

Submitted under the
order of the
Honorable M. A. Lusk
and

John C. Lusk

March 11, 1900

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to

acknowledge the receipt

of your letter of the

10th inst.

and in reply to

inform you that

the same has been

forwarded to the

proper authorities

for their consideration

and I am sure that

they will give it the

care and attention

it deserves.

I am, Sir, very

truly yours,

John C. Lusk

Secretary

of the

Board of

Education

of the

State of

California

San Francisco

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

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 11 a.m. on Thursday, the 8th December, 1938.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Nos. 853-855. Cancelled.

Appointment of an Assistant Maulavi in Nowgong High School

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMIRUDDIN asked :

856. Are Government aware that Arabic and Persian are being taught in the Government High English School, Nowgong to the Muslim students ?

857. If so, will Government be pleased to state the steps taken by Government up till now to facilitate the teaching of these subjects to the boys of the same class within the same period ?

858. Is it a fact that one Maulavi teaches two subjects to the boys of the same class within the same period there ?

859. Is it a fact that this matter was brought to the notice of Government during the closing days of the last session by me ?

860. Are Government aware that the Muslim students there, are suffering a good deal for want of an Assistant Maulavi ?

861. Do Government propose to remove this grievance at a very early date by appointing another Maulavi ?

862. Will Government be pleased to state whether the present number of Muslim students learning Arabic and Persian in the said school justify the appointment of an Assistant Maulavi ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

856.—Yes.

857.—The usual facilities that are given in other Government High Schools are given.

858.—Yes.

859.—The present Government have no information.

860.—Government have no reason to believe that the Muslim students are suffering a good deal as alleged.

861.—No.

862.—It does not.

Appointment of Lady Members to the staff of Cotton College

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS asked :

863.(a) Do Government propose to appoint Lady members to the staff of the Cotton College, Gauhati, where a good number of girls are reading along with a large number of young boys ?

(b) If so, what step do Government propose to take in this connection ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

863.(a) and (b)—A proposal is under consideration.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS : When do the Government expect to come to a final decision in the matter ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : I must tell my hon. friend that it is not possible to provide money in the next year's budget on account of our being unable to find suitable lady candidate so far as the Cotton College is concerned. Whenever any suitable candidate will be available, we will consider the matter.

Invention of Srijut Kumudeswar Borthakur, B.A., B.T., Vidyabinode, called "Three symbols for Kiddies Elementary Teaching"

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked :

864. Are Government aware—

(a) Of the invention of Srijut Kumudeswar Borthakur, B.A., B.T., Vidyabinode, called "Three Symbols for Kiddies Elementary Teaching" ?

(b) That this invention was experimented upon for two years (1926 and 1927) at Tezpur through his primers, "Labainyor Adipath" and "Labainyor Dwitiyapath", by order of the then Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Division ?

865. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) If the primers, "Labainyor Adipath" and "Labainyor Dwitiyapath" were prescribed as text-books ?

(b) If the two primers were omitted from the list of text-books in 1935 after six years ?

(c) If so, what were the reasons for this omission and why the reasons were not communicated to their author ?

866. Are Government aware—

(a) That Srijut Kumudeswar Borthakur's invention has been highly commended by several well known journals and magazines in India since 1925 ?

(b) That Srijut Kumudeswar Borthakur was allowed by the Heads of the Education Department to demonstrate his invention at the All-India Educational Conference held at Nagpur ?

(c) That Srijut Kumudeswar Borthakur was invited to demonstrate and lecture upon his invention at the All-Bengal Teachers' Conference held at Jalpaiguri in 1937 and was awarded a certificate (First class) of Honour ?

(d) That Srijut Kumudeswar Borthakur has been granted certificates of merit by many Exhibitions, the late Sir Michael Keane, Governor of Assam, the Hon'ble Sir Muhammad Saadulla, the Premier of Assam, and other Hon'ble Ministers and eminent Educationists of Assam and elsewhere ?

867. Will Government be pleased to state if Srijut Kumudeswar Borthakur applied last year for a Government grant of Rs.1,000 to His Excellency the Governor of Assam through the proper channel to enable him to demonstrate his invention at the All-World Education Conference held at Tokio, Japan ?

868. Will Government be pleased to state if they propose to grant him a subsidy to push his invention and put in on the market ?

869. Do Government propose to reinclude his primers after necessary revision if any, in the list of text-books ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

864.(a) and (b) and 865.(a), (b) and (c)—Government are aware that Srijut Kumudeswar Borthakur attempted to introduce in Schools in Tezpur what he calls an "invention" for teaching handwriting.

He was allowed to experiment with it for some years, but as no useful results were obtained the experiment was discontinued.

866.(a) and (d)—Government are prepared to admit that the invention has been commended upon as interesting, but there is hardly anything to how how they would be useful in our schools.

(b)—No. There was no suggestion that the Department permitted him to show his "invention". He was permitted to attend the Conference at his own expense.

(c)—No. A general invitation was issued by the Secretary of the, All-Bengal Teachers' Conference through the Director of Public Instruction Assam who advised officers that they might send exhibits of good quality.

867.—Yes.

868 and 869.—Government do not consider that Srijut Kumudewar Borthakur has made any "invention". What he calls an "invention" is merely three pieces of card board, such as any teacher can cut out, with which he says that children can form any letter of any language.

Actually the letters cannot be formed properly either in Assamese or in English, and the children will learn to form the letters wrongly.

Government consider that the whole idea is valueless and have no intention of encouraging it.

Grants-in-aid to Middle English Schools at Dalgaon and at Sipajhar

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED asked :

870. Are Government aware of a private Middle English School in the Colonisation area at Dalgaon and another at Sipajhar in the Mangaldai subdivision ?

871. Have Government made any contribution or grant-in-aid to these schools ?

872. Will Government please state if there is any Middle English School, receiving grant-in-aid in the Mangaldai subdivision ?

873. Do Government propose to make any grant-in-aid to these Middle English Schools ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

870.—Yes.

871.—No.

872.—No.

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED : May I know when funds will be available ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : We expect, Sir, that so far as Dalgaon Middle English School is concerned, we may be in a position to allot some money in the next year's budget.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

873.—The cases will be considered on their own merits subject to funds being available.

Number of scholarships for Middle English Examination and pay of teachers of Middle English Schools

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

874. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of scholarships for Middle English Examinations sanctioned for both the Valleys ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that Middle English School teachers draw a much less salary than that of the teachers of the High Schools in the corresponding classes ?

- (c) If so, do Government propose to increase the grant of the Middle English Schools for raising the scale of pay of these teachers ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

874.(a)—26.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Not in the present state of the finances.

Middle Vernacular Madrasa at Mirpur

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

875. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government is aware that there is a Middle Vernacular Madrasa at Mirpur in the Habiganj subdivision established from a long time ?

(b) If so, is it a fact that this Madrasa was visited by the Hon'ble Chief Minister once in the year 1925 as the then Hon'ble Minister of Education ?

876. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Inspector of Schools, Surma Valley and Hill Districts, paid his visit to this Madrasa on two occasions in the years 1925 and 1926 ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the Deputy Inspectors of Schools visited this institution on many occasions since its inception ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that all those officers recommended this Madrasa to be included in the Government's maintenance list ?

(d) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether Government has done anything to that end ?

877. Do Government propose to take it up in the maintenance list as early as possible ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

875. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes, the reference being to Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla.

876. (a) and (b)—Yes.

(c)—Not since it became a new type Madrasa.

(d)—A monthly grant of Rs. 25 has recently been sanctioned.

877.—Does not arise.

Appointment of a Lecturer in Assamese in Cotton College, Gauhati

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked :

878. Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education been drawn to an article published in the “তিনি দিনীয়া অসমীয়া” of the 29th July 1938, under the caption “কটন কলেজত বেমেজালি—কৰ্তৃপক্ষ অৱহেলাত ছাত্ৰসকলৰ বিস্তৰ ক্ষতি” in connection with an appointment of a Lecturer in Assamese in the Cotton College, Gauhati ?

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

(a) Whether any appointment of an Assamese Lecturer will be made?

(b) If so, when?

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

(a) If the list of text-books in Assamese as Second Language of B. A. class has been prepared?

(b) If so, when the list will be published?

881. Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge aware that many students who are willing to take up Assamese as a Second Language have not yet been able to do so?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied:

878.—Yes.

879. (a) and (b)—The appointment has already been made.

880. (a)—Yes.

(b)—It has already been published.

881.—This has been so in the past but in future they will be able to take up Assamese as a second language.

Names of candidates for literary pension

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked:

882. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the names of persons who are candidates for the literary pension together with the names of books they have written and the subjects they have dealt with?

(b) The amount of literary pension each such candidate has applied for?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied:

882. (a)—The information is furnished below:—

Names	Published works	Subjects
1. Syed M. A. Sattar, Pleader, Shillong.	1. Muhammadan Sporting 2. Basorar Golab. 3. Mesopotamia Bhraman. 4. Assam Bijayee Mahabir Mirjumlar Jibani. 5. Assam Bijoyer Itihash. 6. Banger Shesh Bir. 7. Translation from Fatch-i-Ibria.	Travels, Sports and history.
2. Pandit Kailash Chandra Tarkanidhi Vedacharya Bhattacharyya, Sylhet.	1. Prashasti Bandanam 2. Trivediya Sandhyabidhi. 3. Jajurvediya ditto. 4. Vaidik Karmanidhi. 5. Sraddha Pradip. 6. Sarba Barner Dasaratra-shoucher Pratibad.	Religion.
3. Maulavi Md. Ashraf Hussain.	23—titles not available.	Folk-lore, and history.

(b)—No amount has been specified except by Maulavi Md. Ashraf Hussain who asked for Rs. 50 per mensem.

Number of Middle English Schools in Assam and average rate of aid granted to them

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

883. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of Middle English Schools in Assam ?

(b) How many of them are aided ?

(c) The average rate of aid granted to Middle English Schools ?

884. (a) Is it a fact that the cost of Middle English Schools tournaments are to be paid by the guardians of the boys ?

(b) If so, are Government aware that the cost is too heavy for the guardians to bear ?

885. Will Government be pleased to state whether the fee realised for tournaments is compulsory ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

883. (a)—Two hundred and eighty-seven (Middle Madrasas have been excluded).

(b)—Sixty-two.

(c)—Rupees fifty-five annas thirteen and pies eight.

884. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

885.—Only voluntary subscriptions are accepted.

Generally the Tournament Committees meet the cost from contributions made by the schools joining the tournament out of their Games Funds, supplemented where necessary by voluntary subscriptions.

Time-scale of pay for the teachers serving in the Aided High Schools

Maulavi MABARAK ALI asked :

886. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Why the resolution of the Council passed in 1934 regarding the time scale of pay for the teachers serving in the Aided High Schools have not yet been given effect to ?

(b) What steps are being taken to ameliorate the condition of those teachers ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

886. (a)—The resolution was not given effect to by the old Government before Provincial Autonomy because of financial difficulties.

(b)—Government after the introduction of Provincial Autonomy have in spite of financial stringency provided an additional sum for grants-in-aid to non-Government Secondary Schools.

Award of free-studentships to Muhammadan pupils and appointment of Muhammadan applicants in Aided High Schools

Maulavi MABARAK ALI asked :

887. (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the editorial column under the caption “শিক্ষা বিভাগের সাম্প্রদায়িকত” in the *Jugabheri* in its issue of the 11th July 1938 ?

(b) If so, are Government aware of the grievances enumerated in the said article, with special reference to the Aided High Schools ?

888. Will Government be pleased to state whether their instructions with regard to the appointment of teachers, granting of free studentship, etc., in the Aided High Schools are strictly attended to, by the authorities of the Aided High Schools ?

889. (a) If the answer to question 887 (b) is in the negative, do Government propose to set up an independent Enquiry Committee to investigate into the allegations made in the article, as asked for, in the paper ?

(b) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

887. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Government are aware that there are allegations that adequate attention is not given to the claims of Muhammadan pupils who are applicants for free studentship and to Muhammadan applicants for posts, in Aided Schools.

888.—Government have no specific evidence that the provisions of the Director's circular regarding the employment of Muhammadan teachers as vacancies occur, are not observed, or that Muhammadans are not fairly considered for free studentship. They will investigate any specific allegations that may be made.

889. (a) & (b)—In face of the existing rules, no useful purpose will be served by appointing a Committee of Enquiry.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : May I ask the Hon'ble Minister in-charge whether he considers that the rule which now exists does not satisfy the needs of all the students ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : We have, Sir, circular No. 9958 issued by the Director of Public Instruction on the 12th April, 1937.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : May I know, Sir, whether the circular is enough and also whether it is carried into effect ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : It is the duty of the Government, Sir, to consider in every case whether the circular has been disobeyed.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : Are Government aware that there are complaints that circulars are not properly given effect to ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : As I said, Sir, I am prepared to take the case of a particular complaint.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : Is it a fact that general complaints are coming since the inauguration of the new Reforms from different parts of the province and in view of the volume of complaints made it is necessary that investigation should be started.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : In reference to the first part of the question, it has not been brought to my notice that the complaint is so general, but as I said if the complaints are brought to my notice, I shall be prepared to take them into consideration.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : May I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in-charge that if he takes the trouble of going through the proceedings of this House for the last one year and a half, he will find that on every occasion there have been complaints coming from different quarters that the Government circular so far as the proportion of appointments of the minority communities have not been duly given effect to ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : As I said, I shall take into account all the complaints if I find that the complaints are substantive.

Discretionary grants of the Hon'ble Ministers to educational institutions, etc.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY asked :

890. Will Government be pleased to state whether any of the Hon'ble Ministers has in any way allotted any money for the good of the Lakhai Thana from their discretionary grants ?

891. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Education Minister received any application from the Bamai Middle English School during his last visit at Habiganj ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether the Education Minister has helped the institution in any way ?

892. Will Government be pleased to state whether the Hon'ble Minister of Education or any of his Hon'ble Colleagues has helped any of the educational institutions of the Madhabpur Thana from their discretionary grants ?

893. (a) Is it a fact that the Hon'ble Minister of Education promised to consider the case of Talibpur Madrasa, while allotting fund from his discretionary grant ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether the Talibpur Madrasa has received any help from the Hon'ble Minister ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

890.—No.

891. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

892.—No.

893. (a)—The present Government have no information.

(b)—No.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether in view of the fact that so long no help was given to this Talibpur Madrassa, he will consider its case whenever there will be funds at his disposal ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : The matter will receive consideration, Sir.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : May I know whether it will be considered only or favourably considered ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : It is very difficult at this stage to say that.

Urdu as second language in the Colleges of Assam

Maulavi MD. ABDUS SALAM asked :

894. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they propose to approach the Calcutta University to introduce 'Urdu' as second language in the colleges of the Province of Assam ?

(b) If not, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for not doing so ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

894. (a)—No.

(b)—Because there has been no demand from the public.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether, if there be any proper demand, Government will be prepared to do that ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : As I said, at present there is no demand.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : I want to know that if there be any proper demand from the public whether Government will be pleased to take the matter into consideration.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : Yes, Sir. If there be any demand, then we shall take the matter into consideration.

Grant to a High English School at Kampur

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

895. Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education aware that the public of Kampur in the district of Nowgong has started a High English School at Kampur ?

896. Is it a fact that the public of Kampur has approached the Educational authorities for sanction of a non-recurring grant of Rs.1,000 towards the construction of a house and purchase of furniture as suggested by the Inspector of Schools in his letter No.2123, dated the 10th February 1938 ?

897. Is it a fact that the public of Kampur has undertaken to meet the other remaining expenditure that will be required to make the school a full-fledged one including the amount of deposit as required by the rules of the University ?

898. (a) Does the Hon'ble Minister of Education propose to sanction the grant asked for by the public of Kampur ?

(b) If so, when the grant will be sanctioned ?

(c) If not, why not ?

899. Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that grants hitherto issued by Government to the Educational institutions of Nowgong are insignificant and inadequate in comparison with those in other districts of Assam ?

900. Will the Hon'ble Minister for Education be pleased to state the total amounts of grants both recurring and non-recurring issued to the Educational institutions of Assam during the year 1937-38 ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

895.—Yes.

896.—Yes. The Secretary of the proposed High School applied to the Inspector of Schools for a "suitable grant" for construction of a building. But as no site was acquired, the Secretary was informed that a building grant could not be considered at that stage.

897.—No.

898. (a) & (b)—Government can consider the question only when other conditions suggested in the questions are fulfilled, and when funds are available.

(c)—Does not arise.

899.—Yes, in some cases. Some bigger schools in other districts are receiving bigger grants than those of the Schools in the Nowgong district.

900.—recurring Rs.3,25,259.*

Non-Recurring Rs.22,119*.

*Excludes grants to local bodies.

Number of Middle English Schools in Sylhet district

Babu DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI asked :

901. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of Middle English Schools in different Sub-divisions of the Sylhet district ?

(b) The number of Middle English Schools receiving aids from Government in different subdivisions of the said district ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

901. (a)—North Sylhet	...	...	...	...	11
South Sylhet	...	...	...	...	16
Habiganj	...	...	...	...	19
Karimganj	...	...	...	...	15
Sunamganj	...	...	...	...	16
(b)—North Sylhet	...	...	...	...	10
South Sylhet	...	...	...	...	2
Habiganj	...	...	...	...	1
Karimganj	...	...	...	...	4
Sunamganj	...	...	...	...	2

Babu DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: Will Government consider the question of giving suitable and equitable grants amongst all Middle English Schools in all subdivisions.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Yes, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Sir, the Habiganj subdivision maintains as many as 900 Middle English Schools. May I know from the Hon'ble Minister in-charge why in view of this fact more grants were not given to Habiganj subdivision ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: It is difficult for me to say that. Possibly there are many reasons and I am not in a position to say why more grants were not given.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether he will take the case of Habiganj subdivision into consideration while awarding Government grants to Middle English Schools ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Yes, Sir, when funds will be available.

Provision for teaching Assamese to the children of the Assamese officers in the Surma Valley

Srijut BHUBAN CHANDRA GOGOI asked :

902. Is it a fact that there is a provision for the teaching of Bengali in every High School of Assam ?

903. Will Government be pleased to state whether there is provision for the teaching of Assamese in the Surma Valley ?

904. Will Government be pleased to state whether Assamese officers are transferred to the Surma Valley ?

905. Is it a fact that the children of these officers there find no other alternative than to read Bengali ?

906. Do Government propose to consider the provision of Assamese teaching in the Surma Valley for the children of Assamese officers ?

907. If the answer to question 906 is in the negative, do Government propose to see that no Assamese officer is transferred there ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

902.—Yes.

903.—There is no provision.

904.—Yes.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Is it not a fact that Assamese teachers are transferred to the Surma Valley ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : At present I do not think that any Assamese teacher is working in the Surma Valley.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

905.—Yes, unless they remain in Assam Valley Schools.

906.—Government will be prepared to consider the suggestion should the number of Assamese-speaking students at a school appear to justify the provision of a teacher in Assamese.

907.—Does not arise.

Abuse of the power of nomination to the Local Boards in Assam

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

908. Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Local Self-Government been drawn to the comments under the caption "Abuse of the power of nomination" published in the issue of the "Times of Assam" dated the 25th June, 1938 ?

909. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names of the gentlemen nominated this year to each Local Board in Assam ?

910. Is it a fact that a large number of members of the Assam Legislature has been nominated to Local Boards in Assam this year ?

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

(a) Under whose recommendations, if any, the nominations were made ?

(b) Whether the district officers were ever consulted ?

(c) If so, whether their recommendations were accepted ?

(d) If not, why not ?

912. (a) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government been drawn to the following observation of the "Times of Assam" under the aforesaid caption ?

"Hon'ble Mr. Nichols-Roy is a reverend gentleman who is reputed for the liberal use of the word 'Righteousness' in his public utterances, even apart from the pulpit. But the nominations he has made and the apparently shady efforts and selfish motive at the back of them show that the power of nomination instead of being used in a way calculated to encourage the principle of righteousness has been prostituted into a form of bribe to secure support for the Ministry" ?

(b) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any steps was taken to contradict the aforesaid observations of the papers ?

(c) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN replied :

908.—Yes.

909.—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to question No. 402 asked by Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee at this session of the Assembly.

910.—Twenty-four out of 67 nominations went to members of the Legislature.

911. (a)—It is not known. Nominations are not necessarily made on recommendations. The last Ministry probably drew upon their own knowledge in making the nominations.

(b)—The usual practice is for district officers to send up recommendations and not for Government to consult them.

(c)—Yes, in some cases.

(d)—It is difficult to answer a question which relate to the policy of the last Government but presumably because the recommendations are of an advisory nature and the ultimate responsibility rests with the Government.

912. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No.

(c)—It is difficult for the present Ministry to answer this question. But possibly the accusation was ignored as being only the individual opinion of the writer and Government considered that the proper place for vindicating their character was the floor of the House.

Sale of landed property belonging to Barnagar J. R. P. Government Aided High School

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS asked :

913. Will Government be pleased to state if the Managing Committee of an Aided Middle English or High English School is not the proper authority to acquire property or dispose of the same on its behalf ?

914. (a) Are Government aware that the Barnagar Government Aided Middle English School that was developed into, shifted and renamed as Barnagar J. R. P. Government Aided High School had some landed property in the name of the school ?

(b) Is it a fact that the landed property of the said school has recently been sold to a private individual ?

If so, by whom and under what authority ?

(d) Is it a fact that there was a public path and a public well by the side of the school site sold and that these have been blocked by the purchaser of the site ?

(e) If so, do Government propose to remove the blockades at an early date ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

913.—Yes.

914. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—By Srijut Achutananda Pathak, the then Secretary of the School on behalf of the Managing Committee.

(d) and (e)—Yes, an encroachment case has been brought against Srijut Chandra Mohan Das, the purchaser which has not yet been finally disposed of.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS : Is it a fact that the encroachment case was started for blocking the public path and the public well ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : Yes, Sir, that is the information.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS : Is it a fact that the Government is now going to change the site of the path to another ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : That fact is not known to me.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS : Will Government be pleased to enquire and prevent the change ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : Yes.

Selection of text books in Assamese for the Matriculation and higher examinations of the Calcutta University

Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS asked :

915. Will Government be pleased to name the authority who selects text books in Assamese for the Matriculation and higher examinations of the Calcutta University ?

916. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) How many members of the Text Book Committee are Assamese ?

(b) Whether the University consults the Provincial Text Book Committee in the selection of Assamese text books ?

917. Is it a fact that the first paper of English; i.e., the translation paper for Assamese boys is examined by non-Assamese examiners ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

915 and 917.—Government have no information but will enquire. The University is the authority to select the text books and examiners in all subjects.

916. (a)—Ten (5 Officials and 5 non-Officials).

(b)—No. The point will be considered.

Scheme for Madrasa Education in Assam

Maulavi Md. ABDUS SALAM asked :

918. Has the attention of Government been drawn to the scheme for Madrasa Education in the province of Assam, drawn by Maulavi Abdur Rashid of Sylhet ?

919. (a) Are Government aware that the Jamiatul Tulabai Arabia, Assam, accepted the scheme by carrying the Resolution No.7 in their last General Conference held at Sylhet over which Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan, M.L.A., presided ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to consider the desirability of accepting the scheme drawn by the said Maulavi Abdur Rashid ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

918.—Yes, if by this scheme is meant the one given in the printed pamphlet of the Jamiatul Tulabai Arabia, Assam.

919. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The scheme now followed by the Department was recommended by conference of Ulemas and representative Muslims of the Province. The scheme prepared by Maulavi Abdur Rashid, or any other scheme, will be considered, provided it is approved by the Ulemas and representative Muslims of the Province.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: The answer to 919(b) is: "The scheme will be considered, provided it is approved by the Ulemas and representative Muslims of the Province".

Did Government invite the opinion of the Ulemas and leading Moslems of the Province ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: When the previous curriculum was adopted, the Maulanas were consulted and according to their and Ulemas' opinion the curriculum was adopted.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Since this scheme has been approved by the Ulemas of this Province at a Conference at Sylhet, do Government consider it desirable to adopt that scheme ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Yes, that is the attitude of Government at present.

Hara Gobinda High English School at Beanibazar

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

920. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) When the Hara Gobinda High English School at Beanibazar was started ?

(b) Whether it has got permanent recognition from the University ?

(c) If not, why not ?

921. (a) Is it a fact that the founder Babu Pabitra Nath Das made over the school to the Secretary of State for India by a deed of gift in 1921 ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state to whom the school properties belong ?

922. Are Government aware that the rates of school fees are higher in this school and that special concessions for younger brothers and other privileges for scholars enjoyed in other schools are not allowed in this school ?

923. Do Government propose to consider the question of granting the usual facilities about fees to the students of this school ?

924. Is it a fact that generally the Managing Committee of an aided High School consists of ten members of which three are elected and seven either *ex-officio* or nominated ?

925. Do Government propose to modify the rule, if any, in order to increase the elected element in the Committee ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

920. (a)—In 1917.

(b)—No.

(c)—Government understand that permanent recognition cannot be accorded until the conditions required for such recognition are fulfilled.

921. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The proprietary interest of Government was transferred to the representative Managing Committee.

922 & 923.—The hon. member's attention is drawn to the replies given to questions Nos. 327-328, asked by him at the December session of the Assembly, 1937.

924.—For some years it has been the general practice for three members to be elected by the registered guardians, while two are elected by the staff.

925.—No. Government have no evidence of a general wish for a review of the principles on which the Committees are constituted.

Names of teachers in the Assam School Service

Srijut SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA asked :

926. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list showing the names of teachers in the Assam School Service belonging to each subdivision of the Assam Valley ?

927. Are Government aware if any teachers from Assam School Service has gone on retirement since 1929 ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

926.—The information called for by the hon. member will be found in the list of officers in the Assam Educational and Assam School and Lower School Services and outside the graded services, Assam, 1938, a copy of which has been placed on the library table.

927.—Yes.

Annual Conference of the "Kamrup Sikkhak Sanmilani" held at Ramdia

Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI asked :

928. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government received certain resolutions passed at the last Annual Conference of the 'Kamrup Sikkhak Sanmilani' held at Ramdia, for Government contribution towards the improvement of the pay and prospect of the Local Board Pandits ?

(b) Whether Government received an application from the Chairman, Local Board, Gauhati, sent through the Deputy Commissioner on February, 17, 1938 for a recurring grant of a sum of Rs. 948 in accordance with the Deputy Inspector of Schools' recommendations to the Boards for the proposed revision of the pay of the Board's teachers ?

929. Is it a fact that Government in their reply dated the 12th April 1938 declined to make any grant for the purpose ?

930. Are Government aware that the Board's school teachers are given miserable pay on account of financial difficulties of the Board ?

931. Do Government propose to improve their scale of pay ?

932. (a) Do Government propose to grant sufficient money for the improvement of their pay ?

(b) If so, from when ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

928. (a) & (b)—Yes.

929.—Government while in sympathy with the proposal had to reject it in view of the state of provincial finances.

930.—It is unfortunate that the Board's schools teachers should suffer for the Board's financial difficulties.

931.—Improvement of the scale of pay of the Board's teachers is primarily a matter for the Board and not the Government to consider.

932. (a) & (b).—Government wish they had money to give for the purpose. At present they have none: but will consider their case at the earliest time funds are available for the purpose.

Admission into the Jorhat Normal School

Srijut MAHADEV SARMA asked :

933. Will the Hon'ble Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) Whether any such method is adopted as "District representation" in admitting students into the Jorhat Normal School in different classes ?

(b) If so, what is the number for each district and for different classes ?

(c) If not, what principle is followed in admitting students from various districts into the said Normal School ?

934. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of applications from the Tezpur subdivision for admission into the said School in the different classes during the last three years. (Please supply the figures year by year separately.)

(b) Whether any application for admission into the said School during last three years were rejected ?

(c) If so, what are the reasons for such rejection ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

933. (a), (b) & (c)—No, but endeavours are made to take candidates from all subdivisions.

934. (a)—A statement is laid on the table.

Statement showing the Number of applications from the Tezpur Subdivision for admission into the Jorhat Normal School in different classes during the last three years

			1936-37		1937-38		1938-39	
			Number of candidates applied	Number of candidates admitted	Number of candidates applied	Number of candidates admitted	Number of candidates applied	Number of candidates admitted
3rd year	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	4	2
2nd year	...	...	Nil	Nil	2	2	Nil	Nil
1st year	...	...	20	1	27	2	21	2

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Want of accommodation.

Re Fuleswari Girls' School at Sibsagar

Srijut BHUBAN CHANDRA GOGOI asked :

935. Are Government aware that there is no Girls' High School at Sibsagar ?

936. Are Government aware that many girls, after taking their Middle English Certificate, have to give up their ambition for higher education ?

937. Is it a fact that classes VII and VIII have been opened in the Fuleswari Girls' School at Sibsagar ?

938. Are Government aware that this is the only Girls' Middle English School in the whole subdivision ?

939. Do Government propose to take all necessary steps to make it a full-fledged High School from the year 1939 ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

935.—Yes.

936.—This may be the case.

937.—Yes.

938.—Yes.

939.—Yes, if funds are forthcoming.

Contract Works of the Public Works Department

Srijut MAHADEV SARMA asked :

940. Will Government be pleased to state whether any action has been taken so far to give effect to the declared policy of Government to give preference to local Assamese in distributing works of the Public Works Department under contract ?

941. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether in Assam Valley Districts the Executive Engineers and the Subdivisional Officers of the Public Works Department have tried to help the Assamese Contractors in every possible means to increase the number of Contractors and the volume of works done by them ?

(b) If so, where and in what way ?

(c) If not, in what way Government propose to carry out their policy in this respect ?

942. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of (i) Assamese Contractors (ii) Domiciled Contractors (iii) Outsider Contractors in the Central Assam Division, Public Works Department during the years 1936-37, 1937-38 and 1938-39 ?

(b) The total amount each of the above class of contractors received for the contract works done by them during the said periods ?

(c) If it is a fact that Assamese Contractors are given only nominal works and the great bulk of contract works are given to the outsider Contractors ?

943. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of tenderers for the annual repair of the gravel work of the Public Works Department in the Central Assam Division for the year 1938-39 ?

(b) How many of these tenderers came from the Assamese ?

(c) Whether any amount of work has been given to the Assamese Contractors ?

(d) What was the total amount of the contract works given to the Assamese Contractors ?

(e) Whether any work has been given to (i) Mr. F. S. Manty (ii) Babu J. M. Chatterjee ?

(f) If so, what amount of works were allotted to each of them ?

(g) Whether they were recognised and registered Contractors of the Public Works Department under the existing rules and procedure ?

(h) If not, under what principle they were given contracts ?

(i) Whether they were recruited in preference to Assamese Contractors ?

(j) Who were the Contractors last year for the works allotted to these two contractors this year ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Md. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

940.—Action has been taken.

941. (a)—Every encouragement is given to Assamese to come forward and submit tenders.

(b)—Everywhere, by giving new contractors small works on which to start, and where the difference in rates is not too great by giving preference to Assamese tenderers even though their rates are not the lowest.

(c)—Does not arise.

942. (a) & (b)—A statement is laid on the table.

CENTRAL ASSAM DIVISION

Statement showing the number and amount of contracts allotted to Assamese, domiciled and foreigner Contractors during 1936-37, 1937-38 and 1938-39 (up to 7th November 1938)—see question 942(a) and (b)

Financial year	Assamese contractors		Domiciled contractors		Foreign contractors		Total	Total amounts of contracts of contractors (cols. 3+5+7)	Remarks
	Number of contractors who got work	Amount of work allotted	Number of contractors who got work	Amount of work allotted	Number of contractors who got work	Amount of work allotted			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1936-37 ..	Rs. 68	Rs. 1,84,201	Rs. 4	Rs. 38,862	Rs. 35	Rs. (a) 2,98,016	Rs. 107	Rs. 5,21,079	(a) Out of the sum of Rs. 2,98,016, Rs. 1,54,307 was for screw pile bridges 21 bridges allotted to Messrs. Braithwaite and Company and 2 bridges to one Rolla Singh. (b) Out of this amount Rs. 1,48,871 was for 9 works of special engineering character, such as screw pile bridges, coas works, reinforced concrete works, etc.
1937-38 ..	72	1,74,923	2	26,160	34	(b) 2,68,854	108	4,69,937	
1938-39 ..	69	85,476	8	15,910	23	83,337	100	1,84,723	

- (c)—No.
 943. (a)—Thirty-four.
 (b)—Sixteen.
 (c)—Yes.
 (d)—Rupees 18,439.
 (e)—Yes.

		Rs.
(f)—Mr. F. S. Manty	...	2,390.
Babu J. M. Chatterjee	...	570.

(g)—They are not yet on the register of approved contractors.

(h) & (i)—Babu J. M. Chatterjee is domiciled and his tender was the lowest. Domiciled contractors are accepted as being on the same footing as Assamese.

Mr. F. S. Manty—Although a foreigner he had to be given the work as satisfactory Assamese contractors did not tender.

(j)—Rai Bahadur Seth Teomal.
 Srijut S. N. Barua.

Constitution of the Managing Committee of the Madan Mohan Madhab Charan Girls' High School

Maulavi MABARAK ALI asked :

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

- How the Managing Committee of the Madan Mohan Madhab Charan Girls' High School has been constituted ?
- Whether there is any guardians' representative in the said School Committee ?
- Whether the teachers have got their due share of representation in the Committee as laid down in the University Rules ?
- The number of members in the said School Committee and how they have been selected ?

945. (a) Is it a fact that some guardians sent a petition to the Inspector of Schools, Surma Valley Division, asking for the reconstitution of the school Committee according to the rules ?

(b) If so, what action has been taken on that petition ?

946. (a) Do Government propose to reconstitute the Managing Committee of the said Girls' High School ?

(b) If so, when ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

944. (a)—In accordance with the Education Department Rules and Orders.

(b)—There is no elected representative of the guardians but there are twelve non-official members who may be presumed to represent the guardians.

(c)—The University rules do not apply to aided schools in Assam. The question therefore does not arise.

(d)—Sixteen. Under Part II, Section 26 of the Assam Education Department Rules and Orders.

945. (a)—Yes.

945. (b), 946 (a) & (b)—The Director of Public Instruction has asked the Inspector of Schools to reconstitute the Committee partly by nomination and partly by election, as is done in boys' schools.

Supply of tiffin to school students**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY** asked :

947. (a) Are Government aware that some schools are realising charges from the students for providing them with tiffin in the schools ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that the students are provided with the uniform tiffin, irrespective of the constitution and health of the students ?

