



**Proceedings of the Sixth 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 Saturday, the 26th March, 1949.

**P R E S E N T**

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

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**STARRED QUESTIONS**

(To which oral answers were given)

**Nationalisation of Electricity undertaking at Dhubri**

**Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA** asked :

\*10. Do Government propose to nationalise the electricity undertaking at Dhubri ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS** replied :

10.—No.

**Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA** : May I know, Sir, whether the Chairman of the Dhubri Municipality submitted a scheme to Government with a request to advance the Municipality with a loan in order to take up the electricity project at Dhubri ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS** : No, Sir.

**Srijut BELIRAM DAS** : May I know whether electricity in Dhubri is a profitable or losing concern ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS** : I cannot say that, Sir.

**Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA** : May I know, Sir, whether the valuation of the properties of the old company has been determined ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS** : Not yet, Sir.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM** : May I know, Sir, when the valuation will be determined ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS** : Government is not supposed to do the valuation *suomoto*.



**Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA:** Is it not the duty of Government to remove the difficulties undergone by the people of Dhubri for want of electricity?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** We have asked the Deputy Commissioner for a settlement between the prospective licensee and the *ex*-licensee.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** May I know whether there will be any success in the matter?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** We are awaiting final reply from the Deputy Commissioner.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this connection, I remember to have received an application from the Chairman of the Dhubri Municipality which was addressed to the Local Self-Government Department and, I think, it has already been transferred to Electricity Department.

### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

#### Sub-Registry Office at Nalbari

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR** asked:

80. Will Government be pleased to refer to the Budget speech delivered by the Questioner on the 15th March during the Budget Session of the Assembly, 1948 (*vide* Assembly Debates, 1948 at pages, 200 and 201) and state—

(a) Whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the various grievances and difficulties that are being experienced by the Sub-Registry Office at Nalbari as was narrated in that speech?

(b) Whether any steps have been taken to remove the difficulties?

(c) If so, what are those steps?

(d) If not, do Government propose to do so now?

81. (a) Is it a fact that the Government are contemplating to provide the said Sub-Registry Office with a building of its own?

(b) If so, do Government propose to expedite the matter?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA** replied:

80. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Government have decided to construct a separate building for the Sub-Registrar in the next financial year. The building will provide a waiting room for women and a verandah to give shelter to others. An iron safe has already been provided. Steps have also been taken to raise the permanent advance money of the District Registrar, Kamrup from Rs.50 to Rs.60.

(d)—Does not arise.



**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** Sir, may I know what is meant by "permanent advance money" as stated in the reply to (c) ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA:** I may enlighten the hon. Member about this later on, if he so desires.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** Does not this mean contingency ? If so, do not Government consider this a sum of Rs. 60 to be quite insufficient for two Registration Offices—one at Gauhati and the other at Nalbari ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA:** I will look into it, Sir.

**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA:** In reply to 80 (c) it is stated, "The building will provide a waiting room for women and a verandah to give shelter to others". May I know why such special arrangement has been provided at Nalbari ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA:** I do not think that it is a special arrangement at Nalbari.

**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister take it from me that there is no such building and verandah in other places ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA:** As it has been felt necessary so it will be provided at Nalbari.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** Is it not a fact that Nalbari is one of the most paying Registration Offices in the Province ?

(No reply)

**The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA** replied :

81. (a) & (b)—In view of the reply to Question 80 (c) these questions do not arise.

### Road Communications in Karimganj Subdivision

**Maulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN** asked :

82. (a) Are Government aware that there is no road connection whatsoever for the vast locality spreading over the eastern Bank of Shonebeel ?

(b) Are Government aware that the proposed Bhanga-Marjakandi-Adharkuna Road will serve only a small portion under Badarpur Police Station and the major portion along with the eastern side of Shonebeel will remain without any road connection ?

(c) Is it a fact that Government have taken up a plan for the upliftment of communication in backward areas ?

(d) If so, do Government propose to take up immediately a road project linking the Cachar Trunk Road somewhere at Badarpur with the Manacherra-Anipur Road near Kalinagar and give it the first priority ?

83. (a)—Are Government aware that there is no road connection between Suprakandi Railway Station and Kaliganj Bazar area from where hundreds of passengers come every day to the station ?

(b) Do Government propose to take up a road project there immediately to give facilities of communication to the public concerned ?



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

82. (a) & (b)—Yes. Shonebeel-Deodharbazar-Saraspur-Hailakandi Road which will serve the eastern area of the Shonebeel has been included in the P. W. R. programme and will be taken up in due course according to priority and availability of funds which are limited now in view of anti-inflationary measure sponsored by the Government of India.

(c)—Yes, in backward Tribal areas.

(d)—Matter will be examined by the Government.

83. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Please refer to replies given to Question No.82(d) above.

#### **Drinking wells or tube-wells in Darrang District**

**Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN** asked :

84. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of drinking wells or tube-wells constructed during the years 1946-47 and 1947-48 both in the urban and rural areas in the District of Darrang by the Tezpur Local Board and Tezpur Municipality ?

(b) Are Government aware that the number of drinking wells in these areas are not sufficient to meet the needs of the people ?

(c) Is it a fact that for want of funds these Local Bodies cannot provide with sufficient drinking wells ?

(d) If so, do Government propose to grant some special funds to these Boards in the Darrang District ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR** replied :

84. (a)—	Urban area		Rural area	
	1946-47	1947-48	1946-47	1947-48
	Nil	4 wells	8 ring wells	2 tube-wells.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Want of funds is not the only reason for failure to provide sufficient number of ring wells to serve the need of all the people. During 1947-48 and 1948-49 sufficient funds had been placed at the disposal of the Tezpur Local Board as well as other Local Boards for ring wells and tanks but the funds could not be utilised mainly because of bottleneck in supply of cement and iron materials which is an all India problem

(d)—The Local Board can hope to get sufficient fund for the purpose so long the Post-War Scheme is under operation.

**Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN:** With regard to (d), may I inform the Hon'ble Minister of Local Self-Government that the Ward No. 1, comprising of Lalamati and Kumargaon, is very much neglected and can I expect that he will take steps to improve them ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR:** Sir, this is a new Question. I am not aware whether a particular area of this Municipality is neglected or not. I want notice of this Question.

**Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN:** Will the Hon'ble Minister take it from me that Ward No. 1 is very much neglected area ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR:** It may be so, Sir. Government have not got information for this area.



**Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN:** In view of the fact that this area is neglected, may I request the Hon'ble Minister to provide funds for improvement of that area ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR:** It will be enquired into and if necessary steps will be taken to improve it early.

**Prof. P. M. SARWAN:** With regard to the reply to (d), may I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether Post-War Scheme is still under operation ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR:** Certainly, Sir. If the hon. Member followed the proceedings of this hon. House he must have been informed that it is going on.

**Prof. P. M. SARWAN:** If the Post-War Scheme is still under operation, why do not Government provide the Local Bodies with sufficient fund for improving the neglected areas?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** That is a question of opinion.

#### **Dhubri Subdivisional Cloths and Yarn Dealers Co-operative Society**

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM** asked :

85. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have materialised their assurance given during the last Session of the Assembly for refund of money to the share holders of the Dhubri Subdivisional Cloths and Yarn Dealers Co-operative Society ?

(b) If not, why not ?

(c) Are Government aware that this has handicapped the progress in formation of Trading Co-operative Societies in Dhubri Subdivision ?

**Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA** (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

85. (a)—No refund of the share money can be made before completion of the audit of the Society's accounts and ascertaining the assets and liabilities of the Society.

(b)—The Society's accounts are still under audit.

(c)—No.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** May I know when the audit is expected to be completed ?

**Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA** (Parliamentary Secretary): I think it will be completed in about a fortnight.

#### **Selection of candidates as trainees at Co-operative College**

**Srijut HEM CHANDRA HAZARIKA** asked :

86. Will Government be pleased to state—

(i) The number of applicants from each Subdivision of the Province for being selected as trainees at Co-operative College ?

(ii) The names, addresses, academic qualifications and Co-operative experience of persons selected from each Subdivision for being appointed as Sub-Inspector, Inspector and Assistant Sub-Inspector of Co-operative Societies ?



**Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA** (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

86. (i)—A statement of the number of applicants district-wise showing Subdivisions where known is placed on the Library table.

(ii)—A statement is placed on the Library table. All except Nos. 94-165 of the list were offered stipends at the Co-operative College with a view to subsequent appointment in the Co operative Department.

### Early disposal of Police Cases

**Maulavi ABDUL HALIM** asked :

87. Do Government propose to take necessary steps for quick disposal of Police cases causing early investigation and submission of charge sheet or Final Report ?

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

87.—In general, investigation is always carried out with the best expedition the resources of the Force permit. Deputy Commissioners have recently been instructed to take prompt action for disposal of the cases.

### Increase of thefts, burglaries and dacoities in Lakhimpur District

**Maulavi ABDUL HALIM** asked :

88. Are Government aware that thefts, burglaries and dacoities in Lakhimpur District are on the increase since early part of 1948 and whether adequate precautions have been taken to protect the lives and property of the people ?

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

88.—There was a small increase in crime in Lakhimpur during the rainy season last year, but the overall figures for the whole year (1948) shew a decrease as compared with 1947.

### Special Training to Police for detecting crimes

**Maulavi ABDUL HALIM** asked :

89. Do Government propose to arrange special training to Police for better efficiency in the art of detection of crimes, rigid honesty and sincerity ?

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

89.—The Police Training College will commence from 1st April, 1949 and will afford an organized course of training for prospective investigating officers. The inculcation of high standards of honesty and sincerity is carried on, not only during the training period, but throughout every officer's career, whatever his rank.

**Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA** : Is there any method for teaching honesty and sincerity ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI** : It is inculcation of honesty and sincerity. I see he is finding fault with the word "rigid" in the question. The Government has nothing to reply regarding word used by the hon. Member in his Question.



**Opening of a Dispensary at Sohbar, Mawthang and Byrong Sirdarships**

**Mr. LARSINGH KHYRIEM** asked :

90. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they have received a representation from the people of Sohbar, Mawthang and Byrong Sirdarships in the Khasi Hills to open an outdoor patients dispensary in that area ?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken in this connection to materialise the opening of a dispensary ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS** replied :

90. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The proposal is still under consideration of Government.

**Demands for Grants****GRANT No. 3**

(“8—Provincial Excise”)

**The Hon'ble Maulana MD TAYYEBULLA.** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.10,69,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1950 for the administration of the head “8.—Provincial Excise”.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER.** Motion moved :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.10,69,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1950 for the administration of the head ‘8.—Provincial Excise’”.

There is one Cut Motion in the name of Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury who is absent. So I put the question.

The question is :

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,69,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1950 for the administration of the head ‘8—Provincial Excise’.”

The question was adopted.

**GRANT No. 17**

(“37—Education”)

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI;** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.1,18,14,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1950 for the administration of the head ‘37.—Education’.

The Cut Motions will be replied to by the Parliamentary Secretary, Education, Srijut Mahendra Mohon Choudhury.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs 1,18,14,800, be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1950 for the administration of the head “37—Education”.

There are many Cut Motions. We have got one hour's time. No. 12 is a general one.



✓ **Maulavi MD. ABUL KASHEM.** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.1,18,14,800 under grant No.17, Major head—37—Education, at page 114 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,18,14,800 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

My object in moving this Cut Motion is to raise a discussion on the general administration of this Department. As there is not enough time at my disposal, I would request the Parliamentary Secretary to reply to those points which are found in the different Cut Motions. First I sought for redress of our grievances that Government should pay attention towards the restoration of grant to the Dhubri Lady Kerr Girls' High School for maintenance of a Maulavi. In reply to a Question it was pointed out that Government provided one teacher for teaching Urdu to this institution. Girls have already started learning Urdu for the last two years and it is most reasonable that Government should again renew the same.

The second question I wanted to bring to the notice of the Parliamentary Secretary and also to the hon. Members of this House is that classes III and IV in secondary school are unnecessary. These two classes should be curtailed. They have only a different names. Hon. Members who have got connection with primary education know that in class III, a boy passing from primary school has to do nothing. He is only to learn English. Class IV standard is not so high. So it is in the fitness of things that at this stage while Government are taking their reformatory programme in hand, they should take these things into consideration.

Regarding Cut Motion No. 3, I would say that though Government is sympathetic, they never do justice to the aided school teachers. Now, I want to point out that their good intention will be frustrated if no such arrangement is made for the establishment of School Boards on a provincial basis. The Government might lay down some conditions on which grant may be distributed to different institutions. It is not unknown to the hon. Members of this House that many of the private schools cannot afford to pay the amount but they show in their books that they have paid the amount. Thus they give false accounts. The school teachers' grievances will not be redressed. So instead of giving aid to the institutions, the whole amount of the grant may be placed in the hands of the School Board constituted by the Government and this Board will be responsible for the management of all the institutions under it. They would also make all necessary contribution to funds, such as provident fund etc. If this is done, Sir, the institutions will not be deprived of the aid that Government seek to extend to them. By my fourth Motion, Sir, I would also like to request Government to introduce vocational subjects in non-Government Secondary Schools in the province. My intention in saying of non-Government Schools only is to lay stress on rural education, because town people may not be eager for these things but village people are very eager to have vocational education. If arrangements are made to introduce vocational subjects in the rural High Schools, I think it will improve the lot of the people.

