

**Proceedings of the First Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly
assembled under the Sovereign Democratic Republican Constitution
of India**

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 10 A.M. on Tuesday, the 21st March, 1950.

P R E S E N T

The Hon'ble Mr. Lakshesvar Borooah, Speaker, in the Chair, the seven Hon'ble Ministers and thirty-five Members.

Oath of allegiance

The following Member was sworn in :—
Srijut Manisankar Basumatari.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral Answers were given).

Works under Petrol Tax Project under the Post-War Development Scheme

Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI asked :

*4. (a) Will Government be pleased to state why the works under Petrol Tax Project under the Post-War Development Scheme has been dropped in spite of the sanction granted by the Government of India ?

(b) Is it a fact that the fund sanctioned for Petrol Tax Project has been diverted to other works ?

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

4. (a)—Projects sanctioned by the Government of India but not yet started have been temporarily kept in abeyance until the incidence of cost of the Shillong-Silchar Road is finally determined.

(b)—The reply is in the negative.

Mr. C. W. MORLEY : Is it not a fact that the Shillong-Silchar Road has been definitely abandoned ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : This road is being discussed now and I cannot definitely say what will be the position afterwards.

Road communication in Baska Area

Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI asked :

*5. (a) Is it a fact that the whole of Baska area has been considered by the Government to be a surplus paddy producing area ?

(b) Is it a fact that there is no proper road communication in that area essential for proper movement of foodstuff ?

(c) If so, what steps Government have taken so as to establish proper road communication there ?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

5. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The question of improving the roads to the paddy surplus areas is under consideration of the Government.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: May I know where is this Baska ?

Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: Baska is an area comprising six mouzas in the Kamrup district.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which Answers were laid on the table)

Scheme for combating insect-pest to Coconut Trees

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

34. Will Government be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.132(f) asked by the Questioner during the Budget Session of the Assembly, 1949 (*vide* Assembly Debates of 29th March, 1949 at page 641) re scheme for combating insect-pest to cocoanut trees and state—

- (a) Whether Government have accorded sanction to the scheme for fighting insect-pest to cocoanut trees ?
- (b) Whether the scheme has been put into operation ?
- (c) If so, in which districts or localities ?
- (d) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS replied :

34. (a)—No.
 (b)—Does not arise.
 (c)—Does not arise.
 (d)—Government have decided to postpone operation of the scheme (*vide* letter No.AGA.10/48/31, dated the 3rd November 1949) due to the present financial stringency of the State.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: With regard to (a), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us some idea as to the nature of the scheme for fighting insect-pests to cocoanut trees ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS: The scheme provided for a survey of the areas and measures to control the pest, but due to our financial stringency the scheme could not be sanctioned.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: What is the method of fighting the pest, according to the scheme, Sir ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS: I have already stated that the scheme provided for a survey of the areas and appointment of staff with implements to control the pest, but the scheme could not be sanctioned due to financial limitation.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Will Government be pleased to state what amount of money will be required for the execution of the proposed scheme ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS: About Rs.8,000.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Is it not a fact that on a previous occasion in reply to my Question Government gave us to understand that the money required was only Rs.1,300 ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS: It is not so, according to the estimates prepared it was found that the amount required was more than Rs.8,000.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Having regard to the fact that the pest is doing immense harm to the cocoanut cultivation, should not Government be prepared to spend this petty amount for the protection of this very important agricultural produce ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS: Government realise the importance of this problem, but the point is that owing to our financial stringency we cannot take up the scheme at the present stage.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Cannot Government make a humble beginning by surveying a particular small locality and make an experiment of the scheme thereby spending a smaller amount of money, say Rs.1,000 ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS: Sir, I have nothing further to add.

Average *per capita* income per annum of the indigenous people of Assam

Srijut DALBIR SINGH LOHAR asked :

35. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The average *per capita* income per annum of the indigenous people of Assam, district by district ?
- (b) Whether Government have any plans to increase this income ?
- (c) If so, what are those plans ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

35. (a)—So far, the average *per capita* income of the rural inhabitants of the Darrang District alone has been determined and this works out to Rs.170 per annum. Analysis of the data collected for other plains districts of the State is in progress.

(b) & (c)—Government are encouraging the ryots to grow more food by undertaking several minor irrigation projects and distributing manure at cheap rates.

Price of Gur

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

36. (a) Are Government aware—

- (i) That due to scarcity of sugar in the State people are using Gur more extensively than before ?
- (ii) That taking advantage of this high demand for Gur, dealers are raising its price as they like ?
- (iii) That Gur is being sold at Re.1 to Re.1-4-0 per seer in towns and villages respectively and at much higher price in distant localities ?

(b) With a view to give some relief to the people do Government propose to take immediately some such steps as will bring down the price of Gur to a reasonable level ?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

36. (a) (i)—There is no official information on the point but it can be presumed that *Gur* is being more extensively used than before to supplement the rationed supply of sugar.

(ii)—Though *Gur* has been re-controlled since, price thereof has not been fixed yet owing to supply difficulties and so the price level is naturally being dominated by the usual principle of demand and supply.

(iii) Report of the ruling prices of *Gur* in different places of Assam during the fortnight ending 28th February 1950 so far received are as follows :—

					Rs. a. p.		Rs. a. p.
Aijal	...	...	...	...	0 10 0	to	0 12 0
Tezpur	...	...	...	...	0 12 0	to	0 14 0
Tirap Frontier Tract	...	...	...	...	0 12 0		
Shillong	...	...	...	...	1 0 0		
North Lakhimpur	...	...	...	...	0 12 0		
Goalpara	...	...	...	...	1 0 0		

During the previous fortnight the price of *Gur* varied from annas 10 to Re.1-5-0 at different Stations. Rupee 1-5-0 being at Jowai and Re.1-4-0 at Gauhati.

(b)—Movement of *Gur* outside the Province has been banned and we moved the Government of India to allow us to import *Gur* from Bihar and United Provinces. The Government of India directed us to contact the States and on being approached Bihar has expressed inability to export *Gur* to ensure adequate supplies of cane to sugar factories and we have not yet received any reply from the United Provinces.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : With regard to (a) (ii), the reply is that though *Gur* has been re-controlled since, price thereof has not been fixed yet. Will the hon. Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to explain what is the significance of re-controlling if price be not fixed ?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) : According to control order, movement, price and distribution can be controlled. So far, we have controlled only movement but not price and distribution.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA : May I know whether it is a fact that huge quantities of *Gur* are used for distillation in the Dikom Distillery and this is one of the main reasons for high prices ?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) : It may be so.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA : Will Government take some steps to stop this and see that *Gur* is not utilised for distillation ?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) : At present the distillery manufactures liquor only from *Gur* without which it will have to close down. I therefore think that till the distillery can find out an alternative method it will have to use *Gur*.

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN : Which is more important ? To supply *Gur* to the distillery or to the people who, due to dearth of sugar, cannot give this bare necessity of life even to their children ?

Maulavi ABDUL HALIM: Should we look to the interest of the people or the interest of the capitalists ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: These are all vague questions.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It is a matter of opinion.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: It is not allowed by the Central Government to use Gur in distillation. They should import *Mohua* from outside for the purpose.

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): The matter may be examined by the Excise Department.

Dawki-Muktapur Road

Mr. LARSINGH KHYRIEM asked :

37. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether they propose to complete the construction of Dawki-Muktapur road ?
- (b) If not, whether they propose to make a crossing over the Amlympiang, Amtyrngai and Amsku rivers in order that the people of Satpator and Lakadong Doloiships may come to Dawki to take their ration during rainy season ?

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

37. (a) and (b)—The matter is under consideration of Government.

Mrs. BONILY KHONGMEN: Are we to understand that the construction of the Dawki-Muktapur Road as well as the proposal given by the Questioner are both under the consideration of the Government ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Yes, both are under the consideration of Government.

Number of assesseees during the year 1948-49 under the Assam Professions, Trades, Callings and Employments Taxation Act, 1947

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN asked :

38. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (1) The number of assesseees during the financial year 1948-49 under the Assam Professions, Trades, Callings and Employments Taxation Act, 1947 ?
- (2) The total amount paid in tax during the above year ?
- (3) In regard to assessment returns submitted under section 9 of the Act—
 - (i) the total number of assesseees and the total tax paid ;
 - (ii) the number of assesseees employed by Government Departments or Local Authorities ?
 - (iii) the number of assesseees employed by industrial or commercial firms and the total tax paid by such assesseees ?
- (4) The number of returns submitted under section 7 of the Act and the total amount paid ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

38. (1)—5,584.
 (2)—Rs.2,04,411.
 (3) (i)—2,402.
 Rs.85,289-0-0.
 (ii)—459.
 (iii)—1,826.
 Rs.65,234-0-0.
 (4)—3,041.
 Rs.1,17,845-0-0.

Free supply of Tea to Tea Garden Labourers

Srijut DALBIR SINGH LOHAR asked :

39. (a) Are Government aware that labourers who cultivate and manufacture tea in the tea gardens of Assam do not get any tea free of cost for their home consumption ?

(b) Do Government propose to take such steps as may be necessary so that each labourer in the tea gardens may get for each member of his family weekly and monthly quota of tea free of cost from the garden stock ?

(c) Are Government aware that the labourers who are the producers of tea are to buy tea for their consumption from the open market at high price ?

Srijut PURNANANDA CHETIA (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

39. (a) Yes. Free supply of tea of the "residuary grades" to the tea garden labourers was discontinued with the imposition of excise duty on such variety of tea.

(b) Government cannot enforce free supply of tea to labourers as this will increase the cost of production when such free supply of manufactured commodities are not made to labourers in any other industry.

(c) Very few labourers purchase tea in the open market. In many gardens, labourers collect the green leaves and make them into tea by a crude process for their own consumption.

Devaluation of Rupee and its effect

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

40. What amount of money has been slashed by the Union Government following the devaluation of the Indian rupee ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

40.—The question is not fully understood. The devaluation of the rupee and its effect on the Union Finances are Central Subjects and are not dealt with by the State.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : It is stated that Government has not fully understood my question. I want to know the amount of money that has been slashed by the Central Government since September last ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : The post-war grant which is sanctioned by the Central Government has nothing to do with the question of devaluation. These grants are made on their own merits. Due to financial difficulties Government were not given the post-war grant.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: Then is it not due to devaluation ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: No, it has probably no direct bearing with devaluation.

Occurrence in the Pakistan Border of the Union of Khasi and Jaintia Hills

Mrs. BONILY KHONGMEN asked :

41. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of casualties occurred later in the Pakistan border of the Union of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills ?

(b) The amount of properties lost by the villagers who live in the border areas ?

(c) Steps, if any, taken by Government to prevent such recurrence ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

41. (a)—Three. Two Gurkhalies and one Khasi.

(b)—The amount of loss in properties, so far reported to Government, sustained by the villagers living in the border areas, comes to about Rs.7,500 excluding damage to crops and loss of cattle.

(c)—Government have sent protests to the East Bangal Government, asked for joint enquiry in some cases and have kept the Government of India informed. They also propose to prepare the border people for self-defence.

Mrs. BONILY KHONGMEN: Do Government propose to give gun licenses to those people living in the Pakistan border ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: The entire matter will be considered. One Officer has been appointed as Special Superintendent of Police to look into this matter and to organize border defence, and also to give protection to those people. On receipt of his report, the matter will be considered by the Government.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: With regard to the death of three persons—one Khasi and two Gurkhalies, could we understand from the Government whether these people were engaged police in work ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: No. As far as I remember.

Stoppage in the issue of rice and paddy at concession rates to plantation workers

Srijut CHANOO KHERIA asked :

42. Are Government aware or have received report to the effect that in many tea gardens in different districts of Assam, the managers have stopped issuing of rice and paddy at concession rates, by taking plea that the labourers have paddy cultivation ?

Srijut PURNANANDA CHETIA (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

42.—Government have received some reports of stoppage or reduction in the issue of rice to plantation workers having Khet land. Government have since issued instructions for maintenance of *status quo* pending a decision in the matter by a Tripartite Conference to be convened shortly for the purpose.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: May I know at whose instance the usual ration was stopped, whether there was any Government order or at their own instance ?

Srijut PURNANANDA CHETIA (Parliamentary Secretary): It was done by the Industry.

348 STATEMENT BY THE HON'BLE MINISTER OF PUBLIC [21st MAR.
WORKS DEPARTMENT, ASSAM ON THE CHARGES OF
WASTAGE OF PUBLIC FUNDS IN CONNECTION WITH
CONSTRUCTION OF SHILLONG-CHURAIBARI-AGAR-
TALA ROAD MADE BY SHRI K. SANTHANAM,
MINISTER OF STATE, GOVERNMENT OF
INDIA

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: The answer is that Government have received some reports of stoppage or reduction in the issue of rice to plantation workers having Khet land. I want to know from the Government whether this was stopped by the management at their own instance or at the instance of the Government or at the instance of the Tripartite Conference?

Srijut PURNANANDA CHETIA (Parliamentary Secretary): By the management.

Statement by the Hon'ble Minister of Public Works Department, Assam on the charges of wastage of Public funds in connection with construction of Shillong-Churaibari-Agartala Road made by Shri K. Santhanam, Minister of State, Government of India.

