paying for these lands? Are they paying the usual rent for the amount which they have utilised for dividend, etc., from these lands? We are going to abolish Indian Zemindaries, in the face of that are we going to establish another Zemindary in the tea plantation? That will have to be seen. The grazing lands should be taken over by the Government. Then the land from which fuel, timber, etc., have been extracted by them so long taking over the benefits by them must be taken over. They have realised enough from these forests from the half-starved people when allowing them to extract forest produce. If the country is.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What the hon. Member has to say about the Amendment?

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN: I am coming to that, Sir. I am possibly echoing the sense of the House when I say that I oppose the Amendment as the Bill contemplates an assessment which is a small fraction of revenues due to the State coffers.

On a rough calculation it is found that out of all the land they have, they really use about one fourth of it for tea plantation for which purpose really the whole land

was intended. They have utilised a vast area about 1/16 or something like that for building palatial buildings with well-laid roads. It is seen that they have put into use only one fourth of the land given to them and now $\frac{3}{4}$ or at least $\frac{1}{2}$ of the land which is in their possession must be taken over by the Government. How long the Government can sacrifice the benefit of the revenue so long deprived to them by the tea industry? If my Friend, representing the tea industry can furnish with figures to show that the lands at their disposal have been fully and well utilised, then we can proceed cautiously, otherwise not. I request Government to bring forth a comprehensive Bill to include the forest land, etc., for their immediate acquisition. There is no *via-media*. So long they have enjoyed and they have realised enough by way of dividends, etc., paying only 3 annas to a day-labourer and earning 3 shillings as dividend and I think, Government should calculate the amount they have acquired by way of dividends and other profits during the last 100 years or so and examine the question whether for acquiring these lands Government should pay them anything against the amount absorbed by them from revenues, rents, reserves built dividends enjoyed.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM. In view of the fact that my hon. Friend, Mr. Hardman has proposed his Amendment without taking to dilatory tactics, I think, during this Session the Report of the Select Committee can be submitted for consideration. So, I find no reason why this Amendment should not be accepted.

Moreover, my hon. Friend, Mr. Phookan has said that they have already got enough waste lands and they have already realised excess profits from the land by selling fuel, bamboos, timber, etc., and giving land on rental which show that the tea estate owners have misused the rights which were not given to them.

Further, it seems that in bringing this Bill the Hon'ble Revenue Minister has shown some weakness in assessing properly. Why should it be so? If he is to be just he must assess them at the same rate at which other cultivators are assessed. So this concession should not be allowed. For this reason, if it is referred to a Select Committee, I think, the Select Committee will improve it taking this into consideration with a view of increase the resources of the Province. So, with all reasonableness I think this Amendment should be accepted, and my hon. Friend who has opposed the Bill for referring it to a Select Committee may also revise his opinion. The Members who will be in the Select Committee, will be the people of our own Province and so they would be able to safeguard the interest of our people. If we find that they would not do justice to the people, we would have the option to reject the report that would be submitted by the Select Committee. Therefore, I do not see any reason why this Amendment should not be accepted and reasonable opportunity be given to the tea owners when we are going to introduce by this legislation something which is quite new and when those people are going to be affected.

With these few words, Sir, I support the Amendment.

Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not like to enter into any controversy in regard to the observations made by Mr. Hardman when we fully agree to the aim of the Bill. Because to do so, it will only be to reopen a healed up wound. I do not hold the view that the tea industry is making enormous profit. In my speech I wanted only to draw up a comparison between a tea land and a paddy land and their respective yields and taxes. The Bill was drawn up in agreement with the tea industry and the tea industry was represented by Mr. Hardman along

with others. Now if he finds that any provision of the Bill is repugnant to that agreement then he or for the matter of that any hon. Member of this House will be at liberty to move any Amendment he likes. It will be only minimising the grace of the tea industry if Mr. Hardman presses to refer the Bill to a Select Committee. Practically the whole Bill was discussed in a meeting of Government representatives and the representatives of the tea industry and that is all the more reason why the Bill need not be referred to a Select Committee. I of course congratulate Mr. Hardman that he has been able to see correctly on behalf of the tea industry the signs of time and has advised the tea industry accordingly.

With these words, Sir, I oppose the Amendment and beg the House to accept the Motion to take the Bill into consideration.

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: I would congratulate the Hon'ble Parliamentary Secretary on his very able and conciliatory reply, but I confess to being disappointed that he is not disposed to accept the very modest request of mine. We find that the drafting of clause 3 is particularly difficult and in moving any Amendment I apprehend we shall find some difficulty if the amending words do not actually fit in with what is decided at the time of clause to clause discussion. My purpose, however, will be served if we can have an informal meeting with representatives of ours and of Government, with the assistance of the Legal Remembrancer and the Secretary of the Department concerned in order to check over certain points that appear difficult in implementing the agreement which has been reached. Sir, I do not wish to ask Government to go behind the decision which we have already reached amicably. If Government will give the facilities asked for I will have great pleasure in withdrawing my Amendment. I consider, Sir, that it is a modest request and a reasonable one and its acceptance will be welcome to the tea industry.

Srijut MOHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY: Government have no objection to discuss it in an informal meeting.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: When the hon. Member wants the proposed meeting to be held?

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: We can have it on Thursday next, after the business of the House is over.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Whom do you exactly want to be present in the meeting?

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: Mr. H. N. Sarma should be invited to represent the Assam Bengal Tea Planters Association and the Legal Remembrancer and Secretary of the Department concerned.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then I take it that on condition that an informal meeting would be organised to discuss the difficult points arising, the hon. Member will withdraw his Amendment.

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: Yes, Sir, and I beg leave of the House to withdraw the Amendment

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Assam Assessment of Revenue-Free Waste Land Grants Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration."

The question was adopted.

