

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 A.M. on Tuesday, the 20th September, 1949.

PRESENT.

The Hon'ble Srijut Lakshesvar Borooah, Speaker, in the Chair, the eight Hon'ble Ministers and fifty-eight Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Supply of bone-meal to Jowai Subdivision

Mr. LARSINGH KHYRIEM asked :

1. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The quantity (in maunds) of concession bone meal given to the Jowai Subdivision in 1949 ?
- (b) Who were the Contractors engaged to carry the bone meal from Shillong to Jowai ?
- (c) What was the rate of transport charges per maund ?
- (d) Whether a uniform freight was given to them ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that the price of bone meal at Jowai was fixed at Rs.15-8-0 per maund when the price at Shillong was only Rs.10-8-0 per maund ?
- (f) If so, why ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS replied :—

1. (a)—9,700 mds. of concession bone meal was distributed in Jowai Subdivision in 1949.

(b)—The following Contractors were employed for the transport of Bone-meal from Shillong to Jowai—

- (1) M/S. Dumson V. Lloyd and Co.
- (2) Mr. Shru Singh Swet, Shillong.
- (3) Mr. M. Laloo.
- (4) Messrs. Rolip Singh.
- (5) Mr. Tamon Sutanga.
- (6) Jowai Trading Co-operative.
- (7) Mr. W. Shaw.
- (8) Mr. Jotin De.
- (9) Jibon Ram Goenka.

(c) & (d)—The whole quantity with the exception of 780 maunds was carried at Rs.3-6-0 per maund. Of this quantity 280 maunds was carried at Rs.2-8-0 per maund, and remaining 500 maunds at Rs.3 per maund.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—The disparity in the Shillong and Jowai prices were due to the fact that we had not only to allow for transport charges but had to provide for storage accommodation and handling charges at both ends, in addition to shortage during transit over a bad road.

Mr. LARSINGH KHYRIEM: What was the cost of storage accommodation and handling charges in Shillong and Jowai Subdivision, Sir?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS: I cannot immediately reply to this question, Sir.

Mr. LARSINGH KHYRIEM: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the quantity of shortage during transit over a bad road?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS: I require notice of this question, Sir.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Jogighopa-Goalpara Ferry

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEV of Sidli asked:

*11. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) If the Jogighopa-Goalpara Ferry has been leased out to a company?
- (b) If so, the names and addresses of the persons or share-holders in case it is a private company or the names and addresses of the Directors and Managing Agents in case it is a public limited concern?
- (c) If a steamer was provided by Government for crossing the Brahmaputra in April last?
- (d) If the steamer had to be stopped plying in May due to discovery of some risky breakage?
- (e) From whom the above steamer was purchased?
- (f) If any tender was called for for the supply of a steamer?
- (g) What was the amount paid towards the cost of the steamer?
- (h) Who was responsible for the selection of the steamer?
- (i) If the steamer was examined by any Government expert before the purchase?
- (j) If not, why not?
- (k) If Government are aware that the same marboats belonging to the Public Works Department, Assam which were plied before the purchase of the steamer are also plying now?
- (l) If Government are aware that the absence and sudden discontinuance of the steamer service has caused a great hardship to the public in general and the owners of automobiles and other vehicles in particular?
- (m) If Government are aware that the fees for carrying a car is almost doubled and that the same marboats are plying under the same conditions?

- (n) If Government are aware that letter of the Questioner on the subject to the Chief Engineer, Assam bringing the complaints of the public to his notice is completely ignored and remains unanswered till to-day ?
- (o) If Government are aware that the representations and complaints from the public on the subject generally remain unattended ; and
- (p) If Government intend to take action to remove the grievances of the public by providing better facilities to the passengers by supplying a steamer immediately or alternatively reducing the fares till better arrangements are not made ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

11.(a)—Yes.

(b)—The Company is a Local Public Limited Concern.

The names of the Directors are as below—

Name of the Directors	Address
1. Srijut Keshab Kanta Barooah ...	Gauhati, Ujanbazar.
2. „ Umesh Chandra Choudhury ...	Ditto.
3. Dr. G. S. Das ...	Ditto.
4. Srijut D. N. Medhi ...	Panbazar, Gauhati.
5. „ L. N. Das ...	Ujanbazar, Gauhati.
6. Maulavi Dewan Girjan Ali ...	Lakhtokia, Gauhati.
7. Srijut Sirdar Nanak Singh ...	Fancybazar, Gauhati.
8. „ Keshab Deo Bauri ...	Ditto.
9. „ Krishna Kanta Barua ...	Chandmari, Gauhati.
10. „ Amar Chand Jain... ..	Fancybazar, Gauhati.

There is no Managing Agent of the Company.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—The Craft got out of order and had to be stopped from plying.

(e)—Mr. Phil J. Delauney, a Zaminder of Comilla.

(f)—No. The Craft was purchased by the Government of India.

(g)—The amount paid towards the cost of the Craft exclusive of the cost of additions, alterations and other repairs is Rs. 1,60,000.

(h)—Col. Oag, an Officer of Government of India,

(i)—Yes. (Col. Oag, the Director of Navigation, Central Waterpower, Irrigation and Navigation Commission, recommended purchase of the Craft after inspection).

(j)—Does not arise.

(k)—Yes. The ferry has to be run by engined marboats so long as the Craft is out of commission, as it is not possible to keep another Vessel as a stand-by.

(l)—This is a matter of opinion, but in a contingency like this Government have made the best possible arrangements to mitigate the hardship of the travelling public.

(m)—Yes, but there is no help as this is provided for under the terms of the lease.

(n)—Yes. The letter from the Questioner as well as complaints from other quarters were received and all those were covered under a communique issued on 20th June 1949, which was published through the Publicity Department for general information.

(o)—No. Reply is given either direct or through press communique.

(p)—As Government have no other steamer or Craft to replace, there is no other way than to repair it and put it into commission. The Vessel is under repair and will be put into commission as soon as possible. Reduction of rates is not possible as this is governed by the following conditions of the lease.

"28 (a) If the Vessel fails to run owing to mechanical or other defects, the ferry should be run by single boats arranged by the lessee, the hire cost for which will be payable by Government on production of vouchers.

(b) If the stoppage is for a considerable period, a power driven marboat may be provided by Government, the running cost of which will be borne by the lessee".

Srijut BELIRAM DAS: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister for how long the ferry was plying in between Jogighopa and Goalpara before this breakage took place ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Nearly two months.

Srijut BELIRAM DAS: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether the examiner had requisite qualification to examine the steamer and to know whether it was in good condition or bad condition before it was placed in the route ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Col. Oag, Director of Navigation, Central Waterpower, Irrigation and Navigation Commission, recommended purchase of this Craft after inspection and we have got his letter in our file which shows that the Craft was examined by him thoroughly. Also another company examined the Craft and the Chief Engineer of that company said that the Craft was in good order.

Srijut BELIRAM DAS: Was this breakage due to some accident ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: That cannot be stated. Col. Oag said that the breakage was due to the negligence of the Serang but others differ from this opinion.

Srijut BELIRAM DAS: Are we to understand that he has not given expert opinion in this matter because within two months the steamer could not have been out of order ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: That is matter of opinion. When the steamer was in Calcutta they said that it was in good order and then it was brought to Assam. What happened between Calcutta and Assam nobody can say. Whether it was not in good condition when it was sent from Calcutta or whether it got out of order after it left Calcutta that cannot be said.

Srijut BELIRAM DAS: Did Government think it wise to get it examined by their own expert in this Province ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I cannot say that we have experts in our Province but one of the Assistant Mechanical Engineers went to Calcutta and the expert of the Government of India together with him said that the steamer was in good order and was sent to Assam.

Srijut BELIRAM DAS: Will Government refer the matter to the Government of India and point out to them that due to the negligence of their officer this breakage took place ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: From the reply of the Hon'ble Minister does this question arise ?

Srijut BELIRAM DAS : Because the life of people was in danger. The steamer was rolling like anything in the midstream and there was imminent danger of loss of life. The examiner is said to be an expert of the Government of India then how could it get out of order after plying two months ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Order, Order. What is your question ?

Srijut BELIRAM DAS : Will Government be pleased to bring this serious matter to the notice of the Government of India and say that there was negligence on the part of the expert of the Government of India ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The first part of the question is in order. Will the Hon'ble Minister give a reply ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : When we heard that the steamer was out of order we immediately wrote to the Government of India to send their expert to see what was the trouble, because the steamer belongs to the Government of India and it is used in the National Highway. The money is from the Government of India and not from this Government. We wrote to them but they said that they could not send any man and asked us to see to this ourselves and employ our own Mechanic here in Assam. So we had to employ our Mechanical Engineer who is now repairing the steamer and perhaps within two weeks' time will bring the steamer into working condition.

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA : Where is this being repaired ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : The engines were taken to Jorhat and repaired there and the Mechanical Engineer has taken them now to Goalpara to fit them in the steamer.

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN : In regard to the reply to (n) of Question 11, I understood the Hon'ble Minister to say that a letter was sent to the Chief Engineer by a Member of the Legislature and that a communique was issued on the 20th of June 1949. Will Government consider issuing instructions that when letters are sent by Members of the Legislative Assembly, replies should be addressed to them personally ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : Sometimes replies are sent to the Members and also to the public who send the question to us, but as this is a matter which is known publicly in the papers everywhere, it was considered that it was only necessary to issue a communique so that every body would know what the condition is. If there was a mistake that the hon. Member did not get a reply from the Chief Engineer, Sir, I am sorry that the Member was not informed.

Road Communication in the Northern part of the Dhubri Subdivision

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEV of Sidli asked :

*12. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) If it is a fact that a number of representations were made by the people of the backward locality in Kokrajhar Police Station in Dhubri Subdivision regarding the want of communication in the northern part of the Dhubri Subdivision while presenting an address to His Excellency the Governor of Assam during his recent tour in that area ?

(b) If Government intend to take any action in this matter to remove the long-felt want of the backward people ?

(c) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

12. (a)—Yes

(b)—Action depends upon the funds required becoming available.

(c)—Does not arise.

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA : May I know if the area in question is a paddy growing area and a paddy surplus area ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : Does the question arise, Sir ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : How is the Hon'ble Minister supposed to know that ?

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA : May I know whether the Hon'ble Minister for Public Works Department and the Hon'ble Premier gave a note on their visit to this place that there is no proper road for bringing paddy from that area ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Note to whom ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : Notes are surely not the subject-matter of discussion in the Assembly.

Supply of Atta in Gauhati

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN asked :

*13.(a) Are Government aware that the Atta supplied to Gauhati since the month of June 1949 is not at all fit for human consumption ?

(b) If so, what steps Government have taken to import good Atta ?

(c) Are Government aware that bad Atta is the main cause of the so many diseases and in view of that whether Government propose to supply whole wheat to the rationed areas ?

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

13.(a)—Government have not received any complaint to that effect. The Deputy Commissioner is being enquired if he has received any such complaint.

(b).—Does not arise.

(c)—Government agree that bad foodstuff may cause diseases. The question of supplying whole wheat to the rationed areas is not in the contemplation of the Government at present.

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN: With regard to 13(a), Sir, I myself submitted complaint as the Secretary of the Fancybazar Co-operative Society to the Deputy Commissioner. Will Government enquire the Deputy Commissioner whether he received the representation or not ?

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): We have referred the matter to the Deputy Commissioner and his reply is awaited.

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN: The Deputy Commissioner informed me that Atta received was not of good quality.

Srijut BELIRAM DAS: May I request the hon. Parliamentary Secretary to take immediate action so that no bad Atta is sold at Gauhati ?

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): Certainly, I shall see to that and shall enquire as to whether the Atta deteriorated due to bad storage, or due to defects in the despatching end.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: May I know from Government whether they have received such complaints from other parts of the Province that Atta received there are unfit for human consumption ?

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): So far I remember, certain complaints were received from Nowgong which I saw in the press that the Deputy Commissioner took necessary action. But I have no information of any other place.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: May I inform Government that there is huge accumulation of such Atta at Golaghat of which 40 to 50 bags were seized by the Public Health Department, who declared it as unfit for public consumption.

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): I see no reason of making any enquiry as reported by the hon. Member. The Public Health Department has already taken step.

Names of Hon'ble Ministers who visited Goalpara

Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE asked :

*14. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The names of the Hon'ble Ministers with their respective portfolios who visited Goalpara during the period from January 1947 to the end of July, 1949 ?

(b) Which of these Hon'ble Ministers appointed time, and place, granting interviews to persons at Goalpara ?

(c) Whether the interviews were actually held ?

(d) If not, why not ?

(e) The reasons for not granting interviews to visitors by other Hon'ble Ministers ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

14. (a)—A Statement giving the information in detail is given below.

A detailed statement showing the visits of Hon'ble Ministers to Goalpara from January 1947 to the end of July 1949

Serial No.	Names of Hon'ble Ministers	Portfolios	Date of arrival	Date of departure	Remarks
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1	Hon'ble Srijut R. N. Brahma ..	Forests, etc. ..	21-12-1947 (7 p.m.) 11-4-1948 (6 p.m.) 22-4-1948 (6 p.m.) 5-11-1948 (6 p.m.) 9-11-1948 (1 p.m.) 6-1-1949 (12 noon) 17-2-1949 (8 p.m.)	22-12-1947 (11 a.m.) 12-4-1948 (8 a.m.) 23-4-1948 (8 a.m.) 6-11-1948 (2 p.m.) 10-11-1948 (1 p.m.) 7-1-1949 (9 a.m.) 18-2-1949 (8 a.m.)	
2	Hon'ble Maulavi A. M. Mazumdar.	Agriculture, L.S.-G., etc.	25-8-1947 (6-30 p.m.) 17-12-1947 (6 p.m.) 20-12-1947 (11-30 a.m.) 17-2-1948 (5 p.m.)	27-8-1947 (12 noon) 18-12-1947 (10 a.m.) 10-12-1947 (2 p.m.) 18-2-1948 (8 a.m.)	
3	Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy.	P. W.D., etc. ..	8-10-1947 (7 p.m.) 4-8-1948 (9 p.m.) 22-2-1949 (12 noon)	9-10-1947 (9 a.m.) 5-8-1948 (9 a.m.) 22-2-1949 (4 p.m.)	
4	Hon'ble Srijut R. N. Das ..	Medical, etc. ..	21-4-1947 (5 p.m.) 24-4-1947 (4 p.m.)	29-4-1947 (1 p.m.) 25-4-1947 (8 a.m.)	
5	Hon'ble Srijut B. R. Medhi ..	Finance, etc. ..	18-4-1948 22-4-1948 11-10-1948	(on way to Kokrajhar. 23-4-1948 (on way to Dhubri).	Time of arrival and departure not available at present.
6	Hon'ble Srijut Omeo Kumar Das.	Food, Labour, etc.	9-6-1948 21-4-1949	(on way to Dhubri). 22-4-1949	Ditto.
7	Hon'ble Maulana Md. Tay-yebulla.	Excise, etc. ..	26-2-1949 (halt on the way to Cooch Behar).	27-2-1949	Ditto.
8	Hon'ble Srijut G. N. Bardoloi	Premier, Assam	25-3-1947 3-10-1947 18-2-1948 5-2-1949 (from Sorbhog).	26-3-1947 4-10-1947 19-2-1948 6-2-1949	Dates of visits from March 1948 onwards not available.

(b) to (e)—It is not possible to furnish all the details in respect of interviews granted by each Hon'ble Minister but it is certain that no individual or party asking for an interview with any Hon'ble Minister was ever refused.

Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE: With regard to (e), Sir, is it not a fact that now-a-days generally the Hon'ble Ministers do not grant interviews to the public ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: I am not aware of it, Sir.

Maulavi MD NAZMAL HAQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister see that in future if any Hon'ble Minister goes to a particular place he grants interviews to the public ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: In some visit of an Hon'ble Minister it might not be possible to grant interviews due to his pre-arranged engagements. Sometimes he happens to pass through a place and he might not have enough time at his disposal to grant interviews to the public in places through which he passes. But I can say that every Hon'ble Minister is anxious to meet public and to get their views.

Srijut BELIRAM DAS: As regards question (a) and (b), Sir, may I enquire of the Hon'ble Minister, whether it is a fact that wherever and whenever any Hon'ble Minister goes out for tour in the interior, he is so received and surrounded by some admirers and that other people do not get a chance to have frank discussion with him ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order, I disallow this question.

Shillong-Silchar Road

Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA and Maulavi MAKABBIR ALI MAZUMDAR asked :

*15. (a) Is it a fact that there was a sudden and abrupt change of alignment from the western face to the eastern face of the same hill, between mile posts 209 to 219 on the Shillong-Silchar Road ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether the change of line was done after the Superintending Engineer and the Chief Engineer, Assam, had visited the site and whether prior sanction was obtained from the Central and the Provincial Governments in the matter ?

(c) Is it a fact that the said change of alignment had already involved the payment of a compensation of Rs.75,000 to the contractors and further claims of an equal amount are awaiting payment ?

(d) If the answer to question (b) above be in the negative, and (c) in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state who is responsible for those irregularities and what action Government contemplate to take against the person or persons responsible ?

(e) Is it a fact that the Chief Engineer, Assam has no financial powers to pay compensation of Rs.75,000 ?

(f) If so, will Government be pleased to state, which authority sanctioned the payment of compensation of the said sum of Rs.75,000 ?

(g) Will Government be pleased to state whether the new line on the eastern face as referred to in question (a) above was thoroughly examined by the Superintending Engineer and the Chief Engineer, Assam from the Engineering point of view and found sound ?

- (h) If not, who is responsible for such unauthorised change ?
 (i) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have received the comparative estimate of the cost of the alignments—new and abandoned ?
 (j) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether those estimates were prepared by an expert other than those responsible for the diversion ?
 (k) If the answer to question (i) above be in the negative, do Government propose to have the cost re-estimated by non-official experts ?

*16. (a) Are Government aware or have received complaints to the effect that the Executive Engineer, Shri Raman Chandra Das tampered with the recorded measurements of several contractors of the Shillong-Silchar and Silchar-Aijal Roads, in the absence of the contractors concerned and that the Cachar Contractors' Association, Silchar drew the attention of the authorities in the matter ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what action has been taken against the said Executive Engineer ?

(c) If not, will Government be pleased to state whether they have enquired into the allegations made by individual contractors and the Cachar Contractors' Association ?

*17. (a) Is it a fact that not a single furlong of work on the Shillong-Silchar Road commenced under the said Executive Engineer, Shri Raman Chandra Das, has been made jeepable during the last 8 months ?

(b) If so, why ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state on what basis they have announced that the Shillong-Silchar Road became jeepable in April last ?

(d) Did any jeep ever ply from Shillong to Silchar along this road ?
 *18. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the report obtained by the Chief Engineer, Assam from the Subdivisional Officer, Shri A. C. Ghosh, B.E., about the affairs of the Shillong-Silchar Road under the Silchar Public Works Division ?

*19. (a) Is it a fact that the Cachar Contractors' Association, Silchar waited on deputation to the Chief Engineer and the Superintending Engineer to represent the grievances of the contractors of the Shillong-Silchar Road under the Silchar Division and that the Superintending Engineer made investigations on the spot in May last ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the relevant report of the Superintending Engineer and the action taken by Government thereon ?

*20. (a) Is it a fact that under the specific orders of the Superintending Engineer payments are to be made to the Contractors at least once a month ?

(b) Are Government aware or have received complaints to the effect that many contractors of Silchar Division have received no payment for the last six months ?

(c) If the answer to questions (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why the orders of the Superintending Engineer have not been acted upon ?

*21. (a) Is it a fact that prior to his transfer to Silchar Division, Shri Raman Chandra Das took over charge for the first time as Executive Engineer in the Embankment and Drainage Division, Gauhati ?

(b) Is it a fact that in the Embankment and Drainage Division the said Shri Raman Chandra Das was in charge of a work to protect a privately owned fruit garden at Burnihat at Government expense in the name of River Training ?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state who was the owner of that fruit garden ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the report submitted by Mr. Gidwani, successor of Shri Raman Chandra Das to higher authorities about some grave irregularities in measurement committed by the said Shri Raman Chandra Das ?

(e) In view of the constant friction between Shri Raman Chandra Das, Executive Engineer and the Contractors and the extremely poor progress of work and the allegations made against the said Shri Raman Chandra Das, do Government propose to order public enquiry into the affairs of the Silchar Public Works Division ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

15. (a)—Yes but not abruptly.

(b)—No.

(c)—It is understood that a sum of Rs.45,929 has been paid to the contractors for the cost of labour sheds in original alignment and also a sum of Rs.23,538 paid for work done in the abandoned line. It is also reported that the contractors have submitted a further claim of Rs.86,036 for loss of man days the admissibility for which is questionable.

(d)—From the position so far examined it is calculated that the savings in mileage and cost on the changed alignment will by far outweigh the infructuous expenditure on the abandoned line.

(e)—No.

(f)—No sum of Rs.75,000 is involved in this case. The only payments reported to be made in this connection are those mentioned in reply to Question 15 (c).

The Executive Engineer has authority to make payments for the work done. It is being examined whether the payments made for any item were beyond the Executive Engineer's powers.

(g)—No.

(h)—There is no unauthorised change. The Executive Engineer is no doubt responsible for this change of alignment. As stated in reply to Question 15 (d) this change bids well for financial gain for the Government.

(i)—Yes. The Statement is under scrutiny.

(j)—Such estimates are prepared by the Divisional Officers concerned. They are not accepted as accurate until examined by competent higher technical authority.

(k)—Does not arise.

16. (a)—The Executive Engineer is competent to check measure the works and if in the course of his check measurement any discrepancy in the original measurement is detected he corrects the measurement and such corrections are within his competence. This does not constitute any tampering with the recorded measurements.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—All complaints are duly being investigated into.

Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA: With regard to (c), is it a fact that the said Executive Engineer cancelled many contracts without notice and in a particular case after the allotment of the contract on the 5th or 6th day he cancelled the contract and gave to one stranger accompanying him ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I require notice of that question. It is a particular case which must be investigated.

The Hon'bl Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

17. (a)—No.
 (b)—Does not arise.
 (c)—This is not a fact.
 (d)—No.
18. No such report was obtained.
19. (a)—Yes.
 (b)—It is not considered appropriate to do so, in public interest.
20. (a)—Yes. Payment for works are ordinarily to be made monthly. The Superintending Engineer only emphasised this in his instruction issued in May last.
 (b)—Yes. Some cases of delay in payment have been brought to the notice of the Government.
 (c)—Executive Engineer is making all endeavours to carry out the instructions and to make expeditious payments as far as practicable.
21. (a)—Yes.
 (b)—No. Sri R. C. Das was in-charge of the River Training work at Burnihat, which was undertaken to prevent erosion of bank. There are several gardens at Burnihat on the banks of the Burnihat river affected by this.
 (c)—One of the fruit gardens at Burnihat belongs to the United Fruit Company Limited.
 (d)—No such report was submitted.
 (e)—Government are looking into the matter. They do not consider that there is any contingency warranting a public enquiry.

Conference of Education Ministers

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEV of Sidli asked :

- *22. Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) If it is a fact that the Education Ministers of the Provinces and States decided in a Conference held recently in Delhi that mother tongue of the students should be the medium of instruction in primary stage of education ?
- (b) Whether Government propose to lay on the table a copy of the Resolution passed by the Conference of the Education Ministers?
- (c) If the answer to the question (a) is in the affirmative, whether Government propose to issue a circular to the relative officers in the Education Department and the heads of institutions to follow the decision of the Education Ministers?
- (d) Whether Government propose to instruct the Subdivisional Primary Education Committees to follow the above decision?

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary) replied

22. (a)—Yes.
 (b) —A copy is placed on the library table.
 (c) —(d) This is already under consideration of Government.

Assam Railway Workshop at Tengaigaon

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEV of Sidli asked :

- *23. (a) Will Government be pleased to state—
- (i) If it is a fact that a workshop for Assam Railway will be established at Tengaigaon in Sidli Police Station in Dhubri ;
- (ii) if it is a fact that land amounting to about hundred acres will be acquired by Government for the purpose ;

- (iii) if it is a fact that most of the land proposed to be acquired is settled;
- (iv) if it is a fact that some people of the locality appealed to Government to spare their homestead lands; and
- (v) if it is a fact that no regular notice was served to the proprietor of the land for the acquisition?
- (b) If the answers to the above questions are in the affirmative will Government be pleased to state—
 - (i) how much land will be actually required for the proposed workshop;
 - (ii) when will the actual construction start;
 - (iii) what kind of land will be acquired; and
 - (iv) how will the amount of compensation be determined?

The Hon'ble Sri JUT RAMNATH DAS replied:

23. (a) (i)—Yes at Bongaigaon.

(ii)—Yes.

(iii)—No. A large portion is grazing ground.

(iv)—Yes.

(v)—Yes. As required under section 4 of the Land Acquisition Act, the substance of the notification was announced in the locality.

(b) (i)—The area notified is 1450 acres. The exact area required is not known at present, but is not likely to exceed this.

(ii)—The work is expected to start during the coming winter.

(iii)—All kinds of land that fall within the area notified under Revenue Department Notification No. RA. 57/49-5, dated the 21st March, 1949.

(iv)—In accordance with the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act.

Motor accidents in different districts of Province

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE asked:

*24. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of Motor accidents that occurred on roads in urban and rural areas in the different districts of Assam during the year 1948 and upto 31st July, 1949 due to rash and negligent driving?
- (b) Number of persons killed and injured in such accidents?
- (c) Steps, if any, taken by Government to reduce the incidents of such accidents?
- (d) Whether any Speed-limit has been prescribed by Government for motor vehicles plying on roads in urban and rural areas?
- (e) If so, what is that speed-limit?
- (f) What steps are taken by Government to enforce such speed-limit?
- (g) Whether it is a fact that 'a Road-Sense Movement' was started a few years back?
- (h) If so, what was the result of that movement?
- (i) Whether Government propose to revive the movement?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

24. (a)—Statistics are available for the year ending 31st March 1949. No separate statistics maintained for rural and urban areas. Number of accidents due to rash and negligent driving—140.

(b)—Total number of persons killed—69.

Total number of persons injured—353.

But all these are not due to rash and negligent driving, as the figures include all casualties, whether purely accidental or otherwise. Separate figures are not available.

(c)(1)—Traffic is regulated at fixed points by constables in Municipal areas.

(2)—Offenders against Traffic Regulations are prosecuted under the law applicable.

(3)—Examination of professional drivers by Motor Vehicles Inspector and Medical Officers.

(d) & (e)—Rule 129 of the Motor Vehicle Rules prescribes a speed-limit of 20 miles per hour in Municipal limits.

Special Rules in Shillong :—

Car and Station Wagons—25 miles per hour.

Light Transport Vehicles—20 miles per hour.

Heavy Transport Vehicles—15 miles per hour.

(f)—When detected, drivers exceeding the speed-limit are prosecuted.

(g)—The following recommendations were made by a Special Officer appointed in 1938 to study this question, *viz.* (1) Selected Police Officers should speak on "Safety First" in educational institutions. (2) Exhibit "Safety First" films in Cinema Houses. (3) Publish "Safety First" hints in the Assam Police Motorists Hand Book in local languages and English for free distribution.

Item (1) was implemented but had to be abandoned during the War, (2) and (3) could not be implemented as no funds were available. Some Cinema Houses did, however, exhibit such films at the request of the Safety First Association.

(h)—Very little public interest was shown and the results were negligible.

(i)—In view of the experience gathered as stated in reply to question (h) it does not seem any use restarting action on the same lines.

Sri Ganpat Roy Nunia, Rural Development Instructor

Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA asked :

*25. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether Sri Ganpat Roy Nunia has been appointed as the Rural Development Instructor for the Kabuganj Panchayat Area of Cachar ?

(b) If so, what is his educational qualifications and the special reasons, if any, which led Government to appoint him to this post ?

(c) Are Government aware that the said Sri Ganpat Roy Nunia is an ex-tea garden labourer of Rajnagar Thana of the East Pakistan ?

(d) Are Government aware that the said Sri Ganpat Roy Nunia has converted an autograph given by the Hon'ble Labour Minister of the Government of India, Sri Jagjiban Ram, to a certificate and that forged certificate was seized by Srijut Manik Kakaty, Officer-in-charge of the Sonai Thana and shown as an exhibit in connection with a case against Sri Ganpat Roy Nunia for "Bad livelihood" ?

(e) Are Government aware or have received complaints to the effect that before his appointment as the Rural Development Instructor, Sri Ganpat Roy Nunia styled himself as Labour Welfare Supervisor before the innocent villagers

and labourers of Tea Estates and cheated many persons of villages on the promise of giving Forest Reserve Lands, Government service and sheltering in Criminal cases ?

(f) Is it a fact that the Police had to drop the prosecution for bad livelihood against him due to the fact that while the case was sub-judice he was appointed as Rural Development Officer ?

(g) Are Government aware or have received complaints to the effect that the said Sri Ganpat Roy Nunia has been creating faction in the Labour Unions inciting the labourers against the I. N. T. U. C. and has been agitating among the cultivators with Slogans "Langal Jar Jami Tar": "Jal Jar Mach Tar", etc. ?

(h) Do Government propose to make a thorough and speedy enquiry on the facts stated above and take necessary action against the said Sri Ganpat Roy Nunia ?

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

25. (a)—Yes. Shri Ganpat Roy Nunia has been appointed a Rural Instructor for the Silchar Subdivision.

(b)—He is a matriculate and recommended as a social service worker.

(c)—May be so but now Government information is that he has settled down in the Indian Union.

(d), (e), (f), (g) & (h)—Government have received such complaints and these are being enquired into.

Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA : Will Government take it from me that the said Ganpat Roy Nunia who has been appointed Rural Development Instructor for the Kabuganj Panchyat Area in Cachar, does not know even 3R's, not to speak of being a Matriculate. And there was no verification by Thana before his appointment ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : What is the source of your information ?

Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA : The man spells labour as "লৈভা"ৰ. I am in day to day contact with that man, Sir.

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) : We have received such complaints from the hon. Questioner and these are being enquired into. When the Assam Public Service Commission invited applications for the Rural Development Instructors there were very few applicants from the Silchar Subdivision, and at the same time, when we wanted to start the Panchayats we thought that the Rural Instructors should start the work of rural propaganda very early. So, we had to appoint him. But now if the allegations made against him by the hon. Questioner, which are being enquired into, are found to be correct necessary action will be taken.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Creation of a new subdivision in Kamrup District**Srijut LAKSHMIDHAR BORAH** asked :

56. (a) Are Government aware of the rival claims for a subdivision in Nalbari and Rangiya ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state if they have considered the question ?

(c) Whether Government have finally dropped the proposal ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

56. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The issue has been postponed for the time being.

Inclusion of China as Foodgrains**Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM** asked :

57. Will Government be pleased to state why they have added China to Schedule I to the Assam Foodgrains Control Order, 1947 ?

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

57.—Because it is used as a foodgrain.

Rice Control Staff**Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM** asked :

58. (a) Are Government aware that corruptions are rampant among the checkers and other officers of the Rice Control Staff ?

(b) Are Government aware that corruption is growing rapidly specially in the border areas ?

59. (a) Is it a fact that there is lack of supervision and control over the staff of rice control (subordinate staff) due to dual control of Assistant Director of Procurement and Assistant Director of Rice Control ?

(b) Will Government amalgamate these two controlling authorities for effective administration and economy in expenditure ?

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

58. (a) & (b)—Government have no such information.

59. (a)—Government have no such information.

(b)—The functions of these two branches are somewhat different and therefore there are difficulties in amalgamation.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: With regard to Question No.58 (a) and (b), may I know whether at least on receipt of these questions Government wanted to ascertain whether corruption is rampant in those areas ?

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA: (Parliamentary Secretary): Certainly, Sir, whenever such questions are received Government give due consideration to them and take necessary step.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: Are Government prepared to make necessary enquiries and take action if specific allegations are made ?

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): Certainly, Sir, I shall be grateful if the hon. Member gives specific instances.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: May I know whether Government have received any information from either the Deputy Commissioner, Goalpara, or the Deputy Commissioner, Garo Hills, regarding certain allegations I made against one officer, who has recently been promoted ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: This is a vevy vague question. What are the allegations ?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: Allegations of corruption against some of the Rice Control staff, Sir.

