

**Proceedings of the Third Session of the Second Assam Legislative Assembly  
assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act,  
1935**

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 11 A.M., on Thursday, the 3rd April, 1947.

PRESENT

The Deputy Speaker, Mrs. Bonily Khongmen, in the Chair, eight Hon'ble Ministers and fifty-three Members.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS**

(To which answers were laid on the table.)

**Refund of collective fines**

**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA** asked :

1. Will Government be pleased to state—
  - (a) If Government have ordered to refund the collective fines to individuals in the Sibsagar District ?
  - (b) If so, what Government propose to do with (i) those persons to whom receipts were not granted and (ii) granted and since lost ?
  - (c) What Government propose to do with the amount of collective fines left with the Government after refund in the Sibsagar District ?
  - (d) What Government propose to do in cases where in the same locality or Mouza of the Sibsagar District (i) some people have applied for refund of the fine and (ii) some people have applied the same to be spent for certain public beneficiary ?
  - (e) Whether Government propose to extend the date of submission of applications for refund of collective fines in Sibsagar District ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS** replied :

1. (a)—Yes.  
(b)—Refund will be given to those persons where the Deputy Commissioner is satisfied that payment of collective fines was made.  
(c) & (d)—Government will consider when the facts are known.  
(e)—Date of submission of applications has been extended upto the time of making final payments.

**Settlement of Excise Shops in Assam**

**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA** asked :

2. Will Government be pleased to state—
  - (a) The principle they had adopted in settling the Excise shops in Assam during the last settlement ?
  - (b) Whether Government have changed the old settlement rules ?
  - (c) Whether the communal quota ratio had strictly been followed in the last settlement of Excise shops ?
  - (d) If so, whether Government propose to furnish a detailed statement showing the number of shops settled with different communities and the quota to which each community is entitled, Subdivision by Subdivision in the Sibsagar District ?



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

2. (a)—Subject to the condition that Excise shops should not be settled with persons of bad character or with persons who may be considered undesirable, settlement of Excise shops shall have to be made with due regard to communal representation on the basis of District population on the same principle as is followed in the matter of appointments to Government service preference being given to unemployed educated youths. The hon. Member's attention is invited to the Settlement Instruction in the Assam Excise Manual, Volume I.

(b)—Yes, by adding a note to the existing settlement Instruction No.109 to the effect that if there be no suitable candidate in the communal category of choice, recourse shall be had to the other choice under Settlement Instruction No.111.

(c)—Yes, as far as possible having due regard to the Settlement Instructions.

(d)—Three statements are laid on the Library Table.

**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA** : Regarding answer to (b), "if there be no suitable candidate, etc.", will the Hon'ble Minister please enlighten us what is the criterion of suitability ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS** : Man of good character and having sound finance.

### STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given.)

(Starred Question No.73 was not put and answered as the hon. Questioner Maulavi Mayeenud-Din Ahmed Chowdry was absent)

### Assamese Clerks serving in the Dibru-Sadiya Railway

**Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH** asked :

\*74. (a) Do Government propose to enquire and state whether Assamese clerks serving in the Dibru-Sadiya Railway have been transferred to Bengal and even Delhi after the Railway was purchased by the Bengal-Assam Railway ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Assamese clerks applied to this Government to stop the transfer as it would interfere with the studies of their children as no facilities are provided by the Railway Authorities or by the Government to teach Assamese in Bengal ?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken to save the poor clerks from the inconvenience ?

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

74. (a) to (c) —This Government addressed the General Manager, Bengal-Assam Railway, Calcutta, for cancellation of the transfer orders and retention of the Assamese clerks in the Dibru-Sadiya Area, even in other Departments of the Railway if necessary. The Bengal-Assam Railway Authorities reported that on the amalgamation of the Dibru-Sadiya Railway with the Bengal-Assam Railway, the staff employed in the Dibru-Sadiya Railway had to be brought to Calcutta as far as possible, but those belonging to traffic accounts centralised. The work dealt with by those clerks requires knowledge and



experience and cannot be straightway given to new recruits. Besides, if these men are replaced from Calcutta office, there would be no vacancies in Gauhati office to absorb them. It is further reported that their intention is to transfer the Assamese staff to Gauhati gradually as and when the Calcutta staff will pick up the work and vacancies occur at Gauhati.

Government are enquiring again to what extent effect has been given to their assurance.

### Refreshment Rooms of Bengal-Assam Railway

**Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH** asked :

\*75. (a) Are Government aware that even Upper Class passengers not dressed in European style are refused service in the Refreshment Rooms of Bengal-Assam Railway and Notice Boards to that effect are put up in front of Refreshment Rooms of Chaparmukh, Lumding, Manipur Road, Furkating, Mariani, Simaluguri and Tinsukia ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take necessary steps so that these Notice Boards may be removed immediately ?

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

75. (a) & (b)—This Government have no information in the matter. They will, however, bring this to the notice of the Bengal-Assam Railway Authorities asking for removal of the distinction made and removal of the offending Notice Board.

(Starred Question No. 76 was not put and answered as the hon. Questioner Mr. Prabhudayal Himatsingka was absent.)

### Pine Mount School, Shillong

**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA** asked :

\*77. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The average amount of aid granted annually by the Assam Government during the last ten years towards the Pine Mount School for girls in Shillong ?
- (b) Whether Government have any control over the management of the said school ?
- (c) If so, what is that ?
- (d) Who are the members of the Managing Committee of that School ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that there is no separate arrangement of diet in the hostel for Hindu girls and that the same diet is supplied to them ?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that many guardians objected to it and requested the authorities to make separate arrangement of diet for those girls and that they were prepared to pay extra charge for the same ?
- (g) If so, whether any separate arrangement has since been made ?
- (h) If not, whether Government propose to take immediate steps for the arrangement of separate diet for those girls who want to have the same ?



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

77. (a)—This school is primarily intended for the girls of European descent and is run entirely at Government expense. No question of grant-in-aid therefore arises.

(b) & (c)—Government have full control.

(d)—The Members of the Managing Committee at present are—

Deputy Commissioner, Khasi and Jaintia Hills. *Ex-Officio* President.

Civil Surgeon }  
The Chaplain } ... .. *Ex-Officio* members.

The Head Mistress ... .. *Ex-Officio* Secretary.

*Non-Official Members—*

Mrs. Campbell.

Mrs. L. L. Reade.

Mrs. Thomas.

Mrs. S. C. Roy.

Mrs. Russell.

The Hon'ble Mrs. Z. A. Rahman.

Rev. T. E. Pugh.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—No such request appears to have been received either by the Head Mistress or by the Director of Public Instruction.

(g)—Does not arise.

(h)—This Institution is primarily meant for children of European descent and no separate arrangement for Indian girls can be catered for.

**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA :** Will Government be pleased to take it from me that some guardians requested the authorities of Pine Mount School to make separate arrangement for diet for their children and that they were ready to pay extra charge for that but their request was not complied with.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The Hon'ble Prime Minister has already answered that this institution is primarily meant for children of European descent and no separate arrangement for Indian girls can be catered for.

**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA :** Question (f), Madam. Whether it is a fact that many guardians objected to it and requested the authorities to make separate arrangement of diet for those girls and that they were prepared to pay extra charge for the same ?

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The reply is that no such request appears to have been received.

**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA :** My submission is that some guardians made the request and it is those guardians who have requested me to put this question.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI :** The matter will be enquired into, Madam.



### Tenants of villages in Hailakandi Subdivision

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR** asked :

\*78. Are Government aware—

- (a) That about 2 lakhs of people of nearly 260 villages in the Hailakandi Subdivision of the Cachar District belonging to the Manipuri, Kachari, Lushai and Muslim communities are tenants of Zamindars and Mirasdars ?
- (b) That the Zamindars and Mirasdars generally realise rents from their tenants, not in cash but in kind ?
- (c) That these Zamindars and Mirasdars realise from their tenants 6 to 8 maunds of paddy per *kedar* per annum ?
- (d) That last year a terrible flood destroyed the *Aus* (Asu) crop of the cultivators of the said Subdivision and their last *sali* crop also failed owing to scanty rainfall ?
- (e) That being unable to maintain themselves and their families the tenants of the Subdivision owing to their inability to pay the rents in kind offered to pay their landlords in cash at the rate of Rs.5 per *kedar* which is the normal rate fixed by Government and conveyed their offer to the Zamindars and Mirasdars by sending them copies of a resolution adopted by the Hailakandi Proja Sabha in their meeting held on 25th December 1946 ?
- (f) That a few Mirasdars, such as Srijut Durga Charan Goala, Kurkun Basti, and Srijut Herananda Singh agreed to the tenants' offer and accepted rent in cash at the rate of Rs. 5 per *kedar* ?
- (g) That the majority of the Zamindars and Mirasdars have declined to accept the offer and are insisting upon payment of rent in kind as before at the rate of 6 or 8 maunds of paddy per *kedar* ?
- (h) That the tenants brought their grievances to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, and the Subdivisional Officer of Hailakandi and sought Government protection and the Subdivisional Officer was pleased to warn the Zamindars and Mirasdars against making any undue demands and advised them not to harass the tenants by Government Notification, dated the 6th January, 1947 ?

\*79. Are Government aware—

- (a) That the majority of the Zamindars and Mirasdars are paying no heed to the tenants' appeal nor are they listening to the Subdivisional Officer's advice and warning but are determined to take the law into their own hands ?
- (b) That some of the more powerful amongst these Zamindars and Mirasdars are realising paddy from their tenants in satisfaction of their rents by threat and display of physical force ?
- (c) That the dissatisfied Zamindars and Mirasdars are threatening to compel their tenants into submission to their harsh demand for payment of rent in kind by forcibly preventing them from cultivating their lands and thus dispossessing the tenants from the lands in their occupation ?

\*80. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have received a representation addressed to the Hon'ble Revenue Minister in the 3rd week of February last by the President of the Hailakandi Proja Sabha praying for speedy action for the protection of the tenants of Hailakandi from the harassment caused by the Zamindars and Mirasdars in realising rents in kind ?



(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether the said representation has received Government's consideration and what measures are proposed to be taken on it ?

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

78 & 79.—The Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, has been asked to furnish information on the points raised in the questions.

80. (a)—Yes.

(b)—A report has been called for from the Commissioner of Divisions on receipt of which the position will be examined.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR** : Will Government be pleased to furnish me with a copy of that report ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI** : Yes, Madam, that will be supplied.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR** : Will Government be pleased to enquire whether there is a likelihood of some breach of peace owing to the attempt on the part of the Zaminders and Mirasdars to oust the tenants, that is those tenants who may not be agreeable to pay rent in kind ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI** : Even if there is a chance of a breach of peace the district officers have sufficient authority under the present law to deal with the matter.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR** : Instead of dealing with the mischief after it is committed will it not be better to see that that mischief does not take place ? Will Government be pleased to take notice that there is some likelihood of the Mirasdars and Zaminders harassing the tenants by not allowing them to till their land ? That may create some trouble and before that trouble is created may not the Government warn the Zaminders and Mirasdars ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI** : The local authorities have absolute jurisdiction to prevent that and take such step as they deem necessary under the ordinary law.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR** : Will Government be pleased to draw the attention of the local authorities to see that such things do not take place ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI** : I think, no direction seems necessary because we consider the Deputy Commissioner is quite competent to look to it.

**The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS** : They are quite alive to their duties.

#### Officer-in-charge of Sorbhog Thana

**Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY** asked :

\*81. (a) Is it a fact that several representations have lately been made to the Government by the people of Sorbhog and also resolutions passed in public meetings against the officer-in-charge of Sorbhog Thana ?

(b) If so, what action do Government propose to take in the matter ?



(c) Are Government aware that gambling in broad day light near the very nose of the officer-in-charge of the said Thana has been a daily feature in Sorbhog ?

(d) Are Government aware that in spite of repeated requests by the public to the officer-in-charge, he has not taken any step to stop such broad day light gambling ?

(e) If so, do Government propose to take necessary action to stop gambling in the locality ?

(f) Is it a fact that burglaries and other nocturnal crimes have of late increased within the Sorbhog Thana ?

(g) Are Government aware that due to the negligence of the officer-in-charge of the Sorbhog Thana no case has been detected yet ?

(h) If so, do Government propose to replace the present officer-in-charge by a better officer ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS** replied :

81. (a)—Yes, during one of my tours in the area complaints were made against this officer.

(b)—The officer-in-charge, Sorbhog Police Station is already under order of transfer.

(c), (d) & (e)—It is a fact that gambling sometimes take place at Sorbhog and some cases were detected and sent up by the police for trial under the Gambling Act. The Police are trying to detect more cases. Two cases of gambling ended in conviction.

(f) & (g)—Crime in Sorbhog is very heavy and cases difficult to detect as they mostly concern immigrants who do not co-operate with the police. Touring is very difficult and the thana records were destroyed in the 1942 disturbances. The population of the Thana has also increased enormously during the past 10 years.

(h)—The reply is given in answer to (b) above.

**Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY**: Madam, in view of the heavy crimes in the Thana will Government be pleased to increase the strength of the Thana officers ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS**: This matter will be considered by Government.

### Creation of new Thana at Baghbar

**Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY** asked :

\*82. (a) Are Government aware that a portion of the Barpeta Subdivision including the Baghbar Circle is inaccessible either from Barpeta or from Tara-bari ?

(b) Are Government aware that in that area the number of crimes is the highest and they mostly go undetected ?

(c) Is it a fact that the proposal for creation of a new Thana at Baghbar was once accepted by Government and necessary surveys were also undertaken in that behalf ?

(d) Is it a fact that the project was abandoned due to war ?

(e) If so, do Government now propose to revive that proposal and take up the matter immediately ?



**The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS** replied :

82. (a)—Yes.

(b)—There are many cases in that area and some are unreported on account of the distance from and bad communication to the Police Station.

(c)—A proposal for creation of a new Thana at Balikari was accepted by Government. Subsequently it was dropped and the proposal for the creation of a new Thana at Baghbar is being made.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Yes.

### Sorbhog Aerodrome

**Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY** asked :

\*83. (a) Is it a fact that the Sorbhog aerodrome constructed for Military purpose has now been abandoned by the Military ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take immediate steps to rehabilitate the evacuees of that area in their original holdings ?

(c) Is it a fact that the rehabilitation of the evacuees will involve huge cost ?

(d) If so, do Government propose to compute the compensation to be paid to them in the light of the actual cost the rehabilitation operation necessitates ?

(e) Are Government aware that some portions of the requisitioned lands in the Sorbhog aerodrome area have been completely rendered useless for cultivation by deep shingling, etc. ?

(f) If so, do Government propose to assess the compensation for those lands in the light of their actual valuation so that no hardship may be caused to their respective owners ?

(g) Is it a fact that a portion of the compensation for the requisitioned land in the Sorbhog aerodrome area is still outstanding ?

(h) Is it a fact that the annual rent to the owners of those lands has not been paid regularly ?

(i) If so, do Government propose to take necessary steps so that the poor cultivators of that area are paid their dues in full without further delay ?

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

83. (a)—Yes, but the areas have not yet been formally derequisitioned.

(b)—Yes, Government recommended immediate step to derequisition and return of the land and the houses to the evacuees about a year ago. On receipt of intimation from the Military authorities the area will be derequisitioned and restored as far as possible to original owners with such compensation as may be payable.

(c)—This Government have no definite information about the compensation.

(d)—The assessment of compensation is made in accordance with the rules framed by the Central Government.

(e)—Government are prepared to accept the hon. Member's statement.

(f)—Government will see that the assessment is done in accordance with the rules laid down by Central Government, and in case of hardship the matter will be referred to the Central Government.



(g) to (i)—Yes, in two cases out of 23 for want of sanction from the Military Financial Adviser. The rents are, it is believed, regularly paid now.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR :** With regard to reply to Question (a), Madam, do not Government consider the desirability of having an aerodrome at Sorbhog ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI :** This question does not arise from the main question.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR :** This question arises because if the land is restored to the original owners and if there is again a proposal to establish an aerodrome there, the land will have to be acquired again. If there is to be an aerodrome, the land should not be derequisitioned.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI :** This question does not arise. It is a question of hardship of the cultivators. Mr. Friend has seen the affected villages and has not the experience of the sufferings of those villagers who were driven out of their homestead land and had to live in jungle with great difficulty.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR :** But the Hon'ble Minister ought to reply to my question. My suggestion is that land should not be derequisitioned if we want to have an aerodrome at Sorbhog.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The hon. Member will please put a question.

**Srijut GUARI KANTA TALUKDAR :** Madam, my question is—do Government consider the necessity of having an aerodrome at Sorbhog ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI :** This question does not arise. I do not say that he has not been to the villages, but what I want to say is that he has not seen the affected places at Sorbhog. I have personally visited the places and I know the difficulty of the villagers.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR :** May I ask whether an aerodrome for the Province is a greater necessity than the necessity of certain villagers who have been already driven away and who may be given more and far better lands somewhere else if their land is utilised for an aerodrome ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI :** My hon. Friend should have put a different question if he wanted a reply of that kind regarding the necessity for an aerodrome.

**Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY :** Will the Hon'ble Minister please take it from me that no steps were taken to make regular payments in the past ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI :** It was after the cessation of the war that the civil authorities were not allowed to make payment unless it was sanctioned by the military authority in charge of the area.

**Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY :** Even now have any attempts been made to make payments regular ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI :** Our information is that rents are being paid regularly now.



**Srijut MOHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY:** My information is that some lands were put to auction sale for not payment of annual rent.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** If these specific instances are brought to my notice I shall see that their lands are not sold.

**Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA:** In view of the fact that payments were not regular will Government take steps to clear all the arrears at one time?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** As soon as the permission is obtained from the authorities concerned I am much more anxious to see that the people get the compensations.

### Anti-corruption Branch

**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA** asked :

\*84. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Why the Anti-corruption Branch was formed?
- (b) What is the total strength of the Branch?
- (c) What is the average monthly expenses for the maintenance of the staff of this Branch?
- (d) How many cases this Department have detected since its creation and against whom till the end of February 1947?
- (e) Why the officers are kept in Shillong?
- (f) Why the officers have not been placed in different places to enable them to contact local people?
- (g) Whether Government propose to take early steps to post the staff in different places of the Province?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS** replied :

84. (a)—It was formed to combat corruption in the services in accordance with the public demand.

(b)—2 officers.  
4 Inspectors.  
8 other ranks.

(c)—About Rs. 4,206-7-0.

(d)—8 cases—the following officials have been placed under suspension :—  
Srijut Babul Chandra Bora, S. D. C.  
Srijut Pradip Chandra Hazarika, Assistant Controller of Rationing.  
Maulavi Azimuddin Ahmad, Superintendent of Supply.  
Mr. H. N. Barua, Deputy Superintendent of Police.

(e) & (f)—They are required to be in touch with Government and Shillong is the central place for the purpose. Contact with local people is maintained by officers while on tour.

(g)—Not at present. Government are considering the questions of enlarging the organisation and of changing methods if after study of methods elsewhere they consider this desirable.

(Starred Question No. 85 was not put and answered as the hon. Questioner Maulavi Dewan Abdur Rob Choudhury was absent.)



### Loss incurred by Political sufferers of 1942

**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA** asked :

\*86. Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge be pleased to make a detailed statement in the House as to what steps Government have taken to compensate the losses incurred by the Political sufferers of 1942 ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS** replied :

86.—The question is under consideration.