The Assam Court of Wards (Second Amendment) Bill, 1948

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Court of Wards (Second Amendment) Bill, 1948, and to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

As the hon. Members of this House are aware, that with the abolition of the post of Commissioner of Divisions it has become necessary to entrust the duties and functions which he used to perform in relation to Court of Wards Estates to someone. This amending Bill has been introduced to remove these technical difficulties. I hope the hon. Members will have no objection to this Bill being introduced.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Assam Court of Wards (Second Amendment) Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration."

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM : Sir, there was already one Bill for transference of Commissioner's power and in view of that may I ask the Hon'ble Minister whether there is any need for a fresh Bill of this nature ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS : Yes, Sir. That Bill did not cover the duties and functions mentioned here.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I put the question :
The question is :

"That the Assam Court of Wards (Second Amendment) Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration."

The question was adopted.

The Societies Registration (Assam First Amendment) Bill, 1948

Srijut BIMALAPRASAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I introduce this Bill I would like to make a minor correction. The Bill that was published under Notification No.FM.49/47/6 dated the 22nd June, 1948, it was stated in the Title as, "The Societies Registration (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1948." In its place it should be "The Societies Registration (Assam First Amendment) Bill, 1948." With your permission, Sir, now I beg to introduce the Societies Registration (Assam First Amendment) Bill, 1948 and to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

In introducing this Bill I may be permitted to speak a few words in explaining the Statement of Objects and Reasons. In the parent Act (The Societies Registration Act, 1860) there is no specific provision under which a Society registered under this Act can change its name and in the absence of such a provision a Society changing its name not only loses the benefits enjoyable under the Act but also loses its legal status. In order to meet the deficiency this amendment is being

made by this Bill. In this connection again I may be permitted to state that this Bill has actually been introduced under the direction of the Government of India who have issued circular letters to the Provincial Government requesting to remove this deficiency in the Act. The Bill is an enabling measure by which any Society of the kind mentioned in Section 20 of the said Act can register itself in the manner prescribed by the Act and thereby claim special status and becomes entitled to certain rights and subjected to certain liabilities. For example in Section 5 the property of the Society is vested in the Governing Body of the Society; under Section 6 the Society can sue or be sued in the name of the person indicated in the section of the Act; Section 7 provides that no suit shall abate by reason of the death of such person. Section 8 provides for enforcement of judgment against the Society. In an almost similar legislation namely the Trade Unions Act of 1926 there is provision for changing of name. To this also the Government of India has drawn our attention. Without a similar provisions in the Societies Registration Act of 1860 a registered society cannot claim the benefits offered by the Act if that registered Society's name is changed. The difficulty which is experienced for want of such a provision needs no explanation.

The Bill being very simple, Sir, I do not think I need take more time of this Hon'ble House in explaining this Bill. Therefore, Sir, I beg to move that the Societies Registration (Assam First Amendment) Bill, 1948 be taken into consideration.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Societies Registration (Assam First Amendment) Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : As no hon. Member is taking part I am putting the question.

The question is :

"That the Societies Registration (Assam First Amendment) Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration."

The question was adopted.

The Societies Registration (Assam Second Amendment) Bill, 1948

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Societies Registration (Assam Second Amendment) Bill, 1948 and to move that the Bill be taken into consideration. It will be clear from the Statement of Objects and Reasons the purpose for which the Government consider it necessary to bring up this Bill before this Hon'ble House. It may be stated that the parent Act (The Societies Registration Act, 1860) was framed 88 years ago before co-operative legislation was introduced. Certain sections in that Act are very vaguely worded. By a strict and literal interpretation of section 13 of the Act it might be held that if a single member of a Society disputed the three-fifths majority's desire to dissolve the Society, or if in the process of dissolving the Society the Managing Committee were not unanimous on every small point, the whole matter would have to be referred to the Civil Courts. This could not have been the intention of the framers of the Act, yet in a recent case a very small minority, who were not in favour of handing the assets of their Society to a better organised Co-operative Society, sought to delay matters by invoking this narrow interpretation of section 13. Since the members of the Managing Committee of the Society in question were in part also the minority opposing the dissolution of

the Society, a Special Committee was formed by the general meeting of the Society to arrange about the transfer of assets, etc. It was considered more expedient to do this than to elect a new Managing Committee. It is felt that similar difficulties may face other Societies and to avoid any such contingency this amendment is being made in the Act.

I therefore move, Sir, that the Societies Registration (Assam Second Amendment) Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Societies Registration (Assam Second Amendment) Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: If there is no hon. Member taking part, I shall put the question.

The question is:

"That the Societies Registration (Assam Second Amendment) Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration".

The question was adopted.

The Assam Kala-azar Treatment Bill, 1948

***The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** In reference to the Assam Kala-azar Treatment Bill, 1948 the Government position is that it would like to examine whether the Bill should be introduced as it is, or whether any change should be made. We propose to discuss this matter today and we shall decide whether to introduce this Bill or we would withdraw.

The Indian Medical Degrees (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1948

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Indian Medical Degrees (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1948 and to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

This Bill is necessary only to provide certain provisions which are not existing in the Indian Medical Degrees Act of 1916. Now it is not possible to prevent persons from using bogus titles similar to the titles that can be used by legally qualified persons. Persons by using this bogus titles pose themselves as really qualified persons and cheat people and induce people to be treated by them. This Bill is therefore intended to debar such use of such titles and to punish those people who use them. It is with this end in view that this Bill has been brought. With these few words I again move my motion that the Indian Medical Degrees (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1948 be taken into consideration.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Indian Medical Degrees (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1948 be taken into consideration".