My fifth one was to ventilate a local grievance. It is known to you, Sir, that a school is recognised by the Department only when the Department is satisfied that there is a genuine need. But, Sir, in the case of the Sukchar High School in Goalpara district, although this High School has opened classes VII and VIII last year and they will be opening Class IX this year, with the sanction of the Education Department, yet they have not got any grant-in-aid up till now. The area in which this School is situated was affected by flood for the last two years and last year also the people had to depend on charity or gratuitous relief and agricultural loan. Since the Government and the Education Department have recognised the genuine need for this High School,



it is expected they will not allow it to dwindle into non-existence for want of grant-in-aid, but should come to the rescue of this institution at this stage when the people are really in want. I hope this will receive sympathetic consideration at the hands of the Government.

Then, Sir, by my Cut Motion No. 8, I wanted to raise a discussion regarding the discontinuance of the grant to Secondary Schools. I wanted that this money should be spent, but not in the way it is being spent now. By that, Sir, I mean that this fund to the Local Boards and the Municipalities should be discontinued, but the School Board should be entrusted with the spending of the money. So long the Local Boards were meant for Primary Education only, but now Secondary Education has also been extended to them. So, Sir, my point is that this money should be discontinued to the Local Boards, but should be spent through the proposed Secondary School Board.

Another thing that I want to draw the attention of the hon. Members of this House, Sir, is with regard to the election which was held in the Dhubri Local Board. While the Board was functioning two members were elected to this Local Board of Dhubri, but after its supersession these two members have been informed that they are no longer members of the Board. Sir, with the supersession Government also disqualified them to be members of this Board. The present Board as it is did not contain members from all interests in the district. Although I do not insist that in all cases communal quota should be maintained, but while there is a grave injustice to certain section of the population I must bring it to the notice of the hon. Members of this House that of all the nominated members of the Board there is not a single Muslim. You know, Sir, that according to the last census Muslim population in Dhubri was 47.4, we naturally expect that at least half or at least 2 members should be from the Muslim community. I think Government will consider these things sympathetically.

Then, Sir, by my Cut Motion No. II I wanted to ventilate a small grievance which I think Government could very easily do away with.

This is with regard to the scholarships awarded to the college students. You know, Sir, that scholarships are granted to offer facilities to the boys and girls to continue their studies in the colleges. But I want to point out that the students who secure competitive scholarships become losers. The student who was awarded scholarships by Government gets Rupees 10 *plus* a free-student-ship in the college, *i.e.* he gets Rs. 10+8 or Rs. 18; whereas the student who was awarded a competitive scholarship will get Rupees 15; but he shall have to pay Rupees 8 out of that money towards college fees, that is he will get only Rupees 7 benefit for his other needs. If students who get competitive scholarships are not exempted from payment of college fees they would rather be discouraged from competing in examinations for these scholarships. As the object was to encourage the pupils, it is all the more reasonable that Government should allow them free tuition in colleges, so that both categories of scholarship-holders should be on similar basis.

With these words, Sir, I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

**The Honble the SPEAKER:** Cut Motion moved:

"That the total provision of Rs. 1,18,14,800 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, at page 114 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.* the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 1,18,14,800 do stand reduced by Re. 1."



**Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in support of the Motion moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. Kashem, I want to speak a few words. I have got Cut Motion standing in my name, by which I wanted to request the Government for sanctioning grant-in-aid to Rakhaldubi High School in Lakhipur thana of the Goalpara Subdivision.

The necessity of having a High School in this locality is known to the Department and as such in the year 1947 permission was given for starting Classes VII and VIII. But unfortunately as the building was not completed at the time, those two classes could not be started. In the year 1948, the building having been completed, permission of the Government was sought for to start classes VII and VIII. But till now no permission has been granted to the school. The place is an important one having many feeder schools including a Middle English Madrasa and a Middle Vernacular School. So I request the Government to give their permission to start Class VII and Class VIII in this School from this year and to sanction necessary grant-in-aid.

Sir, for commencing Compulsory Primary Education in the Goalpara Subdivision two areas have been selected: one in the North Bank and the other in the South Bank. But in neither of these areas any Muslim school has been taken nor any Muslim village has been included within those areas. I therefore request the Government that in selecting areas for compulsory Primary Education in future a Muslim majority area especially in the Lakhipur thana should be selected.

With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

**Maulavi AFAZUDDIN AHMED :** মাননীয় সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, বৰ্তমান গৱণ-মেন্টে যি Compulsory Primary Education প্ৰবৰ্তন কৰিছে সেই সম্বন্ধে মই নগাঁও জিলাৰ বিষয়ে কব পাৰো যে যিবিলাক ঠাইত বৰ্তমান Compulsory Primary Education প্ৰবৰ্তন কৰিছে সেইবিলাক ঠাই প্ৰায়েই শিক্ষিত আৰু উন্নত। গৱণমেন্টে এতিয়ালৈকে backward ঠাই বিলাকত কোনোবকম কাম হাতত লোৱানাই কাজেই মই গৱণমেন্টক অনুৰোধ কৰো যেন নগাঁও জিলাৰ immigrant area বিলাকত অতি সোনকালে Compulsory Primary Education প্ৰবৰ্তন কৰে। যিবিলাক immigrant অসমলৈ আহিছে সেইবিলাক প্ৰায়েই অশিক্ষিত। তেওঁলোকৰ অসমীয়া শিকিবৰ নিমিত্তে বেচি আগ্ৰহ আছে, কাজেই সেইবিলাকক অসমীয়া শিকিবৰ নিমিত্তে সযোগ সুবিধা দি যাতে গৱণমেন্টে সহিতক শিক্ষিত কৰি তুলিব পাৰে তাৰ কাৰণে মই গৱণমেন্টক টানি অনুৰোধ জনালো।

**Maulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the Motion moved by my hon. Friend, Maulavi Abul Kashem. I shall speak a few words about my two Motions. First I want to speak about sanctioning grant-in-aid to (i) Durlabcharra High School, (ii) Ramkrishna Nagar Public High School and (iii) Anipur High School in Ratabari thana in Karimganj Subdivision

Sir, the other day in my Budget speech I explained how backward the area under Ratabari Police Station is as regards education. There was no High School before. Recently three High Schools have been established there at different places in safe distance of 5-6 miles between each other, namely, Dullabcharra Public High School, Narayan Nath High English School at Anipur and Ramkrishna Nagar Public High School at Kalinagar. Sir, the area is admittedly a backward one and as such to encourage spread of education there the Government should come forward with adequate grants for those schools immediately.



In the other Cut Motion standing in my name I wanted to raise a discussion on retention of Maktab with previous facilities of education. Sir, my intention to move this Motion was that provision of Maktab was made only because that along with primary education, the Muslim boys must read the compulsory primary religious education. There was a provision of literatures written by Muslim authors containing life of some ideal Muslim great persons. But this year though there was no circular issued to the effect that there should not be any such books, those are not found in the book list ; and consequently those books are not found in the stock of local book-sellers, and the teachers and guardians of Maktab pupils are in an uncertain position and do not know what to do.

Sir, when the provision of Maktab in our province was made, the consideration was that in the absence of such a system, Muslim boys would spend at least three years before they got themselves admitted into the Lower Primary Schools. This Maktab system is the only system which may save such time.

I therefore urge upon the Government so that they may kindly retain the Maktab with previous facilities.

With these words, Sir, I support the Cut Motion.

**Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Hon'ble Minister of Education and his Colleagues for the general all-round improvement in all branches of the Education Department. But either through a misconception or through a misunderstanding of the true state of facts, one particular branch, it appears to me, has been neglected—this branch of education goes by the name of High Madrasa system. In order to give a true picture of this system of education I will have to dive into ancient history. When the British first got sovereignty of India and the Governor Generalship of India was established at Calcutta, during the time of Warren Hastings, two institutions were started—one the Calcutta Sanskrit College and its counterpart, the Calcutta Alia Madrasa. "Alia" means "high" for spread of education amongst the "natives". A special curriculum was selected for them and so far as this Madrasa was concerned, it goes by the name of "Darse Nizamia". In the education world of Islamic culture every subject was taught through the medium of Arabic and even subjects like geography and geometry were taught through Arabic. Consequently those books were about two centuries old and unsuited to the present day conditions. But even now the same Darse Nizamia remains in that type of institution. It was found by the Muslim community that the *alumni* of this institution were unsuitable for any employment under the Government except as classical teacher in high schools. So those who passed from this institution became dependant upon the community itself who employed them as Imams or leaders of prayers in their mosques. Yet people were anxious to get that kind of education at least from Assam and that, I know from my personal knowledge, as I was a boarder of the Elliot Madrasa Hostel while I was a student of the Calcutta Presidency College, that a third of the students of the Calcutta Madrasa Alia came from the Districts of Cachar and Sylhet alone.

In order to give facilities to those students who wanted that system of education but could not bear the expenses of going to Calcutta, people started similar private Madrasas in Assam and the Arabic equivalent of the word 'private' is 'Kharija'. So even now people in Assam have these Kharija Madrasas which are nothing but private Madrasas where all teachings are done through the medium of Arabic. The Muslim community of Assam ever since the year 1924



began to agitate for converting this special education into the system of general secondary education. Various conferences (at least I remember 4) were held between 1924 and 1937 wherein a system was evolved by the Muslim community which is known as the New Scheme of Madrasa Education. These conferences suggested that as far as possible this Kharija Madrasa system should be discouraged and in its place an admixture of Vernacular and English should be introduced in the new system curricula. On the recommendation of these conferences the previous Government introduced the High Madrasa system and the High Madrasas were recognised as High Schools to all intents and purposes and those who passed the High Madrasa Examination were treated as having passed the Matriculation Examination and were admitted by the Calcutta University and the Dacca University to their Colleges. Even now the Gauhati University is enquiring of the Education Department whether these institutions should not be brought under the University with some little modification. I find from a letter dated 22nd February 1949 from the Registrar of the Gauhati University to the Assistant Director of Public Instruction for Muslim Education saying as follows :

“With reference to your letter No. 31, dated 27th January 1949, I am directed to enquire whether you are in a position to make the following modifications in your syllabus for the High Madrasa Examination.

The Gauhati University has introduced three papers in English—total mark 300—for the Matriculation Examination with effect from 1951. Your syllabus for English should be expanded accordingly. (At present the High Madrasa has got 2 English papers like all other general Secondary High Schools). For History and Geography the total mark should be 150. (At present the mark is only 100). Mathematics—one paper—mark 100. The syllabus for Mathematics combines as at present Arithmetic, Algebra and Geometry. The syllabus for Vernacular should remain as it is—mark 150”.

So it is evident from this letter that the Gauhati University is proposing to accept these High Madrasa institutions as equivalent to Normal High English Schools provided they add one more paper for English. That this system of education and these institutions are recognised by even the general High School Education system will be evident from a Resolution which was passed under the Presidentship of our venerable Friend, Sri Jut Nilmoni Phukan, as recently as 24th February 1949. It was a conference of the all-Assam Aided High School Association. Resolution No. 16 says: “Resolved that this Conference urges upon the Government to treat the High Madrasas and their employees in the same status as that of other Aided High Schools in respect of grants-in-aid, increase of salary and dearness allowance and other facilities that may be granted to the teachers of the Aided High Schools of the Province in the future”.

This shows that these High Madrasas are equivalent to other High English Schools. Now that Government is proposing to spend 8 lakhs and odd for bettering the conditions of the employees of the Government Aided High Schools, it is high time that the claims of these High Madrasas be recognised. They are not many. Throughout Assam there are only 7 such institutions—6 in the Assam Valley and only 1 in the other Valley. Of the 6 in the Assam Valley all are recognised by Government and all of them except one get Government aid. But for some reason or other the institution in the constituency of the hon. Parliamentary Secretary has not yet received any grant-in-aid. The Hallapakri Madrasa near Barpeta has not yet received any grant-in-aid though it has been recognised. I draw the attention of my hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Secretary to this. This discrimination is causing great resentment. The teachers of these High Madrasas which are according to rules bound to entertain the services of 4 graduate teachers are not receiving the same amount



of dearness allowance as the teachers of the ordinary aided High Schools. In those High Schools the dearness grant is Rs.10 per month per teacher whereas in the High Madrasas the teachers have been granted a dearness allowance of Rs. 5 only, of which Rs.3 will be given by the Government and Rs.2 are to be contributed by the management of those institutions. Some of the institutions are very poor. Therefore they cannot give the full advantage and my Friend Maulavi Abul Kashem has already mentioned to you that some of these institutions have to resort to certain device. Without paying they have shown in the account books that they are contributing their share.