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): I do not remember to have received any such complaint.

Taking over of a Road between Kaithalkuchi Railway Station and Nalbari-Palla Public Works Department Road by Government

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked:

60. (a) Whether they have received a copy of a resolution adopted at a public meeting of the people of the Dharmapur Mauza, Police Station Nalbari held at Chamata on 10th July 1949 requesting the Government to take over the short road (3½ miles in length) connecting the Kaithalkuchi Railway Station with the Nalbari-Palla Public Works Department Road at Chamata ?

(b) Whether they have also received a petition, dated 14th August 1949 signed by Srijut Radhanath Barkataki and many others (addressed to the Chief Engineer, Assam) on the same subject and containing a similar request ?

(c) If so, what steps Government propose to take to satisfy these public requests ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied:

60. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes. Received on 13th September 1949.

(c)—Due to curtailment of Post-War Development grants, no new project can be taken up now.

Kisan Ttrading Co-operative of Lakhiganj Bazar

Maulavi MD. MAKSED ALI asked:

61. (a) Are Government aware that the Kisan Trading Co-operative of Lakhiganj Bazar organised in December 1948 is now functioning and that the necessary papers for its registration were sent to Shillong long ago.

(b) Why no information has yet been sent about the registration of that Society ?

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

61. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The registration papers were despatched to the Society on 23rd March 1949 and the fact of registration was duly published in the Gazette.

Price of rice and paddy at Bilashipara

Maulavi MD. MAKSED ALI asked :

62. (a) Are Government aware that paddy is being sold at present in the Dhubri Subdivision specially at Bilashipara at Rs. 15 to Rs 16 per maund ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether Bilashipara is within the surplus area ?

(c) If so, why paddy is being sold there above the control rate ?

(d) Are Government aware that rice is also being sold at $1\frac{1}{2}$ seers to $1\frac{1}{4}$ seers a rupee both at Bilashipara and Lakhiganj Bazar at present ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state why the paddy and rice controlling officers are not enforcing control rates at places mentioned above ?

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

62. (a)—Owing to a sudden flood in August there was rise in the market prices of paddy. But Government have no information that the prices are so high at Bilashipara.

(b)—Bilashipara is in a surplus area.

(c)—Owing to temporary scarcity resulting from heavy rains, flood and bad communications prices sometimes go up.

(d)—Government have no information.

(e)—Government have no information that the control rates are not being enforced but under certain circumstances *e.g.*, heavy and sudden flood strict price control proves detrimental to the public interest.

Secretariat Amalgamated Roll

Srijut BELIRAM DAS asked :

63. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they have now suspended publication of the Secretariat Amalgamated Roll ?

(b) Are Government aware of the feeling of the Secretariat staff that due to non-publication of Secretariat Amalgamated Roll regularly just regard is not given to cases of confirmation and promotion of the Assistants ?

(c) Whether Government have lately received representations about their grievances in this regard ?

(d) If so, what action has been taken on these representations ?

- (e) Whether Government propose to lay on the table a list of names of permanent Upper Division and Lower Division Assistants in the Assam Secretariat showing their seniority and service as they stand now?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied:

63. (a)—The Secretariat Amalgamated Roll now under preparation will be published as soon as it is final and ready for publication.

(b)—Government are aware that the preparation and publication of the roll would facilitate confirmation and promotion and are therefore doing their best to expedite such preparation.

(c)—No.

(d)—Does not arise.

(e)—A provisional list is placed below.

PERMANENT UPPER DIVISION ASSISTANTS, ASSAM SECRETARIAT

1. Sree Hirendra Chandra Sen.
2. „ Sudha Sindhu Roy.
3. „ Dharendra Nath Gupta.
4. „ Dharmeswar Barua.
5. „ Satyendra Mohan Gupta.
6. „ Debendra Kumar De.
7. „ Amulya Bhusan Chaudhury.
8. „ Jibeswar Goswami (on deputation).
9. „ Nagendra Nath Chakravarty.
10. „ Monoranjan Chaudhury.
11. „ Hironmoy Chaudhury.
12. „ Hemendra Narayan Chaudhury.
13. „ Ratneswar Barthakur.
14. „ Raghab Chandra Das.
15. Maulavi Md. Wahedulla.
16. Sree Dharma Ram Bordoloi.
17. „ Paramananda Singh.
18. U Peary Mohan Roy (on deputation).
19. „ P. E. Swer.
20. Maulavi Sherafuddin Chowdhury.
21. „ Inamuddin Ahmed.
22. Sree Taresh Chandra Bhattacharjee.
23. Maulavi Md. Hussain.
24. „ Baharuddin Ahmed.
25. Sree Golap Chandra Barua.
26. „ Hara Kanta Borkakoti.
27. „ Ishita Chandra Biswas.
28. „ Satyalal Mitra.
29. „ Ram Dutta Medhi.
30. „ Phanindra Nath Sen Gupta.
31. „ Arabinda Senapati.
32. „ Charu Chandra Bordoloi (on deputation).
33. Sree Prafulla Kamal Das (on deputation).
34. Maulavi Nawab Ahmed Shah.
35. Sree Chandra Kumar Mazumdar.
36. „ Debendra Nath Das.
37. „ Rama Kanta Das.
38. „ Bhadra Kanta Barua.
39. „ Kunja Behari Barua.
40. „ Jatindra Nath Kakoti.

UPPER DIVISION ASSISTANTS—*concl'd.*

41. „ Jagesh Ch. Choudhury (on deputation).
42. „ Iswar Ch. Dutta.
43. Maulavi Md. Hussain Bora.
44. Sree Prafulla Chandra Sarma.
45. „ Krishan Ram Das.
46. „ Nripendra Kumar Deb
47. „ Uttam Chandra Barua
48. „ Pranada Kanta Sarma
49. „ Naba Kishore Patni
50. „ Debeswar Bardoloi
51. „ Lokodhar Chaudhury
52. „ Sadananda Saikia
53. Maulavi Nawab Abul Hussain
54. U Donelton Passah.
55. Sree Haridas Hazarika.
56. „ Lohit Chandra Kakoti.
57. „ Satyanath Barua.
58. „ Madhabananda Bezbarua.
59. „ Jatindra Nath Bezbarua.
60. „ Mukti Nath Khaund.
61. „ Dhirendra Mohan Hazarika.
62. U Phedro Singh.
63. Sree Hamenta Kakoti.
64. Maulavi Nasibur Rahman (on deputation).
65. Sree Dhanapati Sarma Roy.
66. „ Haripada Talukdar.
67. „ Narendra Nath De.

} Seniority under consideration.

LOWER DIVISION ASSISTANTS

1. Maulavi Mazharul Anwar Hazarika.
2. „ Anjuman Ali
3. Sree Lalitram Hazarika
4. „ Jogendra Nath Borthakur.
5. „ Birendra Nath Gohain
6. „ Joyram Das
7. „ Umeswar Neog
8. „ Lakshmi Kanta Das.
9. M. Brodieson Lister.
10. Sree Lohit Chandra Lahon.
11. Maulavi Habibulla Taffil Ahmed.
12. „ Kutubuddin Ahmed.
13. „ Md. Rofique.
14. Sree Harendra Nath Borkakoti (on deputation).
15. „ Ganges Narayan De.
16. Sree Atul Chandra Barua (on deputation).
17. Maulavi Sahar Ali.
18. Sree Ugra Kanta Kakoti (on deputation).
19. „ Krisna Prasad Barua.
20. „ Bibhuti Nath Khound (on deputation).
21. „ Kalipada Bhattacharjee.
22. U S. B. Nongrum.
23. Maulavi Faizur Rahman.
24. U Singh Manik Syiem.
25. Maulavi Eyar Ali.
26. Sree Madhab Ch. Das I.

LOWER DIVISION ASSISTANTS—*contd.*

27. „ Bhabendra Nath Bhattacharjee.
28. „ Sibnath Barua.
29. „ Jyotish Chandra Medhi.
30. U H. R. Diengdoh.
31. Sree Dhaniram Das.
32. U Joreslington Roy.
33. Sree Upendra Kumar Nag.
34. „ Madhab Chandra Das II.
35. „ Premomay Bhattacharjee (on deputation).
36. „ Birendra Kumar Nath.
37. „ Tara Bhusan Barua.
38. „ Sudhir R. Paul (on deputation).
39. „ Sidheswar Sarma.
40. Maulavi Nizamuddin Ahmed.
41. Sree Sarat Chandra Hazarika.
42. „ Naresh Tarafdar.
43. U Stan L. Roy.
44. Sree Girija Kumar Das.
45. „ Jogendra Narayan Goswami.
46. „ Dharma K. Nath.
47. „ Nirmal Chandra Bhattacharjee.
48. „ Kameswar Sarma.
49. „ Chakrapani Mohanta.
50. „ Kamaleswar Bhattacharjee.
51. „ Mathur P. Bezbarua.
52. „ Bholanath Das.
53. „ Haresh Chandra Phookan (on deputation).
54. „ Mohini Mohan Bora.
55. „ Nishi Kanta Chaudhury (on deputation)
56. „ Debendra N. Borthakur.
57. „ Gopal Chandra Dutta.
58. „ Nirod Barua.
59. „ Nirod Bhowmik.
60. „ Roseswar Gogoi.
61. „ Raghunath Bora.
62. „ Sulav Chandra Sarma.
63. „ Krishan Kr. Borgohain.
64. „ Dil Bahadur Poon.
65. Maulavi Atikur Rahman.
66. U Sterlingson Roy.
67. Sree Nanī Gopal Das.
68. „ Dharendra Kumar Bora.
69. U Kotson Roy.
70. Sree Tilock Ch. Sarma Bordoloi.
71. „ Amiya Bhusan Sen.
72. „ Krishna Kr. Sinha.
73. „ Madhab Ch. Bhattacharjee.
74. „ Kamini Mohan Deka.
75. „ Digendra Ch. Paul (on deputation).
76. „ Dharma Kanta Sarma.
77. „ Digendra Chandra Biswas.
78. „ Sisir Kr. Chaudhury.
79. „ Khagendra Nath Ozah.

LOWER DIVISION ASSISTANTS—*contd.*

80. „ Basanta Narayan Kouwar
81. „ Mahendra Narayan Roy
82. U Dress Mohan Roy
83. Sree Chandra Kanta Bordoloi
84. „ Paramananda Roy Chaudhury (on deputation).
85. „ Bhabendra Chandra Medhi
86. „ Niranjan Das
87. Srijut Krishna Kanta Dutta
88. Mr. Kindrik Singh
89. Srijut Dharmeswar Bora (on deputation)
90. „ Hem Chandra Hazarika
91. Mr. Julian Oscar Roy
92. Srijut Bhrigaram Maral
93. Babu Jogesh Chandra Kar
94. „ Rama Prasanna Bhattacharjee
95. „ Benoy Bhusan Bhattacharjee
96. Srijut Mahesh Chandra Nath (on deputation)
97. „ Bipin Chandra Sarma
98. „ Ramananda Kakati
99. „ Prabhat Chandra Das
100. „ Bholanath Sarma
101. „ Gurudatta Sarma Bhagawati (on deputation)
102. „ Dharma Kanta Goswami
103. „ Uday Chandra Barman
104. „ Paresh Chandra Rajkhowa
105. „ Bimala Mohan Kakoti (on deputation)
106. „ Thikeswar Goswami
107. „ Bananali Goswami
108. „ Kanbapa Khatanar
109. „ Rameswar Barua
110. „ Hridayananda Pathak
111. Mr. Raylandson Lyngdoh
112. „ Ronel Hill
113. „ D. R. Daniel (on deputation)
114. „ Willyson Roy
115. „ Herbert Henkai
116. Maulavi Masraf Ali
117. „ Basiruddin Chaudhury (on deputation)
118. „ Jahirul Haque
119. „ Abdul Manaf Chaudhury
120. Babu Satyendra Kumar Chanda
121. „ Satish Chandra Purkayastha
122. „ Sitiesh Chandra Bhattacharjee
123. „ Manindra Kumar Tarat
124. „ Monoranjan Mazumdar
125. Mr. H. M. Hossack
126. Srijut Kunja Mohan Das
127. Mr. Laloit Bran Tham
128. Babu Sachindra Kumar Das
129. „ Rabindra Mohan Bhattacharjee
130. „ Matindra Kumar Purkayastha
131. Srijut Prafulla Kumar Bordoloi
132. U. G. Mitchell

Seniority under
examination.

Students with Government Scholarships studying abroad

Maulavi ABDUL HALIM asked :

64. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The names of all the students sent so far with Government scholarships to the United Kingdom, America and other Foreign countries for higher studies ?
- (b) How many of these students have completed their studies ?
- (c) The subject of study for which scholarship was given to each of these students ?
- (d) Whether selection of these students were made by the Public Service Commission ?
- (e) If it is a fact that one Dr. B. N. Choudhury sent to England for Dental study has failed to pass his Examination ?

65. If the answer to Question No.64(e) above is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether the money spent for this student is proposed to be realised from him ?

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

64. (a) to (c)—A Statement giving the information is placed on the Library table.

(d)—In 1945-46 preliminary selection was made by the Public Service Commission and in subsequent years selected by the Committees in which the Chairman, Assam Public Service Commission was included, the final selections being made by Government.

(e)—No.

65.—Does not arise.

Maulavi ABDUL HALIM: May I know from Government whether it is a fact that Dr. B. N. Choudhury was first sent to the Dental College of London, but after sometime he had shifted to some other Dental College at Newcastle ?

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary): Yes, Sir, Dr. Choudhury was refused admission to the Post-Graduate Course in Dentistry in London as he was not a graduate in Dentistry.

Lease of Dikhow Ghat, Nazira

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

66. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Who are the persons who got the lease of the Dikhow ghat, Nazira, for the last three years ?
- (b) Who held it last year ?
- (c) To whom it has been given this year and why ?
- (d) Whose was the highest bid ?
- (e) What was the amount of that bid ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

66. (a)—Sk. Fazilatddin Ahmed got the lease of the Dikhowghat, Nazira for the last three years.

(b)—Sk. Fazilatddin Ahmed.

(c)—Sj. Lakhinath Das. Of all bidders he was considered most suitable.

(d)—The highest bid was of Sk. Fazilatddin Ahmed.

(e)—The amount of the highest bid was Rs 14,050.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: With regard to (e), the reply is "Of all bidders he was considered most suitable". May I know what is the standard of this suitability, so far as these bids are concerned ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : The highest bid, as I have stated, was Rs.14,050 given by S.K. Fazilatddin Ahmed. But Government had to consider many factors in confirming the sale, and considering all the circumstances Government thought that Srijut Lakhinath Das was the most suitable man with whom this ferry should be settled this year.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question has not been answered properly. I wanted to know what those factors were.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : Well, Sir, we have to consider many things, viz., communal representation, the locality where the man dwells, whether Government will lose money, and whether there are any objections against any of the bidders, etc. All these factors have got to be considered.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : Were all these factors taken into consideration when the ferry was settled with Sk. Fazilatddin Ahmed three years ago or has it been done only this time ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : These factors are always considered by Government when brought to their notice.

Maulavi MD. MAKSED ALI : May we know whether Srijut Lakhinath Das is related to any of the Hon'ble Ministers ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : I think I should reply to this question. The reply is "Yes".

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : Was that one of the factors ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : Government do not consider whether a man is related to a Minister or to an M. L. A., or, for the matter of that, anybody.

Firstly, Sir, this gentleman was a scheduled-caste man ; he held this ferry three years ago ; he also belongs to the locality and is willing to pay the highest amount of money which was offered at the sale. Government therefore considered that he was the most suitable man. Moreover there were objections from certain quarters regarding Sk. Fazilatddin Ahmed.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : May I know the amount at which the lease of the ghat was settled ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Order, order, next question.

Construction of roads in Barpeta Subdivision

Dr. JINARAM DAS asked :

67. (a) Will Government be pleased to state separately the amount of money spent for the years 1947-48 and 1948-49 for the construction of the Bhabanipur-Barpeta Road, Barpeta-Tarabari Road and Bhella-Palla Road in the Barpeta Subdivision ?

(b) Whether proper survey was made before construction of these roads and what was the estimated amount of money for each of these roads ?

(c) What amount was spent mile by mile for these roads during each of the years 1947-48 and 1948-49 ?

(d) Whether they have received complaints to the effect that some of the contractors of these roads had resorted to all sorts of corrupt practices to increase the quantity of earth they removed for the construction of these roads with the connivance of the Public Works Department officials ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have received a copy of a resolution of the District Congress Committee, Barpeta, stating

that there is much corruption in the working of the Public Works Department in the Barpeta Subdivision ?

(f) If the reply to the above question is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what steps, besides the conventional enquiry by the departmental heads, have been taken by them to stop such corrupt practices ?

(g) Are Government aware that there is great resentment among the local public for spending public money in such a way and also for the fact that the Government are doing nothing to allay the public feeling ?

(h) Are Government aware of the public feeling that the Public Works Department treat most of the public complaints so far as Barpeta Subdivision is concerned, as scraps of useless papers ?

(i) Do Government propose to take necessary steps to check corruptions by instituting a non-official enquiry into the working of the Public Works Department in Barpeta, and remeasuring the earth works done during the said years ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

		Expenditure figure for	
		1947-48	1948-49
		Rs.	Rs.
67 (a) (i)	—Barpeta-Bhabanipur Road ...	1,28,637	1,31,668
	(ii)—Barpeta-Tarabari Road ...	90,673	75,840
	(iii)—Bhella-Palla Road ...	89,955	55,639
(b)	—Yes. The rough estimated amount for each project is:—		
	(i)—Barpeta-Bhabanipur Road ...	...	Rs. 4,28,896
	(ii)—Barpeta-Tarabari Road ...	...	11,58,957
	(iii)—Bhella-Palla Road ...	...	4,35,022

N.B.—These figures are subject to modification at the time of technical sanction.

(c)—Expenditure figures are not maintained for each mile separately.

(d) & (e)—Yes.

(f)—None. Specific allegations have been thoroughly investigated and scrutinised by departmental officers and no corrupt practices were found.

(g)—No. There is no ground for resentment among the public. Unless concrete case of bribery, corruption, or nepotism against any member of the Public Works Department staff is brought to the notice of Government, it is not possible to take any action in general, except when infringement of any rules or practices is found.

(h)—No. Complaints from public receive the attention of Government and necessary Departmental enquiries are made.

(i)—Necessary check measurements of works are carried out by Supervisor officers and as is prescribed under the Rules.

Remeasuring all the earth work is not a practical proposition, considering the length of time which has elapsed.

Overseas Scholarships

Srijut BELI RAM DAS asked :

68. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) How many overseas scholarships have been granted by this Government within 1947-48, 1948-49 and in which subjects ?

(b) The names and qualification of the students receiving overseas scholarships in each subjects ?

(c) The period for which these scholarships have been granted ?

(d) Whether there has been any increase in the period in the case of any student ?

(e) If so, why ?

(f) How many students have been unsuccessful and what has been done with them ?

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

68. (a) to (e)—The scholarships granted in 1947-48—15, in 1948-49—20.

A statement giving other information is furnished below :—

Recipients of Overseas Scholarships

Serial No.	Name of the scholar	Educational Qualification	Subject	Year of selection	Period	Remarks
1.	Prabhat Ch. Sarma	.. M.A.	.. M. Ed.	.. 1947-48 ..	2 years.	
2.	Promode Lal Sarma	.. M.Sc.	.. Sugar Technology	.. "	"	
3.	Girindra Nath Barpujari	.. M.Sc.	.. Glass Manufacture	.. "	"	
4.	Wandier Singh Rynjah	.. M.Sc.	.. Geology	.. "	"	Cancelled.
5.	Haliram Dutta	.. M.A.	.. Statistics	.. "	"	
6.	Siragul Islam	.. M.A.	.. M. Ed.	.. "	"	Opted for Pakistan and has become the responsibility of Pakistan Government.
7.	Sarojum Abu-A-Sham Enajethulla	.. M.Sc.	.. Paper Manufacture	.. "	"	Ditto.
8.	Abdul Wahib	.. M.Sc.	.. Geophysics	.. "	"	Ditto.
9.	Wazihuddin Chaudhuri	.. B.E.	.. Electrical Engineering	.. "	"	Ditto.
10.	Amananda Nath Dutta Choudhuri	.. B.E.	.. River Training	.. "	"	The term of scholar was upto September 1949 but has been extended upto March, 1950 to enable the scholar to obtain M.S. degree and also practical Training.
11.	Herstingson Tham	.. B.A.	.. Co-operation..	.. "	"	

Serial No.	Name of the scholar	Educational Qualification	Subject	Year of selection	Period	Remarks
12	Miss Blue Bell Read	.. B.Sc.	.. Home Science	.. 1947-48 ..	2 years..	An extension of eight months given to enable her to obtain Ph. D. degree.
13	Brojendra Narayan Dowerah	.. B. Ag.	.. Genetics	..	..	Back already and appointed by the Agriculture Department.
14	Pradjot Kumar Das..	.. B.Sc.	.. Mining	..	..	An extension of nine months to complete his training.
15	Purnananda Saikia ..	..	Matric Passed. Junior Technical leading to Electrical and Mechanical Engineering.	..	..	Extended by one year to complete his course, special consideration being given to him as a scholar of a backward community (Plains tribals).
16	Padmarag Dutta ..	..	.. Read upto I.Sc.	..	1948-49 ..	..
17	Nalini Kanta Barkati	.. B.Sc.	.. Co-operation	..	..	..
18	Dr. Mathura Nath Bhattacharyya	.. M.B.	.. General Medicine	..	..	..
19	Mr. Rajendra Lal Nath	.. M.Sc.	.. Food Chemistry	..	..	..
20	Dr. Bansi Dhar Baruah	.. M.B.	.. Pathology	..	..	..
21	Dr. Dinesh Ch. Dowerah	.. M.B.	.. Radiology	..	..	..
22	Dr. (Miss) Nirmala Chaliha ..	.. M.B.	.. Maternity Child Welfare	..	..	..
23	Dr. U. C. Bordoloi ..	.. M.B.	.. Midwifery and Gynaecology.	..	..	..

Permit for C. I. Sheets in Barpeta Subdivision

Dr. JINARAM DAS asked :

69. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The names of persons belonging to the Barpeta Subdivision who were granted permits from the Shillong office directly for C. I. Sheets from 1946 to 1948 ?
- (b) Whether these permit holders used the entire quota or part of their quota of the C. I. Sheets for the specific purposes for which the permits were issued ?
- (c) If, not, what Government propose to do with the C. I. Sheets thus given ?
- (d) Whether Government are aware that there is great resentment among the public because of the fact that most of the permit holders have either sold their quota in the black markets or they have not yet used them for specific purposes for which the C. I. Sheets were given ?
- (e) Whether Government propose to appoint a non-official body to enquire into the matter ?

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA, (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

69. (a)—List of such persons for the year 1948 is enclosed. But names of recipients of permits for the years 1946 and 1947 are not readily available and is being collected.

List of persons of Barpeta Subdivision in whose favour permits for C. I. Sheets were issued from the Office of the Director of Consumer Goods, Shillong, during the year 1948—

(Name of the Firm—M/S. Narsingdass Sreelall, Barpeta)

1. Srijut Mohesh Ch. Pathak Choudhuri and Brahmananda Pathak.
2. „ K. Das, Secretary, Barpeta M. C. College.
3. „ Bhagaban Ch. Mistry.
4. „ Kanuram Deka.
5. „ Kesar Narayan Dutta, Barpeta.
6. „ Bhabani Kanta Kakati, Umakanta Kakati.
7. „ Surjya Kumar Bhuyan.
8. „ J. Ch. Medhi, Bongaon.
9. „ Jaganath Das, Barpeta.
10. „ Nonda M. Mazumdar.
11. „ Gurupsad Das.
12. „ Dhanjoy Das.
13. „ Jiboram Das, Barpeta.
14. „ Narsingdas Sreelal, Barpeta.
15. „ Tolaram Nandakishor, Taraburi.
16. „ Sitanath Das, Earl Road.
17. „ Dhanaram Das, Karertol.
18. „ Keshab Chandra Das, Dalabati.

19. Srijut Ramcharan Medhi, Barpeta.
20. „ Hemchandra Medhi, Barpeta.
21. „ Prabhat Chandra Chaudhury.
22. „ Chandra Mohan Gogoi, Gaujanhati.
23. „ Harudhan Das, Ambaribati.
24. „ Balichand Bepari.
25. „ Haridas Pandit Majonhati.
26. „ Rajib Chandra Chaudhury O/A.
27. „ Narayan Chandra Adhibani, Barpeta.
28. „ Bajrangelal Kalicharan, Barpeta.

(Name of the Firm—Messrs. East India Mercantile Agency, Barpeta)

29. Srijut G. Roy Chaudhury, Barpeta.
30. „ Gadadhar Gendhia, Barpeta.
31. „ Debendranath Das.
32. „ Sushil Ch. Das.
33. „ Jagannath Das.
34. „ Keshole Ch. Das.
35. „ Jawardon Das, Barpeta.
36. „ Banandi Das, Barpeta.
37. „ Madhab Ch. Das.
38. „ Mahendranarayan Sanhe.
39. Maulavi Abdul Majid O/A.
40. Srijut Upendranath Das.
41. „ Ghanarayan Patuari, M. A., Barpeta.
42. „ Uma Kanta Das.
43. Abu Saudat Bhuyan.
44. Chandra Mohan Guha.

(b)—Government have no information.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—Government have no information.

(e)—Government do not consider it necessary to set up any non-official body to undertake an enquiry, but if the hon. Member could state some specific cases of abuses as mentioned by him, Government may undertake an enquiry.

Railway Colonies

Srijut BELIRAM DAS asked :

70. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The population of the Railway Colonies at Amingaon, Pandu and Gauhati ?
- (b) The number of officers in these colonies and the number of their dependents ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that these officers have brought large number of people with them who are not directly dependent upon them ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that these Railway Colonies are the centres of activities of the Communists ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

70. (a) & (b)—These figures are not available.

(c)—A number of persons from East Pakistan are believed to have come and are stopping with the railway employees. Government have no information whether they are directly dependent upon them or not.

(d)—There is good reason to believe that Railway Colonies have so long been important centres of Communists' activities.

Bus service on the Gauhati-Nowgong-Jorhat Route

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE asked :

71. (a) Are Government aware of the public complaints regarding irregular running of Bus Services on the Gauhati-Nowgong-Jorhat route ?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken by Government to ensure regular running of these services ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

71. (a)—Yes, due mainly to the occasional break-down of the hired vehicles.

(b)—Steps have been taken to ensure regular running by providing the requisite number of State Transport Vehicles.

Abolition of intermediaries in land

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli asked :

72. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The practical steps taken so far by Government for abolition of intermediaries in land in—

(i) the District of Goalpara and Subdivision of Karimganj ; and

(ii) the other Districts of Assam ?

(b) The number of temporary settled estates, fee simple grants, lakhirajes and Nisf-khirajes having an annual gross income of eight thousand rupees, with their respective areas and the names of their respective proprietors in the district of Kamrup ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

72. (a)(i)—No practical steps can be taken until the Assam State Acquisition of Zamindaris Bill receives the assent of the Governor-General and becomes an Act.

(ii)—There are practical difficulties in taking action in this direction.

(b)—Information has been called for.

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEV of Sidli: With regard to (a) (ii), may I know what were the practical difficulties?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Until the Bill, passed by the Assembly, becomes an Act and comes into force no action can be taken.

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEV of Sidli: But no Bill was introduced in the Assembly.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: The Assam State Acquisition of Zemindaris Bill was passed by this House and it is awaiting the assent of His Excellency the Governor-General.

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEV of Sidli: My question was with regard to (a) (ii), the other districts of Assam. What are the practical difficulties regarding them?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Government cannot take all the districts at once. In the permanently-settled areas the land revenue paid by the Zemindars is very low and Government want to get the benefit and a share of the huge unearned income collected as rent by the Zemindars instead of leaving the benefit to the Zemindars themselves.

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEV of Sidli: Are those the only difficulties?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: There are other difficulties also. I have only mentioned the some of the reasons why permanently-settled area is proposed to be acquired at the first instance.

Booklet on Basic Education

Srijut BELIRAM DAS asked:

73. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have issued any booklet on Basic Education?

(b) If not, do Government propose to issue such a booklet for enlightening the public on Basic Education?

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary) replied:

73. (a)—No.

(b)—Steps are being taken.

Mrs. BONILY KHONGMEN: Are we to understand that such Booklets are in preparation?

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary): Yes, Sir.

Brothel at Gauhati

Srijut BELIRAM DAS asked:

74. (a) Are Government aware that the prostitute quarters at Gauhati are situated in the heart of the town?

(b) Have Government received complaints from the public for removal of the same?

(c) Have Government received a representation submitted by the "Nagar Mahilasamiti" of Gauhati for removal of these quarters?

(d) If so, what steps Government have taken to remove the same from the heart of the town?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied:

74. (a)—Yes.

(b) & (c)—No.

(d)—Does not arise.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: With regard to Question No. 74, do Government consider that it is necessary to remove this brothel from the heart of the Gauhati town as there has been complaints from a large number of people?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: It has already been stated in the answer to the previous question, Sir, that no complaint has been received by Government.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: May we know, Sir, whether any enquiry has been made in this matter?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: No enquiry has been made because the Municipality is a competent authority to take action in such matters.

Srijut BELIRAM DAS: Have Government referred the matter to the Gauhati Municipality, then?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: No, Sir. But if any representation has been sent to the Municipal authorities by anybody and if no reply is received, then the Government may be referred to.

***Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE:** Is not the Chairman of the Gauhati Municipality an official of the Government?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Yes, Sir, but he is in-charge of Municipal affairs.

***Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE:** Will Government take steps to remove this brothel from the Gauhati town?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: There might be difference of opinion in the matter—*(loud and prolonged laughter)*. The regrettable part of the thing is that it may be a resort of inspiration to others. *(More laughter.)*

Supply of Milk in Dibrugarh Town

Srijut DALBIR SINGH LOHAR asked:

75. (a) Are Government aware of the unsatisfactory supply of pure milk in Dibrugarh town and Medical College Hospitals for want of suitable grazing grounds?

**Speech not corrected.*

(b) If so, do Government propose to consider the desirability of converting Mesaki Chapari in the Sadiya Frontier Tract into a Professional Grazing Reserve?

(c) Is it a fact that the said Chapari was originally a Professional Grazing Reserve of Dibrugarh?

(d) Is it a fact that a number of Bathans have been allowed in Taligaon in Lahowal Mouza and grazing tax is being realised by the Deputy Commissioner, Dibrugarh, for the last 30 years or even without converting it into a Professional Grazing Reserve?

(e) If so, do Government propose to convert the said Chapari into a Professional Grazing Reserve?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied:

75. (a) to (e)—A report has been called for from the local officers and the hon. Member will be furnished with the information later on.

Complaint against the Manager of Umatara Tea Estate

Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI asked:

76. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have received any representation from the villagers of some villages of Tingkhong Mouza in Dibrugarh Subdivision against the Manager of Umatara Tea Estate who has closed a Sarkari gobat?

(b) If so, what steps are being taken in the matter?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied:

76. (a) & (b)—A report has been called for from the local officers and information will be furnished later.

Train dacoity in Assam Railways

Srijut BELIRAM DAS asked:

77. (a) Is it a fact that there has been a train dacoity recently in the Assam Railways, involving loss of money and loss of human life?

(b) What steps Government have taken to apprehend the culprits?

(c) Is it a fact that this dacoity has a political significance?

(d) Have Government taken serious view of this matter and propose to stop recurrence of such dacoities?

(e) How many such dacoities have taken place in the Province during the past few months of 1949?

(f) Have the Government of India been apprised of these incidents within the Province?

(g) If so, with what result?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied:

77. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The Police are investigating. The investigation was supervised by the most responsible officers.

(c)—There is reason to suspect that the crime was committed by persons belonging to one of the political parties in the country.

(d)—Government will ask for greater vigilance and efficiency so far as prevention rests with the Police.

(e)—None.

(f) & (g)—Do not arise.

Manipuri families in Nowgong District

Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA asked :

78. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Manipuri families in the District of Nowgong which were evicted from their holdings in 1949 ?