(c) Do Government propose to introduce the system of having medical consultation before the tiffin is provided to the students ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

947. (a)—In some schools tiffin is provided at a small charge for those pupils who want it.

(b)—It is not compulsory to take the tiffin, and it would be impossible to provide different kinds of food for every boy.

(c)—No.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: With regard to (b), does not the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge think that different constitutions of different students make it undesirable for supplying uniform tiffin ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Sir, it is difficult to provide different kinds of tiffin for different students. All that Government can do is to supply uniform tiffin and those to whom that tiffin is not suitable can surely make their own arrangements.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: Will it not be difficult for the children, when tiffins are supplied to them, to resist the temptation, having regard to their ages ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Is any reply necessary, Sir ?

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: Is it not desirable that the tiffin should be such as would not affect their health adversely ? Some may be suffering from cold, and a particular tiffin may not be suitable to them. So is it not desirable that they should be medically examined before tiffin is supplied ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: This is a complicated question of dietary. It is very difficult for me to answer this question.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: But is not the health of the children a very complicated question ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: That is so, and possibly it may be admitted that different students would demand different kinds of diet. But, as I said, in a school it will be very difficult to provide different kinds of tiffin for different constitutions.

Starting of a Girls' High School in the Barpeta Subdivision**Srijut KAMESWAR DAS** asked :

948. (a) Are Government aware that there is no Girls' High School in the Barpeta Subdivision and that there has recently been an attempt to start one at Barpeta town ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to make it a success by sanctioning sufficient grants for the purpose ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

948. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes, when funds are available.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS : Will money be made available in the next year's budget in view of the importance and urgency of a Girls' High School ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : It is difficult to say whether funds will be available. The proposal will receive due consideration.

Participation in the anti-Government political activities, etc.

Srijut JOGESCHANDRA GOHAIN asked :

949. (a) Is it a fact that in granting various stipends, the scholars have been warned that their participation in the *anti-Government political activities and demonstrations against the constituted authority*, will entail loss of scholarships ?

(b) If so will Government be pleased to state in detail and in clear terms, what are the anti-Government political activities and demonstrations ?

(c) Whether to be an ordinary member of the Congress, Trades Union, Raiyat Sabha, Moslem League, or Hindu Sabha, or to attend meetings convened by the above bodies or attending meetings addressed by the leaders of the above parties, will mean participation in the anti-Government political activities ?

(d) The meaning of the term "Constituted Authority" ?

(e) Does the term include 'Ministry' also ?

(f) Whether demonstrations against the 'Ministry' will entail loss of scholarships ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

949. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The activities and demonstrations contemplated are such as are mentioned in Part III of Section 25 of the Rules and Orders, *viz.*, strikes, *hartals* and other demonstrations which challenge or seek to influence by a display of concerted with the authorities of the institution or those of the State as set up by law. The expression "anti-Government" in this connection signifies "unconstitutional".

(c)—No, not while the policy pursued and the measures advocated by these bodies are within the constitution.

(d)—"Constituted authority" means primarily the authority entrusted by law, rule or practice with the Government of the institution, and may, if that authority has not regulated the matter by instructions or guidance, include the civil authorities responsible for the preservation of order.

(e)—Yes : in its functions regarding the preservation of peace and order, if the demonstration seeks to challenge or interfere with the exercise of these functions.

(f)—In particular cases it may. The hon. member will understand that the notice which will be taken by the authorities of the institution or Government of any occurrence must depend upon the nature of the students' or pupils' actions, and upon all the particular circumstances. No general orders can lay down the appropriate action to be taken in all cases. Government are carefully considering their policy for the future in regard to participation by students and pupils in political affairs, and may revise the form of the Rules and Orders.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: With regard to (a), may I know whether wearing of Gandhi cap and shouting of Bandemataram are political demonstrations ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I do not think that in itself it can amount to political demonstration.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Can the Hon'ble Minister allow the students to wear Gandhi caps and shout Bandemataram within the school precincts ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I do not find any bar to that.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Is it not a fact that during his last visit to Goalpara, the Prime Minister addressed a public gathering under the auspices of the Congress Committee within the precincts of the High School and addressed the students on Congress ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Our position regarding students taking part in Congress is receiving our consideration and we will declare our policy very soon. As far as this question is concerned, there was no meeting in the school precincts. It was held in a field before the school, and was known to us to be organized by the public.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Is not the school playground adjacent to the school itself ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Yes, but whether it was school ground or not, I don't know.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May I know whether that act does not mean drawing the students to political activities from time to time ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: As I said, that cannot, in itself, amount to political activity.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May I ask the Hon'ble Premier whether that act alone is sufficient to draw the students to active politics ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: That is a matter of opinion, but I don't think it is.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: When students are drawn to political activities within school precincts in the shape of wearing Gandhi caps and shouting Bandemataram by his lectures what does the Hon'ble Premier, as head of the Cabinet, think of it ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: There is very little to add to what I have already said.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Is it not a fact that a certain number of students of Goalpara School paraded the streets with the Hon'ble Premier by shouting Bandemataram ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: That might have happened, but I did not actually know the students.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Is it a fact that a certain number of students met the Hon'ble Premier in the Goalpara Dak Bungalow and he spoke on Congress to them ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I do not know whether they were students, but certain gentlemen looking like students did meet me in the Dak Bungalow.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: Did the Hon'ble Premier enquire whether they were students or not ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I did not consider it necessary to enquire.

Number of Physical Instructors in the Province under the Education Department

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

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

- (a) The number of Physical Instructors in the Province under the Education Department ?
- (b) The number of Physical Instructors in the Assam Valley Districts ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that 4 posts of Physical Instructors were sanctioned by the previous Government for the Assam Valley Division ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that out of the four posts only two were filled up and that there are at present only two Physical Instructors in the Division ?

951. Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister been drawn to the Notice of Dr. Gupta in paragraph 114, Chapter X, page 68 of the Quinquennial Review of the Progress of Education in Assam during 1932-37, wherein it was stated—"Every year increasing interest is being shown in organised games and sports. The Physical Instructors have done a lot to improve their quality. The general public interest in physical culture is also on the increase. The number of Physical Instructors should be increased and there should be a headquarter's staff for organisation" ?

952. Does the Hon'ble Minister propose to take immediate steps to increase the number of Physical Instructors, at least in the Assam Valley Division ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

950. (a)—Five.

(b)—Two.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Four Instructors were appointed but two refused the appointments.

951.—Yes.

952.—This is a matter which will have to be decided after ascertaining that money is available. As no trained men are available it is not only a question of paying them but of getting them trained first.

Appointments in the rank of Principal and Lecturers in the Earle Law College, Gauhati

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN Md. CHAUDHURY asked :

953. Will Government be pleased to state the grades of pay of the Principal of the Earle Law College, Gauhati, and that of the Lecturers of that College and the number of the Lecturers serving there ?

954. Will Government be pleased to state whether the door of the Earle Law College, so far appointments in the rank of the Principal and Lecturers are concerned, is open to the Surma Valley people ?

955. Will Government be pleased to state the annual expenditure of Government towards the maintenance of the College ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

953.—The Principal and the Lecturers are on fixed pay. The number of Lecturers is three.

954.—Yes.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Prime Minister be pleased to say whether any of the Lecturers come from the Surma Valley ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I do not think that at present there are any Professors or Lecturers in the College from the Surma Valley.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: In view of the fact that at present there are no Professors or Lecturers in the Earle Law College from the Surma Valley, will the Hon'ble Prime Minister consider the case of the Surma Valley when vacancies occur in future ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: So far as I know in case of each vacancy the case of the Surma Valley was considered.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

955.—Approximately Rs.16,000.

Question re Cotton College, Gauhati

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked :

956. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The income from fees and other sources, if any, of the Cotton College and from Government grants non-recurring (capital expenditure) and recurring, during the last ten financial years and the annual expenditure for the same period showing the figures year by year ?
- (b) What portion of the increased income of the last ten years has been expended for increasing the teaching staff and for the benefit of the College ?

957. (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the remarks of the Director of Public Instruction in his last Quinquennial Report at page 28 "that the College is seriously understaffed" ?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken by Government to increase the teaching staff of the Cotton College ?

958. Will Government be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to meet the heavy rush of girls and boys coming for admission into the Gauhati Cotton College during the current session ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

956. (a)—A statement excluding capital expenditure is laid on the table.

Statement showing the total income from fees of the Cotton College and the total expenditure incurred from Provincial Revenue excluding capital expenditure for the Cotton College for the last 10 years from 1928-29 to 1937-38 :—

Year	Fees income Rs.	Total expenditure Rs.
1928-29	43,663—0—0	1,81,055
1929-30	49,639—0—0	2,04,707
1930-31	56,603—0—0	2,03,004
1931-32	53,623—0—0	2,27,144
1932-33	60,310—0—0	2,02,450
1933-34	63,439—0—0	1,97,115
1934-35	67,152—0—0	2,04,846
1935-36	72,658—0—0	2,16,667
1936-37	73,708—0—0	2,36,923
1937-38	75,588—0—0	2,16,554

(b)—It will be seen from the statement that the increased expenditure has not even been covered by the increase in fees.

957. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The following posts have been sanctioned this year—

- (1) One Lecturer for teaching Assamese.
- (2) One Lecturer in English.
- (3) One Lecturer in Zoology.
- (4) Two temporary tutors—one in Logic and one in Civics.
- (5) Three temporary Demonstrators in Botany, Chemistry and Physics.

958.—Please see reply to question 957 (b).

Golaghat Town Middle Vernacular School

Srijut SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA asked :

959. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) When and by whom the Golaghat Town Middle Vernacular School was established ?

(b) The number of pupils the school had every year since its establishment?

(c) Whether any student from this school ever obtained any scholarship during its existence ?

960. Are Government aware that the status of the Golaghat Town Middle Vernacular School has now been reduced to the Lower Primary standard ?

961. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Education Department or the Managing Committee of the school expressed any opinion regarding the retention of the school in its Middle Vernacular Standard or raising it to Middle English Standard ?

(b) If so, what ?

962. (a) Is it a fact that the Chairman of the Golaghat Municipal Board did not take the advice from the Education Department to reduce the school to its present status ?

(b) If not, why not ?

963. Are Government aware that due to the reduction of the school from its Middle Vernacular standard, there is a great hindrance in imparting vernacular education to the pupils of the poor people of Golaghat and also that there is a public clamour ?

964. Is it fact that the Golaghat Local Board was requested by the Director of Public Instruction sometime past to contribute some monthly grant towards the cost of the maintenance of the now defunct Middle Vernacular School ; and the said Board in compliance with the request of the Director of Public Instruction contributed some money for some time and then stopped the same all on a sudden ?

965. Do Government propose to request the Municipal Board to raise it again to the Middle Vernacular Standard with optional English classes and also to request the Local Board to contribute the monthly grant which was stopped ?

966. (a) Is it a fact that last year the Municipal Board at Golaghat introduced English into class III of the now defunct Middle Vernacular School and realised fees from those who read English giving the pupils hope that every year English will be introduced into the next higher class ultimately raising the school to Middle English Standard combined with Middle Vernacular ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether the Municipal Board proposes to compensate the loss and return fees paid by the young pupils ?

967. Will Government be pleased to state how many teachers were thrown out of employment when the status of the Middle Vernacular School was reduced to the status of a primary school and how many of them have been provided up till now ?

968. (a) Are Government aware whether some of these thrown out teachers have been provided in the reduced Lower Primary School by the Municipal Board now ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state if a temporary thrown out teacher has been given chance in preference to a permanent one ?

(c) If so, why ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

959. (a)—The school was raised to the Middle Vernacular Standard by the Golaghat Union in 1919.

(b)—The numbers from 1917-18 onwards have been 148, 130, 147, 151, 129, 118, 160, 174, 154, 134, 153, 169, 171, 203, 208, 206, 200, 220, 240, 218 and on reduction to primary status 162.

(c)—Two pupils secured Middle Vernacular Scholarships.

960.—Yes.

961. (a)—The Education Department protested against its reduction.
 (b)—The people in the neighbourhood are in favour of its conversion to a Middle English School or a Middle Vernacular School with optional English classes.
962. (a)—Yes.
 (b)—The question is not understood.
- 963.—Government are aware of the grievance.
- 964.—Yes.
- 965.—The question is receiving consideration.
966. (a)—The Municipal Board introduced English in class III as an optional subject and realised fees.
 Government have no information as to the ultimate object the Board had in view.
 (b)—The question of refund of fees does not arise.
- 967.—Six teachers were thrown out of employment and three of them have been provided.
968. (a)—So Government understand.
 (b)—Yes.
 (c)—Because he happened to be the most suitable and qualified candidate.

Library Room of the Cotton College, Gauhati

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked :

969. Is it a fact that the Library room of the Cotton College is inadequate for the purpose for which it is being maintained ?
970. Is it a fact that there is no elbow room for moving about nor is there any separate good reading room for those using the library ?
971. Will Government be pleased to state—
 (a) Whether any scheme has been drawn up for locating the library in a new block and whether any funds have been provided for the purpose ?
 (b) If so, when Government propose to give effect to the scheme ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

- 969.—Yes.
 970.—Yes.
 971. (a)—A scheme has been prepared but it has not been possible to provide funds.
 (b)—When the financial position of the province improves.

Percentage of Assam Valley Muhammadans in Classes I and II of the Assam School Service

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN asked :

972. Do Government propose to consider the desirability of increasing the percentage of Assam Valley Muhammadans in classes I and II of the Assam School Service ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

972.—Classes I, II and III together form one Service and vacancies in classes I and II are filled by promotion from class III on seniority and merit. Government are not prepared to import communal considerations in promotions within a service.

Question re Goalpara Government High English School

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA asked :

973. Will Government be pleased to state :—

- (a) The name of the present Headmaster of the Goalpara Government High English School ?
- (b) For how long he has been occupying his present position as Headmaster there ?
- (c) The total number of menials, chowkidars, gardeners, orderlies, etc. attached to the Goalpara Government High English School ?
- (d) How many of them are Hindus and how many of them are Muhammadans ?
- (e) Whether the present Headmaster brought any of them from outside the district of Goalpara during his tenure of office here and appointed them either temporarily or permanently ?
- (f) If so, from which district ?
- (g) Whether there is any provision for appointing menials for the Government High English Schools from amongst the Muhammadans, backward races or the aboriginal tribes men ?

974. If the answer to question 973(e) is in the affirmative will Government be pleased to state the reason for importing such people from outside when local people were available for the purpose ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

973. (a)—Srijut Indreswar Barthakur.

(b)—From 2nd September, 1935.

(c)—Eight including hostel menials.

(d)—Hindus—6
Muhammadans—nil.

(e)—No.

(f)—Does not arise.

(g)—There are instructions to give preference to Muhammadans and tribal people as far as it is practicable.

Maulavi Saiyid ABDUR ROUF : With reference to (d), may I know from the Government which particular community the two remaining menials belong to ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : The reply is probably found in question No. 973.

Maulavi Saiyid ABDUR ROUF : May I know from the Government on what date the instructions referred to in (g) were issued ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : I cannot give the date, Sir.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : The year ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Date includes the year, Sir.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

974.—Does not arise.

Want of accommodation and a Library in the Title Course classes of the Government Madrasa, Sylhet

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI asked :

975. (a) Are Government aware that there is dearth of accommodation for the boys of the Title Course classes in the Government Madrasa, Sylhet ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to make arrangement for their accommodation in the Madrasa ?

976. (a) Are Government aware that there is no library for the Title Course classes of the Government Madrasa, Sylhet ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take immediate steps for providing the students of the Title classes of the Madrasa with a fully equipped library ?

977. (a) Are Government aware that the inhabitants of the town of Sylhet do keenly feel the want of a Maktab attached to the Government Madrasa, Sylhet ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take immediate steps to establish a Maktab attached to the Government Madrasa, Sylhet ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

975. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

976. (a) & (b)—There is a library for the Madrasa which is being enlarged by the addition of books for both classes.

977. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : May I know how the Hon'ble Prime Minister could come to the finding that there was no such demand from the Sylhet Muslim public for the *maktab* ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : Government is not aware of any such demand.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : Do Government possess any material to contradict that there was a demand for the *maktab* ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : I cannot say anything more beyond that.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : Is not a question put by an hon. member a sufficient indication that there is such a demand from the public ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : A mere question cannot of course be taken as an indication that there is a demand, but if I can take it from the hon. member that there is a demand, then I am perfectly prepared to accept that statement.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : The Hon'ble Minister can take it from me that we in our representative capacity are making a demand for a *maktab* attached to the Madrasa.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : Then I am prepared to take it that there is a demand.

Rules regarding the constitution of Managing Committees of Aided High Schools

Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR asked :

978. Will Government be pleased to state whether there is any rule to the effect that the President and the Secretary of the Managing Committee of an Aided High School, shall be nominated by the Education Department ?

979. Will Government be pleased to state whether the rules enjoin that the Managing Committee of Aided High Schools shall consist of ten members of whom only three shall be elected by the guardians and donors of the school ?

980. (a) Do Government propose to revise the rules so as to make provision for more liberal representation of the guardians and donors on the Managing Committee ?

(b) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

978.—No.

979.—Orders to this effect have been passed as an experimental measure by the Director of Public Instruction. Previously there were no elected members.

980. (a) and (b)—There has not been any demand for such revision of the rules. Government will consider the case when there is such a demand.

Teaching of Assamese by Bengali teachers

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN asked :

981. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of vacancies that occurred in 1937-38 in class II of the Assam School Service—(i) in the Assam Valley and (ii) in the Surma Valley ?

(b) How many of them have been filled up in each Valley by promotions—(i) by teachers whose vernacular is Assamese ? (ii) by teachers whose vernacular is Bengali ? (to be shown Valley by Valley).

982. Will Government be pleased to state the duties of the teachers in class II, viz., the Assistant Headmasters ?

983. (a) Will Government please state whether teachers whose vernacular is Bengali are allowed to teach boys in the Assam Valley High Schools through the medium of the Assamese Language ?

(b) If so, do those teachers possess any knowledge in the Assamese Language ?

984. Are Government aware of the fact that vernacular has been made the medium of instruction in the secondary schools ?

985. Do Government propose to consider the desirability of removing the Bengali-speaking teachers to those schools where Bengali is the medium of instructions ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

981. (a) (i)—5 ; (ii)—2.
 (b)—Assam Valley (i)—2.
 (ii)—2.
 Surma Valley (i)—Nil.
 (ii)—1.

Two posts have not yet been filled.

982.—To teach in the higher classes and to supervise the work of the teachers in classes III-VI.

983. (a)—Yes.

(b)—They are required to pass the Departmental Examination in Assamese.

984.—Yes.

985.—Government will consider the desirability of transferring Bengali-speaking teachers who have not acquired a fair knowledge of Assamese to schools where Bengali is the medium of instruction whenever suitable vacancies occur.

Scholarships reserved for scheduled caste candidates in different institutions

Babu BALARAM SIRCAR asked :

986. Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) The number of scholarships reserved for scheduled caste candidates in the Berry-White Medical School, Dibrugarh, the Surma Valley Technical School, Sylhet and in the Weaving Institution at Gauhati?
 - (b) The number of students in each of these institutions and how many of them are enjoying such scholarships?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI replied :

986. (a)—There is no reservation of scholarships by communities in these institutions except in the case of the Berry-White Medical School, Dibrugarh, where one scholarship in each class has been reserved for scheduled caste students since July 1938.

(b)—The hon. member presumably refers to scheduled caste students and the information is furnished below :—

	No. of students	No. of scholars
1. Berry-White Medical School	3	1
2. Surma Valley Technical School	3	2
3. Government Weaving School	9	2

Number of people killed and injured by tigers and drowned during the last flood in each of the districts of the Assam Valley

Srijut SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA asked :

987. Will Government be pleased to state the number of people killed and injured by tigers and drowned during the last flood in each of the districts of the Assam Valley ?

988. (a) Are Government aware that during the last flood, a man was attacked by a tiger while he was going to drive cattle from his sugarcane cultivation at Biblongoniagaon of Ahatguri Mauza ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the tiger could not be killed for want of a Breech Loading gun ?

989. Will Government be pleased to state the number of different kinds of guns (m. l or b. l) in the whole of Majuli ?

990. Will Government be pleased to state the number of persons recently applied for licenses for guns in Majuli and how many were granted licenses ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

987.—A statement is laid on the table.

Statement showing the number of people injured and killed by tigers and drowned during the last flood in each of the districts of Assam Valley

Serial No.	District	Number of persons injured by tigers	Number of persons killed by tigers	Number of persons drowned	Remarks
1	Goalpara	1	...	59	
2	Kamrup	2	5	34	
3	Sibsagar	3	...	...
4	Lakhimpur	...	...	2	
5	No casualties occurred in other districts.				

988. (a) & (b)—Srijut Sankar Chandra Barua, M.L.A., reported this fact recommending on Boloram Hazarika for a D. B. B. L. Gun. Boloram Hazarika was allowed a D. B. B. L. Gun on surrendering his present S. B. M. L. Gun. From the report of local officer it seems that no man was killed by any tiger there.

989.—There are 84 M. L. and 35 B. L. guns in the Majuli excluding the guns held by Their Holiness Auniati and Dakhinpat Satradhikar Goswamis.

990.—Twelve persons applied recently from the Majuli out of whom 3 persons have been granted licenses, 4 rejected and the applications of the rest are under enquiry.

Entrance of a Muhammadan *musafir* into a Hindu Hotel at Kadirganj (Markuli) in Habiganj

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

991. Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a Muhammadan Musafir entered a Hindu Hotel at Kadirganj (Markuli) in the subdivision of Habiganj on the 30th July, 1938 and was handed over to the River Police that night at 10 p.m. ?

992. Is it a fact that the said Muhammadan was asked by the Sub-Inspector, River Police, to pay Rs.200 for his release ?

993. Is it a fact that the said Muhammadan Musafir was kept confined by the Sub-Inspector, River Police, for more than 24 hours and when the money demanded was not paid, the Sub-Inspector, River Police, sent him to Baniyachang thana ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

991.—Yes, except that the time at which he was detained in the thana lock-up was about midnight.

992.—No.

993.—No. He was released at 7 p.m., the next evening on personal recognizance. He was directed to appear before the Sub-Inspector in charge of Baniyachang Police Station because his *bona fides* was under scrutiny.

Sikh Community of Assam

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

994. Has the attention of the Hon'ble Chief Minister been drawn to the article “অসমীয়া শব্দ সম্বন্ধে” published in the “পূজনীয় দিনপত্র অসমীয়া” of the 22nd July last ?

995. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) Whether the Sikh Community of Assam who have lived in Assam for generations and have accepted Assamese as their mother tongue are treated as Assamese or as Sikh immigrants in matters of Government service and scholarship, etc. ?

(b) Whether they are required to produce domicile certificates like other foreigners in applying for Government services, etc. ?

(c) If the answers to questions (a) and (b) are in the affirmative will Government be pleased to state the reason ?

996. Do Government propose to treat these Sikhs as Assamese and give them equal facilities with the Assamese in respect of Government services and scholarships, etc. ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

994.—Government have seen the article.

995. (a), (b) & (c)—In the matter of numbers they are included not among the Assam Valley Hindus, but among "Others". For the purpose of scholarships they have so far been treated as a Backward Community. Government will enquire how they are treated in respect of the public services.

996.—Government consider that if they have adopted the language of the Valley, have been resident for generations, and have become assimilated with the indigenous people, they should be treated as natives, who are not required to produce domicile certificates. Those who have come to the province in search of employment and have acquired the elements of domicile should be treated as domiciled. The matter will be considered.

Issue of domicile certificates

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMIRUDDIN asked :

997. (a) Is it a fact that the issue of domicile certificate has been stopped by Government except for the purposes of Government service and business establishment within this Province ?

(b) If so, why ?

998. Do Government propose to direct the issue of such certificates in all cases where the conditions required therefore are fulfilled and when applied for ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

997 (a) & (b)—The question of granting domicile certificates to persons seeking them in order to compete for excise and opium shops, forest coupes and Public Works Department contracts, etc., has been left over for consideration for the present, in view of the possibility of Government arriving at some decision over the matter.

998.—Government will consider the pending applications after the session.

Books, leaflets, etc., proscribed by Government since 1905

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH asked :

999. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of books, leaflets, pamphlets, magazines and other literatures together with the names of authors, which have been proscribed by the Government of Assam since 1905 till now ?

1000. Are Government aware that the ban on "PATHERDABI" by Dr. Sarat Chandra Chatterji has been lifted by the Government of Bihar ?

1001. (a) Do Government propose to lift the ban on the said "PATHERDABI" without delay ?

(b) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Srijut **GOPINATH BARDOLOI** replied :

999.—A statement is laid on the table, showing the books, etc., proscribed by this Government since 1910 so far as particulars are readily available. Records of proscriptions in 1918, 1919 and before 1910 are not available.

Serial No.	Names of books, leaflets, etc.	Names of Authors (if known)	Remarks
1	Barbar Ingrajer Saitani Sasoner Khatian—Sastha Parba. (An account of the Satanic conduct of the barbarous British—Chapter VI) a leaflet in Bengali.	Rajendra Chandra Deb, Dictator, Bengal Provincial Congress Committee.	
2	Bharanti Purna Niti teg karia Dharmasangata Nyayaparyanata abalamban karibar Nimitta Assam Pradeshastha Praja Sakti Samipe Nibedan (2)—a Bengali booklet.	Baikuntha Charan Das from the Silchar Sadhya Press.	
3	Gandhi Charit (History of activities of Mr. Gandhi)—a book in Assamese.	Kanak Chandra Sarma.	Proscription order rescinded on 28th October 1937.
4	Ganer Bahi—"Looter Gan"—a Bengali pamphlet.	Lakshmi Kanta Kirtanya and Kumud Bhattacharji, My-mensingh.	
5	Government's violence against people's non-violence in the district of Sylhet—a leaflet in English.	Published on behalf of the Sylhet District Congress Committee.	
6	"Khethe Pai na Keno"—(why we do not get enough to eat).	Amarendra Krishna Sen at Dhubri.	
7	History of the Congress Movement in the Surma Valley—a pamphlet in English.	Abala Kanta Gupta, Secretary, Sylhet District Congress Committee.	
8	"Jiban Juddha Bighosila Aj Maraner Maha Sankha". (The struggle for existence has proclaimed to-day the blowing of the Conch-shell of death)—a Bengali leaflet.	Digendra Nath Acharjya Pabitra Sankar Ray and Durgapada Das.	

Serial No.	Names of books, leaflets, etc.	Names of Authors (if known)	Remarks
9	"Juga Sankha" (Conch-shell of the age)—a Bengali leaflet.	Published by the War Council of the Students of the Sylhet District.	
10	"Juga Sankha" (Conch-shell of the age)—a pamphlet in Bengali.	Ditto.	
11	"Let the dogs bark, Caravan passes on"—a Bengali leaflet (anonymous).	.....
12	"Matri Adesh" (13)—in Bengali.	Baikuntha Charan Das.	
13	"Matri Adesh" (20)—in Bengali.	Baikuntha Charan Das.	
14	"Matri Adesh" (28)—a Bengali pamphlet.	Radha Kanta Sadhya	
15	"Muktir Sandhan" (search for freedom)—a Bengali pamphlet.	Harendra Chandra Chaudhuri.	
16	"Naga Pahare Mukti Sangram" (Fight for freedom in the Naga Hills)—a Bengali leaflet.	Sylhet District Congress Committee.	
17	"Police Kartrik Masjid Apabitra (Desecration of the Mosque by the police)—cyclostyled bulletin in Bengali.	Third Dictator, Akhali Congress Committee.	
18	"Purna Swadhinata Chai Kena ? (Why do we want full independence)—in Bengali.	Suresh Chandra Deb.	
19	"Santi Kothay"—(where is peace) ?—a pamphlet in Bengali.	.....

Serial No.	Names of books, leaflets, etc.	Names of Authors (if known)	Remarks
20	"Satadhar" (hundred edges)—an Assamese book.	Nabin Chandra Das of Kulbil, Belsor, Nalbari, Kamrup.	
21	"Satyagraha Sambad No.4 of Magh, Thursday"—an unauthorised news sheet in Bengali.	...	
22	"Srihatta Swadhinata Sangram" (Fight for independence at Sylhet)—Pictures entitled—second, third and fourth series.	Produced at the Prabasi Press, Calcutta.	
23	"Swadesh" (Own country)—bulletine No.35—a pamphlet in Assamese.	Rabindra Nath Kakaty, Sibsagar.	
24	"Swadhin Assamiya" (Independent Assamese)—an Assamese pamphlet.	Naranath Sharma.	
25	"Swadhin Bharat" (Independent India)—Bengali leaflet—(anonymous).	...	
26	"Swadhinata Sangram: Dakshin Srihatta" (South Sylhet in the fight for freedom)—a Bengali pamphlet.	Dwijendra Mohan Das Gupta.	
27	"Kanaighat Hangamar Kabita" (in Bengali)	Kazi Mubarak Ali, Sylhet.	
28	"Independence Resolution of 1930", i.e., the resolution issued on behalf of the Congress Working Committee for adoption by public meetings on the 26th January 1930.	...	Order rescinded on 8th January 1938.
29	The Face of Mother India	Miss Katherine Mayo.	
30	Deshar Katha	Sri Sukharan Ganesh Deoshkur.	

1000.—Government have no information.

1001. (a)—"PATHERDABI" was proscribed by the Government of Bengal. A copy of the notification was republished in the *Assam Gazette*. Unless the proscribing Government lifts the ban the orders remain in force throughout British India.

(b)—Does not arise.

Free supply of forest produce

Sr. Jut JOGESCHANDRA GOHAIN asked :

1002. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government have made arrangements for supply of fuel, thatch, cane, etc., to the villagers *free of royalty*, since after the abolition of the “Village Forests” ?

(b) If not, do Government propose to take immediate steps for supply of fuel, thatch, cane and such other daily necessities of life to the villagers free of royalty ?

1003. If the reply to question 1002(a) is in the affirmative, do Government propose to print the rules or instructions, etc., on the subject in ‘bold-type’ in vernacular and distribute them amongst villagers for their information ?

1004.(a) Are Government aware that due to constant floods in the Province, the inhabitants of the low-lying tracts are badly in need of sufficient number of boats for the safety of their life and property during the floods ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to issue instructions for supply of sufficient number of trees free of royalty to every village in the low-lying tracts for the purpose of making boats ?

1005.(a) Are Government aware that most of the building contracts of the Forest Department in the Lakhimpur district are given to one Karter Sing of Jaipur Town ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether there are no *bona fide* Assamese contractors in the district for these works ?

1006. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) How the Divisional Forest Officer, Lakhimpur district, distributes these contract works ?

(b) Whether he calls for tenders for the works and advertise them in the newspapers and the Gazette ?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to name the newspapers or the Gazette, giving dates when such advertisements were published ?

1007. (a) Are Government aware that the above named Karter Sing is not a *bona fide* Assamese or domiciled in Assam ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take steps so that in future all such contracts are given to *bona fide* Assamese contractors ?

1008. (a) If the reply to question 1007(a) is in the negative, do Government propose to make a thorough enquiry into the matter ?

(b) If not, why not ?

1009. (a) Is it a fact that a large number of Subordinate Forest Officers of the Dibrugarh subdivision either have already been transferred or are going to be transferred during the next few months ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to make an enquiry whether these transfers are really necessary on public interests or they are only to meet the wishes of the Divisional Forest Officer, Lakhimpur ?

1010. Will Government be pleased to state how long the present Deputy Conservator of Forests, Lakhimpur, has been in this district ?

1011. Do Government propose to consider the necessity of transferring him from this district on grounds of public interests ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

1002.(a) and (b)—The concessions given by Rule 2, page 49, Assam Forest Manual, Volume I were in force before the gazetting and abolition of "village forests" hence additional arrangement for free supply of forest produce thereafter was unnecessary.

1003.—If Government find this necessary, they will do so.

1004.(a)—Yes.

(b)—Under the rules quoted in reply to question 1002(a) and (b) the villagers can obtain boats. Recently considerable additional concessions have been made in badly effected flood areas.

1005.(a) and (b)—For any new works tenders are always called for from among all local contractors likely to be interested and there is no restriction as regards who may tender. The reason that Kartar Singh gets most of the construction work is that his tender is almost invariably considerably less than that of any other contractor. The standard of work of the contractor in question is as high as that of any contractor and considerably higher than that of most local contractors.

For the last work carried out 6 tenders were received, of which the lowest tender made was by Sirdar Kartar Singh which was accepted.

Details are given below :—

				Rs.	a.	p.
(1)	Srijut K. C. Das	...	...	1,507	0	0
(2)	Srijut N. N. Chakrabarty	...	...	1,193	0	0
(3)	Sirdar Kartar Singh	...	...	975	0	0
(4)	Messrs. Dibrugarh Steel Works...	...	...	1,580	0	0
(5)	Messrs. Asa Singh, Swaran Singh	...	...	1,185	0	0
(6)	Messrs. Timber Triers	...	...	1,795	6	0

1006.(a), (b) and (c)—A copy of the notice calling for tenders is sent to all local contractors likely to be interested. As the amount of the work to be done is seldom over Rs. 1,000 no advertisement is put in any paper nor is this considered necessary. The tenders are sealed tenders and are opened on a certain date and at a certain time as notified.

1007. (a)—Kartar Singh is not an Assamese but has been working in Assam for some years past.

(b)—If Assamese contractors, who are reliable, tender at the same low rates as Kartar Singh, their tenders would receive preference.

1008. (a) and (b)—The question is not understood nor why any thorough enquiry should be necessary because a contractor who was not an Assamese was given work by reason of the fact that he was prepared to and did do better work and at a lower rate than some of the other contractors. In the public interest it is the duty of Government officers to get the maximum results possible with the minimum expenditure of public funds. While local interests are always considered there is a very definite obligation to consider the tax payers' interests.

1009. (a)—Five subordinates are being transferred to other Divisions and one within the Division.

(b)—They were or are being transferred in the interest of the public service and transfers were ordered by the Conservator from a special list kept for the purpose having regard to the length of service in a particular locality.

1010.—If the reference is to Mr. Harrison, he was in the Division since September 1933 excepting a period of 6½ months on leave in 1936.

1011.—Does not arise as the services of this Officer have been placed at the disposal of the Government of India and the officer has already left the Province.

Contract of carrying business on the Pandu-Gauhati-Shillong road

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked :

1012. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the contract of carrying business on the Pandu-Gauhati-Shillong road has been disposed of by Government ?
- (b) If so, when the matter has been disposed of and to whom the contract has been given ?
- (c) If not, why the matter has been delayed and when it will be decided ?