Below these High Madrasas we have the Middle Madrasas and below that the Maktabas. If Government does not favour any religious education imparted at Government expenses then I think they cannot help the Kharija institutions which are nothing but religious institutions, whereas these High Madrasas are nothing but secondary schools with only the addition of 2 or 3 subjects in Arabic to continue the Islamic culture.

A curious thing has happened, that is originally Government granted at the rate of Rs.10 as dearness allowance to these institutions. After the money was drawn and distributed to the teachers, a circular was issued by the Government that it was granted through mistake, and that the money should be refunded. The authorities of these institutions replied that the money was drawn and distributed and it would be very hard on the poorly-paid teachers to refund the money and asked that this refund should be waived. In answer to this, the entire grant to the Madrasa has been suspended and these institutions are suffering great hardship. I request the Hon'ble Premier who holds the portfolio of Education to have a considerate eye on the condition of these people and only 7 institutions are concerned. I hope he will extend his sympathetic hand to these institutions in the same way as he is going to show to the teachers of the aided High Schools.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Sir, I have got a Cut Motion in my name. I will speak at the most for five minutes.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I can allow you only three minutes.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the time at my disposal is very short and since I am not well, I would like to speak a few words in order to draw the attention of the hon. Parliamentary Secretary, Education to a number of grievances.

1. As Government have admitted, the cost of living standard of the people has enormously risen. It has specially affected the teachers of the Primary Schools. Government have sanctioned a flat scale of Rs.10, a dearness allowance of Rs.10 and another flat rate sum of Rs.5 to those who live in towns. Unfortunately, the Primary school teachers at Jorhat have not got the sanctioned increase of Rs.10 or Rs.5 to those teachers living in towns. I hope the hon. Parliamentary Secretary will take that into his immediate consideration.

2. I refer him to the Deopany Maktab in the Sibsagar Subdivision. I have got a representation from the people of Deopani saying that there is a Maktab and it has been there for the last 30 years and for the last five years it has been enjoying a grant from the Government. Recently for some reason or other the grant has been transferred to a newly started Maktab at a distance of  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile only. In this connection, a friend of mine is involved regarding the transfer of the amount from the old Maktab to the new Maktab. The representation which I have received I would like to read out for the information of the House with the



consent of the Hon'ble Minister who is involved, but the time at my disposal is very short. So I will hand it over to the hon. Parliamentary Secretary.

3. I would like to refer to the question of Government's refusal to hear certain grievances which have been made by the people of Maubandha in Jorhat Subdivision. The grievances have been brought to the notice of the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Jorhat and the Inspector of Schools for Muslim Education, but nothing has been done. I hope the hon. Parliamentary Secretary will take this matter into his consideration.

With these few words, I support the Cut Motion of my Friend, Mr. Kashem, for the acceptance of the house.

\* **Srijut PURNANANDA CHETIA (Parliamentary Secretary):** Sir, may I speak a few words on a personal explanation? He has referred that I am involved in the Deopani Maktab.

**Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary):** I will reply to that.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very much grateful that the hon. Members have been kind enough to lend their whole hearted support for this demand, specially I am grateful to the hon. Leader of the Opposition on what he has said in his speech regarding the Education Department and its programme. The House is going to vote for the largest demand today for Education. Therefore, I think this House has a right to know the background under which all these education schemes and proposals have been prepared and formulated. Therefore, Sir, I may be permitted to give very briefly what is in the mind of the Government regarding the reconstruction of Education as a whole. The educational system of any community is the provision it makes to initiate the rising generation into the mode of life and to enable that generation to make a creative attitude towards the society. In a simple society of the primitive type the young persons are initiated into its mode of life by a process of informal education. Necessity of formal education through schools is not felt as the demand of such a society on the individual members are static and few. The more complex a society is the greater are the demands on the individuals and longer is the period of preparation. The days are long gone when the mastery of 'Three R's' by a privileged few could be considered as adequate preparation for a worthy life in the community. Our society is getting more and more complex demanding an ever increasing share of responsibility on the part of the individual members both in economic and political life. Our traditional education which is both bookish and negative and that again confined to a few cannot meet this new situation. The need for a complete re-orientation of our educational system was long felt. Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, gave a constructive lead in this direction. Learning through activity and experience is an accepted principle of progressive education all over the world. Mahatmaji's support has given an added significance to it in India.

The demand for a quantitative and qualitative expansion of education in the Province has been recognised by the Government. With a view to prepare every young person in the province for the duties of citizenship the Government has adopted as its long term policy imparting of free and compulsory education



for a minimum period of eight years from the age of six. The education given during this period is to be complete in itself, and is intended to enable the student to pull his weight in society economically and to discharge his minimum political and social responsibility in an efficient manner.

While accepting compulsion for eight years as its long term policy the Government has accepted in the first instance as a practical measure compulsion for five years.

Education, however, does not end at the age of fourteen. It is the policy of the Government to offer as much facilities as it can for education beyond fourteen to those who can profit by it. Education beyond fourteen is to be of diverse types to meet the needs of the society and to suit the abilities and aptitudes of those who pursue it.

Education is a life long process extending from the cradle to the pyre. Besides making provision for formal schooling of children and adolescents the Government has undertaken to take necessary measures for the formal and informal education of the adult population of the Province. Adult education or social education should not be identified with mass literacy. Movement for mass literacy is a temporary measure for making up the past deficiency. But adult education centres round the life of the society itself and will continue till the society lasts. The Government has adopted a progressive policy of social education with a view to supplement the education of the children and adolescent.

If the purpose of education is determined by purpose of society it goes without saying that the content of curriculum, the method employed and the amount of education given to young persons are determined by purpose of education. Education cannot be planned without reference to the objectives and values of the community in which it is given. To ignore the functional relationship between society and its schools leads to a false isolation of the problem of curriculum. If society wants just technical efficiency its educational provision will be making technical schools; if it wants cannon fodder its schools will become pre-military establishments; if it wants division in society it will provide a disintegrated educational system; if it wants unity and co-operative living it will provide for common experience and co-operation in pre-adult life. Our present society does not know what it wants; so our educational provision reflects this social chaos. The cancer of our present educational system is its failure to realise the vital connection between the purpose of society and what the society teaches in its schools. Curriculum has been isolated from its social setting. The curriculum of the Primary Schools, Academic High Schools, Technical Schools, etc., are dealt with apart from the question of the content of education as a whole. The right course would be to determine the content of education in its totality and then to divide it into sections appropriate to the stages of development of children and young persons in various types of schools. What secondary schools are to teach depends upon what foundations Infant and Primary Schools lay and upon what follows secondary school stage.

The Government have this urgent problem of curriculum reforms constantly in mind. It is proposed to call an Education Conference to discuss the various aspects of the problem and to recommend to the Government a line of action in the light of the practices of progressive countries and the suggestions of the Central Advisory Board of Education. So far as Primary and Middle stages of education are concerned, the Government have already adopted Basic Education as their policy. The main lines on which curriculum reforms for these stages should proceed are therefore fairly determined. What remains to be done is to fill in the details to suit local conditions. Absence of trained teachers in sufficient number is likely to postpone by a considerable period the date when



the whole age group from 6 to 14 years will have received education in Basic Schools. But reforms of the curriculum in non-Basic Primary and Middle Schools cannot wait till then. Our plan, therefore, is to inform all our non-Basic Primary and Middle schools with the basic spirit. We have already introduced into the curriculum of the training centres for primary school teachers such subjects as basic crafts, music, dance, etc. It has now been planned to send one Instructor from each centre to receive a short course of training in Basic Training Centres. As soon as the first batch of instructors will return on completion of training the second batch consisting of the second instructor from each of the 15 subdivisional centres will be deputed for similar training. The gradual and partial introduction of the basic curriculum in the non-basic training centres is intended to make the non-Basic Primary Schools to conform to the basic ideals as far as practicable, so that when the availability of properly trained teachers in sufficient number will justify the conversion of these schools into Junior Basic. The change over will not mean any sharp break with the past. A similar process will be applied for the gradual conversion of the Middle Schools into Senior Basic.

The largest amount of reforms is needed in the content of Secondary Education. In the first place the curriculum for the various types of secondary schools must be integrated with that of the primary and middle schools on the one hand and of the University on the other. Secondly, the curriculum must be designed to serve the purpose of the planned democratic society we have in view. The proposed Education Conference will be asked to advise the Government on various problems connected with the reorganisation of Secondary Education, its content and methods of teachings, etc. The work of reforming Secondary Education will be taken up as soon as the Board of Secondary Education is formed. Meanwhile every effort will be made to supplement and balance the existing teaching in secondary schools by means of such extra-curricular activities as will impart a practical training in School Service and develop of civic sense in students. The activities included in the extra-curricular programme are designed to enable pupils to cultivate such democratic virtues as tolerance, co-operation, discipline, initiative, independent thought and courage. A modest beginning in this direction has, already been made in the Government Boys' High Schools and Cotton College for extra-curricular activities. The Government intends to widen the field and scope of extra-curricular programme progressively so as to include all the High Schools and to enable all the pupils of these schools to take part in some kind or other of these activities, according to their aptitude and abilities.

One important problem connected with reforms of the Secondary Education is that of the content of female education. While it is not the intention of Government to shut the doors of higher education including professional and technical studies to those young women who might aspire after and were found capable of pursuing such education, the Government feels that for the overwhelming majority of girls attending schools the education must be such as will make them fit to play a socially useful role as mothers. The practical bias in the curriculum for girls should take the form of introduction of such subjects as Domestic Science, Mothercraft, Elementary Child Psychology, Gardening, etc. In regard to the question of providing a difference in the curriculum for Boys' and Girls' schools the Government, however, has kept an open mind. A conference of distinguished women educationists within and outside the Province is being called to advise the Government in the matter of reorganisation of female education.

This is, in a nutshell, the policy that the Government is pursuing, or is contemplating to pursue. The problem of education is a vast thing by itself. The vastness has increased due to other multifarious issues that confront Assam



to-day. In this gigantic task of reorganisation of education, Government efforts only are not sufficient. I therefore appeal to all hon. Members of this House, and through them the whole intelligentsia of the Province, to render full and ungrudging co-operation with Government measures for rebuilding education in our country and help them with constructive suggestions.

Then, Sir, I come to the points raised in course of the discussion of the Cut Motion. My hon. Friend, Mr. Kashem, said that Government should insist on teaching of Persian in the Lady Kerr Girls' High School. Sir, Lady Kerr Girls' High School is an aided School, and as such, Government have no control over its maintenance and running. Government give a lump sum grant for the general maintenance of the school and from that grant and from their own income they retain their staff. It will be unfair on the part of Government to press the Governing Body, whom the Government are not able to render sufficient help and money, to retain additional staff for teaching additional subjects. If the Governing Body so desire Government will be much pleased to see whether the grant-in-aid can be increased for that reason.

Next, Mr. Kashem has asked Government to abolish Classes III and IV from the Secondary Schools. The Secondary Schools include Middle Vernacular, Middle English and High Schools. In the Middle Vernacular School Class III is equivalent to Class III of the Lower Primary School; so the question of abolition of Class III from Middle Vernacular Schools does not arise. The question of abolition of Class III from the Middle English and High Schools will be taken up when English will be abolished from Class III. This question is connected with the reorganisation of Secondary Education which is under the consideration of Government. Class IV of course cannot be abolished.

Then regarding Madrassa and High School, it is a matter which will be looked into.

Vocational Training in Aided High Schools is going to be introduced gradually by Government and now as many as 33 Aided High Schools of the Province are receiving grants-in-aid for introduction of Vocational Education.

Regarding Sukchar High School, the policy of the Government is to give grant-in-aid to such schools which receive affiliation from the University, but this Sukchar High School has not received affiliation from the University. So the questions of grant-in-aid to this school cannot arise.

Regarding removal of two members from the School Board at Dhubri, which was asked for by hon. Maulavi Abul Kashem, I would like to mention that under the Assam Primary Education (Amendment) Act, Section 3 (dd), which reads:—"When a Municipal Board or a Town Committee is superseded....., the Provincial Government shall nominate a person in the case of a Municipal Board or Town Committee, and two persons in the case of the Local Board" to the School Board concerned. So, under the provision of this section the two members of the Dhubri Local Board could not be retained.

Then, regarding free-tuition for the competitive scholars, the matter is receiving attention of Government.

Mr. Nazmal Haque said that Rakhaldhubi High School should be given grant-in-aid. I may inform the House that when another School (Gandauri High School) quite close by has received grant-in-aid, the question of grant-in-aid to this school cannot therefore arise.



Then regarding introduction of Compulsory Primary Education in the Muslim areas of Goalpara district, Mr. Nazmal Haque has mentioned that thickly populated Muslim areas have not been brought under compulsion. I may inform him that Bongaigaon and Baitmari in Goalpara which are thickly populated by the Muslims have been brought under the Compulsory Primary Education scheme, so he will see that thickly inhabited areas of Muslims are not neglected and the Muslims of that area are taking advantage of compulsion along with other people.