(b) Is it a fact that the houses of the evictees were set on fire and even the fruit-trees in their homesteads were destroyed by the armed police under the command of the Sub-Deputy Collector, Kampur ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons which prompted Government to undertake the eviction operations in the rainy season ?

(d) Is it a fact that those people were evicted without being served with any notice beforehand ?

(e) Is it a fact that in June last year the Manipuri evictees were evicted first and then served with back dated notices ?

(f) If the answers to questions (b), (d) and (e) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to take necessary steps to 'Re-habilitate' those evictees by paying them adequate compensation for their loss in property ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

78. (a) to (f)—A report has been called for from the local officers and information will be furnished later on.

Booking of Goods to Assam by Steamers

Srijut BELIRAM DAS asked :

79. (a) Is it a fact that this Government has not got any officer at Juggernath Ghat to look to the interest of the Assamese traders in the matter of booking of goods to Assam by steamer ?

(b) Are Government aware that those who cannot give unlawful gratification to the management at Juggernath Ghat, cannot get their goods booked within reasonable time ?

(c) Do Government propose to cause an enquiry made as to whether it is a fact that some people fail to book their goods within 6 months whereas others get things booked within a fortnight ?

(d) Do Government propose to take necessary steps to enquire into this matter and ease the situation ?

80. (a) Is it a fact that large quantities of goods are brought to Assam by Steamer ?

(b) If so, do this Government propose to move the Government of India to get the present steamer concern owned by the state ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

79. (a)—Assam Government Trade Adviser in Calcutta looks after the interests of the Assamese Traders in the matter of booking of goods from Calcutta to Assam.

(b)—No.

(c) & (d)—No. The Steamer services are operated by a private company over which Government have no legal powers of control in the matter of allotment of space for booking of goods. If, however, specific instances are brought to the notice of Government, they will take necessary steps to ease the situation.

80. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No. No useful purpose will be served by moving the Government of India in this matter. Government of India do not contemplate nationalisation of the steamer services.

Distributing System of Electricity

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

81. (a) Are Government aware—

- (i) That the alternating current system of distributing of electricity at 220 volts that is generally prevalent in this province is unsafe and highly risky for consumers for domestic purposes and is responsible for dangerous accidents ?
- (ii) That the direct current system of distribution is less risky ?
- (iii) That the risk of the A. C. system can be greatly diminished by reducing the voltage of distribution from 220 to 110 volts ?

(b) If the reply to the above questions be in the affirmative do Government propose (i) to take necessary steps for introducing the D. C. system in place of the A. C. system at least in cases where domestic consumption is concerned or (ii) to take necessary steps and to see that distribution is made at 110 volts instead of at 220 volts where the D.C. system cannot be immediately introduced ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

81. (a), (i), (ii) & (iii)—The alternating and direct currents are almost equally dangerous and fatal electrical accident may occur even with a pressure as low as 50 volts. The deciding factor appears to be the quantity of electricity which passes through any vital part of the body. Besides, the dampness of the place, area of contact and the part of the body through which the current flows are also important factors in electrocution of human bodies. Risk cannot therefore, diminished by reduction in voltage. The standard set up by Government of India for domestic distribution does not also permit of such reduction ?

(b)—Does not arise.

Establishment of technical institution in Goalpara District

Maulavi MD. MAKSED ALI asked :

82. (a) Is it a fact that Government could not yet establish a technical institution in the district of Goalpara ?

(b) Do Government propose to establish such a institution there in near future ?

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

82. (a)—Yes.
(b)—No.

Public Health Doctors**Dr. JINARAM DAS** asked :

83. (a) Are Government aware that all sorts of treatment are done in the Public Health Dispensaries ?

(b) Do Government propose to allow private practice to the Public Health Doctors ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

83. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No.

Amount of money spent on Opium Prohibition**Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI** asked :

84. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The amount of public money spent on Opium Prohibition, by the non-official organisations since the Opium Prohibition Act came into force in Dibrugarh Subdivision ?

(b) How many Opium smuggling cases have been detected up till now by the workers of those organisations ?

(c) How many of these cases have ended in conviction, acquittal of accused persons and how many are now pending for trial ?

(d) How many meetings were held by these organisations in the following mauzas in Dibrugarh Subdivision to advise the opium addicts and the smugglers during the period March 1947 to April 1949—Tingkhang, Sassoni, Tipling, Sissi, Dhemaaji, Kakapathar, Jaipur, Makum ?

85. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of opium addicts with names who have given up the habit of taking opium in Dibrugarh Subdivision, Mauza by Mauza after the Opium Prohibition Act came into force ?

The Hon'ble Maulana MAHOMED TAYYEBULLA replied :

84. (a), (b), (c), (d) & 85.—The informations wanted by the hon. Member are being collected and will be communicated to him as soon as these are received.

It was not possible to obtain the informations and answers given within short notice, as the Questions were received only on September 14, 1949.

Office of the Subdivisional Officer, Goalpara**Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE** asked :

86. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of appointments both temporary and permanent made in the Office of the Subdivisional Officer, Goalpara during the period from 15th August 1947 to 15th August 1949 with the names of such employees caste by caste ?

(b) Whether communal representation ratio in the matter of appointments is maintained in the said office ?

(c) If so, what is that ratio and how it is being maintained ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

86.—The details have been called for and will be furnished to the hon. Member later on.

Soil Conservation Experts of the Government of India

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

87. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The object of the visit to Assam of the party of the Soil Conservation Experts of the Government of India trained in America ?
- (b) Whether the party examined any soil to study the erosion problem of this Province ?
- (c) If so, whether they have submitted any report and suggested any measure for fighting erosion and flood ?
- (d) Whether their report is proposed to be published soon ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

87. (a)—The object of visit to Assam of the party of Soil Conservation Experts may be enumerated as follows :—

- (i)—Informing the Provincial authorities the availability of technical advice and help from the Centre on soil conservation work,
 - (ii)—Discussing the manner in which plans of soil conservation may be drawn up in the Provinces in relation to the Centre,
 - (iii)—Discussing the possibility of Co-ordination of the activities of all agencies in a Province dealing with different aspects of soil conservation,
 - (iv)—Considering the possibility of training of agricultural personnel for soil conservation work,
 - (v)—Considering the institution of training courses in soil conservation in the Provincial Agricultural Colleges, Schools and Training Centres and also in Forest Training Schools and Colleges,
 - (vi)—Considering the desirability of starting soil conservation research in the Provincial Research Institutions and Experimental Farms,
 - (vii)—Selecting areas for starting soil conservation and Land Utilisation Work in the Provinces, and
 - (viii)—Visiting the soil conservation work in progress, if any.
- (b)—The party visited several hilly tracts of the Province to study the erosion problem.
- (c) & (d)—Yes. A report has been submitted which is under consideration of Government at present.

Bhogdoi Bridge at Jorhat

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

88. (a) Are Government aware that the Bhogdoi Bridge at Jorhat is too narrow for the public ?

(b) Do Government propose to construct footpaths to avoid inconvenience and avert accidents ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the present breadth of the said bridge ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

88. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes, as soon as the estimate is financially sanctioned by the Government of India who are the controlling authority for the financing and construction, improvement and maintenance of National Highways in Assam.

(c)—The width of the bridge between wheel-guards is 10'—6".

Goalpara-Jogighopa-Pachania Ferry

Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE asked :

89. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether any Ship Surveyor or any officer of the Government of Assam, was deputed to Calcutta for the purpose of examining the vessel intended for the Goalpara-Jogighopa-Pachania Ferry ?
- (b) If so, the name and designation of the particular officer who was so deputed ?
- (c) Whether the Vessel was actually tested before it left Calcutta ?
- (d) Whether the vessel was actually tested before it was actually put on the run ?
- (e) If so, by whom and at what place ?
- (f) The duration after which it developed engine trouble and what steps were taken by Government to place the vessel again on the run ?
- (g) Whether any repair work had at all been taken up ?
- (h) If so, the time that elapsed before the repair was actually undertaken after the breakdown ?
- (i) The average daily cost involved in keeping this vessel unused at Goalpara Ghat ?
- (j) When the vessel is expected to resume its run ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

89. (a)—No. This was a matter for the Central Government who deputed their officer, Col. Oag to Calcutta for this purpose.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—No further test other than that at Calcutta was made.

(e)—By Lardner North and Company at Hooghly.

(f)—(i) About a month and a half after it started plying on the Goalpara-Jogighopa ferry.

(ii)—The Craft is already under repair by the Mechanical Engineer, Jorhat and it will be put into commission at as early a date as possible.

(g)—Yes, as stated in the reply to question (f) (ii).

(h)—Just the time required to find out the defects and to arrange materials for necessary repairs. This is barely over a month and a half.

(i)—Approximately Rs.45.

(j)—Report of the Mechanical Engineer in charge of the Repairs to Vessels has been called for and is awaited.

Flooded Mauzas of the Gauhati Subdivision

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

90. Will Government be pleased to state :—

- (a) What steps they have taken to grow more food in the flooded area of the following Mauzas of the Gauhati Subdivision giving detailed account in case of each Mauza separately—
Upar-Barbhag, Khetri-Dharmapur and the four Bar-khetri Mauzas ?
- (b) Whether Government have surveyed these Mauzas and examined all the circumstances necessary for coming to a conclusion as to what money or food crops can be grown with success in these areas ?
- (c) If not, do Government propose to undertake such an examination with the object of helping the distressed people of these Mauzas in growing more food or some paying money crop without the slightest delay ?
- (d) Whether Government have tried to introduce the cultivation of Boro paddy in any of these Mauzas ?
- (e) If so, in which Mauzas giving the name of the Mauzas and the details of the help the Government rendered to the cultivators ?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that some cultivators of the Upar-Barbhag Mauza who cultivated Boro paddy for some years failed to get pumping machine from the Agriculture Department in spite of repeated request ?
- (g) Having regard to the fact that Boro paddy grows very luxuriantly in several parts of the Upar-Barbhag Mauza, whether Government propose to devote special attention for introducing Boro cultivation in this Mauza ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS replied :

90. (a)—The Department of Agriculture distributed seeds of Ahu, Boro and Bao paddy and Rabi crops in all these mouzas in order to increase food production. They also tried to help the cultivators by introducing Boro paddy cultivation as these areas are liable to flood damage. During the current year they have organised some seed multiplication centres in order to help the cultivators with improved seeds.

(b) & (c)—Through the Village Food Production Committees, the Agriculture Department have already undertaken a survey with a view to ascertain the local needs and agricultural possibilities of certain scheduled villages. When this survey will be completed, these areas may also be taken up.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—In Upar-Barbhag and Khetri-Dharmapur mouzas. The help was rendered in the shape of advice as Boro paddy cultivation was new to these localities. In some cases the Department also distributed Boro paddy seeds at concessional rates.

(f)—No.

(g)—Yes.

Officers serving in Assam whose homeland is in Pakistan

Maulavi ABUAL MAJID ZIAOSH-SHAMS asked :

91. Will Government be pleased to state :—

- (a) How many officers in each Department of Assam whose homeland is in Pakistan have been absorbed or appointed or serving in Assam ?

- (b) How many officers in Assam have finally opted for Pakistan ?
 (c) How many officers who opted for Pakistan but again revised their option for Assam (i) have been taken in Assam Service, and (ii) how many of them have been refused by Assam Government ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

91. (a)—The information is not readily available and has been called for.
 (b)—1,361.
 (c)—(i) 50. (ii)—179.

The revisions were made after the 14th August 1947 which according to the declared policy of the Governments of Assam and East Bengal are not valid.

Textile Plan

Srijut BELIRAM DAS asked :

92. Will Government be pleased to state—
 (a) The present textile plan of the Assam Government in so far as the Apex Bank and the Co-operative Trading Centres are concerned ?
 (b) The amount borrowed up till now from the Imperial or Reserve Bank of India for the Textile business ?
 (c) The total monthly interest payable for the said loan ?
 (d) What are the months for which cloth and yarn were purchased by Government with such a loan ?
 (e) Amounts involved for the purchases of cloth and yarn as in (d) above ?
 (f) The amount of demurrages and other incidental charges paid in Calcutta and other places for the business ?
 (g) The amount of godown and other charges for the same ?
 (h) The amount of cloth and yarn disposed of up to date through the Co-operative Trading Centres ?
 (i) The amount of cloth and yarn still lying undisposed of ?
 (j) Whether the cloth and yarn so purchased are saleable ?
 (k) The approximate amount of damage of cloth and yarn in this business ?
 (l) What new textile plan has been subsequently adopted by the Government on the failure of the Co-operative Trading Centres to procure cloth and yarn due to blocking of capital and congestion of cloth ?
93. (a) Are Government aware that there has been relaxation of the textile controls in Bombay and other Provinces ?
 (b) Is it a fact that the consignments of cloth and yarn for *Ad hoc* quota worth several lakhs of rupees stored by several cloth dealers for a few months have not been released by Government for disposal in spite of repeated representations made by the cloth dealers for quick disposal of the same ?
 (c) Are Government aware that the interest, fire insurance premia, godown charges incurred in connection with (b) above will not be covered by the commission payable by Government ?
 (d) Is it a fact that some Mauzadars, contractors and persons who were not in the trade are also appointed as procurers of cloth and yarn ?
 (e) Are Government aware that the quick disposal of goods is the main principle of business especially of controlled commodities to avoid congestion, public demand, black-marketing and loss ?

(f) If so, why there has been delay for more than a month in issuing instructions by Government for disposal of the goods more especially of the *Ad hoc* quota of cloth in spite of the repeated requests of the cloth dealers?

(g) Will Government be responsible of the losses incurred by the cloth dealers in connection with (c) and (f) above?

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) replied:

92. (a)—The Central Trading Co-operatives are to purchase only such textiles as are required by them both from Government stocks and Trade sources. The Apex Bank finances such purchases.

(b)—A letter of credit with a maximum drawing limit of Rs.2,50,00,000 was opened and the total drawing upto date on that amount amounts to Rs.3,05,54,585-1-6 up to 31st August 1949. Government owes the Imperial Bank of India on 31st August 1949, Rs.2,12,49,806-11-5.

(c)—The rate of interest is 3 per cent. per annum calculated on daily balances. The amount of interest differs in different months as the balance increases or decreases. Interest accrued in the different months is shown below:—

					Rs.	a.	p.
December ...	...	...	...	...	2,341	11	0
January ...	...	...	...	...	29,692	3	5
February ...	...	...	...	...	58,584	5	6
March ...	...	...	...	...	62,702	1	0
April ...	...	...	...	...	60,679	6	2
May ...	...	...	...	...	58,414	11	7
June ...	...	...	...	...	57,716	10	9
July ...	...	...	...	...	58,735	1	8
August ...	...	...	...	...	55,900	15	2
Total ...					4,44,767	2	3

(d)—Cloth—October to December 1948 inclusive and part of June, 1949.
Yarn—October 1948 to May 1949 and part of June 1949.

(e)—Rupees 2,99,78,222-12-11 up to 31st August 1949.

(f)—Figures so far available and as on 31st August 1949 are:

					Rs.	a.	p.
Demurrage ...	...	...	...	...	1,44,433	0	0
Agents' commission ...	...	...	...	...	4,49,682	4	5
Freight and other charges ...	...	...	...	...	9,44,464	0	5

(g)—Rupees 20,120.

(h)—Cloth to the value of Rs.68,54,238-6-8 (approximately).

Yarn to the value of Rs.29,80,103-3-8 (approximately).

Total ... Rs.98,34,341-10-4.

(i)—Rupees 2,12,49,806-11-5.

(j)—Yes, but as Government have had to accept a cross section of the monthly production from the Mills this inevitably included a proportion of unsaleable or rather unpopular varieties.

(k)—Rupees 18,011 (approximately).

(l)—Primary Trading Co-operatives have been allowed to sell to non-members. The Central Trading Co-operatives will buy from the private importers of textiles and also from Government nominated Procuring Agents only such varieties as they desire. The Central Trading Co-operatives have also been permitted to sell to dealers textiles which are not purchased by the Primary Trading Co-operatives.

93. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No, disposal orders have since been issued.

(c)—No, indefinite storage was an express condition of the contract with the agents.

(d)—Tenders were invited from intending procurers and the selections were made on merit. It may be that some of them were new to this trade and had other professions.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—A complete revision of textile policy was under the contemplation of Government which necessitated references to the Government of India. Releases were held up pending a decision.

(g)—No, as stated at 93 (c) above the agents accept full liability for expenses arising from protracted storage.

Money allotted to Dhubri Local Board for Rural Water Supply

Maulavi MD. ABUL KASHEM asked :

94. (a) Is it a fact that money allotted last year to Dhubri Local Board for Rural Water Supply has not been spent ?

(b) Is it a fact that this is due to the Government instructions to use iron rods in the well rings ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether they are in a position to supply iron rods by the end of September at the latest for making of rings for Dhubri Board ?

(d) If not, do Government propose to withdraw their instructions and allow the Board to make rings as before without the use of iron rods ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

94. (a)—No.

(b)—The question does not arise. Assam being an Earthquake Zone, Local Boards were instructed to re-inforce Cement Concrete Wells with iron rods, in case Cement Concrete Wells were to be constructed.

(c)—Steps are being taken to expedite supply.

(d)—Does not arise.

"Assam Information" and "Asom Batori"

Srijut BELIRAM DAS asked :

95. Will Government be pleased to state :—

(a) What amount of money is being spent by Government in maintaining the 'Assam Information' and 'Asom Batori' every month including the pay of the editing and other staff ?

(b) How many copies of each of these newspapers are printed per issue ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that these are distributed free of cost ?

(d) What steps Government have taken to ascertain whether these papers are popular or not ?

(e) Whether Government propose to curtail their expenditure by publishing only one paper ?

Srijut MOHENDRAMOHAN CHAUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

95. (a)—About Rs.4,000.

(b)—“Assam Information”	...	...	...	...	1,600
“Asom Batori”...	...	...	...	...	8,000

(c)—To a large extent.

(d)—As Government organs their main function is to disseminate factual news about Government's activities and if ever-increasing request for the supply of these journals can indicate, the journals are popular.

(e)—No. “Assam Information” is meant for publicity outside Assam, while “Asom Batori” is meant for internal publicity.

Public Health Dispensary at Bhaithari

Maulavi MD. ABUL KASHEM asked :

96. Will Government be pleased to state when the construction of Bhaithari Public Health Dispensary in the Garo Hills will be taken up ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

96.—There is no sanctioned Public Health Dispensary for Bhaithari and as such the question of its construction does not arise.

B. C. G. Vaccine for fighting T. B.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

97. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they have taken into their consideration the question of experimenting with the B. C. G. Vaccine for fighting T. B. in the Province ?

(b) If the reply is in the affirmative, whether any steps have been taken for that purpose ?

(c) If so, what are they ?

(d) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAM NATH DAS replied :

97. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Invited the foreign team, arranging three local teams, sought the opinion and co-operation of the local medical men and also printed leaflets and pamphlets for distribution to the general public.

(d)—Does not arise.

Refugees in Assam

Maulavi MD. MAKSED ALI asked :

98. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The actual number of refugees now living in the various districts of Assam ?

- (b) How many of them are Bengali speaking and how many of them speak Hindustani (figures to be shown district by district) ?
- (c) Whether the refugees are still coming to Assam or whether Government have stopped the coming of these people to the Province ?
- (d) Whether Government are aware that the continuous influx of these people will adversely affect the food-stuffs of the indigenous people of Assam and other economic resources of the Province ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

98. (a) & (b)—Government have no authoritative information on the subject as yet.

(c)—It is presumed that "refugees" are still coming to Assam, although in smaller number than before. Government are unable to place any bar to their coming in.

(d)—Unless the 'refugees' produce their food or otherwise develop the resources of the Province they will obviously be a burden on the Province.

"A Challenge to Assam Government"

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

99 (a) Have Government received a copy of "A challenge to Assam Government" series No. 3 by Hem Dutta Esquire ?

(b) What action, if any, have Government taken on issuance of a booklet like that ?

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHAUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

99. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Necessary action has been taken by Government.

Silchar-Shillong Road

Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA asked :

100. (a) Is it a fact that corrupt practices of very serious nature have been detected in the execution of Road construction works from Amaranagar to 7 miles up on the Silchar-Shillong Road ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the facts in details ?

(c) What total amounts have been spent in respect of the above 7 miles and the next 7 miles respectively i.e., 0-7 miles and 7-14 miles from Amaranagar ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the estimated amounts for these portions of the Silchar-Shillong Road ?

(e) Is it a fact that the amount spent for 0-7 miles is 5 times the amount warranted by the actual work done ?

(f) Do Government propose to cause an investigation made by Anti-Corruption Branch into the matter with a view to start a conspiracy case ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS ROY replied :

100. (a)—It has been noticed that the amount spent on these seven miles (from Amaranagar towards Dawhang) greatly exceed the average estimated cost per mile for the entire road. The reason thereof is under investigation.

(b)—Details will be supplied to the hon. Member as soon as the investigation is finally completed.

(c)—Total amounts spent in above seven miles (*i.e.*, 219-226 miles) and in next seven miles (*i.e.*, 226-233 miles) which portion is an existing Public Works Department Road, are Rupees fourteen lakhs ten thousands and Rupees fifty thousands respectively.

(d)—Detailed estimate for the portion is under preparation. The amount as per rough estimate for the whole of the section of 30 miles including above portion comes to Rs.48,61,900.

(e)—This is covered by reply to (a) above.

(f)—This is being looked into.

Procurement of cloth and yarn

Srijut BELIRAM DAS asked :

101. (a) Is it a fact that Government have not procured yarns of 10 counts which are largely used for preparation of fishing nets ?

(b) Has Government lately received any representation on this behalf from the fishery lessees of the Kamrup District ?

(c) If so, what step has been taken to make this yarn available to the fishermen ?

(d) Are Government aware that due to Government's failure to procure yarns of 10 counts, the poor fishermen have been compelled to purchase yarns of higher counts paying higher price ?

(e) Do Government propose to take necessary steps to ease the situation immediately ?

102. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The amount of money invested by this Government in procuring cloth and yarn ?

(b) The amount that has come back to Government by this time ?

(c) How long it will take to back the entire amount ?

(d) Whether there is chance of Government's losing any money on this business ?

(e) The approximate profit and loss account of this business upto this date ?

(f) Whether Government are aware that large sections of the people of Assam are in favour of discontinuance of control over cloth and yarn and State Trading ?

(g) Whether it is a fact that the prices of cloth and yarn have been going down considerably ?

(h) If so, whether Government propose, to give up procurement on Government's account ?

103. (a) Is it a fact that Government have given up procurement of cloth and yarn ?

(b) If so, why ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether other parties have been engaged for procuring these articles ?

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

101. (a)—No, an average of 50 bales monthly of 10 counts have been procured.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Some Yarn bales of 10 counts procured by a private party of Gauhati have since been released for sale.

(d)—No.

(e)—The allocation of yarn of 10 counts to Gauhati will be increased if the present supply is found inadequate.

102. (a) Rupees 2,99,78,222-12-11 on 31st August 1949.

(b)—Rupees 1,02,73,158-8-0.

(c)—According to the modified policy sales should be completed early. It is not possible to give a definite time.

(d)—There are the usual chances of loss or gain common to all business undertakings.

(e)—At this early stage it is not possible to compile a profit and loss account. But a balance sheet is being prepared.

(f)—No.

(g)—It is the declared policy of the Government of India to bring down the prices of textile goods.

(h)—Government have already reverted to procurement through Trade Channels.

103. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Because of the Policy of progressive decontrol over textile distribution adopted by Government of India.

(c)—Yes, Trade Agencies have been appointed.

Assam Home Guards

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEV of Sidli asked :

104.(a) Are Government aware that the Bihar Government have decided to employ the Home Guards of Bihar to help the Agriculturists in "Grow More Good Campaign" ?

(b) Do Government propose to employ the Assam Home Guards in the same way after giving them proper training ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS replied :

104. (a)—No.

(b)—No.

Steamer ghats in Gauhati Town

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

105. Are Government aware—

(a) That the steps of the pucca ghats of the town of Gauhati on the Brahmaputra River popularly known as the Kachari Ghat, Ujan Bazar Ghat and Sukreswar Ghat are in miserable condition for want of repair and that people feel highly inconvenienced in using them ?

(b) That the Gauhati Municipality disowns the ownership of these ghats and does not care to repair them ?

106. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the Gauhati Municipality or the Public Works Department is responsible for keeping these ghats under proper repair?
- (b) Whether Government propose to enquire and ascertain which of these two Authorities is responsible for keeping the ghats duly repaired and propose to direct that body to repair the ghats which is found to be responsible?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

105. (a) & (b)—The information has been called for.

106. (a) & (b)—The information has been called for.

Construction of tube wells in Darrang District

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN asked :

107. Will Government be pleased to state the names of places in Darrang District where the Public Works Department and the Local Bodies have constructed drinking or tube wells during the years 1947-48 and 1948-49 together with the number of such wells constructed in those places?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

107.—The information has been called for.

Members of Liaison Committees who took C. I. Sheets

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

108. Will Government be pleased to state the names of the members of the different Liaison Committees who took C. I. Sheets since the inception of such committees?

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

108.—A list giving the names of all such members of all the Subdivisions is placed on the library table.

District Judge and Sub-Judge of Cachar

Maulavi MAKABBIR ALI MOZUMDAR asked :

109. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of cases and appeals of different nature pending in the files of the District Judge and Sub-Judge at Cachar upto 31st May, 1949 and the number of original suits pending in the files of Munsif at Silchar, Karimganj and Hailakandi upto 30th June, 1949?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the income derived from Court fees (including stamps for copies) in the year 1948-49 from the district of Cachar in respect of civil cases?

(c) Is it a fact that Government have decided to appoint an Additional Judge at Cachar?

(d) If so, from when?

(e) Is it a fact that the Post of Sub-Judge at Silchar is going to be abolished and a part-time Sub-Judge from Assam Valley will try cases on circuit in the district ?

(f) If so, are Government aware that in the absence of a Sub-Judge and being far away from the seat of the District Judge, the Additional Judge will have to face various legal anomalies and complexities and the sufferings of the litigant public will not be mitigated ?

(g) Are Government aware that there is a great demand from the general public to retain the post of Sub-Judge as at present and in addition creation of a seat of District and Sessions Judge at Silchar for the district of Cachar ?

(h) Are Government aware that there has been a huge accumulation of cases in all districts of the Province and some more Sub-Judges and Additional Judges are necessary to dispose of these cases ?

(i) Will Government be pleased to state the percentage of promotion and direct recruitment in the cadre of Sub-Judge and Additional Judge adopted by Government and the number of vacancies so filled up-till-now ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

109. (a) & (b)—The information has been called for.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—The appointment has already been notified and it is expected that the Officer will join soon.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—Government do not anticipate any legal anomalies or serious difficulties as arrangements will be made for civil judicial work as in other districts which have no whole-time sub-judges.

(g)—Government received a representation from certain members of the Bar Association, Silchar for the retention of the post of Sub-Judge in addition to the Additional Judge now being sanctioned. But Government are advised that there will not be enough work in Cachar for two whole-time officers.

(h)—Yes. Orders have already been issued appointing two Additional Judges and three Additional Sub-Judges.

(i)—No fixed percentage has been adopted for filling up the posts of Sub-Judges and Additional Judges by promotion and by direct recruitment respectively.

Joint Stock Companies in Tea Gardens

Maulavi ABUAL MAJID ZIAOSHSAMS asked :

110. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) How many Joint-Stock Companies in Tea Gardens are there in Assam ?

(b) How many and which of them have declared dividend for 1947 and 1948 ?

(c) Which of the Gardens have not yet paid the declared dividend for 1947 and 1948 ?

(d) What steps Government propose to take against the defaulters ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

110. (a)—The question is not clearly understood. If the hon. Member means Joint-Stock Tea Companies, the number is 74.

(b)—Assuming that the question relates to Joint-Stock Tea Companies, a statement has been laid on the Library table.

(c)—Government have no information as this is not required to be furnished by the Companies.

(d)—Does not arise.

Anti-Corruption Branch of Government

Maulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN asked :

111. (a) Is it a fact that officers of the Anti-Corruption Branch of the Government of Assam enquired some time ago about the realisation of illegal fees on bail amounts in the Karimganj criminal courts ?

(b) If so, what is the result of that enquiry ?

(c) Are Government aware that such illegal fees are being realised even now as before ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to State what steps they are taking to end that illegal practice ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

111. (a)—Yes.

(b) & (c)—The report which has just been received shows that consulting Muktears at Karimganj realise fees on bail bonds at a certain rate on the amount of bail according to a resolution of the Muktears' Association. In a few cases, Muktears are said to have realised fees in excess of this rate alleging that this will have to be paid to the Court Police. But there is no evidence to show that the Police actually received any money.

(d)—The report is under consideration.

Re: displaced persons.

Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA asked :

112. (a) Are Government aware—

(1) That there are quite a large number of displaced persons in the Urban areas of Cachar District.

(2) That the largest majority of them are huddled together in small lodgings ;

(3) That they have by now come almost to the end of their financial resources ;

(4) That rentals of a large number of them have fallen into arrears ;

(5) That increase in rentals following the corresponding increase of taxes by the Municipal Boards has considerably added to the difficulties of the displaced persons ; and

(6) That a considerable number of the refugees in the Urban areas of Cachar District are being harassed by the house owners to the extent of eviction or threat of eviction ?

(b) Do Government propose to declare a moratorium of arrear rentals due by the Refugees, for a period of two years and to arrange immediate accommodation of helpless displaced persons in temporary sheds at Government cost ?

113. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have schemes of Model Villages and townships for resettlement of displaced persons in Assam ?

- (b) If so will Government be pleased to state—
- (i) How many of such schemes are now under consideration or given effect to ; and
- (ii) Where they have been or proposed to be located and what progress has been made so far ?
- (c) Will Government be pleased to state how many non-official schemes of the model village and township are now pending before Government ?
- (d) Is it a fact that the popular Industrial Corporation Limited, Silchar, submitted a scheme of refugee township at Iringmar (mile 12-14) on the Silchar-Hailakandi Road ?
- (e) If so, will Government be pleased to state when the Scheme was submitted and what progress in that direction has been made up-till-now ?

The Hon'ble Srijit BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

112. (a) (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6)—Government have no information as yet in the various points mentioned. They propose to bring the hon. Member's statements to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner and hills District Welfare Committee who have been charged with the responsibility of formulating proposals of relief and rehabilitation suitable in the localities concerned.

(b)—Government must await the receipt of the considered advice of the Deputy Commissioner after taking into consideration the Welfare Committee's recommendations and any other material which may be relevant.

113. (a), (b) & (c)—These schemes have to be formulated by a responsible agency after studying the facts on the spot and the funds available. Government will await the recommendations or schemes if any from the Deputy Commissioner. No scheme has so far been received.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—On 23rd May 1949. It is under examination by the Deputy Commissioner.

Re : displaced Persons

Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA asked :

114. Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) The number of displaced persons taken shelter in Assam, District by District ?
- (b) Whether these people have been given lands for housing or cultivation ?
- (c) If so, what is the number of such persons in each District ?
- (d) The number of refugees who have been able to build houses on lands of their own i. e., having either proprietary or leasehold rights ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that about 10 per cent. of the displaced persons in Assam are going half starved ?
- (f) What amounts have been spent by Government up-till-now for—
- (i) gratuitous relief ;
- (ii) emergent loans, and
- (iii) rehabilitation loans for displaced persons ?

- (g) Whether it is a fact that mutations of land records are not done in respect of lands purchased by people other than local ?
- (h) Whether Government have taken up any scheme for the benefit of displaced students belong to indigent families ?
- (i) Whether Government propose to start camps at least one in each District for helpless refugee invalids and detached children ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

114.—Information asked for has been called from Districts, but has not yet been received.

Land Reclamation Scheme

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

115. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) What is the 37 Lakh Land Reclamation Scheme of this Government which is said to have failed to receive sanction of the Central Government (giving a brief but comprehensive account of the Scheme).
- (b) Whether this Government have decided to take this sum of 37 lakh of rupees as a loan ?
- (c) If so, on what terms and conditions ?
- (d) Whether Government propose to place the scheme before the Assembly for its approval ?
- (e) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS replied :

115. (a)—A scheme for the reclamation of 40,000 acres of cultivable waste land in the Province was submitted to Government of India for subsidy. The estimated cost of operating the scheme was about Rs. 40 lakhs. As advised by the Centre the question of taking a loan to finance the scheme was considered. The Provincial Government has not yet decided as to taking this loan for Rs. 37 lakhs.