1013. Will Government be pleased to state the names of the persons who had submitted tenders for the carrying business on the said road ?

1014. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table all the tenders which have been submitted for the information of the House ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLAI replied :

1012. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The contract has been given to the Commercial Carrying Company, Limited, on the 30th August 1938.

(c)—Does not arise.

1013 and 1014.—A statement was laid on the library table on the first day of the September Session, in reply to starred question No. 181(a) by Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee. The statement is again laid on the library table for the information of the House.

Smuggling of opium and the number of officers in the special branch of the Excise Department

Srijut JOGESCHANDRA GOHAIN asked :

1015. (a) Do Government propose to consider the necessity of increasing the number of officers in the special branch of the Excise Department and empower the officers of the said special branch to inspect opium shops in their respective areas to ensure stoppage of smuggling of opium ?

(b) If not, will Government be pleased to state what other means they are going to adopt to stop opium smuggling ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS replied :

1015. (a)—The evil of opium smuggling is continually before the attention of Government and Government are doing all that seems possible with the funds that are available. The duty of the Special Staff is to act as a check on import and transport of opium particularly from outside the province. Government consider that the staff is better employed on watching the routes for this purpose than in inspection of opium shops.

(b)—In the opinion of the Government employment of special officers is only one way of meeting the evil of smuggling. The problem is many sided. It is suggested that the sentences inflicted on smugglers should be deterrent. Others suggest that a cure should first be found against the opium habits. Some others again advise that some sort of propaganda should be carried on in the matter. Government are considering all these suggestions.

Trial of prohibition in the district of Kamrup

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH asked :

1016. With reference to the reply given to my unstarred question No.95 put in the last Budget Session of the Assembly, will the Hon'ble Minister for Excise be pleased to state—(a) If any decision has been made by now ? (b) If so, to what effect ?

1017. Will the Hon'ble Minister for Excise be pleased to state whether any order has been issued to the District Excise Staff to preach the evil effects of Opium, Liquor and *Ganja* amongst the addicts ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS replied :

1016.—The present Government's predecessors called a conference of Excise Superintendents and it was therein suggested that Kamrup would be a more suitable district than Goalpara for the purpose of the experiment. Government are examining this suggestion.

1017.—No.

Inadequate representation of Muhammadans in the Assam-Bengal Railway

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY asked :

1018. Are Government aware that in the Assam-Bengal Railway, the Muslims of this province have got no adequate representation in the service?

1019. Do Government propose to make an enquiry about the representation of the native of Assam both Hindus and Muslims in the Assam-Bengal Railway service on the following Branches :—

- (1) Traffic Department,
- (2) Loco Department,
- (3) Engineering Department, and
- (4) Medical Department ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1018.—It is gathered from the Railway authorities that out of the total appointment in the Subordinate Staff nearly 15 per cent. of the appointments are held by the natives of Assam of which about 50 per cent. are held by the Muslims of this Province.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : Will the Hon'ble Minister please look to the questions and answers and satisfy us whether the answers given meet the question?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN : Yes, in so far as we are concerned.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : The question related to all services, but the answer only relates to the subordinate staff.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The hon. member will realise that this refers to a Central subject.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : I realise that, Sir. But the answers brought from the Assam-Bengal Railway Company do not meet my question.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN : This is all the information we have from the railway authorities.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : In view of the fact that the answers that have been received from the Railway people do not meet with the question, will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge please make a fresh reference regarding the upper grades services ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN : We will make a further reference to the Railway authorities.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : Will the Hon'ble Minister also consider that in view of the fact that the Railway in so far as Bengal is concerned only extends to one division and the railway extensively extends to the whole of Assam, the percentage of 15 per cent. of services allotted to the natives of Assam as inadequate ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN : It is a matter for the Railway authorities to consider.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : Am I to understand that the Government of Assam consider this 15 per cent. of services allotted to the natives of the province of Assam as inadequate ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN : It is a matter of opinion, besides this concerns the Railways which is a Central subject. We can only refer it to them.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : May I know if the Local Government has no voice in the matter ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Minister has replied that he will make a reference.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : So far as the ratio of services is concerned ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Minister has said that he is ready to make a reference.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :
1019.—The information is furnished in the statement below :—

Branch		Total number of staff in Subordinate Service	Number of Assamese in Subordinate Service		
			Hindus	Muslims	Total
Traffic Department	...	1949	101	42	143
Loco	...	883	117	151	268
Engineering Department	...	299	35	31	66
Medical	...	84	5	...	5

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to let me know in giving the proportion of services whether, the Railways have included the menials also.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN : I do not think that menials have been included.

Appointments in the Education Department

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS asked :

1020. (a) Is it a fact that 6 inexperienced and untrained teachers have been appointed by the Education Department in the 6 deputation vacancies arising in the current year ?

(b) If so, what is the principle followed in this matter and why ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

1020. (a)—No. (Some of them had previous experience).

(b)—Does not arise.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS : The reply is, some of them had previous experience. May I take it that some had no previous experience ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : The answer to the question is clear from the reply. 'No' is there.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS : May I know if all of them were trained or untrained teachers ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : They may not all be trained teachers. Those who were not trained they had previous experience.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS : How many were trained teachers ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : I am not in a position to give a reply just now.

“Jor-pukhuri” at Uzanbazar in Gauhati

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked :

1021. Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Health aware that there exist two old tanks adjoining the Ugratara Temple commonly known as “Jor-pukhuri” at Uzanbazar in the Gauhati town ?

1022. Are Government aware that these tanks are getting unhealthy and are harmful to public health on account of the water being contaminated by the municipal drains terminating in them and by the people bathing and washing sometimes cloths of patients suffering from infectious diseases ?

1023. Is it a fact that the water of these tanks has already affected a number of people inhabiting the vicinity of the tanks ?

1024. Do Government propose to take steps and see that preventive measures are taken immediately ?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN replied :

1021.—Yes.

1022, 1023 and 1024.—Government have drawn the attention of the Municipal Board and the Civil Surgeon concerned to these questions and to their responsibilities under sections 180, 186, 200, 210-212 of the Assam Municipal Act and have asked for a report regarding what action is needed and what action is proposed to be taken.

Anti-malarial operations at Kachugaon and Haltugaon

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS asked :

1025. Will Government be pleased to state for how long the anti malarial operations are being carried out in the Public Health Anti-malarial Laboratories at Kachugaon and Haltugaon and with what result ?

1026. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) If they propose to introduce anti-malarial operations in the malarious places like Jalah in the Barpeta and Mosalpur in the Gauhati subdivisions of the Kamrup district ?

(b) If not, why not ?

1027. (a) Is it a fact that there are also Forest Dispensaries at Kachugaon and Haltugaon and that malaria is treated in these dispensaries also ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to shift the anti-malarial laboratories from there to other suitable places without harm to the former ?

1028. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The name of the Research Officer of the Assam Malaria Research Society at Shillong ?

(b) What are his qualifications ?

(c) Whether he is a malariologist ?

(d) If so, where he was trained ?

1029. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the annual grant of Government to this Society ?

(b) Do Government lend the services of their Sub-Assistant Surgeons to the Society ?

(c) If so, what is the total cost to Government for this Society ?

1030. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government have any control over the expenditure or the management of the Society ?

(b) If so, what ?

(c) If not, why not ?

1031. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of centres in the province under this Society and their locations ?

(b) The number of such centres for the benefit of the Assamese villagers ?

1032. Do Government propose to spend the amount through their own officers ? If so, what steps are they going to take to put it in effect ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

1025.—Anti-malaria operations are being carried out at Kachugaon since 1932 with the result that the spleen rate of 89.5 per cent. in 1932 has been reduced to 46 per cent. in 1937 and the number of A. minimus, the carrier mosquito in this area has been considerably diminished. There was no mortality from Black water fever during 1937.

Anti-malaria work was started at Haltugaon in 1935 and the spleen rate has been reduced from 88.9 per cent. in 1935 to 44.44 per cent. in 1937.

There are no Malaria Laboratories at Kachugaon and Haltugaon. Laboratory work is done at the Assistant Director of Public Health's Laboratory at Gauhati.

1026. (a)—Anti-malaria work in Local Board areas is undertaken if the Local Boards concerned come forward and contribute half the estimated cost towards the scheme. No such request has been received from these Local Boards in regard to Jalah and Mosalpur.

(b)—Does not arise.

1027. (a)—The Sub-Assistant Surgeons of the Kachugaon and Haltugaon Forest Dispensaries treat malaria patients in these areas with medicines purchased with funds provided in the Anti-malaria budget for the Forest Department.

(b)—There are no laboratories at Kachugaon and Haltugaon.

1028. (a)—E. Milford Rice, M.D., D.T.M. & H, F.R.E.S.

(b)—1. Doctor of Medicine, University of Oregon.

2. Post-graduate in Serological Technique, New York Poly-clinic.

3. Post-graduate in Roentgenology, New York School of Roentgenology.

4. Graduate (with distinction), London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, University of London.

5. Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Conjoint Board Royal College of Physicians and Royal College of Surgeons, London.

6. Elected, Fellow Royal Entomological Society, London.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—1. London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, London.

2. By twenty years specialisation in all aspects of malariology, six years of which have been devoted entirely to this subject ; by having taught classes in malariology for five years and by five years original researches on different aspects of malariology. Nine treatises have been accepted and published by authoritative medical publications on the findings resulting from original researches in malariology.

1029. (a)—At present Rs 20,000 to fulfil the conditions laid down by Government of India who have been pleased to grant to the Assam Medical Research Society through the Indian Research Fund Association, an annual sum of Rs.20,000 for a period of five years from 1937-38, or one lakh in all on the condition that Government of Assam contribute annually at least a like amount.

(b)—The services of one Sub-Assistant Surgeon are lent to the Society who assume responsibility for the payment of his salary, pension fund and all allowances.

Medical and Public Health Department Sub-Assistant Surgeons are annually seconded to the Society for the purpose of receiving training in malariology.

(c)—Rs. 20,000.

1030. (a)—Yes.

(b)—1. Reports of work done are submitted annually to Government.

2. Financial statements are submitted quarterly to Government for their scrutiny and approval.

3. The annual budget estimate is submitted to Government for their scrutiny and approval.

4. Detailed reports of all surveys treatment schemes and researches are submitted to Government as and when they are completed.

5. The accounts of the Society are subjected to an annual audit by the Examiner of Local Accounts, Assam, under the direction of the Government of Assam.

6. The administration of the Society is carried out by a Governing body of 12 members, on which the Government of Assam is represented by a senior Government Official as President, the Director of Public Health, the Director, Pasteur Institute, as Honorary Secretary and, at present, two members of the Assam Legislative Assembly.

7. The Director, Pasteur Institute, as Honorary Secretary, acts as administrative head of the Society and director of its activities.

(c)—Does not arise.

1031. (a)—Anti-malaria activities conducted by the Society or supervised by the Society's staff have been undertaken in 63 centres as listed below :—

	Place	District	Description of works
1.	Beltola ...	Kamrup ...	Survey.
2.	Borkhola ...	Cachar ...	Treatment Scheme.
3.	Burnihat ...	Khasi and Jaintia Hills.	Preliminary Survey.
4.	Bhagabazar ...	Cachar ...	Treatment Scheme.
5.	Charduar ...	Balipara Frontier Tract.	Survey and Control.
6.	Dimapur	Naga Hills ...	Ditto
7.	Damra ...	Goalpara ...	Treatment Scheme.
8.	Dhubri ...	Ditto ...	Survey and Control.
9.	Doom Dooma ...	Lakhimpur ...	Survey and Control.
10.	Dishpur Villages ...	Kamrup ...	Treatment Scheme. Survey and Experimental Control.
11.	Gauhati ...	Kamrup ...	Ditto
12.	Gauripur ...	Goalpara ...	Survey, Control and Resurvey.

	Place		District	Description of works
13.	Golaghat ...	...	Sibsagar ...	Survey and Control.
14.	Haflong ...	...	Cachar Hills ...	Survey.
15.	Hailakandi ...	...	Cachar ...	Survey and Control.
16.	Haripur ...	...	Sylhet ...	Survey.
17.	Imphal ...	...	Manipur ...	Survey.
18.	Jaintiapur ...	...	Sylhet ...	Survey.
19.	Jagadishpur villages ...	...	Sylhet ...	Survey and Experimental control.
20.	Jorhat ...	...	Sibsagar ...	Survey and Control.
21.	Jajari ...	...	Nowgong ...	Treatment Scheme.
22.	Jamunamukh ...	...	Nowgong ...	Ditto ditto.
23.	Kalain ...	...	Cachar ...	Ditto ditto.
24.	Khanapara ...	...	Kamrup ...	Survey.
25.	Kohima ...	...	Naga Hills ...	Survey and control.
26.	Lokra ...	...	Balipara Frontier Tract.	Ditto ditto.
27.	Lumding ...	...	Nowgong ...	Ditto ditto.
28.	Lakhipur ...	...	Goalpara ...	Survey.
29.	Mangaldai ...	...	Darrang ...	Survey and Experimental control.
30.	Nongbah ...	...	Khasi and Jaintia Hills.	Treatment scheme.
31.	Nongpoh ...	...	Ditto ...	Survey and control.
32.	North Lakhimpur ...	...	Lakhimpur ...	Survey and Experimental control.
33.	Nowgong ...	...	Nowgong ...	Ditto ditto.
34.	Pahartali ...	...	Assam-Bengal Railway.	Survey and control.
35.	Pasighat ...	...	Sadiya Frontier Tract.	Survey and control.
36.	Puranigudam ...	...	Nowgong ...	Treatment scheme.
37.	Raha ...	...	Nowgong ...	Ditto ditto.

	Place		District	Description of works
38.	Sibsagar	...	Sibsagar	Survey and control.
39.	Sidli	...	Goalpara	Preliminary survey.
40.	Soulmari	...	Kamrup	Treatment scheme.
41.	Shillong	...	Khasi and Jaintia Hills.	Survey and control.
42.	Tambulpur	...	Kamrup	Treatment scheme.
43.	Tangla	...	Darrang	Survey and control.
44.	Tezpur	...	Darrang	Ditto ditto.
45.	Tipsukia	...	Lakhimpur	Survey.
46.	Tura	...	Garo Hills	Survey and control.
47.	Umlyngka	...	Khasi and Jaintia Hills.	Preliminary survey.
48.	Balipara	Tea Estate	Darrang	Preliminary survey.
49.	Bokpara	,, ,	Lakhimpur	Survey and Control.
50.	Bordubi	,, ,	Ditto	Survey.
51.	Borsaikhata	,, ,	Sibsagar	Survey.
52.	Budla Beta	,, ,	Lakhimpur	Survey and Control.
53.	Gillapukri	,, ,	Ditto	Survey.
54.	Hilika	,, ,	Ditto	Survey and Control.
55.	Hokonguri	,, ,	Ditto	Ditto ditto.
56.	Jeypore	,, ,	Ditto	Ditto ditto.
57.	Komsong	,, ,	Ditto	Survey.
58.	Longsoal	,, ,	Ditto	Survey and Control.
59.	Namisang	,, ,	Ditto	Ditto ditto.
60.	Philobari	,, ,	Ditto	Survey.
61.	Poloi	,, ,	Cachar	Survey and Control.
62.	Sookerating	,, ,	Lakhimpur	Survey.
63.	Umran	,, ,	Khasi and Jaintia Hills.	Survey.

(b)—All malaria surveys, treatment schemes and experimental malaria control centres have been established for the benefit of the population of Assam. 39 centres are in the Assam Valley.

A number of different groups of villages in Assam have received the benefits of treatment schemes under the administration of the society. These treatment schemes were carried out in co-operation with Local Board concerned who bore half the expenses. These schemes could not be extended to more centres as no other Local Bodies agreed to the conditions proposed.

Experimental control of malaria by anti-larval measures is in progress in two centres to determine the possibilities of establishing economical control in village areas. One such group of villages was selected in each of the two valleys of the Province.

1032.—The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

Damages caused by flood in Dibrugarh Subdivision

Srijut JOGESH CHANDRA GOHAIN asked :

1033. Will Government be pleased to state, so far as the Dibrugarh Subdivision is concerned—

- (a) The approximate amount of damages caused by the recent flood ?
- (b) The names of the Mouzas affected giving the approximate affected area in each such Mouza ?
- (c) The number of cattle died or lost on account of the flood ?
- (d) The number of cattle died of diseases or for want of fodder subsequent to the flood ?
- (e) The number of loss of human lives during the flood ?

1034. Will Government be pleased to state so far as the Dibrugarh Subdivision is concerned—

- (a) the steps taken by Government to relieve the distressed *raiylats* in the flood affected areas ?
- (b) The amount sanctioned and given by Government in the flood affected areas for gratuitous relief ?
- (c) The amount sanctioned and given up-to-date as agricultural loans specially in the affected areas ?
- (d) The amount for which the Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur asked for from Government on the two heads mentioned in (b) and (c) above ?

1035. Are Government aware that most of the " Ahoo " and " Bow " crops were destroyed in the flood affected areas of the Dibrugarh Subdivision and that the prospect of Sali paddy cultivation also is not very promising ?

1036. Are Government aware that a large number of paddy granaries were under water during the flood in the Dibrugarh Subdivision and in consequence the paddy therein were damaged ?

1037. Do Government propose to make a thorough enquiry of the above and grant total remission of land revenue and grazing taxes to the deserving *raiylats* of the flood-affected areas ?

If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED replied :

1033. (a)—The reports of the local officers do not show specifically the amount of damage, which, if considered necessary, will be called for.

(b)—The names of the mauzas affected are Larua, Jamira, Dibrugarh, Lahoal, Rahmaria, Bogdung, Sissi and Dhemaji. Some villages of these mauzas were affected but the approximate affected area in each mauza has not so far been reported by the local officers.

(c) & (d)—The information is not available in the reports.

(e)—No loss of human life has been reported.

1034. (a)—Gratuitous relief and agricultural loans have been issued. Arrangements were made to shift, where possible, cattle in the forest reserves. Gura (bran) fodder has also been supplied to cattle. The Agricultural Department is arranging to supply seeds for re-cultivation as far as possible. Government have also granted to the villagers of all the affected areas in the district concession, upto 30th September 1938, to cut free of charge reserve trees to make dug-outs. Miris on the North Bank whose crops have been damaged by the flood have also been allowed to extract firewood from Unclassed State Forests free of royalty for sale at Dibrugarh.

(b) & (c)—Rupees 8,250 and Rs.20,000 have been sanctioned for gratuitous relief and agricultural loan in the whole district. The amount actually given out is not available.

(d)—The amounts mentioned in (b) and (c) above.

1035.—The reports show that "Ahu" and "Bao" crops in some areas have been damaged. Government have no information about the prospect of Sali paddy cultivation.

1036.—The report shows that the lower strata of many granaries went under water and were damaged.

1037.—The question of remission of land revenue and grazing tax will be considered by the local officers in due course after completion of the enquiry required under the rules in the Land Revenue Manual.

Debt Conciliation Boards

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY asked :

1038. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the two Debt Conciliation Boards established at Gauhati and North Sylhet have worked successfully ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to establish Debt Conciliation Boards at Tahirpur, Dharmapassa and Shalla Thanas in the district of Sylhet ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED replied :

1038. (a)—The Boards are at present working well.

(b)—A proposal to extend the system of such Boards is now under consideration of the Government.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY: With regard to (a) may I know from the Hon'ble Minister what does he mean by the term "working well" ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: A number of cases have been filed for the decision of these Boards and these cases have been satisfactorily disposed of by the Members of the Conciliation Board.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY: May I know whether Government are satisfied with the working of these two Boards ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: As far as the present Government have been able to form an opinion, they are satisfied that the Boards are working satisfactorily.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY: May I know whether Government are prepared to provide money for establishing such Boards in all subdivisions of all districts?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: We have already replied that the matter is under consideration of Government. More than that I am not prepared to say at this stage.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY: That is too vague, Sir. I want a definite reply.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: This is a matter which can only be gradually extended and the Government will consider the claims of the subdivision which the hon. member represents

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY: Do Government realise that the establishment of more Boards is a pressing necessity in rural areas?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Yes, as far as it is possible for Government, we are prepared to give such facilities as we can.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: From when?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: As early as we can do it.

Karimganj High Madrasa

Maulavi MABARAK ALI asked :

1039. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the Karimganj High Madrasa was originally a Middle English Madrasa?
- (b) When it was first recognised by Government as such?
- (c) The amount of grant-in-aid sanctioned for the first time to the said Madrasa and when it was first sanctioned?
- (d) The strength of the staff, the total monthly recurring expenditure, and the percentage of Government contribution to it at that time?
- (e) The maximum grant-in-aid sanctioned to the institution as long as it was a Middle English Madrasa, the number of teachers, the sanctioned recurring expenditure per month and the percentage of the maximum grant-in-aid to the total expenditure at the time?
- (f) Whether the said Madrasa has been gradually developed into a full-fledged High Madrasa, duly recognised by the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Dacca?
- (g) If so, with effect from what date?

- (h) What is the strength of the staff, their qualification, the monthly sanctioned recurring expenditure, the amount of grant-in-aid, and the percentage of the same to the total recurring expenditure at the present ?

1040. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the High Madrasas and the High Schools are of the same standard and status ?
- (b) Whether the Aided High Madrasas and Aided High Schools are regarded as of the same status in respect of the qualification and the pay of teachers ?
- (c) Whether the scale of pay of the teachers of the Karimganj High Madrasa is equal to that of the teachers with equivalent qualifications and of the same position serving in other recognised Aided High Schools ?
- (d) Whether the scale of pay of teachers of the Karimganj High Madrasa conforms to that prescribed by the Education Department for Aided High Schools or to that prescribed by the Dacca Board ?

1041. If the answer to question 1040(d) is in the negative, will Government be pleased to state why there has been a differential treatment in the case of this Madrasa ?

1042. Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to popularise the High Madrasa scheme by giving the High Madrasas more grants-in-aid ?

1043. Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to increase the grant-in-aid of the Karimganj High Madrasa immediately so as to maintain at least the minimum scale prescribed by the Education Department or the Dacca Board ?

1044. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of members in the Managing Committee of the Karimganj High Madrasa ?
- (b) The names of members of the said committee and the capacity in which they are holding their seats there ?
- (c) When they were first appointed or elected ?
- (d) Whether the said committee has been reconstituted recently ?
- (e) When and how or by whom it has been reconstituted ?
- (f) Whether the reconstitution was made in conformity with the rules and regulations of the Education Department ?
- (g) When the term of the old committee expired ?
- (h) Why there has been unusual delay in the reconstitution of the Managing Committee ?
- (i) Whether there is any member on the committee representing the Muslim public of the Karimganj town proper ?
- (j) If so, who is he ?
- (k) Why any of the educated Muslim publicmen of the town proper has not been included in the committee ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

1039. (a)—Yes.

(b)—In 1927.

(c)—Rupees 85 per month.

(d)—Strength of the staff—Five teachers. Monthly recurring expenditure, Rs.125 (monthly). Government contribution, 68 per cent.

(e)—Government Grant, Rs.140 per month.
Number of teachers, 8.

Sanctioned recurring expenditure Rs.222 per month.
Percentage of Government grant-in-aid 63.09.

(f)—Yes, the Madrasa has recently been provisionally recognised by the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Dacca.

(g)—1st January, 1938.

(h)—Number of teachers—12.

Four graduates and the rest are qualified to teach Vernacular and the Islamic subjects.

Sanctioned recurring expenditure—Rs.362 (monthly).

Government grant-in-aid Rs.180 (monthly).

Percentage 49 per cent.

1040. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The scale of pay for High Madrasa has not been standardised. The pay given to the teachers of the Madrasa is not less than that given to teachers of the same qualification in some Aided High Schools.

(d)—It is not always possible for Managing Committees either of High Madrasa or Aided High Schools to conform to the standard of pay laid down by the Education Department or by the Dacca Board for want of funds.

1041.—There is no differential treatment. There are High Schools in receipt of Government grants much less than that of the Karimganj High Madrasa.

1042.—The case will be considered on its own merits subject to funds being available.

1043.—The grant was increased by Rs.20 last year and this year it has been further increased by Rs 10.

As regards conformity to standards see answer to question 1040(d).

1044. (a)—Eleven members.

(b)—1. Maulavi Abdul Hye Chaudhury—President.

2. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali—Member.

3. Khan Bahadur Abdul Majid Chaudhury—Member.

4. Babu Surendra Nath Kar—Member.

5. Maulavi Abdul Raquib—Member.

6. „ Abdul Bari Chaudhury—Member.

7. „ Idris Ali—Secretary.

8. „ Sajid Ali Chaudhury—Member.

9. Haji Maulavi Md. Farguan Ali—Member.

10. Maulavi Watir Ali—Member.

11. „ Khurshed Ali—Member.

(c)—In 1928.

(d), (e) & (f)—The said Committee was last reconstituted in 1934. Its reconstitution has been taken up again under the Departmental Rules and is now under correspondence.

(g)—The term expired in March, 1938.

(h)—The delay is due to correspondence with various officers and correspondence by the Committee with the Dacca Board.

(i), (j) & (k)—The questions apparently relate to the existing Committee as given in answer to question (b) above. It will be seen that as many as 7 out of 11 members are from the town of Karimganj.

Number of students in the Cotton College**Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA** asked :

1045. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the roll strength of the I.A., I.Sc., B.A. and B.Sc. classes of the Cotton College, Gauhati, during the last ten consecutive sessions including the current session, showing the number of boy and girl students in each class and the number of students in the honours classes in different subjects separately ?

1046. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education be pleased to state the total strength of teaching staff in each subject of the said College at the beginning of the last ten consecutive sessions including the current one ?

1047. Is it a fact that the staff of the College is inadequate in every Department, specially in Physics, Chemistry, Botany, History, Sanskrit, Vernacular, Persian and Arabic ?

1048. Is it a fact that the suggestions made by the University Inspectors in their reports for 1936-37 and previous ones have failed to produce any practical results in matters connected with the increase of staff ?

1049. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of seats that were thrown open for students in I.A., I.Sc., B.A. and B.Sc. classes of the Cotton College, Gauhati, at the time of admission during the current session and the number of students actually admitted there in each class ?
- (b) The number of seats reserved in the I.Sc. class of the College for boys of the Surma Valley in this Session ?
- (c) Whether the number of seats so reserved for the Surma Valley students in the I.Sc. class has been deducted from the allotment of seats for the students of the I.A. class of the College in the current Session ?
- (d) Whether the Hon'ble Minister in charge is aware that many students including girls could not secure admissions owing to limitation of seats in the I.A. and I.Sc. class of the College in the current Session ?

1050. Will the Hon'ble Minister state the number of boys who passed the I.Sc. from the Cotton College, Gauhati, in the last Calcutta University Examination and the number of seats thrown open in the B.Sc. class of the College for admission ?

1051. Does the Hon'ble Minister in charge propose to increase henceforward the seats in the B.Sc. class of the College considering the number of successful candidates in the I.Sc. Examination and also to increase number of or to add a section to the I.A. class in the College ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

1045.—A statement is laid on the Library table.

1046.—A statement is laid on the Library table.

1047.—The staff is certainly below the requirements according to the opinion of the Department and of the University Inspectors. Government have, however, not had the means wherewith to fulfil these requirements wholly, and have had to rely on more work from the existing staff.

1048.—The staff has been increased by the appointment of two temporary tutors in Logic and Civics.

1049. (a)—Number of seats thrown open to the students in 1938-39—

254 in the 1st year I.A. Class.

96 in the 1st year I.Sc. Class.

165 in the 3rd year B.A. Class.

22 in the 3rd year B.Sc. Class.

Number of students actually admitted in 1938-39—

241 in the 1st year I.A. Class.

97 in the 1st year I.Sc. Class.

195 in the 2nd year I.A. Class.

72 in the 2nd year I.Sc. Class.

158 in the 3rd year B.A. Class.

22 in the 3rd year B.Sc. Class.

168 in the 4th year B.A. Class.

22 in the 4th year B.Sc. Class.

975

(b)—Twenty-four, in the Biology class.

(c)—No. Orders have been passed for the opening of a third section for I.A. students with a total of 50.

(d)—No. Twelve of the seats mentioned in the last reply are still vacant.

1050.—Fifty-five students passed the last I.Sc. Examination and 22 seats were thrown open in B.Sc. class.

1051.—As already stated, an extra section has already been opened in the I.A. class. The question of increasing accommodation in the B.Sc. classes must depend upon the availability of funds.

Teaching of Chemistry Honours in Murarichand College

Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI asked :

1052. Will the Hon'ble the Education Minister be pleased to refer to the comments and correspondence published in the *Janasakti* of Sylhet, dated the 13th and the 20th July and the 24th August, 1938, regarding the teaching of Chemistry Honours in the Murarichand College, Sylhet, and state—

how many students of the Murarichand College were able to pass with Honours in Chemistry during the last ten years (year by year to be shown separately) ?

The Hon'ble Sri Jut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

1052.—Seven as shown below :—

1929	...	Nil
1930	...	1
1931	...	Nil
1932	...	Nil
1933	...	2
1934	...	1
1935	...	Nil
1936	...	2
1937	...	1
1938	...	Nil

Punkha arrangement in the Practising School at Jorhat**Srijut KRISHNA NATH SHARMA** asked :

1053. (a) Is it a fact that there is no Punkha arrangement in the Practising School at Jorhat ?

(b) If so, are Government aware that during extreme heat it is almost impossible for little children to remain for 4 or 5 hours in the school without detriment to their health ?

1054. Do Government propose to take steps to instal punkha in the School ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

1053. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No complaint has been received.

1054.—No. These schools are supposed to be conducted under village conditions.

Assam Education Service**Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI** asked :

1055. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The total number of employees in the Assam Educational Service in classes I and II separately ?

(b) The number of Muhammadan employees in both the above classes excluding the persons employed for Islamic subjects separately ?

(c) The number of posts, the Mussalmans are entitled to occupy according to the communal representations in both these classes separately ?

1056. Are Government aware that the present teaching staff in the English Department, in the Murarichand College, Sylhet, is both inadequate and inefficient ?

1057. Is it a fact that the number of failures in English in the I.A. and B.A. Examinations this year in the Murarichand College, Sylhet, is greater than that in any other subjects ?

1058. Is it a fact that the Senior Professor of English of the College is a 3rd class M.A. ?

1059. Is it a fact that there was only one Doctor in the English Department of the College and he has been taken away from the College to some other service ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

1055.(a)—Class I 33

 " II 28

(b)—Class I 1 (Exclusive of 4 for Islamic subjects).

 Class II 2 (Inclusive of 1 temporary but exclusive of 3 for Islamic subjects).

(c)—Class I 10.23

 Class II 8.68

} Inclusive of posts for Islamic subjects.

1056.—Inadequate, but not inefficient.

1057.—Yes. Every year the number of failures in English is greater than that in any other subject. This is the case in every other College of the University.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: The answer is "This is the case in every other College of the University". Is there any material to show that Government got the results of the other colleges of the University before they gave this reply?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I have not the particular figure of other colleges at present. But I suppose this is an almost recognised fact.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: If I may be permitted to say so, this is a very bad defence to say that failure in other colleges are also heavy.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Possibly this is so. But the hon. member will realise that for an Indian student to be very efficient, in a language which is not his own, is something very creditable.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied:

1058.—This is not a fact.

1059.—Yes.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: In view of the answers given in 1059, may I be permitted to say that this has got a connection with the results of students in the University Examinations and some bearing with the transfer of the gentleman to service in some Department other than the teaching staff?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Possibly so; it is difficult to say.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: This is merely a speculation.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: The data is there. If it is the opinion of the Hon'ble Premier, that it has a bearing, is it not desirable that the very same gentleman must be again transferred to the teaching staff?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The gentleman in question is now in promotion and is enjoying a higher status and this is really being done to the requirements of the rules of promotion in the Department. The question of reverting him to the post from which he has got promotion is to my mind, Sir, undesirable.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: In view of the results and the future careers of the students concerned, may I say that the Government's concern for the students should be uppermost?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member should not start a discussion.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: As I said, that was only a guess more or less.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: In view of the result, will Government be pleased to make some other substitute in his place in the English Department of the Murarichand College?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: As a matter of fact a substitute has been given.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: But the results do not show that the substitute has been a proper one.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Can the hon. member say that this is the only reason which has led to the particular result?

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: But it has got some bearing.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I had only said that it is a matter more or less of guess.

Travelling allowances of officers and Ministers**Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA** asked :

1060. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture be pleased to state year by year—

- (a) The amount of money spent for travelling allowance of officers of the Agriculture and Veterinary Departments of Assam including the Hon'ble Minister to attend the meetings of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, India, since its existence ?
- (b) The grants obtained up to date ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS replied :

1060.(a)—The information as far as available is given below :—

	Rs.	a.	p.
Agriculture Department (1932-33 to 1938-39 up to date).	7,818	7	0
Veterinary (since 1928-29)	4,291	6	0
Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture (1936 to 1938).	1,807	4	0
(b)—1. Sugarcane Research Scheme	61,400	0	0
2. Rice Research Scheme	1,17,000	0	0
3. Marketing Scheme	50,000	0	0
4. Fruit Research Scheme	37,424	0	0
5. Veterinary Investigation Scheme	36,750	0	0

Pineapples of Barpathar**Srijut SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA** asked :

1061.(a) Are Government aware of the fact that the Barpathar pineapples obtained the first place in the All-India Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition at Lucknow and the Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition at Baroda State held in last June 1938 ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether these pineapples were sent to the Exhibition referred to above by the Agricultural Department or by some private enterprisers ?

1062. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether those pineapples belonged to some private individual ?

(b) If so, who were they ?

1063.(a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have rewarded or encouraged the gentleman from Assam whose pineapples obtained the first place in the All-India Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition at Lucknow and the Baroda State Exhibitions ?

(b) If not, why not ?

(c) Do Government propose to reward him even now and thus encourage him ?

1064. Will Government be pleased to state whether any produce of Government farms has ever obtained first place in Agricultural and Industrial Exhibitions ?

1065. Will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken to obtain a market for the Assam produces in the Bengal and United Provinces Bazar ?

1066. (a) Are Government aware of the quantity of molasses imported to Assam ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the quantity of Bihar molasses imported to Assam ?

1067. (a) Are Government aware that the Bihar molasses have obtained a monopoly in Assam Bazars and the prices of Assam molasses have consequently gone down ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether they have taken any steps regarding this fall in the price of Assam molasses ?