Then Maulavi Afazuddin Ahmed said that backward areas of Nowgong district have not been brought under Compulsory Primary Education programme. For the information of the hon. House, I may say that Kathiatali, a predominantly Tribal and backward area and Charaibani, a backward mixed area, have been brought under Compulsory Primary Education.

Maulavi Afazuddin Ahmed further said that the Muktabs and Primary Schools of the backward immigrant areas should be specially treated for introduction of Compulsory Primary Education. I should inform him that such Muktabs and Primary Schools of the backward areas have not been neglected.

Regarding contention of discrimination between the High Madrasahs and the High Schools I would like to add a few words. The question of denominational schools is linked up with the new Constitution which is being hatched up by the Constituent Assembly. As soon as this matter is finally decided, Government will take steps according to the direction of the Constituent Assembly in this regard.

As I am left with no time and as I feel that I have already replied in brief the questions raised in the course of the debate, I therefore request my hon. Friend, the Mover of the Cut Motion, to withdraw his Motion.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Will the hon. Mover withdraw his Motion?

✓ **Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Cut Motion.

The Cut Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Now I put the original Motion:

The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.1,18,14,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1950 for the administration of the head ‘37—Education’.”

The question was adopted.

#### Grant No 20

(“40.—Agriculture”)

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.50,58,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1950 for the administration of the head “40.—Agriculture.”



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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.50,58,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1950 for the administration of the head '40—Agriculture'."

There are two Cut Motions in the name of Maulavi Muhammad Abul Kashem. I think, he can take up Cut Motion No.1 which will serve his purpose.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.25,64,568 under Grant No.20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—D.—Agricultural Experiments and Research (total), at page 160 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, i.e, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.50,58,900 do stand reduced by Re.1.

My object in moving this Motion is to raise a discussion on the misuse of public money.

Sir, before I speak on administration in the Agriculture Department, I would ask the hon. Members to excuse me if in pointing out some glaring defects in the administration, I hurt somebody.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition is not in the House today. He asked not to use abbreviated terms. I will try to avoid abbreviated terms as far as possible.

Everybody knows that we are in the midst of a big crisis on account of shortage of foodstuff in the country and we sincerely want that we must have more food production in order to feed the population. In previous years Assam used to export huge quantities of rice and paddy to other parts of the country, but at present as a result of our Grow-More-Food Campaign, what do we see, our province is not in a position to feed her own people. We cannot trace out the reasons for this state of affairs. I hope, I will not be taken amiss, when I say that we do not feel the existence of the Agriculture Department at all in the province whereas we have to vote for more than Rs.50 lakhs for this Department. If Government would have taken care to spend this money properly, surely they would have been able to do much good to the country, but from the working of the Department it appears that they are simply determined to spend away the money without giving any concomitant benefit to the public. In the name of opening new branches for this Department, new officers have been appointed.

There is one Director in the Department and he has got his own establishment consisting of 28 persons. And he has got another Additional Director with a separate office to maintain at the cost of Rs.70,900. Sir, if the Hon'ble Minister considers that the office in Shillong is not sufficient to run the administration, he can transfer this office from here to Gauhati instead of getting another office of Additional Director of Agriculture. This is merely duplication of work. Then again there are two Deputy Directors and they are getting salary of Rs.9,730. They also have got their own office. Sir, it is not understood what service we could get from these officers, they are not doing any field work in the interests of the cultivators. Instead of these officers at the top we could have more Demonstrators and more labourers who would be of real help to the people, but this has not been done.

Then again, under the head "Inspectors and Instructors"—the money is uselessly spent, because these people will not be of any benefit to the cultivators since they would be spending their time in their offices at headquarters like any other officer.



Again, there is a horde of officers under different names of Deputy Directors, then Assistant Deputy Director, and Assistant to the Assistant Deputy Director and such like that it is really very difficult to remember all these names ! I wonder how the Hon'ble Minister could remember all these names ! But after all, it is a waste to have so many officers.

When we look to the item regarding the Farms we will find that there is one Farm Manager for each Farm and he has one Assistant Farm Manager. This shows that two heads are managing one small farm. My contention, Sir, is that there is no need for so many heads and the expenditure under this head could have been curtailed.

Again, Sir, we find that for purchase and feed of cattle a provision of Rs.76,000 has been made. Sir, with so many officers, is it not possible for them to grow grass in their farms for the purpose of feeding the cattle? Why such a huge sum of money should be allowed to go in this way? Then again, the recovery from these farms comes to only Rs.20,000 whereas the expenditure is 1 lakh and 78 thousand. Sir, if an ordinary cultivator is asked to adopt this system of the Department of Agriculture, what would be his fate? Not only that he himself will die of starvation in no time, but his future generation will also die, because we find that inspite of the best efforts of the Department with so many experts and technicians still we are running at a loss—we are getting only 20 thousand out of the expenditure of 1 lakh 78 thousand. Our agriculturists should be warned that they must not go to the Agriculture Department for advice but they should be encouraged to work rather in their own way.

Here at page 166 of the Budget, Sir, we find the words G. M. F. Scheme—these might mean Grow More Funds Scheme, because the Government are trying to get more funds. They are not satisfied with one Manager and they want to have more funds for additional Managers. Sir, as regards the new schemes that have been shown here, we don't know whether the officer who recommended these schemes has been tested and whether he has been able to bring any result in the past. If not, why this huge amount of no less than 22 thousand eight hundred and ten should be allowed to drain like this?

Then coming to the item for Ahu Paddy Seed Multiplication Scheme, this scheme again is a complete failure because the Department has never been able to supply seeds to the cultivators. The cultivators prepared their lands for cultivation in good time and they were waiting for seeds to come from the Agriculture Department, but they waited for a long time in vain. The Department could not supply them with seeds but their lands are remaining fallow. Still we find that more money has been provided under this head. It is really a criminal waste of money, Sir. Government ought to know what areas would require seeds and at what time. But they never cared to enquire, Sir, though in every session of the House I have brought to the notice of the Government that the Department is not in a position to supply seeds at any time when seeds are needed by the poor agriculturists. Moreover, Government or rather the Department of Agriculture could not supply proper seeds for proper areas. For example, when in the area where they needed Rangpur potato, the Department will supply seeds from the Khasi Hills, with the result that the people will not get any benefit since the seeds would not grow. In this way, Sir, most of these seeds which are purchased at Government cost are hopelessly misused by the failure of the Department to supply proper seeds for proper areas according to the demand of the people.

Then again, in the matter of Fruit Culture, so far we do not get any report from the Department regarding the working of the Department in this respect. I shall be obliged if the Hon'ble Minister will please let us know about the improvement, his Department had been able to effect in this direction.



**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. Member has already taken 45 minutes.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** I will be finishing, Sir, in another 3 or 4 minutes.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I can allow the hon. Member another 2 minutes.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** But if other hon. Members will not speak, I hope you will give me more than 2 minutes, Sir.

(The Hon'ble Speaker then ascertained the views of other Members and none proposed to speak).

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** All right, you may have 5 minutes.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** Again, Sir for the distribution of seeds and manure we find that there is one District Agricultural Officer on whose account an amount of Rs.2,060 is allotted. There is another provision under this head of an amount of Rs.18,000. Myself being one of the cultivators, I do not know whether any manure is distributed. I do not know whether any of my cultivator friends did ever get manure from the Department. So I do not know whether the manure that is supposed to be distributed is for manuring the land or manuring the officer himself (*laughter*).

Then, Sir, coming to the Irrigation Department, I am surprised to find that the Assistant Irrigation Inspectors and the Inspectors do not keep even the record of power pump that they have got for their use. Once when I tried to get some information from the office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture at Gauhati in this respect the office assistants could not give me any help. Sir, in this way this Department is being run there.

So far as Horticulture scheme under the Grow More Food is concerned, I think it is a new scheme. And as I do not find any details from the Revised Estimates, I shall be glad if the Hon'ble Minister replies on what basis he calculated those Revised Estimates. The amount provided for this is, as I find, Rs.1,10,300. Is it only to provide some technicians or some Inspectors, Deputy Inspectors, or Assistant Inspectors or what?

As regards the posts of Assistants to the Deputy Directors of Agriculture for another Grow More Food scheme I do not know how their services are utilised. So, Sir, I shall be glad if the Hon'ble Minister gives us some idea about this scheme and the posts, and how this scheme is going on, or whether this scheme has done any good to the general public.

The amount budgeted for this scheme is one lakh eighty thousand. Is this allotment a reasonable one, or was it not better to spend only a small amount in the beginning? In the last year's revised estimates we do not find anything. In this year this scheme with a huge amount has already been taken in hand. Who knows that this huge amount for the scheme will be properly utilised? If we go on providing money for the scheme will Food Campaign—without getting the desired result—we will have to continue to spend more and more money for nothing. So, Sir, steps should be taken that money is not spent unnecessarily.



Now coming to the post of Deputy Director of Live-stock, it cannot be understood how he alone controls a particular Department. If he is the only officer for this Department, I do not know what service we can derive from him. I think more qualified officers to work as Assistants are necessary to get real service from this Department.

About Grow-More Fodder scheme I want to say a few words. What we actually find is that fodder is to be purchased. Why should they not grow fodder to feed the cattle? I cannot account for expenditure for milk supply. I do not know whether town people get milk free of cost. May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether milk is actually distributed free of cost or from his farm at market rate? If it is from his farm there ought not to have been such a loss to the Government.

Lastly, Sir, what I like to say is that in the Budget the amount that is allotted for the Grow-More-Food scheme is not a small one, specially considering the financial crisis the province is facing. Sir, as a matter of fact by grow-more-food we mean grow more fat for the officers under the scheme, or grow-more-fat for the public. I do not know whether this scheme is at all taken up in right earnest by the Department.

With these words, Sir, I request the Hon'ble Minister to curtail all the expenditure under this head as far as possible and at the same time to improve efficiency by adding actual field workers (*a voice from the Treasury Bench*: Without brain). Brain will be given by the Ministry. If brain is not sufficient among my hon. Friends opposite then they should borrow brain from others for their own benefit.

Sir, I now commend my Motion for the acceptance of the House.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Cut Motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs.25,64,568 under grant No. 20, major head—40—Agriculture, minor head—D.—Agricultural Experiments and Research (total), at page 160 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.50,58,900 do stand reduced by Re 1.”

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been rather surprised to hear the vague criticisms of my hon. Friend, Maulavi Abul Kashem, levelled at the Agriculture Department which has been run in the same efficiency as other Departments with a motive for public benefit. Of course we have not got proper fund. Some mention has been made about the money allotted for Grow-More-Food scheme. That money has not come from the Provincial Exchequer. My hon. Friend has admitted that the whole Province is facing a crisis and it is for the shortage of food mainly. He has also said that Assam was once a surplus province so far as cereal was concerned. I think, Sir, it is so now. But there is no knowing how long this will remain to be so. He has said that in the past years our Province could export paddy to the outside. But it cannot be said whether it can be done now. The increase of population that has been going on year after year by infiltration from outside has not been taken into consideration by the hon. Mover of the Motion. He has not taken into account the large increase in every town and in every rural area. Sir, we have seen and it has been causing not only the Assam Government also the Government of India a great deal of anxiety how in future years our people would be sufficiently fed by growing more cereals and other food crops in our country. We have seen that Assam has almost exhausted her land resources. There is hardly any scope for extension



of the areas. We have seen that there is not much land for reclamation either. Supposing our position is like that—we have already exhausted our land resources and we find that our land is filled up by people from outside and we cannot increase the yield, what is the problem that is facing the country? Sir, it has been very often said on the floor of this House and also outside that this stereotyped method of cultivation that has been obtaining in our country must be oriented if our future generation and even ourselves are to be saved from the shortage of food. My hon. Friend has lost sight of the fact that agriculture as was going on and has been going on will not be in a position to meet the increasing demands of the country. As I have already said there is not much scope for extension; where is the remedy then? In due time what should be done has been done by this Government. They have already established one Agricultural College the purpose of which is to increase the number of trained personnel in order to shape our agriculture in such a way, to give such an orientation, to bring a revolution in the old method of cultivation so that by proper utilisation of our land resources, by scientific method we may be in a position to grow as much food as possible to meet the growing demand of the country. Whatever may be the criticism of my hon. Friend, if we proceed in this stereotyped way we must come to a standstill beyond which there will be nothing to see.

