

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

OF THE
UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
FROM
1776 TO
1876
BY
JAMES M. SMITH
OF THE
UNITED STATES
ARMY

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Proceedings of the Fifth session of the First Assam Legislative Assembly, assembled under the provision of the Government of India Act, 1935

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 11 a.m., on Tuesday, the 13th September 1938.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS
(to which oral answers were given)

(a) Starred questions Nos.212-216 standing in the name of Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee were not called and answered as the questioner was absent.

(b) Starred questions Nos.217-221 standing in the name of Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma were not called and answered as the questioner was absent.

(c) Starred question No.222 standing in the name of Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya was not called and answered as the questioner was absent.

Assam Premier's speech at Silchar re taxation policy of Government

Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS asked :

*223. (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a news item under the caption "Assam Premier at Silchar" which appeared in the *Statesman* (Assam edition), dated the 13th August, 1938 ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Hon'ble the Chief Minister discussed in course of his speech at Silchar the Congress proposal for 50 per cent. reduction of land revenue and also regarding an enquiry into the taxation policy of Government so as to distribute the incidence of taxation on an equitable basis ?

*224. (a) Is the Hon'ble the Chief Minister aware that the Congress proposal for taxing agricultural income is for those having an income of Rs.2,000 and over and does not affect the general agriculturists who are admittedly poor ?

(b) If so, what did the Hon'ble the Chief Minister mean in saying that "in the poor province of Assam the agriculturists could not make both ends meet and it would be simply taking away from them small favours already granted to them if the Government imposed such a tax on agriculture" as reported in the said paper ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have any information as regards the number of agriculturists having an income of Rs.2,000 and over in this Province ?

*225. Will Government be pleased to state—(a) Whether the Hon'ble Chief Minister said in course of his speech at Silchar, as reported in the *Statesman* of the 13th August, 1938, that "as regards the tea gardens, they were already overtaxed" ?

(b) If so, what was the basis for such a statement by the Hon'ble Chief Minister ?

*226. Will Government be pleased to state whether the Hon'ble the Chief Minister calculated the incidence of taxation on the tea gardens before making the above statement ?

*227. (a) Will the Hon'ble the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether he stated as reported in the *Statesman* of the 13th August, that "there was a cry for fifty per cent. remission of revenue, and he was ready to hand

over administration to anybody who would be able to manage the affairs of the Government after granting such a remission”?

(b) If so, does the Hon'ble the Chief Minister propose to make that offer on the floor of this House and see if anybody comes forward to manage the affairs of Government after granting 50 per cent. remission?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

223. (a)—Government has seen the article.

(b)—No, the Chief Minister did not discuss the Congress proposal for 50 per cent. or its other taxation proposals.

224. (a)—Government have not seen any Congress proposal for taxing agricultural income over Rs.2,000 in Assam.

(b)—The speech was in Bengali and he referred to the Mirashdar class of agriculturists in the Surma Valley who are not “admittedly poor”.

(c)—Government have not made any enquiry throughout the province to find out the number of such agriculturists, but they have materials with them for a certain district to say that the number is not insignificant.

225. (a)—No, the Chief Minister never made any such statement.

(b)—Does not arise.

226.—Does not arise.

227.(a) & (b)—In his speech at Silchar which was in the vernacular the Hon'ble Chief Minister pointed out that as land revenue brings in very nearly half the provincial receipts, fifty per cent. reduction in land revenue will make the administration impossible without further taxation, and that if the 50 per cent. reduction resolution had been carried, he would have resigned making room for others. He finds himself in good company, as the newspaper reports, that when his party people pressed the Hon'ble Premier of United Provinces for reduction of 50 per cent. in rent, he replied that administration would be impossible and that he would resign if that is carried. If a 50 per cent. reduction in land revenue is carried in the House, inspite of his reasoned opposition, he is prepared to resign.

Separate ward for female in-door patients in the Barpeta Civil Hospital

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS asked :

*228. (a) Are Government aware that there is no separate ward for female in-door patients in the Barpeta Civil Hospital and that the said patients are greatly inconvenienced therefor?

(b) If so, do Government propose to remove this long-felt want and make necessary provisions for the same at an early date?

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

228. (a)—There is no separate ward for female in-door patients at Barpeta. But there are two rooms which are utilised for female patients when necessity arises.

(b)—Does not arise.

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS asked : The question No.228(b) is "If so, do Government propose to remove this long felt want and make necessary provisions for the same at an early date?" The answer is 'Does not arise'. Do not Government think any necessity that there should be any separate room for the female patients?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : I have already said in the reply that there are two rooms which are utilised for female patients when necessity arises.

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS : Is it sufficient for the female patients of the gentle class?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : According to the report, I can say that it is sufficient for the present.

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS : Do Government know that the ladies of gentle class never go there for inconvenience sake?

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Will the hon. member please repeat the question?

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS : The answer given by Government is that there are two rooms and one is used for the female patients.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : No Sir. Two rooms are used for female patients.

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS : The rooms are always used by the ordinary patients. If any lady of the higher class goes there, she cannot remain there for inconvenience sake as it is just adjacent to the male ward.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : Ladies of the higher class generally do not go to a small hospital like this. Moreover, Sir, I would like to point out to the hon. members that this is a Local Board hospital and it is their concern to make better provision for the ladies of the higher class.

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS : This is the only hospital where operation is made. There is no other private hospital where operation can be performed. Recently one lady of the higher class went there but for inconvenience sake she could not remain there, and she has been transferred to Gauhati.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : What is the question?

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS : The question is that there is only one room for the female patient and all sorts of female patients huddle up there. If any gentle lady goes there, she feels inconvenience, for want of accommodations. Recently one lady of the gentle class went there and was operated but for various inconveniences she has been transferred to Gauhati.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : We have no information about that Sir.

Amount of agricultural loan issued in the Barpeta Subdivision

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS asked :

*229. Will Government be pleased to state the amount of Agricultural loans issued in the Barpeta subdivision but not realised, if any, in the previous year and whether any prayer has been made by the people for the same this year?

*230. Has the attention of Government been drawn to articles 'Howli mauza Rayat Hitasadhini Sabha' and 'Kalbari Ryat Sabha' in the 'Assam Sevok' in its issues dated 24th July, 1938 and 7th August, 1938 respectively

and the article 'Locusts and drought damage in Barpeta' in the *Times of Assam* in its issue, dated 9th July, 1938 praying for agricultural loans ?

*231. Will Government be pleased to state the amount of total Agricultural loans sanctioned for the subdivision of Barpeta in the current year ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

229.—Government have no information of the subdivisional figures. The entire amount of agricultural loans, both principal and interest outstanding in the district of Kamrup on the 20th May, 1937 have been remitted. Government did not sanction any agricultural loans for Barpeta subdivision in the previous year, but they have received many representation from the people for issue of agricultural loans this year.

230.—Government have seen the articles.

(After a pause the next question was called).

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS : I want to put a question with reference to question 230.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Are we to go, Sir, to the downward course ?

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS : This is an allied question Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : No. The next question has been called.

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA : Is it a fact that special amount has been drawn up for special localities ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : The amount mentioned has been sanctioned by Government and certainly the Deputy Commissioner will utilise it for the benefit of the areas affected.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

231.—Rupees 15,000.

Scale of pay of the officers of the Forest Department

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN asked :

*232.(a) Is it a fact that Forest Rangers, Deputy Rangers and the Foresters are still getting graded pay and not the time scale of pay ?

(b) Is it a fact that the members of the Indian Forest Service, the Assam Forest Service, Forest guards and the Ministerial staff get time scale of pay ?

(c) If so, why the same has been so long denied to Forest Rangers, Deputy Rangers and Foresters ?

*233.(a) Is it a fact that the Forest Enquiry Committee of 1929 recommended time scale of pay for Forest Rangers from Rs. 100—5/1—150—10/1—200—10/1—280 ?

(b) Is it a fact that in spite of the recommendations, the scale was reduced to grade scale from Rs. 75 to Rs. 200 and some posts in all the grades were retrenched ?

(c) Is it a fact that many Forest Rangers have had no increment or promotion since 1930 ?

*234.(a) Are Government aware that the graded scale of pay is causing hardship and discontent amongst the Forest subordinates ?

(b) If so, what steps do Government propose to take to redress this hardship ?

*235.(a) Is it a fact that there are some posts lying vacant in the Assam Forest Service for some years ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the number and the date since when such posts are lying vacant ?

*236. Do Government propose to fill up the vacancies in the Assam Forest Service by promoting deserving Forest Rangers at an early date ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

232. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—In view of the peculiarly difficult conditions under which these officers have to serve, Government considered it desirable to provide a means of promptly rewarding good work, for which purpose the system of promotion by grades is more suitable than the time scale system. The matter will again be examined.

233. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes. This scale is intended for those who enter the Government service after 20th August, 1931.

(c)—It is not a fact. Since July, 1930 every Ranger has received an increased grade pay.

234. (a)—Government have no information to that effect.

(b)—Does not arise.

235. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Three—Two since 1932 and one since 1935.

236.—Government are awaiting findings of the Retrenchment Committee and publication of the rules for the new Assam Forest Service, Class I.

Breaches in the Desang Bund between the Trunk Road and the Desangmukh

Srijut BHUBAN CHANDRA GOGOI asked :

*237. Are Government aware that there were at least 12 breaches in Desang Bund between the Trunk Road and the Desangmukh, *i.e.*, within a space of 10 miles ?

*238. Are Government aware that there have been annual breaches in this bund ?

*239. Will Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken for the repair of these breaches ?

*240. Do Government propose to consider the question of widening this bund and to make it cartable, and save the people from the constant havoc of the flood ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

237.—Government are informed that 11 breaches occurred in 7 miles of the bund.

238.—This does not accord with the reports received by Government.

239.—All the breaches have been temporarily repaired. Permanent repairs will be taken up in cold weather.

240.—No. It is not understood how the widening of the bund can minimise the havoc caused by flood.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** : Sir, to-day I was late only by half a minute and that was not my fault. I was detained at the gate on some unavoidable reasons. Will you kindly take up the starred questions that are standing in my name ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I am sorry, when I have framed a rule this should not be relaxed.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS
(to which answers were laid on the table)

Middle English Schools receiving grants-in-aid from Government

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED asked :

190. Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge be pleased to state—
- (a) The names of the Middle English Schools, district by district, receiving grant-in-aid from the Government in 1938-39?
 - (b) The amount of recurring grant-in-aid to each of these schools?
 - (c) The names of the Middle English Schools receiving non-recurring grants in 1938-39?
 - (d) The amount of non-recurring grants given to each of these schools?
 - (e) The principle on which the grants both recurring and non-recurring have been made?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI replied :

190. (a) and (b)—A statement is laid on the table.

LIST OF AIDED MIDDLE ENGLISH SCHOOLS FOR BOYS

Name of schools	Amount of monthly grant.	Rs.
<i>Lakhimpur</i>		
Bengali Middle English School, Dibrugarh	65
Dibru-Sadiya Railway Middle English School	100
<i>Sibsagar</i>		
Majuli Middle English School	34
Anglo-Bengali Middle English School	25
Miller Middle English School, Cinnamara	60
Teok Middle English School	15
<i>Nowgong</i>		
Marigaon Middle English School	25
<i>Darrang</i>		
Soota Middle English School, Tezpur	20
Jamuguri Middle English School	13
<i>Kamrup</i>		
Barbhag Middle English School	15
Lawpara Middle English School	25
Kakaya Middle English School	15

Name of schools	Amount of monthly grant.		
<i>Kamrup—concl'd.</i>			
			Rs.
Nagarbera Middle English School	25
Sualkuchi Middle English School	30
Rangia L. R. Middle English School and Madrasa	71
Puthimari Middle English School	35
Amrikhowa Middle English School	25
Hajo K. R. Middle English School	15
<i>Barpeta</i>			
Chaukhiti Middle English School	30
<i>Goalpara</i>			
Salpara Santipur Middle English School	15
Santal Colony Middle English School	50
Jamadarhat Middle English School	30
Bijni Bandhab Middle English School	15
<i>Cachar</i>			
Durganagar Middle English School, Silchar	40
Bamnityananda Middle English School	15
Earle Middle English School, Lakhipur	140
<i>Khasi & Jaintia Hills</i>			
R. B. Anupchand Hindi Middle English School	68
Gurkha Middle English School	100
Laban Bengali Boys' Middle English School	55
<i>Sylhet</i>			
Revatiraman Middle English School	57
Balaganj D. N. Middle English School	65
Begampur Middle English School	47
Roykeli Middle English School combined with Nazmun- nesa Middle English Madrasa	56
Gasbari Middle English School	30
Kasimali Middle English School	47
Dattarail Middle English School	36
Navagram Raman Middle English School	20
Israb Ali Middle English School	20
Habiganj Middle English School	38
Deraï Middle English School	25
Wood Middle English School, Badarpur	10
Krishna Govinda Middle English School, Nilambazar	20
Narayan Nath Middle English School	15
Churkhai Middle English School	15
Krishna Chandra Middle English School, Nayabazar	25
Baramchal Middle English School	15

Name of schools	Amount of monthly grant.
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Rs.

Garo Hills

Bengali Middle English School, Tura	42
Baghmara Middle English School	50
Belpara Middle English School	...	...	34
Raja Simla Middle English School	15

Lushai Hills

Bengali Middle English School, Lungleh	20
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Sylhet

Ramkrishna Mission Girls' Middle English School, Chali-	42
bandar.	
Sunamganj Town Girls' Middle English School	... 150
Kishori Mohan Girls' Middle English School, Sylhet	... 200

Khasi & Jaintia Hills

St. Mary's Convent, Shillong	...	...	65
Bengali Girls' Middle English School, Laban	85

Kamrup

Gauhati A. B. Mission Girls' Middle English School	...	50
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Goalpara

Coronation Girls' Middle English School	50
Goaltuli Middle English School	20

Nowgong

Nowgong Mission Girls' Middle English and Training School.	450
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Sibsagar

Fuleswari Girls' Middle English School	180
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Lakhimpur

Victoria Girls' Middle English School	150
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Manipur

Lady Earle Girls' Middle English School, Imphal	...	65
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(c) and (d)—No non-recurring grant has been sanctioned during 1938-39.

(e)—According to the merits of the case, and the funds available.

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED: Are Government aware that there are two Middle English Schools, privately managed, at Dolgaon and Sipajhar in the Mangaldai subdivision?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: I am prepared to accept the statement of the hon. member.

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED: Are Government aware that the Inspecting Officer visited those two schools and recommended for grant-in-aid?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: The papers have not been placed before me yet, Sir.

Srijut MAHADEV SARMA: May I know what are the basis for Government to consider for giving aid to such schools?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: There are various factors, Sir. First of all, self-help, secondly, enrolment, thirdly, efficiency of the staff, and so on.

Srijut MAHADEV SARMA: Do not Government take into account the number of schools in a subdivision for the purpose of giving grants-in-aid?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: No, that cannot be taken as the only criterion, because there may be several schools in the subdivision which are perfunctorily managed.

Srijut MAHADEV SARMA: Do Government consider the fact that in certain backward places education is badly needed?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Yes, Government are always anxious to help the backward people.

Srijut KRISHNA NATH SARMA: Has the entire amount sanctioned last year been distributed by this time?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Yes, the entire amount has been distributed.

Number of students in High Schools of Assam

Babu BALARAM SIRCAR asked :

191. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) The total number of students in Government as well as Government aided high schools separately in Assam?
- (b) The total number of students in Government and aided Middle English schools separately in Assam?
- (c) The total number of students belonging to (i) caste Hindus (ii) Muhammadans (iii) Scheduled caste (iv) Tribal and others in the said schools?
- (d) The total number of students of the said communities enjoying full free and half free studentships?
- (e) The basis of granting free and half free studentships to the students of different communities?

192. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether there is any provision for the free studentships of the scheduled caste students in secondary educational institutions?
- (b) If so, what is the percentage?
- (c) If not, do Government propose to consider the poverty of the scheduled caste students and make such provision for them?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

191. (a)—Government High Schools—10,631.

Government Aided High Schools—18,204.

(b)—Government Middle English Schools—1,810.

Government Aided Middle English Schools—16,156.

(c) and (d)—The information is not available.

(e)—The hon. member is referred to the rules in Part I, section 22 of the Education Department Rules and Orders—a copy of which is available in the Assembly Library.

192. (a)—There is no special provision but they can participate in the 5 per cent. reserved for "other pupils" under rule 2 of the rules referred to above.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—The whole question of giving adequate educational facilities to scheduled castes and tribal people is at present under the consideration of Government.

Appointment in the Assam School Service

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

193. (a) Will Government please state whether more persons were recommended after 1st April for appointment in the Assam School Service by the Public Service Commission, than those mentioned in the statement laid on the table, in answer to my starred question No.107, in the last February-March Session of the Assembly ?

(b) If so, will Government please state whether all the persons recommended have been actually appointed by the Director of Public Instruction ?

(c) If not, why not ?

194. Will Government please state if the Director of Public Instruction is competent to ignore the recommendations of the Public Service Commission ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

193. (a)—Yes. The Public Service Commission was consulted in two more cases.

(b) and (c)—Yes, except in one case where commitments previous to the inauguration of Provincial Autonomy and the Constitution of Public Service Commission made it difficult to give effect immediately to the Public Service Commission's recommendation.

194.—The Director of Public Instruction, Assam, is not competent to ignore the recommendations of the Public Service Commission.

Improvement of Agriculture in Mankachar

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

195. Will Government be pleased to state what steps taken by the Agricultural Department for the improvement of agriculture in the Mankachar area during the year 1936-37 ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

195.—*Rabi* crop seeds were distributed for demonstration purposes.

Annual damage of agricultural crops in the Dhubri South Bank areas due to flood.

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

196. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government are aware that the Dhubri South Bank areas are subject to annual flood and in consequence the agricultural crops of the locality are damaged every year ?
- (b) If so, what steps Government propose to take to meet the situation ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

196. (a)—Yes, to some extent.

(b)—It is impossible to train a river like Brahmaputra and make the riparian tracts absolutely safe for agricultural operations. But the general question of improving agricultural holdings is under the consideration of Government.

Cattle mortality in Sunamganj

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

197. Will Government please state—

- (1) The total number of cattle died of epidemic diseases ?
- (2) The number of cattle attacked with epidemic diseases ?
- (3) The number of cattle cured after being attacked by such diseases ?
- (4) The number of cattle cured being treated by Veterinary Surgeons ?
- (5) The number of cattle died after being treated by Veterinary Surgeons from 1st March 1938 up till now in the Sunamganj subdivision ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

197.—It is presumed that the question refer to Sunamganj subdivision.

- (1)—8,812.
- (2) and (3)—Reliable figures are not available.
- (4)—24,735.
- (5)—Reliable figures are not available.

Question re Babu Jyotish Chandra Das, late a Lecturer, Murarichand College

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

198. (a) Is it a fact that Babu Jyotish Chandra Das, Lecturer, Murarichand College, Sylhet, whose services were dispensed with in connection with activities arising out of the Civil Disobedience Movement (*vide* questions and answers Nos.318-331 in the February-March Session of the Assembly, 1938) has not been re-instated by Government ?

(b) If not, will Government please state the facts on account of which he was not re-instated ?

199. (a) Are Government aware that Babu Jyotish Chandra Das, Lecturer, Murarichand College, sent an application dated 21st March 1931 for re-instatement after the Gandhi-Irwin pact ?

(b) If so, what was the reply given by Government ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

198. (a)—The reply is in the affirmative.

(b)—The hon. member is referred to the answers to question 34(a) published in the Gazette dated the 23rd March 1932, wherein the facts asked for were fully stated. They were once more repeated in connection with reply to questions referred to by the hon. member in his question No.198(a) above.

199. (a)—A representation appears to have been received but its contents are not available.

(b)—Government are not in a position to answer as the relevant papers have been destroyed.

Works done by the Rural Reconstruction Officer

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

200. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) What work the Rural Reconstruction Officer in the Agricultural Department has done up-to-date ?

(b) What staff and establishment he has ?

(c) How many centres has he opened ?

(d) What are the names of these districts ?

(e) How far they are from the district and subdivisional headquarters, and what are the means of communications to reach them ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

200. (a)—The Rural Reconstruction Officer, who has since reverted to his substantive post of Deputy Director of Agriculture, has prepared a scheme after a considerable amount of touring in the province for collecting necessary materials.

(b)—One clerk and two peons till the date of his reversion. Since the reversion, he was given the assistance of a lower division clerk till 2nd August 1938.

(c)—None.

(d) and (e)—Do not arise.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: When is the Government going to give effect to the scheme prepared by the Special Officer ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: It is expected that the students will be in training after the *pujas*, and from the beginning of the next year the scheme will be in operation.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Under the present rules which have come into force, it is not the Secretary who is to call out the number of questions, but it is the Speaker himself. Therefore I shall call out the numbers from now.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: May I know, Sir, whether under the present rules, supplementaries are allowed on unstarred questions?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes, that amendment was carried.

Repairs to the buildings of the Goalpara Government High English School

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA asked :

201. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The expenditure incurred year by year in making annual repairs to the Goalpara Government High English School buildings during the tenure of office of the present Headmaster?
- (b) The name of the contractor for executing these repairs?
- (c) Whether there is any provision for calling for tenders for such annual repairs?
- (d) If so, whose tenders were accepted during the last three years and for what amounts?

202. If the answer to question No.201 (c) is in the negative, will Government please state the reason for it?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

201. (a)—*Departmental repairs*—

					Rs.	a.
1935-36	...	...	...	...	849	0
1936-37	...	...	...	...	848	14
1937-38	...	...	...	...	849	14

Public Works Department Repairs

1935-36	...	...	...	...	291	0
1936-37	...	...	...	...	735	0
1937-38	...	...	...	...	278	0

(b)—*Departmental*—

The late Ananda Chandra Das.

Public Works Department repairs.

Babu Kedar Nath Sarkar.

Srijut Ram Kanta Das.

M. Khan Muhammed.

M. Jainuddin Ahmed.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—*Departmental works*—

The tenders of the late Ananda Chandra Das were accepted for the amounts stated in reply to question No.201 (a).

Public Works Department works

	Rs.
Babu Kedar Nath Sarkar	16
Srijut Ram Kanta Das	501
M. Khan Muhammed	312
M. Zainuddin Ahmed	208
Works Establishment (Department)	267
202.—Does not arise.	

Tours of the District Officers and Subdivisional Officers in rural areas

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

203. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government has issued any instruction to the District and Subdivisional Officers for even distribution of their touring days in the rural areas ?

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

(c) How many District and Subdivisional Officers maintain pony in Assam ?

(d) How many of them maintain motor cars ?

(e) Whether they ever use pony ?

(f) Whether all the places within their respective jurisdiction are motorable ?

(g) If not, do they avoid touring in places which are not motorable ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

203. (a)—The hon. member is referred to rule 205, pages 74—76 of the Assam Executive Manual.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—As far as is known, at present only the Deputy Commissioner, Khasi and Jaintia Hills and the Subdivisional Officer, Jowai.

(d)—All, except the Subdivisional Officer, Jowai.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—Obviously not.

(g)—No.

The Public Service Commission and the number of appointments made by them

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

204. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of appointments per month, the Public Service Commission dealt with during the last year ?

(b) The number of days they took for dealing with those appointments ?

(c) The average daily working hours of each of the members of the Public Service Commission ?

(d) Whether there is any age limit for the members of the Public Service Commission ?

(e) The ages of the present incumbents ?

(f) The period for which they have been appointed ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

204. (a)—The number of appointments dealt with by the Commission during the year 1937 is noted below :—

April	...	...	...	...	...	5
May	...	...	...	...	...	6
June	...	...	...	...	...	25
July	...	...	...	...	...	15
August	...	...	...	...	...	6
September	...	...	...	...	...	13
October	...	...	...	...	...	9
November	...	...	...	...	...	5
December	...	...	...	...	...	16

(b)—The average number of sittings required for an appointment was approximately three.

(c)—The ordinary working hours of the Commission as such are 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Outside these hours members work according to their convenience, and it is impossible to state the number of hours during which they work, or to strike an average.

(d)—The age limit for retirement is 65 years.

(e)—The ages of the present incumbents of the Commission are :—

Chairman	...	...	...	...	...	63
Maulavi Faiznur Ali	...	...	...	...	...	61
Rai Bahadur Janakinath Das Purkayastha	...	...	...	...	...	64

(f)—Under the Assam Public Service Commission Regulations, the appointment is for five years, subject to the age limit already stated.

Salaries of the Hon'ble Ministers

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

205. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The scale according to which Hon'ble Ministers have been drawing their respective salaries since the fall of the first Cabinet ?

(b) If the scale of salaries is not the same, will Government be pleased to state on what basis, a sliding scale of salaries has been adopted ?

(c) Whether Government proposes to do away with the disparity in salaries of different Hon'ble Ministers and introduce a uniform scale ?

(d) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

205. (a)—Government are not aware of any "fall" of the first Cabinet. If the hon. member is referring to the present reformed Cabinet, his attention is invited to the reply made to a question during discussion of expenditure charged upon the revenues put by Babu Kamini Kumar Sen regarding the same point on 1st March 1938. The hon. member took part in those discussions and it is not understood why he is wanting information which he already possesses.

(b)—There is no question of a sliding scale. As has been explained to the House, the basis was one of arrangement.

(c) and (d)—Government have no intention at present of making any change and see no reason to do so.

Death of a European tea planter of Jamirah Tea Estate

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA asked :

206. Are Government aware that a European tea planter of Jamirah Tea Estate in the Dibrugarh subdivision was fatally injured by the falling of a dead tree on his car while it was passing the 3rd mile from Dibrugarh of the Assam Trunk Road on the 23rd April 1938 ?

207. Will Government be pleased to state whether it is the duty of the Public Works Department to remove from road sides such dead trees which are dangerous to traffic and passers-by ?

208. Will Government be pleased to state whether Government have taken any steps against the officer or officers who is or are responsible for this neglect of duty ?

209. If the reply to question 208 is in the negative, do Government propose to do so ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

206.—Yes.

207.—Yes, but the tree in question was not on the Public Works Department land, it stood on private land and beyond a private fencing. There was nothing to indicate that it would come down, the accident was due to the softening of earth round its roots during heavy rain on the previous night.

208 and 209.—Do not arise.

Construction of a road to connect Nabiganj with any Subdivisional Headquarters, etc.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

210. Are Government aware that Nabiganj and its neighbouring villages are almost throughout the year cut off from the rest of the world ?

211. If so, do Government propose to consider the desirability of connecting Nabiganj by a all-the-year-round motorable road either with a railway or a steamer station or with any subdivisional headquarters ?

212. Is it a fact that the people of Habiganj petitioned to Government on several occasions for a motorable road from Sherpur to Habiganj via Nabiganj ?

213. Is it a fact that the proposed Sherpur-Habiganj-Nabiganj road was included in the second Road Board Programme ?

214. Is it a fact that the Sherpur-Nabiganj-Habiganj road being constructed will connect the district headquarter with the subdivisional headquarter of Habiganj ?

215. Is it a fact that there exists already a Local Board tract of only 28 miles connecting Sherpur with Habiganj via Nabiganj and that for want of proper improvement it is not serving any useful purpose ?

216. Is it a fact, as would appear from the proceedings of the 3rd meeting of the Assam Communication Board published at pages 1544-48 of the *Assam Gazette*, dated the 8th September 1937, that Communication Board schemes are proposed in consultation with Local Boards, Tea Associations, District Officers and the Commissioners who know which places have been neglected in the past and what are the requirements of different localities where roads are most needed ?

217. Is it a fact that the people of Nabiganj while petitioning Government for a motorable road from Habiganj to Sherpur via Nabiganj brought to the notice of Government the remarks made by Mr. A. G. Patton, the then

Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet who recognised the importance of this road and urged upon the Habiganj Local Board for effecting improvement thereon so as to admit of wheeled traffic in the cold weather ?

218. If the reply to question 217 be in the affirmative, will Government please state whether they are going to undertake the improvement of Sherpur Habiganj-Nabiganj road immediately ? If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

210.—No. Nabiganj is connected with Habiganj and Sherpur by Local Board roads during the cold weather. Water transport is extensively used during the rains.

211.—Not at present.

212.—No. People of Nabiganj petitioned for such a road.

213.—No.

214.—Yes. If a very high road was constructed, it would connect the district headquarters with Habiganj.

215.—Such a road exists and it is understood that the Local Board are improving it so as to render it fit for motor traffic during the dry season.

216.—Yes. The present programme was so prepared.

217.—Yes.

218.—Not at present. Communications in the Sylhet district are at present undergoing extensive improvements and this road must wait until the present schemes are complete.

Want of a waiting room at the Satgaon Railway Station

Babu DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI asked :

219. (a) Are Government aware that there is no waiting room at the Satgaon Station, Assam-Bengal Railway ?

(b) If so, do Government know that it causes hardship to the travelling public including ladies ?

(c) Do Government propose to move the railway authorities for erecting a waiting room at the said station ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

219. (a) and (b)—Government have no information.

(c)—The Assembly's representatives on the Assam-Bengal Railway Local Advisory Committee are the best persons to move in the matter.

Accelerated promotions in Government Services

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

220. Is it a fact that some of the promoted Sub-Deputy Collectors previously held listed posts with credit ?

221. Is it a fact that the system of accelerated promotions has been introduced among the police officers ?

222. Do Government propose to consider the desirability of introducing it in other services too ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

220.—Yes.

221 and 222.—The hon. member is referred to the replies given to his questions Nos. 269(a) and 270 at the last budget session of the Assembly. It is not understood why he has repeated the same questions.

Abolition of the posts of Divisional Commissioners

Babu DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI asked :

223. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether Government has received any communication from the Secretary of State for India regarding abolition of the posts of Divisional Commissioners ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the decisions of the Secretary of State in this matter ?

(c) If not, when does Government expect the reply ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

223. (a)—Not yet.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Government cannot say.

Propaganda for and against any political association by Government Officers

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

224. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether a Government officer can make propaganda for and against any political association ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that one Sub-Inspector of Police of the Deraï thana told the people of Rafnagar not to join the Congress, and encouraged them to join the Muslim League, in the 1st week of June last ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

224. (a)—No.

(b)—The fact is not as alleged.

Nowgong Fishery

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMIRUDDIN asked :

225. Is the Minister in charge aware of an article that appeared in the issue of 18th June last of the "Times of Assam" under the caption of "Big people fight over Nowgong Fishery." ?

The Hon'ble Srijit ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

225. —Yes.

Demand of *Najor* by the Dwara Zaminders from tenants

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

226. (a) Is it a fact that a petition signed by Rasidulla, Sikandar Ali, Narsing Deb, Muhammad Mafiz, etc., of villages Maukhala, Mullapara under the police station Sunamganj regarding their lands at Sureshhaor ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state if any reply has been given to them by Government ?

(c) If not, why not ?

227. Is it a fact that the Dwara Zaminders are demanding *Najor*, even from the tenants who are holding lands for more than 12 years ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

226. (a)—Yes. .

(b)—The orders passed on the petition was duly communicated to the Revenue Agent appointed by the petitioners.

(c)—Does not arise.

227.—It transpires from the report of the Ilam Sub-Deputy Collector who enquired into the matter that Dwara Zaminders are demanding *Najor* to construct a bund about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length for the improvement of the land which will cost about Rs.10,000 or so. The land in question was resumed by Government and settled with the actual cultivators on annual leases. A civil suit was instituted against the Government by the Zaminders. According to the decree of the Hon'ble High Court the entire area resumed was settled with the Zaminders under Government orders dated the 7th October 1937 and annual leases were not renewed and the lessees were directed after service of notices in May 1936 to approach Dwara Zaminders for settlement. Intending tenants are now making fresh settlements with the Zaminders.

Free distribution of Bacterio-phage

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

228. Is it a fact that Bacterio-phage used to be distributed among the patients free of charge so long ?

229. Is it a fact that this practice of free distribution of this medicine has been stopped ?

230. Do Government propose to distribute this medicine free of charge among the poor people only ?

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

228.—Yes.

229.—No.

230.—Does not arise.