(b), (c), (d) & (e)—Do not arise.

Instructions re: Supply of Electricity to the Public

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

116. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Electric Supply concerns are legally bound to supply their consumers with instructions regarding precautions to be taken in using electricity for domestic purposes and regarding the steps to be taken in the nature of "First Aid" in cases of accidents and to provide them with necessary charts and literatures ?
- (b) If so, whether Government are aware that the Electric Supply Companies of the Province are not doing anything in these respects ?

(c) Whether Government propose to enquire into this matter and to see that the said concerns comply with the law in this respect ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

116. (a)—Under the Indian Electricity Rules Electricity Supply concerns are to post no other instructions on consumer's premises except a notice recommending periodical inspection and testing of the installation at intervals not exceeding two years. Instructions on treatment for electric shock are to be affixed only in generating stations, sub-stations and factories by the owners.

(b) & (c)—So far as Government are aware most of the Electric Supply Companies have complied with these Rules. However steps are being taken to see that all Supply Companies strictly comply with these Rules.

Gorsinga and Mohkhua Grazing Reserves

Prof. P. M. SARWAN asked :

117. (a) Do the Government propose to constitute Gorsinga and Mohkhua Forest Reserves in Lakhimpur District ?

(b) Are Government aware that the proposed boundaries of the above reserves would include villages mostly inhabited by *ex-tea* garden labourers and Nepalis ?

(c) Are the Government aware of the feeling of the local people that a hasty constitution of the above reserves will greatly upset the minds of the backward raiyats ?

(d) What enquiries have been made by Government regarding the rights and interests of the above backward raiyats, in constituting the above reserves ?

(e) Whether food crops such as paddy are grown at present on the areas of the proposed forest reserves ?

(f) Who are the officers who have made the above enquiries ?

(g) Did the Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur District also made a personal enquiry into the matter ?

(h) Are Government aware that the Questioner has requested the Hon'ble Forest Minister and the Senior Conservator of Forests to hold the above proposal in abeyance ?

(i) Are the Government aware that in giving to this proposal, it will have a very bad reaction among tea garden and *ex-tea* garden population in Assam ?

(j) Are Government aware that the proposal to constitute agricultural areas into forest reserves runs counter to the "Grow-More-Food" drive of the Central Government ?

(k) Do Government propose to drop the above proposal or keep it in abeyance till the next general election is over ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

117. (a)—Yes. Preliminary notifications have already been published in the *Assam Gazette* of the 3rd August 1949.

(b)—There are no villages within the boundaries of the proposed Reserve but unauthorised squatters consisting of Nepalis and *ex-garden* labourers are making clearances within the proposed reserve in contravention of orders.

(c)—Only the preliminary notifications have been issued appointing the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, as the Forest Settlement Officer in connection with the proposal. All claims will be duly heard and there will be no hasty constitution of the area as Reserved Forest.

(d)—Due enquiries will be made as per (c) above as prescribed under the Rules.

(e)—Some unauthorised clearing and cultivation has been done. Details of crops grown are not available but have been called for.

(f)—Necessary enquiries will be made by the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, who has been appointed as the Settlement Officer.

(g)—It is not known if the Deputy Commissioner has yet made any enquiries.

(h)—Questions on the same subject were asked by the Hon'ble Member during the September 1948 Session and were duly answered.

(i)—Government have no reason to believe that there will be such a reaction as the actual constitution of the reserve will take place only after due consideration have been given to all the existing rights and privileges in the area.

(j)—Due consideration will be given to see that reservation proposals do not run counter to Grow-More-Food Campaign.

(k)—There is no intention of dropping the proposal at present before the enquiry is completed by the Settlement Officer.

Corruption in the Forest Department

Prof. P. M. SARWAN asked :

118. (a) Will Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken by them to stamp out corruption in the Forest Department ?

(b) Do Government propose to give such authority and powers to the Senior Conservator of Forests as will enable him to take all necessary drastic steps to stamp out corruption prevailing in the Offices of the Divisional Forest Officers ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether permits, licences, and leases issued for settlement of Forest tenants, etc., made by the Divisional Forest Officers are properly checked and scrutinised by the Senior Conservator of Forests ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

118. (a)—Whenever cases of corruption are brought to the notice of Government enquiries are made by the Anti-Corruption Branch and should there be sufficient materials action is taken against offenders either departmentally or in a Court of Law.

(b)—The Senior Conservator of Forests as the Departmental Head has already sufficient powers to take steps against subordinate officers found guilty of corrupt practices.

(c)—It is not possible for the Senior Conservator of Forests to check each and every permit issued. As far as possible sufficient supervision is exercised.

Epidemic of wild animals in North Cachar

Srijut BELIRAM DAS asked :

119. Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge of Forests be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that epidemic of wild animals has lately broken out in the North Cachar Hills ?

- (b) Whether it is a fact that large number of elephants and deer has died due to this epidemic ?
 (e) If so, whether Government have tried to ascertain the cause of this epidemic ?
 (d) What steps have Government taken to check this epidemic ?
 (e) Whether Government have sent any expert to the North Cachar Hills to study the situation ?
 120. (a) Is it a fact that Government have opened out large number of elephant Mahals this year ?
 (b) Is it a fact that about 1,000 captures have been allowed this year ?
 (c) Are Government aware that the issue of licence to capture wild elephants in such a large number will lead to a great decrease in elephant population very soon ?
 (d) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have any rough idea about the number of wild elephants in the Province ?
 (e) If so, what is that number ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

119. (a)—Unconfirmed reports have been received about an epidemic among wild elephants in North Cachar Hills.
 (b) & (c)—A detailed report has been called for from the Local Officer.
 (d) & (e)—Such action as may be possible will be taken on receipt of the Local Officer's report.
 120. (a)—Government have opened 19 Khedda and 13 Mela Shikar Mohals in the Province.
 (b)—About 900 captures have been allowed.
 (c)—Government have taken every factor into consideration and have no reason to believe that this number of elephants, if caught, will lead to a great decrease in the elephant population.
 (d) & (e)—The information is not available.

Appeals under Opium Prohibition Act, 1947

Srijut DALBIR SINGH LOHAR asked :

121. Will Government be pleased to state—
 (a) The number of appeals under Opium Prohibition Act, 1947 of Dibrugarh at present pending in the Court of the Judge ?
 (b) How many of them are pending (i) for two months and (ii) three months and over ?
 (c) Whether in hearing petition for bail in cases and appeals under the Opium Prohibition Act, 1947 the prosecution is granted facilities to be heard ?

The Hon'ble Maulana MAHOMED TAYYEBULLA replied :

121. (a), (b) & (c)—Necessary informations are being collected. These will be communicated to the hon. Member when obtained.

Opium smugglers

Maulavi ABDUL HALIM asked :

122. Will Government be pleased to state—
 (a) If it is a fact that there is a list of opium smugglers and suspected opium smugglers in different districts of the Province ?

- (b) If so, on whose suspicion a person is considered as "suspected opium smuggler" ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that people in the list of suspected opium smugglers are penalised in various ways ?
- (d) Whether Government are aware that many persons are dubbed as suspected opium smugglers only to be penalised for private reasons ?
- (e) Why a person who is regarded as opium smuggler or suspected opium smuggler is not dealt with legally ?
123. Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) The names of the Organisers and Prohibition Officers appointed by Government for the purpose of opium prohibition in the Dibrugarh Subdivision and the date of appointment of each one of them ?
- (b) The monthly salary or honorarium drawn by each one of them ?
- (c) How many cases of opium smuggling were detected by each one of them since their appointment ?
- (d) Whether all these cases were sent up to the Court of Law ?
- (e) How many of them ended in conviction ?

The Hon'ble Maulana MAHOMED TAYYEBULLA replied :

122. (a)—Yes.
- (b)—From confidential enquiries made by the Excise Department and approved by the Deputy Commissioners of the Districts.
- (c)—Action is taken under the various provisions of the Assam Opium Prohibition Act, 1947.
- (d)—No. Departmental enquiries are impartially and conscientiously made before any action is taken against opium smugglers.
- (e)—Appropriate legal action is taken as may be necessary under the provisions of the Assam Opium Prohibition Act, 1947.

123. (a)—

Names of Prohibition Officers in the Dibrugarh Subdivision			Date of appointment
1.	Srijut Jogendra Nath Rajmedhi	...	15th December 1949.
2.	" Parasu Ram Dutta	...	Ditto.
3.	" Joy Chandra Goswami	...	Ditto.
4.	" Mohananda Kakoty	...	Ditto.
5.	" Lila Kanta Saikia	...	Ditto.
6.	" Jadu Nath Gogoi	...	Ditto.
7.	" Ambika Charan Karigayan	...	Ditto.
8.	" Joga Kanta Barua	...	Ditto.
9.	" Chandibar Gogoi	...	Ditto.
10.	" Girindra Nath Saikia	...	Ditto.
11.	" Rameswar Das	...	Ditto.
12.	" Roma Kanta Handique	...	Ditto.
13.	" Guna Ram Barua	...	Ditto.
14.	" Sashadhar Gogoi	...	Ditto.
15.	" Kuladhar Saikia	...	Ditto.
16.	" Bhuban Chandra Konwar	...	Ditto.
17.	" Gunaviram Barua	...	Ditto.
18.	" Guneswar Konwar	...	Ditto.
19.	" Tulsi Phukon	...	Ditto.
20.	" Sondhar Borah	...	Ditto.
21.	" Lakhinath Gogoi	...	Ditto.
22.	" Gopinath Bhuyan	...	Ditto.
23.	" Manjur Bhuyan	...	Ditto.
24.	" Sashidhar Phukon	...	Ditto.
25.	" Jonabor Gohain	...	Ditto.

Name of Home-Guards Officers	Prohibition	Date of joining
1. Srijut Debendra Nath Bardalaye	21st April 1949
2. „ Ananda Kumar Hazarika	Ditto.
3. „ Padama Nath Gogoi	Ditto.
4. „ Chandra Kanta Sonowal	Ditto.
5. „ Padmeswar Borah	Ditto.
6. „ Samanta Sonowal	Ditto.
7. „ Bidyadhar Das	Ditto.
8. „ Karneswar Konwar	Ditto.
9. „ Chandra Sing Bittricuti	Ditto.
10. „ Ramsobilas Sing	Ditto.

Names of Prohibition Organisers	Date of appointment
1. Srijukta Padma Kumari Gohain ...	1st July 1948
2. Sardar Wairam Sing ...	Ditto.

(b)—Prohibition Officers:—

Honorarium Rs.40+Rs.10 as travelling allowance per mensem.

Organisers—

Honorarium Rs.50+Rs.20 as travelling allowance per mensem.

Honorarium Rs.60+Rs.20 as travelling allowance per mensem.

(c)—Fourteen cases have so far been detected in all.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Three cases ended in conviction and 11 cases are pending.

Supply of Medicines to interior villages

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN asked—

124. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether any steps have been taken by them for providing medicines, etc., for the interior villages of Assam where automobile hospitals or dispensaries are inaccessible?

(b) If so, what are they?

(c) If not, whether Government propose to take early steps in the matter of supplying those places with medicines?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied:

124. (a)—The question of providing medical relief in the interior areas of Assam, where there are no hospitals or dispensaries, has been taken up and a beginning has been made in the form of village-aid-man scheme.

(b)—A copy of the scheme is placed in the Library table.

(c)—Does not arise.

Assam Medical College Buildings

Maulavi ABDUL HALIM asked :

125. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) When the construction of the Assam Medical College Buildings will be started ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the aforesaid construction has been postponed *sine die* for want of funds ?
- (c) Whether Government are sure of the availability of the estimate funds for the construction of all the premises for the Assam Medical College ?
- (d) If the answer to (c) above is in the negative, on what basis money has been spent for the construction of quarters for the residence of the teachers and for the hostels ?

126. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Who supplies food-stuff at the Assam Medical College Hospital and the Dibrugarh Civil Hospital ?
- (b) Whether any tender was called for this contract ?
- (c) If so, whether the tender of the person who was given the contract contained lowest rates ?
- (d) What are the names of the tenderers ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that the said contractor is a non-Assamese, without any domicile in Assam ?
- (f) Whether there was any local Assamese among the tenderers ?
- (g) If so, why contract was not given to any of the local Assamese tenderers ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

125. (a)—As soon as funds will be available.

(b)—No, till funds are available.

(c)—Government hope so.

(d)—Does not arise.

126. (a)—One Srijut Ramdhari Sarma.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The rates of the contractor was, in some cases the lowest and in some not.

(d)—1. Srijut Haresh Chandra Bhattacharjee.

2. Srijut Ramdhari Sarma.

3. Srijut M. N. Patwary.

4. M/S. T.N.Sarma & Sons.

5. Maulavi Abdul Supan.

6. M/S. Oriental Stores.

7. Mr. Shah Jamal.

8. Babu Mahabir Prasad Talsion.

9. M/S. Bread House.

10. M/S. Sharma & Sons.
11. M/S. Bora & Co.
12. M/S. Modern Syndicate.
13. M/S. Ideal Traders.
14. Md. Isaac.
15. Mr. Surendra Mohan Deb.
16. M/S. Hind Transport Syndicate.
17. Maulavi N. Islam.

(e)—He is a resident of the Dibrugarh town for the last 40 years, owns landed properties, and he was educated in Dibrugarh High School with Assamese as vernacular.

(f)—Yes.

(g)—He was found to be the most suitable man by the Principal of the College for entrusting with the hospital supply.

Forest cases under the Assam Forest Regulation, 1891

Srijut. BELIRAM DAS asked :

127. Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge of Forests be pleased to state—
 - (a) What was the provision of section 63 of the Assam Forest Regulation, 1891 which has since been deleted ?
 - (b) Is it a fact that since deletion of this section great practical difficulties are experienced by the Forest Department ?
 - (c) Are Government aware that this section has not been deleted by any other provincial Governments excepting Assam ?
 - (d) Do Government propose to reconsider the matter and do the needful ?
128. (a) Is it a fact that a large number of Forest cases are pending before the criminal courts of Nowgong ?
 - (b) Is it a fact that owing to the deletion of section 63 of the Assam Forest Regulation the Onus of proof has fallen upon the Forest Department ?
 - (c) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Forest cases pending at present in Nowgong courts ?
129. (a) Is it a fact that one Officer has been found absolutely necessary for regeneration, plantation, etc., works in the Forest Department ?
 - (b) If so, do Government propose to appoint such an Officer from amongst the Senior most provincial service men of the Department ?
 - (c) How many acres of land have been brought under plantation and regeneration in the Province of Assam ?
 - (d) What is the actual expenditure incurred under this head ?
 - (e) When income from this head may be expected ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

127. (a)—Section 63 of the Assam Forest Regulation, 1891 read as follows: "When in any proceedings taken under this Regulation, or in consequence of anything done under this Regulation, a question arises as to whether any forest

produce is the property of the Government ; such produce shall be presumed to be the property of the Government until the contrary is proved".

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Government have no information.

(d)—This is under consideration.

128. (a)—Government have no information.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The information has been called for.

129. (a)—The question is not clear. Regeneration work is being done in all Divisions under the Divisional Forest Officers concerned.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—3040·13 acres under plantation and total area artificially regenerated is 30786·48 acres and 19605·90 acres under natural regeneration.

(d)—The total cost under plantation is Rs.2,22,024-0-9 and cost of creation for artificially regenerated areas is Rs.1,64,965-8-3.

(e)—No definite date can be given.

Dairy Development and Livestock Office

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

130. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Dairy Development and the Livestock offices of the Government of Assam are now located at Shillong ?

(b) If so, whether Government propose to shift them to Gauhati or some other suitable place in the plains for the sake of economy and convenience and speedy service amongst the rural people ?

(c) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

130. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The matter is under the active consideration of Government.

(c)—Does not arise.

The Assam Co-operative Apex Bank Limited

Srijut BELIRAM DAS asked :

131. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The object and function of the Assam Co-operative Apex Bank Limited ?

(b) Its authorised capital ?

(c) Its subscribed capital ?

(d) Its paid up capital ?

(e) Its total deposits ?

(f) The kind of banking business that is doing now by this Bank ?

(g) What kind of deposits is accepted now by this Bank ?

(h) Whether it is functioning as a Commercial Bank ?

(i) The total number of its branches ?

(j) The total establishment expenses per month of all branches ?

- (k) The total expenses per month for house rent and other expenses ?
- (l) The Banking qualification of the Managing Director ?
- (m) Whether any application for the post of Managing Director was received from any Assamese candidate having banking knowledge ?
- (n) Whether the Managing Director is acting only as an Executive Officer of the Bank ?
- (o) What special and constructive service to the Bank is being rendered by the Managing Director ?
- (p) Whether the Apex Bank intends to help the public by its finances like the Commercial Bank ?
- (q) Whether a highly paid officer of the category of the Managing Director is necessary at this infant stage of the Bank ?

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary)
replied :

131. (a)—The object of the Bank as provided in its bye-laws are :—

- (1) to finance the Co-operative movement in Assam ;
- (2) to carry on the business of Banking in general ;
- (3) to establish branches throughout the Province of Assam ; and
- (4) to act as Agents for the Reserve Bank of India or any other Bank or for any Government within the Union of India.

It has started its business by financing Central Trading Co-operatives and providing current, savings and deposit banking facilities for Co-operatives in particular and also the public in general.

(b)—Rs.3,50,00,000.

(c)—Rs.64,150 as on 10th September 1949.

(d)—Rs.64,150 as on 10th September 1949.

(e)—Rs.53,01,669-4-6 as on 31st August 1949, include a loan of Rs.45,00,000 from the Government of Assam

(f) Financing Co-operative Societies and also doing other Banking business in general, e.g., accepting deposits.

(g)—Fixed, savings and current.

(h)—Yes.

(i)—Eighteen.

(j)—Rupees 16,701-8-0.

(k)—(i) House rent—Rs.1,020

(ii) Other expenses—Rs.3,690

} Rs.4,710.

(l)—He possesses over 20 years practical experiences in Banking business, having worked with the following Banks :—

(1) Alliance Bank of Simla, Ltd. (Agent).

(2) Sree Bharat Industrial Bank Ltd., Calcutta (Managing Director).

(3) The Nepal Bank Ltd., Katmundu, Nepal (General Manager).

(4) U. P. Provincial Co-operative Bank Ltd., Lucknow (General Manager).

He is fellow of the Royal Society of Accounts, Insurance and Currency (F.R.S.A.I.C.), Glasgow.

(m)—Yes.

(n)—Yes. Besides this he is guiding the Bank with his practical experience and knowledge in banking.

(o)—In the capacity of the Managing Director he is running the entire administration of the Bank.

(p)—Yes.

(q)—Yes.

Rehabilitation of Refugees

Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA asked :

132. (a) Are Government aware that the Central Government have various Schemes for rehabilitation of refugees in small scale industries ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken to that end in Assam ?

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

132. (a)—Yes.

(b)—A copy of the model bye-laws of an Industrial Co-operative and a Press Note No. CG.94/49/33, dated 24th August, 1949 are placed on the Library table. The Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers are being requested to organise Industrial Co-operatives of refugees where necessary based on different Cottage industries. It is expected that financial help will be obtained for such Co-operatives when formed.

Expenditure incurred for Rural Development

Prof. P. M. SARWAN asked :

133. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the expenditure incurred by Government for the Rural Development from the 1st January, 1949 to the 31st August, 1949 ?

(b) What work has the Rural Development Department done during the above period ?

(c) In view of the demands for short term schemes and bad economic situation in the Province, do Government propose to retrench immediately Rural Development Department to meet other pressing needs ?

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

133. (a)—Rs. 6,81,631.

(b)—It is rather difficult to detail the activities of a department in a reply to a question but in brief the works done are the following:—

Fifteen Rural Panchayats have been formed and five model villages. Subsidised a large number of villagers self-help enterprises. One Rural Polytechnic established. Marketing Organisation through Trading Co-operatives set up with nearly one thousand Primary and twenty Central Trading Co-operatives.

(c)—No.

Monthly quotas of cloth and yarn in each district

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN asked :

134. Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge of Supply and Textile be pleased to state :—

- (a) What were the monthly quotas of cloth and yarn in each district of the Province since the time of control of the same by the Government of India ?
- (b) How many bales of cloth and yarn were purchased and imported to Assam since September, 1948 ?
- (c) Whether cloths were purchased for the months of January to May, 1949 ?
- (d) If so, what was the quantity ?
- (e) If not whether there was no demand for the same ?
- (f) How many bales of cloth were purchased during the said months of January to May, 1949 ?
- (g) Whether Government are aware that there is a great shortage of cloth here in Assam on account of the failure of the Government to purchase the same regularly ?

135. Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge of Supply and Textile be pleased to state :—

- (a) Whether the handloom, powerloom and foreign cloths and yarns which are imported into the Province by the Merchants on their own account are freely freezed by Government ?
- (b) If so, whether it is with a view to push on their sale of cloth brought on Government account ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware that after the introduction of the Co-operative Trading Societies trading in handloom, powerloom and foreign cloths is the only source of the maintenance of the families of these dealers ?
- (d) If so, whether the Government propose to release forthwith all the freezed and seized cloths and yarns in Assam ?

136. Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge of Supply and Textile be pleased to state—

- (a) At what rate the Government Procurement Agents for Textiles in 1947-48 supplied cloth and yarn to the Distributing Agents of the various districts of Assam ?
- (b) What was the rate charged by Government since September 1948 to June 1949 over *ex-mill* price of cloth from the Central Co-operative Trading Societies ?
- (c) Whether Government charged 2·8 per cent. as administrative charge from the Central Co-operative Trading Societies ?
- (d) Whether Government are aware that the cloth merchants of Bombay and Calcutta supply cloth and yarn to their constituents at a commission of annas 8 per cent. ?

137. (a) Are Government aware that many bales of cloth are still lying in the godowns and unless the same are not disposed of during the Puja the loss therefrom will be very heavy ?

(b) If so, whether Government propose to dispose of the bales of cloth lying from a pretty long time through the Trading Stores, or through the cloth dealers ?

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) replied:

134. (a)—The statements below give the information.

Monthly quotas of Cloth in each district of the Province in bales since control from August 1948 to September 1949

Serial No.	District	August 1948	September 1948	October 1948	October 1948 <i>Ad hoc</i>	November 1948 <i>Ad hoc</i>	December 1948	January 1949	February 1949	March 1949	April 1949	May 1949	June 1949	July 1949	August 1949	September 1949 with quota from West Bengal
1	Lakhimpur	..	558	549	265	1,095	140	573	..	..	..	..	732	..	..	543
2	Sibsagar	..	..	675	755	666	277	1,261	205	678	..	..	860	..	..	752
3	Nowgong	..	..	357	363	396	173	788	100	423	..	..	536	..	..	649
4	Darrang	..	..	340	350	410	171	779	140	423	..	..	522	..	..	552
5	Kamrup	..	..	712	732	801	340	1,512	210	819	..	..	1,146	..	..	1,175
6	Goalpara	..	..	475	505	550	240	1,094	160	591	..	..	750	..	..	904
7	Garohills	..	..	59	64	60	26	121	20	66	..	..	86	..	..	183
8	Khasi and Jaintia Hills	..	..	267	302	289	132	538	70	286	..	..	364	..	..	333
9	Cachar	..	..	552	597	638	279	1,307	155	705	..	..	898	..	..	813
10	Lushai Hills	..	..	80	85	Nil	Nil	120	Nil	61	..	..	82	..	..	72
11	Naga Hills	..	..	45	55	28	12	56	Nil	28	..	..	38	..	..	34
12	Manipur	..	..	280	310	270	118	538	Nil	Nil	..	..	..	..	..	..
13	Sadiya	..	..	35	40	Nil	Nil	65	Nil	19	..	..	26	..	..	33
14	Balipara	..	..	15	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	..	..	5
15	Tirap	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	..	..	16
16	Pasighat	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	..	..	16
17	Cooch Behar	..	..	..	..	765	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
18	Tripura	..	..	..	..	695	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total		..	4,450	4,761	4,657	3,493	9,274	1,200	4,700	6,100	6,130	6,130	6,130	6,130	6,130	6,130

Monthly Quotas of yarn in each District of the Province in bales since Control from August 1948 to September 1949

Serial No.	District	August and September 1948	October and November 1948	December 1948	January 1949	February 1949	March 1949	April 1949	May 1949	June 1949	July 1949	August 1949	September 1949	<i>Ad hoc Yarn</i>
1	Lakhimpur ..	..	360	168	94	94	104	104	105½	105½	105½	121½	327
2	Sibsagar ..	..	..	715	486	269	262	290	301	303½	303½	350½	399
3	Nowgong ..	..	..	405	231	128	128	136	143	143	143	165	200
4	Darrang ..	..	..	281	174	94	97	120	120	120	120	136	30
5	Kamrup ..	..	..	688	427	234	230	288	284	284	284	327	318
6	Goalpara ..	..	..	325	198	107	106	119	119	119	119	138	226
7	Garo Hills ..	..	..	30	22	14	14	15	15	15	15	17	5
8	Khasi and Jaintia Hills	..	..	30	20	10	10	11	11	11	11	12	..
9	Cachar ..	..	..	473	362	205	204	230	235	235	235	272	345
10	Lushai Hills	..	..	25	22	13	13	14	14	14	14	16	..
11	Naga Hills ..	..	..	50	42	25	25	28	28	28	28	32	..
12	Manipur ..	..	..	310	212	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	146
13	Mishmi Hills (Sadiya)	..	..	45	30	8	8	9	9	9	9	10	16
14	Balipara Frontier Tract	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	5	5	5	6	..
15	Tirap Frontier Tract	..	..	10	10	4	4	5	5	5	5	6	..
16	Abor Hills ..	..	..	..	..	12	12	13	8	8	8	9	..
Total ..		..	3,753	2,404	1,217	1,207	1,382	1,405	1,405	1,405	1,405	1,618	2,012

(b)—A statement is given below:—
Statement showing monthly quotas of Cloth and Yarn purchases (in bales)

Date	Cloth		Yarn	
	Quota	Purchases	Quota	Purchases
August and September 1948	4450 Aug. 4761 Sep.	4450 4761	3753	3753
October 1948 ...	8150	8150	1202	1202
November 1948 ...	9274	9274	1202	1202
December 1948 ...	5900	5900	1217	1217
January 1949 ...	...	...	1207	1207
February 1949 ...	...	...	1382	1382
March 1949 ...	...	...	1405	1391
April 1949 ...	...	...	1405	1389
May 1949 ...	...	...	1405	1393
June 1949 ...	...	...	1405	1393
Ad hoc Yarn ...	...	...	2012	1946

(c)—No.

(d)—Does not arise.

(e)—There was demand, but purchases had to be postponed owing to transport difficulties and lack of storage facilities.

(f)—None.

(g)—No, on the contrary there are ample stocks in all subdivisions of the Province as will be revealed from the statement below:—

Statement of Stocks held in each Centre on 1st September 1949 (in bales)

Place of storage	Description of Goods	
	Cloth	Yarn
1. Silchar ...	901	687
2. Karimganj ...	8102	334
3. Hailakandi ...	227	100
4. Shillong ...	631	21
5. Kohima ...	187	Nil
6. Dhubri ...	1294	308
7. Goalpara ...	316	280
8. Tezpur ...	363	250
9. Mangaldai ...	328	279
10. Nowgong ...	1046	663
11. Gauhati ...	944	244
12. Barpeta ...	1043	342
13. Nalbari ...	745	69
14. Jorhat ...	922	485
15. Sibsagar ...	504	528
16. Golaghat ...	367	180
17. North-Lakhimpur ...	205	146
18. Dibrugarh ...	1228	223
19. Tura ...	167	56
20. Pasighat ...	...	31
21. Balipara ...	...	...
22. Margherita ...	...	...
23. Sadiya ...	...	...
Total ...	12520	8226

135. (a)—Freezing was resorted to to prevent mill made cloth entering under the guise of free categories. A general release order has since issued.

(b)—No.

(c)—It is possible.

(d)—In view of the reply at (a) the question does not arise.

136. (a)—At 11 per cent. and 11½ per cent. for cloth depending on accessibility of the Area. At Rs.55 per bale over the *ex-mill* price for yarn.

(b)—12 per cent.

(c)—Yes, but this 2·8 per cent. includes unforeseen expenses also.

(d)—No.

137. (a)—Government have issued orders for rapid and early disposal.

(b)—Yes, after Trading Co-operatives have had first choice.

Election Mondals appointed in Goalpara Subdivision

Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE asked :

138. Will Government be pleased to state:—

(a) The number of Election Mondals appointed at present in the Subdivision of Goalpara with their names and qualifications, caste by caste ?

(b) The number of employees at present in the Election staff of the Subdivisional Officer, Goalpara, with their names and qualifications, caste by caste ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that some Muslim candidates were selected by the Senior Extra Assistant Commissioner, Goalpara, as Election Mondals being satisfied with their qualifications and capabilities but later on they were not appointed ?

(d) If so, why ?

(e) Whether it is a fact that no Muslim has been taken in the Election staff of the Goalpara Subdivision ?

(f) If so, why ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

138. (a)—A statement is given below :

Name of Enumerator	Qualification	Caste
1. Shri Mahendra Nath Chakravarty	.. Matric plucked	.. Caste Hindu.
2. " Dwijendra Lal Singha	.. Read upto Class VIII	.. Ditto (Rajbonsi).
3. " Leba Ram Rava	.. Read upto Class V	.. Tribal (Rava).
4. " Amalendu Chakravarty	.. Matric plucked	.. Caste Hindu.
5. " Dina Nath Das	.. Matric	.. Ditto.
6. " Keshab Ch. Chowdhury	.. Passed Middle English	.. Ditto.
7. " Hariprasad Patgiri	.. Ditto	.. Ditto.
8. Md. Osman Ali Ahmed	.. Matric plucked	.. Muslim.
9. Shri Jogendra Nath Patgiri	.. Read upto Class VIII	.. Caste Hindu.
10. " Umesh Ch. Kalita	.. Read upto Class X	.. Ditto.
11. " Rabindra Ch. Kachari	.. Matric plucked	.. Tribal (Kachari).
12. " Abhoy Ch. Sarkar	.. Passed Middle English	.. Ditto.
13. " Paramanda Sarkar	.. Passed Middle Vernacular.	.. Caste Hindu.

Name of Enumerator	Qualification	Caste
14. Shri Rajendra N. Das	Read upto Class IX ..	Caste Hindu (Rajbonshi).
15. „ Jatindra Nath Das	Matric plucked ..	Caste Hindu.
16. „ Dhajendra Ch. Singha	Read upto Class VIII ..	Ditto (Rajbonshi).
17. „ Lochan Ch. Roy	Read upto Class VII ..	Ditto.
18. „ Narendra Ch. Das	Passed Middle Vernacular.	Schedule Caste (Kai-barta).
19. „ Kameswar Deb Nath	Ditto ..	Caste Hindu.
20. „ Debendra Nath Trata	Read upto Class VII ..	Ditto (Rajbonshi).
21. „ Dharani Kanta Roy	Passed Middle English ..	Ditto.
22. „ Dinesh Ch. Das	Passed Middle Vernacular.	Ditto.
23. „ Akhil Ch. Das	Ditto ..	Ditto.
24. „ Biswa Nath Roy	Read upto Class VII ..	Ditto (Rajbonshi).
25. „ Pansing Roy	Read upto Class IX ..	Ditto.
26. „ Kameswar Deb Adhikary	Read upto Class X ..	Ditto.
27. „ Lakhi Kanta Nath	Passed Middle Vernacular.	Ditto.
28. „ Dhiresh Ch. Roy	Read upto Class IX ..	Ditto (Rajbonshi).
29. „ Ahi Bhushan Mukherjee	Read upto Class VII ..	Ditto.
30. „ Jogesh Kamal Adhikary	Passed Middle English ..	Ditto (Rajbonshi).
31. „ Khargeswar Nath	Ditto ..	Ditto.
32. „ Narendra N. Adhikary	Matric ..	Ditto (Rajbonshi).
33. „ Prithwi Ram Nath	Read upto Class VII ..	Ditto.
34. „ Sailaja Kanta Bose	Matric ..	Ditto.
35. „ Keshab Ch. Roy	Passed Middle Vernacular.	Ditto (Rajbonshi).
36. Md. Majibar Rahman	Matric ..	Muslim.
37. Shri Durgeswar Roy	Read upto Class VII ..	Caste Hindu (Rajbonshi).