My Friend says that there are too many officers. But I have already said on the floor of this House that the Agriculture Department is running with very much shortage of staff. We need much more trained personnel to help us in the new method of cultivation. My Friend's criticism has been very vague. I give an instance: supposing we have one Inspector for a Subdivision like Dhubri and as a matter of fact there is only one Inspector there—for such a big subdivision can anybody think that the Agricultural Inspector should go from house to house to instruct each cultivator and to take personal care how to cultivate his land, how to keep his seed, how to keep his cattle, etc., etc.? Is it possible for one man to go round the subdivision within the limit of the cultivation season and instruct the people? I think not to speak of one, even ten Inspectors for a subdivision would not be sufficient for the purpose. Considering the present number of Inspectors and Demonstrators I leave it to this Hon'ble House to consider how many officers we should require for properly looking after the Agricultural Department. I again say with all the emphasis at my command that our agricultural staff is very much short. For one village at least there should be one Demonstrator. For a group of villages we should have one Inspector and for a subdivision like Dhubri or Gauhati we should have more Inspectors than we have now. My hon. Friend possibly does not know why the Government of India now intends to spend crores and crores of rupees for food production. We have been increasing our staff, we have been recruiting new staff for giving impetus to the Grow-More-Food campaign. Sir, if one likes to go into the inside of the Department he will easily find that the Department far from being overstaffed is much understaffed.

At present I would give some definite idea about the working of this Department. I name the branches of our activities. (1) Seed growing, (2) seed distribution, (3) research and (4) irrigation. These are the main activities of the Department. In order to evolve better seeds for getting more yield from the land certain farms have been established and we know from the statistics of the farms that thousands of maunds of seeds are being distributed every year. They are also evolving improved variety of paddy and have shown by demonstration that our seeds give better yield. As regards research, possibly my hon. Friend will say why so many people are being allowed to sit idle there and are given fat salaries. If you just care to peep into the valuable researches that are being carried out in the laboratory you will realise what useful work they



are doing there. They have not only been engaged in selection of good seeds but also in the selection of land for certain crops which are not commonly grown in our province. It has been said that Masur, the most popular pulse, cannot be grown in our province. If that is true, we are undone. Sir, it is not so. By actual research carried out in Jorhat in the laboratories we have come to know that in the riverain tracts in Assam pulses, even of Masur class, can be grown; unless by research we test our soil how can we expect to grow the particular crops suitable to our Province? For instance, sugarcane, we have already examined which are the soils where sugarcane can be grown most economically, and our sugar mill has been located at a place where we can grow sugarcane more economically than in any other place. These are the things that are being done by the Department of Agriculture. My hon. Friend should care to look into the working of the Agriculture Department and not hurl vague criticisms from distance. Can the hon. Member expect that an Hon'ble Minister will have technical knowledge to instruct Agricultural Inspectors and other Inspectors? It is for the House to decide. The Hon'ble Ministers are not technicians. The hon. Members cannot expect the Hon'ble Ministers to have technical knowledge. For example, the Hon'ble Medical Minister cannot give medical advice to doctors. So, Sir, in order to run a technical Department like Agriculture and Veterinary etc., we must have sufficient staff to tackle the problems.

There are other things which my hon. Friends want to know as to what Government has done about the development of fruits. Sir, I remember the one occasion when some hon. Members from the Treasury Bench used to criticise the Government for making no progress in this direction. But Sir, I was very glad when my hon. Friend, Sriyut Saikia and Maulavi Abdul Halim went to see me just to congratulate me saying that they were at the Burnihat farm and were startled to see various kinds of lemons and citrus fruits grown there. They said that no Government had been so successful. I would request my hon. Friend, Maulavi Kashem, just to land there and see what Government is doing there. We have other fruit gardens also. So I request my hon. Friend to go and see what we have done.

**Maulavi ABDUL HAI:** Sir, may I know the income from that garden?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR:** Sir, our aims are not mercenary. We want to show how people can grow fruit and we do not want to make money in our fruit gardens.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The Hon'ble Minister has got only five minutes.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** Sir, how the Hon'ble Minister can expect our cultivators to have gardens like the one the Department has got?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR:** Sir, it is the research station only. Thousands of 'poolies' and seedlings are being sold from Burnihat station. These are our activities. There is no harm for any cultivator to take seedlings from there to grow in his own garden. Sir, from the trend of arguments I follow that he wants more Demonstrators. We also feel that these Demonstrators are not quite adequate. We are trying to increase the number so that they can give almost personal attention to the cultivation of the villagers, but to do this we will require more people having



technical knowledge to instruct these Demonstrators how they can best teach the cultivators to grow more paddy and more crops. Sir, as I have already submitted that the items of service that the Department has undertaken, *viz.*, seed distribution, irrigation and other items—I have myself seen with my own eyes that they are not very much defective. Of course, the task which requires the service of ten men, in case only one is detailed, it necessarily will not run with the same amount of efficiency as it could have done.

The Government will look into the criticisms regarding the expenditure on various branches of the Agriculture Department as pointed out by my hon Friend. Certainly Government will see that the officers do more work and give more attention to the cultivation in the rural areas so that the cultivation in the rural areas may improve sufficiently to meet the demand of the country. The Government will do their best to improve matters in the Agriculture Department. I hope the hon Members will take a bit of more information about the working of the Department.

With these few words, Sir, I request the hon. Mover of the Cut Motion to withdraw his objection.

**\*Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** Sir, of course, I have got no right to speak again. The reply given by the Hon'ble Minister could not satisfy me and, I think, none of the hon. Members of the House. In any way I request to draw his attention to make the officers of his Department to feel that they are servants of the people, they are being maintained by the people and that they are to work for the benefit of the people.

With these few words, Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

The Cut Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The question is :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.50,58,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1950 for the administration of the head ‘40—Agriculture’”.

The question was adopted.

### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 1 P.M.

### After lunch

### GRANT No.12

### (“ 28.—Jails and Convict Settlement”)

**The Hon'ble Maulana MAHOMED TAYYEBULLA:** On the recommendation of his Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.10,41,600 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1950 for the administration of the head “28.—Jails and Convict Settlement”.



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

“ That a sum not exceeding Rs.10,41,600 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1950 for the administration of the head '28.—Jails and Convict Settlement.' ”

There is one Cut Motion, standing in the name of Maulavi Md. Abul Kashem.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.10,41,600 under Grant No.12, major head—28.—Jails and Convict Settlement, at page 89 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.10,41,600 do stand reduced by Re.1.

My object in moving this Cut Motion is to raise a general discussion on the jail administration. Sir, it has been discussed on another occasion that we should make provision for imparting education to correct the character of the convicts in the Jails, but the present Budget has not made any provision for that. Sir, there is no denying the fact that a convict after coming out of the jail very often commits the same sin again and goes back to the jail. It becomes rather a habit to commit sins again and again. From this it appears that if proper education to reform their character is given in the jails they may realise that they have also got to play an important role in the society as peaceful and useful citizens and may refrain from committing crimes again. Mere physical punishment is no good. Our jails are still jails of the bureaucratic days, the jails of the foreigners, who wanted to put heads of people together and make them suffer for an unlimited period. Now, with the attainment of independence we should give opportunities to the convicts to rectify themselves. So, I would request the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge to see his way to bring in a supplementary Budget to provide money for this purpose.

Again, Sir, I shall have to refer to the Hon'ble Finance Minister for one thing. As you know, with the concomitant increase of expenditure under the Police head there will be a proportionate increase of expenditure on the jail head. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has been pleased to have one Resolution passed for providing police barracks at Dhubri at an estimated cost of more than 4 lakhs of rupees. Sir, it is very likely that due to increase of police activities more people will be put into jail at Dhubri and accommodation should be increased accordingly. (The Hon'ble Srijut Bishnuram Medhi:—They may be transferred to other jails). The thing is that there is no provision for accommodating A and B Class political prisoners. You know Sir, that we were dragged to that jail, but we had to suffer for only one night. Others have to suffer longer, for days together. So, there should be adequate accommodation for political prisoners at the Dhubri jail. The Hon'ble Finance Minister said that they would be transferred. I have nothing to say if that were done. But recently Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan was arrested at Dhubri and was placed in B Division. He is still at Dhubri jail. So, instructions should be given to the jail authorities to transfer the political prisoners as early as possible either to Jorhat or Gauhati, so that they may not suffer further difficulties.

Further, Sir, as for the thief-convicts in jails, it must be made compulsory for each person, whether serving a long or a short-term sentence, to be given vocational training so that they can earn their livelihood as soon as they come out of the jail. It is seen that they become more expert in the art of stealing when they come out of the jail. At present, vocational training is given to only long-term prisoners. There should be some other training



also which may be taught within a short time and as a result the sale proceeds for the commodities which will be done by the convicts will be a profit to the Government.

In the Budget we have not seen that any amount has been earmarked for improvement of latrines of convicts in the Jorhat Jail. You remember, Sir, on the last occasion, I brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister the fact that convicts in the Jorhat Jail find great difficulty for bad latrines. I have got my personal experience in this regard. I am again bringing it to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister with the request to provide fund for removing this long felt difficulty.

With these words, Sir, I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the use.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Cut Motion moved :

"That the total provision of Rs.10,41,600 under Grant No.12 major head—28.—Jails and Convict Settlements, at page 89 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 10,41,600 do stand reduced by Re.1."

**Maulavi ABDUL HAI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak a few words in connection with this Motion.

Jail is a place where convicts are sent to get reformed, but it should not be a place where we want to exploit the labour of the convicts. As such the Jailors and Assistant Jailors who are burdened with the onerous duties of not only to supervise the work of the convicts but also to teach them to be useful citizens after they get released, I think, the scale of pay of these officers should be in accordance with that of the Police Officers, but, in the Budget their scales seem to be very much lower than that of Police Officers. Of course, I am not in favour of giving salary lavishly to the officers, but, at the same time, if you want to have honest and efficient work from the officers, you must give them adequate salary. The other day, in my Budget speech, I raised criticism regarding higher salaries, but by that I did not mean that I am against giving adequate salary to those officers who are required for the efficient administration of the province. I am against payment of higher percentage of pay because of the fact that I found in the Budget provision for very many new appointments, some of which can be very easily retrenched. My objection was chiefly against those new appointments which could be easily avoided.

Now, Sir, I congratulate Government for taking a decision of introducing hand-made paper industry in the jails, but we must consider from the view point of the future of the convicts that those who will learn this industry will be able to utilise it in earning their livelihood when they are released. In order to give them proper training, we must have good supervision by the Jailors and Assistant Jailors and as such, I am of opinion that these Jailors and Assistant Jailors should not be given less pay than that of the Police Officers. Of course, it may be said that they get certain facilities being in the jail, but the Jail Manual does not provide them with such facilities liberally. For instance, they are allowed to use vegetables produced in Jails provided there is surplus. If for such meagre advantages their pay is lowered, I consider it is not a just cause.

As regards improvement of diets of convicts in Jails, I may tell the House from my own personal experience. While I happened to be clapped into the Silchar Jail, sometime when I used to go to the Common Barrack and saw



often times that the ordinary prisoners were given miserable diets. In the form of curry they mostly used to get jackfruit nut curry and that too in a very small quantity.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** That is one of the nice curries. (*Laughter*).

**Maulavi ABDUL HAI:** I am sure, the Hon'ble Finance Minister do not take that nicest curry very often—so also the case with other hon. Members; this curry is taken sometime as a change.

This matter of diet should be looked into by Government and they should see that improved diet is supplied to the convicts.

I have already said that Jail is not only a place of housing the convicts, but it is also a place where the convicts are reformed by proper training. So I would urge upon the Government to see that proper action is taken for improving the jail administration.

**Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in support of the Motion, I will add a few words.

In my last Budget speech I enquired of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge whether he would take steps to introduce new training methods for imparting psychological education to the convicts. The Hon'ble Minister was kind enough to state that he was going to remodel the Jails and would not keep the Jail in such a condition as the British Government used to keep. But from the review of the Jail affairs, we do not find any improvement. From the Budget it appears that last year there were 7 teachers, but for the coming year this figure has been reduced to 6 and also for imparting instruction of weaving industry there were 3 Weaving Instructors whereas this year Budget provision is made for one only. From these, how can we expect that any improvement is being made for moulding the character of the convicts?

Sometimes it is brought to our notice that the Jail staff, I mean the Jailors, Assistant Jailors and their subordinates, rather teach the convicts stealing. The actual quantity of rations supplied by Government for the convicts or undertrials is not supplied to them. At the cost of the convicts, the Jail staff enjoy much of their rations. I have been reported by the undertrials of the Goalpara Jail that they were given very bad rice and curry and the quantity of rice or curry was lesser than what they were entitled to.

I am also told that Goalpara Jail is infested with white lice. The white lice are doing much harm to the prisoners and undertrials. When they come out they look bloodless. Nothing has been done by Government for the removal of this pest. Sir, in a free country our people should not be treated unfairly. Those who are to be punished, should not be punished only for punishment's sake, their character must be moulded so that when they come out of prison they will be able to live like good citizens. They will have to be taught to cast away their old habits for which they were taken to prison as a punishment.

With these words, Sir, I support the Motion moved by my hon. Friend.

**Mrs. BONILY KHONGMEN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should like to contradict just one point raised by my hon. Friend, Mr. Hai, just now. He complains about the food in the prisons, but from my personal knowledge I find that almost all the prisoners even after a few days' stay in prison generally gain more weight than when they were first admitted. Sir, so his complaint is really baseless.