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: On a point of order, Sir, I want to raise an objection. I want to know whether the Assam Legislature can amend Indian Medical Degrees Act. As regards the Societies Registration (Amendment) Bill the Parliamentary Secretary explained that they have obtained the direction from the Centre but as to this Bill they have not done so. Moreover this is a

piecemeal legislation. We are thinking of bringing a Bill for stopping treatment of *Kala-azar* and other diseases by unqualified Doctors. Only by stopping the use of titles we cannot stop this. If we want to stop unqualified persons from practising we must bring a Legislation. Now-a-days Homeopaths use the titles of H.M.B., MD.(H) which are not to be stopped by this Bill.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : What is the point of order here ?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM : The first point is the point of order and the subsequent points are reasons for non-desirability of introduction of this Bill.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to rise on a point of information. The Indian Medical Degrees (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1948, seeks to amend the Indian Medical Degrees Act of 1916 in its application to Assam. The Indian Medical Degrees Act is a Central Act.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Has the hon. Member gone through the Concurrent List ?

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE : The difficulty is that in the Statement of Objects and Reasons it has not been stated how the Indian Medical Degrees Act can be amended.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : It is not necessary to state that.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I put the question.

The question is :

"That the Indian Medical Degrees (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration."

The question was adopted.

The Assam New Motor Cars (Control of Commercial Sales) (Amendment) Bill, 1948

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : I beg to introduce the Assam New Motor Cars (Control of Commercial Sales) (Amendment) Bill, 1948, and to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

Sir, the purpose of this Bill is to exempt from the Control Order the cars which are from Ten Horse Power and below. This Bill is to amend the existing Act so that the cars, belonging to Ten Horse Power and under can be sold without permits, as such cars have exceeded the demand.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Assam New Motor Cars (Control of Commercial Sales) (Amendment) Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration".

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to make my position clear at the outset, that I am not opposing this Bill in any way. I am hoping that Government will be prepared to accept a suggestion, which I propose to make. I would point out that this Bill is giving exemption to Ten Horse Power

vehicles, but the position with regard to the importation of motor cars has changed very considerably during the last few months. The result is, I understand, that motor cars of Fourteen to Sixteen Horse Power and below are no longer very easy to sell. If my information is correct the only motor vehicles which are difficult to obtain at the present time are high powered Ford and Chevrolet Cars and the new Standard Vanguard Cars and light cars are not in considerable demand. We consider that the purpose of Government will be better met by substituting Sixteen Horse Power for Ten Horse Power and the Bill in its present form is not in the best interests of the public.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: So far as my information goes except these cars which I am going to exempt from the Control Order, other cars are in great demand. At the time when I had introduced this Bill to control these vehicles I stated at that time that Government would withdraw this control immediately when it would feel that there would be no necessity of control. If after passing this Bill I find withdrawal of demand over the cars described by Mr. Hardman, Government will put in another amending Bill to achieve the object of my hon. Friend, Mr. Hardman, in the next Session.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Assam New Motor Cars (Control of Commercial Sales) (Amendment) Bill, 1948 be taken into consideration".

The question was adopted.

The Assam Requisition and Control of Vehicles Bill, 1948

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Requisition and Control of Vehicles Bill, 1948, and to move that the Bill be taken into consideration. Sir, this morning I laid on the table an Ordinance and with a view to replace the same that this Bill has been introduced. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons, I have stated the reasons for this Bill. The reasons are to meet emergent cases of breakdown in the system of transport and also to provide transport to certain areas needed by the most extraordinary circumstances. Sudden breakdown in the system of transport causes undue hardship to the public. The last Railway strike in Assam can be looked for this. To remove difficulties created by such circumstances and to meet immediate transport needs—demanded by special situations this Bill has been brought. With these few words, I hope that the Bill will be taken into consideration.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Assam Requisition and Control of Vehicles Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration."

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while we agree with Government that it is necessary for them to be armed with all powers for meeting emergencies we are apprehensive that this present Bill goes considerably further than is necessary. I would invite attention to the Statement of Objects and Reasons. It is stated there that "break-downs in the system of communications may be caused by various circumstances. They mean grave menace to the movement of essential supplies and to public transport. To meet such emergencies it is necessary to have powers to requisition and control vehicles as provided for in this Bill." Now

if we turn to the important clause 3, we find that Government are taking powers for three purposes. First of all, for purposes essential to the life of the community; secondly, for maintaining public order, and thirdly, for "facility of public transport". On these conditions being fulfilled Government can take action to requisition any vehicle and this extends not merely to motor vehicles but right down to a bullock cart or to dug-out in a river. I am not raising objections to requisition on the first two grounds, but I feel that requisition for "facility of transport" is entirely unjustified. What is "facility of transport"? It is a case of moving from one place to another, and Government may decide to requisition a businessman's motor car in order that some other individual may travel in comfort from one place to another place. Motor buses can be purchased to-day and if there is any necessity, motor cars can also be purchased and Government can prepare a comprehensive scheme for providing "facility of transport". Therefore in our view there is no justification whatever for Government to take powers to requisition on this ground, and there is also the danger that if these powers are granted they may be abused.