### Number of Elephants caught in each District

**Mr. E. W. B. KENNY** asked :

\*87. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of elephants caught in each District of Assam during the season 1946-47, by (i) Mela Shikar and (ii) Khedda Shikar ?
- (b) Of the number caught, what percentage were fully grown and what percentage were partially grown ?

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

87. (a)—The number of elephants caught up-to-date (as per Divisional Forest Officer's reports so far received) in different Divisions are as follows—

	Female	Tusker	Makhna	Total
Lakhimpur ...	9	6	1	16
Nowgong ...	34	14	10	58
Jowai Subdivision	30	6	11	47
Sibsagar ...	19	8	9	36
Sadiya ...	6	5	2	13
Darrang ...	6	2	4	12
Cachar ...	10	3	4	17
Sylhet ...	27	3	4	34
Total ...	141	47	45	233

Amongst them 98 elephants have been caught by Khedda Shikar and the rest are by Mela Shikar.

(b)—This information is not available.

**Mr. E. W. B. KENNY** : Will Government be pleased to furnish the figure asked for at a later date ?

†**The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY** : I shall be glad to furnish the information to the hon. Member when we have got the report from the officer.

**Mr. E. W. B. KENNY** : Thank you. Is it a fact that the number of catches fell far short of the expectation ?

†**The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY** : Yes, it is a fact.

**Mr. E. W. B. KENNY** : In view of this, will Government increase their activities to catch more next year ?

†**The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY** : That question will be considered in time.

†Speech not corrected.



### Adoption of Commercial audit system of the Government of India

**Mr. W. R. FAULL** asked :

\*88. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government considered the expediency of adopting the commercial audit system of the Government of India for the trading operations of the Provincial Government included in the Budget, Major Head “85A.—Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes of State Trading” ?
- (b) Whether Government propose to adopt this system of audit in future ?
- (c) If not, what are the reasons for this decision ?

\*89. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether a cess or administrative charge has been imposed on all supplies of rice and paddy procured through Government agency ?
- (b) What charges can legitimately be debited against the cess income ?
- (c) What income has been realised from this cess since its first imposition in 1942 ?
- (d) What amount under separate heads have been debited against such income ?

\*90. (a) Is it a fact that expenditure on Grain Storage Schemes upto the end of 1944-45 amounted to Rs.409 lakhs and that expenditure during 1945-46 was minus 168 lakhs and the Revised Estimate for 1946-47 is minus 52 lakhs making an estimated balance of expenditure of 189 lakhs on the 31st March 1947 ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state what the assets held under this scheme are expected to be on the 31st March 1947, or for any other date for which accurate information is obtainable ?

\*91. (a) Is it a fact that under “Other Miscellaneous Schemes” under Major Head “85 A.—Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes of State Trading”, expenditure upto the end of 1944-45 amounted to Rs.4 lakhs, that expenditure in 1945-46 was minus 9 lakhs, and in the Revised Estimate 1946-47 it has been estimated at minus Rs.3 lakhs, making altogether an estimated profit of Rs. 8 lakhs on the 31st March 1947 ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether there are any assets estimated to be held under these schemes on the 31st March 1947 ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** replied :

88. (a)—(c)—There is no separate Government of India commercial audit system, the usual commercial accounting system has been adopted since the inception of the scheme and the accounts are audited by the Comptroller.

**Mr. W. R. FAULL :** Will the Hon'ble Minister please take it from me that I have actually seen a separate system of Central Government commercial accounts?



**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Audit is not our concern, it is the concern of the Central Government. Whatever System is necessary the Comptroller of Assam will certainly get it done. If the Comptroller of Assam think that there should be some changes in the present system of auditing, certainly he will introduce them and our accounts will be kept accordingly.

† **Babu RABINDRANATH ADITYA:** Will the hon. Member please enlighten us what is the difference between commercial audit system of the Government of India and the commercial audit system of other private firms?

**Mr. W. R. FAULL:** If I had at least 5 days time to spare and Members cared to hear me I might enlighten them.

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Madam, I do not think there is anything more to add. My reply is quite clear and definite. If the hon. Member cares to see that there is no separate commercial audit system of Government of India. Accounting is a different thing and auditing is a different thing. I have heard of commercial accounting but not of commercial accounts. Auditing is being done by the officer of the Government of India, I mean the Comptroller. Therefore, it is their lookout as to how the auditing should be done. I do not want to scratch my healthy skin and then to have a sore or boil on it. My hon. Friend—the auditing and accounting expert may give lessons to the Comptroller regarding commercial auditing system of Government of India.

**Mr. W. R. FAULL:** I think it should be commercial accounting system. The printing is wrong.

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** The hon. Questioner has made ever this mistake. He does not know what is the difference between accounting and auditing and trying to put me into a tight corner by his expert advice. What a pity!

\* **Babu RABINDRANATH ADITYA:** What was the reply to my question? Did he refer me to any dictionary? Which dictionary may I know from the hon. Questioner?

**Mr. W. R. FAULL:** In view of what I said the word 'audit' is wrong, I do not think that question arises.

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** replied.

89. (a)—Yes.

(b)—All expenditure incurred in connection with procurement and distribution of foodstuff is given below:—

*List of expenditure debited against cess*

1. Handling charges.
2. Transport charges.
3. Freight.
4. Commission on purchase and distribution.
5. Godown rent and Chowkidar wages.
6. Maintenance of Government transport.
7. Miscellaneous Godown and other office contingencies.
8. Establishment charges.
9. Excise duty.
10. Insurance.

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† Speech not corrected.



11. Allowance for wastage and shrinkage.
12. Rebate of wholesaler.
13. Interest on capital.
14. Loss due to devaluation.
15. Loss due to wastage and shrinkage in transit and in Godown.
16. Loss due to sale at reduced rate.

(c)—Cess was included in the sale price and no separate account was maintained in the past to exhibit the cess collected for sale of rice and paddy. The total gross profit on all foodstuffs purchased and disposed of upto 31st March 1946 from its first imposition as per the trading accounts for those periods comes to Rs. 1,19, 67,949.

			Rs.
(d)—Commission to Government agent	...	...	20,28,731
Goods lost due to sabotage	...	...	38,485
Godown rent and Chowkidar wages	...	...	8,19,044
Freight and other Miscellaneous charges	...	...	50,81,703
Establishment charges	...	...	18,15,193
Excise duty on sugar	...	...	2,44,696
Specie insurance premium	...	...	24,767
Allowances to distributing agents for shrinkage	...	...	6,37,272
Rebate to wholesaler	...	...	3,34,775
Interest on capital	...	...	14,72,653
Leave and Pensionary charges	...	...	47,782
Maintenance of staff car	...	...	11,979
Total to end 31st March 1946	...	...	12,55,730

90. (a)—

			Direct expenditure in lakhs
1942-43	...	...	1,50,00,000
1943-44	...	...	10,53,00,000
1944-45	...	...	14,68,00,000
			26,71,00,000

			Gross sale proceeds in lakhs
1942-43	...	...	1,19,00,000
1943-44	...	...	9,98,00,000
1944-45	...	...	13,54,00,000
			24,71,00,000

Leaving a balance representing a book balance of stock of Rs. 3,16,00,000 and after deducting losses due to devaluation and losses in transit due to shrinkage and deterioration. There was a net balance of stock estimated at Rs. 2,53,00,000. The value of goods in transit on 31st March 1945 amounting to Rs. 23,00,000. In 1945-46, corresponding deficit expenditure was Rs. 7,82,00,000 and the sale proceeds Rs. 9,87,00,000 leaving gross book balance of stock Rs. 1,37,00,000 or after deducting losses as mentioned previously a net book balance of Rs. 1,05,00,000 and the value of good in transit on 31st March 1946 amounting to Rs. 10,00,000.



These figures differ from the actuals given in the Budget and in the question by reason of the fact that some of the Agents of Government were permitted to make use of sale proceeds for fresh purchases. The estimated balance of expenditure of Rs.1,89,00,000 as worked out by the Hon'ble Member from the Budget figures represents only the estimated surplus of cash receipts over the expenditure in the Financial year 1946-47 without taking into account, the value of stock balance brought forward from the previous year.

(b)—The system of accounts adopted by the Accounts Branch of the Supply Department does not lend itself to the calculation of a balance sheet of assets and liabilities at the end of each month. Generally a balance sheet is prepared only after the accounts of the Financial Year are officially closed, *i. e.*, sometimes in the month of October of the following year. Till then the accounts are kept open for adjustment purposes. It is therefore too early to calculate the assets under the G. S. Scheme as on 31st March 1947 within any reasonable degree of accuracy. The latest figures available for the year ended 31st March 1946 and are of the order of Rs.2,76,00,000.

91. (a)—Yes.

(b)—As stated above against 90(b). The figures on 31st March 1947 are not available now.

**Mr. W. R. FAULL:** In connection with (b), does not the Hon'ble Minister think that if his system of accounting was better he would be in a position to give us this information at the time when it was really due.

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** That is a matter of opinion. I do not want to enter into a controversy.

(Starred Question No. 92 was not put and answered as the hon. Questioner Maulavi M. Idris Ali was absent.)

### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

#### **Profit or loss sustained by Government on account of textile goods and food-stuff**

**Maulavi MAKABBIR ALI MOZUMDAR** asked :

289. Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Supply be pleased to state the total profit or loss sustained by Government on account of textile goods and food-stuff during the year 1945-46 and from April to December 1946 ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** replied :

289.—So far as accounts are concerned Supply Department deals with standard cloth only but not the textile goods as those are not purchased on Government account. The profit and loss during the year 1945-46 are given below.

Standard cloth	...	...	...	Profit of Rs. 21,59,928
Food-stuff	...	...	...	Loss of Rs. 21,83,591

The figures of profit or loss from April to December 1946 cannot be supplied now.



**Boat Service from Burisuti-Sisi to Dibrugarh**

**Srijut BIJOY CHANDRA SAIKIA** asked :

290. (a) Are Government aware of the great inconvenience caused to the rayots of Sisi and Dhemaji Mauzas as they are to come over to Dibrugarh for their various needs ?

(b) Do Government propose to arrange for a regular Boat Service from Burisuti-Sisi to Dibrugarh daily ?

(c) Are Government aware that the village roads of Sisi, Dhemaji, Man-kata, Jakai, Khowang, Larua, Lengri, Sepon and Moran Mauzas of Dibrugarh Subdivision are very unsatisfactory ?

(d) Do Government propose to include for improvement of at least 200 miles in these Mauzas in their 4th Draft of the Reconstruction Scheme ?

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

290. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No.

(c)—Government have no information but are prepared to accept the statement contained in the question.

(d)—Government will place the matter before the next meeting of the Assam Road Communications Board for consideration.

**Officers working in the Procurement Department**

**Maulavi ABUAL MAJID ZIAOSH-SHAMS** asked :

291. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number with designations of officers taken in the Procurement Department in 1946 (figures are to be given District by District) ?

(b) The number of candidates who applied from the Goalpara District for Inspectorship and Sub-Inspectorship ?

(c) How many of these candidates for Inspectorship were graduates ?

(d) How many graduates have not been granted the posts they applied for from Goalpara District for the posts of Inspectorship ?

(e) How many under-graduates and matriculates have been taken for posts of Sub-Inspector of Procurement and for the posts of Inspectorship ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** replied :

291. (a)—As in the statement attached.

ASSAM VALLEY PROCUREMENT				
Designation	Number	Figures—District by District		
Deputy Director of Procurement.	4	Sibsagar ...	...	2
		Kamrup	...	1
Assistant Directors of Procurement.	3	Sylhet	...	1
		Sibsagar	...	1
Controllers ...	3	Goalpara	...	2
		Nowgong	...	1
		Kamrup	...	1
		Goalpara	...	1
		...	...	1



Designation			Number	Figures—District by District			
Inspectors	...	...	38	Lakhimpur	...	...	3
				Sibsagar	...	...	15
				Nowgang	...	...	6
				Kamrup	...	...	11
				Darrang	...	...	2
				Goalpara	...	...	1
Sub-Inspectors	...	...	12	Lakhimpur	...	...	3
				Sibsagar	...	...	2
				Nowgong	...	...	1
				Darrang ...	...	...	2
				Kamrup	...	..	3
				Goalpara	...	...	1
Assistant Sub-Inspectors	...	...	11	Lakhimpur	...	...	2
				Sibsagar	...	...	3
				Darrang	...	...	2
				Kamrup	...	...	3
				Goalpara	...	...	1

(b)—Five for Inspectorship and three for Sub-Inspectorship.

(c)—Three.

(d)—Two.

(e)—8 under-graduates, 2 matriculates and 2 non-matriculates.

**Maulavi Habibur Rahman of Nazira Town, Section Clerk in the Assam Transport Organisation**

**Dr. EMRAN HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY** asked :

292. (a) Is it a fact that Maulavi Habibur Rahman of Nazira Town was a Section Clerk in the Assam Transport Organisation for nearly four years ?

(b) Is it a fact that since March last he has been without service ?

(c) If so, why ?

(d) Are Government aware that he was removed from service on the ground that he had resigned ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of his resignation letter ?

(f) Is it a fact that he had never submitted any resignation letter ?

(g) Is it a fact that a person was taken in his place before he was released ?

(h) Will Government be pleased to state whether he has suffered any financial loss due to his release from service ?

(i) What steps do Government propose to take to give him compensation for the loss thus incurred by him ?

(j) When Government propose to re-instate him ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** replied :

292. (a)—For two and half years.

(b)—Government have no information.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—On receipt of an appointment under the Director of Public Health, Assam, he applied for his release and accordingly was released with effect from 11th March 1946 at his own request.



(e)—A copy of his letter requesting his release is placed below :—  
To—The Area Manager, Assam Transport, Dibrugarh (Assam).

Sir,

Most respectfully I beg to request your favour of releasing me from this Organisation on or before 11th March 1946.

As I have received an appointment from the Director of Public Health, Assam, Shillong to whom I have applied before my employment, i.e., on the 15th September 1945 and the result of which has been communicated to me now. The copy of the appointment letter is enclosed for perusal.

Under the circumstances I pray that my services may kindly be transferred to the above Department in lieu of my services and release me immediately for my better prospects in future.

Yours obediently,

Sd. M. H. RAHMAN, F/C.,  
A. T. Camp., Loc. SIB/3, Santak P.O.

(f)—No.

(g)—No.

(h)—Does not arise.

(i)—Does not arise.

(j)—Does not arise.

**J. Barooah College, Jorhat**

**Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY** asked :

293. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) How many students appeared in the last Intermediate Examination of the Calcutta University from the J. Barooah College, Jorhat ?
- (b) Of these how many passed and how many failed ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that of those who failed, all failed in English miserably, except 2 candidates ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that this College has not got adequate staff of Professors in English particularly, and in other subjects also ?
- (e) Whether an hon. Member of the House is also a Professor in this College ?
- (f) Whether Government propose to ascertain from the Principal whether this Professor will continue in politics or perform his duties of a Professor properly ?
- (g) Whether it is a fact that the Principal of the said College did not attend the College for a single solitary day during 1944-45 and 1945-46 sessions and many of the Intermediate students do not even recognise the Principal in person ?
- (h) Whether Government propose to obtain a report as to whether the Principal is properly looking after the interests of the present students and saving money for future ?
- (i) What is the amount of recurring aid the Government have been granting to this College ?
- (j) Whether it is a fact that the Governing Body of this College is constituted a small coterie of the Principal, a pair of Brothers, a pair of father and sons and a Muhammedan merchant, who does not in any way appear interested in education ?



- (k) If not, will Government be pleased to obtain and give the names of the members of the Governing Body of this College and the relationship if any, between any two members ?
- (l) Whether it is a fact that the same body of members of the Governing Body is in existence for the last 7 years or so ?
- (m) Whether it is a fact that this aforesaid self-constituted Governing Body passed a resolution at the instance of the Principal that they will continue as such for another 10 years ?
- (n) Whether Government propose to direct that the Governing Body should be properly reconstituted with the representative persons who take interest in education and the welfare of the country, without delay ?
- (o) Whether it is a fact that from the beginning of the present session the few girls students of the various classes of this College have been constituted into separate female sections, thus, doubling the total number of classes of the said College ?
- (p) Whether it is a fact that the girl sections are taught for 3 to 4 periods only in the morning ?
- (q) Whether it is a fact that although the number of classes of the said College has been doubled, there is no addition to the number of Professors (or Teachers) and the same set of Professors have to perform the task twice a day at an additional remuneration of Rs. 30 per month ?
- (r) Whether they would give a full list of the names of the Professors (including Lecturers) of this College showing against each name—periods taken in the weeks of a month, to enable the hon. Members of this House to have a complete chart of the teaching done in this College ?
- (s) In view of the fact that the staff of the college is inadequate and overworked and in consequence the interests of the pupils are suffering, whether Government propose to issue directions *viz.* :—
  - (i) That the female sections be reamalgamated and taught as before;
  - (ii) That adequate staff be maintained and money should not be shelved for future, jeopardising the interests of the present students of the College ; and
  - (iii) Any other instructions deemed necessary and proper in the interests of the students of this College ?
- (t) If not, why not ?

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

293. (a)—172 students were sent up for the last I.A. Examination.
- (b)—50 students passed and 16 have been permitted to appear at the Compartmental Examination. Two candidates occupied the 1st and 2nd position among the successful Assam Valley candidates.
- (c)—It is probable that most of the failures were in English as in other Colleges.
- (d)—There are three teachers of English and the number is considered sufficient for the present. An additional teacher for Assamese has been appointed. The number of teachers in the other subjects is quite sufficient.
- (e)—Professor P. M. Sarwan is a Member of the Legislative Assembly.



(f)—He is a permanent member of the staff.

(g)—The Principal who did not draw any salary from the College fund could not regularly attend the different places at which classes were held in 1944-45 owing to the Military occupation of the College buildings, but all administrative affairs were conducted by him as usual.

(h)—The Principal is working without remuneration for the good of the College and there is a Vice-Principal to assist him.

(i)—Rs. 700 per month.

(j)—No. The Governing Body was constituted under a Trust Deed registering the transfer of landed and other properties to the College.

(k)—The following are the members of the Governing Body—

1. Mr. C. D. Borooah, *Ex* Member, Council of State.
2. Mr. M. D. Borooah, Tea Planter.
3. Mr. Sarvananda Sarma, Retd. Deputy Director of Agriculture.
4. Prof. G. G. Dutta.
5. Maulavi Azizul Hussain, B.A., Businessman.
6. Principal.

Mr. M. D. Borooah, donor, is the son of Mr. C. D. Borooah.

(l)—See (j) above. There were bye-elections in 1940 and 1946.

(m)—No.

(n)—The constitution of the Governing Body has been approved by the University. The question of reconstitution does not arise at present. The membership of the Governing Body is open to benefactors of the institution.

(o)—A separate section for girls' students has been opened from the beginning of the current session. The total number of students is 37.

(p)—No. Girls' Section classes (I. A. and B.A.) are held in the morning from 7-30 to 11-15 a.m., covering 5 periods. Certain Commerce subjects are not taught in the Girls' Section.

(q)—The number of classes has been increased to some extent and distributed among the existing staff. A lady teacher has also been appointed. The existing teachers have expressed their willingness to participate in the scheme and are being paid an additional remuneration of Rs. 35 per month for the present.