1068. (a) Is it a fact that cotton, lac, "til", "chalmugra" seeds and "ara" seeds are produced in the Naga and the Mikir Hills ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether the Marketing Officer has taken any steps to obtain suitable markets for these produces ?

1069. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The steps taken by the Marketing Officer upto now to obtain markets for the Assam produces ?

(b) Whether the Marketing Officer has helped the Barpathar pineapple farmers to obtain any foreign market ?

1070. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the pineapples presented in the Assembly Chamber in the Budget session of 1937-38 were from any Government Farm or private farms of Barpathar ?

(b) If from private farms to whom did they belong ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS replied :

1061. (a) The pineapples exhibited secured recognition at both the Exhibitions and the grower was awarded a first class certificate and a medal by the Baroda Exhibition Committee in 1938 and a certificate and a medal by the Lucknow Exhibition Committee in 1936-37.

(b) By a private grower.

1062. (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b)—Maulavi A. H. Hazarika of Barpathar.

1063. (a)—The gentleman was encouraged in all possible ways.

(b) & (c)—Do not arise.

1064.—Yes, the Department won special certificate of merits in the United Provinces Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition, Lucknow in 1936-37 for exhibiting fruits, pineapples and oranges and two first prizes in the Delhi Horticultural Exhibition in 1938 for exhibiting Upper Shillong Farm potato.

1065.—A scheme is already operating temporarily for marketing of Assam pineapples in Calcutta as an experimental measure. Should the scheme be successful and funds permitting, it will be extended to other places including other fruits such as oranges.

1066. (a)—Separate figure for import of molasses is not available.

(b)—Does not arise.

1067. (a)—Government have no information as the marketing survey on sugar, gur and molasses, etc., has just been taken up.

(b)—Does not arise.

1068. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No. The Marketing Officer and his staff are at present concerned in conducting a survey only of some selected agricultural commodities at the instance of the Government of India by whom the scheme is mainly financed.

1069. (a) & (b)—The Marketing Officer is not at present concerned in finding markets for Assam produces but the Government have put into operation a temporary scheme as an experimental measure since August 1938 whereby the growers have been helped through departmental agencies to put their pineapples for sale in the Calcutta market.

1070. (a)—From the Daisy Pineapple Farms, Tezpur.

(b)—To Maulavi Nawab Abdul Aziz, B.Sc.

Scheme for agricultural improvement

Srijut JOGENDRA NARAYAN MANDAL asked :

1071. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether any scheme for improving the agricultural holdings of raiyots has been in contemplation of the Department concerned ?
- (b) If so, what action is being taken on the scheme about irrigation of lands and 'Dongs or Bunds' ?
- (c) The condition under which a number of irrigation pumps were supplied by the Department to different centres and improvement effected thereby ?
- (d) The number of private experimental agricultural farms started by enterprising youths helped by the Department in the different districts ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS replied :

1071. (a) & (b)—The question of improving agricultural holdings by means of "dongs and bunds" is under consideration.

(c)—The general conditions were that (1) the cultivators would provide a compact block of at least 500 *bighas* of land and (2) pay either Re. 1-8-0 in cash or a maund of paddy per *bigha* of irrigated land. These conditions were relaxed sometimes to suit local conditions and a rebate of annas 4 per *bigha* was granted in cases of payments on or before the 31st March of the year.

The demonstration with irrigation pumps yielded 39,155 and 12,500 maunds of paddy respectively in the Surma and Assam Valleys from practically unproductive land and brought home to the cultivators the practicability of obtaining a *boro* crop from land hitherto lying fallow or yielding a precarious crop.

(d)—The number is not available but the Departmental officers visited and rendered necessary help to 360 farms run by enterprising men.

Accounts clerk in the office of the Director of Agriculture

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

1072. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) Whether he is aware that an Accounts clerk in the office of the Director of Agriculture, Assam, has been punished for irregularities of accounts ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the kind of irregularities for which the clerk was punished ?

1073. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture be pleased to state the reasons why regular enquiries were not made by the Police or Auditors ?

1074. Is it a fact that light punishment for the offence has been administered departmentally ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS replied :

1072. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Non-payment in time of certain companys' bills.

1073.—Departmental and confidential enquiry was considered sufficient.

1074.—No.

Circular No. (1) of 1938-39 issued by the Registrar, Co-operative Societies

Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR asked :

1075. Will Government be pleased to refer to Circular No. (1) of 1938-39-C. S., dated 20th April 1938, issued by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies on the subject of interest on outstanding loans and deposits of societies under liquidation and state—

(a) If any legal opinion has been taken as to the interpretation of Rule 41(e) of the Rules framed under the Co-operative Societies Act II of 1912 ?

(b) If so, what is that opinion ?

(c) If not, do Government propose to consult legal opinion in the matter ?

1076. Are Government aware that even in cases of Societies having sufficient assets, Central Banks compel them into liquidation to catch the assets of the retiring substantial members or to realise their dues from unwilling or evading societies ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI replied :

1075. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—The matter will be considered by Government.

1076.—It is not a fact that societies having sufficient assets are sent into liquidation arbitrarily with a view to realize the assets from retiring solvent members ; but there is no denying the fact that bad defaulting societies are weeded out in the interest of the Financing Banks and other creditors when all possible attempts to improve their condition fail.

Supply of seeds by the Inspector of Agriculture, North Lakhimpur

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA asked :

1077. Are Government aware that the *rabi* crop seeds supplied by the Inspector of Agriculture, North Lakhimpur, to the cultivators of the flood affected areas of Telahi and Kamalabaria mouzas last year either did not germinate or yielded very poor crops on account of being supplied too late ?

1078. Is it a fact that the vegetable seeds said to have been indented from Messrs. Sutton & Sons were distributed without proper testing and did not germinate at all ?

1079. Is it a fact that about two maunds of *boro* paddy seeds were brought by the Inspector of Agriculture in January for experiment but the season having already been over the seeds were allowed to rot, as useless stuff ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS replied :

1077.—The germination was quite satisfactory but in some cases the yield was poor because of unfavourable weather conditions and crops-pests.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA : Will Government inform me of the dates on which these seeds were supplied ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS : I am not in a position to give the dates just now. If the hon. member wants the information I shall be glad to give him the same later.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA : May I know from whom Government received this information ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS : From the Demonstrator, I think.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA : Will Government be prepared to make an enquiry if I say that these answers are incorrect ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS : Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS replied :

1078.—No. The seeds supplied by the Company germinated cent. per cent., but there were three complaints of non-germination in respect of seeds received from Messrs. Pocha & Company, Bombay.

1079.—No. The seeds are there for distribution in the coming season. The experiment could not be carried through because the people evinced no interest and appeared disinclined to take to such cultivation.

Middle School Leaving Certificate and Scholarship Examinations

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA asked :

1080. Will Government be pleased to state the number of passed candidates in Advanced Arithmetic in the last Middle School Leaving Certificate and Scholarship Examinations ?

1081. Is it a fact that the number of passed candidates was arrived at by marks of grace as the question papers were considered very difficult ?

1082. (a) Is it a fact that there is a Moderation Committee to examine the question papers after they are set by the paper-setters ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether this Committee ever sat during the last year ?

1083. Will Government be pleased to state the names of the native places of the examiners in English Composition and Translation for the papers from Nowgong, Nalbari and Tezpur centres in the last Middle School Examination?

1084. Will Government be pleased to state the name of the paper-setter on Advanced Arithmetic in the last Middle Vernacular Examination for the Assam Valley candidates?

1085. Will Government please state—

(a) What educational qualifications of the examiners are required for examining the papers for the Middle English School Examination?

(b) Did the examiners appointed for examining the papers for the examination possess the required qualifications?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

1080.—968.

1081.—A proportionate increase of 25 per cent. in the marks obtained in Advanced Arithmetic was allowed because there was a fall in the percentage of success in that subject.

The question paper was not particularly difficult.

1082. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

1083.—Sylhet.

The marking was checked by the Head Examiner, who is an Assamese.

1084.—Babu Srish Chandra Gupta, Assistant Master, Government High School, Shillong.

1085. (a)—The examiners should have special knowledge of the subject in which they are appointed examiners.

(b)—Yes.

Deputation vacancy in the Tezpur Government High School

Srijut MAHADEV SARMA asked :

1086. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) If the Deputation vacancy recently created in the Tezpur Government High School has been filled up by transferring a teacher from the Barpeta High School?

(b) If so, what principle has been followed in filling up temporary vacancies in this way?

(c) Whether local qualified candidates were not available for the vacancy?

(d) The procedure followed in filling up "deputation vacancies" in the different schools of the province?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

1086. (a)—Yes.

(b)—A senior officer capable of teaching English in the Upper classes was necessary at Tezpur High School in place of the officer deputed.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—The procedure varies according to the needs of the particular school.

Resignation of Mistresses of Maulvibazar Girls' High School

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY asked :

1087. Will Government be pleased to state the number of the mistresses of the Girls' High School, Maulvibazar, who resigned their posts during the last two years ?

1088. Is it a fact that two Mistresses of the said High School resigned their posts very recently ?

1089. If the replies to questions 1087 and 1088 are in the negative, do Government propose to enquire into the matter immediately ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

1087.—Two.

1088.—Yes.

1089.—The question does not arise.

Cancellation of gun license of Babu Chinta Haran Bardhan

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

1090. Is it a fact that the gun in the possession of the Manager of Gugalicherra Tea Estate in the South Sylhet subdivision was confiscated in November 1933 by Government on the allegation of his undesirable political association ?

1091. Is it a fact that the gun was intended for the protection of the garden people and the garden properties ?

1092. Is it a fact that the locality is infested with tigers ?

1093. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government received reports of depredations caused by tigers in the garden area since the confiscation of the gun ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that many cows as well as human lives have been killed by tigers since then ?

(c) Whether the Sardar and the Head clerk of the garden applied for gun license explaining these difficulties ?

(d) If so, whether their applications were granted ?

(e) If not, why not ?

1094. Do Government propose to reconsider the question of restoring the gun license to the owner ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

1090.—The license in the name of Babu Chinta Haran Bardhan was cancelled by the Deputy Commissioner in his discretion. Government understand that the owner did not appeal.

1091.—There is no information on this point.

1092.—Tiger and leopard no doubt sometimes visit the neighbourhood.

1093. (a)—Some letters alleging destruction of cattle, etc., by tigers in the locality were received from Babu Chinta Haran Bardhan by the local officers.

(b)—Reports alleging destruction of cattle have from time to time been received by the local officers. A coolie of the garden was said to have been killed by a tiger in 1935.

(c)—Two petitions one from Prakash Chandra Das, Sardar, and the other from Babu Krishna Chandra Das, Head clerk, were received.

(d)—No.

(e)—Because the Sardar applied for a license in form No.XIX for protection of crops, but the area under cultivation did not justify the possession of a gun. The Head clerk was not found fit for a license as he would in fact have held it on behalf of the Manager, who had been refused a license.

1094.—The gun was destroyed on the 16th September 1936 but it is open to the former owner to submit a fresh application to the Local Authorities for a new license. If his application is refused, Government are prepared to consider the matter if an appeal is filed.

Clerks in Deputy Commissioners' and Subdivisional Officers' offices

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED asked :

1095. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The strength of the ministerial staff of the Deputy Commissioners' and Subdivisional Officers' offices in the Assam Valley Division and how many of them are Muhammedans ?

(b) The total number of special posts in each of the said districts and the subdivisional offices, i.e.—

- (i) Revenue Sheristadar,
- (ii) Head clerk at Sadar,
- (iii) Head clerk at Subdivision,
- (iv) Accountant,
- (v) Stenographer,
- (vi) Treasurer,

and how many of these posts are held by Muhammedans ?

(c) The number of Upper Division posts in the Deputy Commissioners' and Subdivisional Officers' offices in the Assam Valley Division and how many of them are Muhammedans ?

(d) Whether the Muhammedan community hold adequate percentage of appointments in the Special and the Upper Division posts ?

(e) If not, why not ?

(f) Do Government propose to take action and do justice to the Muhammedans by giving them their due share in the above-mentioned posts ?

1096. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) If there is any Muhammedan clerk in the district offices (both at sadr and subdivision) of the Assam Valley Division, holding any responsible posts, such as—

- (i) Magistrate's Peshker,
- (ii) Revenue Peshker,
- (iii) Registrar Kanungoe,
- (iv) Excise Head clerk,
- (v) Tauzi Nabis,
- (vi) Budget clerk ?

(b) If any, in which district and what is their number ?

1097. (a) Are Government aware that the said posts give facilities in learning responsible works ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take any action in order to instruct District Officers to see not to deprive Muhammedan clerks in giving chance for those posts ?

1098. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of clerks appointed during the year 1937-38 up to date in the district offices (both at sadar and subdivision) in each of the districts of the Assam Valley Division ?

(b) How many of them are Muhammedans and how many of them are tribals ?

1099. Will Government be pleased to state the number of posts, the Muhammedans and the Tribal people are entitled to, according to their numerical strength in each of the district offices (both at sadar and subdivision) of the Assam Valley Division ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED replied :

1095. (a)—(c)—A statement containing the information as far as available is laid on the table.

Statement showing the strength, number of Special and Upper Division posts in the Deputy Commissioners' and Subdivisional Officers' offices in the Assam Valley Division

Names of Deputy Commissioners' and Subdivisional Officers' offices	Strength of the ministerial staff	How many of them are held by Muham-madans	Total number of special posts	How many of them are held by Muham-madans	Total number of Upper Division posts	How many of them are held by Muham-madans	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. LAKHIMPUR Dibrugarh .. North Lakhimpur ..	55 18	9 5	5 3	1 Head clerk .. 1 Nazir and Treasur.	7 1	1 ..	
2. SIBSAGAR Jorhat .. Sibsagar .. Golaghat ..	45 49	6 9	6 3	1	3	1	N. B.—The staff of the Deputy Commissioners' and Subdivisional Officers' offices belong to an amalgamated establishment.
3. DARRANG Tezpur .. Mangaldai ..	36 22	7	5 3	1 Nazir and Treasur.	2 ..	.. ..
4. NOWGONG Nowgong ..	44	7	4	.....	2	..	
5. KAMRUP Gauhati .. Barpeta ..	82	18	6	.....	4	..	
6. GOALPARA Dhubri .. Goalpara ..	81	31	6	1 Stenographer	2	..	
7. GARO HILLS ..	12	1	3	.....	2	..	

(d)—(f)—These posts are filled up according to seniority and merit of the clerks without communal considerations and the cases of deserving Muhammedan candidates are considered in all cases.

1096, 1098 & 1099—A statement is laid on the table.

Statement showing the number of Muhammadan clerks in the District Offices (both Sadr & Subdivisions) of the Assam Valley Division, holding responsible posts, number of clerks appointed during 1937-38 up-to-date, and the number of posts to which the Muhammadans and tribal people are entitled

Names of Deputy Commissioner's and Subdivisional Officers' offices	Names of responsible posts held by Muhammadans	Number of clerks appointed during 1937-38 and up-to-date	How many Muhammadans	How many tribals	Number of posts the Muhammadans and tribal people are entitled to—		Remarks
					Muhammadans	Tribals	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. LAKHIMPUR Dibrugarh	2 posts of Magistrates' Peskar. 1 post of Registrar Kanungo. 1 post of Magistrate's Peskar.	5	..	1	3	7	
2. SIBSAGAR Jorhat Sibsagar Golaghat	1 post of Nazir None None	6	1	..	5	9	N.B.—The staff of the Deputy Commissioners' and Subdivisional Officers' offices belong to an amalgamated establishment.
3. DARRANG Tezpur Mangaldai	None None	7	2	1	7	6	
4. NOWGONG	None	5	2	2	14	8	
5. KAMRUP Gauhati Barpeta	None None	2	1	..	21	11	
6. GOALPARA Dhubri	1 post of Budget clerk. None. None	8	3	3	36	10	
7. GARO HILLS Goalpara Garo Hills .. .. .	.. .. .. ..	..	..	..	1	10

1097.—In view of the reply to question 1095(d)—(f), the question of deprivation of Muhammedan clerks from getting these posts does not arise.

Clerks in the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Sylhet

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY asked :

1100. Will Government be pleased to state the total number of clerks (both of higher and lower divisions) working in the Deputy Commissioner's office, Sylhet, and in the office of the Subdivisional Officers, under the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet ?

1101. Will Government be pleased to state the number of Moslems serving both in the higher as well as in the lower division in those offices ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED replied :

1100.—The total number of clerks in the district amalgamated establishment (including subdivisions) in both higher and lower divisions is 229.

The number is shown separately for each subdivision :—

Sadr including Jaintia Tahsils	...	...	107
Karimganj	...	...	35
South Sylhet	...	...	28
Habiganj	...	...	40
Sunamganj	...	...	19
			<hr/> 229

1101.—The information is given below :—

	Upper Division	Lower Division
Sadr including Jaintia Tahsildars	...	4
Karimganj
South Sylhet	...	1
Habiganj
Sunamganj	...	2
		38
		14
		13
		14
		11

Reserved lands in the Hakaluki Haor

Babu BALARAM SIRCAR asked :

1102. Will Government be pleased to state :—

- (a) Whether Government propose to give settlement of the waste and reserved lands in the Hakaluki Haor not effecting the fisheries and of Langai Reserve in the Karimganj subdivision and of Jamirala in the Hailakardi subdivision according to the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister of Revenue, in the last Budget Session ?
- (b) If so, when it will be given effect to ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED replied :

1102 (a) & (b)—The matter is under consideration. After local enquiry, which is only possible in the cold weather, orders will be passed.

Cases in connection with the Hakaluki Fishery

Babu BALARAM SIRCAR asked :

1103. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of cases brought by Government against the public in connection with the Hakaluki Fishery of the Karimganj subdivision in the years 1936 and 1937 ?

(b) The number of cases in which the accused were fined ?

(c) The amount of fine in each of these cases ?

1104. Will Government be pleased to state whether the higher authorities have ordered that the fine should not be less than Rs.10 in each case ?

1105. (a) Is it a fact that the people should take receipt for fishing in the Hakaluki Haor separately for each fishing instrument ?

(b) If so, what is the rate for each fishing instrument ?

1106. Is it a fact that formerly (about 20 years or so ago) the fishermen were entitled to fish in the Hakaluki Haor with all sorts of instruments, each buying a permit for Rs.3 only ?

1107. (a) Are Government aware of a petition from the public (about 7 or eight years ago) complaining of the hardship caused by the imposition of separate fees for each of the fishing instruments and asking to modify the present rule and allow them to fish with all sorts of instruments by only one permit to each fisherman on a considerably increased rate than the former ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to consider favourably the said petition now ?

1108. Do Government propose to impose fines liberally in future in case of unauthorised fishing in Hakaluki Haor ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED replied :

1103. (a)—Seventeen and 35 respectively.

(b)—Sixteen and 34 respectively.

(c)—Fines were imposed as follows:—

1936			
In 8 cases accused were fined at Rs.5 each.			
5	"	"	at Rs.6 each.
2	"	"	at Rs.10 each.
1	"	"	at Rs.24

1937			
In 27 cases accused were fined at Rs.10 each.			
3	"	"	at Rs.5 each.
3	"	"	at Rs.8 each.
1	"	"	at Rs.15

1104.—No.

1105. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The rate of permit fee is as follows for each kind of instrument:—

	Rs.
1. Bhasandarajal	6
2. Regjal	6
3. Jhakijal	6
4. Bheljal	6
5. Khutijal	6

6. Hepajal }					Rs.
7. Jhimtijal }	...	...	...	...	4
8. Baraparan }					
9. Dooparar }	...	...	...	...	5
10. Faria (Dari)	...	...	...	...	4
11. Lal Barshi	...	...	...	...	6
12. Chip Barshi	...	...	...	...	4
13. Pelain Jal	...	...	...	...	4
14. Khuthhar Jal	...	...	...	...	12
15. Barajal	...	...	...	...	12
16. Polo	...	...	...	...	3
17. Kucha Jhagra	...	...	...	...	3
18. Tarjal	...	...	...	...	6
19. Sitkajal or Kaburjal	...	...	...	...	12
20. Darajal	...	...	...	...	12

1106.—No.

1107. (a)—No such petition is traceable.

(b)—Does not arise.

1108.—Government do not impose fines. Fines are imposed by courts according to the circumstances of each case.

Fisheries settled with the Surma Valley Angling Association

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA asked :

1109. (1) Will Government be pleased to place on the table a statement showing the names of fisheries at present settled with the Surma Valley Angling Association ?

(2) What are the premium and rent realized from each such fishery ?

(3) For how long each such fishery has been settled with the same association ?

(4) When was the existing lease granted in each case and when is it due to expire ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED replied :

1109. (1)—1. *Fishery No. 1 River Barak*—from the Sadr Subdivisional boundary to Alyne Tea Estate.

2. *Fishery No. 17 Chiri Nadi*—from its source to Joypur bazar.

3. *Fishery No. 22 Jiri Nadi*—from the Sadr Subdivisional boundary to Jirimukh.

4. *Fishery No. 27 Gumra Nadi*—from its source to Craigpark Tea Estate.

5. *Fishery No. 32 Baleswar Nadi*—from its source to Jalalpur Tea Estate.

6. *Fishery No. 38 Jatinga Nadi*—from Sadr Subdivisional boundary to Borkhola Police Station.

7. *Fishery No. 44 Madhura Nadi*—from its source to Siber-band.

8. *Fishery No. 46 Dalu Nadi*—from its source to the junction to Buridalu.

9. *Fishery No. 58 Jatinga Nadi*—from Tibongcherra-Mukh plot No. 174 of Shabajpur Tea Estate, part II, to a little below the Katlacherra Railway station touching the northern-most point of plot No. 35 of Katlacherra Tea Estate.

10. *Fishery No. 59 Sonai Nadi*—between the Inner-Line Reserve boundary at Nagakhal in the North, and the inter-district boundary (Cachar and Lushai Hills) at Baghkhal Mukh in the south.

11. Upper portion of the Lubah river fishery from Borchar to Patharighata under the Kanairghat Tahsil.

12. Lubah river from the Sylhet border up to the junction of the Simlong river, Jowai.

(2)—All these fisheries (except serial 11) have been settled with Association at an annual rent of Rs. 5 each. The rent of serial 11 is Rs. 20 a year.

(3)—Nos. 11 and 12 have been settled with the Association since 1915, Nos. 1-8 since 1st April 1916, No. 9 since 1st April 1925 and No. 10 since 1st April 1928.

(4)—Existing leases in respect of Nos. 1-10 and 12 were granted on 1st April 1937 for 3 years and will expire on 31st March 1940. Lease for No. 11 is granted annually and will expire on 31st March 1939.

River-guard in the Jaintia Hills

Rev. L. GATPHOH asked :

1110. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Since when the post of a River-guard in the Jaintia Hills was created ?

(b) Whether the revenue in fishery increased as the result of the creation of the post ?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to give the figures showing the yield of revenue for the two years previous to the creation of the post and the two years following the same ?

(d) If the reply to question (b) is in the negative, will Government be pleased to state why the post has been retained ?

1111. Are Government aware that the closing of the Jagatsing Pool for fishery has been the source of harassment by the River-guard to the villagers living on the bank of the river Myntdu or Hari ?

1112. Are Government aware that the villagers have from time immemorial enjoyed the privilege of freely catching fish from the Jagatsing Pool by angling ?

1113. Are Government aware that the villagers have recently been prevented by the orders from the office of the Subdivisional Officer, Jowai, from entering the Jagatsing Pool, even for the purpose of angling ?

1114. Will Government be pleased to state the number of prosecutions sent up by the River-guard during the last two years and also the amount of fines imposed on the accused and the form of punishment hitherto inflicted on those accused for breaking the rule for angling in the Jagatsing Pool in the Jaintia Hills ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED replied :

1110. (a)—The 16th December 1933.

(b)—No.

(c)—1931-32—Rs. 12,055, 7 fisheries were leased out.

1932-33—Rs. 7,405, 7 fisheries were leased out. The Prang fishery which fetched Rs. 4,500 in 1931-32 was given a rest; but Myntdu, a new fishery in Jowai town was first leased out for Rs. 150.

1934-35—Rs. 4,885, 7 fisheries were leased out. The Myntdu new fishery which was leased out in 1932-33 was closed.

1935-36.—Rs. 3,335, 6 fisheries only were leased out. The Mungot fishery which fetched Rs. 1,500 in 1934-35 was given a rest and not leased.

(d)—To guard against and prevent poaching.

1111.—No.

1112.—Yes.

1113.—No order has been issued preventing people to fish with rods and lines. An order was passed not to take out boats. The order was issued because the people were found catching fish with nets and spears which they carried in boats under the pretence of fishing with rods. In 1933 the Subdivisional Officer issued an order prohibiting people entering the reserved pool (Jagatsing) without first obtaining a written permit from the River-guard. This order was issued afresh in 1938 with a slight addition so as to include persons from outside the subdivision or district because it was found that people poached.

1114.—A Statement is given below:—

Statement of cases detected at Jagotsingh reserved pool for the last 2 years

Serial No.	Year	No. of the case in the register	No. of accused sent up	No. of accused convicted	No. of accused acquitted or discharged	Punishment	Remarks
1	1936	...	1	1	...	Accused convicted and sentenced to one month's simple imprisonment.	
2	1936	...					
3	1937	...	7	...	7	Accused were fined Rs.25, in default one week's simple imprisonment each.	
4	1937	...	6	...	6		
5	1938	...	5	4	1	4 accused were fined Rs.20 each, in default 2 weeks' simple imprisonment. (One accused discharged).	In this case 3 of the accused were also convicted under section 353, I.P.C., and sentenced to 6 months' rigorous imprisonment. The first three accused were also convicted under section 352/342, I. P. C., sentenced to 5 months' rigorous imprisonment. The accused were let off on appeal in the court of the Deputy Commissioner.
6	1938	...	5	5	...	3 accused were convicted to one month's rigorous imprisonment each and 2 were fined Rs.20 each, in default 2 weeks' simple imprisonment.	

Tenure of Bijni Mauza

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked :

1115. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Revenue be pleased to state district by district the number of *khiraj pattas* in Assam to which the remission of land revenue was granted last year, of—

- (a) Rupees 12 and below,
- (b) between Rs.12 and Rs.25,
- (c) between Rs.25 and Rs.50,
- (d) between Rs.50 and Rs.100,
- (e) between Rs.100 and Rs.250,
- (f) between Rs.250 and Rs.500,
- (g) and over Rs.500.

1116. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Revenue be pleased to state the nature of the tenure of mauza Bijni, or Nij Bijni or Dar Bijni in the district of Goalpara which was leased out by the Government of Assam to the Raja of Bijni ?

1117. Is it a fact that the land of mauza Bijni was leased out to the Bijni Raja with a right of *malikana* only on the Government demands ?

1118. Will Government be pleased to state the period for which the land in question has been leased out and what is the *malikana* entitled by the Bijni Raja ?

1119. Is it a fact that the land in question is ordinary *khiraj* land as any other *khiraj patta* land in the temporarily-settled districts of Assam ?

1120. Is it a fact that the tenants of Bijni *khas* land have the same right as any other tenants of temporarily-settled land in any other district of Assam ?

1121. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Revenue be pleased to state why no remission of land revenue was granted to the tenants of the said Bijni Mauza last year ?

1122. Does the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Revenue propose to grant remission of land revenue to the tenants in question this year ?

1123. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) 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 ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to give concessions in respect of grazing tax, if any, to the graziers suffering from loss of cattle ?

1124. Are Government aware that there is no provision under the existing grazing Rules to inform graziers about assessment and imposition of fine on the alleged suppressed or concealed cattle found in time of checking after the month of July in every year ?

1125. Are Government aware that graziers do not get an opportunity to object to the assessment and imposition of fine when they are assessed for concealed or suppressed cattle in their absence or without their knowledge, till the issue of distressed warrants ?

1126. Do Government propose to issue a rule for the above purpose or any instructions to the subordinate officer concerned to issue a notice giving the graziers at least a month's time to submit objections if any, when they are assessed and find for suppressed or concealed cattle ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED replied :

1115.—Government regret that they are unable to obtain the detailed information required by this question in the time available.

1116.—Nij Bijni is settled with the Raja of Bijni for a term of ten years on each occasion on the condition that the estate collects and pays to Government 80 per cent. of the entire demand.

1117.—The Raja gets 20 per cent. of the entire demand as cost of collection and *malikana*, viz., $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. *malikana* and $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. collection charge.

1118.—For ten years with effect from 1st April 1934. The Raja gets $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as *malikana*.

1119.—This is not an ordinary temporarily-settled estate but is a part of the Bijni Raj, the only difference being that Government assess all the rents and the Raja gets a portion of them as *malikana*.

1120.—No.

1121.—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to question No. 2 of Kumar Ajit Narayan Deb at the last February Session of the Assembly.

1122.—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to question No. 408 (b) and (c) by Srijut Ramnath Das, M.L.A., during the September sitting of this session of the Assembly.

1123. (a)—The hon. member is referred to the reply given by the Hon'ble Minister, Agriculture, to question No. 367, during the September sitting of this session of the Assembly.

(b)—The Deputy Commissioners are authorised to give concessions in such cases to whom the graziers affected may apply.

1124 & 1125.—The Grazing Rules provide that the officer at the time of making assessment shall deliver to the person in charge of cattle a notice containing the number of cattle and the amount of assessment; he therefore knows the exact number of cattle on which assessment will be made. If he owns more or acquires more without giving notice to the assessing officer he has only himself to blame if at the time of checking more are found in his possession.

1126.—The matter will be considered.

Scheme for "Model-Villages"

Srijut JOGESH CHANDRA GOHAIN asked :

1127. (a) Is it a fact that an officer was engaged to prepare a scheme for "Model-Villages" ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state—(i) Whether the said scheme is now ready for work ? (ii) If so, will Government be pleased to supply copies of the same to the members of the Legislatures immediately?

1128. If the reply to question 1127(b) is in the negative, will Government be pleased to state—(a) The reasons for this unusual delay ?

(b) The amount already spent in preparing the scheme ?

1129. Will Government be pleased to state—(a) Whether sites have been selected for these 'Model-Villages' ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the names of the villages thus selected, subdivision by subdivision ? (c) If not, why not ?

1130. Will Government be pleased to state—(a) Whether works in these model-villages have already been started ?

(b) If not, when Government propose to commence works ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS replied :

1127. (a)—Yes.

(b) (i) and (ii)—The model village scheme as approved by the last Government is now under the consideration of the present Government

1128. (a)—Does not arise.

(b)—Rupees 3,432. This excludes the pay of Mr. F. Haque, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Reconstruction.

1129 (a), (b) and (c)—The Special Officer after extensive tours has suggested centres for different subdivisions and these centres are being selected finally by Government in consultation with the District Officers.

1130. (a) and (b)—Do not arise.

Assam Trunk Road and Nowgong-Kampur Road

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA asked :

1131. (a) Are Government aware of the bad condition of the Assam Trunk Road between miles 48 and 108, and also between miles 13 and 3 on the Nowgong-Kampur Road ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether it is so, in comparison with other portions in the same district and generally with the roads of other districts of the Assam Valley ?

1132. (a) Is it a fact that the grants for the roads under the Nowgong Public Works Department are smaller than the same for the other districts ?

(b) If not, will Government be pleased to lay on the table the figures for repair of the roads for each district in Assam with their mileages for 1938-39 ?

1133. Do Government propose to enquire and inform the House if a bridge or two pools on the Assam Trunk Road between miles 107 and 108 would not help the passage of flood water from the northern side of the Trunk Road ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUHAMMAD ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1131. (a)—Government are aware that due to incessant rains and continuous traffic certain parts of the roads in question became bad in the month of July last.

(b)—The roads in question do not compare unfavourably with similar roads in the Assam Valley.

1132. (a)—No. There is no fixed grant for any road or portion of a road. Funds are allotted according to the requirements of the road which varies with varying conditions.

(b)—Final figures are not yet available.

1133. The suggestion is receiving careful consideration.

Reductions of the rations of opium consumers

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA asked :

1134. Will the Hon'ble Minister for Excise be pleased to state—

(a) If according to the original programme of 10 per cent. reduction of the rations of opium consumers the total extinction of the rations is due this year ?

(b) How many consumers below 50 years of age and how many above 50 years of age hold passes now in each district ?

(c) How many of them are old pass-holders and how many new and temporary pass-holders ?

(d) How many new passes have been issued in each district since the adoption of the Opium Enquiry Committee's Report (1933) by the last Council ?

(e) How do Government propose to carry out the desire of the Legislature to stamp out the opium habit from the province within the fixed period of 10 years ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS replied :

1134. (a)—No : only in the case of opium-eaters below the age of 50 years.

(b), (c) and (d)—A statement is laid on the table.

(b)

(c)

(d)

Name of district	No. of consumers		No. of pass-holders		No. of new passes issued since adoption of Opium Enquiry Committee's Report (1933) by the last Council	Remarks
	Above 50 years	Below 50 years	Old	New and temporary		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cachar	776	659	1,345	90	67	
Sylhet	198	94	269	23	159	
Khasi and Jaintia Hills.	654	621	1,237	38	38	
Naga Hills ..	244	91	313	22	22	
Goalpara ..	46	2	43	5	35	
Nowgong ..	2,443	1,023	1,793	1,673	732	
Lakhimpur ..	8,913	717	8,336	1,294	779	
Kamrup ..	1,686	64	1,734	16	91	
Darrang ..	2,767	392	2,948	211	285	
Sibsagar ..	8,079	724	7,581	1,222	2,775	
Balipara ..	20	19	39	..	1	
Sadiya ..	308	812	1,082	38	141	
Total ..	26,134	5,218	26,720	4,632	5,125	

(e)—Owing to the policy adopted at the desire of the Legislature the number of consumers and the consumption have been greatly decreased. The Resolution of the Legislature concerning the 10 per cent. reduction itself did not envisage, it must be noted, the total stamping out of the habit within ten years. Government have been anxiously examining how best the remaining consumers can be made to abandon the habit, and propose to inform the Legislature of their conclusions at the earliest possible moment.

Restoration of annulled estate

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS asked :

1135. With reference to paragraph 14 at page 3 of the Report on the Department of the Land Records and Settlement Operations in Assam for the year ending the 30th September, will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the changes mentioned therein as a result of the deputation from the Assam Mandal-Kanungo Sanmilan were actually given effect to ?

(b) If not, why not ?

1136. Is it a fact that on the strength of instruction issued by the Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup in January last regarding the restoration of annulled estates many *ex-pattadars* have been dispossessed and deprived of their estates in the Barpeta subdivision ?