I would also draw attention to the power of Government to delegate their function. Now, for serious emergencies I would have no objection to delegation of functions. That is essential, but while meeting merely transport facilities I consider the Government should be the judge of the necessity of the order and that no power should be given to the local officers for requisitioning "for facility of transport." The provision for payment of compensation is also rather unsatisfactory. The word "compensation" means counterbalance and the person should get the equivalent of what he has lost. It is laid down that "compensation" will be as Government may determine, and it is further stated that no suit or appeal shall lie against an order of compensation. There is, therefore, a serious danger that Government's view of the extent of the loss and the private individual's view of the extent of his loss may not coincide. We consider, therefore, that this legislation needs a certain amount of amendment before it can be regarded as satisfactory; and of course, this can well be done at a later stage. We hope, however, that Government will be prepared to give the points, which I have made, their serious consideration.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may be excused for entering into this debate, but I feel that it is necessary at least to mention the difficulties which the Province may be subjected to at any moment on account of the special conditions that it is in. This morning while introducing the Assam Maintenance of Public Order (Amendment) Bill I mentioned certain circumstances. I do want to impress upon the House that the circumstances are aggravating and it is not improbable that we might find ourselves one day completely isolated. Even within the limits of our Province for want of sufficient means of transport, we may not be able to move from one place to another and even for the purpose of protecting our borders. Government therefore consider that this Bill at any rate is one in the nature of a security measure for the protection and well-being of the people. Taking that fact into consideration, I hope none of the hon. Members of the House will feel inclined to oppose this motion. Personally speaking I can tell the hon. Members that I am no less a hater of measures by which Government want to have summary powers to deal with private ownership; and I am very much loath to take any action of that kind. But extraordinary situation demands extraordinary measures and we want the sanction of the House for the same. But I can give this assurance to the House that it is not the intention or desire of Government to maintain the powers for one day more than circumstances would demand.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the Hon'ble Premier has explained the need and urgency of the Bill, I do not think I need say anything more.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I put the question.

The question is:

"That the Assam Requisition and Control of Vehicles Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration."

The question was adopted.

The Assam Land (Requisition and Acquisition) Bill, 1948

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Land (Requisition and Acquisition) Bill 1948, and to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

In introducing the Bill I respectfully draw the attention of the hon. Members of the House to the Statement of Objects and Reasons where it has been explicitly said why the Bill has been brought. Similar provisions, as have been stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, have also been made in other provinces. The Bombay and West Bengal Governments have got their own Bills in this way. This present Bill has been modelled after the West Bengal Act, II of 1948. The salient features of the Bill are that only those houses which lie vacant for one year will be requisitioned, no house that is used for religious purposes will be requisitioned and that provision has also been made for appeal against acquisition. Notices will be served on the owners of houses and land before their requisition and acquisition and there is provision for giving adequate compensation for the same. I only want to draw the attention of the hon. Members of the House to the fact that as Government activities especially in the field of development are daily increasing, it has been felt that for want of proper accommodation the officers of Government have not been able to discharge their duties properly. For this reason, Sir, this Bill has been brought and I hope the House will lend their support to it. With these words, I beg to introduce the Assam Land (Requisition and Acquisition) Bill, 1948, and move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Assam Land (Requisition and Acquisition) Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration."

***Srijut BELIRAM DAS:** May I know from the Parliamentary Secretary who have prevented Government from erecting houses for Government officers and why do they requisition others' houses?

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary): I think the point has been explained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons.

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are rather apprehensive in regard to this Bill. The Hon'ble Premier will recognise that this Bill constitutes a serious infringement of the rights of the citizen. What is the necessity of Government having this power to requisition? In fact, we would be fully prepared to support the Government in providing additional accommodation for Government employees and in constructing buildings for storage of essential commodities. But in most cases the action of Government in acquiring property which is being utilised by private persons is bound to cause serious hardship to the general public. It is true that there are some safeguards that Government will not requisition a property which is in the occupation of the owner or has been occupied by the tenant for more than a year. But even then, there will be many cases where the action of Government is bound to cause hardship to the general public. In our view these powers are entirely unnecessary. The Land Acquisition Act has given Government very extensive but limited powers for taking possession of private property. That Act provides certain safeguards. A notice has to be served on the persons concerned to file objections and Government have to consider the grounds on which they object. We have to consider whether Government have made out any case for taking away these very extensive rights. We sympathise with the fate of Government employees who have no accommodation, but in the towns of Assam there is a very acute shortage of accommodation. If we find accommodation for additional Government employees, it means that some unfortunate people will have to crowd in to the remaining houses left for them. We are not by this measure increasing the amount of accommodation available but are merely redistributing it among the public. Government employees are being treated as a privileged class entitled to be given the accommodation made available in a town and the others will have to pay increased rent or remain houseless. It is obvious that if Government exercise the powers under the Act, very little property will be available for the general public. I regret that I have to note that the Assam Government have done in the past very little to build accommodation for their employees, and it has always struck me that here we go to the length of accommodating Government offices in private buildings to an extent which never occurs in other provinces. In other words, Government have made already an extensive demand on private accommodation and I would like them to consider the desirability of not taking over more private property but of relinquishing private buildings in their occupation in order to relieve the very difficult housing problem. Government are probably aware of the conditions under which their employees are living at present in Shillong. If my information is correct there is a considerable amount of over-crowding and in many cases where these employees are able to secure private accommodation they have to pay a substantial part of their wages in rent. What is true of Government employees is also true of private employees. What is needed is more accommodation and not the taking over of existing accommodation and turning out the present occupants even if they have not occupied them for a year. It is now expected that an employee or a labourer is required to be provided with suitable accommodation. The Central Government and many other Governments have taken up housing schemes for providing accommodation and housing for their employees. The Industrial Sub-Committee went to the length of proposing that the Central and Provincial Governments should provide improved housing, and subsidise the building of houses for industrial employees. The Bhoré Committee also was impressed by the necessity of providing housing accommodation for every employee. They recommended a long-term housing policy, and the opinion was expressed that housing of industrial labour was the primary responsibility of the Government concerned and urged the establishment of a Statutory Board subsidised by the Central and