Acquisition of land for the Charigaon Girls' Middle Vernacular School

Srijut KRISHNA NATH SARMAH asked :

231. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The action taken by Government on the land acquisition case for acquiring certain plot of land for Charigaon Girls' Middle Vernacular School under the Jorhat Local Board ?

(b) Whether the Jorhat Local Board had deposited the cost of the land ?

232. Are Government aware that this institution needs this plot of land under reference ?

233. Will Government be pleased to state—
 (a) On whose recommendation and on what grounds, the land in question is not going to be acquired ?
 (b) Whether the Deputy Commissioner received any recommendations from the Board for the acquisition of the land ?
 (c) If so, why the Deputy Commissioner did not inform the party (Local Board) at the time of his enquiry ?
 (d) Do Government propose to take steps on the subject under the strength of Rule 47 of the Local Self-Government Manual ?
234. Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to advise the Deputy Commissioner to acquire the land for the said institution ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

231. (a)—Preliminary notification for acquisition of land was issued on the 29th January 1938, inviting objections up to the 18th March 1938. One Hemakanta and three others objected to the acquisition. The Deputy Commissioner, Sibsagar, personally enquired into the objections and the Government on his recommendation allowed the objections on the ground that there was no immediate necessity for the acquisition of the land and the land acquisition proceedings were accordingly dropped.

(b)—Yes.

232.—There is no immediate necessity for the land.

233. (a)—The land acquisition proceedings were dropped on the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioner on the ground that there was no immediate necessity for the acquisition of the land.

(b) and (c)—Government have no information.

(d) and 234.—As the land acquisition proceedings have been already dropped, the question does not arise.

Educated unemployed youths of Assam

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

235. Will Government please state—
 (a) If the Bureau of Information about educated unemployed youths, as promised by the Hon'ble Chief Minister in the last August and December Sessions of the Assembly, has been opened ?
 (b) If so, from when ?
 (c) If not, why not ?
236. If the answer to question (b) is in the affirmative, will Government please place on the table the statistics collected so far ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

235. (a)—The hon. member presumably refers to the register of unemployed youths to open which Hon'ble Chief Minister gave an assurance. If so, the reply is in the negative.
 (b)—Does not arise.
 (c)—The matter is under consideration after having obtained necessary particulars from Bihar.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: With regard to (a), may I know Sir, why the promise given by the Hon'ble Chief Minister has been broken?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: It has not been broken. Attempts are being made to honour that promise.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: The promise was made during the last August Session. More than one year has passed in the meantime. I think during the last February-March Session also, the Hon'ble Chief Minister repeated his promise.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, orders have already been passed by the present Government to open a register of unemployed. I promised in the February Session that we will open this register after the results of the University examinations are out. As hon. members know, the results were announced about end of June only. We corresponded with the Bihar Government who has opened such a register but we found their form was much too elaborate; so we are shortening it.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied:
236.—Does not arise.

Selection of a candidate by the Public Service Commission for the post of a Lecturer in automechanical and electrical engineering

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked:

237. Will Government please state—

(a) Whether they asked the Public Service Commission to select a candidate for the post of a Lecturer in connection with automechanical and electrical engineering for the Jorhat Technical School?

(b) If so, when was the requisition sent and how many candidates were selected?

238. Is it a fact that the first nomination was given by the Public Service Commission to an officer already in Government service employed in a Technical School in the province?

239. Is it a fact that the said nominee was not appointed to the post?

240. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is usually the convention to accept Commission's recommendations in such matters?

(b) If so, will Government please state the reasons for a departure from this convention in this particular case?

241. (a) Is it a fact that it took about three months for Government to make the appointment after the recommendations of the Commission were sent?

(b) If so, why?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied:

237. (a)—No. The Director of Industries asked.

(b)—On the 11th December 1937. Two candidates were recommended.

238.—Yes.

239.—Yes.

240. (a)—Yes.

(b)—To rectify communal inequality.

241. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

Admission into the Goalpara Government High English School

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA asked :

242. Will Government please state—

- (a) The total number of applications for admission into the Goalpara Government High English School during the present session ?
- (b) How many of them were written applications and how many of them were verbally made ?
- (c) How many of these applicants were Hindus, Muhammadans, backward or hill tribes respectively ?
- (d) The total number of admissions, community by community in each class ?
- (e) How many of these applications were rejected ?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that the boys whose applications for admission were rejected, mostly hailed from the immigrant Muhammadan community ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI replied :

242. (a)—108.

(b)—83 written applications and 25 oral.

(c)—59 from Hindu candidates.

32 from Muhammadan candidates.

17 from tribal or backward candidates.

(d)—A statement is laid on the table.

Boys admitted

Class				Hindu	Muhammadan	Tribal or Backward	
X	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
IX	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
VIII	...	...	...	...	2	...	1
VII	...	...	...	7	4	...	3
VI	...	...	...	1	...	...	2
V	...	...	...	2	1	...	...
IV	...	...	...	1	2	...	...
III	...	...	...	35	14	...	1
Total				50	23	...	7

(e)—28.

(f)—No. There were only 3 candidates who appeared before the Headmaster from immigrant Muhammadan community of whom only one was refused admission as he was found unfit.

A Boarding House for Muhammedans in the Goalpara Government High English School

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA asked :

243. Are Government aware of the fact that up till the present time, there is no separate Muhammadan Boarding house attached to the Goalpara Government High English School ?

244. Is it a fact that on the 20th March 1938, the Director of Public Instruction, Assam, asked the Headmaster of the Goalpara Government High English School to place one of the boarding houses since vacated by the Garo students, at the disposal of the intending Mahamadan boarders ?

245. Is it a fact that some boarders of the Hindu Boarding have shifted there and that some College students and outsiders, not *bona fide* students have been permitted to occupy the rooms thus vacated by the Hindu boarders ?

246. Is it a fact that this Boarding house is very close to the Headmaster's quarters ?

247. Is it a fact that intending Mahamadan boarders were refused admission into the Boarding house referred to in question 244 above for alleged want of accommodation ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

243.—Yes.

244.—The Director of Public Instruction asked the Headmaster of the Goalpara Government High School to partition off a part of the Garo Hostel for Muhammedan boys.

245.—No.

246.—No.

247.—No.

Re one Babu Pijush Kanti Das, an internee

Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR asked :

248. Are Government aware that one Babu Pijush Kanti Das, son of Babu Pratab Chandra Das, an inhabitant of Perganah Indeswar in the district of Sylhet has been in internment for a long time in one of the jails in Bengal under orders of the Government of Bengal ?

249. If the reply to question No.248 is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The circumstances that led to his internment ?

(b) The time since when he has thus been interned ?

(c) The place where he is now interned ?

250. If the reply to question No.248 is in the negative, do Government propose to make an enquiry and ascertain the circumstances that led to his internment, the place where he is now interned, the time since when he has been interned and the present state of his health ?

251. Do Government propose to take early steps to get him released ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

248 and 249.—Government have no information regarding such a person but have called for a report.

250.—A reference is invited to the answer given to questions Nos.898 to 904 by the hon. member at the budget session in 1937. Enquiries from Bengal at that time did not result in any mention of the individual referred to, and Government therefore do not propose to make any further enquiry from the Government of Bengal unless they are given further justification for doing so.

Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR: Will Government be pleased to inform me of the results of their enquiry on this subject ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:
Yes, Sir, only yesterday I have heard that a youngman of this description was convicted for three years on a charge under section 121 (1) and imprisoned in Alipore Jail.

251.—The question does not arise.

Trade route from Jireeghat to Upper Burma

Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI asked :

252. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state—

- (a) If there is a trade route by a bridle path from Jireeghat in Cachar *via* Imphal to a steamer station in Upper Burma on the Upper Chindwin steamer service ?
- (b) The distance of this route ?
- (c) Whether it is only about 100 miles ?
- (d) Whether he proposes to have a project for a motorable road for this route examined by experts and also as to the cost of the road and the volume of traffic it is likely to draw from Burma, particularly from Upper Burma ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

252. (a)—Yes.
- (b) & (c)—Approximately 200 miles.
- (d)—No.

Road from Hojai to Doboka

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN asked :

253. (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Works Department aware that the road from Hojai to Doboka in the Nowgong district becomes impassable during the rainy season for cart traffic ?

(b) If so, whether Government propose to gravel it immediately ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

253. (a)—Yes.
- (b)—This road has been included in the Communications Board programme, and an estimate is under preparation. Gravelling can only be done after the road has been raised and widened in due course of time.

Transfer of Muhammadan Marriage Registrar's Office from Lakhipur to Chunari

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA asked :

254. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government is aware that a number of numerous signed petitions from the Lakhipur Police Station has been sent to Government for transferring the Muhammadan Marriage Registrar's office from Lakhipur to Chunari, on account of greater demand in the latter place ?
- (b) Whether any step, to transfer the said office from Lakhipur to Chunari, has been taken ?
- (c) If so, when the same is going to materialise ?

- (d) Whether Government is aware that a case under the Sarda Act—Sadar Mandal Vs. Sukur Sheikh and Fazlur Rahman Kazi—has been filed against the Muhammadan Marriage Registrar Maulavi Fazlur Rahman for marrying a minor girl ?
- (e) Whether the said marriage has been registered ?
- (f) If so, whether the girl was presented before the Marriage Registrar for the registration of her marriage ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS replied :

254. (a)—No.
 (b)—Yes.
 (c)—As soon as practicable.
 (d) No case was filed against the Moslem Registrar of Chunari but one application under section 12 of the Child Marriage Restraint Act was made against one Sukur Sheikh.
 (e)—Yes.
 (f)—No.

Road from Nowgong to Kampur

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA asked :

255. Are Government aware that the present Public Works Department road to Kampur from Nowgong is impassable in the rainy season this year owing to the new earth-work done over some portions of it ?
256. Do Government propose to enquire if the road can be made somehow passable by placing bamboo mattings or shinglings ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

- 255.—One or two places in the road where the soil is of poor quality became bad during incessant rain.
- 256.—Action has been taken to repair the road with gravel.

Grievances of the promoted Extra Assistant Commissioners

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

257. (a) Are Government aware of the grievances of the promoted Extra Assistant Commissioners about their rank in their Service ?
- (b) If so, do Government propose to consider the matter ?
258. Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) Whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that the system of late promotion combined with the existing ranking is not likely to add to the efficiency of the service ?
- (b) If so, the reason which actuated Government to depart from the old system of earlier promotion ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

257. (a)—The question of the position in the gradation list of Extra Assistant Commissioners, promoted from the Assam Junior Civil Service, has more than once been represented to Government both by individual officers concerned and by the Service Associations. After full consideration of the question and ascertaining the practice obtaining in Bengal, Government are satisfied that there is no cause for complaints.

(b)—The whole question of recruitment and organisation in regard to the Assam Civil Services, Senior and Junior, is under consideration.

258. (a)—The hon. member's attention is invited to his questions Nos. 767 and 768 at the last December session and the replies given thereto. Government will consider the matter from all aspects.

(b)—The reasons for which the former Government abandoned the age limit for promotion from the Junior service are not on record.

Amount spent for the Retrenchment Committee

Khan Bahadur Hazi ABDUL MAJID CHAUDHURY asked :

259. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The amount expended for the Retrenchment Committee up to date ?

(b) The number of times the said Committee have already sat and for how long it will be continued ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

259. (a)—Rs. 7,164.

(b)—3 times. It is proposed to hold another sitting after the Pujas, but it is not possible to say how long it will last.

Nomination of scheduled class members to Local Boards

Srijut RAMNATH DAS asked :

260. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they have nominated members from the scheduled classes to the Local Boards of North Lakhimpur, Sibsagar, Golaghat and Jorhat ?

(b) If not, why not ?

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

260. (a)—No, except in the case of Golaghat Local Board.

(b)—Because of the claims of other communities.

Doctors from the Berry-White Medical School

Srijut OMEG KUMAR DAS asked :

261. Are Government aware that many doctors after passing from the Berry-White Medical School, Dibrugarh, are sitting unemployed ?

262. Do Government propose to enquire and ascertain—

(a) The number of doctors employed in the Tea Estates in the Assam Valley districts ?

(b) How many of them are qualified having passed from recognised medical institutions and how many of them are unqualified ?

(c) How many of them are men from the Berry-White Medical School ?

(d) How many of them are Assamese ?

263. Do Government propose to enquire whether a qualified doctor, resident of Gauripur (Goalpara district) was discharged recently from the Bertabgarh Tea Estate and an unqualified man taken in his place ?

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

261.—Government have reason to believe that those who have not secured employment are maintaining themselves by private practice.

262.—Government will make enquiry.

263.—Yes.

Amount spent by Government for book binding etc.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

264. Will Government be pleased to state the total amount of money spent by Government for each district in book binding, other binding and flat and loose file making works during each of the last two years separately ?

265. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The Agency through which these works are done ?

(b) Whether Government invite any tender for the works from the public ?

(c) If not, do Government propose to consider the question of inviting tenders for these works separately and independently of printing works from the public in future ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY replied :

264 & 265.—The hon. member may refer to the replies given to similar question asked by Babu Dakshinaranjan Gupta Chaudhuri at this session of the Assembly (*vide* question No. 291).

Harassment to Labourers in tea-gardens of Assam

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

266. Has the attention of Government been drawn to the article under the heading “অগ্নিগণ চা বাগানে শ্রমিক দমন” published in the ‘Jugantar’ dated the 7th Ashar 1345 B. S. (Town edition) ?

267. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Labour please state whether Mr. Peters with two Sub-Inspectors of Police, went to Lalchara tea garden as reported in the ‘Jugantar’ and whether there was any Government instruction to that effect ?

268. Will Government be pleased to state why the Superintendent of Police, Cachar, went to the aforesaid garden with armed constables and whether there was any Government instruction to that effect ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS replied :

266.—Government have seen the article.

267.—This was not the fact. The Subdivisional Officer went to the garden. A force of one platoon of armed police in charge of a *jemadar* was later requisitioned, and was accompanied by the Superintendent of Police. No orders were given by Government, nor were their orders necessary for despatch of the force.

268.—There were no orders of Government on the point. The Superintendent visited the garden because the armed force had been requisitioned to prevent a serious breach of the peace due to the labour force being as reported, completely out of control.

Tours of the Hon'ble Ministers

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

269. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the dates on which each Hon'ble Minister has been on tour since January, 1938 (i) within the province and (ii) outside the province (iii) names of places visited with dates of visit, and (iv) amount of travelling and other allowance of each Hon'ble Minister and his staff separately, place by place, on each occasion ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

269.—A statement is laid on the table.

Statement showing details of tours of Hon'ble Ministers from January to the 15th August 1938

Dates on which each Hon'ble Minister has been on tour since January 1938	(i) Whether within or (ii) outside the Province	(i) Names of places visited on the dates shown in column 1	(iv) Amount of travelling and other allowances drawn by each Hon'ble Minister on each occasion	Amount of travelling and other allowances drawn by his staff on each occasion
1	2	3	4	5
THE HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER				
1st Jan. 1938 to 4th Jan. 1938.	Outside Province.	Calcutta ...	Rs. a. p. Not drawn.	Rs. a. p. 115 0 0
14th Jan. 1938 to 28th Jan. 1938.	Ditto	... Calcutta and Delhi...	539 4 0	335 5 0
13th Mar. 1938 to 18th Mar. 1938.	Within the Province.	Kulsi via Kukurmara, Nalbari, Kamarkuchi.	103 12 0	96 14 0
2nd April 1938 to 12th April 1938.	Ditto	... Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Digboi, Bardubi, Diriah, Tipling, Sibsagar, Jorhat (after visiting Kuar-pur mauza and the Brahmaputra Bund), Kukilamukh, Subansirimukh and Namsubansiri.	281 5 0	316 12 0
27th April 1938 to 6th May 1938.	Ditto	... Sylhet, Churkai, Ka-nairghat, Karimganj, Maulvibazar via Patherkandi and Juri, Habiganj, Bahubal, Shaistaganj, Chunarughat and Madhabpur.	195 1 0	168 10 0
5th June 1938 to 12th June 1938.	Ditto	... Laitlyngkot	Not drawn.	5 12 0
15th June 1938 to 17th June 1938.	Ditto	... Kukrajar	97 12 0	116 12 0
7th Aug. 1938 to 12th Aug. 1938.	Ditto	... Silchar, Hailakandi...	121 0 0	90 13 0

Dates on which each Hon'ble Minister has been on tour since January 1938	(i) Whether within or outside the Province	(ii) (iii) Names of places visited on the dates shown in column 1	(iv) Amount of travelling and other allowances drawn by each Hon'ble Minister on each occasion	Amount of travelling and other allowances drawn by his staff on each occasion
1	2	3	4	5

THE HON'BLE MINISTER, LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

			Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	
15th Jan. 1938 to 2nd Feb. 1938,	Within the Province.	Gauhati, Goalpara, Rangjhuli, Dhubri, Kokrajar, Lakhiganj, Chapaguri, Nalbari, Dhamdhama.	265	4	0	254	15	0	
14th Mar. 1938 to 25th Mar. 1938.	Ditto	... Gauhati, Kamarkuchi, Nalbari, Chamata, Lakhipur, Tura.	215	8	0	268	14	0	
6th April 1938 to 11th April 1938.	Ditto	... Nowgong, Golaghat, Jorhat, Kokilamukh, Subansi r i m u k h, Namsubansiri.	174	0	0	170	6	0	
27th April 1938 to 6th May 1938.	Ditto	... Mangaldai, Gauhati, Dharamtul, Silghat, Jorhat, Kokilamukh, Kamalabari, North-Lakhimpur, Narayanpur, Dulungamukh, Jogi road.	238	6	0	277	1	0	
16th May 1938 to 25th May 1938.	Ditto	... Karimganj, Maulvi-bazar <i>via</i> Patherkan-di, Srimangal, Habiganj.	182	12	0	157	9	0	
15th June 1938 to 17th June 1938.	Ditto	... Kokrajar	...	92	12	0	116	12	0
11th July 1938 to 18th July 1938.	Ditto	... Jowai	...	64	14	0	39	2	0
4th Aug. 1938 to 11th Aug. 1938.	Ditto	... Nowgong, Jorhat, Dergoan, Majuli, Kamalabari, Sibsagar, Desangmukh, Mairabari.	201	0	0	152	14	0	

Dates on which each Hon'ble Minister has been on tour since January 1938	(i) Whether within or (ii) outside the Province	(iii) Names of places visited on the dates shown in column 1	(iv) Amount of travelling and other allowances drawn by each Hon'ble Minister on each occasion	Amount of travelling and other allowances drawn by his staff on each occasion
1	2	3	4	5
THE HON'BLE MINISTER, REVENUE				
9th Jan. 1938 to 12th Jan. 1938.	Within the Province.	the Sylhet, Silampur, Dakadakhin.	Rs. a. p. 74 0 0	Rs. a. p. 127 6 0
15th Jan. 1938 to 21st Jan. 1938.	Ditto	... Gauhati, Jorhat, Sibsagar, Golaghat.	170 5 0	174 7 0
24th Jan. 1938 to 26th Jan. 1938.	Ditto	... Gauhati ...	49 0 0	47 12 0
13th Mar. 1938 to 21st Mar. 1938.	Ditto	... Gauhati, Kulsi, Kurmara, Palashbari, Kamarkuchi, Chamatata, Nalbari, Mangaldai, Dalgaon and Harisinga Reserve.	165 8 0	138 14 0
1st April 1938 to 7th April 1938.	Ditto	... Dibrugarh, Bordubi, Tipling, Diriah, Gauhati.	205 12 0	215 7 0
18th April 1938 to 23rd April 1938.	Ditto	... Goalpara ...	104 8 0	} 246 6 0
27th April 1938 to 30th April 1938.	Ditto	... Kokrajar, Haltugaon, Bishmuri, Gurubhasa, Roha, Chaparmukh and Barpuja.	135 4 0	
30th May 1938 to 1st June 1938.	Ditto	... Gauhati ...	Not drawn.	48 0 0
13th July 1938 to 17th July 1938.	Ditto	... Dhubri, Patakata, South Salmara, Fakirganj, Jemadarhat.	132 10 0	137 14 0

Dates on which each Hon'ble Minister has been on tour since January 1938	(i) Whether within or (ii) outside the Province	(iii) Names of places visited on the dates shown in column 1	(iv) Amount of travelling and other allowances drawn by each Hon'ble Minister on each occasion	Amount of travelling and other allowances drawn by his staff on each occasion
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THE HON'BLE MINISTER OF EDUCATION

				Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
14th Jan. 1938 to 1st Feb. 1938.	Within the Province.	Sylhet, Sunamganj, Kulaura, Maulvibazar, Gauhati, Goalpara, Dhubri, Sorbhug via Bagri-bari, Nalbari via Chakla.	314 0 0	186 1 0	
8th Mar. 1938 to 20th Mar. 1938.	Ditto	... Sylhet, Sunamganj, Jagannathpur, Kalakolia, Jagadishpur.	147 0 0	117 2 0	
5th April 1938 to 20th April 1938.	Ditto	... Sylhet, Karimganj, Nilambazar, Patherkandi, Gangajal, Badarpur, Bhaturali, Silchar, Hailakandi.	156 12 0	112 13 0	
25th April 1938 to 7th May 1938.	Ditto	... Gauhati, Sylhet, Kuchai, Bishanath, Kanairghat, Karimganj, Mathiura, Maulvibazar via Patherkandi, Habiganj, Bahubal, Chunarughat, Madhabpur, Nabiganj, Rajnagar, Kulaura.	274 4 0	293 3 0	
24th June 1938	Ditto	... Mawngap...	6 8 0	4 14 0	
26th June 1938 to 28th June 1938.	Ditto	... Sylhet ...	60 8 0	26 8 0	
14th July 1938 to 17th July 1938.	Ditto	... Dhubri, South Patakata, Fakirganj, Salmara,	118 12 0	136 8 0	
9th Aug. 1938 to 11th Aug. 1938.	Ditto	... Sylhet ...	60 8 0	34 8 0	

Dates on which each Hon'ble Minister has been on tour since January 1938	(i) Wh ther within or (ii) outside the Province	(iii) Names of places visited on the dates shown in column 1	(iv) Amount of travelling and other allowances drawn by each Hon'ble Minister on each occasion	Amount of travelling and other allowances drawn by his staff on each occasion
1	2	3	4	5

THE HON'BLE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
14th Jan. 1938 to 2nd Feb. 1938.	Within the Province.	Sylhet, Karimganj, Silchar, Hailakandi, Chandrapur, Pritthimpassa, Patherkandi, Chankira, Juri, Kulaura.	158 15 0	138 5 0
5th Feb. 1938 to 11th Feb. 1938.	Ditto ...	Sylhet, Arampur, Nowgong, Udanluta.	152 0 0	96 6 0
7th Mar. 1938 to 18th Mar. 1938.	Outside the Province.	New Delhi...	475 2 0	348 12 0
3rd April 1938 to 12th April 1938.	Within the Province.	Sylhet, Karimganj, Nilambazar, Patherkandi, Gangajal, Badarpur, Silchar, Lakhipur, Dhalupara, Maherpur, Atal, Phakirtia, Lidhup, Hailakandi, Chandrapur, Lalabazar.	191 12 0	116 12 0
27th April 1938 to 7th May 1938.	Ditto ...	Sylhet, Kanairghat, Shewla, Purba Panchakhanda, Karimganj, Mathiura, Akhakhajna, Maulvibazar via Patherkandi and Kulaura, Rajnagar, Habiganj via Srimangal, Bahubal, Chunarughat, Madhabpur, Nabiganj.	219 14 0	204 6 0

Dates on which each Hon'ble Minister has been on tour since January 1938	(i) Whether within or (ii) outside the Province	(iii) Names of places visited on the dates shown in column 1	(iv) Amount of travelling and other allowances drawn by each Hon'ble Minister on each occasion	Amount of travelling and other allowances drawn by his staff on each occasion
1	2	3	4	5
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
16th May 1938	Within the Province.	Khanapara	... 31 8 0	Nil.
22nd May 1938 to 26th May 1938.	Ditto	... Jorhat, via Kukilamukh, Barbheta, Mariani, Tatigaon, Barpathar via Golaghat, Dhandugaon Reserve, Naharani and Nowgong.	187 8 0	210 8 0
30th June 1938 to 10th July 1938.	Within and outside the Province.	Jorhat, Digboi and Dibrugarh Simla.	via 748 0 0	533 4 0
15th July 1938 to 21st July 1938.	Within the Province.	Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Digboi, Nowgong.	276 2 0	209 4 0
2nd Aug. 1938 to 6th Aug. 1938.	Ditto	... Goalpara, Lakhipur, Chunari, Tulsipari, Jhaleswar, Abhayapuri.	133 12 0	142 13 0

THE HON'BLE MINISTER FOR GENERAL DEPARTMENTS

16th April 1938 to 25th April 1938.	Within the Province.	Gauhati, Bijni, Bilashipara, Dhubri, Goalpara.	166 8 0	154 2 0
9th July 1938 to 13th July 1938.	Ditto	... Nowgong ...	96 8 0	97 2 0
16th July 1938 to 22nd July 1938.	Ditto	... Sunamganj	97 0 0	79 12 0
31st July 1938 to 2nd Aug. 1938.	Ditto	... Gauhati ...	49 0 0	47 12 0

Tornado of last March in the Dibrugarh Subdivision

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH asked :

270. Will the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister be pleased to state the number of villages affected by the terrible tornado that devastated Tipling Kheramia and Sassani mouzas of Dibrugarh Subdivision in last March ?

271. Will the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister be pleased to state the number of (a) deaths

(b) injured and

(c) families whose dwelling houses with belongings and granaries blown away by the tornado ?

272. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the amount spent by Government in the shape of gratuitous relief or other relief ?

273. Is it a fact that the relief afforded was not adequate ?

274. (a) Is it a fact that there was and is a demand for further relief ?

(b) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the demand of the distressed people was enquired into and met ?

275. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state (a) whether Government has granted remission of land revenue for the current year to the distressed people ?

(b) If so, to what extent in each mauza ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

270.—Some fifteen villages were seriously affected.

271. (a)—33.

(b)—48.

(c)—The number of families whose dwelling houses with belongings and granaries were blown away is not available. The number of families affected by the tornado is 392.

272.—The total amount spent from public revenues is Rs.1,246. In addition, rice, potato, thatch and cash for purchase of seeds were received from private donors and distributed.

273.—No.

274. (a)—Government have no information and have not received any complaint to this effect.

(b)—Does not arise.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH : Will the Hon'ble Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether the Deputy Commissioner received any complaint from the *raiya*ts of Karimia mauza asking for more relief ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI * : Government have received no complaint from any quarter.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH : Will the Hon'ble Minister take it from me that the *raiya*ts of this mauza sent a copy of a resolution passed at a general meeting to the Deputy Commissioner demanding more relief ? May I ask the Hon'ble Minister if he will enquire from the Deputy Commissioner whether they actually demanded more relief, and whether the Deputy Commissioner enquired into their demand ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : To whom was the representation addressed ?

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH : A copy of the resolution of the public meeting was sent to me and also, I understand, to the Deputy Commissioner, and my question is whether the Hon'ble Minister will please make an enquiry as to whether the Deputy Commissioner received any application or request for further relief from the *raiya*ts of this mauza ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI* : I do not see what useful purpose will be served by making an enquiry now. The resolution was passed long ago and the people have not sent a representation to Government. Had there been any grievance they would certainly have represented the matter to Government.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH : But they approached the Government through the Deputy Commissioner.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : There was no complaint to the Government. If any grievance existed at the time, they would certainly have approached the Government.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

275.(a)&(b)—Government have no information if any remission of land revenue has actually been granted. In this connection the hon. member is referred to rule 112 at page 184 of the Land Revenue Manual, which governs such cases.

Amount spent by Government in book-binding, etc.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

276. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing year by year and district by district the amount spent by all Government Departments in binding books, proceedings, files, reports and other Government records and making files, during the last two financial years ?

277. Will Government be pleased to state through what agency the aforesaid works are done ?

278. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government invite any tender for the aforesaid works from the public ?

(b) If not, do Government propose to consider the question of inviting tenders for those works separately and independent of any Printing concern, from the public in future ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

276-278—The hon. member may refer to the replies given to similar questions asked by Babu Dakshinaranjan Gupta Chaudhuri at this session of the Assembly (*vide* question No.291).

Strength of the staff of the Munsiff's Court, Karimganj

Maulavi MABARAK ALI asked :

279. (a) With reference to reply to question No.208, asked by me in the February-March Session, 1938, of the Assembly, will Government be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken by Government to increase the strength of the permanent staff of the Munsiff's Court, Karimganj ?

(b) If not, why not ?

280. (a) Are Government aware of the fact that there is a circular issued by the Hon'ble High Court prescribing the standard of work to be done by Civil Court Officers ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether the circular has been followed in case of the officers of the Karimganj Munsiff's Court ?

(c) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

279. (a)—No permanent addition has been made, but a Sheristadar and a Pashkar has been appointed in connection with the posting of an additional Munsiff to Karimganj in June last.

(b)—Government have not been moved for a permanent addition.

280. (a)—Government are not aware of any such circular.

(b) and (c)—Do not arise.

Details of defalcations by Mauzadars

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

281. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The details of defalcations by Mauzadars of the Province in respect of Government Revenue collected by them during the last three years ?

(b) Whether there is any check exercised by any Government officer over accounts maintained by the Mauzadars ?

(c) If so, what steps have been taken against officers for their failure to prevent such defalcation ?

(d) Whether the amounts defalcated were recovered in full from the Mauzadars responsible for such defalcation in every case ?

(e) If not, whether the unrecovered amount have been realised from the officers through whose negligence such defalcations were possible ?

(f) Are any cash securities to indemnify Government against possible losses taken from Mauzadars ?

(g) If so, how is the sufficiency of a security in each individual case determined ?

(h) If not, why not ?

(i) Has Government considered the desirability of substituting the present system of control and check on the Mauzadars by placing them under the check of the Local Audit Department ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

281. (a) and (d)—A statement is laid on the table compiled from reports received by Government showing the defalcations, recoveries and amounts written off in cases where final reports have been received.

Statement showing the defalcations of Mauzadars for the years 1934-35 to 1936-37

Mauzadars		Amount mis- appropriated	Amount recovered	Amount writ- ten off	Remarks
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
1. Mauzadar of Namborbhog, Kamrup.		7,641-15-0	7,641-15-0	...	Reported in June 1935.
2. Mauzadar of Borbangsar, Kamrup.		5,000-0-0	5,000-0-0	...	Reported in June 1935.
3. Mauzadar of Sakomotha, Darrang.		12,730-5-0	2,924-12-0	9,805-9-0 sanctioned in 6-4-1938.	Reported in September 1935.
4. Mauzadar of Chilabandha, Darrang.		20,000-0-0	...	...	Reported in February 1936. Final report not received yet.
5. Mauzadar of Pakhimoria, Nowgong.		5,375-5-3	5,375-5-3	...	Reported in May 1935.
6. Mauzadar of Kondoli, Nowgong.		4,445-3-0	4,445-3-0	...	Reported in July 1936.
7. Mauzadar of Kathiatoli, Nowgong.		2,086-0 0	2,086-0-0	...	Reported in 1936. Re-instated.
8. Mauzadar of Chalchali, Nowgong.		8,978-6-0	8,978-6-0	...	Reported in November 1935.
9. Mauzadar of Boko, Kamrup.		3,280-12-0	2,016-1-6	1,264-10-6 sanctioned on 27-4-1937.	Reported in September 1935.
10. Mauzadar of Paschimborigog, Kamrup.		2,402-0-3	1,810-3-0	...	Reported in June 1936. Balance Rs.591-13-3.