(r)—

Name		No. of classes taken	
		Arts Dept.	B. Com. Dept.
Professor :	T. N. Sarma	...	...
"	P. Changkakoti	...	...
"	P. Gogoi	...	15
"	G. Dutta	...	12
"	P. M. Sarwan	...	21
"	D. C. Bhuyan	...	11
"	J. Chakravarty	...	9
"	N. Goswami	...	12
"	A. Bhattacharyya	...	10
"	S. K. Majumdar	...	10
		...	8
		...	4
		...	9
		...	4
		...	4



Name	No. of classes taken	
	Arts Dept.	B. Com. Dept.
Professor : M. Ghosh ... ..	9	14
„ M. Chakravarty ... ..	6	9
„ D. Pathak ... ..	16	...
„ N. Nakibur Rahman ... ..	5	...
„ Kamal Kumari Boruah ... ..	3	...

(s) (i)—The Girls' section is functioning satisfactorily. There is a public demand for it as shown by the increase in the number of students and donation received for the purpose.

(ii)—Maintenance of adequate staff depends upon the financial position of the College, the results of the I.A., B.A., and B. Com. Examinations show that the interests of the students are not suffering in any way.

(50 per cent. of the students sent up for the last B.A. examination came out successful. Two students obtained Distinction. Five out of nine students passed the B. Com. Examination).

(iii)—If circumstances so demand Government will certainly see to this.

(t) Does not arise.

#### **Cinchona plantation in Assam**

**Srijut BELIRAM DAS** asked :

294. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) When the Cinchona plantation of Assam will yield quinine and when the Province is expected to be self-sufficient in quinine ?

(b) Whether the machineries and other accessories required for making quinine have been purchased and are ready at site of works ?

295. (a) Are Government aware that Cinchona can be grown in the plains of the Assam Valley successfully ?

(b) Do Government propose to encourage plantation of Cinchona by private enterprises under State control ?

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

294. (a)—1952.

(b)—No. As manufacture will not be possible before 1952 the question of purchasing machineries now, when costs are high, does not arise.

295. (a)—No.

(b)—It is proposed to manufacture 10,000 lbs. quinine annually which is the estimated annual consumption in Assam and is also the smallest quantity which can be manufactured economically. It is not proposed to encourage Cinchona cultivation by private enterprise in addition to this quantity at present because on account of the introduction of new drugs the future of quinine is somewhat uncertain.



**Shareholders and Depositors of the Sylhet Central Co-operative Bank and the Sylhet Central Co-operative Wholesale Stores**

**Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY** asked :

296. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether they received a representation dated the 22nd August 1946 from some Shareholders and Depositors of the Sylhet Central Co-operative Bank and the Sylhet Central Co-operative Whole-Sale Stores ?
- (b) If so, the steps that have been taken by Government regarding the allegations made in that representation ?
- (c) The steps that Government propose to take in prescribing communal ratio in matters of all appointments in the Central Co-operative Whole-Sale Stores, Central Banks and all such Stores and Societies ?
- (d) The steps taken by Government to maintain and strengthen the position of these Stores and Societies ?
- (e) Whether Government are aware that these Stores have been badly affected by the establishment of Vigilance Committees for their directly interfering with the works of these Stores ?
- (f) If so, what steps do Government propose to take in order to maintain and safeguard this system ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUR RASHEED** replied :

296. (a)—Yes, an anonymous petition dated 22nd August 1946 has been received.

(b)—An inquiry was made and such steps as are possible being taken.

(c)—The matter will be considered at the time of revising the rules under the Co-operative Societies Act.

(d)—Government have provided necessary staff for audit, inspecting and supervision of the Co-operative Stores and Societies.

(e)—Government have no information.

(f)—Does not arise.

**Certificate Cases instituted by the Court of Wards in Sunamganj Subdivision**

**Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA** asked :

297. Are Government aware—

- (a) That certificate cases have now been instituted by the Court of Wards in Sunamganj Subdivision regarding the rent of lands the title of which is questionable and have already been in some cases questioned in pending title suits ?



- (b) That in some cases certificates are being used to deprive the small landholders and co-sharers ?
- (c) That in some cases certificates are being used indiscriminately without making proper survey, measurement and without even giving particulars of land ?
- (d) That in some cases certificates are issued on mere pretext of title even where there is no relationship of landlords and tenants ?
- (e) That certificate procedure is adopted even when there is only homestead land and there is dispute about the rate of rent ?

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

297. (a) — (e) — Government have sanctioned the use of certificate procedure only in the case of those Ward's Estates who had reliable rent rolls and records. The Public Demands Recovery Act gives sufficient opportunity to persons who have valid objections to take them and pursue them before officers concerned. That Act provides for appeals, revisions and reviews. The Government have no reason to believe that the law is not administered as it is needed to be administered.

**Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA** : Will Government please take it from me that people have grievances of all the categories referred to in my Questions—(a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) and may I request them to arrange for an enquiry into the matter ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI** : The certificate procedure is taken under an Act, and that Act provides for appeals, revisions and reviews. Government have no reason to believe that the law is not administered as it is needed to be administered. If specific instances are brought to our notice we will make enquiries.

\***Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA** : Will Government please see that this certificate procedure is not adopted in tornado affected areas ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI** : It was suspended in the flood and tornado affected areas.

**Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN** : The Government reply is—"Government have sanctioned the use of certificate procedure only in the case of those Ward's Estates who had reliable rent rolls and records." May we know how it was ascertained that particular records or rent rolls were reliable ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI** : The records were examined by reliable officers and on their report this was accepted.

**Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN** : If the allegations that have been made in the questions are correct, it seems, Madam, that some of the records are not really reliable. In that case, will Government be pleased to enquire into the matter and see whether the records are really reliable or not ?



**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** If any specific instance is brought to the notice of Government to the effect that in a particular Ward's Estate records are not kept regularly then the matter may be looked into.

**Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA:** Are Government aware that the cases have been decreed against people in the hail-storm affected areas in large numbers and that these people are not even in the know of things ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** I am not aware of that, Madam.

**Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA:** Are Government aware that these people have been deprived of their right of appeal ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** The hon. Questioner may know that after 3 years the arrears of rent cannot be realised ; it becomes time-barred and option in such cases was given to the tenants to admit liability so that even after 3 years the amount can be realised from the tenants but the tenants never came forward to admit the liability and that was probably the reason why in some cases that procedure was adopted.

**Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA:** But they were given to understand that cases would not be decreed against them and that they would be given time. But the cases were decreed against them and they were deprived of the right of appeal.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** There is no question of depriving them of their right of appeal. The whole trouble was that they never admitted their liability and had there been no decree the claim would have been barred by limitation. Court of Wards being merely a trustee cannot allow the claim to be barred by limitation.

#### **War and Dearness allowances drawn by Government Servants**

**Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA** asked :

298. (a) Is it a fact that Government issued orders for the grant of the present rates of war and dearness allowances to the officers under their rule-making control with retrospective effect from 1st July, 1944 ?

(b) Is it a fact that retrospective effect was given to the grant of the allowances with the sole intention of giving pecuniary relief to the officers who were then in the service of the Crown as most of them were hard-hit by the economic conditions caused by the war ?

(c) Is it a fact that the increased rate of war allowance related to a period of six months only, i.e., from 1st July 1944 to 31st December 1944 and the dearness allowance to a period of one year, i.e., from 1st July 1944 and June 1945 and that some of the offices and officers prepared their arrear pay bills and drew the money from the Treasury ?

(d) Is it a fact that Government subsequently issued orders under which those officers and offices who and which could not draw the increased rates of war and dearness allowances for the periods mentioned in Question (c) above were debarred from drawing the allowances, if any, of the officers concerned who were not in Government service at the time when the orders for the grant of the said allowances with retrospective effect were issued ?



(e) Is it a fact that it was ordered that if any person who was discharged or who was no longer in Government service at the time of the issue of the orders referred to in Question (a) above and who had already drawn the increased rates of allowances for the said periods, he should not be required to refund the same ?

(f) If the answer to Question (d) above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what led to the issue of such orders ?

(g) Is it a fact that pay bills of non-gazetted officers are drawn by offices to which those officers belong ?

(h) If so, are Government aware that delay in drawing the said allowances in the case of non-gazetted officers was not due to any fault on the part of such officers ?

(i) If the answer to Question (e) above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for making a distinction between those whose allowances were not drawn or who could not draw and those whose allowances were drawn or who had actually drawn ?

(j) Is it a fact that those officers who were re-employed by Government at the time of the issue of the orders referred to in Question (a) above were not deprived from drawing the said allowances ?

(k) Do Government contemplate to ask those officers who had already drawn the said allowances to refund the same ?

(l) If not, do Government propose to allow those officers who were debarred from drawing these allowances so long, to have the benefit of the same now ?

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

298. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No. The intention included the securing of the contentment of the persons in service.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—No. Government orders were to the effect that those who were not in continuous service of Government on the date of issue of the orders were not eligible for the benefit.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—The benefit was intended for Government servants in service and not for those no longer in service.

(g)—Yes.

(h)—Yes.

(i)—To regularise matters.

(j)—No.

(k)—No.

(l)—No.

**Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA** : May I know why a difference is observed in the matter of granting war and other dearness allowances between a Government servant in service and a Government servant who has retired ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI** : This retrospective effect to the war and dearness allowances was granted to keep officers under service of Government contented and satisfied and the Government did not think giving such relief to those persons who had already retired.

**Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA** : Are we to understand that as soon as a man retires after putting in 30 years of faithful service to the Government, the Government do not care to look to their interest ?



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

**Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA:** Is it not only fair that if retrospective effect is given it should also be given to retired personnel as well?

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

### Live Stock Department

**Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN** asked :

299. (a) Are Government aware of the Local public feeling that the Live Stock Department failed in its duty by not visiting the flood affected cattle population of Nowgong and Kamrup in October last?

(b) Is it a fact that they only came along with the Hon'ble Minister, Agriculture, to supply trucks to the willing house-holders for collection of paddy-straw?

(c) Do Government propose to introduce the artificial insemination in Government cattle farms for the sake of economy of bulls and gradually extend the same to other areas?

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

299. (a)—No.

(b)—No.

(c)—Government will examine the possibilities if proper facilities are available.

### Objectives and functions of the Irrigation Branch.

**Maulavi Dewan ABDUL BASITH** asked :

300. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The objectives and functions of the Irrigation Branch and how the plan chalked out by that branch for the development of the minor irrigation projects worked out?

(b) How many power pump sets are now working in the Surma Valley?

(c) Whether there is any power pump set forth for demonstration purpose in order to increase the cultivation in the South Sylhet Sub-division?

(d) (i) How many stirrup pumps are lying in the Sylhet Head office and (ii) how many have been sold during the year 1946-47?

(e) Whether the Department propose to set apart some sets of stirrup pumps for Demonstration centres of the Agriculture Department to minimise the labour of the poor peasants and obtaining high yields?

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

300. (a)—The aim and object of the Irrigation Branch are to bring new areas under cultivation as well as to increase the yield in the existing areas by controlling the excess and removing the deficiency of matter in the fields.

This is done with the help of the small irrigation projects which provide for construction of canals, *khals* and *dongs*; excavation and deepening of tanks for supply of water; erection of *bunds* for protection from flood water and inroads of waterhyacinth; drainage of "bheels" and silting of lands requiring raising of level.



(b)—12.

(c)—Power pumps are in operation in all the Subdivisions of the Sylhet and Cachar districts since 1934. So no necessity has been felt for further demonstration, particularly in that Subdivision where production is increasing without such a measure.

(d) (i)—737.

(ii)—663.

(e)—Stirrup pumps were used only for watering small garden plots of vegetables and flowers. Every one has seen these pumps worked by the A. R. P., therefore further demonstration in the Departmental Demonstration centers is not considered necessary.

### Number of the Gurkhas resident in the Province

**Srijut DALBIR SINGH LOHAR** asked :

301. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the number of Gurkhas resident in the Province is about 12 lakhs ?

(b) Whether Government are aware that a large proportion of them are owners of landed properties ?

(c) Whether Government propose to encourage planned settlement of roving Gurkha residents of Assam who are mostly holders of Annual Pattas only ?

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

301. (a)—The latest Census did not provide for enumeration of Nepalis or Gurkhas separately from the other Hindus. Government are therefore unable to check the figure of 12 lakhs.

(b)—A certain proportion of the Nepalis have taken to cultivation and own lands.

(c)—Those who are resident Nepalese cultivators and have no sufficient land will have their claims considered in suitable localities for settlement of land.

### Number of Vehicles owned by the Assam Motor Transport

**Maulavi MAKABBIR ALI MOZUMDAR** asked :

302. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of vehicles owned by the Assam Motor Transport in various places of Assam ?

(b) The total expenditure incurred by Government on this account and total profit or earnings of the same in different places ?

(c) What safeguards are provided against private business by those who are placed in charge of the Vehicles ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** replied :

302. (a)—The total number of vehicles in various places owned by the Assam Transport at present is 385.

(b)—The total expenditure incurred by Government on purchase was Rs. 24,20,141.

The total earnings in different places during the following years were—

					Rs.
1942-43	...	...	...	...	12,505
1943-44	...	...	...	...	52,02,071
1944-45	...	...	...	...	75,94,443
1945-46	...	...	...	...	34,11,532



(c)—Responsible officers are placed in charge of operations in different areas, who have furnished Fidelity Bonds. Account of daily operation of each vehicle is taken, and use of vehicles beyond certain hours has been prohibited. In addition, surprise visits are paid by officers from Head Office. Detection of illegal use of vehicles on private business is punishable both departmentally and judicially.

### **Chaulkhowa Bridge of the Barpeta Subdivision**

**Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY** asked :

303. (a) Is it a fact that the Chaulkhowa Bridge of the Barpeta Subdivision was constructed from the Central Government Loan Fund ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Central Government have written off the said loan so incurred by the Assam Government with the inauguration of the present Reforms ?

(c) If so, do Government propose to declare the aforesaid bridge free of toll ?

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

303. (a) to (c)—The hon. Member is referred to the replies given to the same Questions [Starred Question No. 66(a)—(c)] asked by him in the current Session of the Assembly.

### **Motor Traffic over the Golapganj-Thakurbari Road**

**Maulavi Dewan ABDUR ROB CHOUDHURY** asked :

304. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The exact date when the Executive Engineer reported to the Superintendent of Police, Sylhet and the latter ordered for the closure of Motor Traffic over the Golapganj-Thakurbari Road during the last rainy season ?

(b) For how many days the road was closed for motor traffic ?

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

304. (a)—The Superintendent of Police, Sylhet, asked on 25th May 1946 the advice of the Executive Engineer about the desirability of allowing any further running of motor vehicles on this road for its unsafe condition at the time, the Executive Engineer replied on the 30th May 1946 and the road was closed from 31st May 1946.

(b)—Information is not available.

### **Audit of the Accounts of Revenue Stamp Money**

**Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN** asked :

305. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) In view of the several past defalcations and misappropriations of Revenue Stamp money in several districts what steps Government have taken now to audit the accounts of these sources of revenue to Government ?

(b) What were the recommendations of past Committee on these matters and also to audit Nazarat Accounts ?



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

305. (a)—By "revenue stamp money" is presumably meant court fees, non-judicial and revenue stamp income.

Past defalcations and misappropriations have been dealt with by action against persons responsible and where these were facilitated by a defect in the rules or system by amendment of rules or the system.

The question of audit of accounts of stamp revenue is under the consideration of Government.

(b)—It is not understood what Committee is referred to.

**Honorary Organisers of the Agriculture Department**

**Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY** asked :

306. Will Government be pleased to state —

(a) The duties and functions of the Honorary Organisers of the Agriculture Department ?

(b) Whether meetings of the Honorary Organisers are held by Government ?

(c) If the reply to Question (b) above is in the affirmative, the number of such meetings held in different Subdivision in each valley up till now ?

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

306. (a)—The Honorary organisers are appointed from among progressive farmers and influential persons. Their function is to help the Department in carrying out Agricultural demonstrations and propaganda among cultivators, apprise the Department of the needs of local farmers and of other matters of Agricultural interest so that necessary action may be taken by the Department.

(b)—No.

(c)—Does not arise.

**Agricultural Demonstrators and Kamdars**

**Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY** asked :

307. Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) The reasons why the Agricultural Demonstrators and Kamdars are attached to Agricultural Inspector's Office and not posted in the interior so as to be in direct touch with the cultivators ?

(b) The percentage of concessions given by the Departments over the price of seeds and manure and the rate at which the Department realise their price from the cultivators ?

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

307. (a)—Agricultural Demonstrators and Kamdars are not necessarily attached to Agricultural Inspector's offices. In fact most of them are posted in the interior. Those who are posted to headquarters of Agricultural Inspectors have also village groups allotted to them. There is no reason why the villagers round about the headquarters of Agricultural Inspectors should not get the benefit of the services of Agricultural Demonstrators and Kamdars.



(b)—Under the terms of the Grow More Food schemes seeds are sold to cultivators at purchase price *plus* cost of transport *plus* cost of storage, etc., or at the market price whichever is less. In case of oil cake a concession of 25 per cent. is allowed in the Surma Valley and 50 per cent. in the Assam Valley (where cultivators do not usually follow the practice of manuring crops with oilcake). In case of bone-meal a concession of 50 per cent. is allowed for Upper Assam Valley and of 25 per cent. for the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. There is no provision for the issue of bone-meal under the Grow More Food scheme in other parts of the Province as it is not at all popular there.

### Re-employed personnel in the Supply Accounts Department

Maulavi ABDUL HAI asked :

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

- (a) The names of persons re-employed in the Supply Accounts Department ?
- (b) The designation of particular post held by each of these persons ?
- (c) Whether Government propose to discontinue the service of the re-employed persons ?
- (d) If so, when ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

308. (a) & (b)—Rai Sahib K. M. De ... Deputy Director of Supply (Accounts).  
 Babu S. C. Roy ... Superintendent.  
 Babu A. M. Roy ... Accountant.  
 Babu J. C. Chanda Choudhury, Accounts clerk.  
 Babu S. M. Roy ... Ditto ditto.  
 Babu U. N. Dutta ... Ditto ditto.

(c)—Experienced hands are required in the Supply Accounts Office and 5 experienced retired Government servants had to be recruited to run the Office work efficiently. Accounts of all the defunct agencies have to be finally closed as early as possible and for this purpose experienced hands are essential. In view of this it is very difficult to say when it will be possible to discharge the re-employed personnel. Government are however trying to discharge them as early as possible.

(d)—Does not arise.

### Khalasis in the Embankment and Drainage Department

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY asked :

309. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the qualification of a Khalasi in the Embankment and Drainage Department ?

(b) Is it a fact that all three Khalasis of the Subdivisional Officer, Nalbari, in-charge of Embankment and Drainage Subdivision namely, Khoka Sarma, Mona and Nani are men from Chandpur ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether any qualified Khalasi is available in Assam ?

(d) If so, why the persons named in Question (b) have been appointed ?



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

309. (a)—There are no qualifications laid down for Khalasis. For efficient working a healthy man with intelligence enough to understand and carry out simple directions is preferred.

(b)—Not from Chandpur, but all these Khalasis are men of Tippera District.

(c)—Should be.

(d)—The persons named in Question (b) were appointed during War time when there was shortage of local candidates to serve as Khalasis as wages were much lower than what could generally be earned by local people pursuing any trade or other occupation, and they are continuing in their jobs.

### **Employees in the Agriculture Department under suspension at present**

**Maulavi Dewan ABDUL BASITH** asked :

310. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) How many employees of Government in the Department of Agriculture in the Surma Valley are under suspension at present ?

(b) Their names with grounds of suspension ?

(c) The steps taken up to-date to dispose of the cases against them ?

(d) The names of suspended persons who are getting subsistence allowance together with date from which the allowance has been granted ?