**The Hon'ble Maulana MAHOMED TAYYEBULLA:** Mr, Speaker, Sir, about this time last year, in reply to a Question of my hon. Friend, Mr. Kashem, I gave some sort of an assurance that Government would consider the question of Jail reform to bring them to a standard suitable to the conditions of the country in the new set-up of Freedom. Now, I thank the hon. Members taking part in this Cut Motion, for having pointed out the necessity of penal reform for the benefit of the prisoners. The question has already engaged the attention of the Government. In this connection I may inform the hon. Members of the House that Government are considering the question of penal reform in the Jails of this province. In the Budget, they have not been able to make any provision because the consideration is not yet complete. Government are contemplating to begin penal reform as soon as may be possible. As a matter of fact Government have already sanctioned the appointment of a Penal Reform Officer, who will draw up a complete plan for penal reform on modern scientific model suitable to the Indian conditions, particularly of Assam. It is hoped that this officer will be appointed very soon; and as soon as he is appointed, we will draw up a complete Jail Penal Reform Code to be put in operation as soon as possible. Along with it the question of reform of juvenile offenders—minor delinquent is also engaging the attention of the Government; and as soon as the Reform Officer is appointed, this aspect of the matter will also be taken up. For this purpose, as my hon. Friend, Kashem Saheb, has suggested, Government may possibly come up for a Supplementary Demand in the next session of the House to find money for the penal reform scheme.

Now, coming to the suggestion of my hon. Friend, Kashem Saheb, regarding crafts, I must tell the House that, with the release of prisoners on the Independence day of 15th August 1947, most of the expert hands among the convicts were released, with the result that many workshops in the jails are of late lying almost idle. But attempts are being made for sometimes past to introduce crafts in the jails on a big scale. As a matter of fact hand-made paper industry has been taken up in the Shillong jail. The workshop has been converted into a Hand-made paper Training Institute for paper-making. Also, the City of London Guilds have appointed one examiner on hand-made paper-making in the person of the Assam Government's Paper Expert who is to give instructions and conduct tests on the course of paper-making and Book-binding. A Three-monthly training course of hand-made paper-making is already going on in the Shillong institute. At present there are about 15 trainees—eight of whom are Jail Warders and there are outsiders also from the Lady Hydari's Co-operation Institute Hindu Orphanage, Shillong, as well as from some other places of the province. The first course of training began from October 2, 1948; and the training of the second three monthly course will be completed on 31st of this month. Government propose to introduce this paper industry, at the first instance, in six jails. As a matter of fact, besides Shillong jail, Gauhati and Jorhat jails have already begun some paper-making.

Then again, along with this hand-making paper industry, there is also the abrasive sand-paper industry. It is in the contemplation of Government to introduce this industry in some of those jails. At the first production stage, these paper-making jails will be able to produce flat files, envelopes, pads, etc. Other industry will be taken up. With the introduction of these industries in the jails, it is hoped that the convicts will be fully engaged while in jail. The idea is that a man who has learnt some craft while in jail, on coming out, will take to these crafts as a means of his profession to earn livelihood. Co-operatives may be formed by released convicts, along with others, and thus they may be able to lead a useful life in society.

Sir, this question of introduction of crafts in our jails as suggested by my hon. Friend, Kashem Saheb, is already engaging the attention of the Government.



**Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** What about accommodation?

**The Hon'ble Maulana MAHOMED TAYYEBULLA:** I am coming to that, Sir. As regards accommodation, the Hon'ble Minister of Finance said in his budget speech that there was sometime past great congestion in the jails owing to the increase of under-trial prisoners. With the recent appointment of more Magistrates, some from the Bar, this congestion is fast disappearing. Moreover, we have already proposals for extension of certain jails—for instance, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Nowgong and Dhubri. We have already completed some extensions. This will go to provide for more accommodation for the under-trial prisoners.

As regards the other suggestions, Sir, I will look into them and shall endeavour to do what is possible. Once more I want to assure the hon. Mover of the Cut Motion that the matter of penal reform has been in the anxious consideration of Government; and this is in our thought from a long time. In this respect we have already taken step for appointment of a Penal Reform officer presently.

In view of what I have stated, Sir, I hope the hon. Mover of the Cut Motion will please withdraw his Motion.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** Having heard the statement made by the Hon'ble Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

The Cut Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.10,41,600 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1950 for the administration of the head '28.—Jails and Convicts Settlement'."

The question was adopted.

#### GRANT No. 25

#### 50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment charges)

**The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency, the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,80,18,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1950 for the administration of the head "50.—Civil Works" (excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment charges).

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Motion Moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.1,80,18,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1950 for the administration of the head '50. —Civil Works' (excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment charges)."

There are as many as 9 Cut Motions and we have got only half an hour's time at our disposal. So, it will be much better if one Motion is taken up which is of a general character. I find Motions No. 3 and No. 7 are of general character. I may ask Mr. Morley, in absence of Mr. Hardman, to speak on Cut Motion No. 3.



**Mr. C. W. MORLEY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.30,00,000 under Grant No.25, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—B.—Repairs, sub-head—2.—Communications, at page 250 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 1,80,18,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, the purpose of this Cut Motion is firstly to draw attention to the inadvisability of Government making a profit from ferries. Where transport becomes more difficult by reason of unbridged rivers, it should not be turned as an opportunity for profit. We find from the Budget that Government propose to realise Rs.1,70,000 from Ferry receipts in 1949-50, while expenditure on boats, bridges and ferries is nil in the estimates for 1949-50 and only Rs.10,800 in the Revised Estimate for 1948-49.

The Public Works Department make this profit by offering Ghats for sale by auction and those contractors who take settlement of the Ghats also make an additional profit out of the public. The public in general are put to great inconvenience in having to use ferry Ghats, and Government should resist any desire for making this a source of additional profit.

Our second objection is that adequate precautions are not made to ensure safety. Government have power to make rules to regulate ferries under Act XVII of 1873. In the case of engine operated ferries, many of the engines are in very poor condition and when these cease to function in mid-stream, grave hazards have to be faced, as the ferry is completely out of control. It should be required that every ferry is equipped with means of navigation in the event of engine failure and that anchors or ropes should be kept on board. Arrangements are necessary also under the existing rules to make sure of the periodic inspection of engines used in public ferries. We have a very elaborate set of Motor Vehicles Rules to ensure that motor vehicles are kept in order for the safety of the public. But in the case of ferries there does not seem to be any comparable instructions or rules. I can assure the hon. Members that a very serious accident nearly occurred last year in the Barak river owing to the breakdown of an engine in a ferry while in mid-stream, and it was only by luck that the people on that ferry escaped being drowned.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Cut Motion moved :

"That the provision of Rs.30,00,000 under Grant No.25, major head—50.—Civil Works, minor head—B.—Repairs, sub-head—2.—Communications, at page 250 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,80,18,000 do stand reduced by Re.1".

**The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to Mr. Morley for pointing out some of the defects in the plying of some ferries and we would like to take steps to correct them as far as practicable.

First of all, Sir, I want to say regarding the bridges. Some of the bridges are not taken up because we do not get contractors. It appears that contractors even from outside are afraid to take up the work. We received no tender even after advertising calling for tenders. In fact when we last advertised for contractors for construction of certain bridges, a certain gentleman submitted a tender and he was given the contract, but he did not even deposit the earnest money and did not take up the work. We then advertised again even in certain Calcutta newspapers, but nobody submitted any tender for the same. On account of these difficulties, which at present exist, it is not possible to take up work for construction of bridges. At the same time, Sir, we are trying to find out whether these bridges can be made of reinforced concrete. That is the reason why some of this money has not at all been spent. But with regard to common ferries which are



run by men or by motor engines, we have periodical examination of the engines. We have certain mars that are power driven. In these mars there are boatmen also. I am sorry to hear that there was a failure of the power driven boat in the Barak river. That matter has not been brought up to the notice of Government. But in fact there are boatmen also on the mars always.....

**Mr. C. W. MORLEY:** May I, Sir, for the information of the Hon'ble Minister say that it is quite true there are men on the mars, but only a small number of men. You will remember that in the old days when mars were driven by boatmen there used to be 5 or 6 men. Now with the engine there are only 2, one for steering and the other for controlling the engine. If the engine fails, there are not sufficient men to control the mars.

**The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY:** That must be the fault of the lessee. These ferries are let out to the lessees and we shall see that these lessees keep at least 4 men to ply the mars

Regarding the income that we get from these ferries, these ferries are sold by public auction and generally the highest bidders are given the lease. In that case Government get something from them, but it is the duty of the lessees to keep the mars in good order and to run them properly. If we find that they do not do so, we can either fine them or cancel their lease and give it to some other lessee. But we know that our local Executive Engineers and the Subdivisional Officers are responsible to see the proper working of these ferries. As far as practicable we are trying to run these ferries for the convenience of the public. Of course, there may be some failures now and then, but generally, I should think, our ferries have been running quite well except at the time of very high flood. At that time it is very difficult for 4 or 5 men to ply the mars if the engine should fail. Even a big steamer may fail sometime, a train may also fail. But we shall try our best to see that such failures do not take place. This is all that I wanted to say and it is our desire that the running of these ferries is done in a proper way. About the failure in the Barak river we shall make an enquiry. With this explanation I hope Mr. Morley will kindly withdraw his Motion.

**Mr. C. W. MORLEY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister make enquiry with regard to having an inspection of these motor driven ferries? I think this is a very important matter.

**The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY:** I have already said that the Executive Engineers and Subdivisional Officers of the Public Works Department are already expected to make these inspections.

**Mr. C. W. MORLEY:** On the assurance of the Hon'ble Minister I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

The Cut Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I think Motion No. 7 may be taken up. Hon. Members may speak on that.

**Mr. J. S. HARDMAN:** Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.3,99,154 under Grant No. 25, major head—50—Civil Works, minor head—D—Grants-in-aid for communications, etc. (total), at page 251 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,80,18,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.



Mr. Speaker, Sir, the object of this Motion is to draw attention to the progressive deterioration of the Local Board roads which are a vital link in the network of communications. We realise that Local Boards are faced with financial difficulties, that they have inelastic income and prices have been rising, but insufficient attention is being paid to these roads. We feel that economies could be effected if a mechanised system of road maintenance which is applied to Public Works Department roads could be extended to the Local Board roads. For example the use of road graders. This would effect in our opinion savings of a very considerable amount.

The other point to which I could draw attention is that in the past year a sum of Rs.3,66,000 was provided from the road fund and included in the Public Works Department Budget for maintenance of Local Board roads, but no provision appears to have been made in the current year for this purpose.

Sir, I beg to commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Cut Motion moved :

“That the provision of Rs.3,99,154 under Grant No.25, Major head—50.—Civil Works, minor head—D.—Grants-in-aid for communications, etc. (total), at page 251 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,80,18,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.”

✓ **Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM :** I beg to draw attention to Cut Motions Nos. 5 and 9 standing in my name, and request the Hon'ble Minister to kindly earmark some money for a road called Sādurtīla-Kakripāra Road which belongs to the Dhubri Local Board. After much discussion on the floor of this House during the last session, the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Local Self-Government was pleased to ask the Local Board to take up this road this year, but the amount fixed for the road is only Rs.300 and it is nothing in comparison to the need. So I request the Hon'ble Minister to earmark some grant, at least Rs.15,000, for this road so that we may have an all weather road in that area.

As regards the distribution of money to Goalpara district, the Hon'ble Minister yesterday pointed out that he could distribute the money for Embankment and Drainage projects only on provincial basis because of the difficulty that one project might take a huge sum of money. But, Sir, in the case of road and other things, I think, he will have no objection to do justice to that district as this is the most backward district. I request that he would give more money to Goalpara in consideration of its backwardness and on population basis. With these few words I support my hon. Friend, Mr. Hardman.

**Maulavi ABDUL HAI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no denial of the fact that the improvement of the Local Board roads is of necessity and there is no difference of opinion. It appears that Government is also anxious to improve the Local Board roads. But unfortunately in the Budget we find that a sum of Rs.5 lakhs for improvement of Local Board roads which was sanctioned last year is not budgeted this year. Whatever the reason may be, we hope the Government will consider the necessity of giving this amount to the Local Boards and will kindly sanction the amount.

**Maulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Cut Motion moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. J. S. Hardman, and to say that many Local Board roads, like Ratabari-Bethubari-Patharkandi road and Patakhauri road, have been given up by the Karimganj Local Board.



So I urge upon the Government either the Government will take up those roads or earmark grants to the Karimganj Local Board so that they may take care of those roads.

Now I come, Sir, to the Motion standing in my name to criticise the Government for not taking up the roads. I have been moving for the last three years that the newly taken up road project Bhanga-Adarkuna would be extended (up to Kalinagar) about ten miles from Adarkuna to link it with the Anipur-Manacherra Road to give communication facilities to the people of eastern side of Shonebeel. But I regret to say that it has been taken up to Adarkuna only and the portion of about 10 miles north to south from Adarkuna to Kalinagar remains without any road connection whatsoever.