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: On a point of information, Sir. The other day our Government have stated that they have sent a telegram in protest to the statement made by the Hon'ble Mr. Santhanam in the Indian Parliament. Can we know whether any reply has been received from the India Government?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Sir, I want to make a statement in regard to this. I sent a telegram on the 17th of this month at night and I have received a telegraphic reply on the 20th from the Private Secretary of Hon'ble Mr. Santhanam. That is this: "Your wire 17th inst. Letter follows in reply."

By my telegram I only wanted to ask Mr. Santhanam to state whether the statement made in the Press 'that Mr. Santhanam said in Parliament that the Government of Assam is specialising in wasting public funds'—has really been made by him or not. And this is the reply I have received to-day. I have not yet got the letter from Mr. Santhanam as stated in the telegram. But I would like to have some time to make a statement to-morrow. The Chief Engineer is not here. The Chief Engineer who was concerned in this affair has gone on leave for 3 months. The new Chief Engineer has gone over the road and he will probably be back on the day after to-morrow. I must say just for the information of the hon. Members as a preliminary statement, that Mr. Santhanam is wrong in accusing the Ministry of the Assam Government. I am going to prove by facts and by letters and correspondence that he does not know what the real position is. I want also to tell them that the statement of Mr. Santhanam regarding the Churaibari-Agartala Road does not concern the Assam Ministry. That part of the work is dealt with by the Governor and the Chief Engineer working under the Governor himself as Agent of the Ministry of States (New Delhi); and the Assam Ministry has nothing to do with it. I shall make a full statement to-morrow. I think, this thing should be published because this has agitated the public minds very greatly. I can repeat again that I shall prove by facts and by the correspondence we had with the Government of India with regard to the Shillong-Silchar Road which we are making now that we are not at fault at all.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: To-morrow there are so many Bills that there will be hardly any time for making the statement.

**Complaint re : reporting of Speeches of hon. Members by the Press
Trust of India**

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: With your permission, Sir, I should like to make a statement regarding the reporting of speeches of the hon. Members by the Press Trust of India. I find that our speeches are not correctly and fully reported by them. I understand that the Press Trust of India gets a lump sum of about Rs.600 a month from the Assam Government, but I find that the speeches made by the Treasury Benches are better reported and fully reported whereas those made by the Opposition Benches and some other Members are not properly reported or reported at all.

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Is it relevant for the purpose of this discussion ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Hon. Member will kindly make a complaint in writing.

**Statement by the Hon'ble Minister of Public Works Department, Assam,
on the charges of wastage of Public funds in connection with
construction of Shillong-Churaibari Agartala
Roads made by Shri K. Santhanam, Minister
of State, Government of India**

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: I think, the Hon'ble Minister should make a statement in reply to the statement made by Hon'ble Mr. Santhanam in the Parliament as early as possible in order to clarify the position.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I am making a statement to-morrow, Sir.

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, why the Hon'ble Minister should make his statement to-morrow when as the Hon'ble Finance Minister said that to-morrow is a heavy Government agenda day and there are many important Bills to be passed. Moreover, the Hon'ble Minister of Public Works Department has told us that the present Chief Engineer has gone over to the Road and he is expected to return to-morrow. In that case, the Hon'ble Minister should make his statement day-after-to-morrow, after seeing the present Chief Engineer and getting his opinion about the road.

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: I think, this statement should be made as early as possible as great mischief has already been done by the Press reports.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: In regard to the statement of Mr. Santhanam accusing Government of Assam's 'specialising in wasting of public fund', I must say that this statement is altogether baseless. This is going to be proved by me by facts and correspondences that passed between Government of India and Assam. I shall state that Assam Ministry is not at all concerned with the Churaibari-Agartala Road in Tripura State.

I can make the statement although the Chief Engineer has gone on the Road. If necessary I shall place the report of the Chief Engineer before the House.

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS: The Hon'ble Minister may make the statement to-day in the afternoon.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: On a point of order, Sir, the statement to be made by the Hon'ble Minister either to-day or to-morrow concerns the Government of Assam very much as the allegations made by Mr. Santhanam is very serious, so we desire that a discussion is allowed in the House after the Hon'ble Minister gives his statement, in which many hon. Members will like to take part.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There will be no debate. The Assam Government will make its position clear by the statement.

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: Sir, as we will have the advantage of the reply of Mr. Santhanam which is on the way, if the statement is made by the Hon'ble Minister before receiving this reply we will be deprived of the benefit of the information which will be available from that reply.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: This is one of the reasons why we are awaiting so long. Considering that there is a great deal of agitation in the public mind, I want to make the statement as early as possible without awaiting for the reply.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Mr. Santhanam was requested by our Government by wire to reply whether he made the statement in the Parliament which was reported in the Press, but in his telegraphic reply he has not stated whether he made the statement or not. We cannot go on waiting for his letter.

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: It is evident that the letter is on the way. I think, it would be convenient if we had that letter when the Hon'ble Minister makes his statement. This Government have taken the step of addressing the Government of India and asked them to reply whether the statement was made. They have sent a telegraphic communication to the effect that a letter is on the way. Will it not be better if the statement is made by the Hon'ble Minister when this letter is received by him?

Srijut BIMBALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): Although what Mr. Hardman has said may be fair yet the remedy for the mischief which has already been cannot brook any delay. Government wanted the reply by wire but he has not given it. I think, Sir, the statement should not be delayed any further.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister will make the statement to-morrow and if he receives the reply in the meantime he will place it before the House.

Election to the Assam Railway Advisory Committee

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: As a result of the ballot on the Assam Railway Advisory Committee held on the 20th March, 1950, Srijut Gauri Kanta Talukdar was elected. No votes were cast for any other candidate.

Demands for Grants

GRANT No.17.

(38.—Medical)

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.39,40,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1951 for the administration of the head "38.—Medical".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There is a Cut Motion in the name of Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.39,40,100 under Grant No.17, Major head—38.—Medical, at page 133 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.39,40,100 do stand reduced by Re.1.

The object of moving this Cut Motion being to urge on the need of giving immediate effect to the Bhore Committee's Recommendations.

Sir, the Bhore Committee's Recommendations, as far as I remember, were published on the 26th December, 1945. Not enough effect has been given to them. The health position of the country has been deteriorating. I do not know what steps if any have been taken by the Government in order to improve the condition of the people, so far as their health is concerned.

I know, Sir, it is difficult to spend the entire amount of 1,000 crores required for the full implementation of the Report and that it will require several years to give full effect to the recommendations. But, at least something should be done though partially in order to improve the health of the people of Assam. In Assam people suffer from a number of diseases for instance, malaria, this fell disease takes a heavy toll of nearly one hundred million people per year. There is the question of T.B. In spite of the use made by the Government of India and also by the Government of Assam of B.C.G. vaccine, which I think, has done something to prevent the spread of this fell disease, it continues to take its toll and some people are dying every minute.

Sir, as regards small-pox and cholera and other diseases although, from the reports published by the Government annually, we see some progress has been made with regard to some of the diseases, I don't think the position is said to be satisfactory.

The Bhore Committee's Report consisting of four big volumes gives an elaborate analysis as to the method to be adopted gradually in order to keep people free from a number of diseases which are preventible.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member will get only four minutes' time.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: Sir, I am sorry that I have to cut short. In any way, I draw the attention of the Government to the recommendations of the Bhore Committee's Report, so far as Assam is concerned. I hope the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge who comes from Jorhat will attentively listen to me and will see to it that the health position of the people of Assam improve steadily.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved :

"That the total provision of Rs.39,40,100 under Grant No.17, Major head—38.—Medical, at page 133 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.39,40,100 do stand reduced by Re.1."

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not agree with the Mover of this Motion to say that since the publication of the Report of the Bhore Committee, the health position of Assam had deteriorated. I do not know any basis of this statement made by him neither has he stated anything. My hon. Friend Dr. Husain has said that since the publication of the Report, he is not aware of any step taken so far by this Government to implement the recommendations of the Bhore Committee. Sir, as the Government stand now, it is not practicable and possible to implement *in toto* the recommendations of the Bhore Committee. The main recommendation of the Bhore Committee, is to train the required number of personnel that will be necessary to implement the Bhore Committee's Report. Sir, if Dr. Hussain says that we have not taken any steps to implement the Bhore Committee's recommendations, then he is wrong. I shall illustrate now, Sir, the necessary steps so far taken by us to implement as far as practicable.

Sir, before we came to power there were no institutions to produce Medical Graduates. The Medical College has been established to train Medical Graduates. Bhore Committee recommend only one kind of Doctors, who are graduates and not licentiates. So the institution—the Assam Medical College which is necessary to produce graduates—has already been started. We have also started one Nursing Training Centre at Dibrugarh. Sir, we admit that we are not in a position to train or to establish institutions to train the required number of personnel, at a time as we have got limitation in our finance. In fact Sir, we wanted to start Centres to train Nurses in different districts. But after the reduction of the grant from the Government of India, we had to abandon these schemes. Not only have we started these institutions to train our personnel, but also we have made improvement in the standard of the hospitals provincialised by us. In the five hospitals before they were provincialised there were no Nurses. We have given Nurses in those hospitals. To combat the incidence of Malaria about which my Friend, Dr. Chaudhury has stated we established an Anti-Malaria Organisation which after doing its work for sometime had to be closed due to the decision of India not to give any grant to the post-war schemes in the next year. Also we started a T.B. Organisation to survey the incidence of T.B. diseases in different areas. We surveyed the Jorhat town and got the incidence of the disease in that area. We have started a clinic there for treatment of T.B. disease. We added to the number of beds in the T. B. Hospital in Shillong after its provincialisation. We want to increase further the number of beds there but again, due to the limitation of finance, we have not been able to implement our desire. Even with all the difficulties created by finance, we have started the B.C.G. Vaccination.

Sir, as regards, Small-pox we had once recruited many Rural Inspectors for giving vaccination against Small-pox.

As against *Kala-azar* and other diseases against which we have got measures to combat them. So, Sir, I say that we have taken steps to implement gradually what is recommended in the Bhore Committee's Report. Even then, if my hon. Friend, Dr. Husain says that we have not taken any steps to implement gradually the recommendations of the Bhore Committee, then I should say that he is wrong in his assumption.

With these few words, I would like to request my hon. Friend to withdraw his Cut Motion.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: Sir, in view of the assurance given by my Friend, Hon'ble Srijut Ramnath Das, I, as in duty bound, beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

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

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: Sir, I am moving my other Cut Motion.

I beg to move, Sir, that the total provision of Rs.39,40,100 under Grant No.17, Major head—38.—Medical, at page 133 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.39,40,100 do stand reduced by Re.1. By this Cut Motion I want to raise a general discussion about the administration of the Department.

We have just listened to a statement made by the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of the Medical Department that ever since the publication of the Bhoré Committee's Report he has been taking measures in order to improve the health condition of the people by the expansion of the number of hospitals, addition of the number of nurses, establishment of a Medical College, etc. But, as I have not much time at my disposal I do not like to go into greater details as regards the general administration of his Department, I only want to draw the pointed attention of the Department responsible for the administration of the Dibrugarh Medical College. I think Members coming from that place will confirm me when I say that the administration is anything but satisfactory (*a voice—hear*), We understand there are a number of experts, so called experts who cannot diagnose diseases. I do not want to name them. The gentleman who has been appointed as Vice-President, the Eye Specialist, I am told cannot diagnose eye diseases correctly. Secondly, the poor people when they happen to come to the hospital for treatment are neglected and they generally succumb to the diseases. Besides that no good diet is provided to the patients. Government attention was drawn to the complaints by the papers and by my esteemed Friend, Srijut Gogoi in the course of his Budget speech. I am therefore again drawing the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the need of some improvement for the Medical College at Dibrugarh. Sir, we are short of doctors and our people are greatly suffering for want of adequate Medical aid. We do not want M. Bs. The licentiate medical practitioners and L. M. S. are quite sufficient for us. As a matter of fact it was wrong to establish a Medical College when we are so short of doctors. Our country is still very much short of doctors and it will continue to be so for many years to come, and therefore we want licentiate medical practitioners in larger numbers specially in the rural areas.

Sir, unfortunately as the time at my disposal is very short I want to close my speech so that other hon. Members may take part in the discussion of the general administration of this Department.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the total provision of Rs.39,40,100 under Grant No.17, Major head—38.—Medical, at page 133 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.39,40,100 do stand reduced by Re.1."