Name of Supervisor	Qualification	Caste
38. Shri Sib Charan Marak	Read upto Intermediate 2nd year.	Tribal.
39. „ Durga Prasad Roy	Matric plucked ..	Caste Hindu (Rajbonshi).

Out of the above staff only 5 Enumerators have been retained upto 15th September 1949. The remaining hands have since been retrenched.

(b)—Election Officer	...	...	...	...	1
Office Assistants	...	...	...	...	2

Name	Qualification	Caste
1. Shri Ramananda Chowdhury (Retired Sub-Deputy Magistrate) Election officer.	B. A.	Caste Hindu.
2. Shri Umesh Ch. Das, Senior Election Assistant.	Matriculation with 20 years permanent service and office experience.	Ditto.
3. Shri Golak Behari Das, 2nd Election Assistant.	Matriculation, passed Typist (under training in Accountancy) with 14 years permanent service and office experience.	Ditto.

(c)—No. The Senior Extra Assistant Commissioner was not asked to select any Muslim, or for that matter any other candidate, but he was asked only to interview all candidates. After scrutinising the list of all candidates interviewed, only suitable persons including Muslims were appointed by the Subdivisional Officer.

(d)—In view of the reply to question (c) this does not arise.

(e)—Yes.

(f) No suitable Muslim candidate was available and in view of its importance and urgency, two experienced hands were drafted from other offices in the interest of the work.

Northbrook gate at Gauhati

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

139. Will Government be pleased to refer to their reply given to Unstarred Question No. 56 (d) asked by the Questioner during the Budget Session, 1947 (pp.122-124 of the Assembly Debates of the 13th March, 1947) and state—

- (a) Whether Government have considered the question of taking the responsibility of maintaining and keeping under repair the Northbrook gate at Gauhati ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that Government asked the Public Works Department to submit an estimate of the probable cost of repairing the structure ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the Public Works Department has submitted an estimate ?
- (d) If so, what is the amount ?
- (e) Whether Government have sanctioned the amount ?
- (f) If not, why not ?
- (g) Whether Government are aware that the structure particularly its ceiling is in extremely bad condition and has become a source of danger to public safety ? If not, whether Government propose to ascertain the actual condition of the gate by directing an early enquiry into the matter ?
- (h) Whether Government have considered the submission of the Gauhati Municipality pleading their inability to repair and maintain the gate owing to financial difficulties ?
- (i) Whether it is a fact that the Gauhati Municipality requested the Government for a grant of Rs. 6,000 to enable it to repair the gate ?
- (j) If so, whether Government propose to help the Municipality by granting the money ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

139. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Rs. 8,004.

(e)—No.

(f)—The question whether the Municipal Board will carry out the work with some financial help from Government or the gate is to be taken over by Government is under examination.

(g)—Yes.

(h)—Yes.

(i)—Yes for a grant of Rs. 5,124.

(j)—This is under examination.

Construction of a Bund on Bamni on the South Bank of Brahmaputra in Dhubri Subdivision.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM asked :

140. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether any officer has examined the proposed projects and to the construction of a " Bund " on Bamni on the South Bank of the Brahmaputra in Dhubri Subdivision this year ?

(b) If so, what is the report of the said officer on the subject ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

140 (a) & (b)—It is not clearly understood what the Questioner means by proposed projects. No proposal relating to construction of a bund on Bamni on the South Bank of the Brahmaputra River in Dhubri Subdivision this year has been taken up by this Department.

A surveyor has been appointed with necessary staff at South Salmara who is carrying out the survey and collection of hydro'ogical data for the project ' Protection of the South Bank of Brahmaputra in Dhubri Subdivision.'

Detailed examination of the project is proposed to be taken up after the rains.

Professors' quarters and Hostels of the Assam Medical College

Maulavi ABDUL HALIM asked :

141. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The amount already spent uptill now for the construction of Professors' quarters and hostels of the Assam Medical College ?

(b) The extra total amount spent uptill now for the addition and alteration of the old Borbarrie Military Hospital for the temporary use of staff as their quarters and College ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

						Rs.
141. (a)—Professors and Assistant Professors' Quarters	...					5,52,366
Hostels	...	...	...	...	...	4,51,803
(b)	...	...	...	...	...	4,12,211

Construction of a Bund over the Fulguri Jan

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

142. Will Government be pleased to refer to their reply given to the Unstarred Question No.64 (d) asked by the Questioner during the September

Session, 1948 (pages 1177-1178, Assembly Debate of 21st September, 1948) and state :—

(a) Whether the construction of the Bund over the Fulguri Jan near Nalbari has been completed ?

(b) If so, whether it has been able to stand the attack of water during this rainy season ?

143. Will Government be pleased to refer to their reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 52 asked by the Questioner during the September Session, 1948 (page 1129 of the Assembly Debate of 21st September 1948) and state :—

(a) What progress has been made in the execution of the scheme undertaken by Government in 1944 for the reclamation of the low-lying areas, south of Nalbari ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

142. (a)—A scheme for remodelling the Bund and closing the spill channel has been prepared and the plans and estimates are under scrutiny.

(b)—Does not arise.

143. (a)—Survey for the scheme has been carried out and plans and estimate drawn up which are under scrutiny. The scheme is proposed to be taken up in the coming winter.

Diversion of Nakhanda river in Barpeta

Dr. JINARAM DAS asked :

144. Will Government be pleased to state :—

(a) The amount of money spent up-to-date, for excavating the canal for the diversion of the Nakhanda river in front of the Barpeta town?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the river is not running through the canal excavated for its diversion ?

(c) How much cement was required in constructing the spur on the canal and when the work of cementing was begun ?

(d) Whether it is a fact that the cementing was begun when rain sets in ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

144. (a)—A sum of Rs.42,479 has been spent from the commencement of the scheme upto end of July, 1949.

(b)—No. The river is now running through the canal excavated for its diversion.

(c) and (d)—Reports have been called for from the Divisional office.

Hallidayganj-Oydoba Road and other road communications in Dhubri Subdivision

Maulavi MD. ABUL KASHEM asked :

145. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have examined the proposal for construction of Hallidayganj-Oydoba Road in place of the proposed Hallidayganj-Garobadha Road in the Garo Hills ?

(b) If so, what is the Government decision in the matter ?

(c) Are Government aware that there is an abandoned Road of Raja Mahendra Narayan Chaudhury's days from Dhanna near Hallidayganj to a place near Oydoba which is far above the flood level ?

(d) Are Government aware that repairs to this abandoned road will save huge amount of expenditure from public coffer ?

146. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have got any money at present for road communication under the Post War Reconstruction Scheme ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have received any response from the Centre to the resolutions passed by the Assam Road Communications Board in its last meeting ?

(c) If so, what is the reply of the Government of India in this respect ?

147. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Diara-Kalapani Road construction work in Dhubri Subdivision under the Post War Development scheme is going to be taken up this year ?

(b) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

145. (a) and (b)—The matter is still under examination.

(c) and (d)—If the road Pipalbari to Rangapani is meant, this is breached in many places and passes through a quagmire near Kalapani. If the village path from Kalapani to Oydoba is referred to, the road will have to be realigned and it is estimated that it will cost a huge sums of money.

146. (a)—No balance of funds is available during the current year for any new schemes.

(b)—The resolutions of the 4th meeting of the Assam Road Communications Board await approval of the Provincial Government. As such no reference to Government of India has yet been made.

(c)—Does not arise.

147. (a)—No.

(b)—There is no fund available this year for commencement of any new scheme.

Road from Kekuri to Pithaguti Tea Estate

Maulavi ABDUL HALIM asked :

148. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Why the portion of the road from Kekuri to Pithaguti Tea Estate in the Dibrugarh Subdivision which was taken over by the Public Works Department from the Dibrugarh Local Board nearly two years back, have not been properly repaired up till now ?

(b) Whether Government are aware that this is the only road by which the communication is possible in the rainy season to Tingkhong circle ?

(c) Whether Government are aware that of late there were several serious accidents on this road from the wooden bridges which have not been repaired at all by the Public Works Department ?

(d) Why the little cold weather repairs done last year were suddenly stopped by the Public Works Department ?

(e) Whether Government are aware that all the wooden bridges between Diroi Tea Estate and Pithaguti Tea Estate have been left untouched by the Public Works Department resulting in several serious accidents ?

- (f) Whether Government propose to take necessary steps so that this road is properly repaired immediately so as to keep the traffic open throughout the year ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS ROY replied :

148. (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) & (f)—Report has been called for from the Executive Engineer. Necessary information will be supplied to the hon. Member, when received.

Plantation Scheme in Garo Hills

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM asked :

149. Will Government be pleased to state—
 (a) Whether plantation scheme has been taken up in the forests of the plains mauzas in the Garo Hills ?
 (b) If so, where the scheme is in operation ?
 (c) Whether Government propose to examine as to whether teak and pine plantations will be successful or not in those areas ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

149. (a) & (b)—The information has been called for.
 (c)—Teak is being planted in these areas. Pine will not thrive well there.

Districts and Subdivisions with their Headquarters in Excluded Areas and Partially Excluded Areas in Assam

Babu KHAGENDRA NATH SAMADDAR asked :

150. Will Government be pleased to state—
 (a) The names of the Districts and Subdivisions with their headquarters in Excluded Areas in Assam ?
 (b) Whether the Judiciary of those Excluded Areas in Assam is rested in the hands of the Government of Assam ?
 (c) Whether Government propose to invite lawyers in the District and Subdivisional Courts of the Excluded Areas of Assam ?
 (d) If the answer to question (c) above is in the negative whether the Government of Assam propose to represent to the proper authorities for the invitation of the lawyers in the District and Subdivisional Courts of those Excluded Areas of Assam ?
 (e) Whether Government propose to encourage the lawyers to go to the courts of the Excluded Areas and engage themselves for the improvement of those backward areas ?
151. Will Government be pleased to state—
 (a) The names of the Districts and Subdivisions of the Partially Excluded Areas of Assam, with their headquarters ?
 (b) The names of the Courts in the Partially Excluded Areas, where there is any lawyer with number of the lawyers in such Courts ?

- (c) Whether the Judiciary of those Partially Excluded Areas is rested with the Government of Assam ?
- (d) Whether Government is willing to raise the standard of the Judiciary of those Areas as that of the plains districts by the help of lawyers ?
- (e) If the answer to question (c) above is in the negative, whether Government of Assam propose to represent to the proper authorities to invite lawyers in the Courts of those Partially Excluded Areas ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

150. (a)—

District and Headquarters

Naga Hills—Kohima.
 Lushai Hills—Aijal.
 Mishmi Hills—Sadiya.
 Abor Hills—Pasighat.
 Balipara Frontier Tract—Charduar.
 Tirap Frontier Tract—Margherita.
 Lakhimpur Frontier Tract—Dibrugarh.

Subdivision and Headquarters

Mokokchung—Mokokchung.
 Lungleh—Lungleh.
 North Cachar Hills—Haflong.

(b)—The question is not clear. If the hon. Member means whether the Judiciary is appointed by the Government of Assam then the answer is in the affirmative.

(c) & (d)—No.

(e)—Government would propose to wait for the New Constitution under which the Administrative set up of these areas will be changed.

151. (a)—

District and Headquarters

Mikir Hills area in Sibsagar and Nowgong Districts.
 Khasi and Jaintia Hills—Shillong.
 Garo Hills—Tura.

Subdivision and Headquarters

Jowai—Jowai.

(b)—The Court of the Deputy Commissioner and his Assistants at Shillong has about 25 Pleaders. No other court, actually situated in the Partially Excluded Areas, has any pleader.

(c)—Please refer to reply to question 150(c) above.

(d)—The lawyers are almost always engaged in Mikir Hills cases which are tried at Golaghat and Nowgong. In other cases pleaders can be engaged with the permission of the Deputy Commissioners which is invariably given when the parties are non-natives of those areas.

(e)—Does not arise.

Displaced Persons' Law Courts Ordinance

Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA asked :

152. Will Government be pleased to state whether Displaced Persons' Law Courts Ordinance recently promulgated by the Government of India, has been made applicable to Assam by Gazette notification ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

152.—No Ordinance called the Displaced Persons' Law Courts Ordinance has been received from the Government of India.

Scarcity of Rice in Dhubri Subdivision

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEV of Sidli asked :

153. (a) Are Government aware that there is acute scarcity of rice in many towns of the Dhubri Subdivision ?

(b) Are Government aware that rice is not available in the ration shops of the towns of Dhubri and Gauripur since the last week of August 1949 ?

(c) Are Government aware that the local authorities have not been able to procure enough rice for the ration shops ?

(d) Are Government aware that paddy is selling in most of the local bazaars in Dhubri Subdivision at Rs.10 to Rs.15 per maund ?

(e) Do Government propose to make enquiries about the scarcity of rice in the towns of Dhubri and Gauripur and take immediate steps to restore supply of rice in ration shops and ensure proper distribution ?

(f) Do Government propose to take all necessary steps immediately to bring down the price of paddy in the muffassil bazaar of the Dhubri Subdivision ?

(g) If so, how ?

(h) If not, why not ?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

153. (a)—Government are aware of a rise in prices of rice but not of any acute scarcity in the towns of the Dhubri Subdivision.

(b)—There is no information that rice is not available in Dhubri ration shops. Gauripur is not a rationed area but only a small quantity of rice is sold there through the local co-operative store for the benefit of consumers. There is order for milling paddy from the Government godowns to meet the rationing commitment of Dhubri town.

(c)—Government are aware that procurement of rice has of late not been sufficient but there are orders to make up the deficiency by issues from the reserve stocks.

(d)—Government are aware of a rise in prices due to floods and other reasons.

(e)—Government have already taken steps.

(f) & (g)—Government are doing all that is possible by arranging supplies from their reserve stocks as also out of the quantities that are being procured. The Rice Control and the Procurement Staff are also doing what they can in this respect and some prosecutions have already been launched.

(h)—Does not arise.

Local Board bye-elections

Professor P. M. SARWAN asked :

154. (a) How many Local Board bye-elections have taken place since the last March Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly ?

(b) How many of these seats have been captured by the Congress party ?

(c) Whether any bye-election for Jorhat Local Board is due ?

(d) If so, why this bye-election is being delayed ?

(e) Do Government propose to order Local Board General Election for the Province immediately ?

(f) If not, are Government aware that the above General election is very much over due ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

154. (a) & (b)—The information has been called for from the districts.

(c)—The bye-election of Charigaon Non-Muhammadan Constituency is due to be held on the 21st September 1949.

(d)—There has been no delay.

(e) & (f)—No. Under the powers conferred by Section 2 of the Assam Local Board Elections (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1949 (Act III of 1949), the triennial elections of Local Boards in Assam stand postponed for a period upto the 31st March 1950. The intention is to wait till the new constitution is framed finally.

Ferry Boat disaster of Pandu

Srijut BELIRAM DAS asked :

155. (a) Are Government aware that large number of people were the victims of a ferry boat disaster at Pandu recently ?

(b) Is it a fact that similar boat disaster took place in the same place a few years back ?

(c) Did Government take any step to stop recurrence of such boat disaster ?

(d) Is it a fact that the Gauhati Local Board requested Government to introduce steam ferry at Pandu ?

(e) Do Government propose to take immediate steps to stop such boat disaster in future ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

155. (a)—Yes, a private country boat with several passengers sank on the 10th June 1949 at the Pandu-Amingaon Ghat.

(b)—There was another boat accident at the place in 1944 which involved the loss of five human lives.

(c)—The ferry was kept closed during the monsoon months.

(d)—Yes, the Gauhati Local Board has suggested the use of power driven boats or motor launch or steam ferry in the ghat.

(e)—Action has already been taken to discontinue the ferry for the period from the 1st July 1949 to the 31st October 1949. The Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup has asked the Superintendent of Police to stop plying of private boats in the ghat from 1st July 1949.

Boat disaster in the Brahmaputra near Pandu**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR** asked :

156. (a) Are Government aware :—

- (i) That a boat disaster in the Brahmaputra near Pandu took place on 10th June, 1949 at about 7-30 P.M. in which about 40 persons including some women and children and one Shree Dinesh Mishra, a University Research scholar, lost their lives ;
 - (ii) that similar sad occurrences are happening frequently within this area ;
 - (iii) that the lessees of the Ferry at this ghat and their sub-lessees ply their boats wrecklessly and regardlessly about the safety of the passengers ;
 - (iv) that they overload their boats and ply them during dark nights even when the river is in its spate ?
- (b) If the reply to the above question be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state—
- (i) whether they have started any enquiry into the disaster with a view to find out the persons responsible for the tragedy ;
 - (ii) whether the culprits have been detected ;
 - (iii) if so, who are they and how they have been punished ;
 - (iv) if the reply to (i) above is in the negative, whether Government propose to hold the enquiry now ;
 - (v) if not, why not ?
- (c) Having regard to the frequency of such disasters, do Government propose to take such steps as will go to prevent recurrence of similar tragedies ?
- (d) Whether any steps have already been taken towards that direction ?
- (e) If so, what are they ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

156. (a) (i)—Yes, several persons including women and children are believed to have been drowned.

(ii)—Similar occurrences took place in the past in this ghat.

(iii)—Government have no information.

(iv)—Government have no information.

(b) (i) to (v)—A full report from the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, is awaited.

(c), (d) & (e)—Steps have been taken to suspend the plying of passenger boats in the ghat during the rains from the 1st July to the 31st October.

Transfers of Officers

Prof. P. M. SARWAN asked :

157. (a) Will Government be pleased to state, on what principles transfers of officers from one station to the other are made ?

(b) Whether officers are transferred from their stations shortly before retirement ?

(c) Are Government aware that transfers cause increased expenditure on the revenues of the Province ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

157. (a)—In the interests of public service.

(b)—If exigencies of public service require it.

(c)—The hon. Member may be good enough to give credit to the Government for knowing at least as much as he does in this matter.

Number of Magistrates and Munsifs

✓ **Maulavi MD. ABUL KASHEM** asked :

158. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total number of Magistrates and Munsifs at each district and Subdivisional towns of Assam at present ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state—

(i) The names of such Magistrates and Munsifs at each of the aforesaid towns who are the inhabitants of that very subdivision ?

(ii) Date of their postings or transfers to their home subdivisional towns ; and

(iii) The reason, in brief of their so posting ?

(c) Is it a fact that the posting of Magistrates and Munsifs in their home subdivision is against the general principle of postings and transfers of such officials ?

(d) Are Government aware of the public feeling that such postings and transfers as aforesaid is prejudicial to proper dispensation of justice ?

159. (a) Are Government aware that the number of both civil and criminal cases from Mankachar Police Station in Goalpara District justify the posting at Mankachar of a Magistrate with Munsifs power in view of communication difficulties and in the interest of economy in expenditure ?

(b) If so, when do Government propose to provide for such a Magistrate ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

158. (a)—A statement is placed on the library table

(b) (i)—1. Mr. B. W. Roy, Extra Assistant Commissioner at Shillong.

2. Srijut Kanakeswar Gogoi, Extra Assistant Commissioner at Jorhat.

3. Srijut Sudhindra Kumar Bhattacharji, Extra Assistant Commissioner at Dhubri.
4. Babu Surendra Kumar Chakravarty, Extra Assistant Commissioner at Silchar.
5. Srijut Munindra Nath Gogoi, Extra Assistant Commissioner at Sibsagar.
6. Srijut Kamakhya Kumar Padmapati, Extra Assistant Commissioner at Tezpur (Posted as Principal Revenue Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner).
7. Srijut Mukundu Narayan Barua, Extra Assistant Commissioner at Dhubri (temporary Extra Assistant Commissioner outside the cadre who was formerly Honorary Magistrate there).

(ii)—This will be found in the statement placed on the library table.

(iii) & (c)—Postings are made according to the exigencies of the public service and generally it is not the policy of the Government to post any officer in his home subdivision but in some cases due to recent acute shortage of housing officers had to be posted in their home towns where they had their own houses. Officers so stationed will gradually be transferred as opportunity arises. Officers are sometimes allowed to remain in their home town or district a year or so before retirement.

(d)—Government have not received any report that their postings have been prejudicial to proper dispensation of justice.

159. (a)—We have not received local officer's report in the matter.

(b)—Does not arise.

Classical teachers of Government High Schools

Maulana MD MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN asked :

160. (a) Is it a fact that classical teachers in Government High Schools are appointed in Class III of the Assam School Service like the Graduate Assistant Teachers of Government High Schools ?

(b) If so, why a difference has been made in the pay scales as recommended by Government for classical teachers of Aided High Schools (*vide* Press communique No.658, dated the 29th June 1949) ?

(c) Do Government propose to redress the grievances of the classical teachers of Aided High Schools and equalise their pay scale with the graduate teachers as in Government Schools ?

161. (a) Is it a fact that after partition of the country, the Government of Assam appointed some classical teachers who are not even Matriculates although there were Matriculate candidates ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what was the reason thereof ?

(c) Do Government proposed to take in duly qualified classical teachers from Aided High Schools, while making appointments to Government Schools ?

Srijut MOHENDRAMOHAN CHAUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

160. (a)—Yes, in Class II of the Assam School Service.

(b)—No scale has been recommended for Aided High School teachers but minimum pay according to qualifications has been suggested.

(c)—It is for the Managing Committees of respective Aided High Schools to consider and fix the pay.

161. (a)—Government have no such information.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Qualified candidates from Aided Schools are always considered along with others while making appointments to Government High Schools.

Lower Primary Scholarships

Maulavi MD. ABUL KASHEM asked :

162. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Lower Primary Scholarships that are at present awarded by each of the Local Board (at present School Board) ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Scholarships reserved for different tribes and communities in each Subdivision ?

(c) Is it a fact that in some Boards territorial distribution of Scholarships is being made ?

(d) If so, will Government be pleased to state the names of Boards where this practice is in vogue with the names of each such territory in each Board ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state whether such territorial distribution of scholarships within the area of a Board has been made with the previous approval of Government ?

(f) If so, will Government be pleased to state the principle in brief for such distribution of scholarships on such small territorial basis ?

Srijut MOHENDRAMOHAN CHAUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary) replied.

162. (a)—A copy of the statement is placed on the library table.

(b)—The required particulars of the Subdivision namely Hailakandi, Silchar, Karimganj, Barpetta, Mangaldai and Goalpara are not readily available. Information has been called for. Regarding other Boards a copy of the statement is placed on the library table.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Government are not aware whether the Scholarships are awarded on the territorial basis in the following subdivisions—Golaghat, Nowgong, Barpetta, Karimganj, Dibrugarh, Hailakandi, Goalpara, Mangaldai, Silchar and Jorhat. Information has been called for. Regarding other subdivisions a copy of the statement is placed on the library table.

(e)—Government approval is not necessary.

(f)—Does not arise.

Gauhati University

Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI asked :

163. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The funds collected so far for the Gauhati University ?

(b) The expenditure incurred by the University for conducting the Matriculation, I.A., B.A. and M.A. Examinations in 1948 and as far as possible in 1949 in the different centres to be shown separately for each Examination and year ?

(c) The kind of Officers appointed by the University for conducting these Examinations and payments, if any, made for their services ?

164. (a) The amount of money spent uptill now in maintaining M.A. Class in Assamese by the Gauhati University ?

(b) The number of M.A. students at present in the different subjects and the fees collected from them each month ?

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

163. (a)—Rupees 5,82,177.

(b)—Expenditure incurred for conducting University Examinations *vide* statement below—

Examinations	Year		
	1948	1949	
	Rs. a. p.		
Matriculation	9,539	7 0	Accounts incomplete.
I.A. & I.Sc.	3,943	14 0	Figures not available.
B.A. & B.Sc.	1,664	11 0	
M.A.	Nil.		

(c)—Principals of Colleges, Senior Professors, Headmasters and Assistant Head Masters of Schools were appointed Officers-in-Charge and Assistant Officers-in-Charge for conducting these examinations on payment of remuneration of Rs.250 to an Officer-in-Charge and Rs 150 to an Assistant Officer-in-Charge.

164. (a)—Rupees 4,783 during the financial year 1948-49.

(b)—The number of M.A students in different subjects in the Session 1948-49 was as follows—

1. Economics—44 ; 2. History—18 ; 3. Mathematics—8 ; 4. Commerce—12 ; 5. Botany—7 ; 6. Assamese—6 ; 7. Philosophy—6 ;

Each student pays a tuition fee of Rs.12 per month.

Director of Public Instruction, Assam *vis-a-vis* the Provincial School Board

Srijut LAKSHMIDHAR BORAH asked :

165. (a) Is it a fact that some anomaly has been caused in the functioning of the Director of Public Instruction as such and as Chairman of the Provincial School Board ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Director of Public Instruction is to function as such through the Inspector of Schools and through the Secretary of the School Board as the Chairman of the Board ?

(c) Do Government propose to take necessary steps so that the anomaly thus caused is removed ?

166. (a) Are Government aware that there are 1913 teachers under the Primary School Board in the Gauhati Subdivision out of which 1525 teachers are untrained ?

(b) Is it a fact that in view of the number of untrained teachers the Subdivisional School Board adopted a resolution at its meeting held on 29th July 1949 for opening a second Teachers' Training Centre in Gauhati Subdivision ?

(c) Do Government propose to open a second Teachers' Training Centre in Gauhati ?

(d) If so, do Government propose to open the centre in the south bank of the Brahmaputra in the Gauhati Subdivision ?

(e) If the answer to question (c) above be in the negative, have Government considered the fact as to how many years it will take to train the existing number of untrained teachers ?

(f) Are Government aware that in view of an increase in the number of Middle Vernacular and Primary Schools in the Kamrup district, demand for Normal passed teachers is also in the increase ?

(g) Are Government aware that the requisite number of Normal passed teachers is not available in the district ?

(h) If so, do Government propose to consider the question of starting a Normal School in Gauhati ?

167. (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state who had selected the site for the Teachers' Training Centre at Rangiya ?

(b) Are Government aware that the Managing Committee of the Rangiya High English School constructed a new building for holding the training classes and another hostel building for Trainees at a cost of nearly Rs.12,000 ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Managing Committee arranged free quarters for the Superintendent and the Instructors ?

(d) Is it a fact that Government have granted a monthly sum of Rs.150 for the Superintendent and Instructors' quarters ?

(e) Are Government aware of the great hardship experienced by the trainees in the matter of hostel accommodation ?

(f) If so, do Government propose to take steps to remove the hardship in the matter of accommodation ?

168. (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state if the Provincial Education Board have suggested any scheme for training of Primary School teachers as contemplated in the Primary Education Act, 1947 ?

(b) Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state the procedure adopted by Government in the matter of training of Primary School Teachers ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the steps taken by them for efficient management, supervision and control in the matter of such training ?

(d) Do Government propose to take steps for maintaining uniformity in the matter of supervision, control and conducting Examination ?

(e) Is it a fact that 50 teachers were originally deputed at one time for the necessary training which has now been reduced to 48 ?

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

(g) Is it a fact that private students are admitted in the Training Centres ?

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

165. (a)—No.
 (b)—This is inevitable under the present Act.
 (c)—Does not arise.
166. (a) & (b)—Yes.
 (c)—No.
 (d)—Does not arise.
 (e)—It will take some time but the experiment is being watched at present.
 (f) & (g)—Yes.
 (h)—The proposal is under correspondence.
167. (a)—The site was selected by the School Board at Gauhati, and approved by Government at the initiative of the public of Rangiya.
 (b)—Government do not possess exact account of the expenditure made.
 (c) & (d)—No.
 (e)—There has been some inconveniences which are natural in all new institutions.
 (f)—Government are doing their utmost.
168. (a)—Yes.
 (b)—The procedure has been to improvise, if and where necessary, additional training centres for training the Lower Primary School Teachers.
 (c)—Director of Public Instruction, Assistant Director of Public Instruction, Inspector, Assistant Inspectors inspect these centres.
 (d)—Steps have already been taken.
 (e)—Yes.
 (f)—To give more facilities to the trainees for meeting other cost in connection with the training institutes.
 (g)—The private students are not debarred from being admitted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I have the pleasure to announce that His Excellency the Governor will address the House to-day. I am sure hon. Members already know how to welcome His Excellency when he comes in. But in order to maintain uniformity the Secretary has issued some directives which have been placed before each hon. Member of the House. As soon as His Excellency arrives, I will go out with the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker to welcome His Excellency and when he enters the Chamber, hon. Members will kindly follow the directive that has been placed before them.

(The Hon'ble the Speaker and Hon'ble the Deputy Speaker accompanied by Secretary of the Assembly went out to receive His Excellency.)

[At three minutes to 11 A.M. His Excellency, accompanied by his Private Secretary and *Aid-de-Camp*, drove up to main entrance on the west of the Assembly building, where His Excellency was received by the Hon'ble the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and the Secretary of the Assembly. A procession was then formed in the following order:—

Secretary, Assembly
 The Deputy Speaker
 The Hon'ble the Speaker
Aid-de-Camp to the Governor of Assam
 His Excellency
 Private Secretary to the Governor of Assam.

The procession proceeded and just at Eleven of the Clock entered the Assembly Chamber where the Hon'ble Ministers and the Members of the Assembly awaited His Excellency's arrival.

On His Excellency entering the Chamber all present rose and remained standing until His Excellency took his seat on the Dais on the left of the Hon'ble the Speaker. After a few seconds His Excellency addressed the House.]

Address by His Excellency the Governor

Friends and fellow workers, Mr. Speaker and Members of the Assembly.

It is indeed a privilege to be invited to meet you here this morning. This is my first formal meeting with you ; and I am sorry that it could not be earlier. It is, however, a matter of great personal satisfaction to me that though we have not met formally as we do to day, I have had the pleasure of meeting every single Member of the House outside and exchanging views on diverse matters of public interest, which has been most helpful and informing to me. I should like, with your permission, to take this opportunity of offering you and, through you, to the great people of Assam whom you represent so worthily, the deep gratitude of my heart for the uniform kindness and consideration they have extended to me, the co-operation and assistance they have ungrudgingly given to me, ever since I came to hold my present office.

I must confess with deep regret that never before I came here, had I the least inkling into the difficult problems that beset you, nor had I any idea of the beauty of your landscape or the great variety of people that inhabit this fair Province. I fear Assam has been very little in the picture even though your part in the Freedom struggle has been as great as of any one else ; and it has in consequence been grossly neglected. It is but right and fitting that to-day our importance as the sentinel on the north-east gates of India, is being recognised ; and our colleagues both in the Centre and in the Provinces, are realising how essential it is that Assam should be strong and great and powerful. The task of maintaining the hard-won Freedom of our land seems to be ours to-day ; and such we claim, and rightly claim, to be heard and to be helped by our fellow countrymen throughout the land.

During the few months that I have been privileged to be amongst you, I have had incessant correspondence with our leaders at Delhi ; and I need hardly assure you that they have all the fullest sympathy with our requirements and every desire to be of help to us in every way. It is, however, unfortunate that since Swaraj which was accompanied by the Partition of the Country, the Government of India have been faced with so many difficult and intricate problems requiring immediate attention, that they have had to strain all their resources to meet them ; and so despite the best will in the world, they have not been able to extend that helping hand to us that we so badly need and which they themselves have been anxious to lend to us. We have, however to hold our souls in patience for the moment, for I have every confidence that before long we should be able to get all that we require and so richly deserve.

You are just closing an important, even though a very short Session of the Assembly. You have passed many important pieces of legislation which would have their effect—undeniable, inevitable and helpful—on the varied facts of our social and economic life. You have put on the Statute Book agrarian legislation, pertaining to internal security, and have tackled with courage the problems of abolishing the evils of drink and drug for the social amelioration of our people, and have made every endeavour to make them co-operative-minded so that they could be self-reliant and self-respecting. The Government are to be congratulated on the respect they inspire and the confidence they instil in the hearts of the general mass of the people as proved by the popularity of our Ministers, and the comparative ease with which they are able so get the consent of the Legislature to

their proposals. Being a person very much interested in constitutional progress and very deeply attached to parliamentary institutions as the channel for social betterment, I must express the hope that our Legislature will grow from strength to strength and will use all its influence and authority for the real good of the people who have elected it and whose well-being is in its keeping.

