

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

*The Assembly met at the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 11 a.m., on Tuesday, the 21st December 1937*

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### STARRED QUESTIONS

#### **Names of Committees appointed primarily of the members of the Provincial Legislatures**

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS asked :

\*135. Will Government please state—

- (a) The names of Committees appointed primarily of the members of the Provincial Legislatures since July last ?
- (b) Which of these Committees were appointed at the instance of the Legislatures and which at the instance of Government alone ?
- (c) The principle followed in selecting the members of the Committees appointed at the instance of Government alone ?
- (d) The total strength of members of all the Committees taken together ?
- (e) The estimated cost for all of them ?
- (f) The number of Committees that have completed their labour of reference and what has been the cost involved ?
- (g) The cost incurred by Government till now on account of all of them ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAHYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

135. (a)—Rules Making Committee.

(ii) Retrenchment Committee.

(iii) Line System Committee.

(iv) Dhubri Match Factory Enquiry Committee.

(v) Land Revenue Enquiry Committee.

(vi) Excise Committee.

(b)—The first 4 at the instance of the Legislatures and the last two at the instance of Government, after apprising the Assembly about their intention.

(c)—The hon. member is referred to reply given to question No.193 in the same session.

(d)—Sixty-six (non-official).

(e)—No estimate was possible.

(f)—The last two Committees have finished their business and the cost incurred is Rs.1,887.

(g)—Rupees 6,832.

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN: Is the Hon'ble the Chief Minister aware that there is a sense prevailing among the members of the House that most of the committees appointed by Government were not adequately represented?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: We are not aware of any such complaint, Sir.

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN: The Hon'ble the Chief Minister can take it from me that it is so, and in future see that such a grievance does not occur?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It has been settled on a suggestion from the Chair only the other day that henceforth the leaders of the individual groups of parties in this House will be addressed to select their own nominees from their parties.

### **Post of Chief Forest Officer in the Bijni Raj Ward's Estate**

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS asked:

\*136. Will Government please state—

- (a) When the post of the Chief Forest Officer in the Bijni Raj Ward's Estate was created and what scale of pay was fixed for it at the start?
- (b) What was the designation of the highest forest officer in the Estate prior to the creation of this post and what was his scale of pay?
- (c) Whether the post of the Chief Forest Officer when created was advertised?
- (d) If so, with what scale of pay?
- (e) Whether there were any candidates of the Goalpara district, the Assam Valley districts, or the province of Assam?
- (f) Who was the first Chief Forest Officer appointed and to what province did he belong?
- (g) What were his special qualifications for appointment as a Forest Officer and if he is continuing still in the post?
- (h) Whether he was ever in Government service?
- (i) If so, where, in what capacity, how long he served there and why he ceased to continue in that service?
- (j) Whether the scale of his pay has been revised and raised in the meantime?
- (k) If so, how, when and why?
- (l) Whether there are any scales of pay for the Assistant Manager, the Sub-Managers and the Chief Medical Officer of the Estate?
- (m) If so, what are the scales and when were they fixed?
- (n) Whether these scales were revised and raised when revising and raising the scale of pay of the Chief Forest Officer?
- (o) If not, why not?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied:

136 (a).—In October 1933. The scale of pay was fixed at Rs. 150—10—250 (E. B.)—5—300 per mensem.

(b)—Forest Supervisor at Rs. 75 per mensem. This Supervisor was engaged for that portion of the Bijni Forests (Khuntaghat) which the Estate itself managed. The forests in the Habraghat areas were managed by the Government Forest Department under an agreement from 1923 to 1933.

(c) & (d)—The post of a Ranger for Khuntaghat only was advertised and the scale of pay fixed for it was Rs. 100—5—150 (E. B.)—10—250 per mensem. Before filling up the post it was, on the recommendation of the Commissioner, decided to create a Superior post—called the Chief Forest Officer—in place of the Ranger, on the pay noted in the reply to question (a) above for all the Forests in the Estate. This post was not advertised but was given to one of the candidates who applied for the post of Ranger. With the appointment of the Chief Forest Officer, the agreement with Government for the management of the Habraghat Forests was terminated.

(e)—The information is not available here.

(f) to (i)—Mr. D. C. Kaith a native of the Punjab. As regards his qualification and past services the hon. member is referred to the reply given to starred question No. 92 (d) and (e) asked by Srijut Paramananda Das at the current session. He ceased to be in Government service due to the fact that the temporary post held by him was abolished. As Mr. Kaith possessed the qualification and practical experience of the Goalpara Forests the choice fell on him on the recommendation of the Divisional Forest Officer, Goalpara. Mr. Kaith is still holding the post.

(j) & (k)—Yes in September 1937 to Rs. 175—15—365 (E. B.)—15—410—20/2—450 per mensem. Both the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner strongly recommended that his pay should be raised even upto Rs. 500 in view of the fact that he had considerably improved the forests sylviculturally during these four years and that the income from forests has also gone up appreciably, in spite of the depression, under his control and supervision.

(l)—A scale of pay exists for the Assistant Manager, Sub-Manager, Khuntaghat and the Chief Medical Officer while the Sub-Manager, Habraghat, gets fixed pay.

(m)—Assistant Manager, —Rs.200—10/2—250, Sub-Manager, Khuntaghat— Rs.150—200, Sub-Manager, Habraghat— Rs.150, Chief Medical Officer—Rs.200—10—300.

The pay of all these posts was last fixed in the revised scheme sanctioned in September 1935.

(n) & (o)—No. Because there was no proposal from the Commissioner. In March 1937, however the Commissioner came up with a proposal to raise the pay of the Chief Medical Officer on which the order was passed that the case should wait till September 1938 when a proposal for a compensatory special pay may be considered.

MAULAVI GHYASUDDIN AHMED: May I know whether the Manager recommended for the revision of the scales?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: With reference to what question, Sir?

MAULAVI GHYASUDDIN AHMED: 136.(j).

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: The question is "Whether the scale of his pay has been revised and raised in the meantime" and I have answered that.

MAULAVI GHYASUDDIN AHMED: My supplementary question is whether the Manager recommended the revision of the scales of pay?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I want notice of that question. It appears that the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner have recommended and that is sufficient.

*Re* appointment of Advocate General for Assam

BABU DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI asked :

- \*137. Will Government be pleased to state—  
 (a) Whether any permanent Advocate General has been appointed to the Government of Assam?  
 (b) If not, why not?
- \*138. (a) Is it a fact that Sir A. K. Roy has been reappointed Advocate General of Assam, for a further period of four months?  
 (b) If so, what are the terms of his appointment?
- \*139. Will Government please state—  
 (a) Whether Government has made any attempt to appoint a permanent incumbent to the post from amongst the *bona fide* natives of the province?  
 (b) The amount spent by Government of Assam on account of the Advocate General's travelling allowance and fees when he came to address the Assembly in the Budget Session?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

137. (a)—Not yet.  
(b)—Government thought it desirable to postpone the making of a permanent appointment in order to see if economy could be effected by appointing a native of the province, if one suitable could be found, and also to see what decision would be arrived at on the question of the establishment of a High Court for the province.

**BABU DAKSHINARAJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI:** May we know the time when the final decision will be arrived at ?

**THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** We shall have to come to some decision before the period of six months is over and that period will expire on the 23rd May 1938.

THE HON'BLE SRIJIT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

138. (a)—Sir A. K. Roy, has been reappointed for six months with effect from the 23rd November 1937.

- (b)—The hon. member is referred to Notification No.3843-G. J., dated the 6th September 1937, published at pages 1540-42 of Part II of the *Assam Gazette*, dated the 8th September 1937.

139. (a)—Not yet.

(b) —					Rs.	a.	p.
Fees	...	...	...	...	4,080	0	0
Travelling allowance	...	...	...	...	201	9	0

BABU DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: In regard to (a), may we know if any attempt was made at the outset to appoint a native of the province?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Does that question arise, Sir, under this ?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Yes, that is the main question "whether Government has made any attempt to appoint a permanent incumbent to the post from amongst the *bona fide* natives of the province".

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I have already replied in answer to that that "Government thought it desirable to postpone the making of a permanent appointment in order to see if economy could be effected by appointing a native of the province, if one suitable could be found, and also to see what decision would be arrived at

on the question of the establishment of a High Court for the province " After coming to a decision on that, we shall take up the other question and make an attempt.

BABU DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: My question is if any attempt was made at the outset?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: No definite conclusion was arrived at by the previous Government. But there was a suggestion to appoint the Advocate General of Bengal as permanent Advocate General of Assam.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Is there any amount paid monthly to the Advocate General, Bengal, by way of retainer?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Rupees 250 per mensem.

BABU DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: Do Government consider that if the Advocate General is a native of the province Government would not be compelled to pay so much?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I think I am inclined to agree with the hon. member that if we can appoint a suitable native of the province, it would be more economical. (*Hear, hear.*)

### Prevalence of Kala azar in Sibsagar Subdivision

SRIJUT JADAV PRASAD CHALIHA asked :

\*140. (a) Are Government aware that there is widespread prevalence of *kala azar* in the Sibsagar Subdivision?

(b) If so, will Government please state what steps are being taken to combat this menace?

(c) If not, do Government propose to make enquiries and take immediate steps to launch an intensive campaign to fight this disease?

\*141. (a) Is Government aware that there are heavy death roll, and widespread distress due to epidemic dysentery at the cultivation time, in the Sibsagar Subdivision?

(b) If so, do Government propose to give sufficient grant to the Sibsagar Local Board to enable it to open at least 4 out-door dispensaries in the subdivision?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

140. (a)—A report was received from the Chairman, Sibsagar Local Board, in October 1937, to the effect that there were many *kala azar*, le, rosy and malaria cases in the Sibsagar Subdivision.

(b)—Three Doctors have since been deputed to undertake a thorough survey of the areas reported to be infected with these diseases in order to ascertain the actual state of infection. A report on the result of survey now in progress is awaited.

(c)—Does not arise.

141. (a)—Government are aware that Bacillary Dysentery broke out in an epidemic form during June to September 1937 in the Sibsagar Subdivision. Five Sub-Assistant Surgeons and the Assistant Director of Public Health, Surma Valley and Hill Division, were drafted to the areas to combat the epidemic.

(b)—No. The opening of Local Board dispensaries is a matter for the Board to consider.

**Re holding of gambling in Abhoyapuri and Bongaigaon Bazars**

SRIJUT PARAMANANDA DAS asked :

\*142. Will the Hon'ble Minister for Police be pleased to state—

(a) Whether gambling was practised in broad day light in Abhoyapuri Bazar and Bongaigaon Bazar, from the 1st November to the 3rd November 1937 ?

(b) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the gambling Act is inoperative in those two bazars ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

142. (a)—Government understand that the local Police received no information to this effect. Presuming, however, that the hon. member's information is correct, Government are issuing instructions for better watch to be kept in future.

(b)—The Public Gambling Act, 1867 (III of 1867) is operative in Bongaigaon bazar but inoperative in the Abhoyapuri bazar, with the exception of sections 13 and 17.

**Number of Trade Unions in Assam registered under the Trade Unions Act**

MAULAVI ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY asked :

\*143. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state—

(i) The number of Trade Unions in Assam registered under the Trade Unions Act ?

(ii) The total membership of these Unions ?

(iii) What steps Government are taking for fostering the spirit of Trade Unionism in the labour circles in Assam ?

(iv) The number of women labourers in the tea gardens of Assam ?

(v) The number of children below 12 years of age employed in these gardens ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

143. (i) & (ii)—Nil.

(iii)—Government are always prepared to register Trade Unions in conformity with the Act and Rules.

(iv) & (v)—Statements VII and VIII of the Annual Report on the Working of the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act for the year ending 30th September, 1936, a copy of which is placed on the library table, give the figures as :—

Women	...	...	...	...	...	270,387
Children	...	...	...	...	...	86,075

These figures are framed on the average of two particular months, and 'children' means those under sixteen years of age.

**Re improvement of Dhodar Ali road**

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI asked :

\*144. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) When the Dhodar Ali was taken up by the Communication Board for improvement ?

(b) Whether the Communication Board resolved that the whole length of the road should be improved ?

(c) Whether the whole length of the road has been improved ?

- (d) If not, why not ?
- (e) Whether any provision has been made by the present Board to complete the improvement of the whole length of the road ?
- (f) Whether any scheme was laid before the present Board to complete the improvement of the whole length of the road ?
- (g) If not, will Government be pleased to give reasons why new roads are being taken up for improvement before completing the work on the Dhodar Ali ?

\*145. Are Government aware that the portion of Dhodar Ali between Teok bridge and Kolakhwa village in the Sibsagar sub division was impassable even to the pedestrians during the last rainy season and that many carts and motor vehicles got damaged on this portion of the road ?

\*146. Do Government propose to take up this portion of the road for improvement in this cold season ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

144. (a)—From the 15th December, 1935.

(b)—No.

(c)—No.

(d)—Because the scheme proposed by the Communications Board, accepted by Council, and approved by the Government of India was for improving "portions" only and not the whole road.

(e)—No. A further portion between the Desoi bridge and the junction with the Seleng Railway Station feeder road has however been selected by the present Board. Also alternative roads between Amguri Station and Nazira and between Bhojo station and Jaipur have been included in the present programme.

(f)—No.

(g)—The roads included in the new programme are considered to be of greater importance than the remaining portions of the Dhodar Ali.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI: Are Government aware that the portions that have not been taken up become very muddy in the rainy season and therefore great inconvenience is caused to wheeled traffic ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I take the hon. member's statement as correct.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI: If that is so, will Government be pleased to take steps to improve those portions ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: We will finish the present programme, and if money is available, the other portion may be taken up.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI: Do Government realise that it is no use taking up a new scheme before finishing the old schemes ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The recommendations of the previous Communication Board accepted by the Council and approved by the Government of India were to improve "portions" only.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

145.—Government have no information.

146.—No.

### Number of Live Stock Inspectors

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

\*147. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of Live Stock Inspectors with their scales of pay and the number of cattle under their charge ?

(b) The qualification required for such posts ?

\*148. Is it a fact that the present working staff consisting of sixty Veterinary Assistant Surgeons are not sufficient to meet the heavy demands adequately of the *ryots* of Assam having nearly 58 lakhs of cattle population besides the other animals over an area of 61,500 square miles ?

\*149. Do Government propose to take immediate steps to give effect to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture relating to the Veterinary Department which among other things says that there should be one Veterinary Assistant Surgeon for each twenty-five thousand animals so that the various epidemic diseases breaking out among the agricultural and other cattle of the *ryots* may be more efficiently coped with ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

147. (a)—There are five Live Stock Inspectors—One in the scale of pay of Rs. 125—150—160—10/2—200—20/2—300 (old) and four on Rs. 80—90—100—4—140—6—200 (new). The Live Stock Inspectors are not in charge of any particular number of cattle, but are in charge of the breeding centres in their respective circles.

(b)—The qualification required for such posts is I. D. D. (Indian Dairy Diploma).

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI MAHMUD ALI: May I know how many of the Live Stock Inspectors are Muhammadans ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: I do not know. I require notice of the question.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI MAHMUD ALI: Who are these five ? May I know their names ?

(No reply)

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

148.—Yes.

149.—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to a similar question asked by Srijut Gauri Kanta Talukdar at the last August session of the Assembly.

### Number of teachers in all the aided High English Schools of the Province

MAULAVI MABARAK ALI asked :

\*150. (a) Will Government please state the total number of teachers in all the aided High English Schools of the province ?

(b) How many of them are Muhammadans ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

150. (a)—five hundred and four.

(b)—eighty-two.

**MAULAVI MABARAK ALI:** May I know why the Muhammadan representation is so meagre ?

**THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED:** Because they came up later in the service.

**MAULAVI MABARAK ALI:** May I know what steps have been taken by Government to make up the deficiencies ?

**THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED:** There is now being followed the principle of communal representation and according to that principle the Muhammadans will gradually get their due share.

**MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN:** Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that appointments are made by the Managing Committees ?

**THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED:** Many Managing Committees appoint teachers with the approval of the Director of Public Instruction.

**MAULAVI MABARAK ALI:** Is there any circular for communal representation ?

**THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED:** Yes, there is one.

**MAULAVI MABARAK ALI:** May I know whether this circular is acted upon ?

**THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED:** As far as our information goes, it is acted upon.

**MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MUHAMMAD CHAUDHURY:** Will Government see that before the grant is extended, this policy is pursued ?

**THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED:** The circular is already there.

### **Re post of Anæsthetist in Dibrugarh Civil Hospital**

**KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI SAYIDUR RAHMAN** asked :

\*151. Will Government be pleased to state when and how the newly created post of an Anæsthetist in Dibrugarh Civil Hospital is going to be filled up ?

**THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY** replied :

151.—The post will shortly be filled up by the appointment of a Sub- Assistant Surgeon from the permanent cadre.

**KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI SAYIDUR RAHMAN:** Will it be filled up by the Department or by the Public Service Commission ?

**THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY:** It will be through the recommendation of the Public Service Commission.

### **Sufferings of the people of Harucharai, Baligaon and Hezari mauzas in Jorhat Subdivision from Bhogdoi floods**

**SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SARMAH** asked :

\*152. (a) Are Government aware that the people of Harucharai, Baligaon and Hezari mauzas in the Jorhat Subdivision are suffering from Bhogdoi floods for the last several years ?

(b) Is it a fact that breaches are caused almost every year in the rainy season in either banks of the river ?

(c) Is it a fact that this is due to the silting up of the original bed and the stream having now no definite course to carry its water ?

\*153. Is it a fact that Government have not so far taken any measure to solve this long-standing problem giving a permanent course to this river ?

\*154. Do Government propose now to survey the situation and take immediate steps so that the people may be saved from such recurring troubles and sufferings every year ?

\*155. Is it a fact that the Public Works Department maintains a bund only on the left bank up to the Jorhat-Kokilamukh road ?

\*156. (a) Do Government propose to give a permanent course to the river ?

(b) If not, do Government propose to extend the Public Works Department bund on the left bank further down beyond Jorhat-Kokilamukh road and also to provide a bund on the right bank ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

152. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Government are aware that breaches occur frequently in the bunds maintained by the villagers.

(c)—Yes. But the silting of the bed is much increased by the river being constrained to follow an artificial course instead of being allowed to perform its natural functions of land formation and drainage.

153.—Owing to the opposition of people on the right bank Government have not been able to take the action they consider proper.

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SARMAH : Have Government actually taken any measures to divert the water in the right channel ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : The experts say that the river should be allowed to take its own course, but the villagers persist in building up bunds. Therefore Government have not been able to take any steps to allow the river to take its natural course.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH : Have Government noted that the river has been taking different courses during the last seven years ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Because the natural course of the river has been obstructed by the villagers' bunds.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH : They are mending the original bund only.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : The original bund was maintained by the Public Works Department. But when it was breached by the floods, experts were sent there and they say that it is no use maintaining that bund, because the river is taking its course towards that direction and the Public Works Department abandoned that bund. But that did not satisfy the villagers and they are still insisting on bunding in spite of the experts' advice and persuasion of the Department. It is now impossible to check the course of the river on that side.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH : Are Government aware that a large number of people suffer on account of this condition of the river and Government also suffer a large amount of revenue ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Yes, it is quite correct. If the river had been allowed its natural course, it would have brought silt on the land and the land would have become higher.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: When the river is expected to take its natural course?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: That data could not be collected because the river was not allowed to take its own course.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: Can we expect the Hon'ble the Chief Minister to pay a visit to the place in the near future and see the situation himself and learn matters firsthand?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am no expert in irrigation, but when I visit Jorhat, I will gladly take the help of my hon. friend and go to the locality.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

154.—No. In the opinion of Government it is owing to the action of people on the right bank that these troubles are recurring, *vide* reply to 153 above.

155.—Yes.

156. (a)—The hon. member is referred to reply to question No. 153.

(b)—No.

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SARMAH: There are breaches in the left bank. Have Government constructed a bund on the left bank?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The left bank is maintained by the Public Works Department.

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SARMAH: Up to a certain point. Beyond that there is no bund.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: The point is that the Department has left the right bank to nature. Do not Government maintain a bund on the left bank?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, Sir.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: Much below the town.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Much is a relative term.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: Are there some influential persons there whose properties will be at stake if the left bund is not maintained?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I refute that insinuation, Sir.

### **New Schemes passed by Government and included in the Budget Estimates for 1937-38**

MAULAVI ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY asked:

\*157. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (1) How many of the new schemes passed by Government and included in the Budget Estimates for 1937-38 have up till now been translated into action?
- (2) How many of these schemes have been given effect to in the Surma Valley and how many in the Assam Valley?
- (3) What is the amount spent in each Valley for the schemes already materialised?
- (4) Do Government contemplate to work out the remaining schemes before the next financial year commences? If not why not?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

157. (1)—Out of 50 new schemes provided for in the budget, 44 have already been given effect to.

(2)—Four in Surma Valley and 17 in Assam Valley. The rest concern the whole Province.

(3)—Rupees 8,320 in Surma Valley and Rs.39,496 in Assam Valley.

(4)—Yes.

#### Amount of travelling allowance drawn by Heads of Departments

MAULAVI ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY asked :

\*153. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the amount of travelling allowance drawn by the following officers in the years 1934-35, 1935-36 and 1936-37 ?

(1) Inspector General of Police.

(2) Deputy Inspector General of Police in charge of Criminal Investigation Department.

(3) Director of Public Health.

(4) Additional Directors of Public Health.

(5) Inspector General of Civil Hospitals.

(6) Superintending Engineers.

(7) Director of Public Instruction.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

158.	1934-35		1935-36		1936-37
	Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
(1)—	3,377	...	2,521	...	2,039
(2)—	2,131	...	1,962	...	1,939
(3)—	2,597	...	2,112	...	1,873
(4)—	4,471	...	4,629	...	2,059
(5)—	3,478	...	2,843	...	2,115
(6)—	3,386	...	4,359	...	4,992
(7)—	1,894	...	2,348	...	2,365

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN: May I know whether there is any limit of days in a month for travelling of those officers ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am not sure that there is any limit. But the limit of funds is there. It is up to the Budget provision.

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN: May I know how many Assistant Directors of Public Health are there ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: At present there is only one.

#### Number of days spent on tour by Members of the Cabinet and the amount of travelling allowance drawn by them

MAULAVI ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY asked :

\*159. Will Government be pleased to state—

(1) The number of days spent 'n tour by the Hon'ble Members of the Cabinet in and outside the Province since April 1, 1937 ?

(2) The places visited by them ?

(3) The amount drawn by each of them as travelling allowances ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA  
replied :

	Days
159. (1)—Hon'ble Chief Minister ... ..	25
Hon'ble Minister, Education ... ..	29
Hon'ble Minister, Revenue ... ..	30
Hon'ble Minister, Local Self-Government ... ..	23
Hon'ble Minister, Agriculture ... ..	5
(2)—Hon'ble Chief Minister—Bombay, Dawki, Sylhet and Sorbhog.	

Hon'ble Minister, Education—Habiganj and Sylhet.

Hon'ble Minister, Revenue—Gauhati, Boko, Palasbari, Dhubri, Chaygaon, Sonapur, Chamata, Ramour, Parakushi, Tezpur, Soontia, Silghat, Nowgong and Majpathar.

Hon'ble Minister, Local Self-Government—Gauhati, Nowgong, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Golaghat, Sylhet, Badaghat, Sunamganj and Bhatipara.

Hon'ble Minister, Agriculture—Sylhet.

	Rs.	a.	p.
(3)—Hon'ble Chief Minister ... ..	821	2	0
Hon'ble Minister, Education ... ..	382	2	0
Hon'ble Minister, Revenue ... ..	520	12	0
Hon'ble Minister, Local Self-Government... ..	474	12	0
Hon'ble Minister, Agriculture ... ..	75	8	0

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN: Is it a fact that the Hon'ble Revenue Minister and the Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government confined their tours only to the Assam Valley Districts ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It is apparent from the reply that I have given, Sir.

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Revenue Minister undertake any tour in the Surma Valley Districts ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, Sir, when he can make time he will go.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Is it a fact that the Hon'ble Education Minister did not visit Cachar as stated yesterday ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: He did visit Cachar and Karimganj. This reply was drafted before he undertook that journey.

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: Is it a fact that the Hon'ble the Chief Minister went to Dawki to avoid rush of visitors to his place at Shillong ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It is not a fact, Sir.

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: May we know the business that he had at Dawki ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: As hon. members are aware that towards the end of the last session, a report came that there was land slide just near the Dawki bridge and that members from Sylhet and Cachar would be compelled to travel *via* Gauhati, Lumding. It would have caused the members great inconvenience and cost the Government a good deal. Luckily for the Government and hon. members, the block on the road was cleared in time. The Executive Engineer went to the place to see what further action was necessary to keep the road open. I went there to look at the matter personally.

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: May I know what was the period for which the Hon'ble the Chief Minister was at Dawki ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Only for one day, Sir.

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: Could not this duty be done by the series of Executive Engineers and others?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, Sir. The experts had gone there. But what was to be done had to be done in such a way as to avoid future difficulties and inconveniences to hon. members.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: May we take it that the Hon'ble Minister is an expert authority in such matters?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I can look, Sir, at least for the cause of the land-slide.

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN: May I know what are the portfolios of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It is down in the Gazette, Sir, and I think it is well known to hon. members.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May I know, Sir, how many times the Hon'ble Education Minister visited Comilla after his acceptance of office?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The Hon'ble Education Minister did not visit Comilla at Government expense at any time.

#### Death roll from epidemic of dysentery, etc., in Missamora and Dergaon Mauzas

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked:

\*160. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of deaths from diseases in the Missamora and Dergaon Mauzas for the year 1936, and to the end of October 1937?

(b) Is it a fact that a large number of deaths is due to epidemic of dysentery and choleric diarrhoea this year?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether Government has taken steps to combat the epidemic of dysentery this year?

(d) Is it a fact that the medicines supplied were not sufficient to the demands?

\*161. (a) Is it a fact that the present Doctor of the Dergaon Dispensary is not versed in Assamese and as such he can hardly make himself intelligible to the villagers?

(b) Do Government propose to transfer the said Doctor from Dergaon and place an Assamese Doctor there?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied:

160. (a)—The number of reported deaths from cholera and dysentery for 1936 and for 1937 up to the end of October were as follows:—

	1936	1937 (up to the end of October)
Cholera ...	26	8
Dysentery ...	15	52

Figures for other diseases are not at present available.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—So far as was possible—Yes.

(d)—No.

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: Are Government aware of the number of deaths from the epidemic of dysentery?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: In 1936, '15 and in 1937 up to the end of October, 52.

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: Was any extra hand requisitioned to combat the disease?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Yes, Sir. In reply to a former question, I have already stated that doctors were sent there to survey the extent of the infection of the disease and to combat it.

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: How many doctors?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: 14 Sub-Assistant Surgeons and the Assistant Director of Public Health.

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied:

161. (a)—No.

(b)—The transfer of Sub-Assistant Surgeons is made by the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals, not by Government.

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: Have Government made an enquiry whether this gentleman is well versed in Assamese?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: We made an enquiry and the reply is based on the report of the local officers.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Is not the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals responsible to Government?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: What is the question, Sir?

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Will the Hon'ble Minister speak up, Sir? I cannot hear him.

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: The answer to (b) is that the transfer of Sub-Assistant Surgeons is made by the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: My question, Sir, is whether the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals is responsible and subordinate to Government?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Yes, Sir.

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: When a doctor is not well versed in the language of the place, should he not be replaced by a man who knows it?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: The report is that the doctor is well versed in the language.

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA: Whose is the report, Sir?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Of the Civil Surgeon, Sir.

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA: Does the Civil Surgeon himself understand Assamese, Sir?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I do not know that, Sir.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI: May I know, Sir, how long this Sub-Assistant Surgeon has been in the Assam Valley districts?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I do not know that, Sir.

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: How long has he been in Assamese villages?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I have no information about that.

**SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA :** There is a complaint that the doctor does not understand Assamese and therefore an Assamese doctor should be placed in his stead.

**THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY :** Then we shall make an enquiry as to how long he has been there. But the report is that he is well versed in Assamese.

**SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA :** Has he passed any examination in Assamese ?

**THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY :** I have no information, Sir.

**KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI :** Does the Civil Surgeon of the Sibsagar district talk Assamese ?

**THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY :** I do not know that.

**KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI :** How does the Hon'ble Minister know that the Civil Surgeon of Sibsagar district can test a man whether he knows Assamese ?

**THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY :** I can say that he might have made enquiry locally.

### **Re opening of certain grazing reserves for cultivation**

**SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA** asked :

\*162. (a) Has the Hon'ble Revenue Minister received representations dated the 26th August 1937, 25th September 1937, 9th October 1937, and telegram, dated the 26th October 1937, from the people of Ahotguri Mauza praying for opening of certain grazing reserves named Bokuli Chapri, Nakkati Tinchuki Chapri and Alami Chapri for cultivation ?

(b) Are Government aware that the Chapris of the Brahmaputra river in Ahotguri Mauza comprising cultivable lands of the villagers have been eroded by the Brahmaputra since about 20/25 years and the Chapris on the southern bank have been turned into grazing lands, and as a result people have no cultivable lands now ?

\*163. (a) With reference to Unstarred Question No. 774 of the last Budget Session, will Government be pleased to state what steps are being taken to provide land for the people whose lands have been eroded by the Brahmaputra and Kalakata rivers ?

(b) Do Government propose to open the said grazing reserve Chapris immediately ?

**THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI** replied :  
162. (a) and (b)—Yes.

**SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA :** Are Government aware that about 145 households have no lands for cultivations owing to the erosion of the Brahmaputra ?

**THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** I cannot dispute the statement of the hon. member. But of course he cannot guarantee the uttering of the figure.

**SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA :** Will Government take steps to open at least one of the grazing reserves there ?

**THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** I shall take that into consideration, Sir.

**SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA :** Are Government aware that the Chapari called Garu-mora has been opened recently ?

**THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** The hon. member will get the reply in the answer to question No. 163.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

163. (a) and (b)—About 2,000 bighas of land have been provided in the Garumora Chapari (non-cadastral) in Missamora Mauza ; 992 bighas have been cleared by the Ahotguri people of which 509 bighas have already been settled with them and the rest of the area will be settled with them according to possession. If this *Chapari* is found insufficient, the question of reducing the grazing reserves in the locality will be considered.

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA : Have Government received any representation about their grievances after the report of the Deputy Commissioner ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : As I have already said, Sir, if this *Chapari* is found insufficient, we shall consider the question of reducing the area of grazing reserves elsewhere.

### Damages done to crops by floods in Taraf Pargana in Habiganj Subdivision

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

\*164. (a) Have Government any information that the crops of the Taraf pargana in the Habiganj subdivision suffered a serious damage on account of floods ?

(b) Is it a fact that flood is caused in the Khowai owing to the fact that the mouth of the Khowai has been silted up ?

\*165. (a) Do Government propose to take steps to put a stop to the recurrence of such floods by placing bunds (embankments) on either side of the said river ?

(b) Do Government propose to take steps to re-excavate the mouth of the Khowai so as to connect it with the Barak and with the Balikhali ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

164. (a)—The question is vague, as no year is mentioned.

No reports of any flood was received from the local officers this year.

(b)—This does not appear to be the case, a lengthy investigation would however be necessary before a definite reply could be given.

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN : As regards (a), Sir, did Government make any enquiry from the Subdivisional Officer after receipt of this question, whether there was actually any flood in the subdivision ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Sir, the question was whether in the Habiganj subdivision the crops of a particular pargana suffered a serious damage on account of floods. No year was mentioned. We did not enquire about the previous years. But so far as the present year is concerned we received no report from the Subdivisional Officer that there was any flood.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

165. (a)—No. Bunds intensify the effects of floods.

(b)—The hon. member is referred to the answer to question No. 164 (b).

**Re want of communications from Moran Siding to the Assam Trunk Road**

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI SAYIDUR RAHMAN asked :

\*166. (a) Is it a fact that there is no road or path for foot or vehicular traffic from Moran Siding to the Assam Trunk Road ?

(b) Is it a fact that the absence of such a path or road is causing great inconvenience to the villagers of Moran Changmaigaon and other neighbouring villages ?

(c) If so, do Government propose to take necessary action in the matter ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

166. (a)—Government have no information.

(b)—Government have no information. They have received no complaints.

(c)—Government are enquiring into the matter.

**Number of Tuberculosis patients in the villages of Shaldiga and Sujanagar**

MAULAVI MABARAK ALI asked :

\*167. (a) Is it a fact that there are a good number of Tuberculosis patients in the villages of Shaldiga and Sujanagar in the Pargana Patharia of Karimganj subdivision ?

(b) If so, what steps, if any, have been taken by Government to check the growth of Tuberculosis in that area ?

(c) If no steps have yet been taken, why not ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

167. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Does not arise.

**Re an article published in Janasakti, dated the 17th November 1937**

MAULAVI MABARAK ALI asked :

\*168. (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article under the caption “সহজ জ্ঞান প্রসার” on page 4, column 3 (continued on page 9, column 1) of *Janashakti* published on the 17th November 1937 ?

(b) If the reply to question (a) above is in the affirmative, will Government please state what steps, if any, they propose to take in this matter ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

168. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Government are considering the question of introducing the Middle School Leaving Certificate Examinations in High Schools. It may be mentioned that the Central Advisory Board of Education for India considered that it is essential to have an examination at the end of the middle stage.

**Re Congress House in Village Gramtola, Police Station Jaldhup in Karimganj Subdivision**

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

\*169.(a) Is it a fact that the Congress house in village Gramtola, Pargannah Chhatalekha, Police Station Jaldhup in Karimganj Subdivision was put under a ban during the Civil disobedience movement by Government ?

(b) Is it a fact that Government took possession of the house and furniture of the Congress there ?

(c) Is it a fact that on removal of the ban, Government failed to deliver all the materials and furniture of the house to the Congress authorities there ?

(d) Is it a fact that the gentleman who took charge of the house and furniture on behalf of the Congress, from the police, noted this fact in his receipt ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state—

(i) The reason for not returning all the materials and furniture seized by Government ?

(ii) Whether Government have no responsibility in the matter ?

(f) Do Government propose to consider the propriety of granting adequate compensation for the loss ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

169.(a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—No. The house with the properties attached was made over to Babu Girindra Kumar Das of Gramtola, Police Station Jaldhup, on 15th July 1934.

(d)—Government have no information. No complaint appears to have been received either by Government or by the local officers.

(e), (i) and (ii)—Does not arise.

(f)—Does not arise.

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Have Government taken any receipt from that gentleman ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I am not sure, Sir.

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : It was distinctly laid down in this question that in the receipt Babu Girindra Kumar Das noted that he did not receive all the materials and furniture of the house.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : We had not received any complaint up to now excepting the notice of this question. The delivery took place as early as 15th July 1934.

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Did Government enquire into the existence of any receipt in reply to question No.169 (d) ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : There is no such receipt traceable in the Shillong office. We shall enquire in the district offices.

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : So far as our information goes, the receipt distinctly states down the missing of these articles.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Sir, the matter is more than 3 years old now. I will search in the district offices for the receipt, if there be any.

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Will Government let us know the result of the enquiry about the existence of that receipt?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I will send the information to my hon friend.

### *Re granting of fee concessions in High Schools*

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked:

\*170.(a) Is it a fact that the fixed percentage of fee concession for particular communities in the High Schools is calculated on the total population of the school without reference to the total numerical strength of the particular community concerned?

(b) Is it a fact that there is the complaint that this rule regarding the remission of fees leads to anomaly and inequity, where students of a particular community are very few in number in the school?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the propriety of modifying the rules, so as to make the fee concessions of the community concerned proportionate to the total population in the school?

(d) Is it a fact that capitation for fee concessions is 10 per cent. in High Schools?

(e) Is it a fact that it includes fee concessions granted to scholars' younger brothers, teachers' sons, etc.?

(f) Do Government propose to consider the question of raising capitation to 15 per cent. or of excluding from calculation of 10 per cent. the students referred to in question (e)?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied:

170.(a)—Yes.

(b)—Government have not had any complaint on the subject.

(c)—No.

(d)—No.

(e)—No.

(f)—Does not arise.

### *Re Honorary Magistrates at Karimganj*

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked:

\*171. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether there is a Bench of Honorary Magistrates at Karimganj?

(b) What is the educational qualification of each member of the Bench?

(c) Whether it is a fact that the litigants and lawyers do not usually like to have their cases tried by this Bench?

(d) Is it a fact that even petty cases take a protracted hearing with a good number of adjournments in that Bench?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state the principle that is followed in making the selection of the members of this Bench?

(f) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of abolishing this Bench?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

171.(a)—Yes.

(b)—One of the members is an undergraduate, who was unsuccessful in the B.A. examination. The other two are non-matriculates, who read up to the higher classes of the High School.

(c)—No complaint to this effect has been received.

(d)—Government are not aware of any unusual delay in the disposal of cases by the Bench.

(e)—Honorary Magistrates are appointed with due regard to their social position, character and ability and public services rendered by them.

(f)—Not until there is clear proof of their dishonesty or incompetency.

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN: May I know, Sir, who are those gentlemen who have been selected as Honorary Magistrates?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I do not know their names, Sir.

BABU DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: Is no knowledge of law necessary?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Sir, so far as my information goes, the judgments of those Honorary Magistrates have very rarely been upset by the Appellate Courts and even by the High Court. So I cannot say that they have not got the requisite legal knowledge.

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: What is the educational qualification of those two gentlemen, who are stated to be non-matriculates? Up to which class they read?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: They read up to higher classes of the high school.

MR. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: Who writes the judgments for those Honorary Magistrates?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: The judgment is one judgment of the Bench of three magistrates. The President of the Bench writes the judgment.

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Will Government inform us the class up to which those two magistrates read?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: It must be anything between class VIII and class X.

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: If I say it is lower still, will Government contradict me?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Yes, Sir, as I said "higher classes", I think it must be between classes VIII and X.

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Are those the only two capable men in the subdivision of Karimganj, according to Government?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: No, Sir, I do not think so, so long as my hon. friend is there.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI: May I take it that people with strong common sense are selected for these jobs?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Yes, Sir, that is one of the qualifications.

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN: May we know in which language those two Honorary Magistrates record the depositions of the witnesses and deliver their judgments?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: As there is an under-graduate Honorary Magistrate, it is recorded in English.

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I can inform the House that so far as those two non-matriculate Honorary Magistrates are concerned, they can read and write English well.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Thank you Sir.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: Will it be a news for the Hon'ble Minister for Law and Justice if I say that there had been an Honorary Magistrate at Jorhat who held that stealing during day light was not an offence under section 379, Indian Penal Code (theft)? (*Laughter*).

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I do not dispute that such Honorary Magistrates might have been available in the part in the district from which my hon. friend hails.

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether ignorance of law is no disqualification?

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Did not Government find better men in the Subdivision?

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI MAHMUD ALI: Is it a fact that these Honorary Magistrates supported his rival in the last election?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: This question does not arise at all.

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, I am ready to reply.

#### **Establishment of a Technical School in Nowgong**

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA asked:

\*172. (a) Are Government aware that a Technical School has been started by the Nowgong Local Board in Nowgong town?

(b) If so, have any Government experts ever visited the School?

(c) Are Government aware that some High School boys are having some technical training there after the school hours?

(d) If so, do Government propose to make necessary arrangements for allotting an hour or two for each school in Nowgong town for the intending boys to attend this Training school?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied:

172. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No.

(c)—No.

(d)—Do not arise.

#### **Re additional grants to Madrasas**

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA asked:

\*173. (a) Will Government please lay on the table the representations received from the Madrasas of each district for the additional grants made this year?

(b) Is it a fact that several Madrasas have received grants although they did not apply for the additional grants?

(c) Is it a fact that several Tols and the Local Bodies have not received any additional grants to maintain themselves?

(d) Is it a fact that several unrecognised Boys' High Schools have received grants this year?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

173. (a)—No. The number of such applications is very large and Government consider that it would be a waste of time and labour to print them all.

(b)—No.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—No.

**Number of Deputy Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Schools and the utility of the Assistant Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education**

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA asked :

\*174. Will Government be pleased to state (a) the number of Deputy Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Schools in the province ?

(b) The number of schools they have to inspect on an average in a year.

\*175. Will Government please state—

(a) The special duties of the Assistant Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education ?

(b) The reason for special treatment of Muhammadan education in the province of Assam and whether there has been any special benefit to the Muhammadan community for such treatment ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

174. (a)—Deputy Inspectors of Schools	...	...	21
Sub-Inspectors of Schools	...	...	51
(b)—Deputy Inspectors of Schools about	...	...	45
Sub-Inspectors of Schools about	...	...	133

175. (a)—To advise the Director on all questions particularly affecting Muhammadan education and to inspect Muhammadan and other Institutions with special reference to the teaching of Islamic subjects.

(b)—The reason for special treatment of Muhammadan Education has been the educational backwardness of the Muhammadans of the province in the past.

The following figures show the increase in Muhammadan enrolment between 19'6-17, when the post of Assistant to the Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education was created, and 1936-37.

		1916-17	1936-37
Colleges	...	91	432
Secondary School	...	6,722	19,879
Primary	...	44,236	88,320
Special	...	669	1,441
Unrecognised	...	3,907	16,122
Total	...	55,625	126,194

The hon. member can judge for himself whether these figures show that the Muhammadan community has received any benefit.

**SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA:** Do Government contemplate to appoint any Special Officer to promote education among the backward classes?

**THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED:** The suggestion will be considered.

**THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER:** Order, order. The time is up.

### Non-reply of questions

**SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS:** On a point of information, Sir. It is seen that out of 19 unstarred and 3 starred questions, submitted by me and admitted by you, only 7 unstarred and 2 starred questions have been answered. As many as 13 questions both starred and unstarred remain unanswered. 9 questions were admitted during the last budget session of the Assembly but remained unanswered and they were repeated this time. May I know, Sir, whether there is any remedy if Government persist not to answer the question as in the present case? Most of these questions, almost the whole lot, concern the Hon'ble Revenue Minister.

**THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER:** The other day I said something about this, and I pointed out to you that it was not within my power to offer any remedy to hon. members. All that I can do is to advise you to insist upon Government to give reply to the questions. Of course, if Government is not prompted to give any reply, I cannot compel them to do so.

**MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Is there any remedy, Sir?

**THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER:** I have already answered that.

### UNSTARRED SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS THAT COULD NOT BE TAKEN UP IN THE HOUSE

**SRIJUT MAHADEV SARMA:** On a point of information, Sir. The unstarred short notice questions are not taken up, will they be regarded as replied?

**THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER:** No.

**BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA:** Yesterday the Hon'ble Chief Minister said that only those questions which require references to subdivisions, make some delay but we find that the questions which require no references to subdivisions have been delayed even up to this day and some of them have not been answered as yet.

**THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER:** Of course.....

**THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** I would like to make a statement on behalf of Government. If the hon. members can give me a list of their questions, I will see that they are promptly answered if possible.

**BABU DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI:** I would like to ask Government through the Hon'ble Speaker as to what they are going to do with regard to these questions. The questions which we consider important and which were admitted before have not yet been answered. Some questions which were admitted afterwards have been answered. the exclusion of those questions which were admitted before. Even the serial number of the questions has been changed. This lends support to the suspicion that Government intends suppressing important information. Short notice questions are generally asked in order to get some urgent information but all these short notice questions have been left over even up to to-day. I want a reply from Government through the Hon'ble Speaker on this point.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, we get notice of questions from the Secretary of the Legislative Department and we do our best to reply to those questions as early as possible. I can assure the hon. members that it is never the intention of the Government to suppress any information which they can give to the hon. members.

*The following questions were placed on members' tables, but were not called*

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(Laid on member's table on the 14th December 1937)

#### **Representation of scheduled castes and backward communities in the teachers' service under the Local Boards of Assam**

SRIJIT BELI RAM DAS asked :

233. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education be pleased to state the number of teachers belonging to the scheduled castes and backward communities employed under the different Local Boards in Assam ?

234.(a) Is it a fact that their number is very small ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take steps to increase number and give them a fair representation in the Teachers' service under the Local Boards of Assam ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

233.—The information so far as available is furnished in the statement below—

Name of Local Board	Number of teachers belonging to	
	Scheduled caste	Backward communities
<b>ASSAM VALLEY</b>		
Dhubri ... ..	8	9
Goalpara ... ..	18	29
Gauhati ... ..	15	98
Barpeta ... ..	2	7
Tezpur ... ..	12	9
Mangaldai ... ..	9	33
Nowgong ... ..	19	24
Sibsagar ... ..	10	3
Jorhat ... ..	3	9
Golaghat ... ..	3	2
Dibrugarh ... ..	5	12
North Lakhimpur ... ..	1	14

Name of Local Board	Number of teachers belonging to	
	Scheduled caste	Backward communities
<b>SURMA VALLEY</b>		
North Sylhet ... ..	Figures not available from the Board's Registers.	
South Sylhet ... ..	15*	
Habiganj ... ..	12	53
Karimganj ... ..	14	Could not furnish for want of clear definition.
Sunamganj ... ..	Figures not available from the Board's Registers.	
Silchar ... ..	24*	
Hailakandi ... ..	9*	

\* Total of both scheduled castes and backward communities.

234.(a)—The member can judge this himself from the figures.

(b)—This is a matter for the Local Boards to consider.

### Annual contribution on account of the training of students at the Calcutta Medical College

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

235. Will Government be pleased to state what amount the Government of Assam spends annually (both in contributions and awarding scholarships) in training students in the Medical Colleges of Calcutta ?

236. Will Government be pleased to state the amount spent annually in running the Berry-White Medical School at Dibrugarh ?

237. Is it a fact that the Berry-White Medical School, the only institution of its kind in the Province is not up to the standard of a medical school ?

238. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) What steps they are taking to raise its standard ?

(b) If not, why not ?

(c) The amount likely to cost Government annually for raising the standard of the Berry-White Medical School ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

235.—The annual contribution to Bengal on account of the training of students at the Calcutta Medical College varies from year to year but is generally about Rs.42,000. This excludes the cost of scholarships which amount to about Rs.12,000.

236.—About Rs.70,000.

237.—It is below the standard for a really good medical school.

238.(a)—During the current year two additional posts of teachers in the school have been sanctioned, the ultimate recurring cost of which will be Rs.8,138 a year and 19 new microscopes at a cost of Rs.8,500 are being purchased. The opening during the year of the new Gynæcological and Maternity Ward in the Dibrugarh Civil Hospital will also considerably increase the facilities for the teaching of midwifery.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—As will be evident from the reply to (a) above the standard is being gradually raised. It is estimated that a further sum of about Rs.15,000 a year recurring is required for additional teachers. The buildings of the school also require extension and improvement at a cost of about Rs.55,000.