Maulavi ABDUL HALIM: জনাব, সদৰ সাহব, মই নহী চাহতা থা কি ইহ বহসঁমে হিহসলু। লেকিন আপলোগোকী খিদমতমে চন্দ বাঁতে পেশ কবনা মই বহত জৰুৰী সমবাতা হু। যহ বড়ী খুশীকী বাত হোয় কি আসামমে এক Medical College হেয়। লেকিন যহ বহত হী অফসোস কী বাত হোয় কি যহ College গবীৰোকে লিয়ে নহী হেয়। ইহ বাবেমে মেবে দোস্ত শ্রীগগৈ সাহবনে উস দিন কাফী কহা হেয়। সচনুচ যহ কলেজ গবীৰোকে লিয়ে নহী হেয়। বন্ধি অমীৰোকে লিয়ে হোয়াবহত অফসোস হেয় কি যহ গবীৰোকে কোদি খিদমত নহী হোতী। জব কোদি পুঞ্জিপতি মহা-জন রহা জাতা হোয় উসকে পিছে Doctor লোগ বহত জাদা দৌডধূপ কবতে হোয়। গভৰ্ণমেণ্টনে ইহ Medical College কে লিয়ে কাফী ৰপয়া খৰচ কিয়া হেয়। ইসলিয়ে কি যহাকে লোগোকো ফায়দা থে লেকিন ইসসে যহা কোই খাচ ফায়দা নাহি পহঁচা হেয়। যহা জো অসমীয়া professors হোয় উসকে কোদি খাস facility নহী মিলতী। ইসকা মতলব মই নহী সমবাতা। খাসকব মই Professor of Gynecology কে বাবেমে কহনা চাহতা হু। পিছলে ১২ ডিসেম্বৰ কো উনহোঁনে এক operation কিয়া থা। Medical College Maternity ward মে এক ওঁবত কা ষচচ পৈদা হরা থা ইসকে বাদ উসকা operation কবনা পড়া। লেকিন operation table পৰ হী ওঁবত মব গয়ী। উসী বাত doctor সাহবকে সখত Heart attack হো গয়া ওঁব কামকে লিয়ে বিলকুল নাকাবিল হো গয়ে। রহ doctor সাহাব অব ভী রহা কাম কব বহে হোয়। হা, রহ operation নহী কবতে। ইসকা মতলব মই নহী সমবাতা হু। মই সবকাবকা ধ্যান ইসকী ওঁব দিলনা চাহতা হু।

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Mr Speaker, Sir, the purpose of such Cut Motion should be that of criticising the Government if after receiving of complaints Government do not take any action. But there was no complaint direct to Government. By this particular Cut Motion the Dibrugarh Medical College has been criticised without previous complaint to Government. I am afraid, Sir, the manner in which the criticism has been levelled against the staff of the College, is not justified. The Professors who were appointed for this College were appointed on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission and at the time of their recruitment the best consideration was given to the best candidates or applicants. This Government, did not make any distinction between Assamese applicants and non-Assamese applicants. They were selected and appointed from different parts of India on merit to the best interest of the College.

With regard to the allegation against the Eye Specialist I may say this much that this Eye Specialist is also a qualified person.

As regards the allegation made by my Friend Maulavi Abdul Halim that the institution is not for the poor people but for the rich people only. I should like to say that this is a vague remark. Without specific allegation, hardly any action can be taken; and I would like to point out that such vague and sweeping remarks may go against the interest of the College.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order. As the time allotted is up I am putting the main motion as a question.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 39,40,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1951 for the administration of the head '38.—Medical'."

The question was adopted.

GRANT No.33

(64-A.—Transfer to Reserve Fund)

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.35,00,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951 for the administration of the head "64-A.—Transfer to Reserve Fund"

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.35,00,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951 for the administration of the head '64-A.—Transfer to Reserve Fund'."

There are no Cut Motions, so I put the question.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 35,00,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951 for the administration of the head '64-A.—Transfer to Reserve Fund'."

The question was adopted.

GRANT No. 38

(Loans and Advances)

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.2,58,68,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951 for the administration of the head "Loans and Advances."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.2,58,68,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951 for the administration of the head 'Loans and Advances'."

There are no Cut Motions, so I put the question.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.2,58,68,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951 for the administration of the head 'Loans and Advances'."

The question was adopted.

GRANT No. 9

(18-B and 68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works)

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,69,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951 for the administration of the head "18-B and 68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,69,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951 for the administration of the head '18-B and 68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works'."

There are no Cut Motions, so I put the question.

The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,69,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951 for the administration of the head '18-B and 68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works'."

The question was adopted.

GRANT No.29

(56.—Stationery and Printing)

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,18,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951 for the administration of the head "56.—Stationery and Printing".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.8,18,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951 for the administration of the head '56.—Stationery and Printing'."

There are no Cut Motions, so I put the question.

The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.8,18,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951 for the administration of the head '56.—Stationery and Printing'."

The question was adopted.

GRANT No.4

(9.—Stamps)

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.69,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951 for the administration of the head "9.—Stamps".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.69,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head '9.—Stamps'."

There are no Cut Motions, so I put the question.

The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.69,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951 for the administration of the head '9.—Stamps'."

The question was adopted.

GRANT No.33-B

(64-C.—Pre-partition Payments)

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHINURAM MEDHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1951 for the administration of the head "64-C.—Pre-partition Payments."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1951 for the administration of the head—'64-C.—Pre-partition Payments'."

There are no Cut Motions, so I put the question.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1951 for the administration of the head '64-C.—Pre-partition Payments'."

The question was adopted.

GRANT No. 3

(8.—Excise)

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,00,600 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1951 for the administration of the head "8.—Excise."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,00,600 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1951 for the administration of the head '8.—Excise'."

There is one Cut Motion standing in the name of Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury. Only 10 minutes time is allotted for this whole Grant, so the hon. Member will get 5 minutes and the Hon'ble Minister 5 minutes.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 8,00,600 under Grant No. 3, Major Head 8.—Excise, at page 41 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, i.e., the amount of the whole Grant of Rs. 8,00,600 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

My object, Sir, is to discuss the administration of the Department. In this connection I would like to bring to the notice of the Government the slow progress of the Prohibition of Liquor Scheme of the Assam Government which is yet to be started. One does not know what is happening with regard to the Scheme which is one of the most important measures contemplated by the Government. It appears, Sir, that liquor shops are settled with old lessees against whom various allegations had been made to us. We would like the Government to change these lessees at least for the period during which liquor shops will continue or are allowed to be continued by the Government of Assam. Beyond that I have got nothing to say.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved :

"That the total provision of Rs.8,00,600 under Grant No. 3, Major Head 8.—Excise, at page 41 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.8,00,600 do stand reduced by Re.1. "

Prof. P. M. SARWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to invite attention of the Government to the fact that out of Excise revenue shown in the Budget, 82 lakhs has accrued and against country spirit 52 lakhs has been shown. Most of the country spirit that is being consumed in the Province is consumed by the labour population and that credit must go to them. At any rate, whether the labourers are consuming it all or not, the fact remains that the Prohibition Committee of the Government has not paid any attention to the great consumption of liquor in this Province. Progressively we are consuming more and more liquor and Government is doing absolutely nothing to prevent further increase in consumption of liquor. We want that Government should do something in regard to this ; so far the Government have done absolutely nothing to check the progressively increased consumption of liquor in this Province.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, within the given time, it is not possible to reply on the question of the general administration of the department. But from the clearest indications of the Government policy in this behalf, I want to state a few words on the policy of opium and liquor. So far as opium is concerned, it is very well known to the hon. Members that we are for an all out drive in the prohibition of opium in the Province. Formerly it was restricted to what is called "included areas", but now we have extended our activity to Hill areas also. Even in the Abor and Mishmi Hills we are gradually prohibiting the consumption of opium. We feel that unless we are able to eradicate the evil in one respect, it is very difficult to take another measure with success. So what I wanted to point out to the hon. Members is that we have taken an all out drive for the purpose of eradication of opium. This task has been so stupendous that even in spite of our best efforts we have not been able to achieve the completest result.

There are two aspects of prohibition of opium, one is the treatment of addicts. This was undertaken as early as 1939. Even now this method is being pursued in the Hill areas, such as the Khasi and Mishmi Hills. The addicts are brought to temporary hospital and after treatment the addicts are let off. Besides that where the eradication is not possible we are introducing ration system in the Hill areas. The other aspect is the application of the Opium Prohibition Act. Then, Sir, co-operation of the Government of India was also sought for, for regulating and controlling production of opium, so that cultivation of poppy may be confined to a limited area over which Government of India might have complete control over production of opium and there might not be any room for large scale smuggling that is taking place even now.

This task of eradication of opium is so stupendous in itself that it has not been possible to undertake full measures for the prohibition of Liquors. But a committee was set up by this Government to advise on steps to be undertaken in this behalf also. I should mention, Sir, that while it has not been possible to accept complete prohibition, we have nevertheless adopted certain measures which possibly the hon. Members know and which I am trying to give for the information of the House. We are definitely discouraging the consumption of liquor, a number of liquor shops has been removed from the present site and many have been closed down with a view to eliminate temptation from the way of ordinary people and rising generation. There has been restriction in the hours of sale and there has been restriction in the quantity of liquor from three quart bottle to one per capita in some areas of the Province. The Liquor Prohibition Enquiry Committee appointed to consider the question of total prohibition of liquor in the Province held its meeting on the 14th September, 1949

and came to the conclusion that notwithstanding the desirability of prohibiting liquor the time was not opportune for a full scale attempt in view of the urgent need to achieve full success with the campaign already launched for total prohibition of opium. The Committee has, however, recommended certain measures of restrictions on sales of liquor which are under consideration. Sale of foreign liquor in the Railway Refreshment Rooms in Assam has been stopped to eliminate temptation from the way of travellers. In order to restrict the days of sale, premises licensed for sale of foreign liquor by wholesale or retail are kept closed on Sundays. Regarding Ganja, I do not propose to say anything as the hon. Member has not referred to it.

I hope hon. Members will be satisfied to see that every effort that is possible to be made has been made. We have done what is possible to be done and we have done our best.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: In view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble the Leader of the House that steps have been taken in this direction, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his Cut Motion?

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,00,600 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1951 for the administration of the head '8.—Excise.'"

The question was adopted.

GRANT No.16

"37.—Education"

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.1,46,79,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951 for the administration of the head "37.—Education."

The Cut Motions will be replied to by my Friend, Srijut Mohendra Mohan Chaudhury, Parliamentary Secretary.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.1,46,79,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951 for the administration of the head '37.—Education.'"

There are six Cut Motions. We have got only half an hour. Cut Motion No.6 is an omnibus Motion. This may be moved. I give 15 minutes to the hon. Members and 15 minutes to the hon. Parliamentary Secretary.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 1,46,79,800 under Grant No. 16, Major head 37.—Education, at page 111 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,46,79,800 do stand reduced by Re.1,

Sir, by this Motion I want to raise a general discussion on the Education policy of Government. With the short time at my disposal I want to speak on certain particular matters to which I want to draw Government's attention. Sir, I appreciate the measures that have been taken by Government regarding the spread of education in Assam and the establishment, year before last, of the University at Gauhati. Sir, by the different Cut Motions standing in my name I wanted to draw the attention of the Government to the need of making increased grants for the Jorhat College and the lower primary school teachers.

As regards the Jorhat College, I am to state that the number of students is yearly increasing. There are three sections in the College, viz., the general section, the girls' section and the night commers section. In view of the yearly increase in the number of students many of the cand dates had to be refused admission last year and this year. There is no girls' Hostel at Jorhat and with the amount of grant given by Government to this very important College, which publishes brilliant results every year, some girls are accommodated in the Hostel meant for the girls of the girls' school. It is known that Chemistry and Physics classes were started last year, but for want of funds Biology classes could not be started. Therefore the funds provided for teaching Biology in the Medical College at Dibrugarh should be given to the Jorhat College. Sir, the College authorities are hard put to it for land. There is a plot of land near the College. The College authorities asked Government to give them this plot of land for the construction of some buildings for the College, but up till now they have not got any satisfactory reply from Government. There are no quarters for professors, and some of the girl students of the College have to be accommodated in the girls Hostel meant for the school. I had a Cut Motion on the Jorhat College last year too and had drawn the attention of the Government to the difficulties experienced by the College. I hope Government will do something this time.

Then, Sir, I should like to say something about the plight of the primary school teachers. On this I think my hon. friend, Srijut Nilmoni Phookan, who is the President of the All-Assam Primary School Teachers' Association, might also throw some light. With the very small amount of money given to them they can hardly make both ends meet because of the fact that prices of commodities are soaring, if not daily, at least weekly. Therefore it stands to reason that some attention should be paid to the needs and requirements of primary school teachers. It is very difficult to teach A, B, C or ১, ২, ৩ to the tender-aged pupils. These pupils of to-day are being educated to be the leaders of to-morrow. Therefore a tremendous amount of responsibility falls upon the primary school teachers. Sir, the needs and demands of these people have been expressed and embodied in Resolutions they have adopted in the occasional meetings of the All-Assam Primary School Teachers' Association. Sir, Government have a scheme for imparting free and compulsory education to the people. I am myself a member of the Standing Committee of Adult Social Education in Assam. On account of the lessening of the grant by the Centre enough could not be done so far as mass education is concerned. Still within the limitations of the funds available some steps have been taken in the direction of adult social education and free compulsory education. It is yet too early to assess the work in the direction of adult social education.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member's time is up.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: How long have I spoken ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Six minutes.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: All right, Sir. I would like to give the rest of the time to those hon. Members who have sympathy with my Cut Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Mr. Binode Kumar J. Sarwan may now speak.

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move my cut motion No.3. The object of moving my Cut Motion is to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the children of the labourers are the most backward people in Assam. They cannot compete with other plains tribal people who are more acquainted with the Assamese language and hence they are handicapped in getting scholarships if they are asked to compete. The Naga boys cannot compete with the non-Naga boys, the Lushai boys cannot compete with non-Lushai boys. Similar is the case with the labourers' children. The plains tribal pupils and the scheduled caste pupils are getting all the scholarships awarded by the Congress Government at present. I put a question during this Budget Session about the number of backward class scholarships awarded to the children of the labourers, and from the reply that I have got it will be evident that for the years 1946-47, 1947-48 and 1948-49 quite an insignificant number of labour pupils have received scholarships for reading in Primary, Middle Vernacular and Middle English Schools and none has received any scholarship for reading in High Schools, and Colleges. I need not read out the reply given to my Unstarred Question during the current Budget Session of the Assembly.