There are certain traditions that all legislatures have to follow in order to make democracy effective ; and I have no doubt that we ourselves will never forget that we have to build up our own traditions and hand these down to the generations that are to follow as a noble heritage which will elevate, dignify and assist all who come after us. I know that in the prevailing atmosphere, there has been a general feeling that an Opposition is unwanted, and that those who say anything critical of Government, are a nuisance. I should, however, like to say that no one in the world welcomes informed, friendly and constructive criticism so much as a Government does ; and that Opposition is only resented when it is actuated by malice or is in the nature of an imputation of motives. A healthy Opposition is the very breath of democracy ; and no true democracy can be built up except on the bed-rock of free and friendly discussions which elicit the prevailing views and ideals of the people at any particular time, enabling those who come in power to enjoy the confidence of the majority while working along a settled policy.

There is no personal animosity in true democracy ; for after every discussion however violent and division however bitter, there are always warm and cordial hand-shakes and smiles of friendship and of goodwill. Sadness and anxiety only come when under apparent calm on the surface, there is violent agitation beneath ; and people talk in whispers and express hostility in secret while apparently supporting and even praising. An Opposition is essential as a safety-valve for criticism and consolidation of popular opinion ; and being bred in English traditions through a couple of centuries of close association with English modes of life and thought, we cannot forget that in the British Parliament, they have His Majesty's Opposition as a permanent institution which they maintained even in the darkest days of the war, though a coalition Government was functioning and the heart of every man, woman and child, was bent to just one purpose ; and that was to win the war.

In the present set-up of India when our Swaraj has only just been founded, I can understand the anxiety of all good men and true to support and help Government in every way. This is a laudable objective ; and we have every reason to be grateful for the assistance the Provincial Government has received at all hands. I should, however, welcome more questions in the Assembly ; more debates and discussions ; a closer examination of the measures that are placed before you, so that all possible loop-holes may be closed ; all possible opinions expressed ; and whatever is done may meet with the ready acceptance and loyal allegiance of all classes of the people. The legislature verily is the forum wherein the elected representatives of the people gather together in counsel and in debate, where every single individual, directly or indirectly, is represented ; and where the interests of all, high and humble alike, are in the safe keeping of those who have come here by the suffrage of the community and meet from day to day to look after the affairs of the State.

When my distinguished predecessor Sir Andrew Clow addressed this Assembly on November 16, 1944, he found himself in the midst of War and dealt with the problems that War presented in the setting of that day, and also discussed with you the deepening darkening communal problem that had reared its ugly head and that ultimately led to the Partition of the land, from the effects of which we have not yet recovered. When again my immediate predecessor Sir Akbar Hydari spoke to you on November 5, 1947, Swaraj had just been ushered and he dealt with the problems that great event presented and spoke to you of the need

of the purity and efficiency of the public services on which alone could a stable State and society be reared. To-day, I am in the very happy position of addressing this Assembly in an atmosphere that is free from the rumblings of war, and one which has been generated after two years of consistent endeavour in the building up of the Swaraj that is ours.

To-day, we have to take measures to consolidate our Freedom and enable every man, woman and child entrusted to our care, to feel that Swaraj is something real, something earnest ; that it means something very intimate to everyone. The needs of man are very many and the fundamental urges of human nature do not change, whether in self-rule or in other-rule. It must be a matter of great satisfaction that our Government is taking every possible step for the furtherance of the amenities that sweeten life and make it worth living. The problems that came before us in the wake of Swaraj accompanied by Partition, were so overwhelming that we really had not time enough to look around us and to settle down to normal life of peaceful endeavour. The third year of Swaraj, however, opens with a rich promise of peace and prosperity ; and I have no doubt that we shall all do our very best in order to prove worthy of the great gift of Freedom obtained in the most difficult of circumstances by the magic wand of the Father of our Nation, whose tragic passing the world shall never cease to mourn.

Assam is rich in possibilities and is inhabited by a simple unspoilt people steeped in their own modes of life and content to live it in their own way. As I have wandered through the hills and dales of this beautiful Province, which partial Nature has endowed with everything that can gladden the heart of man, I have felt that we epitomize India as a whole, for we have all the problems here that are found in the rest of our land put together ; and the way we solve them will be the way the country will adopt for the solution of the larger problems that confront it. In this fair Province of Assam, live numerous races inhabiting different parts, speaking different languages and observing customs, manners and conventions, all different each from each. Assam is rich in legend and in history and is associated with the hoary past as a living reality. Nowhere are the traditions handed down by our old *Puranas* and *Itihasas* so insistent and so ever-present, as in Assam ; and the historical sense of the people is so great that they know all about the Ahoms and the Matakas, the Kochas and the Baros, who have all left their indelible impress on the thought and the life of the people, and who have to-day coalesced in a strong and a united whole.

Then Assam has extended warm welcome and afforded shelter to the peoples of the other provinces of the country, and who, in their own turn, have contributed to the building up of the social, the economic and the political life of our own Province. I am not unaware that to-day due to the unfortunate complications of the Partition and the natural aspirations roused by Swaraj, we have been faced with the difficult problems of citizenship and domicile, and of sheltering those who have come to us—and seek to come to us—in large numbers feeling unhappy and unwanted in the political circumstances created where they lived before. Our Government are not indifferent to the sufferings that have been caused to our afflicted brethren ; and I may only assure all concerned that they are doing their best to mitigate these by offering all that they possibly can to enable the new comers to be absorbed in the social and economic life of the Province. We also rightly expect from all those who have come that when they have so come to us, they will be of us by becoming one with us in joy and sorrow alike. I am only a layman, but I have a feeling that with our natural wealth in coal, oil and forest, we can expand infinitely in the industrial field and make ourselves self-dependent and self-confident. We can harness our water resources for endless electric power, and we have certainly to tame the Brahmaputra so that the mighty river should fertilise our fields and not destroy our cities,

Swaraj gives opportunities for the play of indigenous talent which nothing else can give ; and I have every confidence that our youngmen will make the best of these for the good of the country and the well-being of themselves.

Assam presents to the world that beautiful Unity in Diversity which has been the dream of the greatest of our land through the ages. Our ancestors never enforced uniformity and they allowed individual liberty in every matter, insisting only on the common loyalty to this State and the recognition of the oneness of the country. To-day, our biggest task is to make everyone feel that the honour of the land is in his individual keeping and that he must try his utmost to ensure both our Unity and our Liberty by his own conduct at every moment of his existence. It is human nature to work one's hardest and do one's best when one feels that the thing one is working for, is one's very own. It is also human nature to be indifferent when one feels that the thing one is as to labour for, is some other persons'. We have to bring about an emotional realisation of the country's concern being everybody's concern ; and then alone will all the bitterness, the jealousy, the unhappiness, that surcharge the lives of so many to-day, disappear in the limbo of oblivion. We have all to learn the simple duties of citizenship, the responsibilities of every individual towards every other individual and the community as a whole in an organised society. We are sadly lacking in what appears a simple social virtue ; and I do most earnestly hope that we shall not be slow in imbibing it.

Assam's responsibilities as the frontier Province of India are particularly great ; and our opportunities, therefore, are equally noble. All our people who live in the hills or who inhabit the plains, have to make common cause for the common end. We have to look at each other with sympathy and understanding, and come to each other's help on every possible occasion. The differences that have so far been artificially created between the denizens of the hills and the inhabitants of the plains, must be eliminated and all of us must march together in amity and in brotherly co-operation to the destined goal. We all know how the peoples of the hills have been sedulously kept apart from the peoples of the plains and what influences have been at work to alienate one from the other. We have also to take a lesson from the noble endeavours of the Christian missionary who has spread the light of knowledge where there was darkness and has offered medical assistance where there was physical pain ; and in the new set-up it would be necessary when with the departure of foreign Government, foreign influences will also get inevitably less and less, that we ourselves do what our friends from abroad have been doing for us so long.

I am full of admiration for the noble spirit of service and sacrifice that has animated those who have come to our succor from distant countries. When I have seen American missionaries who have buried themselves in odd corners of the Province and, unknown to the world, have been tending our lepers and looking after them as their own brothers and sisters, I have felt humbled and almost ashamed that we should have neglected our unhappy brethren and let others do what we should have done ourselves. The Central and Provincial Governments are taking every step to establish schools and hospitals, to educate the uneducated, to heal the suffering and to tend the sick. During my tours, I have seen the world-famous-tea-gardens and witnessed all the processes from the pruning of the "two leaves and a bud" to the packing of the tea as it is delivered at our homes ; and I have seen collieries and oil-wells at work ; and trunks of trees being transformed into plywood. I have also seen many educational and medical institutions, many agricultural and sericultural farms, growing up all over the place, and enthusiastic men and women taking up their works in right earnest.

We have every reason to think that all is well and will be well with us. When we have the right type of men, no financial stringency or any other obstacle can stand in our way to progress, for it is men that are wanted ; and

where there are men—true and vital—all other requirements come without let or hindrance. My heart is glad and so must be yours ; and we must pledge ourselves to do our best to make our Province what we all want her to be. Your task as the peoples' elected representatives, is particularly heavy and onerous, for you have to work incessantly both inside and outside this Chamber leading and consolidating public opinion when the Assembly is not sitting, and getting the same implemented when you meet as a legislature. The masses have every reason to look up to you for advice and guidance when they should be at a loss for a proper lead, and for every understanding, sympathy and assistance when they should be in any need.

It is no pleasure to anyone to embark on what is usually known as repression ; but law and order have got to be maintained if Society is to grow and not perish. Incidents have occurred in the Province, which I need not repeat, which make us ashamed of our common humanity ; and every Government, worthy of its salt, has to take every possible step to protect its peace-loving citizens from anti-social elements. I must pay a tribute to our police and other executive services, for their devotion to duty and for having determinately fulfilled their responsibilities even at the risk of their lives. I should like to say that our Government is not only not averse but positively anxious to give every freedom for the promulgation of different political ideologies ; but all persons wanting to propagate their views, must do so in a legitimate, peaceful and constitutional manner. I fail to understand why when Swaraj has been attained and when a democratic constitution of Society has been ordained, there should be any violence or intimidation on the part of anyone who feels that he has discovered the truth and the sure cure for all ills of life. Such a man can preach his doctrine and can win converts. He has the fullest freedom to do so ; and if when elections come round, he has the majority of the people in his favour, he and his party can come in power easily and peacefully. Why should anyone then hatch conspiracies in secret and plan for disturbances which while upsetting the even tenor of life, can only alienate the very persons whose support is being sought. I should plead with all who do not like our way of doing things or have other methods to suggest, to win the people by argument and appeal to the ballot-box as the final arbiter between conflicting political doctrines and the respective leaders who represent these.

The Government have taken—as they are bound to—every possible step to stop all disorder and suppress forces that stand for violence ; and if there is any unavoidable hardship entailed on anyone, or any curtailment of civil liberties, the responsibility must go to those who have tried to disturb the peace, and not to those who have the unpleasant and thankless task of maintaining that peace. Grateful as I am for all the kindness and consideration that have been extended to me throughout these months that I have held my present office, grateful too as I am for the confidence that has been reposed in me and the affection that has been showered upon me by one and all, I should like to offer my respectful congratulations to the Government and the people of the Province for the communal peace and harmony that we have been enjoying, and the general spirit of co-operation and good will that exists amongst them. There is no truer method and surer path to follow than what Mahatma Gandhi in his great wisdom and far-seeing vision has prescribed ; and though Swaraj for which he fought and for which he taught us to fight, has been won, the consolidation of that Swaraj that is now our pressing need, will only be possible if we continue to keep his message always ringing in our hearts and also continue to be true to the mission he has bequeathed to us. All political, economic, communal, provincial and other ills and difficulties that surround us, will vanish if only we are true to our Master and hold fast to the moorings to which he has bound us.

Here again a heavy duty devolves upon us. In Press and on platform alike, in social converse and in the domestic circle, there is a great deal of loose talk about corruption and wrong-doing on the part of those who are in authority. Government are as anxious as anyone can be, that there should be purity in administration and integrity in those who are in-charge thereof; and Government invite all concerned to come and tell them candidly where is wrong-doing and who are the guilty. On behalf of Government, I can promise adequate action in this behalf to root out the evil, such as may exist, in every shape and form. But when people will make only vague assertions and give no specific instances, we are helpless; and it does seem unfair and improper to tar with the same brush the innocent and the guilty and to hold Government responsible for things which the very persons professing to know, decline to disclose.

May I, in all earnestness, ask you, the elected representatives of the people who are as much the custodians of the morals of the race as of its social and economic well-being, to help in the establishment of a sense of proportion; to refrain from creating grievances and furthering discontent; to come to the assistance of Government and enable it to do the right thing; to discourage all exaggerated propaganda based on unfounded suspicions so that we in our turn may not ourselves be guilty of wronging the innocent and unconsciously helping anti-social elements and unsettling the very basis of our organised political existence. I pray that you may help in instilling discipline of mind and body so essential if the edifice of Swaraj is to be built on secure foundations, and plead for restraint in talk and expression and the great need that there is for making sure of everything before we make any aspersions against anyone. The Government is no more a foreign Government on which our own activities may have no effect. The Government is ourselves and we are the Government; and whatever is done on the part of the one, inevitably reacts on the other. We have always to turn the searchlight inwards, and in self-purification, as taught by our Master, we have the true unerring key for the purification of the world.

You will no doubt want me to say something about the States—the three major ones of Cooch Behar, Tripura and Manipur that are on our borders, and the twenty-five Khasi States that are right in the heart of our hills, which all have been connected with our Province by indissoluble ties. All these States represent age-old traditions that they rightly cherish with deep veneration. They have been the special charge of the Governor through all the constitutional changes that have taken place during British times. In accordance with the policy accepted by the Government of India, they have decided that in the new set-up, the three major States should be the direct charge of the Centre while the Khasi States should become an integral part of the Province of Assam. There is, however, no desire on the part of anyone that there should be any disturbance of any sort in the identity and integrity of these States and the peoples they represent, and that there should be ample provision for the due maintenance of the characteristics of the peoples that inhabit the States and every provision made for their progress and betterment.

In pursuance of their policy, the Government of India have already taken charge of the State of Cooch Behar while they will similarly be taking charge of the State of Tripura during the next few weeks. Negotiations with His Highness the Maharaja of Manipur are proceeding at the present moment to the same end. So far as the Khasi States are concerned, the Constitution that has practically completed its second reading in the Constituent Assembly at Delhi, has made special provisions for them in its Schedules; and I have every reason to think that the arrangements now made would be found satisfactory by all concerned. I am happy to feel that the responsibilities of the Governor

would be considerably lessened in the new alignments ; and I have every confidence that the States will have better opportunities for progress and better facilities for improvement than they have had so far, when they are in direct touch with the Governments at the Centre and in the Province. So far as I am concerned, I need hardly assure you that my services are always at your disposal for anything that I can possibly do for the well-being of the States, whether situated on the borders or in the heart of our hills.

Assam in a way has many natural facilities, many innate capacities, many traditional customs, that enable her to fulfil Gandhiji's mission more easily and more effectively than many others in the land. Let us to-day on the eve of the celebration of the auspicious date of his birth pledge ourselves to the fulfilment of the tasks still left unfinished, so that our country—and Assam with it—may make its fitting contribution to world thought and world endeavour for the world's ever-lasting good. The task of world-mending is verily unending ; and we have much—very much—to do if we are to become what we desire to be in the great future that is opening before us. We cannot afford to be lazy. We have to be ever alert and ever vigilant.

Let us to-day assure our countrymen throughout the length and breadth of our land, that on these frontiers of ours, we shall keep a night-long vigil so that no one dare break the bastions that we have raised, so that our dear brothers and sisters from end to end of the country may sleep in peace and safe from all harm, while we wake to guard them. Let us also ask in all humility but with all fervour, that we situated in this corner and long neglected by our own people, do deserve every sympathy and every assistance from them so that we might be enabled to be really worthy of doing our duty by them. We symbolise all that was great in our country's Past ; we represent all the forces that have gone to make her Present as it is ; and we feel we must be the architects of the Future destinies of our dear land, pledged to keep her strong and great and free for evermore. To this high endeavour, we must all constantly invite one another, and to the fulfilment of this great task, we must always offer all our strength, our energy and our resources—come what will.

(His Excellency then left the Chamber).

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : There is an Adjournment Motion standing in the name of Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury.

Adjournment Motion on account of the resignation of a large number of Medical Staff of the Nowgong District

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : I beg to move that the House do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance and of recent occurrence to wit—the failure of Government to cope with the situation caused by the resignation of a large number of Medical Staff in the Nowgong District.

Sir, only recently 4 or 5 days ago some 10 Doctors of Public Health Department of the Nowgong District tendered resignation. There has been a move for sometime past to submit mass resignation so far as the Doctors of the Public Health Department are concerned. I know it for certain that signatures are being obtained, and further resignations are coming to the Government. If this should happen not only in Nowgong, but also in the whole of the Province, the House can well realise the situation with which the Government will be faced.

There has been an outbreak of cholera in the Pakhamuria village and the matter must have been reported to the Government. The outbreak took place on Friday last and by Saturday 6 deaths were reported and as far as I understand more deaths have taken place since then.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: May I know when did the doctors tender their resignations?

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: 4 or 5 days ago, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: When did the hon. Member receive information?

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: Only yesterday, but it was too late for me to move the Motion yesterday.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: May I inquire what is the source of information of the hon. Member?

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: I need not give that. You can take it from me, as a responsible Member of this House. Regarding the mass resignation of the public health doctors you can obtain information from the Secretary of All-India Medical Licentiates Association, Assam Branch, Silchar. I am in touch with the Association. Hence I have better information in my possession than either the Medical Department or the Hon'ble Gentleman in charge of the Medical Portfolio. All that I am concerned with is the lives of the people of Nowgong and the health of the people of Assam.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: But the subject-matter of an Adjournment Motion must be definite.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: On account of the cholera epidemic 6 deaths have been reported in a village called Pakhamuria three miles from Nowgong town. It might spread to other places in Nowgong and to the adjoining districts. This is a definite matter, I am sure.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What is that? The deaths or the resignation of the doctors?

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: The situation arising out of the resignation of the doctors. The situation has been such as to cause danger to the life of the people of Nowgong including my hon. Friends Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma, Srijut Motiram Bora and Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan. There is also the risk of the epidemic spreading to my district.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does the hon. Member mean to say that cholera broke out after the resignation of the doctors?

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: Almost simultaneously.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: May I know from the hon. Member what duties those doctors were performing?

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: They were working in Public Health dispensaries.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Was Government informed of these resignations ?

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : Resignations have been sent ; at least 10 doctors have resigned.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : I submit, Sir, that this Motion is out of order. My hon. Friend has totally failed to point out the situation created by these resignations wherein Government have failed to cope with. He says that a large number of doctors have resigned. But this fact is not known to Government. No body has brought it to the notice of the Government not even by the hon. Member. He is even unwilling to disclose his source of information although he has admitted that he is in communication with the Secretary of the Medical Licentiate Association. It shows that he is in colusion with them.....

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : I take strong exception to the remarks of the Hon'ble Minister. I am not in colusion with any body.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Minister should not make such remarks.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : All right, Sir. The hon. Member has not been able to make out that Government have failed to cope with the situation created by the resignations. Neither has he been able to explain what is the situation created by the alleged resignation of the doctors. Sir, after receipt of the notice of this Adjournment Motion at 9 P. M. yesterday I enquired from the Director of Public Health about this. He has got also no information about any resignation recently made.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : I submitted my Adjournment Motion after the House had adjourned yesterday and I fail to understand how he got the information at 9 A.M.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : I received it at 9 P. M. yesterday and not at 9 A.M. This morning I enquired from the Director of Public Health, who said that he had received no information about any such resignations within the last four or five days.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : As a matter of fact these resignations are sent through the Secretary of the All-India Medical Licentiate Association, Silchar. You will get every information from him.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : It shows that Government have not received them. Government will consider the matter when resignations are received.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : But in the meantime the Public Health dispensaries are remaining closed and the cholera epidemic is spreading.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : Government will mobilise all their resources to cope with any situation created by cholera. Not only Public Health Doctors but also the doctors from the medical side will be called up.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: Have Government taken into consideration the reasons that led to these resignations ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: I have already said that I have up-till now received no information about the resignations and as such I do not know anything which caused these alleged resignations.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: I am pleased with the assurance that Government are going to take necessary steps to cope with the situation.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: You are to establish that Government were informed about it and that they did nothing to avert such a situation.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: I had no time to inform Government. I heard it only yesterday and immediately I tabled an Adjournment Motion. There was hardly any time for me to inform the Government.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: May I speak a word in this connection, Sir ? This is surely an abuse of the privilege given under the Adjournment Motion Rules of the Assembly. I can quite understand the anxiety of our hon. Friend to get information from the Government on the subject matter of the Motion, and Government would have been very pleased to give him the information if it was possible, either on the floor of the House or otherwise. But to achieve that object and to make it a subject of an Adjournment Motion is surely not contemplated under the Adjournment Motion Rules. In the first place, according to him, cholera broke out in one of the villages but about which the hon. Member was not himself certain or definite—(Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury—I am certain about it, Sir). It may be, but the hon. Member could not give the figure of any persons being so attacked. At any rate his statement is as vague as the whole Motion of his. It is only on definite matters of public importance that an Adjournment Motion lies. Moreover, just now the Hon'ble Minister has told the House that if there is anything really serious about the matter, the Government will take full notice of all that is possible to meet the situation. In view of this, I consider that this Motion is out of order.

Srijut MOTIRAM BORA: Sir, the hon. Mover of the Motion says that there has been outbreak of cholera in the village of Pakhamuria due to the resignation of Public Health Doctors. As a matter of fact there is no Public Health Dispensary at Pakhamuria but there is a Local Board Dispensary nearby and a Local Board doctor is there to look after such outbreaks.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: I mentioned about Public Health Dispensary, Sir. I made no mention of the existence or otherwise of Public Health Dispensary at the village.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member should at least give accurate and definite information. His statement has been contradicted by a hon. Member from the locality.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: What I said, Sir, is that at a distance of 3 miles from the town of Nowgong is a village called Pakhamuria. My information is that the epidemic broke out on Friday, and on Saturday 6 deaths were reported.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Has the hon. Member verified this information ?

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: I have got my information from a medical man, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Before moving an Adjournment Motion the hon. Member should know that his information is correct. But the statement made by the hon. Member is vague and not definite. What does the hon. Member proposes to do ?

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: I want to know, Sir, whether my Motion has been ruled out of order.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I want to reserve that decision and before I give my declaration I want to know whether the hon. Member wants to press his Motion in view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: I have no alternative but to beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion in view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister in-charge that has the means to cope with any ugly situation that may arise.

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

The Motion stands withdrawn by leave of the House.

Resolution to extend the operation of the Influx from the Pakistan (Control) Act, 1949 (Central Act XXIII of 1949).

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yesterday we were discussing the *Resolution moved by Srijut Lakshmidhar Borah and the Hon'ble Leader of the House had to reply. Did the Hon'ble Leader of the House complete his reply ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Yes, Sir, I have already given my reply and I asked my hon. Friend to withdraw his Resolution.

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

Srijut LAKSHMIDHAR BORAH: I beg leave of the House, Sir, to withdraw my Resolution.

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

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

*This Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do move the Government of India to extend the operation of the Influx from the Pakistan (Control) Act, 1949 (Central Act XXIII of 1949) immediately to Assam with a view to prevent disturbances in the Province of Assam caused by infiltration and to check espionage on behalf of Pakistan.

Resolution re: holding of General Election of the Province

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Resolution No.7. Prof. P. M. Sarwan.

Prof. P. M. SARWAN: Mr. **Speaker**, Sir, I beg to move that in view of the grave discontent in the Province against the Congress regime and the rapidly deteriorating situation, this Assembly is of opinion that an immediate General Election be held and the Government do take necessary action in the matter.

Sir, Dr. Radha Krishnan, India's Ambassador to Russia just before his departure for Russia addressing a meeting at the University Convocation Hall at New Delhi stated that the political freedom obtained by India must be followed by social and economic revolution. "Unless this is done" he said "we cannot consider ourselves to be truly free". He added moreover that the common man could not understand the significance of the transfer of power until his economic condition is improved. In this connection Dr. Radha Krishnan also suggested that admirers of Gandhiji's life and teachings should try to find out the spirit for which Gandhiji stood and should not mechanically repeat his name like a mantra!

Quite true! the common people of Assam just like people in other parts of India have been watching the Congress Party ever since the last General Election. The common people of Assam in full faith on the ability of the Assam Congress Party to quickly make good its promises to ease the economic situation produced by the hated Britisher put Congress Party for results and not for repetition of mantras. With the fading away of the Britishraj in 1947 there remain not a shadow of excuse for the Assam Congress Party to tolerate the chaotic economic condition in Assam, due mainly to corruption steadily getting out of hand since 1946. To their discomfiture the common people in Assam have found corruption, blackmarketing and profiteering and even favouritism, on the increase with geometrical progression.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member will have to continue after lunch.

(Adjournment)

The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 1 P.M.

After lunch.

Prof. P.M. SARWAN: Mr. **Speaker**, Sir, I was saying that the hated British power has been gone and forgotten, but the hateful hunger remains while corruption and profiteering stalk the land unashamed. In view of this it is no wonder that in the Province of Assam which has been a paddy surplus area, discontent prevails even in regard to rice supplies.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Under the existing procedure, proceedings are to be carried on in Assamese and any one may speak in English if he does not know Assamese.

Prof. P.M. SARWAN: I shall try to speak in Assamese later. Since I have started in English, I like to speak in English.

With regard to the food policy of the Government, I must point that the Government is somehow not able to implement the same. The population in areas away from rationed towns are not able to obtain rice at controlled

rates. Even in rationed town e.g. Shillong, people are not having rice at controlled rates and in rationed food shops rice that is being distributed is unfit for human consumption. It is a fact that much husk, sand and stones are mixed up with the rice that is being issued. In this matter of rice supply the people who buy rice are put to much hardship and especially the middle class people who are always to buy rice, must be cursing and swearing at the powers-that-be that force them to eat rice that is unfit for human consumption, or they must buy rice at rates double the Government controlled rate. Such hardship is to be found also in rural areas where the landless cultivators and other labourers live. Some thing is grievously wrong with the Food Department and it should be wound up. The suffering of the people in regard to rice in Assam which is vaunted to be a surplus Province in regard to rice is gradually becoming unbearable. What a spectacle of starvation in the midst of plenty. The people are being treated as Tantalus was, by the gods that live in Shillong. The situation is deteriorating rapidly and a remedy must be found out. What is that remedy? We shall come to it by and by.

In representative democracy, where there is no right of recall of a Member, there is no means for the common people to express their discontent. When such is the case, the public suffer in silence, they suffer from a feeling of frustration, and defeatism stalks the land—the result is that people lose faith in democracy. This is a situation which no democratic state can contemplate with equanimity. The fact that security measures have had to be taken within the Province is a clear indication that the Government are aware of grave discontent seething under the surface current of the body politic. If such were not the case mischief-mongers, against whom security measures are required, would find no place or opportunity to make capital out of the admittedly chaotic administrative and economic condition in the Province. Discontent first is with conditions and then it fastens itself on the powers that-be, which at present is the Congress Party with the Government it has set up—undoubtedly this discontent is grave which is amply proved by the resolutions tabled for the present Session of this Honourable Assembly, even by Congress M.L.A's. These resolutions bear on a variety of subjects, such as, appointment to Government services, Government policy regarding distribution of C.I. sheets, cultivable lands required by landless indigenous population, lands lying fallow clamouring to be tilled by famished landless cultivators, construction and improvement of roads and bridges in the rural areas, land reforms, prohibition of liquor, profiteering, blackmarketing, bribery and corruption, corruption among officers in the administration, etc. etc. all indicative of inefficiency, favouritism, callousness, corruption, apathy and neglect on the part of the Provincial Government—prophetic of disaster to the State at no distant future.

When Members of the Government Party itself are forced to take up such resolutions which are little short of censure on the present regime on the floor of this august House, it is clear that things within the Province are in a mess. Is it any wonder then that situation in Assam is rapidly deteriorating. Violence and terrorism are bad, but they are also symptoms of grave discontent. In such situation shrewd men take to violence and terrorism, while the common peaceful people suffer from the numbing feeling of frustration and from defeatism. The people who take to violence and terrorism may have surveyed the field and found that the ordinary people, in their torpor, have ceased to give even their moral support to the authorities. This is a most serious state of things and a popular democratic Government, regardless of Party considerations, in the interest of the State, should cry a halt to the swiftly deteriorating situation.

Hon. Sriyut Gauri Kanta Talukdar, a valiant Congress fighter for Independence, has tabled a Resolution that the Control system is mainly responsible for profiteering, blackmarketing, bribery and corruption, and that these evils

cannot be effectively eradicated so long as the control system remains in force. What a spectacle ! A Government is being labelled by its valiant supporters as being incapable of stopping its officers from bribery and corruption. Therefore, off must go all Government control—so, ostrichlike, suggests hon. Srijut Talukdar. One explanation for Government's inability to check corruption, blackmarketing, profiteering and other preventible evils in the Province is that the Government is not having the co-operation of the general public—which simply means that the Congress Party which three years ago set up the Provincial Government has lost touch with the masses. This is amply proved by the fact that the Government has several good policies such as on land settlement, food, co-operative movement, grow-more food, literacy campaign, prohibition, etc. etc., but has not been able to successfully implement the same. What is wrong is that the Government is not able to obtain the co-operation of the masses, although the Assembly registers an overwhelming support from the Government Party. This is a pointer that the Government Party has completely gone out of touch with the masses in general and cannot implement Government policies. If this is correct, the Government, dependent on its Assembly supporters, is moving in one direction while the masses crying for bread, in their search, are swiftly drifting in another.

I urge that that for the safety of the State and for peace, prosperity and contentment of the masses, it has become an immediate necessity to put the whilom representatives of the people in the Assembly once more in touch with their constituents, and this can only come about by holding an immediate general election in the Province of Assam. There is no prospect of any change for the better until the next general election for the Province has taken place. Till then the situation will steadily worsen—never improve. In this context a brave and courageous attempt to meet the irate constituents is called for, and the great Congress organisation need not fight shy of a general election—since this is the proper democratic way of retrieving the swiftly deteriorating situation in the Province—as has been done by the great Democrat Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister, in the case of West Bengal.

Let not the Provincial Government take shelter behind the Central Government with the plea that elections are the direct concern of the Central Government. The Central Government is a democratic institution, and will ever be ready to accommodate the Provincial Government in all just, reasonable and democratic measures. If only the Provincial Government were to recommend to the Central Government the urgent need of an immediate general election in Assam, the Central Government is not likely to stand in their way, but rather will welcome it, to make the people of Assam happy and contented and loyal to the State. This will incidentally be the means of conceiving and producing in the future Assembly a democratic opposition that will check corruption, inefficiency, favouritism, semistarvation and other evils that have been let loose in the Province of Assam.

I urge then that in view of the grave discontent in the Province against the Congress regime and the rapidly deteriorating situation, this Assembly is of opinion that an immediate General Election be held, and the Government do take necessary action in the matter.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Resolution moved :

“That in view of the grave discontent in the Province against the Congress regime and the rapidly deteriorating situation, this Assembly is of opinion that an immediate General Election be held and the Government do take necessary action in the matter”.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI. As a preliminary reply I can only say, Sir, that so far as general election is concerned it is not the Provincial Government to take any action ; and on account of this the grievance of the hon. Member cannot be removed by this Government. The general election will be held according to the Constitutional procedure laid down by the Constituent Assembly and I hope the hon. Mover of this Resolution knows it very well. The Hon'ble Minister in charge of Legislative Department in answer to certain questions relating to general election, among other matters, gave some information ; I cannot give more information than what he has done at this stage. The hon. Member should satisfy himself that the present Constituent Assembly is preparing for the next general election with all speed. He should therefore accept the position ; I cannot help him any further. It appears that he is not one of those who is appreciating the present constitution and therefore wants, the general election to be immediately held. I cannot help him and, at this stage I am not going to discuss this question any further. In the final reply I may have to give certain information connected with the general election and also to speak on the grounds for hon. Mover's assertion for general election. As regards the evils in administration the hon. Member had the opportunity of not merely discussing them but of withdrawing many a Motion which he tabled or supported. Nor had he the hardihood of challenging a division of the House on the issues that he raised or on the issues raised by other hon. Members in which he too joined issue. I have therefore to tell him plainly and unequivocally that I cannot accommodate him by accepting his Resolution. I can only say that I most strongly oppose this Resolution and hope that in the final stage of the reply I will also try to show that this discontent about which he is advocating before the House is, to a very large extent, his own creation and that he is fully utilizing his position to spread discontent amongst the population.