### **Grant of scholarships from the Williamson Trust Fund**

**SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA** asked :

239. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The original sum of the Williamson Trust Fund ?
- (b) The aim and object of the Fund ?
- (c) The names of the trustees of the Fund, if any ?
- (d) The amount spent, if any, up to March 1936-37.
- (e) How and in what manner and ways the amount has been spent ?

240. Has the attention of Government been drawn to the Editorial of "Batori" dated the 2nd July 1937, styled as "উইলিয়ামছন ফাণ্ডৰ দ্বাৰাৰ্শ্চিপ" (Scholarships from Williamson Fund) ?

241. If so, do Government propose to utilise the unspent amount of the fund in the way suggested by the paper ?

**THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN** replied :

239.(a)&(b)—The hon. member is referred to the replies given to similar questions asked by Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua during the last Budget Session of the Assembly.

(c)—There are no trustees.

(d)&(e)—As the fund was established in 1867, the labour of compiling figures of the amount spent over a period of seventy years would not commensurate with the result.

240.—Yes.

241.—The hon. member is referred to the replies given to Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua during the last Budget Session of the Assembly.

### **Improvement of communication to and from Barkhetri Mouza**

**SRIJUT JOGENDRA NATH BARUA** asked :

242. Is Government aware that communication to and from Barkhetri mouza is very difficult during the cold weather ?

243. Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Health and Sanitation aware that malaria, eye diseases, dysentery, etc. prevail in that mouza in epidemic forms during the whole year ?

244. Is Government aware that for want of communication, the public officials seldom visit that mouza ?

245. Do Government propose to take steps with a view to improve the communication of this locality and make medical aid available to this locality without delay ?

**THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY** replied :

242—245.—The hon. member is referred to the replies given to similar questions asked by him at the Budget Session of the Assembly.

### Subsidy of Homeopathy by the Local Boards

BABU HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI asked :

246. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Medical Department please state—

Whether Government propose to consider the desirability of asking the Local Boards to subsidise Homeopathy ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

246.—The matter is one for the Local Boards themselves to consider in the first place.

### Names of estates attached by Government under the Assam Land Revenue Regulation in the Tezpur Subdivision

SRIJUT OMEO KUMAR DAS asked :

247. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The names of the estates attached by Government under section 69A of the Assam Land Revenue Regulation in the Tezpur subdivision ?

(b) The dates when these estates were attached ?

(c) The amount of annual land revenue payable to Government by each estate ?

(d) Whether the estate or estates have been managed by the Deputy Commissioner or let in farm under section 69A of the said Regulation ?

(e) The total rent and profits realised from the estates from the date of attachment up till now year by year ?

(f) Whether the surplus profit of the estate or estates after defraying the cost of collection and payment of Government revenue has been made to the settlement holder ?

(g) If not, what has become of the surplus profit if there be any ?

248. Is Government aware of the proceedings of the All-India Muslim League held at Lucknow during the last week of October last ?

249. Has the attention of Government been drawn to the resolution regarding the Line System passed in that conference of the All-India Muslim League ?

250. Will the Hon'ble the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether he and his two other Muslim Colleagues belong to the Muslim League party ?

251. Will the Hon'ble the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the resolution regarding the Line System passed at the above-mentioned conference is binding on himself and his two other Muslim Colleagues ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

247. (a) to (g)—As the year for which the information asked for is not stated it is not possible to obtain the information from the District. As section 69A was introduced in 1903, it will involve too great labour to collect information from that year.

248 & 249.—Yes.

250.—Yes.

251.—Government is a collective body who make their own decisions and do not accept as binding the resolutions or directions of extra provincial organisations.

**Assessment of Local Rates for areas of lands far in excess of the actual area in Sylhet district**

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

252. Are Government aware that in the permanently settled areas in the district of Sylhet several estates are assessed to Local Rates for areas of lands far in excess of the actual area as recorded in the Thak Survey Papers ?

253. If the reply is in the negative do Government propose to make enquiries of the special officers deputed in connection with the recent reassessment of the Local Rates as to how many cases of discrepancy in areas between the Thak Papers and Local Rate Register have been brought to their notice ?

254. If the reply is in the affirmative do Government propose to direct the Collector of Sylhet that the over assessment of Local Rates for wrong areas recorded in the Local Rate Register in variance with the Thak Papers be corrected and assessment made in conformity with the Thak areas ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

252.—As stated in the reply to question No. 1398 asked by the hon. member in the Budget Session of this year, some anomalies have been detected in the assessment.

253.—Does not arise.

254.—No. Government are not prepared to admit that the thak papers are any more infallible than the Local Rate Register of 1880.

**Re Condition of tenants living in the Government Reserve Forest areas**

KUMAR AJIT NARAYAN DEV asked :

255. Is it a fact that the tenants living in the Government Reserve Forest area and its neighbourhood are forced to work under the Forest Department and also for the officers of the Forest Department ?

256. Is it a fact that if those forced labourers do not keep good terms with the Forest Officers or do not oblige them, they are forced to work in the forest for the Department at the time when their own fields require their attention ?

257. If the answer to question 256 is in the affirmative, do Government propose to pass orders restraining the Forest Department from forcing the labourers to work for the Forest Department at the time when they are busy in their own fields ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

255.—No. Forest villagers work in accordance with the rules at pages 82-86 of the Assam Forest Manual, Volume I, on terms explained to and agreed to by them when taking up land in a Forest Reserve.

256 & 257.—No. In all Divisions such work as requires casual labour is, so far as possible, done at times of the year when the labourers are not employed in tilling their fields or harvesting.

#### **Head Clerk of the Public Works Department Office at Barpeta**

SRIJUT GHANASYAM DAS asked :

258. Is it a fact that the present Head Clerk of the Public Works Department office, Barpeta, has been working as Head Clerk there for nearly 17 years ?

259. Will Government please state whether there is any particular reason for keeping him at Barpeta for so many years ?

260. Is it a fact that Government do not ordinarily keep one officer at a particular place for a stretch of 17 years ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

258.—The present Head Clerk of the Public Works Department Sub-divisional office at Barpeta has been working there for the last fourteen years.

259.—Clerks are borne on a Divisional cadre, and are not liable to transfer anywhere in the province.

260.—This applies only to officers borne on a provincial cadre.

#### **Regarding appointment of Maulana Muhammad Sahul**

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

261. Will Government please state (a) the diploma obtained by Maulana Muhammad Sahul who has been appointed "Mudarris" for teaching 'Hadis' in the Sylhet Madrasa in the branch of title course and (b) his present age ?

262. Will Government please state what are the reasons for not appointing a Fakhrul Muhaddisin or Mumtazul Muhaddisin as a Mudarris in the branch of the title course in the Sylhet Madrasa instead of Maulana Muhammad Sahul who is a retired Government servant ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

261.—As the appointment was a short-time temporary one and Maulana Muhammad Sahul was a scholar of all-India reputation, the question of age and diploma did not arise.

262.—The appointment of Maulana Muhammad Sahul was a temporary appointment. The hon. member has no doubt seen in the Gazette that the Public Service Commission have invited applications for the permanent post.

### Officers of the subordinate service of the Forest Department

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked :

263. Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Forests aware that the officers of the subordinate service of the Forest Department are given grade pay and not time-scale pay ?

264. If the reply to question 263 above is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department be pleased to state why these officers of the Forest Department are given grade pay instead of time-scale pay ?

265. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state if it has been in the public interest to split the Goalpara Forest Division into two separate divisions (Kachugaon and Haltugaon divisions) ?

266. Is it a fact that there has been a proposal to create a Forest Sub-division at Lumding combining certain parts of Nowgong, Sibsagar and North Cachar Hills ?

267. Has the decentralisation policy been adopted in Goalpara and Nowgong for the sake of efficiency, or, just to provide room for the crowded officers ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

263.—Yes.

264.—In view of the peculiarly difficult conditions under which these officers have to serve, Government considered it desirable to provide a means of promptly rewarding good work, for which purpose the system of promotion by grades is more suitable than the time-scale system.

265.—The splitting up of the Goalpara Division was essential in the public interest and is a paying proposition from the Forest Department's point of view.

266.—There is no such proposal.

267.—For the sake of efficiency.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(Laid on members' table on the 16th December 1937)

#### Inquiry as to the details of certain persons arrested

BABU KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

268. Will Government please state when, where and why the following persons were arrested and when, from where, and why they were released ? (1) Monoranjan Modok. (2) Binode Lal Roy. (3) Kumud Ch. Tarafdar and (4) others along with them ?

269. Is it a fact that they were actually arrested from their own residential places and not in Srimangal station ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

268 and 269.—A statement containing the particulars is placed on the library table.

**Travelling allowance to the Hon'ble Speaker for attending the Congress Speakers' Conference at Calcutta**

BABU KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

270. Will Government please state whether Government has allowed the Hon'ble Speaker to draw travelling allowance for going to Calcutta to attend the Congress Speakers' Conference, held there by the end of October last ?

271. If not, why not ?

272. Will Government please state whether any difference is made by Government between the Non-Congress Ministers' Conference and the Congress Speakers' Conference ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAYYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

270 and 271.—The attention of the hon. member is drawn to the answers given in this session of the Assembly to the starred questions Nos.51 and 52 put by Mr. Chanda.

272.—No. Government only recognise a Conference of Ministers or Speakers which is an All-India one and where the Ministers or Speakers and Presidents of all the Provinces are invited to attend.

**Amount of accommodation in the Karimganj Jail**

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

273. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The total amount of accommodation available in the Karimganj Sub-Jail ?

(b) The last year's average of the convicts and undertrials accommodated in the Sub-Jail ?

274. If the average exceeds the limit of accommodations, do Government propose to take steps to remove the congestion ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

273.—(a) Thirty-two (Hospital 3, Civil prisoner 1, Undertrials 11, and convicts 17).

(b)—Convicts 33·56 and Undertrials 35·29.

274.—The attention of the hon. member is invited to rule 501 of the Assam Jail Manual, Volume I, under which all habituals and all casuals with sentences of over three months are transferred to the Sylhet District Jail for confinement. Steps are being taken to avoid overcrowding by transferring prisoners promptly.

**Number of Oil Companies holding prospecting licenses for mineral oil in Assam**

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI asked :

275. Will Government please state —

(a) How many Oil Companies are holding prospecting licenses for mineral oil (i) in Surma Valley and (ii) Assam Valley for the last 20 years ?

(b) How many times the prospecting licenses for each area in the Surma Valley have been renewed by the holder of the same even without undertaking work ?

276. Is it a fact (a) that Government have been granting renewal of prospecting licenses repeatedly to the same companies even when they do not undertake any work ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to compel the companies holding prospecting licenses to start work ?

277. Is it a fact that Messrs. White Hall Petroleum Company Ltd., The Anglo Persian Oil Company Ltd., Messrs. Indo Burma Oil Company Ltd., approached Government for prospecting licenses and gave undertaking that they would start work when they will be granted licenses but their prayers were rejected ?

278. Is it a fact that (a) there was a tremendous flow of oil in the oil mines of Patheria in 1925 or 1926 ?

(b) If so, will Government please state the reasons why the said mine has been closed down for so many years under prospecting licenses without any attempt for work ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

275.(a)—The Assam Oil Company and the Burma Oil Company are the only Companies at present holding prospecting licenses for mineral oil in the Province. The Whitehall Petroleum Company held a Prospecting License from 1925-27 over an area of 10 square miles near Nichuguard but relinquished it.

275.(b) & 276.(a)—A statement showing the prospecting licenses in the Surma Valley and the number of times they have been renewed is laid on the library table. These are all situated in a circle of 18 miles radius and are treated as one field and the Government of India have agreed that it is not necessary that work should be carried on in more than one area at a time ; a similar policy is followed also in Burma.

(b)—In view of the fact that up to the end of 1935 the Burma Oil Company had spent well over two crores of rupees on prospecting work in the Surma Valley, Government do not understand how the hon. member can suggest that work has not been started.

277.—No such applications can be traced.

278. (a) and (b)—Some oil has been taken out from both Patheria and Masimpur but not in quantities to justify the Company in taking out a mining lease. They calculated in 1929 that the oil estimated had cost them just under Rs.5,000 per barrel. As stated above, they have been permitted to carry on their work in the areas which seemed most promising to them.

**Newspaper article re protest against rates of motor fare**

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI asked :

279. Has the attention of Government been drawn to a piece of news published in the (Jugabheri), Page 7, column 3, dated the 11th October 1937

under caption “বাবসান্নীদের সভা, মটর ভাড়ার প্রতিবাদ” ?

820. Do Government propose to fix a minimum rate of fare at annas 8 per maund as prayed in the resolution passed by the meeting ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :—

279.—Government have since seen the report.

280.—No. It is not understood how the fixing of a minimum rate would assist the traders, and the maximum rates of freight permissible cannot be altered during the currency of a permit.

### **Formation of a Central Board for Debt Conciliation in the Brahmaputra Valley**

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI asked :

281. Will Government please state whether it is a fact that a central Board for Debt Conciliation has been formed in the Brahmaputra Valley ?

282. If the answer to question No. 281 is in the affirmative, do Government propose to constitute a similar Board for Surma Valley ?

283. Will Government please state if they propose to establish Debt Conciliatory Boards in Thanas Dharmapassa, Tahirpur and Shulla in the Subdivision of Sunamganj ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

281.—At present only one Board has been established at Gauhati for South Kamrup.

282.—One Board to start with will be very soon established in North Sylhet.

283.—Not at present. The future policy of Government in this respect will depend on the amount of success achieved by these two Boards.

### **Number of Mahals and amount of land revenue outstanding in Jaintia Parganas**

MAULAVI MD. ABDUS SALAM asked :

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

(a) The total number of Mahals in the Jaintia Parganas, the land revenue of which remained in arrears after the 1st of September of each of the years 1935, 1936 and 1937 separately ?

(b) The total amount of land revenue in arrears of such Mahals in each of the years 1935, 1936, 1937 separately ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

284. (a) and (b)—A statement is laid on the table as furnished by the Deputy Commissioner :—

*Statement showing number of Mahals and amount of land revenue outstanding after the 1st September in the Jaintia Parganas*

Year						No. of Mahals	Amount of revenue
							Rs.
1935	...	...	...	...	...	15,521	79,675
1936	...	...	...	...	...	11,511	78,237
1937	...	...	...	...	...	3,394	24,004

## Number of Forest reserves and unclassified State forests in Jaintia Parganas

MAULAVI MD. ABDUS SALAM asked :

285. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The total number of forest reserves and unclassified State forests in the Jaintia Parganas ?
- (b) Whether the Forest Department of Government is going to render a number of unclassified State forests and Government Khas Jungles under the Gowainghat Circle in the Jaintia Parganas into Protected Reserve areas ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the people of the Jaintia Parganas procure firewood for their house consumption and fodder for their cattle from those Jungles ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that the people of the Jaintia Parganas cultivate winter crops in those Jungles for earning their livelihood ?
- (e) Whether for the sake of the interests of the Public, Government propose to consider the necessity of not turning the Khas Jungles in the Jaintia Parganas into protected reserves ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

285. (a)—Total number of forest reserves—2 (areas 293 and 765 acres). Total number of unclassified State forests—not known.

(b)—The Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, in consultation with the Forest Department, is considering whether unclassified State forests in the Gowainghat Circle, which contain forest mahals and valuable timber and other kinds of forest produce, should be declared to be for the present, protected forests and not available for settlement.

(c)—Yes, this is allowed as a special concession to the settlement holders mentioned in rule 2 of the rules relating to Unclassified State Forests at page 49 of the Assam Forest Manual, Volume I, and to the persons mentioned in rule 4(ii) of the Grazing Rules inserted by correction slip No.42 at pages 55-60, Assam Forest Manual, Volume I. A copy of the Assam Forest Manual, Volume I, is laid on the library table.

(d)—No.

(e)—Government will consider the matter when the Deputy Commissioner submits his proposals.

## Establishment of a distillery in the province

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

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

- (a) The quantity of the present requirement of spirits in Assam ?
- (b) The date of starting of the now non-existent Government distillery in Assam and the date of its closing down ?
- (c) The "industrial reasons" referred to by the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department in his speech introducing the Budget for 1937-38 for establishing a distillery in this province ?
- (d) The raw material required for the proposed distillery and the place from where the materials will be obtained ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

286. (a)—About 300,000 L. P. gallons a year.

(b)—The old Jorhat distillery was opened on the 1st October 1905 and closed on the 1st April 1918.

(c)—The opening of a distillery would increase the demand for local molasses and hence would lead to a great expansion of sugarcane cultivation and to the opening of sugarcane factories and thus increasing the industrial activities of the province.

(d)—The raw material required is molasses which with the development of sugar factories should be procurable in Assam. The whole question of the possibility of starting a distillery in Assam was recently considered by the advisory Excise Committee and Government have not yet come to any decision.

### Staff of the Dhubri Local Board

MAULANA ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

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

(a) The number of officers under the following heads in the Dhubri Local Board :—

(i) P. W. Section,

(ii) Medical Section,

(iii) Clerical Staff ?

(b) The number of Muhammadan officers in (i), (ii) and (iii) of (a) above separately ?

288. (a) Are Government aware that the Muhammadans form half the population of the Dhubri Subdivision ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to issue instruction to the Dhubri Local Board to fill up further vacancies in all the Departments by Muhammadans ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

287. (a) & (b)—The information is furnished below :—

Total No.		(1) P. W. Section		Unenumerated below:—	
8 (1 Sub-Engineer, 1 Clerk, 1 Surveyor, 1 Draftsman and 1 Clerk)	...	...	...	Hindus	Mahomedans
13 (Mohorers)	...	...	...	6	2
				9	—
				<hr/>	
21				15	6
(2) Medical Section					
Doctors 8	...	...	...	7	1
Compounders 17	...	...	...	13	4
Lady Doctor 1	...	...	...	1	...
Mid-wife 2	...	...	...	2	...
				<hr/>	
28				23	5
(3) Clerical Staff					
6				5	1
				<hr/>	

288. (a)—Not half but about 44 per cent. of the total population.

(b)—No.

### Starting of a High School in South Salmara

MAULANA ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

289. Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge aware--

(a) That the people of South Salmara have started a High School there ?

(b) That they have been representing to Government for a grant to this School ?

290. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state whether Government propose to make substantial grant to this School ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

289.(a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

290.—The question of sanctioning a grant-in-aid to the school is under the consideration of the Director of Public Instruction.

### Organisation of new Co-operative Societies in the South Salmara and Mankachar Thanas

MAULANA ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

291. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Department be pleased to state the steps that have been taken by the Department to organise new societies in the different localities in the South Salmara and Mankachar Thanas, as proposed by me to the Registrar of the Co-operative Societies of Assam, about 5 months ago ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

291.—Two Co-operative Societies within the jurisdiction of the South Salmara Thana have since been registered. The question of registering three more Societies is now under the consideration of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and he has been taking steps to give effect to the proposal made by the hon. member as far as possible.

### Public Works Department Mohurrirs

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked :

292. Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Works Department aware that Mohurrirs working under the Public Works Department are not given leave with pay even when they are sick ?

293. Is it a fact that the period of leave is deducted while calculating service for the purpose of giving annual increment to Mohurrirs ?

294. Is it a fact that no gratuity or pension is usually given to a retiring Mohurrir except in a very special case ?

295. Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge aware that Mohurrirs serving under Local and Municipal Boards are entitled to gratuity according to rules ?

296. Is it a fact that there is no provision for contributory provident fund scheme for Mohurrirs working under the Public Works Department ?

297. Is it a fact that no travelling allowance either on transfer or on duty is granted to the said Mohurrirs according to Subsidiary Rules and Fundamental Rules ?

298. Does the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department propose to redress the grievances of the Mohurrirs of the Department ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

292.—Yes, except short casual leave up to ten days in a year or fifteen days on medical certificate.

293.—Yes, if taken in excess of the leave detailed in 292 above.

294.—Yes.

295.—Mohurrirs of Local and Municipal Boards if in inferior service are entitled to gratuities under the rules adopted by most Boards.

296.—Mohurrirs are admitted to the benefits of the General Provident Fund. Government make no contribution to the General Provident Fund.

297.—Mohurrirs are not entitled to any travelling allowance according to the Subsidiary and Fundamental Rules, but they may be allowed actual travelling expenses by Divisional Officers when considered necessary in the interest of the work on which they are employed.

298.—Government does not consider that these work-charged men have any real grievance and therefore does not propose to take any action.

### **Introduction of Anthropological and Geological researches in Assam**

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

299. Will Government be pleased to state —

(a) Whether there is sufficient field for Anthropological and Geological researches in Assam ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to add two wings for Geological and Anthropological sections, in the proposed Provincial Museum of Archaeology at Gauhati ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

299. (a)—Yes.

(b)—During the current year Government made a grant of Rs.10,000 to the Assam Museum Committee towards the building of a Museum. The construction of the building is being undertaken by the Museum Committee and not by Government. Government are unable to provide any further funds for the purpose and the matter of the arrangement of the various sections and exhibits is entirely a matter for the Museum Committee.

### **Contract works in the Nowgong District for the year 1936-37**

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

300. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Works Department be pleased to state—

(a) The names of the tenderers for the following contract works for the year 1936-37 in the Nowgong district ?

(1) Supply of Boulders in 50th and 51st mile of the Assam Truck Road.

- (2) Construction of Iron Bridges in 41st and 42nd mile near Nelli of the Assam Trunk Road.
- (3) Supply of gravels from 11th mile to 21st mile of Kathiatoli-Amluckie Road near Chapanallah.
- (4) Supply of Road metal near Amluckie in Kathiatoli-Amluckie Road.
- (b) The names of the tenderers in whose favour these contracts were settled and the names of the officers who accepted the tenders ?
301. Will Government please state—
- (a) Whether any of the Contractors named in question 300(b) had any previous experience of contract works under the Public Works Department ?
- (b) If not, under what considerations they were given preference to other local experienced Contractors ?
302. Will Government please state the value of each of the contracts described in question 300(a) above ?
303. Is it a fact that the contractors selected have failed to carry out the works even till now ?
304. (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Works Department aware of the fact that one Bhobuk Laloong, some coolies and Mohurirs who are the ryots of Rai Sahib Bhogdatta Hazarika, the Mouzadar of Dharamtul were engaged by him in his Public Works Department contract works and were not fully paid on the plea that their wages would be treated as a set off against their revenue dues ?
- (b) If so, what action has been taken by Government, or the Local Public Works Department officials, to redress the grievances of the ryots concerned ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

300. (a)—

- (1) 1.—Rai Sahib Bhogdatta Hazarika.  
2.—Srijut G. C. Barooah.
- (2) 1.—Babu Dharendra Chandra Dutta.  
2.—Rolla Singh.
- (3) 1.—Srijut Ramesh Chandra Das.  
2.—Babu Mohim Chandra Das.  
3.—Srijut Bhabanath Sarma.  
4.—Babu Bishnupada Coomer.  
5.—Srijut Sundar Mohon Saikia.  
6.—Srijut Guna Kanta Mahanta.
- (4) 1.—Srijut Ramani Kanta Hazarika.  
2.—Srijut Ramesh Chandra Das.
- (b)—1.—Rai Sahib Bhogdatta Hazarika.  
2.—Babu Dharendra Chandra Dutta.  
3.—Srijut Guna Kanta Mahanta.  
4.—Srijut Ramani Kanta Hazarika.

The tenders were accepted by Mr. H. P. Barua, Executive Engineer.

301. (a)—Babu Dharendra Chandra Dutta is an old Public Works Department Contractor.

(b)—Their tenders were the lowest in comparison with others and the works did not require any special skill.

			Rs.
302.	(1)—Rai Sahib Bhogdatta Hazarika	...	7,542
	(2)—Babu Dharendra Chandra Dutta	...	3,246
	(3)—Srijut Guna Kanta Mahanta	...	9,405
	(4)—Srijut Ramani Kanta Hazarika	...	2,216

303.—No, but it is correct that the contractors failed to complete the works fully in cases of items 1 and 4, and that the contractor has still some petty items to finish in item 2.

304. (a)—Government are aware that there were complaints about non-payment of wages.

(b)—The Executive Engineer has no authority to interfere in such matters. A complaint, it is alleged, has been made to the Deputy Commissioner and he is dealing with the case.

### Anti-Phooka Legislation

MAULAVI DEWAN ALI RAJA asked :

305. Has the Anti-Phooka Association of Calcutta approached the Government of Assam to penalise the performance of Phooka on milch animals by legislation ?

306. Do Government propose to bring in the next Budget Session a bill to penalise the performance of Phooka on milch animals ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

305.—Yes.

306.—So far as Government are aware Phooka is not practised in Assam. However the officers concerned have been asked to enquire and report on receipt of which Government will see what steps can be taken.

### Reduction of the rate of toll on motor cars for crossing the Gauhati-North Ferry over the Brahmaputra

SRIJUT BELIRAM DAS asked :

307. Will Government be pleased to state what is the rate of toll for the private motor cars for crossing the Gauhati-North Gauhati Ferry by steamer over the river Brahmaputra ?

308. Is Government aware that public has been complaining about the high rate of toll for the private motor cars for crossing the Brahmaputra by this ferry steamer ?

309. Do Government propose to take steps for lowering the rate from Rs. 4 to Re. 1 each way ?

310. Is Government aware that previously the fare for persons crossing the Brahmaputra over this ferry was one anna only per trip in the third class ?

311. Do Government propose to take steps to reduce the fare from six pice to one anna ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

307.—Rupees four per trip.

308.—Government have no information.

309.—The prescribed rates of tolls cannot be reduced during the currency of the lease, which is for 15 years from 1st April 1929.

310.—Yes in 1923-24 and 1924-25.

It has been 1 anna 6 pies since 1925-26.

311.—Reply to No. 309 above may be referred to.

### Number of Deputy Superintendents of Police attached to the Sadar Sylhet

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

312. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of Deputy Superintendents of Police attached to the Sadar Sylhet.

(b) What are their respective functions ?

313. Is it a fact that besides a Superintendent of Police, there is an Additional Superintendent of Police at Sylhet ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

312. (a)—Two.

(b)—One is attached to the Superintendent's confidential office and other work, and the other performs his normal duties in the Superintendent's main office.

313.—Yes.

### Appointment of Marwaris in Government Service

MR. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN asked :

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

(a) Whether any Marwari is appointed in any Government service in Assam ?

(b) If the answer is in the negative do Government propose to consider their case when vacancy occurs ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

314. (a)—The information is not available and the labour of collecting it would be incommensurate with the results.

(b)—Government will duly consider the applications of suitable Marwaris who fulfil the necessary requirements laid down in Section 262 of the Government of India Act and rule 307 of the Assam Executive Manual.

### Opening of an Industrial Bank on Co-operative lines to foster indigenous industries

SRIJUT JOGENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

315. (a) Do Government propose to start an Industrial Bank on Co-operative lines to foster indigenous industries such as bell-metal industries, braziers works, silk, etc., in Assam Valley ?

(b) If so will the Registrar, Co-operative Societies and Government be pleased to take steps to open such an institution ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

315. (a) and (b)—The hon. member is referred to the replies given to similar questions asked by him at the last budget session of the Assembly.

**Out-break of serious epidemics in the different parts of the Madhabpur and Lakhai Thanas in Sylhet district**

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURI asked :

316. Is Government aware that want of drinking water had been responsible for out-break of serious epidemics in the different parts of the Madhabpur and Lakhai Thanas in the district of Sylhet ?

317. Is Government aware that, there had been the largest number of cholera deaths in the Lakhai Thana in the district of Sylhet in the year 1936-37 ?

318. Will Government be pleased to state what steps if any, has been taken as a preventive measure there ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

316.—The hon. member has not stated to what year he is referring. In the current year there was a serious epidemic of cholera throughout most of Sylhet district including the thanas named and the absence of pure drinking water undoubtedly contributed to the spread of the disease.

317.—No. There were many more deaths in many other thanas.

318.—Government are endeavouring through the rural development grants to provide better water supplies throughout the province and the Habiganj subdivision has been allotted its fair share of such grants.

**Names of persons belonging to Assam serving out sentences of imprisonment in Jails in Assam for offences of political nature**

MR. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA asked :

319. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

- (i) Names of persons of and belonging to Assam serving out sentences of imprisonments in Jails in Assam or elsewhere for offences of a political nature ?
- (ii) Their districts of origin ?
- (iii) Dates on which each of these persons was arrested ?
- (iv) Nature and term of sentence in each case ?
- (v) Names of Jails where each of these persons is imprisoned ?
- (vi) Names of persons under any kind of restraint other than those sentenced to imprisonment by a competent court, owing to political activities ?
- (vii) Allowances granted, if any, in any case ?
- (viii) Names of places where persons dealt with under Regulation (iii) of 1818 and Assam Criminal Law Amendment Acts are suffering restraint ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

319.—Two statements containing the particulars asked for are placed on the table.

STATEMENT SHEWING THE NAMES OF PERSONS BELONGING TO ASSAM SERVING OUT SENTENCES OF IMPRISONMENT IN JAILS IN ASSAM FOR OFFENCES OF A POLITICAL NATURE  
[REF. QUESTIONS 319 (i) TO (v)]

Names	Districts of origin	Dates of arrest	Nature and term of sentences	Jails where imprisoned	Remarks
Gour <i>alias</i> Gouranga Mohan Das	Sylhet	13-3-1933	Transportation for life under section 396, Indian Penal Code, on 24th May 1934.	Tezpur Jail	Repatriated from the Andamans.
Matilal Roy	..	2-3-1934	Five years' rigorous imprisonment under sections 394 and 392/120 B, Indian Penal Code, on 9th August 1934.	Jorhat Jail	Ditto
Benoy Bhusan Laskar	..	7-3-1934	Seven years' rigorous imprisonment under sections 392/120, B, Indian Penal Code, on 9th August 1934.	Tezpur Jail	Ditto
Ajit Kumar Chakravarty	..	2-3-1934	Seven years' rigorous imprisonment under section 394, Indian Penal Code, on 9th August 1934.	Nowgong Jail	..
Satyendra Chandra Roy	..	20-3-1934	Six years and two years' rigorous imprisonment (to run concurrently) under sections 392, Indian Penal Code, and 19(f) of Arms Act on 21st July 1934.	Gauhati Jail	Ditto
Gopendra Nath Roy	..	24-3-1934	Six years' rigorous imprisonment under section 392, Indian Penal Code, on 21st June 1934.	Jorhat Jail	Ditto
Rama Kanta Das	..	12-6-1934	Seven years' rigorous imprisonment under sections 392/397/120 B, Indian Penal Code, and 19(f) of Arms Act on 16th January 1935.	Jorhat Jail	..
Bipulananda Kar Chaudhuri	..	12-6-1934	Ditto	Silchar Jail	..
Pradumnya Kumar Nag	..	31-5-1935	Seven years' rigorous imprisonment (subsequently reduced to 2½ years' rigorous imprisonment under orders of Government) under sections 392/398, Indian Penal Code, on 26th September 1935.	Nowgong Jail	..

STATEMENT SHEWING THE NAMES OF PERSONS UNDER RESTRAINT, OTHER THAN THOSE SENTENCED TO IMPRISONMENT BY A COMPETENT COURT, OWING TO POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

[REF. QUESTIONS 319(vi) TO (viii)]

Names	Law under which restrained	Monthly allowances granted	Names of places where restrained	Remarks
Kali Raman Bhattacharji ..	Section 16(1) (b) (c) and (d) of the Assam Criminal Law Amendment Act.	Rs. 15	Village Brahmanhasan (Akhaila), Police Station and District Sylhet	His own home.
Sitish Chandra Shome Tarafdar	Ditto	15	Village Uttarsur, Police Station Srimangal, District Sylhet.	His own home.
Sree Prasad Upadhyaya ..	Section 16(1) (e) of the Assam Criminal Law Amendment Act.	Nil	Extermed from Assam ..	He is a resident of District Ghazipur, United Provinces.

### Establishment of a Medical School in Sylhet

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

320. Will Government be pleased to state the reasons of not going ahead with the establishment of a medical school in Sylhet ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

320.—The hon. member is referred to the replies given to similar questions asked by Babu Harendra Narayan Chaudhury at the current session of the Assam Legislative Assembly.

### Approved list of text-books of the province

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

321. Are Government aware that many books of Bengal authors issued by Bengal publishers find place in the approved list of the text-books of the province ?

322. If the answer to the above question be in the affirmative do Government propose to invite the submission of similar text-books written and published by the people of this province to be substituted in the place of the said books by Bengali Authors ?

323. Do Government propose to direct the Text Book Committee not to consider in future any book which is not written, printed and published by the people of this province ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

321.—Yes.

322.—No. Authors belonging to this province can submit similar books, if they so wish, for the approval of the Text Book Committee.

323.—No. If a book is a good one there is no reason why it should not be prescribed no matter who the author is or until a better book is forthcoming.

### Privilege to members of Assam Legislature to the free use of Government Circuit Houses

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

324. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the members of the Assam Legislatures are entitled, like first class Government servants, to the free use of Government Circuit Houses when they are on public duty ?

(b) If not, do Government propose to extend the same privilege to them ?

325. (a) Is it a fact that there is no Circuit House or Inspection Bungalow provided for Government Officers on duty in Shillong?

(b) If so, do Government propose to remove the want? If not, why not.

326. (a) Will Government be pleased to state why there is no Inspection room for Government servants reserve in the Dak Bungalow at Shillong?

(b) Is it a fact that every where else such a reservation exists?

(c) If so, why this distinction has been made in Shillong?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

324. (a)—No.

(b)—No.

325. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No. There is ample accommodation available in Shillong.

326. (a)—Because such reservation is not considered necessary.

(b)—No. Only in certain Dak Bungalow is such reservation made.

(c)—The answer is already given above.

### Reduction of School fees at the Haragavinda Aided High School

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked:

327. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The rate of school fees at the Haragavinda Aided High School and what is the usual rate of other schools?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the guardians complained to Government about the high scale of fees charged there particularly in view of the general economic distress?

(c) The reason for charging such a high rate in this village High School?

328. Do Government propose to consider the question of reducing the scale of fees there?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied:

327.(a)—The following statement shows the rates:—

					Government			Haragavinda		
					Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
Class X	...	...	...	...	3	0	0	3	8	0
" IX	...	...	...	...	2	8	0	3	0	0
" VIII	...	...	...	...	2	4	0	2	12	0
" VII	...	...	...	...	2	0	0	2	8	0
" VI	...	...	...	...	1	12	0	2	0	0
" V	...	...	...	...	1	8	0	2	0	0
" IV	...	...	...	...	1	4	0	1	4	0
" III	...	...	...	...	1	0	0	1	0	0

(b)—A petition was recently received from one gentleman complaining about the scale of fees in the school.

(c)—The School Committee—as they are entitled to do—have been charging a higher rate in order to balance their budget.

328.—Government do not propose to interfere with the discretion of the School Committee in this matter.

**Transfer of Babu Kumud Chandra Datta, Extra Assistant Commissioner, from Karimganj to Tura**

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

329. Is it a fact that Babu Kumud Chandra Datta, Extra Assistant Commissioner, has recently been transferred from Karimganj to Tura ?

330. Will Government be pleased to state :—

- (a) For how many months he had been posted as Extra Assistant Commissioner at Karimganj ?
- (b) What is the amount of travelling allowance paid or payable for this transfer ?
- (c) The policy behind this transfer ?
- (d) Whether economy in expenditure and period of posting are considered in making orders of transfer ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

329.—Yes.

330. (a)—About five months.

(b)—Rupees 519-10-0.

(c)—The transfer was made in the interests of the public service on the recommendation of the Commissioner of the Division.

(d)—Yes, so far as is consistent with the public interest.

**Re excavation operation in the Kapili and Jamuna Valleys of Nowgong District**

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

331. (a) Is Government aware that the Kapili and Jamuna Valleys in the district of Nowgong are bristling with many antiquities ?

(b) Do Government propose to request the Director General of Archaeological Survey of India to undertake an excavation operation in that site in the next working session ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

331. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The Director General of Archaeology in India was requested either to undertake systematic exploration or to appoint an officer for supervising conservation and general Archaeological work in Assam. As he was unable to consider the proposals for want of funds, it is not proposed to request him again.

**Expenditure spent by different Local Boards on Primary Education**

SRIJUT LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH asked :

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

- (a) What per cent. of the Board's own income is spent on Primary Education by the different Local Boards of the province of Assam ?
- (b) The number of Venture Schools in Dibrugarh that applied to be taken over by the Local Board in the last 3 years ?
- (c) How many of them have been taken each year ?

- (d) Whether it is a fact that the amount spent by the Dibrugarh Local Board, out of its own income, is only 12·7 per cent. whereas the Divisional average is 27 per cent. ?
- (e) If so, does the Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government propose to issue instructions to the Local Board concerned to increase the expenditure in the next year's Budget or increase the Grant on Education to this Board to reach the Divisional average ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

332. (a)—

Names of Local Boards					Percentage of the Board, own income spent on Primary Education
Silchar	...	...	...	...	13·18
Hailakandi	...	...	...	...	17·31
North Sylhet	...	...	...	...	21·66
Karimganj	...	...	...	...	16·00
South Sylhet	...	...	...	...	29·42
Habiganj	...	...	...	...	26·34
Sunamganj	...	...	...	...	27·84
Dhubri	...	...	...	...	17·21
Goalpara	...	...	...	...	40·51
Gauhati	...	...	...	...	18·48
Barpeta	...	...	...	...	16·4
Tezpur	...	...	...	...	18·15
Mangaldai	...	...	...	...	14·87
Nowgong	...	...	...	...	29·5
Sibsagar	...	...	...	...	14·33
Jorhat	...	...	...	...	20·3
Golaghat	...	...	...	...	21·52
Dibrugarh	...	...	...	...	10·60
North Lakhimpur	...	...	...	...	19·99

(b)—

Years					Number of Venture Schools that applied to be taken over
1934-35	...	...	...	...	39
1935-36	...	...	...	...	41
1936-37	...	...	...	...	40

(c)—

Years					Number of Venture Schools taken over
1934-35	...	...	...	...	11
1935-36	...	...	...	...	17
1936-37	...	...	...	...	5

(d)—Yes, on education of all kinds.

(e)—The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. As regards the second part, the Dibrugarh Local Board will get its due share from the sum of half a lakh of rupees provided in the current years budget for educational grants to the Boards.

**Distances in miles of metalled roads and shingled roads maintained  
by each Local Board in Assam**

SRIJUT LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH asked :

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

- (a) The distance in miles of (1) metalled roads (2) shingled roads maintained by each of the Local Boards in Assam ?
- (b) The amount of annual recurring and non-recurring grants for those roads for the last three years ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

333. (a) and (b)—The hon. member is referred to the replies given to similar questions asked by him at the last session of the Assembly.

**Duties and functions of a District Magistrate towards the Co-operative Movement**

MAULANA ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

334. Will Government be pleased to state the duties and functions of a District Magistrate towards the Co-operative Movement ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

334.—Under instruction (8) published at page 51 of the Manual for Co-operative Societies in Assam "the Deputy Commissioner and the Sub-divisional Officer should exercise a general supervision over all matters relating to Co-operative Societies within the district or subdivision."

**Number of totally blind persons in the Province**

MAULAVI ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY asked :

335. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (1) The number of totally blind persons in the Province ?
- (2) Whether it is a fact that many of them are suffering from what is known as preventible blindness ?
- (3) In the absence of an Eye Infirmary in the Province whether Government propose to employ some eye-specialists for providing treatment to such blind persons ?
- (4) Whether there is any provision for sending persons suffering from preventible blindness to the Calcutta Eye Infirmary for treatment ?
- (5) If the answer to (4) above is in the negative do Government propose to make provision in future ?
- (6) What are the facilities afforded by the Government of Assam for educating to the totally blind persons in the Calcutta Blind School ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

335. (1)—At the last Census the number was 9,926.

(2)—At least some of them.

(3)—No. Eye treatment is carried out in all headquarters and sub-divisional dispensaries for most of the diseases causing preventible blindness.

(4)—No.

(5)—Such provision is not necessary, *vide* reply to (3) above.

(6)—Up to 3 scholarships are awarded annually for the training of blind children. These scholarships are of the value of Rs.15 a month each and are tenable at the Calcutta Blind School.

### Opening of Medical School at Sylhet

BABU HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI asked :

336. Will Government be pleased to state their attitude with regard to the immediate opening of the Medical School at Sylhet pressed by a vote of the Assembly during the last Budget Session with a full statement of the reasons justifying their attitude ?

337. Is it a fact that Government is considering if the hospital at Sylhet which is at present in the main building could make room for the School classes in the same building ?

338. Has Government considered the feasibility of accommodating the hospital in some of the houses erected for the purpose of students' hostels ?

339. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) how many such hostel blocks are there ?

(b) What is their total plinth area ?

(c) How they are being utilised at present ?

(d) How many students, the hostels were originally contemplated to accommodate ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

336.—The attitude of Government is briefly this :—

They are eager to open a Medical School at Sylhet but are unable to do so through lack of funds. The Hon'ble Minister in charge personally inspected the medical school buildings on the 29th of September last and came to the conclusion that it would be impossible to open a medical school immediately without considerable expenditure on new buildings—expenditure which Government cannot at present afford.

337.—This point was duly considered and it was found impracticable to locate the hospital and medical school in the same building for the following reasons :—

(i)—The minimum number of beds in a hospital attached to a teaching institution should not be less than 100 but the present building cannot accommodate 100 beds and also function as a teaching institution.

(ii)—The school and hospital cannot be accommodated in the same building as quietness is essential for a hospital while from its very nature the school must be somewhat noisy.

(iii)—There cannot be any privacy in the hospital with a school in the same building.

338.—Yes. These buildings which were intended for the accommodation of 128 students are not suitable for a hospital. Furthermore, the students would have no hostel accommodation if the existing hostels were used for a hospital.

339. (a)—Eight.

(b)—The information is not immediately available but will be supplied later to the hon. member, if required.

(c)—Block 1 is used by the Medical and Public Health Department.

Block 2 is not being used.

Block 3 is occupied by the office of the Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Surma Valley Division.

Block 4 is used by the Agricultural Department as a seed depot.

Block 5 is occupied by the office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Surma Valley.

Blocks 6, 7 and 8 are occupied by the Armed Police.

(d)—128.

### Amount contributed to the Sunamganj Maternity Ward Fund

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY asked :

340. Will Government please state what was the amount realised by the Subdivisional Officer, Sunamganj, from public for (i) Maternity Ward and (2) Red Cross Society, in the years 1935, 1936 and 1937 (upto 31st October) ?

341. Will Government please state the names with amounts contributed of those who subscribed to (i) the Maternity Ward Fund, Sunamganj, and (ii) the Red Cross Society through the Subdivisional Officer, Sunamganj, during the years 1935, 1936 and 1937, pointing out the gun licensees from amongst them ?

342. Is it a fact that the gun licensees were compelled by the Subdivisional Officer, Sunamganj, to contribute to the above mentioned funds ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

340.—The information is given below—

		1935	1936	1937 upto 31st October 1937.
			Rs.	Rs.
(1) Maternity Ward	... Nil	1,362	698	
(2) Red Cross Society	... Nil	673	142	

341.—Government cannot undertake to inform the House the amounts of subscriptions given by private individuals to charitable objects. But from the list of subscribers it appears that out of a total of 618 subscribers 128 were the holders of gun licenses.

342.—The present Subdivisional Officer reports that there is no evidence to show that any such compulsion was exercised.

### Lady Doctor of Dhubri Dispensary

MAULAVI JAHANUDDIN AHMED asked :

343.(a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Lady Doctor of Dhubri refuses to examine women sent by the Court ?

(b) Are Government aware that public do not like to subject their ladies to be examined by male doctors and that such refusal causes great inconvenience to them ?

(c) Do Government propose to provide against such refusal by the Lady Doctor ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

343.(a)—Yes.

(b)—Government have received no complaint on the subject. No woman is examined by a male doctor if she has any objection.

(c)—No.

### Establishment of one Estate Dispensary at Dalgoma and increase in the cadre of Medical Officers in Bijni Raj Ward's Estate

MAULAVI JAHANUDDIN AHMED asked :

344. Do Government propose to start one Estate Dispensary at Dalgoma at the earliest opportunity ?

345. Do Government propose to increase the cadre of Sub-Assistant Surgeon under the Bijni Raj Ward's Estate from 5 to 6 so that one doctor may function as "leave reserve" ?

346. Will Government be pleased to state (a) the number of Estate Dispensaries under the Bijni Raj Court of Ward's Estate, and

(b) whether the doctors there are allowed to avail themselves of privilege leave, one month each in a year, besides casual leave, sick leave, etc. ?

347. Will Government be pleased to state whether Government propose to take immediate steps for giving medical aids and for *kala azar* and Ma'aria Survey work in the neighbourhood of Dalgoma, amongst the Raj tenants, by one of the Estate Doctors ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

344.—The Local Board dispensary at Mornai is only 3 miles away, but sanction has recently been given to a grant of Rs.30 per mensem which, with assistance from the Board, will enable an Aided dispensary to be started at Dalgoma.

345.—There is no such proposal from the Estate Manager or the Deputy Commissioner. Leave reserves are not usually sanctioned in any establishment of less than ten.

346.(a)—Five.

(b)—Average pay leave according to the Fundamental Rules is granted.

347.—No, the matter is really one for the Public Health Department of the Government to undertake.

**Grant of allowance to Jurors in the district of Sylhet**

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY asked :

348. Is Government aware that in the district of Sylhet, the Jurors are not paid any allowance for the intervening and intermediate holidays including Sunday nor they are allowed travelling allowance to go and come back if they want to enjoy holidays at their homes ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

348.—Yes.

**Representation of *bona fide* natives of the district of Cachar (Hindus and Muhammadans) in different offices of the Heads of Departments and Secretariats**

MAULAVI MUZARROF ALI LASKAR asked :

349. Will Government be pleased to state—

The total number of clerks and the number of *bona fide* natives of the district of Cachar (Hindus and Muhammadans) separately amongst them, (in Shillong) respectively in each of the following offices of—

- (i) Assam Secretariat (Civil and Public Works Department),
- (ii) Inspector-General of Police,
- (iii) Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals and Prisons,
- (iv) Director of Public Health,
- (v) Director of Public Instruction,
- (vi) Director of Agriculture,
- (vii) Inspector-General of Registration,
- (viii) Director of Land Records,
- (ix) Director of Industries,
- (x) Registrar of Co-operative Societies,
- (xi) Conservator of Forests,
- (xii) Secretary, Legislative Assembly,
- (xiii) Secretary, Legislative Council,
- (xiv) Superintendent of the Government Press ?