Sir, the House is aware of the labour population both inside and outside the tea gardens. They are more than 1½ million people, and so we must not let them to remain perpetually in ignorance and vice. The Government has done very little to educate them. I give credit only to the Indian Tea Association who have given them schools for their education and they are spending money for their education. But this is not the responsibility of the tea industry. It is the duty of the State to care for the education of the children of the labourers, for which they should have allotted special grants for their schools and also for their scholarships, as they are poor labourers.

I hope, the Government will accept my Cut Motion and do what is in their power to help the children of the labourers for their education by allotting special money for their schools and giving adequate number of scholarships without expecting their children to compete with the other Plains Tribal and Scheduled castes children as has been done in the past by the Congress Government.

I hope, my Cut Motion will be accepted by this House.

With these words, I close my speech.

Prof. P. M. SARWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in supporting the Cut Motion of my hon. Friend, Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury, I must state that all these Cut Motions that have been tabled indicate the shortcomings of the Government of Assam. The Education Department of the Government of Assam is top-heavy and the Government has progressively continued to pile the load on the top, instead of taking care of the foundation to be properly laid. Instead we find that the Government has taken up certain fads on which large sums of money are being spent which will produce results of very doubtful value, while the elements of education which must be made available to the masses are not being properly attended to. While special attention should have been given for making Primary Schools available to the backward people, e.g., tea garden tribes in the rural areas, the Government is

coming forward with the plea that the State is handicapped for want of finances, but from the account of the Public Works Department activities, etc., no question of paucity of funds is to be seen. I suggest that Government do make retrenchment very drastically and spend no money on mushroom institutions by ignoring the real education of the masses, keeping in mind that the budget of the Province must be kept balanced.

In this connection, I must say that the J. Barua College of Jorhat, the premier private College in Assam, has been very badly neglected in regard to grant-in-aid.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : Sir, is he not a Professor of the J. B. College, when that is so, can he plead for that College in which he serves ?

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : That cannot be a ground for not allowing him to speak about the College which he serves.

Prof. P. M. SARWAN : Next I point to the hon. House to the amount of scholarship that the Government have given to the tea garden tribes. In 1946-47—Primary Scholarships—6, 1947-48—progress shown as 4, in 1948-49 4, Middle Vernacular—1 scholarship in 1948-49, one scholarship in the Middle English in 1947-48, in 1948-49—progress not shown in Middle English, in High School—nil, in College—nil from 1946-50.

Now, this shows the amount of attention the Government is paying to the large tea garden population. Government is always asking for grants and more grants from the Centre, but they have not taken into consideration the education of the labour section which is producing great wealth not only for the Government of Assam but also for the Government of India.

Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the purport of the Cut Motion moved by Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury, was to raise a general discussion regarding the education policy of the Government. But in the course of the debate and the speeches delivered thereto no mention of policy whatsoever was mentioned. Only certain specific institutions have been mentioned, which according to the speakers, are not getting proper attention from the Government. Of the institution Jorhat College is the foremost. It is a fact that Jorhat College is not getting grant-in-aid to its expectation (*Hear hear*), but in giving grants to this College Government has done whatever possible under the present financial set up of the Province to help this College.

Regarding the plot of land mentioned by Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury for the Jorhat College, the college authorities it seems have long since given up that idea. This can very well be deducted from the fact that the college authorities are keeping silent over this matter for the last two years. Year before last they made an attempt to get the premises covered by the Deputy Commissioner's bungalow. Now Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury is speaking about the premises covered by the Executive Engineer's bungalow. It is an after thought affair. However Government have refused to grant this request.

The College is now enjoying a recurring grant-in-aid of Rs.1,000 per month. A non-recurring grant of Rs.5,000 for purchase of laboratory apparatus, appliances and chemicals for the Science class in the College was sanctioned during this year (1949-50).

The College authorities applied for raising the recurring grant to Rs.2,000 per mensem and also applied for non-recurring grants for various purposes, e. g., equipping the Science laboratories including that of Biology, for construction of

a boys' hostel and for construction of a girls' hostel. For equipping the Commercial Museum, for installation of electric fans and also a grant-in-aid of Rs.500 for the girls' section, etc., towards the development of the College. As there was no provision in the budget for the grants asked for, Government could not consider for these grants. But, I can assure the hon. Members that Government will give due consideration to these proposals as soon as finance permits. I sincerely wish that the College gets more funds (*Hear, hear*) in the shape of Government grant-in-aid.

It has been stated both by hon. Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury and hon. Prof. Sarwan about the insufficiency of Primary Schools. I regret to say that Prof. Sarwan speaks things without facts. He cares very little for facts. Particularly, he being a Professor, I expected of him to give me concrete suggestion regarding remodelling of our Education as a whole. He has mentioned that this Government are indulging on facts of doubtful value. But not a single instance has been cited by him in this behalf. Sir, this is a clear proof how Prof. Sarwan is bent on making in this Assembly always sweeping allegations and sweeping generalisations. He is only wasting the time of the hon. Members of this House and it pays none.

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, I draw your attention to the statement of the Parliamentary Secretary to the fact that the hon. Member has wasted the time of the House. This is an insinuation which is entirely unparliamentary.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think the hon. Parliamentary Secretary should withdraw his remarks.

Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary): All right, Sir.

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Thank you.

Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary): Sir, I expected of him as a Professor that he should make some valuable suggestions. But instead of doing so, he is making only a few sweeping generalisation based on no fact. While he asserts that the *ex-tea* garden labour students are not getting proper attention at the hands of the Government I would like to know from Mr. Sarwan how many students of that community are not getting scholarships. I don't think there are very many of them who are going without scholarship. Sir, Professor Sarwan has only mentioned about the Primary, Middle Vernacular and Middle English Scholarships, but he did not make any mention about College Scholarships. For the information of the House I may say, Sir, that two scholarships have been granted to *ex-tea* garden labour students in the year 1949-50 for collegiate studies.

Regarding the pay of Lower Primary School teachers, I would like to say that before this Government came to power they used to get only Rs.12 a month as salary. This Government after assuming power raised their pay to Rs.20 a month. Then subsequently it has been raised to Rs.30 and Rs.35 a month for untrained and trained teachers respectively. In these hard days Rs.30 or Rs.35 is not a living wage, Sir, I am sure, but Government is not sitting tight. It has done certainly something at least for the improvement of the condition of the Lower Primary School teachers. Government has not been sitting there, it has also decided to give a scale to them which was so long unknown to them, the scales being Rs.30-40 and Rs.35-40 to untrained and trained teachers respectively. Over and above this some of these Lower Primary School teachers are making an additional score by way of benefit under the social Education Scheme and they

get Rs.15 on this account. Therefore, I would like to say that Government is not unconcerned about the lot of the Primary School teachers. They are trying their utmost in spite of the stringent financial condition to improve and ameliorate their condition.

In this connection while mentioning the pay of the Lower Primary School teachers, no hon. Member has cared to mention anything about the number of schools we are having at present. If the number of Schools is taken into consideration, I may say that the Primary Schools are getting priority treatment at the hands of the Government. For the information of the House, I would like to say that there were only 8,331 primary schools in the year 1944-45, while the district of Sylhet was a part of Assam, but in the year 1949-50, *i. e.*, the current year the number of schools has gone to 10,447 that is the number has increased by more than two thousand schools. In the Tribal and Backward areas more and more schools have been started and taken over. As many as 683 Venture Schools mostly in Tribal areas were taken over in 1948-49 and some more schools have been taken over during the current year.

The scheme of compulsory Primary Education has during the current year affected 1,943 square miles, covering 1,389 villages and 10 towns. The population of this area comes to 703,410 and the total number of children between 6-11 age-group comes to 132,033, of which 77,721 are boys and 54,312 are girls.

It is also interesting to see that from the point of view of the area, we have covered slightly more than 1/14th of the plains districts, from the point of view of population 10.93 per cent. of the population, from the point of view of the children of the prescribed age-group (taking 21 per cent of the total population to be the number of children of that age group) we have covered 9.77 per cent. or nearly 10 per cent. of the total children. Nearly half of the total number of towns (45.4) are covered, and 1/13th of the villages.

In view of all these, I think, Sir, Government have been doing everything possible that lies within their power for the improvement of the condition of Lower Primary Schools and their teachers. Formerly the Government of the past took little interest in education. This Government unlike them has given education the top most priority. Mr. Morley, in the course of the general discussion of the Budget has complained that this Government has been spending more money than necessary for Education. It is true that this Government is spending money for education. With this Government coming to power the policy regarding education has changed and this Government pledged to complete democracy and adult franchise are trying to give complete education to every citizen of Assam in no time. Sir, with this end in view the Government is making the necessary arrangements and sufficient money has been spent for achieving this object. I hope after hearing me Dr. Husain will gladly seek the permission of the House to withdraw his Cut Motion and allow the whole Grant to be passed.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: Sir, in view of the assurance given by the hon. Parliamentary Secretary, Education, I am glad to beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Has the hon. Member the leave of the House to withdraw his Cut Motion?

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

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

The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.1,46,79,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1951 for the administration of the head '37.—Education'."

The question was adopted.

GRANT No. 19.

(40.—Agriculture)

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.52,86,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1951 for the administration of the head "40.—Agriculture."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.52,86,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1951 for the administration of the head '40.—Agriculture'."

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : I beg to move, Sir, that the total provision of Rs 52,86,300 under Grant No.19, Major head—40.—Agriculture, at page 164 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.52,86,300, do stand reduced by Re.1.

My object of moving this Motion is to raise a discussion on the Agricultural policy of Government.

Sir, during the discussion that took place on my Motion on the food situation of the Province, the Hon'ble Minister in-charge of Food and Supply made a statement in which an indication was given about the agricultural policy of the Government of Assam and the steps taken by Government and those they propose to take during the rest of the year. Therefore I do not like to cover the entire subject of the agricultural policy of the Assam Government. But I would like to invite the attention of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge to the position of collective or co-operative farm at Misamari, for which quite a large number of tractors were purchased, many of which were not in proper order and some of which were for a long time under repair. Quite a large sum of money was spent on those tractors. As to the policy of the Government in regard to the co-operative or collective farming I am in entire agreement, but since the hon. Members are not in a position to know as to the progress made by these tractors or by the co-operative or collective farm, I would like to hear a statement from the Hon'ble Minister on the point raised.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved.

"That the total provision of Rs.52,86,300, under Grant No.19, Major head 40.—Agriculture, at page 164 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.52,86,300, do stand reduced by Re.1."

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the last few days in connection with the various debates on food position, jute production and cultivation of winter crops after the harvest of paddy I had sufficiently indicated the policy and the programme of the Agriculture Department. But when the hon. Mover has tabled this Cut Motion to raise a discussion on the agricultural policy, I am sorry, I will have to reiterate many of the facts which I had already submitted for the information of the House.

Sir, he has criticised the efficiency of the tractors. Sir, I am sorry to say that he is not in possession of the correct information. The tractors have been efficiently working in various co-operative farms. The hon. Member has mentioned Misamari Co-Operative Farm. I have to sympathise with him for his incorrect information. Misamari is not a co-operative farm, but it is a co-operative colony under the direct supervision of the Co-operative Department. Though the work in Misamari does not come under the Agriculture Department, yet I have visited the place several times. Last year, Sir, I took a batch of Journalist to visit the place to have correct information and help Government in constructive suggestions.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: On a point of order, Sir, I said that many of the tractors were not in order and not all the tractors.

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS: I may inform the hon. Member that the tractors are working properly and during this year under our mechanised cultivation scheme we have brought under cultivation a large area at several places. Last year an area of about 500 Bighas was cultivated with one tractor only at Jaoni Co-operative Farm and the harvest was very satisfactory. In spite of the damage done by the buffaloes of the professional graziers, the outturn was very satisfactory. We have this year again taken up a programme of bringing under cultivation the whole area, that is, 500 acres with two tractors for cultivation of *Bao* paddy. The information I have received is that up till now the work is making satisfactory progress. I have recently visited the Co-operative Farm at Utter-Lenga, a few miles north of North-Gauhati, where under a co-operative organisation Muslims, Tribals and Caste Hindus have joined for cultivation and on the day when I visited this farm in the first week of March the sowing was done by the Food Commissioner of India, Mr. Patil. The area brought under cultivation is more than 1,500 Bighas, that is, 500 acres. The work commenced from the first week of February. In other areas, namely at Mangaldai and Tamulpur, these tractors are working properly and efficiently. Therefore it is incorrect to say that these tractors are not in proper order. Some of these tractors have very high traction power, and we do not have proper implements suiting those tractors.