(e) The names with reasons of those who are not getting the subsistence allowance ?

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

310. (a)—Three employees.

(2) (b)—(1) Babu Benoy Krishna Dhar, Assistant Inspector, South Sylhet  
(2) Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhury, clerk to Assistant Inspector, South Sylhet.

Suspended on charge of keeping irregular and improper account, temporary misappropriation of Government money and neglect of duties.

(3) Babu Bankim Chandra Chaudhury, Agricultural Demonstrator, Sunamganj, suspended for disobedience to superiors, palpable neglect of duties and submission of unauthorised reports.

(c)—The Director of Agriculture has passed orders against (1) and (2) and Government are scrutinising the same. The Assistant Deputy Director of Agriculture, Irrigation, Sunamganj, is framing charges against (3).

(d)—All three are getting subsistence allowance admissible under rules from the dates of their suspension.

(e)—Does not arise.



### Royalty on Bamboo in Garo Hills

**Mr. MANIRAM MARAK** asked :

311. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the royalty on bamboos in the Garo Hills District has been increased suddenly from As.4 to Re.1-8-0 per hundred, excluding hat toll which is also As. 4 per hundred ?
- (b) Whether this increase in royalty has been given effect to from the 1st August 1946 by the Forest Department ?
- (c) If so, why ?
- (d) Whether Government are aware that the market price of bamboos has fallen down to Re. 1 from Rs. 2-8-0 per hundred in the Garo Hills ?
- (e) Whether they are aware that the usual normal business of the Garo people in bamboos has come to deadlock due to such increase of Royalty ?
- (f) If so, what steps Government propose to take in this respect with a view to give relief to the Garo people ?

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

311. (a)—The royalty rates have been increased on bamboos, as on other forest produce. The number of varieties of bamboo on which specific rates have been assessed has been increased from four to ten. Originally the lowest rate was four annas a hundred and the highest Rs. 3 a hundred. The lowest and highest rates are now As. 4 and Rs.6 per hundred.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The rates for forest produce were raised in view of the increase in market values.

(d)—No. Government will make enquiry.

(e)—No.

(f)—As already stated Government intend to make a local enquiry in the matter.

### Area of grazing ground in the Province

**Maulavi MD. IDRIS ALI** asked :

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

- (a) The total acres of land meant for professional grazing ground in the Province of Assam ?
- (b) The total annual income of the Assam Government from such grazing ground ?
- (c) The amount of Revenue received by Government per acre per annum for the said professional grazing purpose ?

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

312. (a)—The total area of Professional Grazing Reserve in the Assam Valley districts as given in Mr. Desai's report (on the basis of Registers maintained in



districts) is over 8 lakhs of Bighas. The figure was not up-to-date and changes must have occurred in riverian Professional Grazing Reserves due to erosion and alluvion. No figure is available in respect of Professional Grazing Reserves in the Surma Valley, but the total area reserved for gazing grounds for the year 1945-46 was a little over one lakh of Bighas.

(b)—During the year 1945-46 the total income from grazing in the Assam Valley was Rs.3,02,014 and in the Surma Valley Rs.13,426 excluding the amount realised as fishery revenues for fisheries situated in the Reserves. About Rs.54,000 is estimated to be realised in 1947-48 from the fisheries in the Professional Grazing Reserves in the Barpeta Subdivision. The information for fisheries in Professional Grazing Reserves in other areas is not available.

(c)—Grazing fees are realised from the Graziers as per head of cattle with certain exceptions. No revenue is realised on the basis of acre or Bigha.

### Cultivable waste lands in Longai Valley and Hakaluki Haor

**Maulavi MD. IDRIS ALI** asked :

313. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total amount of cultivable waste land in Longai Valley and Hakaluki Haor ?

(b) Do Government propose to lease out these cultivable waste lands amongst the poor cultivators ?

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

313. (a)—No information is available.

(b)—Settlement of land vests in Deputy Commissioners and as such landless persons may apply to the Deputy Commissioners concerned.

### Number of Tea Gardens in Assam

**Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY** asked :

314. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The total number of Tea Gardens in Assam, Subdivision by Sub-division ?
- (b) The number of Tea Gardens owned by (i) Europeans, (ii) Marwaries, (iii) Hindus other than Marwaries, (iv) Muslims and (v) Others ?
- (c) The total acreage of grant lands under all the Tea Gardens in Assam ?
- (d) The total acreage of lands under plantation taking all the Tea Gardens together ?

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

314. (a)—The total number of tea gardens in Assam is given below Sub-division by Subdivision—

Name of District	Name of Subdivision	Number of tea garden
Cachar ... ..	Silchar ... ..	146
	Hailakandi ... ..	36



Name of District	Name of Subdivision	Number of tea garden
Sylhet ... ..	North Sylhet ... ..	25
	South Sylhet ... ..	72
	Karimganj ... ..	65
	Habiganj ... ..	21
Goalpara ... ..	Dhubri ... ..	7
	Goalpara ... ..	3
Kamrup ... ..	Gauhati ... ..	22
Darrang ... ..	Tezpur ... ..	110
	Mangaldai ... ..	41
Nowgong ... ..	Nowgong ... ..	46
Sibsagar ... ..	Jorhat ... ..	107
	Sibsagar ... ..	82
	Golaghat ... ..	94
Lakhimpur ... ..	Dibrugarh ... ..	234
	North Lakhimpur ... ..	19
Sadiya Frontier Tract ... ..	Sadiya Frontier Tract ... ..	2

(b)—In the case of gardens owned by companies, the shareholders are the ultimate owners ; it is not possible for Government to say definitely what proportion of shareholders in respect of any garden are Europeans, Marwaris, other Hindus, Muslims and others, nor have the Government any details about the proprietors of non-company gardens. The Agricultural Income-tax Department reports that 129 non-company gardens are assessed by them. Of these 8 belong to Europeans, 23 to Marwaris, 77 to other Hindus, 20 to Muslims and one to a Panjabi.

(c)—The total area settled for special cultivation for the year 1945-46 was 1,479,847 acres.

(d)—The total area under tea during the year 1944 was 441,792 acres.

**Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA :** Will Government be pleased to make an enquiry as to how the excess lands will be utilised by these Planters ?

**\*The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI :** It will be very expensive to enquire into this matter but wherever any settlement operation will be undertaken by Government, I think, this matter will be enquired into.

#### Sylhet Medical M. B. College

**Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA** asked :

315. (a) Will Government be pleased to state what are the obstacles in including the Sylhet Medical M. B. College in the first Five Years Development Plan ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of India will find all capital and five years' recurring cost in this connection and that there is no limit to this amount ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** replied :

315. (a)—The principal obstacles are :—

(i) limited funds and (ii) the difficulty of obtaining trained staff for two full-fledged Medical Colleges.

(b)—The Government of India will make no separate grant for the purpose ; but the money will have to be found from the overall grant for the province's development schemes, which is limited.

\*Speech not corrected.



**Assam Provincial Compounders' Association**

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR** asked :

316. Will Government be pleased to State :—

- (a) Whether they have received copies of resolutions adopted by the Assam Provincial Compounders' Association in their conferences held at Silchar and Gauhati in March 1944 and in December, 1946 respectively ?
- (b) Whether by these resolutions the Association requested Government—(i) to change their designation from Compounders to Medical Assistants ; (ii) to raise the academical qualifications for admission to the Compounders' Class of the Berry-White Medical School to the Matriculation standard ; (iii) to raise the standard of education in the compounders' course and to raise the Syllabus accordingly ; (iv) to raise the scale of their pay ?
- (c) If the replies to questions Nos. (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, whether these or any of these prayers have received Government's consideration ?
- (d) If so, what steps Government have taken in case of each of these requests ?
- (e) Whether Government are aware that in addition to their duties of compounding and serving prescriptions, the compounders are required to perform many other duties and to assist surgeons and physicians by doing various services not meant for compounders ?
- (f) If so, what are the reasons for not changing their designations as prayed for ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAM NATH DAS** replied :

316. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The resolutions passed at the conference held in March, 1944 at Silchar were considered by Government and the orders passed were communicated to the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals. The resolutions passed at the Conference held at Gauhati are under the consideration of Government.

(d)—So far as the resolutions passed at the Conference held at Silchar are concerned, Government passed the following orders on the different resolutions—

- (i) Resolution on change of designation—Government were unable to accede to the request.
- (ii) Resolution on raising the academical qualification to the Matriculation standard—The consideration of this was postponed till after the War.
- (iii) Resolution on raising the standard of education in the Compounders' course and raising the Syllabus accordingly—Government did not consider this necessary as the existing syllabus was found to be quite suitable.
- (iv) Resolution on raising the scale of pay—The consideration of this also was deferred till after the War.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—Government will consider the question of change of designation along with that of the Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons as the change of all three should in the opinion of Government be at the same time.



**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** Now that the war is over, will Government be pleased to consider the question of raising the academical qualifications for admissions to the Compounders' Class of the Berry-White Medical School to the Matriculation standard?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** We have been considering that question, Madam.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** Now that the war is over, will Government be pleased to consider the question of raising the scales of pay of Compounders as early as possible?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** The Pay Commission will be sitting and this question will be considered by them.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** Will Government be pleased to consider the question of changing the designation of the Compounders?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** As I have already stated, Madam, the question of changing the designation of the Compounders will be taken into consideration along with that of the Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** May I know, Madam, when this will be given effect to?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** I cannot say definitely when effect will be given to this question. All I can say is that the matter will receive due consideration of Government as early as possible.

**Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY:** What stands in the way of Government in giving effect to this question?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** Because, if we change their designations from Compounders to Medical Assistants, we shall have to consider the question of changing the designations of Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons as Medical Assistant No. 1 and Medical Assistant No. 2. So, Madam, it will be better to consider all these questions at a time.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** Is there any demand on the part of the Sub-Assistant Surgeons and the Assistant Surgeons for changing their designations?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** Yes, Madam, the demands are there.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** But why should there be any difficulty in changing the designation of the Compounders assuming that the designations of Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons are also going to be changed?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** I did not say that there would be difficulty but I said that all these points would be considered at a time.



### **Allotment of contracts for building constructions under the Post-War Scheme**

**Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY** asked :

317. (a) Is it a fact that the contracts for building constructions under the Post-War Scheme have been allotted to Messrs. Balmer Lawrie and Company ?

(b) If so, what is the reason for such allotment ?

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

317. (a)—The contract of some buildings has been given to this firm.

(b)—It is considered desirable to introduce into the Province some kind of more durable structures, quick of construction and requiring use of smaller quantity of materials and labour in order that completion of our building programme under Post-War Reconstruction within reasonable time may be possible. Local contractors will be encouraged to take up such works after they have seen these works done by Messrs. Balmer Lawrie and Company.

### **Opening of Radio Station in Assam**

**Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN** asked :

318. (a) Do Government propose to take up with the Hon'ble Member-in-Charge of Broadcasting in the Interim Government the question of opening a separate Radio Station in Assam ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take up the matter in the meantime with the proper authorities in order to provide the Assamese Broadcasts in Calcutta with adequate facilities and give the man in-charge a gazetted rank enabling him to discharge his duties more efficiently ?

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

318. (a) — Yes. The probable cost of establishing a Broadcasting Station in Assam was examined, but in view of the high cost involved (probably considerably over a lakh of rupees), it was decided not to pursue the matter further. It appears however from Press Reports that a Broadcasting Station will be started either at Shillong or at Gauhati within the next five years. Government will approach the proper authorities.

(b)—This is a matter of internal organisation of another Governments' Department in which the Provincial Government do not desire to interfere. If a good case can be made out and materials provided as to how efficiency is suffering for not giving a Gazetted Officer's rank to the person in-charge, Government will consider whether any further action need be taken.

### **Case K. E. (Govt.) versus Mr. T. C. Barlow**

**Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY** asked :

319. (a) Will Government be pleased to state at what stage the case of K. E. (Assam Government) VS. T. C. Barlow is resting at present ?

(b) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the remarks of the Additional Sessions Judge in the Criminal appeal No. 2/B. A. of 1947, dated 7th February 1947 in course of his Judgment which run as follows :—

“From the documents placed on record, the statements and cross examinations of the witnesses and the correspondence sheets (Exhs. a and b) of papers admittedly signed by both of them from which it appears that Mr. Hussain had



knowledge of the disposal of the amounts embezzled, I find that there is a great suspicion that either party colluded together in embezzling Government money or that one is trying to shift the guilt on the other”.

(c) If so, in view of this finding of the Additional Sessions Judge whether any action has been taken by Government against Mr. Hussain ?

(d) If not, why not ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** replied :

319. (a)—The cases have been committed to sessions.

(b)—Yes.

(c) and (d)—Government will await the issue of the criminal cases.

**Srijut LAKSHMIDHAR BORAH** : In view of the finding of the Additional Judge will Government consider it necessary to take immediate action in the matter ?

**\*The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** : We do not consider it so, Madam.

**Srijut LAKSHMIDHAR BORAH** : May I know from the Government whether Mr. Barlow or anybody else is entangled in the case ?

**\*The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** : It is quite evident from the Question, Madam. When the findings will be concluded certainly Government will not spare anybody.

#### **Provincial Motor Transport Controller, Assam**

**Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY** asked :

320. (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Motor Transport be pleased to state the amount paid monthly by the Provincial Motor Transport Controller, Mr. Hussain, to Assam Transport Department as motor car hire for the last six months ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Provincial Motor Transport Controller has two cars for his exclusive use from the Assam Transport ?

(c) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for assigning two Motor cars to the Provincial Motor Transport Controller ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** replied :

320. (a)—Rupees 51 in November 1946 and Rs. 53-2-0 in March 1947 for travelling on duty as Provincial Motor Transport Controller in Assam Transport Cars.

(b)—No.

(c)—Does not arise.

#### **Supply Superintendents and Assistant Directors of Supply**

**Maulavi ABDUL HAMID** asked :

321. (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many Supply Superintendents have been appointed up till now ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to give their names with dates of their appointments as Supply Superintendents ?



(c) Is it a fact that recently four Assistant Directors of Supply have been appointed and sent in different Provinces to assist in the work of procuring Control Commodities ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to give their names with dates of their appointment ?

(e) Is it a fact that a large number of efficient Supply Superintendents have been superseded in appointing the above-mentioned four Assistant Directors ?

(f) Are Government aware that there is wide-spread discontent in the service because of this supersession ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** replied :

321. (a)—Seventeen (Eight Superintendents and nine A.C.R. are on the same scale of pay).

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

(c)—No. Two Assistant Directors of Supply (Gur Purchase) have been recently appointed to assist the Government Agents for the purchase of Gur in United Provinces.

(d)—(1) Mr. N. S. Guha, Assistant Director of Supply (Gur Purchase).	} 23.
(2) Mr. Amalendu Syam, Assistant Director of Supply (Gur Purchase).	
	} 12.
	} 46.

(e)—No. The appointments had to be made in great hurry, officers most quickly available and considered suitable were selected. These are temporary appointments for 3 months only and are not promotions. The question of supersession therefore does not arise.

(f)—Government have no information.

**Precautions taken by the Supply Department in matters of issuing permits, etc.**

**Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA** asked :

322. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) What precautions have been taken by the Supply Department to eliminate those applicants for licences, permits, contracts, etc., who have been condemned for misconduct for previous dealings with the Government ?

(b) Do Government propose to call for report to ascertain whether the names of these condemned persons appear in the current list of licensees, permit-holders, etc. ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** replied :

322. (a)—Every precaution is taken by scrutinising the applications and making use of any information of ones conduct available.

(b)—Yes.



### Stoppage of supply of rationed articles to Jagannathpur thana and east Derai

**Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA** asked :

323. (a) Are Government aware that the supply of rationed articles from Sunamganj town to various places specially to Jagannathpur thana and east Derai has been stopped for pretty long time owing to difficulties of carriage and owing to the complete silting up of the river Surma from Paimda to Joykalash?

(b) Are Government aware that places like Jaikalash and Pagla on the Sunamganj-Sylhet Road and not far from Sunamganj Town have to get their supply of rationed articles from the said town *via* Mymensingh due to the difficulties referred to in question (a) above?

(c) Whether Government propose to take early steps to facilitate the carrying of essential commodities to these large and populous areas of the Sub-division?

(d) Whether Government propose to take necessary steps to resuscitate the river Surma by digging a khal or otherwise to save the people of Sunamganj Subdivision from the difficulties of communication?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** replied :

323. (a)—It is not a fact that supplies were stopped. The wholesalers managed to transport the commodities by other routes, of course, with difficulty.

(b)—Yes, occasionally when truck or Service buses cannot accommodate, the roads become unfit for communication.

(c)—Yes, there is at present a proposal to instal an Agency at Derai, which is expected to solve the problem to some extent

(d)—Government will consider the matter.

**Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA** : Are Government aware that there is no truck in the Sunamganj Subdivision and the service buses do not carry goods ?

**\*The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** : Sometimes, Madam, during the fair weather the vehicles are plied on some roads and whenever possible advantage is taken but usually I admit, it is not the case.

### Jury system of trial

**Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA** asked :

324. (a) Are Government aware that the people are losing faith and growing dissatisfied with the present Jury System of trial ?

(b) Do Government propose to reform the present Jury system of trial, postpone it for certain period or abolish it altogether ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the number of murder and dacoity cases in the Sunamganj Subdivision during the last five years and the number of cases sent up for trial and the number of convictions during the said period ?

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\*Speech not corrected.



**The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS** replied :

324. (a)—Government have no information.

(b)—No. Any reform is not considered necessary at present.

(c)—A statement is given below :—

*Murder cases*

	Reported			Sent up			Convicted
1942	...	18	...	...	14	...	6
1943	...	10	...	...	3	...	1
1944	...	20	...	...	15	...	7
1945	...	14	...	...	7	...	4
1946	...	15	...	...	5	...	3
		<hr/> 77			<hr/> 44		<hr/> 21

*Dacoity cases*

1942	...	2	...	...	1	...	1
1943	...	13	...	...	3	...	2
1944	...	11	...	...	8	...	4
1945	...	10	...	...	6	...	2
1946	...	18	...	...	5	...	3
		<hr/> 54			<hr/> 23		<hr/> 12

**Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA** : May I know from the Government what is their source of information as to Question No.324(a) ?

**\*The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS** : Government have no information.

**Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA** : Will Government take it from me that the people are losing faith and there has been growing dissatisfaction with the present Jury system of trial ?

**\*The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS** : It was through some Questions which were tabled from time to time and from a Resolution which was also moved by an hon. Member that the Government came to know of this state of things, but save and except that of course Government have no independent information as to the assertion that the people are losing faith and growing dissatisfaction of the present Jury system of trial. I submit, Madam, it cannot be stated so broadly. It may be that few persons are dissatisfied but so far as the majority of people are concerned there is no indication that there is an uproar in the country against this system.



## Supply of mustard oil

**Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA** asked :

325. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Why there has been so high price as Rs.4 per seer of mustard oil ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that some contractors failed to procure the supply of mustard oil from other provinces ?
- (c) Whether their failure was due to the fact that the Assam Government could not arrange with the Governments of those provinces about the supply ?
- (d) Whether Government propose to adopt any measures to prevent scarcities of mustard oil in future by controlling export of mustard seeds or otherwise ?
- (e) If so, what are those measures ?
- (f) Whether Government propose to take any steps in near future for better and easier supply of dal, sugar, flour and mustard oil ?
- (g) If so, what are they ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** replied :

325. (a)—High price is due to inadequate supply, but Government are not aware of mustard oil selling at Rs.4.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—This Government made all arrangement to procure the quotas allotted from United Provinces and Rajputana, but these administrations failed to honour their commitments by supplying the quotas.