350. If the number of the natives of Cachar in those offices is not adequate do Government propose to consider their claim so as to give them proper representation when future vacancies occur ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

349.—The information is given below—

Names of offices	Total number of clerks (including stenographers and typists)	Number of <i>bona fide</i> natives of the district of Cachar		Remarks
		Hindus	Muhammadans	
(i)—Assam Secretariat (Civil and Public Works Department).	150 + 7 temporary.	1*	...	* Manipuri Hindu.
(ii)—Inspector-General of Police.	23	...	...	
(iii)—Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals and Prisons.	25	...	...	

Names of offices	Total number of clerks (including stenographers and typists)	Number of <i>bona fide</i> natives of the district of Cachar		Remarks
		Hindus	Muhammadians	
(iv)—Director of Public Health.	14	...	...	
(v)—Director of Public Instruction.	30 + 2 temporary.	...	1	
(vi)—Director of Agriculture.	16	...	...	
(vii&viii)—Director of Land Records and Inspector-General of Registration, etc.	12	...	...	
(ix&x)—Director of Industries and Registrar of Co-operative Societies.	18	...	1	
(xi)—Conservator of Forests.	15	...	...	At present one Muhammadan of Cachar officiating in a leave vacancy.
(xii)—Secretary, Legislative Assembly.	11 + 2 temporary.	...	...	
(xiii)—Secretary, Legislative Council.	7	...	*	*1 who is an Indian Christian.
(xiv)—Superintendent of Press.	18	...	...	

350.—There is no separate representation for Hindus or Muhammadans of the district of Cachar. Hindus of Surma Valley form one unit, and the Muhammadans of both the valleys form another unit. Consideration of the claims of the Hindus and Muhammadans on district basis is not made.

### Pathsala Feeder Road

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS asked :

351. Are Government aware that the Pathsala Feeder Road which is about half a mile only in length joins the North Trunk Road with the Pathsala Railway Station (Eastern Bengal Railway) ?

352. Are Government aware that both the North Trunk Road and the Feeder Road pass through the Pathsala Bazar and the Town which is a rising place and is developing rapidly as a trade centre ?

353. Are Government aware that the Feeder Road is the only outlet to the Pathsala Railway Station for about 70,000 people of Bajali comprising the Sariha, the Uttar Bajali, the Manikpur, the Chapaguri, the Kaklabari and part of Hastinapur mauzas ?

354. Are Government aware that the condition of the road becomes practically impassable during both the rains and dry months for mud and dust respectively ?

355. Are Government aware that the Barpeta Local Board with a view to gravel the road caused an estimate to be prepared, but owing to paucity of funds has had to give up the project ?

356. Do Government propose to consider the case of this road which has been left out from the programme of the Provincial Communication Board and make provision for its metalling immediately ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

351.—Yes.

352.—Both roads pass through the village.

353.—It is the only road from the village to the station.

354 & 355.—The Local Board concerned has been asked for a report, but it has not yet come to hand.

356.—The cost of gravelling half a mile of road should cost from Rs.300 to Rs. 400 and petty schemes of this nature are matters for the Local Board to deal with. The hon. member's attention is invited to the last paragraph of page 2 of the Minutes of the last meeting of the Board of Communications, a copy of which is placed on the Library Table.

### Construction of new roads in the Goalpara district

KUMAR AJIT NARAYAN DEV asked :

357. (a) Will Government be pleased to state, whether there is a road development fund in the district of Goalpara ?

(b) If so who is entrusted with the charge of development and the fund ?

358. Are Government aware that many new roads were constructed in the district by the villagers at the promise of the Deputy Commissioner of the district to pay the cost of construction ?

359. Is it a fact that no money has been paid as yet in spite of several petitions from the villagers to the Deputy Commissioner ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

357. (a) & (b)—The hon member presumably refers to the Government of India grant for rural uplift. If so, the district allotment is at the disposal of the Deputy Commissioner and his Advisory Committee consisting among others of members of the Assembly.

358.—No. On the contrary the villagers are expected as a condition of the construction to contribute towards the work either in money or in labour. The latest resolution of the Advisory Board held on 18th September 1937 is given below :—

Resolved that the Board sanction the construction of the following roads at the cost noted against each of them on the distinct understanding that the local people, who will be benefited by the road, will contribute a portion of the total cost either in money or in labour or in kind. Payment will be made through the member in charge on receipt the completion certificate and the details in the form prescribed by Government.

Member in charge	Name of road	Amount		
		Rs.	a.	p.
1. Srijut Sontosh Kr. Barua B. A., M. L. A.	Charialdanga-Mohamayahat	400	0	0
2. Chief Forest Officer, Bijni Raj Ward's Estate.	Tengapara-Pakhriguri	60	0	0
3. Divisional Forest Officer, Kachugaon.	Panbari-Thaplahora	300	0	0
4. Divisional Forest Officer, Haltugaon.	Bengtol-Shalbari	400	0	0
5. Srijut Jogendra Nath Mandal, B. L., M. L. A.	Dhanpur-Bamunkura	400	0	0
6. Ditto	Laska-Sonamoyee	400	0	0
7. Ditto	Sepatgram-Halghora	200	0	0
8. Chief Forest Officer, Bijni Raj Ward's Estate.	Titaguri-Haluadal	100	0	0
9. M. Abdul Hamid Khan, M. L. A.	Katlamari-Sukchar Hat	200	0	0
10. Chief Forest Officer, Bijni Raj Ward's Estate.	Bridges at Kokra beel, Hatimatha beel, Tengapara Dong and Khargaon Dong.	100	0	0
11. Sub-Deputy Collector, Sidli	Sidli-Bengtol Road	(Sub-Deputy Collector, Sidli, will be in charge of the work.)		

359.—Payments are generally made on completion of the work. The Deputy Commissioner reports that he has received no petitions from villagers asking for payment.

#### Ahmedpur Middle English Madrasa

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY asked :

360. Will Government please state whether it is a fact that the Ahmedpur Middle English Madrasa is the only institution of its kind within the area of the Dharmapassa Thana aided by Government ?

361. (a) Is it a fact that the Madrasa is given an aid of only Rs.20 a month ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to increase the grant ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

360.—Government are not aware of the *Thanawari* distribution of aided schools but are prepared to accept the hon. member's assurance on the matter.

361. (a) & (b)—The grant has already been raised from Rs.20 to Rs.30 a month from 1st October 1937.

### **Lack of communications in the parganas of Dinarpur and Putijuri in Habiganj subdivision**

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY asked :

362. Has the attention of Government been drawn to the fact that the inhabitants of parganas Dinarpur, Putijuri and other neighbouring parganas within the subdivision of Habiganj in the district of Sylhet have been labouring under great difficulties for want of communication ?

363. Is it a fact that the inhabitants of those parganas have no means of ingress or egress during the dry seasons of the year ?

364. Do Government propose to connect Habiganj-Putijuri road with Sylhet-Sherpur road *via* Sadarghat ?

365. Is it a fact that Government (1) did make an enquiry into the possibilities of that route and (2) the landholders of the localities concerned gave an assurance that they would not claim any compensation for the lands that might be needed for the purpose of a road ?

366. Will Government be pleased to state whether any estimate was made at that time for connecting Habiganj-Putijuri road with Sylhet-Sherpur road ?

367. Will Government please state whether any estimate was made after actual survey of the route or with reference to any map of the route ?

368. Is Government aware of the fact that Habiganj-Putijuri road has already been extended upto village Diopara in pargana Dinarpur by the Local Board at the instance of the Subdivisional Officer of Habiganj and that it is going to be further extended up to Sherpur-Nabiganj road ?

369. Do Government propose to construct a motorable road to remove the difficulties of the inhabitants of those localities ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

362.—Government are aware that in this and many other districts of the province improved communications would benefit the inhabitants. Government are at present improving communications to the fullest extent possible with the funds at their disposal.

363.—Government have been informed that there are villages in this area which are not connected by roads.

364.—No.

365. (1)—Yes.

(2)—An offer of free land was received from some of the villagers.

366 & 367.—No. In the absence of data as regards flood levels it was not possible to make an accurate estimate. This data is still under collection.

368.—Reply to the first part is 'yes' and to the second part 'Government have no information'.

369.—Not at present.

### **Introduction of co-education system in the Sylhet Government Madrassa**

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY asked :

370. Will Government please state whether it is a fact that the system of co-education has proved to be successful in Murarichand College, Sylhet, Cotton College, Gauhati, and the Victoria Memorial High School, Hailakandi ?

371. If so, do Government propose to introduce the system in the Sylhet Government Madrassa ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

370.—No serious difficulties have arisen as regards co-education in these institutions but Government are not prepared to say that co-education has definitely proved successful.

371.—No.

### **Scheme for the improvement of the Co-operative movement**

SRIJUT BELIRAM DAS asked :

372. Do Government propose to take up a definite scheme, at least for a period of 5 years, for the improvement of the Co-operative movement of the province, on the light of work done in other provinces ?

373. Do Government propose to enquire into the causes of deterioration of the Co-operative Societies in the province ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

372.—The matter will be considered by Government.

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

**Proposal to give education in Insurance Business to some youths of the Province**

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

374.(a) Does the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Industries propose to give education in Insurance Business to some youths of the Province where Insurance Business is fast extending ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to grant some stipends of suitable value to some qualified graduates in some colleges of Bombay or Calcutta ?

375. Does the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Industries recognise that Banking Business is fast spreading in Assam and that the natives of the soil have not been able to take their due share in the business for want of properly trained men of the Province ?

376. If so, do Government propose to make arrangements for giving training in Banking Business to some suitable graduates of the province either in the Imperial Bank or in some other Banks of Calcutta or Bombay ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

374.(a) & (b)—The point raised by the hon. member will be considered by the Government.

375.—It may be so.

376.—The hon. member is referred to the reply to question 374(a) and (b).

**Newspaper article re difficulties of communication between Goalpara and Bongaigaon**

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI asked :

377. Has the attention of Government been drawn to the article "a long standing grievance" which appeared in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* (daily), dated 6th May 1937 ?

378. Has Government received any representation from the Goalpara public to redress the long standing grievance regarding the difficulties of communication between Goalpara town and the nearest Railway Station, Bongaigaon, on the Eastern Bengal Railway ?

379. If so, what steps Government propose to take to establish a steam ferry between Goalpara and Jogighapa and when ?

380. Are Government aware that:—

- (a) The Panchonia Jogighapa ferry is being run by uncovered country boats ?
- (b) Passengers and cattle are carried in the same vessel ?
- (c) It is positively unsafe and attended with great risks to human lives particularly during the rains ?
- (d) There are instances of several fatalities in the past caused by the capsizing of the ferry ?
- (e) The journey from Jogighapa to Goalpara is a long and tedious one, attended with great risk and inconvenience ?
- (f) The lease-holder uses uncovered small country boats to run these ferries, takes double than the scheduled rate, and in spite of repeated complaints from the public, the same man is allowed by the Subdivisional Officer, Goalpara, to run the ferry ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

377.—Not until the receipt of the question.

378.—Yes.

379.—Government do not propose to establish a steam ferry but the question of the Public Works Department taking over the existing ferry is under consideration.

380.(a)—There is no ferry known as Panchonia-Jogighapa. If the ferries between Goalpara and Panchonia and Goalpara and Jogighapa are meant the reply is in the affirmative in the case of the former. As regards the latter it is understood that the boats are partly covered.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—No more so than any other crossing of the Brahmaputra in boats of a similar nature.

(d)—So far as the Government have been able to ascertain a postal boat and several private boats have capsized at various times but not one of the ferry boats.

(e)—Yes but the risk is not more than the usual risk attending the crossing of large rivers by country boats.

(f)—The boats used are probably the biggest available passenger boats in the subdivision. There is no evidence that the lessee takes double the scheduled rates but his *majhi* was once fined this year for realising excess fares. The present lessee was the only bidder for the ferry this year.

**Amount of cart tax realised by the Dhubri Local Board from the South Salmara and Mankachar Thanas for 1936-37**

MAULANA ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

381. Will Government be pleased to state :—

(a) The total amount of cart tax realised by the Dhubri Local Board from the South Salmara and the Mankachar thanas, during the year 1936-37 ?

(b) The total amount of expenditure incurred by the said Local Board for roads under the above mentioned Thanas during the year 1936-37 ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

				Rs.
381.(a)—				
From South Salmara	...	...	...	1,022
From Mankachar	...	...	...	5,002
(b)—				
For roads in South Salmara	...	...	...	2,438
For roads in Mankachar	...	...	...	640

**Number of Co-operative Societies in the South Salmara and Mankachar Thanas**

MAULANA ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

382. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Department be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of Co-operative Societies in the South Salmara and Mankachar Thanas ?

- (b) the number of societies inspected by the Co-operative Inspectors during the last year ?
383. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state :—
- (a) the number of honorary organisers for Co-operative Societies in the district of Goalpara ?
- (b) the number of societies they have organised during the last three years ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

382. (a)—There are 17 societies within the jurisdiction of the South Sal-mara Thana and none within the Mankachar Thana.
- (b)—1,014.
383. (a)—Two.
- (b)—Two.

### **Steps for the prevention for Malaria in Jaintia Parganas**

MAULAVI MD. ABDUS SALAM asked :

384. Will Government please state whether they are aware of the fact that the Jaintia Parganas being situated at the foot of the Jaintia Hills, suffer much from the outbreak of Malarial fever every year ?

385. Will Government please state whether they take any steps for the prevention of the same ?

386. If the answer to question 385 is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what steps they take from time to time in this regard ?

387. Is it a fact that only about 40 per cent. of the patients of Hemu, a badly affected area, are provided with a free supply of medicine by the Public Health doctor, on Malaria duty, at Haripur ?

388. Will Government please state whether they propose to take every necessary step for the prevention of Malaria in the Jaintia Parganas ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

384.—Yes.

385.—Yes.

386.—The steps taken include the usual surveys, anti-larval operations and the treatment of malaria cases in all dispensaries. Additional doctors are also deputed to places where a high incidence of malaria is reported.

387.—Yes.

388.—Yes. It might interest the hon. member to know that there is a Provincial Advisory Malaria Committee in Assam to which three members of this House have been appointed. This Committee advises Government on the anti-malarial measures to be taken every year. A meeting of this Committee is being held this session.

### **Names of Aided High Schools and the amount allotted to each of them in the Darrang district**

SRIJUT OMEO KUMAR DAS asked :

389. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education be pleased to state the names of Aided High Schools and the amount of aid allotted to each of them in the district of Darrang ?

390. (a) Is it a fact that the Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Circle, recommended an amount of Rs. 295 as a monthly subsidy to be given to the Tezpur Academy?

(b) If so, does the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education propose to allot the said grant to the above-mentioned school?

391. Does the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education propose to allot substantial grant to the Soota High School, considering the district of Darrang as backward in education?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied:

389.—The information is given below:—

			Rs.
(1) Tezpur Academy	...	...	250 per mensem.
(2) Tezpur Bengali Boys' High School	...	...	300 "
(3) Tezpur Girls' High School	...	...	310 "

390. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The grant for this school has been raised from Rs. 65 to Rs. 250 per month from 1st April 1937. With the funds at the disposal of the Department, it is not possible to raise the grant further.

391.—In this school class VII has been opened this year as an experiment only and the question of an increased grant will be considered in the event of funds being available in future.

### Opening of Agricultural Purchase and Sale Societies on Co-operative lines

SRIJUT JOGENDRA NATH BARUA asked:

392. Do Government propose to open up Agricultural Purchase and Sale Societies on Co-operative lines?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied:

392.—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to a similar question asked by him at the last Budget Session of the Assembly.

### Policy of Prohibition of opening more excise shops in the province

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked:

393. Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to open any more excise shops?

394. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Excise please state whether he proposes to try the policy of Prohibition in any district or subdivision as is being done in Madras?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied:

393 and 394.—The whole question of the Government policy in these matters is at present under consideration.

## Survey of Kala-azar

SRIJUT JOGENDRA NARAYAN MANDAL asked :

395. Will Government be pleased to state :—

- (a) Whether any survey of *Kala-azar* was made in the district of Goalpara ?
- (b) If not, do Government propose to have a survey in the near future ?
- (c) The number of medical officers on *Kala-azar* duty in the district of Goalpara ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that in the *Kala-azar* affected area, the Local Board doctors cannot give regular medical help to the patients ?
- (e) If so, whether Government proposes to depute extra Sub-Assistant Surgeons to give regular medical help to the poor patients ?
- (f) The number of *Kala-azar* patients who actually received medical help from the Sadar dispensary of Dhubri and Local Board dispensaries of Agamani, Golokganj, Gosaigaon, Chapar, Salkucha and Sapatgram during the last three years ?

396. Do Government propose to take into consideration the question of reduction of fees from Rs.16 to Rs.8 of the Civil Surgeon in order to enable the poor *Kala-azar* patients to have medical help from them ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

395. (a)—The areas reported to be infected have been surveyed.  
(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—There are five Sub-Assistant Surgeons on General Public Health Department duty and three Sub-Assistant Surgeons on Epidemic Unit duty who, when not engaged in Epidemic work are employed on *Kala-azar* duty.

(d)—There is no reason why they should not be able to do so.

(e)—Does not arise.

(f)—The treatment of *Kala-azar* commenced in the Golokganj Silver Jubilee Dispensary from May 1937. The number of cases treated during the last three years in the other Dispensaries is furnished below :—

1934	...	...	...	...	...	751
1935	...	...	...	...	...	1,158
1936	...	...	...	...	...	1,056

396.—No fixed scale of fees is in force for the professional attendance of Civil Surgeons on private patients. It is a matter of arrangement between the parties. The question of reduction does not therefore arise.

**Introduction of Assamese as an additional subject for Girl Students of the Intermediate Classes of the Cotton College**

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI asked :

397. Will Government be pleased to state what arrangements have been made at the Cotton College, Gauhati, to teach Assamese as an additional subject to the girl students of the Intermediate classes ?

398.(a) Is it a fact that in the B.A. course, Bengali may be taken up as a substitute for any subject such as History, Philosophy, Economics ; and that such facilities are not given to Assamese ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to move the authorities concerned so that the girl students in colleges can take up Assamese as a substitute for Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian, etc., in the Matric and I. A. Examinations ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

397.—It is hoped that it may be possible to provide funds in next year's budget for a special lecturer for this purpose.

398.(a) —Yes.

(b) —Yes if it is found possible to provide funds for the lecturer.

**Recommendations of the Provincial Banking Enquiry Committee**

SRIJUT JADAV PRASAD CHALIHA asked :

399. Has the attention of Government been drawn to the recommendations of the Provincial Banking Enquiry Committee for the establishment of an Apex Bank for the expansion of the Co-operative Movement in the Province ?

400. If so, do Government propose to take steps in these directions ?

401.(a) Has any effect been given to the suggestions for improvement of the Provincial Bank made by the Assam Banking Enquiry Committee of 1930 ?

(b) If so, will Government please state the recommendations which were given effect to ?

402. Has the Assam Provincial Co-operative Bank established any connection with the Reserve Bank of India under Section 17 of the Reserve Bank of India Act ?

403. If not, do Government propose to take any steps in this behalf ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

399.—No such recommendation appears to have been made by the Assam Provincial Banking Enquiry Committee.

400.—There is already an Apex Bank in the Province, viz., the Provincial Co-operative Bank of Assam, Limited.

401.(a) —Yes, partly.

(b) —The following were the recommendations with regard to the Provincial Bank :—

(1) The Bank should have a whole-time Manager with Banking experience.

- (2) Endeavour should be made to secure a better attendance of mofussil members at important meetings of the Bank, Central Banks and the Provincial Bank should share the expense.
- (3) The affiliated institutions and not representatives of individual share holders should have the preponderating voice in the Provincial Bank.
- (4) The Provincial Bank should make no delay in disposing of loan applications from Central Banks.

With the exception of (1) mentioned above effect has already been given to the other suggestions. As regards (1) the Board of the Provincial Bank considered it to be unnecessary.

402.—No.

403.—No, as the Provincial Bank is not in need of any loan or advance at present from the Reserve Bank.

### Number of cases tried and disposed of since the introduction of the Juvenile Smoking Act

SRIJUT LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH asked :

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

(a) The number of cases tried and disposed of in Assam since the introduction of the Juvenile Smoking Act ?

(b) What action did Government take to enforce this Act ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

404. (a)—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to a similar question asked by Srijut Mahi Chandra Bora at this session of the Assembly.

(b)—The number of prosecutions under the Act, the figures of which have been given in reply to the question of Srijut Mahi Chandra Bora referred to in (a) above, shows the effect of the action taken. It is hoped that the hon. member will himself co-operate in enforcing the Act by exercising the powers he possesses under sections 4 and 5 of seizing and destroying the tobacco and cigarettes of young people whom he finds smoking in a public place.

### Reservations of Land for public passage

SRIJUT LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH asked :

405. Will the Hon'ble Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether reservations of land for public passage as provided for under Rule 46, Part II of the Assam Land Revenue Regulation (5th edition) are maintained by the Deputy Commissioners for free and unfettered use of the public ?

406. Referring to Government reply to question No.185 (e) and (f) of July Session of the Council of 1927 (page 1043, Part VI), will Government be pleased to state what action have Government since taken ?

407. Is it a fact that almost all the right of way reservations of Tea gardens of Dibrugarh are included in and enclosed by fencing and in many cases they are planted up with tea ?

408. If so, does the Hon'ble Minister for Revenue propose to issue orders to the Deputy Commissioner to keep the passages open for free and unfettered use of the public ?

409. Is it a fact that reservations of road-side varying from 35 ft. to 50 ft. are to be maintained in Local Board and Provincial Roads respectively under the Assam Land Revenue Regulation ?

410. Will Government be pleased to state whether such reservations have been maintained along the Assam Trunk Road, Sadiya Trunk Road, Rangagara Road and Hatiali Road of the Dibrugarh Subdivision ?

411. Will the Hon'ble Minister please state whether Nudwa, Nahortali, Kanjikhowa, Panitola and Khobong Tea Estates have encroached upon the Sadiya Trunk Road Reservation ?

412. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Balijan (Rah-moria) Tea Estate has put up fencing on the Rangagara Road ?

413. If so, what steps has the Deputy Commissioner taken to remove the encroachings under section 18 of the Assam Land Revenue Regulation ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

405.—Government believe that reservations are maintained : these, however, have not necessarily been opened as roads or even paths.

406.—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to question 174 asked by Srijut Rajani Kanta Barooah in the last Budget Session of the Assembly, published at page 720 of the *Assam Gazette*, dated the 6th October 1937.

407 & 408.—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to question No. 176(a) and (b) asked by Srijut Rajani Kanta Barooah in the last Budget Session of the Assembly, published at page 721 of the *Assam Gazette*, dated the 6th October 1937. No specific instances have been cited into which Government can enquire.

409.—The hon. member is referred to rule 23 at page 63 of the Land Revenue Manual, 1931.

410.—Yes, where land is available for such reservation. Ordinarily, there is no reservation where a road passes through fee simple grants.

411.—None of the gardens except Panitola have encroached upon any road-side reservation. The latter garden has given up a valuable plot of land which has been included in Panitola Bazar, in exchange for an area of 6 *bighas* 1 *katha* and 5 *lessas* of road-side reservation settled with it.

412.—No.

413.—Does not arise.

#### Declaration of Digboi as Town land for the purpose of assessment

SRIJUT LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH asked :

414. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government, by notification, declared Digboi as "Town" within the meaning of the word defined in the Assam Land Revenue Regulations ?

415. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Tinsukia was similarly declared as a "Town" and if assessment of land revenue has been made on Town-land basis?

416. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the rate of land revenue per *bigha* at Tinsukia town for different classes of land?

417. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the rate per *bigha* of Digboi Town land for different classes of land?

418. Is it a fact that Digboi is as commercially important as Tinsukia is?

419. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what area of Digboi town is settled with the Assam Oil Company and what is the assessment of land revenue per *bigha* of land there?

420. (a) Is it a fact that Government issued notice to the Public under the signature of a Settlement Officer that periodic leases would be issued to the public of the Digboi Town?

(b) If so, did Government issue leases to the public?

(c) If not, why not?

421. Is it a fact that the public right-of-way from Digboi Railway Station to Post Office, Police Thana and then to Muliabari and Forest Reserve boundary has been transferred to the Assam Oil Company?

422. (a) Is it a fact that all the rights-of-ways within the Digboi Town have been stopped?

(b) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why this public rights have been denied and in whose interests?

423. (a) Is it a fact that the Assam Oil Company, Limited, realise taxes from buses, lorries, bullock carts, etc., of the public in going to and coming from the neighbouring villages and the tea gardens in Buridihing Mouza?

(b) If so, do Government propose to stop this concession in the interest of the general public?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied:

414.—The rules for the settlement of land revenue and the grant of leases in respect of town lands were extended to an area in Digboi as specified in Government Notification No. 1940-R, dated the 4th June 1929.

415.—Yes, to the whole of Tinsukia Union by Government Notification No. 567-R., dated the 10th March 1923. The assessment of land revenue was also made on a town land basis.

	Rs.	
416.—Special Trade site	300	per <i>bigha</i> .
First class „ „	150	„
Second „ „	50	„
Third „ „	15	„
First class residential site	12	„
Second „ „	5	„
Third „ „	2	„

The rate for agricultural land varies from annas /13/- to Re. 1/13/- in classes from *Faringali* to *Bari*.

	Rs.	
417.—First class Trade site.	20	per <i>bigha</i> .
Second „ „	5	„
First class residential site	3	„
Second „ „	2	„

Agricultural land—The rates varies from annas -/11/- to Re. 1-8-0 in six classes as in Tinsukia.

418.—Government do not admit this.

419.—One hundred and thirty-six *bighas* of land are settled with the Assam Oil Company. As to the rate of assessment the hon. member is referred to reply given to question No. 417 above.

420. (a)—Government have no information.

(b) & (c).—Leases are issued not to the *Public* but to an individual on his applying for it, provided he is not considered undesirable by the issuing authority. The individual aggrieved has a right of appealing to higher authorities in proper time.

421.—No.

422. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

423. (a)—The Assam Oil Company issue licenses and realise small license fees in the case of the buses, lorries and carts which use the Company's private roads but no such fees are levied in the case of private cars or taxis.

(b)—It is up to the owners of the buses, lorries and carts to refuse the tax and test its legality in a law court. Government have not the right in their executive capacity to interfere in the private affairs of the Company in allowing rights of easement over their private property.

#### **Re Co-operative shops in Assam**

MAULANA ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

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

(a) The number of Co-operative shops in the province of Assam ?

(b) The amount of Government grant received by each of these Co-operative shops ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

424. (a)—The hon. member presumably refers to Co-operative Stores Societies and if so, the number is twelve.

(b)—Nil.

#### **Number of *pucca* wells given by the Dhubri Local Board in the South Salmara and Mankachar Thanas**

MAULANA ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

425. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The total number of *pucca* wells given by the Dhubri Local Board in the South Salmara and the Mankachar Thanas ?

(b) The total population and the number of villages inhabited by different castes in the said areas ?

(c) The number of wells in the Hindu villages and in the Muhammadan villages ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

425. (a)—The following statement supplied by the Board shows the number of wells maintained by them in the Thanas mentioned :—

Thana	Thak	4' dia. pucca well	3½' dia. R.C.C. pipe well	3' dia. c. c. pipe well	2½' dia. c. c. pipe well	2' dia. c. c. pipe well	1½' dia. tube well	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
South Salmara	1	38	35	14	...	10	59	157
Mankachar ...	...	7	16	4	...	10	22	59
Total								216

(b)—The population of South Salmara is 91,533 and of Mankachar 36,820. The number of villages in South Salmara is 298 and in Mankachar 83 but details of the castes inhabiting the villages are not available.

(c)—Details are not available but most of the wells are reported to be in Muhammadan villages.

### Re Co-operative Auditors

SRIJUT BELI RAM DAS asked :

426. (a) Is it a fact that the clerks of the subordinate offices of the Co-operative Department are required to do audit work ?

(b) If so, why their cases were not considered at the time of appointing temporary Inspectors ?

(c) Do Government propose to consider their cases in future ?

427. In view of the proposed creation of the posts of District Auditors, do Government propose to revive the posts of Divisional Auditors and to do away with the present posts of the Provincial Auditor of Co-operative Societies ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

426. (a)—No.

(b) & (c)—The questions do not arise.

427.—No. The question of creation of posts of Auditors is still under the consideration of Government.

### Re Harrison Momin's stoppage of increment

MR. JOBANG D. MARAK asked :

428. Will Government be pleased to state :—

(a) Who is the final authority in the Education Department in this Province ?

(b) Who is the authority—

(i) to appoint the Deputy Inspectors of Schools and Headmasters of Schools ?

(ii) to stop their increment and to degrade them ?

(iii) to grant them leave and to transfer them ?

429. Is Government aware that there is no other Gazetted Officer among the Garos but Mr. Harrison Momin, the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Garo Hills ?

430.(a) Is Government aware that Mr. Harrison Momin's increment in his pay, has been stopped from 1st May 1936 ?

(b) Was he informed of the reason for such action against him ?

431. Will Government be pleased to state why and on whose report—

(a) this punishment had been inflicted on Mr. Harrison Momin ?

(b) he has been reverted from class I to class III of the Assam School Service ?

(c) he was asked to show cause ?

432. Have Government received any representations praying for stay order and enquiry in the matter and what replies are given to those memorials, and when ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

428.(a)—Government.

(b)(i)—Government.

(ii)—Government.

(iii)—The Director of Public Instruction.

429.—Yes.

430.(a)—Yes.

(b)—No.

431.(a) & (b)—Government must refuse to disclose reports dealing with the merits of their officers.

(c)—No. The officer was promoted *on probation* and in such cases no question of showing cause arises.

432.—Yes. The matter is under consideration.

#### **Re Co-operative Societies in Assam**

SRIJUT JOGENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

433. Will Government please state the reason why there has been a fall in the number of Co-operative Credit Societies in the Province ?

434.(a) In the whole population of the Province what is the proportion of the agricultural population ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the needs of what proportion of the agricultural population the existing Co-operative Societies serve ?

435. Will Government please state the causes which have checked the progress and development of the Co-operative movement in the Province ?

436. Is it a fact that the working staff in the Co-operative Department is inadequate for the propagation and development of the Co-operative movement throughout the Province ?

437.(a) Is it a fact that many of the working officers, *viz.*, some of the Co-operative Inspectors have little knowledge on the subject of rural economics and the principles of Co-operation ?

(b) How many Samities or village Societies are generally placed under the charge of a Co-operative Inspector ?

438. Do Government propose to increase the number of qualified Inspectors for the propagation and success of the Co-operative movement ?

439. Do Government propose to increase the number of Honorary Co-operative organisers ?

440. Will Government please state the steps taken by the Department to enlist the support of the non-officials in the Co-operative movement in the Province ?

441. Will Government please state whether there is any systematic attempt on the part of the officials of the movement to seek and enlist non-official support ?

442. Will Government please enquire and state :—

(a) The steps taken by the Punjab Government to tide over the economic crisis, by way of granting rebate and other concessions to the debtor societies ?

(b) Whether such concessions were granted to the debtor societies in Assam as a matter of policy ?

443. Do Government propose to entertain a whole-time Secretary and a clerk for every Central Banking Union, Limited, in Assam in order to make the movement effective and a real one ?

444. Is it a fact that the supervisors entertained by the Central Banks are mainly employed in helping the Inspectors of Co-operative Societies in preparing the accounts for audit purpose ?

445. Is there any standard book on audit or audit manual for checking the account of the Co-operative Societies in Assam ?

446. Will Government consider the desirability of having such a book ?

447. If not, do Government propose to encourage preparation of such a book ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

433.—The question does not arise as there has been no fall in the number of Co-operative Societies in the Province ?

434.(a)—Forty-nine per cent. approximately.

(b)—About 1.48 per cent. of the agricultural population.

435-447.—The hon. member is referred to the replies given to similar questions asked by him at the last session of the Assembly.

#### **Re Appointment of Honorary organisers of Co-operative Banking**

SRIJUT JOGENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

448. Will Government please state :—

(a) Who appoints the Honorary organisers within a certain area

(b) Whether the Co-operative Central Banking authorities concerned are consulted in making the appointments ?

449. If not will Government consider the desirability of adopting the practice of appointing the Honorary organisers in an area after consultation with the authorities of the central Co-operative Banks concerned ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

448. (a)—Government on the recommendation of the Registrar, Co-operative Societies.

(b)—No.

449.—The question raised by the hon. member will be considered.

**Re Publication of the results of Matriculation, I.A., I.Sc., B.A. and B.Sc., of the Calcutta University in the Assam Gazette**

SRIJUT JOGENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

450. Do Government propose to publish the results of the Matriculation, I.A., I.Sc., B.A., and B.Sc., of the Calcutta University in the *Assam Gazette* ?

451. Did Government receive any representation on the subject, from the Assam Chatra Sanmilani ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

450 and 451.—The hon. member is referred to the replies given to similar questions asked by him at the last session of the Assembly.

**Re Catching of fish from the Painda and Jadukata Fisheries**

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY asked :

452. Will Government please state whether it is a fact that the lessees of Rivers Painda and Jadukata do not allow cultivators to catch fish for home consumption even on payment of an annual fee of annas four as prescribed by law ?

453. If the answer to the above question is in the affirmative do Government propose to take action against the lessees and inform the public by notification that they have got the right of catching fish required for home consumption on payment of an annual fee of annas four only ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

452.—No such complaint against the lessees of rivers Painda and Jadukata fisheries has been received from the *rajats*.

453.—Does not arise.

**Abolition of Liquor and Ganja shops in the Badshaganj bazar and Selbaras**

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY asked :

454. Will Government please state whether they are aware of the fact that the country liquor shop and the *ganja* shop in the Badshaganj bazar and Selbaras, are spreading demoralizing effect upon the villagers ?

455. If so, do Government propose to abolish the shops from the village market ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

454.—No. Neither the proprietor of the Bazar nor the Chairman of the Local Board had any objection to the location of the shop in its present site.

455.—Does not arise.

**Re Revenue derived from Jaintia Parganas**

MAULAVI MD. ABDUS SALAM asked :

456. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge please state—

(a) What amount the Jaintia Parganas contribute as revenue to the Public exchequer of the Province annually ?

(b) What amount Government spent annually for Communication, Sanitation and Education in the Jaintia Parganas ?

457. (a) Will Government please give an account of what they have done for Jaintia in respect of her Communication, Sanitation and Education since the year 1835 ?

(b) Whether Government propose to consider the necessity of making a thorough enquiry into the conditions of Jaintia's Communication, Sanitation and Education for the well being of her people in case they are not aware of the facts ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

456. (a)—Rs. 3,15,859 for the year ending 30th June 1937.

(b)—The amount spent by Government direct under these three heads is approximately Rs. 55,800, Rs. 4,000 and Rs. 14,000 annually. How much is spent by the Local Board from Government grants is not known, nor is it possible to frame an estimate of the amount spent on general Administration, Administration of Justice and so on.

457. (a)—Government regret that they are unable to compile accounts extending over a century, nor would it be practicable as many of the records have been destroyed.

(b)—No ; these are matters which primarily concern the Local Board to whom grievances should be represented.

**Cart tax collector of the Dhubri Local Board**

MAULAVI JAHANUDDIN AHMED asked :

458. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that under the Dhubri Local Board, the cart tax collector in the Bilasipara circle is reporting against (1) persons who have no carts, (2) persons who had carts but at present have no carts, (3) persons who already paid their cart tax ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to enquire from the Dhubri Court and state as regards (a) (2) and (3) how many cases on such reports were instituted ? (1) After payment having been made how many persons filed petition to the Dhubri Local Board praying that they have no carts at present ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

458. (a)—Government have been informed by the Vice-Chairman of the Board that the answer to (1), (2) and (3) are all in the negative.

(b)—It is reported by the Deputy Commissioner that no cases appear to have been instituted against persons who had carts but have no carts at present or against persons who had already paid their cart tax. As regards (1) the hon. member has not stated the period concerned but it has been ascertained that thirteen persons filed such petitions during the year 1st November 1936 to 30th October 1937.

**Re Establishment of an information Bureau at the Cotton College, Gauhati**

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

459. Has the attention of Government been drawn to the editorial comments in the last *Aswin* issue of "Awahon" a monthly magazine published from Calcutta regarding the utility of establishing an information Bureau at the Cotton College, Gauhati, for providing the Assam students with all particulars of informing regarding higher education, competitive examination and employments, etc. ?

460. Is Government aware that the University of Calcutta has not only such a Bureau but also a separate Board for employment to provide and secure employment for the students of Bengal ?

461. (a) Do Government propose to set up such a Board in Assam ?

(b) If not, why not ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

459.—Yes.

460.—No. But Government will make an enquiry.

461. (a) & (b)—Government will consider the proposal after making the enquiry.

**Re Military Training**

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

462. Do Government recognise the desirability of imparting military training to our educated youths ?

463. Will Government be pleased to give the House a detailed account of what Government have so far done for giving military training to the educated youths of the province ?

464. Do Government propose to start a Military Training School and to grant, in the meantime, a number of stipends in some military schools or colleges for training some of the youths of the province ?

465. Do Government propose to open a Branch of the Calcutta University Training Corps at the Cotton College, Gauhati ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

462.—Government have not yet considered the question in all its bearings.

463.—So far nothing has been done.

464.—No.

465.—The Director of Public Instruction has already begun an enquiry as regards the possibility of starting branches of the University Training Corps in each of the Government Colleges.

**Re Military Training in Colleges of Assam**

KUMAR AJIT NARAYAN DEV asked :

466.(a) In view of the demand for Indianisation of the Army, do Government propose to impart military training to the college students of Assam in the lines of the Calcutta University Corps ?

(b) If the answer is in the affirmative, when Government propose to introduce the training in the Assam colleges ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

466.(a) & (b)—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to a similar question asked by Srijut Gauri Kanta Talukdar at this session of the Assembly.

#### **Re Physical Instructors of Assam**

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI MUFIZUR RAHMAN asked :

467. Will the Hon'ble Minister for Education be pleased to state the number of posts of Physical Instructors originally sanctioned by Government?

468. Is it a fact that two posts of Physical Directors (one for each valley) in class II of the Assam School Service were sanctioned at the same time ?

469. If the answer to question 468 is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for not filling up the appointments ?

470. Is it a fact that the circle of a Sub-Inspector of Schools is much smaller than that of a Physical Instructor who is to tour in more than one subdivision ?

471. Do Government contemplate to provide the Physical Instructors with peons like Sub-Inspectors of Schools ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

467.—Originally eight but as three of the men selected did not join their appointments it was decided to employ 5 only.

468.—No.

469.—Does not arise.

470.—Yes—as regards area.

471.—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to a similar question asked by Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury at this session of the Assembly.

#### **Re Hostel accommodation for female students of Cotton College, Gauhati**

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED asked :

472.(a) Is it a fact that there is no Government Hostel for women students of the Cotton College at Gauhati ?

(b) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(i) The total number of women students in the Cotton College, Gauhati ?

(ii) The number of such students as come from places other than Gauhati ?

(iii) Whether the number of women students in the Cotton College, Gauhati, has been increasing from year to year ?

(iv) Whether many of such students not belonging to Gauhati are prevented from joining the College for want of a suitable boarding house ?

(v) Whether Government have received representation from the students and from the public for providing a suitable hostel for women students at Gauhati ?

(vi) What steps does the Hon'ble Minister propose to take to provide a women hostel at Gauhati at an early date ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

472. (a)—Yes.

(b) (i)—64.

(ii)—The number of Lady students not belonging to Gauhati is 56. Of the total number of Lady students 33 reside in hostels and the rest live with their parents or guardians.

(iii)—Yes.

(iv)—Government have no information as none of the guardians or Lady students applied for seats in hostels.

(v)—Yes, a representation was received from the public but not from the students.

(vi)—There are two hostels for Lady students of the Cotton College, Gauhati, one run by the American Baptist Mission, which has recently erected a fine building to accommodate 31 Lady boarders and the other under the management of Mrs. Rajabala Das, Secretary, All-India Women Conference. In the circumstances no Government Hostel for Lady students is immediately called for.

### **Holding of a Court at Nalbari**

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

473. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Administration of Justice be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the first class Magistrate, who, as was given to understand, was to hold his court at Nalbari all the six days in the week, is doing so ?

(b) If not, why not ?

474. Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Administration of Justice aware that the litigant public from the Nalbari and the Barama side have to incur lot of expenditure and loss of time in coming to Gauhati to prosecute petty money suits ?

475. If so, do Government propose to post a Munsiff at Nalbari after taking sanction from the Hon'ble High Court, if necessary ? And also consider the desirability of posting an Extra Assistant Commissioner at Nalbari and entrusting him with the duties of a Sub-Registrar and a Munsiff ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

473. (a)—Yes, Nalbari is now his headquarters.

(b)—Does not arise.

474.—Yes.

475.—Government have no such proposal before them at present, but there is a proposal to empower the Extra Assistant Commissioner who is holding Court at Nalbari to register documents.

### **Recruitment to the Assam Rifles**

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

476. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Police be pleased to refer to the Assam Police Administration Report for 1936 at page 3, wherein it

has been stated that "considerable difficulty was experienced in securing good Assamese recruits for the Assam Rifles" ?

477. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) What method was tried for securing recruits ?

(b) Whether Government advertised in any local vernacular Newspapers in vernacular language ?

(c) If not, do Government propose to advertise in the Provincial vernacular Newspapers in vernacular language in such cases in future ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

476.—Yes.

477. (a)—Recruiting parties were sent out to certain districts in the Assam Valley for the purpose.

(b)—No.

(c)—It is not considered that such a course would materially improve matters.

#### **Grant of a holiday on the death anniversary of Harideb Guru**

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

478. Will the Hon'ble Chief Minister be pleased to refer to my questions Nos. 531, 532, 533 and 534, asked in the last Budget Session of the Assembly and the replies given by him and to state the reasons which let the Government not to grant a holiday on the death anniversary of Harideb Guru ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

478.—The matter is still under consideration.

#### **Number of civil suits instituted in the Tezpur Subdivision**

SRIJUT OMEO KUMAR DAS asked :

479. Will Government be pleased to state the total number of civil suits instituted in the subdivision of Tezpur in the year 1936 and also from the 1st January to 30th November 1937 ?

480. Is it a fact that the institution of civil suits in the year 1937 has abnormally decreased ?

481. If so, will Government be pleased to ascertain the reason for this decrease ?

482. Is it a fact that the present Munsiff of Tezpur gives heavy adjournment cost ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

479.—Seven hundred and eighty-seven in 1936 and 445 from 1st January to 30th November 1937.

480.—Yes.

481.—The decrease is probably due to the revision of the scale of court-fees or Assam with effect from 1st January 1937 and to some extent to the introduction of the Assam Money Lenders Act which has led to a tightening of the money market.

482.—It is not understood what is meant by the word heavy. The amounts fixed have not exceeded the maximum limit of rupees ten laid down in the rules.

### Names of Munsiffs in the Assam Valley

SRIJUT OMEO KUMAR DAS asked :

483.—Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The names of Munsiffs in the Assam Valley ?
- (b) How many of them are not Law graduates ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

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

### NAMES OF THE EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS EXERCISING MUNSIFF'S POWERS IN THE ASSAM VALLEY DIVISION

Babu Amrit Lall Mukharji, B.A.  
 Mr. Jnanendra Kumar Datta, B. A.  
 Srijut Lakheswar Sarma, B. L.  
 Babu Atul Chandra Nandi, B. sc.  
 Maulavi Ikram Rusul, B. sc., B. L.  
 Maulavi Muhammad Sultan, M. A.  
 Maulavi Md. Muhibulla, B. A.  
 Srijut Khanindra Chandra Barua, B. A.  
 Maulavi Md. Taher, B. sc., B. L.  
 Maulavi Abbas-uddin Ahmed, M. A., B. L.  
 Babu Bhupendra Madhab Dam, B. L.  
 Babu Pabitra Nath Das, M. A., B. L.  
 Srijut Harendra Nath Deka, B. A.  
 Mr. Altaf Ahmed, B. L.  
 Srijut Sarat Chandra Kagti, B. sc.

(b)—Eight of them are not Law graduates.

### Enforcement of Compulsory labour in the Forest villages

SRIJUT BELIRAM DAS asked :

484. Will Government be pleased to state the areas of Forest villages in Assam where compulsory labour is enforced in lieu of taking forest produces such as thatch, bamboos, ekra and posts for their domestic purposes ?

485. Will Government be pleased to state the exact number of persons in those areas who were employed for taking forest produce for their domestic purposes in the years 1934, 1935 and 1936 ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

484.—There is no forest village in Assam where such compulsory labour is enforced.

485.—The question is not understood. If it refers to non-resident forest villagers who voluntarily render free labour to the department in return for certain privileges allowed to them in Reserved Forests the figures are as follows—

1934	...	...	...	...	5,733
1935	...	...	...	...	8,046
1936	...	...	...	...	9,713
If it refers to resident Forest villagers the figures are as follows—					
1934-35	...	...	...	...	9,625
1935-36	...	...	...	...	9,753
1936-37	...	...	...	...	11,080

### **Expenditure incurred in maintaining Shillong proper**

SRIJUT BELIRAM DAS asked :

486. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) the expenditure incurred in maintaining Shillong proper ?
- (b) The grants Government make towards the Shillong Municipality and the Cantonment Municipality ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

486. (a)—The information is not available and to work it out would involve much time and expenditure.

(b)—Shillong Municipality—Rs 15,901 during 1937-38.

Cantonment Municipality—No grant is given by Government.

### **Condition of the drain of the Sylhet Jail**

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

487. Will Government please state whether they are aware of the fact that the drain of Sylhet Jail passes through a Mahalla inhabited by respectable gentlemen ?

488. Do Government know that the suffocating bad smell of the said drain is a nuisance ?

489. Do Government propose to enquire into the matter and direct the Jail authority to divert the drain ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

487 & 488.—Yes, in the sense that the drainage of the Sylhet jail passes through the Mahalla after joining the municipal drain outside the jail boundary. The jail portion is kept clean.

489.—No useful purpose would be served by diverting the jail drain, the contents of which must eventually pass through some Mahalla.

### **Proposal for the rebuilding of Gauhati Jail**

MR. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN asked :

490. Are Government aware that there is scarcity of homestead lands in the Gauhati town ?

491. Are Government aware that the jail occupies a vast tract of land in the heart of the town ?

492. If the answers to the above questions are in the affirmative, do Government propose to take such steps as to remove the jail to some other place outside the town ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

490.—Yes.

491.—Yes.

492.—A proposal to rebuild this jail at a new site and on a larger scale was considered some years ago, but financial stringency stood in the way. The proposal is still, *prima facie*, beyond the means of the province. Government will, however, examine the question further to see if the sale proceeds of the site now occupied by the jail will cover the expenses of acquiring a new site and of building a jail on it.

### Newspaper article re complaint against oppression of Mauzadars

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

493. Has the attention of Government been drawn to the article named “মোজদার বোপা চন্দ্র মাহান্তাৰা” “(complaint against oppression of Mauzadars)” published in the weekly “Assamia” of 11th May last ?