Sir, though the hon. Member dealt on these two points alone, yet I would like to take a little time of the House to state clearly the policy that we are now following. In the previous debates I had mentioned magnitude of the agricultural problem. It is connected with the rural economic problem. It is connected with all aspects of rural life, for example, public health, education, etc. We in the Agriculture Department are tackling the main factors only, which are the supply of better variety of seeds, better control of water-supply, control of pests and diseases, better implements, better rotation of crops. As regards the provision of better seeds, Sir, much work has been done during the previous Governments and I must thank those who preceded us, especially the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition, for taking great interest in this regard. But I must say that the work was done mostly with some money crops. The House must acknowledge the work that had been done, for example, with regard to jute crops, nearly 90 per cent. of the total cropped area is under improved varieties of seeds. Also with regard to sugar cane nearly 80 per cent. of the total cropped area is under improved varieties of sets.

I must admit that work has not sufficiently progressed in the direction of food crops. Much work remains yet to be done and we have been paying full attention to this aspect of the problem also. The hon. Mover may probably know the recommendation made by Sir John Russell some years ago for establishing organisation in each Province for multiplication of seeds and also for distribution

of seeds. In this direction we have established research stations to bring out improved varieties of seeds, but I must state that we have not been able to perfect our distribution organisation. It would have been better, Sir, if we had been able to implement our programme of rural development. But owing to our financial difficulties we had not been able to implement the programme that we set before us. It would have been better if we had established Village Panchayats throughout the whole Province and entrust them with the work of distribution of seeds and carrying on propaganda in the villages for sowing improved varieties of seeds. But in spite of this handicap we had been able to establish nearly 200 Village Food Production Committees which have been entrusted with work on this line. I have been considering the question of bringing a legislation before this House to compel the cultivators to sow only improved varieties of seeds, but I feel that the time has not yet come because we have not sufficiently advanced in the matter of production of improved seeds.

I may inform the House that while in London during last July I had the opportunity to discuss this aspect of the problem with Sir John Russell who was kind enough to come and meet me at my hotel in London. I discussed with him this aspect of the problem and I conferred with departmental heads as to how to bring out efficiency in the organisation.

Sir, with regard to control of pests, I must admit that some work had been done in this direction by the previous Administration, but it was confined only to the study of the life habits of some of these pests and fungoid diseases. Here again owing to our financial limitations the Department was not so long able to take its activities into the field of the cultivators. The Department realises the magnitude of the problem and it is estimated that more than a crore of rupees are lost every year due to the damage to crops by these pests. Sir John Russell was narrating to me his experiences in Bihar and other provinces with regard to control of these pests. But I do not want to take up the time of the House narrating them. The House is already aware from the speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister what we have been trying to do by organising a plant protection service and I think we will be able to tackle this problem with the co-operation of the people. The House is aware that I have come in with a Bill for control of pests and plant diseases. We must take a line of defence to control these pests.

On the question of water supply, the House is aware that the Agriculture Department now controls minor irrigation schemes and the Public Works Department controls the major irrigation schemes. If the House gives me time I can place before them facts as to the progress of the work that has been done with regard to major irrigation schemes. During the current year we have got 12 Irrigation Projects. In the Lower Assam Valley we have the Irrigation Scheme at Kokrajhar, but I must say that this Kokrajhar Scheme has not shown much satisfactory progress due to the prevailing disturbance in the State. We have got reports from Kokrajhar that work has come to a stop owing to the present situation. The other projects are drainage of low-lying channel area south of Nalbari. Improvement of the channel at Kaldiya in Barpeta, protecting the flood affected area of Kaliganj and Ratabari Mouza from flooding of the Kushiyara—this is in Cachar,—Mornoi Irrigation Scheme near Sootea in Darrang, improvement of Kulsik embankment and excavating and irrigation channel, the Sadharu Irrigation Scheme near Biswanath Charali in Darrang, diversion of Singaranadi to its old course in Lakhimpur, construction of a Bund along the Dikhu river in Raghubari and Khara Dharia villages in Sibsagar, drainage and reclamation of Jokai Suk and adjoining Mouzas in Sibsagar, drainage and flood control of Malow Pathar in Sibsagar and flood control measures in Kopili Valley of Nowgong district. These are expected to be completed by the end of 1951 and are expected to benefit more than 56

thousand acres and produce more than 12 thousand tons of additional food. In addition to the above 17 more schemes have been recently recommended to the Government of India. I do not want to read these schemes. Sir, with regard to soil erosion.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: How long will the Hon'ble Minister take ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS: I don't think I will be able to finish in five minutes' time, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister may continue after lunch.

Adjournment

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

After lunch

Oath of allegiance

The following Member was sworn in:—
Srijut Bijoy Chandra Saikia.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS

(40.—Agriculture)—*contd.*

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS: Mr. Speaker Sir, I was speaking on the point of soil erosion before we rose for lunch. I must admit, Sir, that with regard to soil erosion owing to financial limitation we have not been able to do much, but with the co-ordination of the Forest Department we have taken measures to survey the whole area. You know, Sir, that the problem is great. Owing to the *jhuming* habit of the Hills people and the consequent deforestation of the hill slopes the problem is very grave indeed. A Special Officer has been appointed, who has been making surveys in some of the hills areas, *e.g.*, Garo Hills.

Sir, coming to the next provision for better manure, I have already stated in a previous debate the steps we have taken. We have our limitation with regard to this because of the conservative mind of the cultivator. He will have to be convinced with regard to the utility of manure. We have adopted measures to have demonstration plots in the cultivators' own fields to convince him of the utility of manure.

Coming to better implements, Sir, it is no use giving better implements at the hands of the cultivator unless he is trained. My Friend, Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury, while moving his Motion stated that the tractors were not working properly. I admit that owing to the shortage of trained personnel there had been some difficulties. We could not establish last year our repair workshop. Mechanised implements need proper attention. But now, our tractor organisation has been improved. Leaving apart mechanised implements, much work is yet to be done of our indigenous implements. In the Research Station at Pusa and Allahabad experiment is being made with two-furrowed plough. We are now having trials in our farms, but there is another factor to be considered, that is the capacity of our plough bullocks. After the trial is completed in our own farms, we can then recommend this two-furrowed plough to the cultivators.

Coming to the last point, that is better rotation of crops, I have said yesterday the steps the Department has taken for double cropping. I do not intend to reiterate the same again.

Before I conclude, Sir, I must admit that the steps and the policy that had been taken by the Government are not enough. The problem is great indeed. It is connected with our rural economic problem. The Government of India is trying to reorient a new policy. We have to search the basic fundamental of a new policy. For this purpose the Government at the Centre have instituted several inquiry committees for agrarian reforms, for improvement of statistical machinery, for enquiry into the agricultural labour condition. We have also realised this problem and we are trying to co-operate with the Government at the Centre. We have already instituted an enquiry under the able Director, Dr. Goswami, who has completed this survey and has submitted his report on Darrang. We have already sent officer to have statistical training in the Training Centre organised by the International Organisation F. A. O., at New Delhi.

These are the steps we have taken. I think, I have sufficiently indicated the line of action we have taken and the policy we have been following.

I request the hon. Mover of the Motion to withdraw his Motion.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : Sir, in view of the very satisfactory statement indicating the line of action adopted by the Supply Department in connection with the matters I raised by my Cut Motion, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his Cut Motion ?

(Voices.) Yes

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

I now put the question.

The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 52,86,300 be granted to defray the charges will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head '40.—Agriculture'."

The question was adopted.

GRANT No. 12

(28—Jails and Convict Settlements)

The Hon'ble Srijiit GOPINATH BARDOLOI : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,27,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head "28.—Jails and Convict Settlements."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,27,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head '28.—Jails and Convict Settlements'."

There are two Cut Motions standing in the name of Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury. We have 15 minutes for this grant.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 13,26,267 under Grant No. 12, Major head—28.—Jails and Convict Settlements, Minor head—A.—District Jails (total), at page 90 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 14,27,500 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

By this I want to discuss frequent riots and hunger-strikes in Assam Jails. Sir, we frequently hear hunger-strikes and riots in Jails. These are resorted to by a section of prisoners who hold strong views to which the Government are strongly opposed. At present I am concerned only with the hunger-strikes and riots which are occasionally reported in the papers and most of which the Government Communiques assert are sponsored by the Communists. In view of the short time at my disposal I do not propose to go into details about this subject. What I want to state is this, that although I agree with some of the views of the Communists in matters economic, I cannot fully agree with their political objective. Since this Cut Motion confines only to strikes and riots in Jails, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members to the causes that are responsible for these happenings. Only recently we were told by the papers of the serious thing that took place at the Salem Jail which resulted in the death of 22 convicts.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Salem is not within the province of Assam.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: I am coming to Assam. That was only a casual reference.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: How are we responsible for incidents happening in other provinces?

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: I will confine my speech to what is happening in Assam. For some time past we have heard of the happenings in the Jorhat, Dibrugarh and Gauhati Jails. It has been reported that some of the under-trial prisoners and all the security prisoners in Shillong Jail have resorted to hunger-strike. I do not know what the cause is. I cannot fully agree with the grievances that they have put forward unless I know them. With their violent creeds I do not agree. I would like to know the causes that have driven these people to declare hunger-strike.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs. 13,26,267 under Grant No. 12, Major head—28.—Jails and Convict Settlements, Minor head—A.—District Jails (total), at page 90 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 14,27,500 do stand reduced by Re. 1."

Mrs. BONILY KHONGMEN: On a point of information. Can the hon. Member enlighten us as to the causes of the hunger-strike?

Prof. P. M. SARWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we do not want all the facts on the matter, but we would like to have an assurance from the Government that those people whose liberties have been taken away would be treated in a humane way. That is all that I want to press for.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while I can expect that the treatment, so far as the Government is concerned, have been more than humane. It is difficult for me to know the psychology of some

of the prisoners why they actually resort to hunger-strike. I quite agree that there has been a number of hunger-strikes and that almost every day there is news of some hunger-strike or other in some of our Jails in Assam. It is very difficult as I have said to get at the psychology of these prisoners. Often time a hunger-strike is started because strikes are happening somewhere outside the Province of A sam. There are, of course, some show of causes for some of the strikes and also apparent causes for grievance which are sometime fancy and nothing more. There have been occasions where hunger-strike has taken place on the ground that the amount of money that is to be spent on them and comfort given to them are not enough. So many demands are made that in most cases it is impossible for any sensible Government to accept them. In case of reasonable demands, Government do what is possible to ameliorate the condition of the prisoners. In most cases wherever there is complaint about their diet and things of this kind all that is possible consistent with the jail rules is done and sometimes something more. But you cannot satisfy the hunger-strikers by removing causes which are beyond our jurisdiction and control or any fancied wrong which really does not exist. In some cases, Sir, it has been found that certain action taken by Government on humanitarian grounds has been taken advantage of for the purpose of furtherance of the activities of the people of a certain political faith. For example, in Jorhat Jail the condition of two hunger-strikers was considered to be precarious and medical opinion was that unless they were released within a certain time, 48 hours or so, their lives would be in danger. We unconditionally released them and sent them to hospital for treatment. Now, one of the persons, after recovery, immediately went underground and carried on with some of the activities which are evident in certain places of the Province. This is what is being done by the hunger-strikers. I do not say all of them—but most of them. Hunger-strikes are also resorted to on the demand that they should be released. As I said, any ground is resorted to for the purpose of hunger-strike. I must also frankly say that none of these hunger-strikes has lasted long excepting possibly in one case where it lasted for about 21 or 22 days ; but in most cases they do not last long. In such circumstances Government cannot but act according to the rules. In order that these people may not be encouraged, we have accepted the position that hunger-strike is an offence and the hunger-strikers are liable to be punished under the jail rules. Sir, we were extremely loath to take any action in the beginning, but it seems to me now that for fancied things, hunger-strikes are resorted to. In such circumstances Government cannot have any option but to treat this as an offence and proceed accordingly. This is what Government are proposing to do. In view of what I have said, Sir, I hope the position will be very well appreciated by the hon. Mover of the Motion and he will unhasitatingly withdraw his Motion.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : In view of the statement made by the Hon'ble Premier with regard to steps Government have taken to remove the causes of hunger-strikes, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : There are only two minutes left for the other Motion. Will the hon. Member move his Motion ?

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : As there is no time I do not like to move it.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.14,27,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1951 for the administration of the head '28.—Jails and Convict Settlements'."

The question was adopted.

GRANT No. 24

(50.—Civil Works)

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.1,87,28,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1951 for the administration of the head "50.—Civil Works".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,87,28,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1951 for the administration of the head '50.—Civil Works'."

There are two Cut Motions standing in the name of Dr. Emran Hussain Chaudhury.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.1,87,28,200 under Grant No.24, Major head—50.—Civil Works, at page 255 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,87,28,200 do stand reduced by Re.1.

The object of my Motion is to urge Government to take necessary steps for the construction of a bridge from Pandu to Amingaon over the Brahmaputra as a matter of high priority.

In view of the urgency of the matter, and in view of the fact that quite a large number of lives are annually lost in the Brahmaputra, specially between Amingaon and Pandu, I invite the attention of Government to the need of bridging the Brahmaputra at this particular place. I have got a concrete suggestion to offer as the Government might give the plea of paucity of funds. I would advise Government to call tenders from Pakistan ; some Pakistani Engineer might be asked to construct the bridge, and after the construction of the bridge his bill may be taken into serious consideration by Government. In view of the limited funds at the disposal of Government, and in view of the recent very serious charge made by the Central Government Minister regarding reckless wastage of public funds by the Assam Government, which, however, has been falsified by the Government in the note proposed to be sent to the Central Government, I would urge the need of calling for tenders from Pakistan. If some Pakistani Engineer constructs this bridge his bill may be taken into serious consideration by the Government after the construction completes.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : Is the hon. Member aware of any Pakistani Engineer who will come forward to give tender ?