(Srijut Nilmani Phookan stood upto speak).

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : ফুকন ডাঙৰীয়াই অসমীয়াতে কলে ভাল হয়। যদি কোনোবাই অসমীয়া নাজানে তেন্তেহে ইংৰাজীত কোৱা উচিত হব।

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN : মাননীয় সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, আজি মিঠাৰ চাৰোৱানে যিটো প্ৰস্তাৱ দাঙি ধৰিছে তাত তেখেতৰ প্ৰধান কথা হৈছে যে অতি যোনকালে আকৌ নিৰ্বাচন হব লাগে, কিয়নো বৰ্তমান সময়ত ৰাইজে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টক সমৰ্থন কৰা নাই। সমৰ্থন নকৰাৰ কাৰণ দিওঁতে তেখেতে কৈছে যে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্ট কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ ভিতৰত বহুত ষোচ লোৱা মানুহ আছে ; তাৰ পিচত টিনপাত দিবলৈ যি প্ৰস্তাৱ কৰিছে তাত বহুতে সন্তুষ্ট হোৱা নাই, আৰু ধান চাউল মানুহে যেনেকৈ পাব লাগিছিল তেনেকৈ পোৱা নাই। এই কেইটা কাৰণকেই তেখেতে ৰাইকে দিছিল। এনে অৱস্থাত গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে নতুন নিৰ্বাচন কৰাৰ বাহিৰে তেখেতে আৰু আন উপায় দেখা নাই। যদিও গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে, ৰাইজে, বাতৰি কাকতে আৰু আন আন বাহিৰা অনুষ্ঠান বিলাকে এই সম্বন্ধে নানা উপায় ভাবিছে, তথাপি ব'ত ব'ত দুই এটা বেয়া মানুহ আছে আৰু গাঁৱৰ ভিতৰত যি বিলাক প্ৰতিক্ৰিয়াশীল মানুহ আছে আৰু যিবিলাক সাম্যবাদী দলৰ মানুহ আহি গাঁৱৰ ভিতৰত সোমাইছেহি তেওঁবিলাকৰ প্ৰথম কৰ্তব্য হৈছে যে যি কোনো গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টেই খাওক সেই গৱৰ্ণমেণ্ট ভাঙি দি বিপ্লবৰ সৃষ্টি কৰি তেওঁবিলাকৰ আদৰ্শ স্থাপন কৰা। এই বিলাকে যে সুবিধা বিচাৰি ফুৰিছে এই কথা সকলোৱে জানে। কিন্তু তেখেতে এই কেইটা কাৰণে যে আকৌ নিৰ্বাচন হব লাগে বুলি কৈছে এইটোত হে আমি আচৰিত হৈছো। নিৰ্বাচনৰ নীতি হৈছে এয়ে যে দেশৰ কোনো এটা বিশেষ পৰিস্থিতিত একোটা মূল কথাত নিৰ্বাচন হয় ; কিন্তু চাউল দুটা দিব নোৱাৰিলে, ধান কেইটামান দিব নোৱাৰিলে, নিমখ অলপ দিব নোৱাৰিলে বা কাপোৰ কেই ডোখৰমান দিব নোৱাৰিলে যদি নিৰ্বাচন হব লগীয়া হয় তেনেহলে নিৰ্বাচন হৈ যোৱাৰ পিচত আকৌ কোনোৱে কব পাৰে যে এতিয়া যি হেতু দেশত মদ খোৱা গুচাইছে, কানি গুচাইছে আমি এই বিলাক বস্তু খাবলৈ পোৱা নাই, সেই কাৰণে আকৌ নিৰ্বাচন হওক। তেনেকৈ নিৰ্বাচন

হবলৈ হলে নিৰ্বাচনৰ অন্ত নাইকিয়া হব। কাজেই এনেকুৱা কাৰণত কেতিয়াও নিৰ্বাচন হব নোৱাৰে। তেখেতে দোষ ধৰিছে যে এম্, এল্, এ সকলৰ বাইজৰ লগত কোনো বকম সংশ্লিষ্ট নাই। আমাৰ ক্ষুদ্ৰ শক্তিয়ে আমি নিজৰ বিষয়ে কব পাৰো, আনৰ বিষয়ে কব নোৱাৰো আৰু আনেও দেখিছে কেনেকৈ এম্, এল্, এ সকলে বাইজৰ মাজত ঘূৰি ফুৰিছে। ঘূৰি ফুৰিবলৈ যে সিবিলাকৰ বিপদ হব সেইটো নকও নিজৰ কৰ্তব্যৰ কাৰণেও সিবিলাকে ঘূৰি ফুৰিছে। চাৰোৱান চাহাবে হয়তো ঘূৰি ফুৰিছে কেনেকৈ সাধাৰণ নিৰ্বাচন হব লাগে সেই বিষয়ে মানুহক মন্তব্য দি। কাজেই তেখেতে যি বিলাক কথা কৈ ফুৰিছে সেই হিচাবে বিশ্বাস নকৰিব পাৰে। তেখেতৰ মতে এম্, এল্, এ সকলৰ যে বাইজৰ লগত ঘনিষ্ঠ সম্বন্ধ আছে সেইটো বিশ্বাস কৰিব লগীয়া কথা নহয়। এই বিষয়ে তেখেতে সহজে এটা কাম কৰিব পাৰে। তেখেতে যে এম্, এল্, এ সকলে বাইজৰ আস্থা হেৰুৱাইছে বুলি কৈছে এই কথা প্রমাণ কৰিবলৈ তেখেতক এটা সহজ পদ্ধতি দিব পাৰো যদিহে তেখেতে গ্ৰহণ কৰে। দক্ষিণ কলিকতাত যেতিয়া এটা উপনিৰ্বাচন হৈছিল তেতিয়া দুটা পক্ষৰ ভিতৰত যুদ্ধ হৈছিল। তাত কংগ্ৰেছ দল হাবিল আৰু আন দলটো জিতিল। এই কাৰণে তালৈ পণ্ডিত জোৱাহৰলাল নেহেৰু পৰ্য্যন্ত আহিব লগা হৈছিল আৰু তেখেতে আহি বুজিলে যে কংগ্ৰেছৰ ভিতৰত দলাদলি আছে। তাৰ ভিতৰত যিবিলাক প্ৰতিক্ৰিয়াশীল দল আছিল সেইটো চাৰোৱান চাহাবে মোতকৈ ভালকৈ জানে—সেই বিলাক সকলোৱে মিলিজুলি কংগ্ৰেছক হেৰুৱালে যাৰ নিমিত্তে পণ্ডিত জহৰলাল পৰ্য্যন্ত আহিব লগা হৈছিল।

A voice :—জহৰলাল নহয়, জোৱাহৰলাল হে।

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: উচ্চাৰণ ঠিক হোৱা নাই।

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN: আমি অসমীয়া খাব খোৱা মানুহ সেই কাৰণে জহৰলালেই বুলিছো। গৱলীয়া বাইজে 'চেমন্' বুলিহে কয় যদিও আচল শব্দটো হৈছে Summons.

যি হওক, তেখেতে সাধাৰণ নিৰ্বাচন কৰিবলৈ পৰামৰ্শ দিছে আৰু পাৰিলে অতি শীঘ্ৰে হব লাগে। কাজেই সেই অৱস্থাত যেতিয়া তেখেতে গৱণমেন্টক শল ঠেকত পেলাবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিছে তেতিয়া তেখেতে নিজৰ সমষ্টিৰ পৰা ইস্তাফা দিয়ক আৰু তাত যি নতন নিৰ্বাচন হব তাত সকলো দল মিলি কংগ্ৰেছক হেৰুৱাই দিলে সাধাৰণ নিৰ্বাচনৰ সুবিধা হব বুলি মই ভাবো। (হাঁহিব জাউৰি) যদি তেখেতে সঁচাকৈয়ে ভাৱিছে যে বাইজৰ কংগ্ৰেছ মেম্বাৰ বিলাকৰ ওপৰত আস্থা নাই আৰু যেতিয়া ইমানখিনি কথা তেখেতে সাহ কৰি কব পাৰিছে, তেখেতে নিশ্চয় অসমীয়া মানুহৰ নাৰী টিপি ভালকৈ চাইছে আৰু বজিছে; তেনে স্থলত তেখেতৰ নিচিনা এজন মানুহক যে বাইজে নিৰ্বাচন কৰিব তাত কোনো সন্দেহ নাই। সেই কাৰণে মই বিশ্বাস কৰো যে তেখেতৰ খুব সুবিধা হব আৰু তেখেতৰ যি সপোন ৰাজ্য আছে সেই সপোন ৰাজ্যত তেখেতে খুব ভাল পাৰ্ট লৈ আহি নতুন গৱণমেন্ট তৈয়াৰ কৰিব পাৰিব।

Mr. BENODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have some points to bring to the notice of this House. I heartily support the Resolution moved by hon. Prof. Sarwan.

The Government have time and again reiterated that the masses are the real masters. They have now become real masters after getting the Independence, so we have to abide by what they say and wish.

In view of the grave economic situation prevailing in the country and in view of the grave situation caused by the scarcity of food and clothing, and due to Government's failure to tackle the situation properly to ameliorate the condition of the masses, I have to support the Resolution, in order to prevent the unhappy things which are happening in the country on account of lack of co-operation from the people to stamp out profiteering, black-marketing and issue of permits to undesirable persons. The masses who

are the real masters should be given the opportunity to choose their representatives according to their own sweet will. We had not been elected to this Assembly at our own sweet will but at the discretion of the masses we have come here. When the masses are not satisfied with the prevailing condition of black-marketing, etc., and Government's failure to administer in accordance with their wish, it is desirable that they should be given the chance to send fit men to the Legislature. Of course, I see what the Hon'ble Premier said that we have no power to call for a general election. But, I think, it is a fundamental point which should be taken into consideration and masses should be allowed to give their verdict.

With these words, Sir, I support the Resolution of hon. Prof. Sarwan.

Srijut HARINARAYAN BARUA: মাননীয় সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, যোৱা বছৰে পৰা আমাৰ এই পৰিষদত মাননীয় চাৰোৱান চাহাবে এটা পুৰা সদায় দাঙি ধৰি আহিছে সেই পুৰাটো হৈছে এয়ে যে আমাৰ পুৰুষত এটা নতুন নিৰ্বাচন হ'ব লাগে।

Prof. P. M. SARWAN: Not last year. This year in the the Budget Session.

A voice:—Last part of the last year.

Srijut HARINARAYAN BARUA: এই পৰিষদৰ বাহিৰেও বিভিন্ন ঠাইত তেখেতে এটা সাধাৰণ নিৰ্বাচন লাগে বুলি আলোচনা কৰা কথাও আমি গম পোও। তেখেতে এই পৰিষদত সাধাৰণ নিৰ্বাচন লগাব যি কেইটা কাৰণ দশাইছে সেই কাৰণ কেইটা এই পৰিষদত বিশদ ভাবে আলোচনা হৈ গৈছে আৰু এই আলোচনাত তেখেতে সম্পূৰ্ণৰূপে যোগদান কৰিছে আৰু ইয়াৰ যিবিলাক অসুবিধা আছে সেই অসুবিধাবিলাকৰ কথা তেখেতে খুব ভালকৈ উপলব্ধি কৰি আহিছে। এনেদৰে সেই বিষয় কেইটাকৈ আকৌ পুনৰ এই পুস্তাৰ পুস্কলৈ টানি আনি এটা সাধাৰণ নিৰ্বাচন লাগে বুলি তেখেতে কৈছে।

দেশত আজি এটা দুৰ্নীতি চলি আছে আৰু এই দুৰ্নীতি চলি থকা কথাটোও তেখেতৰ পুৰুষত কথাব লগতেই আছে। তেখেতে কয় যে আমাৰ যিবিলাক কৰ্মচাৰী আছে সেই কৰ্মচাৰী বিলাক দুৰ্নীতিত লিপ্ত আছে তেওঁবিলাক যোচ খোৱা, তেওঁলোকে ভালকৈ কাম কৰা নাই, ইত্যাদি বহু কথা তেখেতে কৈ আহিছে। আমাৰ অসমীয়া ভাষাত এটা কথা আছে যে যি সদায় মানুহৰ দোষ দেখি থাকে সি কেতিয়াও লোকৰ ভাল কথাটো দেখিব নোৱাৰে। 'চোৰেহে চোৰৰ ঠেং দেখে' আৰু 'সাপেহে সাপৰ ঠেং দেখে' এনেকুৱা কিছুমান কথাও আমাৰ মাজত আছে (laughter) (*A voice:*—আপুনি কিহৰ ঠেং দেখিছে?) মই চোৰে চোৰৰ ঠেং দেখাৰ কথা কৈছো।

যদি সঁচাকৈয়ে তেখেতে জানে যে আমাৰ গৱণমেন্টৰ যিবিলাক কৰ্মচাৰী আছে সেই বিলাক দুৰ্নীতিত লিপ্ত আছে, তেনেহলে সেইবিলাক কৰ্মচাৰীৰ কথা গৱণমেন্টৰ দৃষ্টিত অনাটোহে তেখেতৰ পুৰুষত কৰ্তব্য। কাৰণ যদি সদায় কেৱল ওপৰে ওপৰে কৈ থকা হয় যে দেশত দুৰ্নীতি আছে, গৱণমেন্ট কৰ্মচাৰী সকলে যোচ খায় তেওঁলোকে ভাল কাম কৰা নাই, তেনেহলে এই বিলাক নিৰ্বাচন কৰিবলৈ গৱণমেন্টে কি পদ্ধতি হাতত ল'ব পাৰিব বা যিবিলাকৰ ওপৰত কেনেকৈ ব্যৱস্থা গ্ৰহণ কৰিব পাৰিব? আজি তেখেতৰ নিচিনা এজন দায়িত্বশীল লোকে কেৱল যে এই পৰিষদতেই এই কথা প্ৰচাৰ কৰিছে এনে নহয়, আমাৰ আসামৰ গাৱে ভাঙে সভা সমিতি কৰি ঠিক এনে ধৰণৰ বক্তৃতা দি বাইজৰ মাজত এটা অসন্তোষৰ ভাব সৃষ্টি কৰিবলৈ যত্ন কৰি আহিছে। এনে কি এই দেশত যি সকল বাসিন্দা মানুহ আছে আৰু এই দেশলৈ যি সকল মানুহ আহি এই দেশকেই নিজৰ ঘৰ-বাৰী বুলি গ্ৰহণ কৰিছে এই দেশৰ উন্নতিৰ নিমিত্তে কাম কৰিছে, সেইবিলাক মানুহ আৰু আমাৰ দেশৰ স্থায়ী বাসিন্দা অসমীয়া মানুহৰ মাজত এটা অসন্তোষৰ ভাব এটা বিভেদৰ ভাব সৃষ্টি কৰিবৰ কাৰণে যত্ন কৰিছে। তেখেতৰ এনেকুৱা যত্নৰ ফলত এনেকুৱা কাৰ্য্যৰ

ফলত দেশলৈ শান্তি কেতিয়া ঘূৰি আহিব কব নোৱাৰে। আমাৰ যিবিলাক দায়িত্বশীল মানুহ যি বিলাক ৰাইজৰ প্ৰতিনিধি সেই সকলে দেশৰ মানুহক স্পষ্টভাৱে কৈ দিয়া ভাল যে যি সকল কৰ্মচাৰী বা যি সকল মানুহ দুৰ্নীতিত লিপ্ত আছে সেই বিলাকৰ কাৰ্য্য-কলাপ গৱৰ্ণমেন্টৰ দৃষ্টিলৈ আনি দিয়া উচিত। তেতিয়াহে দুৰ্নীতি দমন হ'ব বা ঘোচ দিয়া পুখা বন্ধ হ'ব। এনেকৰা পন্থা অৱলম্বন নকৰি যদি সদায় কেৱল অভিযোগ কৰি থকা হয় তেনেহলে এই সমস্যা কেতিয়াও সমাধান হ'ব নোৱাৰে।

তেখেতে এটা কথা কৈছে যে গৱৰ্ণমেন্টৰ কাৰ্য্যৰ নিমিত্তে পুজাৰ মাজত অসন্তোষৰ ভাব সৃষ্টি হৈছে, সেই কাৰণে এটা সাধাৰণ নিৰ্বাচন হোৱা প্ৰয়োজন। তেখেতে যি ভাবৰ পৰা এই কথা কৈছে সেই ভাবৰ অলপ আভাস আমি এই পৰিঘটত পাইছো। কিন্তু ৰাইজৰ প্ৰতিনিধি হিচাপে গৱৰ্ণমেন্টৰ লগত এই দেশৰ পুজাৰ সম্পৰ্ক আছেনে নাই তাক পুজাৰ কাৰ্য্যৰ দ্বাৰাই আমি বুজি পাইছো। আজি গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে যি বিলাক আঁচনি হাতত লৈছে, সেই আঁচনি বিলাকত পুজাৰ সহযোগ বিচাৰি গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে যি প্ৰকাৰে আবেদন জনাইছে সেইমতে দেশৰ সকলো সম্প্ৰদায়েই জাতি ধৰ্মনিৰ্বিশেষে আনন্দ মনেৰে সেই আঁচনি বিলাকত যোগদান কৰিছে। আজি অলপ দিনৰ আগতে যেতিয়া গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে সমবায় আন্দোলন দিবস পালন কৰিবলৈ গোটেই প্ৰদেশৰ দেশবাসীক আহ্বান জনাইছিল সেই আহ্বানত এই প্ৰদেশৰ ৰাইজে কেনে ভাবে যোগদান কৰিছিল আৰু কিমান হাজাৰ হাজাৰ মানুহ আহি অনুষ্ঠান বিলাকত যোগদান কৰি এই আঁচনি সম্পূৰ্ণ ৰূপে কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰিবৰ কাৰণে যত্ন কৰিছিল সেইটো তেখেতে নজনা কথা নহয়। বাধ্যতামূলক প্ৰাথমিক শিক্ষা দিবস পালন কৰিবলৈ যেতিয়া গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে নিৰ্দেশ দিছিল তেতিয়া মই যোৰহাটত নিজে দেখিছো, সেই বাধ্যতা মূলক প্ৰাথমিক শিক্ষা দিবস পালন কৰা অনুষ্ঠানত কিমান হাজাৰ হাজাৰ মানুহে আহি যোগদান কৰিছিল। যদি এই বকমে আজি গৱৰ্ণমেন্টৰ প্ৰত্যেক আঁচনিত দেশৰ প্ৰত্যেক মানুহে সহযোগ কৰে, তেনেহলে গৱৰ্ণমেন্টৰ লগত এই দেশৰ পুজাৰ সহযোগ নাই বুলি কেনেকৈ তেখেতে ক'ব পাৰে?

আৰু এটা কথা এই যে তেখেতে বোধ কৰে। ভাবিছে যে যদি সাধাৰণ নিৰ্বাচন হয়— তেখেতে এটা সপোন দেখিছে, সেই সপোনত তেখেতে স্পষ্টভাৱে বুজিছে যে আজি যি কংগ্ৰেছ আছে সেই কংগ্ৰেছৰ পিচত দেশবাসীৰ সমৰ্থন নাই, সেই নিমিত্তে নিৰ্বাচনত কংগ্ৰেছ হাবি যাব আৰু তেখেতৰ নিচিনা এটা দল আহি দেশৰ শাসন ভাৰ গ্ৰহণ কৰিব। কিন্তু সেইটো কথা মই ঠিক তেনে ধৰণে দেখা নাই। আজি দুই এমাহৰ আগতে হৈ যোৱা যোৰহাটৰ পঞ্চায়ত নিৰ্বাচনৰ কথা নিজে দেখিছো। আন আন ঠাইৰ কথা নিজে নেদেখিলেও শুনিছো। এই পঞ্চায়ত নিৰ্বাচনত প্ৰতিক্ৰিয়াশীল দল বিলাকে কংগ্ৰেছক পৰাস্ত কৰিবলৈ যত্ন কৰিছিল। কংগ্ৰেছে প্ৰায় ২১৭ জন প্ৰাৰ্থী পঞ্চায়ত নিৰ্বাচনত দিছিল আৰু তাৰ ভিতৰত ২০৭ জন কংগ্ৰেছ পাৰ্টীৰ মানুহ জিকিছে আৰু বাকী কেইজন আন স্বাধীন পাৰ্টী হিচাপে জিকিছে। তেনেহলে এই নিৰ্বাচনে আমাক কি শিকায়? ইয়াৰ পৰা কংগ্ৰেছত আমাৰ দেশৰ পুজাৰ সমৰ্থন নাই বুলি বুজিব পাৰিনে?

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: প্ৰস্তাৱ আৰু বহুত আছে; বহুতা অলপ চুটি কৰক।

Srijut HARINARAYAN BARUA: তাৰ বাহিৰেও আজি আসামৰ বিভিন্ন ঠাইত যি বিলাক নিৰ্বাচন হৈছে সেই নিৰ্বাচন বিলাকত দুই এঠাইৰ বাহিৰে সকলো ক্ষেত্ৰতে কংগ্ৰেছে জয়লাভ কৰি আহিছে। ইয়াৰ বাহিৰেও আজি প্ৰায় এবছৰৰ ভিতৰত এই পৰিঘটৰ যি বিলাক উপনিৰ্বাচন হৈছে সেই উপনিৰ্বাচন বিলাকতো কংগ্ৰেছেই জিকি আহিছে। উত্তৰ লক্ষীমপুৰত যি উপনিৰ্বাচন হৈছিল তাত মৌলবী আব্দুল হালিম চাহাব জিকি আহিছে। সেই উপনিৰ্বাচনত প্ৰতিক্ৰিয়াশীল দলে কংগ্ৰেছৰ বিৰুদ্ধে প্ৰচাৰ কাৰ্য্য কৰা স্বত্বেও অধিকাংশ ভোটত কংগ্ৰেছ প্ৰাৰ্থী জিকি আহিছে।

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: সেই নিৰ্বাচনত বহুত মানুহক ভোট দিবলৈ নিদিলে নহয়?

Srijut HARINARAYAN BARUA : তেখেতে কৈছে যে সেই নিৰ্বাচনত বহুত মানুহক ভোট দিবলৈ নিদিলে। কিন্তু সেই নিৰ্বাচনত তেখেতে কংগ্ৰেছৰ বিপক্ষে canvas কৰিবলৈ গৈছিল। তেখেতৰ লগে লগে আমিও কংগ্ৰেছৰ পক্ষে গৈছিলো আৰু আমাৰ মাননীয় চাৰোৱান চাহাবো কংগ্ৰেছৰ বিপক্ষে কাম কৰিবলৈ গৈছিল? *A voice :* আপুনিও কংগ্ৰেছৰ বিপক্ষে গৈছিল? আমি কংগ্ৰেছৰ পক্ষেহে গৈছিলো (*laughte*)। আজি প্ৰতিক্ৰিয়াশীল দল বিলাকে লগলাগি দেশত যি এটা বিশৃঙ্খলা সৃষ্টি কৰিব খুজিছে সেই বিশৃঙ্খলাৰ মাজত যদি কংগ্ৰেছে নিজৰ লক্ষ্যনেৰে,—যি লক্ষ্যত অনুপ্ৰাণিত হৈ কংগ্ৰেছ আগবাঢ়ি গৈছে আৰু যি কংগ্ৰেছৰ আদৰ্শ মতে আমাৰ কংগ্ৰেছ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে কাৰ্য্যৰ আঁচনি হাতত লৈছে তাত তেখেত সকলৰ নিচিনা মানুহৰ বিৰোধীতা স্বয়ং আঙুৰাই গৈ থাকিব পাৰিব,—তাত কোনেও বাধা সৃষ্টি কৰিব নোৱাৰে (*laughte*)। সেই নিমিত্তে আজি যদি সঁচাকৈয়ে দেশৰ প্ৰকৃত শান্তি

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : আপোনাৰ আৰু পাঁচ মিনিটহে সময় আছে।

Srijut HARINARAYAN BARUA : আজি সঁচাকৈয়ে যদি আমি দেশৰ প্ৰকৃত মঙ্গল কামনা কৰোঁ আৰু দেশৰ শান্তি প্ৰতিষ্ঠাই যদি আমাৰ কামনা হয় তেনেহলে সকলো মানুহে একযোগে হৈ দেশখন গঢ়াৰ কাৰ্য্যত লগা উচিত। কিন্তু আজি আমাৰ যি বিলাক প্ৰকৃত সমস্যা সেই সমস্যাবিলাক যদি দেখিও নেদেখাৰ ভাও জুৰি সদায় এই পৰিঘদত এনেকুৱা একোটা প্ৰস্তাৱ উপস্থাপিত কৰি দেশৰ বাতৰি কাকতত প্ৰচাৰ কাৰ্য্য চলাই কংগ্ৰেছ আৰু কংগ্ৰেছ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ বিৰুদ্ধে এটা জনমত সৃষ্টি কৰিবলৈ যত্ন কৰে, তাত তেখেত সকলৰ কি লাভ হ'ব আমি সেইটো নুবুজোঁ। আজি আমি ইয়াকেহে বুজোঁ যে আসামৰ নিচিনা এখন দুখীয়া প্ৰদেশত য'ত ইমান বিলাক সমস্যা ভৰি আছে সেইবিলাক সমস্যা আজি এই গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে সমাধান কৰিব লাগিব বা এই গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ পিচত যি নতুন গৱৰ্ণমেণ্ট হ'ব সেই গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টেও এই সমস্যাবিলাক সমাধান কৰিব লাগিব। তেনে স্থলত এই সমস্যাবিলাক সমাধান কৰা কাৰ্য্যত আমি কিয় সহযোগীতা নকৰিম?

তেখেতে কৈছে যে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্ট আজি যি সমবায় আন্দোলন হাতত লৈছে তাত দেশৰ প্ৰজাৰ সমৰ্থন নাই। আমি সেই কথা কেতিয়াও বিশ্বাস নকৰোঁ। কিয়নো আমাৰ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে যি সমবায় আন্দোলন হাতত লৈছে সেই আন্দোলনত আজি দেশৰ প্ৰজাই যোগদান কৰিছে। যি সকলৰ অর্থ আছে, ৬ টকাকৈ ৰূপ দি সমবায়ৰ অংশ কিনিছে আৰু বাকী যি সকল দুখীয়া বায়েতে এই ৬ টকাকৈ ৰূপ দি অংশ কিনিব পৰা নাই সিবিলাকেহে এতিয়াও এই সমবায়ত অংশ গ্ৰহণ কৰিব পৰা নাই। আমাৰ বিৰোধী দলৰ মাননীয় নেতা মৌলবী মহম্মদ ছাদুল্লা চাহাবে সিদিনা কৈছিল যে আজিও কিছুমান মানুহে এই সমবায়ৰ অংশ কিনা নাই—আৰু নিকিনাৰ কাৰণ হৈছে—গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে অফিচাৰ বিলাকে গাঁৱলৈ গৈ মানুহক কৈছে যে যদি তেওঁবিলাকে সমবায়ৰ অংশ নলয় তেন্তে তেওঁবিলাকে কেতিয়াও কাপোৰ নাপায়। তেখেতৰ মতে এই কথাত খং খায়েই মানুহে সমবায়ৰ অংশ কিনা নাই।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : কোনো মাননীয় সভ্য উপস্থিত নাথাকিলে তেখেতৰ ওপৰত মন্তব্য সুচক কথা ক'ব নালাগে।

Srijut HARINARAYAN BARUA : কথা প্ৰসঙ্গতেই তেখেতৰ কথা ওলাই গৈছে।

মোৰ অভিজ্ঞতা এয়ে যে আজিও যি বিলাকে সমবায়ৰ অংশ কিনা নাই তেওঁবিলাকে কেৱল প্ৰতিক্ৰিয়াশীল দল বিলাকৰ প্ৰবোচনাতেইহে কিনা নাই।

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: আপুনি কোন বিলাক বিবোধী দলৰ কথা কৈছে ?