Provincial Governments for carrying out a housing policy, for dealing with over-crowding and for improvement of towns and fixing appropriate standards of amenities. Instead of having extensive housing schemes, what is proposed by this Bill is to contract the housing programme, since the number of houses which are to be available to the general public will be reduced. Government, we know, have vast development programmes—these have been discussed for a considerable time and we consider that in connection with every development scheme, the Department concerned should be required to construct houses for their offices and their employees. But instead of that they are proposing to get houses by requisitioning. It is not fair to the rest of the community that the public should be turned out to make way for Government schemes. The Government is given the highest priority for all controlled commodities. If it is a question of movement, transport for Government is given the highest priority. The general public have the greatest difficulty in securing permits to start with and if they get permits they will have difficulty in moving the supplies by rail. I have ocular evidence of this by constantly watching the very disappointing progress of a house being constructed by an hon. Member and there it is found that however keen he has been to carry on, he is completely defeated by controls. Government will certainly have difficulty in building, but I would earnestly commend a bold policy. There are a number of *ex-Military* buildings in Assam which are not occupied. There are a number of such buildings around Shillong. Could not these be put to some useful purposes by moving Departments out to them? We have the example of the Assam Railway at Pandu. They have moved at very short notice to Assam, but yet they have managed to build many houses. They have provided accommodation for their employees and not become a burden on the existing accommodation. There are many ways by which this problem could be tackled but one of the ways, we consider, is not by acquisition of more private property. An energetic expansion policy is urgently required. There are a number of points of detail which require comment. Powers are again to be delegated and there is some danger that Government may not always fully realise the implications of the orders which will be taken in their name under this Land Requisition and Acquisition Bill. Under the Land Acquisition Act orders have to be passed by a Collector, but the Government alone is the authority entitled to sanction acquisition. We consider that there should be some scope for registering objections and hearing objections before a person is deprived of his property. It is found by experience that the action of the local official is not always correct. To prevent miscarriage of justice it is advisable to give full opportunity to the party concerned to show cause against reins of requisition so that Government can consider every case impartially.

Then again there is likelihood of serious delays in payments of compensation. Once Government get hold of a property they are not anxious to pay and there is the difficulty of securing financial sanction. Experience shows that when Government have acquired a property there is less keenness to get matters settled and objections are raised by Government and the ultimate payment is frequently delayed. We consider that it will be better for provision to be made to ensure payments being made either at the time of taking possession or within time limits to be prescribed.

Our main objection is however to the principle of this Bill which we consider is not in the best interests of the public. Government should undertake a vigorous programme to improve housing, and this can only be done if the Government see that the Development Schemes are co-ordinated in with an appropriate housing programme. This is being done elsewhere. We feel that there may be a little delay; but there is delay in many of these schemes from other causes. If housing is given first priority over other schemes, there will be

sufficient progress to enable all other important schemes to start without material delay. We hope therefore that if the principle is improved the hon. Members will give their full support to the modification of this measure.

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my hon. Friend, Mr. Hardman, has been apprehending misuse of the provisions of the Bill and for that reason he has been advancing some sort of advocacy in his long oration that the Bill is lacking in principle. But I may assure the House that Government will see that by requisition and acquisition very little or no hardship is caused to any owner of land or house. If Mr. Hardman has no other apprehension but this then he can very well lend his support to this bill. I counsel Mr. Hardman to have faith in the Government and if he has it, all his arguments automatically fizzle out and he can have no other alternative than to withdraw his opposition.

The land and premises will be requisitioned only to serve better public interest and not to harass any particular individual. The Bill will be operative for a year, and as soon as Government's building programme will be complete the Bill will lapse itself.

In view of this, Mr. Hardman's arguments fall through, and I hope he would please withdraw his opposition.

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: Sir, I do not like to press my objections.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I put it as a question.

The question is:

"That the Assam Land (Requisition and Acquisition) Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration."

The question was adopted.

The Assam Money-Lenders (Amendment) Bill, 1948

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Money-Lenders (Amendment) Bill, 1948, and to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

Sir, from the Statement of Objects and Reasons it is clear that it seeks to exempt certain Banks and Bankers' Bank from the operation of the existing Act. It is a very simple, harmless and non-controversial Amendment and so I hope the hon. Members will have no objection to the Bill being taken into consideration.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Assam Money-Lenders (Amendment) Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration."

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: On a point of information, Sir, may I enquire which particular provision of the original Act is to be suspended to secure relief for the Reserve Bank. My reading of the original Act is that it was to prevent mal practices or abuses by money-lenders and the Reserve Bank or other statutory Banks or Co-operative Societies Banks are not likely to perpetrate such mal practices. I am particularly interested to know what provision there was in the original Act from which it has been necessary to secure immunity for the Reserve Bank?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: As a matter of fact, we have received intimation from the Chief Officer of the Reserve Bank, that this bank has not been exempted from the operation of the existing Act and one of

the main objects of bringing forward this amending Bill before the House is to exempt the Reserve Bank from the operation of the original Act.

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN : Are we then, Sir, to take it that it is proposed to entitle the Reserve Bank to charge more than $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as interest on secured loans and $18\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on unsecured loans as prescribed under the provision of the Money-Lenders Act ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :
"That the Assam Money-Lenders (Amendment) Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration."

The question was adopted.

The Assam Famine Relief and Insurance Fund Bill, 1948

The Hon'ble Srijit OMEO KUMAR DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Famine Relief and Insurance Fund Bill, 1948, and also to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

It is needless for me to bring to the notice of this House that this Bill is of a non-controversial character and the House knows full well that floods and other natural calamities have for some years past been an annual event in Assam. Therefore it has become necessary to provide adequate fund to give relief to the distressed people. While introducing this, I have to bring to the notice of the House that there are a few printing mistakes. They are as follows:—

In the third line of clause 5, after the word 'earthquake' the words 'fire, cyclone' have been omitted which should now be inserted. In the second line of sub-clause (2) of clause 7 there is a grammatical mistake, that is, the word 'shows' should be 'show'.

And again in clause 8 the "comma" after the word 'may' is unnecessary and should be deleted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Assam Famine Relief and Insurance Fund Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration".