(d)—The movement of mustard oil and seeds has been decontrolled since by Government of India. This Government is therefore no longer competent to control export of seeds.

(e)—Does not arise.

(f)—Government are taking all possible steps.

(g)—We have obtained quotas of dal from Central Provinces for the current year. Movement from this province is found easier than from United Provinces and Rajputana from which province and States we were given quotas in previous years. We have been pressing the Central Government for increasing our quota of sugar and flour. Mustard oil has been decontrolled.

## Government Procurement Agencies

**Maulavi MAKABBIR ALI MOZUMDAR** asked :

326. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The names of various Government Procurement Agencies with their experience in the line ?
- (b) Whether Government are aware that Agents are experiencing difficulty in procuring the goods ?



**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** replied :

326. (a)—A statement showing the names of the main agents is placed below. A large number of agents were also appointed for lifting small quotas. They are mostly from experienced traders.

**Statement showing the names of the main Agents appointed for Procurement of Government Foodstuffs**

**FOR GUR**

1. Messrs. New Assam Valley Supply Syndicate, Gauhati.
2. „ Chawdhury & Company, Shillong.
3. „ United Commercial Traders Syndicate, Tezpur.

**FOR MUSTARD OIL**

1. Rai Sahib Gangadhar Tusnial, Sylhet.
2. Messrs. Nalinakhya Dalal, Barpeta.
3. „ Hanutram Rampratap, Dibrugarh.
4. „ National Supply Agency, Shillong.
5. Babu Gopika Ranjan Pal, Silchar.
6. Babu Munindra Kumar Das, Silchar.

**FOR PULSES**

1. Messrs. Ganeshdas Sreeram, Shillong.
2. „ Assam Suppliers Ltd., Gauhati.
3. „ National Supply Agency, Shillong.
4. „ Chhugan Mal Golcha, Silchar.

**FOR GRAM**

1. Messrs. Assam Suppliers Ltd., Gauhati.
2. „ Dwipchand Bhura, Karimganj.

(b).—Yes, mainly due to difficulties placed by surplus administrations.

**Supply of Mustard Oil**

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY** asked :

327. (a) Are Government aware that pure Mustard oil is now hardly available both in towns as well as in rural areas on account of its adulteration with ground-nut oil and linseed oil ?

(b) Are Government aware that it is the highly adulterated oils that are usually detected and reported for action, while adulteration with a low percentage usually remains undetected ?

(c) Do Government propose to extend the Oil Control Order so as to include groundnut oil and linseed oil in the said Order to control their import, sale and easy access to mustard oil mills and mustard wholesalers ?



(d) Will Government be pleased to state the object of importing ground-nut oil from Madras through agents to be appointed by Government, (*vide Assam Gazette* notification dated June 12th 1946) ?

(e) Are Government aware that ground nut oil is not used for the purpose of consumption by the people of Assam ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** replied :

327. (a)—The position is expected to change as a result of decontrol of mustard oil and seeds ?

(b)—Government have no information ?

(c)—Edible oil and oil seeds have since been decontrolled and the question does not arise ?

(d) and (e)—Government intended to import ground nut oil in view of the scarcity of mustard oil. With decontrol the position is changed and the agency will be cancelled.

#### **Number of officers of Agriculture Department**

**Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY** asked :

328. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of officers in the Department of Agriculture from the Deputy Director of Agriculture including Superintendents and Head Assistants at headquarters to the Demonstrators and Kamders both in the General and Irrigation sections, community by community and Valley by Valley ?
- (b) The number of permanent and temporary posts in that Department ?
- (c) The number of Muslims in the permanent and temporary posts, Valley by Valley ?
- (d) The qualifications necessary for appointments as Kamders ?
- (e) The qualifications required for holding the post of Assistant Inspector for Irrigation ?
- (f) The qualifications of all those now serving as such ?
- (g) The number of such officers from the Surma Valley, community by community ?







(b)—The number of permanent posts is 174 and that of temporary is 339 [as per table shown in (a) above].

(c)—The number of Muslims in the permanent and temporary posts, Valley by Valley is given below :—

				Permanent	Temporary
Assam Valley Muslim	...	...	...	31	41
Surma Valley Muslim	...	...	...	32	59

(d)—Kamdars (now called Agricultural Demonstrators) are appointed from the passed students of the Agricultural Training classes at Jorhat and Sylhet. Such students are either Matriculates or under-Matrices. In the absence of passed students candidates without agricultural training had also to be taken in connection with the Grow-More-Food Campaign on a temporary basis.

(e)—Generally a diploma holder in Sub-Overseership examination. In the absence of such qualified persons experienced Agricultural Demonstrators capable of making estimates of earth work and preparing plans for simple projects are appointed.

(f)—Out of 32 Assistant Irrigation Inspectors 27 are promoted Agricultural Demonstrators.

Two. Graduates of Calcutta University.

One. Passed Sub-Overseer of Calcutta Engineering School.

Two. Read upto Sub-Overseer Standard.

(g)—The number of such officers from the Surma Valley community by community is given below :—

			Promoted Agricultural demonstrators	Two years training at Jadabpur E. S.	Passed Sub- Overseer	Graduates of Calcutta University
Muslim	...	...	6	...	...	1
Hindu	...	...	6	1	1	1

### Supply of Boro paddy to villages under Nalbari Thana

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR** asked :

329. Will Government be pleased to state—

- The names of the villages under the Nalbari Thana in the Kamrup District from which cultivators recently requested the Agriculture Department to supply them with *Boro paddy* seeds ?
- The names of the villages which were supplied with such seeds ?
- The reasons for not supplying seeds in the remaining villages ?
- Whether it is a fact that the cultivators requested the Government to give the seeds free of cost or as loans on ground of poverty ?
- If so, why their requests were not granted ?
- Whether Government propose to introduce *Boro-cultivation* in suitable localities throughout the Province ?
- Whether Government propose to encourage the cultivators to take to this profitable new cultivation by supplying them with seeds free of charges for a year or two and by asking the Agriculture Department to render all possible help to those cultivators who are willing to carry on *Boro* cultivation ?
- If so, whether Government propose to take prompt and effective steps in this matter ?



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

329. (a)—Arangman, Dahuri, Aman, Ganghiya, Kaithalkuchi.

(b)—Arangman village.

(c)—For the cultivators asked for free supply which is inadmissible under the terms of the seed distribution scheme.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—The Hon'ble Member is referred to the reply under (c).

(f)—Yes.

(g)—Yes, within the rules under the seed distribution scheme.

(h) Yes, as far as the rules under the seed distribution scheme are complied with.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR** : Will Government be pleased to relax the rule so as to enable the Agriculture Department to distribute Boro seeds free of cost with a view to induce the cultivators to take to Boro cultivation in suitable localities ?

**\*The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR** : As there is a scheme existing it will be considered whether this can be changed.

### Procurement of mustard oil

**Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY** asked :

330. (a) Is it a fact that Government could not procure mustard oil from Rajputana because they did not know to which State Assam's quota had been allotted ?

(b) Are Government aware that the people are suffering for the ignorance of Government in this respect ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** replied :

330. (a)—Our enquiries to the State Authorities as well as Government of India were not answered regarding allocation of the quota as between different States till last February. In the meantime traders who were selected and sent there were driven from pillar to post. Apart from that, prices quoted were higher than the controlled rate, the quality was poor and exorbitant export duty was demanded for which no official redress could be obtained.

(b)—It was not a question of ignorance but the Government were kept in oblivion in spite of their best efforts to learn.

### Scheme for improvement of Cattle

**Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS** asked :

331. Will Government be pleased to state :—

(a) Whether they have adopted any scheme for the improvement of cattle in Assam.

(b) Whether they contemplate establishing more cattle farms ?

(c) Whether they contemplate keeping more stud-bulls in different areas ?

(d) The number of stud-bulls now maintained with Government help by the people ?

(e) What are the areas, if any, in Tezpur Subdivision where stud-bulls have been kept by Government at present.

(f) Whether Government are aware that Rs.3 paid for maintenance of a stud-bull per month is not sufficient ?

(g) Whether Government propose to consider the question of raising the cost of maintenance of the same ?



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

331 (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—90.

(e)—Tezpur Mental Hospital, Tezpur Jail, Gabharu, Behali, Dalgaon and some Tea Estates.

(f)—Yes. The subsidy varies from Rs.3 to Rs.5 per bull and is not intended to cover the entire cost.

(g)—Government cannot make any commitment as it is in their contemplation to overhaul the whole scheme.

### **Irrigation Bund and Khal projects**

**Maulavi Dewan ABDUL BASITH** asked :

332. Will Government be pleased to state what arrangements are being made to look after the Irrigation Bund and Khal projects in the Surma Valley when completed ?

333. Will Government be pleased to ascertain and lay on the table the report regarding the present condition of all the Irrigation Bund and Khal projects undertaken so far in the South Sylhet Subdivision of Sylhet district ?

334. (a) Will Government be pleased to state what assistance—financial and otherwise has been given by the Central Board of Irrigation of the Government of India to the Assam Government during the year 1945-46 ?

(b) Is it a fact that some unspent money had to be refunded to the Central Government last year, on the irrigation account ?

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

332.—Local Committees are formed to look after the projects when completed and the departmental officers also inspect them from time to time. Repairs are also done on a 50:50 basis between Government and cultivators at intervals of about 3 years ?

333.—Government has called for the report which will naturally take some time to reach them.

334. (a)—Government of Assam received from the Government of India the following financial assistance, during 1945-46 in connection with the minor irrigation scheme.

- (1) A grant of Rs.2,00,000 for subsidising the construction of small projects.
- (2) A loan of Rs.1,17,600 and a grant of Rs.49,000 for the purchase of 32 pumping plants (oil engines).
- (3) A grant of Rs.8,333 towards the cost of running the pumping plants.
- (4) A grant of Rs.5,550 for subsidising the distribution of Persian wheels.
- (5) A grant of Rs.1,11,000 towards the cost of the staff engaged for the minor irrigation schemes.

(b)—No.



**B. T. Training for Scheduled Castes and Tribal teachers****Babu KHAGENDRA NATH SAMADDAR** asked :

335. (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a letter which appeared in the Letter Column of the *Assam Tribune* dated the 17th February 1947 under caption "B.T. Training" and written by an "Educationist" ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to show due regard in future to maintain the Valley proportions and depute teachers for B.T. training from among the Scheduled Caste and Tribal teachers in their proper proportions ?

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

335. (a) ---Yes.

(b)—Valley proportion is maintained as far as possible but communal and other considerations cannot be strictly adhered to as only the untrained Government officers and Government aided School Teachers are required to be deputed annually and suitable candidates in exact proportion may not always be available.

**Site for the proposed Assam University****Maulavi ABDUL HAI** asked :

336. (a) Is it a fact that the site proposed to be selected near Pandu for the purpose of the proposed Assam University is inhabited by the people of different communities having their Basti lands and paddy fields.

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the names of all such persons holding either Basti lands or paddy fields or both ?

(c) Do Government propose to evict all of them or some of them from their Basti lands and shift them to a different place ?

(d) If so, will Government be pleased to state their names ?

(e) Is it a fact that during the recent visit of the Hon'ble Revenue Minister by the latter part of January last accompanied by the Secretary of the University Trust Board and some of the local Members of Legislative Assembly, the Hon'ble Minister expressed his views to retain some of these persons in the neighbouring village contiguous to the selected site and to shift some of them to a different low-lying places where the people have objected to be removed ?

(f) If so, will Government be pleased to state the names of such persons who are proposed to be shifted ?

(g) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article published under caption in the *Dainick Assamiya* of the 27th January, 1947 written by the Hon'ble Mr. Deveswar Sarmah, Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly to select a site on the eastern-side of Gauhati where there is sufficient high land for the purpose of university and thereby will cause no hardship to any inhabited persons ?

(h) If so, do Government propose to accept his proposal ?

(i) If not, why not ?

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

336. (a)—Yes, there are a few Basti plots as well as paddy and fallow land.

(b)—Information is not available.



(c)—Yes, the Deputy Commissioner has been instructed to find out Basti and paddy land for those whose land is proposed to be acquired to enable them to shift to the new site.

(d)—Information is not available.

(e)—Some people are naturally unwilling to give up the Basti land but the Deputy Commissioner has been instructed to submit proposal to open even higher grazing land for accommodation of the persons affected by the proposal.

(f)—No information.

(g) & (h)—Yes, but the University authority does not consider the site to be suitable.

(i)—Does not arise.

### Jorhat Girls' School

**Srijut HARINARAYAN BARUAH** asked :

337. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The present non-recurring monthly grant to the Jorhat Girls' School ?
- (b) Whether Government consider this grant to be adequate ?
- (c) Whether Government propose to increase the present non-recurring grant of the said school ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that the monthly grant for motor bus for carrying girls to this school has now been stopped ?
- (e) If so, why.
- (f) Whether Government propose to reconsider the matter and pay at least Rs. 200 as monthly grant for the purpose ?
- (g) Whether Government are aware that there is no Hostel accommodation for girls of the said School ?
- (h) Whether Government propose to consider the question of giving a special grant for this purpose ?

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

337. (a)—If the hon. Member means the present monthly recurring grant of the Jorhat Girls' School, the amount is Rs. 475 excluding a grant of Rs. 40 a month given this year for the introduction of weaving. No non-recurring grant is given to this school at present.

(b)—Yes.

(c), (d) & (e)—A temporary conveyance grant of Rs. 100 a month was given to this school during war period on account of presence of troops in large numbers. As the war condition no longer exists this grant was discontinued with effect from the 1st October 1946 and hence the question of increasing this grant does not arise.

(f)—Government could consider the matter only when they are in a position to restore all such grants.

(g)—Yes.

(h)—The matter will be considered on its merit if and when formal proposal is received.



### Number of Primary Schools in the Province

**Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA** asked :

338. Will Government be pleased to state the number of Primary Schools taken over by them during 1946-47 either directly or through the local bodies ?

339. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of primary schools recognised and unrecognised in the Province, district by district, receiving direct grants of the local bodies ?

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

338.—Direct grants ... 149 Schools.

Through Local Bodies ... 281 Schools.

339.—Information is not available.

**Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA** : May I know from the Government how direct grants are made ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** : Madam, they are made on the reports of the inspecting staff and the Department.

**Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA** : Is any recommendation of the local M. L. A. in consultation with the Chairman, Local Board taken into consideration ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** : Yes, Madam, so far as the grants to Local Boards are concerned, direction is given from the Government to the Local Boards to take the advice of all Members of Legislative Assembly and in each Local Board. The list thus sent by Local Boards are taken into consideration by Government.

### Jakai Venture Middle English School

**Srijut BEJOY CHANDRA SAIKIA** asked :

340.(a) Will Government be pleased to state if they are aware of the existence of a venture Middle English School in Mankata Mouza in Dibrugarh Subdivision known as the Jakai Venture Middle English School set up by the people of the locality which caters to the educational needs of some 22 villages ?

(b) Have Government seen the inspection notes of Mr. B. Kachari, Assistant Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Circle for Plains Tribal Education, who paid a visit to the said School on 10th September, 1946 ?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state why Departmental recognition and recurring grant-in-aid have been denied to the said School ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state if they propose to accord Departmental recognition and sanction grant-in-aid to the said School ?

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

340.(a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c) & (d)—As the School authorities could not fulfil the conditions for receiving recognition, departmental recognition to it could not be given.

The School authorities have, however, been instructed through the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Dibrugarh, to remove the irregularities and defects pointed out in the inspection notes of the Deputy Inspector and then come up with formal application for departmental recognition and Government aid.



### Middle Vernacular and Primary School Teachers

**Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN** asked :

341. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) In view of agitation amongst the Middle Vernacular and Primary School teachers under the Local Bodies in the Province whether Government propose to fix a minimum scale of their salaries and thereby redress their legitimate grievances and allay high feelings among them ?
- (b) Why the case of Middle Vernacular teachers has been always left out and ignored ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to set up a Committee to consider about and go through the whole question of raising pay and status of the Primary and Middle Vernacular School teachers ?
- (d) If so, when ?

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

341. (a)—To redress the grievances of the Middle Vernacular School teachers Government have already sanctioned a flat rate increase of Rs. 5 per mensem in their pay with effect from the 1st April 1946. The case of Lower Primary School teachers is also receiving careful consideration and steps are being taken to raise the pay of all trained Primary School teachers under all non-Government Primary Schools.

(b)—It is not so. The hon. Member is referred to the reply to Question 341(a).

(c)—No : not at present.

(d) Does not arise.

### Criminal Case against the Eastern Bengal and Assam Commercial Syndicate

**Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED** asked :

342. (a) Is it a fact that Government is contemplating to withdraw the criminal case against the Eastern Bengal and Assam Commercial Syndicate ?

(b) Is it a fact that though an I. C. S. Officer has long been deputed to try the case at Sylhet, no lawyer has up till now been appointed by Government to appear on behalf of the prosecution ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Deputy Superintendent of Police, who was in-charge of investigation and submitted the charge sheet has recently been transferred to a distant station ?

(d) Is it a fact that the Chief Whip of the Government party in the Assembly and some other Congress M. L. As. are putting pressure on Government so as not to proceed with the case ?

(e) Is it a fact that Mr. Rajani Das of Samat originally applied for Government sanction to institute a criminal case against the said Syndicate ?

(f) Is it a fact that without giving Rajani Das an opportunity to institute the case, Government took the initiative and started the proceedings ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** replied :

342.(a)—No.

(b)—An I. C. S. Officer has been appointed specially to try this case and the question of appointment of lawyers has been taken up by the Advocate General.



(c)—Yes, but on promotion. Mr. Palit would be posted to Sylhet district again as Additional Superintendent of Police for three months for this case.

(d)—No.

(e) & (f)—Rajani Das of Samat submitted a petition to Government which was sent to the Police for necessary action. As a cognisant case was made out, the Police took up the investigation according to usual procedure.

### **Procuring Agents for foodstuff in Habiganj Subdivision**

**Maulavi MD. ABDULLAH** asked :

343. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The names of the procuring Agents for foodstuff in the Habiganj Subdivision ?
- (b) For how long these firms (*i.e.*, the procuring agents) have been in the business field ?
- (c) Whether any Muslim has been appointed as procuring agent ?
- (d) If not, why not ?
- (e) The ratio of Muslim and Hindu Agents ?
- (f) Whether any tender was called for in appointing those procuring agents ?
- (g) Whether Government are aware that one of the partners of Messrs. Dutta and Dhar Brothers is related to the Personal Assistant to the Hon'ble Supply Minister ?
- (h) If so, for how long he has been in the business field ?

344. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of wholesalers and retailers appointment in the Habiganj Subdivision for distribution of foodstuff in the different areas of the subdivision ?
- (b) Of these how many are Hindus and how many Muslims ?
- (c) Whether Government propose to fix the ratio between the Hindus and the Muslims in appointing procuring agents, handling agents, distributing agents, wholesalers and retailers, for the period the foodstuff remains under the control of Government ?
- (d) If so, how Government propose to proceed in the line ?
- (e) If not, why not ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** replied :

343.(a)—For *Salt, Sugar and Wheat Products*—

1. Messrs. Surma Valley United Traders.
2. „ Dayab Chand and Company, Limited.
3. „ Gobinda Lal Roy.
4. „ Dutta Dhar and Company.