Mauzadars	Amount mis- appropriated	Amount re- covered	Amount writ- ten off	Remarks
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
11. Mauzadar of Paschimbaska, Kamrup.	4,069-6-0	3,215-15-0	...	Reported in May 1936. Final report not received yet.
12. Mauzadar of Gadhulibazar, Sibsagar.	20,466-4-6	2,402-2-0	17,924-4-6 sanctioned on 28-4- 1937.	Reported in January 1935.
13. Mauzadar of Nazira, Sibs- gar.	5,929-10-0	2,534-9-0	...	Balance Rs.3,395-1-0. Rep o r t e d in Febru- ary 1935. Final report not received yet.
14. Mauzadar of Khaloighog r a, Sibsagar.	14,662-14-0	200-12-0	...	Reported in Nove m b e r 1934. Final report not received yet.
15. Mauzadar of Nitai, Pukhuri and Panidehing, Sibsagar.	25,312-9-0	9,228-4-0	16,084-4-0 sanctioned on 21-8- 1936.	Reported in July 1936 Occurred be- fore 1932-33.
16. Mauzadar of Hatigarh Sibs- gar.	2,328-0-0	...	...	Reported in 1936. Occur- red in 1932- 33.
17. Mauzadar of Sissi, Lakhim- pur.	2,602-2-9	2,035-8-0	566-10-9 sanctioned on 20-5- 1938.	Reported in September 1936.

Mauzadars	Amount mis-appropriated	Amount recovered	Amount written off	Remarks
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
18. Mauzadar of Madarkhat, Lakhimpur.	9,000-0-0	5,191-6-6	...	Balance Rs.3,808-9-6. Reported in June 1937. Final report not received yet.
19. Mauzadar of Moran, Lakhimpur.	4,061-4-0	4,061-4-0	...	Reported in August 1937.
20. Mauzadar of Lahing, Sibsagar.	2,630-3-0	2,630-3-0	...	Reported in August 1937.
21. Mauzadar of Paka, Kamrup.	6,971-15-0	...	...	Reported in April 1937. Final report not received yet.
22. Mauzadar of Pubbojali, Kamrup.	2,914-6-6	...	...	Reported in April 1937. Final report not received yet.

(b)—Both Deputy Commissioners and Sub-Deputy Collectors examine the accounts of Mauzadars in course of their tours but they have no time to scrutinise all entries in the numerous registers. Collections are also watched in Mauzadars' weekly returns.

(c)—These officers are not responsible for complete audit and cannot be taken to task if Mauzadars misappropriate their collections. Where collections are concealed and books are falsified, only a full audit could expose the embezzlement and this would not prevent its happening.

(e)—No. The defalcations were not due to negligence by Government officers but to dishonesty on the part of mauzadars. Government officers cannot be compelled to assume responsibility for the honesty of Mauzadars.

(f) and (g)—The hon. member's attention is invited to rule 119 at page 187 of the Land Revenue Manual and rules 295 and 300 of the Executive Manual prescribing the method of testing security which is usually in landed property. Cash security is rarely available.

- (h)—Does not arise.
 (i)—No. This is outside the scope of the Local Audit Department whose functions are statutory. The accounts of Mauzadars are in the nature of private accounts. The cost of auditing them would be enormous and, as mentioned above, this would not stop defalcations, but only expose them: it would also interfere considerably with collection work.

Grazing reserves in the Mangaldai Subdivision

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED asked :

282. Will Government be pleased to state—
 (a) The number of grazing reserves in the different Mauzas in the Mangaldai subdivision ?
 (b) The names and area of each of such grazing reserves ?
 283. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state—
 (a) Whether there are any objection petitions against the assessment of the grazing tax by the graziers in the year 1938-39 in the Mangaldai subdivision ?
 (b) The number of such objection petitions ?
 (c) Who submitted those objection petitions ?
 (d) Whether all the petitions have since been disposed of ?
 (e) If so, how long they took for such disposal ?
 (f) The number of objection petitions rejected and the grounds for rejecting them ?
 284. Will Government be pleased to state—
 (a) If an immigrant, holding a domiciled certificate, is eligible as an indigenous person to be settled with waste land ?
 (b) If the reply to the above question is in the negative, will Government be pleased to state the grounds ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

- 282.(a)—There are ten professional grazing reserves in Mangaldai Sub-division.
 (b)—The names and the area of the professional grazing reserves are:—

Name of Mauza	Name of reserves	Area
Maji Kuchi	Rawmari	B. k. l.
Kalaigaon ...	Dalangghat ...	830 2 17
Dakua ...	Kukurakata ...	1,440 4 8
Ambagaon ...	Amguri ...	1,961 2 11
Rangamati ...	Baghpuri-Missamari-Khupori and Hatipori.	1,609 4 19
	Chaulkhôa...	6,800 0 0
Sipajhar ...	Bodeti ...	3,000 0 0
Sialmari ...	Kirakata ...	2,500 0 0
Samabari ...	Chitalmari ...	1,200 0 0
	Panbarihabi-Gulandhihahi and Gulandi Bagan,	4,000 0 0
		4,653 3 9

283. (a)—Yes.

(b)—120 upto 3rd August 1938.

(c)—109 from Assamese cultivators and 11 from Nepalis.

(d)—No. Except 8, the rest are under enquiry.

(e)—Those which could be summarily dealt with have been disposed ; the rest have to await report from Mauzadars, Mohsirdars and Grazing Superintendent.

(f)—None.

284. (a) and (b)—The reply is in the negative. The domicile certificate is intended to operate in respect of securing employment in Government services only. Its extension to cover equal rights in other directions is under consideration.

Contract for Doomdooa bridge

Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS asked :

285. Will Government be pleased to state the name of the party who has been given the contract for constructing the Doomdooa Bridge ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

285.—Messrs. P. Chakravarty and Company, Comilla.

Rate of toll on the Dikhow bridge

Srijut SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA asked :

286. Will Government be pleased to state whether Government have taken steps to reduce the rate of toll on the Dikhow Bridge ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

286.—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to starred question No.53(b) asked by Srijut Bhuban Chandra Gagoi, M.L.A., during the current session of the Assembly.

Schedule of rates of original and annual repair works of the Public Works Department

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

287. Will Government be pleased to state how the schedule of rates are prepared from time to time for making estimates both for original and annual repair works of the Public Works Department ?

288. Will Government be pleased to state how the lowest rates are determined on the schedule of rates while accepting tenders from Contractors for works both original and annual repairs ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

287.—Schedule of rates are prepared from analysis of the work done from time to time, as required by paragraph 366 of the Public Works Account Code.

288.—The question is not understood. Lowest tenders are found by comparative statements.

Specifications of works for Public Works Department

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

289. Will Government be pleased to state how the specifications of works as published in a book form for the use of the Public Works Department and other departments were made ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

289.—The specifications were prepared after consulting senior officers of the Public Works Department and after referring to books on Engineering with special regard to conditions obtaining in Assam.

Public Accounts Committee

Babu KARUNA SINDHU RAY asked :

290. Will Government be pleased to state why the Public Accounts Committee has not been summoned for a single time though it has been elected twice during the life time of the present Assembly ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

290.—The Public Accounts Committees of the new Legislatures have no jurisdiction to deal with accounts of the former Government, hence it was not necessary to summon a meeting of the said Committees until the accounts for the year 1937-38 are ready for scrutiny.

Amount spent by Government in book binding, etc.

Babu DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI asked :

291. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The total amount of money spent by Government in book binding and flat and loose file making works during the last two years, year by year, in each district ?
- (b) The Agency through which such works are done ?
- (c) Whether Government invite any tender for these works ?
- (d) If not, do Government propose to consider the question of inviting tender for such works from the general public, in future ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

291. (a)—Government have called for the figures for book binding charges, which will take some time to collect. It is not clear to what the hon. member refers in the expression "flat and loose file making works." If this means file boards and file covers, these are provided under provincial arrangements, the cost being as follows :—

	File boards			File covers		
	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
1936-37	6,985	0	0	1,891	0	0
1937-38	6,120	0	0	1,491	0	0

It is regretted that the cost according to districts is not available.

(b)—The present contractors for file boards and file covers are the Bani Press, Sylhet.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Does not arise.

Printing of certain forms, notices, summons etc., in Assamese

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

292. Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department aware :—

- (a) That notices, summonses, *parwanas*, declarations and many other forms used in Government Offices and Courts in the Assam Valley are not printed in Assamese but those printed in Bengali are used ?
- (b) That this practice causes hardship to the Assamese villagers who do not understand Bengali properly ?
- (c) If so, do Government propose to pass orders that such notices and forms, etc., for use in the Assam Valley must be printed in Assamese ?

293. (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Law and Order aware that in most of the vernacular notices, summonses and orders etc., issued from Government Offices and Courts, addressees are addressed as *ভূমি* instead of as *স্বামী* ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to discontinue this practice and direct that the word *স্বামী* be used instead of the word *ভূমি* in such notices and summonses, etc. ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

292. (a)—Yes. But it has already been decided to print in Assamese those High Court (Civil) forms which are required to be used in vernacular, and the High Court has been asked to send samples for them.

(b) and (c)—The Commissioner, Assam Valley Division is also being asked to submit a list of Criminal and Revenue forms which in his opinion should be printed in Assamese.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : May I ask the Hon'ble Minister what is the reason for getting the opinion of the Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, in selecting the forms which are to be printed in Assamese ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI* : Those forms which are to be printed in Assamese will be printed in Assamese. We have only asked the Commissioner for details.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : The Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, has been asked to submit a list of the forms which in his opinion should be printed in Assamese.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI* : I have already said that those forms which are required to be printed in Assamese will be printed in Assamese. That was the answer also given by the Hon'ble Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri when he was in charge of the department.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR* : All the forms that are used in the Assam Valley ought to be printed in Assamese, and there was no necessity of taking the opinion of the Commissioner to give a list of the forms which in his opinion should be printed in Assamese.

*Speech not corrected.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHUDHURI*: We had to ask for the Commissioner's opinion because some of the forms are required in such small quantities that it may not require reprinting.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR*: Does the decision lie with the Commissioner?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: The decision lies with Government.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR*: May we not demand that all the forms that are used in the Assam Valley, big or small, should be printed in Assamese?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI*: That assurance has already been given, but we thought that we could do without printing the forms in Assamese which were not used in large quantities, but the principle has been accepted and efforts are being made to give effect to it.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR*: Will Government give effect to this principle in its entirety?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI*: Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied:

293. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The alteration has already been made in some of the High Court forms. Steps are being taken to introduce the change in the new stock of other vernacular forms.

Witness shed in Karimganj Court: Magistrates in the Karimganj Subdivision

Maulavi MABARAK ALI asked:

294. Are Government aware of the fact that the litigant public of the Karimganj Subdivision suffer for want of a witness shed in the Civil Court, Karimganj?

295. (a) Do Government propose to construct a witness shed to redress the grievances of the public?

(b) If not, why not?

296. Will Government be pleased to state:—

(a) The number of Criminal Courts in the Karimganj Subdivision?

(b) Whether they have sufficient works, justifying their retention at Karimganj?

297. Will Government be pleased to state:—

(a) Whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the article headed “কৰিমগঞ্জৰ কৃষকেৰে অৱস্থা—কংগ্ৰেস এম, এল,এৰ বিবৃতি—” in the fortnightly journal ‘Pallibani’ of the 21st June, 1938?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken by Government to remedy the evils if any practised by the trying Magistrates of Karimganj as alleged in the article?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied:

294.—Government have received no such report.

295. (a) and (b)—It is understood that there is a witness shed in the compound of the Civil Court at Karimganj. An enquiry is being made from the Subdivisional Officer whether the accommodation is inadequate.

296. (a)—There are two whole-time and two part-time courts besides one Honorary Magistrate sitting singly and a Bench of three Honorary Magistrates.

(b)—Yes.

297. (a)—Yes.

(b)—It does not appear from the article that any action is called for against the trying Magistrates.

Damage to Halir Haor and other Haors in Sylhet due to flood

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI asked :

298. Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the *Boro* crops of Halir Haor, Dhankunia Haor and Pangna Haor under the Police Station Dharmapassa in the district of Sylhet were damaged by the early March flood this year ?

299. If the answer to question No. 298 is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state :—

(a) The extent of damage done by the said flood ?

(b) Whether any member of the Legislative Assembly requested the Hon'ble Chief Minister and the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister to visit the affected area ?

(c) Whether any member of the Cabinet visited the locality or not ?

(d) If not, why not ?

(e) Whether any relief was given to the affected people ?

(f) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

298 & 299. (a), (e) and (f)—It has been reported to Government after local enquiry that out of 1,00,000 *hals* of land in which *Buro* crop is grown in the Dharmapassa Police Station, only 1,000 *hals* have been more or less damaged. No relief has been given as the local officers after careful enquiry were of opinion that no relief was necessary.

(b)—Yes, the hon. questioner wrote to Hon'ble Chief Minister to visit the locality personally or failing that, to send Hon'ble Minister (Agriculture).

(c)—Yes, Hon'ble Minister (Agriculture) visited the area about the middle of July last.

(d)—Does not arise.

Resolution from Assam Gaonbura Sanmilan

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

300. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they have received a copy of the resolution passed in the second anniversary meeting of the Assam Gaonbura Sanmilan held on the 29th May 1938 at Nowgong, under the presidency of Srijut Bishnu Charan Bora ?

- (b) If so will Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, they have taken to remove the legitimate grievances of the Gaonbura as contained in the resolutions?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

300. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The Secretary of the Association has been informed on 19th July 1938 that the resolutions which are not mere repetitions of previous ones or already considered by Government are under the consideration of Government.

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA : Will the Hon'ble Minister please state the resolutions which are still under the consideration of the Government?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : The reply is already there. I would refer the hon. member to reply to question 300(b).

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA : Will the Hon'ble Minister please state what specific resolutions are under the consideration of Government?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : For that I will require notice. If the hon. member puts a specific question I will give a reply.

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA : Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the decisions and recommendations of the Government are likely to be arrived at?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : I am not in a position to foretell, but I think as soon as the reports come.

Establishment of a dispensary at Pailgaon

Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURY asked :

301. Is it a fact that a petition dated the 29th December 1937 signed by the inhabitants of villages Pailgaon, Kanchanpur, Harihardas, Haragram, Sadhusadhak, Katia, Bagmayna, Terautia, Alagdi, Gandharbapur, etc., etc., in the subdivision of Sunamganj, district Sylhet, was submitted to Government for the establishment of a dispensary at Pailgaon?

302. Is it a fact that the Hon'ble Minister of Local Self-Government in his letter to the petitioners dated the 21st January, 1938, replied that "The matter is entirely for the Local Board to deal with and the Government have nothing to do with it"?

303. Is it a fact that the entire capital expenditure amounting to Rs.6,000 plus the free gift of land for the proposed dispensary has been guaranteed by the questioner himself and that the Board was only to maintain it?

304. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether any dispensary in the rural areas in Assam is being maintained from the provincial funds at present?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state why they will not take up this dispensary also?

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

301.—Only a copy of the petition addressed to the Chairman, Local Board, Sunamganj, was submitted.

302.—Yes.

303.—It appeared to be so from the copy of the petition received.

304. (a)—None except the Public Health Department and some of the Departmental Dispensaries in the plains districts.

(b)—Does not arise.

Percentage of posts held by various communities

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

305. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The principle according to which the number and percentage of posts held by various communities in the public services in Assam have been fixed as shown in form No.82(new), 112(old)?
- (b) Why the Hindus have been split up valley by valley whereas no such division has been shown in the case of Muslims, Scheduled Castes, Domiciled Hindus and Tribal people?
- (c) Why a separate class as Domiciled Hindus has been created whereas there is no such class as Domiciled Muslims?
- (d) Why *ex-coolies* of tea gardens have been excluded from Hindus?
- (e) What communities are covered by the class "Others"?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

305.(a)—On the basis of the population of the more important distinct communities.

(b)—It was long considered that the Muhammadan community should of its own wish be treated as a single entity. Demands have however recently been voiced by the Muhammadans of either valley, the Scheduled Castes of either valley and the Tribal people of the plains, that they should have separate recognition. Government are studying the means of giving effect to these demands.

(c)—The domiciled Hindus have been separately recognized because in matter of language and social custom they form a distinct community from the indigenous peoples of the Province and have on several occasions urged such recognition. There is no such clear-cut distinction between the indigenous and domiciled Muslims.

(d)—The tea garden labour people not living in the gardens who reported themselves as Hindus during last census have not been excluded from the Hindus.

(e)—The labour population of the tea gardens, Indian Christians, Buddhists, Hindus residing in the Naga, Lushai and Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Sikhs, and various minor elements which do not fall within items 1 to 7 of the statement.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN*: I am going to rise for a point of order, Sir, and ask for your ruling. I find in the *Hindustan Times* of yesterday that these questions and answers have already been published there. We want to know from you whether it is permissible to publish this without the questions being put here.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member will please remember the ruling that I gave in one of the last sessions with regard to the

* Speech not corrected

unstarred questions that when the answers are laid down on the table the questions are considered to have been answered. It is only for putting supplementary questions that they are taken up from day to day are called out. That is done to give opportunities to put supplementary questions arising out of the answers given. Of course when the answers are laid on the table they are taken as being in possession of the Members.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI :* When the answers are on the table of the Members may we not take it as put ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : As soon as the answers to unstarred questions are put on the table they are taken as put.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : Is it not then open to the members to put supplementaries ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : In regard to that I have made it a principle that the member in whose name the question stand should remain present in the House. Of course, the member putting the question has got the first right to put the supplementaries and when one or two members stand up in addition to the member putting the question hon. members might have noticed that I call upon the questioner first to put his supplementaries. That principle I have drawn from the analogy of the rule that when a member remains absent in regard to starred questions those questions are not called. That is for the convenience of the House and also for the purpose of ensuring the presence of all the members at the time when questions are called out.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR* : With respect to unstarred questions, the presence of the questioner, I think, should not be insisted upon. Because the questions are supposed to be answered here. In case of the starred questions, if the questioner is absent the question is not answered at all. In the other case, however, they are answered and I think, Sir, that any other member that likes to ask supplementaries should be allowed to do so. I think probably, Sir, it would be better if the Members are given an opportunity to put further questions as long as the questions are held to put and answered, when the answers are laid on the table.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : With regard to unstarred question, hon. members would have noticed that I do not call out the questions where the questioner is absent. As I have already explained, his presence is necessary in order to give a right to the other members. I myself consider it to be his duty, I mean duty to the House, and to the other members. If the hon. members desire it, I may consider the question again. But at present I am not advised to relax the rule I have followed.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : May we request you to kindly reconsider the matter, Sir.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA : Does the Hon'ble Chief Minister think that the Punjabees, Nepalese, Marwaries and Bengalees, etc., all these form one community ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Does the question relate to the domiciled Hindus ?

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA : Yes, it relates to answers to (c).

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : From the answer it will be seen that the domiciled Hindus have been separately recognised because in matter of language and social custom they form a distinct community.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA : Does the Hon'ble Chief Minister believe that they have a common language and social custom ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: No, Sir. But the numbers of the separate entities are so small that they cannot be put into separate distinct groups. As the hon. member may find in reply to (c), the small groups such as the Indian Christians, Buddhist, Hindus residing in the Naga, Lushai and Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Sikhs have been lumped in one column which is known as "others".

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Is it not a fact that some of these communities, the domiciled people are more akin in their language and customs to the Assamese or Bengalees than the Marwaries and Punjabees?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am not aware of that.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: The reply I find is "There is no such clear-cut distinction between the indigenous and domiciled Muslims". Why is this difference so far as the Hindus are concerned?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have already answered that.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: May I ask in this connection whether the Sikh community who have adopted Assamese as their language are treated as Assamese or as emigrants?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: My hon. friend has tabled a series of questions on the point and they will be replied to later on. But I can tell him that if he is referring to the Sikh community who have settled down for the last 100 years at Nowgong and who for all intents and purposes adopted the Assamese language, they are Assamese.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Does not the Hon'ble Chief Minister know that the domiciled Bengalee Hindu is more akin to a Sylheti Hindu than to a Punjabi or a Marwari?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: As my hon. friend knows Hindus of the two valleys are shown separately. The Hindu domiciled in the Assam Valley although he may be speaking the same language as a Sylhet Hindu would not be shown as Sylheti because he is resident in the Assam Valley.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: With reference to (b), it has been said "It was long considered that the Muhammadan community should of its own wish be treated as a single entity. Demands have however recently been voiced by the Muhammadans of either valley, the Scheduled castes of either valley, and the Tribal people of the plains that they should have separate recognition. Government are studying the means of giving effect to these demands". May I know from the Hon'ble Chief Minister whether the Government is considering the question as early as possible?

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

Staff for educating fruit-growers in the methods of fruit preservation, canning, etc.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked:

306. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the province of Assam is well-known as a producer of huge quantities of oranges, pine-apples and other saleable fruits?

- (b) Whether it is a fact that for want of knowledge of the art of canning and methods of preservation, fruit-growers are forced to dispose of their produce at nominal prices and are further handicapped by the shortness of the fruit season ?
- (c) Whether there is any staff competent to educate fruit-growers in the methods of fruit-preservation, canning, etc. ?
- (d) If not, do Government propose to give necessary training to some young men and retain their services under the Department of Agriculture ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

306. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes, the producers are forced to dispose of their fruits as quickly as possible as there are no canning or preserving industries. Steps have however been taken to dispose of pine-apples at Calcutta at a better price and it may be continued for oranges also if the pine-apple scheme proves successful.

(c)—No.

(d)—The point raised will be considered.

Lands under the Karaibari estates

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

307. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government are aware that the lands under the Karaibari estates in Goalpara have deteriorated due to earthquake ?

(b) Whether Government are aware that rupees 3 to 6 per *bigha* as rent and local rates upto two and half annas per rupee, are realised from the cultivating *raiya*s of the affected areas of the Karaibari estate to their extreme hardships ?

308. Are Government aware that Kalapani within the Karaibari estate is a malarial place and has no road or dispensary ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

307. (a)—It is admitted that the lands deteriorated at the time of the earthquake but there has been gradual recoupment during the last seven years by silt deposit.

(b)—The Zeminders realise from annas 14 to Re.1-8 for agricultural land and Rs.3 to Rs.5 per *bigha* for homestead lands as rent, and anna 1-3 as local rate per rupee. The *Jotedars* realise generally from their under-tenants double the rates of the Zeminders as rent. One *bigha* of the *Perganah* is equivalent to 1 *bigha* 17 *khatha* 13 *chattaks* in standard measurement and there is no difference between the Zeminders' *bigha* and the *Jotedars*' *bigha*. If calculated in standard measurement, the rate of rent to the *Jotedars* is annas 7-6 and annas 12-9 per *bigha* in respect of agricultural lands.

308.—There is no Local Board road to Kalapani from Diara or Mankachar and there is no dispensary also. The nearest dispensary is at Mankachar which is about 6 miles away. It is reported to be fairly malarial.

Co-operative Societies under orders of liquidation

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

309. Are Government aware that disaffection prevails amongst the people of the Dhubri South Bank owing to the fact that a large number of Co-operative Societies of the areas, under the Central Bank, Dhubri, are under orders of liquidation ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

309.—It is a fact that there are some societies at present under process of liquidation in the Dhubri South Bank and several petitions from members of some of those societies praying for remission of their individual dues have been disposed of according to the merit of each case. It is neither unnatural nor unusual for the members of those societies to be dissatisfied when they are called upon to pay their respective quota of contribution for liquidation of the society's debt. But it is not a fact that dissatisfaction prevails generally amongst the people of the South Bank where 10 new societies have been started after 16th November 1936 against only 2 in the North Bank and as a matter of fact the demand for more societies in that locality could not be met on account of the cautious policy pursued by the Department mainly for want of suitable financing agency.

Restoration of the Executive Engineer's office at Golaghat

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

310. (a) Are Government aware of the demand of the public of Golaghat for the restoration of the Executive Engineer's office at Golaghat ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to shift the same to Golaghat ?

(c) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

310. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No.

(c)—The transfer was on grounds of economy and a restoration will be expensive.

Diversion road near Earle Bridge, Karimganj

Khan Bahadur Hazi ABDUL MAJID CHAUDHURY asked :

311. Will Government be pleased to state when the work of the proposed diversion road from Karimganj Earle Bridge towards the Railway Station in the Karimganj subdivision, district Sylhet, will be taken in hand ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

311.—It is anticipated the work will be put in hand this cold weather.

Money suits filed in the munsifs' courts in Hailakandi and Silchar

Maulavi MUZARROF ALI LASKAR asked :

312. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The total number of money suits filed in the munsifs' courts at Hailakandi and Silchar separately during the period from December 1937 to March 1938 (both inclusive) ?

- (b) The total amount of claim of all these suits separately for each subdivision ?
- (c) The total number and amount of claim of all money suits filed during the corresponding period of the previous year (December, 1936 to March, 1937) in each subdivision separately ?
313. Will Government be pleased to state whether in consequence of the passing of the Assam Money Lenders' (Amendment) Bill by the Legislative Assembly in the last December session, the number of money suits has abnormally increased in all the munsifs' courts in the Province ?
314. If the reply to question 313 is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the number of money suits so increased in the Province, district by district, during the period between December 1937 and March 1938 compared with the corresponding period of the previous year ?
315. Do Government propose to take steps to protect the debtors who are agriculturists against such a move on the Part of the Money Lenders ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

312.(a)—Silchar	...	...	...	...	281
Hailakandi	...	...	...	...	207
					Rs.
(b)—Silchar	...	...	...	...	40,250
Hailakandi	...	...	...	...	27,101
(c)—					
			Number of suits		Claims
					Rs.
Silchar	...	...	391	...	55,126
Hailakandi	...	...	126	...	15,860

313.—No.

314.—Does not arise.

315.—Yes ; a Bill for the postponement of execution of decrees against agriculturists is being introduced at this session of the Assembly.

Appointment of Srijut Banikinkar Goswami as Medical Officer of Khetri dispensary

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked :

316. Is it a fact that the appointment of Srijut Banikinkar Goswami, Medical Officer of the Khetri dispensary under the Gauhati Local Board, was objected to by Government on the grounds that he passed from the National Medical School, Calcutta, and that he is not a registered Medical practitioner as contemplated in rule 119 of Assam Local Self-Government Manual ?
317. Are Government aware that the school from which he passed, had been recognised by the Bengal Government ?
318. Are Government aware that there are many such qualified practitioners in Assam, and that such practitioners are allowed to serve in the tea gardens and to practise independently ?
319. Do Government propose to relax rule 119 of the Assam Local Self-Government Manual at page 182 or modify the rules to give facilities for appointment to such qualified practitioners ?

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

316.—Yes, on the ground that he was not a registered medical practitioner. His appointment is therefore contrary to rule 119 of the Assam Local Self-Government Act.

317.—Government have no information as to whether this particular school has been recognised by the Government of Bengal or not. From the information available it appears that the National Medical Institute, Calcutta, is a recognised institution by that Government.

318.—It may be so.

319.—Until Government are satisfied that such practitioners have qualifications which are registrable by any of the Provincial Medical Councils or are of the same level they cannot agree to any relaxation or modification of the rules.

Annual Conference of the Assam Provincial Compounders' Association

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked :

320. Will Government be pleased to state whether they have received a copy of the resolutions passed in the 6th Annual Conference of the Assam Provincial Compounders' Association held on the 5th and 6th April 1938 at Shillong ?

321. Do Government propose to consider the question of raising the present scale of pay of the Compounders to one from Rs.40 to Rs.75 per month with a selection grade of Rs. 80 per month ?

322. Do Government propose to change their designation from "Compounder" to that of "Medical Assistant", or to any other suitable term that the authorities think proper as proposed in the Resolution No. 5 passed in the said Conference ?

323. Has the Compounders' course of study been raised to two years ?

324. If so, do Government propose to include Anatomy, Physiology and Chemistry in the course of study of the Compounders in the Berry-White Medical School, Dibrugarh, as proposed in Resolution No. 6 passed in the said Conference ?

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

320.—Yes.

321.—No.

322.—No.

323.—Yes.

324.—No.

Introduction of Cottage Industries In Local Board Schools

Srijut KRISHNA NATH SARMA asked :

325. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Industries be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether he received any resolution from the Jorhat Local Board to introduce cottage industries and weaving in the schools under the said Board ?

(b) Whether he received any other such resolution on the subject from any other institution from Jorhat ?

(c) If so, what action is going to be taken on the subject by Government ?

326. Do Government propose to provide funds for introduction of weaving in the girls' schools of the plain districts ?

327. Do Government propose to provide a special grant to Charigaon Model Girls' Middle Vernacular School in the present year to introduce weaving and cottage industries in the school ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

325. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Except rendering occasional help in teaching weaving in some of the schools, provided that the schools are equipped with looms and accessories, Government cannot undertake to introduce cottage industries in the Boards' schools as there is no sufficient funds and staff for such a purpose.

326.—Not, under the present circumstances.

327.—The matter is under the consideration of Government.

Srijut KRISHNA NATH SARMAH: My question is whether the Government propose to provide a special grant to Charigaon Model Girls' Middle Vernacular School in the present year to introduce weaving and cottage industries in the School. The answer is that the matter is under consideration of Government. My question is whether Government is going to make a special grant this year.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: I have already said in the answer that the Government is considering the question.

Irrigation Canals

Kumar AJIT NARAYAN DEV asked :

328. (a) Is it a fact that Government have asked some of the Members, Legislative Assembly, to advise Government regarding the introduction of irrigation canals in their respective constituencies ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to lay on the table the replies given by the Members, Legislative Assembly ?

(c) Do Government propose to take any steps towards the introduction of irrigation canals in the places suggested by the Members, Legislative Assembly ?

(d) If so, when ?

(e) The proportion of the cost in this project, Government propose to bear ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

328. (a)—Yes. Government addressed all the hon. members.

(b)—Government regret that the replies so far received being voluminous cannot be conveniently placed on the table. But if the hon. member so desires he may see the file.

(c)—The whole question is under consideration.

(d) & (e)—Do not arise.

Tour of His Excellency to Sakti Asram

Kumar AJIT NARAYAN DEV asked :

329. (a) Are Government aware that when visiting the Sakti Asram during his tour at Fakiragram last winter, His Excellency the Governor remarked that the Director of Industries did not visit the said institution for a pretty long time, and wished that the Director should pay more attention to it ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether the Director paid any visit to the institution after the tour of His Excellency ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

329. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

Societies visited by the Registrar, Co-operative Societies

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

330. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of Societies, the Registrar, Co-operative Societies visited in the district of Sylhet, during the last two years ?

(b) The names of the Societies which he visited ?

(c) Whether he visited any of the rural societies in the Habiganj Subdivision ?

(d) The number of rural societies, the Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, visited during the last two years in each of the subdivisions of the Surma Valley ?

(e) What organisation work the Registrar and the Assistant Registrar did during these years in the Surma Valley ?

331. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of days, the Registrar, Co-operative Societies spent in tour in the Surma Valley during the last year ?

(b) The number of days, he spent in the interior in each of the subdivisions of the district of Sylhet during the last year ?

(c) The number of days, the Assistant Registrar spent in the rural areas of Habiganj, Sunamganj and Maulvibazar subdivisions during the last year ?

(d) The minimum number of touring days for the Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies ?

332. (a) Is it a fact that due to the pressure of audit works, the Inspector, Co-operative Societies can do little organisation work ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to separate the Audit branch from the general line ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

330. (a)—Twenty-two.

(b)—Sylhet Co-operative Land Mortgage Bank, Ltd.
Gosainagar Rishi Silpa Samiti.

Habiganj Central Co-operative Bank, Ltd.

Sunamganj Co-operative Town Bank, Ltd.

Karimganj Mukhtears Co-operative Society, Ltd.