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM : I congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for introducing this Bill before this House for making permanent provision for famine relief. But at the same time I was disappointed that when I go through the Bill I find that in clause 4 and also in clause 5 he has given a limit of amount to be given by the Government and also the maximum amount to be kept in the fund. As in this year it has been experienced that calamities in different districts of this Province have exceeded the general expectation and we did not apprehend that such great calamities should have befallen us. The extension of the calamities is also very great. I think that this amount is quite inadequate and instead of saying that the Government would give "one lakh", it would have been better if it is mentioned "at least one lakh per year" and if it is found in subsequent years that more money would be needed, Government contribution to the Fund would be more than one lakh. Again the amount has been limited to Rs.20,00,000 and that the excess thereof would be utilised for other protective measures such as irrigation, etc. That amount also is too small in comparison with the extension of the calamities. Therefore, before

finally accepting the Bill, I would request the hon. Members and also the Hon'ble Minister who has moved this Bill to see that this limit in the amount be withdrawn.

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House is certainly aware that there is provision of a sum of rupees one lakh in the budget for 1948-49 under Grant No.27—54A Famine Relief. From clause 3 of the Bill it will be evident that this Fund will consist of any contribution from the Government of India and also such other sums as the Provincial Government may transfer from the unspent balance. There is also provision in the same clause to include within this Fund any donation by the public.

There is also provision under clause 4 for an annual contribution of one lakh of rupees. Provision for spending any extra amount when the accumulation of the fund exceeds 20 lakhs for protective works does not mean that Government will not spend anything to relieve the distress during the years. This Fund is created for future years.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is :

"That the Assam Famine Relief and Insurance Fund Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration."

The question was adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I want to inform the hon. Members that notices for Amendments, if any, on Bills for consideration that have been adopted by the House today, should reach the Assembly Department on or before 2 P. M. on the 17th September 1948. We see that the programme of business fixed for the 13th, 14th and 16th September 1948 is almost finished with the exception of one or two items which may be taken up on the 16th, and there will be sufficient time to take up Private Members' Business on that day. I hope hon. Members will be ready to proceed with Private Members' Bills and Resolutions on that day.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Thursday, the 16th September, 1948.

SHILLONG

The 22nd October, 1948.

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.

APPENDIX 'H'

The 28th May 1948

No LML.29/48/5.—In exercise of the power conferred by Section 296 of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923 (Assam Act I of 1923), as subsequently amended, the Governor of Assam is pleased to make the following further amendment to the Rules of procedure for the sale of markets, etc., published with this Department Notification No.4456-L.S.-G., dated the 16th November 1935, as amended by Notification No.2098-L.S.-G., dated the 24th April 1940 :—

AMENDMENT

SCHEDULE 'B'

After item 1(h) *insert* the following clause :—

1(i) He shall charge no toll or fees in respect of Government goods,—goods belonging to, or carried on behalf of Government.

N. N. PHUKAN,

Sey. to the Govt. of Assam L.S.-G. Deptt.

APPENDIX 'I'

LIST OF SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND FOR GRANTS FOR 1948-49

(To be discussed by the Assembly on the 20th September 1948)

No. 1

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI to move :—

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs. 19,16,734 (nineteen lakhs sixteen thousand seven hundred and thirty-four), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1949, for the administration of the Head "29.—Police (Home Guards)."

I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly Rs. 1,12,83,400

II.—Sub-head under which the Supplementary grant will be accounted for—

E.—Special Police—

				Rs.
Allowances and Honoraria	...	...	...	15,91,451
Contingencies	...	...	...	3,25,283
Total	...	...	...	19,16,734

DETAILS OF EXPENDITURE

Allowances and Honoraria

Rs.

1. Honorarium for Home Guards, Nayaks, Jethadars, Subedars, Trainers, Area Commandants and for one <i>Ex-Commissioned Officer</i> ...	11,82,268
2. Travelling allowance and Car allowance for Commandant General ...	4,283
3. Office establishment for the Commandant General and his personal staff and travelling allowance for them ...	10,338
4. Travelling allowance of Area Commandants and Subedars ...	18,414
5. Cost of Board of Home Guards, other ranks and officers during training ...	3,62,628
6. Establishment of a Sub-office at Shillong...	2,360
7. Travelling allowance for 60 Jethadars for 6 months	3,600
8. Pay of 18 Accounts Clerks at Rs. 70 per mensem ...	7,560
Total ...	15,91,451

Contingencies

Rs.

1. Uniforms ...	2,77,553
2. Badges and Pips ...	3,850
3. Tents and Bashes ...	4,000
4. Contingencies (Non-recurring) for 18 Areas ...	11,600
5. Contingencies (Recurring) for 18 Areas including House-rent ...	18,900
6. Contingencies (Non-recurring) for pitching tents ...	500
7. Contingencies for Headquarters ...	8,880
Total ...	3,25,283

• EXPLANATORY NOTES

Provision could not be made in the current year's Budget as the expenditure sanctioned in the last March and provided in Supplementary demand could not be spent except a small amount which was surrendered and a fresh expenditure shown above was sanctioned.

The Assembly is therefore asked to vote a Supplementary grant of Rs. 19,16,734 (nineteen lakhs sixteen thousand seven hundred and thirty-four) under the above-mentioned head.

No. 2

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI to move:—

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 1,462, be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during

the year ending 31st March 1949, for the administration of the Head "36.—Scientific Departments".

I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly	...	...	Rs. 10,300
II.—Sub-heads under which the Supplementary grant will be accounted for—			
B.—Museums—			Rs.
2. Allowances	...	...	180
3. Contingencies	...	...	1,282
Total			1,462

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Allowances.—Due to sanction of lodging allowance to the Assistant Curator for the period of training in Numismatics in Calcutta Museum.

Contingencies.—Due to—

- (i) appointment of two menials for the museum,
- (ii) construction of a strong room,
- (iii) incidental expenditure in connection with shifting the coin cabinet from the Shillong Treasury to the Gauhati Museum.