1137. Is it a fact that the same officer in his instruction issued in May last on the same subject interpreted clause 1 of the Government Resolution in the proceedings of the Governor of Assam in the Revenue Department No.3829-R., dated Shillong, the 2nd November 1937, to mean that irrespective of payment or non-payment of revenue the *pattadar* who was in possession of the estate and who made default in payment of revenue owing to poverty must be restored to his previous status ?

1138. With reference to questions 1136 and 1137 above, will Government be pleased to state why and how the said anomaly occurred ?

1139. Will Government be pleased to state whether Government have taken any steps to redress the grievances of the *ex-pattadars* for the misinterpretation of the said clause of the Government Resolution ?

1140. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the fishery Mahals of the Barpeta subdivision have been properly demarcated ?

(b) If so, when ?

(c) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED replied :

1135. (a)—No.

(b)—For want of funds.

1136.—No.

1137.—No. It was stated that the proper meaning of the resolution was being considered.

1138.—There was no anomaly.

1139.—There are no grievances, so far as is known. If specific cases are brought to Government's knowledge by the hon. member, Government will take steps in the matter.

1140.—No demarcation is required by the rules and it is hardly possible in flooded areas. But clear boundaries are required, and since the last revision of the boundaries took place in 1913 or 1914, it is desirable that a new revision should be made. But for lack of a Sub-Deputy Collector, this large work is still pending. It is hoped that the more urgent cases will be dealt with in this cold weather, if an officer is available.

Realisation of premium from Colonisation areas

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED asked :

1141. Will Government please state year by year the amount of premium realised from the Colonisation areas at Mangaldai subdivision separately from 1926-27 to 1936-37 ?

1142. Will Government please state whether Government has spent any amount for the improvement of education and sanitary condition in the villages in the colonisation areas ?

1143. If the answer to question No. 1142 above is in the affirmative, will Government please state the amounts so spent year by year till 1936-37 ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED replied :

					Rs.
1141.—1930-31	...	...	...	...	7,238
1931-32	...	...	...	...	12,960
1932-33	...	...	...	...	9,653
1933-34	...	...	...	...	12,421
1934-35	...	...	...	...	16,851
1935-36	...	...	...	...	32,517
1936-37	...	...	...	...	45,400
					<hr/> 1,37,045

The Colonisation Scheme was introduced in 1930-31 only.

1142.—Government have spent Rs. 3,212 for the improvement of communications only. The Local Board has established a Middle English School and several Lower Primary Schools in the immigrant area. A dispensary has also been opened towards which contributions were received from the public and 3 tube wells provided in 1936-37.

1143.—The details of the amount spent for communication stated in reply to question No. 1142 above are given below—

					Rs.	a.
1930-31	...	...	...	...	Nil.	
1931-32	...	...	...	...	Nil.	
1932-33	...	...	...	...	Nil.	
1933-34	...	...	...	...	Nil.	
1934-35	...	...	...	...	Nil.	
1935-36	...	...	...	...	2,000	0
1936-37	...	...	...	...	1,212	1
					<hr/> 3,212	1

Relief to the flood-affected area in the Garo Hills

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

1144. (a) Are Government aware that no relief was given to the flood-affected area in the Garo Hills from the middle of June to the Middle of August ?

(b) If not, why not ?

1145. Is it a fact that permission from the Deputy Commissioner, Garo Hills, is required for launching any Committee for the purpose of public institutions in the Garo Hills ?

1146. Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Garo Hills, did not permit the Fulbari Flood Relief Committee comprising of both Hindus and Muslims, officials and non-officials, to collect funds for the redress of the distressed people in the Garo Hills ?

1147. (a) Are Government aware that for rent suits or money suits the lands of the flood-affected people in Goalpara are being auctioned in these days of their distress ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to postpone the auction of these lands for at least one year ?

1148. (a) Are Government aware that the Naib of the Jamadarhat Kutchery of the Mechpara Wards' Estate has been treating the immigrant raiyats most cruelly resulting in the friction between them ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to replace him by a better man.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED replied :

1144. (a) (b)—Information about the flood was received about the last week of June 1938 ; the Deputy Commissioner visited the localities and made arrangement for the supply of rice from Dhubri as it could not be had locally. The first consignment of rice was received at Phulbari Centre from Dhubri on 13th July 1938, and relief was given from that date. The Deputy Commissioner, Garo Hills, reported on 15th September 1938, that gratuitous relief in rice was still continuing then.

1145.—Permission from the Deputy Commissioner is considered necessary for the protection of ignorant people.

1146.—On 29th July 1938, the Deputy Commissioner received a letter from the Sub-Assistant Surgeon, Phulbari, as Secretary, "Phulbari Flood Relief Fund Committee", asking his permission to raise subscription from the public.

The people of the locality are poor and it was not considered possible to raise any subscription from them.

1147. (a)—In the Court of Wards Estates all certificate cases and execution proceedings have been stopped for the areas affected by floods.

The sale of lands referred to by the hon. member relates to the execution of decrees obtained by other Zemindary Estates on old rent and money suits. These execution cases are being pushed on in the usual course unless the parties concerned take steps to stop the sale by applying in time either to the estate or to the Court to postpone the sale for good and sufficient reason. It is stated that in some cases execution proceedings are to be resorted to prevent the claims from being time barred.

(b)—This is a matter for the estates and the tenants concerned.

1148. (a)—No. Neither have the local officers any information on this. The present incumbent is the seniormost Naib in the estate and is ably managing his work. Jamadarhat Dihi is a difficult Tahsil being situated in both the subdivisions of the district and the Naib has to deal with 2 sets of Law Officers for the rent suits and certificate cases.

(b)—Does not arise.

Constitution of the Curriculum Committee

Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI asked :

1149. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) How the Curriculum Committee which is sitting at present is constituted ?
- (b) Whether it is in consonance with the Resolution as accepted by the House at the instance of Srijut Bhuban Chandra Gogoi, M.L.A. ?
- (c) If not, why not ?
- (d) The names of the members admitted into the Committee from outside the terms of the aforesaid resolution ?
- (e) The terms of reference adopted by the Committee ?
- (f) Whether the Committee in any way superseded the terms of recommendation ?
- (g) If so, on what basis and justification ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

1149. (a)—A copy of the list of members of the Curriculum Committee is placed on the table.

1. Sir Saiyid Muhammad Saadulla, the then Chief Minister.
2. The Hon'ble Maulavi Munawwarali, the former Minister of Education.
3. Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma, M.L.A.
4. Mr. Arun Kumar Chanda, M.L.A.
5. The Hon'ble Babu Akshay Kumar Das.
6. Khan Bahadur Abdulla Abu Sayied, Principal, Murarichand College, Sylhet.
7. The Hon'ble Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhuri, the former Minister of Agriculture.
8. Babu Kamini Kumar Sen, M.L.A.
9. Mr. F. W. Hockenhull, M.L.A.
10. The Director of Public Instruction.
11. The Director of Industries.
12. Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, M.L.A.
13. Mr. S. C. Roy, Principal, Cotton College, Gauhati.
14. Miss Mavis Dunn, M.L.A.
15. Srijut Bhuban Chandra Gogoi, M.L.A.
16. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee, M.L.A.
17. Srijut Santosh Kumar Barua, M.L.A.
18. Srijut Rupnath Brahma, M.L.A.
19. Mr. C. Goldsmith, M.L.A.
20. Maulavi Abdul Hai, M.L.C.
21. Maulavi Abdur Rahim Chaudhuri, M.L.C.
22. Rai Sahib Sonadhar Das Senapati, M.L.C.
23. Assistant Director of Public Instruction, Assam, for Muhammedan Education.

24. Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley.
25. Inspector of Schools, Surma Valley.
26. Miss S. Sen, Assistant Inspectress of Schools.
27. Maulavi Ashrafuddin Md. Chaudhury, M.L.A.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—The last Government decided to admit Nos. 20 to 27 of the list of members furnished in reply to question No. 1149(a) into the Committee.

(e)—The terms of reference adopted were those of the original resolution except that the Committee has not yet dealt with classes VII and VIII.

(f)—No. The Committee, in addition to considering the curriculum, considered the former Education Minister's scheme of Primary Education, but no resolution on the subject was passed, as it was considered outside the terms of reference.

(g)—Does not arise.

Assam School Service

Srijut BHUBAN CHANDRA GOGOI asked :

1150. Is it a fact that Government has transferred the power of appointment of class III of the Assam School Service from the Public Service Commission to the Education Department ?

1151. Will Government be pleased to state the reason for its departure from the spirit for which the Public Service Commission is created ?

1152. Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to transfer the power of some other appointments to the Heads of other Departments ? If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

1150 & 1151.—Attention is invited to the answers given to the starred questions put on the same subject by Khan Sahib Maulavi the starred Hussain Chaudhuri.

1152.—No.

Re Mr. F. Haque, the Deputy Director of Reconstruction

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

1153. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture be pleased to state separately for how long Mr. F. Haque acted as Deputy Director of Reconstruction and what was the amount spent for his establishment and travelling allowance, etc. ?

1154. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of agriculture be pleased to state the reasons why Mr. Haque was made to revert to his own post ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS replied :

1153.—Mr. Haque acted as Deputy Director of Agriculture, Reconstruction, for the period from 18th November 1937 to 14th June 1938 and the amount spent for his establishment and travelling allowance, etc. is as follows :—

	Rs.
Travelling allowance of Deputy Director of Agriculture,	
Reconstruction	2,151
Ditto of establishment	308
Pay of establishment	580
Contingencies	393
Total...	3,432

1154.—Mr. Haque was deputed to draw up a scheme and to suggest centres after examining the conditions in the villages. When this was done he was reverted to his substantive post.

Pineapple fruit culture at Borpathar

Srijut SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA asked :

1155. Will Government be pleased to state what did the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture do by visiting the Borpathar Farms in the month of July 1938 ?

1156. Will Government be pleased to state—(a) The names of farmers of Borpathar who applied to Government for Agricultural and Industrial loans in 1937-38 ?

(b) Whether Government issued any such loans to any of them ?

(c) If not, why not ?

1157. Is it a fact that Maulavi Azhar Hussain Hazarika, a farmer of Borpathar, applied to Government to assist him to go to the All-India Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition held at Lucknow in the year 1936-37 (December and January) to exhibit fruits of his garden ?

(b) If so, whether his application was considered ?

(c) If not, why not ?

1158. Will Government be pleased to state—(a) Whether Government took any initiative in the pineapple fruit culture at Borpathar or in any other Government agricultural farms ?

(b) Whether Government has given any advice or instructions to Maulavi Azhar Hussain Hazarika in this fruit culture ?

(c) Whether the mass people have been benefited by this fruit culture through Government Agency ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS replied :

1155.—The present Government have no information.

1156. (a) to (c)—Only one application was received from Maulavi Azhar Hussain Hazarika for a loan of Rs.2,000 to improve his pine-apple garden. He has been asked to apply under the Land Improvement Act through local officers.

1157.—The reply is in the negative.

(b) & (c)—Do not arise.

1158. (a)—Yes, at Jorhat Farm.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes by the supply of suckers.

Survey of diseases in the Mikir Hills

Srijut SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA asked :

1159. Will Government be pleased to state—
 (a) Whether any survey of diseases in the Mikir Hills and Golaghat was made during the years 1936-37 and 1937-38 ?
 (b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the number of cases of Tuberculosis, Leprosy and Naga Sore in different villages of these places ?
1160. Will Government be pleased to state—
 (a) Whether any steps have been taken by Government to prevent these diseases in the Mikir Hills ?
 (b) If not, why not ?
1161. Will Government be pleased to state—
 (a) The number of cases of *kala azar*, Tuberculosis, Leprosy and Malaria in each district of Assam in the years 1936-37 and 1937-38 ?
 (b) The number of deaths and cures in the diseases referred to above in each district of Assam during the said periods ?
 (c) The steps taken by Government to treat the Tuberculosis cases in Assam ?
1162. (a) Do Government know the number of deaths and cures due to *kala azar* at Golaghat during the years 1936-37 and 1937-38 ?
 (b) What steps Government have taken for the treatment of bed-ridden *kala azar* patients who are unable to come to their nearest centre ?
1163. (a) Are Government aware that many *kala azar* patients whose cases are known to the authorities are dying from last year without treatment ?
 (b) If so, do Government propose to give compensation to their families for the such deaths ?
1164. Will Government be pleased to state (a) whether they enquired into the fact as to why *kala azar* cases increased at Golaghat to a great extent all on a sudden ?
 (b) If so, what was the cause ?
1165. Will Government be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to educate the masses by means of lantern slides or otherwise, for the prevention of *kala azar* ?
1166. Will Government be pleased to state the different villages in different mouzas at Golaghat in which lantern slides were shown during the years 1936-37 and 1937-38 ?
1167. (a) Is it a fact that a *kala azar* ward is going to be opened in the Golaghat Civil Hospital ?
 (b) If so, do Government propose to expedite the opening of the same ?
1168. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the strength of the Public Health Department Staff ?
 (b) Are Government aware that the present staff of the Public Health Department is not sufficient to combat the present increase of diseases ?
 (c) If so, do Government propose to increase the number ?
1169. Will Government be pleased to state the number of surveyors employed for surveying *kala azar* cases at Golaghat ?
1170. (a) Is it a fact that during the rainy season the survey work is stopped ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

1159. (a)—The Mikir Hills and the rest of Golaghat subdivision were surveyed during the years 1937 and 1938.

(b)—The survey did not include Tuberculosis or Naga Sores. In order to obtain figures of leprosy for each village it would be necessary to collect particulars from the dispensary registers, which time has not permitted.

1160. (a)—Apart from the cases treated by Medical and Public Health Department Officers, medical relief is given by local bodies whose funds have been constituted by allocating certain sources of Government revenues and by Government grants.

(b)—Does not arise.

1161. (a) & (b)—Tuberculosis is included among respiratory diseases in the vital statistics of the Public Health Department, because laymen cannot distinguish it from others of that group, and it is therefore not possible to give separate figures for this disease. Figures of cases treated in Medical Department hospitals and dispensaries will be found in the annual reports of that department. The information for the other diseases is tabulated as follows :—

Kala azar

Districts	1936			1937		
	Cases	Deaths	Cures	Cases	Deaths	Cures
Cachar	574	2	417	445	4	331
Sylhet	3,645	173	2,653	3,672	207	2,506
Goalpara	1,276	84	1,005	2,046	135	1,521
Kamrup	1,309	61	1,150	918	77	695
Darrang	636	155	415	514	256	203
Nowgong	1,471	121	1,300	2,317	196	1,773
Sibsagar	864	99	717	1,396	126	979
Lakhimpur	6	...	5	2	...	2
Khasi and Jaintia Hills.	...	10	...	...	5	...
Garro Hills	793	47	662	717	51	645

Leprosy

Districts	1936			1937		
	Cases	Deaths	Cures	Cases	Deaths	Cures
Sylhet ...	944	12	...	842	10	...
Goalpara ...	45	...	...	48	2	...
Kamrup ...	249	4	...	343	1	...
Darrang ...	368	4	14	301	...	...
Nowgong ...	375	6	23	310	3	12
Sibsagar ...	19	...	...	12	...	...

Malaria

Districts	1936			1937		
	Malaria cases	Deaths	Cures	Malaria cases	Deaths	Cures
Sylhet ...	26,046	4	23,526	49,337	2	42,770
Cachar ...	831	1	63	1,848	5	62
Goalpara ...	2,570	nil	1,057	2,085	nil	1,838
Kamrup ...	20,779	1	19,731	19,182	nil	18,902
Darrang ...	4,271	1	3,991	6,761	nil	5,512
Nowgong ...	15,486	nil	13,624	17,330	9	12,707
Sibsagar ...	3,463	3	2,703	7,110	4	6,295
Garo Hills	2,792	nil	2,718	2,718	nil	2,670

(c)—Apart from the treatment of cases in hospitals and dispensaries, a clinic has been opened at Shillong and another has just been started at Nowgong. Government have also given facilities for examination of Tubercular Sputa free of cost to all licensed medical practitioners at the Public Health Laboratories at Shillong, Gauhati and Sylhet.

1162. (a)—The figures are furnished below :—

				1936	1937
Deaths	...	...	...	70	76
Cures	...	...	...	304	383

(b)—A *Kala-azar* Ward has been opened with effect from the 16th August 1938 for the bed-ridden cases.

1163. (a)—Government have no such information.

(b)—Does not arise.

1164. (a)—An enquiry was made

(b)—The result of the enquiry appeared to indicate that there had been a recrudescence of the disease, i.e., the increase was not merely due to more cases being brought under treatment. There is, unfortunately even after many years of research, no reliable knowledge as to the root causes of the disease or its recrudescence.

1165.—Since the causation of *Kala-azar* is not yet known, the suggestion that propaganda should be used for its prevention is not practicable. The Assistant Surgeons of the Public Health Department however give lantern demonstrations on various diseases and on the general methods of preserving health. The question of reviving research into the causes of *Kala-azar*, will, it is understood, be shortly considered by the Central authorities.

1166.—The total number of lantern demonstrations given in the Golaghat subdivision, including the Mikir Hills, during 1936 and 1937 was 26 and 27, respectively. Government have not the details of the villages where they were held, but have called for particulars.

1167. (a) and (b)—A *Kala-azar* Ward has been opened with effect from the 16th August 1938 for the bed-ridden cases.

1168. (a)—There are 110 Sub-Assistant Surgeons in the whole province. Nine Sub-Assistant Surgeons are posted to the Sibsagar district. Of these 9, 4 are posted to the Golaghat subdivision.

(b)—No.

(c)—Does not arise.

1169.—One Sub-Assistant Surgeon is solely for the survey duty. The other Sub-Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons in charge of Local Board dispensaries also do survey work in the jurisdiction of their dispensaries.

1170. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Owing to floods, villages become inaccessible.

Kala-azar cases in the Golaghat subdivision

Srijut SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA asked :

1171. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of *Kala-azar* cases in the different villages of the different Mouzas of the Golaghat Subdivision during the years 1935-36, 1936-37, 1937-38 ?

(b) The number of deaths due to *Kala-azar* and cures at Golaghat during the years 1935-36, 1936-37, 1937-38 ?

(c) What steps Government took for the treatment of bed-ridden *Kala-azar* patients who were unable to come to their nearest centres during the years 1935-36, 1936-37, 1937-38 ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

1171.(a)—It is regretted that numbers for each village can only be obtained by compilation in the dispensaries. This can be done if the hon. member so desires, but take a good deal of the doctors' valuable time.

(b)—The following are the figures for the subdivision :—

			1935	1936	1937
Deaths	...	...	52	70	76
Cures	...	...	379	304	383

The statistics are compiled on the calendar year.

(c)—Such cases were advised to seek admission to the Golaghat Civil Hospital.

Demand for cultivable lands in the forest areas

Srijut BELIRAM DAS asked :

1172. Are Government aware that there has been great demand for cultivable lands in the forest areas by the people living near about forest reserves ?

1173. Is it a fact that there are large areas of cultivable lands within the forest reserves and that no trees ever grow on these lands ?

1174. (a) Is it a fact that Government propose to disforest some portions of forest reserves for the advantage of the people living near about forest areas ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to direct the local authorities to give settlement of such lands to the people of the locality on payment of usual land revenue ?

1175. (a) Is it a fact that the foresters are not given the benefit of the time-scale of pay ?

(b) If so, what are the reasons for it ?

1176. Will Government be pleased to state whether this rule has been extended to other Departments of Government also ?

1177. Is it a fact that all the other forest officers above the rank of foresters are given the time-scale of pay ?

1178. Do Government propose to give the benefit of the time-scale of pay to the foresters also ?

1179. Is it a fact that the foresters are granted allowance only when they complete 20 miles' journey in their respective ranges ?

1180. Are Government aware that foresters have got to work within a very limited area and as such generally they do not get any allowance which they formerly used to get ?

1181. Is it a fact that this system has affected only the foresters and other superior officers are not affected as they have to work within a very big area ?

1182. Do Government propose to enquire into the grievances of the foresters and slack the rules in their case ?

1183. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) How many contracts have been secured by the Forest Utilization Officer from the other provinces of India and the countries beyond the seas in 1937-38 ?

(b) What allowance was drawn by this officer during 1937-38 ?

1184. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Miris are allowed to bring forest trees free of royalty to make boats for their own domestic purposes ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that they are allowed to keep only small boats and not bigger ones ?

1185. Are Government aware that due to the absence of bigger boat, Miris suffer greatly during the floods ?

1186. Do Government propose to allow the Miris to bring suitable trees from the forest to make bigger boats ?

1187. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of people who applied for free use of timbers from the forest reserves to build their houses, after they were burnt down by fire in the Kamrup district during 1937-38 ?

(b) How many of them were granted their prayer ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

1172.—From time to time representations are received for settling on land within forest reserves. These sometimes take the shape of a demand for disforestation of certain reserves or portions thereof.

1173.—There are areas of land fit for ordinary cultivation within some reserves, but Government have no information as to their extent or as to whether they are under tree growth.

1174. (a)—Government have already issued orders disforesting 22 square miles in the Nambor Reserve of the Sibsagar district and are examining similar proposals in Nowgong, Darrang, Cachar and Sylhet.

(b)—Where areas have been disforested, settlement will be made by the Local Revenue authorities under the land settlement rules in the Assam Land and Revenue Manual.

1175. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to question No.264 asked by Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma at the February-March session of the Assembly, 1938.

1176.—The grade system also prevails in the Education Department.

1177.—No. Rangers and Deputy Rangers are also on grade pay.

1178.—The matter will be examined.

1179-1182.—Travelling allowances of all Government servants in the Forest Department as in other Departments are regulated by the Fundamental and Subsidiary Rules. Foresters work within a very limited area and are only granted daily allowance when they perform over 10 miles' journey within their jurisdiction. Prior to 1931 they used to draw daily allowance when they had performed over 5 miles' journey. They however have the option of exchanging daily allowance for mileage allowance on any day on which they travel more than 20 miles by road. Officers of higher rank whose jurisdiction extends over a very much larger area and whose travelling expenses

are therefore much larger draw allowances at higher rates than foresters according to their rates of pay. Government see no reason for altering the scale of allowances granted to foresters. Government do enquire into any grievances brought forward by the officers of all departments. So far no representation about allowances has been received from foresters.

1183. (a)—The Forest Utilization Officer secured 16 contracts from other Provinces the total value of which amounted to about Rs.2,21,000. None were secured from foreign countries.

(b)—None.

1184. (a)—Miris as well as all other settlement-holders of Government may extract for their domestic use unreserved timber from Unclassed State Forests without payment of royalty. This includes timber for boats for their own use and not for sale.

(b)—No.

1185.—Government are not aware.

1186.—The hon. member is referred to the answer to question 1184 (a).

1187. (a)—Six.

(b)—The concession of unreserved timber free of royalty for domestic purposes only applies to timber from Unclassed State Forests.

Assam Educational Service

Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR asked :

1188. Will Government be pleased to state the number of appointments held by Muhammadans in the Assam Educational Service, Assam School Service and Assam Lower School Service respectively, and the number of appointments to which they are entitled ?

1189. Will Government be pleased to state the number of new appointments made by Government in the Assam Educational Service, Assam School Service, and Assam Lower School Service, respectively, during the fifteen months commencing from April 1937, showing the distribution of those appointments among the following classes and communities :—

- (a) Caste Hindus of the Surma Valley Districts ?
- (b) Caste Hindus of the Assam Valley Districts ?
- (c) Scheduled caste Hindus of the Surma Valley Districts ?
- (d) Scheduled caste Hindus of the Assam Valley Districts ?
- (e) Muhammadans of the Surma Valley Districts ?
- (f) Muhammadans of the Assam Valley Districts ?
- (g) Hill tribes ?
- (h) Domiciled Hindus ?
- (i) Domiciled Muhammadans ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

1188.—

No. of appointments held		No. of appointments entitled to
Assam Educational Service	10	18.91
Assam School Service ...	131	129.27
Assam Lower School Service	62	89.9

1189.—

Assam Educational
ServiceAssam School
ServiceAssam Lower
School Service

	...	1(a)	2	(a) Exclusive of 2 promoted from Assam Lower School Service.
(a) —	...	1	1	
(b) —	...	1	1	
(c) —	...	2	2	
(d) —	...	9	3	
(e) —	1	2	...	
(f) —	...	2	1	
(g) —	...	2	...	
(h) —	Nil	Nil	Nil.	
(i) —	Nil	Nil	Nil.	

Public Works Department Contracts

Maulavi MUZARROF ALI LASKAR asked :

1190. Will Government be pleased to state—

- the basis under which the contracts under the Public Works Department are granted ?
- Whether the cases of local tenderers who quote the lowest rates are duly considered ?
- If so, how many such local tenderers have been granted contracts this year (1938-39) in each Public Works Department division in the Province and what was the estimated amount of each such contract ?
- The total number of contracts granted during the current year and the last year in the Cachar Division ?
- The estimated value of each such contract ?
- How many of these contractors are local *bona fide* natives of the Division (Cachar) ?
- How many of them are foreigners ?
- In how many cases the lowest tenders of local people were overlooked during the current year in the Cachar Division ?
- If any, will Government be pleased to give reasons for not accepting the tenders of local people ?
- Do Government propose to consider the claims of local tenderers in future ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1190. (a) — The hon. member is referred to reply to unstarred question No.589 asked by Srijut Omeo Kumar Das at the September Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly, 1938.

(b) — All tenders are carefully considered.

(c) — Statement "A" is laid on the Library Table.

(d) — During 1937-38 ... 452

During 1938-39 ... 152

(e) — Statement "B" is laid on the Library Table.

(f) — During 1937-38 ... 342 out of 452

During 1938-39 ... 121 out of 152

(g) — During 1937-38 ... 94 out of 452

During 1938-39 ... 22 out of 152

(h) — Twenty-eight cases.

N. B. — The figures for 1938-39 are up to the date of submission of reports by the Executive Engineers.

(i)—Reasons are as follows :—

- (1) Two contractors quoted absurd rates.
- (2) Five contractors have had already works allotted to them to the limit of their capacity.
- (3) Twenty-one tenderers were considered unfit.

(j)—These are always considered as the result of policy laid down by Government.

Cane Mahals of Lakhimpur

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA asked :

1191. Are Government aware that the Mahaldars of Cane Mahals Nos. 2 and 3 of Lakhimpur enjoy a sort of monopoly and impose their own terms to the cane-cutters ?

1192. Is it a fact that the local Miri cane-cutters are paid only Rs.2-8 per 100 *kaps* of cane cut and delivered at the godown and that in practice 20 per cent. of this too, is always deducted on the plea of alleged bad quality ?

1193. Is it a fact that this amount of Rs.2 per hundred *kaps* is also not paid in ready cash ?

1194. Is it a fact that payment of wages for cutting about 5000 *kaps* of cane has been withheld from about 25 Miri cane-cutters since April 1938, on account of their complaining against the Mahaldars' Managers and that a ban has been put on them prohibiting them from cutting canes in the Mahals ?

1195. Is it a fact that the Mahaldar engages Mismi cane-cutters from Sadiya side on wages at the rate of Rs.4 per 100 *kaps* ?

1196. Do Government propose to make a thorough enquiry into the matter ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

1191.—No.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA : Are Government aware that these mahals Nos. 2 and 3, of Lakhimpur are held by the same person ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA : I have got no information, Sir.

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA : replied :

1192.—Government have no concern with the manner in which the Mahaldars work their mahals. On enquiry they have ascertained that the suggestion of a 20 per cent. regular deduction for bad cane is not correct.

1193.—Government have no exact information, but accept the statement.

1194.—It has been reported that complaint was made by certain Miris probably at the instigation of an interested party. The Magistrate of North Lakhimpur dismissed a case brought before him on a police report, which found that no harassment of the cane-cutters had been proved. There had been no complaints against this mahaldar in previous years.

1195.—Government have no information.

1196.—An enquiry as to the details has already been made, but it will take some time to complete.

Pathsala Feeder Road

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS asked :

1197. Are Government aware—

- (i) That the Pathsala Feeder Road in the Barpeta Subdivision is the only outlet to and from the Pathsala Railway Station for about 70 to 80 thousand people of the Bajali Circle ?
- (ii) That it is in the heart of the Pathsala town where the land revenue has been raised very high in the last Resettlement without any compensatory return to the landholders ?
- (iii) That it connects the North Trunk Road and the Eastern Bengal Railway and was a fit case for inclusion in the programme of the Communications Board ?
- (iv) That the traffic over it is enormous—there being 3 big Rice and Oil Mills and many business houses near it ?
- (v) That the soil being muddy, the road becomes simply impassable during the rains for all sorts of traffic including foot traffic ?
- (vi) That the Barpeta Local Board having been moved by the public for gravelling the road, prepared an estimate for the purpose ?
- (vii) That as the estimated cost was about Rs.2,000 the Board gave up the project for paucity of funds ?

1198. Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to sanction money for gravelling the road either through the Local Board, Barpeta, or the Public Works Department or through the Agency of the Provincial Communications Board ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1197. (i)—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to question No. 353 at the December Session of 1937 of the Assam Legislative Assembly.

(ii)—An enquiry is being made.

(iii)—The reply to the first part of the question is in affirmative and that to the last part is that it is as fit for inclusion in the Communications Board's Programme as many other roads of the same class throughout the Province.

(iv) & (v)—Government are prepared to accept the statements of the hon. member.

(vi) & (vii)—Government are aware that the Barpeta Local Board prepared an estimate for gravelling this road and that the work could not be taken up for want of funds. It is not known to Government what that estimate amounted to.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: Are Government aware that Hon'ble Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, when a member of the Communication Board, moved for inclusion of this road in the Provincial Programme ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: Yes, Sir.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: Does it not indicate that it is an important project ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: It has been taken into consideration, Sir.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1198.—The question of gravelling the road will be put up to the Communications Board when schemes to be financed from the Local Bodies' share in the proceeds of the Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation Act (Act IX of 1936) have been prepared.

Statement by the Hon'ble Revenue Minister on the reduction of land revenue during the year 1938-39

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order. As the House agreed the other day, the Hon'ble Revenue Minister will now make a statement on the reduction of land revenue during the year 1938-39.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I propose to make the promised statement on reduction of land revenue during the year 1938-39.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Has a copy of this statement been laid on the table ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: No, Sir.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: May we have a copy of the statement, Sir ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Very well. A printed copy of the statement will be supplied to each hon. member to-day.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: The history of land tenure, whether in Assam, any other part of India, England, Europe, or the world, discloses that the system has undergone many changes from the early days to the present time. Such changes all over the world were brought about from time to time due either to the change of the outlook in the people or due to the foreign invasions and occupations. In Assam at any rate, the changes took place from the latter of these two causes. The ordinary raiyats, who were called "Paiks" held land in consideration of the services they rendered to their overlord in pre-British rule ; but, with the occupation of Assam by British Government the personal service was commuted to cash rent. Each raiyat was assessed and land revenue assessment was altered from time to time namely in 1832, 1848, 1870, 1893, 1903, and 1925 and with succeeding settlements the average incidence of revenue per bigha was enhanced from 3 annas to 4 annas, 3 pies, 11 annas 4 pies ; 13.6 annas ; and 17 annas respectively. In other words, while the raiyats of the pre-British days were given land in consideration of the services they rendered to their overlord, those of the post British days held land only on the payment of revenue which was realised on grounds of providing communication, sanitation, good and peaceful Government, all kinds of educational and other facilities to the raiyats. Settlements after settlements increased the incidence of revenue on these grounds but the return of benefit accruing to the raiyats was never made adequate or in proportion to the heavy price paid by them. The rise in revenue was made to meet the expenditure of top-heavy administration and was made against the principle of taxation and economic laws. The rich fed at the expense of the poor and the plea that enhanced rate of revenue was necessitated by provision of increased facility for the raiyats has been but a mere eyewash. The interests of the peasantry have been subordinated to the superior claims of the administration. For maintaining the top-heavy administration the raiyats have to pay whether they can afford it or not. We want to change this order of thing. We want that a raiyat should pay what he can afford and Government must necessarily spend if not the whole at least the major proportion of this amount towards the uplift and betterment of the raiyats. We stand by very word of our pledge and wish to implement it with the support and co-operation of each and every member of this House or at least those who are interested in the well-being and progress of the province.

Since coming into office, we have had under consideration the best method of implementing the election pledges of granting increased remission of land revenue to the raiyats of the province. We found, however, not only handicapped by the fact that we had to issue orders of reduction of land revenue forthwith to enable the local officers to prepare the dole but also the financial condition of the province involved to such an extent that an immediate substantial increase in reduction would so far embarrass the province in the matter of finance as to leave no money whatsoever available for relief of other grievances or for extension of the activities of the nation-building departments. For such a state of affairs not only the Government of India and British Government are responsible on account of turning their deal ears to the equitable and just claims of this province particularly that of excise duty on petrol and kerosene oil, but also the previous Government for their lack of imagination, enterprise and want of courage for tapping the sources and taxing those people who can afford to bear the same. We fully intend to increase the resources of the province, both by retrenchment and by exploring other avenues of taxation, but, as these method involve the collection of a great deal of statistics and the passing of necessary legislation, which cannot be completed in a short time, we have been compelled, reluctantly to postpone the proposal for a substantial increase in the remission and to examine instead by what method the remission already given might be adjusted or redistributed so as to afford greater relief to those districts of the province that really need it.