494. Is it a fact that Ju Chandra Mahanta remitted the revenue to the Deputy Commissioner long before and the fact of remittance was admitted by Mauzadar before the enquiring Magistrate ?

495. Is it a fact that attachment was issued just on the following day of the *kist* date and the attached properties were sold on the very day of attachment without giving any opportunity to the alleged defaulter to move the authorities for release of the properties though the Mauzadar was cognisant of the remittance to the Deputy Commissioner ?

496. Will Government be pleased to furnish a list of the properties with the value put in by Ju Chandra ?

497. Is it a fact that the properties are perishable in nature and that it included a plate of copper used in religious worship and an ornament ?

498. Is it a fact that the properties were divided into 6 divisions and as many as six attachments were issued against the same man, intentionally, with a view to bring the value of each division below Rs.20 to enable the Mauzadar to sell the properties then and there by obviating the legal difficulty ?

499. Did the adoption of this procedure make the alleged defaulter liable to pay another six rupees as *miran* ?

500. Was this procedure adopted in conformity with law or rules thereunder ?

501. Is it a fact that the Mauzadar adopted a different procedure at the sale whereby entire properties attached had to be sold ?

502. Is it a fact that if the properties in the big list had been sold first, there would have been no necessity for selling all the properties ?

503. Is it a fact that the Senior Extra Assistant Commissioner who was deputed to make an enquiry had held that the Mauzadar's action was unjustifiable and reprehensible and the acting Deputy Commissioner had to pass an order there on reprimanding the Mauzadar ?

504. Is it a fact that the Mauzadar's action was held to be an outcome of pure malice by the present Deputy Commissioner ?

505. Is it a fact that the present Deputy Commissioner has held that the Mauzadar misused Government powers to further his grudge ?

506. Is it a fact that the Mauzadar has been asked by the Deputy Commissioner either to return the properties or to pay compensation ?

507. Has this order been complied with ? If not, why not ?

508. Is it a fact that all the belongings found in the house of Ju Chandra Mahanta were attached and sold and that he has been reduced to extreme poverty in consequence ?

509. Is it a fact that Ju Chandra had to undergo various troubles, cost and vexation besides humiliation in moving the authorities for relief?

510. (a) Do Government consider that in view of the above things, the order of compensation is adequate?

(b) Was any consideration given to the harassments besides actual loss of properties?

(c) Was any order passed for refund of the extra Miran?

511. Is it a fact that the Mauzadar is an Honorary Magistrate with 3rd class powers?

512. Do Government contemplate any proceedings against the Mauzadar?

513. Will Government be pleased to furnish on the table the report of the enquiring Magistrate, and the orders of the acting Deputy Commissioner and the permanent Deputy Commissioner together with the petitions of Ju Chandra Mahanta?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied:

493.—Not before receipt of this question in the last Assembly.

494.—On 28th January, 1937, Ju Chandra Mahanta remitted to the Deputy Commissioner by money order Rs.17-5-0 only out of arrears of Rs.29-6-0 which he was due to pay to the Mauzadar. He said on attachment that he had paid but did not show the money order receipt.

495.—The last *kist* dates of villages Telahi and Bangaldhora is 15th February. The attachment orders were issued on 16th February and the properties attached on 17th February were sold on the same day, the value being less than Rs 20 in each case.

496.—A list is laid on the library table.

497.—The list can be seen. Nothing further is known.

498.—Six attachment orders were issued against the defaulter because five of the *pattas* were *ijmali* with others who were different in each case and one in his own name.

499.—Yes.

500.—Issue of separate attachments is the settled practice in districts for *ijmali pattas*. The Commissioner's Revenue Court could not discover that any rule had been broken.

501.—No.

502.—The Commissioner is enquiring into this point.

503.—Yes.

504 & 505.—The Deputy Commissioner held that the actions of the Mauzadar were improper and intended to harm as regards issue of a number of attachment orders instead of one. The opinion of the Deputy Commissioner was based on a misconception of the procedure—*vide* reply to question No.500 above.

506.—Yes.

507.—The Mauzadar was unable to recover the properties but has deposited the compensation.

508.—Government have no information about his pecuniary condition.

509.—He suffered the normal amount of trouble in such cases, all of which would have been avoided, if he had paid his revenue to the officer appointed by Government to collect revenue, instead of to another officer.

510. (a) & (b)—The question whether any compensation is to be paid is now under enquiry by the Commissioner.

(c)—No refund of Miran is allowable.

511.—Yes.

512.—Not until Commissioner's final report is received.

513.—Government have not got the papers as the matter is still under consideration of the Commissioner, *vide* reply to question No.510.

### **Re appointments in the Police Department**

SRIJUT JADAV PRASAD CHALIHA asked :

514. Is Government aware that Srijut Bharat Chandra Gogoi, a B.Sc., who had also undergone regular military training under the Benares Hindu University, applied for a job in the Police Department ?

515. Is it a fact that he got the district nomination, but was eliminated in the final selection, on the ground that his elder brother and he himself were Non-co-operators ?

516. Is Government aware that during the Non-co-operation movement he was a mere lad of 8 years ?

517. Will Government be pleased to state how the conduct of an elder brother, who ceased connection with the family long before the Non-co-operation movement, could effect his other brother ?

518. Will Government be pleased to state :—

(a) Whether this policy has been consistently carried ?

(b) If not, the reason for application of the same in this particular case only ?

519. Is it a fact that in an enquiry, *vide* letter No.180-C., dated the 19th May 1935, from the Superintendent of Police, Sibsagar, the charge of his having been a Non-co-operator was found to be baseless ?

520. Is Government aware that such false notes and reports from officers have ruined the prospects of many innocent young men ?

521. Will Government be pleased to state :—

(a) If any actions were taken against the particular officer whose report was found to be false ?

(b) If not, do Government propose to consider such deterrent punishment, as would put a stop to the recurrence of such false reports ?

522. Is it a fact that Srijut Bharat Chandra Gogoi was directed by the Superintendent of Police, Sibsagar, *vide* letter quoted above to re-submit his application, but when submitted nomination was not granted to him ?

523. Do Government propose to reconsider his case ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAYYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

514.—Yes, he was a candidate for a Sub-Inspectorship in 1934. Government have no information about his military training.

515.—Yes, he was originally recommended by the Superintendent of Police of the district, who shortly after wrote that his name should be expunged from the list of nominees for deliberate suppression of material facts in the verification roll.

516.—Yes, it was reported that he was 9 years of age in 1921-22.

517.—Assuming that the premises are correct, Government would not penalise such a candidate.

518. (a)—No.

(b)—The case was disposed of by the Inspector-General of Police without reference to Government.

519.—The candidate's father, who is a retired Inspector of Police memorialised His Excellency and then an enquiry was made, which resulted in the letter mentioned in the question.

520.—No, the report was not false. As explained above, the candidate was eliminated because he suppressed facts.

521. (a) and (b)—In view of the above answers, no question of punishment arises.

522.—Yes, but nomination in any year depends upon the calibre of the candidate possessing all the requisite qualifications.

523.—He may take his chance again along with other candidates if not age barred, but no definite hope of appointment can be held out.

#### **Re auction sale of cattle pounds**

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SARMAH asked :

524.(a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the disastrous effect of selling the cattle pounds in auction ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to appoint pound-keepers on pay system as before ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

524.(a)—No.

(b)—The question does not arise.

#### **Establishment of night schools for adults in the province**

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS asked :

525.(a) Are Government aware that there are no night schools for adults in the Assam Valley districts ?

(b) Do Government propose to see to the utility of such night schools to fight out the evil of illiteracy ?

(c) Do Government propose to encourage the establishment of such schools in the Valley and make financial lump grants to the deserving ones ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

525.(a)—No : there are 37 such schools.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes if funds permit.

#### **Names of Police Stations in the Barpeta Subdivision**

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS asked :

526. Will the Hon'ble Minister for Police please state—

(a) The names of the police stations in the Barpeta subdivision together with the area and population in the jurisdiction of each of them ?

(b) The maximum distance of the extreme areas from each of these police stations ?

527. Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that communication in the subdivision is not yet sufficiently improved to facilitate timely report of criminal occurrences from long distances ?

528. Is he aware that owing to difficulties of communication and consequent ineffective enquiry, persons affected are generally loath to report crimes and thus many cases remain unreported ?

529. Is it a fact (a) that in spite of bad communication, reported criminal cases are on the increase in the subdivision owing to the increase of population ?

(b) The necessity of at least two more police stations, one at Sarupeta and one somewhere in the Baghbar mauza is keenly felt by the public ?

530. Do Government propose to enquire and establish new police stations in the subdivision wherever necessary, even by reducing the present strength in some of the existing stations ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

526.(a)—The information is given below :—

Name of Police Station			Area in square miles	Population
Patacharkuchi	...	...	233	69,227
Barpeta	...	...	342	109,000
Tarabari	...	...	263	50,207
Sorbhog	...	...	422	86,745

(b)—About 27—30 miles.

527.—Yes.

528.—Government have no definite information, but are prepared to take it from the hon. member that this is so.

529.(a)—No.

(b)—Government are not aware of any popular demand for such additional police stations.

530.—Does not arise.

#### **Number of matriculates in the rank of literate constables in the Police service**

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS asked :

531. Is it a fact that there are good many matriculates in the rank of literate constables in the Police service of the Province ?

532. Is it a fact that these matriculate constables have to wear the same dress, perform the same duty, and have the same pay as the illiterate constables ?

533. Are Government aware that these literate constables are generally averse to having the same red "Pugree" to wear as the illiterate constables and that the requirement to wear red "Pugree" prevents matriculates of good social status from entering Police Service as constables ?

534. Do Government propose to sanction a distinct headdress for the Matriculate constables or literate constables in order to make more attractive the enrolment of matriculates as constables and thus make the service more efficient ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

531.—There are a certain number of matriculates in the rank of constables, Unarmed Branch. There is no such rank as literate constable.

532.—Yes, but a literacy allowance of Rs.3 per month is also granted to constables who can pass a qualifying examination for promotion to the rank of Assistant Sub-Inspector.

533.—No.

534.—No such proposal is before Government.

### **Staff of the Inspector General of Police's Office of Superior Rank**

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

535(a). Is it a fact that besides the Inspector General of Police there are other officers of superior rank in his office ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the designations of the various officers with their pay and allowances, if any ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

535(a).—Besides the Inspector General of Police there is in his office only one officer of superior rank — namely the Assistant to the Inspector General of Police.

(b)—The hon. member is referred to the Civil List which contains the particulars asked for.

### **Strength of the Criminal Investigation Department Officers at present in the province**

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

536. Will Government please state the strength of the Criminal Investigation Department officers at present in the province ?

537. (a) Is it a fact that there is one Deputy Inspector General for them and two Deputy Superintendents of Police ?

(b) What are their respective allowances and pay ?

538.(a) Is it a fact that two Deputy Superintendents of Police were found medically unfit for deputation to England for the coronation ?

(b) If so, who are they ?

539.(a) Is it a fact that during the Civil Disobedience movement two short hand reporters were appointed ?

540. Will Government please state—

(a) their present functions ?

(b) Have they sufficient work now ?

541. Is it a fact that the two Deputy Superintendents of Police attached to the Criminal Investigation Department are given Criminal Investigation Department allowances of Rs.100 each ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

536.—Including the Finger Print Bureau the strength of the Criminal Investigation Department in Assam is as follows :—

7 Inspectors.

15 Sub-Inspectors.

16 Assistant Sub-Inspectors and Head Constables.

19 Constables.

537. (a)—Yes, but the administration of the Criminal Investigation Department is only a part of the Deputy Inspector General's duties.

(b)—The hon. member is referred to the Quarterly Civil List which contains the information.

538. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Rai Sahib P. N. De and Rai Sahib J. C. Bose.

539.—Yes.

540. (a)—In addition to their primary duty of reporting vernacular speeches delivered in public meetings, they report the proceedings of the Assam Legislative Assembly and Council and are occasionally employed in the Finger Print Bureau.

(b)—Yes.

541.—Yes.

### **Conversion of Moslem holidays into general holidays both for Hindu and Moslem students**

MAULAVI DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY asked :

542. (i) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state :—

(a) Whether on Friday when the Moslem students of the Surma Valley Technical School go to say their Juma prayers at 1-30 p.m. the Hindu students remain engaged in both practical and theoretical classes ?

(b) Whether in the month of Ramzan, Moslem students are allowed to come home at 3-30 p.m. while the Hindu students hold their classes up to 5 p.m. ?

(c) Whether in some Moslem holidays Moslem students are allowed to remain at home or granted half holidays, while the Hindu students hold their classes ?

(d) Whether in the case of Hindu holidays both the Hindus and Moslems are allowed leave ?

(ii) If the answers to the above questions are in the affirmative, does the Hon'ble Minister in charge propose to convert the Moslem holidays into general holidays both for Hindu and Moslem students ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

542. (i) (a)—There is a general recess daily from 1-30 to 2 p.m., but some of the Moslem students and staff absent themselves for more than half an hour on Fridays.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes, in the case of sectional holidays only.

(d)—Yes, as there are no sectional holidays for Hindus.

(ii)—The point raised will be considered by the Government.

### **Establishment of a Police guard in the village of Selbaras under the Dharmapassa Thana**

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY asked :

543. Will Government please state whether it is a fact that a Police guard is placed in the village of Selbaras under the Dharmapassa Thana in the subdivision of Sunamganj ?

544. If the answer to question No.543 is in the affirmative, will Government please state—

- (a) The distance of Selbaras from the Thana and the strength of the guard there ?
- (b) What are the duties of the guard ?
- (c) Whose house is rented for locating the guard ?
- (d) The number of Criminal Tribes Dagis in Selbaras ?
- (e) What is the requisite number of Dagis for which a guard can be maintained ?
- (f) What is the opinion of the officer in charge Dharmapassa about this guard ?
- (g) Whether Government tried to manage the work of this guard by the Thana constables ?
- (h) If so, what was the result ?
- (i) The cost of this guard per month ?

545. Do Government know that this guard is a source of tyranny for the innocent people of the locality ?

546. Is it a fact that this guard is placed at the request of a local gentleman ?

547. If so, will Government please give out the name of that gentleman with the true copy of his letter of prayer ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

543.—Yes.

544. (a)—About 3 miles ; the strength of the guard is one Assistant Sub-Inspector and six constables.

(b)—To watch the criminal tribes dagis and other bad character.

(c)—Houses belonging to Khan Bahadur Abdul Mannan Chaudhury have been rented.

(d)—Thirty-one.

(e)—There is no fixed standard.

(f)—Government have no information.

(g)—Yes.

(h)—It proved ineffective.

(i)—Rupees 168 per month.

545.—No.

546.—No.

547.—Does not arise.

### **Muslim students of the Surma Valley Technical School, Sylhet**

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY asked :

548. Will Government please state whether it is a fact that the Muslim students of the Surma Valley Technical School, Sylhet, are to attend their classes from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. while the non-Muslim students attend classes from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. ?

549. If the answer to question No.548 is in the affirmative, are Government aware that the Muslim students are put to loss so far as study or Practical training is concerned ?

550. Do Government propose to dismiss the classes at 3 p.m. and not to allow the non-Muslim students obtaining additional training after 3 p.m. ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

548.—The hon. member is presumably referring to the month of Ramzan. If so, his attention is drawn to the reply to a similar question asked by Maulavi Md. Ahbab Chaudhury at this Session of the Assembly.

549.—It may be so.

550.—The hon. member is referred to the reply to question No.542(ii) by Maulavi Md. Ahbab Chaudhury at this Session of the Assembly.

### Post of Horticultural Assistant

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY asked :

551. Is Government aware that the Fruit Inspector, Assam, who has been recently brought from the Central Provinces, is neither a native nor a domicile of this Province ?

552. Is it a fact that the said Inspector has got a serious ailment for which he has been posted at Shillong ?

553. Will Government please state whether he has got any extra-ordinary qualification in fruit growing for which he has been preferred to other qualified Agricultural graduates of this Province ?

554. Will the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture please lay on the table a list of those candidates with their qualifications who applied for the post ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

551.—He is a domicile of the Province.

552.—Government are not aware.

553.—He was in charge of the Horticultural Garden attached to the Botanical Section under the Second Economic Botanist, Central Provinces.

554.—Applications were invited for the post of Horticultural Assistant and not for the post of Fruit Inspector. The permanent Fruit Inspector was appointed Horticultural Assistant temporarily for preliminary work. As the post of Horticultural Assistant has not been filled up Government regret that the names of the applicants and their qualifications cannot be disclosed.

### Re agricultural and Industrial Policy

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

555. Will Government be pleased to state whether they have adopted any economic planning with regard to their Agricultural and Industrial policy ?

556. If not, do Government propose to make any such planning ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

555. & 556.—It is not understood what the hon. member means by "economic planning". If any plan is suggested Government are prepared to consider it.

### **Spreading of blindness amongst the School boys and College students of Assam**

MAULAVI ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY asked :

557. Are Government aware that blindness is spreading amongst the school boys and college students of Assam ?

558. Do Government propose to set up a Committee for investigating into the blindness of the school boys and college students and for suggesting proper means for preventing such blindness ?

559. Will Government please state whether (a) any such investigation has been made in recent years for inquiring into the condition of the Assam students by the Students' Welfare Committee under the auspices of the Calcutta University ?

(b) If so, what are its findings ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

557.—No.

558.—No.

559. (a)—Government have no information.

(b)—Does not arise.

### **Amount realised for supplying of irrigation pumps in the Surma Valley**

MAULAVI ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY asked :

560. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge please state the amount realised from each of the subdivisions of the Surma Valley for supplying irrigation pumps under the Rural Development scheme in the year 1936-37 ?

561. Are Government aware that there has been an increasing demand for such irrigation pumps in the Subdivision of Sunamganj, District Sylhet ?

562. If the answer to question 561 is in the affirmative will Government please state what steps are being taken for meeting the demand ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

560.—Information as to the amount realised from each Subdivision is not readily available but the total realisation for the whole Valley amounted to Rs.6,925-10-6 during 1936-37.

561.—Yes, all subdivisions including Sunamganj.

562.—The Department of Agriculture placed 4 pumps in Sunamganj during 1936-37 as against 1 pump during 1935-36.

### **Outbreak of cow epidemic in Dhubri Subdivision**

MAULANA ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

563. Will Government be pleased to state :

The measures adopted by Government to fight the evils of cow epidemic that appeared this year in the south bank of the Dhubri subdivision ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

563.—Treatment of the sick and protection of the healthy cattle by vaccination in the affected areas—the staff veterinary Assistant Surgeon, Gauhati, and a Reserve Veterinary Assistant Surgeon were deputed to attend the outbreaks in addition to the local staff. The Veterinary Inspector also attended and supervised the epidemic work.

**Creation of the posts of Sub-Inspectors of Co-operative Societies for the Bijni Raj and the Mechpara Wards' Estates**

MAULANA ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

564. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state :

- (a) The objects for which the authority of the Wards' Estates has created the posts of Sub-Inspectors of Co-operative societies for the Bijni Raj and the Mechpara Wards' Estates ?
- (b) The arrangements that have been made by the authority of the said Wards' Estates to supervise the works of the two Sub-Inspectors and to instruct them ?
- (c) The amount of work that has been done up till now under the arrangements ?
- (d) Whether the authority of the two Ward's Estates has made any provision for the permanency of these two posts ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJIT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

564. (a)—The posts of Sub-Inspector of Co-operative Societies for the Bijni Raj and Mechpara Wards' Estates were created to improve the tone and management of the existing Co-operative societies and also for the organisation of new ones among the agriculturist tenants of the estates. Such societies, if properly supervised and managed would confer great benefit to needy cultivators.

(b)—The two Sub-Inspectors have been placed under the immediate control of the Inspector of Co-operative Societies, Goalpara Circle, until further orders.

(c)—The two Sub-Inspectors were discharged from their preliminary training on the 1st of April, 1937. They have again been placed for a further course of training under the Education Co-operative Inspector with effect from the 1st November 1937. During the 7 months from April to October—

(i) the Sub-Inspector for the Bijni Raj Wards' Estate inspected 24 societies, audited the accounts of 27 societies, convened 3 meetings for propaganda work and organized 2 societies,

(ii) the Sub-Inspector for the Mechpara Wards' Estate inspected 5 societies, audited the accounts of 1 society, convened 11 meetings for propaganda work and organized 5 societies.

(d)—No. The question of making the two posts permanent will depend on the outturn of work they do justifying their absorption into the regular cadre of estate service.

### Number of Jute Inspectors in the Department of Agriculture

MAULAVI JAHANUDDIN AHMED asked :

565 Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) The number of Jute Inspectors taken in the Department of Agriculture, with their respective names and home districts ?
- (b) Whether any appointment was made by departmental promotion ?
- (c) If so, what are their names and qualifications ?
- (d) The basis of these appointments whether seniority and previous experience were counted ?
- (e) Whether these promoted persons were allowed to supersede any senior man of the Department ?
- (f) If so, do Government propose to revise the order ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

565. (a)—Two, viz:—

(1)—Babu Birendra Narayan Bhattacharjee ... Mymensingh.

(2)—Babu Banamali Goswami ... Sylhet.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Babu Birendra Narayan Bhattacharjee. He is a Matriculate, has enough previous experience of Jute work and held the post of an agricultural Demonstrator satisfactorily, and also was in the Department for about 18 years.

(d)—Both seniority and experience.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—No.

### Post of Horticultural Assistant

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN asked :

566. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that applications have been invited for the post of Inspector for the proposed citrus fruit garden to be opened by the Government of Assam ?
- (b) If so, who are the applicants, and what are their qualifications ?

567. (a) Is it a fact that the claim of a candidate specialised in Horticulture, has been ignored in giving nomination for the post ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the reason for nomination, of a non-specialised man when a specialised one is available ?

568. (a) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of appointing the best man available and to give preference to candidates who have special qualification in Horticulture ?

(b) If not, why not ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

566. (a)—Yes, the designation of the post is Horticultural Assistant and not Inspector.

(b)—As the appointment has not been filled up it is not considered desirable to disclose the names of applicants and their qualifications.

567.—Does not arise.

568.—The qualification of each candidate will be duly considered before making the appointment.

### **Location of the Goalpara post office**

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI asked :

569. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Post office at Goalpara is located on a hill ?

(b) What is the distance from the plain land of Goalpara to the spot on the Goalpara hill where the Post office is located ?

570. Is it a fact that the slopes of the road leading to the Post office from the plain is very abrupt ?

571. Is it a fact that the public of Goalpara feel much inconvenience in going and coming to and from the Post office ?

572. Is it a fact that the Branch post office at the Bazar is functioning with restricted functions ?

573. Is it a fact that the Branch post office does not satisfy all the needs of the public ?

574. Do Government propose to set up an enquiry regarding this and move the postal authorities to take steps to bring the Goalpara sub-post office from the hill to the plain of Goalpara town ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID <sup>3</sup>SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

569. (a)—Yes at a height of about 500 feet.

(b)—About a furlong.

570.—Government understand that the gradient is not excessive.

571.—Government are informed by the Postal authorities that only one complaint has been received in 1928, and that the Goalpara Bazar Branch was opened in consequence of this complaint.

572.—Yes. The Post office in the Goalpara Bazar is a no-delivery branch office and performs the ordinary functions of branch offices of such status.

573.—Government are informed by the Postal authorities that no complaint have been received by them on this subject.

574.—No enquiry seems needed. Government will send these proceedings to the proper authorities.

### **Re holidays for Middle English Schools**

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

575. Will Government be pleased to state whether they consider the desirability of equalising the number of holidays of Middle English Schools with those of High English Schools in view of the fact that the classes of Middle English Schools constitute the four lower classes of High English Schools and the teachers in most of the schools are overworked for want of adequate staff ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

575.—The point raised by the hon. member will be considered by Government.

**Re provision of unemployed youths in the printing business of the Province**

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

576. Are Government aware that many unemployed youths have been provided in the printing business of the province ?

577. (a) Is it a fact that Government decided to train up some unemployed youths in the Government Press at Shillong ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state, how many youths up till now have been trained in the Government Press and how many of them provided and where ?

578. Are Government aware that there has been abnormal rise in the price of paper since the last contracts for printing of Government forms were concluded with various presses of the province ?

579. Will Government be pleased to state to what extent the price of paper has gone up since the said contracts were made ?

580. Do Government propose to reconsider the rates in order to protect the infant industry of the province ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

576.—Government have no information.

577. (a) & (b)—A scheme for the training of 12 apprentices in the art of printing in the Government Press at Shillong at an allowance of Rs. 10 per mensem each was sanctioned in 1936, but on account of retrenchment it could not be put into effect.

578 & 579.—Government are aware that there has been a rise in the cost of imported paper but do not know exactly to what extent.

580.—No. Government are not satisfied that there are sufficient grounds for reconsideration of the rates already accepted.

**Total number of Schools in Tea Gardens**

KUMAR AJIT NARAYAN DEV asked :

581. (a) Are Government aware that the number of schools in Assam for the education of the children of the tea garden labourers is inadequate ?

(b) Do Government contemplate to open more schools for them ?

582. Will Government be pleased to state the following :—

(i) Total number of Tea gardens in Assam ?

(ii) Total number of Tea garden labourers ?

(iii) Total number of schools in Tea garden areas in Assam ?

(iv) The language used as the medium of teaching in Tea gardens ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

581. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes, gradually as funds and circumstances permit. In the current year's budget provision has been made to convert a "B" class school into "A" class and to open eight new "B" class schools on tea gardens.

582. (i)—Eleven hundred and three.

(ii)—Over a million.

(iii)—In 1936-37—

Assam Valley	...	...	...	...	46
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Surma Valley	...	...	...	...	56
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(iv)—It is generally Assamese in the Assam Valley and Bengali in the Surma Valley though there are cases of Urdu, Santhali, etc.

**Grant of stipends to students for training in the Kachrapara E.B.Ry. and Jamalpur E.I.Ry. Mechanical and Electrical Training Schools**

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

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

(a) Whether there are any students from Assam in the Kachrapara E. B. R. and Jamalpur E. I. R., Mechanical and Electrical Training Schools ?

(b) If so, are they receiving any stipends from the Assam Government ?

(c) If not, do Government propose to grant some stipends to some youths of the Province for receiving training in the said schools so that they may qualify themselves for Railway Service ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

583. (a)—Government have no information .

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—The question of sending Assam students to Kachrapara school is under correspondence with the Government of Bengal and the Railway authorities. Government would like to await the results of their correspondence before taking up the suggestion as regards the other school.

**Introduction of the system of accelerated promotion in the Police Department**

SRIJUT BELI RAM DAS asked :

584. Will Government be pleased to state when the system of accelerated promotion was first introduced in the Police Department ?

585. Will Government please state whether the principle of accelerated promotion has been extended to other departments of Government ?

586. Is Government aware that this accelerated promotion was highly resented in a meeting of the police officers at Jorhat ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

584.—In December, 1936.

585.—No.

586.—A resolution against it was carried at the Assam Police Conference in 1935 by a majority of 16 to 11.

**The petition from Srijut Ratneswar Borua, Sub-Inspector of Police, for re-instating to his former post**

**SRIJUT BELI RAM DAS** asked :

587. Has Government received any petition from Srijut Ratneswar Borua, Sub-Inspector of Police, pensioner, at Gauhati, requesting Government to re-instate him in his former post or to grant him full pension ?

588. Is Government aware that this petition was made only when his case against the Secretary of State for India for aforesaid purposes was dismissed by the court in the preliminary hearing ?

589. Do Government propose to consider his case favourably ?

**THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA** replied :

587 & 588.—No such petition has been received since the disposal of his suit against the Secretary of State.

589.—Does not arise.

**Hostel Buildings of the Sibsagar Government High School**

**SRIJUT BHUBAN CHANDRA GOGOI** asked :

590. Is Government aware of the wretched condition of the Hostel buildings of the Sibsagar Government High School ?

591. Is Government aware that these buildings have practically no plinth at all, and keep very damp during the rains, and affect seriously the health of the inmates ?

592. Will Government be pleased to consider the question of improvement of these buildings ?

**THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED** replied :

590.—Yes.

591.—Yes.

592.—Yes, when funds are available.

**Muslim population of Lakhai Thana in Sylhet District**

**MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY** asked :

593. Is Government aware that educationally the Muslim population of Lakhai Thana in the district of Sylhet is very backward in comparison with the people of the other Thanas of the Sylhet district ?

594. Is Government aware that in the whole of the Lakhai Thana there is not a single Muslim graduate, who had been provided in any Government post ?

595. Is Government aware that there is only one Madrasa at Katihara under Lakhai, requiring immediate aid ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

593.—No.

594.—No.

595.—No, but Government are prepared to accept the hon. member's assurance to this effect.

**Number of Ministerial appointments held by members of different communities in the Executive Engineer's Office, Sylhet**

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY asked :

596. Will Government be pleased to state the number of the Ministerial appointments held by members of the different communities with their pay in the Executive Engineer's Office, Sylhet, and other mufassil offices under his control.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

596.—The information is furnished in the statement below.—

Name of office	No. of clerks	Community to which belongs	Pay	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5

**A.—ACCOUNTANT AND ACCOUNTS CLERK APPOINTED BY THE COMPTROLLER, ASSAM**

1. Office of the Executive Engineer, Sylhet Division.	2	Hindus—Surma Valley—2.	Rs.	These appointments are borne on a provincial cadre and are under the Comptroller, Assam.
			One on 170	
			One on 100	

**B.—DRAWING BRANCH ESTABLISHMENT APPOINTED BY THE CHIEF ENGINEER, ASSAM**

2. Office of the Executive Engineer, Sylhet Division.	3	Hindus—Surma Valley—2.	Rs.	These appointments are made by the Chief Engineer, Assam, but are borne on a Provincial cadre.
			One on 60	
			One on 50	
		Muslim—1 ...	One on 40	

Name of office	No. of clerks	Community to which belongs	Pay	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5

## C.—APPOINTMENTS MADE BY THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

1. Office of the Executive Engineer, Sylhet Division.	10	Hindus—Surma Valley—6.	Rs.	
			One on	150
			One on	120
			One on	100
			One on	95
			One on	94
2. Office of the Subdivisional Officer, Public Works Department, North Sylhet Buildings Subdivision.	2	Muslims—3 ... Others—1(a) ...	One on	82
			Three on	40
			One on	100
3. Office of the Subdivisional Officer, Public Works Department, North Sylhet Roads Subdivision.	2	Hindu—Surma Valley—1.	Rs.	
			One on	100
			Special	10
			pay.	
4. Office of the Subdivisional Officer, Public Works Department, Maulvi-bazar Subdivision.	2	Muslim—1 ...	One on	40
Total ...	16		Rs.	
			One on	35
			Special	10
			pay.	

(a) Bengali Hindu (native of Bengal.)

**Ezahar lodged before the Gauhati Railway Police against the Gauhati Station Master**

MR. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN asked :

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

- (a) Whether any Ezahar was lodged before the Gauhati Railway Police against the Gauhati Station Master in July last ?
- (b) Whether any proceedings under section 420 or 417, Indian Penal Code, were drawn against the said Station Master ?

598. Is it a fact that the case was withdrawn by the complainant on the assurance of the Traffic-Manager that the said Station Master would be transferred and that he would pay Rs.11 to the Gauhati Gausala ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

597. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No charge sheet was submitted as the parties concerned compromised the case.

598.—Yes.

**Junior Madrasa classes attached to the Middle English School at Kakajan**

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI asked :

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

- (a) Whether the Junior Madrasa Classes attached to the Middle English School at Kakajan, Jorhat, has been made permanent as recommended by the Director of Public Instruction last year ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the house attached to the school for the Junior Madrasa Classes has recently been dismantled ?
- (c) What arrangement, if any, is going to be made to replace the house by a permanent structure ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

599. (a)—No.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The matter is receiving consideration. At present the classes are being held in an unused room of the Middle English School hostel.

**Number of Veterinary Dispensaries with their locations and staffs in the Dhubri Subdivision**

SRIJUT RUPNATH BRAHMA asked :

600. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of veterinary dispensaries with their locations and staff in the Dhubri subdivision in the district of Goalpara ?

- (b) Whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the burning demand for veterinary dispensaries in the northern part of the Dhubri subdivision, viz., Bijni, Sidli, Kokrajhar and Gossaigaon circles where cattle are being swept away every year in thousands by cattle epidemics for want of treatment ?
- (c) Whether Government propose to contribute sufficient grants for opening at least two more veterinary dispensaries at Sidli and Kokrajhar ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

600.(a)—There are three Veterinary dispensaries in the Dhubri subdivision, viz., at Dhubri, at Bilashipara and at Sukchar, each in charge of one Veterinary Assistant Surgeon.

(b)—There is demand for more Veterinary dispensaries all over the province, and a scheme for reorganisation of the Veterinary Department is now under the consideration of Government.

(c)—Government will consider the proposal if and when submitted by the Local Board concerned.

#### **Total income and expenditure of the excluded and partially excluded areas in Assam**

SRIJUT SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA asked :

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

- (a) The total income of the excluded and partially excluded areas in Assam ?
- (b) The total expenditure of the excluded and partially excluded areas in Assam ?
- (c) The total income and expenditure of Shillong, the portion of which is under the Reformed Constitution ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

601.(a)&(b)—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to starred question No.4 asked by Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua at the present session. The same difficulty arose in this case also and Government abandoned the attempt.

(c)—The hon. member is referred to reply given to question No.486 asked by Srijut Beli Ram Das at the present session.

#### **Visit of Hon'ble Chief Minister to Sorbhog**

SRIJUT GHANASHYAM 1 / 3 asked :

602.(a) Did the Hon'ble Chief Minister visit Sorbhog to arbitrate upon a personal matter on the 21st September, 1937 ?

(b) If so, to what effect ?

603. Did he pass then through Sarupeta station where Government have spent no less than Rs.14,000 to relieve the distress of the scarcity stricken people ?

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

- (i) Quantity of land disposed of and the amount received by such disposal under the colonisation scheme that was adopted some time back by Government, in the Barpeta subdivision ?
- (ii) Total expenditure incurred by Government including pay and allowances of officials so employed ?

605. Is it a fact that the local authorities have not been informed yet as to the remission of land revenue to be granted by Government, for the year 1937-38 and as such the mauzadars are realising land revenue for the same in full causing thereby immense hardships to the poor ryots ?

606. If the answer to question 605 is in the affirmative, does the Hon'ble Minister in charge propose to communicate at once to those concerned to stay collections until such orders of remission of land revenue are passed ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

602.(a)—The Hon'ble Chief Minister did not visit Sorbhog to " arbitrate upon a personal matter " but was compelled to undertake the journey for a peaceful solution of a disputed question likely to inflame communal passions leading to the disturbance of the peace and tranquillity of the Province and the good feeling that exists between the Hindus and Moslems.

That question was ventilated on the floor of the House and the gravity of the situation can be realised by the fact that two hon. members of the House, Messrs. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed and Kedarmal Brahmin accompanied him from Gauhati to use their influence towards an amicable settlement. The hon. questioner also did the Chief Minister the courtesy of meeting him at the Sorbhog Inspection Bungalow and discussing the ' personal matter ' and the question of famine relief in Barpeta subdivision.

(b)—The settlement desired by all sections of the people did not materialise as one of the party stated that he had already placed his papers with his lawyers at Gauhati and that he wanted the matter decided by the Civil Court.

603.—Yes, he did pass through Sarupeta station, where a big crowd urged the necessity for further relief. Government had started relief measures on 10th September and the Chief Minister had verbally instructed the Deputy Commissioner and Subdivisional Officer of Barpeta, who were with him at Sorbhog to start and increase *test relief works* where necessary.

604.(i) and (ii)—The hon. member is referred to the replies given to question No.710(b) and (d) and (e) asked by Srijut Kameswar Das, M.L.A., at the last session of the Assembly.

605.—The hon. member is referred to Government resolution No.3829-R., dated 22nd November 1937, published in the *Assam Gazette*, dated 24th November 1937 at page 1853.

606.—Does not arise.

**Proposal for publication of advertisements for Government contracts and Posts in vernacular language in Provincial Vernacular Newspapers**

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

607. Is the Hon'ble Chief Minister aware that advertisements for Government contracts and posts published in the *Assam Gazette* do not generally reach the general public and a few English knowing towns people are benefited thereby ?

608. If so, do Government propose to publish all advertisements for Government contracts and posts in Vernacular Language in Provincial Vernacular Newspapers ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

607 & 608.—A knowledge of English is essential for all posts advertised in the *Assam Gazette*. The question, therefore, of publishing such advertisements in the vernaculars does not arise. Advertisements for Government contracts are published in the *Assam Gazette* in the case of big projects only. Contract documents and the notices calling for tenders are published in English only, as the expenditure involved in publishing such documents and notices in the different vernaculars would not be inconsiderable.

**Re counting of seniority in the cases of Officers of the Provincial Executive Service and the Subordinate Executive Service**

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

609. (a) Is it a fact that in the quarterly Civil List, the dates of birth are given only in the cases of officers of the Provincial executive service and the subordinate executive service ?

(b) If the answer is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reason for not showing the same in the cases of all other services ?

610. Will Government be pleased to state how the seniority of the Provincial executive service men is counted, whether—from the date of confirmation or from the date of appointment ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied ?

609. (a)—No. They are shown in the case of officers of the Department of Agriculture as well.

(b)—This distinction is only a matter of convention. Actually, it is unnecessary to show the dates of birth in the Civil List in the case of any officers, since they are shown against all of them in the History of Services.

610.—The hon. member is referred to letter No.2928-40-A., dated the 3rd July 1909, and sub-paragraph 2 of rule 1, Part B, of the Assam Civil Service Rules, copies of which are placed on the library table. Seniority normally counts from the date of appointment.

**Memorial from the Vaccination Sub-Inspectors re increment of their pay**

BABU DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI asked :

611. (a) Has Government received any memorial from the Vaccination Sub-Inspectors recruited in 1927 ?

(b) If so, what action if any has Government taken on the memorial ?

612. Is it a fact that they received no increment from 1927-1936 and the period so covered has not been taken into consideration in counting their services ?

613. (a) Did Government give them hopes that they would be converted into rural sanitary inspectors with better prospects ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to give effect to the said scheme now ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

611. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The memorials received are under consideration.

612.—Yes. Under Fundamental Rule 22(b) previous temporary service does not count when a temporary officer is made permanent.

613. (a)—The Director of Public Health was informed in 1930 that the then Government had under consideration a scheme for the training of the existing vaccination staff in public health duties and converting it into a staff of rural sanitary inspectors on increased pay. The scheme however did not eventuate.

(b)—The whole question of the reorganization of the Public Health Department is at present under the consideration of Government.

#### Death roll from Malaria in this Province

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

614. Are Government aware that the death rate from Malaria is very heavy in this province and that a large part of our agricultural labour is wasted by this disease during the season ?

615. Will Government please state—

(a) Whether Government have formulated any scheme of rural sanitation with particular reference for the ravages of Malaria ?

(b) If so, will they publish it for the information of the members of this House ?

(c) What steps are Government taking to combat Malaria ?

616. Do Government propose to make a Malaria survey in this province ?

617. Do Government propose to consider the question of training the Vaccination Sub-Inspectors in rural sanitation and utilise their services in the cause of public health ?

618. Do Government propose to take up cultivation of Quinine and Cinchona within the province for their cheaper distribution ?

619. Do Government realise the urgency of the whole matter with a view to launching upon immediate action ?

620. Will Government please state :—

(a) How many Vaccination Sub-Inspectors are there under the Assam Government ?

(b) What is the working season for vaccination ?

(c) Whether Government propose to give this vaccination staff, training in rural sanitation and utilise their services for that purpose as well ?

621. Will Government be pleased to state the number of people who died of malaria in 1934, 1935 and 1936 in the Karimganj subdivision ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

614.—Yes.

615. (a), (b) and (c)—Schemes for combating malaria have been in force for many years. Besides the treatment afforded in hospitals and dispensaries (including Public Health Department dispensaries) quinine reinforced cinchona tablets, etc., are sold through the agency of Post Offices and other agencies and quinine and cinchona febrifuge is distributed free to indigent patients in all districts. Research on malaria in Assam is being conducted by the Assam Medical Research Society who also carry out malaria surveys in selected areas and deal with antilarval control measures. Annual classes on malariology are also held by this Society.

The hon. member will find full information as regards malarial work in Chapters VII and VIII of the Annual Public Health Report.

616.—Malaria surveys are at present made wherever necessary.

617.—The whole question of the reorganization of the Public Health Department is at present under the consideration of Government and the question of training Vaccination Sub-Inspectors in rural sanitation work will be considered in that connection.

618.—The matter is under consideration and an expert appointed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research is visiting Assam this month to visit the sites of the existing experimental cinchona plantations.

619.—Government are fully aware of the position.

620. (a)—Thirty.

(b)—The winter season.

(c)—See reply to question 617 above.

621.—No statistics of deaths for malaria are available. Deaths from malaria are included under the head "fevers".

### **Erosion of the eastern part of the Barpeta Town by Nakhandia river**

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS asked :

622. Are Government aware that the eastern part of the Barpeta town specially near the Bilartarihaty and the new Municipal Market is being threatened by the erosion of the Nakhandia river?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

622.—No. Government are informed that there is no perceptible erosion due to the Nakhandia river, and that the main river is still about a furlong off the road-bund which forms the eastern boundary of the town.

### **Special and ordinary meetings of the Dibrugarh Local Board held on 6th April 1937**

SRIJUT LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH asked :

623. Will the Hon'ble Minister of Local Self-Government be pleased to enquire and state whether the special and ordinary meetings of Dibrugarh Local Board held on 6th April 1937 were convened at 10 days' notice as required by the Statutory Orders under Local Self-Government Act?

624. Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister and the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Division been drawn to the note headed "Local Board address to Governor: Validity of the meeting questioned" that appeared in the *Times of Assam* of the 17th April 1937?

625. Is it a fact that the Commissioner is required to see that the proceedings of the meetings of the Local Boards are carried on in accordance with law ?

626. Will the Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the Commissioner investigated into the matter and passed the proceedings of the above meeting as valid ?

627. Is it a fact that no notices were issued to three members of the Dibrugarh Local Board about the meeting of 6th April 1937 and that in that special meeting "Election of the Vice-Chairman of the Board" was one of the items of agenda and one of those three members wanted to stand as a candidate for this office ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

623—627.—The hon. member is referred to the replies to the similar questions asked by him at the last session of the Assembly. Government have since been informed that the proceedings of the meetings held on the 6th April have again been confirmed at a meeting of the Board held on the 13th December 1937. The whole matter is at present under the consideration of the Commissioner.

**Income of the district of Sylhet under different heads for the last three years**

MAULAVI ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY asked :

628. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (1) The income of the district of Sylhet for the years 1934-35, 1935-36 and 1936-37 under the heads—Land Revenue, Excise, Forest, Fisheries, Registration and Administration of Justice ?
- (2) The net expenditure of the district for the same years under the heads—Education, Medical, Agriculture, Police and Administration of Justice ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

628.—The figures for 1936-37 are given below. Those for earlier years are not available.

					Rs.
(1)—Land Revenue...	...	...	...	...	10,64,977
Excise	...	...	...	...	2,81,461
Forests	...	...	...	...	1,00,011
Fisheries	...	...	...	...	1,36,928
Registration	...	...	...	...	99,794
Administration of Justice...	...	...	...	...	72,887
(2)—Education	...	...	...	...	10,82,697
Medical	...	...	...	...	1,64,994
Agriculture	...	...	...	...	72,777
Police	...	...	...	...	6,24,014
Administration of Justice...	...	...	...	...	4,26,814

**Counting of the services of certain clerks of the Judges Office, Sylhet towards pension**

MAULAVI NAZIRUDDIN AHMED asked :

629. Will Government be pleased to state the number of clerks appointed in the office of the District Judge, Sylhet, during the period from 1st January 1922, to 1st October 1925, who were not allowed the privilege of counting their probationary period of service towards increment, though they were allowed to count that service towards pension ?

630. Will Government be pleased to state whether the persons appointed before 31st December 1922, and after 1st October 1925, in the same establishment are allowed to count their temporary and officiating service towards increment ?

631 Will Government be pleased to state whether the persons appointed during the period from 1st January 1922, to 1st October 1925, are getting less pay in proportion to their length of service than the persons appointed after them from the 1st October 1925 ?

632. Do Government propose to remove the anomaly if any and allow those persons to count their probationary period of service towards increment and save them from the pecuniary loss arising out of a different treatment in the same establishment ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

629.—Fifteen, of which 8 were appointed direct as clerks and 7 as probationers. Before the 1st April 1928 probationers were not included in the ordinary clerical cadre of a district but were allowed a subsistence allowance of Rs.25 up to 1923 and thereafter Rs.30 till 31st March 1928 after which date they were brought on to the regular district cadre.

630.—Government as a measure of economy in 1923 in the retrenchment campaign passed an order which affected not only the clerks of the office of the District Judge, Sylhet, but all establishments in the province that their officiating or temporary service would not count for increment. This order was withdrawn from 1st October 1925.

631.—This is so in the case of clerks directly recruited but not in the case of probationers.

632.—The answer is in the negative as the order referred to in reply to question No.630 above was issued as a measure of retrenchment, and any cancellation of previous orders will lead to innumerable complications and will increase cost considerably.

**Grants-in-aid to Middle English and Middle Vernacular Schools**

BABU HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI asked :

633. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education please state—

(a) The funds (Provincial or Local Board) from which grants-in-aid are given to Middle English Schools and Middle Vernacular Schools respectively ?

(b) Whether the Middle Vernacular Schools are allowed to open English classes of the standard of Middle English Schools ?

- (c) What would be the status of the Middle Vernacular Schools opening English classes of the Middle English standard ?  
 (d) Whether those combined schools are entitled to receive grants-in-aid both from the Provincial and Local Board Funds ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

633.(a)—Both from Provincial and Local Board funds ; but Local Boards are not permitted to add to the list of Middle English Schools now aided by them without Government sanction.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Middle Vernacular.

(d)—Yes.

### **Construction of water-closet at the Cotton College, Gauhati**

MR. NABA KUMAR DATTA asked :

634. Is Government aware of the inconvenience suffered by the teaching staff of the Cotton College for the want of a water-closet for them ?

635. Do Government propose to take immediate steps for the construction of such a water-closet in the said College ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

634.—Yes.

635.—The whole question of provision of modern sanitation for the College is at present under consideration.

### **Appointment of an additional Lecturer in History in the Cotton College, Gauhati**

MR. NABA KUMAR DATTA asked :

636. Will Government please state :—

- (a) If it is a fact that the Calcutta University has several times recommended the appointment of an additional Lecturer in History to the existing staff of the Cotton College ?  
 (b) whether the appointment of an additional Lecturer in History for the Cotton College will be made without further delay ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

636.(a)—Yes.