No. 3

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS to move :—

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 8,063, be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come up in the course of payment during the year 1948-49, for the administration of the Head "38.—Medical".

I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly	...	...	Rs. 19,08,100
Additional amount now required	...	...	8,063
II.—Sub-heads under which the Supplementary grant will be accounted for—			
C. Grants for Medical purposes—			Rs.
Grant to the Assam Aram Ghar	...	...	5,000
B. Hospitals and Dispensaries—Grants for Leprosy works	...	...	3,063
Total			8,063

EXPLANATORY NOTES

C. *Grants for Medical purposes*—Grant to the Assam Aram Ghar.—The extra amount is required for maintenance of the disabled *ex-service* personnel in the Assam Aram Ghar, Shillong.

B. *Hospitals and Dispensaries*—Grants for Leprosy works.—The extra amount is required for the construction of a ten-bedded ward for lepers at the Alipore Leper Colony (Cachar).

No. 4

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI to move :—

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.14,743 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st March, 1949 for the administration of the head—"42.—Co-operation".

	Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly ...	3,12,500
II.—Sub-heads under which the supplementary grants will be accounted for—	
II.—Rural Development	14,743

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Since the Budgets of Industries and Supplies and Co-operation were framed a greater measure of co-ordination has been achieved in these activities by the creation of separate departments of Sericulture and Weaving and of Cottage Industries and by combining these departments with Rural Development and Co-operation under a single direction. There was no provision for certain Rural Development activities which were a charge on the Provincial revenues and so an additional provision is required.

No. 5

The Hon'ble Maulana MAHOMED TAYYEBULLA to move :—

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs.1,68,000, be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come up in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1949, for administration of the Head "56.—Stationery and Printing".

	Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly (Voted)	5,30,800
II.—Sub-heads under which the Supplementary demand will be accounted for—	Rs.
(a) Stationery—	
A. Stationery supplied from Central Stores (Voted)	80,000
(b) Government Press	88,000
Total ...	1,68,000

EXPLANATORY NOTES

(a) Rupees 1,20,000 was provided in the Budget for Non-Excluded Area. The budget provision has proved insufficient and already a large number of requests for supplementary grants have been received. In order to meet the actual requirements of administration a further sum of Rs.80,000 is required.

(b) Rupees 10,000 was provided for purchase of plant and furniture in the current year's budget which has proved inadequate. The work in the Press has greatly increased and the existing machines are quite inadequate to meet the situation. It has therefore been decided to man the Press with some men, and machines for larger outturn. The details may be seen at Appendix 'a'.

No. 6

The Hon'ble Srijit BISHNURAM MEDHI to move :—

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs. 3,06,940, be granted to defray charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1949, for the administration of the Head "57.—Miscellaneous".

	Rs.
I. Grant originally voted by the Assembly ...	28,18,300
II. Sub-head under which the supplementary grant will be accounted for by the Revenue Department.	Rs.
(A) I. Contributions—Miscellaneous—Voted—	1,000
(B) K. Miscellaneous and unforeseen charges—	
5. Miscellaneous charges	3,05,940
Total	<u>3,06,940</u>

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(A) Grants to Lady Hydari Pleasure Park Committee ... 1,000

(Details may be seen in the attached schedule in Appendix a.)

(B) (1) There is a dearth of suitable buildings for the accommodation of the Hon'ble Ministers and Government Officers in Shillong and as a result extreme difficulties are experienced by them in the discharge of their duties. The availability of such houses was taken advantage of by Government by resuming the land and paying suitable compensation for the houses according to the terms of the lease in the interest of public service. The total cost paid as compensation for these two houses, viz., Roseneath and Islington amounts to Rs. 97,729-10-0.

(2) Similarly for the accommodation of Government Offices and Social Welfare Centres at Dibrugarh Government have purchased the Dibrugarh Station Club buildings together with the land at a cost of Rs. 2,08,210-6-0.

LIST OF NEW SCHEMES TO BE INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET OF 1948-49

Major, minor and sub-head under which provision should be made	Nature of scheme	Estimate of ultimate cost			Estimate of expenditure in 1948-49			Remarks
		Non-recurring	Recurring	Total	Non-recurring	Recurring	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
29.—Police— E—Special Police.	Assam Home Guards.	Rs. 6,62,491	Rs. 12,54,243	Rs. 19,16,734	Rs. 6,62,491	Rs. 12,54,243	Rs. 19,16,734	
56.—Stationery and Printing.	Purchase of some machines for Government Press.	88,000	..	88,000	88,000	..	88,000	Provision could not be made in the current year's Budget as the expenditure sanctioned in the last March and provided through supplementary demand could not be spent except a small amount which was surrendered and fresh expenditure shown above was sanctioned. The existing machines are inadequate to cope with the increased work in the Government Press. So it has been decided to purchase the following machines:—
D.—Government Press—								Rs. (1) Two Stitching machines. } (2) One Paper cutting machine. } 30,000
4.—Supplies and services—Purchase of plant and furniture.								(3) One Printing machine. } (4) One Grinder .. } 50,000 8,000 <u>88,000</u>

APPENDIX "a"—concl'd.

LIST OF NEW SCHEMES TO BE INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET OF 1948-49—concl'd.

Major, minor and sub-head under which provision is to be made	Nature of scheme	Estimate of ultimate cost			Estimate of expenditure in 1948-49			Remarks
		Non-recurring	Recurring	Total	Non-recurring	Recurring	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
57—Miscellaneous—	Provision for a non-recurring grant to the Lady Hydari Pleasure Park Committee.	Rs. 1,000	..	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	..	Rs. 1,000	A non-recurring grant of Rs.1,000 was sanctioned to the Secretary, the Lady Hydari Pleasure Park Committee, Shillong, for drawal during the year 1948-49 for the up-keep of the Park. Hence this amount is required
I.—Contributions—								
C.—Miscellaneous Contributions—Other Miscellaneous Contributions.								