Karimganj Siksha Samabaya Samity, Ltd.
 Bishunpriya Samabaya Silpa Samiti.
 Paldahar Samabaya Rindan Samity.
 Karimganj Central Co-operative Banking Union, Ltd.
 Surma Valley Muslim Co-operative Land Mortgage Bank, Ltd.
 Karimganj Co-operative Town Bank, Ltd.
 Birasri Co-operative Weaving Society.
 Gadadhar Gramya Rindan Samity.
 Maulvibazar Co-operative Town Bank, Ltd.
 Gayasnagar Samabaya Rindan Samity.
 Maulvibazar Central Co-operative Bank, Ltd.
 Narsingpur Samabaya Bansa Silpa Samity.
 Nagharia Samabaya Samiti.
 Puthimara Samabaya Bansa Silpa Samity.
 Ghupirchak Samabaya Samity.
 Sadarasi Samabaya Samity.
 Sylhet Town Educational Officers' Co-operative Bank, Ltd.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—The number of rural societies visited by the Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies during 1936-37 and 1937-38 is shown in the statement below :—

Year	North Sylhet	Maulvi- bazar	Habi- ganj	Karim- ganj	Sunam- ganj	Silchar	Haila- kandi
1936-37	20	8	9	4	2	7	2
1937-38	16	1	17	4	3	10	8

(e)—Owing to pressure of work the Registrar cannot devote his time to organization work. Hence this work is entrusted to the officers of the Department and the Honorary Organizers and Advisers of Co-operative Societies. The Assistant Registrar in Surma Valley in spite of his multifarious duties, did however some organization work. He organized the Nizpat Vegetable and Fruit Growers' Co-operative Society and the Gangpar Dhumkar Samabaya Bayan Samiti in 1936-37 and the Sylhet Women Co-operative Thrift and Home Savings Society, Limited, and a special type society under the name of the Karimganj Co-operative Execution of Awards Union, Limited, in 1937-38.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: With reference to (b), Sir, may I know whether the Registrar visited any rural society in the subdivision of Habiganj? Is it not a fact from the list submitted that he did not go into the interior to visit any of the rural societies?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: That is evident, Sir, from the list given.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I know, Sir, why he did not visit these societies?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: The area under his jurisdiction, Sir, is the entire province of Assam and it would not be possible for him to go to every locality where there is a co-operative society?

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is it not possible when there are so many officers of the department?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: That is undoubtedly the case. But the department is under-staffed.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

331.(a)—Twenty-three days.

(b)—Five days in the interior of Karimganj and 3 days in the interior of North Sylhet and 3 days in the interior of Maulvibazar.

(c)—The Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies spent 10, 9 and 3 days in rural areas of Habiganj, Sunamganj and Maulvibazar respectively.

(d)—No limit has been fixed for the touring of the Assistant Registrars.

332.(a)—Yes.

(b)—There is already a proposal under the consideration of Government to have a separate audit staff.

Grant to Tezpur Local Board for Primary Education

Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS asked :

333. Are Government aware that the grant to the Tezpur Local Board for Primary Education is not adequate ?

334. Are Government aware that there is a large population of Backward people in the Tezpur subdivision, who are illiterate ?

335. Do Government propose to encourage Primary Education amongst these people ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

333.—This is the best that Government have been able to do so far in view of their responsibilities in other matters and to other Boards.

334.—Yes.

335.—Certainly. Progress in this direction depends on the formulation of a Primary Education scheme which is under consideration.

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: May I know whether this primary education will be free and compulsory—I mean the one under the consideration of the Government ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: That will be free, but as regards compulsion the question is being seriously examined.

Increase in number of Assam Ministers

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

336. Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the Press statement published in the *Times of Assam* dated the 2nd July 1938, under the head line "Increase in number of Assam Ministers: Government contradict press news" ?

337. Are Government aware that the said communiqué has caused widespread discontent in the press and amongst the Journalists of Assam for its tone and insobriety of temper ?

338. Is it a fact that it was stated in the communiqué—"It is deplorable that Nationalist newspapers can be used by malefactors for their insidious purposes against their political opponents"?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

336.—Yes.

337.—Government have seen criticisms of the communiqué in some journals of the province but have no information as to its effect upon the journalists. They deny that the communiqué showed “insobriety of temper”.

338.—Yes. The Editor of the paper which first published the “news” apologised for appearance of untrue statements in his journal.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: May we know, Sir, to which question the latter part of the answer to question 338 relates, *viz.*, “The editor of the paper which first published the ‘news’ apologised for appearance of untrue statements in his journal”?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The trend of the question is, Sir, that the particular sentence is being condemned. So I have replied as I have done.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: The question did not ask for that information but still it has been volunteered.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have already said ‘yes’ to the question. I did not deny it.

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is a special department of the Government by which such communiques issued?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: There is no special department, Sir.

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA: Under whose authority are such communiques are issued?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Under the orders of Government the respective Secretary drafts and puts up to the Government Member concerned and that is published.

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA: Do Government consider themselves political opponents of the nationalist newspapers?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: No, Sir. But they have every right to criticize if such papers are used for a particular purpose.

Staff of the Assam Legislative Council

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI asked :

339. (a) Is it a fact that the Assistants in the office of the Assam Legislative Council were not allowed to avail the holiday on account of the King Emperor's Birthday in June last?

(b) If so, why?

(c) Are Government aware that the present staff is inadequate to cope with the work in that office?

(d) If so, do Government propose to take steps to increase the staff?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS replied :

339. (a) & (b)—The Assistants were not ordered to attend office on the holiday, but they chose to come in order to pull down the arrears or to attend to urgent work.

(c) & (d)—The question has been kept pending till the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee are out.

Rural indebtedness in Habiganj

Babu SHIBENDRA CHANDRA BISWAS asked :

340. Are Government aware that the rural population of the subdivision of Habiganj are labouring under the heavy pressure of indebtedness ?

341. Do Government propose to issue general orders prohibiting institution of fresh suits in the Civil Courts for the realisation of debts and for staying the existing money-decree being put into execution forthwith till the Assam Money-Lenders Act as amended, comes into operation or Debt Conciliation Board are established ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS replied :

340.—Government have no information to show that the pressure of indebtedness, which is admitted to exist, is any worse in Habiganj than elsewhere in the Province.

341.—Government have no power by executive action to prohibit the institution of suits. A Bill will be placed before the Legislature at this session providing for postponement of the execution of decrees in certain circumstances, and the possibility of extending the system of Conciliation Boards engages their attention.

Babu SHIBENDRA CHANDRA BISWAS : In view of the fact that the passing of the Bill will take some time and in the mean time fresh suits will be instituted in the civil courts for realisation of debts and existing money decrees will be put into execution forthwith, is the Government prepared to undertake any remedial measures to stop them ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS : In the mean time Government cannot take any step until the Bill that has been introduced in the Assembly is passed.

Uncivil action of the Head Assistant, Revenue Department

Babu SHIBENDRA CHANDRA BISWAS asked :

342. Are Government aware that the Head Assistant, Revenue Department of the Government of Assam turned out a Muhammadan clerk of the Governor's Secretariat from the room of the Revenue Department ?

343. Is it a fact that the said clerk went to the Revenue Department in connection with his official duties ?

344. Will Government be pleased to state (a) whether there is any rule in the Secretariat that a clerk of a Department cannot enter into the room of another Department even on official duties ?

(b) If not, do Government propose to take necessary disciplinary action against the said Head Assistant for turning out the said Muhammadan clerk from the Revenue Department ?

345. Will Government be pleased to state (a) whether this fact was brought to the notice of the authorities ? (b) If so, what action was taken against the offending Head Assistant ? (c) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

342-345.—This was a trivial incident in which the Head Assistant considered that the clerk concerned was not following the regular procedure

and asked him to leave and to obtain such papers as were wanted on a proper requisition. It was due to an internal arrangement about looking into files of the different Secretariats. When the matter was reported it was adequately dealt with by the responsible officer, the Chief Secretary, who absolved the Head Assistant concerned from any wrong or uncivil action.

Inclusion of Assamese in the Indian Civil Service Examination

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

346. Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge aware that Assamese has been included only in "A" group of the subjects for the Indian Civil Service Examination conducted by the Indian Public Service Commission ?

347. Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the public feeling against the non-inclusion of Assamese in "B" group of subjects of the aforesaid Examination ?

348. Does the Hon'ble Minister propose to move the authorities to remove the grievances of the Assamese people in the matter ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

346.—Yes.

347.—Yes.

348.—Government intend to take the matter up again with the Central Government.

Boat-hire for serving processes

Maulavi MD. AMJAD ALI asked :

349. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government is aware that boat-hire for serving processes is annually levied during the months of June to November, at the maximum rate of 25 per cent. of the fees chargeable for the service of processes within the entire territorial jurisdiction of the Goalpara Subdivisional Court, both Civil and Criminal ?
- (b) Whether any account has ever been taken as to the actual realization and expenditure of the said boat-hire under the provisions of section 685 of the High Court Civil Rules and Orders ?
- (c) Whether any attempt has ever been made to work out the percentage of fees of boat-hire to be levied in any particular year as required by the aforesaid Rules and Orders ?
- (d) Whether any list of areas, localities or villages within the jurisdiction of the Goalpara Nazarat has ever been prepared and notified to the Secretary of the Goalpara Bar Association, showing the amount of boat-hire chargeable for service of processes, as required by the High Court Rules and Orders ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that boat-hire for service of processes, both Civil and Criminal, within the Municipal limits of the town of Goalpara too, where no boat is necessary for service of any such processes, is also charged and realised ?

- (f) The total amount of boat-hire actually realised for service of processes during the last fifteen years, 1922-1937 at the Goalpara Civil Station? (Figures year by year may be given and then the total.)
- (g) The total amount of expenditure, out of the money thus realised?
- (h) Whether there has been any accumulation out of the funds left undischarged?
- (i) If so, what is the amount?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

349. (a)—Yes.
 (b)—Yes.
 (c)—Not hitherto.
 (d)—A list has been prepared this year. A copy of it, on approval of the District Judge, will be sent to the Secretary, Bar Association, Goalpara.

(e)—Yes, as some portions of the town within the Municipal area go under water during the rains and use of boats occasionally becomes necessary.

(f), (g), (h) and (i)—A statement is laid on the table.

Year	Amount of boat-hire realised		Amount of boat-hire paid	Balance	Remarks
	Civil	Criminal			
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	

1922—32 Figures not available. Connected records were destroyed under the High Court Rules and Orders

1933	293 4 0	64 5 0	297 15 0	59 10 0	
1934	281 7 0	106 13 0	393 0 0	—4 12 0	
1935	382 1 0	86 12 0	549 10 9	—80 13 9	
1936	402 3 0	81 11 0	377 15 3	105 14 9	
1937	406 6 0	97 6 0	273 2 0	230 10 0	} Rainfall was less than usual. Hence the surplus.

Construction of Haripani bridge and running a launch ferry

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI asked :

35. . Is it a fact that a deputation consisting of Srijut Bepin Chandra Ghose, *ex-M.L.C.*, Maulavi Amjad Ali, *M.L.A.* and Srijut Tirtha Lochan Das waited upon the Hon'ble the Chief Minister at Shillong and submitted a representation enclosing copies of some resolutions passed at a public meeting of Goalpara on 14th December 1937, regarding the construction of Haripani bridge and running a launch ferry by Government ?

351. (a) Is it a fact that Maulavi Amjad Ali, *M.L.A.*, submitted a representation on 4th January 1938 to the Hon'ble the Chief Minister stating the facts detailed on those resolutions ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the steps since taken to remedy the same ?

352. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government is aware that the Postal Department has called for tenders for carrying the Royal Mails by bus service from Bongaingaon to Jogighopa ?

(b) Whether Government is aware that the gap on the road shall have to be crossed by the buses over bamboo bridges in fair weather and mar-boats during the rains ?

(c) The rates of toll bar in crossing the gap for (i) human beings, (ii) carts loaded and unloaded, (iii) lower animals, (iv) motor cars, (v) buses ?

(d) Whether the Goalpara Public expressed in a resolution forwarded to the Chief Minister for the suspension of the toll-bar pending the construction of the bridge ?

(e) Whether Government propose to give effect to that resolution ?

353. Do Government propose to prepare at an early date an estimate of probable cost for the construction of the bridge ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

350 and 351. (a)—The replies are in the affirmative.

(b)—The question of taking over the Jogighopa ferry by the Public Works Department and to run it by a steam boat is under the consideration of Government.

352. (a) and (b)—Yes.

(c)—The hon. member is referred to the Public Works Department Notification No.178-C.F., dated the 29th November 1937, containing the schedule of tolls, copy of which is placed on the Library Table. Half the rates specified therein are levied when the crossing is by means of a cold weather bridge.

(d) and (e)—Such a resolution was received and the hon. member also personally represented this matter to Hon'ble Minister. As suspension of tolls in one ferry will be taken as a precedent, the prayer cannot be granted.

353.—The matter will be considered by the Assam Communications Board at their next meeting ; if the project is approved an estimate will be prepared.

Want of good drinking water in the Satgaon Railway Station

Maulavi NAZIRUDDIN AHMED asked :

354. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the passengers suffer a great deal due to the want of good drinking water in the Satgaon Railway Station ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the female passengers are put to great inconvenience as there is no female waiting room in the said Station ?
- (c) If the replies to questions (a) and (b) are in the affirmative do Government propose to move the Assam-Bengal Railway authorities to remove the long-felt difficulty of the travelling passengers ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

- 354. (a) and (b)—Government have received no complaints.
- (c)—The Assembly's representatives on the Assam-Bengal Railway Advisory Committee, are the best persons to move in the matter.

Assamese Computers and Subordinates in the Public Works Department

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

355. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The actual number of Assamese Computers and Assamese subordinates in the Public Works Department at present ?
- (b) If there are none in the Department, why so ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

355. (a)—There are no Assamese Computers but there are twenty-nine Assamese subordinates in the Public Works Department.

(b)—There were no qualified Assamese candidates for the posts of Computers when vacancies were filled up.

Mangaldai Local Board

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked :

356. Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister of Local Self-Government been drawn to an article under the caption “মঙ্গলদৈ লোকাল বোর্ড” published in the ত্রিদিবীয়া অঙ্গীয়া of the 12th August, 1938 ?

357. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) whether they received a representation from some members of the Mangaldai Local Board to give them a chance to elect its Chairman and Vice-Chairman ?
- (b) If so, is it a fact that Government did not give the Board a chance to elect its Office bearers ?

358. Are Government aware that it is against the principle of democracy and against the spirit of Local Self-Government Act to deprive the Board to elect its Chairman and Vice-Chairman ?

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

356.—Yes, after receipt of the question.

357.(a)—Yes.

357.(b) & 358.—Government did not deprive the Board of its right to elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The Board failed to elect them within the time prescribed by rule, and Government had to take action under section 12 B of the Assam Local Self-Government Act. Government do not agree with the hon. member that the action taken was against the principle of democracy and the spirit of Local Self-Government.

Treatment under the Homeopathic System

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked :

359. Are Government aware that a large section of the people of this Province favour the system of Homeopathic treatment in preference to allopathic and other kind of treatment specially in case of diseases of the children ?

360. Are Government aware that ordinarily the treatment under the Homeopathic system is less expensive than any other recognised system of treatment ?

361. Are Government aware that a large number of people die every year without any treatment for want of proper medical aid as they cannot afford to purchase costly allopathic medicines or procure medical aid on account of their poverty ?

362. Are Government aware that a few medical practitioners both allopathic and Homeopathic, in the town of Gauhati started a Homeopathic College last year ?

363. Are Government aware that there is no Homeopathic College in Assam and students from Assam are to get their training in Calcutta which is very expensive ?

364. Will Government be pleased to state whether Government has received a petition from the Principal of the Homeopathic College, Gauhati, praying for Rs. 1,000 as non-recurring grant and Rs. 250 as recurring grant in aid of the Institution ?

365. Do Government propose to consider the case of the petitioner and sanction a non-recurring and a recurring grant in aid of the said institution ?

366. Do Government propose to introduce Homeopathic system of treatment which has received State recognition in the Central Assembly in the province as it is less expensive and popular among a large section of the poor inhabitants of Assam ?

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

359.—Government have no reason to think that the section of people preferring Homeopathy to other systems is large.

360.—Homeopathic doses are smaller than allopathic doses and to that extent the former may be less expensive than the latter. Government have no information about other systems of treatment.

361.—It is possible that some people who are not within reach of charitable dispensaries—whether maintained by Government, local bodies or private persons—or of private practitioners following any of the systems of treatment die without proper treatment.

362.—Yes.

363.—Yes.

364.—Yes.

365.—Not until they are in funds and are satisfied from the work done in the College that it merits help.

366.—Government do not propose to patronise this system until they are satisfied that it has an adequate scientific basis, that the institutions in which it is taught have a curriculum covering all the fundamental feature of the human body and the physiology of the human system and that the students are examined by a well-qualified body of examiners.

Cattle epidemic and mortality of cattle

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked :

367. Will Government be pleased to state whether Government have received reports from the various parts of Assam about serious outbreak of cattle epidemic and high mortality of cattle from rinderpest and other cattle diseases during the last few months ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

367.—The reply is in the affirmative.

Physics Laboratory of Cotton College

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked :

368. Is the Hon'ble Minister for Education aware that the Physics Laboratory of the Cotton College lacks sufficient accommodation ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

368.—Yes.

Appointments of Primary School Teachers

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked :

369. Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education been drawn to the remarks of the Director of Public Instruction in the "Quinquennial Review of the progress of Education in Assam during 1932-37" at page 45, that in one subdivision at least he 'has been repeatedly told that the cost of an appointment as a Primary School Teacher is Rs.150 in cash' ?

370. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education be pleased to state the name of the particular subdivision to which this remark is referred ?

371. (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education be pleased to state by whom the teachers referred to above were appointed ?

(b) Whether the appointment was made by a Local Board or by a Municipal Board of the subdivision ?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state the name of that Local Board or the Municipal Board and the name of its Chairman ?

- (d) If not, whether the appointment was made by Government ?
 (e) If so, will Government be pleased to state the name of the officer appointing the teacher referred to above ?

372. Is it a fact that the Chairmen of Local and Municipal Boards, make the appointments of the Primary Teachers of the Boards ?

373. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state how the cost of Rs.150 in cash is incurred by a Primary Teacher for obtaining his appointment ?

374. Does the Hon'ble Minister in charge propose to direct a public enquiry into the matter and take necessary steps to put a stop to such corruption and penalise those who are responsible for the same ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

369.—Yes.

370 and 371.—Government do not think it in the public interest to mention the name of the subdivision and are unable to supply the information asked for.

372.—Yes.

373.—Presumably by payment to the appointing authority.

374.—Government will ascertain if conditions in the subdivision concerned call for an inquiry now and will then decide upon their course of action.

Plot of land, Dag No. 1888 of Golaghat Town

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

375. Will the Hon'ble Minister, Local Self-Government, be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether there is a plot of land, Dag No. 1888 of Golaghat Town within the boundary pillars of the Golaghat Municipal market ?
- (b) Whether there are stalls, public latrines, urinals, nightsoil depôt, and a road made by the Municipal Board by spending considerable money within this Dag and whether it is a fact that a portion of this dag was improved by the Board by filling up with earth ?
- (c) Whether there was a Serai house built by the then Golaghat Union in Dag No. 1888 between the present stalls of Nabin Chandra Goswami and Hakim Abdul Sattar and since then the dag has been in occupation of the Municipality ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that the Hon'ble Minister, Local Self-Government, visited the said plot twice with the Subdivisional Officer, Sub-Deputy Collector, Chairman, Municipal Board and Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das, M.L.A., during this year and the Chairman pointed out the boundary pillars, put long ago by the Sarkari Mundal, to the Hon'ble Minister, which covered this Dag No. 1888 ?
- (e) Why a portion of this Dag No. 1888 has been settled with Bonamali Pal, Hakim Abdul Sattar and Nabinchandra Goswami under the Town Land Rules who have been paying rents to the Municipal Board for the last 7 or 8 years in preference to other similar applicants and why the whole dag has not been vested in the Municipal Board ?

- (f) Whether Government is aware that the curtailment of this area has reduced the Municipal market in size and the Board and the public have been aggrieved by this order?
- (g) Whether Government proposed to redress the grievances of the Municipal Board and the public by cancelling the settlement of the said land with these private persons, vesting the entire *Dag* No.1888 in the Municipal Board?
- (h) Whether Government is aware that the town of Golaghat is expanding and more lands are necessary for the development of the Municipal market?
- (i) Whether it is a fact that the Commissioner, Assam Valley Division, who inspected the Municipal market was in favour of giving the entire *Dag* No.1888 for the use of the Municipal Board?
- (j) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the Commissioner's recommendations regarding *Dag* No. 1888?
376. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state—
Why the following *dags* which are in use and occupation of the Municipal Board have not been vested in the Board?
Dag No. 2004—Tube well site,
Dags Nos. 2108, 2110, 1744—Old trenching ground and Pound site.
Dags Nos. 677, 678, 679, 680, 682, 777, 713—New trenching ground site (outside Municipal area).

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

375. (a)—The *Dag* in question adjoins the 'hatkhola' land covered by *dag* Nos. 1889 and 1890. Near one end of it there is a masonry pillar said to have been erected by the Municipality.
- (b)—Yes, on a portion of it. The reply to the second part of the question is also in the affirmative.
- (c)—Government understand that there was a *serai* on some portion of the *dag* but have no definite information about its exact site.
- (d)—Yes. At the time of his visit no one could tell him when and by whom the North-Eastern pillar was built.
- (e)—The Municipal Board had no claim on this *dag* 1888. It had never been vested in the Board. This *dag* was recorded as "Sarkari". The portion settled with the persons referred to did not have Municipal Stalls, and the Municipality did not spend any money in this portion as they have done in the portion east of it. This portion is in the western corner adjoining the land settled with some one else on periodic lease. The other portions applied for by others fall either on or between pieces of land improved or used by the Municipality and do not form a contiguous plot.
- (f)—The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. A road separates it from the Hatkhola (Municipal market). So far as the second part is concerned Government have recently received a copy of a resolution said to have been passed in a public meeting resenting the decision.
- (g)—Government are not satisfied that the Board or the public have any reasonable grounds for a grievance.
- (h)—The land now available for the Hatkhola is sufficient for the needs of the expanding town.

(i) & (j)—Government regret that they cannot disclose the recommendations of their officers, neither can they lay copies of official correspondence on the table.

376.—Because some of the plots being outside Municipal limits could not be vested under the Act and others not having been in their possession were not vested,

Unregistered Medical Practitioners in tea gardens

Srijut JOGESH CHANDRA GOHAIN asked :

377. Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to take any steps so that unregistered Medical Practitioners are not appointed to hold charge of any important hospitals in tea gardens ?

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

377.—Not at present.

Frequent change of Text-Books in Middle English and High Schools

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

378. Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Education aware—

- (a) That text-books in High and Middle English Schools are frequently changed ?
- (b) That this practice causes hardship to the guardians of students ?
- (c) If so, do Government propose to see that text-books are selected with caution and that they are not frequently changed ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

- 378.(a)—Changes are made as seldom as possible.
- (b)—Frequent changes would certainly cause hardship ?
- (c)—This is already done.

Establishment of a Munsif's Court at Nalbari

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

379. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to refer to the statement made on behalf of Government on my Cut Motion regarding the establishment of a Munsif's Court at Nalbari during the last Budget Session of the Assembly and state whether Government have come to any decision about this question ?

380.(a) Are Government aware that a decent number of lawyers are residing at Nalbari and practising in the Criminal Court there ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to consider that the time for starting a Munsiff's Court at Nalbari has already arrived ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

379.—Government have not come to any decision as the proposal for the posting of a Magistrate permanently at Nalbari is still under experiment

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: May I know Sir, when Government expect to arrive at a decision?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: We are still watching the result of the experiment of having a Magistrate posted at Nalbari.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Is not the criminal court working there nicely?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: We are still watching the experiment.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Has not the criminal court been working there for a pretty long time?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: I think Sir, it will take some time before we can assess the value of the court.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

380.(a)—Government have been so informed.

(b)—The Government will consider the feasibility of entrusting the Magistrate with some civil work as the experiment progresses.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: As regards question No. 380 the Government reply is 'The Government will consider the feasibility of entrusting the Magistrate with some civil work as the experiment progresses.' Do I understand that they are going to do it in the near future?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: I cannot say, Sir, anything more definite than this, that we are watching the experiment and it will take some time for the success of the experiment to be fully assessed.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: How long will it take, Sir, to watch the progress of the experiment and assess the value thereof?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: It will take some little time.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Do Government propose that the present Extra Assistant Commissioner entrusted with the criminal and registration work should be entrusted with the civil work as well?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: That is for the future.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Do Government realise that the people are very anxious to have a civil court at Nalbari?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Government is aware of that.

Start of an Agricultural Colony to provide unemployed youths

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH asked :

381. Will the Hon'ble the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state if Agricultural Colony in each district is proposed to be started with a view to provide unemployed youths of the province?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

381.—The question of starting two agricultural colonies, one in each valley is under examination by Government.

Water pumps and *Buro* lands in village Patkura

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

382. Is it a fact that a water pump was supplied to village Patkura under the Police Station Jaganathpur in the Subdivision of Sunamganj to turn their *Aman* crop area into *Buro* crop lands ?

383. Will Government please state—

(1) How much *Buro* lands have been cultivated this year with the help of this water pump ?

(2) How much *Buro* lands were to be cultivated this year ?

384. (a) Is it a fact that the pump did not work well and lands promised to be watered, have not been cultivated ?

(b) If so, why did not the pump work well ?

385. Is it a fact that the people are being harassed with property attachment in spite of full advantage not being afforded to them by this pump ?

386. Is it a fact that the realisations were made attaching properties of following persons, by issuing in some cases, more than one warrant to a single person as shown against some names—

(1) Haldhar Paul—three warrants.

(2) Adhar Ch. Paul—two warrants.

(3) Abdululla—two warrants.

(4) Nadiya Ch. Das—two warrants.

(5) Dharani Deb—two warrants.

(6) Rajendra Kumar Dutta—one warrant

(7) Pyari Dutta—one warrant.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

382.—Yes during the year 1936-37.

383. (1) and (2)—Do not arise, as no pumps has been worked there this year.

384. (a)—The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. So far as the second part is concerned, the reply is in the negative as no promise was made.

(b)—Due to engine troubles.

385.—No. Recoveries are being made only from those persons who derived full benefit from the pump and only in one case recovery has been made by attachment of property.

386.—Distress warrants against 4 persons (1. Mahendra Chandra Dey, 2. Rajendra Kumar Datta, 3. Kumud Ranjan De and 4. Iswar Chandra Sutradhar) had to be issued more than once as their correct addresses could not be found, but realisation by attachment of property has been made only in one case, realisation in other cases being effected by peons on demand.

Report of the Retrenchment Committee

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS asked :

387. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) If the Retrenchment Committee has submitted its report ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to lay it on the table of the Assembly for its approval during the forthcoming September, 1938, session of the Assembly ?

(c) If not, why not ?

- (d) If the reply to question 387 (a) is in the negative, will Government be pleased to state how long it will take to submit the report?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

387. (a)—No.
 (b)—Does not arise.
 (c)—The Committee has not yet finished its business.
 (d)—As the Committee has not finished its deliberations it is not possible to say when the report will be submitted.

Prescription of qualifications of a post in the Assam Education Service

Srijut BHUBAN CHANDRA GOGOI asked:

388. Will Government be pleased to state who prescribes the qualification of a post in the Assam Education Service, to the Public Service Commission?

389. Are Government aware that recently there were advertisements in the Gazette, for Tutorship and Lecturers for the Cotton College, prescribing First Class M.A. for the Tutorship and Second Class for the Lecturers as the requisite qualifications?

390. Will Government be pleased to state the reason for demanding higher qualification for Tutors?

391. Will Government be pleased to state the reason for appointing the Tutors for eight months only?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied:

388.—In the case of tutors the Director of Public Instruction ordinarily suggests the qualification. In regard to other officers such as lecturers Government prescribe the qualification.

389.—Yes, but the hon. member has apparently overlooked the difference in the wording of the two advertisements. One refers to a second class degree as the minimum qualification whereas the other speaks of the preference to be given to a first class man.

390.—Where preference is to be given to members of under-represented communities, it is found necessary to prescribe a minimum qualification. This explains the apparent inconsistency referred to by the hon. member. In the case of tutors the Director of Public Instruction did not apparently consider the question of preference to under-represented communities.

391.—Because they are required for the working session and also on financial grounds.

Establishment of a Civil Court at Nalbari

Srijut RABI CHANDRA KACHARI asked:

392. Will the Hon'ble the Chief Minister be pleased to state—
 (a) Whether he promised at a public meeting to start a Civil Court at Nalbari during one of his tours?
 (b) If so, from which year the proposed court will be started?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

392.(a) and (b)—The hon. member is referred to the reply to a similar question asked by Srijut Gauri Kanta Talukdar at this session.

Working hours and holidays in the Government Offices in Shillong

Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI asked :

393. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) What are the working hours in Government offices in Shillong on all week days and on Saturday ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that in some offices assistants are made to work or to remain in offices beyond the office hours till the head of the office leaves ?

(c) If so, do Government propose to issue instructions to all heads of departments not to detain their assistants beyond office hours ?

(d) If not, do Government propose to consider the desirability of giving them requisite remuneration for over-time work ?

394. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government servants have to take permission of their superior officers to leave the headquarters during the holidays ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether there is any rule to this effect in any of the connected Manuals ?

(c) If the answer to question 394 (b) is in the negative, do Government propose to discontinue this practice of taking permission as above ?

(d) If not, why not ?

(e) If the answer to question 393 (b) is in the affirmative, do Government propose to take steps to delete the rule ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

393.(a)—From 10-30 A.M. to 4-30 P.M. on weekdays or to 1-30 P.M. on Saturdays.

(b)—Assistants frequently remain in office after office hours when they have pending work to complete. No instance has been brought to the notice of Government in which an assistant has been ordered to remain, on his asking permission to leave, merely because the head of the office has not left.

(c)—No. If any specific instance of hardship is brought to the notice of Government they will consider it.

(d)—Government are not prepared to consider this. Hours in the offices concerned are generally moderate and holidays frequent. The staff is not paid by time.

394.(a)—Yes.

(b)—No, but there is a standing order dating from 1907.

(c)—No.

(d)—It is very necessary that the head of the office should know where his assistants are to be found in case of an emergency, and the exigencies of public business may not allow of absence from the station in particular cases.

(e)—Does not arise.

Tours of the Hon'ble Ministers and travelling allowances drawn by them

Maulavi MABARAK ALI asked :

395. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The amount drawn by each of the Hon'ble Ministers as their travelling allowances, halting allowances, etc., for their tours during the period from April to July 1938 ?
- (b) The necessity of these tours ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

395. (a)—The hon. member's attention is drawn to the statement supplied in answer to unstarred question No. 269 asked by Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee in this session of the Assembly.

(b)—The interests of Public Service and the maintenance of contact between the Ministry and the people.

Tours of the Hon'ble Ministers and travelling allowances drawn by them

Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR asked :

396. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of days spent in tour by the Hon'ble Ministers in and outside the province since March 1938 ?
- (b) The places visited by them ?
- (c) The amount drawn by each of them as travelling allowances ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

396. (a), (b) & (c)—The attention of the hon. member is drawn to the statement supplied in reply to unstarred question No. 269 asked by Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee in this session of the Assembly.

Local Board Roads connecting the Subdivisional headquarters at Habiganj

Babu SHIBENDRA CHANDRA BISWAS asked :

397. (a) Are Government aware that there are no suitable communications between places in the North Habiganj, more particularly between the Police Stations of Baniyachong, Ajmiriganj and Nabiganj and the Subdivisional headquarters both during the rains and the winter season ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take proper measure for establishing such communications throughout the whole year within the near future ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

397. (a)—Government are aware that there are Local Board roads connecting the Subdivisional headquarters at Habiganj with the places referred to by the hon. member, and that in certain areas there is permanent water communication. It is a matter of opinion whether such means of communication are suitable or not.

(b)—Government are doing all they can to provide better roads with the limited funds at their disposal, but for many years to come it will be impossible to take up all the roads they would like to take over and improve.

Laokhowa Road of Nowgong

Srijat PURNA CHANDRA SARMA asked :

398. Has the attention of Government been drawn by the Nowgong Local Board to the necessity of shingling the Laokhoa Road in the district of Nowgong ?

399. Is it a fact that the Nowgong Local Board have been requesting Government to take over the road by the Public Works Department ?

400. Do Government propose either to take over the said road or make a substantial grant to the Nowgong Local Board for shingling it ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

398 & 399.—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to question 114 at the Budget session 1937 of the Assembly.