The difference in datas between the various resettlements in the temporarily settled districts of the province has resulted in a certain amount of anomaly in the incidence of land revenue per settled bigha which varies from 15 annas 5 pies in Sibsagar to 8 annas 10 pies in Cachar and as little as 6 annas and 6 pies in Sylhet. It is not denied that land in Sibsagar is probably more productive and less liable to floods than land in the Surma Valley, but the whole of the difference in the incidence of land revenue, in the opinion of Government, was too great to be thus accounted for. On these grounds, we have, therefore, decided to redistribute the remission so as to allow for larger reductions in the more highly assessed districts and smaller reductions for those districts where assessment is low. It was on those principles that the orders issued in the resolution of 15th November, 1938 were based and we hope that the graduated percentages we have announced will give more or less equal relief to the raiyats of all districts. A great deal of criticism has been levelled against us and motions for the adjournment of the House were tabled because concessions formerly allowed to owners of the gardens classed as uneconomic units have been withdrawn. We feel that in the case of tea gardens, as in the case of the town population of Assam, the hardship done to the tenants and the distress caused by the slump are not so great as in the case of the rural population. Moreover, land revenue paid by owners of tea gardens, however small, is only a 29 per cent. and the cost of concession for 1938-39 will be Rs. 3,89,000 as against Rs. 3,70,290 for 1937-38. In Nowgong an all round remission works out to 29 per cent. and the cost of concession for 1938-39, will come to Rs. 3,60,000 as against Rs. 3,54,896 for 1937-38. In Lakhimpur an all round remission works out to 30 per cent. and the cost of concession will amount to Rs. 4,11,000 for 1938-39 as against Rs. 3,72,637 for 1937-38. It is not known how many *pattas* in Sylhet and Cachar will be excluded from the 33 per cent. remission by the orders that this remission will only apply in the current year to *pattas* bearing a revenue of 8 rupees or less, and so the exact amount of remission which these two districts will receive cannot be computed as accurately as in the case of other districts. For these

districts, figures will probably be slightly less than those shown above and in the accompanying table as it has not been possible to take into account the change from Rs. 12 to Rs. 8. Even allowing for this slight reduction, however, the remission allowed in Cachar is likely to result with an all round remission of 25 per cent. and the cost of concession for 1938-39 will come to Rs. 1,45,000 as against Rs. 1,20,419 for 1937-38, *i. e.*, greater than that allowed last year, so that the motion for the adjournment of the Assembly which was tabled on account of inadequate reduction of revenue in Cachar seem to have been based on false premises. Similarly, in the case of the Garo Hills district, the reduction this year is likely to result into an all round reduction of 23 per cent. and the cost of concession for 1938-39 will come to Rs. 25,000 as against Rs. 12,905 for 1937-38 *i. e.*, double what it was last year. Here also the hon. member who tabled a motion for adjournment on account of inadequate reduction in the Garo Hills seems to be unaware of the facts.

We are fully aware of the agitation in the province regarding the concession of remission of revenue to Nisf-Khiraj pattadars as well and we feel that the demand is just, provided the concession or benefit granted by the Government to these pattadars is transmitted by them to their under-tenants. We are taking steps to find out if the Nisf-Khiraj pattadars are prepared to extend the privileges to their under-tenants and in view of such undertaking the Government propose to give favourable consideration to their cases.

The remission now ordered are far in excess to what were granted by the previous Government, and what would have been given effect to during the current year if the change of Government had not taken place. A cursory glance at the recommendation of the Revenue Committee which was convened at the instance of the previous Government and which submitted its recommendation on the 27th July, 1938 will make this point clear. These remissions are for the current year only and are exclusive of any remission which may be granted by Government on account of the floods which have prevailed in both Valleys this year.

It is quite impossible to estimate how much revenue will be lost on this account, but quite a large suspension of revenue has already been ordered in the Cachar district. The proposals of the Assam Valley Commissioner have not yet been received, but the suspension and remission of revenue in both Valleys will impose a further drain on the resources of Government which it is not now possible to forecast. The general remission will cause the province a loss in the neighbourhood of 2 lacs more than last year, which Government can ill afford to lose when there is a big demand for relief of flood stricken people and where Government propose to spend more than in previous year on education and nation building departments; but Government hope that not only will the redistribution of the remission already ordered give more relief where more relief is necessary, but also by the time remissions for the following year have to be considered, the possibility of supplementing the resources of the province both by diminishing its expenditure and increasing its revenue in other directions will have been more fully examined, so that it may be possible to consider remissions for the following year with more regard for their necessity than for the financial condition of the province.

1086 STATEMENT ON REDUCTION OF LAND REVENUE [8TH DEC

Comparative statement showing the approximate cost of the concession sanctioned for 1938-39

District	1937-38				1938-39			Approximate cost of the concession for 1938-39	Cost of the concession for 1937-38	Cost of the concession for 1936-37	Remarks
	Percentage of concessions in 1937-38 for pattas over Rs. 12	Percentage of average reduction including 33% (i.e., pattas up to Rs. 13) in 1937-38	Difference between column 2 and 3 divided by the difference between minimum and maximum remission	Percentage of concessions in 1938-39 for pattas over Rs. 12	Difference shown in column 4 adjusted to the difference between minimum and maximum remission	Probable percentage of average concession in 1938-39					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Goalpara ..	12½	22½	10/20½	20	6½	26½	79,000	67,131	20,198		
Kamrup ..	25	28	3/8	28	2	30	6,93,000	6,54,283	4,30,161		
Darrang ..	25	27½	2½/8	27	2	29	8,89,000	3,70,290	2,47,767		
Nowgong ..	25	28½	3½/8	26	3	29	8,60,000	3,54,396	2,39,192		
Sibsagar ..	25	27½	2½/8	30	1	31	6,75,000	6,01,537	4,07,366		
Lakhimpur...	25	27	2/8	29	1	30	4,11,000	3,72,687	2,43,566		
Garohills...	12½	12½	..	23	..	23	25,000	12,905	6,928		
Cachar ..	12½	21	3½/20½	20	5	25	1,45,000	1,20,419	36,071		
Sylhet ..	20	26	6/13	15	8	23	1,07,000	1,21,912	60,471		

THE SYLHET TOWN LAND TENANCY BILL, 1937, BY BABU
KARUNA SINDHU ROY

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : We shall now take up the amendments made by the Assam Legislative Council to the Sylhet Town Land Tenancy Bill, 1937. Hon. members have been supplied with copies of the amendments to the Bill made by the Assam Legislative Council and they will notice that the council has added seven amendments. To these amendments I have received notices of amendments from two hon. members of this House, viz., Babu Rabindranath Aditya and Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy. It is a question for the House to consider whether the amendments made by the Assam Legislative Council are to be accepted or they are to accept the amendments tabled by the two hon. members to the amendments made by the Assam Legislative Council. Now if the amendments which have been tabled by the two hon. members of this House are accepted, then the effect will be to restore the Bill to the form in which it was passed by this House.

I shall now read out the amendments which were made to this Bill by the Assam Legislative Council. These amendments are to this effect—:

- (1) " That for clause 3 of the Bill the following be 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) " That in clause 5, the words ' before or ' be omitted "
- (3) That in clause 6, in items (b) and (c), the words " manufacturing or business " and " persons who continue in possession after termination of the tenancy " respectively be deleted.
- (4) That in clause 7, the words " wholly before or wholly after, or partly before and partly " be deleted.
- (5) That in clause 12, the explanation after sub-clause (vii) be omitted.
- (6) That in clause 15, sub-clause (i) for the word " three " the word " six " be substituted, and
- (7) That clause 17 be omitted.

As I have said that the effect of the acceptance of the amendments tabled to-day by the two hon. members to the amendments to the Bill made by the other House would be to restore the Bill to the form in which it was passed. Now if one of the hon. members make a motion to the effect that the amendments made by the Assam Legislative Council be rejected, then I may ascertain the opinion of the House whether they want to restore the Bill to the form in which it was passed by this House. That would minimise much of the work that will have to be done to-day in connection with this Bill. Will Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya make a motion that the amendments made by the Legislative Council should be rejected and that the amendments tabled by Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya and Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy be accepted.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Sir, I beg to move that the amendments made in the Sylhet Town Land Tenancy Bill, 1937, by the Upper House be rejected in toto and that the amendments proposed by my humbleself and Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy be accepted by this House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Has any hon. member objection to this motion being moved in this way ?

I think, the hon. member should deliver a speech explaining the position why the amendment passed by the Assam Legislative Council should be rejected and the amendments tabled here should be accepted. He will have to read out the amendments and that he may do after making his speech.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir. We have seen that this measure was put on the legislative anvil with a view to meeting some special difficulties of the tenants within the Municipal area of the town of Sylhet. Sir, the circumstances were so peculiar that it necessitated a legislation of this sort. The tenants who had settled on lands for a long time had practically no legislative safeguard for their protection and they were subjected to harrassment on the whims and caprices of their landlords. At their bidding they had to vacate their houses which they constructed at immense expense. That being the circumstances prevailing in the town of Sylhet, the matter was brought to the notice of the Hon'ble House and this House thought fit to legislate for the protection of the rights of the tenants of the town of Sylhet. It was suggested from some quarters that it was an unnecessary piece of legislation and that no where in India such protection was afforded to the tenants of the town. But when this difficulty was however brought to the notice of this House the members were pleased to think that some rights ought to be given to the tenants and as such this measure of legislation was passed by the House, but we find to our disappointment that the valuable measures that were adopted here were refused by the House of Elders, so that the very cream and the substance of the Bill were removed from it. It was a mere shadow and nothing more. As for instance you will find that the members of the Upper House desire that the Bill would come into force sometime after the Bill is passed into law, but as we have seen, if the protection is not given to the existing tenants, then the object for which the Bill was sponsored would be really frustrated. As for the new tenants who will take settlement of lands after the passing of this Bill, much help, I think, is not necessary because now the position between the landlords and the tenants at Sylhet is quite clear and well-defined. Every body will be very cautious to take lease, knowing full well his legal positions. Previously the circumstances were such that every tenant having the *patta* even for a temporary period was under the belief that his rights were quite certain and his privileges were well protected although the *patta* did not give him any right longer than for a certain number of years. The tenants were given a rude shock by the landlords of the district of Sylhet in the year 1936-37. The people found that if they did not cast their votes in the Municipal or other elections according to the direction of their land-lords then the result were disastrous to them. Such being the case, innumerable notices of evictions were served on tenants of the district of Sylhet and those who were under the impression that they had got permanent hereditary rights were very sadly disappointed. So, Sir, this class of tenants needed our protection more than any body else. The tenants who would come subsequently after the passing of the Bill shall be taking their settlement with eyes wide open. By taking away these rights, the House of Elders practically took away all the rights and protection from those for whom they were really intended.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member will please read out the amendment.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Sir, I read all the amendments standing in our names and then I shall explain the reasons therefor one by one.

Clause 3

That for the words "on such date as the Provincial Government by notification in the Official Gazette, may appoint in this behalf" the words and figures "retrospectively from the 1st day of April, 1937" be substituted.

Clause 5

That in the second line, after the word "created" the words "before or" be inserted.

Clause 6

(i) That in the second line of item (b) after the word "residential," a "comma" be inserted and the words "manufacturing or business" be added thereafter.

(ii) That in the last line of item (c) after the word "tenant," a "comma" be inserted and the words "and persons who continue in possession after termination of the tenancy" be added thereafter.

Clause 7

That after the words "ten years" in the third line, a "comma" be inserted and the words "wholly before or wholly after, or partly before and partly" be added thereafter.

Clause 12

That after sub-clause (vii) the following be added as a new paragraph:—

"*Explanation.*—'Transfer' in this section shall mean absolute transfers only".

Clause 15

That in the seventh line of sub-clause (i), for the word "six" the word "three" be substituted.

Clause 17

That clause 17 of the original Bill as passed by the Assembly be restored.

In clause 3 our amendments would run as follows:—"That for the words 'on such date as the Provincial Government by notification in the Official Gazette, may appoint in this behalf' the words and figures 'retrospectively from the 1st day of April, 1937, be substituted'. That means that even if the Bill takes sometime to come in the form of a regular Act, the operation should begin from the 1st April, 1937. The reason was that at that very point of time innumerable notices of ejectments were served and suits instituted against the tenants of the town.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: On a point of information, Sir. May I know how many such cases are still pending?

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: I am not aware of the exact number of the cases, but it has been remarked by one of the Judicial Officers that innumerable cases of this sort are pending in the Sylhet Civil Courts.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: My information is that these cases have been either disposed of or amicably settled, and very few cases remain pending. Is that correct?

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: I am not sure about that. But whatever it may be, even in those cases which have been disposed of but decrees have not been executed, the tenants may get relief under this Act. So, all that I want, Sir, is to avoid delay and whenever this Bill comes to a definite shape, its operation may be brought to bear upon those unfortunate tenants who are either on the verge of being evicted or on whom notices have been served on the 1st day of April, 1937.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I am sorry to have to interrupt the hon. member again. Is the hon. member sure that the decisions of the cases either passed after contest or as a result of compromise can be re-opened after this legislation is passed by this House. Is he sure about that? I have grave doubts.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: I do not know what is the implication of this question. Many of these cases were contested, and one of the learned Judges observed that he had full sympathy for the tenants, but for the law as it stood, he could not give any protection to these tenants.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: My question is whether the Courts will have jurisdiction to re-open the matter after this Act is passed by both the Houses.

Babu RABINDRANATH ADITYA: In those cases in which decrees have not been executed, those which are now pending either before the Courts of First Appeal or before the Courts of Second Appeal, the provisions of this Act can be applied. There is provision by which the Act may be applied to those cases in which the decrees have not yet been executed. So, practically a good number of tenants may be benefited by this legislation.

Now, Sir in clause 5 there is another provision. Clause 5 says "This Act shall apply to tenancies of land created after the commencement of this Act, provided etc. etc." Now, our wordings were "This Act shall apply to tenancies of land created before or after the commencement etc." Sir, if this Act is not applied to the tenancies created before the commencement of this Act it will be practically infructuous. As I have already said, it will not benefit those for whom it is primarily intended.

Then in clause 6 (b), we find, Sir, that "Land" means "land which is let or occupied for residential purposes"; the words "manufacturing or business" have been omitted. Sir, these terms are very vague. Moreover we have such holdings where a part is used for residential purposes and another part for business purposes. So, it is not certain, whether by omission of the words "manufacturing or business purposes" the cases of holdings where both the purposes are served can be brought under this Act. To remove this ambiguity we had the words "manufacturing or business purposes", and it is necessary that these words should be added.

Then, Sir, in sub-clause (c) of the same clause we find "Tenant" means "a person who holds land under any person and includes persons who derive their title from a tenant". The previous wording was "Tenant" means "a person who holds land...derive their title from a tenant, and persons who continue in possession after termination of the tenancy". Our point is that a tenant will be regarded as a tenant even after termination of the tenancy until he is evicted in due course by a Court of Law. Unless these words are included in this clause it may be so interpreted that persons who hold over even after termination of the tenancy are trespassers. But that is not the correct interpretation of law and a tenant holding over is never regarded as a trespasser.

Then, Sir, in clause 7 we notice another change; the words "wholly before or wholly after, or partly before and partly" have been omitted by the House of Elders. This amendment is quite in consonance with the amendments they made in clause 5, but, as I have said, clause 5 should be retained in toto as it was passed in this House, and as such the words 'wholly before or wholly after, or partly before and partly' must be added. Otherwise the persons for whose benefit these clauses were inserted would not be benefited at all.

Then again, Sir, in clause 12 we notice that the Explanation has been omitted by the other House. The explanation was to the effect that "‘transfer’ in this section shall mean absolute transfers only". This was put in order to make it clear that in other transfers, *e.g.*, mortgages, mortgages on conditional sale, etc., this Act shall not apply.

In clause 15, Sir, there is another change. The original clause was "in a suit for ejectment...and direct that on payment by the landlord in the Court within *three* months from the date of the decree, etc". The Upper House has changed the time from three months to six months from the date of the decree. That makes the period unduly long because a landlord is in a position to make the payment within three months. When he institutes a suit he knows full well the implications of law and he is presumed to be equipped with funds in order to make the payment within three months of the decree. Otherwise it is keeping the tenant in suspense for a pretty long time, and that is why we wanted that it should be three months, whereas the Upper House has extended it to six months.

Then, in Clause 17 it has been stated as follows:—

"The provisions of Clauses 8, 14, 15 and 16 shall apply to suits in ejectment which are pending but decrease wherein have not been executed before the coming into force of this Act".

I have already dwelt upon the implications of this provision, and if it is omitted practically the whole Bill is nullified and the object of the Bill will be entirely defeated.

So these are the provisions which we want to re-introduce into the Bill. If these changes which have been suggested by the Upper House are accepted, the very object of this legislation would be defeated, and the tenants who are on the verge of being ejected and are seeking our protection, will be left completely at the mercy of the landlords with their valuable buildings and structures. In these days of democracy when private contracts are not given as much importance in the interests of the public and the State, I think, this House should come forward and extend a hand of help to these tenants in the town of Sylhet. So I would request this House to reconsider these questions and to re-introduce the clauses which have been amended in the Upper House—the House of vested interests who do not care to look to the condition of tenants in Sylhet. Sir, I hope I have sufficiently explained the implications of the amendments of the Upper House, and I hope the House will be good enough to restore their former provisions in the Bill.

Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, This House with its full sense of responsibility and without undue haste passed this legislation. The Bill was circulated for eliciting public opinion, and it went to Select Committee, and after mature consideration, this House passed the Bill and the Bill went up to the Upper House, and the Upper House has taken away the very essence, the very necessity of the Bill. I, therefore, appeal to this House to be consistent with its respect and with its sense of responsibility and not to agree to the amendments which have been brought in by the Upper House. The full implication of the amendments to the different clauses that have been effected in the Bill has been fully explained by my hon. friend Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya, and I would only ask this Hon'ble House to consider the amendment that has been brought to clause 7. This legislation was meant to give relief to the existing tenants of the town of Sylhet, but if these amendments are allowed to be made, they will take away the relief which was sought to be afforded to these tenants on account of the peculiar conditions prevailing in Sylhet, and this was explained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. It was argued by some hon. members who opposed this Bill that

this was a novel Bill. But I would point out that there was a similar Bill in the Madras Presidency and a Bill affecting the whole of India has been introduced in the Council of State by hon. Mr. Kumar Shankar Ray. So, I think, Sir, that this is not a novel Bill. As Assam has been a pioneer in many things, I congratulate this House that Assam has become a pioneer in making this legislation. The urgency of this legislation has been impressed many times. I, therefore, appeal to this Hon'ble House to pass the motion of my hon. friend Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya without any division.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel very strongly that the amendment about retrospective effect which was passed by the other Houses is a very reasonable one, and such information as I have received goes to show that there are very few cases pending in the Courts, out of these which were instituted in April 1937. Most of them have been amicably settled. I am also of opinion that if this legislation is passed now it will give no relief to those tenants because the Courts will not have any jurisdiction to re-open the decrees which have already been passed. I would, therefore, ask the House to refrain from accepting the principle of giving retrospective effect and mar our Statute Book.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, So far as my information goes, I know that there are hundreds of cases....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Hundreds of cases ! 'Hundreds' is a vague term. The hon. member ought to state definitely the number of cases pending.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY : There are some 300 cases pending in the Courts, and, therefore, if retrospective effect is taken away many of them will get no relief. Sir, this Assembly has been called a Baby Assembly and I think this Baby Assembly....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Baby Assembly ? Why do you call it a Baby Assembly ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS : Someone else has called it a Baby Assembly and he is repeating his words.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : It may be so, but the way in which the hon. member is speaking shows that he accepts the description given by some one else.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY : Then I withdraw it, Sir. Now about the amendment to clause 7, for adding the words "wholly before or wholly after, or partly before and partly", the very amendments made by the other House have frustrated all the purposes of the Bill and the existing tenants will get no occupancy right. For all these reasons, I commend to this House that all the amendments made by the Upper House be rejected.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I shall now put the questions to the House.

The question is :

"That in clause 3 for the words 'on such date as the Provincial Government by notification in the Official Gazette, may appoint in this behalf' the words and figures 'retrospectively from the 1st day of April, 1937' be substituted."

The motion was agreed to.

2. The question is :

"That in the second line of clause 5 after the word 'created' the words 'before or' be inserted."

The motion was agreed to.

3. (i) The question is :

"That in the second line of item (b) of clause 6, after the word 'residential' a 'comma' be inserted and the words 'manufacturing or business' be added thereafter."

The motion was agreed to.

(ii) The question is:

"That in the last line of item (c) of clause 6, after the word 'tenant', a 'comma' be inserted and the words 'and persons who continue in possession after termination of the tenancy' be added thereafter.

The motion was agreed to.

4. The question is:

"That after the words 'ten years' in the third line of clause 7 a 'comma' be inserted, and the words 'wholly before or wholly after, or partly before and partly' be added thereafter."

The motion was agreed to.

5. That after sub-clause (vii) of clause 12 the following be added as a new paragraph:—

"*Explanation*: 'Transfer' in this section shall mean absolute transfers only".

The motion was agreed to.

6. The question is:

"That in the seventh line of sub-clause (i) of clause 15 for the word 'six' the word 'three' be substituted."

The motion was agreed to.

7. The question is:

"That clause 17 of the original Bill as passed by the Assembly be restored".

The motion agreed to.

A message will be sent to the Upper House that the amendments made by that House have been rejected and that in their places these fresh amendments have been made by the Assembly for the Sylhet Town Land Tenancy Bill, 1937.

The Assam Ministers' salaries Bill 1938

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: I am not going to move my Assam Ministers Salaries Bill, 1938, Sir.

The Assam Land and Revenue Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 1938

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: I beg for leave Sir, to introduce the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 1938.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is that leave be granted for the introduction of the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 1938.

(Leave having been granted, the Secretary read out the title of the Bill).

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: I beg, Sir, that the Bill be taken into consideration clause by clause on a date during the next Budget Session of the Assembly.

Sir, there are two points involved in this Bill. The first point is that it seeks to substitute the phrase "Chief Commissioner" by the phrase "Provincial Government." Sir, we are now in a Governor's province and the Chief Commissioner-ship has long been abolished. Though by virtue of Section 31 of the General Clauses Act all references to Chief Commissioner has to be construed to have references to the Governor, yet there are some wrong impressions in the minds of some regarding that phrase and in order to remove these impressions, I have put in an amendment to substitute the phrase "Chief Commissioner" by the phrase "Provincial Government".

The grounds for this are stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons and I hope the Hon'ble House will agree with me that this substitution seeks to do no harm to anybody.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: On a point of order, Sir, may I say one thing which may help the hon. member in regard to the provision which he seeks to make.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Let the hon. member finish.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: It may be unnecessary to do so as that is already provided for. It is likely he does not know and I would just like to point out that the provision he wants to incorporate in clause 3 has already been made by a notification in the Assam Gazette.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: I am glad that the Government have already come in line with my ideas in this respect.

The second point Sir, is that it seeks to fix the minimum assessment of an estate at a uniform rate of 8 annas throughout the province in place of the varying rates of one rupee and eight annas in the Assam and the Surma Valley respectively. The existing rule is that the minimum assessment in the Assam Valley is one rupee against eight annas in the Surma Valley and the Hill districts. This practice is said to be in vogue since 1892 and it is now about 46 years that it is continuing. It is not known what were the reasons which necessitated the Government to fix different rates for different localities of the same province. Whatever the reasons at the time of introduction of the rule, I think they do not exist now. Generally the holders of small estates are poor cultivators and I think that this minimum assessment of one rupee is causing hardship on the poor cultivators of the Assam Valley. Many of the hon. members may have no clear ideas as to what this minimum assessment is. I, therefore, want to speak a few words in detail about it. A man having a patta or a lease for a certain area of land, the leaseholder has got to pay a certain amount as land revenue. The area is the estate and the revenue fixed is the assessed revenue on the patta. Now, if a man gets a patta for say 10 *lachas* of land, then whatever be its revenue according to bigha-rates on similar class of land he will have to pay 1 rupee in the Assam Valley and eight annas in the Surma Valley.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: May I know, Sir, the approximate number of such pattas?

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: I am coming to it. If the bigha rate be, say, rupee one and annas four then the revenue of these 10 *lachas* will come up to two annas only. So a man having such a patta in the Assam Valley will have to pay 14 annas extra and a man in the Surma Valley 6 annas extra owing to the application of this rule. The above, I think, explains what the minimum assessment is. As to the number of leases affected by the application of the rule of minimum assessment, I have not the correct figure in hand now. In the year 1927, I put a question in the Legislative Council and the Government replied that the number of leases calculated at the ordinary bigha rate, the revenue on which was between eight annas and one rupee per lease was about 97,000 and a similar number of leases on which the revenue calculated at the bigha rate, was below eight annas. So, on the whole this rule appears to have affected about two lakhs of leaseholders. Giving one lease to one individual, this rule affected about two lakhs of leaseholder and 10 lacs of people taking 5 persons in a leaseholder's family. This was the figure supplied to me in 1927. But I think, it will be the same figure even now, if not higher.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Does the hon. member mean to say that there are 2 lakhs of such pattadars?

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: I cannot exactly say that, because the number of leases was given to be about 2 lakhs, and giving one lease to one individual it came to about 2 lakhs independent pattadars. One single man might, however, have two such leases. What I was actually supplied with was the number of leases and not the number of individuals. The extra amount that the Government realised at the time was something between half a lakh and one lakh. What I want now to say in connection with this Bill is that it seeks to give redress to about 2 lakhs of poor agricultural families. Of course a sum between half a lakh and a lakh is quite big sum considering the present financial condition of the province. But considering the total amount of land revenue of the province, which is about 1 crore and 30 lakhs, and considering the relief that the Bill seeks to give to about 10 lakhs of people I think a reduction of 50 thousand or even if it be 75 thousand will not be too much.

Now, Sir, the conditions which necessitated the Government to fix this minimum in 1892, do not seem to exist in their entirety now. In 1892, there were plenty of lands. The poor cultivators could take up land to any extent and anywhere they pleased. But with the passing of years, the population has increased both by reproduction and by immigration and it seems that there is paucity of land everywhere now. With passing of time Sir, the tendency of the holdings is to grow smaller and smaller by partition and other factors. So, Sir, it is not the poor cultivators that are to be blamed and equity does not justify that the Government should realise so much extra amount from the poor *raijats*. It was put forward as a ground by the Government that the fixing up of a minimum assessment would have the tendency to discourage the cultivators to take up lands in small plots and also would help to minimise the cost of expenditure for keeping the accounts etc. I have no quarrel with the Government on this ground. I do realise that Government should discourage the taking up of lands in small plots. I also do realise that they should get something extra for keeping so many accounts for small estates. But at the same time, I want to urge upon the Government that they should not be so unjust as to realise so much extra. To realise rupee one when the calculated revenue is only 2 annas or 3 annas is quite unjustifiable and inequitable. I am prepared to give them 5 annas or 6 annas more in place of 2 or 3 annas, making it 8 annas in all.

Again, Sir, What I am urging is not anything new. The minimum of 8 annas is existing in this very province in a different locality, namely, the Surma Valley and Hill Districts. So I urge that Government will see their way to agree to my proposal and accept my motion. A resolution to the same effect was carried in the old Assam Legislative Council in 1928 with a substantial majority—all Indian elected non-official members including your august self Sir, Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Sayidur Rahman, Maulvi Keramat Ali, Maulvi Munawwar Ali, Babu Harendra Chandra Chakravarty and many others.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The motion moved is that the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 1938, be taken into consideration.

Adjournment

The Assembly then adjourned for lunch till 2 p. m.

After adjournment

The Assembly re-assembled after lunch at 2 p. m.

MOTION OF NO-CONFIDENCE AGAINST THE MINISTRY—DISCUSSION

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: All the no-confidence motions are from the one and the same party. I wish to know whether there has been any decision made by that party as to who amongst the hon. members who have tabled the no-confidence motions will initiate the debate.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY: I shall first move, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move "that this House has no confidence in the present Ministry formed by Mr. Gopi Nath Bardoloi."

Sir, at the very outset, I want to make one point clear that by bringing this motion I do not mean any ill feeling, grudge or enmity towards any of the members of the Council of Ministers.

I congratulate Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi for accepting my challenge the other day. I put forward a challenge on the 19th September, but at that time he did not show the same spirit. On that day the position of his party may be better described in the words of the poet 'বীৰ হৈছে যিনি অস্ত্র মুদ্রিত নয়' i.e., as a patient takes bitter medicine unwillingly with his eyes shut. Day before yesterday, I found that Mr. Bardoloi and his party improved mentally. I congratulate him for this.

Sir, the Congress Party entered the Legislature for wrecking the present constitution. That was given out to the whole world. But what I find now is that they are working out the Reforms, which was much condemned by them, like good boys.

Rai Bahadur PROMODE CHANDRA DUTT: That is an old story.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member ought to be allowed to go on.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY: The only difference between the Bureaucratic Ministers and the Congress Ministers is that the latter are working with a cheap rate of pay. People thought that the Congress party would establish kingdom of Heaven, from their election pledges, but what we hear are grievances against the Ministers in provinces where the Congress is holding administration. Grievances there are against the great "C.R." Grievances there are against Mahatma Gandhi whose house was picketed by the scheduled caste people without any result. Bullets were even fired in provinces where the Congress is in power. Only hon. Mr. Bardoloi can say whether those bullets were violent or non-violent. So I can boldly say that the Congress Party, which is in power here, cannot establish any kingdom of Heaven in this vile earth. The machine is going on as it was going on previously. Only the *Fez* cap is replaced by a tri-colour *Khadi* cap.

The special feature of the present constitution is the coming into importance of the Tribal, backward and Scheduled castes people. This is the result of the Communal Award which has been condemned by my friends on the opposite. This communal award originated from the Minority Pact that was made in London by the late Maulana Shaukat Ali. The Congress with their declared policy also wanted to nullify that communal award. By this they want to take away the rights and privileges that have been given to the Tribal, Backward and the Scheduled castes people (*laughter from the Congress Benches*).

Assam is a peculiar province. The population of this province is formed with various minorities. If Congress with their avowed policy run the administration of this province, I am afraid the minority communities may lose their rights and privileges. Every member of the minority community

in this House will be at one with me when I say that their rights and privileges are not safe at the hands of the Congress party whose object is to nullify the very document by which they were given the rights and privileges.

How is Assam ruled now? If a stranger comes to Shillong, he will not have to put that question to anybody. Congress guards—official and non-official—are placed in different corners of the street. He will at once understand that Assam is being governed by official terrorism (*Hear, hear*). Many of the hon. members of this House are confined in their rooms (*laughter*). I can inform you, Sir, that even in the corridors of this House, members of this side cannot freely talk to the members of the other side. If we meet members of the other side, Congress guards flock round us (*Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee—Vice versa*). You will be surprised to learn that only the other day an hon. member of the House—I mean, Khan Sahib Maulavi Mudabbir Hussain Chaudhuri—was obstructed when he was coming to attend the meeting. This is the state of affairs in the town of Shillong, which is the capital of the province, and this is the way in which Congress is out to run the administration of the province.

As to how the Ministry was formed—I am to go back to September. It is known all over India that Mr. Bardoloi formed his Cabinet with no majority behind him. It is also known to you and to the people of the province how members of his party tried to seduce the members of this party (*laughter*). The secret hand of darkness played its dirty game and I see, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister for Industries, who was a member of this party has gone to that side. When this minority Ministry was first formed, at that time the Hon'ble Premier did not accept my challenge because he knew it fully well that he had no majority behind him. Then what followed? He began to offer Ministership to almost all the members of this party. In the name of so called 'Coalition Government' Ministers have been appointed for one vote only. Khan Bahadur Mahmud Ali entered the Cabinet with no party behind him (*Loud laughter from the Congress group*). Same is the case of Maulavi Ali Haidar Khan also. (*Voices: No, No*) I cannot forget the memorable days of "Bhanubil" when those hon. members with whom Mr. Ali Haidar Khan is now in terms, moved heaven and earth against him. Therefore, I say that it is not a coalition, conducive to better Government. I can also cite the case of Sriji Ramnath Das. He has also entered the Cabinet without any party behind him (*uproar in the Ministerialists Benches and cries of "we are all his followers"*). In this undemocratic way the Ministry was formed.

After accepting office what policy the Ministry did adopt? The other day we moved many adjournment motions to ventilate the grievances of the people who are poor and helpless and who require assistance from the Government immediately. But, Sir, Government opposed them all. This is the mentality of the present Ministry. In granting the reduction of land revenue the Hon'ble Finance Minister made such invidious distinction that he has done more injustice than justice. I am just going to mention a matter which may be thought to be very unimportant to you. Sir, the present Ministry even does not like to publish a communique with correct information. If you look to the Gazette of 30th November you will find that a communique was issued under the signature of the Chief Secretary, Mr. Dawson. It gave the details of a meeting held at Sylhet on the 10th November which was, the communique says, presided over by Maulana Abu Nasr Muhammad Waheed. But I can tell you, Sir, that the meeting Dewan was presided over not by the Maulana Sahib, but by Khan Bahadur Eklimur Roza Chaudhury. This is the way in which the Ministry deals with matters which concerns the public.

Sir, I have said briefly what I had to say. Under these circumstances this House cannot repose any confidence in this Ministry. If you go through the columns of newspapers you will find what sort of vile propaganda is going on throughout the whole province against those who are not Congress men and in many places they are initiated by the members of this House who belong to that group.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: What about the *Jugaveri*?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY: The *Jugaveri* is for a good Government—a Government which is pledged for the amelioration of the condition of the people. I have no enmity with the Congress party or any party; my only idea is to have a good Government. To my mind, as I have said already, this party has come to power by terrorizing the people who do not belong to that party. They have failed to give adequate relief to the districts which were affected by floods. They could not mobilise all their forces to check cholera. They are callous of the sufferings of the people. These are sufficient grounds for which the Ministry is not to be relied on. They have sufficiently given time to enjoy the pleasure of holding office. I therefore ask the hon. members of all the groups to think over the matter and support my motion so that for the sake of better Government this Government may be overthrown and another party (*voices: with you?*) may be allowed to come to power. With these words I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The motion moved is "that this House has no confidence in the present Ministry formed by Mr. Gopi Nath Bardoloi".

Mr. F. W. HOCKENHULL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, (*Loud ironical cheers from the Ministerialist party*) during the past ten weeks or so we have experienced a period of unusual excitement, the culmination of over a year of political activity in the constituencies unexampled in the history of this province. Such a state is not conducive to clear thinking, sober judgment or calm expression. Even the press has become hysterical—huge headlines are splashed over the most trivial reports and statements are made to-day only to be contradicted to-morrow. It is no wonder, therefore, that the constituencies are left wandering what it is all about, and I welcome this opportunity of explaining our action to this House and through this House to a wider audience outside.

Let me say at once that our actions were not based on any antagonism to the All-Indian Congress organization. No direct question of All-India politics was involved. I would go further and state that we had no anti-Congress motive, but our opposition is directed towards that organisation in the province which has conducted a bitter, relentless and studied attack on the industries of Assam and particularly on that section which is controlled by Europeans. This attack dates back for over a year and has been conducted in the House, in the press, and in the country.

In this House, by means of questions, innuendo and direct statement it has been sought to create the impression that we are very privileged people, that we are exploiting Indians, and have merely selfish interests unconcerned with the welfare of the province at large. Needless to say, we deny these imputations *in toto*. With regard to the agitation in this House, at least we have the belated opportunity of endeavouring to correct this wrong impression and while the party concerned may feel that these are *bona fide* Parliamentary tactics, we feel that the attack is wholly unwarranted.