For *Mustard Oil*—

1. Messrs. Dutta Dhar.
2. „ Jagabratta Chaudhury.

For *Dal*—

1. Messrs. J. R. Goenka.
2. „ National Supply Agency.

For *Grams*—

1. Messrs. J. R. Goenka.
2. „ Hindustan Supply Agency.

For *Gur*—

1. Messrs. United Commercial Syndicate.



- (b)—Some have long standing business and some have lately stepped in.  
 (c)—No.  
 (d)—No suitable person was available.  
 (e)—Does not arise.  
 (f)—Tenders were invited only in respect of Subdivisional agencies for  
 (1) Salt, Sugar and Wheat products. (2) Masur from Central Provinces and  
 Moong from Bhawalpur and Punjab States and (3) Mustard Oil. Tenders for gur,  
 grams and other pulses were not called for due to shortness of time.

(g) & (h)—Government have no information.

344. (a)—Wholesalers	...	...	...	18
Retailers	...	...	...	292
(b)—Wholesalers—Hindus	...	...	...	13
Muslims	...	...	...	3
Co-operative Stores	...	...	...	2
Retailers—Hindus	...	...	...	80
Muslims	...	...	...	88
Co-operative Stores	...	...	...	124

- (c)—No.  
 (d)—Does not arise.  
 (e)—The interest of the consumers come first and the Government do not  
 propose to introduce communal ratio in trade.

### Paper Scarcity in the Province

**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA** asked :

345. (a) Are Government aware of the present paper scarcity in the Province ?

(b) Are Government aware that specially the School and College students are hard hit by this scarcity ?

(c) Are Government aware that the I. P. P. Mills labourers have gone on strike recently and hence they are unable to supply papers to Assam ?

(d) If so, will Government be pleased to state what steps are taken by them for the supply of papers to the students ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** replied :

345. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes. Not only that there is a strike also in Titaghar Paper Mills.

(d)—All endeavours are being made to get paper from the Bengal Paper Mills Company Limited at Ranygunge.

### Epidemic of Small-pox in Barpathar and Sarupathar Mauzas

**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA** asked :

346. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government are aware that recently small-pox has broken out in epidemic form in the Barpathar and Sarupathar Mouza of Golaghat Subdivision ?

(b) If so, what are the names of the affected villages ?

(c) When the epidemic broke out and when medical aid was rendered ?

(d) Whether it is a fact that medical help was sent after about a month since the disease broke out in epidemic form and after the occurrence of about 20 deaths and about 100 attacks ?

(e) If so, what are the reasons for such delay and who are the persons responsible for the loss of so many lives ?



- (f) What steps are being taken by Government to bring the epidemic under control ?  
 (g) What is the exact number of deaths and attacks till the 15th March 1947 ?

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

346. (a)—Government is aware of only Sarupather.

(b)—Balipathar is the only small-pox affected village in Sarupathar Mauza under Golaghat Thana.

(c)—Epidemic broke out on the 20th November 1946 but no information was received prior to early in February 1947 when medical aid was rendered.

(d)—The answer to the first part is available in reply (c). The number of attacks and deaths reported was 48 and 19 respectively.

(e)—The Goanbora who is the agent for reporting 1st outbreak according to Revised Rules for the reporting of Epidemics, did not report through Mauzadar to the Subdivisional Medical Officer of Health till the 12th February 1947. The Goanbora is therefore guilty of neglect of duty and consequent loss of life.

(f)—Mass vaccination is being carried out in the area and the epidemic is now under control with no fresh cases after the 8th March 1947.

(g)—Upto the 15th March 1947, there were 53 attacks and 26 deaths from small-pox in that village.

**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA** : Are Government aware that there is no dispensary in the locality within a radius of 20 miles ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS** : That is a new Question, Madam.

**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA** : Are Government aware that last year also epidemic broke out in that particular locality ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS** : I want notice of that Question, Madam.

#### **Realisation of monopoly fee from the Forest or reserve sanctioned for A. R. T. Co. and Bird & Co.**

**Srijut BIJOY CHANDRA SAIKIA** asked :

347. Will Government be pleased to state whether they realised any monopoly fee from the forest or reserve sanctioned in favour of A. R. T. Co., Ltd., Margherita and Bird & Co., Murkongselec ?

**The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY** replied :  
 347.—No.

#### **Singri-Panchnoi Train Service**

**Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS** asked :

348. Is it a fact—

(a) That Singri-Panchnoi Train service runs special trips between Singri and Dhekiajuli every year on the Sibratri Mela day ?

(b) That this year also it was intended to run the special trips ?

(c) That it was stopped suddenly at the last moment ?

(d) That large crowds were left stranded at Dhekiajuli station in consequence ?

(e) That private lorries and cars were seen plying to Singri during the time for the purpose ?



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

348. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes, it was stopped, because it was not considered desirable to countenance carriage of human beings in wagons when they have to pay the same rate of fares as others travelling in compartments meant for persons.

(d) & (e)—There is no information available.

### **Sugar, Jute and Paper Industries in Assam**

**Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS** asked :

349. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) What steps they have taken for organizing sugar, jute and paper industries in Assam ?

(b) Whether the necessary plants have been ordered ?

(c) Whether the location of these industries have been decided ?

(d) Whether they have enquired into the possibilities of sugar mills in Darrang District ?

(e) Whether Government are aware that the aerodrome sites at Salani and Missamari were good sugarcane areas previously ?

(f) Whether Government proposes to consider a recent petition of the Questioner regarding acquisition of aerodrome buildings for future utilization of the same for sugar mills in Missamari ?

(g) The present position regarding establishment of Textile mills in the Province ?

(h) Whether they have decided to establish an Authority to run these industries on nationalised lines ?

(i) The advice given to Government by the Industrial Adviser to the Government of Assam regarding development of industries in Assam ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** replied :

349. (a)—*Paper*.—A report on the establishment of a Paper Mill at Karimganj, prepared by a Paper Expert of the Government of India after a survey of local conditions along with the Industrial Adviser and the Working Plan Officer, Forest Department, is being considered by Government.

*Jute*.—A preliminary survey for the establishment of two Jute Mills in Assam, one in the Gauhati-Pandu area and the other in Goalpara subdivision, has been made and specifications for the machinery have been obtained.

*Sugar*.—After a preliminary survey of the areas, regarded as the most promising by the Agriculture Department, viz., Sibsagar, Nowgong, Kamrup, Lakhimpur and Cachar Districts, the Industrial Adviser is now examining certain prospective mill sites along with a well known Sugar Expert. Specifications and quotations for machinery have already been received and some more from different firms are expected.

(b)—Not yet.

(c)—The information has been supplied in the reply to (a).



(d)—Darrang District comes seventh in the Province in order of the acreage under sugarcane and, as only one Sugar Mill has so far been sanctioned to Assam, investigation has been limited to the more promising areas at present.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—Government initiated action on the petition; but after negotiations with the Lands and Hirings Authorities had reached an advanced stage, the petition was withdrawn.

(g)—With the quota of 100,000 spindles and 2,225 looms which has been allotted to Assam, it is proposed to establish 4 Cotton Textile Mills. Orders have already been registered with the manufacturing firms for 75,000 spindles and 1,600 looms and steps are being taken about the balance.

(h) Government are now considering the running of these industries through Managing Agents; but the question of an Industrial Authority is also under consideration.

(i) The Industrial Adviser's advice was along the lines indicated in Government's Second Communiqué on industrial policy.

### **Assam's Mineral Resources**

**Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS** asked :

350. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The outcome of the Mineral Conference held in January last in New Delhi with regard to Assam's mineral resources?

(b) Whether any decision have been made regarding the development of these resources on nationalised lines?

**The Hon'ble Mr BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** replied :

350. (a) & (b)—The recommendations of the Conference are still under the consideration of the Government of India. Until they initiate action on those recommendations, it is not possible for this Government to make any decision regarding the nationalisation of mineral resources.

### **Amount sanctioned by India Government for Post-War Reconstruction Scheme for Assam**

**Maulavi Dewan TAIMUR RAZA CHOUDHURY** asked :

351. (a) Will Government be pleased to state what amount of money has been sanctioned by the Government of India to the Government of Assam for working out the Post-War Reconstruction Scheme for the year 1946-47?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the amount of such money sanctioned under each head by the Central Government and the amount spent by the Provincial Government on each such account?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** replied :

351. (a) & (b)—The hon. Member is referred to the brochure entitled "The progress of Assam's Planning" (pages 14 to 23), pages 35-39 of the list of Supplementary Demands for grants for 1946-47 and page 27 of the supplementary statement of expenditure charged on the revenues of the Province during 1946-47 presented at this session of the House.



### Co-operative Marketing of Agricultural Produce

**Srijut BIJOY CHANDRA SAIKIA** asked :

352. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether "The Co-operative marketing of Agricultural Produce" in the Co-operative Department Reconstruction Scheme—3rd Draft—and "Improvement of Agricultural Marketing" in the Agricultural Department in the same scheme—are meant to serve the same purpose of the Public ?

(b) If so, for efficient working and economy, do Government propose to entrust the entire works of Marketing under the control of Co-operative Department and where necessary hire the services of Marketing experts ?

353. Do Government propose to start Livestock, Fodder and Sericulture Firms in the Khowang Centre and Dhemaji Centre ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** replied :

352. (a) & (b)—The two schemes are closely allied and complementary to each other but are not identical. It is proposed to give effect to them in a co-ordinated manner through collaboration between the Agriculture and Co-operative Departments ; but it is not considered suitable to place the entire work of agricultural marketing under the Co-operative Department.

353.—Government will take this into consideration while implementing their livestock, fodder and sericulture schemes.

### Public Works Department Officers granted extension of service

**Shri ABALA KANTA GUPTA** asked :

354. Will Government be pleased to give the names of the Public Works Department Officers in whose case extension of service has been granted after their period of superannuation, showing the term of extension in each case ?

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

354. —Mr. H. P. Barua, I.S.E., Chief Engineer and Secretary, Public Works Department has been re-appointed to the post of Chief Engineer and Secretary, Public Works Department for a period of 3 months from the date of superannuation.

### Persons deputed for training in Basic Education

**Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA** asked :

355. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The names of persons sent till now to the Jamia Millia and Hindustani Talimi Sangh for training in Basic Education with their qualifications and home addresses ?
- (b) The qualifications required of them when they were due to be selected ?
- (c) Whether the candidates have been paid their monthly allowances regularly and whether they have been paid for their travelling expenses ?



(d) If not, why not ?

(e) The names of places finally selected as venues for training centres of teachers for Basic Education ?

(f) When the work of construction of buildings for the said purpose will be commenced and by whom are the construction proposed to be made ?

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

355. (a) —A list of trainees with their names, qualifications, etc., deputed for training to Jamia Millia and Hindusthani Talimi Sangh is placed below. Home address of all these candidates are not available.

*List of Trainees deputed for training in Basic Education at Wardha and Delhi*

Name of the trainee	Institution where deputed for training
1. Maulvi Abdus Sattar, B.A., teacher, Government Aided High School, Titabar, Jorhat.	Jamia Millia, Delhi.
2. Maulvi Abu Bakar Siddique, Matric Normal 3rd year, teacher, Nowgong Government High School.	Ditto.
3. Srijut Sonaram Chutia, Balama High School, Nakachari.	Wardha.
4. Srijut Dharanidhar Deka, B.A., teacher, Karara High School, Gauhati.	Jamia Millia.
5. Maulvi Abdul Mannan, B.Sc., B.T., Government High School, North Lakhimpur.	Ditto.
6. Maulvi Shamsul Islam, B.A., B.T. (Madrassa Passed) Assistant Teacher, Silchar Government High School.	Ditto.
7. Babu Rama Ranjan Pal, B.A., B.T., Assistant Teacher, Shillong Government High School.	Ditto.
8. Maulvi Mushahid Ali, clerk, Office of the Deputy Inspector of Schools, North Sylhet.	Ditto.
9. Maulvi Muhibur Rahman, B.A. (outsider) Ahia Villa, Sylhet.	Ditto.
10. Babu Premchand Roy, B.A., B.T., Headmaster, Model High School, Sylhet.	Ditto.
11. Maulvi Arman Ali, Normal Passed, Vernacular Teacher, Sylhet Government High School.	Ditto.
12. Srijut Tarini Charan Das, B.A., teacher, Laban Girls' High School, Shillong.	Basic Training Institute, Sevagram, Wardha.
13. Srijut Prasanna Kumar Chakravarty, B.A., Assistant Teacher, Tezpur Aided Academy.	Ditto.
14. Srijut Nibaran Chandra Chaudhuri, B.A., B.T., Teacher, Barpeta Vidyapith, Barpeta.	Ditto.
15. Srijut Prabhat Chandra Srutikar, B.A., B.T., teacher, Government High School, North Lakhimpur.	Ditto.



Name of the trainee	Institution where deputed for training
16. Srijut Nagendranath Sarma, Normal 3rd year, Assistant teacher, Government High School, Gauhati.	Basic Training Institute Sevagram, Wardha.
17. Mrs. Manika Chaudhury, M.A., B.T., Headmistress, Silchar Girls' High School.	Ditto.
18. Miss Bela Sen, Teacher, Training School, Silchar.	Ditto.
19. Mrs. Debabala Debi, B.A., B.T., Headmistress, Government Aided Girls' High School, Jorhat.	Ditto.
20. Miss Purnima Das, I.A., Passed, Assistant, Mistress, Government Aided Girls' High School, Jorhat.	Ditto.
21. Miss Puspa Bhuyan, Assistant Mistress, Girls' Training School, Nowgong.	Ditto.
22. Mrs. Swain, B.A., B.T., Assistant Headmistress, Jowai Government High School.	Ditto (since left).
23. Babu Ishatosh Bhattacharyya, B.A., B.T., Headmaster, P.C. High School, Barlikha.	Jamia Millia, Delhi.
24. Srijut Probodh Chandra Kataki, Head Pandit, Jaluguti Middle English School, C/o Srijut Bhabanath Sarma, Nowgong.	Ditto.

(b)—The minimum qualification required for admission to the Basic Training Institutions at Delhi and Wardha is the Matric Examination or an equivalent standard. The selection of candidates was made with an eye to their appointment as instructors in the Basic Training Centres proposed to be opened in Assam in connection with Post-War Reconstruction Schemes.

(c) & (d)—The allowances were not paid regularly as the School authorities did not pay them in all cases.

They have now all been paid in full.

(e)—The places so far selected are Titabar, Dudhnai, Raha, Katigora, Kulaura. The selection of other sites is still under consideration.

(f)—The work of construction in the places mentioned under (e) has already begun.

The work has been entrusted to an Indian firm, the Construction Holding Company, which works in co-operation with the Roll-Zathing Company, the holders of the patent for the most modern type of reinforced concrete building.

### Distribution of Grants among different Schools

**Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA** asked :

356. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement of distribution of Government grants among different High Schools of the Province, district by district and number of pupil in each of these schools, for 1946-47?



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

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

Number of enrolment of all High Schools for 1946-47 is not available.

### **Grants-in-aid for H. E., M. E. and M. V. Schools**

**Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI** asked :

357. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The amount of grant-in-aid for each type of school, viz., H. E., M. E. and M. V. for both boys and girls, subdivision by subdivision in the Province ?
- (b) The basis on which such aid is granted ?
- (c) Whether the proportion of such grant-in-aid is equal for each Subdivision according to such basis ?
- (d) If not, whether Government propose to raise the amount of grant-in-aid for the schools in the less paid Subdivisions to make it proportionately equal in all Subdivisions ?

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

357.(a)—A statement is laid on the Library Table.

(b)—Grants are sanctioned to deserving schools in accordance with rule 14, Part II, Section 68 of the Education Department Rules and Orders after examining the propriety or otherwise of bringing such schools on to the aided list, and special consideration having been given to schools which provide for the requirements of backward areas or communities and whose private sources cannot produce an adequate contribution.

(c)—No.

(d)—Government will raise grant-in-aid of deserving schools when more funds are available for the purpose.

**Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA** : Madam, according to the Education Department Rules quoted in question 357 (b) Government is responsible for awarding ordinary maintenance grants to each Aided High School. Is Government aware that the said rule is not observed by Government in allotting grants to Aided High Schools in actual practice ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** : The hon. Member must remember that what the Government does must be consistent with the funds at its disposal.

### **Result of Election to the Assam Road Communication Board**

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER** : I am now to announce the result of bye-election to the Assam Road Communications Board. Mr. Maniram Marak having secured the largest number of votes is hereby declared elected as a member of the said Board.

### **The Assam Sales Tax Bill, 1947**

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER** : We shall now, take up the Assam Sales Tax Bill, 1947 clause by clause.  
There are 11 Amendments. Now, the 1st Amendment stands in the name of Mr. Morley.



**Mr. C. W. MORLEY:** Madam, I beg to move that in the third line of sub-clause (6) of clause 2, after the word "may" the words "with the previous approval of the Provincial Legislature" shall be inserted.

It is hardly necessary for me to explain in detail the purpose of this Amendment as I think it will be apparent to every hon. Member in this House. We were extremely grateful to the Hon'ble Finance Minister for accepting a limitation of luxury goods to three specified articles. We realise that the Hon'ble Finance Minister was not particularly happy about this decision since we fully realise that it is his duty to collect money for Government Departments to spend. At the same time, there is a risk that at some future date additions may be made to this schedule of luxuries and although, if Members of this House disagree with such additions, it would be possible later to move for deletion of such additions, but as the Hon'ble Speaker pointed out on Tuesday, an Act cannot be easily revised when it is on the Statute Book, and there might be a long interval between the imposition of this additional tax on specified commodities and the cancellation of the addition by the House.

We are also impressed by the thought that once a Government Department has made a decision and collected taxes on the basis of that decision, it is politically extremely difficult for a Ministry to beat a retreat and to acknowledge that the earlier decision was a mistake. For this reason, therefore, we regard it as very desirable that the luxury tax should not be levied on other commodities without the previous approval of the Legislature.

A celebrated Chief Justice of England, Lord Hewart, wrote a brilliant book castigating the new autocracy, which was legislation by means of notification. It is, Madam, the privilege of this House to impose taxation and we consider it wrong for this House to issue blank cheques to the Ministry to increase that taxation whenever they may feel inclined. It is, therefore, most undesirable that this House should give powers to Government to levy any tax by notification or increase the incidence of any such tax.

In the case of a sales tax of this type, there is another additional reason for advocating the principle that a reference to the Legislature is essential. In the position of a luxury tax was going to be extremely complicated since the imposition of a luxury tax would have to maintain separate register for compiling the returns of dealers for firstly tax-free goods, secondly for goods taxed at the lower rate and thirdly for goods taxed at the luxury rates. By restricting the articles on which the luxury tax was to be levied to three, it was considered that most dealers would not be affected by these arrangements; motor dealers for example would not be concerned with the tax at luxury rates. Madam, we apprehended that, where a cheaper article might be taxed at the lower rate and a more expensive article at the luxury rates, the dealer (who is the collecting agent for Government in so far as sales tax is concerned) might defraud the public by collecting at the higher rate when the lower rate was admissible. Few people could be expected to know precisely the regulations for a sales tax if they are complicated by the introduction of luxury and ordinary rates for the same class of goods, and it is therefore necessary that before any additions are made to the schedule of luxury goods, there should be full opportunities for discussion in this House.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Amendment moved:

"That in the third line of sub-clause (6) of clause 2, after the word 'may' the words 'with the previous approval of the Provincial Legislature' shall be inserted".