(b)—The matter will be considered when funds permit.

**Number of tribal and depressed class students in the Raha High English School, Nowgong**

SRIJUT DHIRSINGH DEURI asked :

637. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education be pleased to state how many tribal and depressed class students are there in the Raha High English School, Nowgong, Assam ?

638. Is it a fact that the percentage of the tribal and depressed class students is in great majority in that particular high school in comparison with any other high school in the Assam Valley ?

639.(a) Is it a fact that the said school is the only one that is situated in the western part of the district of Nowgong inhabited mostly by tribal and backward people ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to help the institution with a substantial maintenance grant in order to facilitate the secondary education of the depressed class and the tribal people ?

640. Is it a fact that the present grant of Rs.100 a month is quite inadequate to maintain such a school in such a locality ?

641.(a) Is the Hon'ble Minister for Education aware of the fact that the Managing body of the school submitted an application in the month of August 1937, for grant-in-aid of Rs.1,000 for the building of the said high school ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take any action on it ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

637.—The information is not available but an enquiry is being made.

638.—Government has no information but are enquiring.

639.(a)—Yes.

(b)—A grant of Rs.100 a month has recently been sanctioned.

640.—Government are aware that the school needs a larger grant.

641.(a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes, when funds are available.

**Provision of Provident Fund for the Teachers of Aided Middle English Schools**

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

642.(a) Will Government be pleased to state if there is any provision of provident fund for the Teachers of Aided Middle English Schools ?

(b) If not, does Government propose to consider the desirability of extending the benefit of provident fund to the Teachers of Aided Middle English Schools also ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASAR MD. WAHEED replied :

642.(a)—No.

(b)—Government admit the desirability but regret that nothing can be done in this respect until the finance of the province improve.

**Quantity of molasses and bye-product of Sugar Factory available in Assam**

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

643. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge please state—

(a) The quantity of molasses, the bye-product of sugar factory available in Assam at present ?

(b) The average fermentable sugar-contents of the molasses referred to in question 643(a) above ?

644. Will Government be pleased to state the increase or decrease of area under sugarcane cultivation in Assam from 1933-34 to 1936-37 ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

643. (a)—As there is no Sugar Factory in Assam, no molasses are available.

(b)—Average specimen molasses contain forty per cent. cane sugar and thirty per cent. invert sugar as *glucose*.

644. Sugarcane area has increased from 35,400 acres in 1933-34 to 38,710 acres in 1936-37.

**Tezpur Government High School**

MAULAVI BADARUDDIN AHMED asked :

645. Will Government please state the number of Muslim students reading in the Tezpur Government High School ?

646. Is it a fact that almost all the Muslim boys come from the interior of the Tezpur subdivision ?

647. Are Government aware that there is no hostel for the Muslim boys attached to the school ?

648. Have Government made any arrangement for the lodging of the Muslim boys of this school ?

649. Do Government propose to construct a hostel for the Muslim boys of this school ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

645.—Thirty-two.

646.—No.

647.—Yes.

648 and 649.—No. Government do not consider the establishment of a Muhammadan hostel at Tezpur an immediate need as most of the Muhammadan pupils live with their parents or guardians.

When an enquiry was made last year it was found that only two Muhammadan boys attended the school from a distance of three miles or more.

**Grant-in-aid to the Private Middle English School in the colonisation area**

MAULAVI BADARUDDIN AHMED asked :

650. Are Government aware of a Private Middle English School in the colonisation area at Dalgaon and another at Sipajhar in the Mangaldai subdivision ?

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

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

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

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD.  
WAHEED replied :

650.—Yes.

651.—No.

652.—No.

653.—The case of the schools will be considered when funds are available.

### **P. R. High School at Goalpara**

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI asked :

654. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education please state—

(a) When the P. R. High School at Goalpara was first started ?

(b) For how long it has been under purely Government management ?

(c) How long ago the school has been furnished with a Hindu hostel and a Garo hostel ?

655. Is it a fact that the school has not got a hostel for Muhammadan students ?

656. Is it a fact that the necessity of a Muhammadan hostel at Goalpara was brought to the notice of the authorities and the Assistant to Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education also remarked in his Inspection notes, urging the necessity of such a hostel there ?

657. Is it a fact that there is a persistent demand for a Muhammadan hostel at Goalpara ?

658. (a) Is it a fact that there was an estimate prepared for a hostel building for Muhammadan students at Goalpara sometime ago ?

(b) If so, why this project has been abandoned ?

659. (a) Do Government propose to build such a hostel at Goalpara soon—?

(b) If not, why not ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD.  
WAHEED replied :

654. (a)—In 1899.

(b)—From 1st January 1914.

(c)—The school was provided with a Garo hostel in 1921 and a Hindu hostel in 1925.

655.—Yes.

656.—The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative ; but on a representation from the Secretary of the Anjuman received as far back as 1921 urging the construction of a hostel for the accommodation of the pupils of the Junior Madrasa and the Moslem students of the Goalpara Government High School, a hostel for those schools was provided in 1921.

The Assistant to the Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education endorsed the opinion of the Headmaster that a small Muhammadan hostel was a need of the school.

657.—Government have no information.

658. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

659. (a)—No.

(b)—The necessity for such a hostel does not appear to be urgent and imperative at present.

The existing hostel is not fully utilised.

**Inclusion of the Book "History of Assam," in the M. A. History course of the Calcutta University.**

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

660. Is Government aware that History of Assam is not taught in the M. A. History course of the Calcutta University as a special subject like the History of other communities (such as the Sikhs, the Maharattas, etc.) of India ?

661. Do Government propose to move the University in this direction ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

660.—Yes.

661.—Government will have the hon. member's suggestion examined with reference to the extent of the literature on the subject and will move the University if, on examination, a good case can be made out.

**Names of members of the Assam Text Book Committee**

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

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

- (a) The names of members of the Assam Text Book Committee and the date of its composition ?
- (b) The names of members of the committee to select Assamese text books, and the principle adopted and consideration involved in the selection of the aforesaid members ?
- (c) The names of the Assamese books with their authors prescribed in different schools of Assam Valley ?
- (d) The number of meetings of the Committee its constitution ?
- (e) The procedure prescribed in selection of text books by the Committee ?

663. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the rules of the Committee, if any ?

664. Is Government aware that there is a widespread resentment amongst the public of Assam Valley Districts over the composition of the Committee and the selection of Assamese text books ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

662. (a)—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to question No. 134(a) asked by Srijut Rajendranath Barua at this session of the Assembly.

The Committee was constituted under Government Notification No. 2248-E., dated the 27th July 1935.

(b)—The Assamese members of the Committee—Obviously they are the proper people to select the Assamese books.

(c)—The hon. member is referred to the list of prescribed text books published annually in the *Assam Gazette*.

(d)—Two meetings have been held and another will be held on 22nd and 23rd December 1937.

(e)—The hon. member is referred to the rules of the Text Book Committee.

663.—The hon. member is referred to the rules under section 79, as amended by correction slip No. 131, of the Education Department Rules and Orders, 1930. A copy of these rules and orders is available in the Library.

664.—No, but Government see no reason why in future the Assembly should not elect the non-official members if there is a general desire that this should be done.

#### **Spread of secondary and higher education among the Muslims and others in Garo Hills**

MAULANA ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

665. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The steps taken by Government for the spread of secondary and higher education among the Muslims and others in the district of Garo Hills ?

(b) The number of Middle English, Middle Vernacular and High English Schools in the district ?

(c) Whether Government propose to start a Middle English School at Mahendraganj, Garo Hills, for the education of the public there ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

665. (a)—Government are considering the question of opening one high school class in the Government Middle English School at Tura from 1st March 1938.

(b)—There are 7 Middle English Schools and one Middle English Madrasa in the district but no High English or Middle Vernacular Schools.

(c)—There is a Middle English Madrasa at Mahendraganj which is in receipt of a monthly grant-in-aid of Rs.15. There appears to be no necessity for a Middle English School there.

#### **Holding of an all-India Convention for Physical culture**

KUMAR AJIT NARAYAN DEV asked :

666. Is it a fact that an all-India Convention for physical culture is going to be convened by the Government of Madras at the instance of the Yuvarajah of Pithapuram ?

667. Is it a fact that a letter of invitation was sent by the Yuvarajah of Pithapuram to the Government of Assam ?

668. Do Government propose to send delegates to the Convention ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

666.—The Conference appears to have been convened by the Yuvarajah.

667.—Yes.

668.—The hon. member has very kindly consented to represent Assam at the Conference.

**Resolutions passed in the 12th session of the Assam Sanskrit Chatra Sanmilani held at Gauhati**

SRIJUT JOGENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

669. Has Government received a copy of the proceedings containing the resolutions passed in the 12th session of the Assam Sanskrit Chatra Sanmilani held in the month of November 1937 at Gauhati, under the presidency of the Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Circle ?

670. Has the attention of Government been drawn to the resolutions Nos. 5(Ka) and (Kha), 6, 8 and 13 of the Sanmilani passed this year ?

671. Do Government propose to give effect to the aforesaid resolutions ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

669.—No such resolutions can be traced.

670.—No.

671.—Does not arise.

**Number of Muhammadan teachers in the Government Aided High English Schools**

MAULAVI ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY asked :

672. Are Government aware that the number of Muhammadan teachers excluding the Anglo Persian or Anglo-Arabic teachers in the Government Aided High English Schools is meagre and is disproportionate to the number of Muhammadan boys in these Schools ?

673. If the answer to question 672 above is in the affirmative, do Government propose to take proper steps for removing this disparity by providing adequate representation of Muhammadan teachers in these Schools ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

672.—Yes.

673.—Yes.

**Re higher education for the girls in the South Bank of the Goalpara district**

MAULANA ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

674. (a) Will Government please state what steps they have taken for the higher education of the girls, in the south bank of the Goalpara district ?

(b) Do Government propose to take measures to create facilities for the higher education for females in that bank ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :—

674. (a)—There are 2 Government aided girls' Middle English Schools on the South Bank of the Brahmaputra in the Goalpara District.

(b)—Not unless public efforts are first made for the purpose.

**Amount of Industrial Loan granted during the last five years**

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

675. Will Government be pleased to state the amount of Industrial Loan granted during the last five years ?

676. Will Government be pleased to place on the table a statement showing the names of the parties, nature of the industries and the amount of the loan granted to each parties ?

677. Do Government propose to consider the question of adopting a more liberal and effective policy of granting such loans ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

675.—Rupees 6,846.

676.—A statement of industrial loans granted during the last 5 years (for 1932-33 to 1936-37) is given below—

Name of borrowers	Date of sanction	Amount	Purpose
		Rs.	
1. Maulavi Arab Ali Barbhuya.	23rd February 1934.	200	For extension of weaving factory.
2. Srijut Ghanasyam Kakoti, Dighaldari, Nowgong.	21st December 1934.	146	For extension of Sericultural farm.
3. Maulavi Fazlur Rahman, Sylhet.	31st May 1935	500	For extension of his engineering works.
4. Mrs. Hisibon alias Ka Hisi, Sylhet.	23rd September 1936.	6,000	For extension of her weaving factory.
		Total	6,846

677.—The rules for the grant of industrial loans have been relaxed and under the revised rules loans can be granted for the purchase of raw materials and *implements* and as a result, it is hoped that more applications will be forthcoming.

### Post of the Rural Reconstruction Officer, Assam

SRIJUT BHUBAN CHANDRA GOGOI asked :

678. (a) Is it a fact that Maulavi Fazlul Huq, Deputy Director of Agriculture has been appointed as the Rural Reconstruction Officer, Assam ?

(b) If so, who has been posted in his place ?

679. Will Government be pleased to state the necessary minimum technical qualification for the post of Deputy Director of Agriculture ?

680. Will Government be pleased to state the technical and academic qualification of the present officiating incumbent ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

678. (a)—Yes, temporarily.

(b)—Srijut Sarbananda Sarma, Agricultural Inspector, Jorhat, has been placed in charge of the Deputy Director of Agriculture's office for performing the current duties in addition to his own pending the selection by Government of Mr. Haque's successor.

679.—The minimum technical qualification necessary is a degree of an Agricultural College with a post-graduate training or an honours degree in Science from a University recognised by Government or its equivalent. This however does not apply to officers appointed by promotion in whose cases a Diploma in Agriculture from a recognised Agricultural College in India or abroad is considered sufficient.

680.—Does not arise in view of the reply to question 678(b).

### Post of the Rural Reconstruction Officer, Assam

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SARMAH asked :

681. Will Government be pleased to state (a) whether it is a fact that Maulavi Fazlul Hoque Ahmed the Deputy Director of Agriculture has been transferred to Shillong as the Rural Reconstruction Officer, Assam, (b) If so, will Government be pleased to state who has been posted in the vacancy so created ?

682. Will Government please state (a) The technical and academical qualifications of the officer selected to fill up this post ?

(b) Is he going to be made permanent ? (c) If not, why qualified men of the Department were not given preference ?

683. Has Government any intention of bringing in an outsider to the post ?

684. Is it a principle with Government to promote to higher posts, senior officers with suitable qualifications, in preference to outsiders and raw men ?

685. Do Government recognise the L. Ag. diploma as a technical qualification eligible for posts in the Agricultural Department both in the superior and subordinate services ?

686. Is it a fact that the L. Ag. diploma holders in other provinces have been holding superior posts as Deputy Directors, Assistant Directors and other scientific Sectional Officers ?

687. (a) Did Government pay due consideration to such L. Ag. diploma holders of Assam, before filling up the vacancy created by the transfer of Maulavi Fazlul Hoque Ahmed ? (b) If not, why not ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

681. (a)—Yes, temporarily.

681 (b) and 682. (a)—The hon. member is referred to the replies given to similar questions asked by Srijut Bhuban Chandra Gogoi at this session of the Assembly.

682. (b) and (c)—These questions do not arise.

683.—No.

684.—Yes, when the vacancy is to be filled up by promotion.

685.—Yes, for promotion to the superior and for recruitment to the subordinate services.

686.—Government have no information.

687. (a) and (b)—The questions do not arise.

### **Abolition of the Final Jamat-i-ula Examination of the old Scheme Madrasa**

MAULAVI DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHOUDHURY asked :

688. Is it a fact that the final Jamat-i-ula Examination of the old Scheme Madrasa has been abolished by Government for the last few years ?

689. Will Government be pleased to state, when, how, and by whom the Jamat-i-ula Examination was abolished ?

690. Are Government aware of the fact that the Dars-i-Nizami which is popularly known as the old scheme system is popular with a large section of the Moslem community ?

691. Is the Hon'ble Minister of Education aware of the fact that the Moslem Education Advisory Committee of Bengal also strongly recommended for the retention of the old scheme Madrasa and the present Hon'ble Minister of Education was the most prominent member of that Committee ?

692. If so, do Government propose to reopen the Jamat-i-ula Examination at once and renew the grant-in-aid to those Madrasas which had been enjoying the grant-in-aid for the last many years ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

688.—It is not understood what is meant by the Jamat-i-ula Examination of the old scheme Madrasas. If the old first and second Madrasa Examinations are meant, the reply is in the affirmative.

689.—The old first and second Madrasa Examinations were abolished by Government in 1929 on the advice of a conference of representative Maulvis held at Sylhet in 1928 and in accordance with the recommendations of a Conference of representative Muhammadans and Departmental Officers held in 1928. These old examinations were abolished because the Madrasas teaching the old courses came under the scheme of the Middle School Leaving Certificate and scholarship Examination.

690.—Yes.

691.—Yes a limited number only.

692.—No. Madrasas taking groups I and V are eligible for grants at present.

### **Abolition of the New Scheme Madrasas and the revival of old type Madrasas**

MAULAVI MABARAK ALI asked :

693. (a) Is it a fact that the new scheme Madrasas are not wanted by the public ?

- (b) If so, do Government propose to give grant-in-aid to old type Madrasas ?  
 (c) If not why not ?  
 (d) Do Government propose to abolish new scheme Madrasas and turn them into old type Madrasas ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

693. (a)—No. They are very popular, as is proved by the fact that the number of Madrasas has increased from 3 in 1920-21 to 75 in 1931-32 and 112 in 1937-38.

- (b)—Does not arise  
 (c)—Does not arise.  
 (d)—No.

**Abolition of leaving certificate and scholarship examination for the boys of Class VI of Middle English Schools**

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

694. Does Government intend to abolish the leaving certificate and scholarship examination for the boys of class VI of Middle English Schools or introduce the same in both Middle English and High English Schools alike for boys of class VI ?

695. Will Government be pleased to state the number of scholarships awarded to successful boys in the Middle English scholarship examination in each of the two valleys ?

696. Do Government propose to increase the number of these scholarships in view of the increase in the number of boys sitting for this examinations ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

694.—The question is under consideration.

695.—The number of Middle English scholarships are as follows—

- |                                                                                                                                                 |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| (1) Ordinary Middle English scholarships ( <i>vide</i> rule 29, Part II, section 59 of the Rules and Orders).                                   | 13 |
| (2) Special Middle English scholarships for Muhammadans ( <i>vide</i> rule 1, Part III, section 59 of the Rules and Orders).                    | 8  |
| (3) Middle English scholarships for Backward Classes excluding Muhammadans ( <i>vide</i> rule 5, Part III, section 59 of the Rules and Orders). | 3  |
| (4) Middle English scholarships for Scheduled Castes ( <i>vide</i> correction slip No. 105 at page 256 of the Rules and Orders).                | 2  |

Total ...	26
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696.—This will be considered when the question of extending the examination to High Schools is decided.

At present no funds are available for an increase in the number of scholarships.

### **Closure of Maktab for Hindu holidays in Sunamganj subdivision**

MAULAVI DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHOUDHURY asked :

697. Is it a fact that the Maktab are compelled by the Sunamganj Local Board in the district of Sylhet to be closed for Hindu holidays ?

698. Is it a fact that the monthly salary-bill of the Chatak Maktab for the month of August 1937, has been stopped by the Sunamganj Local Board in the district of Sylhet, and that for the reason that the Secretary did not close the Maktab for the Monasha puja ?

699. Is it a fact that the Tols and Chatuspatis are not closed for Moslem holidays ?

700. If so, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state on what grounds Maktab are compelled to be closed for Hindu holidays ?

701. Does the Hon'ble Minister in charge propose to look into it and remove the grievances of the Moslem public ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

697.—No. A general holidays list is prepared for Maktab Primary Schools and in consideration of the fact that there are Hindu teachers and boys in some of the Maktab, a very limited number of Hindu holidays is allowed to be observed in Maktab.

698.—No. The bill has already been paid.

699.—Yes. There are, however, no Tols or Chatuspathies under the management of the Sunamganj Local Board. Moreover, in Tols there are no Moslem boys or teachers.

700.—The Maktab are not compelled to observe Hindu holidays. The grounds for inclusion of the Hindu holidays in the list have already been stated in reply to question No. 697.

701.—There is no grievance. The list of holidays is scrutinised and approved by the Board in which there is Muhammadan majority.

### **Disposal of a sum of Rs.50,000 set apart for primary education**

SRIJUT BELIRAM DAS asked :

702. Will Government be pleased to state how the sum of Rs.50,000 set apart for the primary education in the budget has been disposed of this year by Government ?

703. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of primary schools that have been allotted to each district to be taken up with this sum showing figures separately for each district ?

(b) The number of such schools that have been taken up or have been proposed to be taken up in the scheduled castes, backwards and tribal areas in each district ?

704. Is Government aware that there are numerous venture schools in these aforesaid areas run by the poor villagers of these communities ?

705. Do Government propose to make an enquiry into this matter and take up the primary schools run by these communities ?

706. Will Government be pleased to state as to how far this present Government have given special encouragement to these scheduled castes, backward and tribal communities in the matter of education in Assam ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

702 and 703.—The distribution has not yet been made as the report called for from the subdivisions have not all been received.

704.—Yes.

705.—The cases of these schools will be considered when the money is distributed.

706.—The hon. member is referred to the rules in the Education Department Rules and Orders regarding the provision of scholarships for backward and tribal communities.

### **Newspaper article *re* grievances of the vernacular teachers of the High English Schools**

MAULAVI DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHOUDHURY asked :

707. Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Education been drawn to the article headed by ভাষিকৃত শিক্ষক বৈতন, by Maulavi Nurul Haque—Editor of the Al-Islah, published in the *Jugabheri* dated the 13th September 1937 ?

708. If so, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state what steps he is taking to redress the grievances of the vernacular teachers of the High English Schools of this province ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

707.—Not until receipt of the question.

708.—None. Vernacular teachers in the High School cadre of the Assam Lower School Service are adequately paid.

### ***Re* University Enquiry Report**

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

709. Will Government be pleased to state what action it is taking in regard to the University Enquiry Report prepared by Mr. Cunningham ?

710.(a) Do Government propose to take immediate steps to establish a separate University for Assam ?

(b) If not, why not ?

711. Is it a fact that Sir Saiyid Muhammad Saadulla stated in a bulletin published by the Assamese Students' Welfare League, Calcutta, that a separate University for Assam could be established without incurring any heavy charge on the Provincial budget ?

712. Will Government be pleased to state whether the financial position of the Province has improved since Sir Saiyid Muhammad Saadulla made that statement ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

709.—None.

710.(a)—No.

(b)—Government consider that it is more important at present to devote the small sums at its disposal towards the extension of primary education and the removal of the illiteracy of the masses rather than to a project for a University.

711.—Government have no official information as to what Sir Saiyid Muhammad Saadulla stated, as a private individual, in the bulletin referred to.

712.—The hon. member will be able to judge this for himself when next year's budget is presented.

### **Arrangement to organise the faculty of Unani and Ayurvedic system of medicine under the Calcutta University**

MAULAVI DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHOUDHURY asked :

713. Are Government aware of the fact that the Government of Bengal and the Calcutta University are making arrangement to organise the Faculty of Unani and Ayurvedic System of medicine under the Calcutta University ?

714. If so, do Government propose to find out ways and means to open the Unani and Ayurvedic classes, at once, in the Sylhet Government Madrasa and Sanskrit College ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

713.—Government have no information.

714.—Does not arise.

### **Free medical aid to the teachers of Middle English Schools**

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

715. Will Government be pleased to extend the benefit of free medical aid to the teachers of Middle English Schools both aided and unaided in view of their extremely poor pay ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

715.—The reply is in the negative.

### **Number of Clerks in the amalgamated establishment of the District Judges Sylhet**

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI asked :

716. Will Government be pleased to state the total number of clerks in the amalgamated establishment of the District Judge of Sylhet, showing in detail the number and percentage of posts held by each community ?

717. Do Government propose to stop the recruitment from the over-represented communities and fill up the deficit number of under-represented communities by fresh recruitment ?

718. Will Government be pleased to state the total number of posts in the same establishment and the total number of those posts held by the members of the Muhammadan community ?

719. Do Government propose to select competent Muhammadan clerks from the lower grade to the selection grade posts, to make up the deficit if any in the selection grade posts ?

720. Are Government aware that there are a good number of competent Muhammadan clerks in the lower grade to be promoted to the selection grade posts ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

716.—There are 113 clerks in the amalgamated establishment of the District Judge, Sylhet.

The number and percentage of posts held by each community is shown below :—

	No. of posts held	Percentage of posts held
Muslims ... ..	35	31
Hindus (Surma Valley) ... ..	62	54.9
	(includes one Manipuri Hindu)	
Hindus (domiciled) ... ..	6	5.3
Hindus (not domiciled) ... ..	9	8
Others (Indian Christian) ... ..	1	.8

717.—Steps are taken to rectify such disparities whenever suitable members of the community in question are available. During the last 10 years, 54 appointments were made, of which 26 were Hindus, 26 Muhammadans, 1 Manipuri and 1 Indian Christian.

718.—The total number of posts is 113 of which 35 are held by Muhammadans.

719.—Initial appointments to the lower division are made on a communal basis, while in making promotions to the upper division or selection post due regard to seniority and merit as well disparity in communal representation is also considered.

720.—There are qualified Muhammadan clerks in the lower division, and the claims of such clerks are always considered at the time of promotion.

### Compulsory Primary Education in the Province

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

721. Will Government please state the steps Government are taking for advancing the cause of compulsory Primary Education in this Province ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

721.—Government are doing as much as their financial resources permit to extend primary education by making grants for this purpose to Local Bodies.

Compulsory primary education throughout the whole province is at present financially out of the question but Government hope that Local Bodies and particularly Municipalities will endeavour so far as possible to initiate schemes under the Act.

### Realisation of electric fee from the boarders of the Murarichand College hostels

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY asked :

722. (a) Is it a fact that Government realise electric fee from the boarders of the Murarichand College hostels in excess of what Government pay to the Electric Company ?

(b) If the answer is in the affirmative, do Government propose to reduce the rate of electric fee, to the extent of what Government has to pay or the cost of electric current to the Company ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

722. (a)—Ycs.

(b)—The matter is under consideration.

### **Clerks serving in the Government Schools and Colleges and Madrasas**

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

723. Will Government please state—

(a) Whether the clerks serving in the Government Schools, Colleges and Madrasas are entitled to enjoy full vacation and to absent themselves from duties during the period of vacation under the rules ?

(b) What arrangement is made by the Education Department for the conduct of the clerical duties during vacation time ?

(c) Whether the teacher placed in charge of the vacation duty of a school has any authority to demand an explanation from the clerk of the school for his absence from vacation duty or to recall him to vacation duty under his orders to perform official or private business ?

(d) If so, under what rules ?

(e) What are the leave rules of the clerks in the vacation Department ?

(f) Whether a clerk is treated as a member of vacation Department ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

723. (a)—Clerks of Government High and Normal Schools are entitled to full vacations.

Clerks of Government Colleges are allowed a summer vacation of not less than 6 weeks and a Puja vacation of not less than 15 days annually.

The clerk of the Government Madrasa is allowed 6 weeks vacation in the year.

(b)—The services of clerks in High and Normal Schools are not needed during the vacations. In Colleges, where there is more than one clerk, the clerks attend in turn as arranged by the Principal. In the Madrasa the teacher in charge does what clerical duties are necessary during the absence of the clerk.

(c)—A clerk may be recalled to vacation duty but not for private business.

(d)—Under Subsidiary Rule 243.

(e)—Fundamental Rules 81 and 82.

(f)—The clerks in Government High and Normal Schools, Government Madrasa and in Government Colleges belong to the vacation Establishment.

### Grants-in-aid to Madrasas in the Province

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED asked:

724. Will the Hon'ble Minister of Education please state—

- (a) The number of (i) Middle English Madrasas, (ii) High Madrasas and (iii) Senior Madrasas receiving Government aid in (A) Assam Valley and (B) Surma Valley?
- (b) The total amount of grants which is annually given to (i) Middle English Madrasas, (ii) High Madrasas and (iii) Senior Madrasas in Surma Valley?
- (c) The total amount of Grants which is annually given to (i) Middle English Madrasas, (ii) High Madrasas and (iii) Senior Madrasas in Assam Valley?
- (d) The percentage of total grants allotted to (i) Assam Valley and (ii) Surma Valley out of the grant sanctioned by the Legislative Assembly at the last budget session for special Muhammadan Education?
- (e) Whether Government aid to the Junior Madrasa at Gauhati has been reduced to Rs. 85 per month from Rs. 94 per month for the last two years?
- (f) Whether the present enrolment of the said Madrasa is in the neighbourhood of 150 and the Assistant Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Circle and the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Gauhati, have both recommended the increment of staff?
- (g) Whether the said Madrasa and other similar institutions in the Assam Valley are suffering in teaching for want of adequate grants?
- (h) Whether the Hon'ble Minister is aware that there is a widespread public demand for the increase of (i) Middle English Madrasas and (ii) the establishment of High Madrasas particularly at Rangiya?
- (iii) Whether the Hon'ble Minister proposes to (a) increase the Government aid in Assam Valley to Middle English Madrasas and (b) grant an adequate aid to the High Madrasa at Rangiya?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABL NASR MD. WAHEED replied:

724. (a), (b) and (c)—The information is given below—

Serial No.	Name of Division	Kinds of Madrasas	(a) Numbers of Madrasa	(b) and (c) Total amount of grant given annually
				Rs.
A	Assam Valley ...	(i) Middle English Madrasas.	27	13,884
		(ii) High Madrasa	1	1,020
		(iii) Senior Madrasa	1	1,200
B	Surma Valley ...	(i) Middle English Madrasas.	50	30,096
		(ii) High Madrasa	1	2,040
		(iii) Senior Madrasas	3	5,160

(d)— Recurring allotment Non-recurring allotment.

Assam Valley ... 39·3 per cent. 35·6

Surma Valley ... 60·7 per cent. 64·4

(e)—Yes.

(f)—Yes, but the enrolment in the Madrasa Section is 42 only.

(g)—No.

(h), (i), (ii) and (iii) — There is demand for reformed Madrasas and grants are given subject to provision of funds and each case is dealt with on its merit.

Applications have been received for a grant to Rangiya Madrasa. This case is still under consideration.

### **Allotment of a certain sum for the education of the depressed communities in Assam**

SRIJUT BELIRAM DAS asked :

725. Is Government aware that according to clause 9 of the Poona Pact a certain sum should have been set apart in the Provincial Budget for the education of the depressed communities of Assam ?

726. Do Government propose to take necessary steps to make some special provision for the education of the depressed communities as has been done in the other provinces ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

725.—Government are aware of clause 9 of the Poona Pact which deals with an agreement reached between the caste and scheduled caste Hindus as regards earmarking an adequate grant for the educational facilities of the scheduled castes. Government were not however a party to this agreement.

726.—Government will endeavour to provide adequate educational opportunities for the scheduled castes as well as for other communities which are backward in this respect.

### **Re Government aids to the Madrasas of the Province**

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY asked :

727. Will Government be pleased to state the names of the senior Madrasas of the Province, district by district, with the amount of Government aids that these Madrasas have received from Government in the course of the last 3 years 1935, 1936 and 1937 ?

728. Do Government propose to allot 2/3rd of the Government aid to the Sylhet district in consideration of the preponderance of the Muslim population in the district, and in consideration of a number of old and reputed Madrasas existing in the district ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

727.—The information is given below—

District	Names of Senior Madrasas	Amount of Government aid in		
		1935.	1936,	1937
Sylhet ...	Government Madrasa, Sylhet.	This is a Government institution.		
	(2) Aziria Aided Senior Madrasa.	90 per mensem,	104 per mensem,	115 per mensem.
	(3) Jhingabari Aided Senior Madrasa.	296 per mensem,	296 per mensem,	315 per mensem.
	(4) Deorial Un-aided Senior Madrasa.	...	...	...
Goalpara ...	(5) Mazahirul Uloom Katarihara Aided Senior Madrasa.	20 per mensem,	40 per mensem,	100 per mensem.

728.—Each application for grant-in-aid for a Madrasa is considered on its merit, and Government do not consider it desirable to fix a proportion for any particular area.

### Recommendation of the Opium Enquiry Committee

SRIJUT LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH asked :

729. Will the Hon'ble Minister of Excise be pleased to state—

- (i) The recommendations of the Opium Enquiry Committee appointed by the last Council to the Government of Assam ?
- (ii) What action Government took on the recommendations ?
- (iii) The number of new passes issued in each of the Subdivision of the Assam Valley ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

729. (i), (ii) and (iii)—The hon. member is referred to the replies given to similar questions asked by him at the last session of the Assembly. The number of new opium passes issued in each district of the Assam Valley was given in those replies. The number issued in each subdivision is not available at present but the information has been called for.

### **Erosion of the Karimganj Town by Kusiara River**

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

730. (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the erosion of the Kusiara river in the Karimganj town ?

(b) If so, what steps have Government taken to prevent the erosion ?

(c) Will Government please state whether the Steamer Companies have any responsibility in the matter?

(d) If so, do Government propose to invite their help in taking preventive steps ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

730. (a)—Not since 1933.

(b)—The rate of erosion during the past 4 years does not indicate that Government buildings will be immediately affected, but the position is being watched every year.

(c)—Only if it could be definitely proved that erosion was resulting from their operations

(d)—Government do not propose to take any preventive steps at present but will consult Steamer Company when necessity arises.

### **Erosion of the eastern part of Barpeta town by Nakhanda river**

SRIJUT GHANASHYAM DAS asked :

731. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether their attention has been drawn to the erosion of the western bank of the Nakhanda river standing as an eastern boundary of the Barpeta town?

(b) Whether it is a fact that if this erosion is neglected, within a very short period, the town will be damaged ?

(c) If the answers to (a) and (b) are in the affirmative do Government propose to take steps soon to safeguard the town ?

732. Are Government aware that the mouth of the river Nakhanda remains silted up during the winter and as a result, the river trade and communication come to a standstill ?

733. Will Government be pleased to state whether any amount has been budgeted this year for irrigation by cutting canals (dongs) in the Kamrup district ?

734. Are Government aware that some mauzas specially the mauzas of Bijni, Gobardhana and Kharija Bijni in the Barpeta Subdivision require canals for irrigation ?

735. Do Government propose to take up timely the opening and improving of those canals (dong) that already exist in those mauzas ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

731. (a) and (b)—No. Government are informed that there is no perceptible erosion due to the Nakhanda river and that the main river is about a furlong off the road bund which forms the eastern boundary of the town.

(c)—Does not arise.

732. Government have no information but understand that in the cold weather the Kholabandha road from Barpeta to Kholabandhaghat is open to trade and communication.

733.—No.

734.—Government have no information.

735.—Government cannot take up these problems until a Waterways division is formed.

**“Garh” high embankment running by the side of Rangmahal village**

SRIJUT JOGENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

736. Is Government aware that there is a “Garh” high embankment running by the side of Rangmahal village in Silasindurighopa Mauza in the District of Kamrup ?

737. Is Government aware that the “Garh” high embankment has fallen into an unrepaired state for several years past owing to the diversion of the Rangamahal road by the Local Board ?

738. Is Government aware that during the rains the whole area of the country goes under the water of the Brahmaputra and there is every apprehension of the water causing breach through the “Garh” ?

739. Is Government aware that in the event of a breach in any part of the “Garh” during the rainy season, a vast country-side will be innundated causing heavy loss to human lives and homesteads and crops, etc. ?

740. Do Government propose to enquire into the matter early and take steps to prevent a possible catastrophe of great magnitude by keeping the “Garh” in good repairs ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

736—740.—Government have no information but are enquiring into the matter.

**Opening of a Medical Charitable Dispensary at Sidli**

SRIJUT RUPNATH BRAHMA asked :

741. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that the people living in the northern part of Dhubri subdivision specially in the Bijni and the Sidli circles are deprived of medical help and that every year cholera and other epidemic diseases break out in those localities and people die of these diseases in quite helpless state ?

(b) Whether Government propose to open at least one Medical Charitable Dispensary at Sidli to render medical aid to the helpless poor people of these localities ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

741. (a)—No.

(b)—A Public Health Dispensary has recently been opened at Basugaon and this dispensary will have an out centre at Sidli. The question of an ordinary charitable dispensary is a matter for the Local Board to deal with.

**Names and addresses of Chemists and Druggists with which Government of Assam placed its orders for Medical materials and medicines**

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY asked :

742. Will Government be pleased to state the names and addresses of the Chemists and Druggists, with which Government of Assam placed its orders for medical materials and medicines for the years 1935, 1936 and 1937 ?

743. Will Government be pleased to state the amount of orders it placed with the Chemists and Druggists named— Shafi & Co., Calcutta, which had been the recipient of warrant of appointment from the Bengal Government ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

742. —As a general rule the requirements of Medical Stores for Government institutions under the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals are obtained from the Medical Stores Depôt, Calcutta. The following is the list of chemists and druggists from which the Public Health Department obtained their medical materials during the year mentioned :

For *Kala azar* and Malaria—

1. Messrs. B. K. Paul & Co. Ltd., Calcutta.
2. „ Smith Stanistreet & Co. Ltd., Calcutta.
3. „ Imperial Chemical Industries (India) Ltd., Calcutta.
4. „ Shaw Wallace & Co. Ltd., Calcutta.
5. „ McLod & Co. Ltd., Calcutta.
6. „ The Brai machari Research Institute, Calcutta.
7. „ Haverro Trading & Co. Ltd., Calcutta.
8. „ Government Medical Store Depôt, Calcutta.
9. Superintendent, Presidency Jail, Alipore, Calcutta.
10. Director, Botanical Survey of India, Sibpur, Calcutta.
11. Hafkine Institute, Parel, Bombay.
12. Messrs. Baird & Tatlock (Lond.) & Co., Calcutta.
13. „ Burmah Oil Company Ltd., Digboi and Chittagong.

Vaccine Depôt, Shillong—

1. Government Medical Store Depôt, Calcutta.
2. Messrs. Harrow & Co. Ltd., Balley, Calcutta.
3. „ Bengal Chemical & Pharmaceutical Works Ltd., Calcutta.

Public Health Laboratory, Shillong—

1. Messrs. Bengal Chemical & Pharmaceutical Works Ltd., Calcutta.
2. „ Harrow & Co., Balley, Calcutta.

743.—The Public Health Department placed no order with this Company. Whether any Civil Surgeons placed any orders with them for medical materials for Government Hospitals is not known.

It may be added that the name of this company appears in the list of firms recognized by the Government of Assam as approved firms for which Local Board can purchase medical materials.

### Number of Dispensaries under the Dhubri Local Board

MAULANA ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

744. Will Government be pleased to state :—

- (a) The number of dispensaries under the Dhubri Local Board ?
- (b) The number of Muhammadan doctors and compounders in those dispensaries ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

744.(a)—Fifteen.

(b)—One Muhammadan doctor and four Muhammadan compounders.

### Number of Sub-Assistant Surgeons deputed for the L. T. M. course

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI SAYIDUR RAHMAN asked :

745.(a) Will Government be pleased to state (a) the total number of Sub-Assistant Surgeons, Hindus and Muhammadans, Valley by Valley, deputed for the L. T. M. course in the Tropical School of Medicine, Calcutta, since its establishment ?

(b) The total expenditure incurred for the aforesaid course in each valley ?

(c) Whether any Sub-Assistant Surgeon in service applied for either D. T. M. or L. T. M. course from Assam Valley during 1924 to date ?

(d) If so, who are they and why their cases were not considered by Government ?

(e) The usual procedure to select a candidate for the aforesaid courses ?

746.(a) Are Government aware that the Sub-Assistant Surgeons in other sister Provinces are deputed for D. T. M. course ?

(b) If so, was any Sub-Assistant Surgeon sent from Assam for the D. T. M. course up till now ?

(c) If not, why not ?

747. Will Government be pleased to state :—

(a) If any Sub-Assistant Surgeons or Assistant Surgeons were sent to the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta, for training on deputation during the years 1935, 1936 and 1937 respectively ?

(b) If none were sent during 1936 and 1937, why not ?

748. Will Government please state whether the financial position of the Province is considerably better in the current year than in the preceding years ?

749. Do Government propose to renew the practice of sending Doctors on deputation to the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta ?

750. Will Government be pleased to state whether (a) study leave is granted to Sub-Assistant Surgeons ?

(b) If not, why not ?

751. Do Government propose to extend the concession of study leave to the cadre of Sub-Assistant Surgeon ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

745.(a)—Eight of whom two were Surma Valley Hindus, one a Surma Valley Muhammadan and five Bengalis. One attended the course at his own expense.

(b)—Excluding travelling allowance the total cost was Rs.12,103 of which Rs. 5,187 was on account of the Sub-Assistant Surgeons of the Surma Valley. As no Sub-Assistant Surgeons of the Assam Valley were deputed there was no expense on their account.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—There were no applications from Sub-Assistant Surgeons of the Assam Valley from 1924 to 1927. The following statement supplies the information from 1927 onwards :—

D.T.M.

1931

- (1) Dr. Lalit Chandra Borah.

1935 and 1937

- (2) Dr. Md. N. Khalilur Rahman.

L.T.M.

1927

- (1) Dr. N. Md. Khalilur Rahman.  
(2) Dr. Lalit Chandra Borah.  
(3) Dr. Debeswar Bhattacharyya.  
(4) Dr. Sarat Chandra Barua.  
(5) Dr. Krishna Ram Das.

1928.

- (1) Dr. Md. Khalilur Rahman.  
(2) Dr. Sarat Chandra Barua.  
(3) Dr. Syed Ahmed.

1931.

- (1) Dr. Md. Khalilur Rahman.

1935.

- (1) Dr. Syed Ahmad.

The cases of all applicants were considered for the L. T. M. course as regards applications for the D. T. M. course. This is primarily intended for Civil Assistant Surgeons and as there were (and still are) many Civil Assistant Surgeons who require such training applications from Sub-Assistant Surgeons for this course could not be considered.

(e)—Applications are invited through the Civil Surgeons and those who apply are selected on merit.

746. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No.

(c)—Because only one seat was reserved annually for Assam in the D. T. M. course and there were many Assistant Surgeons who required such training.

747. (a)—Yes ; in 1935.

(b)—The previous Government retrenched the budget provision for deputation to the course in 1936 for the sake of economy and the present Government have not yet been able to see their way to restore it.

748.—The hon. member has not mentioned what particular years he is referring to.

749.—Not at present.

750. (a)—No.

(b)—Because the study leave rules have so far not been extended to them. The study leave rules are intended for officers who already have high qualifications and who are fit to enter on a course of advanced study.

751.—The matter will be considered.

### Restrictions imposed on Srijut Dwijesh Chandra Sen Gupta of Gauhati

SRIJUT BELI RAM DAS asked :

752. Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge aware that Srijut Dwijesh Chandra Sen Gupta, a nephew of Rai Bahadur Kalicharan Sen Gupta of Gauhati, has not been allowed to go to Bengal ?

753. Is Government aware that he is not allowed to read in the Cotton College, Gauhati ?

754. Do Government propose to remove the aforesaid restrictions upon him ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

752.—Yes. He was externed by order of the Bengal Government.

753.—Government have no information, but are making enquiries.

754.—As regards his externment from Bengal, this Government have no power in the matter. The question of removing any restriction regarding his admission to the Cotton College will be considered when any application is received.

#### **Re. Age limit for entering Government services**

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

755. Will Government be pleased to state if several candidates for Government service have by affidavit proved their age during the last 6 months ?

756. Is it a fact that these affidavits show that their age is less than the age shown in the University certificates ?

757. Will Government please state the number of people who proved their age by affidavits during the above mentioned period ?

758. Will Government please state their names and addresses together with the posts for which they were candidates ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

755—757.—There has been only one such case, which was of a very exceptional nature.

758.—Srijut Ghana Kanta Sharma Barua of Nowgong. He was not a candidate for any specific post.

#### **Ministerial appointments held by different communities in the Deputy Commissioner's Court and Subdivisional Officer's Court in Sylhet**

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURI asked :

759. Will Government be pleased to state the number of the ministerial appointments held by the persons of different communities separately with their pay in the Deputy Commissioner's Courts and in the Subdivisional Officer's Courts under the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet ?

760. Will Government be pleased to state the number of the Ministerial appointments held by the members of the different communities, with their pay, in the District Judge's Court at Sylhet and Cachar, and in the Subdivisional Civil Courts under the said District Judge ?

761. Is Government aware that there are large number of Muslims in the Province who are, both economically and educationally, much backward and depressed than those sections of the Hindu community which go by the style of the Schedule caste ?

762. Is Government aware that members of the Scheduled castes long before the introduction of the principle of separate representation in service had been holding posts as Science Professors of Colleges, and other important offices ?

763. Is Government aware that there is not a single Science Professor in any of the College of the Province, from the Muhammadan community ?

764. Is it a fact that for the purpose of services, the Scheduled class are treated as a distinct and separate community from that of the general caste Hindus ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

759 & 760.—The information is not available and it would take much time to find out the exact figures.

761.—Government are aware that some of the castes known as Scheduled are educationally more advanced than some sections of the Muhammadan community. On the other hand some of the Scheduled castes are educationally more backward than the average of the Muhammadan community.

762.—Government are aware of only one case of a member of the Scheduled castes being a Science Professor. At Present there is none such.

763.—Yes.

764.—Yes.

**Resolution passed at the Executive Committee of the All-India Harijan Sevak Sangh**

SRIJUT BELI RAM DAS asked :

765.(a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the resolution passed at the Executive Committee of the All-India Harijan Sevak Sangh held on the 30th and 31st October, this year ?

(b) If so, has any action been taken in this behalf ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

765.(a).—No.

(b).—Does not arise.

**Re. promotion from Assam Junior Civil Service to Assam Civil Service and from the rank of Co-operative Inspectors to Assam Junior Civil Service**

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

766. Will Government be pleased to state (a) the total amount of salary payable to an Extra Assistant Commissioner in the old scale in 30 years ?

(b) The total amount of salary payable to an Extra Assistant Commissioner in the new scale in 30 years ?

(c) The total amount of salary payable to an Extra Assistant Commissioner promoted from the rank of Sub-Deputy Collectors after ten or 12 years. ?

767. Do Government propose to accelerate the system of promotion from among the members of the Assam Junior Civil Service to remove the prevailing discontent among the members ?

768. Is Government aware that many of the Sub-Deputy Collectors have to retire in their own rank notwithstanding efficient and meritorious services?

769. Is Government aware that the Government of Bengal promote officers from the rank of Co-operative Inspector to the Bengal Junior Civil Service?

770. Do Government propose to follow the same policy in Assam?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

766.(a)—Rupees 2,01,960.

(b)—Rupees 1,69,200.

(c)—A Sub-Deputy Collector will ordinarily draw Rs.210 per mensem according to the new scale of pay in the 10th year of his service and Rs.230 in the 12th year. On promotion at either of these stages, he will get Rs.250, corresponding to the Assam Civil Service time-scale (new), next above Rs.210 and Rs.230. The total amount of salary in the full 30 years will amount approximately to Rs.1,43,280, if promoted in the 10th year of service and Rs.1,31,400 if promoted in the 12th year.

767.—The whole matter of future recruitment is under consideration.

768.—Government are aware that all efficient and meritorious officers may not obtain promotion.

769.—No. But promotions to the Assam Junior Civil Service are admissible from other Government services.

770.—The question does not arise.

#### **Re. withdrawal of popular symbols in elections**

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked:

771. Will Government be pleased to state the symbols that were most favourite with the candidates during the last general Assembly Elections?

772. Is it a fact that some particular Symbols were mostly in demand because they were regarded as expressive of some ideas and ideals and not as mere meaningless marks?

773. Do Government propose to take steps to withdraw in future elections such popular symbols as are likely to be interpreted in terms of ideals and introduce other symbols or colour boxes to prevent misinterpretation?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:—

771.—Plough and Elephant.

772.—This is a matter of opinion.

773.—The question is under consideration.

#### **Re. Middle English School Leaving Certificate Examination**

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked:

774 (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter published in the *Janashakti* in its issue of the 17th November last regarding the Middle English School Leaving Certificate Examination?