400.—No.

Selection grade posts in the cadre of Overseers of the Public Works Department

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI asked :

401. Will the Hon'ble the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) The number of selection grade posts in the cadre of the Overseers of the Public Works Department ?

(b) Whether there are any vacancies in this cadre at present ?

(c) If so, for how long such vacancies have not been filled up and why ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

401.(a)—Three.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—(i) Since 1921.

(ii) Lack of suitable officers.

Names of persons nominated to Local Boards

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

402. Will Government please lay on the table a statement showing—

(a) The number and names of local boards in Assam to which nominations have been made this year ?

(b) The names and qualifications of persons who have been nominated to each such Board ?

(c) The number of members in each Local Board ?

(d) The exact nature of representation of different communities in each Local Board (i) prior to nomination and (ii) consequent upon nomination ?

(e) The names of communities which have received weightage in each Local Board as the result of nomination ?

(f) If such weightage was given in each case on the basis of population of each such community ?

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

402 (a), (b), (d) and (e)—The information asked for has been given in the form of a statement (laid on the table).

Statement showing number of members elected, number of members nominated, etc., in Local Boards in Assam

Name of Local Board	Number of members elected					Tribal Others	Names of members nominated	Community to which the member belongs	
	Hindu	Muham- madan	Sche- duled caste	Planters Euro- pean	Indian Chris- tian				
SURMA VALLEY AND HILL DIVISION									
1. Silchar	...	...	...	...	...	...	1. Maulavi Namwar Ali Bar- bhuiya, B.L., M.L.A. 2. Babu Kalachand Roy, M.L.A. 3. Rev. T. W. Reese. 4. Mr. Donald Lewis.	Muhammadan. Scheduled caste. Christian. Tribal. Muhammadan.	
2. Hailakandi	...	5	0	...	4	1	...	1. Maulavi Abdul Chaudhury. 2. Maulavi Maskandar Ali. 3. Babu Sankar Dayal Sukul. 4. Babu Padmalal Namasudra	Wahid Ditto. Others. Scheduled caste. Muhammadan.
3. North Sylhet	7	12	...	3	1	...	...	1. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur Rahman, B.A., M.L.A. 2. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Gousuddin Ahmed Chau- dhuri, M.L.C. 3. Maulavi Abdus Subhan.	Ditto. Ditto. Muhammadan. Scheduled caste. Muhammadan.
4. Karimganj	...	8	9	...	3	3	...	1. Khan Bahadur Hazi Abdul Majid Chaudhury, M.L.A. 2. Babu Balaram Sircar, M.L.A. 3. Maulavi Asaduddin Chau- dhury, M.L.C.	Muhammadan. Scheduled caste. Muhammadan.

Name of Local Board	Number of members elected					Names of members nominated	Community to which the member belongs
	Hindu	Muham- madan	Sche- duled caste	Planters Euro- Indian pean	Indian Chris- tian			Others
SURMA VALLEY AND HILL DIVISION—concl'd.							
5. South Sylhet	7	7	...	5	1	...	1. Maulavi Abdul Aziz, B.L., M.L.A. Muhammadan. 2. Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed, M.L.A. Ditto. 3. Rev. H. R. Ghose, B.A., B.D. Indian Christian.
6. Habiganj ...	9	11	1	4	...	...	1. Maulavi Dewan Ali Raja, M.L.A. Muhammadan. 2. Maulavi Abdur Rahman, M.L.A. Ditto. 3. Babu Kailash Chandra Das Chaudhury. Hindu.
7. Sunamganj ...	6	10	2	...	...	...	1. Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahabab Chaudhuri, M.L.A. Muhammadan. 2. Maulavi Asafur Reza Chau- dhuri. Ditto. 3. Maulavi Muhammad Maq- bul Hussain Chaudhuri, M.L.A. Ditto. 4. Babu Kamini Mohan Paul, B.L. Hindu.

ASSAM VALLEY DIVISION

8. Dhubri...	...	8	9	...	...	...	1	3	...	1. Maulavi Ahmed, B.L., M.L.A. 2. Srijut Jogendra Narayan Mandal, B.L., M.L.A. 3. Srijut Praneswar Das 4. Munshi Mohor Ali	Ghyasuddin Narayan	Muhammadan. Hindu. Scheduled caste. Muhammadan.
9. Goalpara	...	7	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	1. Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali, B.A., LL.B., M.L.A. 2. Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia, M.L.A. 3. Srijut Purna Chandra Rimsu	Amjad Rahman Rimsu	Muhammadan. Ditto. Tribal.
10. Gauhati	...	16	5	...	...	2	...	...	...	1. Srijut Narendra Nath Barua (Mauzadar). 2. Srijut Rabi Chandra Kachari, M.L.A. 3. Srijut Bhabananda Deka (Business man). 4. Maulavi Bakar Ali 5. Srijut Goboi K. Marak	Barua Kacha- Deka	Hindu. Tribal. Scheduled caste. Muhammadan. Indian Christian.
11. Barpeta	...	11	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	1. Maulavi Saiyid Abdur Rouf, B.L., M.L.A. 2. Srijut Dhanara Boro 3. Srijut Janakinath Sarma, B.L. 4. Maulavi Jalaluddin Ahmed	Abdur Rouf ... Sarma Ahmed	Muhammadan. Tribal. Hindu. Muhammadan.

Name of Local Board	Number of members elected					Names of members nominated	Community to which the member belongs
	Hindu	Muham- madan	Sche- duled caste	Planters Euro- pean	Indian Chris- tian		
ASSAM VALLEY DIVISION— <i>contd.</i>							
12. Tezpur ...	11	2	...	6	...	1. Srijut Mono Mohan Chau- dhuri. 2. Mr. F. S. Manty (Business man). 3. Srijut Surendra Mohan Das (Rajbansi). 4. Maulavi Asiruddin Saikia ...	Hindu. Indian Christian. Backward Tribe. Muhammadan.
13. Mangaldai ...	10	2	...	5	1	1. Srijut Purandar Sarma, M.A., B.L., M.L.A. 2. Kazi Maniruddin Khandkar 3. Srijut Durlav Chandra Das	Hindu. Muhammadan. Scheduled caste.
14. Nowgong ...	10	5	...	5	...	1. Srijut Dhanbar Patar ... 2. Dr. Mahendra Nath Saikia, M.L.A. 3. Khan Sahib Maulavi Mu- hammad Naziff (Business man).	Tribal. Scheduled caste. Muhammadan.

15. Sibsagar ...	11	2	...	6	1	...	...	...	1. Srijut Jogendra Nath Go-hain. 2. Mr. Mithuel Castle ... 3. Khan Sahib Syed Azizur Rahman. 1. Srijut Karka Dalay Miri, M.L.A. 2. Rev. John Mariya ... 3. Srijut Sashi Prosad Barua ...	Nath Go-hain. ... Azizur Rahman. Miri, Hindu.
16. Jorhat ...	11	3	...	4	2	...	...	...	1. Srijut Karka Dalay Miri, M.L.A. 2. Rev. John Mariya ... 3. Srijut Sashi Prosad Barua ...	Miri, ... Hindu.
17. Golaghat ...	11	2	...	5	1	...	...	...	1. Srijut Khorsing Terang, M.L.A. 2. Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das, M.L.A. 3. Dr. Job Kachap ... 4. Dr. Serajuddin Ahmed ...	Terang, Scheduled caste. ... Muhammadan.
18. Dibrugarh ...	8	3	...	7	3	...	2	...	1. Srijut Bhimbor Deuri, B.L. 2. Srijut Devendra Nath Das ... 3. Rev. Joseph Tutti ... 4. Srijut Mukta Ram Gohain 5. Babu Briddhi Chand Karwa 1. Srijut Mohori Dole Miri ... 2. Rai Sahib Gagapur Das ...	Deuri, B.L. Scheduled caste. Indian Christian. Hindu. Others (Marwari). Tribal. Hindu.
19. North Lakhimpur.	10	2	...	6	...	...	...	...	1. Srijut Mohori Dole Miri ... 2. Rai Sahib Gagapur Das ...	Tribal. Hindu.

- (c)—The hon. member's attention is invited to notification No.3775-M., dated the 18th August 1915, incorporated on page 120 of the Assam Local Self-Government Manual.
- (f)—In making nominations population of the communities as well as other factors mentioned in rule 19 under the Assam Local Self-Government Act were taken into consideration.

Custom of opening tenders before tenderers

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

403. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) If there is a custom prevailing to open tenders before tenderers in connection with contracts between Government and private parties ?
- (b) Whether there is a further custom to post up copies of terms of tenders submitted by different tenderers for the information of the public ?
- (c) If so, whether such notification is published in the *Assam Gazette* ?
- (d) If not, why not ?

404. If the answer to question 403(b) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether there is any time-limit within which such publication is made ?

405. Do Government propose to make such publication immediately after tenders are opened ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

403. (a)—The practice varies. There is never any objection however to any tenderers who wish to do so being present when the tenders are opened.

(b)—No.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—Government see no useful purpose to be served by such publication.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Do the Government propose to publish such tenders in future ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : The suggestion will be considered.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

404.—Does not arise.

405.—No.

Remission of Land Revenue

Srijut RAM NATH DAS asked :

406. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the resolution for giving remission of land revenue to the tenants of Assam apply only to the *Kheraj* lands ?
- (b) Whether the Sidli Raj Estate of which the Raja of Sidli is the proprietor, comprises of *Kheraj* land ?

(c) If not, will Government be pleased to state why the remission which applies to *Kheraj* lands should apply to the lands of Sidli Raj Estate ?

407. Will Government be pleased to state what right Government has to give remission to the tenants of the Sidli Estate without the sanction of the proprietor ?

408. (a) Is it a fact that the status of the Bijni Pargana is the same as that of the Sidli Estate ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to give the same remission to the tenants of Bijni Estate ?

(c) If not, why not ?

409. (a) Is it a fact that the *Malikana* of the proprietor of the Sidli Estate is 20 per cent. on the gross assessment and not on the collection ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state how a temporary remission applies to reduce the assessment of land and consequently the *Malikana* ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

406. (a)—Yes.

(b)&(c)—The tenants of Sidli Duars for which the Raja of Sidli gets *Malikana* only, got settlement for 10 years from Government. These tenants have been granted the remission as their rates of assessment were leased on the assessment of *Kheraj* lands in the neighbourhood.

407.—As the Sidli Duars is managed by Government by direct settlement which the *ryots* and the Raja of Sidli gets *Malikana* only, it is within the powers of Government to grant remission.

408. (a)—No. The hon. member is referred to the reply given to question No. 2 (a) and (b) of Kumar Ajit Narayan Dev in the February 1938 Session of the Assembly.

(b)&(c)—Although the status is different, Government have decided to grant remission in 1938-39 to Bijni Duars also.

409. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The question is not quite clear. The *Malikana* at 20 per cent. is not affected by the remission granted to the tenants of Sidli Duars according to standing orders.

Instructions to Encroachers to Government Reserves

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked :

410. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether any circular or instruction has been issued to the District Officers (i) prohibiting the eviction of the encroachers who have forcibly settled within the grazing reserves or other Government reserves ? (ii) prohibiting action against unauthorised settlement or illegal possession of lands within the areas reserved for the indigenous population under the Line System ?

411. If the answer to question 410 is in affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why such steps have been taken, and on what facts or circumstances this policy has been adopted ?

412. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The areas under encroachment in all the Reserve including the Grazing Reserve, district by district, and the total number of such encroachments ?

(b) The areas under unauthorised or unlawful occupation or acquisition by the settlers beyond the limits provided by the line system, district by district, and the total number of persons committing such unauthorised trespasses or acquisition ?

(c) The proximity of native villages within such encroachments including backward and tribal areas ?

413. (a) Is it a fact that the recommendations of the majority of the Line System Enquiry Committee provided that the existing arrangement of the Line System is to continue for two years and those of the minority for 5 years ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to follow these recommendations ?

414. Will Government be pleased to state whether action will be taken against unauthorised entry by settlers into the area reserved for indigenous people ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

410.—Yes, in the case of those persons only whose encroachment dates from before the 1st April 1937.

411.—The orders were issued as an interim measure pending Government decision on the Line System. It would obviously be inequitable to evict persons who have been in long occupation of certain prohibited lands if those lands in near future are to be thrown open to such settlement. Moreover the Committee recommended that in case of such evictions being necessary lands should be provided elsewhere, and this cannot be done without opening other lands or appointing a Colonisation Officer to facilitate settlement.

412.—A report has been called for from the local officers, but owing to the extensive enquiries needed in its preparation, it has not yet been received.

413. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No orders have yet been passed by Government who are awaiting the result of the decision on this subject in this session of the Legislature.

414.—The circular referred to in question 410 only applies to long-standing encroachments. The District Officers have been directed to resist all fresh encroachments and several evictions of persons encroaching after the 1st April 1937 have already taken place.

Growth of fishes by prohibiting the use of newly born fishes

Babu BIPIN BEHARI DAS asked :

415. (a) Do Government propose to promote the growth of fishes by prohibiting the use of newly born fishes in the months of *Baisakh*, *Jaistha*, *Aswin* and *Kartik* when fishes are generally born ?

(b) If the answer to question 415 (a) above is in the affirmative, do Government propose to form a committee to suggest ways and means for immediate solution of this problem ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

415. (a)—The question is not understood, but assuming that by the word "use" "catching" is meant. The reply is in the negative.

(b)—Does not arise.

Manager of the Mechpara Court of Wards Estate**Kumar AJIT NARAYAN DEV** asked :

416. Is it a fact that the Manager of the Mechpara Court of Ward Estate has started building a bungalow for his own use at Dhubri ?

417. Is it a fact that the Manager does not come often to stay at Dhubri ?

418. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of times that he came to Dhubri and the number of days he halted there and the purpose of such halts during the last year ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that he draws an allowance for coming and halting at Dhubri ?

(c) The cost of building the above bungalow ?

(d) Whether it is a fact that the proprietors of the Mechpara Estate are not consulted by the Manager for matters connected with their Estate ?

419. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that Government have lately appointed a lawyer for the Bijni Raj Ward's Estate at Dhubri ?

(b) Whether Government advertised for the post ?

(c) If not, why ?

(d) Whether there was any other candidate for it ?

(e) Whether it is a fact that there was a candidate who is a tenant of the estate and also belonged to the Bijni Raj Family ?

(f) Whether it is a fact that the Raja of Bijni has made a representation to the Commissioner against this appointment ?

(g) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether Government are taking any steps to cancel this appointment ?

(h) Whether the present lawyer so appointed is a tenant of the Bijni Estate or in any way connected with Bijni ?

(i) If the answer to the above question 419 (h) is in the negative, will Government be pleased to state the special claim he had to this appointment ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

416.—The bungalow is meant for the use of the proprietors as well as the officers of the Estate.

417 & 418.(a), (b) & (c)—The information has been called for.

(d)—The Manager of the Court of Wards is not required to consult the Proprietors on matters connected with the estate affairs.

419.(a)—Yes.

(b)—No.

(c)—Such posts are not advertised as they are not borne on the regular establishment of the estate.

(d) & (e)—Not at the time the appointment was created. Subsequently however a representation was made to the Commissioner for the appointment of a tenant of the Estate in preference to the person already selected.

(f)—Yes.

(g)—No.

(h)—The information has been called for.

(i)—In the opinion of the Court of Wards this appointment has been made in the best interests of the Estate.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Nowgong Local Board

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

420. Will the Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether he received a petition, dated the 12th May 1938, from Srijut Bishnu Charan Bora, a member of the Nowgong Local Board against the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board held on the 6th May 1938 ?
- (b) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the grounds of the petition and the result thereof ?

421. Is it a fact that a notice for the meeting on the 6th May 1938 was sent only on the 27th April 1938 to several members of the Board fixing the 6th May 1938 as the date of the meeting and the meeting was actually held on the 6th May 1938 ?

422. Is it a fact that the Board was not composed of as required by law at the time of issue of notices to members fixing the aforesaid date of the meeting ?

423. Is it a fact that the appointment of the members of the Board was done only on the 29th April 1938 under the Government Notification No.2445-L.S.-G., published in the *Assam Gazette*, dated the 4th May 1938, the previous notification having been cancelled thereby ?

424. Is it a fact that subsequent to the appointment of the members by Government, no fresh notice as required by the rules was sent to any member ?

425. Is it a fact that the Gazette containing the Government notification No.2445-L.S.-G., did not reach the addressee till after expiry of the Board's meeting convened for the election of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Board ?

426. Is it a fact that the present Chairman of the Board is the President of the Nowgong Branch of the Moslem League ?

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

420. (a)—Yes.

(b)—A copy of the petition is laid on the library table. It was rejected.

421.—The answer is in the negative. The notice was stated to have been issued on the 26th April 1938 and the meeting was held on 6th May 1938.

422.—The answer is in the negative.

423.—The answer is in the negative. The order appointing the members was passed on the 25th April 1938 and communicated by wire to the Chairman on 26th April 1938.

424.—Does not arise.

425.—Government have no information and are unable to say which particular addressee the hon. member has in mind. From the record of the proceedings of the Board it appears that all the members elected and nominated—22 in number attended the meeting.

426.—Government have no information.

Anti-Tuberculosis Fund

Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS asked :

427. Will Government be pleased to state the total amount collected for the Anti-Tuberculosis Fund by the mauzadars in the Mangaldai subdivision and particularly by the Mauzadar of the Sarabari Mauza ?

428. Are Government aware that great hardship was caused to the people by making each *pattadar* pay one rupee for the Anti-Tuberculosis Fund ?

429. Are Government aware that Srijut Ratnakar Deva Sarma of the Sarabari Mauza was made to pay rupee one to the Anti-Tuberculosis Fund ?

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

427.—The total collection so far made by 18 out of 23 mauzadars comes to Rs.1,161-14-0. A sum of Rs 150-10-0 was collected by the mauzadar of Sarabari.

428.—Government understand that there are over 4,000 *pattadars* in Sarabari mauza, and that the number of subscribers was 404 and that only 31 persons paid subscription at rupee 1 each. Subscriptions varied from one anna to a rupee and no hardship seems involved.

429.—It appears that Srijut Ratnakar Deva Sarma paid rupee one. Whether it was paid willingly or not, it has not been possible to ascertain.

Subdivisional Officer of Sibsagar

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH asked :

430. Will Government be pleased to state for how long the present Subdivisional Officer has been at Sibsagar altogether as Subdivisional Officer and what are the reasons for keeping this officer so long in that particular place ?

431. Are Government aware that the retention of one officer for a long time in one place is conducive towards formation of cliques and party factions and also for favouritism and other forms of corruptions ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

430.—The Officer was posted at Sibsagar as a Subdivisional Officer in 1929 and was there for about two years and eight months. He has again been posted there since March 1937 to date. He has been Subdivisional Officer, Sibsagar, altogether a little over four years and one month, his posting being on each occasion determined by the requirements of the public service at the time.

431.—Government are not prepared to commit themselves to such a general proposition.

Babu Behari Lal Dutta, an externee from Bengal

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

432.(a) Is it a fact that Behari Lal Dutta, an externee from Bengal at present residing under post office Tilagaon in the South Sylhet subdivision, applied to Government for allowing him facility to study Ayurvedic Medicine at Calcutta ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether Government corresponded with the Bengal Government to that effect ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

432. (a)—No such application was received.

(b)—Does not arise.

Case re milkmen of Sunamganj

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

433. (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the correspondence published in the *Janasakti*, dated the 15th June 1938, under the heading “সাক্ষার বার বরদারী” (b) If so, has any enquiry been made by Government ?

434. Is it a fact that Mr. Ghose, the third Magistrate of Sunamganj once threw away all the milk of some of the Sunamganj milkmen into the river and fined some of them heavily ?

435. Is it a fact that the judgment in the aforesaid case was upset by an upper court ?

436. Do Government propose to enquire about the doings of the aforesaid Magistrate and take necessary steps ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

433. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

434.—Some adulterated milk declared to be unfit for human consumption was thrown into the river and the milkmen fined.

435.—In some cases appeals were filed, some of which succeeded and others failed.

436. The executive Government has no legal power of interference with the judicial discretion of the Magistrate.

Services in Assam Police Reserve Force

Srijut JOGESCHANDRA GOHAIN asked :

437. Is it a fact that according to Circular No.4, dated 28th June 1937, issued by the Inspector-General of Police, Assam, certain low class people, such as Damais, Sarkies, Lohars, Kamis etc., are not allowed to join services in the Assam Police Reserve Force and those who are already in the service, are not eligible for promotion to the next higher rank ?

438. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether due to the above circular, Head Constables Kaviraj Kami and Dilman Damai, both of Dibrugarh Police Reserve Force, were not promoted to the next higher rank when vacancies occurred ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to revise its above decision ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

437.—The answer to the first part of the question is that the circular forbids the recruitment of Gurkhas except of the fighting castes. The answer to the latter part is in the negative.

438. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

Discovery of oil-fields in North Lakhimpur

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA asked :

439. Are Government aware that oil-fields have been discovered in the North Lakhimpur subdivision by the Mining experts of the Assam Oil Company and of other concerns ?

440. Will Government be pleased to state —

(a) Whether any of them has applied for any prospective license or any such license has been granted to any of them ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to lay on the table the terms of the license or the proposed terms on which the license has been applied for ?

441. (a) Do Government propose to impose a higher rate of royalty or revenue on the proposed lease than on those in Digboi ?

(b) If so, at what rate ?

(c) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

439.—Government have no information.

440. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA : Have the Government received any application ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Not yet. If there be any application it will come in due course to the Government.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA : Do not the Government consider it a matter of great importance from the point of view of revenue ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Certainly if any one wants any license or lease he will apply to the Government.

441. (a) (b) & (c)—Do not arise. ✓

Grant of license for cement manufacture

Babu SHIBENDRA CHANDRA BISWAS asked :

442. Are Government aware that many people make remarks against the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister in connection with the grant of license for cement manufacture ?

443. (a) Are Government aware that the *Janasakti* of Sylhet and the *Assamiya* made very strong comments against the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister in connection with the cement license ?

(b) If not, do Government propose to notice these comments ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

442.—No.

443. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No.

Grant of license for cement manufacture

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY asked :

444. Will Government be pleased to state what revenue the Government of Assam expects to derive by granting the cement license ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

444. As the terms of the lease have not yet been agreed on finally, and are still under correspondence, Government are unable to disclose the terms in fairness to the Company, nor are they able to say how much revenue they expect to receive till the Company accept their conditions.

Amount sanctioned for Agricultural loan

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

445. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The amount sanctioned originally for agricultural loan for the Golaghat subdivision for the year 1938-39 and the amount sanctioned after the floods of June-July of this year ?
- (b) The approximate number of persons of the various mauzas of the Golaghat subdivision affected by the floods of this year ?
- (c) The amount spent on account of gratuitous relief of these flood affected people ?
- (d) The amount outstanding against the names of the flood affected people of Bokakhat, Mohura, Rungamatty, Dergaon and Messamora in this year and of Kacharighat, Athgaon and Chilladhary in the year 1937 ?
- (e) Whether they propose to remit the outstanding agricultural loans of these flood stricken people ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

445. (a)—Government sanctioned nothing for Golaghat subdivision separately ; but for the whole district of Sibsagar they sanctioned Rs.6,000 for agricultural loans on the 13th June 1938 *i.e.*, before the flood, and Rs.9,000 on the 19th August 1938 after the flood. The actual distribution is made by the Deputy Commissioner.

(b)—The information is not available in the reports received.

(c)—A sum of Rs.17,000 has been sanctioned from public revenues for gratuitous relief for the whole district of Sibsagar. The amount actually spent is not available.

(d)—Government have no information.

(e)—This will no doubt be considered in due course by the local officers after necessary enquiry.

Fuel Reserve of Woodmari

Srijut BEPIN CHANDRA MEDHI asked :

446. Are Government aware that the Fuel Reserve of Woodmari village in Kalaigaon Mouza is not at all beneficial to the surrounding locality ?

447. (a) Are Government aware of a petition dated the 4th March 1937, by which the villagers prayed for the deforestation of the said reserve ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether any enquiry was made as to the truth of the grievances mentioned in the petition ?

448. Are Government aware that this reserve is the abode of wild animals such as elephants, tigers, bears, boars, etc., who destroy crops and domestic animals everyday ?

449. Do Government propose to enquire about it and pass an order for the deforestation of the said reserve ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

446.—The hon. member probably refers to the Noanadi Reserve. The Reserve is beneficial to the local population and will become increasingly so as settlement in *khas* land proceeds.

447. (a)—Yes.

(b)—An enquiry was made on the 26th June 1937. Only three of the fifty persons signing the petition took the trouble to attend the enquiry. After careful consideration of the report submitted the petition was rejected. The petitioners have the right to cut thatching grass in certain areas of the Reserve.

448.—There are many other areas within the subdivision which harbour these animals, including uncleared land in the vicinity.

449.—The enquiry has shown that there is no justification for disforestation.

Abolition of Dhantola country liquor shop

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

450. (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Excise Department be pleased to refer to the reply given by Government to my question No.828 asked in the August session 1937 of the Assembly and to state whether Government have decided to abolish the Dhantola country liquor shop in the district of Kamrup ?

(b) If so, from what time the shop is going to be discontinued ?

(c) If not, do Government propose to discontinue the same from the expiry of the existing settlement and satisfy the demand of the people of the locality ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

450. (a), (b) and (c)—Government have already decided to close the shop on the expiry of the current settlement, *viz.*, 31st March 1939.

Thuramukh Opium and Ganja shops

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

451. Is it a fact that Thuramukh Opium and Ganja shops were settled with one Dambu Borgohain and that his brother Kirti Borgohain is a lessee of Nichogola Opium shop and that they are joint family members ?

452. Is it the rule with the Government that when suitable tenderers are found, Excise shops should not be settled with members of the same family ?

453. Is it a fact that Buralikson Country spirit shop was settled with one Bhagaban Das, son-in-law of late Thakurdas, and that Bhagaban Das is an outsider and a new man to Assam ?

454. Is it a fact that many Assamese people tendered for the same Buralikson Country spirit shop and that their claims for settlement were rejected ?

455. Is it a fact that the said Bhagaban Das was only a sales-man for a few months before the death of late Thakurdas who was the lessee of the said Buralikson Country spirit shop ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

451.—The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, Government understand that Kirti Borgohain is a step-brother and does not belong to the joint family.

452.—Under the existing rule, opium shops are not to be settled with members of the same joint family. An attempt was made to adopt this principle in the settlement this year of *ganja* and liquor shops.

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: Is it the principle of the Government not to settle excise shops with members of the same family or members of the joint family?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Yes.

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: Then what is the meaning of the reply 'that an attempt was made to adopt this principle in the settlement this year of *ganja* and liquor shops'? Do I understand that they have not adopted this principle as yet?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: When a new principle is accepted it cannot be accepted wholesale at once.

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: If there are shops settled in the names of two members in the same family and if I bring a specific instance of that, will Government consider the desirability of cancelling one of them?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Certainly attempts will be made to do that.

453.—Yes. Bhagaban Das is not a new comer to Assam.

454.—No Assamese tendered for the shop.

455.—Yes, but before that he was associated with late Thakurdas in the business in many parts of Assam for several years.

Government servants: whether they can remain as a member of any Local Board

Maulavi MABARAK ALI asked :

456. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether a salaried Government servant either temporary or permanent can be a member of any Local Body?

(b) Whether a salaried Government servant either temporary or permanent can remain as a member of any Local Body, though he was not a Government servant at the time of election?

457. (a) Are Government aware of the fact that Maulavi Abdul Musawir, a member of the Karimganj Local Board, has recently been appointed as a Sub-Inspector of Schools at Silchar?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether he has resigned his seat as a member of the said Local Board?

(c) If not, why not?

458. Will Government be pleased to state whether he has attended any meeting of the Board after his appointment as a Sub-Inspector of Schools?

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

456. (a) and (b)—No salaried Government servant can be or remain an elected member of a Local Board.

457. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Does not arise.

458.—It is reported that the Sub-Inspector of Schools did not attend any meeting of the Board.

Amount of Local Rates realised from the Fee Simple Grants and other tea lands

Srijut JOGESCHANDRA GOHAIN asked :

459. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The amount of Local Rates realised from the Fee Simple Grants and other tea lands (exclusive of the amount meant for Tea Cess Road Fund), subdivision by subdivision for the last 3 years in the Lakhimpur, Sibsagar, Nowgong and Darrang districts ?

(b) The amount of Local Rates realised from other *raiya*ts in the above 4 districts, subdivision by subdivision for the last 3 years ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

459.(a) and (b)—It is difficult to supply the information within the time available.

Recruiting centres for the Assam Rifles

Kumar AJIT NARAYAN DEB asked :

460. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of recruiting centres for the Assam Rifles ?

(b) How many of them are in Assam ?

(c) The percentage of the Assamese in the Assam Rifles ?

(d) The percentage of Assamese recruits during the last three years ?

(e) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of imparting military training to the Assamese population in the Assam Rifles ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

460.(a) and (b)—There are no recruiting centres in Assam. Local recruitment is done in the districts by recruiting parties. Recruitment of Nepalis is done through the Recruiting Officer and his assistants at Kura-ghat and Ghoom.

(c)—Thirty-seven and half per cent. excluding the hill tribes.

(d)—1935 4.91 per cent.

1936 7.54 "

1937 17.56 "

(e)—The question is not understood. The Assamese riflemen get the same training as other classes in the Assam Rifles.

Agricultural Inspectors**Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA** asked :

461. Will the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state—
 (a) Whether one of the Agricultural Inspectors who failed in the Departmental Examination was declared as passed ?
 (b) If so, why his colleagues were not so declared ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

461. (a)—Yes.
 (b)—The deficiency in the case of this officer being very small, *i.e.*, by 5 marks, he was declared according to the usual practice to have passed. His colleagues could not be so declared the deficiency in each case being great.

Pleaders of Habiganj**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN** asked :

462. (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a leading article in the "Janamat" dated the 24th *Sravan* 1345 *B.S.* under the caption 'হবিগঞ্জ উদ্বোধনের বিবববব' ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

462. (a)—Yes.

Number and names of Honorary Forest Officers**Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA** asked :

463. Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge of Forests be pleased to state—
 (a) The number and names of Honorary Forest Officers in the province of Assam district by district ?
 (b) The duties, powers, privileges and functions of the said Officers ?
 (c) When they have been appointed and by whom ?
 (d) The number of Indian Officers so appointed ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

463. (a)—A list is placed on the library table.
 (b)—A copy of the Executive Order defining the powers and functions of the Honorary Forest Officers is placed on the library table. They are exempted from payment of fees for licenses in Form A for Class II reserves and for licenses for fishing.
 (c)—They were appointed in February last by the Conservator of Forests with the approval of Government.
 (d)—Three.

Realisation of "Miran" by Mauzadars**Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS** asked :

464. (a) Are Government aware that some Mauzadars realise rupee one as "miran" from the illiterate *raiats* on each *patta* without issuing any attachment against them ?

(b) If so, what steps do Government propose to take to stop this practice ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

464. (a)—Government have no information and no specific complaint have been brought.

(b)—Does not arise.

Establishment of a Hospital at Tinsukia

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH asked :

465. Is it a fact that one Marwari gentleman of Tinsukia offered a gift for the establishment of a better equipped hospital at Tinsukia ?

466. Is it a fact that the donor offers to make the gift if it is managed by Government ?

467. (a) Is it a fact that the public of Tinsukia, the Deputy Commissioner and the Civil Surgeon recommended to Government to accept the offer and prepare a scheme ?

(b) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state if he proposes to accept the gift ?

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

465.—Yes.

466.—Not exactly. The donor's offer is subject to nine terms. One of these relating to management runs as follows :—

“That a Managing Committee be formed with the Deputy Commissioner and the Civil Surgeon as President and Vice-President respectively with four local members, Chairman, Local Board and Chairman, Municipal Board”.

467. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The matter is under consideration.

Time of opening of liquor shops

Kumar AJIT NARAYAN DEV asked :

468. Is it a fact that Government have allowed the lessees of liquor shops to keep their shops open till ten o'clock at night ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

468.—The reply is in the negative.