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : There will be many.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : But is there any one to the knowledge of hon. Member who might come ?

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: I do not know of any at present, but many will come. I am sure the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department understands what I mean.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Why does the hon. Member suggest that we should call tenders from Pakistani Engineers ?

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: Because this is the easiest way of constructing the bridge. After the construction we will pay the bill.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Why should they construct the bridge without payment ?

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: We will pay the bill after the bridge has been completed.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Is there any purpose behind the hon. Member's statement ? Does he know of any Pakistani Engineer who will come and construct the bridge ?

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Are there any expert Engineers in Pakistan ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order.

Cut Motion moved :

"That the total provision of Rs.1,87,28,200 under Grant No.24 Major head—50—Civil Works, at page 255 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,87,28,200 do stand reduced by Re.1".

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I am a little bit surprised that the hon. Mover suggested that the Government of Assam should invite the Pakistan Engineers to come and make the bridge and pay them after the bridge is finished. I think, Sir, he is not very serious when he said that. If he is speaking seriously, I am very much surprised to hear him as no Pakistan Engineers would come forward to do such a work without having advance payment from Government as there are no such Engineers who are millionaires in Pakistan. But the Government is not going to do anything that is not reasonable.

Moreover, Sir, the hon. Member has suggested this as a means of retaliation against the Government of India on account of the treatment meted out by the Government of India to Assam, I say that this should not be the method of retaliating a certain statement made by the Government of India against the Engineers of Assam, or against this Government. I must tell the hon. Member that we are not taking any such method of retaliation. We are builders and we must exert to do something for the building up of the country. We are here for doing what is good and to bring peace and prosperity to the country.

The question of building the bridge over the Brahmaputra river has been discussed many times in this House. The Railway authorities have been trying to make a Railway bridge over the Brahmaputra. Thrice they attempted and at last they thought that they would make a bridge from Jogighopa to Pancharatna over the Brahmaputra. I saw the survey myself, but that has been postponed,

I suppose, due to the fact that there is not enough finance. I also, Sir, two years ago thought that we would have plenty of money by borrowing and with that idea a survey of the river was done and I wanted to have a bridge over the river from Kamakhya Hill to North Gauhati for connecting Gauhati with North Gauhati. It would pay Assam, if it connects Gauhati with North Gauhati. In that case Gauhati would be developed into a big city and consequently trades would develop enormously and Assam would have a big city. But, when we actually surveyed, we thought it would cost us about 3 crores of rupees only to join Gauhati with North Gauhati. If we could construct this bridge, not only Gauhati would develop to a big city towards Shillong, Sonapur, Pandu and other neighbouring areas of Gauhati but commerce and industry also would develop. But we had to abandon this laudable idea for want of finance.

As regards the number of deaths on account of lack of communication, we have no information.

I hope, the hon. Member will not press this Motion. But, I may tell him that Government would be very happy to have a bridge over the Brahmaputra if they could have money but as there is no money at present nothing can be done.

***Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** In view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister that Government are very keen on building this bridge and they will be glad to build it the moment they have funds, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his Motion ?

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

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.1,87,28,200, under Grant No.24, Major head—50.—Civil Works, at page 255 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,87,28,200 do stand reduced by Re.1.

The object of this Cut Motion is to point out the annual loss in human lives in the ferry running from Pandu to Gauhati and to urge Government to take necessary precaution and improvement of ferry.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: On a point of order, Sir. This ferry is not a Public Works Department ferry, but it is a Local Board ferry. Therefore, I am afraid, this Cut Motion is out of order.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: If it is a Local Board ferry it does not come under this Demand. The Cut Motion is therefore held out of order.

Now the question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.1,87,28,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1951 for the administration of the head “50.—Civil Works”.

The question was adopted.

Government Resolution *re*: approval of an expenditure of Rs.3,72,573 under the head "50—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment)"

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

That this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.3,72,573 under the head "50.—Civil Works (excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment)" for the items below. The amounts involved will be met from the sanctioned grant.

"50.—Civil Works (excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment)".

R

I—Grant originally voted by the Assembly ... 1,80,18,000

II—Sub-heads under which the appropriations will be accounted for:—

(i)—(a) Buildings—

	Rs.
General Administration	30,134
Administration of Justice	26,783
Jails and Convict Settlements	1,23,000
Police other than Assam Rifles	2,000
Medical	3,000
Public Health	3,200
Veterinary—Post-War	46
Industries—Post-War	10,000
Civil Works—Post-War	2,410
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Total (a) Buildings { Voted—Normal	1,88,117
Post-War	12,456
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(ii)—(b) Communications—

Ordinary Roads	2,000
Petrol Tax Projects—Ordinary	70,000
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Total (b) Communications—Voted—Normal	72,000
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(iii) B—Repairs—

Maintenance of Shillong-Silchar Road	1,00,000
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Total—Repairs—Normal	1,00,000
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GRAND TOTAL ... 3,72,573

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Resolution moved:

"That this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.3,72,573 under the head "50.—Civil Works (excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment)".

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: On a point of information, Sir, may I enquire whether the Government of Assam propose to represent the Government of India the need towards the maintenance cost of Shillong-Silchar Road?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : Sir, we have already represented and we are going to represent again.

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wonder under what rule this Resolution has been moved. In this Resolution an expenditure from the Exchequer of Assam is going to be incurred and for such a Resolution, in my opinion, the recommendation and approval of His Excellency is required in moving all Demands for grants. It has always been the practice to begin with: "On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum..... and so on". Here in this Resolution no such recommendation has been mentioned. I listened carefully to the speech of the Hon'ble Minister and he did not say that this has received the recommendation of His Excellency. So, Sir, I think, this is out of order.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Yes, Hon'ble Minister to state under what rule this Resolution has been moved.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : Sir, I am afraid I do not find just now under what rule the resolution has been moved. It must have received the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam. It is a formal thing that it should be presented to the Assembly as Demand for Supplementary Grant. But on account of the fact that the control of expenditure has been applied Government does not approve of the Supplementary Demand for Grants in view of the stringent financial condition of the Province. Therefore, it was considered that they should be moved in the form of a Resolution before the Assembly and therefore this Motion has been brought before the Assembly as a Resolution instead of a Demand for Grant.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The point of order is that whether the recommendation of His Excellency has been taken. Will you please see rule 99 of the Budget Manual?

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Sir, the amount has been taken under Supplementary Demand. Some of the items are admittedly new expenditure.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : Sir, I have been told by the Finance Department that it was recommended by His Excellency, and that we should take steps as provided under the Budget Manual at page 38 and Rule 99. The rule runs as follows:—

"When it is required at a stage after the authentication of a schedule to incur expenditure on a new form of service, a demand for the full amount of the expenditure will be presented irrespective of the fact that savings may be available in the authenticated grants from which the new expenditure could be met, such savings being dealt only by surrender to the Finance Department. If, however, the expenditure is to be incurred on an existing or recognised service, the submission of a demand is not compulsory when it can be met from the savings anticipated. If, however, the explicit concurrence of the Legislature to such an item of expenditure is considered necessary on account of its extent, importance or any other reason, it may be obtained through the process of a resolution."

Sir, this is the rule.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : If the Resolution which places the facts before the House is accepted, the Department will utilise the money instead of surrendering of the same.

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: That is not relevant with the subject-matter. We are bound by the Assembly Rules and not by the Budget Manual. The resolution has got to get the previous sanction of His Excellency the Governor.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: It is only a question of appropriating the money.....

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: If it is really a matter of re-appropriation or appropriation ; it is within the jurisdiction of the Finance Department. But if you move in the Assembly, it must be recommended by His Excellency the Governor.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Sir, I want to get the approval of the House. I would like to give this information to the hon. Members of the Assembly as I want to create a convention of placing the facts regarding any expenditure and how they are being utilised. I consider it my duty to inform the Members of the House as to how the money is being utilised after the saving.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I heard the Hon'ble Finance Minister as well as the Hon'ble Public Works Department Minister. I consider that this resolution is in order.

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

"That this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.3,72,573 under the head '50.—Civil Works (excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment)'."
The question was adopted

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Now we take up Private Members Business.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Sir, I do not propose to move my Resolution* No.18.

Resolution re: sending of a Good-will Mission to Pakistan

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that in view of the occasional communal outbursts in the country and in order to avert a recurrence of a riot or the threat of it, this Assembly is of opinion that proper authorities be moved so that a Good-will Mission may be sent to Pakistan with a view to bringing about a better, friendlier and happier relationship between the peoples of Assam and East Bengal.

Sir, that for a long time past the relations between this country of ours and the sister Dominion of Pakistan have been progressively deteriorating and since statements and counter-statements are occasionally made in self-defence by politicians and statesmen of either country and since the House has discussed enough the present tense situation that prevails both in East Pakistan and in some parts of India I have thought it appropriate to bring up this Resolution for favour of the consideration and acceptance of the House. Sir, we cannot and do

*In view of the fact that considerable quantities of milk are being used in the State in preparing chanas for use in sweetmeats which is greatly responsible for reducing the quantities of milk for other uses, this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take suitable measures to control and regulate the preparation of chana for use in sweetmeats.

not like to speak much about the present situation because that will only excite passions embitter the feelings of some of the Members of the House. Some serious statements have already been made by a number of Members of this House in this Session casting aspersions on the erstwhile Muslim Leaguers and expressing doubt as to their loyalty. Soon after the partition of the country the Muslim League in Assam was dissolved and no other Muslim organisation has taken its place. For a while there was peace in both the countries, namely, India and Pakistan. But I do not know for what reason or reasons outbursts have occurred. I am deeply pained to see the evacuees here and evacuees there and I am fully conscious of the difficulties and hardships of the wretched evacuees in both the countries. At present we have many camps of such evacuees in our country and one has but got to go a few steps from the Assembly Chamber in order to see for oneself the distress of these people. Mere statements and accusations will never solve the problem. It has been said that the Press has been greatly responsible for embittering the feelings of the different people, specially the Hindus and Muslims. I entirely agree with the statement that has been made that Press is responsible to a great extent for furthering whatever happens in the two countries. I may mention that only recently, as recently as the 16th of this month, a leading article in the *Assam Tribune* said that under the cloak of my Amendment to the Motion moved in connection with His Excellency's address on the 13th March last, I paid homage to the other Dominion, namely Pakistan and rebuked me for paying homage to Pakistan. Hon. Members present here and those who happened to be present on these occasions when they discussed my Amendment will remember that I spoke not a single word by way of homage to the other Dominion, Pakistan. Sir, I sent a note to the Editor of this paper asking him to correct the wrong impression conveyed by his paper but nothing has been done so far. Any way, Sir, if this sort of things continues to happen either here or in any other part of the country, the tense situation will continue to remain for a longer time to come. Without talking at greater length on the communal outburst here and there which would rather embitter the feelings of many people, I would like to invite the attention of the House to the necessity of sending a Good-will Mission to the other Dominion and the purpose of the mission would be to tell the people living there as to how we are living in Assam and how our Government has been making efforts to control the situation here. A number of Members have not been able to come to this House and a fairly large number of them have left the House and the Hon'ble Leader of the House found it urgent to quit the House for a time in order to bring the situation under control. In that connection I expressed my gratitude to the Hon'ble Leader of the House for the intense efforts he has been making in order to pacify the minority community in Assam and to bring under control the rather tense situation that has been prevailing in Assam since the start of February.

Sir, I do not like to add much to what I have already stated and that for obvious reasons, I would now ask the Hon'ble House to take this into consideration and pass the Resolution which I have moved that a Good-will Mission be taken into Pakistan to apprise the people there how after all, inspite of the partition of country, we should live like brothers in both the countries of Pakistan and India. Inspite of the partition, India and Pakistan are economically one unit, factually one unit, though politically they are two entities. We have a close relationship with the other country. Yet, Sir, people, irresponsible people, are not lacking in our country who must talk of war and settle disputes by a reference to bloody methods. Sir, we cannot resort to war which would only result in annihilation of both the countries and which no sane man would like.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Resolution moved :

"That in view of the occasional communal outbursts in the country and in order to avert a recurrence of a riot or the threat of it, this Assembly is of opinion that proper authorities be moved so that a Good-will Mission may be sent to Pakistan with a view to bringing about a better, friendlier and happier relationship between the peoples of Assam and East Bengal".