Srijut HARINARAYAN BARUA: মই প্রতিক্রিয়াশীল দল বিলাকৰ কথা কৈছো।

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: তেখেতৰ কথাৰ পৰা বুজা যায় যে তেখেতে আমাৰ দলৰ কথাকেই কৈছে।

Srijut HARINARAYAN BARUA: যেয়ে কৈছে তেওঁবিলাকে বুজিছে। কাৰণ প্রতিক্রিয়াশীল দল বিলাকে স্পষ্ট ভাবে বুজিছে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে যি পৰিকল্পনা হাতত লৈছে সেই পৰিকল্পনা যদি কাৰ্য্যকৰী হৈ উঠে তেনেহলে দেশৰ জন-সাধাৰণ লাভবান হৈ উঠিব বা গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ কাৰ্য্যত সন্তুষ্ট হব আৰু তেতিয়া ভবিষ্যতলৈ তেওঁবিলাকৰ স্বার্থৰ খলি নষ্ট হৈ যাব। সেই কাৰণে তেওঁবিলাকে আজি জন-সমাজৰ মাজত সমবায় আন্দোলনৰ বিৰুদ্ধে প্রচাৰ কাৰ্য্য চলোৱাত গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ কাৰ্য্যত কিছু বাধা সৃষ্টি হৈছে হয়, তথাপি মোৰ বিশ্বাস যেতিয়া দেশৰ প্রজাই প্রকৃততে বুজিব যে এই আন্দোলন তেওঁবিলাকৰ ভালৰ কাৰণেহে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে হাতত লৈছে তেতিয়া তেওঁলোকৰ ফুচুলনিত ভোল নাযাব আৰু তেওঁলোকে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ লগত সহযোগীতা কৰিবলৈ আগবাঢ়ি আহিব।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: আপোনাৰ সময় উকলিল।

Srijut HARINARAYAN BARUA: মোক আৰু একমিনিট সময় দিয়ক। সেই কাৰণে মই চাৰোৱান চাহাবক অনুৰোধ কৰিব খোজোঁ যে আজি যেনেকৈ আমাৰ ইয়াত সকলো সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ আৰু সকলো জাতিৰ মানুহে ভাই-ককাইৰ নিচিনাকৈ বসতি কৰি মিলাপ্ৰীতিৰ ভাৱ স্থাপন কৰি আছে সেই শান্তি যেন ভঙ্গ নকৰে। তেখেত সকলৰ লক্ষ হোৱা উচিত এই দেশত শান্তি স্থাপন কৰা। এই দেশত স্থায়ী বাসিন্দা সকলৰ লগত বিভেদ ভাৱ সৃষ্টি কৰাৰ কাম যাতে তেখেতসকলে হাতত নলয় তাৰ কাৰণে মই তেখেতক বিশেষ ভাবে অনুৰোধ জনালো।

সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, মই আৰু এটি সামান্য কথা কব খোজোঁ।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: বাক, আপোনাক আৰু একমিনিট সময় দিয়া হ'ল।

Srijut HARINARAYAN BARUA: তেখেতে কৈছে যে আজি এই পৰিষদৰ যি সকল সদস্য আছে সেই সকলে গাঁৱৰ প্রজাৰ লগত সম্বন্ধ নৰখাৰ কাৰণে প্রজাৰ মাজত অসন্তোষৰ সৃষ্টি হৈছে। আগৰ বৃটিছ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ দিনত যি পৰিষদ আছিল সেই পৰিষদৰ সভ্য সকলে কেনে ভাবে কাম কৰিছিল তেতিয়া আমাৰ বয়স কম হলেও আমি দেখিছিলো। কিন্তু আজি মই দৃঢ় ভাবে কব পাৰোঁ যে বৰ্ত্তমান এই পৰিষদৰ সদস্য সকলে বাইজৰ প্রতিনিধিত্বৰ দায়িত্ব পোৱাৰ লগে লগে ক্ষান্ত হৈ বহি থকা নাই। তেখেত সকলে দিনে-ৰাতিয়ে গাঁৱৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে চেষ্টা কৰিছে, গাঁৱৰ প্রজা সাধাৰণৰ লগত মিলি কাম কৰিছে আৰু তেওঁবিলাকক পৰামৰ্শ দিছে। (*A voice:—Self-praise*) Self-praise ৰ নিমিত্তে কেৱা নাই আৰু সেই ভাবলৈ কোনেও কামো কৰা নাই। প্রত্যেকে নিজৰ কৰ্ত্তব্যহে কৰিছে।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : আপুনি বহক, আক কব নালাগে।

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA : মাননীয় সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, মাননীয় মি: চাবোয়ান চাহাবৰ প্ৰস্তাৱটোৰ মই তীব্ৰ প্ৰতিবাদ কৰোঁ। এই প্ৰস্তাৱ উত্থাপন কৰি তেখেতে সাধাৰণ নিবৰ্চাচন বিচাৰিছে। সাধাৰণ নিবৰ্চাচন বিচৰা কথাটো বেয়া নহয়—বৰং ভাল হৈছে; আক সাধাৰণ নিবৰ্চাচন যে আগলৈ হব, দেউ বছৰমানৰ ভিতৰতে হব, এই কথাও তেখেতে ভালকৈ জানে। আমাৰ দেশৰ নতুন Constitution ৰচনা হৈ গলেই। যেতিয়া এই নতুন Constitution কাৰ্য্যত পৰিণত হব তেতিয়াহে সাধাৰণ নিবৰ্চাচনৰ কথা আহিব। তেখেতে ভাৰতৰ নতুন শাসন তন্ত্ৰ প্ৰচলন হোৱাৰ আগেয়ে নিবৰ্চাচন হব লাগে বুলি কিছুমান কাৰণ দেখুৱাইছে, কিন্তু সেইবোৰ কাৰণ আমাৰ বোধেৰে ভিত্তিহীন। যি বিলাক ভিত্তিহীন কাৰণ তেখেতে উল্লেখ কৰিছে সেই বিলাক কাৰণত সাধাৰণ নিবৰ্চাচন কেতিয়াও হব নোৱাৰে। তেখেত কংগ্ৰেছ চৰকাৰৰ কাৰ্য্যৱলীত খত থকা কথা বৰকৈ উল্লেখ কৰিছে; কিন্তু চৰকাৰে যি বিলাক উন্নতি-মূলক আঁচনি গ্ৰহণ কৰিছে আৰু কাৰ্য্যত পৰিণত কৰিছে সেই আঁচনি বিলাকৰ কথা এটিও তেওঁ উল্লেখ কৰা নাই। আজি ইয়াত অলপ চোৰাং কাৰবাৰ হব পাৰে তাত অলপ ধানৰ দাম বাঢ়িব পাৰে হয়তো ইয়াত অলপ ধানৰ অভাৱ হৈছে, তাত অলপ Smuggling হৈছে, কিন্তু কেৱল এনে বিলাক কাৰণত যদি এটা সাধাৰণ নিবৰ্চাচন হব লাগে, তেনেহলে তেওঁৰ যুক্তিকে ওলোটাই আমিও কব নোৱাৰোনে যে যিহেতু এই চৰকাৰে আমাৰ গাঁৱে-গাঁৱে সমবায়-সমিতি আৰু পঞ্চায়ত পাতি দিছে; আৰু গাঁৱলীয়া বাইজে নিজে-নিজে স্বৰাজ প্ৰতিষ্ঠা কৰিবলৈ হাতত লৈছে আৰু উন্নতি-মূলক প্ৰতিষ্ঠান বিলাক গঢ়ি তুলিছে সেই বাবে এই চৰকাৰ আৰু কিছুদিন থাকিব লাগে আৰু আন ঠাইত নিবৰ্চাচন হলেও আমাৰ ইয়াত হব নালাগে।

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, এজন মেম্বাৰক সম্বোধন কৰোতে “এওঁ, তেওঁ” বুলি কব নালাগে—“তেখেত, এখেত” বুলি হৈ কব লাগে। এনেকৈ সম্বোধন কৰাত আমি বৰ বেয়া পাইছো।

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA : I submit to correction, Sir. এই চৰকাৰে বিশ্ব-বিদ্যালয় স্থাপন কৰিছে, মেডিকেল কলেজ স্থাপন কৰিছে আৰু কিমান উন্নতি-মূলক অনুষ্ঠান আমাৰ প্ৰদেশত এই চৰকাৰে গঢ়ি তুলিছে! এনেবিলাক কাৰণত আমিও কব নোৱাৰোনে যে আন প্ৰদেশত সাধাৰণ নিবৰ্চাচন হলেও আমাৰ প্ৰদেশত সাধাৰণ নিবৰ্চাচন হব নালাগে? এই যুক্তি নেখাতে। এই বিলাক একো কথাৰ কথা নহয়। দেশৰ গঠন তন্ত্ৰ-মতে, আইন অনুযায়ী যেতিয়া সাধাৰণ নিবৰ্চাচন হব লাগে তেতিয়া সাধাৰণ নিবৰ্চাচন হবই। আৰু দেব বছৰ মান হৈ পলম আছে। সেই সাধাৰণ নিবৰ্চাচনৰ কাৰণে তেখেত নিশ্চয় তৈয়াৰ হৈ থাকিব। তেখেত কংগ্ৰেছ কৰ্মী সকলৰ, বিশেষকৈ পৰিষদৰ কংগ্ৰেছী সদস্য সকলৰ বাইজৰ লগত যোগা-যোগ নথকাৰ কথা উল্লেখ কৰিছে। কিন্তু কংগ্ৰেছ কৰ্মী সকলে গাঁৱে-গাঁৱে ঘূৰি চৰকাৰৰ আৰু কংগ্ৰেছৰ আঁচনিমতে গাঁৱৰ ভিতৰত উন্নতি বিধায়ক পন্থা আৰু অনুষ্ঠান বিলাক গঢ়ি তুলিবলৈ যথেষ্ট চেষ্টা কৰিয়েই আছে। গাঁৱলীয়া বাইজে কংগ্ৰেছৰ ওপৰত আশা হেৰোৱা নাই আৰু নেহেৰোৱায়। যোগা-যোগ নথকা কথাটো তেখেতে সপোনত ভাবিছে হবলা? তেখেতে ভাবিছে যে এই সাধাৰণ নিবৰ্চাচনৰ পিচত নতুন যি এখন পৰিষদ গঠিত হব তাত কংগ্ৰেছৰ কোনো সদস্য বা প্ৰতিনিধি নাথাকিব বা থাকিলেও অলপ সংখ্যক প্ৰতিনিধি থাকিব—এনেকুৱা এটা কল্পনা তেখেতৰ মনত উদয় হৈছে—যাক এটা সপোন বুলি কব পাৰি। তেখেতৰ এইটো সপোনেই হওক বা কল্পনাই হওক, তাৰ উত্তৰত মই কব খোজোঁ যে সেইটো কেতিয়াও হব নোৱাৰে—*it shall not happen.* (A voice :—It “should not happen” বুলি কওক)।

নহয়, মই কও যে it shall not happen—কংগ্ৰেছ কল্লী সকলে আক আমাৰ চৰকাৰে এনে ধৰণেৰে কাম কৰিছে যে আমাৰ বিশ্বাস, I shall not happen—এই কথা দৃঢ় ভাবে কোৱাৰ যোগ্যতা আমাৰ আছে আজিৰ এই পাবস্থিতিৰ ভিতৰত গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ বিৰুদ্ধে অথবা আৰু ভিত্তিহীন ভাৱে সমালোচনা কৰা দল কিছুমান ওলাইছে। সেই দলৰ ভিতৰত এই প্ৰস্তাৱ যি গৰাকী সদস্যই উত্থাপন কৰিছে সেই গৰাকী সদস্য মিষ্টাৰ চাৰোৱান চাহাবো আছে। সাধাৰণ নিৰ্বাচন হব লাগে বুলি যোৱা মার্চ অধিবেশনতো তেখেতে আলোচনা উত্থাপন কৰিছিল, তাৰ পিছত অৱশ্যে নিৰ্বাচনৰ কথা বৰ বেচিকৈ শুনা নাই। আমি যিমান খিনি খবৰ পাইছো এই দল বিলাকে গাৱে-ভুঞে ৰাইজৰ মাজত সভা সমিতি পাতি যিমানদূৰ পাবে চৰকাৰৰ দুগাম বটনা কৰি বৰ্তমান চৰকাৰক ভাঙ্গিবৰ কাৰণে সাধাৰণ নিৰ্বাচনৰ নিমিত্তে যত্ন কৰি ফুৰিছে। এই চেষ্টাক অপচেষ্টা বুলি মই আখ্যা দিব খোজোঁ আৰু তেখেতে এই অপচেষ্টা কৰা কেতিয়াও উচিত হোৱা নাই। ইয়াকৈ কৈ মই সামৰণি মাৰিলো।

(At this state the Hon'ble the Speaker vacated the Chair and the Deputy Speaker occupied it.)

Prof. P. M. SARWAN: Deputy Speaker, Madam, in reply to what the Hon'ble Premier has already remarked and in reply to what my hon. Friends on the Government side have stated I have only to bring this to their attention that every one here belonging to this House is a Member of the Legislative Assembly, a representative of the people and as such, I may be just one Member of this large House with 90 per cent. of the Members opposed to me and yet I have the right to give expression of the feelings of those with whom I may have come in contact, and that is, that this Government has not been able to work out as good a plan even for its own good and also they have not been able to implement their own policy.

Some charges have been brought against me and also the insinuation of the Hon'ble Premier that I work to bring this discontent. I say that these are all false charges—utterly false. I may not have agreed with the Government implementation of their policy but I have never called a good thing bad or a bad thing good. I may not have been able to support the Government but I shall never call a good thing bad, nor shall I ever call a bad thing good. Therefore this insinuation that I have been trying to prevent people from joining the Co-operative Societies is utterly false. (*A voice—your brother also*) I can answer for myself only. It is utterly false to insinuate me like that because I myself have been trying to get some people in my village to join the Co-operative movement and I have got a large number of them not only in my village but in other places. I hope that a big Party in the Assembly should not bring such false charges against a single individual.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member should not use unparliamentary words as “false”. He may use the word “unfounded” for that.

Prof. P. M. SARWAN: Thank you Madam, for reminding me that. I gladly withdraw any unparliamentary word I have used and I will say “unfounded”.

Now, with regard to the right to a General Election, the Government has got a right to hold it at their pleasure. If it is allowed by the Central Government to carry on as it is for another ten years, nothing could prevent them. But as a democrat I say it is utterly undemocratic to allow a Party to continue ruling the country when there is a feeling that the majority of the people are not satisfied with them. Therefore I am only speaking as the only democratic individual

belonging to this House and in doing that I am acting as a democrat in urging that immediate General Election be held. But it is up to the Government to hold it or not. With the sanction of the Central Government they may continue for the next 20 years or more, it is up to them to do just like Ching Kai-Shek in China. But I say that a democratic people cannot take recourse to violence.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : মাননীয় সভ্য মহোদয়ক নই এটা কথা ধৰিব পাৰোনে যে যদি democracy ব অৰ্থ সেয়ে হয় তেন্তে তেখেতে adult suffrage লৈ অপেক্ষা নকৰি limited franchise ব ওপৰত কিয় election বিচাৰিছে ?

Prof. P. M. SARWAN : The hon. Member is quite mistaken.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : মোৰ প্রশ্ন হৈছে এয়ে যে এতিয়া election হলে limited franchise ব ওপৰত হব। অলপ পলম হলে adult franchise ব ওপৰত election হব। তেনেহলে সেই সময়লৈ তেখেতে কিয় বাট নাচায় ?

Prof. P. M. SARWAN : But I am just trying to bring this to the attention of this Hon'ble House as a single democratic Member of the House and I am requesting this House to act in a democratic manner. It is up to the Government to go on ruling the people for years together even against the wishes of the people. I am only bringing this to the notice of the House and if the Party in power do not like it, it is up to them, as I said, to continue for many more years; they have got power in their hands and I am satisfied that I have drawn the attention of this House to the feelings of my constituents and others. I have done my duty to my constituents.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : Deputy Speaker, Madam, after what I have heard in this debate I find that I can add very little to what I have already said in this connection. Nevertheless there are certain points raised by the hon. Mover of this Resolution even at the very beginning which, I believe, require a reply. My hon. Friend is waxing eloquent over democracy and democratic methods. In my opinion, if there be anything undemocratic, it lies in his desire to have this general election in the circumstances prevailing in Assam today. I will deal with this question not merely from the constitutional point of view, but also from the point of view of security of the Province, as the general conditions that prevail in Assam today. Madam, we have never heard of any Government tendering its resignation on the merest demand of a general election when it command a majority in the House in the proportion that we have today; when we find that any Motion that is put before the House is seldom challenged even for a divisions; and when we find that the policy enunciated by the Government is broadly subscribed and accepted by the House in spite of some criticism here and there on matters relating to the execution of that policy. I do not also know what other reasons are there to think—except unless it is advanced by irresponsible criticisms—that the Members of the Government Party do not enjoy the confidence of the public. And if there is any indication about the judgment of the people on the actions of the Party in power, the conclusion has gone just the other way from what the hon. Mover says. I stated even in the last Session of the Assembly, that in the bye-elections that had taken place had always resulted in the victory of the Government Party and that in the meantime two Members of the Opposition Bench had thought it desirable to come and join the Government. I do not know, Madam, what other indication of democracy and popularity of the Government in power could be furnished than what had been demonstrated outside and what had been taking place inside on the floor of the House, may,

by what support we are receiving from the Members of the Opposition. I am not one of those who would shut out criticism of the Opposition when we have to frame policies for the good of the people. I do agree again that in certain matters of administration we should have proved much better than what we have been able to do—and in this remark I am taking the Government machinery as a whole. But I do not really know whether there is any Government in the world which is not liable to public criticism on this or that account. All Governments have been subject to criticisms for any of their policies by its Opposition ; and I am quite prepared to meet such criticisms and act according to them if they concern the good of the people as a whole. I am grateful to the hon. Members of the Opposition that we have always received their full support in matters of policy. (*Hear, hear.*)

Now, these being the facts, I do not know, Madam, on what principle of democracy my hon. Friend over there can ask for a general election. He has tried to bring out certain facts regarding rice supply as if these were enough grounds for this Government to resign or for a general election to take place. I say, Madam, that what has been done by this Government in this respect has been broadly supported by all, as being good for the people in general. I do not like to discuss them in detail, but I can point out to the House with confidence that the policy that has been pursued in this respect has been broadly accepted by the House and the country. I do not like to enumerate here all that have been done by this Government for the good of the people. Everybody realises that any Government worth its name does its best for the good of the people, and personally I would be prepared to support any such Party, if in the general election such a Party comes into power which will be able to do better than what this Government is doing. (*Hear, hear.*) But when I actually realise that if certain Members of the House do not get the posts of Parliamentary Secretary, in Government and create grounds for criticism and propaganda against Government, such Members will certainly not be the persons who will be able to run any Government ; if it is found that such Members have certain selfish end in their mind, I do certainly think that they will not be able to run a good Government. If we have our own defects, I am quite prepared to own them ; but I feel, Madam, that we are doing things in a way which any good Government would do. I therefore submit, Madam, in the first place that the grounds provided by the hon. Member for a general election are absolutely unreasonable. They are based on unfounded allegations and untruths.

Regarding the General Election, I already spoke in the initial stage of the debate that the whole thing is in the hands of the Constituent Assembly. A new constitution is being drafted ; and on the principles and details to be adopted by the Constituent Assembly, the general election will take place. There are yet some very important matters to be decided by the Constituent Assembly before the general election can be held. Two or three important matters still remain to be decided by the Constituent Assembly—one is delimitation of constituencies. In our Province certain things that are important are pending ; we have the area under the Sixth Schedule—I mean the autonomous districts which shall have representation in the Assembly. Constituencies have to be delimited even there. We have made a fair progress in the preparation of electoral rolls. But I understand that the necessary preparation for a general election in a Province that should have been made in the meanwhile has not obtained in the States, that has recently acceded. Further, Madam, as it is very well known, the States are acceding to India gradually, the final set up in regard to accession of States to India has not yet been complete. Therefore, the leaders of the Constituent Assembly are of opinion that the general election will not be possible before the end of 1950, but they are definite that it will be held towards the beginning of 1951 at the latest. I therefore ask my hon Friend to have patience till that

time and to use democratic method for the purpose of winning the election. In this connection, Madam, I might speak one word and it is this:

We must have the fitness to understand what Constitution and Statehood mean. When we talk of democracy, it is democracy within the State and we must all be loyal citizens of the State and must be inspired to work in such a way that we do not undermine that State. I do not want to dilate on this point and take the time of the House by referring to details of what are happening to-day in our Province. But it is necessary for us to realize with full responsibility that none of us by his utterance, action and even by opposition lends force to the anti-social activities or anti-social propaganda. I want the hon. Mover to keep that particularly in view. It is easy to find fault with Government. It has its faults and it must have. But his criticism—Government has the taint of complete irresponsibility. I want to caution him as I want to caution myself. We have got to be very disciplined. We have to understand the fundamental principle of democracy, namely that the democracy can flourish within a good State. I would expect that the hon. Mover of the Resolution should take that seriously into consideration, and not indulge in criticisms in the way he did. It has the tendency to support any State propaganda. With these words, Madam, I oppose the Resolution and I hope the hon. Mover will see his way to withdraw his Resolution.

Prof. P. M. SARWAN: Having heard the reply given by the Hon'ble Premier, Madam, I now beg leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution.

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

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: মাননীয় সভানেত্রী মহোদয়া, সিদিনা Control ৰ বিষয়ে মোৰ প্ৰশ্ন এটাৰ উত্তৰ দিওঁতে পালিয়ামেণ্টেৰী চেফ্টাৰী শ্ৰীযুত বিমলা প্ৰসাদ চলিহাই দুবা নিয়ন্ত্ৰণৰ বৰ্তমান পৰিস্থিতিৰ বিষয়ে এটা বিবৃতি দিবলৈ ইচ্ছা কৰিছিল আৰু সভাপতি মহোদয়ে সেই কথাত সন্মতি দিছিল। কিন্তু সিদিনাখন Textile policy আলোচনা কৰোঁতে চলিহা দেৱে Control ৰ সম্পৰ্কে বিবৃতি দিব খোজোঁতে সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়াই আন সময়ত সেই বিবৃতি দিয়া হ'ব বুলি আশা দিছিল। আজি অধিবেশন প্ৰায় শেষ হ'লহি। Control ৰ বিষয়টো অতি লাগতিয়াল বিষয়। এই বিষয়ে জানি যাব পাৰিলে আমি বহুত সভাই উপকাৰ পাম আৰু দেশৰ মান হকো জনাব পাৰিম। সেই কাৰণে তেখেতক Control ৰ বিষয়ে এটা বিবৃতি দিবৰ কাৰণে অনুমতি দিয়ে যেন। মাননীয় সদস্যসকলে এই সুবিধা লবলৈ ইচ্ছা কৰিব বুলি আশা কৰিলো।

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think it is too late to raise this question now when it is not the question hour.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: Madam, may I know whether we can sit for another 45 minutes to discuss this important Resolution of mine for the reason that His Excellency took 45 minutes from us in his Address.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I may inform the hon. Member that the time for His Excellency's Address was included in today's agenda. Besides that sufficient time has been given to the hon. Members to discuss the Resolutions.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: There is Madam, half an hour more time now and within this time we can dispose of this issue.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, we can discuss this question within half an hour.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: মোব অনুবোধৰ বিষয়ে কিবা এটা সিদ্ধান্ত হোৱা হলে ভাল পালোহেতেন।

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: This matter should have been raised after the question hour.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: আজি question hour শেষ নৌ-হওতেই মাননীয় লাট চাহাব বাহাদুৰ আহি পৰিষদত উপস্থিত হ'লহি। সেই কাৰণে এই প্ৰশ্ন উত্থাপন কৰিবলৈ সুযোগ নেপালো।

Resolution re: formation of an Advisory Committee to devise ways and means to free the Country from the grip of growing menace of Communists

✓ **Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** I beg to move, Madam, that this Assembly views with grave concern the activities of Communists in Dibrugarh and other places of the Province and emphatically recommends that the Government of Assam do take all possible steps to eradicate the evil at this stage and form an Advisory Committee, representing all shades of public opinion to devise ways and means to free the country from the grip of this growing menace.

In moving this Resolution I do not mean that the Government of Assam are not taking any step in this direction. But what I wanted to place before this august House is that Government should modify their policy for eradicating this evil from this Province. First of all we must look into the causes which have given rise to initiate this subversive movement. We are to cut at once at the very root of the problem so that there cannot be any menace whatsoever. The Government policy of strengthening police for controlling this movement, I think, will meet with failure. My view is that repression by police or military will simply flare up their movement and they will get additional strength and support from others. After all they are our country people, and they also think for our country as we do. What is to be done is that we should try to bring them in our own line of thought and to do that we must try to improve their lot.

The first thing the Communists propagate in the country is that if they can capture the country they would be able to remove the need or want of the people and thus they would give them Behest or heavenly comfort. Government cannot do to improve the lot of the people with the resources at their disposal. So, Madam, if we all try to make them understand that their criticism and suggestions for improvement or for raising the standard of the masses would be accepted as far as possible and reasonable, there would be no ground to invite foreigners to make our people Communist minded. The real difficulties that we are suffering to-day are that during this Congress regime and as a legacy of the last war the people are suffering to a great extent for want of food, cloth, etc., as Mr. Sarwan stated. These are the actual things on which the Communists are basing their arguments and taking advantage of. Our people who are in distress condition are not getting ample opportunity to raise their standard of living in spite of their best efforts and that we do not seek the co-operation of those people who generally guide the Communist. Corruption though a vague allegation, as has been stated by an hon. Member, every hon. Member in this House and also every Hon'ble Minister knows that there is corruption in the official circle and also in almost all people who are in power. Because Government could not control effectively the commission of corruption. The people who are suffering as a result of corruption very reasonably may go against the administration or the party in power. There is another point which Government should take into

consideration. They should not consider everybody and anybody who is not a Congressite is a Communist. They must not depend too much on their police. To speak frankly, police reports are generally accounted more on money than anything else, therefore, if we go merely on police reports result will be that the real perspective of things will remain unknown to Government, or people, or the representatives of the people. Government should instead gather information from Assembly Member or other reliable sources. They are quite experienced of the police activities under the foreign rule. It is not sufficient to think that police will sacrifice their lives for the country. I cannot think that they will be able to remove Communist activities from the country, although, it is true that one officer sacrificed his life recently, which cannot be expected of all police personnels. We, therefore, should try to devise means how we can tackle the situation without the aid of police or military. The first and foremost thing on the part of Government is to change their attitude not in words but in action and the people taking recourse to activities against the Government which is subversive, he should be properly dealt with. At this stage, Government should see how they can gather public opinion against this foreign domination and foreign menace Committee consisting of people of all shades of opinion, that is, in this Committee there should not only be Members of this Legislature but also people with different political ideologies.

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN : Even the Communists ?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM : Yes, the Communists also. I give definite reply that the Communists should be given representation in the Committee specially because they are our people and their duty is to see to the interest of the country. In the Committee we should try to convince them as well that we should not encourage foreign elements to destroy our country as at the outset we should not disbelieve anyone who is a citizen of this country.

Prof. Sarwan has already left the House, however, I must say that Prof. Sarwan or his brother, Mr. Sarwan should also be in such an Advisory Committee because they also represent a section of the population of the Province who are very poor and they should be convinced in the Committee about the menace of the Communists, who in their turn will infuse idea against this Communist menace into their people and thus help Government in their activity against this menace. I appreciate the measures that have been taken by Government in the shape of some legislation and also in the matter of making all possible efforts to nip this menace in the bud, but I humbly submit that these measures alone will not help them to do so. Therefore, they should agree to form an Advisory Committee and in that Advisory Committee all shades of opinion in the Province including representatives of tribal areas, States, etc., should be taken in. The function of that Committee should be mainly to make propaganda through the Publicity Department or by the representatives directly to their people. Until and unless sufficient propaganda is given that Congress Government is trying to improve the standard of living of the masses no success will be achieved by Government. Even my Friend Mr. Sarat Sinha's assertion that Congress shall not face defeat will hold no good, if timely warning is not taken.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER : Resolution moved :

"This Assembly views with grave concern the activities of Communists in Dibrugarh and other places of the Province and emphatically recommends that the Government of Assam do take all possible steps to eradicate the evil at this

stage and form an Advisory Committee, representing all shades of public opinion to devise ways and means to free the country from the grip of this growing menace."

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Madam, I am grateful to the hon. Mover of this Resolution in trying to elicit a discussion on this very important subject. I think, if we had the opportunity of discussing this Resolution at length I could give a detailed reply after I had heard views expressed in the House. I do not, however, know whether it will be possible to have that time—most likely not—and, therefore, I proceed to explain to the hon. House measures which Government is taking in reference to Communist activities in the Province.

While introducing the Public Safety Bill in this House for the first time—the House knows that there have been two amending Bills in the meanwhile—I tried to describe the policy which the Government were pursuing in reference to dealing with this menace and we said at that time that while Communist activities attended with violence or a violent propaganda or acts subversive to the State, would be severely dealt with, we would not put any bar to any propaganda of a legitimate nature which any party might indulge, for the propagation of their views in the country. That is one of the reasons why we did not make the Communist party to come under any general ban of Government, unlike the Government of Bengal. That policy is being pursued even to-day. It is not our object that any man who may preach certain ideology according to principles of non-violence, should be dealt with under the provisions of the Public Safety Act. We have indeed no objection to any ideology being placed before the country but it was not anti State ; but recent events have developed in such a way that the Government have got to be more on the alert than they had been before, and its operation however is being conducted with greater strictness, and with vigour. I would not like to take time of the House by mentioning what happened in Dibrugarh the other day. I would not also like to tell the House what materials Government have obtained in the meanwhile, to declare that the activities of the Communists have created a real menace to the Province and to its peace and prosperity. Madam, from facts and materials available, Government are convinced that it has become necessary today to give the police more latitude of action than we gave them hitherto. We amended the Public Safety Act in consideration of these facts. I thought Madam that in that we should receive the appreciation of the hon. Mover as well as of the country at large. The action taken by the police in the meanwhile must be admitted to be more in the nature of defensive rather than offensive against any party. To-day Government have the clearest indication of that the Communists parties are out to subvert the State with every method of violence, and are out to commit any crime. And Government was forced to adopt the policy that it is adopting to-day. I do not want to make any secret that we are dealing with this violent movement and with all what lies on our power that the fullest support is being given by the Centre in the matter of dealing with the situation created by these people.

Now this is of course the police method of dealing with the menace. But we are fully alive to the fact that it is not by police measures alone that we will be able to meet the situation. Police measures will be half-way measures if we were not in a position to remove from the society the reasons on account of which Communists find easy grounds for their propaganda and support. You will have seen, Madam, that if Government have adopted in the meantime certain measures for the benefit of the people and the co-operation of the House was sought, it was done with such an idea. I do not say that measures by themselves are not such in which we do not fully and whole-heartedly subscribe. But we thought that these measures were really such, which could meet the Communist

propaganda half-way. I am meaning the measures like those taken in connection with Co-operative movement, Rural Panchayats which should generally ease the economic situation about which we are so anxious and would give real Self-Government to the people. It was deep unconcern I was speaking on the Resolution brought forward by Mr. Sarwan, when I stressed the necessity of our being fully alive to the situation. It is by active co-operation of all the people in these Government measures, by which this menace could be actually met, and it is also for this reason that we are decrying to-day, irresponsible and loose talks about many things on which the Communist party bases their propaganda. We have got to be more disciplined than we have been hitherto in words and actions if we want to preserve the independence acquired after such great difficulty and suffering. Therefore the policy of the Government has been that while we should be adopting all measures to meet this menace of violence by methods of force, we should at the same time, for trying to bring about a social order in which the people should feel that measures have been taken by society for the common good of all and in which the people feel they are themselves the participants in building that society. These are the principles which underlie all the constructive measures of Government, and if we have sought the co-operation of all Members of the House, we have done so with the above-mentioned objects in view.

(At this stage the Hon'ble the Speaker re-occupied the Chair.)

Now, my hon. Friend has brought in the question of forming an Advisory Committee representing all shades of opinion. I have already said, Sir, that so far as this constructive efforts of Government are concerned, there have already set up Advisory Committee for particular branches of our constructive activities.

We shall always be glad to have the association of all parties in the constructive efforts of Government, which indirectly go to meet the menace. But if this Resolution means that in reference to steps which are being taken by the police also there should be Advisory Committee, I would most emphatically say that it would not be proper to do so. The police are dealing with secrets which even I would not like to know, because one loose expression from my lips may do a lot of mischief. It is therefore necessary fully to confide in the police to do their duty without any obsession from outside, if I may say so, and without even any directions excepting those on general policy. This is a policy which, I suppose, the House will consider to be the correct one under the existing circumstances. I can say for the information of the House that the police are just now dealing with very important matters; they are watching developments from day to day and Government have to take action according to their advice. I personally would not like to fetter their discretion in their dealing the situation of to-day. Yet I can give for the information of the House that whenever there have been instances where any individual has been found to have been harshly treated on very scanty and insufficient materials, Government have come to intervene and interfere. But this has been done only in very rare individual cases. I personally think that there is no other way of dealing with the situation excepting the manner I have described. You might have seen very well that the power that has been given to the police, and criticised by some, is unavoidable under the circumstances, and this has been in proportion to the development of the menace. Therefore if there is any reason to think that the Government are supporting sometime a bit of harshness here and there, I hope the House will be prepared to give support to Government in view of the difficulties in which we find ourselves to-day. I have actually more or less accepted the spirit of this Resolution and would, therefore, request my hon. Friend to withdraw it.

Srijut HARINARAYAN BARUA : মাননীয় সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, মাননীয় সদস্য মৌলবী আবুল কাছেম চাহেবে যি উদ্দেশ্য সন্মুখত ৰাখি এই প্ৰস্তাৱ দাঙি ধৰিছে, সি অৱশ্যে প্ৰশংসনীয়। মোৰ বক্তৃতা প্ৰস্তুত corruption সম্পৰ্কে মই যি কথা কৈছিলো বোধকৰো সেই কথাটো তেখেতে ভালকৈ উপলব্ধি কৰিব পৰা নাই। মই কৈছিলো যে corruption আছে বুলিয়েই যে সকলো অফিচাৰ corrupted সেই কথাটো কোৱা আমাৰ অন্যায হ'ব। যিবিলাক অফিচাৰে ঘোচ খায়, যিবিলাকৰ মাজত দুৰ্ভাৱ আছে সেই বিলাকৰ কথাটো প্ৰত্যেক দায়িত্ব শীল লোকেই গৰণ মেন্টৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰা উচিত।

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

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM : Sir, my object was to bring this matter to the notice of the Assembly. I am satisfied that this has been placed before the House. As the Hon'ble Premier is already taking action on those lines, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution.

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

(At this stage the Hon'ble the Speaker ascertained whether the House wanted to continue any more and the majority opinion was against it).✓

Prorogation

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Order, order. Before I announce the prorogation order and before we actually break up, I offer my heartiest thanks to you, the Leaders of the various parties and the hon. Members of this House, for the kind co-operation and help you have tendered for smooth carrying out of the business of the House during this Session. I wish you a happy journey home and well-earned rest. Now I am reading the orders.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 62 of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted by the India (Provisional) Constitution Order, 1947, I, Sri Prakasa, hereby prorogue the Assam Legislative Assembly at the conclusion of its sitting on the 20th September, 1949.

SHILLONG :

The 19th September, 1949.

SRI PRAKASA,
Governor of Assam."

The Assembly was then prorogued.

SHILLONG :

The 19th November, 1949.

R. N. BARUA,
Secretary, Assam Legislative Assembly.

A. G. P. (L.A.) No. 104/49—118+2—22-11-1949.