Sub-Registry Offices at Balaganj

Babu BALARAM SIRCAR asked :

469. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state—

(a) The number of documents registered in the newly started Sub-Registry Offices at Balaganj and Derai on commission basis in the last month of July ?

(b) The basis on which the Sub-Registrars are getting their commissions ?

(c) The basis on which the Sub-Registrars pay to the copyists and their establishments and the amount they pay to each of them ?

(d) The rate on which they realise copying fees from the parties ?

(e) Whether Government pay the Sub-Registrars any amount from the copying fees ?

- (f) Whether Government pay the Sub-Registrars any establishment allowance to pay for their establishments ?
- (g) Whether Government supplied necessary furniture and iron chests to Tajpur and other Sub-Registry offices where these were on commission system ?
- (h) Whether Government are supplying the present offices at Balaganj and Derai with the same ?
- (i) If not, do Government propose to consider their cases ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS replied :

469. (a)—Balaganj—211.
Derai—87.

(b)—The Sub-Registrars on commission system are remunerated in accordance with paragraph 50 at page 132 of the Assam Registration Manual.

(c)—Government have no information. Necessary office establishment is provided by the Sub-Registrars themselves.

(d)—As laid down in the Table of Fees under the Indian Registration Act.

(e)—No.

(f)—No.

(g)—No. Books, forms, stationery, etc., only are supplied to the Sub-Registrars on commission system free of charge.

(h) & (i)—Do not arise.

Number of Civil and Criminal petitions in the Revisional or Appellate Jurisdiction that were filed before His Excellency

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA asked :

470. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of (i) Civil and (ii) Criminal petitions in the Revisional or Appellate Jurisdiction that were filed before His Excellency the Governor from 1st April, 1937 to the end of June of this year ?

(b) How many from (i) Municipal and (ii) Cantonment areas ?

(c) How many from the British areas outside the Municipality and (ii) the Cantonment ?

(d) In how many cases were pleaders heard ?

(e) In how many cases were petitions rejected summarily ?

(f) In how many cases were petitions rejected after records have been called for but without hearing any pleaders ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

470. (a)—The information required is as follows, for the included areas of Shillong Municipality and Cantonment and the partially excluded areas only.

Ten civil revision petitions, four criminal appeals and one criminal revision petition.

(b) & (c)—There are a Municipality and a Cantonment only in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills district. Two civil revision petitions were from the Municipality, none from the Cantonment. Six revision petitions and four criminal appeals came from the partially excluded area of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. Two civil and one criminal revision petitions came from other partially excluded areas (1 from Garo Hills, 2 from Mikir Hills).

(d)—Four criminal appeals. In only one of these was a *vakalatnama* filed, but the other three being capital sentence cases, pleaders were appointed by Government.

(e)—In four cases. In only one of these was *vakalatnama* filed.

(f)—In four cases. In two of these, *vakalatnama* was not filed.

The three remaining cases were pending at the end of June.

Establishment of a cement factory at Chair-chira

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

471. Is it a fact that the Assam-Bengal Cement Company has acquired a plot of land for establishing a factory at Chair-chira under police station Chhatak ?

472. Is it a fact that the tenants have been forced out of their lands and houses to make room for the company to construct sheds ?

473. Is it a fact that the above company has been granted lease to extract lime stone from Government quarries in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills ?

474. If so, what are the terms of the contract ?

475. Will Government please state whether there has been any contract between the aforesaid company and Government about appointment of their officers, clerks, menials, etc., and recruitment of labourers, etc. ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

471.—Government are aware that the company were negotiating for purchase of a plot of permanently-settled land in this neighbourhood from its proprietor.

472.—No : all the tenants but two had agreed to accept the compensation offered to vacate their land at the time an enquiry was made, three months ago, these two had not reached an agreement. There was no evidence of force being used.

473. 474 & 475.—The lease has not yet been finally approved and signed by the company. Until this is done Government are unable to state publicly the terms of the contract.

Number of days each Minister was on tour

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

476. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of days each Hon'ble Minister was on tour during the period between the February March session and this session of the Assembly ?

(b) The amount spent for their travelling and halting ?

(c) The number of places visited by each of the Hon'ble Ministers during the aforesaid period ?

(d) The number of representations received during the period by each of the Hon'ble Ministers from the agriculturists and tenants or from the persons on their behalf, with information if any attempts have been made to remove the grievances ?

477. Will Government be pleased to state why the Hon'ble Ministers went on tour, two or three of them together at a time to the same place ?

478. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) If any of the Hon'ble Ministers visited the flood-affected areas in the Sunamganj subdivision ?

(b) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

476. (a), (b) and (c)—The attention of the hon. member is drawn to the statement supplied in connection with the unstarred question No. 269 asked by Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee in this session of the Assembly.

(d)—No separate accounts were kept of such applications which are many. Some of them have already been attended to.

477.—The hon. member's attention is drawn to the reply given to the starred question No. 63 asked by Babu Dakshina Ranjan Gupta Chaudhuri in this session of the Assembly.

478. (a)—Hon'ble Minister, Agriculture, visited the flood-affected area in the Sunamganj subdivision in the 3rd week of August 1938.

(b)—Does not arise.

Encroachments on the Khas Char-bharat land at Karimganj Char-bazar

Maulavi MABARAK ALI asked :

479. Are Government aware of the fact that encroachments have been made on the Khas Char-bharat land lying within 20 feet from the river high bank at the Karimganj Charbazar and thus have caused inconvenience to the public ?

480. Is it a fact that one Arfan Ali and others moved the Subdivisional Officer, Karimganj, for removing the encroachments and the Subdivisional Officer on the enquiry report of the Illam Sub-Deputy Collector issued notices on the encroachers, asking them to keep the land in question open at all times ?

481. Is it a fact that in spite of the service of notices, the encroachments have not yet been removed even though reminders were filed on the 17th December 1937 and 22nd January 1938 in the Court of the Subdivisional Officer, Karimganj, by the said Arfan Ali and others ?

482. Is it a fact that the said petitioners submitted petitions to the Hon'ble Minister, in charge of Revenue and to the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, for the removal of the said encroachments ?

483. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether any steps have been taken by Government to remove encroachments, so as to redress the grievances of the public ?

(b) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

479.—Yes, the extension of some permanent shops on Government khas land is causing some inconvenience to the Public in this rainy season.

480.—Yes, the persons concerned were asked to keep open a space of 20 ft. from the high bank.

481.—Some structures were built subsequent to the issue of the notice and the filing of reminders.

482.—Yes.

483. (a) & (b)—The matter is under consideration of the local officers and action will be taken for removal of encroachment wherever considered necessary.

Damage caused by flood in the districts of Goalpara, Kamrup, Nowgong, Sibsagar and Lakhimpur

Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR asked :

484. Will Government be pleased to state the nature and extent of damage done by the recent flood of the Brahmaputra in the districts of Goalpara, Kamrup, Nowgong, Sibsagar and Lakhimpur, and the total area and the number of families affected thereby ?

485. Will Government be pleased to state the nature and extent of the relief given by Government to the people affected by the said flood ?

486. (a) Do Government propose to take any relief measure of any semi-permanent nature to enable the distressed people to return to their normal condition ?

(b) If so, in what shape ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

484.—The hon. member is referred to the Press Communiqués issued by Government which give details of the damage caused by the floods.

485.—The following amounts have been sanctioned up to 31st August 1938 from public revenues for gratuitous relief and agricultural loans in the districts in question :—

			Gratuitous relief Rs.	Agricultural loans Rs.
Goalpara	...	...	48,000	68,000
Kamrup	...	...	15,000	25,000
Nowgong	...	...	25,000	10,000
Sibsagar	...	...	17,000	15,000
Lakhimpur	...	...	7,000	10,000

486. (a) & (b)—It is regretted that the question is not understood.

Madan Raza and Natir Estates

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

487. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) When the Madan Raza and Natir Estates at Habiganj were purchased on auction by Government ?

(b) The period for which arrear rents are being realised by Government from the raiyats ?

(c) Whether arrear rents are claimed for the limitation period ?

(d) The principle under which Government are imposing rents on raiyats who have been evicted from their lands ?

(e) The rate of rents per *bigha* or per *keyar* imposed by Government on the evicted lands ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

487. (a)—Madan Raja and Md. Natir Estates were purchased by Government on 19th January 1933 and 26th September 1934, respectively.

(b)—Five years in case of Madan Raja and 3 years in case of Md. Natir on compromise.

(c)—No.

(d)—No raiyats have yet been actually evicted.

(e)—Does not arise.

Circle No. 55 of the Karimganj Subdivision

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN asked :

488. Will Government be pleased to state—

If it is a fact that Circle No. 55 of the Karimganj Subdivision which is at present within the jurisdiction of the Karimganj Police Station is going to be transferred to that of the Beanibazar Police Station which is soon going to be created ?

489. Are Government aware that all the villages of the said Circle are within a distance of 7 miles only from the Karimganj Police Station whereas Beanibazar is at a distance of not less than 14 miles from the western most village of the circle concerned ?

490. Is it a fact that the inhabitants of the said circle submitted a petition to the Hon'ble the Chief Minister in May last for keeping the said circle under the jurisdiction of the Karimganj Police Station and in this connection some of the leading men of the locality actually showed him the site of some of the villages also ?

491. (a) Are Government aware that the inhabitants of the said circle will be put to great hardship and inconvenience if the circle is transferred to the Beanibazar Police Station ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take early steps to remove the grievances of the people of the circle in question and order for retaining the said circle within the jurisdiction of the Karimganj Police Station as before ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

488.—There is a proposal to this effect.

489.—Government accept the statement of the hon. member.

490.—Government received a petition in December 1937. A petition was handed over to the Hon'ble Chief Minister while he was on his way to Karimganj towards the end of May last.

491. (a)—This is a question of opinion.

(b)—The Government will shortly publish preliminary notifications revising the boundaries of certain Police Stations of Karimganj subdivision and will invite public objections on their proposals. The grievances stated will be considered in due course with any other petitions that may be received.

Newspaper article re certain remarks against one of the Hon'ble Ministers

Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI asked :

492. Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article published in the “ তিন দিনীয়া অসমীয়া ” in its issue of the 22nd July 1938 under the caption “ মন্ত্ৰীৰ প্ৰতি অশোভন মন্তব্য ; ৰাজকৰ্ম্মচাৰীৰ বিপদ ” ?

493. (a) Is it a fact that Babu Birendra Nath Chaudhuri, Head Clerk, Commissioner's office, Assam Valley Division, made certain remarks against one of the Hon'ble Ministers ?

(b) If so, against whom and what were the remarks ?

494. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether these remarks were made in public or in private talks ?

(b) If the remarks were made in the private talks, how could the Hon'ble Minister concerned come to know about it ?

495. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether any enquiry has been made to ascertain the truth of the allegations made against the clerk concerned ?

(b) If so, by whom ?

(c) The nature of the enquiry and the findings of such enquiry against him ?

496. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government have made any enquiry to ascertain whether the alleged improper remarks reported to have been made by the clerk against the Hon'ble Minister are based on any truth ?

(b) If not, why not ?

497. Will Government be pleased to state whether the clerk concerned has been compelled to retire in consequence of the alleged remarks made against the Hon'ble Minister on a threat of dismissal ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

492-497.—Government have always declined to discuss the merits of the officers on the floor of the House, and consider that it would not be in the interests of public service to make any exception in this case: they are prepared to disclose however, that the Commissioner having heard that the clerk in question had been discussing confidential matters outside the office and making remarks which he considered highly defamatory about the Hon'ble Revenue Minister, instituted an enquiry, as a result of which the clerk resigned rather than face formal proceedings.

Remarks made against one of the Hon'ble Ministers

Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI asked :

498. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to refer to the news under the caption “*মন্ত্রীৰ প্ৰতি অশোভন মন্তব্য*” published in the *Jugaveri* of Sylhet, dated the 18th July 1938 and state—

- (a) The name of the Hon'ble Minister referred to ?
- (b) The alleged remarks made by Babu Birendra Nath Chaudhuri ?
- (c) The agency through which the authorities came to know of the incident ?
- (d) The action Government has taken or propose to take in the matter ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

498.—Attention is invited to the reply given to similar unstarred questions (Nos.492-497) asked by the hon. member in this session of the Assembly.

Remarks made against one of the Hon'ble Ministers

Babu SHIBENDRA CHANDRA BISWAS asked :

499. (a) Is it a fact that Babu Birendra Nath Chaudhuri, a clerk in the office of the Commissioner, Assam Valley Division, has gone on pension ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether he was asked by the Commissioner to retire ?

500. Will Government be pleased to state—(a) Whether he has been made to retire prematurely ?

(b) Whether the Commissioner was phoned up by the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister to dismiss the said clerk ?

(c) If so, what is his offence for which he has been made to retire ?

(d) Whether he made any remark against the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister ?

(e) If so, whether the Hon'ble Minister considered this remark to be defamatory ?

(f) What was the offending remark made by the clerk ?

(g) Whether this remark was made in a private place ?

(h) If not, where and under what circumstances the remark was made ?

501. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Who reported the matter to the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that it was reported by Dr. Jatis Ch. Das to the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister ?

(c) If not, who reported the said remark to the Hon'ble Minister ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

499-501.—Attention is invited to the reply given to similar unstarred questions (Nos.492-497) asked by Babu Harendra Narayan Chaudhuri in this Session of the Assembly.

"Creteways" over the Barpeta-Simaluguri Road

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS asked :

502. Will Government be pleased to refer to the reply to the unstarred question No.324 put in the 1937-38 budget session of the Assembly on the 16th August 1937 and to state—

- (a) If the "creteways" over the Barpeta-Simaluguri Road have proved successful ?
- (b) If so, do Government propose to take early steps to complete the creteways at least from Barpeta to Barpeta Road station ?
- (c) If the reply to question 502 (a) is in the negative, do Government propose to take steps to metal the road at an early date ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

502. (a)—Experience shows that the creteways are not altogether suitable for the road in question.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—No.

Report of the Line System Enquiry Committee

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS asked :

503. (a) Will Government be pleased to state when the report of the Line System Enquiry Committee is likely to be laid before the Assembly for discussion ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the reason for the delay in laying the report before the Assembly ?

504. (a) Is it a fact that order have recently been issued to the effect that the Mymensinghia encroachers in the constituted Reserves staying in their places of encroachments from before a certain date should not be evicted ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the principle followed in issuing the said orders ?

505. Will Government be pleased to state whether Government propose to do away with the Reserves or curtail them materially by allowing Mymensinghia encroachers to remain in their places of encroachment ?

506. (a) Is it a fact that the immigrants of the neighbouring villages of the closed and Reserved areas in the Paka Mauza of the Barpeta Subdivision are now encroaching upon them ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take immediate steps to evict them forthwith ?

(c) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

503. (a)—In the current session of the Assembly it is proposed.

(b)—The report was supplied to the Members of the Assembly during the last budget session, but the evidence could not be printed and supplied to the Members then. Since then there has been no session of the Assembly.

504. (a) & (b)—The hon. member is referred to replies given to unstarred questions Nos. 410 and 411 asked by Srijut Siddhinath Sarma at the current session of the Assembly.

505.—Government have not yet come to a decision.

506.—(a), (b) & (c) Government have no information whether there are any encroachments of later date than the 1st April 1937. The information has been called for.

Nature of work done by the Inspectors and the Demonstrators of Agricultural Department

Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR asked :

507. Will Government be pleased to state the nature of work done by the Inspectors and the Demonstrators of the Agricultural Department stationed at Subdivisional headquarters ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

507.—It is not possible to summarise the variety of work done by the Agricultural Inspectors and Demonstrators in reply to a question. Their activities whether stationed at Subdivisional or District headquarters consist chiefly of—

- (i) organisation and supervision of demonstration,
- (ii) submission of crop forecasts,
- (iii) introduction and sale of improved varieties of seeds and implements,
- (iv) collection of samples of seeds and plants, and
- (v) inspection of cultivators' fields and helping them with necessary advice and guidance.

Permanently-settled estates in the district of Sylhet

Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR asked :

508. Will Government be pleased to state in a tabular form—

- (a) The total area of land covered by the permanently-settled estates in the district of Sylhet ?
- (b) The average rate or rent per acre of land payable by *raiya*s to their immediate landlords in the permanently-settled areas in the district of Sylhet ?
- (c) The average rate of revenue per acre of land payable by the proprietors to Government in the permanently-settled areas in the district of Sylhet ?
- (d) The total quantity of land lying waste in the permanently-settled areas in the district of Sylhet ?
- (e) The average rate of rent per acre of land payable by *raiya*s to Government in the Government *khas mahal* areas in the district of Sylhet ?
- (f) The average rate of rent per acre of land payable by *raiya*s to their immediate landlords in the permanently-settled areas in the districts of Bengal ?

- (g) The average rate of revenue per acre of land payable by the proprietors to Government in the permanently-settled areas in the districts of Bengal ?
- (h) The average rate of rent per acre payable by *raiya*s to Government in the Government *Khas Mahal* areas in the districts of Bengal ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

508. (a)—The total area in 1937-38 is 2,399,768 acres.
 (b)—The hon. member is referred to the Notification No.345-R., dated the 28th January 1935, published at pages 188-193 of Part II of the *Assam Gazette* No.5 of 1935. No other particulars are available.

(c)—About annas 2 and 5 pies.

(d)—The Deputy Commissioner reports that it is not possible to supply this information without a detailed survey.

(e)—It is not possible to supply any accurate figures as the rates vary in different places of the district. An approximate figure comes to Re.1-3-10 pies.

(f), (g) & (h)—Government have no information.

System of accepting lowest rates of tenders

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

509. Is it a fact that the system of accepting lowest rates of tenders is not working well in Assam ?

510. Is it a fact that many contractors during the period of introduction of the system of accepting lowest rates of tenders could not complete their contracts for the lowest rates and Government had to give works to other persons at higher rates to get the works completed ?

511. Are Government aware that the said system stands seriously in the way of engaging and training indigenous labourers to work ?

512. (a) Are Government aware that after the Kopili Flood in Nowgong in 1934, both the then Executive Engineer and the Deputy Commissioner found out and trained up men to do earth work from among the Muhammedans, Lalungs, Kacharies, Mikirs, Koches, Kaibartas and other people of the district of Nowgong, and that these labourers did earth work on the Assam Trunk Road particularly between Jagi Road and Nowgong and constructed the Hojai-Dabaka Road and several other roads in the district by raising earth ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state why no earth work was given to these labourers to do for the last 2 or 3 years under the Public Works Department ?

513. Are Government aware that encouragements and opportunities from Government the local labourers of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills have proved themselves to be as efficient and competent as other foreign labourers doing such works in the plains ?

514. If the replies to questions Nos. 512(a) and 513 are in the affirmative, do Government propose to issue orders to the Public Works Department and other Departments to make it a condition while accepting tenders to employ indigenous labourers even paying higher rates if necessary ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

509.—The competitive system of calling for tenders and accepting the lowest tender as a rule, is working well on the whole in Assam.

510.—Government are aware that in most cases contracts are satisfactorily completed. Where such is not the case, the causes of failure are many, such as, inexperience, financial difficulties, inability to recruit labour, etc., and it cannot be said whether failure in any particular case was due specifically to quoting low rates.

511.—Government do not consider that the system is at fault.

512.(a)—Some contractors had been asked to employ local people on earth work, and the Deputy Commissioner, Nowgong, endeavoured to induce local men to do earth work after the 1934 floods, but the response was very poor. The work of local contractors was behindhand, and had in most cases to be completed through other agencies.

(b)—Government are informed that none of those who worked after the 1934 floods, came forward again to take up earth work.

513.—If the local labourers of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills have proved themselves to be efficient and competent, it is entirely due to their own initiative and effort.

514.—No.

Transfer of an Assistant of the office of Military Secretary to the Civil Secretariat

Srijut KRISHNA NATH SARMAH asked :

515.(a) Is it a fact that an Assistant of the office of the Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor was lately transferred to the Civil Secretariat and placed at the top of the list of Lower Division cadre ?

(b) Is it a fact that a similar recruitment was made from the Comptroller's office in the Upper Division cadre ?

(c) Is it a fact that there is a provision to recruit clerks from the District offices to fill Upper Division posts in the Assam Secretariat ?

(d) Are Government aware that such practices greatly prejudice the interests of men already serving in the Secretariat, and that such recruitments are made only at the instance of interested parties who deliberately ignore the claims of Secretariat Assistants ?

(e) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of putting a stop to such practices to safeguard the prospects of all Assistants of the Secretariats ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

515.(a)—Yes, but the assistant was placed eighth in the list of Lower Division Assistants on the advice of the Public Service Commission ?

(b)—Yes.

(c)—It has been the practice occasionally in the past and the principle is provided for in the draft revised rules.

(d)—The occasional recruitment from outside offices is made for the public interest, which the individual interests of officers must subserve. The suggestion in the latter part of the question is not true.

(e)—The reply is in the negative.

Excise Canteens in Tea Gardens in Darrang district**Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS** asked :

516. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The names of tea gardens in the district of Darrang where excise canteens have been opened this year ?
- (b) The number of canteens that were in existence in Mangaldai and Tezpur subdivisions last year ?
- (c) The number of canteens opened this year in those places ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

516.(a), (b) & (c)—There were no canteens anywhere in the district last year nor were any opened this year.

Permanent ministerial posts in Assam Civil and Public Works Department Secretariats**Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI** asked :

517. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether any of the seven permanent ministerial posts in the Assam Civil and the Public Works Department Secretariats to each of which a special pay is attached, are now held by Muslims ?
- (b) If so, how many ?
- (c) Whether further temporary posts with special pay have since been created and whether any Muslims appointed to hold any of such posts ?
- (d) Who guides the "luck" of Secretariat Assistants, particularly Muslim Assistants, in the matter of selection for appointment to such posts ?
- (e) Whether Government propose to formulate definite rules for filling these posts so that the Assistants of the various communities may get the benefit ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

517. (a)—Yes.

(b)—One post is held by a Muslim. The special pay attached to one of the seven posts is personal to the incumbent.

(c)—The first part of the question is not fully understood. Some temporary posts were created with special pay in 1937 for adaptation of Laws and Financial Rules. No Muslims were appointed to any of these.

(d)—The Chief Secretary is the administrative head of the Secretariat, and he makes or proposes to the Hon'ble Chief Minister postings according to the character of the work and the fitness of assistants for it.

(e)—Government do not consider practicable to apply communal proportions to postings within the departments. The special pay is given on account of the arduous character or special responsibility of the work, which in the case of the permanent posts sometimes involves loss of prospects in respect of advancement in the regular line. Such postings are not promotions, as the hon. member seems to think.

**Appointments made in the vacancies caused by the retirement of
Certain Headmasters**

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

518. Will the Hon'ble Minister of Education be pleased to state—
 (a) When Babu Tridash Nath Das and Sreejut Rameswar Barua, Headmasters, retired from service ?
 (b) When the permanent appointments were made in the vacancies caused by their retirement ?
 (c) The reasons for the delay in making selection of the permanent incumbents in their places ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

518. (a)—On the 16th July 1937 and the 16th December 1937 respectively.
 (b)—In April and March 1938 respectively.
 (c)—Because several cases of promotion were considered simultaneously and there was also a change in the Ministry.

**Introduction of the Assamese language as a subject for the M. A.
Examination**

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked :

519. Will Government be pleased to state—
 (a) Whether there has been any public agitation in the Press or platform about the introduction of the Assamese language as a subject for the M.A. course of the Calcutta University ?
 (b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether Government has taken any steps and if so, what steps for the introduction of the Assamese language as a subject for the M.A. Examination ?
520. Will Government be pleased to state—
 (a) If it is a fact that the Calcutta University agreed to introduce the subject for the M.A. Examination on certain terms to be fulfilled by Government ?
 (b) If so, what are the terms ?
 (c) Whether Government has fulfilled the terms for the introduction of the subject in the M.A. course ?
 (d) Whether the Assamese language has not yet been introduced as a subject for the M.A. course ?
 (e) If Government propose to undertake measures for the introduction of the subject in the M.A. course of the Calcutta University ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

519. & 520.—The Assamese language has now been included by the University as a principal subject for the M.A. degree in Indian vernaculars.

Prince of Wales Technical School at Jorhat**Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA** asked :

521. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) What are the different branches of Education in the Prince of Wales Technical School at Jorhat ?
- (b) The number of students, after completion of training who have been absorbed in Government service or in any firms having Government control, such as, Electric concerns, Railways, Commercial Carrying Companies of Assam ?
- (c) Whether Government reserve a certain percentage of service in the said concerns for the successful boys of the said school ?
- (d) If so, what is the percentage ?
- (e) If not, why not ?
- (f) Whether any other Provincial Government have given such facilities for their boys coming out successful from their Technical Schools in any such firms or companies under their control ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

521. (a)—(1) Wood working class.
 (2) Mechanical apprentice class.
 (3) Motor mechanic class.
 (4) Higher motor mechanic class.
- (b)—Government have no information.
- (c)—No. But the Oil Company at Digboi has agreed to accept our passed students when vacancies occurred.
- (d)—Does not arise.
- (e)—Because Government have no authority whatsoever over recruitment by private concerns but they have pointed out to such concerns the desirability of appointing unemployed trained youths of the province.
- (f)—Government have no information but have enquired.

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: The answer to (c) is "No. But the Oil Company at Digboi has agreed to accept our passed students when vacancies occurred". May I enquire of Government whether the same principle can be adopted by other companies over which Government has some control, for instance the Commercial Carrying Company and other such companies ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: I said in reply to (e) that Government have pointed out to such concerns the desirability of appointing unemployed trained youths of the province.

Agricultural improvement in Hail Hawar**Babu DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURY** asked :

522. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government has received from the Agricultural Inspector, South Sylhet, any scheme for agricultural improvement by opening the mouth of Gopla River in Hail Hawar, by erection of Kamarkhal Bund, Machuakhali Bund and Karaya Bund ?
- (b) If so, what steps, if any, has Government taken to give effect to these schemes ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

522. (a)—Yes.

(b)—This is still under the consideration of Government along with other schemes of similar nature.

Number and names of honorary correspondents of the Agricultural Department

Mr. NABA KUMAR DATTA asked :

523. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number and names of honorary correspondents of the Agricultural Department in the various districts of the Assam Valley ?

(b) The duties of these correspondents ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

523. (a) & (b)—A list showing the names and number of honorary correspondents together with a set of rules for their guidance is placed on the library table.

Number of boys received training in Hosiery

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

524. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Industry be pleased to state—

(a) The number of boys with their names who have received training in Hosiery with Government aid ?

(b) The number of such trained boys doing Hosiery business ?

(c) Whether any such trained boys are getting any Government aid for doing Hosiery business ?

525. Do Government propose to consider the question of opening a Hosiery section in the Government Weaving School at Gauhati ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

524. (a)—The following four boys in all received training of whom two got stipends from Provincial Revenues and two from the Williamson Fund. Of these Nos. (1) and (3) have completed their training, the stipend of No. (2) was cancelled for unsatisfactory progress and No. (4) is still under training.

(1) Jatindra Nath Dutta Choudhury.

(2) Abdul Aziz.

(3) Baliram Laskar.

(4) Hamiduddin Ahmed.

(b)—No. (1) is in hosiery business in the Punjab getting practical business experience, No. (2) is employed in a mill in Ahmedabad and No. (3) has come back only about two months ago.

(c)—The answer is in the negative in view of the reply to question (b).

525.—This will be considered by Government when funds are available.

Government Weaving School at Gauhati

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

526. (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Industry aware that the staff and students of the Government Weaving School at Gauhati are undergoing considerable inconvenience for want of sufficient accommodation in the teaching classes of spinning, reeling, twisting, etc. ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to provide the school with an additional building ?

527. Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Industry aware that there are no quarters for Hostel Superintendent of the Government Weaving School at Gauhati attached to the Hostel and that the boarders stay there without proper supervision ?

528. Do Government propose to take this question into consideration and remove this drawback ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

526. (a)—Yes, there is some amount of inconvenience.

(b)—The matter is engaging the attention of Government.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : May I know when Government is proposing to undertake the extension of the school building of the Government Weaving School ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI : As soon as funds are available.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Do the Government realise that the accommodation is very scanty and the students have been put to great inconvenience ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI : Government understand that that is the position.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

527.—There are no residential quarters for the Hostel Superintendent but it is not correct to say that the boarders live without proper supervision.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : May I know who supervises the boarders ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI : The Hostel Superintendent.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Where does he stay, Sir ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI : I understand he stays far from the Hostel.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Do not Government think that the boarders stay there without proper supervision ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI : Government do think that the supervision is adequate.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Do not Government think that the Superintendent should stay near the hostel ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI : That is the idea, but that is not possible now.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Do Government propose to remove this defect and provide residential quarters for the Superintendent attached to the Hostel ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI : It involves financial consideration for which Government is not in a position to provide the accommodation.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied:
528.—No, because there are arrangements for effective supervision of the boarders.

Policy of Government re realisation of subscription and donation by local officers

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA asked :

529. Are Government aware that there is considerable public resentment over the policy of the Government of realisation of subscription and donation by local officers for the funds opened at the instance of Government or encouraged by them ?

530. Do Government propose to consult and compare the donations realised at least in the Sylhet district during the last three years from officials and non-officials and ascertain the truth of these allegations ?

531. Do Government propose to consider the desirability of stopping such practice in future and leave the work of realisation of such subscriptions and donations entirely to non-official hands ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

529.—No. It is the experience of Government that official backing is generally welcomed both by the organisers of philanthropic funds and by the public who subscribe thereto, no doubt because it secures a ready organisation which is fully subject to supervision, so that administration charges are kept to a minimum.

530.—No. This would be very laborious besides being inquisitorial.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: Are Government aware that there is a rivalry among different officers in the matter of collecting funds which leads to hardship being imposed on people at large ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: No, Sir, Government is not aware of that fact.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: Will Government take it from me that such process of collection has become a process of ingratiation with the Government ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I do not like to challenge the statement of the hon. member.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

531.—No. Government are not prepared to refuse their aid and that of their officers for the benefit of suffering humanity when it is asked for.

Silting up of river Surma

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

532. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Surma river is being silted up in many places ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that one of the causes of recent floods in the Surma Valley is due to the silting up of the river ?

533. Do Government propose to take steps for dredging the river to check floods ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

532. (a)—Government have received no report that the river Surma is silting up in many places.

(b)—Government are advised that the recent floods could not have been influenced by the silting up of the bed of the Surma.

533.—No.

Representations submitted by the Typists and Copyists to Government

Maulavi MABARAK ALI asked :

534. Will Government be pleased to state, what they mean by the expression "on the lines desired" as expressed in their order dated Shillong the 7th August, 1937, in reply to the representations submitted by the Typists and Copyists to Government ?

535. Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to grant these employees any other relief in any other line, other than that they prayed for, in their representations ?

536. Will Government be pleased to state the correct figure of income from the Copying Department for the last three years ?

537. Are Government aware of the fact that the Typists and Copyists get their remuneration only from the sale-proceeds of folios ?

538. Do Government propose to consider the desirability of increasing their remunerations by giving them a share from the income of searching fees, urgent fees, court-fees for authentication and applications for copies ?

539. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The reasons under which the Sub-Registrars, Nazirs and Comparing Clerks are given fixed salaries?

(b) Whether there is any difference between these employees, and the Typists and Copyists ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

534.—The words quoted referred to the representations of these employees that they should be organized as a regular Government service and granted a time scale of pay and pensions.

535.—No. No further request has been made to Government.

536.—The hon. member is referred to the reply to a similar starred question (No. 174) asked by Mr. A. K. Chanda at this session of the Assembly.

537.—Yes.

538.—No. These are not receipts which are earned by the labour of these employees.

539. (a)—The nature and value of the work done by these officers is not estimable by the amount of fees paid.

(b)—Yes.

Contract for a new Pile Bridge on the Rowta-Dalgoma Road

Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS asked :

540. Is it a fact that Messrs. Arthur Butler Ltd. of Muzaffarpore has been given the contract for a new Pile Bridge on the Rowta-Dalgoma Road ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

540.—No.