The press has been particularly active. Here, however, it is entirely, "one way traffic": for the opportunity of contradicting incorrect propaganda is almost negligible. Where it grudgingly admits that industry performs

any useful service, some sinister motive is invariably found. Quite recently the figures of medical expenditure were published showing that the tea industry spent 50 times the Government expenditure *per capita* on medical amenities. Even at the most generous calculation not more than 5 per cent. of this expenditure could by any reasoning be attributed to the care of the European staff, in spite of the ingenious attempts which have been made to distort the facts. Nothing is too small to invite attention:—wages are said to be inadequate; living conditions are criticised; it is made a grievance that every single labourer is not provided with land for private cultivation. Advertisements have appeared in the press inviting the Indian staff of tea gardens to forward their grievances anonymously. The following are a few excerpts which illustrate the type of thing I mean.—

"This community (Labour) is deprived of their human rights and should be elevated to the status of human beings?"

"How long can we ignore the mute and piteous appeals and intolerable sufferings of hundreds of the poor employees?"

"Planters have suppressed the moral and physical efficiency of their labourers in a systematic manner."

"They are huddled together like beasts contrary to all sense of decency".

"The man who has entered the tea garden as a labourer once is labourer for ever".

"This vast humanity is entombed so to say within the garden precincts, having no link or touch with world outside. They have resigned themselves to destiny and have accepted poverty and suffering as their allotted share".

I need not enlarge on these quotations which are but an example of what is regularly printed, beyond saying that every one in Assam who is unprejudiced is aware of the falseness of the imputations.

In the constituencies, meetings have been held calling upon labour to strike for a variety of reasons or for no legitimate reason at all. Contented and happy labour forces have had grievances suggested to them which they had neither heard nor dreamed of. The word "slavery" has been freely used to represent their condition and in a letter written to a Manager recently, a Congress official described tea garden labourers as "little better than human beasts".

Although admittedly industry is not perfect, we are proud of what it has done for this province, yet those concerned in this propaganda can see nothing but evil in it.

It is urged by the Congress Party that this is the work of irresponsible people. For our part we have satisfied ourselves—(a) that the people engaged in this propaganda profess to be members of that party,

(b) that they are working in collaboration with official Congress representatives; and

(c) that responsible Congress officials are countenancing and giving active support to the movement.

It may be that this is a case of the tail wagging the dog, in which case it is beyond dispute that the left wing of Congress is beyond control of the moderate element of the party. We may well ask when criticised for our attitude. "What has Industry done to deserve this treatment?"

It is submitted that throughout India there has been considerable labour unrest in recent times, but in the provinces which have Congress Governments, every effort at conciliation has been made. In Madras, for example, our fellow Planters of the south have frankly admitted the good

relations which exist between them and the Government of that enlightened province. Again I repeat, "what has the Industry in Assam done to be singled out for less reasonable treatment?"

In the sphere of legislation we find measures have been introduced by members of the Congress Party and supported by the Party in the House, which attack the representation of minorities on self-governing bodies. While we believe that the system of nomination to those bodies may have outlived its usefulness, we cannot agree to its abolition until adequate provision is made for minority representation. I have already expressed my views on the measure which sought to reduce Planting representation on Local Boards. While we are prepared to admit the necessity for reform, we were filled with apprehension when the measure proposed would have left us practically unrepresented in most of the Local Boards of this province.

To turn for a moment to other matters of policy, I would mention that the Gauhati-Shillong Transport contract has been the subject of much criticism in the early part of this session. After an examination of all the data available, we have come to the conclusion that the settlement of this contract has been made in the best possible manner in the circumstances. I refer to this matter in particular because there is a feeling in Government circles that this service should be provincialised. Our experience of commercial enterprises controlled by Government leads us to the conclusion that it would be financially unwise to adopt this system and that the travelling public will be better served by a privately controlled company.

Our next criticism has reference to the constitutional issue. It has been stated by members of the Party now in power that they are opposed to the Constitution Act and would lose no opportunity of wrecking it. Let me quote from an Indian paper dated the 25th of September, 1938--

"When British people from Whitehall to Delhi have pledged themselves to support the Congress Government, it is strange that the Europeans of Assam have taken a perverse attitude. We would rather welcome this mentality of Tea Planters which reveals their true colour and thereby strengthen the hands of the Congress in carrying out its programme. If they stick to this attitude, it will certainly help us in wrecking the constitution of Assam".

These are the words of a member of this House Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya, and were published in the *Advance*. It is well-known that this group stands by the Act. We believe that its merits or short-comings can only be discovered by working it. We have been taunted with the charge of being unconstitutional — can the Prime Minister assure us that he is prepared to work the constitution for the ultimate good of the people and not with a view to wrecking it?

With regard to the composition of the Ministry itself, I would ask the supporters of the Ministry if they themselves feel satisfied with the selection of the present Cabinet? With the admitted wealth of talent sitting behind the Ministerial benches, is this the best they can offer? It does not engender confidence to find in the Cabinet members who stand for nothing, who have no policy, no experience and no followers, members, who are in the Cabinet to give the impression of a Coalition where in fact there is no Coalition at all. We should have been happier had Mr. Bardoloi seen fit either to select a purely Congress Ministry on its merits or have deferred the duty of forming a Ministry until such time as his present adherents were convinced of the wisdom of his policy *without* the proviso of furnishing them with seats in the Cabinet. This feeling prevailed with us at the time the Ministry was being formed, but if any doubt had lingered in our mind

at the time, the failure to face the Assembly and abide by its verdict could have no other effect than to confirm us in this view.

I would stress the necessity for the development of the 'two party system', and would suggest to Government that they are confusing our Parliamentary Opposition to their policy with hostility to themselves.

It has been held out in the Press and probably will be quoted in this House against us that our attitude now is fundamentally different from that adopted in February last. In refutation of this travesty of the known facts, let me quote from my speech on that occasion:—

"We stand for good Government, but not particularly to serve the personnel on the front bench for the time being..... During the last few days we have seen the reconstruction of the Ministry and surely the present Government is a potentially strong one which may accomplish a good deal if given an opportunity."

We make the contrast!

In conclusion let me stress once again that Assam to a larger degree than most other provinces relies for its prosperity on the well-being and contentment of widely spread industry. No Government can ignore the dangers attendant upon the efforts of mischief-makers either directly in the economic field or in the disastrous results likely to arise from misdirected agitation, as many of us unhappily have reason to remember. Industry is moving with the times and as you are more or less in touch with it, it is necessary only to invite a comparison of conditions obtaining to-day with those of 10 or even 5 years ago.

It must be remembered that your industries are not monopolies. Oil is a world product; coal has competitors in the neighbouring province of Bengal; while tea has not only to compete with Bengal and Southern India, but has well placed rivals in Ceylon, the Dutch East Indies, Japan, China and East Africa.

We feel that the unreasonable and deliberate anti-European industrial policy is unwarranted which is not only calculated to undermine the confidence of those engaged in industry itself, but it is to be condemned by all who have the best interests of this province at heart. Our attitude has not been based upon caprice, but upon observation and experience extending over eighteen months of the hostility of Mr. Bardoloi's party, and it is unreasonable for him to expect any change in our outlook until he and his following give convincing practical proofs of a change of heart. (*Applause from the Opposition Benches.*)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I may tell the hon. members that the mover of the motion was entitled to get half an hour's time, and the Government member replying will get half an hour. But other participants in the debate will get 15 minutes' time.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, *divi-de-et impe ra* was the old Roman motto. But we find here, Sir, that our hon. friends on the Government Benches have also learnt, nay have even surpassed the old Roman in this black art of divide and rule. This Assembly has been turned into a chess-board of divide politics and we are treated as if we are so many pawns in their hands. The policy of setting one individual against another, one group against the other groups is being scientifically employed to add to the strength of the Congress-Coalition Government side. Taking advantage of human weakness, Ministerships were dangled before some of the members and the bait was swallowed by some and thus they succeeded in getting some of our

supporters to their side and formed the Cabinet. This is in short the history of formation of the present Congress Coalition Ministry in Assam. But, I wonder, Sir, how the Hon'ble Prime Minister could take such persons into his Cabinet who themselves tabled the motion of no confidence against them. Are these the fair specimens of Congress principles and ideals? I agree, Sir, that they have succeeded in capturing the Government for the present, but, Sir, they have killed the Congress ideal and earned for themselves a "*badnam*" throughout the whole of India. If the Congress Cabinet tactics were revealed to Mahatma Gandhi he would have resorted to fasting and performed the *prayaschitta* for these misdeeds. (A voice why don't you complain to Mahatma Gandhi?)

Sir, some of our friends, in order to create a division in our ranks, are trying to make it a communal issue. But I can assure the House that there is no communal problem in Assam. Unlike other provinces of India, the has got a peculiar problem of her own. The problem of Assam is the problem of minorities. It is a fight not between two individuals or parties, but it is a fight between two principles, between democracy on one side and Fascism on the other side. It is a fight between tyranny of the majority and safe-guarding the interests of the minorities. Unless and until we are united together our separate cultural and political identity of each community will be crushed in turn by the Congress (*Hear, hear*). The instinct of self-preservation demands that we should all come under the common minority flag. (*Laughter from Congress benches*). We stand here for the cause of the poor and the minority. Sir, I appeal to the members of the minority communities not to follow a suicidal policy and request them to come to our side and help the cause of the minority.

Sir, the Hon'ble Prime Minister, just after the acceptance of office, issued a circular styling himself as the servant of the country. We the poor and oppressed people of the country, hoped that paradise will come down on the earth, and we were led to believe that Assam will be turned overnight into a *Swargaraj* (স্বর্গরাজ). They befooled us for some time, but in the words of Abraham Lincoln "could not befool us for all time". The poor cultivators who were dreaming of a *Swargarajya* (স্বর্গরাজ্য) were hopelessly disillusioned and betrayed. The first *salami* that the present Congress Government paid to the people, are (1) the opposition of the Decree Settlement Bill of Maulavi Abdul Aziz; (2) throwing out of the resolution of Babu Lalit Mohan Kar for the increment of the pay of the poor primary school teachers up to Rs.15; (3) failure of 50 per cent. remission of land revenue in the temporary-settled areas; (4) contemplated addition to the burden of taxation by the imposition of agricultural and other various taxes on the poor cultivators.

Sir, our hon. friends now occupying the Government Benches while they were on the Opposition accused us as reactionary and called the previous Government as bureaucratic. Now the time has come for their trial, and they will be paid in their own coins. The world will judge them by their actions and not by the big slogans which they were so long preaching. Sir, it is easy to profess, but it is very difficult to translate these professions into practice. The Congress Coalition Ministry is composed of so many reactionary factors without any redeeming feature and contains in its personnel, members against whom the Congress Party tabled a motion of no-confidence. The present Cabinet is mis-called as Congress Coalition Ministry, but it pains me to say that it is a Congress *Cum* money-lenders, *cum* capitalists Coalition Ministry (*Laughter*). Sir, these reactionary factors have made an unholy alliance among themselves and in the fair name of the great political organization are now trying to exploit the poor masses who fondly hoped that their grievances would be removed. So in the

words of Mr. J. N. Roy "people will be stunned to find the hopeless inconsistency between their profession and practice. While shedding crocodile tears in public for the miserable lots of the peasantry many of the Congress leaders will be found to be in league with mill owners, money-lenders and landlords, who do not scruple to squeeze out the life-blood of these unfortunate country-men of theirs."

As a result of this reaction the work of destruction has already begun in the Congress camp. *Kisans*, labourers and other minorities have come out of the Congress fold and formed themselves into separate political organizations. The red flag has thrown a challenge to the tri-colour, and it is apprehended that it will be swallowed up by the red. (*Laughter from the Congress Benches*)

But, Sir, even in this cloudy political atmosphere we are very glad to hear from the Deputy Leader of that august body that they are pledged to the creed of non-violence. But in the same breath, the Hon'ble the Prime Minister explaining the Government attitude with regard to the resolution declared that "he shall not hesitate to put down violence by methods that are adopted by the Congress." May I ask the Hon'ble Premier, Sir, what are those methods that the Congress are going to adopt? Very recently a Government communiqué declared that—"It may be necessary indeed to enforce those measures with a strong hand." What does the term "strong hand" mean? The term strong hand is an open threat held out to the communities concerned. We do not know, Sir, whom we are to believe—either the Deputy Leader, or the Leader of that august non-violent body. Is it non-violence to put down violence by violence? Is it non-violence to hold out threats of a strong hand to a minority community? It is fascism pure and simple.

Thus it clearly proves that the present Congress Government failed to serve the poor and carry out the ideal of the Congress. So in the words of an open letter of a distinguished Congress Leader addressed to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, I would humbly beseech him to resign. I hope he will resign.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK : Mr. Speaker, Sir. The motion Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 5 are identical wherein, the name of the Hon'ble Mr. Gopinath Bardoloi has been mentioned.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : There is difference of language in the motions, but they are all identical.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK : In motion No. 4 the name of our Hon'ble Premier has been particularly mentioned, but this is a point on which I do not want to speak. Sir, I am not a critic, and I am not going to be a critic in my speech. I am going to go only by facts and figures. The first mover has already exposed in his speech that he has a personal grudge against the Hon'ble Premier.

As to the overthrowal of the last Cabinet, its cause or causes and why it has been overthrown and why that Cabinet has had no confidence of the House, I am not going to speak (*laughter*). They know it. And knowing it they have resigned and that resignation was the cause of the formation of this Cabinet.

Now, as to the nature of the formation of the Cabinet, I know something of it and it is known also to every member on the floor of this House. But who formed the Cabinet? Not only the Hon'ble Mr. Bardoloi, but it is also His Excellency the Governor. We can see from the Instrument of Instructions that our Governor represents His Majesty the King. His Majesty the King appointed him our Governor and he is His Majesty's personal representative. Whatever he thinks and acts, he thinks and acts for His Majesty the King-Emperor. His Majesty has made a request to us

all, not only to the members of this House but to all the inhabitants of India, and he said that every individual inhabitant and *raiya* should assist and help our Governor in his attempt to bring about a good and peaceful Government. So we should help him by supporting this Cabinet framed by him. I fail to see why the European group is deadly against it. The steps taken by His Excellency the Governor in regard to the formation of this Cabinet must have been in accord with the Instrument of Instructions. His Excellency found it necessary to call upon the Hon'ble Mr. Bardoloi to form the present Cabinet. This Cabinet now as it stands, everybody can see, is enjoying the confidence of the House, not in full, but of the majority. (*Hear, hear*). It is clear and distinct that they have a majority at present (*Hear, hear*).

Sir, only one word more I shall be brief. It is immoral for anyone to form a Cabinet without having a good backing from the public. (*Hear, hear*.) I say to-day, facing as I do you all here, all those on the galleries (*laughter*) and also those outside this Hon'ble Chamber, that not less than 85 or 90 per cent. of the faces are for the Congress. (*Hear, hear*). Not only this. The country, the people at large, wherever I go, the shopkeeper, the merchant, the ordinary labourer, I find that everyone is for the Congress, to-day.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: On a point of information, Sir. May I know whether the hon. member tabled a motion of no-confidence against this Ministry?

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: Sir,

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: I do not yield, Sir.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: I want to know, Sir.....

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Sir, I declare vehemently that I do not yield and I am on my feet. I do not want to be interrupted. As I say this present Cabinet as it stands will stand for the remaining term of three years. And as far as the minority community is concerned, their interests are safe in the hands of the Congress who have the fullest sympathy with the aspirations of the minority community.

I have only very few things to say. One is about the economic position. Our problem, the greatest problem in fact for the whole of India is the problem of poverty. Our Congress Cabinet has taken into consideration this very important problem. Now, I say, Sir, the previous Cabinet did not pay consideration about this question at all (*Hear, hear*). Against this what will the new expected Cabinet do? I learn from some members of the proposed Cabinet that if they succeed to overthrow the Bardoloi Cabinet they will have 12 Ministers and 12 Parliamentary Secretaries. We heard hon. Srijiut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri speaking on this floor of the House that Rs. 500 is quite inadequate to be the salary of a Minister. But, Sir, what has Mahatma Gandhi said? He has said that Rs.500 was the desired scale. This is the spirit of the Congress. If we overthrow this Cabinet and if a new Cabinet is formed by the present Opposition, that will be surely very costly and expensive one.

I need not waste the time of the House any further. Although I had no previous experience in the working of the constitution, I studied the subject carefully. I have studied what is going on now. I am learning many things and I have to learn many more things about these political matters and constitutional things. Now, I say, I do not believe in refuting each other's argument and point. Of course the Opposition group must stay, the leftists must stay on. Without that the House cannot be complete. But the spirit of the Opposition and the Government must be healthy and not one of hatred

(Hear, hear), so that we can go on smoothly and in a brotherly manner to discuss what is good for the welfare to the nation at large. I therefore say that these motions are too premature and too hasty because the Cabinet now has not been given a chance to see what they will do. Sir Saadulla at the time of his resignation from the Cabinet clearly said that his Cabinet did not enjoy the confidence of the House. We must give a chance and two months' time is not enough for a chance.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi Dewan EKLIMUR ROZA CHAUDHURY :

সভাপতি মহোদয়, * * * * *

যাহাকে কাল আমি অপদার্থ অযোগ্য বলিয়া অভিহিত করিলাম সেই যদি আমার দলে আসিয়া ভিড়িয়া যায় এবং তাহাকেই যদি আমি দেশের শিরোমণি বলিয়া অভিহিত করি তাহা হইলে কি আমার morality নষ্ট হইল না? তাহা আমি গবর্ণমেন্টের পক্ষ হইতে জানিতে চাই এবং আমি জানিতে চাই যে bribery শব্দের definition কি? শুধু টাকা দিলেই কি bribery হয় আর অন্য কিছুতে কি bribery হয় না? এবং বর্তমান গবর্ণমেন্ট কি সর্ব-প্রকার bribe লওয়ার বিরোধী? সুতরাং যদি দেখাইয়া দেওয়া হয় যে বর্তমান গবর্ণমেন্টের ঘরে অনেকগুলি আগাছা এবং অবজ্ঞা পুঞ্জীভূত হইয়া রহিয়াছে তাহা হইলে এই গবর্ণমেন্ট সেই সমস্ত আবজ্ঞানারশি ঝাঁটা দিয়া দূর করিতে প্রস্তুত কি না? বিশেষতঃ যাহারা শুধু প্রেলোভনে মুগ্ধ হইয়া রাণারাত্তি পার্শ্ব পরিবর্তন করিল তাহাদিগকে বর্তমান গবর্ণমেন্ট দূর করিতে রাজি কি না তাহাই আমি জানিতে চাই। যদি গবর্ণমেন্ট এসমস্ত কাজ করিতে প্রস্তুত থাকেন এবং এই সম্পর্কে প্রতিশ্রুতি দেন তাহা হইলে আমি মনে করি তাহাদিগকে সুযোগ দেওয়া ও সাহায্য করা উচিত; নতুবা ছই দিন পূর্বেই যাহাদের উপর আত্মহীনতা প্রকাশ করা হইল সেই সমস্ত প্রস্তরখণ্ড স্পর্শমণির সংস্পর্শে আসিয়া রাতারাতি স্বর্ণে রূপান্তরিত হইল—তাহা যে বা যাহারা বিশ্বাস করুন না কেন আমি ইহা বিশ্বাস করিনা। অপিচ আমার স্পষ্ট ও পরিষ্কার কথা এই যে অনারোবোল মিটার বরদেলের উপর আমার আস্থা থাকিলেও কংগ্রেছ যাহাদিগকে অযোগ্য, অমুপযুক্ত এবং অবিশ্বাসী বলিয়া অভিহিত করিল তাহাদের উপর কংগ্রেছ নীতি অনুসারেই আমার আস্থা থাকিতে পারে না ও নাই। সুতরাং এসমস্ত দল ত্যাগী অতিলোভীগণকে সাহায্য কারতে আমি রাজী নহি এবং আমার মনে হয় এসমস্ত ব্যক্তিকে প্রশ্রয় দিয়া বর্তমান গবর্ণমেন্ট একটি মহা ভুল করিলেন। অতএব গবর্ণমেন্টের পক্ষ হইতে যদি এলা হয় যে এই ভুল সংশোধন করা হইবে এবং বর্তমান গবর্ণমেন্ট সর্বপ্রকারদোষমুক্ত হইবার জন্য চেষ্টা করিবেন এবং হিন্দু, মুসলমান, ইউরোপীয়ান, scheduled caste ইত্যাদি নরস প্রকার minority problem নিরপেক্ষ ভাবে solve করিবেন তাহা হইলে কিছু কাল এই গবর্ণমেন্টকে সময় ও সুযোগ দেওয়া উচিত। এবং তাহারা যাহাতে ভাল হইতে পারেন এবং ভাল করিতে পারেন সকলেরই সে ভাবে তাহাদিগকে চালিত করা সমিচীন। নতুবা, নহে।

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN* : কংগ্রেস জাতীয় প্রতিষ্ঠান। কংগ্রেস শুধু আসামের হিন্দু অধিবাসীদের জন্যই হইতে পারেনা—ইহাই আমি বিশ্বাস করিতে ছিলাম। বর্তমান আসামে বাঙ্গালী সমস্তা যে ভীষণ ভাবে অসমায়াদের দ্বারা আক্রমিত হইতেছে তাহার কলে আসাম কংগ্রেসের প্রতি পূর্বে বাহা বিশ্বাস ছিল তাহা ক্রমাগত সম্পূর্ণরূপে হারাইয়া কেলিয়াছি। যে বাঙ্গালী একদিন এই আসাম বাসীদিগকে চক্ষু ধান করিয়া ছিলেন, য বাঙ্গালী হিন্দু মুসলমান একদিন অসমায়াদিগকে মনুষ্যত্বের শিক্ষা দিয়া ছিলেন, আজ সেই আসামবাসী বাঙ্গালাকে আসাম হইতে বিতাড়িত করিবার জন্য 'বাঙ্গাল খেনা' আন্দোলন করিতেছে।

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN : Is he in order, Sir? He must withdraw this expression. It is very objectionable.

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA : He should withdraw this expression, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The way in which the hon. member has been speaking irritates the feeling of some hon. members. It is upto the hon. member to avoid objectionable expression which are also not strictly relevant.

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA : Are we to understand that the hon. member has withdrawn this expression? We take strong exception to it (There was a chorus of opposition and the hon. member withdrew the remarks.)

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN : কংগ্রেসের না ত হইতেছে ইণ্ডিয়ান যে কোন প্রতিপক্ষের লোক যে কোন প্রদেশে গিয়া বড় বড় স্থাপন করিলে তাহাদিগকে ব্যবস্থা বাবাজো সমান অধিকার দেওয়া হইবে। দীর্ঘকাল যাবৎ আসামে বাঙ্গালী প্রবাসীরা কংগ্রেস প্রিয় leader দের নিকট শত শত আবেদন নিবেদন জানাইয়াও ব্যর্থ মনোরথ হইয়াছে শত শত লোক আজ জমির অভাবে মজুরে পরিণত হইয়াছে, এবং শত শত লোক আজ পেটের অন্ন সংগ্রহ করিতে না পারিয়া দিবারাত্র মৃত্যু কামনা করিতেছে। কিন্তু হুং ও পরিতাপের বিষয় যে কংগ্রেস আজ পর্যন্ত তাহাদের প্রতি দৃষ্টিপাত করিতেছে না। এমতাবস্থায় কংগ্রেস সমস্ত হিন্দু মুসলমানের জাতীয় প্রতিষ্ঠান বলিয়া কিছুতেই অভিহিত হইতে পারে না। তদুপরি আসামের অন্যান্য জাতীয় লোকদের প্রতি অন্যান্য অবিচার করা হইয়াছে। তাহারা নিজেদের মাতৃ ভাষায় শিক্ষা পাইবার সম্পূর্ণ অধিকারী। কিন্তু বাঙ্গালী ছেলেরা যে তাহাদের মাতৃ ভাষায় শিক্ষা লাভ করিতে পারিবে তাহা আসামের কংগ্রেসের নাতি নহে। বিদেশী ভাষায় শিক্ষা পাইবার জগত তাহাদিগকে বাধ্য করা হইতেছে।

Srijut GAURIKANTA TALUKDAR : On a point of information, Sir. Has this Government done anything of the kind the hon. member has stated? He ought to take the previous Government to task for it.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : To him it appears that this Government is doing it.

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN: কংগ্রেস কোয়ালিশন গবর্ণমেন্ট বর্তমানে যে পস্থা অবলম্বন করিয়াছেন তাহাতে হিন্দু মুসলমান এবং অন্যান্য minority দলের প্রতি যে তাহার স্থবিচার করিবেন তাহা আমি মোটেই বিশ্বাস করিতে পারিতেছি না। ভূতপূর্ব গবর্ণমেন্টের আমলে জমী শূন্য লোকদিগকে জমি দিবার জন্য যে Line System Enquiry Committee নিৰ্দ্ধারিত হইয়াছিল এবং দীর্ঘকাল যাবৎ সেই কমিটি enquiry করিয়া তাহাদের নাম সম্বন্ধে দাবী স্বাক্ষরে যে অভিযন্ত প্রকাশ করিয়া ছিলেন, তৎ ও পরিত্যাপ বিষয় যে বর্তমান কোয়ালিশন গবর্ণমেন্ট এই সময়ে সেই কমিটির রিপোর্ট পর্য্যন্ত আলোচনা করিবার ও কোন সুযোগ দিলেন না। এমতাবস্থায় আমি বিশ্বাস করি না যে সংখ্যানু minority community র স্বার্থ তাহাদের দ্বারা রক্ষা হইতে পারিবে। সে জন্যই আমি তাহাদের প্রতি ঘনাস্থা প্রকাশ করিতে চাই।

Srijut BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in support of the motion of no-confidence against the present Congress Coalition Ministry I have some reasons to put before the House briefly. It is clear that the non-Congress Ministers in the Cabinet will have to submit more or less to the creed and principles of the Congress dictated by the Premier. As I have seen, the followers of Mahatma Gandhi find it very difficult to follow his creed and principles. In some provinces where there are Congress Governments we have seen that they are not acting in the manner in which they should behave. We have read with regret in newspapers about troubles of the labourers in Bombay which is under Congress Government. There they have passed a law which would practically make strikes illegal. (*A voice from the Congress bench:* Can the hon. member understand the Bombay Trade Disputes Act?) Strikes, Sir, all over the world are recognised as a legitimate weapon in the hands of the labourers for securing redress of their grievances. Even the old bureaucratic Government never passed such lawless laws which strike at the very root of constitutional agitation. As a protest against this dark piece of legislation, the Bombay labourers, about 40,000 in number, went on strike and asked other comrades to join them. There was a huge demonstration which the Government could not tolerate. The police were called in and the result was that 11 men were injured, of which one died in hospital. This is a foretaste of what we can expect from the Congress Ministry in the province. We can find an account of this incident in the *Statesman* of the 9th November last. (*A voice:* Therefore you side with the employers?) So long, Sir, the Congress has been finding fault with us—the labour members for siding with the Europeans, but the same Congress Party have been seeking now for the support of the Europeans. (*A voice:* Question) I think the object of the Congress is to alienate the Europeans from us and change them over to their side and then crush us. Events in Congress provinces should warn us that we should be with a party composed of people united for the purpose of carrying on the peaceful administration of the province.

The next thing which I would like to point out is that the Congress people want to do away with the communal award. If they do so, the Hill people like the Garos, Khasis, Mikirs, Kacharis, labourers and Indian Christians, etc., will not enjoy the same privileges as they are enjoying now under the Communal Award. (*A voice:* The hon. member is in dream land). Again, Sir, the Congress Ministers, if they are drawing Rs. 500 to Rs. 700 as pay, they are not really sacrificing for the country, (*A voice:* That is why you supported Rs. 2,000). This only shows, Sir

their ingenuity. The Congress people gave hopes to the poor that they would give 50 per cent. reduction of land revenue, but they have not done so. They say a thing and do not do it and mislead people. Under these circumstances, I think, Sir, as a poor labour member, I cannot have any confidence in the present Congress Coalition Ministry.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when my hon. friend Mr. Hockenhull urged day before yesterday for a full dress debate on this motion, he raised very high expectations indeed about the contribution that he was going to make to the debate. I have listened to him with rapt attention, not because he happens to be the leader of a particular group in this House, but because he has constituted himself as the *de facto* Leader of the Opposition in this Assembly. In view of the important position which he has arrogated to himself, it is necessary for me, Sir, to make an analytical reference to the utterances which he has made on the floor of the House from time to time. I would like to refresh the memory of my honourable colleagues by referring to his speech which he delivered in February last when a no-confidence motion was moved against the past Government. Then Mr. Hockenhull stated :

“There is no majority party anywhere. The House is, and under the present constitution must remain a composite body and a composite or coalition Government must always be in power..... During the time we have been in this House, we have been definitely supporting the Government of the day, although we have not always seen eye to eye with Government. The House knows it perfectly well. But representing the interest we stand for, we do think that we have done and are prepared in future to do what we can to help the Reformed Constitution and assist in the advance of the work of what is after all, something very new, and in that effort we are still hoping that other members of the House will join..... We stand for good Government, but not particularly to serve the personnel on the front bench for the time being. Criticism is very well, but there must be, in our view, an opportunity afforded to the Government to show what it can do. But no Government however able it may be can do anything unless that opportunity is afforded. It is necessary to avoid falling into the little groups and cliques.”

But unfortunately the speaker himself has fallen into a clique, against which he warned this Honourable House.

I will now draw the attention of the House to the now famous Hockenhull Circular which was published in all the papers the other day. The House will be astounded to see the difference between hon. Mr. Hockenhull's protestations and practice. From that Circular—I take it as the political Testament of the European group—the attitude of the European group towards my party has been made abundantly clear. The Circular says.

“Once the Saadulla Ministry was out of office it had no secretarial organisation to fall back upon and this office has undertaken for the time being to fill the breach.” (*Shame.*)

I shall refer to the bargain made by the Saadulla Cabinet with the European group later. I quote again from the Circular, Sir :

“The fact remains that the Saadulla group had completely lost heart after the resignation of the Chief Minister and would never have adopted a fighting attitude unless the European group had provided the necessary stiffening.”

So, on hon. Mr. Hockenhull's own showing and admission, after the fall of the last Government when the supporters of the Ministry were about to walk into political wilderness, it was the European group who lent

themselves to retrieve them and administer a turpentine massage on their broken spine.

Mr. Hockenhull's liberality and loyalty extends even beyond this. This Circular also states "Much remains to be done. Real difficulties lie ahead of us and these will have to be countered. For the present, however, our course is clear, namely, to continue the line of action we have agreed upon and to help those elements in the party which have to face the pressure of public opinion and social ostracism in a degree impossible to enlarge upon in this pamphlet." (*Shame.*)

So, the European group in this House was out to give protection to those representatives of the people who would have to face public opinion and the opinion of their electorates! This is the tremendous contribution made by the European group towards the politics of the day! The attitude of Mr. Hockenhull and his party changed directly with the fall of the last Government as if by magic. But there is method behind that magic! One has only to remember the advantages and benefits that this section of the House derived from the last Government. I admire the party's sense of loyalty and gratitude but that has nothing to do with the best interests of the province.

The gravamen of the charge levelled against my party by this group is that we have carried on an unrelenting campaign against it. I deny that charge. British interests are so well protected in Assam as elsewhere that they do not need any special protection. Sir Muhammad Saadulla and his Government were out to give protection where that protection was least needed, while the Congress Party was struggling all the time to secure the legitimate interests of the children of the soil. How did the Congress alienate the European group? Mr. Hockenhull mentions mainly three points. I am quoting from his Circular again—

"It will be remembered that in the Assembly those attacks recently took a three-fold form—the attempt to cut down European representation on local bodies". We do maintain, as we always maintained that the representation of the European community on our local bodies is unduly excessive and it is a statement of fact which has not been and could not be controverted.

Then comes the much-maligned, much misunderstood Freedom of Movement Bill. That Bill was introduced not to spite the European community at all, but it was directed against the entire tea industry. We believed and many of us still continue to believe that unless that sort of freedom which we claim should be given to the labourers, we could not expect our labour population to rise to the full stature of citizenship. We want them to inhale the same political atmosphere as the country at large does. Is that a political offence?

Then comes the tabling of a resolution demanding an enquiry into conditions of labour on tea estates by my humbleself. If my European friends want to make out that life on tea estates is like life in paradise, why should they fight shy of such an enquiry? If all is well in the tea estates, as is being claimed, they should rather welcome such an enquiry. They should seek this ready means to satisfy public opinion that all that is possible to be done for the labourers on tea estates was being done and more.

Now the whole point is this: It was necessary for the European group to adopt this queer and insensate attitude towards this Government because they thought that this Government would never give them any undue advantage to the detriment of the interests of the children of the soil. Those who are conversant with the inauguration of the Reforms which ushered in Provincial Autonomy in India are aware of the fact that one of the arguments which weighed largely with the makers of the present constitution

was that the European community could be given excessive representation only as a sort of stabilising element in the administration of this country. But the European party in this House has made a startling departure from that general policy which is being pursued by the European community in other provinces. They have not become a stabilising force in the administration of this province but they constitute unfortunately a disturbing element in Assam to-day. (*Hear, hear*).

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member should finish now.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: Sir, may I not expect that the same consideration be extended to me as to Mr. Hockenhull? Now the European group in this Assembly possibly set up to oppose this Ministry for no other object than this that they want that the unfair advantages which they had secured to themselves during the regime of irresponsible Governments which preceded Provincial Autonomy should not be disturbed. They want a Ministry subservient to their will and a puppet in their hands.

Mr. Hockenhull has insinuated, Sir, that this Ministry is an inefficient Ministry. Efficiency is a matter of opinion and some people have exaggerated notions about their own efficiency and I do not grudge Mr. Hockenhull hugging a sense of self-complacency. It is not always that the best brains of a party are appointed to be Ministers. (*Laughter from European Benches*). Can any one say that Chamberlain is the best politician of Britain to-day? Those who are chuckling on those benches may not know that there is a large volume of opinion that Chamberlain does not possess the best of political brains in Britain. Even then he is the Prime Minister of England to-day! Similarly, many other people have obtained leadership of various parties, not because they happen to possess the best brains in their respective parties, but because of the exigencies of some political circumstances. Now, Sir, the political methods of my hon. friend Mr. Hockenhull remind us of the methods of Herr Hitler (*Hear, hear*). To-day Herr Hitler is mowing down the Jews for no other offence than this that they happen to be Jews. Mr. Hockenhull in this House is up against my party for no other offence than this—that this party is affiliated to the Congress.