**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Madam, I am sorry I cannot accept the Amendment proposed by hon. Mr. Morley. He himself was a Member of the Select Committee in which it was unanimously decided that the matter with regard to specifying the names of luxury and other goods should be entirely left to the Government, as in the original Bill no names of such goods were specified. This Bill has been drawn up on the line of the Bihar Sales Tax Act where also the exempted goods are not shown. I like to draw the attention of this House as well as my hon. Friend Mr. Morley to section 6 of the Bihar Act which reads as follows "No tax shall be payable under this Act on the sales of any goods or class of goods specified in this behalf by the Provincial Government by notification in the official Gazette, subject to such conditions and exceptions, if any, as may be mentioned in the notification." Even in the schedule of the Bihar Sales Tax Act from which my hon. Friend has drawn his inspiration, Government has been authorised to add any other goods that they think proper. In this respect there will be sufficient notice given in the official Gazette of the list of luxury and other goods so that there would not be any chance of the consumers or customers being cheated by dealers and such list of goods will have to be maintained by the dealers in their shops which the customers could verify at the time of purchase of goods in order to avoid being cheated. There is another fact to be borne in mind that if a dealer tries to cheat his customers as far as such goods are concerned, he is likely to lose his customers when caught or found to have charged more price than other dealers on the plea of realising tax under the sale tax.

I therefore assure my hon. Friend that sufficient notice will be given in the official Gazette so that there would not be any room for the customers being cheated. Therefore I request my hon. Friend to withdraw his Amendment.

**Mr. C.W. MORLEY:** Madam, I heard with considerable gratitude the Hon'ble Minister's reply to the effect that there will be plenty of time given by Gazette notification, but the principle I have advocated is that such matters should come before the Provincial Legislature for sanction and this principle I still consider as the proper one, and so I wish to press my Amendment.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is:

"That in the third line of sub-clause (6) of clause 2, after the word 'may' the words 'with the previous approval of the Provincial Legislature' shall be inserted."

The question was lost.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Now I am putting clause 2 as a question.

The question is:

"That clause 2 of the Bill stands part of the Bill"

The question was adopted.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** As there are no Amendments to clauses 3 to 6 both inclusive I am putting them as a question.

The question is:

"That clauses 3 to 6 both inclusive of the Bill stand part of the Bill".

The question was adopted.

**Mr. C. W. MORLEY:** Madam, I beg to move that in line 1 of sub-clause (2) of clause 7, after the word "after", the words "the previous approval of the Provincial Legislature, and after" shall be added.



The objection in this case, Madam, is partly one of principle that this House should not surrender its power of control over taxation to the executive. We have no objection to Government making further exemptions or reducing the tax on commodities, but as the schedule is framed it might be utilised by some future Ministry to restrict the concessions which are being given in respect of certain commodities. It will be seen that in Schedule III there is a column covering conditions and exemptions. If Government are given power to impose new conditions and exemptions it might materially narrow the scope of these concessions. To take an example, coal is at present exempt, but by imposing a condition that coal when supplied in quantities exceeding 10 seers should not be exempt, the executive could cancel a concession which had been regarded as necessary by this House. I would repeat that I am not suggesting that this conduct is likely to be experienced under the present Ministry, but this Bill will be going on the Statute Book and it will be operated in years to come by Ministries who have no knowledge of these debates and administered by staff who are unacquainted with the detailed reasons for making the present exemptions. If Government have a good cause for modifying the exemptions to the detriment of the purchasing public let them come before the House and obtain approval and then proceed to modify the schedule.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Amendment moved :

"That in line 1 of sub-clause (2) of clause (7), after the word 'after', the words 'the previous approval of the Provincial Legislature, and after' shall be added."

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Madam, I have looked into the various legislations now in force, and nowhere is there any provision as envisaged by the Amendment. Everywhere the matter is left to the Provincial Government. Action under clause 7 requires to be taken speedily because the success of the sales tax depends more or less on the co-operation of the adjoining Provinces. If another Province adds or deletes some item from the list it may be necessary, both in the interests of the trade and the interests of the consumers, to modify the schedule. I assure the hon. Member that we will give sufficient time if we add or subtract any item from the list. As I have already said, Bihar has no exempted list at all, the entire discretion has been left to the Provincial Government. But here we have an elaborate list of exemptions. We only want sufficient power to modify it in the interests of the trade and the consumers. In view of this I hope the hon. Member will withdraw his Amendment.

**Mr. C. W. MORLEY:** Madam, in view of the reply of the Hon'ble Minister in which he has emphasized the fact that he will bear in mind the responsibilities the Government have towards the consumer and the trade, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Amendment.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his Amendment ?

The Amendment was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

**The Deputy SPEAKER:** The question is :

"That clause 7 of the Bill stands part of the Bill".

The question was adopted.



**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** As there are no Amendments to clauses 8 to 14 both inclusive, I am putting them as a question.

The question is :

“That clauses 8 to 14 both inclusive of the Bill, stand part of the Bill”.

The question was adopted.

**Mr. W. R. FAULL :** Madam, I beg to move that in clause 15, the following new sub-clause shall be added after sub-clause (2), and the existing sub-clauses (3) and (4) shall be renumbered accordingly :—

“(3) Sale to any Railway or Water Transport Administration”.

Madam, in the Bengal Finance (Sales Tax) Act, 1941, in section 5, sub-section (2) (a) (iii), provision has been made for exempting from taxable turnover sales to any Railway or Water Transport Administration. The reason for this exemption is obvious, since a sales tax is intended to be a single point tax on the sale of goods as far as possible at the retail stage and this indirect taxation of transport would have the effect of converting the sales tax into a multi-point tax. Consumer goods which are transported by a Railway or Water Transport Administration would ultimately have to bear the sales tax on the cost of goods supplied in connection with transporting goods, which will in turn be required to pay sales tax on sale in Assam. Such goods, therefore, would be liable to sales tax not merely on the value of the goods but also to sales tax on the purchases made by Transport Companies in connection with carrying those goods. This is manifestly inequitable and may result in some disturbance of trade and involve the public in a far heavier tax than is intended by Government.

For these reasons, Madam, I strongly recommend that the Amendment which has been accepted as necessary in other Provinces should be incorporated in the Assam Sales Tax Bill.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Amendment moved :

“That in clause 15, the following new sub-clause shall be added after sub-clause (2), and the existing sub-clauses (3) and (4) shall be renumbered accordingly :—

“(3) Sale to any Railway or Water Transport Administration”.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI :** Madam, I think one aspect of the question has not been considered by the hon. Mover of this Amendment. There is the likelihood of persons employed under these Administrations getting their consumer goods through the Administrations and thus evade the tax. We do not want any evasion of tax. Then, Madam, if this Amendment is accepted there will be discrimination between these two specified Transport Administrations and the other public utility services such as public carrier. Had the hon. Mover included all the public utility services in his Amendment then only he could have said that he had no particular interest for these two Transport Administrations.

**Mr. W. R. FAULL :** Madam, I have no objection if the Hon'ble Minister would like to add other utility services.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI :** There is hardly any time to do so. The Amendment as it is should be considered. As I was submitting, Madam, the effect of accepting this Amendment will mean discrimination between other public carriers and the Railway and Water Transport Administrations. My hon. Friend the Mover is most probably interested in Water Transport and that is why he has brought forward this particular Amendment. But we do not want



any discrimination between one public utility service and the other ; we also do not want any evasion of the tax. The employees may get the necessary consumer's goods through the Administration with a view to get the articles tax-free and thereby evade the tax. In view of these, I request my hon. Friend to withdraw his Amendment.

**Mr. W. R. FAULL :** Madam, since the Hon'ble Finance Minister's only plea for not accepting my Amendment is that he obviously doubts my, and my colleague's honesty, I feel it is impossible for me to withdraw the Amendment.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI :** Madam, I never doubted the honesty of my Friend. My point is that the heads of the Administration cannot go to the details of accounting and scrutinise what things are being purchased.....

**Mr. W. R. FAULL :** On a point of information, Madam, we do not use Government system of accounting. We can check.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Does the hon. Member press for his Amendment ?

**Mr. W. R. FAULL :** Yes, Madam.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The question is :

"That in clause 15, the following new sub-clause shall be added after sub-clause (2), and the existing sub-clauses (3) and (4) shall be renumbered accordingly :—

"(3) 'Sale to any Railway or Water Transport Administration'."

The question was lost.

**Mr. C.W. MORLEY :** Madam, I beg to move (1) that after sub-clause (3) of clause 15, the following shall be inserted as a new sub-clause :—

"(4) the sale of goods which are shown to the satisfaction of the Commissioner to have been despatched by or on behalf of the dealer to an address outside the Province."

(2) that in line 4 of sub-clause (4), for the word "and figure" the word and figures "(3) and (4)" shall be substituted.

This, Sir, is perhaps the most important Amendment which this Group have to move as the decision of this House on the Amendment may seriously affect the traders and the trading position of this Province. This matter was discussed at considerable length in the Select Committee and at one stage it was believed that the Hon'ble Finance Minister had accepted the view that it was necessary in the interests of the trade of Assam to incorporate an exemption which finds place in the Sales Tax Act of the neighbouring Province of Bengal. On the following day the Hon'ble Finance Minister stated that he had changed his mind but did not give any detailed reasons justifying a change in the original decision.

The position briefly is that a trading concern can sell in Assam on payment of sales tax. We are not objecting to that as this is equally applicable to a firm in Bengal who have to pay a sales tax when selling in their own Province. A firm in Assam, however, which sells in Bengal may be liable to pay firstly sales tax in Assam even if the sale takes place in Bengal and the goods are in Assam, and on re-sale in Bengal a sales tax levied by the Bengal Government, Assam dealers may, therefore, be at a serious disadvantage in selling their products outside the Province and whereas a Bengal dealer has the privilege of



developing his export markets, the Assam dealer is being handicapped. There is a slogan in Great Britain at the present time—"Export or die"—and even in the case of Assam there is an urgent need for developing export markets in order to provide the funds to purchase those commodities which are not at present being manufactured in this Province. It is, therefore, economically unsound to fetter the export trade of the Province in any way; on the contrary, it might well be subsidised in order that Assam can secure a greater share in the total volume of trade in India.

Consider also the position of the consumer in Assam if any action of this Government compels the Bengal Government to withdraw to exemption on exports. Assam obtains 80 per cent. of its imported requirements from Bengal and double taxation on such imports will only result in a still further rise in the cost of living and this will affect to an appreciable extent the poorest classes in the Province.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Amendment moved:

"(1) That after sub-clause (3) of clause 15, the following shall be inserted as a new sub-clause:—

'(4) the sale of goods which are shown to the satisfaction of the Commissioner to have been despatched by or on behalf of the dealer to an address outside the Province'.

(2) That in line 4 of sub-clause (4), for the word and figure 'and (3)' the word and figures '(3) and (4)' shall be substituted."

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Madam, the volume of trade in Assam is small and the yield under the proposed tax will be comparatively smaller in comparison with other Provinces, such as Bengal. Complete exemption on export will further reduce the receipt. The financial resources of the Province is limited but there are many urgent demands on the Provincial exchequer, and hence the need for conserving the Provincial receipts is very great. It is also usual for an exporting Province like Bengal, which depends on export trade to a great extent, as it has its own port to make exemption. But we have no port of our own. There is no big city here in Assam like that of Calcutta or Bombay, where the whole trade depends on export, and hence export was exempted. But as regards the Punjab, Madras, Orissa, the export was not exempted in their Act. Moreover, this will have the effect of inducing our people to manufacture goods here in the Province instead of sending our raw materials outside the Province. It will thus be an indirect inducement to our people. If a tax is imposed on raw produce, *e.g.*, on hide, there will be an inducement on the part of the people to manufacture these things and develop an industry. Assam traders carrying on business in Bengal will not be liable under this Bill if the sale really takes place in Bengal, they will not come under the purview of this Act. With a view to augment the Provincial revenues there is a *prima facie* case for not extending exemption to all export. That is why we have not exempted this. But if after the operation of this Act we find difficulty in the way then the matter may be considered. Hon. Member said that Bengal is taking measures to grant exemption in this respect. We also realise that in the matters of sale of tea and sale of jute there should be some sort of compromise arrived at between Assam and Bengal so that we may get a share of the sale tax imposed on tea produced in Assam and sold in Bengal. So in view of these circumstances we want to keep it quite open and as a matter of fact under the present law the sales tax should be imposed on the export and on principle we cannot accept this Amendment. In view of that I request the hon. Member to withdraw his Amendment.



**Mr. C. W. MORLEY:** Madam, I have followed the Hon'ble Finance Minister's speech very carefully, but, I do not quite follow the implications as regards tea duty. Still I think, by retaining this clause in the Bill the Hon'ble Finance Minister has made it clear that he will come to join with Bengal in future. I shall, on principle, offer no such temptation to Bengal and in view of that I beg to press my Amendment.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is:

"(1) That after sub-clause (3) of clause 15, the following shall be inserted as a new sub-clause:—

'(4) the sale of goods which are shown to the satisfaction of the Commissioner to have been despatched by or on behalf of the dealer to an address outside the Province'.

(2) That in line 4 of sub-clause (4), for the word and figure 'and (3)' the word and figures '(3) and (4)' shall be substituted".

The question was lost.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Now I put the question.

The question is:

"That clause 15 of the Bill stands part of the Bill."

The question was adopted.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** As there are no Amendments to clauses 16 to 23, both inclusive, I am putting them as a question.

The question is:

"That clause 16 to 23 both inclusive of the Bill, stand part of the Bill."

The question was adopted.

**Mr. C. W. MORLEY:** Madam, I beg to move that the following proviso shall be added as a proviso to clause 24:

"Provided always that when a transferee has applied to the Commissioner not less than 60 days before the date of such transfer for a statement of tax remaining unpaid in respect of such business at the end of the quarter prior to the date of such application, the transferee shall not be so liable to pay the tax in respect of such business remaining unpaid at the end of the aforesaid quarter unless the transferee has entered into an agreement with the transferor to pay the tax remaining unpaid at the end of the aforesaid period."

Madam, the provisions of clause 24 as amended by the Select Committee place a very great burden on an innocent purchaser of a business. It is unfair that a purchaser should be liable for tax arrears of a business which he purchases in good faith and it is clearly the obligation of Government which he purchases of the business and collect the tax due from him. We are not suggesting, however, that the transferee should be completely exempt and we are making provision that before a business is transferred, an intending purchaser can apply 60 days before the date of transfer and ascertain from the Commissioner of Sales Tax the arrears due in respect of the business up to the last complete quarter before the date of application. This will give the Commissioner sufficient warning that he should proceed against the transferor for arrears of tax prior to that date while the transferee will possibly be liable for the last 3 or 4 months of tax only for the business. There are cases in which a dealer has defrauded



Government of sales tax of very large amounts for long periods. The Bill will permit two years of tax to be recovered and it is, therefore, important that liability of an innocent purchaser should be safeguarded. We do not think that Government will be in any way handicapped if they accept this Amendment. They can recover from the purchaser of a business several months of tax prior to the date on which the transfer took place and against the seller of the business they will be given ample warning in which to take action to collect their full arrears.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Amendment moved :

"That the following proviso shall be added as a proviso to clause 24 :—

'Provided always that when a transferee has applied to the Commissioner not less than 60 days before the date of such transfer for a statement of tax remaining unpaid in respect of such business at the end of the quarter prior to the date of such application, the transferee shall not be so liable to pay the tax in respect of such business remaining unpaid at the end of the aforesaid quarter unless the transferee has entered into an agreement with the transferor to pay the tax remaining unpaid at the end of the aforesaid period'."

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Madam, I am sorry I cannot accept this Amendment. In the original Bill the transferor was not made liable to pay the tax. On the suggestion of the hon. Mover and other hon. Members the Amendment made by the Select Committee has made the transferor and the transferee jointly and severally liable leaving it to the discretion of the taxing officer realising the tax from whomsoever he thinks justified. If this Amendment is accepted there will be great difficulty in realising taxes. I think, the hon. Mover of this Amendment is aware how difficult it is to levy taxes quarterly under the Sales Tax. No Province, I think, assesses tax quarterly on any sales tax enforced in the Province. The utmost that can be done to save labour and trouble is to make half-yearly assessment under the Sales Tax. So if this Amendment is accepted there may be dispute going on and an officer will have to go every quarter and examine the accounts of a particular person or firm to assess the liability. The Amendment is so defective that no provision has been made for compelling a person to deposit the money in a treasury and if a man runs away from the Province he will not be liable. So this Amendment as it appears cannot be accepted as it will involve a large expenditure to keep a large number of officers for quarterly assessment. In view of these difficulties I request the hon. Mover to withdraw his Amendment. Such a provision is not found in any sales tax enforced in India.

**Mr. C. W. MORLEY:** I have carefully heard what the Hon'ble Finance Minister has said as regards this quarterly assessment. But it is very clearly stated in what manner the money can be recovered and undoubtedly rules will be framed in such a manner that it could be implemented ; but in view of the fact that we discussed this very fully in the Select Committee I do not propose to press it any further.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his Amendment ?

(Voices : Yes.)

The Amendment was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.



**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** I now put the clause as question.

The question is :

“That clause 24 of the Bill stands part of the Bill.”

The question was adopted.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** As there are no Amendments to clauses 25 to 28, both inclusive of the Bill, I am putting them as a question.

The question is :

“That clauses 25 to 28, both inclusive of the Bill, stand part of Bill.”

The question was adopted.

**Mr. C. W. MORLEY :** Madam, I beg to move that for clause 29, the following shall be substituted :—

*“Recovery of tax from purchasers. 29. (1) A dealer may recover from a purchaser of goods an amount equivalent to the amount of the sales tax payable on such goods.*

*(2) A dealer shall on demand supply to a purchaser a receipt in writing showing separately the amount of the sale price and the amount recovered under sub-section (1).*

*(3) No dealer shall recover under the provisions of sub-section (1) any sum which is greater than the sales tax payable under this Act; provided that when the amount of such sales tax is a fraction of a pice the Provincial Government may prescribe the amount which may be recovered.”*

Madam, we realise what Government intended by this clause 29 of this Bill, that is that a small dealer should not be encouraged to purchase outside the Province so that sales tax is avoided. It is, however, a most unfortunate clause since it introduces many practical difficulties. It has been estimated that in Provinces where a sales tax is imposed, 99.9 per cent. or perhaps a little more of the tax is paid by the consumer. Even where Governments have fixed controlled prices either under the Drugs Control Order or other price control regulations, it was necessary to introduce amendments in such regulations to permit of the dealer recovering sales tax in addition to the control price. It is a complete fiction that any but an infinitesimal part of the tax is shouldered by either the middleman or the manufacturer. This tax passed on to the general public and it is, therefore, for Government to see that the dealer is not unfairly handicapped in collecting the tax. An unregistered dealer who buys outside Assam is not specifically required to pay tax but he may be required to do so by the Commissioner. It is vitally important in the first place that tax regulations should be certain and should make it clear whether tax is to be leviable or not. This could easily be secured by making every dealer liable to registration whatever his turnover. Secondly, a provision of this type leaves it to the option of subordinate staff of departments whether a dealer is to pay the tax or not. They cannot be held responsible for failing in their duty if they do not collect the tax since the Act does not require them to do so; it merely gives them an option. This, I am afraid, Madam, may lead to very undesirable practices in a new department where supervision at best cannot be very efficient in the early stages when the superior staff will be pre-occupied in organising the department and cannot find adequate time to look into complaints and the working in the villages and the towns of their subordinate staff.