(b) If so, have Government consider the grounds made out there for the abolition of the examination?

775. Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to abolish this examination with a view to putting the Middle English School boys on the same footing with High School boys?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

774. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes. Government are inclined to consider that the grounds for the extension of the examination to High Schools are stronger than the grounds for its abolition.

775.—Government are considering the question of putting the Middle English School boys on the same footing as High School boys by extending the examination to the latter.

**Re. the Middle School Leaving Certificate and Scholarship Examination**

BABU HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI asked :

776. (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article under the caption *ସ୍ୱାଧୀନ ପରୀକ୍ଷା* on page 4, column 3 (continued on page 9, column 1) of *Janashakti* published on 17th November 1937 ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, they propose to take in the matter ?

777. Is it a fact that the Middle School Leaving Certificate and Scholarship Examination has proved to be of no practical value specially in so far as the Middle English Schools are concerned ?

778. Will Government please state the reasons why the system of such examinations is being maintained ?

779. Is Government aware that by such examinations the students and guardians are put to hardship and troubles ?

780. Do Government propose to retain the system of such examinations ? If so, do Government propose to include the boys of class VI of High English Schools amongst the examinees ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

776. (a) & (b)—The hon. member is referred to the answers given to Maulavi Mabarak Ali.

777.—No.

778.—Because the examination has been very useful and very popular.

779.—No. All examinations cause "trouble" to students but that is no reason for their abolition.

780.—The question is under consideration.

**Re. Special provision for the education of the Backward Tribal people**

SRIJUT RUPNATH BRAHMA asked :

781. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government have been spending any money specially for the education of any particular classes of people ?

(b) If so, what are those classes of people and the amount spent for them annually ?

(c) Whether Government is aware that the Backward Tribal people of the plain districts are educationally the most backward people in the Province ?

(d) Whether Government propose to make special provision for the education of these Backward Tribal people of the plain districts, on special consideration ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

781. (a) & (b)—The question is somewhat vague. Government spends money on the education of all classes of the community. If the hon. member will mention the particular class or classes to which he refers the information will be collected.

(c)—They are undoubtedly among the most backward.

(d)—Government are considering the possibility of earmarking a certain proportion of the provision of Rs.50,000 for primary education in the current year's budget for schools in areas inhabited by backward people.

**Inclusion of the Assam Acts in B.L. Course of the Calcutta University**

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

782. Is it a fact that Assam Land Revenue and Assam Tenancy Acts are not made a subject for study by the Calcutta University in the B.L. course ?

783. Do Government propose to move the University so that the Assam students may study the Assam Acts instead of Bengal's Laws and Acts on the subject in their degree course ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

782.—Yes.

783.—Now that the hon. member has raised the question Government will examine the position and, if necessary, consult the University regarding the possibility of a revised law course for Assam students.

**Re. scale of pay of the teachers of the recognised Middle English Schools**

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

784. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The scale of pay laid down by Government for the teachers of recognised Middle English Schools ?

(b) How many of the Middle English Schools are actually offering the prescribed scale of pay to their teachers ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

784. (a)—No scale has been laid down for teachers of recognised Middle English Schools. The only scale laid down is for Aided Middle English Schools.

(b)—Does not arise.

**Number of Muhammadans in classes I and II of the Assam School Service and in the cadre of Sub-Inspectors of Schools**

MAULAVI ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY asked :

785. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education please state—

(i) What is the total number of Deputy Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Schools in each of the two Inspectors' circle in Assam and how many of them are Muhammadans ?

(ii) What is the total number of Head Masters and Assistant Head Masters in the High English Schools in Assam and how many of them are Muhammadans ?

(iii) The number of posts, the Muhammadans are entitled to in each of these cadres according to their numerical strength ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

785. (i)—Assam Valley Districts.		Surma Valley and Hill Districts.	
Deputy Inspectors	Sub-Inspectors	Deputy Inspectors	Sub-Inspectors
13	26	9	24+ 3 vacant.
Muhammadans 2	6	2	14
(ii)—Headmasters		Assistant Headmasters	
	19		20
Muhammadans	3		2

(iii)—The appointments to the posts of Deputy Inspectors, Headmasters and Assistant Headmasters are filled by promotion from within the Assam School Service and hence the question of communal representation in these cadres does not arise. The question of separate representation of communities does not arise also in the case of appointment to the posts of Sub-Inspectors which do not constitute a separate service.

#### **Re. Improvement of Middle English Schools**

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

786. Do Government propose to enquire into the financial and academic condition of Middle English Schools in the province in near future with a view to suggesting ways and means for the improvement of Middle English Schools, so that the education imparted in these Schools may be of actual benefit to the poor rural public of the province whom they are serving at present ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

786.—Government see no need for a financial enquiry. The financial condition of the Middle English Schools is well known, but to give the Middle English Schools of Assam the grants to which they would be entitled under the grant-in-aid rules would involve an addition to the grant-in-aid allotment of about 21½ lakhs a year.

As regards an academic enquiry Government have agreed to appoint a Committee to examine the curricula.

#### **Inclusion of Biology as a subject in the Government Colleges of Assam**

MAULAVI ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY asked :

787. Are Government aware that the University of Calcutta has decided to reduce the theoretical course of the Medical College by one year for those students who will pass the I.Sc. Examination with Biology as an additional subject ?

788. If the answer to the question 787 above is in the affirmative do Government contemplate to introduce the study of Biology in the Murari-chand and Cotton College immediately to provide similar facilities to the Assam students intending to enter the Medical College ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :—

787.—The hon. member is not quite correct. Under the proposed new regulations the course of study for the M.B. will be reduced to 5 years and if students have not taken Biology at the I.Sc. they must study the subject for six months and pass an examination in it. This course in Biology can however be taken along with the other pre-clinical medical studies and hence the only advantage which a student attains by passing in Biology at the I.Sc. in that he has not got to pass an examination in the subject during his first two years of the medical course. Some students may however find it difficult to take Biology *pari passu* with the other pre-clinical subject and may lose a year.

788.—Government are anxious to provide facilities for the teaching of Biology in both the Colleges and will do so as soon as funds permit.

#### **Re Industrial, Agricultural and Health Exhibition held at Habiganj**

BABU SHIBENDRA CHANDRA BISWAS asked :

789. (a) Is Government aware that an Industrial, Agricultural and Health Exhibition was held at Habiganj in March last ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state if any contribution was made by Government out of the Provincial Fund ?

(c) If the answer to (b) above is in the affirmative, will Government please state (i) the amount of contribution and (ii) to whom the amount was made over ?

790. Is it a fact that a General Committee and Executive Committee were formed at a public meeting, consisting of both officials and non-officials, with the Subdivisional Officer, and the Inspector of Agriculture, Habiganj, as its President and Secretary respectively, for the management and conduct of the affairs of the Exhibition ?

791. (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the reports regarding the Exhibition, published in the local Weekly *Mukti*, dated the 3rd March 1937 and the 10th March 1937 ?

(b) If so, has Government made any enquiry for ascertaining the truth of the allegations made in the reports ?

(c) If the answer to question 791 (b) above is in the affirmative, will Government please state (i) by whom the enquiry was made and (ii) the result of the enquiry ?

792. (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the Resolution of a public meeting held on the 10th March last, in connection with the Exhibition ?

(b) If so, will Government please state if any enquiry was held on the allegations contained in the Resolution, especially with regard to (i) squandering of money in amusements of objectionable character, (ii) realisation of money from the mufussil people by undue pressure put upon the Surpunches ?

(c) If the answer to question 4 (b) is in the affirmative, will Government please state the result of the enquiry ?

793. Will Government please lay on the table a statement showing the receipts for the purpose of the Exhibition from (i) Government grant, (ii) Public subscriptions, (iii) Sale of tickets and (iv) other sources, if any, and the items of expenditures and the amount spent thereon ?

794. Is it a fact that in managing the conduct of the whole course of affairs of the Exhibition, and settling the programme thereof, no meeting, either of the Executive Committee, or of the General Committee was ever called ?

795. Is it a fact that a meeting of the Executive Committee was called by the President on 12th September 1937 ?

796. Is it a fact that a statement of receipts and expenditures was submitted to the meeting and a Sub-Committee was formed for scrutinising the said statement ?

797. Will Government please lay on the table a copy of the report of the said Sub-Committee ?

798. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) If public subscriptions were realised by issuing printed receipt books to Surpunches and other persons ?
- (b) The total number of such receipt books issued ?
- (c) If all the receipt books so issued were collected ?
- (d) And if not, why not ?
- (e) If the subscriptions were received both in the Subdivisional Officer's Office and by the Secretary of the Exhibition ?
- (f) The total sum of money, showing separately, so received ?
- (g) If any register of account of the money so received, was kept in the Subdivisional Officer's Office ?
- (h) With whom such register was kept ?
- (i) If it is a fact that such register was not produced before the Sub-Committee as mentioned in question 796 ?
- (j) If so, the reasons for such non-production ?
- (k) If it is a fact that the said register is now missing ?
- (l) In whose custody the subscriptions received in the Subdivisional Officers's Office, used to be kept ?
- (m) If it is a fact that tickets issued for sale in amusements bore no printed number ?
- (n) If it is a fact that the tickets did not bear the name of the press in which they were printed ?
- (o) Whether family tickets were issued ?
- (p) If so, the number thereof, and to whom they were issued ?
- (q) Whether such family tickets bore any serial number ?
- (r) Whether such family tickets were printed, and if so, in which press ?

799. (a) Is it a fact that a Company known and styled as "Bengal Express Company" was engaged to arrange, supply and organise some items of the programme of the Exhibition ?

(b) If so, what were those items ?

800. Will Government please state—

(a) whether any tender was called for the purpose, and accepted in regular course ?

(b) If so, by whom such tender, if any, was accepted ?

801. Will Government please state—

(a) Whether English Dance and Indian Dance were included in the programme of the Exhibition ?

(b) If so, will Government please state—

(i) If these were undertaken by the said Company ?

(ii) Whether any contract was made with that Company for these items ?

(iii) What was the amount of the contract ?

(iv) The person responsible for such contract ?

802. Is it a fact that the persons constituting the said Company were relatives of the Secretary of the Exhibition ?

803. (a) Is it a fact that legal notices have been served upon the Exhibition authorities for non-payment of the dues ?

(b) If so, who are the person or persons served with such notices and for what amount ?

804. Is it a fact that a large number of exhibits sent in the exhibition were found missing ?

805. Is it a fact that legal notices have been served, claiming compensation for such loss ?

806. Will Government please state who are responsible for the loss of the exhibits ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

789, (a) and (b)—Yes.

(c)—Rupees 75 by the Director of Industries, Assam, to the President of the Exhibition Committee. Rupees 100 by the Director of Agriculture, Assam, to the Subdivisional Officer, Habiganj.

In addition the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, and the Subdivisional Officer, Habiganj, gave Rs. 400 each from the Government of India's Village Uplift Grant.

790.—Yes.

791. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No.

(c)—Does not arise.

792. (a)—The hon member is presumably referring to the meeting held under his own presidency. If so, the answer is in the affirmative.

(b)—No.

(c)—Does not arise.

793, A statement is laid on the table.

**Cash account of the Agricultural, Industrial, Health, Art and Cattle  
Exhibition held at Habiganj from 1st to 10th March 1937**

Receipts				Expenditure			
	1. From provincial revenues	2. From Rural Up-lift grant.	Rs. a. p.			Rs. a. p.	
	..	..	175 0 0	Printing charges	..	47 4 0	
				Postage	..	114 0 0	
1. Government grants.			800 0 0	Stationery	..	2 5 0	
2. Public subscription	..	..	6,437 14 0	Lights (Kerosine)	..	39 0 0	
3. Sale of tickets	..	..	1,601 0 0	Pay of Clerks and Peon	..	44 8 0	
4. Other sources	..	..	397 8 0	Construction of stalls	..	2,186 1 6	
				Decorations	..	145 6 0	
				Conveyance of Miscel-			
				laneous articles	..	57 5 0	
				Miscellaneous	..	37 9 6	
				Drinking water	..	9 14 0	
				Sweepers	..	2 4 0	
				Jatra	..	10 0 0	
				Theatre	..	75 0 0	
				Kabigan	..	205 0 0	
				Advertisement	..	15 0 0	
				Sports	..	248 1 3	
				Scouts and Volunteers	..	100 10 3	
				Bengal Express Limited	..	5,133 7 3	
				Passage expenses of exhibitors	..	47 15 0	
				Exhibits	..	69 10 9	
				Manipuri dance	..	140 0 0	
				Prize	..	157 0 0	
				Magic	..	30 0 0	
				Physical demonstration	..	60 0 0	
				Cattle food	..	22 2 0	
						8,999 7 6	
				Cash balance	..	411 14 6	
						9,411 6 0	

794.—A Committee meeting was held during the early part of the Exhibition (4th March 1937), and members were consulted individually from time to time.

795—799.—Information has been called for.

800. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

801.—Information has been called for.

802.—The Managing Director (Mr. P. C. Das) of the Company is a relation of the Secretary.

803. (a)—Yes, one notice only.

(b)—The Secretary of the Exhibition, for a sum of Rs.3,515 approximately.

804.—Some of the articles were stolen.

805.—Only one legal notice appears to have been received by the Secretary.

806.—The responsibility cannot be fixed on any particular person or persons.

**Re annual sports tournament of the boys of Middle English Schools**

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

807.(a) Is Government aware that boys from Middle English Schools in each subdivision are compelled to take part in the annual sports tournament irrespective of the financial solvency of the schools ?

(b) If so, does Government propose to instruct the inspecting officers in each subdivision to exempt those schools which are not financially in a position to join such tournaments ?

808. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they provide any funds to the Inspecting officers of each subdivision for these tournaments ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state how this fund is utilised by such officers ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

807.(a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

808.(a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

**Re the principle adopted in the recruitment of ministerial staff**

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

809. Will Government please state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that a competitive examination was held recently in order to select some candidates to fill up some vacancies at the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet ?

(b) If so, will Government please give out the names of the successful candidates with the respective marks they secured and with nationality and home subdivision of each of the successful candidate ?

810. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The principle underlying the recruitment of ministerial staff in the offices of the Heads of Departments in Assam ?

(b) Whether vacancies in the ministerial establishment of the Heads of Departments are filled up by direct recruitment from outsiders ?

(c) Whether by promotion from amongst the experienced hands in their respective subordinate offices ?

(d) If the answer to question 810(b) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why experienced hands in subordinate offices are debarred from promotion to the Head Office ?

811. If the answer to question 810 (c) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of vacancies occurred and number of assistants with their nationality and nativity, thus promoted from subordinate offices, in each office of the Heads of Departments in the province, during last 5 years ?

812. If recruitments in the offices of Heads of Departments are made by both the methods indicated in question 810 (b) and 810 (c), do Government propose to consider the desirability of enforcing some hard and fast rules of recruitment by promotion from subordinate offices ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

809.(a)—Yes.

(b)—Government are not prepared to supply the information which is not of public interest. The examination was merely the Deputy Commissioner's private method of testing and selecting candidates for clerkships and was not prescribed.

810.(a)—In making appointments, endeavour is made to recruit from each community in accordance with the percentages prescribed by Government for the various communities, provided that qualified candidates are available.

(b) & (c)—When vacancies occur in the upper grades, office promotions are generally given, and in the resultant vacancies in the lower grade, outsiders are taken in. In order to strengthen offices, recruitment of experienced hands is occasionally made from other offices (including subordinate offices).

(d)—Clerks of subordinate offices are not debarred by any rule from getting appointments in the offices of the Heads of Departments.

811.—A statement is laid on the table.

Name of officers	Number of vacancies occurred during last 5 years ending on the 31st March 1937	Number of assistants promoted from subordinate offices	Nationality	Nativity	Remarks
Inspector General of Police ..	*2	1	Hindu	Sylhet	*One was Stenographer. Filled by direct recruitment.
Director of Agriculture ..	2	..	..	..	Ditto
Director of Public Instruction ..	6	..	..	..	Ditto. No subordinate office.
Legal Remembrancer ..	7	..	..	..	Direct recruitment. One Sylhet Hindu retrenched clerk of the office was reappointed.
Director of Land Records, etc. ..	2	..	..	..	
Conservator of Forests ..	4	2	{ 1 Hindu 1 Hindu 1 Hindu }	Sylhet Nowgong Sylhet	
Director of Industries and Registrar, Co-operative Societies. ..	5	2	{ 1 Hindu 1 Hindu 1 Hindu }	Assam Valley	
Commissioner of Excise ..	5 +1 temporary for six months.	..	..	..	District Excise offices form parts of the Deputy Commissioners' amalgamated cadres.
Inspector General of Civil Hospitals and Prisons. ..	4	1	Hindu	Assam Valley	One Surma Valley Hindu was brought from Civil Surgeon's establishment on mutual transfer.
Director of Public Health ..	4	..	{ 1 Hindu	Sylhet (from Deputy Commissioner's office, Garo Hills), Sylhet (from Deputy Commissioner's office, Cachar), Sylhet (Deputy Commissioner's office, Sylhet).	
Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Division. ..	3	3	1 Hindu		
Commissioner, Assam Valley Division	1	..	1 Muhammadan.	..	

812.—The present system is working well, so Government sees no necessity to change it.

**Re appointment of the Head Clerk in the office of the Working Plan Officer**

MAULAVI MD. MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

813. Will Government please state whether it is a fact that an outsider is officiating as Head Clerk in the office of the Working Plan Officer of the Forest Department of Assam ?

814. If the answer to the above question is in the affirmative, will Government please state why an outsider has been appointed when there are other clerks in the Divisional cadre of the Forest Department getting less pay than the Head Clerk of the Working Plan Office ?

815. Will Government please state whether any experienced Divisional clerk prayed for transfer to the said post?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

813.—Yes.

814.—The reasons are as follows :—

First, the outsider is drawing less pay than a clerk of the Divisional Officer would have drawn. Secondly, a senior clerk was not required for the post, since the work can be supervised by the Conservator's Office. Thirdly, there was saving of transfer travelling allowance which would have been incurred, had a clerk of the Divisional Office been appointed. Fourthly, dislocation of work in the Divisional Office was avoided.

815.—Yes, one such clerk applied, but that was after the post had been filled up.

**Opening of cultivable lands of the Forest reserves for settlement**

BABU KALACHAND ROY asked :

816. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Forests be pleased to state—

(a) The number of Forest reserves in the district of Cachar ?

(b) The acres of land available for cultivation in the Forest reserves (showing the figure of each reserve separately) ?

817. Will Government be pleased to state the number of petitions from the people of Cachar received during the last 3 years for the settlement of cultivable land of the Forest reserves ?

818. Do Government propose to open for settlement to the people of Cachar the cultivable lands of Lakhicherra, Kalarhaor, Tulartal, Zamira and Sonai Forest Reserves of the district ?

819. Do Government propose to open some "Tila land" for fruit cultivation in suitable portions of Reserved Forests ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

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

817.—As a separate account of the applications referred to has not been maintained, it is not possible to supply the information required without the expenditure of much time and labour.

818 & 819.—The reply is in the negative.

**Re Deputy Conservator of Forests, Jorhat.**

**SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SARMAH** asked :

820. Is it a fact that since his arrival at Jorhat, the present Deputy Conservator of Forests now posted there is compelling the clerks to work from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and also on holidays and Sundays—and the clerks (mostly Hindus) had to work throughout the whole of the *puja* holidays including the day of *Bijoya-Dashami* ?

821.(a) Is it a fact that the present Deputy Conservator of Forests, Jorhat, is senior to the present Conservator Mr. C. G. M. Mackarness ?

(b) If so, why the latter was allowed to supersede the former ?

822. Is it a fact that the promotion of the present Deputy Conservator of Forests, Jorhat, has been permanently stopped as he quarrelled with late Mr. Milroy, the then Conservator of Forests, Assam, and also with Mr. J. H. Grace, the then Political Officer of North East Frontier Tract ?

823. Is it a fact that this officer quarrelled with Rai Bahadur P. G. Mukherjee when the former was the Divisional Forest Officer and the latter was the Deputy Commissioner of the Goalpara district ?

824. Is it a fact that Government ordered realisation at Rs.50 per mensem from this officer being bungalow rent of a Forest Bungalow in Goalpara Division some years back, which sum this officer purposely try to evade ?

825. Is it a fact that the Goalpara Test Audit revealed that this officer incurred some heavy and unnecessary expenditures there ?

826. Will Government be pleased to state why he has been transferred to Jorhat ?

**THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED** replied.

820.—No.

821.(a)—Yes.

(b)—Government are not prepared to disclose the reasons which are of a confidential character.

822.—No.

823.—Government have no information, nor, as explained on past occasions, are they prepared to discuss the personal character of their officers on the floor of the House.

824.—No. After the headquarters of the Goalpara Division were transferred to Kochugaon, this officer questioned the payment of the full rent of the bungalow there as part was used as a Rest House. Government subsequently ordered realisation at the rate of Rs.25 per mensem.

825.—The audit revealed several instances of irregular and unauthorised expenditure.

826.—The officer has been transferred in the interests of the public service.

**Re realisation of money by the Forest Department**

**BABU KARUNA SINDHU ROY** asked :

827. Will Government please state why no replies to my questions about forest grievances admitted in the last Budget session of the Assembly, did not come even on the last day of the Budget session of the Assembly (1st September) ?

828. Is it a fact that the Forest officers in the province, specially of the Sunamganj Subdivision realise money from the people, for all timber found adrift, beached, stranded or sunk, which are exempted from the provision of section 43 of the Assam Forest Regulation, 1891, and according to rule 8 under section 48 of the Assam Forest Manual, 1891 ?

829. Will Government please lay on the table a statement showing the valuation of timber or other forest produce granted during the last five years, free of royalty or at a favourable rate of royalty to each district of the province, for the constructions of buildings to be used by public for religious and educational purpose according to rule 8 under section 32(a) of the Assam Forest Regulation, 1891 ?

830. Will Government please lay on the table a statement showing the areas of unclassified State forests in the province, leased out to middlemen for cultivation according to settlement under the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, 1886 and under the settlement rules ?

831. Do Government propose to exempt people from double payment of royalty, abolishing the import duty on forest produce ?

832. Are Government aware that there is a strong feeling against the house tax of Rs. 2-8 on forest produce imported from the Khasi Hills, the quantity being insufficient ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

827.—For want of time. 329 starred and 1,841 unstarred questions were answered during the session, which imposed a heavy strain on the Secretariat.

828.—No.

829.—A statement is given below :

Name of Forest Division						Value of timber or other Forest produce granted Rs.
Kamrup	...	...	...	...	...	12,620
Haltugaon	...	...	...	...	...	1,166
Sibsagar	...	...	...	...	...	1,743
Sadiya	...	...	...	...	...	760
Kachugaon	...	...	...	...	...	1,788
Lushai Hills	...	...	...	...	...	32
Garo Hills	...	...	...	...	...	983
Cachar	...	...	...	...	...	1,181
Lakhimpur	...	...	...	...	...	2,235
Nowgong	...	...	...	...	...	788
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	...	...	...	...	...	328
Sylhet	...	...	...	...	...	101
Darrang	...	...	...	...	...	4,368
Total						28,093

830.—The information is not available. It is impossible to say who are middlemen and who are not, without undertaking local enquiries involving years of labour.

831.—No. Import duty is levied only on forest produce imported from Siem's territory in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. The rate is half of the royalty charged on the produce of neighbouring districts.

832.—No complaint to this effect has been received.

**Amount contributed to Government Colleges, the Assam Sahitya Sabha, etc.**

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

833. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The amount contributed annually to the Cotton College, Gauhati, and to the Murarichand College, Sylhet, respectively for maintaining the College libraries ?
- (b) The amount of Government grants received by the following institutions, namely :—(1) Assam Sahitya Sabha, (2) Kamrup Anusandhan Samiti, (3) Historical and Antiquarian studies of Gauhati ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

833. (a)—The amounts allotted to the College libraries vary from year to year but on an average Rs. 2,400 is allotted to the Cotton College and Rs. 2,200 to the Murarichand College.

(b)—The grants to the Assam Sahitya Sabha and the Kamrup Anusandhan Samiti have varied very much from year to year according to the financial condition of the province. In the current year's budget there is provision for a grant of Rs. 600 to the Sahitya Sabha and of Rs. 1,900 to the Anusandhan Samiti. The Department of Historical and Antiquarian Studies is a Government Department the cost of which during the current year has been budgeted for at Rs. 5,900.

**Re Historical and Antiquarian Studies, Gauhati**

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

834. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the Historical and Antiquarian Studies at Gauhati is a Government institution ?
- (b) If not, will Government be pleased to state its relationship with this institution ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

834. (a)—The Department of Historical and Antiquarian Studies is a Government institution.

(b)—Does not arise.

**Re Supply of free tiffin to School boys**

MAULAVI ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY asked :

835. Will Government please state why the general health of the school boys in Assam is gradually deteriorating ?

836. Is it a fact that most of the boys do not take any tiffin during school hours ?

837. Has the attention of Government been drawn to a resolution passed in the last session of the Surma Valley Students' Association for placing funds at the disposal of the school authorities for providing free mid-day tiffin to the boys ?

838. Do Government propose to provide funds in the next financial year for supplying free midday tiffin to the boys in the Secondary Schools in Assam ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

835.—So far as Government is aware the general health of school boys in Assam is improving, not deteriorating.

836.—Many boys do not take tiffin.

837.—No.

838.—No.

**Re Government Schools, Aided Schools and Private Schools of Assam and grant-in-aid to Patharia-Chhotalikha High School**

BABU KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

839. Will Government please lay on the table a statement showing the number of Government High Schools, Government Aided High Schools and Private High Schools which have received University affiliation in the province ?

840. Will Government please state (a) whether any distinction is made in determining efficiency among these three classes of schools ?

(b) If not, why some of the private schools with University affiliation have not been granted any aid ?

841. Will Government please state why grant-in-aid has not been given to the Patharia-Chhotalikha High School in the Karimganj subdivision ?

842. Was a grant of Rs.38 per mensem given when this institution was a Middle English School ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

839.—Twenty-two Government High Schools, 63 Government Aided Schools and 24 Private Schools.

840. (a)—The question is not understood. The schools are all treated alike as regards inspection and examination.

(b)—For want of funds it is not possible to give grants to all the private High Schools affiliated to the University.

841.—A grant of Rs.100 per mensem has been sanctioned for this school with effect from 1st November 1937.

842.—No.

**Re Privileges to the persons of Assam Educational Service, class I**

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

843. Is it a fact that the Lee Commission recommended the replacement of the I. E. S. on its gradual abolition by a Superior Provincial Educational Service ?

If so, is class I of the Provincial Educational Service created by the Assam Government in fulfilment of that recommendation ?

844. Does it compare favourably in matters of pay, with similar services in other provinces ?

845. Do the members of this new service enjoy the same official status and privilege ?

846. Do Government propose to take steps so that in all cases in which All-India Service officers are to be replaced by corresponding Provincial Service officers the latter retain the same status and privileges, etc., as enjoyed by the services replaced ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

843.—The replies to both parts of this question are in the affirmative.

844.—The scale of pay is practically the same as that in force in the Central Provinces but less than that in some of the larger provinces.

845.—Presumably the hon. member is referring to the official status and privileges of the Indian Educational Service. If so, the answer is that the Assam Educational Service has not the same status and privileges as the Indian Educational Service.

846.—This is not understood. Officers appointed by the Secretary of State have certain privileges which this Government cannot give to the officers of a Provincial Service. For example the salaries of officers appointed by the Secretary of State are not voted by the Assembly and such officers cannot be dismissed except by the Secretary of State.

#### **Re Forest Reserves in Cachar**

MR. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA asked :

847. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

- (i) Names and number of Forest Reserves in Cachar ?
- (ii) Cultivable waste land under each reserve ?
- (iii) Area of land under occupation of forest villagers in every reserve and the number of houses thereon reserve by reserve ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

847. (i) (ii) and (iii)—A statement is laid on the Library table.

#### **Criticisms on certain Text-books passed by the Text Book Committee**

SRIJUT JOGES CHANDRA GOHAIN asked :

848. (a) Has the attention of Government of Assam been drawn to the criticism on the text-book "The Jorhat Method Reader" Reader I—Class III, published by Messrs. Blackie and Sons (India) Limited, under the caption "Somalochana" appeared in the *Assam-Banti* in its issue of the 30th April 1937 ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the following—

- (i) The name of the author of the above text-book "The Jorhat Method Reader" ?
- (ii) The actual price of the said book ?

(iii) In which session of the Text Book Committee the said book was approved as a text-book, and who were the members present in the said sitting of the Committee ?

(c) Who were the President and the Secretary of the Committee at the time ?

(d) Whether the errors, defects, and more specially the spelling mistakes pointed out in the aforesaid issue of the *Assam-Banti* are facts ?

(e) If so, what steps, if any, are being taken in the matter with a view to remove the said book from the list of the approved text-books ?

849. (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the criticism on " Bhugol-Path " by Srijut Sarat Chandra Goswami, Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Division, which appeared in the *Dainik Batori* in its issue of the 3rd June 1937, under the caption " Somalochana " ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state—

(i) How many copies of the above-named " Bhugol-path " were printed, published and sold in each of its editions separately from the first to the 14th edition ?

(ii) The names of the President and the Secretary, Assam Valley Text Book Committee, when the book ' Bhugol-path ' was approved as a text-book, and those of the Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Division, and the Director of Public Instruction of Assam, when the said book was included in the list of text-books ?

(iii) The date on which the text-books, viz., ' Bhugol-Darpan ' by Rai Bahadur Srijut Padmanath Gohain-Baruah, ' Bhugol-Siksha ' by Rai Bahadur Srijut Kanaklal Barua, ' Assamiya Lorar-Bhugol ' by late Panindranath Gogoi, and ' Bhugol-sar ' by late Nameswar Sarmah, were removed from the list of the approved text books, and on what grounds, if any ?

(iv) Whether the authors and the publishers of those books were given any warning notice thereof ?

(v) If not, why not ?

(c) What steps Government have taken or propose to take in the matter of a large number of spelling mistakes and bad printing pointed out in the aforesaid ' Bhugol-path ' in the above-mentioned criticism of the *Batori* ?

850. Is it a fact that the price of ' Bhugol ' and ' Saral-Bhugol ' one book in two parts, is Re.1, viz., annas 12 plus annas 4 for the two parts ?

851. (a) Is it a fact that the price of the book is considered to be too high ?

(b) If so, what steps are being taken in the matter ?

852. Will Government be pleased to state for how long ' Sahitya-Sangraha ' edited by Rai Bahadur Srijut Padmanath Gohain Baruah was a text-book for schools in the Assam Valley Division and from what year it has been removed from the list of the text-books for schools, and why ?

853. (a) Is it a fact that ' Sahitya-Sangraha ' has now been reprinted after making necessary corrections and its price also has been reduced as suggested by the Director of Public Instruction, Assam ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to include it in the list of the text-books for schools ?

(c) If not, why not ?

854. Do Government propose to appoint a small committee of experts to examine and compare the alleged "Spelling-mistakes" and "Bad-printing" of "Sahitya-Sangraha," and also those of the "Bhugol-path" as pointed out by the *Dainik Batori* in its issue of 3rd June 1937?

855. Will Government be pleased to place on the table one copy of each of—

- (1) Sahitya-Sangraha (11th Edition),
- (2) Bhugol-path (14th Edition) and
- (3) Bhugol and Saral-Bhugal (its latest edition) ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

848. (a)—Yes.

(b) (i)—Mr. G. A. Small.

(ii)—Reader I, annas nine, Reader II, annas ten ; Translation exercises, annas five ; Teachers' Manual, Re.1-8-0.

(iii)—While Mr. Small was Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Circle, he experimented with a new method of teaching English with the approval of the then Director of Public Instruction Mr. Cunningham. The first books were in manuscript. Mr. Cunningham liked the method and got the books printed in the first instance by Government. When the method was found to be eminently successful Mr. Cunningham included the books, with the approval of the members of the Text Book Committee, under books on *Experimental Methods for Teaching English*. At that time meetings of the Text Book Committee were not held and the work of examining books was carried on by correspondence. The Series consist of a Teachers' Book, Reader I, Reader II and Translation Exercises.

(c)—The book was originally prescribed in 1925 when Mr. Cunningham was the President and Mr. Small was the Secretary. The Committee did not meet in those days. The work was done by correspondence.

(d)—No.

(e)—Does not arise.

849. (a)—Yes.

(b) (i)—Government have no information.

(ii)—President—the late Rai Sahib D. Barkataki.

Secretary—the late Rai Sahib G. C. Barua.

Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Circle—the late Rai Sahib D. Barkataki.

Director of Public Instruction, Assam—Mr. J. R. Cunningham.

(iii)—The exact dates are not available. The four books on Geography mentioned were not in the list of Text Books of 1916, the first list after the curriculum was revised. The only Geography books prescribed for Assamese Schools according to the curriculum of 1914 were translations of two Bengali books (by Rai Bahadur A. N. Adhikari and Babu J. R. Mitra), till 1921, when Srijiut S. C. Goswami's Bhugol Path was first prescribed.

(iv) & (v)—It is neither the rule nor the practice to warn authors that their books may be removed from the list of text-books. As the curriculum was revised in 1914 the authors must have known that their books did not follow the new curriculum.

(c)—Government propose no further action than what the Text Book Committee usually takes in such cases.

850.—No.

851. (a)—The price is not too high.

(b)—Does not arise.

852.—It was a text-book for over 30 years.

It was removed from 1935.

Because some articles in the book were out of date and required revision in the light of modern knowledge: because the tenth edition contains certain additions which were considered objectionable by the then Government and because the book contained innumerable spelling mistakes.

853. (a)—The price has been reduced. But the necessary corrections have not been made.

(b) & (c)—In regard to this book, the following extracts \* from the Proceedings of the Meeting of the Central Text Book Committee which met from 30th July 1937 to 2nd August 1937 is quoted for information of the hon. member.

“ \* \* \* \* \*

3. Srijut Mohendra Nath Gohain brought up the subject of the Sahitya Sangraha by Rai Bahadur Padma Nath Gohain Barua and Khan Sahib Sayidur Rahman supported him.

The Director of Public Instruction explained how the book came to be examined by members of the Text Book Committee; and that all actions were taken strictly on the opinions of members of the old Text Book Committee, namely, Srijut Nilmoni Phukan, Srijut Bipin Chandra Ghosh, Srijut Ghanakanta Goswami and Srijut Mohi Chandra Bora.

The author appealed to the Government, and after a thorough examination Government passed orders in their letter No.1734-E., dated 10th June 1935, that the 10th edition of the book was not fit to be prescribed and that the author must bring out a revised edition (for which instructions were incorporated in the letter) for consideration of the Text Book Committee.

It was pointed out that the so-called revised 11th edition was not a new edition at all. From the specimen copies submitted to the Director of Public Instruction, it was evident that the pages from 1 to 188 of the 10th edition were bound, with a new print of page 189 and of the preface portion, into a book and passed off as the 11th edition.

With a view to remove all misgivings on this subject, the Director of Public Instruction made over all the connected papers with specimen copies of the two editions of the book to Khan Sahib Sayidur Rahman, and asked all the Assamese members of the Central Text Book Committee, except Srijut S. C. Goswami, to study the papers and come to a finding. Their unanimous report is quoted below:—

“We the Assamese members of this Committee went through the whole file regarding the exclusion of Sahitya Sangraha very kindly placed at our disposal by the Director of Public Instruction. We find that the author has not fully carried out in the 11th edition of the book the instructions contained in Government letter No.1734-E., dated 10th June 1935, addressed to the Director of Public Instruction; the so-called revised edition being only a replica of the 10th edition. For this reason the consideration of the book for inclusion in the list could not be taken up under Government Orders. The Director of Public Instruction and the Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Circle, were in the circumstances fully justified in recommending exclusion of the book from the approved list.

N. Ahmed.

M. N. Gohain.

Sayidur Rahman.

Rameshwar Barua.

Abdur Rahman (D. I.)

A. Rahman (A.M.E.)”.

854.—No. This is a matter for the Central Text Book Committee to deal with.

855.—One copy of each of these books and also one copy of the Jorhat Method Series are placed on the Library Table.

### Re Government Pleader, Sylhet

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY asked :

856. Will Government please state whether the Government pleader of Sylhet is a retainer for the Crown Criminal cases of the district of Sylhet ?

857. If the answer is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why, he is allowed to take private briefs in G. R. cases ?

858. If the answer to question 856 is in the negative will Government be pleased to state the number of days in the years 1935 and 1936, the Government pleader of Sylhet had to appear in Criminal cases ?

859. Will Government be pleased to state the daily fees for his appearance in the Criminal cases and that of the fees of the Assistant Public Prosecutors ?

860. Is it a fact that there had been some Crown Civil cases in which the Government Pleader of Sylhet did not appear personally, but on these dates, he was seen doing Crown Criminal cases ?

861. Will Government be pleased to state the number of the Civil Crown briefs in which, the Pleaders other than the Government Pleader had to be engaged in the year 1935 and 1936 ?

862. Will Government be pleased to state the names of such Pleaders with the number of cases in which they were engaged ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

856.—The Government Pleader, Sylhet, is a retainer for civil cases. He conducts criminal cases also, as he is *ex-officio* Public Prosecutor.

857.—He does not ordinarily take private briefs in criminal cases. I. in any case in which his services are not required by the Crown, he applies for permission to take the brief for a private party, the Deputy Commissioner may, in his discretion, give him such permission.

858.—1935	...	...	...	...	167 days.
1936	...	...	...	...	117 days.

859.—The hon. member is referred to rules 25, 26 and 27 of Chapter IV of Part II of the Law Department Manual and rule 31 of the same Chapter of the same Manual which prescribe fees for Public Prosecutors and Assistant Public Prosecutors respectively.

860.—No.

861.—1935	...	...	...	...	4 cases.
1936	...	...	...	...	2 cases.

862.—1935	...	...	...	(1) Rai Bahadur Satis Chandra Datta in 3 cases.
				(2) Babu Jogendra Nath Chaudhuri in one case.
1936	...	...	...	Babu Kumud Behari Datta in two cases.

### Provision of breeding bulls in Jorhat

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SARMAH asked :

863. (a) Are Government aware that in the Titabar and Thengal Mauzas in Jorhat subdivision all the indigenous bulls were castrated last year ?

(b) If so, has Government provided sufficient number of breeding bulls in those areas ?

864. (a) Has the cattle improvement association in Assam produced any tangible scheme for immediate action ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to submit the same before the Assembly without further delay ?

865. Do Government propose to consider before launching any wide-spread castration operation in any area, the responsibility of providing sufficient number of breeding bulls ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

863. (a)—No. Only the weedy bulls which were offered for operation by the owners were castrated by the Veterinary Department.

(b)—The information has been called for.

864. (a)—Yes.

(b)—A copy of the "plan of action" is placed on the Library table.

865.—Does not arise.

### Rejection of certain books by the Text Book Committee

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

866. Will Government be pleased to state how long a book called "Sahitya Sangraha" by Rai Bahadur Padmanath Gohain Barua, a literary pensioner of the Government of Assam, was a text-book in the High Schools ?

867. Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for rejecting this book by the Text Book Committee ?

868. Will Government be pleased to state the name of the author of the text book known as "The Jorhat Method Readers"—"Readers 1" selected for the students of Class III by the Text Book Committee ?

869. (a) Is Government aware that the book contains many mistakes ?

(b) If not, do Government propose to enquire ?

870. Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article published in the *Dainik Batori* of 30th May 1937, about the criticism of the Jorhat Method Readers ?

871. Do Government propose to discontinue this book from the list of text books ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

866.—For over 30 years.

867.—Because some articles in the book were out of date and required revision in the light of modern knowledge ; because the tenth edition of the book contained some additions which were considered objectionable by the then Government ; and because the book had innumerable spelling mistakes.

868.—Mr. G. A. Small.

869.—(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

870.—Yes.

871.—No. Because the criticisms were not justified.

### Re omission of Sahitya Sangraha in the list of Text Books

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

872. Has the attention of Government been drawn to the article under caption of “শিক্ষা বিভাগৰ খাং খেয়ালি” (whims of the Education Department) and “সাহিত্য সংগ্ৰহ আৰু শিক্ষা বিভাগীয় কৰ্ত্তাৰ অনীতি” (impropriety of the head of the Education Department) ” written by Srijut Madhabchandra Bezbaruah, B. A., and which appeared in the “Dainik Batori” in its issue of the 4th May 1937 ? If so, what actions are being taken in the matter ?

873. Has the attention of Government been drawn also to the article on the same subject, written by the same writer, under the heading of “ সাহিত্য সংগ্ৰহ আৰু শিক্ষা বিভাগীয় কেলেঙ্কাৰা (Sahitya. Sangraha and vagaries of the Education Department)” published in the “Assam Banti” in its issue of the 30th April 1937, with slight difference in contents from the above article of the “Batori” and with a compromising suggestive conclusion ? If so, what compromising steps, if any, are being taken on the subject to bring the matter into a happy termination ?

874. Will Government be pleased to place on the table the following documents in original or failing which the certified copies thereof ?

- (a) Letter No.865, dated the 13th February 1935, from Rai Bahadur Padmanath Gohain Barooah, M. R. A. S. (Lond.) to the Director of Public Instruction, Assam, regarding “Sahitya Sangraha”.
- (b) Letter of the Director of Public Instruction, Assam, No.4025 Ex./IT—17 of 1935, dated the 4th March 1935, to Rai Bahadur Padmanath Gohain Barooah in reply to his above letter.
- (c) Petition No.866, dated the 8th March 1935, to the Hon'ble Minister of Education regarding reinclusion of “Sahitya Sangraha ” in the approved list of Text Books.
- (d) Letter No.1734-E., Education Department, dated the 10th June 1935, from Srijut Nagendranath Phukan, B.L., Under-Secretary to the Government of Assam, to the Director of Public Instruction, Assam, regarding reinclusion of Sahitya Sangraha.
- (e) Letter No.879, dated the 24th June 1935, from Rai Bahadur Padmanath Gohain Barooah, M.R.A.S. (London), to N. N. Phukan, Esq., B.L., Under-Secretary to Government of Assam.
- (f) Letter No.874, dated the 9th May 1935, from Rai Bahadur Padmanath Gohain Barooah to the Secretary, Assam Valley Text Book Committee.
- (g) Copies of the questions and answers, both in main and supplementary in interpellation at the Session of the Assam Legislative Council held in September 1935.
- (h) Copies of the questions and answers, both in main and supplementary, viz. :—The main question No. 167 (a), (b) and (c) asked by Rai Saheb Dalimchandra Borah and Srijut Mahendranath Gohain, M.A., B.L., and the supplementary questions asked by Khan Bahadur Keramat Ali, and Rai Bahadur Brindaban Chandra Goswami, B.L., and the replies thereto published in the Assam Gazette of the 6th November 1935, Part VI, pages 1929-30 regarding reinclusion of “Sahitya-Sangraha ”.

- (i) Representation No.905, dated the 22nd November 1935, submitted by Rai Bahadur Padmanath Gohain Borooah, M.R.A.S. (London), Government Special Literary Pensioner, to the Hon'ble Minister of Education, Government of Assam, in connection with above interpellation regarding reinclusion of "Sahitya Sangraha".
- (j) The Demi-official letter dated the 12th February 1937, from Rai Bahadur Padmanath Gohain Borooah to Mr. G. A. Small, B.A., Director of Public Instruction, Assam, requesting him to re-include "Sahitya Sangraha" in a supplementary list of approved Text Books for 1937-38.
- (k) Telegram from Rai Bahadur Padmanath Gohain Borooah to Director of Public Instruction, Assam (Reply paid), dated 26th February 1937.
- (l) Telegraphic reply of the Director of Public Instruction, dated 27th February 1937.
- (m) Demi-official No.3690, dated the 27th February 1937, from Srijut S. C. Goswami, Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Districts to Rai Bahadur Padmanath Gohain Borooah regarding omission of Sahitya Sangraha in the list of Text Books.
- (n) Letter No.3757-T., dated 1st March 1937, from Director of Public Instruction, Assam to Rai Bahadur Padmanath Gohain Borooah.
- (o) Letter No.951, dated the 19th March 1937, from Rai Bahadur Padmanath Gohain Borooah to Director of Public Instruction, Assam, regarding alleged spelling mistakes and bad printing of "Sahitya-Sangraha".
- (p) Letter No.10134-T., dated the 16th April 1937, from Director of Public Instruction, Assam, to Rai Bahadur Padmanath Gohain Borooah refusing to point out the alleged spelling mistakes.

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :—

872 and 873.—Government have seen the articles. Government do not propose to take any action. The hon. member is referred to the replies given to the questions on the same subject asked by Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua and Srijut Joges Chandra Gohain at this session of the Assembly.

874.—Government are not prepared to place this voluminous correspondence on the table.

### **Re accounts of the Agricultural exhibition held at Habiganj in March, 1937**

BABU KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

875 Will Government please state why no replies to questions regarding the accounts of the agricultural exhibition held at Habiganj at March, 1937, admitted during the last Budget Session of the Assembly did not come even on the last day of the Budget Session of the Assembly ? (1st September.)

876. Was there not a strong protest made in a public meeting of the citizens of the town of Habiganj and in the Sylhet district Krishak conference held at Madhabpur on the 27th April, 1937, regarding this matter ?

877. If so, what measures have been adopted by Government to satisfy the public ?

878. Will Government please lay on the table the accounts in full, of the said exhibition, substantiated by authentic vouchers ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

875.—The replies were not ready in time.

876.—The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative, if the hon. member is referring to the public meeting presided over by Srijut Shibendra Chandra Biswas, M.L.A. As regards the second part Government have no information.

877.—No enquiry was considered necessary.

878.—The hon. member is referred to the reply to question No.793 asked by Babu Shibendra Chandra Biswas at this Session of the Assembly. Vouchers are not available within the time at the disposal of Government.

#### HON'BLE SPEAKER'S STATEMENT REGARDING POSITION OF THE CHAIR IN RELATION TO THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNMENT

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : I now proceed to make my promised statement on the questions which the other day Mr. Chanda asked directly concerning the position of the Chair in relation to the Executive Government in regard to certain matters.