Again another project has been taken up from Deodhar—a middle place between Adarkuna and Kalinagar up to Hailakandi west to east which in comparison with my proposal is less important.

I therefore, urge upon the Governemnt that they will kindly take up the road-project from Adarkuna to Kalinagar along with the one already taken up—the Bhanga-Adarkuna giving it high priority.

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

**Maulavi NAZMAL HAQUE:** Sir, I, refer to Cut Motion No. I standing in my name. In this Cut Motion I urge upon the Government for the completion of almost completed works of Paikan-Bajengdoba road in the Subdivision of Goalpara and thereby to save a huge sum of money already spent. This road was taken up under the Rural Development schemes; two-third of the road has already been completed on spending a sum of Rs.1 lakh. Now this road has been abandoned. Only a few thousands of rupees will be necessary to complete the remaining one-third of the road. If the road is not completed the amount that has already been spent will be wasted and the materials collected for this purpose will be damaged.

Then, Sir, I refer to my Cut Motion No. 6. There I urge upon the Government to earmark requisite grants to Goalpara Local Boards for Goalpara-Kharmuja Road leading to Chunari in Lakhipur Police Station. This road passes through the Pancharatna hills which separate the western part of the Goalpara subdivision from the town. If this road is made passable throughout the year it would be an immense good done to the people of the Lakhipur thana, as well as to the tribal people of the Hills.

With these few words, Sir, I support the Cut Motion.

**The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY:** Sir, this is a Cut Motion to raise a discussion for the improvement of the Local Board roads. You will find from the Budget for this year that a sum of Rs.3,99,154 has been budgeted for the non-excluded areas and the revised estimate for the last year was Rs.3,18,957. From this it is clear that the amount has been increased. So the Local Boards should have no reason to complain for that.

The second point, I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Members of this House is that a large number of Local Board roads have been taken up by the Public Works Department and the Local Boards, therefore, should not, in reality, expect to get any more money than what has been budgeted.



Now, Sir, some of the hon. Members have raised the question that the Local Board roads should be improved and it has been stated that the Local Boards have limited amount of money. The condition is same with the Provincial Government who do not have unlimited amount of money. If the Provincial revenue can be increased, the Provincial Government will be able to increase the grants to the Local Boards. If I would request my Hon. Colleague, the Local Self Government Minister, to consider increasing the grants to the Local Boards he would say that if the Hon'ble Minister, Finance would give him money he would be glad to do so. And the Hon'ble Minister, Finance, again would say that if he could get more money or increase the revenue of the Province, then he could do so. But how can the revenue be increased? Our resources are limited. About 33 per cent. of the Post-War grant is spent for communications.

As regards the other points raised by some hon. Members, they have asked the Government to earmark certain amounts of money which are now given to the Local Board for certain roads. One of the hon. Members urges upon the Government to earmark requisite grants to Dhubri Local Board for Saduritila-Kakripara Road in Mankachar Thana and the other one for Goalpara-Kharmuja Road leading to Chunari in Lakhipur Police Station and then there is another hon. Member who wants to earmark money for the road Bhanga-Adarkuna up to Kalinagar to link it with the Anipur-Manachera Road in Karimganj Subdivision. These are all Local Board Roads.

**Maulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN:** Sir, Bhanga-Adarkuna Road is not a Local Board road and it is a Public Works Department road.

**The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY:** Whatever it may be, it is under the Public Works Department schemes. On the question of finance it has already been stated that Public Works Department have spent an amount of about Rupees 81 lakhs, and only Rs. 63 lakhs are allowed to be spent during the current year. The demand for grant is received not only from one area, but from many subdivisions, and from everywhere the people were raising the question that their particular roads are not taken up. We shall take all the roads if our finance permit us to do so; but we have a limited amount for roads in the Province.

Another hon. Member has spoken about the Paikan-Bajengdoba road. Want of finance is the reason why we had to stop not only this road but many other roads, temporarily at least. Nevertheless, Sir, we shall re-examine now how much money can be spent to the roads already taken up. I do not say that this will be stopped altogether. One thing which I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Members is that the Paikan-Bajengdoba-Tura Road was taken up with the object of connecting the Garo Hills with the Assam Valley. Afterwards, Government decided to take up the Medhipara-Phulbari-Tura Road. Therefore, the construction of the Paikan-Bajengdoba-Tura Road is not of first priority because Tura has been already linked with the Assam Valley by the other road. I do not say that this road would be abandoned altogether; this, along with other roads, which are not in the first priority list, will be taken up little by little according to the state of our finances. This is the position, Sir. In view of the explanation that I have given, I hope Mr. Hardman will withdraw his Cut Motion.

**Mr. J. S. HARDMAN:** I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

The Cut Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.



**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.1,80,18,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1950, for the administration of the head '50.—Civil Works' (excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment charges)".

The question was adopted.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** We take up Government Resolutions now.  
**Government Resolution re: opening of a Public Health Dispensary at Panigaon in the North Lakhimpur Subdivision**

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly approves the new scheme adopted by the Government of Assam for the opening of a Public Health Department Dispensary at Panigaon in the North Lakhimpur Subdivision and an expenditure of Rs.1,827 (rupees one thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven only) being incurred in this connection during the year 1948-49.

The Explanatory Note\* explains the purpose of this Motion, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Resolution moved :

"That this Assembly approves the new scheme adopted by the Government of Assam for the opening of a Public Health Department Dispensary at Panigaon in the North Lakhimpur Subdivision and an expenditure of Rs.1,827 (Rupees one thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven only) being incurred in this connection during the year 1948-49".

**\*EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The number of Public Health Department Dispensaries in the North Lakhimpur Subdivision is very few. From a survey of some villages of Telahi and Kamalabari Mouzas in the Subdivision it was found that there were many cases of Malaria, Dysentery, Diarrhoea and Leprosy for the treatment of which there were no other dispensaries within a distance from ten to twelve miles. The establishment of a Public Health Department Dispensary was therefore considered most essential. The Local Congress Committee was kind enough to provide a plot of land and also to construct the necessary buildings for the dispensary and Sub-Assistant Surgeon's quarters at Panigaon which is considered to be a central place for both these Mauzas. Government being encouraged by the spirit of the Local Congress Committee have sanctioned a Public Health Department Dispensary at Panigaon. It is proposed to finance the scheme from the Savings in the Public Health Budget for the year 1948-49. Government have agreed to the expenditure of Rs.1,827 to the Panigaon Public Health Department Dispensary as detailed below.

Major, Minor and Sub-head under which provision should be made	Estimate of cost in 1948-49		
	Recurring	Non-recurring	Total
39.—Public Health—A—P.H. Establishment—			
(a) Superintendence and other establishment ..	Rs. 1,111	....	Rs. 1,111
Allowance and Honoraria .. ..	166	....	166
Contract Contingencies .. ..	250	....	250
39.—Public Health—C—Epidemic diseases—			
(b) other epidemic—Non-contract contingencies (purchase of medical stores and equipment) ..	300	....	300
Total ..	1,827	....	1,827

**DETAILS OF EXPENDITURE**

*From 23rd September 1948 to 28th February 1949*

1. Pay of an Assistant Surgeon II in the scale of pay on Rs.150—200 ..	890
Special pay for Assistant Surgeon II at Rs.20 .. ..	105
Dearness allowance at 17½ per cent. .. ..	94
2. Pay of one peon in the scale of pay of Rs.22—½—28 .. ..	116
Dearness allowance at 40 per cent. .. ..	40
Cash allowance at Rs.6 .. ..	32
3. Contract contingencies .. ..	250
4. Non-contract contingencies (for purchase of medical stores and equipment) ..	300
Total ..	1,827



**Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not risen to oppose the establishment of this Dispensary, and the money involved also is very small, *viz.*, Rs.1,827 only. I only want to know from the Hon'ble Minister the principle on which Public Health Dispensaries are generally started in particular areas.

It was my information that Public Health Dispensaries are opened in areas where there is a large number of *kala-azar* patients. In the case of a proposal of mine, it was found after enquiry that only four *kala-azar* cases could be detected in the area concerned, most of the cases being those of malaria, and therefore I had to be satisfied with a subsidised dispensary, which the Hon'ble Minister was kind enough to grant. In this particular case, the diseases enumerated are "Malaria, Dysentery, Diarrhoea and Leprosy". It appears that Malaria comes first, next Dysentery and Diarrhoea and then comes Leprosy. But the main fact that he has taken into consideration is that the local Congress Committee has provided necessary buildings for the dispensary and Sub-Assistant Surgeon's quarters. I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister that if similar facilities are provided by people of some backward areas whether it will be possible for him to help them in the same way. Subsidised dispensaries no doubt serve the purpose, they are good, but well-equipped Public Health Dispensaries are better. I shall therefore be glad if the Hon'ble Minister lays down the principle on which Public Health Dispensaries are started by Government.

Then, Sir, we were given to understand that a Public Health Dispensary would be opened at Bhaitbari in the Garo Hills, but it has not been taken up as yet. The priority has been given to this new scheme. May we know whether Government will be in a position to take up the pending schemes as early as possible so that the grants for the dispensaries, already sanctioned, may not lapse?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government have started this dispensary not because the local Congress Committee has given houses for the dispensary and the Sub-Assistant Surgeon, but primarily because they felt the need for such a dispensary there. From the fact that the diseases are enumerated in the note as "Malaria, Dysentery, Diarrhoea and Leprosy", my hon. Friend, Mr. Kashem, thought that as Malaria came first in the description, that was the consideration which prompted Government to start the dispensary. Sir, Public Health Dispensaries are started mainly for two diseases, *viz.*, *kala-azar* and Leprosy. Though Leprosy comes last in the description, it should not be thought that this was not the primary consideration for starting this dispensary. When my hon. Friend once approached me for a Public Health Dispensary in his area he said that there were many cases of *kala-azar*, but when survey was made only four cases were detected and he wanted a Subsidised Dispensary which I promptly gave.

Therefore, Sir, I cannot give any assurance that whenever or wherever the buildings will be constructed by public their sanction will be given for Public Health Dispensaries by Government. I have already stated that Government started this Dispensary at Panigaon not because a Congress Committee constructed a building for it, but because we felt the need of a Public Health Dispensary there.

With these words, I hope, my Motion will be accepted by the House and the objections raised will be withdrawn.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The question is:

"That this Assembly approves the new scheme adopted by the Government of Assam for the opening of a Public Health Department Dispensary at Panigaon in the North Lakhimpur Subdivision and an expenditure of Rs.1,827 (Rupees one thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven only) being incurred in this connection during the year 1948-49".

The question was adopted.



**Government Resolution re : establishment of River Police in the Kamrup district**

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do hereby approve the expenditure of Rs.22,229 for the establishment of River Police in the Kamrup district, as a temporary measure for the present.

The explanatory note\* explains the object.

It may be mentioned in this connection that it was found that smuggling in the Tarabari area took place very often and the smugglers were armed with weapons and in order to stop such nefarious activities, the establishment of a River Police Station at this place is felt as of urgent necessity and that is why this Station is established as an experimental measure.

So, I commend this Motion to the acceptance of the House.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Resolution moved :

" That this Assembly do hereby approve the expenditure of Rs. 22,229 for the establishment of River Police in the Kamrup district, as a temporary measure for the present "

**Srijut BELIRAM DAS:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very much thankful to the Hon'ble Minister for bringing this Resolution for the establishment of a River Police Station at Tarabari. On previous occasions I spoke about the necessity of such a Police force. I know that dacoities in large numbers are being committed in between Tarabari and Dalgoma and other places. Large quantities of rice, cloth, etc., are being smuggled by river daily. With the establishment of this River Police Station, I hope, it will stop.

In this connection, I want to say that this establishment of a River Police Station will avert another trouble. Their very presence in the river will allow the fishermen to smoothly catch fish in their fisheries as their fish will no more be looted or disturbed by the immigrants. So, I again thank the Hon'ble Minister for bringing this Resolution.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** Sir, I want to oppose my hon. Friend, Mr. Beliram Das. (*Laughter*). While the Hon'ble Minister explained the necessity of the establishment of the River Police Station, I am sure, he has to take this step either from the reports of officials or unofficials, but I object to my Friend, Mr. Das's particular mention of a community.

**Srijut BELIRAM DAS:** I myself instituted several cases for looting fisheries by immigrants.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Immigrants may mean both Muslim and Hindu immigrants. Even desparate Mullas commit dacoities.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** My objection is, why a particular community should be referred, as criminals are criminals.

Another point I want to raise in this connection is that we have got in the Budget a head—" Police Staff ", is it not possible on the part of the Hon'ble Minister to transfer the services of a Sub-Inspector and an Assistant Sub-Inspector, Head Constable and 9 constables from this staff so that this proposed money can be saved ? Of course, I have no objection to the provision of money for a driver and one Sukhani. Besides, this year also a huge number of recruits have been taken by the General Police Staff from whom also this staff can be provided. So my request to him is to see whether he can transfer some members of the staff for this purpose from the General Police Staff.