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had already made a statement the other day regarding the occasional outburst of troubles about which a reference has been made by the hon. Mover of the Motion. I do not want to repeat them now in detail. But, as I had shown in that statement, how, inspite of all the efforts that this Government is making in order to maintain the best relationship with at least a portion of Pakistan which happens to fall in our border, we had failed. I had also stressed the reasons of these outbursts as the repercussion of what had happened in Pakistan. The wide publicity which the papers gave, and I don't know whether they are always of the most accurate type, but nevertheless the publicity of such events are bound to influence the passions and judgment of men. I had also stated that in most of these outbursts there were very few local influence in the beginning. Things as happened subsequently in Goalpara and Kamrup have undoubtedly been due to actions taken by local people, but even there I could give for the information of the House that the causes for these outbursts were repercussions of what had happened in Pakistan. Oftentimes we had been caught in a vicious circle where things of the magnitude which have been published in the papers to have happened, create difficult situations for both countries to handle. The fact remains that in spite of the best efforts that we should maintain cordial and friendly relationships with our neighbours, so far as this State is concerned, we have not been allowed to do so by actions which have been taken—I do not not say in all cases by the Pakistan Government—but surely by the people of Pakistan. These remarks might serve as a background for discussion of the first part of my hon. Friend's Resolution.

So far as the operative portion of the Resolution is concerned, namely, that we should set up a Good-will Mission in term of the Resolution by moving proper authorities so this Good-will Mission may go to Pakistan, I do not know "what authorities" he meant. In this connection the hon. Members know that if any Good-will Mission is to be organised, it must be done on, what I may call in an international level between Pakistan and India. We all surely wish to remove the difficulties which face the State today as also India as a whole. But whatever action is taken it must be taken on the highest level of negotiation between the two countries. My Friend, the hon. Mover of this Resolution, is not unaware that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru offered to go about the disturbed areas in both the Dominions along with the Prime Minister of Pakistan to study the situation and do whatever is possible in order to remove the causes of distrust between the two countries ; but that offer was unfortunately turned down by the Pakistan Prime Minister. I have reasons to believe that the Prime Minister of Pakistan may be re-thinking over this matter. Whatever that may be, I have to stress that whatever action is taken it must, as I have said, be taken on inter-national level between the two countries. I cannot, therefore, accept that portion of the Resolution which refers "moving the proper authorities". In the first place, I want more specific information as to what that authority should be. Secondly, whether it should be agreed to by the other Dominion. Having regard to the nature of things that have happened, I think it would be useless for us to think to do this all by ourselves. But in so far as expression of good will and good wishes among ourselves, I quite agree with him and I would appeal to the hon. Mover of this

Resolution as well as to all hon. Members of the House to see what we can do by ourselves to remove these causes of outbursts, and if there are causes we should try to minimise their effects to the best of our ability.

My experience of these outbursts in the course of the last ten days convinced me that we have been subjected to panic which create complete distrust between man and man, and that on the basis of religion. Muslim League, I must say, very unequivocally brought this about ; and unfortunately with the exception of some, e.g., the Congressman, who does not believe in terms of communal thinking, the people are divided into communal camp. The Muslim League propaganda sufficiently alienated the minds of the Muslim masses from feeling that he could at any time look eye to eye and work together with the Hindus ; this, Sir, is the most regrettable experience which during the course of my last tour I was very painfully made to feel.

Sir, I hope the preliminary statement that I have made could be made the basis of further discussion if my hon. Friend wants to proceed with the discussion on this point, but if he thinks that no more discussion is necessary, then I would request him to withdraw his Motion.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully appreciate the intention of the hon. Mover of this Resolution and his anxiety for establishing a good-will and friendship between the two countries, India and Pakistan. But to me the wording of his Resolution and the statement of facts therein are extremely unhappy and liable to be misunderstood and misinterpreted. If we carefully go through the Resolution we will find that he is seeing communal outbursts and apprehending rioting and disturbances owing to such outbursts in the Indian Union alone. He does not make or does not like to make any mention of the outbursts and disturbances that are taking place in Pakistan. If I may be allowed to read the Resolution.....

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : In my speech I have mentioned communal outburst in both the countries and my Resolution aims at bringing friendlier and happier relationship between the people of this Union and of the other.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : My Friend will get ample opportunity to remove the misunderstanding if there be any. I am discussing here his Resolution and not his speech and I am going to show that in the Resolution there is absolutely no mention of any outburst or disturbances that are daily taking place in Pakistan. My Friend in his Resolution says that "in view of the occasional communal outbursts in the country and in order to avert a recurrence of a riot or the threat of it, this Assembly is of opinion", etc., etc.

Now, Sir, will my hon. Friend, the Mover of the Resolution kindly say which country he refers to ? Does he not mean the Union of India by the words "the country" ? He is a doctor and learned Professor, and I am certain he knows very well that "the country" in his Resolution refers to no other State than the Indian Union. Knowing fully well what are happening in Pakistan our Friend does not make any mention of those tragic occurrences, but is eloquent in stating what he thinks are happening or will happen in India. And that is what I object to. I am sure any body who goes through such a Resolution will be led to think that the gentleman is not thinking of the other State, but he is trying to find fault with the people of the Union of India. If the Editor of the *Tribune* made adverse remarks against him will not the people of Assam be entitled to construe the wordings of his Resolution to be mischievous and will they not be entitled to think that the hon. Member is accusing this country and not the other country ?

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: I referred to outbursts in both the countries in my speech. I never confine to occurrences here in India only.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: But my Friend has commended his Resolution and not his speech for the acceptance of the House. We are now concerned with the wordings of the Resolution. If this Resolution be accepted, I think great mischief will be done. People will misunderstand the hon. Doctor. So I think he should withdraw the Resolution. Sir, I do not think a Good-will Mission sent to Pakistan by the Government of Assam will serve any useful purpose. The Prime Minister of India, Pandit Nehru, requested the Prime Minister of Pakistan to accompany him and to see what is happening in the two States, but he did not agree. If they cannot agree to the two Prime Ministers visiting the sister countries to see what is happening there, does my Friend sincerely believe that if a mission is sent by the Government of Assam it will be allowed to go there? So the passing of a Resolution to send a Good-will Mission will serve no useful purpose. Instead of pressing for the adoption of this Resolution it would be better for my Friend to issue an appeal to the people of Pakistan to stop the atrocities that are being committed on the minority community there. That may be helpful in establishing friendly relation between the people of the two countries.

Sir, I am extremely sorry for the disturbances that have taken place in some parts of the districts of Goalpara and Kamrup. The stories of appalling atrocities narrated by the refugees from Pakistan have created great indignation and excitement in the minds of the common people. And the unruly and the anti-social elements in the society are fully utilising this opportunity and are causing these disturbances. We all deplore these unfortunate events and condemn the action of the miscreants. But even in the midst of these deplorable disturbances I find a redeeming feature, a ray of goodness, and it is that the miscreants have been generous enough not to touch or molest the womenfolk and children. I am proud to say that this is due to our culture and civilisation. Sir, I do not want to speak anything more and beg to conclude by reminding Dr. Husain that mere sending of a Good-will Mission by this State will serve no useful purpose when our Prime Minister Pandit Nehru's proposal failed to bear any fruit. So I request my Friend to withdraw the Resolution which, in my opinion, has been very unhappily worded.

Professor P. M. SARWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is nothing wrong with the Resolution before the House. The intention behind it is good. The aim of the Resolution is to bring about peace. I do not see how people will make the mistake of thinking that the hon. Mover wants to suggest that all the violence has taken place in our country and nothing in the other country, *viz.*, Pakistan. The intention behind this Resolution is this: peace between the two countries and peace within our country. People who think of peace have the highest place in humanity, a much higher place than a conqueror like Napoleon. This has been accepted even by the U. N. O. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has explained the difficulties of sending out a Good-will Mission to Pakistan. We quite understand this, but we cannot understand the stand taken by hon. Mr. Talukdar when he said that we were innocent and the people in the other country only were guilty. I wish it were so. If the people in our part of the country were absolutely innocent our stand would have been much stronger and unassailable. I think both the Prime Minister of India and our Chief Minister will admit that things have not been as satisfactory in our country as they might have been. Though ultimately the hon. Mover would withdraw his Resolution, seeing the difficulties which Government have in this matter, and when the Government of India are considering some sort of action to bring

about peace among the people of both the countries, yet I hope all of us would work in such a way as not to infuriate our own countrymen in Assam. Our words and actions should be such as to bring about peace in our country. I would therefore ask the hon. Mover not to press his Resolution, but at the same time I would commend to the House the consideration of the intention behind the Resolution and say that this is a very good gesture, no matter from what side of the House it is coming.

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA : মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমাৰ ডাক্তৰ ইমৰাণ হুচেইন চাহাবৰ পুস্তাৰ সন্মুখে মোৰ বোধেৰে তালুকদাৰ ডাঙৰীয়াই যি আসোৱাহ উলিয়াইছে সেই আসোৱাহৰ মই বৰ বেচি পুয়োজন নেদেখো। কাৰণ ডাক্তৰ ইমৰাণ হুচেইন চাহাবে যেতিয়া পুস্তাৰ দিছিল, সেইটো আমাৰ এই বিধান-সভাৰ নিয়মমতে অন্ততঃ সদনৰ ২১ দিন আগতেই দিব লাগিছিল অৰ্থাৎ ১৫ ফেব্ৰুৱাৰীতেই তেখেতৰ পুস্তাৰ ইয়াতলৈ পঠিয়াইছিল।

তেখেতে বোধহয় ভাবিছিল, যে এই এমাহৰ ভিতৰত আসামত কোনো গোলমালেই নহব। কাৰণ পাকিস্থানত যেতিয়া প্ৰলভাবে গোলমাল আৰম্ভ হৈছিল, আসামত লামডিং আদি দুই এখন ঠাইত সৰুসুৰা দুই এটা ঘটনাৰ বাহিৰে কোনো বৰকমৰ দুৰ্ঘটনা বা গোলমাল হোৱা নাছিল।

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : On a point of information, Sir. Can I ask my hon. Friend a question? He says that Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury could not anticipate the terrible disturbances that took place at the time he submitted the Resolution. But has he not been able to realise now what has been taking place? In view of that should he not be the first person to withdraw the Resolution?

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA : মই তেখেতৰ কথাখিনিৰ বিষয়ে কি কব খুজিছো তাক নুশুনি তত নোহোৱাকৈ মোক আক্ৰমণ কৰাৰ কোনো কাৰণ নাই। তেখেতে যদি মোৰ কথাত কিবা দোষ পায় তেতিয়া কব। (হাঁহি)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : তেখেতে কিবা খবৰ এটাহে জানিব খুজিছে।

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA : মহাশয়, তেখেতে সেই জেৰা পিচতো কৰিব পাৰিলেহেঁতেন। যিহওক, ডাক্তৰ ইমৰাণ হুচেইন চাহাবে যি সময়ত এই পুস্তাৰটো পঠিয়াইছিল, সেই সময়ত অসমৰ কোনো ঠাইতে ব্যাপক ভাবে গোলমাল হোৱা নাছিল; কিন্তু পাকিস্থানত সেই সময়ত ভীষণ ভাবে অত্যাচাৰ চলি আছিল। এই পুস্তাৰ পঠিওৱাৰ সময়ত তেখেতে ভাবিছিল—অসমত আৰু এমাহ পিচত বিধান-সভা বহিব, সেই সময়ত গোলমাল হয়তো নহব বুলি অনুমান কৰিছিল, সেই ছেগতে, ভালৰি বোলাই থাকিবলৈ Good-will Mission লৈ অসমৰ পৰা যাব লাগিব।

যদি এইটোৱেই নহয়, তেনেহলে মই সুখিব খোজো যে, ডাক্তৰ ইমৰাণ হুচেইন চাহাবৰ যি সৰ্ববলীয় দল বা আন যি কোনো দল আছিল, (A voice—কোনো দল নাছিল।) তেন্তে তেখেত সকলৰ যি সকল নেতা আছিল, তেওঁলোকৰে সৈতে পৰামৰ্শ কৰি পাকিস্থানত হোৱা অত্যাচাৰৰ উপশম কৰিবলৈ কি যত্ন কৰিছিল? সেই সময়ত অসমত কোনো গোলমালেই নাছিল।

(A voice— ভাৰতৰ অন্যান্য ঠাইত আছিল কিন্তু অসমত নাছিল।)

কাৰেই মই অনুমান কৰিছো কি অভিপ্ৰায় লৈ তেখেত সকলে ভালৰি বোলাবলৈ আগবাঢ়িছে। তেখেত সকলে হয়তো আজি প্ৰচাৰো কৰিছে “আমি কিমান যত্ন কৰিছিলো, আমাৰ ভিতৰত মিলাপ্ৰীতি থাকিব লাগে ইত্যাদি।” তেখেতৰ যদি এইটোৱেই হেপাহ আছিল, তেন্তে অসমত কোনোবাকমৰ গোলমাল হোৱাৰ পূৰ্বেই পাকিস্থানত সংখ্যালঘুৰ ওপৰত যি বিভীষিকা চলিছিল, তাক তেখেতে বক্তৃতাৰ দ্বাৰা, কাগজৰ জৰিয়তে বা কোনো পুস্তাৰৰ দ্বাৰা বা তালৈ গৈ বোধ কৰিবলৈ যত্ন কিয় কৰা নাছিল তাৰ কাৰণ আমি উপলব্ধি কৰিব পৰা নাই।