Mr. F. W. HOCKENHULL: We do not say that.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: I desire to submit, Sir, the personnel of the Ministry does not matter, but the policy and programme which it follows. It is well-known to this House that our policy and programme are being guided by the Working Committee of the Indian National Congress and the House is also aware that the Indian National Congress to-day is guiding the destinies of as many as eight provinces of the Indian Empire. What better guarantee can there be for the policy and programme of this Ministry? I appeal to the good sense of the House, I appeal to the sense of patriotism of my hon. friends, that they may not fall into the trap which has been laid for them by Mr. Hockenhull.

(*Voices: Hear, hear and loud applause from the Ministerialist party*).

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Government should reply now.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir. I do not indeed propose to make a lengthy speech as the motion has been discussed at least from different standpoints. I would only make a few remarks by way of reply to certain points which have been raised by the hon. mover of the motion and certain issues which have been raised in course of the discussion.


The first charge that was levelled against me is that on the 19th of September, I refused to accept the challenge of a no-confidence motion. It is well-known that on the 19th September no motion against my Ministry could stand because the Ministry then did not come into being. That

might be the particular taste of a particular kind of people who would like to throttle a being before it is born. But so far as we are concerned we are sorry we could not oblige the hon. friends on the opposition by accepting that challenge for the simple reason that we did not come into existence at that time.

The second point that has been raised is that we may not be giving adequate consideration to the claims of the minorities. I can say this with all definiteness and all emphasis that I can command, that this Government, as any Congress Government—or any Government with the spirit of Congress in it—will not only consider the claims of the minorities, but will try to further their interests. Sir, on the very day we had assumed office, as you may very well know, we were prepared to accept a lower amount of salary and naturally there was some saving from there. We made a declaration that so far as education was concerned at any rate that money should be allotted for the education of the minorities. I can say this that during this short space of time we have been in office we have done all that is possible not only to protect the interests of the minorities but to further their interests.

Then I think there was another charge against me, of depriving certain members of the freedom of movement. I do not want to speak anything more than what I said the other day about the circumstances under which the necessity for protection to certain members arose. It is probably very well-known even to the Hon'ble Speaker how from the time of the adjournment of the House, after the declaration of resignation of Sir Muhammad Saadulla, the state of tension that prevailed in the House and outside, the condition of fear and apprehension in the minds of members of assault and intimidation that has prevailed. We have every reason to fear the repetition of that occurrence even during the present session. Even when the Ministry had already come to office, my house was guarded around by a posse of not less than 300 people. As I said protection should be given to those who need it and it is the duty of every Government to give that protection. Therefore, I think, that the charge which was levelled against me is an unfair charge and I am prepared to say that this is a charge which is more or less manufactured with a particular purpose.

The last charge is that the Ministry did not give adequate relief to the flood-affected areas and they failed to take adequate measures to check the cholera. All that I can say is that the measures that we have taken regarding flood relief are much more adequate than that taken by the last Government. The last Government during four months gave only 3 lakhs of rupees whereas we during two months have given four lakhs of rupees. So also is the case with cholera. As many as 45 doctors worked in a subdivision. My Hon'ble Colleague Mr. Ramnath Das could not give that information on that date. I can definitely tell the House that 45 doctors were working in addition to the Assistant Director of Public Health and the Director of Public Health. So, all I can say is that these charges are more or less unfounded. As I said, Sir, we have assumed office only two months ago and I feel that it should be the duty of the Opposition to give us a chance of proving whether the declarations we have made and the assurance we have given are carried out or not. I do not want to go into many questions which will provoke rancour and ill-will but what I say is that I want good will from all sections of the House for the carrying of the Government which I expect will be a good Government and will satisfy all.



Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: On a point of information, Sir. I hope the Hon'ble Prime Minister will give reply as regards non-violent attitude of his Congress Government.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Prime Minister will give a second reply.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: May we know whether the Hon'ble Ministers will reply individually?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Is any other Hon'ble Minister going to take part in this debate?

(Voices :—No).

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir. It is really not a very fitting request at least on the part of my hon. friend Mr. Arun Kumar Chanda to ask for time because he was the very gentleman who moved a no-confidence motion against the Cabinet of Sir Muhammad Saadulla within a week after he took his oath.

Now I will place before the hon. members of this House the ways in which the present Cabinet has been formed. I am not concerned with the personnel of the Cabinet, but what I mean to say is that the questionable methods that were adopted from time to time by the Cabinet will surely have a very bad reaction upon the whole administration, and I must make it clear to all for the interest and welfare of the people of the country. Everybody knows the fact of the conversion of the night from our party to that of Hon'ble Mr. Bardoloi. This sort of things cannot certainly pass over without the notice of the people in general. Everybody also is no doubt well aware of the fact of conversion of Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali. If these things take place and the Hon'ble Ministers take part in all these mean methods, then the hon. members may imagine what would be the repercussion, what would be the reaction upon the whole administration of the country. I would only ask you to consider your position because you are the representatives of the public and you are to introduce a good atmosphere and good administration; but if you allow these sort of things to continue then nobody knows what would be its affect upon the administration. This is a serious thing to be considered. What I mean is that we must live for those whom we have been called upon to administer. Will those methods which you have adopted inspire confidence and good feeling for this Government? Can you say that the atmosphere is healthy and pure? It is no good of preaching sermon—it is no good of speaking that you are here for the good of the public. As regards the way in which you have formed the Ministry is most shameful. I should say that my hon. friend Mr. Gopinath Bardoloi, I should say that he is not like other Cabinet members, a Congressman by convenience but he is the only Congressman by conviction. So far as Mr. Ali Haidar Khan is concerned, I should say the Congress people created much trouble in his Zemindari by raising their voices of protest against the tyranny and oppression caused by his employees to his tenants. It is only a month ago his own people were prosecuted and convicted in a serious case. For number of years, the Congress of Mahatma fought against his tyranny and oppression and Mrs. Amrita Kaur of Bombay had to come for the delivery of his oppressed tenant and such a Zaminder to-day finds a place in the Congress Cabinet. What a fall of Congress !!

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The hon. member is going too far.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURI : I do not know how in course of one month only one can feel so much for his fellow countrymen, who has never given any thought in his life for poor people ? Can my hon. friend by accepting the Congress pledge or by signing on the paper only change his colour ? I cannot believe in all these things. No man, I should say, by signing the bond or by signing the document only can conscientiously carry on with the Congress programme. As regards my hon. friend Babu Kamini Kumar Sen, I should remind the members of this House that the Congress in a body supported the Money Lenders' Bill as he strongly opposed this Bill. He is a great money-lender and to-day he is there to carry on with the Congress programme.

I think, all the hon. members of this House know it fully well how the formation of the Ministry took place. Everybody knows how two gentlemen one from Malabar and other from Bengal came to strengthen the party of the Ministry. I do not know how these things can be tolerated. We are all here to maintain the purity of the administration. I find that our Ministers are taking their dinners with the persons who have got Government contract and publicly utilizing their resources for the strength of the Ministry. No body knows what will be the effect of all these upon the administration. I can remind all that before the formation of the present Ministry, the Congress members were crying for 50 per cent. reduction in land revenue but now it is quite clear that they have utterly failed to carry out that pledge. It is no good speaking from the platform only. I can remind Mr. Marak that he was also one of the signatories of the United Party. He is a Christian and the Christians are supposed to be true to their words, but in course of one month only he broke his promise and left the United party and now he is there to carry on with the Congress programme. I do not know on what consideration he has gone there.

Sir, another kick was given to the cause of the people. My friend Mr. Lalit Mohon Kar was the Secretary of the Reception Committee of All-Assam Teachers' Conference and he sponsored a resolution for the increment of village school teachers' pay. My friend Mr. Chanda, the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party, was the President of the Conference (*Voices :* He is still the President). But only the other day, Sir, they have rejected the resolution (*Voices :* We have not rejected it).

Now, we come over the Goalpara Tenancy (Amendment) Bill and the Sylhet Tenancy (Amendment) Bill. What part they have now played is clear to all. So it is no good winning others' admiration by false promises ; time will prove that false propaganda holds no water. Sir, we are not animated with any jealousy or anything of that sort, but we are concerned with the persons who form the Congress-Coalition Party who neither stand for Congress ideals nor for the good of the people. It is impossible to expect that they can carry out the programme of the Congress because they never thought in the lines of Congress ideals and the interest of the people for whom the Congress stands. I would further remind the House that after the assumption of office by the Congress-Coalition Government, not only communal riots took place between Hindus and Muhammadans, but even in the Khasi Hills—in Shillong—there was a riot. Who was responsible for this ? (*A voice :* You were). The Moslem League was not in Hailakandi, but one of the prominent members of the Congress Party lead a procession of 300 armed people

and trespassed in the house of a Member of Legislative Assembly of this Party. These are matters which public knows. Who is responsible for these misdeeds? These are matters which should be taken into consideration.

Sir, my friend has already said that it matters little whoever is there in the Cabinet, it matters little what is the personal capacity and intellect of a man if the programme and policy is there. Sir, that is not a fact. Sir, the Ministers should be persons of intellect and capacity, persons who command respect of the people. Sir, you might have seen in the papers that in Simla under the auspices of His Excellency the Viceroy, the Agricultural Ministers were called upon and a sitting is going on. I have got much regard for the reputation of my own Province. I would like the conference to be represented by a man from my Province who can maintain the reputation of the Province. I must see that the prestige of the Province does not suffer by his representation. (The Hon'ble the Speaker: The hon. member's time is up). So, I do not believe that simply because the programme and policy are there any one can put them into action. Something more is required, and that is intellect. So, I say that when the welfare of the Province is concerned, you should consider seriously whether the Ministry should not be manned by people who can render real and proper service to the people.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: On a point of explaining a personal charge, Sir. My hon. friend over there made a personal remark about me. May I know in whose name he and his community framed the Saadulla Cabinet and in whose name they broke that Cabinet? I hold them responsible for overthrowing the Saadulla Cabinet (*Hear, hear*).

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is an irony of fate that I should take my stand to support a motion of no-confidence in a Ministry which has been formed by my hon. and beloved friend Mr. Gopinath Bardoloi and against two of my last colleagues. Sir, the Prime Minister of Assam has, I believe, a soft corner in his heart for me, and I have it for him. It is for this reason that he is held in distrust and suspicion by some members of the rank and file and it is for this reason that, although the Prime Minister of a Province ought to be gracious and smiling on his opponents, he always frowned at me.

It is also an irony of fate that my hon. friend the Prime Minister should have formed a Ministry at all. Did he not, while fighting against me in the last election campaign, plead from house to house and preach before the multitude of illiterate masses that his party would never accept the Ministry? Did he not say to those ignorant and illiterate masses in a very convincing way that acceptance of Ministry would mean imposition of heavy burden of taxation on the poor raiyats? Did he not tell his constituency that after the Otto Niemeyer Award no honest man ought to think of carrying on the Government of the Province? I would ask him now whether he has got any confidential communication from the Secretary of State that the Otto Niemeyer Award has been rescinded between the date of his taking oath and now.

Sir, it is the painful duty of every legislator to bring in motions of no-confidence whenever he feels that he has really no-confidence in the Ministry and it should not be imagined that it is actuated by any feeling of rank and bias. There would be criticisms and counter-criticisms, and every one has to take it up as a sportsman. I say this, Sir, because my hon. friend pleaded that he was not going to make a lengthy speech as it was likely to

create bitterness. My two reasons for which I do not feel that I have confidence in this Ministry are as follows:

Firstly, Sir, the Government consists of only one Congressman of a genuine type (*Voices*: Question); just as a single swallow cannot make a summer, similarly Mr. Bardoloi cannot be expected to carry with him the rest of the Cabinet in the Congress programme. Furthermore, we know that this Ministry was begotten in the midst of several no-confidence motions. On the 19th of September last at 9-30 a.m., he was to have taken his oath, but the time was changed on the plea of an auspicious nature of the hour (*loud laughter*). As soon as it was in the air that my hon. friends were going to take the oath several motions of no-confidence were put in, and on the plea that it was too early to take the oath the motions were conveniently not allowed to be moved on the ground that the Ministers had not taken their oaths.

My hon. friend Mr. Jobang D. Marak has said that it was too early to bring a motion of no-confidence against the present Ministry to-day because they have not had sufficient time to show what they can do, but if my hon. friend's memory is not short he will remember that he himself put in a motion of no-confidence on the 21st of September 1938 against the present Ministry, only 24 hours after the taking of the oath—(*loud laughter*). My hon. friend has preached to this House that he has learnt many things within the short time, therefore, Sir, time is not the real essence of acquiring wisdom—he has shown that wisdom can be acquired very quickly, because he changed his spots again on the 3rd or 4th of October. (*Laughter.*)

Now, Sir, I was saying that I have no confidence because of the present constituents of the Ministry. We all know that the hon. friends who form the coalition of the Hon'ble Prime Minister do not exhibit any example of the rectitude of my hon. friend in politics. I would ask my Hon'ble friend Khan Bahadur Mahmud Ali what really transpired between the 21st of September and the day of his taking his oath which made him secede from the Assam United Party. Is not the public entitled to charge him with changing his spots simply because he has been given a place in the Cabinet?

Voices: It is not your monopoly.

Another voice: Conviction.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: If it was really on account of his conviction, I would ask him why he did not.....

A voice: Is the hon. member entitled to ask the Hon'ble Minister why he has changed his view?

Another voice: Certainly.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: If it is on account of his conviction, I would ask him if he would subscribe to the policy of a joint electorate for the Muhammadans in future elections? Whether he is a real convert to the principles of the Congress, or whether he is sitting on the Congress Benches in return for something which he has got from them? (*Voices*: what about you?)

Then, as regards my friend the Hon'ble Babu Akshay Kumar Das there. He has created a new precedent for Parliamentary procedure. Never did any Hon'ble Minister of any Cabinet before so slyly and secretly join the opposite party soon after the dissolution of the former Cabinet, in fact before he had really been relieved of his office. It is in the recollection of everyone that he was with the old Cabinet, that he resigned with the other members of the Cabinet, and that he and his supporters said that he had confidence in the Saadulla Ministry and that he requested Sir Saadulla to form a Cabinet. Sir, I submit that, conduct of this kind really

creates a very bad example on our future generations to follow. (*Hear, hear, and cries of dissent from the other side*). Such questionable acts are likely to bring down the fair name of the Congress. (*Hear, hear, from the Opposition Benches and loud cries of "what about you" from the Congress Benches*). I say Sir, that the Congress is now taking the help of the people who are thousands of miles away from the Congress in principles, and it is for that reason that we are experiencing such a want of discipline even in this House.

Then, Sir, as regards my Hon'ble friend Maulavi Ali Haidar Khan, we all know how he was ridiculed by the Congress Party on every occasion when he was a member of the old Cabinet. He was criticised and ridiculed whenever he spoke. But now he is the virtual dictator of the present Cabinet—he was even offered the position of Prime Minister, and it was his graciousness that he refused to accept it and Mr. Bardoloi got it.

Then, we have the Hon'ble Mr. Ramnath Das. He has absolutely no following as a matter of fact, but I congratulate him to-day because the Congress stalwarts sitting behind him are acknowledging allegiance to him.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member has only 3 minutes more.

Srijiut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Then, another reason why I have no confidence in the present Ministry is that their practice is different from what they preach. It will be in the recollection of this House that in the last August session of the Assembly the Hon'ble Premier's party brought a resolution demanding a reduction of 50 per cent. of land revenue, and when that resolution was defeated, a demand was made for a reduction at a flat rate of 33 per cent. which was given. But now, after having accepted office, not to speak of 50 per cent. reduction, what is worse they have withdrawn the flat rate reduction of 33 per cent. and are giving less remission to poor people of some districts. That is the difference between practising and preaching. They say that on account of a deficit of 10 lakhs in the budget they cannot give more, but the old Cabinet even with a deficit of 35 lakhs granted a flat rate reduction of 33 per cent. and even then how severely we were criticised by the Congress party.

Then, Sir, during the days of the old Cabinet there was a very vehement demand for repealing the Assam Criminal Law Amendment Act, but as soon as the Congress assumed office that Bill was withdrawn. Then, during the last Cabinet they persistently wanted to pass the Revenue Tribunal Bill which proposed to lay down that a member of the Provincial Judicial Service or lawyer should take the place of a man from the Indian Civil Service, but as soon as they assumed office that Bill was withdrawn, which means that the post is going to be occupied by a member of the Indian Civil Service. That, Sir, again is the difference between profession and actual practice.

Then, Sir, my hon. friend were talking very big about the question of prohibition, prohibition of opium, prohibition of *ganja* and prohibition of liquor. What did they do? Although a Bill was passed by the Congress Party still that Bill was not placed before the House for the simple reason perhaps that they could not sacrifice revenue and secondly perhaps the Hon'ble the Premier could not carry his Hon'ble Colleagues with him.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member is exceeding his time.

Srijiut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Only two minutes, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Very well.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Then, Sir, what tyranny and oppression has set in within these two months is known to everybody. All these the Premier has done just to enable him to be firm in his saddle. In the history of the Assam Legislature never was such a thing heard of as posting constables to guard the Ministers. (*Voices: Because of you!*). Sir, have you heard of a single instance where such a riot or assault has taken place in the past? The Premier himself admits that there were 300 men surrounding his house when Khan Bahadur Mahmud Ali was about to take his oath of office. These 300 people never molested anybody and it is evident that they did not do so because the Premier never cared to call for police at the time. Most certainly he must have been convinced that these people were assembled to have a *darshan* of the great Khan Bahadur! (*Laughter.*) Now that a no-confidence motion has been tabled and is going to be discussed, although there was not the least necessity, such a great police arrangement has been made guarding the House and all around.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think the hon. member should finish now.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I have many things to say, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: But there are others to speak also. (*Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri then resumed his seat.*)

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Are we not exceeding the time, Sir?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I am ready to extend the time. The rules empower me to do so.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMIRUDDIN: Sir, I find the motion before the House is not so much one of no confidence as it is a deliberate campaign of abject calumny and carping criticism against the present Ministry. I remember when the *ex*-Minister was in office some of my Moslem friends now adorning the Opposition Benches had been madly roaming about to canvass support for a similar motion of no-confidence against that Ministry. At about 2 p.m. on the 19th September, I clearly remember that the Hon'ble Sir Muhammad Saadulla, the then Premier declared on the floor of this House that his Cabinet had not enjoyed the confidence of the majority of the members of this Assembly. But it is very curious to think that even some of the Moslem members who had been on that date participating in that no-confidence motion and flirting with the Congress had so suddenly changed their attitude at about 8 p.m. in the night that they turned themselves into confidence-*wallahs* again. I do not know, Sir, who was the efficient physician and wherefrom he had come to inject such a dose of confidence into these friends of mine. (*Laughter.*) This injection within such a brief moment is really very suggestive. Such inconsistency and such inconstancy had better be not the characteristics of my hon. friends. Now, Sir, even before the present Ministry assumed charge of administration, the Opposition had been very madly plotting against the formation of the Ministry itself. And one very peculiar aspect of that plot is that the Planting group had ungrudgingly lent their support to this Opposition. I may say that the present constitution is not the constitution of the Indians. It is particularly the constitution framed by the British Rulers (*A voice: Not at all*). It is a statutory provision that the Europeans must under any circumstances support the King's Government, Congress or non-Congress, or under whatever denomination it would go. But curiously enough my hon. friends, the Planters who for long two years had been holding the balance of power in their hands

and helped the Saadulla Ministry, have taken such a stern attitude towards this Government that I can hardly reconcile myself to think what in future will be their course of action. Now so far as I can understand the present motion is not a struggle based on any political principles, but it is a trial of strength organized by the newly hatched Assam United Party to keep political power in its hands and enjoy the loaves and fishes of office. Even the *ex*-Ministry was no better than a Coalition.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: On a point of order, Sir.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member (referring to Maulavi Muhammad Amiruddin) will please resume his seat as a point of order has been raised.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: On a point of information, Sir... ..

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order. The hon. member wanted to raise a point of order and I asked the member who was in possession of the House to resume his seat. As soon as he has done so the hon. member now says 'On a point of information'. I cannot allow that.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMIRUDDIN: Sir, even the *ex*-Ministry was no better than a Coalition Ministry; and on one occasion, I remember that the then Leader of the House when questioned as to the form of his Ministry, he said that it was not a Muslim League Ministry but it was only a Coalition Ministry.

If the previous Ministry was a Coalition Ministry, what justification can there exist for overthrowing its substitute, also a Coalition Ministry and a better substitute? Is it not that because of the fact that two Congress members are included in this Ministry that this opposition has been engineered? In this province the interests of the different communities are so divergent and heterogeneous that no Government on earth can bring about a real and proper adjustment of all the conflicting interests prevailing in this province. One community may say—'Our interests are not well represented' and another group or community may say—'Our interests are not properly looked after'. If things are permitted to continue in this state of chaos I do not think any form of Government can safeguard the interests of all the communities concerned and attain stability so as to ensure peace, order and prosperity of the province not to talk of being able to initiate any policy of constructive work.

As regards this Coalition Government, the Opposition was not prepared even to allow an opportunity to the Council of Ministers to formulate and declare their policy and programme—far less to give effect to them. Even from before the present Ministry assumed office the Opposition had been plotting to hinder its formation. The attacks against this Ministry to-day are too frivolous and too premature and inspired by the wire pulling of the Planters. The Oppositionists are never justified in saying that this Ministry has not done this or that. They have not allowed them any opportunity to do anything meritorious within this brief space of time.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member has got only two minutes more.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMIRUDDIN: Just on the assumption raised by this Ministry, Sir, a country-wide cry of 'Islam in danger' was supported by the dethroned Ministers of the League party and their other supporters to infuriate the Muslim masses.

Maulavi Dewan MD. AHBAB CHAUDHURY: On a point of order, Sir. We object to his statement and ask him to withdraw it and I question the statement, Sir.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMIRUDDIN: The cry, Sir, was that under the regime of the present Government the interests of the Muslims would be sadly jeopardised. Do they say, Sir, that only Sir Muhammad Saadulla, Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury and Maulavi Munawwar Ali are the only prototypes of *pukka* Musalmans in this province that on their fall Islam must be in danger? Is this trio the only Muslim leaders who are capable of safeguarding the interests of the Muslims at large? What did they do for the poor masses when they were in office that their fall from power should so stir Muslim feeling to the depth from one end of the province to another? Who is responsible for igniting the Muslim mass psychology so as to create a state of bitterness and rancour amongst the unsophisticated Muslim masses? I would say, Sir, that Islam is never in danger. It can never be in danger. It shall never be in danger, since it has stood countless ordeals for centuries and centuries together all over the world. If anything is in danger it is the selfish interests of the dethroned Ministers. I appeal now with all my earnestness to the good sense and reason of my Muslim brethren and humbly beseech them not to be led away by sentiments and emotions fomented by a few individuals out to satisfy their own personal ends to the detriment of the best and truest interest of my community.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Would the hon. mover like to reply?

(No reply)

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Sir, if I rise to associate myself with this motion, I do so, not in a spirit of hostility or opposition for opposition's sake, but only in order to place some incontrovertible facts before the House for their calm and dispassionate consideration. It has been stated by several members of this House that the formation of this Ministry has been not without its faults. We have all admired the high and lofty ideals of the Congress. But surely we see that the Assam Congress have gone in for pettifoggery in the formation of this Ministry (*Hear, hear*). It is a fact only too well-known that in this House the Congress are not in a majority. So it is not possible for the Congress Party to form a purely Congress Ministry. They have called this present Cabinet a Congress Coalition. But is it really a Congress Coalition? Is it really a coalition at all? What does the term 'coalition' connote? Coalition has always an instability inherent in it. That has been the opinion of political thinkers. Now, Sir, a coalition would have meant an adjustment of the principles and programme of different parties in the House. But the present Cabinet has placed before it as the ideal the Congress programme, the Congress ideal and the Congress discipline (*Hear, hear*). They have sought the co-operation, not of parties, but of individuals. Their condition precedent is that any party which wants to co-operate with them must submit to their ideal, to their programme and to their discipline (*Hear, hear*). As I have said, they have not sought the co-operation of parties, but of individuals. Is that the way, Sir, to make a coalition? As has been said by my predecessors, in forming this hotchpotch they have gone in for persons who have no political career behind them and who are dark horses in politics, (Srijut Beliram Das:—How long has the hon. member been in politics?) who have no following and who have no party principles. (*A voice*:—But they are not dark horses).

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member may go on.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: So, Sir, they have formed this coalition in a haphazard manner. And what is the result? The result has been uncertainty and instability. We are very much pained to see this spectacle, because we have come to this House to do some good to the country. In this state of uncertainty is it possible for any member of this House to discharge the trust that is on his shoulders? Sir, the edifice which has been built on the foundation of expediency with *kutch* bricks—I should say, with unseasoned materials—is sure to respond to the shocks and yield to it, and it may be, to succumb (Srijut Mahi Chandra Bora—by your shock). It may be, this Cabinet may withstand this attack (Voices—Oh!).

I would crave the indulgence of the House and remind the Hon'ble the Leader of the House that on a similar occasion during the last session he said, "it is impossible to carry on the Government with a bare majority only; when a Government finds that it has to carry on the Government with a bare majority, that Government ought to resign." (Confusion in the House). So for the sake of good Government which we have all in view, I would ask the Hon'ble Leader of the House to consider whether it is not time to form a real coalition (Voices—Oh!) and not a Congress Coalition as it is now and to take into confidence all the parties in this House, to have a common programme and push on that programme and to abjure the name of the Congress, to relax their principle and to adjust the programme by common consent and according to the wishes of the whole House. But if the Hon'ble the Leader of the House is so unrelenting and says: we cannot sacrifice our principle—we cannot surrender our programme, then the only course that seems to me to be open is to resign and to ask for a general election so that the Congress party may come in a majority.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Sir, we have debated this motion for over two hours, and I think all the sides of the question have been discussed and the full-dress debate that the hon. Mr. Hockenull wanted has, I hope, been finished by now. I do not propose to say much. I must congratulate my "beloved" friend Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri in having got back his old form.

In the first place, he levelled his attack against my friend Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali. I can tell the House on his behalf that he was directed by the Party to which he belonged, namely, the Jamiat-al-ulema party to join the Coalition, and he was merely carrying out the dictates of his constituency, when he joined the Ministry.

Then, Sir, in reference to my friend Babu Akshay Kumar Das, I can say that he was perfectly dissatisfied with the working of the last Cabinet. It was up to his conviction, when he decided to join the present Cabinet that he could work according to the programme and policy of the Congress.

So far as the Hon'ble Maulavi M. Ali Haider Khan is concerned, I consider that the attack made was unfair. He was driven out from the last Cabinet for unjustifiable reasons and since then he had taken up an attitude of opposition against the last Cabinet. He was only acting according to his conscience when he joined our Cabinet. Therefore, I consider that these criticisms of the Opposition are really unfair.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: On a point of order, Sir. The Hon'ble Minister is not justified in attacking his colleague.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Then in reference to what Khan Bahadur Sayidur Rahman said, it does not lie in him to criticise the present Cabinet. It may be well known that we wanted the co-operation of every member of this House in the formation of this Cabinet, and under the instructions of Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad, who is a member of the Congress Working Committee, and a member of the Congress Parliamentary Committee, we requested every Muslim group of the House to come and help us. And my hon. friend Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman was also invited. Therefore this criticism is not fair.

Then with regard to what has been said that we cannot have a big margin of difference between the following of the Opposition and that of the Government, and that we should go for a general election for better division of parties, the constitutional position may very well be known to the hon. members. I am prepared to accept the verdict of the country on this question, as I believe that only then that this constitutional difficulty can be solved. I challenge the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition to state whether he is prepared to face the electors for the determination of the strength of parties. I want to say that we are not prepared to change the personnel of this Cabinet. It must stand as it is. It shall rise or fall together.

Mr. F. W. HOCKENHULL: May I bring it to your notice that I have not got a reply to the point I raised, namely that whether the present Government was prepared to work the constitution and not to break it?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: With regard to that reference I must make the position of the Congress very clear. We shall proceed by the constitutional method inside the Legislature, but surely in the manner to achieve freedom. And this could be done by taking all advantages that the working of the constitution would give. We can gain them by stages, by creating deadlocks and things of that kind within the constitution.

The Congress has besides extra-Parliamentary activities outside the Legislature. This is indeed a more onerous and more important part of its work. But even then it follows a method of its own—the method of non-violence and peace.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURI: May I know, Sir, what is the attitude of his party regarding the non-violent creed of the Congress and what about his threat of taking strong measures with a strong hand?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I would request the hon. member to draw his own inference.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I shall now put the question—"That this House has no confidence in the present Ministry formed by Mr. Gopinath Bardoloi".

(Division was claimed and bells were rung).

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: (After the ringing of the bells). Before the House divides, I wish to remind the House of the following division rules:—

"6. The members shall be allowed two minutes to go to the lobbies for which time the bells will go on ringing and after which period the doors on the Speaker's left leading to the lobbies shall be closed and on no account any member or members still remaining in the Chamber shall be allowed to open the door and enter the lobbies. The door shall remain closed until the result of the Division has been announced by the Speaker.

7. On no account shall a member be allowed at the time of Division to go to any part of the Chamber before going to the lobbies.

8. If, in the opinion of the Speaker, any member is regarded as having been taken to the lobbies by force or in any other unseemly manner, the vote of that member shall be expunged".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is : "that this House has no confidence in the present Ministry formed by Mr. Gopinath Bardoloi."

The House then divided as follows :—

Ayes —50

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| 1. Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla. | 25. Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Choudhury. |
| 2. Maulavi Munawwar Ali. | 26. Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia. |
| 3. Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy. | 27. Maulavi Mabarak Ali. |
| 4. Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri. | 28. Khan Sahib Maulavi Mudabir Hussain Chaudhury. |
| 5. Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhury. | 29. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur Rahman. |
| 6. Babu Hirendra Chandra Chakravarty. | 30. Maulavi Muzarrof Ali Laskar. |
| 7. Srijut Jogendra Narayan Mandal. | 31. Maulavi Namwar Ali Barbhuiya. |
| 8. Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta. | 32. Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed. |
| 9. Srijut Santosh Kumar Barua. | 33. Maulavi Sheikh Osman Ali Sadagar. |
| 10. Maulavi Abdul Aziz. | 34. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman. |
| 11. Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhuri. | 35. Shams-ul-Ulama Maulana Abu Nasr Md. Waheed. |
| 12. Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan. | 36. Col. A. B. Beddow. |
| 13. Khan Bahadur Hazi Abdul Majid Chaudhury. | 37. Mr. A. F. Bendall. |
| 14. Maulavi Abdur Rahman. | 38. Mr. F. W. Blennerhassett. |
| 15. Maulavi Syed Abdur Rouf. | 39. Mr. H. F. Clark. |
| 16. Maulavi Md. Abdus Salam. | 40. Mr. J. R. Clayton. |
| 17. Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahbab Chaudhury. | 41. Mr. W. R. Faull. |
| 18. Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali. | 42. Mr. F. W. Hockenhull. |
| 19. Maulavi Ashrafuddin Md. Chaudhury. | 43. Mr. D. B. H. Moore. |
| 20. Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed. | 44. Mr. R. A. Palmer. |
| 21. Khan Bahadur Dewan Eklimur Roza Chaudhury. | 45. Miss Mavis Dunn. |
| 22. Maulavi Ghyasuddin Ahmed. | 46. Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das. |
| 23. Maulavi Jahanuddin Ahmed. | 47. Srijut Binode Kumar J. Sarwan. |
| 24. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Keramat Ali. | 48. Rev. L. Gatphoh. |
| | 49. Mr. C. Goldsmith. |
| | 50. Mr. P. Parida. |

Noes —54

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| 1. The Hon'ble Babu Akshay Kumar Das. | 29. Babu Lalit Mohan Kar. |
| 2. Kumar Ajit Narayan Dev. | 30. Srijut Mahadev Sarmah. |
| 3. Mr. Arun Kumar Chanda. | 31. Srijut Mahi Chandra Bora. |
| 4. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee. | 32. Srijut Omeo Kumar Das. |
| 5. Babu Balaram Sircar. | 33. Srijut Paramananda Das. |
| 6. Srijut Beliram Das. | 34. Rai Bahadur Promode Chandra Dutt. |
| 7. Srijut Bepin Chandra Medhi. | 35. Srijut Purandar Sarma. |
| 8. Srijut Bhuban Chandra Gogoi. | 36. Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma. |
| 9. Babu Bipin Behari Das. | 37. Srijut Rajani Kanta Barooah. |
| 10. Srijut Bishnu Ram Medhi. | 38. Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua. |
| 11. Babu Dakshina Ranjan Gupta Chaudhuri. | 39. The Hon'ble Srijut Ram Nath Das. |
| 12. Srijut Debeswar Sarmah. | 40. Srijut Sankar Chandra Barua. |
| 13. Srijut Ghanashyam Das. | 41. Srijut Sarveswar Barua. |
| 14. Srijut Gaurikanta Talukdar. | 42. Babu Shibendra Chandra Biswas. |
| 15. The Hon'ble Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi. | 43. Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma. |
| 16. Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan. | 44. The Hon'ble Maulavi Md. Ali Haidar Khan. |
| 17. Babu Harendra Narayan Chaudhuri. | 45. Maulavi Muhammad Amiruddin. |
| 18. Srijut Jadav Prasad Chaliha. | 46. The Hon'ble Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed. |
| 19. Srijut Jogendra Chandra Nath. | 47. The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali. |
| 20. Srijut Jogesh Chandra Gohain. | 48. Srijut Bideshi Pan Tanti. |
| 21. Babu Kalachand Roy. | 49. Srijut Dhirsingh Deuri. |
| 22. Srijut Kameswar Das. | 50. Mr. Jobang D. Marak. |
| 23. The Hon'ble Babu Kamini Kumar Sen. | 51. Srijut Karka Dalay Miri. |
| 24. Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy. | 52. Srijut Khorsing Terang. |
| 25. Mr. Kedarmal Brahmin. | 53. Srijut Rabi Chandra Kachari. |
| 26. Srijut Krishna Nath Sarmah. | 54. The Hon'ble Srijut Rupnath Brahma. |
| 27. Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya. | |
| 28. Srijut Lakshesvar Borooh. | |

(After the division).

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Before I announce the result of the division I am to request the hon. members to refrain from making any demonstration on the floor of the House over the result.

(after a pause)

Ayes... ... 50

Noes 54

The motion is lost.

ADJOURNMENT

The Assembly was then adjourned till 2 p. m. on Friday the 9th December, 1938.

Shillong,

The 28th January, 1939.

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.