My main objection, however, is that a dealer should know before he sells the goods whether he is to collect a sales tax on the goods or not. Members of this House who have visited Calcutta and made purchases there will be familiar with receipts in which the price is stated and then the amount charged on account of sales tax. How can a dealer decide whether he is to make the additional charge on account of sales tax if he does not know till six months or even one year later whether he is to be assessed to tax. If he does not collect it he will find that he is badly out of pocket: if he does collect it, there is a risk that Government may not require him to hand over the amounts collected as sales tax and he will thus get an unjustifiable benefit from collecting tax which he does not pass on to Government. In most cases I fear that the tax will be collected from purchasers but not paid to Government.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Amendment moved:

"That for clause 29, the following shall be substituted:—

*'Recovery of tax from purchasers.* 29. (1) A dealer may recover from a purchaser of goods an amount equivalent to the amount of the sales tax payable on such goods.

(2) A dealer shall on demand supply to a purchaser a receipt in writing showing separately the amount of the sale price and the amount recovered under sub-section (1).

(3) No dealer shall recover under the provisions of sub-section (1) any sum which is greater than the sales tax payable under this Act; provided that when the amount of such sales tax is a fraction of a pice the Provincial Government may prescribe the amount which may be recovered'."

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Madam, it appears that Mr. Morley has practically missed the point, for which this clause 29 has been added in the Bill. The principal purpose of this Bill is that some dealers in order to avoid paying any tax levied under the Sales Tax may instead of purchasing goods from the registered dealers in the Province, purchase things from outside the Province and sell their things inside the Province to consumers. In such cases they will be in a better position than other dealers—honest and registered dealers who purchase things within the Province as former can get the goods free from tax. All registered dealers are liable to pay tax under this Bill, but if a dealer in order to defraud the Government purchases goods outside the Province and not from the registered dealers in this Province then he will not be liable to pay tax unless provision is made like this. In order to rope and the registered dealers may not be put to a disadvantageous position by unscrupulous dealers. For the information of the House I read out these words from the principal Bill. The object of this is that a purchaser who wants to defraud Government and purchase things outside the Province may not be in a better position than a registered and honest dealer who pays tax under this Act. In order to avoid these difficulties this clause has been added in the Bill. Section 29 says—

"29. Where a dealer not ordinarily liable to registration under the provisions of this Act sells goods which he has obtained from outside the Province, he shall, when so required by the Commissioner, be liable to registration, and,



after such registration, he shall also be liable to be taxed on all sales as if he were a registered dealer."

Now, if this clause be substituted by the Amendment moved by the hon. Member, it will not be of much help and the un-registered dealers will go on selling their goods and it will be difficult to enforce them to pay taxes in respect of such sales. If this clause be deleted then what will be the effect? These dealers will not be liable to tax at all. So I submit, that this Amendment if accepted, will practically frustrate the very purpose for which this Amendment has been brought in. We want to place all the registered and honest dealers in the same footing. By accepting this Amendment, Madam, we will be imposing a duty on all the traders and this will mean controlling the entire trade. The hon. Members of this House have seen the difficulties and complications of the control system and every one is for decontrolling and for leaving the trade to have its own course so that there may not be any control and this is another reason why this Amendment is not necessary. Madam, there is no such provision in any one of the Sales Tax Acts in force in any of the Provinces beginning from the Province of Madras, which introduced Sales Tax in 1939. In Bengal, Bihar, Orissa or Punjab, nowhere this provision is to be found. This will clearly indicate that this provision is redundant, as it will restrict and control the trade—which is not the intention of the Sales Tax Bill.

In view of this matter, Madam, I would request the hon. Member to withdraw his Amendment.

**Mr. C. W. MORLEY:** Madam, I have listened to the reply of the Hon'ble Minister and I have noted down the points he has mentioned with regard to other Sales Tax Acts of other Provinces.

There is, Madam, no such provision in either the Bihar or Bengal Sales Tax Acts which have been taken as the model for the present legislation. We are not aware that in either Provinces serious difficulties have arisen owing to the lack of such provision but we are certain that in this Province, if this clause remains in the Bill, there will be serious difficulties not necessarily for Government but certainly for the dealers and the purchasing public.

Madam, I have at an earlier stage in this debate referred to the fact that dealers and manufacturers do not pay the sales tax; they are merely collecting agents on behalf of Government and the public pay the tax. Surveys which have been carried out indicate that only an infinitesimal part of the tax in very exceptional circumstances is borne by the dealers or manufacturers but on the contrary, far more is being collected from the public than is being paid to Government in tax. Is it right, Madam, that Government should turn loose on the Province thousands of unpaid tax collectors and make not a single provision in the Act for controlling them? In this respect the Government of Assam are not taking any action which is different from the action taken in other Provinces but it is surprising, even astonishing, that the public have been prepared to accept the imposition of a tax without being given the slightest remedy against a tax collector who defrauds them. No reasonable citizen can have any objection to paying a tax which is legally due but any public spirited citizen ought to object very strongly to paying any illegal exaction in the name of Sales Tax. I quoted the example of purchases in Calcutta, where the credit Memo gives the purchase price of an article and the amount of Sales Tax. I quoted the remedy under the law since it will be presumed that the purchaser has to exercise caution and that he should refuse to purchase in such circumstances. At the present time, however, it is well-known that purchasing is very difficult and it is not every purchaser who can afford to take up a point of this nature when he



badly requires the goods and may be put to some expense in getting them from another place. Until, therefore, Government are prepared to introduce any real protection for the public who are going to pay this tax, we consider that Government should not be permitted to introduce this tax. Government have many experienced administrators and it should not be beyond their ingenuity to devise a means of protecting the public from paying excess taxes. The public have a redress if for example the Deputy Commissioner demands more in land revenue than a person is required to pay: he has rights of appeal. But it is certain that even without exercising a right of appeal he can approach the Deputy Commissioner and get a *bona fide* excess collection of tax refunded. No Deputy Commissioner at present under the Sales Tax Bill as it stands can intervene and get a dealer to refund an excess collection of tax which should not have been collected on behalf of Government.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The hon. Member has no right of reply.

**Mr. C. W. MORLEY:** The Hon'ble Minister has missed those points.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Does the hon. Member press his Amendment?

**Mr. C. W. MORLEY:** Yes, Madam.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I put the question.

The question is:

"That for clause 29, the following shall be substituted:—

*'Recovery of tax from purchasers.* 29. (1) A dealer may recover from a purchaser of goods an amount equivalent to the amount of the sales tax payable on such goods.

(2) A dealer shall on demand supply to a purchaser a receipt in writing showing separately the amount of the sale price and the amount recovered under sub-section (1).

(3) No dealer shall recover under the provisions of sub-section (1) any sum which is greater than the sales tax payable under this Act; provided that when the amount of such sales tax is a fraction of a pice the Provincial Government may prescribe the amount which may be recovered'."

The question was lost.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is:

"That clause 29 of the Bill, stands part of the Bill".  
The question was adopted.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** As there are no Amendments to clauses 30 to 37, both inclusive, I am putting them as a question.

The question is:

"That clauses 30 to 37, both inclusive of the Bill, stand part of the Bill".

The question was adopted.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** What is the sense of the House? Do we adjourn now or finish the Amendments now?



**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** I think, we can finish now, Madam. For the convenience of Mr. Morley, I can tell him that I will accept his Amendment No. 8 and will oppose the rest.

**Mr. C. W. MORLEY:** I am not moving No. 7, but I do not wish to withdraw No. 10.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I am then putting clauses 38 to 50, both inclusive, as a question.

The question is :

"That clauses 38 to 50, both inclusive of the Bill stand part of the Bill".

The question was adopted.

### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 2 P.M.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** We now pass on to Amendment No.8 standing in the name of Mr. Morley.

**Mr. C. W. MORLEY :** I beg to move that after clause 50 the following shall be added as a new clause 51 :—

*"Determination of certain questions by the Commissioner.* 51. If any question arises (otherwise than in a proceeding before a Court) whether or not for the purposes of this Act—

- (a) any person or firm or any branch or department of any firm is a dealer, or
  - (b) any transaction is a sale or contract, or
  - (c) any particular goods purchased by a registered dealer are covered by his certificate of registration, or
  - (d) any tax is payable in respect of any particular sale contract, or
  - (e) any goods or classes of goods should be specified in the certificate of registration of any dealer under sub-section (1) of section 12,
- the Commissioner shall determine such question ;

Provided that any such determination shall not affect the liability of any dealer under this Act in respect of any contract entered into or sale effected prior to such determination, unless the Commissioner is satisfied that the dealer has been wilfully evading or attempting to evade payment of tax in respect of any sale of, or contract for supply of, any goods to which such determination relates".

Madam, as the Hon'ble Finance Minister has already expressed his willingness to accept this Amendment I do not intend to waste the time of the House by arguing the case.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Amendment moved :

"That after clause 50, the following shall be added as a new clause 51 :—

*"Determination of certain questions by the Commissioner.* 51. If any question arises (otherwise than in a proceeding before a Court) whether or not for the purposes of this Act—

- (a) any person or firm or any branch or department of any firm is a dealer, or
- (b) any transaction is a sale or contract, or



- (c) any particular goods purchased by a registered dealer are covered by his certificate of registration, or
  - (d) any tax is payable in respect of any particular sale contract, or
  - (e) any goods or classes of goods should be specified in the certificate of registration of any dealer under sub-section (1) of section 12,
- the Commissioner shall determine such question ;

Provided that any such determination shall not affect the liability of any dealer under this Act in respect of any contract entered into or sale effected prior to such determination, unless the Commissioner is satisfied that the dealer has been wilfully evading or attempting to evade payment of tax in respect of any sale of, or contract for supply of, any goods to which such determination relates'.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI :** Madam, I am prepared to accept this Amendment on behalf of the Government."

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The question is :

"That after clause 50 the following shall be added as a new clause 51 :—

*'Determination of certain questions by the Commissioner.* 51. If any question arises (otherwise than in a proceeding before a Court) whether or not for the purposes of this Act—

- (a) any person or firm or any branch or department of any firm is a dealer, or
  - (b) any transaction is a sale or contract, or
  - (c) any particular goods purchased by a registered dealer are covered by his certificate of registration, or
  - (d) any tax is payable in respect of any particular sale contract, or
  - (e) any goods or classes of goods should be specified in the certificate of registration of any dealer under sub-section (1) of section 12,
- the Commissioner shall determine such question ;

Provided that any such determination shall not affect the liability of any dealer under this Act in respect of any contract entered into or sale effected prior to such determination, unless the Commissioner is satisfied that the dealer has been wilfully evading or attempting to evade payment of tax in respect of any sale of, or contract for supply of, any goods to which such determination relates'."

The question was adopted.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The question is :

"That the new clause 51 of the Bill as now inserted, stands part of the Bill."

The question was adopted.

**Mr. C. W. MORLEY :** Madam, I do not want to move my Amendment No. 9.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The question is :

"That the original clause 51 of the Bill, stands part of the Bill"

The question was adopted.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** There is no Amendment to clause 52. I am therefore putting the question.

The question is :

"That the original clause 52 stands part of the Bill".

The question was adopted.



**The Deputy SPEAKER :** As there are no Amendments to Schedules I and II of the Bill, I am putting them as a question.

The question is :

“That Schedules I and II of the Bill stand part of the Bill”.

The question was adopted

**Mr. C. W. MORLEY :** Madam, I beg to move that in Serial No. 11, of Schedule III under the column ‘Conditions and exceptions subject to which exemption has been allowed,’ the entry: “Except when sold in sealed containers” shall be deleted.

The Select Committee had recommended that milk should be included in the exemptions. This does not appear to have been carried out.

We would make an appeal for the exemption of all foodstuffs in sealed containers. This method of preserving food should be made much cheaper and at the present time there are some tinned foods, including fish, which are cheaper than the fresh variety. These are wholesome and it is desirable that the sale of tinned foods should be developed to a much larger extent in this country, as food contamination is thus prevented and the waste which occurs through damaged food is avoided. There is also the canning industry in this Province to be considered ; I refer to the canning of fruit. Is it wise to handicap the development of this infant industry ?

**The Deputy SPEAKER :** Amendment moved :

That in Serial No. 1 of Schedule III, under the column ‘Conditions and exceptions subject to which exemption has been allowed’, the entry: ‘Except when sold in sealed containers’ shall be deleted.”

**The Hon’ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI :** Madam, I cannot accept the Amendment. Our idea is that all the foodstuffs sold in the sealed containers are to be taxed and only those raw stuffs like dahi, milk, fish, etc. are to be exempted. Because ordinarily the poor class of people do not take the foodstuffs that are sold in sealed containers and only the richer section of the people can afford to purchase them.

A question was raised in the Select Committee that milk is also used in hospitals for the poor patients and invalids, as such it was agreed that milk in sealed container should be exempted. I can accept an Amendment that ‘milk’ may be deleted from item No. 11 and it may be added below item No. 24, and numbered as 25; if there be no practical difficulty in accepting such an Amendment.

**The Deputy SPEAKER :** May I know the opinion of the hon. Member.

**Mr. C. W. MORLEY :** In view of the assurance given by the hon. Member ? Minister that he will include ‘milk’ I should not like to press the Amendment. Instead of No. 25 if the word ‘milk’ is numbered as No. 26, I think it will be better.

**The Hon’ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI :** Yes, Madam, it will be better if it is numbered as No. 26.

**The Deputy SPEAKER :** Amendment moved :

“That the word ‘milk’ against item 11 of Schedule III be deleted and a new item 26 be inserted with the word ‘milk’ against it.



The question is :

“That the word ‘milk’ against item 11 of Schedule III be deleted and a new item 26 be inserted with the word ‘milk’ against it.”

The question was adopted.

**The Deputy SPEAKER :** Now the question is :

“That Schedule III of the Bill as amended, stands part of the Bill.”

The question was adopted.

**The Deputy SPEAKER :** There is another Amendment standing in the name of Mr. P. Himatsingka, but as the hon. Mover is absent, this Amendment cannot be taken up.

The question is :

“That clause I of the Bill stands part of the Bill”

The question was adopted.

**The Deputy SPEAKER :** The question is :

“That the Title and Preamble of the Bill, stand part of the Bill”

The question was adopted.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI :** Madam, I beg to move that the Assam Sales Tax Bill, 1947, as amended, be passed.

I convey my thanks, on behalf of Government, to all the Members of this House for giving their full co-operation in the Select Committee as well as in this House in passing the Bill. And I hope, Madam, that we will continue to receive their full co-operation during the administration of the Sales Tax Act. I assure the House that if any difficulty is brought to the notice of Government in the execution of the Sales Tax Act, Government will try to remove the hardships, if there be any. (Babu Kamini Kumar Sen :—The prospective victims ought to get some thanks ;). This tax is imposed on the richer section of the people to benefit the poorer section, and I hope, Madam, the House will find no difficulty in accepting my Motion.

**The Deputy SPEAKER :** Motion moved :

“That the Assam Sales Tax Bill, 1947, as amended, be passed.”

**Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA :** Madam, our Finance Minister is quite vigilant in taking any opportunity to touch any pocket. He, of course, says he does not mean to touch the pocket of the poor ; he wants to touch the pocket of the rich to enrich the pocket of the poor. I hope, Madam, that everything will be done, as the Hon'ble Supply Minister says, in broad daylight, and nothing will be done in dark. Let us hope that everything will be carried on in broad daylight. But, Madam, we have got one misgiving that in the operation of this Act there will be many loopholes which might be taken advantage of by some unscrupulous persons who would be entrusted with the administration of this



Act. On one point I wrote a note in the Select Committee for consideration of the Administrative Department. The licenses are to be issued specifying the items of articles in which a merchant will be allowed to trade. Now, it is difficult to exhaust the list of stocks that a trader generally maintains. In our country a merchant deals in many articles at a time ; he is a stationery dealer hardware merchant, oil men storer, grocer, cloth and piece goods merchant and so on. So, it is not possible to state in a license an exhaustive list of the articles that a trader is expected to trade in. Therefore I suggested that there should be some broad headings under which commodities should be placed. All the articles should be divided into 3, 4 or 5 classes so that a merchant may not be unnecessarily harassed by the Sales Tax Department on the plea that his commodity is not covered by his license. This is a very important safeguard against harassment, and I would pointedly draw the attention of Government to this.

Similarly, there are other items on which the Sales Tax Department might harass our people, because the exemption is only up to Rs.10,000 per year ; it comes to about 700 or 800 rupees a month. Now a dealer having a gross income of Rs.10,500 or Rs.11,000 per year does get at the most Rs.50 to Rs. 60 per month as profit. Under such circumstances it is not possible for such dealers to maintain an expert clerical staff to prepare accounts to the satisfaction of the Sales Tax Department. This may be another ground for harassment. A dealer having a gross income of Rs. 10,000 a year does not earn sufficient profit even to maintain his family, not to speak of employing clerks for maintaining accounts in the proper way. He may have his accounts in his own way which are intelligible only to him, but these will not satisfy the demands of the Sales Tax Department whose demand for precision will be as strict as that of the Income-tax Department. Therefore it is our suspicion that in the operation of the Act there may be harassment of the people, and it should be the duty of Government to see to the elimination of the chances of such harassment as far as possible.

Madam, the tax on consumer goods is a direct tax. We are going to tax the people directly; naturally, the people will feel it much more than when it is a question of indirect taxation. It is said that the Congress Government, if not expert in any thing, are expert in the art of taxation. Perhaps almost all the important taxation measures since the inauguration of the 1935 Act were introduced by the Congress Government. So, Madam, if we are expert in introducing taxes we must show the people that we are also expert in catering to their needs. Unless we can show sufficient justification to the public for these taxation measures, I am afraid, we will lend ourselves to be criticised adversely. Therefore it is all the more necessary that the money earned by these taxation should be spent in such a way that the sting of that realisation might be forgotten in the process of benefits that might be given to the people. Of course, we must thank the Hon'ble Finance Minister for trying to be scrupulous in safeguarding the interests of the poorer classes, and I hope, Madam, his zeal will continue to the logical conclusion, so that a time will come when the people will bless him instead of cursing him for this taxation measure.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Madam, I only want to say that Government will try their utmost to see that the provisions of the Act are not utilised to the detriment of the interests of either the traders or the consumers, or any person affected by the operation of this Act. We shall try our utmost to see that no hardship is caused to any one and in this matter we expect the co-operation of not only the Members of this House but the public in general. If there is any hardship caused by the action of any of the officers,



and it is brought to the notice of the Government, the Government will make all possible endeavour to obviate the difficulty and prevent the recurrence of such things in future. I also remember a note that was appended to the Select Committee's Report by my hon. Friend Mr. Aditya; at the time of framing the rules we shall take that note into consideration. This Bill will have to go to the Upper House, and, I do not know if the Upper House is likely to sit before June and if that House passes the Bill, it will not be possible to levy any tax during the current year on the basis of the Act as it will take a long time to make preliminary arrangements, and setting up the machinery. I once again request the hon. Members of the House as well as the public in general and also the traders to bring to our notice the difficulties regarding the application of the Sales Tax Bill and we shall endeavour to remove them as far as possible.

**The Deputy SPEAKER :** The question is :

“That the Assam Sales Tax Bill, 1947, as amended be passed.”

The question was adopted.

**The Deputy SPEAKER :** I think there is no other business. I, therefore adjourn the House *Sine die*.

### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned *sine die*.

*Shillong :*

The 28th June 1947.

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.