Probably the hon. member is confusing with the Rowta-Dalgaon Road. If so, last year, this firm was given contract for two bridges which they completed in July 1938, as their rates were lowest.

Repair of inner walls of the bank of the Sibsagar tank

Srijut BHUBAN CHANDRA GOGOI asked :

541. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The total amount sanctioned for the repair of the inner walls of the bank of the Sibsagar Tank.

(b) The total amount spent up to this time for this ?

(c) The reason for suspending the work of the walls ?

542. Are Government aware that the brick work of the said wall is not satisfactory ?

543. Are Government aware that the new wall has cracked in many places ?

544. Do Government propose to enquire how such useless work could be done in the very nose of the authority ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

541. (a)—Rs.13,710.

(b)—Rs.11,855 upto March 1938.

(c)—It was necessary to drain out the tank sufficiently in order to take up the work of the foundations of the walls, and as this took a longer time to do than was anticipated, the work could not be completed in the last working season.

542.—Government have no reason to believe that the work is unsatisfactory.

543 & 544.—In view of the allegations Superintending Engineer has been asked to inspect and give a detailed report.

Clerical establishment in the Public Works Department Offices at Sylhet

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY asked :

545. Will Government be pleased to state the number of clerks working in the Executive Engineer's office, Sylhet, and that of the Public Works Department officers under it ?

546. Will Government be pleased to state how many of them are Muslims and what is their grade of pay, giving also the number of non-Muslim clerks and their grade of pay ?

547. Will Government be pleased to state for how long these clerks are working in their posts and whether Government propose to transfer these clerks after the lapse of 3 years service at one station ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

545—547.—The statement below gives all the information asked for. Subdivisional Head Clerks draw a special pay of Rs.10 per mensem. Government do not propose to make any transfers.

Statement of existing clerical establishment of Sylhet Division employed in Divisional and Subdivisional Offices as it stands on 10th August 1938

Serial No.	Name of office	Name of clerk	Community belongs to	Date of appointment	Permanent or temporary	Grade of pay and remarks
1	Divisional Office, Sylhet.	Babu Prafulla Ch. Dutta.	Hindu ...	11th May 1909...	Permanent	125—5—150
2	Ditto	Babu R. R. Sarma	Ditto ...	28th June 1911...	Ditto ...	40—3—70—2—90—2—100.
3	Ditto	Babu J. C. Purkayastha.	Ditto ...	20th June 1914...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
4	Ditto	Babu N. N. Deb ...	Ditto ...	2nd January 1928.	Ditto ...	Ditto.
5	Ditto	Babu P. C. Datta ...	Ditto ...	1st July 1915 ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
6	Ditto	Babu H. N. Nath ...	Ditto ...	28th August 1934.	Temporary	80—5/2—100—5—110.
7	Ditto	Maulvi Ismail ...	Musalman ...	1st November 1935.	Ditto ...	35—35—40—2—68—3/2—80.
8	Ditto	Maulvi Nadiruz Zaman.	Ditto ...	1st November 1935.	Ditto ...	Ditto.

Serial No.	Name of office	Name of clerk	Community belongs to	Date of appointment	Permanent or temporary	Grade of pay and remarks
9	Divisional Officer, Sylhet.	Maulvi A. Sattar ...	Musalman ...	1st November 1935.	Temporary	35—35—40—2—68—3/2—80.
10	Ditto ...	Shah A. Aziz ...	Ditto ...	1st August 1938	Ditto ...	Ditto.
11	North Sylhet Buildings Subdivision.	Maulvi Gyasuddin Choudhury.	Ditto ...	15th October 1935.	Ditto ...	Ditto. Special pay Rs.10.
12.	Ditto ...	Babu D. N. Das ...	Scheduled Caste (Patni).	1st August 1938	Ditto ...	35—35—40—2—68—3/2—80.
13	North Sylhet Roads Subdivision.	Maulvi Moniruddin	Musalman ...	23rd August 1937.	Ditto ...	Ditto.
14	Ditto ...	Babu S. P. De Chowdhury.	Hindu ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto. Special pay Rs.10.
15	Maulvibazar Sub-division.	Babu S. K. Datta ...	Ditto ...	27th January 1936.	Ditto ...	Ditto.
16	Ditto ...	Maulvi Mozahir Ali.	Musalman ...	15th October 1935.	Ditto ...	35—35—40—2—68—3/2—80.

Distribution of services amongst the Assam Valley and the Surma Valley Muslims

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY asked :

548. (a) Is it a fact that on the basis of percentage of population, the Assam Valley Hindus are getting services ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to give services to the Muslims of the Surma Valley on the basis of population and make a clear cut distribution of services amongst the Assam Valley and the Surma Valley Muslims ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

548. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Demands have recently been voiced by the Muhammadans of either Valley for separate recognition and Government are taking steps to give effect to this.

Post of Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Assam

Maulavi Md. ABDUS SALAM asked :

549. Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to create a post of Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Assam ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

549.—No.

Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Assam Valley

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

550. Is it a fact that Babu Khirodebehari Shome, Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Assam Valley, has recently gone on leave ?

551. Is it a fact that Babu Sudhindra Kumar Nandi has been allowed to officiate in his place ?

552. Is it a fact that Babu Sudhindra Kumar Nandi does not understand Assamese ?

553. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The duties of the Auditor of the Co-operative Societies, Assam, and the special qualification of the present permanent incumbent, if any ?

(b) His scale of pay and rate of travelling allowance stating the amount drawn by him in 1937-38 as travelling allowance ?

(c) Whether the scale of pay and the rate of travelling allowance is higher than that of an Inspector of Co-operative Societies ?

(d) Whether Government propose to abolish this post and increase the post of an Inspector of Co-operative Societies ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

550 & 551.—Yes.

552.—No.

553.(a)—The primary duties of the Provincial Auditor of Co-operative Societies are to conduct the original audit of a large number of important co-operative banks and all societies of special type, e.g., Co-operative Stores, Milk Societies and Milk Unions, to super-audit some of the banks of which the original audit is done by the Inspectors and to audit the accounts of

societies under liquidation. He is also to make special enquiries whenever ordered by the Registrar. The compilation of the provincial figures for the annual administrative report and assessment of audit fee are also done by him. The present incumbent had some training in Bengal on the audit of the accounts of non-credit societies. Before his appointment in the Department of Co-operative Societies, he was an Assistant Auditor under the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts, Assam.

(b)—His scale of pay is Rs.150—15—27—10—350. He draws travelling allowance at the rate admissible to officers of the second grade with a daily allowance of Rs.3. A sum of Rs.932-4-0 was drawn by him as travelling allowance during 1937-38.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—No.

Amount of Agricultural loans sanctioned for the different subdivisions of the Province

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

554. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The amount of agricultural loans sanctioned for the different subdivisions of the Assam Valley and Surma Valley for the years 1937-38 and 1938-39 ?

(b) The requisite conditions of the *rai-yats* that qualify them to receive Agricultural loans ?

(c) The names of the officers who recommend the conditions of the *rai-yats* ?

555. Is it a fact that the Subdivisional Officers go by the reports of the Mauzadars as a rule in sanctioning loans ?

556. If the answer to question 555 is in the affirmative, do Government propose to consider the desirability of changing this practice ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

554.(a)—Subdivisional figures are not available in the Secretariat. The figures by districts are given below :—

1937-38 (Financial year)		1938-39 (From 1st April 1938 to 31st August 1938)	
Name of district	Amount of Agricultural loans sanctioned	Name of district	Amount of Agricultural loans sanctioned
Lakhimpur district	Rs. 3,500	Lakhimpur	Rs. 13,000
Sibsagar district	1,050	Sibsagar	15,000
		Nowgong	10,000
		Goalpara	68,000
		Kamrup	26,000
		Darrang	25,000
		Garohills	3,000
	4,550		1,60,000

(b)—The hon. member is referred to statutory rules 3 and 6 at pages 3 and 4 of the Assam Loans Manual.

(c)—Statutory rule 4(1) provides that enquiry may be made by a revenue officer, officer of the Agricultural Department not below Inspector or by a reliable non-official agent as may be decided by the Deputy Commissioner.

555.—Government have no information, but understand that in nearly all cases the Sub-Deputy Collector is the agency employed.

556.—The question does not arise.

Mauzadar of Pubthoria

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA asked :

557. (a) Are Government aware of harassments by the Mauzadar of Pubthoria in the district of Nowgong on some *rai-yats* by attachments of valuable articles like bi-cycles for small arrears of revenue and sales of such things in spite of offer of arrear-revenue ?

(b) If not, do Government propose to make proper enquiries and redress the grievances of those poor *rai-yats* ?

558. Are Government aware that this Mouzadar and some others harass the people usually after the occasional Local Board and Assembly elections ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

557. (a)—The general allegation against this Mauzadar is entirely false, and Government regret that the only attachment made by him, against a habitual and wilful defaulter, who was only saved from prosecution for obstruction by the leniency of the Mauzadar, should have been made the ground for a general indictment of a Mauzadar against whom no complaints have been received. In this particular case the cycle which was attached on 4th June 1938 but not sold until 20th June 1938 was a very old one ; the Mauzadar paid the entire demand before 31st May 1938 without resorting to a single sale case either of movable or immovables.

(b)—Does not arise.

558.—On the contrary, the report of the Deputy Commissioner shows that the Mauzadars who do not help Congress candidates in elections are harassed. Recently also, at a deputation to the Revenue Minister the Mauzadars of Nowgong gave an account of such harassments.

Staff of the Legislative Department

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

559. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether almost the whole staff of the Legislative Department, Assam, has been kept on a provisional basis with effect from February, 1937 ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that inspite of repeated representations, the present staff is not being confirmed ?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether the present staff will be soon confirmed ?

(d) If not, do Government propose to replace the existing staff by more efficient hands ?

560. (a) Are Government aware that there is a great dissatisfaction among all the junior Assistants of the Legislative Department due to the rude treatment of the Head Assistant with them?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take necessary steps in the matter?

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

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS replied :

559. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No representation was made to the Head of the Office.

(c)—The matter is under consideration.

(d)—Does not arise.

560. (a)—The Head of the Office reports that no complaints have been made.

(b) and (c)—Do not arise.

Newspaper article re allegations against two constables—Cinema proprietor roughly handled

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

561. Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Police been drawn to the allegations against two police constables published at page 10 in the issue of the *Times of Assam* dated the 23rd July, 1938, under the caption—"Allegations against two constables—Cinema proprietor roughly handled"?

562. (a) Is it a fact that the managing proprietor of Krishna Talkies, Nowgong, submitted a complaint petition against the two constables in the Court of the Senior Extra Assistant Commissioner and the petition was forwarded to the Superintendent of Police for enquiry, and report?

(b) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state (i) The result of the enquiry and the complaint? (ii) The punishment, if any meted out to the constables?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

561.—Yes.

562. (a)—Yes.

(b) (i)—The complainant withdrew his complaint when it was sent to the Superintendent of Police for enquiry and the Magistrate permitted him to do so. The complainant also requested the Superintendent of Police to take departmental action against the constables. As a result of departmental enquiry conduct of the Constables was found disorderly. (ii) Each of the constables was awarded 12 days' punishment drill and a warning was given to one of them that his next offence will entail dismissal.

Elevated places of the Langia Reserve in the district of Nowgong

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMIRUDDIN asked :

563. Are Government aware—

(a) That the Langia Reserve is the only elevated place in the North-Western part of the Juria and the North-Eastern part of the Dhing Mauzas of the district of Nowgong?

- (b) That it was formerly the abode of the Nepali graziers and a place of protection against the high floods of the Brahmaputra for immigrants and Nepalis alike ?
- (c) That this reserve has saved about 4 thousand cattle of Nepalis and immigrants from being swept away by the recent Brahmaputra flood ?
- (d) That about 7 or 8 hundred cattle of Nepalis and immigrants have been swept away by the strong current of the flood from the Batihara *khuti*, about a mile west of the said Reserve on their way thereto when the water was first rising ?
- (e) That the South-Western part of the said Reserve had been already sett'ed with the immigrants some 4 or 5 years ago ?
- (f) That the North-Western part of the Reserve which is the most elevated place within a radius of 4 to 5 miles was settled by the Colonisation Officer, Nowgong, with the immigrants this year ?
- (g) That a criminal case under section 447, Indian Penal Code, involving as many as 16 accused, is pending in the Court of the Senior Extra Assistant Commissioner, Nowgong, regarding the newly colonised land of the said Reserve ?
- (h) That the accused hold 8 annas tickets to be enrolled as colonists ?
- (i) If so, why they were not given land in that Reserve ?
- (j) That the Colonisation Officer has, excepting only 3 or 4 landless immigrants, settled the elevated part of that Reserve with some 18 immigrants who already hold sufficient landed property standing in their own names or in the names of their kinsmen of the very same family ?
- (k) If so, will Government be pleased to state why the Colonisation Officer has settled the highest place of protection against floods with the land-owning immigrants while hundreds of landless people were present before him with their 8 annas tickets of enrolment as new colonists, issued to them before hand ?

564. Will Government be pleased to state whether the Colonisation Officer settled waste lands previously also with other land-holding people in other reserves ?

565. Do Government propose to hold an immediate enquiry with some M. L. As. into such state of affairs obtaining in some 10 or 12 reserves so settled by the Colonisation Officer and give relief to the landless, needy people ?

566. Do Government propose to stop immediately the cultivation of the newly settled areas of the said Langia Reserve by the land-owning people with whom it has been settled pending enquiry and decision thereupon by Government ?

567. Do Government propose to accommodate elsewhere the colonists of Lahorighat, Bokoni and Mayong mauzas whose lands have been washed away or cut away by the Brahmaputra or whose lands have been found totally unfit for cultivation from the experiences of the recent Brahmaputra flood without any premium ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

563. (a)—No. There are many elevated places in the area in question.

(b)—Some Nepali graziers used to live there before it was constituted into a reserve. About immigrants taking shelter in that area, there is no authenticated information available. Some might have squatted there without permission.

(c)—Some cattle were kept there during the floods as in other reserves.

(d)—Government have no information, Batihara *khuti* is in Darrang district and is about 7 or 8 miles below the Langia Reserve.

(e)—Village Langia has got two sheets (maps). It is not understood which of the two maps is meant by the hon. member by Langia Reserve, if he means sheet No. 1, it is not a reserve but a colonisation area since 1933 and there is no reserve there. If he means sheet No. 2 there has been no encroachment on it, and it is still intact as a reserve.

(f)—In sheet No. 1 measuring 1445 *bighas* which is entirely a colonisation area since 1933, and where there is no reserve, there was a piece of land about 220 *bighas* in area which could not so long be brought under colonisation. It was, however, settled with 22 immigrants on 24th March 1938, by the Colonisation Officer as he wanted to make the entire area in sheet No. 1 periodic.

(g)—Yes. Some persons have been charged with taking forcible possession of the lands of the 22 immigrants in a Criminal case. The hon. member is reported to be defending those trespassers in that case.

(h) & (i)—It is not understood what the hon. member means by the word "ticket". If he means the receipt granted to a person who applies for settlement of land in the colonisation area, then holding of such a receipt does not entitle a man to get land, as several people apply for land but only a few get it. There is no obligation on the part of Government to settle land with all holders of such receipts. A sum of annas 8 is realised from each applicant who applies for land in the colonisation area and a receipt is given to him for that eight annas only in token that the application was received.

(j) & (k)—At the time of settlement open enquiry was made regarding people who are eligible for settlement under colonisation rules. No objection was made at the time of settlement or subsequently in this case objecting to any particular person having land elsewhere. Had objection been made and proved the allotment would have been at once cancelled under the rules and premium forfeited. Though the premium was taken on 24th March, 1938 and the allotment was made and possession given on 12th May, 1938 in presence of all villagers, there was no objection forthcoming regarding a particular person having sufficient lands elsewhere either to Colonisation Officer or to Deputy Commissioner. Even now no such complaints have been received.

564.—No land is settled with any land-holder within the knowledge of Colonisation Officer who always makes enquiry into the matter.

565.—Government do not see any necessity for such an enquiry. During Deputy Commissioner's recent tour in flood-affected areas, he found that some reserves, which should have been kept as reserves were brought under Colonisation Scheme and he proposes to go into the question in this cold weather.

566.—This cannot be done as the *pattas* have already been issued.

567.—It is too early to consider if the colonists in question should be accommodated elsewhere. The Deputy Commissioner proposes to examine the question in due course. The difficulty with regard to this matter is that most of the immigrants are reluctant to go to a new place from lands which they have already occupied.

Newspaper article re "Scheduled castes in Assam"

Srijut BELIRAM DAS asked :

568. Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the news published in the "Amrita Bazar Patrika", dated 14th June 1938, under the caption "Scheduled castes in Assam" ?

569. Is it a fact that out of 200 employees in both the Secretariats, Civil and Public Works Department, at Shillong, there are only 3 employees belonging to the scheduled castes ?

570. Do Government propose to fill up the future vacancies by men belonging to these communities till their quota is full ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

568.—Yes.

569.—There are at present 151 permanent appointments in the Ministerial Establishment of the Secretariats both Civil and Public Works Department out of which three are held by the members of the scheduled caste and there is also one officiating hand.

570.—The point will receive due attention from Government together with the claims of other under-represented communities.

Construction of a bridge over the Haripani river

Srijut BELIRAM DAS asked :

571. Are Government aware that there is a great demand from the public for an iron bridge over the Haripani river on the Jogighopa-Chapaguri Road ?

572. Are Government aware that this bridge can be made with an expenditure of rupees forty thousand only ?

573. Are Government aware that there is a rumour current in the Goalpara district that this Government is determined not to construct a bridge at Haripani ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

571.—The necessity for the bridge has been represented to Government.

572.—No. Government are informed that the cost of the bridge cannot be less than Rs.60,000.

573.—Government have no information of the rumour which is unfounded.

Number of Select Committees formed by Government and the House and the amount spent after each of these Committees

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY asked :

574. Will Government be pleased to state the number of Select Committees that have been formed up-to-date and the amount spent after each of these Committees ?

575. Will Government be pleased to state how many of these Committees have been formed at the instance of Government and how many by the House ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

574.—Two—

	Rs.	a.	p.
(i)—Select Committee on the Good Conduct Prisoners' Bill	933	8	0
Expenditure			
(ii)—Ditto on the Sylhet Town Tenancy Bill	1,447	13	0
Expenditure			

575.—Both the Committees were appointed by the House.

Name and rank of the officer who enquire about the 'Bunds' in Ghashi river

Maulavi MD. MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

576. Will Government be pleased to state the name and rank of the officer who enquire about the 'Bunds' (বন্ড) in Ghashi river under police station Dharampassa in the district of Sylhet ?

577. Will Government be pleased to state whether they are in the know of the facts that the officer while conducting enquiry was influenced by the Zamindar's party ?

578. Is it a fact that hundreds of tenants went to the enquiring officer to tell him their difficulties created after the 'bunds' were constructed, but the officer did not listen to them ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

576.—Maulvi Majhar Uddin, officiating River Police Inspector.

577.—As far as known to Government, the officer conducting the inquiry was not influenced by any party.

578.—No.

Public Works Department Road Moharirs

Srijut BHUBAN CHANDRA GOGOI asked :

579. Is it a fact that Public Works Department Road Moharirs are not entitled to any casual or privilege leave ?

580. Is it a fact that their posts neither pensionable nor are they entitled to any gratuity ?

581. Is it a fact that there is no provision of Provident Fund for them ?

582. Is it a fact that their pay is charged in the work estimate ?

583. Is it a fact that they have a time scale of pay ?

584. Is it a fact that the cost of estimate of a work is charged higher according to the rate of the pay of the Moharir ?

585 (a) Is it a fact that the Moharirs have recently submitted a memorial to the Hon'ble the Chief Minister ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what Government propose to do to remove their grievances ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

579.—No. They get casual leave up to ten days in a year and leave on medical certificate for fifteen days.

580.—Yes, but they are given a gratuity in specially deserving cases.

581.—No. They have been admitted to the benefits of General Provident Fund.

582.—Yes.

583.—Yes.

584.—The pay of a Moharir is charged to the work on which he is employed. As the scale of pay is Rs.30 to Rs.50, the difference in pay between two Moharirs cannot be much and its effect on the cost of work is so small as to be negligible.

585. (a)—Yes.

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

Nomination of Schedule Caste member in the Sibsagar Local Board

Srijut BHUBAN CHANDRA GOGOI asked :

586. Will Government be pleased to state why no member from the Scheduled Caste, in the Sibsagar District was given nomination to the Sibsagar Local Board this year ?

587. Will Government be pleased to state whether Caste Hindus and Muhammadans were given nomination in the Sibsagar Local Board ?

588. Will Government be pleased to explain how their actions have protected the interests of the minority communities, in the Sibsagar Sub-division ?

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

586.—Because of the claims of other communities.

587.—Yes.

588.—Government expect that the persons nominated will look after the interests of minorities.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

The Sylhet Town Land Tenancy Bill, 1937 of Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy, M.L.A.—Copies of Bill as amended by the Council laid on the Table

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Secretary will now read out a message which has been received from the Assam Legislative Council, in connection with the Sylhet Town Land Tenancy Bill of Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy.

Mr. A. K. BARUA (Secretary): Sir, the following message has been sent by the Secretary, Assam Legislative Council.

"In pursuance of rule 105, Part II of the Assam Legislative Council Rules, I am directed to inform you that the Bill to give protection to certain classes of tenants within the municipal limits of the town of Sylhet,

which was passed by the Assam Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on the 19th February, 1938, was passed by the Assam Legislative Council at its meeting held on the 1st September, 1938 with the following amendments, namely :—

1. For clause 3 of the Bill the following was substituted :—

“It shall come into force on such date as the Provincial Government by notification in the Official Gazette, may appoint in this behalf.”

2. In clause 5, the words “before or” were omitted.

3. In clause 6 in items (b) and (c), the words “manufacturing or business” and “and persons who continue in possession after termination of tenancy” respectively were deleted.

4. In clause 7, the words “wholly before, or wholly after, or partly before and partly” were deleted.

5. In clause 12, the explanation after sub-clause (vii) was omitted.

6. In clause 15, sub-clause (i), for the word “three” the word “six” was substituted.

7. Clause 17 was omitted.

The Assam Legislative Council requests the concurrence of the Assam Legislative Assembly in the amendments.”

Sir, under rule 112 of the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules, I lay on the table the Bill as amended by the Assam Legislative Council.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: This Bill with amendments from the Assam Legislative Council has been laid on the table. I am to fix a date on which any private member can move that the amendments be taken into consideration under rule 113. So I fix the 21st September as the date on which such a motion can be made. The hon. members will be entitled to move amendments which would be consequential upon or alternative to the amendments which have been accepted by the Assam Legislative Council. Under sub-rule (2) of rule 113 two clear days' notice is necessary. So hon. members will take note of the fact that whatever amendments are contemplated, they are to table them before 2 p.m. of the 19th September, 1938.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS

Resolution *Re increase of pay of Primary School teachers (Discussion continued from the 6th September, 1938)*

Mr. C. GOLDSMITH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have heard some hon. members regarding this resolution and most members have taken one side or the other. Others have been carried by emotion or sentiment. The resolution is not so innocent as it looks. We have great sympathy for the primary school teachers who are drawing very little salary. There is no doubt about it. It is not that they should get an increment of Rs.3 only, but it would be good if they got more than that. Many are in the habit of thinking money as an important element for securing efficiency; but money is not the principal element in giving efficiency. Efficiency of school teachers depends on the kind of training they previously got before they were employed as teachers. Therefore, to say that money will help them and make them efficient teachers is not a sound principle. A teacher who is getting Rs.12 has the same requirements as a teacher who gets Rs.15. His requirements are the same. If a man is getting a large salary—and we advocate the principle of giving high salaries to capable men—it is not for his stomach that he wants it. Their physical requirements are the same. The principle is that we give more salary to people who are more qualified. This is done by society and not due to

their physical requirements. Now, I do not say for a moment that primary school teachers should not get high salaries. But what we have heard we have not heard from a practical point of view, but from an emotional point of view. The resolution says that immediate effect should be given to this resolution. But we have to see that if immediate effect is to be given to this resolution, over three lakhs of rupees is to be provided to give them necessary increment. If we look from the practical point of view this recommendation will first go to the Local Boards, and as the Local Boards have no money, this additional expense will naturally have to be borne by the provincial exchequer. If hon. members mean that Local Boards will have to find funds, we have no grudge against this, but if from provincial revenue this is to be given, we have to study the case very carefully. Our funds are limited. And as soon as funds are available by retrenchment or by some other means it must be spent for other necessary things which cannot be stopped. It is only after these that increments to these teachers may be given.

I believe, Sir, if we make a survey of Assam we will find that this is not the most important thing for the provincial Government to take up. We know that every civilised Government of the present day specially in these days of provincial autonomy is trying its level best to raise the mass people. It is incumbent on every Government to uplift the mass people. Certain sections of people cannot be ignored by giving privileges to one section. If we make a survey, we will find that in Assam there are lakhs of people who are hill tribes and plains tribal. There is also a big population of the *ex-garden* community. All these people are steeped in ignorance and illiteracy. If we look at the figure we will see that literacy for the whole of Assam is 7.6 per cent., i.e., 92 per cent. of the people of Assam are illiterate.

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA: On a point of order, Sir. I find that the Hon'ble Minister for Education is absent while an important discussion is going on.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: No. He is not absent. He is occupying a back bench (*laughter*). Of course his face is not visible on account of the glare.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: I do not like to transgress the rule, Sir.

Mr. C. GOLDSMITH: Therefore, if this Legislature wants to uplift Assam, it cannot disregard the claims of the lakhs of people whose boys and girls have no facilities for any education whatsoever. There are thousands of children not having any facilities for education. It does not matter whether a teacher is drawing Rs 6 or Rs.12 not to speak of Rs.15. Now, if a country is going to advance and if this Legislative Body want to frame laws and pass or sanction funds, then should we like to help those teachers who have already a chance of getting employment or like to make provision for the number of boys and girls who have no chance of getting any education? It will be one-sided development in this country and Assam cannot say that we have developed keeping 92 per cent. of its population illiterate for many years to come. There is not only this class of children who have no chance of education but there are hundreds of Venture Schools already running and who have already been given hope that in time to come, their schools will be recognised by Government and they will get enough fund to run their schools. The number

of such schools are 796 for boys and 106 for girls. Now these schools have been run for sometime and they have been given hope that they will be either paid by the Government or by the Local Board. Now if this resolution is passed then their hope will be frustrated. All these teachers who are all this time hoping to receive at least Rs.6, they will be debarred from getting any help from the Government or from the Local Board. Now apart from these Venture Schools, there are hundreds of villages where people would be willing to start schools even if they get Rs.6. There are many schools like this for which people can get teachers even on Rs.6. Now if this resolution is passed then what will happen to those schools? Will the Legislative Body disregard all their claims for many years to come?

Now as regards the efficiency of teachers, some great educationist have said that it is not good to employ a teacher to teach many boys and they have found that if a teacher is expected to teach properly then he should teach only four boys if the boys are all four years old. If boys are of five years old then a teacher can teach five boys, and if six years old then six boys; and so on. If efficiency is to be thought of, then we must say that our teachers are very handicapped. They have to teach 50 or 60 boys in a school. So the schools are understaffed and what will happen to those understaffed schools? We are giving an increment to those who receive pay of Rs.12 only. Now we must not forget the claims of those who are clamouring for education.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member has almost exceeded his time limit

Mr. C. GOLDSMITH: I will require just a few minutes more, Sir. If this resolution is passed it will cut at the very root of mass education and of Assam. Now, if we try to increase the pay of the teachers we must admit that thereby we spoil the case of the schools being started for the vast number of backward people whose case ought to be considered. With an amount of 3 lacs of rupees which is proposed to be given to increase the pay of the teachers as many as 1,800 new schools can be started right away. Now I ask the hon. House whether they will disregard the claim of the vast number of backward people and try to raise the teachers' salary for a certain privileged class of people. May I therefore ask the hon. mover of the resolution whether he can agree to amend the resolution? In the last sentence in place of "with effect from the next financial year" we are quite ready to accept "as soon as fund permits or as soon as possible".

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir. I feel it my duty to make some observation on this resolution. We have shown enough lip sympathy towards the lower bearers of learning in rural areas and the real builders of national character. That their pay is hopelessly poor, there is no denying the fact. I wish that Government be able to make provision for money to give them relief. Sir, while considering the grievances of lower primary teachers, we cannot forget the needs of Venture Schools. There are many Venture Schools in every subdivision which are starving for want of money. My hon. friend Mr. Balaram Sarkar the other day said that unless and until provisions for these Venture Schools were made, he would not be ready to support the resolution. At the same time, Sir, we cannot neglect the locality where there are very small number of schools. There are localities in this province, where there is no schools even. At this juncture when the question of compulsory primary education is engaging the attention of every public minded person we should think one thousand times before we proceed to make provision for the

teachers. Now what is the amount required if each teacher is given Rs.15 per mensem? The Quinquennial Report of the Education Department shows that there are 8,884 lower primary school teachers including 756 women teachers in this province. If the pay of each teacher is to be increased by Rs.3 per mensem, we shall perhaps require more than three lacs of rupees each year. Sir, if we compare the cost of education per pupil per year we find that more than Rs.243 (I speak subject to correction) is spent for higher education. In secondary education the figure is Rs.40 per scholar per annum. In middle schools the figure is about Rs.20. And what is the cost of a scholar in lower primary schools? The figure is only Rs.4-8-5. Analysis of these figures shows that the entire money provided for education is devoured by the higher and secondary education. If we go to increase the pay of primary school teacher, I think the whole question shall have to be considered.

Now, Sir, I come to the wordings of the resolution. I find that the resolution is defective. The resolution seems to me to be just like a resolution passed at a meeting of the lower primary teachers; it gives no mandate to the Government to make provisions for money to local bodies for making payments to the lower primary teachers.

So, Sir, if this resolution is accepted it will serve no useful purpose. So far as I know, there are different scales of pay for lower primary teachers in different provinces. When Bengal paid Rs.5 to Rs.6 per mensem Assam could afford to pay Rs.12 per mensem. It is only recently that Bengal has raised their pay up to Rs.12. A Professor of the Calcutta University, so far as I remember, remarked in his presidential speech, presiding over a meeting of the lower primary school teachers, that so far as pay of lower primary teachers of Bengal was concerned there had been a marvellous improvement. However, it is thought in our province that there is need for more improvement in this respect. But the only question is that of money. I think the Hon'ble Minister will try his level best to find out money for this; at least the Retrenchment Committee can make this provision if they like. Otherwise I see no possibility, though we are all sympathetic towards the lower primary teachers, of increasing their pay as desired by my hon. friend Mr. Lalit Mohan Kar.

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the mover of the resolution as he has afforded us an opportunity to discuss the miserable lot of primary school teachers of Assam. Sir, it is an undeniable fact and it has been admitted by some members of this House that the emoluments of a lower primary teacher serving in Assam are scandalous. Sir, it is really regrettable and shameful that the remuneration of primary school teachers—people who are entrusted with the responsibility and important task of educating our future citizens—is much less than what we pay to a domestic servant, to a peon or a chaprasi. The grievances of the primary school teachers are many and numerous; they have no prospect in their life; they have no security of tenure; they have no decent share in the amenities which are accorded to other services. There is no provision for their pension after retirement and there is no benefit of Provident Fund for them in some of the Local Boards of Assam. The blessing of free medical aid and advice is almost a decree of Heaven to them. Leave without pay even during their serious illness stands as a disgrace to the service to which they belong. And yet they are described as the builders of the nation, the creators of future citizens. It is simply a ridicule, it is a mockery pure and simple.