With these words, I resume my seat.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to my hon. Friend, Mr. Kashem, I must say that it is not possible to transfer staff

**\*EXPLANATORY NOTE**

It was urgently necessary to establish a River Police Station in the Kamrup District to check smuggling and riverine crime on the Brahmaputra. Accordingly a River Police Station with a staff of one Sub-Inspector, one Assistant Sub-Inspector, one Head Constable, 9 Constables, one Driver and one Sukhani was sanctioned and it was established temporarily at Tarabari. The cost involved during the current year amounts to Rs. 22,229 will be met by re-appropriation in the grant under " 29.—Police " in the Budget for 1948-49.



from general Police staff as we are already short of staff in the districts where trouble may brew at any moment. In this connection, it may be mentioned that Mr. Hardman and Mr. Morley in course of their Budget discussion suggested strengthening of the Police staff as they were apprehending flare-up of the activities of undesirables at any time.

We will watch the usefulness of this River Police Staff and will decide later on whether this staff should be made permanent.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The question is:

"That this Assembly do hereby approve the expenditure of Rs.22,229 for the establishment of River Police in the Kamrup district, as a temporary measure for the present."

The question was adopted.

**Government Resolution re: making the Public Works Department Mohurrirs permanent and pensionable**

**The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, to move the following Resolution:—

"Whereas the Public Works Department Mohurrirs are borne in Work-charged establishment which means that their pay is charged direct to the work and not to regular establishment budget of Public Works Department, they are not entitled to any pension after their retirement although they serve for thirty years or more without interruption, nor are they entitled to leave, medical treatment and travelling allowance to the same extent as enjoyed by the members of regular establishment and whereas the All-Assam Public Works Department Mohurrirs' Association have been pressing again and again since 1927 for making this post permanent and pensionable which demand was set off in the past for one reason or another and whereas the last Pay Committee is of opinion that only such staff as are engaged in connection with works which are likely to last for a limited period should be work-charged and not others, this Assembly therefore is of opinion that the Mohurrirs' post be made permanent and pensionable with effect from 1st April, 1949."

I hope, Sir, the hon. Members will approve of this Resolution because it has been a long crying need of the mohurrirs and in the past hon. Members have been pressing Government several times to have the post of Mohurrirs made permanent.

The explanatory note\* below will throw further light on this.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Resolution moved:

"Whereas the Public Works Department Mohurrirs are borne in Work-charged establishment which means that their pay is charged direct to the work and not to regular establishment budget of Public Works Department, they are not entitled to any pension after their retirement although they serve for thirty years or more without interruption, nor are they entitled to leave, medical treatment and travelling allowance to the same extent as enjoyed by the members of regular establishment and whereas the All-Assam Public Works Department Mohurrirs' Association have been pressing again and again since 1927 for making this post permanent and pensionable which demand was set off in the past for one reason or another and whereas the last Pay Committee is of opinion that only such staff as are engaged in connection with works which are likely to last for a limited period should be work-charged and not others, this Assembly therefore is of opinion that the Mohurrirs' posts be made permanent and pensionable with effect from 1st April, 1949".

\*Note.—The number involved in the proposal for the present is not yet finally decided but is expected to be about 356 (Excluded Areas 72 and Non-Excluded Areas 284 plus 35 leave reserve.) This will entail an average pensionary liability of approximately Rs.50,000 per annum.

This resolution is moved for a general approval of the proposal. The necessary funds will be obtained by a supplementary grant or Re-appropriation in due course if the proposal is approved. The immediate cost for pensionary charges during the year 1949-50 will be much less than Rs.50,000 which is the ultimate cost. The average annual cost on account of pay in the establishment budget will be about Rs.2,67,000 and there will be a corresponding saving to that extent in the works estimates.



**Srijut CHANOO KHERIA:** মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, এই আৱশ্যকীয় প্ৰস্তাৱটো উত্থাপন কৰাৰ কাৰণে মই মাননীয় P. W. D. মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ক শলাগ জনাইছোঁ, কাৰণ ময়ো মহৰী বিলাকৰ লগত ১২ বছৰ জড়িত আছিলো। P. W. D. বিভাগ কেতিয়া খোলা হৈছিল মই নাজানো ; কিন্তু ধৰি লব লাগিব যে এই বিভাগ বহু বছৰৰ আগেয়ে খোলা হৈছিল আৰু এই বিভাগ খোলা দিনৰে পৰা কেবাগী অ'ভাৰচিয়াৰ, ইঞ্জিনিয়াৰ আদি চাকৰীয়াল সকলক স্থায়ী কৰা হৈছে আৰু তেওঁবিলাকে ছুটী, পেঞ্চন আৰু অন্যান্য সকলো সুবিধা ভোগ কৰি আহিছে। কিন্তু মহৰী বিলাকক work-charged establishmentত ধৰা হৈছিল আৰু তেওঁবিলাকে ৩০ বছৰৰ ওপৰ কাম কৰিলেও তেওঁবিলাকে ছুটী, পেঞ্চন আদিৰ কোনো সুবিধা পোৱা নাছিল—তেওঁবিলাকক বাটৰ পাথৰ বা বাঁহ-কাঠ আদিৰ দৰে বিবেচনা কৰা হৈছিল। সেই কাৰণে তেওঁবিলাকে ১৯২৭ চনৰে পৰা আন্দোলন কৰি আহিছে। আগৰ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ দিনত যি ব্যবস্থাপক সভা আছিল সেই সভাৰ কেইজনমান সদস্য আৰু বাহিৰা কেইজনমান ভদ্ৰলোকে এই post বিলাক স্থায়ী কৰিবৰ নিমিত্তে চেষ্টা কৰি আহিছিল। ১৯৩৭ চনত তেতিয়াৰ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে জনাইছিল যে এই বিলাক চাকৰী স্থায়ী হ'ব নোৱাৰে। কিন্তু ভাৰত স্বাধীন হোৱাৰ লগে লগে আসামো স্বাধীন হল আৰু আসামতো আমাৰ জাতীয় চৰকাৰ গঠিত হল। তাৰ লগে লগে ১৯৪৬ চনৰে পৰা আমাৰ এই সভাৰ কেইজন মান মাননীয় সদস্য আৰু বাহিৰা কেইজন মান সদস্যই এই বিষয়ে বিশেষকৈ জোৰদি চেষ্টা কৰাৰ ফলত আৰু বৰ্তমান গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে এই বিষয়ে ভালকৈ বিবেচনা কৰাৰ ফল স্বৰূপে এই মহৰী বিলাকক স্থায়ী কৰিবৰ নিমিত্তে এই প্ৰস্তাৱ আজি এই সভাত দাঙি ধৰা হৈছে আৰু অহা পহিলা এপ্ৰিলৰ পৰা তেওঁবিলাকে অন্যান্য অফিচাৰ বিলাকৰ নিচিনাকৈ সকলো সুবিধা ভোগ কৰিব পাৰিব। P. W. D. বিভাগৰ কেবাগী, অ'ভাৰচিয়াৰ আৰু ইঞ্জিনিয়াৰৰ লৰা ছোৱালী বিলাকে উন্নতি কৰিছে, কিন্তু কোনো মহৰীৰ লৰা আজিলৈকে উন্নতি কৰিব পৰা নাই। আশা কৰা যায় যে এতিয়া তেওঁবিলাকে নিজৰ দায়িত্ব পালন কৰি নিজৰ দেশৰ প্ৰতি দায়িত্ব পালন কৰি নিজৰ লৰা ছোৱালী বিলাকৰ উন্নতি কৰিবলৈ সমৰ্থ হ'ব। এই বিষয়ে চকু দিয়াত মই গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টক ধন্যবাদ জনালোঁ।

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, as President of the Mohurirs' Association I thank the Hon'ble Minister for Public Works Department for the measure that he has taken to alleviate the sufferings of the Road Mohurirs for the last 40 or 50 years. While thanking the Hon'ble Public Works Department Minister in this connection, I also thank the Chief Engineer for giving us a patient hearing when we went to meet them in a deputation last year and for taking up our resolution to give effect to the demands of the poor Mohurirs. But the only thing that I want to say here is that in taking these Mohurirs in a permanent cadre, Government should also consider their past services, the period of years they have already served and such other things may please be given the minutest scrutiny so that they may reap the real benefit in this regard at the hands of the Government as regards pension, emoluments, length of service and also priority of service.

With these words, Sir, I again thank the Hon'ble Minister for the measures he has taken.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also want to add a few words to the congratulatory words that have been uttered by my hon. Friends, Mr. Chanoo Kheria and Mr. Phookan. Government really deserve our thanks for the very humane measure they have taken. As a matter of fact the introduction of such a measure is long overdue. There is no reason why these



people who are mainly responsible for the construction of our roads and for doing many other responsible jobs of the Public Works Department should retire after a period of 30 long tedious years of service without pension and to remain for the rest of their lives without any means or without any steps being taken by the Government to meet their needs, requirements and grievances.

I would request the Government that while considering the lot of the Mohurrirs by this Resolution they must not forget the cases of those other Government servants who may be in the same category and I hope they will extend the same sympathetic measure to those also who render their service to the Government.

**Maulavi ABDUL HAI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also as *Ex-President* (*laughter*) of the Mohurrirs' Association wish to associate myself with the words of praise and congratulation that had been made by my hon. Friends. I am glad to say that the present Government has surpassed the previous Governments in this matter by bringing in this Resolution for ameliorating the condition of the poor Mohurrirs. This has been a long-felt want of this particular section of the servants of the Government. With these words, Sir, I associate myself with what has already been said by my hon. Friends.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** Sir, there seems to be a competition among the hon. Members for taking credit for making the posts of the Mohurrirs permanent now. Somebody must distribute the credit for this. Otherwise it would be an injustice. From that point of view credit goes to the Hon'ble Minister of Finance, for without his sanction, as far as the financial side is concerned, it would not have been discussed on the floor today. But I find that in giving credit for this effort, his name has not been mentioned (*laughter*). The efforts of the President or *ex-Presidents* of the Mohurrirs' Association could not have been successful in this regard had not the Finance Minister given the required sanction (*laughter*). So, Sir, in order to do justice I must give credit to the Hon'ble Finance Minister. The Hon'ble Minister, Public Works Department has also got a share of the credit. As for the present President and *ex-Presidents*, more credit goes to the *ex-President* than to the present President, Mr. Phookan.

Mr. Phookan is not only a President of the Mohurrirs' Association, but he is the President of many official and non-official associations (*laughter*).

I really congratulate the Government for taking such a measure. But one thing is not clear to me. I must bring this to the notice of the Government. The Mohurrirs will be made permanent now and their posts will be made pensionable. May we know what will happen to those who already served for 30 years and are on the verge of retirement? Will they be given increment in consideration of their past service for so long?

My next point is that if somebody has just retired before this benefit of pension especially is given, will he also be given the same benefit owing to his long years of services? Supposing a Mohurrir has retired last year after serving about 30 years, should he also be given this benefit. As a matter of course, Sir, it will be quite equitable and just if such cases are also taken into consideration, because after all we are to recognise their long services and to consider their past grievances. I think Government will be kind enough to do justice to those who have already retired after doing public service for long.

**The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY:** Sir, I thank all the hon. Members who have appreciated this Resolution and I am glad that none has opposed this. I also thank the Finance Department and everybody for the help in this regard.



For the work-charged Mohurrir there was no restriction as to the length of his service under Government. He could serve for 30 or 40 years according to his ability. So, this was an advantage for him. But when this Resolution will be given effect to, he must retire after doing 30 years of service, as is the case with other Government servants. It is not a case for those who worked in the past, for consideration by Government. It is a case that their posts will be pensionable from the first April, 1949 whoever are in the list.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** The question is :

“Whereas the Public Works Department Mohurrirs are borne in Work-charged establishment which means that their pay is charged direct to the work and not to regular establishment budget of Public Works Department, they are not entitled to any pension after their retirement although they serve for thirty years or more without interruption, nor are they entitled to leave, medical treatment and travelling allowance to the same extent as enjoyed by the members of regular establishment and whereas the All-Assam Public Works Department Mohurrirs' Association have been pressing again and again since 1927 for making this post permanent and pensionable which demand was set off in the past for one reason or another and whereas the last Pay Committee is of opinion that only such staff as are engaged in connection with works which are likely to last for a limited period should be work-charged and not others, this Assembly therefore is of opinion that the Mohurrirs' posts be made permanent and pensionable with effect from 1st April, 1949”.

The question was adopted.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI :** Sir, as the Report of the Select Committee on the Assam Management of Estates Bill has already been submitted, it can be presented on the 28th instant before the House. Other suggestions in this respect may come forward from you.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Yes. When the hon. Members have got the copies, I think, it would not be inconvenient for them to table amendments, if any, on the 28th instant.

#### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Monday, the 28th March, 1949.

SHILLONG :

*The 10th June 1949.*

R. N. BARUA,

*Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.*