As, it is the last Conference of the Speakers and Presidents of some of the Legislatures in India belonging to the Congress Party that gave rise to these questions, the first thing that I should clear up is, what was that Conference about. It was really a meeting of some of the Presidents and Speakers for mutual exchange of ideas on points and matters relating to their duties as such, and was really held in view of the coming conference of all the Presidents and Speakers to be held in Delhi in January next. The Conference in Delhi to be held in January is never a Conference that is being convened by the Government of India. The institution of Presidents' Conference originated with Sir Frederick Whyte, the first appointed President of the Central Legislative Assembly. How and when the first Conference came to be held would appear from the very words of Sir Frederick Whyte on a question put in the Assembly on 2nd February 1925, with reference to the Conference of the President of the Central Assembly with Presidents of Provincial Councils. I quote his words :—

"After his Excellency the Viceroy (then Lord Chelmsford) appointed me to be President of the Legislative Assembly, the then Secretary of State (Mr. Montagu) discussed informally with me the scope of my work as President. In the course of our conversation he said that he thought it would be advisable for the President of the Legislative Assembly to establish friendly relations with his brother Presidents in the Provinces. A few months after assuming charge of my present office I went on tour, visiting three provinces in July and August 1921. I am glad to be able to inform the Assembly that I met with a most cordial reception ; and partly as a result of conversations which I then had with my colleagues of three provinces and partly as a result of correspondence with the Presidents in other provinces, I was encouraged to issue an invitation to all Presidents to assemble in conference in Simla in September 1921. The purpose of the Conference was and is to enable the Presidents to exchange,

in full and free confidence, their experiences and the general results of their work in their respective Chairs. The first conference in Simla in September 1921 was so successful that the Presidents decided unanimously to make it, if possible, an annual event. By these annual meetings the Presidents have endeavoured to co-ordinate the procedure of all the Indian Legislatures, and I am glad to have this opportunity of declaring that I have derived the greatest profit from them. The proceedings of each Conference are confidential. Neither the Government of India nor any Local Government has any part in them."

It would be seen from the statement quoted that the tours Sir Frederick Whyte undertook to different provinces were undertaken with the object of establishing friendly relation with his brother Presidents in the Provinces, and this will indicate that this was considered as a business connected with his duties as President of the Assembly. Mr. Patel, succeeded him as elected President of the Assembly and he too continued the practice of visiting different provinces and holding annually the Conference of the Presidents of the Legislatures in India. It is from all this that Presidents of Provincial Councils adopted also the practice of such occasional friendly visits to one another with the same object which actuated Sir Frederick to introduce the practice.

The practice of holding such a Conference at the instance of the Hon'ble President of the Central Legislative Assembly was continued for some years till the present Central Legislative Assembly came to be formed after the last general election. The value of such Conference was realised by every one of the Presidents of the Provincial Legislatures and it was at their desire that the Conference came to be an annual function. After the inauguration of the present Constitution, it was felt by some of the Presidents and Speakers of the Legislatures that the Conference should be revived, and when I went to Calcutta in June last to meet the Hon'ble President of the Bengal Legislative Council and the Hon'ble Speaker of the Bengal Legislative Assembly, I had a discussion with them about the desirability of such a Conference. It was in the month of July last that there was an announcement in the newspapers that the Hon'ble Speaker of the Madras Legislative Assembly would convene a Conference to be held there in the month of August last. As soon as I saw the announcement I placed myself in communication with him and intimated to him that the month of August would not suit my convenience, as this Assembly would be in session then. In the meantime some of the Speakers and Presidents wrote to the Hon'ble President of the Central Legislative Assembly to call a Conference of the Presidents and Speakers and he agreed to convene a Conference and caused letters to be issued by his Secretary to the Secretaries of Provincial Legislatures, informing them that some dates in early December had been fixed for the Conference. In reply to such a letter received by my Secretary, the Secretary of the Central Legislative Assembly was informed that December dates would not suit me. After the Hon'ble President of the Central Legislative Assembly decided to convene the Conference, one of the Hon'ble Speakers belonging to the Congress made a suggestion to the Secretary of the All-India Congress Committee that at the time of the last All-India Congress Committee meeting in Calcutta it would be better if all Speakers and Presidents who belonged to the Congress meet in Calcutta and discuss amongst themselves the various points and matters touching their duties as Presidents and Speakers and settle points for the coming Conference in Delhi. The idea was that the arrangements for holding the All-India Congress Committee meeting might be very conveniently and usefully availed of for holding such a Conference. The Conference was held in the House of Mr. S. C.

Bose, M.L.A., in which Mahatma Gandhi was accommodated and was the resort of all Congress leaders on the dates on which the All-India Congress Committee was being held. Mr. Bose's house was then really converted into a public place and he very kindly allowed his study to be used for the Conference. The Conference was held on the 28th, 29th and 30th October and had 5 prolonged sittings in closed doors, not even the Personal Assistants to the Speakers being allowed any access. A Conference of Speakers and Presidents must necessarily be a confidential one and even the Press representatives were not to know anything even about the general nature of the matters discussed in the Conference. Very important points and matters have been discussed. Problems arising out of the conduct of business in the Assemblies and Councils in the provinces are more or less of a like nature and the object with which the Presidents' Conference first came into existence was certainly to evolve a uniform policy for tackling them. The deliberations of the last Conference had kept that objective in view and whatever conclusions the Conference arrived at will be placed before the coming bigger Conference in Delhi. Therefore my decision to visit Calcutta for attending the Conference there was prompted by my sense of duty to take part in a business connected with the duties of the Speakers and Presidents of Legislatures. There was also the special reason for me to attend the Conference on account of the fact that it would not have been possible for me to attend the Delhi Conference if it was held in early December as previously intimated to us. This fact was also mentioned to Government when a reference was made informing them of my intention to go to Calcutta.

Now, if a business be a business connected with the duties as Speaker of the Assembly whether it was transacted at a public place or whether the transaction of the business required the invitation and presence of all the Presidents and Speakers of the Provincial Legislature is not a matter of any moment. It was the spirit of comradeship that exists between those Presidents and Speakers belonging to Congress, by reason of their political faith, that prompted them to meet together and discuss matters in order to be profited by mutual exchange of ideas for efficient discharge of their responsible duties. There are no rules governmental or otherwise imposing any restrictions upon the Speakers and Presidents in the matter of their choosing the source from which they would seek illumination on points that occur to them in the conduct of their business of the Legislatures. It is too obvious again that the Speaker and President of a Legislature in exercise of their power of reasonable judgment, are entitled to select the source of knowledge and guidance, and therefore they have got the sole right to decide what is a business connected with their duties, to transact which they should undertake a journey to any place from their headquarters or from the venues of their Legislatures. The President and the Speaker of a Legislature are free agents in this respect and legitimately expect that they should get all facilities from Government for executing their intention to transact such a business. Really facilities offered to the Speaker and President in matters like these are facilities offered to the Legislature which is one of the two vital parts of the present Constitution—Provincial Executive being the other. That was exactly the case which Government came to know from the copy of my order dated 23rd October 1937 which was sent to them and to which the reply came on 26th October 1937 in which practically my proposition stood admitted to be correct, and the objection on the ground that it was a Conference held at a private place and was invited by a private organisation was raised. I have shown that the question of a private place selected as the venue of the meeting is of no moment and I have shown how the General Secretary of the

Congress was induced to invite the Conference and need not say much to show that it is also of no consideration that a Conference is called by a private organisation except by saying that if the Congress or any other organisation agreed to offer facilities for meeting together of Presidents and Speakers or of some of them without claiming to take any part and really taking no part in their deliberations, there can be no harm in the Presidents and the Speakers availing themselves of those facilities.

Next the question is whether there are any rules by which the Speaker and the President of the Legislature are required to obtain any sanction from Government for undertaking a journey beyond the Province for transaction of a business connected with the legislature. Here I am to point out to the House that the audit authorities are to see according to audit rules whether the journey performed by the Speaker or the President was for any business connected with the Legislature and that if an objection is raised by the audit authorities that the journey did not fall within the four corners of the audit rules, an enquiry would naturally be made from the Speaker or the President as the case may be as to the circumstances under which the journey was undertaken. A certificate from the Speaker or the President that the journey was official is considered sufficient. This is also quite obvious from the fact that the Speaker's and the President's travelling and halting allowances are to be paid from the expenditure allotted for the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council sanctioned by this House.

The audit authorities being empowered by rules to examine travelling allowance bills, it is not perceived why there should be any distinction between a journey within the province and a journey beyond the province necessitating sanction from Government. For journeys within the province no question of any sanction does arise. So if the Conference in question was held in any of the other towns within the province, the question of private conference, or of the Conference being called by a private organisation, or of the same being held at a private place would not have arisen and the travelling and halting allowances would have been paid without any question of propriety or impropriety being raised. So there is no ground for such a distinction between a journey within the province and a journey beyond the Province and Subsidiary Rule 13 to Fundamental Rule 17 at page 18 and also item 1(a) of Appendix II to the Fundamental Rules and Subsidiary Rules page 192 to the Fundamental Rules and Subsidiary Rules, do not warrant such a distinction.

Rule 13 runs to this effect—"No Government servant (other than police officers acting within his legal powers or an excise officer acting under the orders of the District Officer) is entitled to pay or allowances for any time he may spend beyond the limit of his charge without proper authority.

Item 1 (a) of appendix II only describes that the Government Departments have been delegated with the authority to sanction beyond jurisdiction i.e., to sanction journeys in India under Subsidiary Rule 13, of Executive Councillors, Members and Ministers, Secretaries to Government, Heads of Departments and other officers under their administrative control to attend conferences, meetings and Committees.

The first thing to be taken note of is that rule 13 and the appendix apply only in the case of a Government Servant and that the President of the Council has not been mentioned in the Appendix. There is no mention of the President as the Head of a Department in the Appendix.

In the absence of a specific mention that the President of the Council is the Head of a Department, the Speaker who can be described as his successor in office, cannot be called the Head of a Department and therefore no question of treating him as such arises.

Naturally therefore the question arises whether the Speaker is a Government servant and Head of a Department requiring sanction from Government. If Rule 13 is to be made applicable in the case of the Speaker, then it will be seen that he will not even be entitled to his pay for the period he would live beyond the province without proper authority. Then if Subsidiary Rule 13 is to be made applicable to the Speaker, then why not numerous other rules of the Fundamental and Subsidiary Rules, which prescribe various general conditions of Service for Government Servants?

However, I at once say that the Speaker is not a Government servant and cannot be so. He owes his position to this Hon'ble House which elected him. If he is servant of any body, he is the servant of this Hon'ble House (*applause*). His pay has been fixed by this House. Government servants in a province belong to the Provincial Executive and the Speaker belongs to the Provincial Legislature. Government servants are civil servants as described in Chapter II of Part X of the Government of India Act. The Speaker is a free agent, although drawing a salary from the Government. Under the old constitution the first President of a Council and the first President of the Indian Legislative Assembly were appointed Presidents and each of them came within the category of a Government servant and even a special Fundamental Rule, *viz.*, rule 94A had to be framed to regulate the conditions, leave and other matters incidental thereto of such a President and it is on account of this that Subsidiary Rule 13 might be made applicable in his case. It is therefore easily perceived that a reference to Government in the case of the appointed President of the Council for a journey beyond the province became necessary and the practice of making such reference that came thus into vogue was continued even after the Council had elected presidents without taking notice of the fact that a difference between the position of an appointed President and an elected President came into existence. The point whether the elected President required any previous sanction for journeys beyond the Province did not arise as orders were passed as a matter of course. It is really on account of that old practice that a reference to the Finance Department was also made on the occasion in question. After the Council got an elected President, Subsidiary, Rule, 94 A became unnecessary and had to be cancelled by the Government of India as being inapplicable. It goes without saying that Subsidiary Rule 13 became *ipso facto* inapplicable in the case of an elected President, even if it might have been applied in the case of an appointed President.

Here it should be pointed out that the Fundamental Rules are statutory rules made by the Secretary of State in Council to regulate the pay, allowances, leave and other conditions affecting the Civil Service in India under section 96B of the Government of India Act, 1919. Subsidiary Rules are rules framed by the Local Government under Fundamental Rule No.2. The provisions of section 96 B have their counterpart in the provisions under Chapter II, Part X of the Government of India Act, 1935 specially under section 241, and naturally the whole body of Fundamental Rules and Subsidiary Rules are being still applied in the case of Government servants in the absence of new rules under section 241 of the present Act. Here I should point out that the principle that who is paid by Government should come under Government rules, requires special definite rules to cover the cases of those who are not Government servants, but are paid by Government. So to cover the case of such persons we have got special rules as parts of some subsidiary rules, as for instance rules regulating the travelling allowance and halting allowance of members of the legislature. Similarly to provide for the rates of halting allowances of the President and Deputy President of the Assam Legislative Council when they would go outside the Province there is

a special rule in correction slip No.116 to Subsidiary Rule No.56 under Fundamental Rule 44, and there is another special rule, viz., Subsidiary Rule No.100 to this Fundamental rule providing the rates of travelling allowance and the rate of halting allowance within the Province for the President of the Council. These are the only two rules which are being made applicable in the case of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the present Legislative Assembly.

From all these, it is distinctly clear that the President of the Old Council got his right to regulate his own travelling and was entitled to go anywhere he liked on the basis of his own decision that there was a business to be transacted in connection with his duties as President of the Council. His decision was not liable to be examined by anybody else. He was considered to be a free agent and to indicate what may be the purpose for which he could undertake journeys to Simla and Delhi,—journey to the venue of any provincial legislature, are mentioned in the rules in order to illustrate what may really be the nature of his business in connection with his duties. The Speakers of the Assemblies are guided by these rules in the absence of rules specifically made to cover such cases. Government of India orders cancelling rule 94'A' would show that what is being stated here is quite correct and the Government of India has recently made the rule specific embodying the former rule applicable to Presidents of the old Council. In the case of the Speaker of the Central Provinces and Berar Legislative Assembly, where it is stated that the Speaker can travel at Government expense only when his journeys are connected with the business of the Legislative Assembly, e.g., journey from or to his home to preside over the Assembly, a journey to Simla or Delhi to attend a Conference of Speakers and a journey to the venue of some other Councils to study its procedure and the like and that claim for travelling allowance by the Speaker should therefore be accompanied by a certificate that the journey is official. It goes without saying that the nature of the purposes mentioned in the order is only illustrative and not exhaustive and indicates what may be the business of the Legislative Assembly for which a journey beyond the province at Government expenses would be justified.

As to whether the Speaker is the Head of a Department in addition to what I have said before I should at once point out that such a treatment accorded to him as the Head of a Department conflicts with the dignity of the House. A Head of a Department must be under the control of some Minister and belong to a Department under the Ministers. It is obvious that he is not so. The present Legislative Assembly Department is a separate Department, set up for the purpose of transacting the business of the Legislative Assembly. It is a Department of the Legislative Assembly, having in its staff some Government servants under the control and authority of the Speaker as the representative of the hon. members of the Assembly. The Legislative Assembly Department is really an autonomous department with all necessary implications of such an autonomous position. Under the old constitution the Departments of Legislative Councils of some of the provinces were separated with the Presidents as their controlling authority and the late Government rightly perceived when they arranged to set up this Assembly Department, the imperative necessity of such a separate Department to safeguard the independence of the Legislative Assembly in all respects. While separating the Bengal Legislative Council Department the late Sir Provash Chandra Mitter, Minister Legislative Department of Bengal, indicated in a speech on the 12th of February 1929 in the Bengal Council that to treat the President of the Council as the Head of a Department would detract much from his position of dignity and independence. And exactly in the same way the Government of India in its Despatch to the Secretary of State containing proposals for installing a separate Legisla-

tive Assembly Department for the Central Assembly urged that the separation of the Legislative Assembly Department was necessary in order to secure to the President a position of independence on the analogy of the position of the Speaker of the House of Commons. Under no circumstances therefore the Speaker of a Legislative Assembly can ever be treated as the Head of the Department under his control. Just as the Hon'ble Ministers having Departments of Government under their controlling authority are not Heads of Departments, the Speaker cannot be also the Head of a Department by reason merely of the fact of his having control over the Legislative Assembly Department. The expression Head of a Department has got a special technical meaning. One to be considered to be a Head of Department, requires a declaration by Governor under Subsidiary Rule 4 to Fundamental Rule 9, which, again cannot be made applicable in the case of the Speaker. From what I have shown the Speaker is a free agent with freedom to judge what is the business in connection with his duties and he is not required to obtain any previous sanction of Government. A mere certificate from him that his journey is official is considered sufficient under Government of India orders, to be entitled to get his travelling allowance for journeys beyond the province.

I regret very much that I have been compelled to make such a statement, under the well known circumstances that have arisen, on matters which are too obvious. The hon. members will, I hope, pardon me for the natural human weakness that I might have unconsciously displayed here and there in this statement. But I should say that my only excuse is that I have attempted to make clear to this House my understanding of the matter involved in the questions put by Mr. Chanda and in the supplementary questions put by many other hon. members directly pertaining to the rights and privileges which the Speaker should possess consistently with the dignity and independence of the House. The controversy that has arisen may immediately affect me personally, but the rights and privileges referred to by me have nothing personal in them, for they are really the rights and privileges for the Speaker of the Legislature, who if I may say so, would never die. These rights and privileges are undoubtedly analogous to the rights and privileges of the Speaker of the House of Commons which have been long established by conventions and by statutory provisions (*applause*).

Finally I hope and it is my desire that there should be no further discussion on the floor of the House on the controversy raised, for I think the difference between me and the Government over the matter will not be, as I said the other day, difficult of reconciliation.

RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTT: Before we proceed to the next item of business on behalf of the House, I wish to offer our respectful congratulations to you, Sir, for the very lucid statement you have made. We do not mind whether you get your travelling allowances or not, but so far as your statement defends the dignity of the Speaker which re-acts in the dignity of the House we whole-heartedly and gratefully support.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I am very much obliged to the hon. Rai Bahadur for the kind words he has used. I am always conscious that I shall not be wanting in any support of this House when I require it.

#### HIS EXCELLENCY'S MESSAGE UNDER SECTION 63(2) OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT REGARDING SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND FOR GRANT

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I have got a message from His Excellency the Governor which I now place before the House.

# MESSAGE UNDER SECTION 63(2) OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT

I have considered the circumstances arising out of the refusal of the Assembly last August to pass the grant for the staffs of the two Commissioners of Divisions, their subsequent agreement to pass a supplementary demand furnishing supply for the said staffs up to 31st December, and the position which has resulted.

2. As the Assembly is aware, after the explanation furnished to it by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on August 17 last, the posts of Commissioners cannot be abolished without the sanction of the Secretary of State. The Assembly is also aware, from statements made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister that correspondence is going on between this Government and the Central Government regarding the latter's proposal that one Commissionership should be abolished, that the matter has been referred to the Secretary of State and that his final orders on the whole subject are awaited. In the event of the Secretary of State acceding to the proposal that one Commissionership should be abolished, action would be required both by way of Legislation and Executive order, all of which would take time, but which the Government would of course undertake with the minimum of delay. But it is impossible to undertake the work of adjustment until the decision of the final authority had been communicated. Meanwhile, the present position is that pending the final decision of the Secretary of State the Commissioners remain, but without any staff. Thus they cannot discharge the duties laid upon them by statute and administrative order. It is clearly necessary that during this intermediate period provision should be made so that Commissioners can carry on their duties in a proper manner, and so that the administration shall not fail owing to their inability to do so.

3. In the circumstances, with the authority of the Governor General and the Secretary of State, in exercise of the special authorities laid upon me by section 52(1) (C) of the Government of India Act, read with Article X of the Governor's Instrument of Instructions, I have had prepared a supplementary demand, of which I attach a copy, to enable the establishment of the Commissioners' staff to be maintained up to 31st March 1938, by which time no doubt the Secretary of State's final decision will be received. It will be observed that the sums mentioned therein are "indicated" in the words of Section 78(2) of the Act as "included solely because the Governor has directed their inclusion as being necessary for the due discharge of his special responsibilities". I request you to place this demand before the Assembly tomorrow the 21st December, 1937.

20th December 1937.

R. N. REID,  
Governor of Assam.

## HIS EXCELLENCY'S ORDER *Re* CONSIDERATION OF A FURTHER SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE AND MOVING OF A MOTION OF PRIVATE MEMBER

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : Then I have got the order.

### Order

For the purpose of section 81 read with sections 78, 79 and 80 of the Government of India Act, 1935, and in pursuance of rule 17(1) of the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules, Part I, and rule 17 of the said Rules, Part II, I Robert Neil Reid, hereby further appoint 21st December, 1937,

for the consideration by the Legislative Assembly of a further Supplementary Statement of expenditure for the year 1937-38 together with a message under section 63(2) of the Government of India Act during its December session, 1937, and also for moving the following motion by a private member namely :—

“That this House is of opinion that the ballot system of voting by symbol be introduced in the ensuing Local Board election of this Province”.

This order shall be subject to my revision if necessary.

20th December 1937.

R. N. REID,  
Governor of Assam.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Then there is the supplementary demand which forms part of the message :—

*Supplementary Demand for Grants*

(To be discussed on the 21st December, 1937.)

That an additional sum of Rs.15,164 be granted to the Minister in charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1938 for the administration of the head—“25.—General Administration”.

Grant originally passed by the Assembly	Rs.
Supplementary grant already voted by the Assembly	18,63,254
... ..	25,300
Total	18,88,554

II. Sub-heads under which the supplementary demand will be accounted for by the Departments of General Administration—R.—Commissioners.

	Rs.
1. Pay of Officers	1,629
2. Pay of Establishment	11,467
3. Allowances	128
4. Contingencies	1,940
	15,164

*Explanatory Note*

This demand is presented under Section 78(2) of the Government of India Act, 1935, and the sums included in it are included solely because the Governor has directed their inclusion as being necessary for the due discharge of his special responsibilities.

RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTT: May I rise to a point of order, Sir. Does the message from the Governor brush aside the rules framed by the Governor himself regarding the presentation of supplementary demands? He has by his message fixed this day for the consideration of the Supplementary Demand, but at the same time rule 17(2) of the Governor's Rules states—

“The Governor exercising his individual judgment shall allot one or more days not earlier than three days after the day allotted for such presentation...”

Then Sir, please refer to rule 91 of the Assembly Rules. It runs as follows :—

“(1) No motion for appropriation can be made except on the recommendation of the Governor communicated to the Assembly.

(2) Motions may be moved at this stage to refuse or reduce the total amount of any demand for grant.

(3) When several reduction motions relating to the same demand are offered, the motions shall be discussed according to the amount of reduction proposed, the largest reduction coming up first and the smallest reduction last."

Then please refer to rule 92 which says :—

"If notice of a motion to refuse or reduce any demand for grant has not been given two clear days before the day on which the demand is under consideration, any member may object to the moving of the motion and such objection shall prevail, unless the Speaker in his discretion allows the motion to be made."

Now the effect of the final consideration will be to deprive this House of the right to table motions for reducing it. This has been placed before the House for its refusal or assent. If we assent, well and good. But if we want to reduce it we would not have the opportunity to do so. These rules have been made by the Governor himself and by this message he reverses them.

I therefore request you to convey our submission to His Excellency that members of this House are not in a position to discuss to-day. There was enough time to do this before so that the House might have full notice and all opportunities given them by the rules. We are taken at a disadvantage. We are not entitled to criticise the Governor. I ask, therefore, that you will be pleased to convey to His Excellency our submission that having regard to the considerations submitted above, His Excellency might be pleased to recall the message.

**SRIJUT GOPI NATH BARDOLOI :** I support what has been stated by my hon. friend, Rai Bahadur Promode Chandra Dutt, on the point of order ; but I want to add something more to this. I on behalf of this side of the House want to express our strong resentment against the presentation of this demand before this House. This subject of supplementary demand is a votable subject. It comes within the purview of section 79(2) which reads as follows :

"So much of the said estimates as relates to other expenditure shall be submitted in the form of demands for grants to the Legislative Assembly, and the Legislative Assembly shall have power to assent or to refuse to assent, to any demand, or to assent to a demand subject to a reduction of the amount specified therein."

So, Sir, this amount being originally a votable subject by this House and the House having definitely expressed its opinion, the original reduction must be binding on Government. Now, Sir, when this question of the retention of the Commissionership came as supplementary grant that was presented by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister to the House, the Hon'ble the Chief Minister was pleased to give us a definite assurance that no supplementary demand in respect of the staff would be brought beyond what he has done for the four months. To-day we are startled, we feel as if a bolt has come from the heavens.

**MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED :** The cat is out of the bag.

**SRIJUT GOPINATH BARDOLOI :** We have now got his fiat and we have got to abide by it. My respectful submission.....

**THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER :** Governor is entitled to send messages.

**SRIJUT GOPI NATH BARDOLOI :** The Governor is going against the Act itself. Special powers are laid down in section 52.

In any view of the case my submission before the House is that this is a votable demand and if this right is taken away by a fiat the right of the House is taken away. My submission is that even in matters like this in which the House has been practically unanimous in its opinion, if the right is taken away the House ceases to function and the little power that is given

by the statute is taken away. Therefore I not merely support the point of order that has been raised by my hon. friend Rai Bahadur Promode Chandra Dutt, but I further resent against this presentation of the supplementary demand.

Sir, special responsibility have been particularly defined in section 52 of the Act. His Excellency has in his message referred to this section. It should be seen how far this comes within the special responsibilities. I read the other day provision (c) under section 52(1) which is:

"(1) In the exercise of his functions the Governor shall have the following special responsibilities, that is to say—

- (a) the prevention of any grave menace to the peace or tranquillity of the province or any part thereof ;
- (b) the safeguarding of the legitimate interests of minorities ;
- (c) the securing to, and to the dependants of, persons who are or have been members of the public services of any rights provided or preserved for them by or under this Act and the safeguarding of their legitimate interests ;
- (d) the securing in the sphere of executive action of the purposes which the provisions of chapter III in Part V of this Act are designed to secure in relation to legislation ;
- (e) the securing of the peace and good Government of areas which by or under the provisions of this Part of this Act are declared to be partially excluded areas ;
- (f) the protection of the rights of any Indian State and the rights and dignity of the Ruler thereof ; and
- (g) the securing of the execution of orders or directions lawfully issued to him under Part VI of this Act by the Governor General in his discretion.

## 2. The Governor of Central Provinces and Berar, etc."

In arguing about the three months' extension of the staff, I referred to the fact that by some stretch of imagination, this section might have been made applicable, if any statutory obligation for paying the staff for these three months was there. But here, Sir, in asking for a supplementary demand for the rest of these three months *viz.*, from 1st January to 31st March 1938 ; I submit there is no special responsibility of the Governor. Therefore, my submission is that this is absolutely going against the wishes of the House and going against the powers which have been given by the Act to this House.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : Would it not be better to speak on this matter after lunch ?

Members agreeing, the House was adjourned till after lunch.

(After lunch).

RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTT : On a point of order, Sir. Are we to suppose that as a result of the message, the supplementary demand is before the House ?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : I have to hear some other hon. members on this subject.

RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTT : What I mean to say is that the discussions will proceed on different line if you hold that the supplementary demand is before the House.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : I quite realise the point. I want to hear other members also on this point, so that I may give my decision.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it seems to me that the legal position has been a little confused. His Excellency is presenting this message under section 63(2) of the Government of India Act, 1935,

which runs thus : "The Governor may in his discretion send messages to the Chamber or Chambers of the Provincial Legislature, whether with respect to a Bill then pending in the Legislature or otherwise, and a Chamber to whom any message is so sent shall with all convenient dispatch consider any matter which they are required by the message to take into consideration." The hon. Rai Bahadur seems to have confused this with rule 17(2) of the Rules of the Assam Legislative Assembly, Part I, which is "The Governor exercising his individual judgment shall allot one or more days not earlier than three days after the day allotted for such presentation (a) for voting on the demands for supplementary grants, or (b) for discussion of the estimates of the expenditure charged on the revenues of the province, other than estimates relating to expenditure referred to in paragraph (a) of sub-section (3) of section 78 of the Act, or (c) for both such voting and discussion as the case may be."

What strikes to me is this that Governor doing something in his discretion is one thing, and the Governor doing something in the exercise of his individual judgment is quite a separate matter altogether. The hon. Rai Bahadur thinks that as if His Excellency were presenting this in his individual judgment. His individual judgment and his discretion are two things. When he acts in his individual judgment he does so under rule 17(2), which requires that three clear days' notice shall be given in order to enable the House to move amendments to the estimates. But, Sir, His Excellency the Governor is exercising his discretion here, and there is no rule abrogating this, so as to require any notice whatsoever. What is wanted under this section is that the Assembly shall with all convenient dispatch dispose of the matter. So, Mr. Speaker the contention of the hon. Rai Bahadur that notice ought to have been given to enable the House to move amendments, etc., is not to the point. This is what my submission is to you, Sir.

Now, in my opinion, when His Excellency has presented this message, it is only under section 63(2). Now, whether it comes under the category of any of the provisions of section 52, in order to bring it within the purview of His Excellency's special responsibilities, is a matter which will be discussed later on. So, Mr. Speaker in my opinion, the message is quite in order and within the purview of the law and what the law [section 63(2) of the Government of India Act, 1935] requires is that the House "shall with all convenient dispatch consider any matter which they are required by the message to take into consideration." I, therefore, hold that the matter may be considered to-day with all convenient dispatch.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel it is my duty to place before this House, on behalf of the Ministry, our position in this matter (*hear ! hear !*). The Ministry is bound by the assurance, which was given by me only four days back. So far as the Ministry is concerned we have no hand whatever in presenting this supplementary demand. I, dissociate fully from the supplementary demand that is before the House. [*Loud cheers*].

Sir, we stand by the notice that was given to the establishment of the Commissioners pursuant to the vote of the House. As I mentioned the other day, the Ministry were doing their level best to implement the decision subject to the provisions of Article 436 of the Civil Service Regulation. Our position remains the same. It is up to the House to deal with the supplementary demand that is before the House.

SRIJUT GOPI NATH BARDOLAI : Does not section 52 contemplate that demands of this nature should be in the exercise of the individual judgment of the Governor ? Was or was not the Hon'ble Chief Minister

consulted by the Governor in this matter? I refer to section 52, sub-section (3): "If and in so far as any special responsibility of the Governor is involved, he shall, in the exercise of his functions, exercise his individual judgment as to the action to be taken".

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: What was the point?

SRIJUT GOPI NATH BARDOLOI: All I want to know is this that when a Governor exercises the right of the nature that has been done to-day, he should have done in the exercise of his individual judgment as sub section (3) of section 52 contemplates. I therefore want to know whether the Hon'ble Chief Minister was consulted in this matter.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, yesterday when I was busy with the session of this House, I received a letter from His Excellency the Governor saying that he has received a wire from the Governor General indicating the wishes or rather the orders of the Secretary of State regarding the presentation of the supplementary demand and that he wants to discuss the matter with me. In the meantime he had asked the Chief Secretary to draw up the usual supplementary statement. I wrote back that I was busy with the session and that I will be able to see His Excellency only after evening. Sir, I found that a list of business for to-day was printed and circulated saying that I am going to present a supplementary demand. In the evening when I went to His Excellency and pointed out that consistent with the assurance that I have given to this House and also consistent with my own views, I cannot move such a demand (*Hear! hear!*) and therefore His Excellency in exercise of his powers under section 63(2) has sent this message to the House. I also intimated to him about the mistake in the list of business to-day that had been circulated to the hon. members. This matter was also brought to the notice of the Assembly Department and now we find that an amended agenda has been placed before the House.

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: On a point of information, Sir. Under which section the Governor General has given this power to His Excellency the Governor?

(No reply.)

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I cannot help most probably being one with Rai Bahadur Promode Chandra Dutt in this issue and I should not repeat the argument advanced by him. Maulavi Munawwar Ali has said that His Excellency can send message to this chamber under section 63(2) of the Government of India Act. I say, Sir, that there is no denying the fact that His Excellency can send messages but the point is this whether His Excellency by sending message, can bring in a supplementary demand in the way in which it has been done. I am ready to give all respectful considerations to His Excellency's message and treat the demand as one of emergent nature. In that case the Assembly rule 16 says that on the day already fixed by the Governor for moving the demand for grant, an emergency demand can be moved. But what are the emergency demands that can be moved? They are required for the purpose which in the opinion of the Governor are of an emergent nature. This is the first condition and the second is for new matters which have been included in the original estimate of the year. Sir, this is a matter which is not a new matter before the Assembly. This was brought before the Assembly during the last budget session and the Assembly refused that demand for grant and in this view, I think, it cannot come in the way it has been done.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : In connection with the message from His Excellency the Governor which I have placed before this House this morning, two points of order have been raised by Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Promode Chandra Dutt. The first is whether a supplementary statement which is a part of the message has been properly presented before the House and secondly, although I call it a point of order, it is really an objection taken under sub-rule 2 of rule 17 of the Governor's rule which is embodied in part I of the Legislative Assembly Rules, against the consideration of the statement to-day. With regard to the first point, I should at once say that the point whether the supplementary statement which forms a part of the message is really placed before the House depends upon the terms of the message. It states the grounds first in favour of the consideration of the statement and then contains a request to place the statement which has been called the demand before the House. Here I may point out that it appears to me to be a very peculiar procedure that has been adopted in this case for presenting a supplementary demand before the House. If a reference be made to section 78 and the succeeding sections up to section 81 of the Government of India Act both inclusive, it would appear that the procedure laid down for the presentation of a financial statement in section 78 should be the procedure for presenting a supplementary demand. Now sub-section I of section 78 lays down that the Governor shall cause to be laid before the chamber or chambers annually a financial statement. The question naturally arises what is meant by the expression 'caused to be laid before the House'. Now there is a Ministry and one of the Hon'ble Ministers is the Finance Minister in charge of the finance of the province and the well known practice is that it is by the Finance Minister, that annual financial statement and supplementary statements are to be presented before the House, for that is the plain implication of the whole constitution under the Act. (*Hear ! hear !*). From what has just now been said by the Hon'ble Chief Minister it appears that there has been a disagreement between him and His Excellency the Governor and what he practically said is that he refused to present such a supplementary demand before the House.

In these circumstances therefore the question is whether the alternative course that has been adopted by His Excellency of having a supplementary demand presented before the House through the Speaker has been proper or not ; but without saying anything on the question of propriety or impropriety as to the procedure adopted, I should say that having regard to the fact that I have been authorised to place the message which is merely a statement of the ground in favour of the supplementary statement and having regard to the fact that the supplementary statement forms a part of the message, the whole thing having been read out by me to this House, the supplementary statement stands presented before the House, automatically to say so. Then coming to the second point of order I should point out to the House that on a reference to the order which accompanies the message I find that His Excellency the Governor has fixed to-day really as the day for the presentation of the supplementary statement, because, there is a reference to Rule 17(1) of the Governor's Rules, Part I of the Legislative Assembly Rules ; and although in the order His Excellency has stated that this day is fixed for the consideration of the supplementary statement, the rule 17(1) under which His Excellency has purported to have acted, contemplates only the fixing of a date for presentation of a supplementary statement. So having read the order between the lines the inevitable conclusion at which I arrive is that to-day is the day fixed for the presentation

of the supplementary statement. Therefore the question arises whether this supplementary statement can be considered to-day. Herein the objection of the hon. Rai Bahadur comes in ; for sub-rule (2) of Rule 17 clearly makes it imperative that after the presentation of a supplementary statement the Governor exercising his individual judgment shall allot one or more days not earlier than 3 days after the day allotted for such presentation for voting on and for the discussion of the demand on the supplementary statement presented. So it comes to this that the House has got the right to have the consideration of this supplementary statement on the 5th day from to-day, leaving three clear days in between. Therefore, in my opinion, the objection of the hon. Rai Bahadur is quite valid. (*Hear ! hear !*) The House of course has a right to consider the message which is nothing but the grounds stated for consideration of the supplementary statement and thus the consideration of the message is really the consideration of the supplementary statement presented before the House ; and the consideration of the supplementary statement must be according to rules of the House. This difficulty cannot be got over when we find that His Excellency is not fixing the day for the discussion of this supplementary statement in compliance with the provisions in sub-rule (2) of Rule 17.

RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTT : Nor for voting.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : And sub-rule (2) of Rule 17, to which I have referred, also provides that there should be a day also fixed for the voting on the demand. There are other rules referred to by the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur in Part II of the Assembly rules prescribing procedure for the discussion of a demand. So I find that there are various difficulties in the way of the House considering the supplementary statement to-day, which means nothing but discussion of and voting on the supplementary demand arising out of the supplementary statement. Section 63(2) provides that His Excellency can send a message in his discretion. Having sent the message for presentation of the supplementary statement it was necessary under the rules, that a day or days for discussion of and voting on the demand arising out of the supplementary statement should have been fixed in the exercise of His Excellency's individual judgment. The rules are such that there is no provision by which the Chair can suspend them specially in such an important matter when there is an objection raised by one hon. member of this House in assertion of the rights given to the House by the rules relating to discussion of and voting on financial matters. So I hold that although the presentation may be considered to be a valid presentation of the supplementary statement the House cannot proceed to consider or discuss the supplementary statement to-day when such an objection has been raised. (*applause*) Now, I would ask the hon. Rai Bahadur Promode Chandra Dutt to look at Rule 1 sub-rules (a) and (b) of the Governor's Rules.

RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTT : Yes, Sir. It only means that the business of the nature referred to in sub-rule (a) shall be taken up on any day or days specified in such requisition, and on such day or days such business shall have precedence. That is all, and it means nothing beyond that. The statement has been presented to this House and by the message we have been asked to consider this. What does 'consider' mean ? What I was asking was whether *consideration* meant that we must dispose of the matter to-day without giving the members an opportunity to move amendments. All that sub-rule (b) means is the business referred to in the message will have precedence over other matters. You had to take up this matter first after questions : It does not go beyond that, I submit.

**THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER:** In addition to what I have said before, I should also say that I have considered the Governor's Rule 1 (a) and (b), and having considered that rule I still hold the view that the discussion of the supplementary demand cannot take place to-day. Rule 1 (a) provides that at the commencement of each session of the Assembly, the Governor may fix a day or days for business relating to any matter which, in the opinion of the Governor, affects the discharge of his functions in so far as he is required by or under the Act to act in his discretion or to exercise his individual judgment, and on such day or days such business shall have precedence.

Rule 1 (b) provides that at any time, during a session, the Governor may require "that any business of the nature referred to in clause (a) shall be taken up on any day or days specified in such requisition and on such day or days such business shall have precedence".

Now here in the order there has been a reference to Rule 17 (1) and from the reference to rule 17 (1) the clear implication is that the presentation is to be made to-day and that is what I have pointed out before.

**RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTT:** Presentation of the statement of expenditure or of supplementary demands?

**THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER:** Yes, the presentation of the supplementary statement should be made to-day, and although the word 'consideration' has been used in the order it was necessary that there ought to have been mentioned that this day is also fixed for consideration and voting although it could not be done under rule 17(1) as I have shown. So reading rule 1 with rule 17(2) I hold that the consideration of the supplementary statement presented to-day cannot be taken up to-day. Rule 1(a) and Rule 1(b) do not over-ride, but are really subject to the provisions of Rule 17, which provides how a day or days for presentation of a supplementary statement and for discussion of and voting on the same should be fixed. So fixing a day or days, mentioned in Rule 1(b) must be the fixing of a day or days which the kind of business referred to in rule 1 requires under the rules relating thereto. Here the rule 17 provides how a day or days should be fixed for presentation and discussion of supplementary demands, and under Rule 1(b) the requirement of this Rule has not been followed. Hence discussions of the supplementary demand cannot proceed to-day (*cheers*).

**RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTT:** Is it your ruling, Sir, that the supplementary demand is before the House?

**THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER:** Yes, in a sense.

**RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTT:** May I know whether the demand arises out of the statement or the latter arises out of the former? Is it the presentation of the supplementary statement or supplementary demand?

**THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER:** Supplementary demand arises out of the supplementary statement and before such a demand can be considered there should be a formal motion so that the House may take it for consideration. And when there is no formal motion before the House, the mere presentation of a supplementary statement is not sufficient for the discussion of the demand. And I have given grounds why discussion cannot proceed to-day, even if a motion be made.

**KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI SAYIDUR RAHMAN:** May I point out that this supplementary statement is a part of the message which His Excellency has sent under section 63(2) of the Government of India Act.

**THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER:** I have said that it is a part of the message.

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Sub-section (2) says that the Chamber shall consider any matter which they are required by the message to take into consideration with all convenient dispatch.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Section 62(3) says "with all convenient dispatch". For a convenient dispatch the House must have a free and clear passage, but having regard to rules regulating discussion of and voting on supplementary demands the House has no free passage in order to proceed to consider the demand.

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Will it be considered in the next session?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: That I do not know, but it will not be considered to-day. What will happen after this—that does not lie with me.

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Is any formal motion necessary?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Yes.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI: Who is to make such a motion?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: It is somebody on behalf of the Ministry or on behalf of the Governor. The supplementary statement says that the sum is to be granted to the Minister-in-charge.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I should further point out here that there was a request made to me by the hon. Rai Bahadur Promode Chandra Dutt to convey to His Excellency the difficulties in the way of considering the message.

RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTT: I suggested that there should be a request made to His Excellency that in view of the fact that we have been taken by surprise we are not in a position to discuss the matter to-day, His Excellency may be pleased to recall his message.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I quite appreciate the suggestion from the hon. Rai Bahadur Promode Chandra Dutt that a request from this House should be sent to His Excellency conveying the desire of the House that the message should be recalled. As it appears that it was the desire of His Excellency that the supplementary statement should be presented before the House to-day, I feel that it will be going out of my way to convey the request suggested by hon. Rai Bahadur Promode Chandra Dutt to His Excellency in view of the fact that no other hon. member of this House has joined him in this request.

MAULAVI JAHANUDDIN AHMED: On a point of order, Sir, whether the message is in order or not? (*Laughter*).

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I am afraid this cannot be a point of order, and if it be a point of order I am not competent to give a ruling.

#### DISCUSSION ON THE REPORT OF THE LAND REVENUE COMMITTEE

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Sir, the conflict, which usually arises in the mind of a small boy when he is given two boxes — one containing sweets and the other toys and is asked by his mother to select one or the other is demonstrably evidenced in the position taken by the hon. Khan Sahib Maulavi Sayidur Rahman in this land revenue matter. Such an attitude of mind may both be excusable and amusing on the part of the glavo boy, but, Sir, for the hon. gentleman to swing like a pendulum sometime to the witchcraft of the Hon'ble Revenue Minister and at other times to the tune and call of the people outside the legislature is indeed very deplorable. Now, the hon. Khan Sahib has attempted to justify his present position on grounds of financial difficulties of the province. May I ask

him in this connection one pertinent question as to what prevented him from considering this aspect of the question when he moved his first amendment three months ago.

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I did consider, Sir.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I stand corrected, Sir. If he did consider this matter why did he not move the amendment which he now puts forward before the House. Is there any justification for him to show that during these few months that is to say from the time when he moved his first amendment to this day the condition of the province had so changed as to necessitate this new amendment? I want a reply to this question. It is high time that the hon. Khan Sahib should choose to go one way or the other. We have no objection if he keeps on supporting the Ministry, season in and season out but he must do away with all the 'buts' and 'ifs' and the pretence of helping the cause of the people. We want to know definitely whether he stands by 33 per cent. reduction of land revenue at a flat rate to which he committed himself only a few months ago or he wants to go back on his words and subsequent statement to the public.

Considering the attitude taken by the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister, Sir, one feels compelled to come to the conclusion that his dramatic performance was full of sound and fury without signifying anything (*Hear! hear!*). I repeat, Sir, that it signified nothing. The amendment moved by the hon. Mr. Siddhinath Sarmah raised very vital questions but the Hon'ble Revenue Minister did not even make any attempt to reply to them. Last time, when he opposed the 50 per cent. reduction he had suggested a Committee of Enquiry and that suggestion of giving him a Committee of Enquiry was thrown out of gear. If that proposal had been rejected, what justification was there for the Hon'ble Revenue Minister to institute the present Committee of Enquiry? Sir nothing has been mentioned by him as far as this matter is concerned. Then, Sir, we heard from him a good deal about the recommendations made by this Committee of Enquiry. First he said that the Congress people were in favour of only 33 per cent., but I have given a remission in some cases to the extent of 50 per cent. Can he deny that the Congress party did not put a proposal for reduction of 50 per cent., and that only by way of a compromise were compelled to accept 33 per cent. in preference to 50 per cent. Further, what does this 50 per cent. reduction recommended by the Committee imply or amount to? It is nothing more than a concealed attempt to realise money which would have otherwise been impossible to realise. Those poor people who could not and were not able to pay any revenue at all are being tempted by Government by means of this bait and bogey of red action to pay the revenue which was not and could not be realised by other methods. Secondly, the Hon'ble Minister comes forward with a suggestion that 33 per cent. reduction at flat rate will chiefly benefit the rich. Sir, I do not understand what the Hon'ble Minister means. It may be true that in some cases remissions will have to be given to rich people but ultimately it will benefit the poor under-tenants who will be required to pay less rent to their land-lord if the latter has to pay less revenue to the Government. Ultimately it is for the undertenant who are poor that this remission is required.

Then, Sir, he says—we have given 33 per cent. to people who pay Rs.12 and under. For the maintenance of a poor family it is necessary that a person must have at least 4 or 5 *puras* of land. If remission of 33 per cent. is given only to people who pay a revenue of Rs.12 or less this will not benefit the persons who possess the minimum holding for their maintenance.

Sir a pertinent question was asked by my friend Mr. Barua as to what is the amount involved in the fifty per cent reduction as recommended by the Land Revenue Committee. The Hon'ble Minister said that he would deal with this later on, but we have so far received no reply from him.

Lastly, Sir, to my hon. friend Mr. Hockenhull, the leader of the Planting group, we are very thankful for the trouble which he took in going out of his way and for giving suggestions in a matter in which as he says he was not vitally interested. It is not unusual for us to get such a helping hand and patronage from him and his people. We have got so used to this patronage that without it we feel our existence impossible! But if the 33 per cent. reduction resolution had been passed on the floor of the House of Commons would he not have considered it binding on him? Has he not gone against all conventions and practices by supporting and working on the Land Revenue Committees of Enquiry the institution of which was opposed by this House. Sir, the hon. gentlemen, who spoke in favour of the amendment moved by Khan Sahib Sayidur Rahman and the Hon'ble Revenue Minister have confused the issue. The issue before us is that which this House gave a more or less unanimous verdict in favour of the 33 per cent. flat reduction of land revenue the Government have gone beyond the scope of the resolution by not accepting the recommendation made by this House, and by instituting against the will of this House, a Committee of Enquiry. And that what that Committee has done and recommended has gone beyond the scope of the said resolution. Will it now be just, proper and reasonable for us to support the action of the Government and the recommendations of the Committee of Enquiry in face of the 33 per cent. reduction resolution which was during the last session passed by this House? I asked the hon. members of this House to consider this matter very seriously and not to go against their own verdict in favour of the 33 per cent. reduction at flat rate which they supported only about three months ago.

\*MAULAVI ABDUL MAT N CHAUDHURY: Sir, during the last session this House adopted a resolution recommending a 33 per cent. reduction in land revenue. It was generally assumed that the Government would take immediate steps to give effect to it. When the House recommends a certain course of action, obviously, Sir, the responsibility lies with the Government either to accept it or to reject it. But here the Government did something quite different. They appointed a Committee and referred the resolution to it. I think, Sir, it is sheer waste of public money (*Hear! hear!*). This means that some 13 members of this House sat in judgment over the decision of the full House (*Hear! hear!*).