পাকিস্তানলৈ যোৱাটো আমাৰ পক্ষেহে মক্ষিল; তেখেতৰ দলৰ মানহৰটো কোনো বাধা নাছিল। তেখেত সকলোতো এতিয়াও অহা যোৱা কৰিয়েই আছে। সিদিনা কাচেন চাহাব গ'ল, তেনেকৈ আৰু দুই এজন গৈয়েই আছে। তেখেতে যদি অন্তৰেৰে সৈতে অনুভৱ কৰিলেহেঁতেন, তেখেত নিজেও গৈ পাকিস্তান গভৰ্ণমেণ্টক কব পাৰিলেহেঁতেন। যি হওক, সেই সময়ত হলে আমিও ভাল পালোহেতেন। কিন্তু আজি এমাহৰ পিচত তেখেতে যি সহানুভূতি দেখুওৱাৰ ভাও দিছে তাত মোৰ যথেষ্ট সন্দেহ আছে।

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: Officially নগ'লে তেতিয়াও সন্দেহ হ'লহেতেন।

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA তেতিয়া সেই কাৰ্য্যত আন্তৰিকতা থকা বুলিহে ভাবিলোহেতেন। কিন্তু এতিয়া তেখেতৰ আন্তৰিকতাত মোৰ সন্দেহ জাগিছে।

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: আপুনি কিন্তু বেচিকৈ সন্দেহ কৰে। ইমানেই যদি সন্দেহ তেন্তে মই ইয়াৰ পৰা উঠি যাঁও।

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: হয়, আজি মই সন্দেহ কৰিবলৈ বাধ্য হৈছো।

পিচে সেইটো নকৰি এমাহৰ পিচলৈ পেলাই থোৱাৰ উদ্দেশ্য মই নুবুজিলো। হেনজানি মই মোৰ মন্তব্য হিচাবে এইটোকেই কওঁ যে তেখেতৰ প্ৰস্তাৱটোত যি কথা থাকক বা নাথাকক আৰু তালুকদাৰ ডাঙৰীয়াই যি কথাকে নকওক প্ৰস্তাৱটোত তেখেতৰ আন্তৰিকতাৰ অভাৱ দেখিয়েই মই সমখন কৰিব নোৱাৰো আৰু সেই কাৰণেই মই প্ৰতিবাদ কৰিছো।

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in all seriousness, I should like to ask hon. Dr. Emran Husain is there any scope for a Good-will Mission to be sent from our State to the East Bengal Government to improve the ill-feeling, as he puts it, between East Bengal and Assam? First of all, I do not admit that there is any ill-feeling from our State with Pakistan, or any ill-feeling from any creek or corner of Indian Dominion to the Eastern or Western Pakistan. If that is so, I do not know why he had to move this Resolution at all. Possibly the present fact has proved that a Good-will Mission is necessary. I should give him credit that some day from the behaviour of the Pakistan Government he could see that when the tension will be greatest, a Good-will Mission may be useful. But, when man like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru with the full authority of Indian Dominion and a man of international repute himself suggested that the greatest authority of Pakistan Government should accompany him or rather he should accompany the Pakistan Premier to visit the places of both countries and see things for themselves, then with all the sophistries which is in the command of Pakistan High Command they refused to form a Good-will Mission, even though it was suggested by Pandit Nehru. Will my hon. Friend see this thing that such a Good-will mission will be able to do anything in Pakistan, even conceiving for the moment that it is possible to set up a Good-will Mission? But, good-will or ill-will, all these questions have now passed our consideration, from what we see before our eyes, the grim facts which belie all our expectations in this regard. The only thing we are to think now, is, that what is the reason for which the Hindu population of East Bengal are unable to remain there peacefully for a month or two continuously? It is said that the goonda elements of Eastern Pakistan are committing all sorts of atrocities not only on adult male members but even on female and children, who looted everything they have and many women have come stark naked from many places. Is it the doing of the goondas only? Then, I should say that there is no Government in Pakistan worth the name. If there is no Government in Pakistan then what should

be the duty of the Pakistan people themselves, how they will protect their minority there? When they are helpless that neither they can expect a real succour from the Indian Dominion nor can they get any relief from their own countrymen, at this stage when tens of thousands of people are making an exodus to Indian Dominion everyday by train, road and jungle, who do not know whether they will have a morsel of food to eat and even some of the women gave birth to their children on their way. In such a state although a Good-will mission was light-heartedly put forward by my hon. Friend, it seems only a joke—a big joke—or absolutely we have failed to read signs of the times. It is absolutely true that Pakistan authorities had every moment declared that Pakistan must be an Islamic State. They are not making a secret about that. In such a State, a Minority Community of some other faith can have no place. This is a grim fact we are to face now. So, to my mind, we should rather press our Central Government at this stage to keep the States in tact and keep them free from the terrorism and when as a State we are unable to provide all the refugees that are coming, we are now between the devil and the deep sea. What is our duty now? It is not the duty of the State Government to remedy the defects, but it is the Government of the Indian Republic which must consider the matter seriously.

In my opinion, I do believe that unless Pakistan places a check to all these atrocities, or unless, if necessary, a Police action is taken on the Eastern Pakistan, there will be no peace for the Hindu minority population there. This is a grim state of affairs which we must consider seriously and see that under the present circumstances both Muslims and Hindus may not do anything which might worsen the passion of both the communities.

My hon. Friend said that hundreds of Mymensingies from Barpeta and Goalpara are running away to Pakistan, but, I must say that the political motives of the Muslim League leaders who have converted these absolutely pure cultivators as a sort of soldiers with their 'Larke-enge Pakistan' slogan, with the result that they are suspicious of the actions of this Government. It is the Muslim League leaders in Assam, who are more responsible for the aggression of these people.

Similarly the political motive behind the Pakistan is responsible for all these atrocities. Whether Pakistan will be a secular State or an Islamic State that depends on the safety of the Hindu population there. If they do not give up the ideology of Islamic State, I may tell them "please give the Hindu population—the minority communities—some sort of regional autonomy as we are giving in the Hills, and keep them in one compact block". That will be possible for the Pakistan Government. If they can torture these people they may do anything of the kind. I take it for assumption. Is this the time in which women should be raped? Is this the time when forcible conversion should take place? Is this the remedy? So, Sir, I clearly see that their ideology is quite clear. Today or tomorrow the whole of East Bengal must be converted into an Islamic State. As a matter of fact, the Jamiet-ul-Ul-lema as I read in the paper, are preparing 5 lakhs of Ansars to defend "Islam and Pakistan." We need not take this Resolution light-heartedly for a Good-will mission of a man like Dr. Emran Husain. Will they be able to poke their nose for this state of affairs? I think Dr. Emran Husain is always well-meaning, and he should withdraw this Resolution.

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I admire the ingenuity of some of the speakers that have preceded me in their interpretation, not merely of the Resolution, but who have like a psychiatrist tried to probe into the intentions of the mover of the Resolution—Dr. Emran Husain, I would not have taken part in this discussion but for the latter's request.

From past experience of this Session, I know that whatever we want to speak with best of motive, it would be twisted with fantastical interpretation. The Resolution is well-intentioned, and it has been explained by many of the hon. Members as well as the learned Prime Minister, that probably it will be a fruitful gesture on the part of the Assam Assembly. The difference is not between East Bengal, a State of Pakistan, and Assam, a State of India, but the difference is one of distrust of one set of people against another. The *golmal* and *gandagol* are all, as has been mentioned, by the Leader of the House, is of international character. The solution of this much desired desideratum of the people of two countries must lie at the highest Ministerial level of India and Pakistan. It has been said that the Prime Minister of India, that valiant fighter for all freedom, did ask the Prime Minister of Pakistan to accompany him on a Good-will mission tour of both the Bengals. I do not know for what reasons the Pakistan Prime Minister rejected that proposal. I personally do not like the rejection, but without knowing the facts, I do not like to fix the blame on the Pakistan Prime Minister. I read in the Newspapers that the Pakistan Government believe that such a good-will tour by the two Premiers of India and Pakistan, would not ease the situation, unless one could strike at the root of things, and from the Press reports we have been told Pakistan made certain concrete suggestions to remove the root causes. Unfortunately for us, the concrete suggestions of the Pakistan Government and the Pakistan Premier to the Government of India and the Indian Premier have not been made public as yet, but there is a little silver lining in the midst of the darkest clouds and I am happy to say again from Press reports that there is the possibility of a joint statement by the two Premiers of Pakistan and India to request the minorities not to get panicky, and also of making the two Governments responsible for the safety of life and property of the minority community. There might accrue something tangible and fruitful and remove the state of affair, but I am constrained to say that the temper of the people of both the Dominions have been whipped to white-heat fury by the mischievous propaganda and misleading and exaggerating stories appearing in the Press of both the countries. Just to mention one instance, it was reported in one of the papers that the Leader of the Opposition in the East Bengal Legislative Assembly, *viz.*, Srijiut Basanta Kumar Das, (who adorned the Speaker's Chair here a few years ago) has been stabbed to death at Dacca. His son-in-law is in Shillong. After the rumour many people went to his son-in-law and asked whether it was a fact, and his son-in-law replied that he had no news of his father-in-law for the past one month. There are witnesses who heard some youths not being satisfied with the answer, immediately resorted to threatening and announced that whereas a leader of Hindu Sylhet has been done to death in East Pakistan, they resolved to take the lives of some of the Muslim Leaders of Assam. If I remember aright, this was on the 12th February last.

Srijiut NILMANI PHOOKAN : May I know whether it was after the 10,000 killed in Calcutta as published in the Pakistan Press.

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I treat my Friend who has just interrupted, as elder brother and in private life I address him as "Bar-Kakai". Sir, I refuse to be side-tracked by him.

Luckily for the State of Assam a statement was issued in the Press and I read the statement on 15th February last and it was a statement in his own words, from Babu Basanta Kumar Das. There he said that there are anti-social elements in every community and although some of the people were trying to injure him, the majority of his Muslim neighbours had vowed to protect his life, his family and his property to the extent of laying down their own lives. What misguided

action has taken place in Pakistan one cannot deny there has been grosser outrages in certain parts of India. As the learned Chief Minister of Assam just now has stated, it is a vicious circle and unless sanity returns to the people this vicious circle seems to have got perpetual motion. Whenever a rumour or a false report appears in some news papers that some outrages have been committed at certain places, immediately there is a repercussion in the other country. This is what human nature is. But the greatest calumny is that even a very responsible, educated and intelligent person cannot see through this game. Three days ago one hon. gentleman who adorned this House for many years, I refer to Maulavi Keramat Ali of Jorhat, related to me his experience in Shillong. He left this place only three days ago. He said that while he was returning from Police bazar to my bungalow where he was staying, he saw a very old beggar like Muslim he presumed because the old man had a red cap—being marched to the thana by a constable with a rope round his waist. Seeing the extreme old age of this man, Maulavi Keramat Ali stopped his car and asked the police officer who was conducting this prisoner and the report that was given to him was that in the person of this man a letter had been found which contained an astounding news that there were only three Muslim family have been left at Gauhati and that all the mosques have been raged to the ground. This beggar person was on his way to his home at Sylhet from Gauhati. When police asked him where he got this letter, he said that while he was getting into a bus at Gauhati motor station a young man whom the beggar-like man described as Hindu because he was wearing a dhuti, came and gave him this letter saying: "As you are going to Sylhet please give it to a responsible person at Sylhet". The old man repeats this story even now. No sane person can consider these things to be true. Some interested party had handed over this letter to this ignorant harmless person so that after learning the contents of the letter peoples passion will be roused and there will occur outrages.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : To whom was this letter addressed ?

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : To none. There was no address. As a matter of fact it was addressed to the public. This report was given to me by Maulavi Keramat Ali.

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN : Why should this beggar-like old man carry that letter without knowing to whom it was to be delivered at Sylhet ?

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Such kinds of happenings are the daily work of the miscreants. That great far-sighted statesman, the Prime Minister of India had in his Calcutta speech only ten days ago said that supposing Pakistan or the people of Pakistan have committed some excesses, should the India Government try to retaliate ? He said that if we are to carry the good opinion of the world we should comport ourselves in such a way that can have a clean breast and be able to declare that there are no such retaliation or excesses in India. His very sound advice had been set at naught. There has been horrible outrages at Calcutta. I was passing by Park Circus just half an hour before the refugees gathered there to be visited by Pandit Nehru and saw the pitiable condition of these refugees. I have heard of such ugly happenings that are going on in Assam in the same name of retaliation. The other day I thanked our Chief Minister who had taken the trouble of going to those place to see things personally and to control and quell the disturbances. Yesterday, after I went from the House for midday meal I got a telephone message from a responsible person from Dhubri who was a member of this House. He said

that after the Chief Minister's visit to this side, the situation has further deteriorated. I did not know that our Chief Minister has returned and as soon as I came to the House for the afternoon business, I met him (the Chief Minister) in the Chamber and spoke to him about it. Last night, I got a telephone message from the telegraph office saying that there was an urgent message for me but there was no messenger to carry it and that the message was telephoned to me.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: How long the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition would take to finish his speech ?

Maulavi SAIYID MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I will take another ten minutes more.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: He may then continue his speech later.

Election to the Public Accounts Committee

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: As announced already, election to the Public Accounts Committee will take place just now.

(The election of Members to the Public Accounts Committee then proceeded inside the Chamber).

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Have all the hon. Members cast their votes ?

The boxes will now be sealed in the presence of the hon. Members. It will take time to announce the result.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 a. m. on Wednesday, the 22nd March, 1950.

SHILLONG:

R. N. BARUA,

The 19th May, 1950.

Secretary, Assam Legislative Assembly.