Statement showing by Major Heads the amounts of Supplementary Grants which the Assembly are asked to vote in the present Session

Heads	Grant originally voted by the Assembly and authenticated by His Excellency	Grant asked for in the present session	Grant as it will finally stand	Number of supplementary demand
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
4.—Taxes on Income other than Corporation tax.	50,300	..	50,300	
7.—Land Revenue	22,69,100	..	22,69,100	
8.—Provincial Excise	8,48,000	..	8,48,000	
9.—Stamps	49,000	..	49,000	
10.—Forest	24,75,000	..	24,75,000	
11.—Registration	1,17,900	..	1,17,900	
12.—Charges on Motor Vehicles Taxation Act	5,59,900	..	5,59,900	
13.—Other Taxes and duties	95,400	..	95,400	
18B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works.	9,57,200	..	9,57,200	
25.—General Administration	39,85,600	..	39,85,600	
27.—Administration of Justice	6,45,500	..	6,45,500	
28.—Jails and Convict Settlement	9,33,700	..	9,33,700	
29.—Police	1,12,83,400	19,16,734	1,32,00,134	1
30.—Ports and Pilotage	2,100	..	2,100	
36.—Scientific Department	10,300	1,462	11,762	2
37.—Education (European & non-European)	82,31,300	..	82,31,300	
38.—Medical	19,08,100	8,063	19,16,163	3
39.—Public Health	20,57,900	..	20,57,900	
40.—Agriculture	10,63,000	..	10,63,000	
41.—Veterinary	3,42,000	..	3,42,000	
42.—Co-operation	3,12,500	14,743	3,27,243	4
43.—Industries	3,86,100	..	3,86,100	
47.—Miscellaneous Departments	2,46,500	..	2,46,500	
50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plant)	1,00,83,300	..	1,00,83,300	
Ditto Tools and Plant Establishment charges.	14,75,800	..	14,75,800	
54A.—Famine Relief	1,00,000	..	1,00,000	
55.—Superannuation and 83.—Payment of commuted value of pensions.	31,41,400	..	31,41,400	
56.—Stationery and Printing	5,30,800	1,68,000	6,98,800	5
57.—Miscellaneous	28,18,300	3,06,940	31,25,240	6
63.—Extraordinary charges	4,48,800	..	4,48,800	
63B.—Expenditure on Post-War Development Schemes.	7,71,67,700	..	7,71,67,700	
72.—Capital outlay on Industrial Development.	3,00,00,000	..	3,00,00,000	
85A.—Capital outlay on Provincial Schemes of State Trading.	100	..	100	
Loans and advances bearing and not bearing interest.	14,87,000	..	14,87,000	
Grand Total ..	16,60,83,000	24,15,942	16,84,98,942	

**SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE CHARGED ON
THE REVENUES OF THE PROVINCE DURING 1948-49 LAID
BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY UNDER SECTION 81 OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT**

(To be discussed by the Assembly on the 20th September 1948)

No.1

	Rs.
56.—Stationery and Printing— <i>Charged</i> —Excluded Areas—	
I.—Amount originally included in the authenticated Schedule	1,000
II.—Sub-head under which additional grant will be accounted for—	
A.—Stationery supplied from Central Stores—	
Additional amount now required	2,000
Total	<u>3,000</u>

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Owing to expansion of activities in the Excluded Areas, current year's provision of Rs.750 has proved inadequate to meet the growing demand. In order to meet the additional requirements of administration, a further sum of Rs.2,000 is required.

No. 2

Head of Service—"63-B.—Expenditure on Post-War Development Schemes."

Charged—Excluded Areas

	Rs.
I. Grant originally voted by the Assembly	30,18,600
II. Sub-head under which the Supplementary grants will be accounted for—	
(i) Co-operative Societies	4,000
(ii) Rural Development	12,00,720
(iii) Sericulture and Weaving	9,302
(iv) Cottage Industries ... ..	...
Total	<u>12,14,022</u>

EXPLANATORY NOTES

As there was no separate provision for the Excluded Areas in the Post-War Budgets of the Departments of Co-operative Societies, Rural Development, Sericulture and Weaving and Cottage industries an additional provision is required to meet the expenditure to be incurred in those Areas.

Statement showing by major heads the amounts of supplementary statement of expenditure charged on the revenues of the province during 1948-49

Heads	Amount included in the authenticated Schedule			Additional amount now required			Amount as it will finally stand			Number of demand
	Non-excluded areas	Excluded areas	Total authenticated amount	Non-excluded areas	Excluded areas	Total amount	Non-excluded areas	Excluded areas	Total amount	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
—Land Revenue ..	..	30,600	30,600	..	..	..	..	30,600	30,600	
—Provincial Excise ..	2,700	27,700	30,400	..	..	..	2,700	27,700	30,400	
—Stamps ..	..	200	200	..	..	..	..	200	200	
—Forests ..	..	3,36,300	3,36,300	..	..	..	..	3,36,300	3,36,300	
—Registration ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
—Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Taxation Acts.	..	8,000	8,000	..	..	..	..	8,000	8,000	
—Other Taxes and duties ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Interest on debt and other obligations.	13,84,500	..	13,84,500	..	..	..	13,84,500	..	13,84,500	
Appropriation for reduction or avoidance of debt.	4,22,900	..	4,22,900	..	..	..	4,22,900	..	4,22,900	
—General Administration ..	5,62,900	4,87,300	10,50,200	..	..	..	5,62,900	4,87,300	10,50,200	
—Administration of Justice	4,00,000	3,400	4,03,400	..	..	..	4,00,000	3,400	4,03,400	
—Jails and Convict Settlements.	..	26,900	26,900	..	..	..	..	26,900	26,900	