Sir, it is desirable that sound system of education should be imparted to our children, especially in the formative period of their life, but the hard lot of primary school teachers and the healthy influence they are expected to

exercise over the young impressive minds of the taught go very ill together. I think, Sir, this scandalous state of affairs should disappear immediately. Their grievances, their piteous cry for making provision for bread of their family, the amelioration of their condition in the matter of their pay and prospects have been sought to be hushed into silence by sweet words, unsubstantial promises and fine platitudes. I especially appeal to the Hon'ble Minister who wants to see a combination of pen and plough, of books and stools, in the system of elementary education of our children to be a bit sympathetic in the matter. At the same time I must remind him that the discontent teacher is likely to stand as a hindrance to any educational scheme of our children. I realise, Sir, that the acceptance of this resolution with all its implications will involve the Government in some additional financial obligation. But the Government must be prepared to shoulder that burden.

With these few words, Sir, I support the resolution moved by my hon. friend Mr. Lalit Mohan Kar.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will not go over the arguments put forward by the previous speaker.

The subject-matter of this resolution has been discussed threadbare many a time on the floor of the House. It has been also said that similar resolutions were adopted in the old Council, but to no effect. So our first concern should be not to merely to pass a paper resolution like this, but to see whether the resolution is such which the Government can give effect to at once. Now, my hon. friend has pointed out the difficulty in the way of the acceptance of this resolution on account of the financial obligations involved, but I want to touch on one aspect of the question only. Supposing this House agrees that the Government should provide this money for the increase of the pay of the primary school teachers, whether we will gain the object for which we are eagerly asking for these things, *i.e.*, whether we shall attain the efficiency that we aim at. On this subject I will read a passage from the Quinquennial Review of the Progress of Education in Assam during 1932-37 as much of the money which we are spending is being wasted from year to year. "The main point to be considered by the new Ministry and the new Legislature is that at present neither the Minister for Education nor the Assembly has any practical control over the expenditure on Primary Education. When once a Local Board has drawn its grant it can do what it likes with it. It need not, and very often does not, pay its teachers for months together. It can close schools and utilise the Government grants for any other purpose. It can refuse appointments to trained teachers and appoint unqualified relations of its members. It can give grants to schools that are not needed and refuse grants when they are badly needed. The Minister has no effective remedy. Of course in theory he can withdraw all grants from the Boards, but this will not hurt the Board or the Chairman; it will only injure the children and the teachers; and it is a step which a popular Ministry can hardly contemplate. The proper remedy is to put the control of vernacular education and all its funds, whether coming from local sources or from Government, under a Provincial Board which will, under the Minister, outline policy, control expenditure, and insist through local committees on regular payment, appointment of qualified teachers and a proper distribution of schools". Now, in another place of the same report it says—"Reports from the subdivisions continue to state that untrained teachers are being appointed although trained teachers are available. This will continue until Government resume control of vernacular education. In one subdivision at least I have been repeatedly told that the cost of an appointment as a primary

school teacher is Rs.150 in cash". On this point there has been some interpellation by my friend. The point is that in these hard days when the Government is faced with a deficit of several lakhs, when there is a demand for more and more schools and for expansion of primary education, when there is a demand for expansion of education among the children of the scheduled and tribal people, whether it will be advisable for us to commit ourselves to further expenditure of three lakhs in the present circumstances when there is no control whatever over the expenditure on primary education. My point is that I welcome the resolution, and I would support it very heartily had there been a Board of Education, as suggested in the Report, for the control of vernacular education. And unless this Board is formed it will be useless to merely increase the pay of the teachers and it will not bring in efficiency in any way. Then, there is another difficulty about the resolution being adopted in this House. Times have changed ; while under the old form of Government a resolution was a mere recommendation to the Government which the Government might or might not give effect to, but under the present system of Government when a resolution is adopted it means that we ask the Government to give effect to it at once because we have a Ministry which is responsible to the Legislature. So we have to see that the resolution is very precise and accurate. But what we find here is that the resolution, as has already been pointed out by my hon. friend, is not happily worded, and there is a difficulty in the way of accepting it. It says that the increase must be given from the next financial year. Had it been, as my lady friend Miss Dunn suggested, possible for the hon. mover to amend his resolution in this form, namely, that effect is to be given in two or three years, I would have been very glad to support it.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think the resolution has been sufficiently discussed, and I would ask the hon. mover to give a reply.

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN: সভাপতি ডাক্তাৰীয়া এই প্ৰস্তাবটোৰ বিষয়ে সিদিনাখন অনাৰেবল্ Education Minister, Munwwar Ali ছাহাব ডাক্তাৰীয়াই কৈছিল যে “প্ৰস্তাবটো innocent (নিৰ্দোষ) সেই নিমিত্তে মই (accept)—গ্ৰহণ কৰিব পাৰোঁ—” আৰু কৈছিল যে তেওঁ এই প্ৰস্তাবটো লোকলৈ বোৰ্ড বিলাকলৈ পঠিয়াইও দিব পাৰে কিন্তু টকা দিব নোৱাৰে। সেই কথা শুনি বাস্তবিকতেই মোৰ কলিকতাৰ ডাক্তাৰ এজনৰ কথা মনত পৰে। কণীয়ে আৰোগ্য লাভ কৰি ক্ৰমে তাৰ ভোক, বাঢ়ি অহাত বৰকৈ খাবলৈ বিছৰাত ডাক্তাৰে শুধিলে—“কি খাবৰ মন গৈছে”। কণীয়ে কলে—“লুচী খাবৰ মন গৈছে”। ডাক্তাৰ আছিল বৰ চালাক ; তেওঁ কলে—“ফুল্কা লুচী খাব পাৰা কিন্তু লুচীৰ দুই ফালৰ চকুলা পেলাই দি মাজ ডোখৰহে খাব পাৰা। ফুল্কা লুচীৰ মাজ শুণ্য, দুই ফালৰ দুই চকুলা পেলালে একো নেথাকে—সকালৰে জানে এই হল ডাক্তাৰৰ প্ৰেস্ক্ৰিপশন্। সেই ৰকমে আমাৰ মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়েও এটা প্ৰেস্ক্ৰিপশন্কে প্ৰেস্ক্ৰাইব কৰিব খুজিছে। এইটো হল তেওঁৰ ব্যক্তিগত পলিচি বা নীতি। ইয়াত গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰো এটা policy দেখা গৈছে। এখন দোকানৰ জাননীত লিখা আছিল—ইয়াত “মাজি নগদ, কালিলৈ বাকী”। গ্ৰাহকে এইটো দেখি সেই দোকানৰ পৰা বস্তু কিছু নগদ দি কিনিবলৈ এই বুলি যে কালিলৈ বাকী পাব, কিন্তু যেতিয়া সেই গ্ৰাহকজনে পাছদিনা দোকানলৈ গ’ল তেতিয়া দোকানীয়ে কলে যে জাননী নতেই চাপক—আজি নগদ কালিলৈহে বাকী।

তেনেকৈ আমাৰ গভৰ্ণমেণ্টক যেতিয়াই কিবা কোৱা হয় তেতিয়াই তেওঁলোকে আমাক কয় যে আগলৈ হ'ব অৰ্থাৎ আজি নগদ কালিলৈ বাকী। এইটো হল গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ পলিছি। বাস্তবিকতে আমাৰ resolutionৰ wording—প্ৰস্তাবটিৰ শব্দ যোজনা—কেনেকুৱা হ'ব নহ'ব সেইটো কথা ইয়াত ভুলৈ। আজি যদি মই বান্ধনীক কওঁ যে চাৰি জন মানুহে ভাত খাব তেনেহলে বান্ধনীজনক মাংস মছলা, চাউল, ডালি, লোণ, তেল ইত্যাদি ক'ত কিমান লাগিব তাৰ সকলো হিচাব দিব লাগে নে? সেইটো বান্ধনীৰ কাম বান্ধনীয়ে সকলো জানে। প্ৰস্তাবত কোৱা হৈছে যে লোকেল বোৰ্ডৰ পণ্ডিতবিলাকৰ দৰ্শনহা ১২ টকাৰ পৰা ১৫ টকা কৰি দিব লাগে—এইটো কথাই যথেষ্ট। বান্ধনীক যেনেকৈ ক'ব নে লাগে যে কি কি বান্ধোতে কি কি লাগে এইটো resolution ও হৈছে ঠিক সেই বকম। পণ্ডিত-বিলাকৰ দৰ্শনহা যে বাস্তবিকতেই বঢ়াব লাগে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টেও এইটো স্বীকাৰ কৰিছে—প্ৰস্তাবতো তাকেই কোৱা হৈছে। এতিয়া ইয়াৰ খুটিনাটিৰ বিষয়ে একো ক'বৰ দৰ্কাৰ নাই। “যুগভেদীৰ” সম্পাদক অনাৰেবল মেম্বাৰ মকবুল হুচেন চাহাবে কৈছে যে resolution টোত অনেক দোষ আছে। এই resolution পাছ কৰিলে গভৰ্ণমেণ্ট ধ্বংস হৈ যাব। কথাটো হৈছে সিদিনা “প্ৰতিভা”ত লেখাৰ দৰে যে শ্ৰীহট্ট বিচ্ছেদ হলে জাপানে আহি অসম দেশখন দখল কৰিবহি। এইবিলাক কথাৰ পৰস্পৰ কোনো সম্পৰ্ক নাই—আদা আক কাচ কলৰ যি সম্বন্ধ সেই সম্বন্ধৰ নিছিনা। গতিকে অনাৰেবল হাউছৰ আগত প্ৰাইমাৰী স্কুলৰ শিক্ষকবিলাকৰ দৰ্শনহা বঢ়োৱা সম্বন্ধে যি প্ৰস্তাব উঠিছে সেই প্ৰস্তাবৰ মূল কাৰণ কি সেইটো ভাবি চাব লাগিব। অবশ্যে মই কুইনকুইনিয়ল ৰিপোৰ্টৰ হিচাব (figure) বিলাক দেখুৱাই একো ক'ব নোখোজোঁ। আজি যদি flood হয়, ভূভিক হয় বা বিদেশীয়ে দেশ আক্ৰমণ কৰে তেনেহলে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে টকাৰ অভাব দেখুৱাই বহি থাকিবনে? আমাৰ নিছিনা অসংখ্য Forest resource—বন বিভাগত অসংখ্য আয়ৰ উপাদান থাকোঁতে আক উৰ্বৰা ভূমিত যদি গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে টকা উলিয়াব নোৱাৰে সেইটো বাইজৰ দোষ নহয়; যি সকলে গভৰ্ণমেণ্ট চলোৱাৰ ভাৰ লৈছে সি সকলৰহে দোষ। এইটো গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে স্বীকাৰ কৰিবই লাগিব। বাস্তবিকতে শিক্ষক বিলাকৰ দৰ্শনহা বঢ়াব লাগে নে? যদি লাগে তেন্তে কিয় দৰ্শনহা বঢ়াব লাগে? যদি আমি আমাৰ ভবিষ্যত বংশধৰ বিলাকক উপযোগী শিক্ষা দিব খুজিছোঁ যদি আমাৰ দেশৰ যিবিলাক ভবিষ্যত গৰাকী সিবিলাকৰ শিক্ষাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে তেনেহলে প্ৰকৃত শিক্ষা যাতে সিবিলাকে পায় তাৰ চেষ্টা আৰু ব্যৱস্থা আমি কৰিবই লাগিব আৰু সেই নিমিত্ত শিক্ষকসকলৰ দৰ্শনহা বঢ়োৱা দৰ্কাৰ। মই যেতিয়া পাঠশালা স্কুলত পঢ়িছিলোঁ তেতিয়া মোৰ শিক্ষক জনে ৬ টকা দৰ্শনহা পাইছিলে। মই ১৯০৫ চনত পাঠশালাত পঢ়িছিলোঁ, আজি ৩৩ বছৰ হল। এই ৩৩ বছৰৰ ভিতৰত শিক্ষকৰ দৰ্শনহা ১২ টকা হৈছে। এতিয়া মাত্ৰ ৩ টকা দৰ্শনহা বঢ়াবলৈ কোৱা হৈছে। যদি টকাৰ question—প্ৰশ্ন হয়—efficiency question অৰ্থাৎ পাৰ্গতালিৰ প্ৰশ্ন নহয় তেনেহলে ৩/৬ টকাতো শিক্ষক পাব—৩ টকা কিয় ১ টকাতো শিক্ষক বোধ হয় পোৱা

যাব। কম দৰ্শনা দিলেই যে শিক্ষকে বেয়া কৈ শিক্ষা দিব সেইটো নহয়। কিন্তু কম দৰ্শনা পোৱা শিক্ষকে প্রকৃততে ভাল শিক্ষা দিব নোৱাৰে। এই নিমিত্তেই তেওঁলোকৰ সময় আৰু বুদ্ধি জ্ঞান কেবল শিক্ষাত খটাবলৈ অবসৰ নাথাকে। কিছুমান শিক্ষকক মই জানো যে কম দৰ্শনা দিয়াৰ নিমিত্তে এনেকুৱা বেয়া ভাবে থাকে আৰু এনেকুৱা shabbily dressed কুংচিং পোষাক কৰিব লগীয়া হয় যে সেইটো কবলৈ বেয়া লাগে। ১৯৩৬ চনত নগৱত অসম প্রাদেশিক শিক্ষক সম্মিলন হৈছিল। তাত মই বক্তৃতা দিওঁতে কৈছিলোঁ যে শিক্ষকসকলে shabbily dress কৰাৰ নিমিত্তে শিক্ষক সকলৰ মনৰ ভাব নিচেই থেক হয় আৰু নিজকে নিজেই সৰু বুলি ভাবি থাকে। চৰ-ইনিস্পেক্টৰ আৰু ইনিস্পেক্টৰসকলে তেওঁলোকক কুকুৰ ছাগলীৰ নিছিনা ব্যৱহাৰ কৰে। স্কুলৰ হাজিৰা বহি তেওঁলোকৰ গাটলৈ দলিঘাট। শিক্ষক সকলে নিজৰ অৱস্থাৰ কথা চিন্তা কৰিব লগীয়া হোৱাত শিক্ষাটলৈ ভালকৈ মনযোগ দিব নোৱাৰে। বহু শিক্ষকে ৰাতিপুৱা ৪ বজাত টোপনিৰ পৰা উঠি হাল বাবলৈ যায় আৰু দহোটা বজাত উভটি আহি লৰালৰি কৈ এমুঠি খাই স্কুললৈ গৈ টোপনিত ঘোৰঘোৰাই থাকে। যিজন ভাল ছাত্ৰ তাৰ ওপৰত ক্লাশৰ চাজ থাকে। আমি বিবেচনা কৰিব লাগিব যে আমি শিক্ষকসকলক যি ১২ টকা দৰ্শনা দিছোঁ তাৰ পৰা আমাৰ কিবা উপকাৰ হৈছে নে নাই। শিক্ষকে ক্লাশত হাজিৰ হৈ “ক” “খ” “গ” “ঘ” পঢ়ালেই নহয়। তেওঁৰ বহুত দায়িত্ব আছে। শিক্ষকে লৰাবিলাকৰ natural inclinations অৰ্থাৎ স্বাভাৱিক ধাউতি পৰ্য্যবেক্ষণ কৰি কোনটো লৰাক কি ভাবে শিক্ষা দিলে সেইটো লৰা কেনেকৈ ভাল হব মনো বিজ্ঞানৰ সেই তত্ত্ববিলাক ভালকৈ জানিবলৈ আৰু বুজিবলৈ আৰু সেই অনুযায়ী শিক্ষাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবলৈ তেওঁলোকক অবসৰ আৰু হুবিধা দিব লাগিব। লৰাৰ মন বুজিবলৈ মনোবিজ্ঞানৰ বিবিলাক কিতাপ পুথি পঢ়িব লাগিব সেই বিলাক পুথি পঢ়িবলৈ শিক্ষক বিলাকক সুযোগ দিব লাগে। যদি শিক্ষকসকলক ৮/৯ টকা দৰ্শনা দিয়া হয় তেনেহলে কোন শিক্ষকে নিজে হাল বাই কিতাপ কিনি কাগজ পত্ৰ কিনি পঢ়ি শিক্ষিত হৈ আজি কালিৰ বিধান মতে শিক্ষা দিবলৈ সমৰ্থ হব? মহাত্মা গান্ধীয়ে কৈছে শিশু কালেই হৈছে মানুহৰ চৰিত্ৰ গঠনৰ প্রকৃত সময়—এই সময়টো যদি নষ্ট কৰি দিয়া হয় তেনেহলে লৰা-ছোৱালীৰ ভৱিষ্যতত ভাল একো ফল আশা কৰা নেযায়। যেনেকৈ গছৰ গুৰিত যদি সৰুৰে পৰা ভালকৈ পানী আৰু সাৰ দিয়া নহয় তেনেহলে ভৱিষ্যতত গছৰ পৰা ভাল ফল আশা কৰা নেযায় তেনেকৈ শিশু সময়তে যদি লৰা-ছোৱালীৰ চৰিত্ৰ মনোবৃত্তি observe পৰ্য্যবেক্ষণ কৰি তেওঁলোকক প্রকৃত শিক্ষা দিবৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা নহয় তেনেহলে হাবি-জাবি শিক্ষা দি একো লাভ নাই। আৰু বাস্তবিকতেই যদি এয়ে সঁচা হয় আৰু সেই কথা আগত ৰাখি শিক্ষাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হোৱা নাই তেন্তে যি খৰছ কৰা হৈছে সি নিশ্চয় বিফলে গৈছে। মই কৈছোঁ যে efficient শিক্ষকৰ অভাৱত শিক্ষা নোহোৱাৰ নিমিত্তেহে আমাৰ সমুদায় টকা waste হৈছে। এতিয়া অবশ্যে এটা প্রশ্ন উঠিছে। সেইটো

মই স্বীকাৰ কৰোঁ যে আমাৰ দেশত শতকৰা ৭ জন মানুহ শিক্ষিত আৰু ৯২৯৩ জন অশিক্ষিত। অবশ্যে এই অশিক্ষিত মানুহবিলাকক শিক্ষা দিব লাগে কিন্তু যদি সকলোৰে ওচৰৰ স্কলবিলাকত শিক্ষা পায় তেনেহলে বাকী বিলাকে নেপাবৰ কোনো কাৰণ নাই।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member is exceeding his time.

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN: সেই নিমিত্তে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে যেনেকৈ subsidized dispensary খুলিছে তেনেকৈ যদি subsidize কৰে তেনেহলে অনেক স্কুল হব পাৰে। গাঁৱৰ মানুহে আধা খৰছ দিলেই গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে যদি সাহায্য দিয়ে তেনেহলে গাঁৱে গাঁৱে মানুহে বহুত স্কুলে খুলিব পাৰে। আৰু মই কওঁ যে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে পণ্ডিতবিলাকক ৪।৫ পুৰা নতুন মাটি ভাঙ্গি লবলৈ দি বিনা খাজনাতে খাবলৈ দিব পাৰে আৰু বিনা মূল্যত ডাক্তাৰী চিকিৎসাৰ আৰু প্ৰভিডেণ্ট ফণ্ডৰ সুবিধা, বিনা মাচুলে লৰা-ছোৱালী পঢ়োৱা ইত্যাদি বহুত সুবিধা দিব পাৰে। এই ব্যবস্থা কৰিলে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে ১।১০ টকা বেছাই পাব পাৰে; আৰু দৰ্শনা ১২১ টকাৰ ঠাইত ১৩।১০ টকা কৰিলে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ প্ৰায় ১।১০ লাখ টকা বাচিব—তেওঁ লোকৰো হব আৰু গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ অনেক টকা বাচি যাব। মই আশা কৰোঁ পণ্ডিতবিলাকৰ প্ৰতি সহৃদয়তা বাধি সকলোৰেই এই প্ৰস্তাব সমৰ্থন কৰিব। এই প্ৰস্তাবত অসুস্তিকৰ একো নাই। প্ৰকৃত কথা হৈছে তৰ্ক কৰিলে মিছা—লোকৰ ভাল কৰিব খুজিলে heart লাগে—মন লাগে। এই ক্ষেত্ৰতো সেই একে কথাই। ইয়াকে কৈ মই এই প্ৰস্তাব সমৰ্থন কৰিছোঁ।

Srijut SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA: সভাপতি মহোদয়, পণ্ডিতৰ দৰ্শনা বঢ়োৱাৰ নিমিত্তে যি প্ৰস্তাব মাননীয় ললিত মোহন কৰ ডাক্তাৰীয়াই দাঙ্গি ধৰিছে সেই প্ৰস্তাব মই সমৰ্থন কৰোঁ। জাতি গঠনৰ মূল হৈছে শিক্ষা। গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ প্ৰধান কাম হৈছে সেই শিক্ষা বিস্তাৰ কৰা। সেই বাবে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে বিশেষ চকু দিয়া উচিত।

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNWWAR ALI: Will the hon. member please speak up?

Srijut SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA: দেশৰ উন্নতি আৰু জাতি গঠনৰ মূল ভেটি শিক্ষা। শিক্ষায় মানুহক পোহৰ দিয়ে আৰু দেশত শিক্ষা বিস্তাৰ যিমানেই হব তিগান দেশৰ সমৃদ্ধি আৰু উন্নতি দিনে দিনে বাঢ়ি যাব। গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ প্ৰধান কাম হৈছে শিক্ষা বিস্তাৰ কৰা। আমি কিন্তু দেখিছোঁ যে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে শিক্ষা বিস্তাৰত সদায় পাছ পৰা। শিক্ষা বিষয়ত কোনো কথা উঠিলেই গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে উত্তৰ দিয়ে যে ধন নাই কিন্তু ডাক্তৰ ডাক্তৰ আফিছাৰসকলৰ দৰ্শনা দিবৰ বেলিকা সেই কথা কেতিয়াও ভুলে। আমাৰ শিক্ষকসকলক ১৫ টকা দৰ্শনা দিয়াৰ কথা আপত্তি বা প্ৰতিবাদ কৰিবৰ কোনো কাৰণ নাই। মই ভাবোঁ lower primary স্কুলৰ শিক্ষকবিলাকৰ দৰ্শনা ১৫

টকাৰ ঠাইত ২৫ টকা হোৱা উচিত। এটা ফকৰা আছে—পঢ়ায়, পঢ়ে বোৰে পান, এই তিনিয়ে নিচিন্তে আন। শিক্ষকসকলে যদি কম দৰ্শনা পোৱাৰ বাবে নিজৰ পৰিয়ালক পোহ পাল দিবলৈ নিজে হাল কোৰ বাই বা কল বাৰিত বাস্তৱ থাকিব লাগে তেন্তে শিক্ষাৰ বিষয়ে ভাবিবৰ তেওঁলোকৰ সময় কত। এনে অৱস্থাত শিক্ষকসকলৰ দৰ্শনা বঢ়োৱাত প্ৰতিবন্ধক হোৱাত কোনো মতেই উচিত নহয়। মই লোকেল বোৰ্ডৰ বহুত শিক্ষকক দেখিছোঁ ৭।৮।১২ টকাকৈ দৰ্শনা পায়। কোনো কোনো স্কুলত একোজন শিক্ষকে স্কুলৰ ৭০।৮০ জনকৈ ছাত্ৰক পঢ়াব লাগে, ইপিনে ঘৰত এগোহালী লৰাছোৱালী পোহ-পাল আৰু তাঁহাতৰ শিক্ষাৰ কথা ভাবি নিকপাই অৱস্থাত সদায় কাল কটায়। সিদিনা মাননীয় শিক্ষা মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই কৈছে তেখেতে বহু স্কুলৰ পণ্ডিতৰ লগত পৰামৰ্শ কৰিছে। যদি খেতি-বাতিৰ সময়ত তেওঁলোকক দীঘলীয়া বন্ধ দি খোতি কৰিবলৈ হুবিধা দিয়া হয় তেন্তে তেওঁলোকে ৫ টকা দৰ্শনাত কাম কৰিবলৈ বাজি। মই জানোঁ আমাৰ মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই আগতে শিক্ষকসকলৰ দৰ্শনা ১৫ হোৱাৰ প্ৰস্তাব তেখেতেই দিছিল কিন্তু অতিয়া যেই শিক্ষা মন্ত্ৰীৰ গদি পালেহি দুখীয়া পণ্ডিতসকললৈ একেবাৰেই পাহৰি পেলালে। বহুতে ভাবে শিক্ষকৰ দৰ্শনা বঢ়োৱাতকৈ স্কুলৰ সংখ্যা বঢ়োৱা দৰ্কাৰ। অবশ্যে স্কুলৰ সংখ্যা বঢ়োৱা অত্যন্ত আৱশ্যক সেই বুলিয়ে যে পণ্ডিতৰ দৰ্শনা বঢ়াব নেলাগে তাৰ কোনো যুক্তি নাই। প্ৰায় সকলো দেশতে বাধ্যতামূলক শিক্ষা বিস্তাৰৰ বাবে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে বহুত ধন খৰচ কৰে। কিন্তু আমাৰ গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে দেশৰ দুখীয়া প্ৰজাক শুহি খোৱাত বাজে দেশৰ উন্নতিৰ বাবে একো কৰা আমি দেখা নাই অলপ দিনৰ আগেয়ে Commissioner office লৈ কিমান বাক বিতণ্ডা হল—সকলোৱে ভোট দিলে যে Commissioner office উঠি যাব লাগে, কিন্তু গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে জিদ্ ধৰি Commissioner office ৰাখিলে কিন্তু শিক্ষা বিস্তাৰৰ নিমিত্তে যে ধন খৰচ কৰিব লাগে সেই বিষয়ে কোনো কানকেই দিয়া নাই।

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I contradict that, Sir.

Srijut SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA: ইত্যাদি বিলাক কাৰণে মই ললিত মোহন কৰ ডাঙৰীয়াই যি প্ৰস্তাব দাঙি ধাৰছে সেইটো সমৰ্থন কৰোঁ। গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে শিক্ষকৰ দৰ্শনা বঢ়োৱাৰ প্ৰস্তাবটো ধন নাই বুলি সন্মিধান দিছে হয় কিন্তু আমাৰ দেশত কানি, ভাং, মদৰ, বেপাৰ কৰি ৰাইজৰ পৰা ধন আদায় কৰি খৰচ কৰিলে কিহত, গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে সেই ফালে মুঠেই ক্ৰক্ষেপ নকৰে। কানি, ভাং, মদ খুৱাই ৰাইজৰ শাৰীৰিক মানসিক, আৰু আধ্যাত্মিক শক্তি অনিষ্ট কৰিবলৈ আমাৰ গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ পটুতা দেখি আমি অত্যন্ত লাজ পাইছোঁ। লৰা ছোৱালীবিলাকে ছিগাৰেট বিক্ৰি নকৰিবলৈ এটা আইন বহুত দিনৰ আগতে পাচ হৈ আছে কিন্তু সেইটো কাৰ্য্যত প্ৰতিফলিত কৰিবলৈ গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে চকু নিদিয়ৈ। লৰা ছোৱালীবিলাকে হাতে বজাৰে ছিগাৰেট খাই কি দৰে ধ্বংস হৈছে তাৰ ফালে চকু ৰখা গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে দায়ী বুলি নেভাবে। সেই নিমিত্তে মই কৈছোঁ যে আমাৰ জাতীয়তা ধ্বংসকাৰী বিদেশী শাসনে আমাৰ দেশ লুট পাট কৰাত বাজে দেশৰ উন্নতিমূলক কোন কাৰ্য্য নকৰে। ইয়াকে কৈ মই ললিত মোহন কৰ ডাঙৰীয়াৰ প্ৰস্তাব সমৰ্থন কৰিছোঁ।

Adjournment

The Assembly then adjourned for lunch till 2 p.m.

After Adjournment

The Assembly re-assembled after lunch at 2 p.m.

Statement by the Chief Minister regarding resignation of Ministry

✓ **The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, before you take up the business that is on the agenda *viz.*, the no-confidence motions against the present Ministry, with your permission, I want to make a statement.

For a few days past, the Ministry had noticed that some of their supporters had crossed the floor of the House and have been sitting with the Opposition. Even to-day I find that there have been additions to the strength of the Opposition. That clearly is an indication that the present Ministry no longer enjoy the confidence of the majority of the House (*Applause*). I, therefore, on behalf of the whole Cabinet have tendered our resignation to His Excellency the Governor. And, I think, I can now safely congratulate the Opposition to whom I wish the joy of the situation.

Under these circumstances it is for you to decide, Sir, whether there is any necessity for taking up the business that is before the House now.

Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI* : I consider it highly fair and constitutional on the part of the Hon'ble Chief Minister to say frankly and unequivocally that the Ministry does not enjoy the confidence of the House. Sir, this is a recognised principle of democracy that when a Ministry even by a bare majority have got to carry their programme and policy, they should think of resigning. I am glad to find that the Hon'ble Chief Minister has come to realise that the policy and the programme that they have been following have not received the acceptance of the majority of the members of the House, I take it thereby also, of the country at large. Sir, I return the compliment which the Hon'ble Chief Minister—I mean the erstwhile Chief Minister made on the floor of the House congratulating me. I also congratulate him on the fairness he has exhibited by taking up the attitude that he has taken up.

✓ **Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** On a point of information, Sir. May we know if the resignation has been accepted by His Excellency?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: No. I have not received any reply from His Excellency.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY: Sir, for the last few days, we had been apprehending that the Ministry would fall, and some four motions were tabled yesterday. We know, Sir, that no Ministry can continue to occupy office, unless they are backed by the majority. I remember that Maharaja Tilak once said, "there is room for many Mahatmas in the region of theology, but there is room for only one Mahatma in politics, and that is the Mahatma of majority". The Ministry had so long functioned as they had the backing of the majority. Now, as they have no majority with them they have resigned. We think that the man Saadulla was far greater than Minister Sir Muhammad Saadulla (*Hear, hear*). We, the members of his party, had been lending him our whole-hearted support in every measure, and we are ready to lend

*Speech not corrected.

him support to-day also. We thought that Sir, Muhammad Saadulla would face the motion just like a sportsman in the true sense of the term without giving the Opposition to score a cross goal, but I do not know why, without facing the motion, Sir Saadulla had to tender his resignation. By this I do not cast any aspersion upon him, but I simply want to know what led him to tender his resignation without facing the motion like a sportsman. We, as his supporters, perhaps, have a right to know the cause of his resignation. In conclusion, Sir, I beg to say that, by this, I do not mean to exhibit any feeling against him, or to show any disrespect to his august personality.

Rai Bahadur PROMODE CHANDRA DUTT: Sir, I rise only to congratulate my friend, the Hon'ble the Chief Minister and his colleagues on the courage they have shown by tendering their resignation to His Excellency the Governor as they no longer enjoy the confidence of the House. The Hon'ble the Chief Minister has thereby created a precedent for which he will be remembered long in this province. Whatever Ministry may come into existence, the fact shall always be remembered that as soon as the Ministers forfeit the confidence of the House, they should tender their resignation.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: In view of the statement which the Hon'ble the Chief Minister has made just now, the hon. members have realised that the Hon'ble Chief Minister has examined his position and his strength in this House, and he has come to the conclusion that he has no longer the majority at his back to continue in office. The object of a no-confidence motion in a Ministry is to prove exactly the fact that the Ministry do not enjoy the confidence of the House. It is on this ground that he has submitted his resignation to His Excellency the Governor. And when there is this admission that the Ministry do not enjoy the confidence of the House, there is no doubt that the resignation of the Ministry would be accepted. In view of this fact, I do not see any use in moving the no-confidence motions to-day.

(5) ✓ I really appreciate, the noble spirit that Sir Muhammad Saadulla has displayed on the floor of the House and the fairness that he has shown by taking the correct position that the Ministers ought to take in such circumstances. Certainly his example is one which would surely help us in the growth of constitutionalism in India. ✓

I, therefore, adjourn the House till 11 a.m. day after to-morrow. Of course, I do not know whether, in the meantime, any Ministry would be formed or not ; but when we shall meet on Thursday, we shall come to know what has taken place so far as the Ministry is concerned. If any Ministry is formed in the meantime, we shall then decide whether the House should be adjourned *sine die*, or His Excellency would prorogue this House.

So, I adjourn the House till 11 a.m. day after to-morrow.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 a.m., on Thursday the 15th September 1938.

Shillong,

18th November, 1938.

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.