With regard to the recommendations of the Committee, while the House recommended a flat rate reduction of 33 per cent. throughout the province, the Committee and the Government made a discrimination between district and district. This, Sir, in my opinion involves inequality of sacrifice. I would like to illustrate that point by reference to a comparison of the district of Kamrup with the Jaintia Parganas part of which falls in my constituency. The Jaintia Parganas is one of the poorest tracts in the province of Assam. The very large number of revenue sales every year for failure to pay the normal revenue demand shows the incapacity of the people to pay, and a comparison of the figures between Kamrup and Jaintia shows that the need for reduction is far greater in the Jaintia Parganas than in the district of Kamrup. I will quote some figures, Sir.

\* (Speech not corrected by the hon. member).

The number of estates in Kamrup is 358,954. Out of this in the year 1935-36 the number that were notified for sale was 5,165. In North Sylhet subdivision, which practically means the Jaintia estates so far as the temporarily settled areas are concerned, there were 81,381 estates, out of which 16,642 were notified for sale for arrears of land revenue. In Kamrup it was 5 thousand out of 3 lakhs whereas in North Sylhet it was 15 thousand out of 81 thousand. Then in the year 1934-35 out of 353,017 estates, 5607 estates were notified for sale in Kamrup, while out of 81,000 estates, 48,895 were notified for sale in North Sylhet, which means more than 50 per cent. In 1933-34 only 5,865 estates were notified for sale out of 349,609 estates in Kamrup, while 32,140 estates were notified for sale in North Sylhet out of a total of 80,959 estates. In 1931-32 out of 336,984 estates in Kamrup 2,906 were notified for sale, while in Jaintia out of 80,692, the number that was notified for sale was 14,643. In 1930-31 out of 331,369 estates in Kamrup only 989 were notified for sale, whereas in the Jaintia Parganas 8,981 were so notified out of a total of 80,472 estates.

Yet, Sir, the Kamrup district gets a reduction of 25 per cent, while Jaintia gets only 19 per cent. I leave it to the House, Sir, to judge whether it has been fair and equitable.

Now, Sir, it is quite obvious that the recommendation of the Committee and the decision of the Government fall short of the demand of the House. But I must say at the same time in all fairness to the Government that they have made an honest effort to meet the wishes of the House. It is a fact that our people need relief. But the incidence of taxation in our province is heavier than in any other province. Considering all the circumstances, the Government has gone much further than any other province in revenue reduction (*Hear ! hear !*). In my opinion, Sir, a reduction of 30 lakhs in a revenue of over a crore of rupees, as the Hon'ble Revenue Minister pointed out in a very convincing speech the other day, is something over which we may even pride ourselves (*Hear ! hear !*).

Now, Sir, my hon. friend Mr. Fakhruddin Al' Ahmed has taken to task my friend Mr. Sayidur Rahman for his statement that the revenue reduction should be made as soon as funds permit. In making that statement, Sir, my friend Khan Sahib Sayidur Rahman was repeating merely a truism. He was, I should say, echoing the sentiment and opinion of the Congress Minister of the Central Provinces who says that, in the matter of revenue reduction financial consideration is the only limiting factor. When this matter was discussed in the last session, Sir, I held the view, which I hold to-day, that reduction up to the extent of 50 per cent. could be made for the agriculturists, provided more lands are thrown open for settlement by abolition of the Line System (*Hear ! hear !*). By insisting, Sir,...

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN: On a point of information, Sir. May I know whether the hon. member supported the 50 per cent. reduction by a very lucid speech ?

MAULAVI ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: I support the 50 per cent. reduction even to-day, Sir, provided the Line System is abolished and land is thrown open for cultivation. (*laughter*).

BABU DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURY: Did the hon. member add this condition in his speech ?

MAULAVI ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: In the speech I have distinctly referred to the Line System and added this condition. If the hon. member would read my speech he will find that. I still maintain, Sir, that by insisting on the retention of the Line System, my friend Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed and other new friends in the Congress Party, they

are depriving Government of the opportunity of giving further relief to the poor. It is my conviction, Sir, that this attitude of the Congress on the Line System.....

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: On a point of information, Sir. Has the hon. member read the statement issued by the President of the Congress as far as the question of the Line System is concerned?

MAULAVI ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: Do the Congress party here follow the decision of the Congress President?

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: As a member of the League does the Hon'ble Chief Minister hold that view?

MAULAVI ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: Sir, I still maintain that the attitude of the Congress is not for improving the financial resources of the province.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: The hon. member may question, but it is a fact.

MAULAVI ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: You may question. But it is a fact, making it difficult for Government to accede to the demands of this House. You may retain the Line System and retard the development of the Province, and then insist on the reduction of land revenue.

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: When the Government will be put into difficulty? You have come to the wrong shop.

MAULAVI ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: Sir, in matters like this I believe in the dictum of Bal Gangadhar Tilok. He used to say that make your demands 16 annas. If you get 12 annas put it in your pocket, and then demand for the balance. My friends of the Congress group, I think, are still following the same principle. They also demand complete independence [*A voice*:—what about Muslim League?] We also do demand complete independence and we were willing and anxious to work this Constitution, because we have commonsense—i.e., practical politics.

Under these circumstances, Sir, I support the amendment of my friend Khan Sahib Sayidur Rahman.

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by my hon. friend Khan Sahib Sayidur Rahman. I also refer to my speech of the Budget Session about the appointment of a Committee. I think it is not the first time that the Hon'ble Revenue Minister was in favour of the appointment of a Committee, but I find after going through the entire speeches of the Hon'ble Revenue Minister on the subject, when he was leading the opposition, he advocated for a Committee. I find, Sir, when on these days he had been advocating the cause of the 50 per cent. reduction; at the very same time he was very earnest to say that a Committee should be there, so that the relief may be extended only to the poor and deserving. We should not confine ourselves to the letters of the resolution, we must go to the spirit of the resolution. If we advocated the cause for flat reduction of 33 per cent. it was meant only for the help of the poor and *bona fide* agriculturists. I strongly remind the House, the specific instances when the Hon'ble Revenue Minister in this House in the last Budget Session, quoted and asserted that if a flat reduction is made, the richer section of the people like my friend Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta or Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed may be greatly benefited. If flat reduction were there it would have left no scope for granting relief to the poorer section. If you leave scope for the richer section of the people to be benefited by this resolution, how can you expect 50 per cent. reduction in case of poorer sections? It is no good saying that public demand is for 50 per cent. We have seen that by exciting public feeling, we are ourselves meddling in affairs which we cannot make practically applicable.

Sir, I shall only refer you to some portion of a speech by Mr. Masani, which appeared in the yesterday's issue of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*. He says that Congress Ministries have failed to remove the grievances of the people (*A voice*: Is it resonance?). He says "political prisoners with some exceptions had been released, the ban on most organisations had been lifted (Mr. Arun Kumar Chanda:—The devil will quote the scriptures if it suits him) newspapers securities had been given back, and some measure of economic relief had been given to the agriculturists. There was also a certain enlargement of civil liberties and there was something of expectancy in the air. But the repressive laws were still on the Statute Book and were being used by Congress Ministries. No solution had been found for poverty, unemployment and illiteracy. It was evident that some of the Congress Ministries could not refrain from taking use of the repressive laws".

So, I say if you insist on 50 per cent. reduction irrespective of the fact whether it goes to the people who need it most, or it goes to the richer section of the people, you are not giving any relief to the poor. I can remind those hon. members that their position would not be different from that of the Hon'ble Revenue Minister's position of to-day. At one time he was probably no less earnest and persistent in his demand for 50 per cent. reduction, but when he has been faced with actual state of things—the financial position of the Government—he finds it is not an easy matter which can be easily solved. So, I should appeal to the hon. members to realise that we are not here to be guided by the letters of the resolution, but the spirit of it. We find from the scope of the Enquiry Committee that the Hon'ble Revenue Minister, the President of that Committee, recommended 50 per cent. reduction to the deserving cases. This was one of the items of the Committee. The Enquiry Committee did not forget those poor, deserving, *bona fide* agriculturists who were granted 50 per cent. reduction.

Then, Sir, in my last budget speech, and this has been just now endorsed by my friend Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhury, I said that we ourselves by our own action—at least a large section of the members of this House—are opposing to give real benefit to the deserving cases. If we throw open the undeveloped portion of lands, which is now inhabited by wild beasts and animals, we could have granted this measure of relief to the poor people. We bring our own adversity by denying ourselves the privilege which the Government could grant. In this matter I should also draw the attention of the hon. members to the comparative figures that were placed before the House by the Hon'ble Revenue Minister as to what sort of reduction of land revenue has been granted by other provinces. We know Assam is a poor province in comparison with other provinces for which those figures were placed before the House, by the Hon'ble Revenue Minister. At the same time I bring to the notice of the House the alarming note that a distinguished officer like Mr. J. A. Dawson—whose name is a household one in the Surma Valley in view of the fact that he was very sympathetic and very considerate towards poor tenants of Sylhet and Cachar when they were visited by terrible floods of 1929 has recorded. Sir, he says: "One great danger in granting the liberal remissions for 1937-38 on a much more generous scale than for previous years is that while it is the easiest thing in the world to grant remissions, it is extremely difficult to curtail them in future years.

Also it is necessary to keep something in hand for a rainy day. What is to happen if we have extensive floods in districts like Sylhet or Cachar or Nowgong involving according to the rules for suspensions and remissions, large remissions of land revenue, the giving out of agricultural loans, and gratuitous relief on a large scale?

In my note I have dealt with the matter from the point of view of the *Economic necessity* of granting the proposed remissions of land revenue and with my eye on future budgets and on the difficulty there may be of securing a loan through the Reserve Bank to repay our debts to the Government of India if we do not zealously guard our resources. So far as the Committee could gather from the information at its disposal, no other province has been anything like so liberal in land revenue remissions as Assam has been."

These are matters which ought to be taken into consideration. I also like to point out to the House that some hon. members of this House who are not more charitable made some observation about the personnel of the Select Committee. What we find is that some of the experienced men who spent their whole life in revenue matters were taken in. I should say that experience is a thing which should always be taken into consideration for the guidance of a complicated matter like that of revenue. Of course, it would have been better if the personnel of the Committee would have been taken in consultation with the members of the House. At the same time we find that three hon. members of the Congress group were invited but they did not take part in the matter and I do not know whether that was out of any policy that they would find it difficult for any easy solution. I rather find, Sir, that it was a sincere and earnest effort on the part of the Government to help the acutally needy people. With these few words I support the amendment moved by my hon. friend Khan Sahib Maulavi Sayidur Rahman.

**KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have heard the discussions on the report of the Revenue Enquiry Committee and I find that there has been some confusion of issues in this connection. First of all, Sir, in the last budget session, this House passed a resolution recommending a flat rate of 33 per cent. reduction of land revenue to the temporarily-settled districts of Assam and in pursuance of that resolution this Enquiry Committee was held and now it has come up before the House with a report. Now, Sir, the main issue before the House is that the House passed a resolution recommending 33 per cent. reduction of revenue but the recommendation of the Committee appears to be quite otherwise. The question is whether a resolution passed by the House should be regarded as a mandate from the House or merely a recommendation. If it is assumed for argument's sake that it is mandatory then should it be understood with reference to the discussions made on that resolution or by the rigid contents thereof? I think this resolution should be understood with reference to the debates or speeches made thereon, especially by the mover of that resolution. Again in accordance with the debate, a Committee was appointed and a report of that Committee is now before the House for its consideration. In the report of the Enquiry Committee I find the names of at least ten hon. members of this House who took part in the Committee and who were also party to that resolution. They have modified their opinion in the light of experience they have gained in the Enquiry Committee. So, Sir, I think that this House is also competent to modify, alter or add to their decision in the light of experience gained by the materials supplied by the report of the Enquiry Committee. In this view of things, this report may be considered and accepted by this House.

**THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER:** Is not this to go to vote to-day?

**RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTT:** Is it the idea of the hon. members to sit after 4? This matter has been thoroughly discussed.

**SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN:** সভাপতি ডাক্তাৰীয়া যোৱা বাজেট অধিবেশনত শতকৰা ৩৩ টকা খাজানা মাক সম্বন্ধে যিটো প্ৰস্তাব পাছ হৈছিল সেই প্ৰস্তাব গোটেই পৰিষদৰ সম্মতি ক্ৰমেই পাছ হৈছিল। তাৰ পিচত অনাৰেবোল ৰেভিনিউ মিনিষ্টাৰে যিটো কমিটি গঠন কৰিলে সেই কমিটি বাস্তবিকতে গোটেই পৰিষদৰ মতক উৰাই দি কৰা হৈছে আৰু সেই নিমিত্তেই কংগ্ৰেচ পাৰ্টিয়ে তাত যোগ দিয়া নাছিল। বাকী বসকল ঘেম্বৰে নিজে শতকৰা ৩৩ টকা মাক সম্বৰ্ণন কৰিও সেই কমিটিত যোগ দিছে, বাস্তবিকতে সেই ঘেম্বৰ সকলৰ পক্ষে ই নিতান্ত অনায়াস হৈছে। আমাৰ ধানচাহাব ছৈয়দুৰ ৰহমান চাহাবে যিটো সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাব (amendment) আনিছে সেই বিষয়ে মাত্ৰ ইয়াকে কব পাৰি যে তেখেতৰ মতে হৈছে এতিয়া ইমানতে থাকক ভবিষ্যতত দেখা যাব। অৰ্থাৎ “আহক বাৰিষা কাটক পাত, বৈষা ভিনিহি খাইবা ভাত”। ইয়াৰ মানে বাৰিষা আহিলে কলগত পাত হব আৰু তেতিয়া সেই পাত কাটি ভিনিহিক ভাত খুৱাব লাগিব। এতিয়া ৬ মাহ পেটত ভোকলৈ বহি থাকক। গতিকে সেই সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাব কেনোনতে সম্বৰ্ণন কৰিব পৰা নাযায়।

মই বিশেষকৈ নগাঁৱৰ কথা কওঁ। নগাঁৱত গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ ৰিপোৰ্ট মতে (Assessment Report of the Immigrant Group of villages in Nowgong) যেতিয়া ধানৰ মোনে ২৮, সৰিহৰ মোনে ৫৮, মাহৰ মোনে ৩৫ আৰু মৰা পাটৰ মোনে ৮৫ আছিল তেতিয়া সেই নিৰিখৰি খাজানা চিমান বঢ়োৱা হৈছিল সেইটো গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ ৰিপোৰ্টৰ পৰাই কওঁ—“The new assessment represents an enhancement of 48.51 per cent. on the present revenue, which is a figure so high as to merit very careful consideration,” সেই সময়ত যি খাজানা আছিল তাৰ ওপৰত শতকৰা ৪৮ ভাগ খাজানা বঢ়োৱা হৈছিল। কিন্তু এতিয়া ধানৰ মোনে ১৮ আৰু সৰিহৰ, মৰা পাটৰ মোনে ৩৫ টকা। এনেদৰে গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে কোনোবাকমে বঢ়া খাজানা লব নোৱাৰে। কাৰণ, গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ ৰিপোৰ্ট মতেই যেতিয়া বস্তৰ দাম বেচি আছিল তেতিয়া খাজানা বঢ়োৱা হৈছিল। কিন্তু এতিয়া বস্তৰ দাম কমিছে, সেই কাৰণে খাজানাও কমিব লাগে। Immigrant areaত ৫৭৭৮ শতকৰা ৪৮ ভাগ খাজানা বঢ়াইছিল। কিন্তু তাত এতিয়া শস্যৰ দাম শতকৰা ৭৫ ভাগ কমিছে গতিকে মানুহে কোনো বকমে পুৰনি বেচি খাজানা দিব নোৱাৰে। ইং ১৯৩৩ চনত যেতিয়া খান বাহাদুৰ মহম্মদ চৌধুৰী নগাঁৱৰ ডিপুটী কমিশ্যনাৰ আছিল তেতিয়া মানুহে খাজানা দিব নোৱাৰাত তেখেতে নিজ হাতে তিবাতাৰ কাণৰ কেৰু পৰ্য্যন্ত কাঢ়ি আনিব লগীয়া হৈছিল। মই যিটো সমষ্টিৰ পৰা নিৰ্বাচিত হৈ আহিছো, সেইটো সমষ্টি ইমান পিচ পৰা আৰু তাত বাস্তা ঘাটৰ ইমান অভাৱ যে তাত ধানৰ দাম মোনে ১৮ — ৫০ অনা, গতিকে সেই ঠাইৰ গৰাব মানুহে বঢ়া খাজানা কোনো বকমে দিব নোৱাৰে। গবৰ্ণমেণ্ট নিতান্ত নিৰ্দিয় নহলে কতিয়াও তেনেকৈ

খাজানা আদায় কৰিব নোৱাৰে। আৰু বাস্তবিকতে সেই সমষ্টিত চিকিৎসাৰ শিক্ষা, পানী ইত্যাদিৰ ব্যবস্থা অতি শোৰ্চলগা। মায়াং মৌজা আজি ১১০ বছৰ বৃটিছ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ তলত আছে তথাপিও তাত এবৰগত বাস্তা বা এটা কুঁৱা দিয়া নাই। Mr. Dawson চাহাব নগাঁৱৰ ডিপুটী কমিশ্যনাৰ থাকোতে মায়াঙত এটা কুঁৱা দিছিল; কিন্তু এতিয়াও সেই কুঁৱাৰ পানী ওলোৱা নাই। তাৰ মানুহে প্ৰত্যেক বছৰে ৩৪ খনকৈ দৰখাস্ত দিছে তথাপি তালৈ একো কান কৰা হোৱা নাই।

নগাওঁ টাউনত এতিয়া বিঘা প্ৰতি ১০০ টকা খাজানা লোৱা হৈছে। নগাওঁ টাউনত বেপাৰ বানিজ্য ইত্যাদিৰ এনে কোনো বিশেষ উন্নতি হোৱা নাই যে তাত বিঘা প্ৰতি ১০০ টকা হিচাপে মানুহে খাজানা দিব পাৰে। এইবাৰ খাজানা বঢ়াই ১৫০ টকাকৈ লৈছে। সেই বৃদ্ধি স্থগিত ৰাখিব গোজে কিন্তু তাত খাজানা মাফ দিব নোখোজে। ই নিতান্ত অন্তায় হৈছে।

অনাৰেবোল ৰেভিনিউ মিনিষ্টাৰে সিদ্ধি কৈছে যে কংগ্ৰেচ প্ৰভিন্স বিলাকৰ যি বিলাক জাগাত শত্ৰুৰ দাম কমিছে সেই বিলাক জাগাতহে বেহাই দিছে। কিন্তু আমাৰ যি বিলাক জাগাত শত্ৰুৰ দাম কমিছে তাতো বেহাই দিয়াৰ কোনো বকম বন্দবস্ত কৰা হোৱা নাই কিয়? কেবল এটা general reduction হৈ ধৰা গৈছে। কিন্তু সেইটো বাস্তবিকতে যথেষ্ট বুলি কব নোখোজে। অনাৰেবোল বন্ধু মৌলবী মতীন চাহাবে বাৰে বাৰে কংগ্ৰেচ প্ৰভিন্সৰ কথা আৰু লাইন প্ৰথাৰ (Line System) কথা কৈছে। কংগ্ৰেচ প্ৰভিন্স বিলাকত যি বিলাক কাম কৰিছে আৰু তাত যি bold step লৈছে আমাৰ ইয়াত তেনেকুৱা হোৱা নাই কিয়? মোৰ মতে যদি পেট্ৰল ডিউটীৰ পৰা ১ কোটি ১০ লক্ষ টকাও দিয়া হয় তথাপিও আমাৰ মন্ত্ৰী সকলে যি mentalityৰে কাম কৰিছে, তেওঁলোকে কেতিয়াও আমাৰ দেশৰ ভাল কাম কৰিব নোৱাৰে। ইয়াতে এটা গল্প মনত পৰিছে। গল্পটো হৈছে এই—এজন ভদ্ৰলোকে সালসাৰ এখন বিজ্ঞাপনত একালে এজন লাখুটিৰ ওপৰত ভৰ দিয়া ৰোগীৰ ছবি আৰু আন ফালে এজন হুঁপুঠ ছাতি লোৱা মানুহৰ ছবি দেখি ভাবিলে যে সালসা খাই তুৰ্বল মানুহটো হুঁপুঠ হব পাৰে, কিন্তু লাঠিদাল ছাতি হব কেনেকৈ? লাঠিদাল তো কেতিয়াও ছাতি হব নোৱাৰে! কাজেই এই বিজ্ঞাপন মিছা। আমাৰ বহুতে সেই ভদ্ৰলোকৰ বুদ্ধিৰে কংগ্ৰেচৰ বাণী বা কাৰ্য্যকলাপ বিবেচনা কৰে। সেই ধিনিতে বিচাৰ বুদ্ধিৰ গলদ। কংগ্ৰেচৰ যে কথা কোৱা হয়, কিন্তু কংগ্ৰেচৰ suggestion লোৱা নহয় কিয়?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: বক্তা ডাঙৰীয়াৰ মই এটা কথা শুধিব পাবোনে? কেনেকুৱা কথা বিলাককেনো তেখেতে bold step বুলিছে?

**SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN:** শিক্ষা সম্পর্কে, কমিউনিস্ট system সম্পর্কে, ব্যক্তিগত উন্নতিৰ নিষিদ্ধ, prohibition সম্পর্কে আৰু political prisoner বিলাকক release কৰা ইত্যাদি সম্পর্কে বিবিধক কাম কৰিছে সেয়ে bold step.

**THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Political prisoner বিলাকক release কৰিছে নেকি?

**SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN:** নিশ্চয় কৰিব লাগে আৰু কৰিছেও। কংগ্ৰেচৰ suggestion নলৈ কংগ্ৰেচক দোষ দিয়া ঐকান্তিকতে নিতান্ত অস্বাভাৱিক। সেই নিমিত্তে এই খান চাহাব চৈয়দৰ বহমানৰ সংশোধনো প্ৰস্তাবৰ বিৰোধিতা কৰে আৰু শীঘ্ৰে বিধানপৰ্যায়ৰ প্ৰস্তাব সংৰ্থন কৰে।

**SRIJUT DEVESWAR SARMAH:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by my hon. friend Srijut Siddhinath Sarma and to oppose the motion that has been moved by my hon. friend Khan Sahib Saiyidur Rahman. Sir, we have been anxiously waiting to hear all those who have opposed Srijut Siddhinath Sarma's motion and supported Khan Sahib Saiyidur Rahman's motion as to the grounds therefor. I for one feel that the issues have been confused, by some people deliberately, and, by others I do not know how and why, because to my mind the only moot point at issue in this matter is whether the House tolerates the action of the Government on going back on its own word, on its own assurance.

**THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** On a point of information. May I know what assurance the hon. member is alluding to?

**SRIJUT DEVESWAR SARMAH:** Give me a moment. I am coming to it in developing my argument. The issue, I submit, was this whether the declared wish of the House, and which was also accepted by the Government, is to be given effect to or not, or whether the Government may be allowed to go back on its word. Khan Sahib Saiyidur Rahman delivered a lengthy and laboured speech. If my hon. friend Mr Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed felt like a Glaxo Boy I felt like a country lawyer, which I am. He has acted like a Magistrate in a police case, his reasonings are the reasonings of acquittal, but towards the end of his judgment he somehow turns round and convicts the accused because he dares not to disoblige the police. The Khan Sahib's reasonings are the same as advanced by Srijut Siddhinath Sarma, but he changes lamentably towards the end of his speech and says "yes! as regards funds we are in difficulty so let us for the present be content with it". He also said that there is a strong feeling in the country about this matter. But he did not say whether he shared the feeling or not. Evidently he rose up and wanted to explain his position. In doing so he failed to show whether it was his position in the country or in this House. Apparently, his press statement varies from the statement he makes here.

Coming to the Hon'ble Revenue Minister, he has considerable experience of the legislatures—formerly on this side but since translated to the Government side. We were waiting in vain to hear the reasons that he had to put forward for going back upon the declared opinion in the House. He wanted to know what he accepted.....

**THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** What he 'assured' and not 'accepted'.

**SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH:** What he accepted or what was assured it comes to the same thing. Sir, we know we pay dearly to the Hon'ble Ministers and every precious word that drops from their lips are costly to us poor rate-payers. But I could hardly imagine that the Hon'ble Minister, for Land and Revenue would stretch his contention to the extent, that amendments have to be moved upon the words of his speech. Otherwise what else does he mean by asking whether he said such and such a thing in his speech on the amendment. The position of the Government must have been clear. There was a resolution for fifty per cent. reduction which was defeated. There was an amendment to it for making it a 33 per cent. flat reduction. The Government accepted it as such. The speech made on that occasion might have contained various words and arguments. But nobody would conceive the idea that amendments have to be made to various statements that are contained in the speech itself. Now, Sir, shall I be far wrong in taking that the Government is playing fast and loose with the hon. members of this House? I do maintain that the Government are playing fast and loose with us. How? At the time when the resolution for a 50 per cent. reduction was taken up, the feeling in this House was strong in support for a 33 per cent. flat reduction. If the Government go back upon that acceptance now they are not, I will say, honest in their intentions. The Government saw which way the wind was blowing then and also guessed the intentions of the House. They clearly saw that if they would not accept the amendment they would have to court a straight defeat and they were not prepared to risk it. May I take it that they have since taken to practical politics as stated by my hon. friend on my left? Possibly, at that moment, if they had said that on account of financial considerations they could not accept the resolution, the position would have been different. That is why I say the Government are sailing with the winds and are playing ducks and drakes with this House. Then, all the arguments that a resolution is after all a resolution and it is not a command from the House and it may or may not be accepted, do not hold water. Because to that amended resolution passed for a flat reduction of 33 per cent., the Government was a party; it might have been honestly or dishonestly. So if the Government honestly accepted the resolution, then honestly they ought to have acted up to it. If they now turn back and say that they will go up only to a certain extent, it can lead to only one inference and that is that the intentions of the Government were not honest in accepting the resolution but it was done with a view to tide over the difficulty for the time being. Sir, there could be no misunderstanding about that resolution? It was a resolution for a flat rate of 33 per cent. A point of order was also raised and the Chairman ruled that it was a flat rate. Further more, what could be the motive for this going back upon the declared and agreed wish of this House and saying that the Government will grant 12½ per cent. reduction only in some cases? Did we not hear the Hon'ble Revenue Minister declaring that he would willingly come forward with 25 per cent. reduction? Did he not say that? Then why whittle down that and come down to 12 per cent? I would point out to the House that the question is not whether it is 50 per cent. or 33 per cent. or 12 per cent. But it is a question whether the House can allow the Government to take the position it is taking that is to say flouting a declared wish of the House and which was also accepted by themselves. It will be serious inroad upon the privileges of this House. It is this constitutional issue which I want to bring home to the hon. members. One hon. member I mean Khan Sahib Saiyidur Rahman went to the extent of even invoking the reputation of the Hon'ble Revenue Minister. He could very well spare us

from it. How could he have been unmindful of the position that if good conduct is sought to be proved, evidence of bad conduct becomes admissible. We may not go to that extent, good taste might have prevented the hon. member Maulavi Ashraffuddin Md. Choudhury, when he sang halleluja to a Government officer who has all along been present in officers' gallery and we do not want to imitate him by saying what can be said to the contrary. As regards the Hon'ble Revenue Minister's throwing cheap jibes at us, the members of the Congress Party the less said the better. Belonging to a great organisation piloted by the greatest of living men for peace on earth and goodwill to mankind through truth and non-violence, we are not unaware of our many shortcomings to reproach ourselves with. But it ill lies in the mouth of the Revenue Minister to cast the fling on us as he did and we treat it with such feeling as it deserves coming from one who kicks the ladder by which he rose.

Coming to the point raised by the hon. member Maulavi Matin Chaudhury and some others, that Sylhet has been given so much reduction only or so much reduction has not been given to this or that district, I say that these points are not so pertinent as regards our present discussion. The question resolves itself to this whether the House would tolerate their privileges being whittled down like this. It pains me to hear from hon. member Mr. Hockenhull, pointing out that this is a question that affects the financial position of the province and asking what he will be saying to the Central Government when we have to stand up before them asking for more money and facing a question as to what we are doing for ourselves. If asked what we have been doing for ourselves, for one thing I would say that when hon. member will have to face such a situation it is to his credit to be able to say "when the Hon'ble the Speaker of Assam wanted Rs. 500 per mensem as his salary, I voted for a thousand." If Mr. Hockenhull raises the question of funds then that would be my answer to him. But I would implore the hon. members of the European Group to consider the matter from another point. It is usually said and sometimes not without reason that the Europeans in this country thwart us in the way of our progress. Do they not lend themselves to the charge of thwarting us in our progress towards Self-Government in opposing Mr. Sarma's motion. If the Congress said that the Government of India Act, 1935 did not give any real autonomy do the present Cabinet and the European group not corroborate Congress position and demonstrate it by their doings? It is nearing 4 o'clock and I shall not take much time of the House. Sir, there are the famous statements of the Secretary of State for India as well as the statement of the Viceroy of India while inaugurating the Reforms and if we remember these did they not say that the Act has been passed and Reforms have been given to India, it was for the Indians to try and work the new laws and grow healthy conventions for autonomy. After all, autonomous responsible Government depends to a great extent on healthy conventions to be created and maintained. Do my friends to my left give a helping hand to growing and building up healthy conventions by their opposition to Sarma's motion? Would such a position be tolerated in the House of Commons even for thirty seconds if the Government flouts the declared wishes of the House in a matter to which they were also a party by acceptance? I repeat Sir, that it would have been different if the Government had said at the beginning that they could not carry on the Government if there was a flat rate reduction of 33 per cent. But no, the opinion of the House was distinctly against them; the wind was blowing severely against them and in view of the then situation, they accepted the resolution. They were a party to that, an acquiescing party to the declared

wish of the House. In such a matter as this we expected that our European friends would lead us by the hand towards building up of healthy conventions. Instead of that it is painful to see that they would support Government, on the plea of want of funds. Sir, this question of the want of funds is a chronic disease and it is not a new thing to Assam.

MR. F. W. HOCKENHULL: Yes, it is an important consideration.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: Yes, Sir, may I not ask you where were you slumbering at the time when the 33 per cent reduction resolution was passed? Then why did you accept the resolution? Why did you not have the boldness to stand up and say "no this province does not require it as she cannot afford 33 per cent. reduction of her land revenue?" What were you doing on that occasion? Did you not support 33 per cent. flat rate of reduction? We can understand certain sections standing up and supporting the Ministry in actions good, bad or indifferent. But I think, I may be given the privileges to appeal to them again, because it is a matter which concerns us not only for the present but what is more important the rights and dignity of the House also, which concerns even our posterity. I appeal to them again, let us stand by our former decision, let us be firm in our assertion of our rights and privileges. After full deliberation we accepted the amendment that was moved by the hon. Khan Sahib Sayidur Rahman in the last budget session, let us stick to that. Sir, it is not so much a question of 10 per cent. or 20 per cent. or 30 per cent. or 50 per cent. it is a question of making or re-making a healthy convention which goes to the very root of autonomy and our posterity will judge our action of this evening.

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, In spite of the vehement and dramatic display of the Hon'ble Minister for Revenue, we could not be convinced by his arguments. His speech aimed more at attacking the Congress and its policy than trying to defend his own.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: On a point of personal explanation. If I mentioned what the Congress Provinces are doing in this matter, I did not do so with any intention of disparaging their activities. I only intended to say that we should proceed cautiously just as the other provinces are doing.

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA: He may probably be an adept in poisoning the minds of others against the Congress but we believe that those who keep an open mind will be convinced that what the Congress is doing in other Provinces are very much more than what the Hon'ble Minister is doing here. Sir, the references made by the Hon'ble Minister for Revenue regarding other Provinces in India are misleading. He has referred to many provinces where *Raitwari* system does not at all prevail. The question of relief in these provinces therefore can have no application. In reference to other provinces where *Raitwari* system prevails, if he cared to study the previous history of remission he would have found that extensive remission was granted by previous Governments and the present Government, are adding to that relief substantially. He should have also seen that those provinces are spending large sums of money in irrigation and other projects thereby helping the *raiya*s in the improvement of agriculture.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: May I know what provinces he refers to?

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA: He did not also cite the incidence of taxation in those provinces. It will be seen, Sir that next to the province of Bombay in which the agriculturists are well-off on account of cotton growing and other profitable agricultural pursuits, Assam *raiya*s are to

bear the heaviest burden of taxes. But what the Hon'ble Minister does not at all refer to is the condition of our agriculturists. And to judge it, we need not go to any other source but what the Hon'ble Minister himself found about a year ago. In the enjoyment of his position as a Minister he might have forgotten them all but the facts remain that they are in the lowest stage of poverty and want and that the same has been demonstrated by the large arrears of revenue that are outstanding from year to year, and the many coercive measures that the Government are adopting for the realisation of the same. I already spoke that the issue of the rich and the poor that has been sought to be introduced into this question of revenue remission is purposely confusing. 90 per cent. of our people are agriculturists and that they are admittedly extremely poor. So the reduction should be universal. Once more I appeal to the House to lend its support to my motion.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:  
Mr. Speaker, Sir. This debate to my mind.....

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA: On a point of order, Sir, Is the Hon'ble Chief Minister replying? He is not the Minister in charge.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:  
I am entitled to reply on behalf of the Government.

This debate has unfortunately degenerated into a drama of deeds and theatre of words and therefore the word 'melodrama' has loomed large in many of the speeches of the hon. members. But for the edification of those hon. members who are new to the House, I can say that melodrama can do wonders. When this question of land revenue remission was first urged upon the Government by my Hon'ble Colleague the Revenue Minister the then Revenue Member Sir Abraham Laine' said "what mover is urging reads like a melodrama." That melodrama gave to the poor agriculturists a remission to the tune of 18 lakhs of rupees. Sir, although the same hon. gentleman is my colleague to-day, I will even now say that he is full of the same melodrama—of course not in the sense used by my hon. friends on the opposite. And this melodrama has persuaded Government to give a further remission of very nearly 12 lakhs of rupees. In other words it has given the poor agriculturists a total remission of nearly 30 lakhs of rupees.

Sir, I am astounded to see that the remission which a poor province like Assam has given, thanks to the insistence of my Hon'ble Colleague the Revenue Minister, instead of evoking commendation that it deserves, is sought to be made the means of a censure by a party whose avowed policy is reduction of land revenue. And what will be considered as a censured motion against my Hon'ble Colleague, will be considered as a censure motion against the whole Government. To understand the implication of this motion the House shall have to consider two or three dates carefully.

Sir, the first *kist* of our next land revenue demand falls due on 15th January. Our land revenue demand, as was mentioned the other day, is very nearly one crore twenty lakhs and it is well-known to hon. members that in one Valley, it is collected through the revenue farmer called the Mauzadar, and in the other valley, through Tahsildars. The rent roll is prepared in the office of the Sub-Deputy Collector. And whatever be the remission—33 per cent. 25 per cent. or 50 per cent. the roll has got to be corrected and thereafter it has got to be issued to Mauzadars on the one side and to Tahsildars on the others. There is only a month in between. We have honestly—or in the words of my friends from the opposite benches, dishonestly—given this remission of 11 lakhs of rupees. If the House wants to

censure us for this, we shall be compelled at once to stop the remission.

The matters for complaint is that Government have gone against the words that they themselves uttered during that discussion. I have carefully gone into what my Hon'ble Colleague had said during that discussion. We have not resiled from that. Some hon. members see dishonesty whenever it comes from this quarter. But everyone who has read the debates carefully will find that Government accepted this decision to give 33 per cent. or even more only to the poor agriculturists and not to the middle class gentry. When this was explained to the House, the suggestion was accepted by the hon. mover of the amendment. Khan Sahib Maulavi Sayidur Rahman he in replying to the debate clearly mentioned there. Therefore, Sir, it cannot be said that Government acted dishonestly.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: Is the Hon'ble Chief Minister correct in saying that the motion was not accepted at a flat rate of reduction?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Government accepted in terms of the speech. That was mentioned then and there.

I would not be balked by the hon. interrupter, but I will continue my speech.

What has Government done? Government said and even now says that they are willing to help the poor community or the real agriculturists, and the Committee that was set up which was advocated by my Hon'ble Colleague long before he was a Minister, has come to the decision that those who pay Rs. 12 and less will receive a remission of five annas in the rupee. What does it mean in terms of rupees, annas and pies.

I will take the case of Cachar first. The previous Government composed of non-Congress Ministers and Members gave them a remission but after reviewing certain facts that Government came to the conclusion that they should get one anna in the rupee as remission. But this present Government have gone to the length of giving a remission of five annas in the rupee to all the patta-holders who pay Rs. 12 or less. Then again to the general land revenue payer what has Government done? The last Government gave them one anna in the rupee as remission, but this present Government have given them a remission of two annas in the rupee, or an increase of cent. per cent.

I find, Sir, one hon. member representing Cachar laughing at this statement of mine. For his edification, I will say that Cachar has benefited in another way. All the other districts of the province had their re-settlement. Cachar's re-settlement is due next year viz., 1938. Everyone knows that generally at each re-settlement there is an increase in revenue. But this Government came to the conclusion that Cachar's re-settlement should be postponed for five years. Therefore Cachar has got a big benefit on account of this postponement of re-settlement which they would not have otherwise got. I will put an offer to my hon. friends from Cachar whether they are prepared to allow re-settlement in 1938 to go on and I will at once ask my Hon'ble Colleague to give them the same rate of four annas in the rupee which other Assam districts are getting.

Sir, I will come to Jaintia now. My hon. friend Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhury has shown that Jaintia has not been properly treated. In a sense, on the figures he quoted he is correct. But he has not taken into consideration another fact, that is, the comparative rate of revenue between Jaintia estates and Assam estates. It is on account of that there was a difference made by the late Government that whereas Assam districts were given a remission of annas three in the rupee, Jaintia was given only annas

two in the rupee but this Government has increased to those who are paying Rs. 12 or less the remission to annas five in the rupee. The general revenue payer will be benefited by another anna in the rupee, thus giving them 50 per cent. increase.

There was one point that was referred to the other day, and that was the question of the tribal people. There is in the minds of many of the hon. members who represent these constituencies that they have not been well or sufficiently treated. They say that the system of clans is still continuing in their localities. A *patta* may be in the name of one or two but is really shared by the whole clan. These gentlemen, through their representative, Mr. Dhirsingh Dewri in the Enquiry Committee, wanted to raise the point. The position as regards that is this. First we have to find out all these joint *pattas* in those areas standing in the name of the tribal people. That will take some time. Then we will have to make an enquiry *patta* by *patta* to see if *pattas* which may contain more than one names are really shared by more names. That will take some time. In this way if we take into consideration the divisions of the proprietary right when a *patta* is standing only in the name of one or more persons, it will take such a length of time that no remission can be given in the current year. So I can assure those hon. members that whatever they are entitled to, either the ordinary 4 annas in the rupee or five annas in the rupee, they will get. But should circumstances require that this remission should be continued next year, then the question whether any further relief can be given to them on this score will be surely taken into consideration.

Sir, another point on figures, I will place before the House and then I will close the discussion. Some of my hon. friends ridiculed the idea of giving 50 per cent. reduction to the estates that have been annulled. They think that the number is very small and the revenue concerned is negligible. But the figures are otherwise. I have got the figures with me for only the Assam Valley districts and I will place them before the House. In 1933-34 *pattas* for 9094 acres were annulled and it meant a loss of revenue of Rs.19,000 and a little over. In 1934-35 the area increased to 14,350 acres and the resultant revenue to very nearly Rs. 33,000. In 1935-36 *pattas* covering an area of 23,537 acres with a revenue demand of Rs. 50,427 have been annulled.

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA : How many of them have been put in possession of their lands ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I have not got that statement with me. But the idea that was sought to be conveyed in certain speeches was that this is very negligible.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : On a point of information, Sir. If the Hon'ble Chief Minister would look into the recommendation made by the Revenue Committee, he will find that only those *pattas* which have been cancelled and the persons concerned are in possession have been given remission of 50 per cent. and so it is very misleading to quote this figure without giving the number of persons who are actually in occupation and whom this refund would benefit.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Minister should finish soon.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : What can I do, Sir, with these interruptions ? Now, Sir, the area of 23,000 acres clearly gives an indication of the number of families that are involved. On the lowest computation I believe Sir, that very nearly 8,000 families are concerned in the question of this annulment of *pattas*. What I have said so far is as regards the revenue side. I am now coming to the practical side of the question.

The total demand of revenue is 1 crore 20 lakhs of rupees. A flat rate of 33 per cent, which I hold will benefit people like myself, that is middle class people more than the poor agriculturists, will mean a reduction of revenue to the extent of very nearly 35 lakhs. The total revenue of the province inclusive of the subvention that we get from the Centre is 2 crores 80 lakhs. If we deduct the amount required for a flat reduction of either 50 per cent. or 33 per cent, it will mean such a tremendous drain on the resources of the province that we will have to suspend all our activities for benefiting the people for whom this claim has been made by hon. friends opposite. It is immaterial for the purpose of the debate to mention that my friends have got the most charitable end in view. But even conceding that, I will have to say that they have come to this Assembly with the avowed purpose of wrecking the constitution. The best way to wreck a constitution is to cripple its resources in such a way that it cannot function ! This may be the result if this motion is carried. But as regards that section of the House which has come here to make the best out of the present constitution, I would request in all sincerity and with the utmost emphasis that I can command to look forward and consider seriously before the vote. As has been said by various hon. members who have participated in this debate, we have gone very far, in fact farther than we should have gone in giving remission. Comparisons are always odious and I would not follow the example of either my Hon'ble friend over there or the other hon. members who have spoken. I will only follow the old adage that we should cut our coat according to the length of our cloth. Therefore I say that, acting upon this old adage, we have gone the farthest limit. To go beyond this would mean coming to the breaking point of the administration.

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS : May I know, Sir, if the Hon'ble Revenue Minister in his speech in the Budget session did not say that persons paying Rs. 15 and less as revenue should be taken as poor ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : That was his personal opinion. The matter had to be discussed by the Government and the Government has come to the conclusion that the recommendation of the Committee meets the ends of justice.

Sir, these interruptions have had the desired end of deflecting my thoughts. I have now lost the trend of my speech. Therefore, after making this request to hon. members of this House, namely to consider twice before voting in this matter, I resume my seat.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH : I have one little point of information, Sir,

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : It is now 4.30 and I now put the motion. The question is—

“That this Assembly rejects *in toto* the recommendations of the Land Revenue Committee and the Resolution of the Government based thereon as being against the expressed recommendation of the House and insists on a reduction of 33 per cent. of land revenue for *Khiraj* estates as passed by the House in its last Budget session”.

The House then divided with the following result :—

AYES—39

NOES—64

1. Mr. Arun Kumar Chanda.
2. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee.
3. Srijut Beliram Das.

1. The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla.
2. The Hon'ble Shams-ul-Ulama Maulana Abu Nasr Md. Waheed.

4. Srijut Bhuban Chandra Gogoi.
5. Babu Bipin Behari Das.
6. Srijut Bipin Chandra Medhi.
7. Babu Dakshina Ranjan Gupta Chaudhuri.
8. Srijut Debeswar Sarmah.
9. Srijut Ghanashyam Das.
10. Srijut Gaurikanta Talukdar.
11. Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi.
12. Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan.
13. Babu Harendra Narayan Chaudhuri.
14. Srijut Jadav Prosad Chaliha.
15. Srijut Jogendra Chandra Nath.
16. Srijut Jogendra Nath Barua.
17. Srijut Jogeschandra Gohain.
18. Srijut Kameswar Das.
19. Babu Kamini Kumar Sen.
20. Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy.
21. Srijut Krishna Nath Sarmah.
22. Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya.
23. Srijut Lakshesvar Borooah.
24. Babu Lalit Mohan Kar.
25. Srijut Mahadev Sarma.
26. Srijut Mahi Chandra Bora.
27. Srijut Omco Kumar Das.
3. The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Rov.
4. The Hon'ble Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri.
5. The Hon'ble Maulavi Md. Ali Haidar Khan.
6. Kumar Ajit Narayan Dev.
7. Babu Akshay Kumar Das.
8. Babu Balaram Sircar.
9. Srijut Jogendra Narayan Mandal
10. Babu Kalachand Roy.
11. Mr. Kedarmal Brahmin.
12. Dr. Mahendra Nath Saikia.
13. Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta.
14. Srijut Purandar Sarma.
15. Srijut Ram Nath Das.
16. Srijut Santosh Kumar Barua.
17. Maulavi Abdul Aziz.
18. Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhuri.
19. Khan Bahadur Hazi Abdul Majid Chaudhury.
20. Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhury.
21. Maulavi Syed Abdur Rouf.
22. Maulavi Md. Abdus Salam.
23. Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahbab Chaudhury.
24. Maulavi Dewan Ali Raja.
25. Maulavi Muhammad Amiruddin.
26. Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali.
27. Maulavi Ashrafuddin Md. Chaudhury.
28. Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed.
29. Khan Bahadur Dewan Ekli-mur Roza Chaudhury.
30. Maulavi Ghyasuddin Ahmed.
31. Maulavi Jahanuddin Ahmed.
32. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Keramat Ali.
33. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali.
34. Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia.
35. Khan Sahib Maulavi Mudab-bir Hussain Chaudhuri.
36. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur Rahman.
37. Maulavi Munawwar Ali.
38. Maulavi Mazarroff Ali Laskar
39. Maulavi Namwar Ali Barbhui-ya.

28. Srijut Paramananda Das.
29. Rai Bahadur Promode Chandra Datta.
30. Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma.
31. Srijut Rajani Kanta Barooah.
32. Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua.
33. Srijut Sankar Chandra Barua.
34. Srijut Sarveswar Barua.
35. Babu Shibendra Chandra Biswas.
36. Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma.
37. Maulavi Abdur Rahman.
38. Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.
39. Srijut Dhirsingh Deuri.
40. Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed.
41. Maulavi Sheik Osman Ali Sadagar.
42. Khan Sahib Maulavi Sayidur Rahman.
43. Col. A. B. Beddow.
44. Mr. A. F. Bendall.
45. Mr. J. R. Clayton.
46. Mr. W. R. Faull.
47. Mr. W. Fleming.
48. Mr. B. I. Barry.
49. Mr. F. W. Hockenhull.
50. Mr. D. B. H. Moore.
51. Mr. R. A. Palmer.
52. Miss Mavis Dunn.
53. Mr. Benjamin Ch. Momin.
54. Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das.
55. Srijut Bideshi Pan Tanti.
56. Srijut Binode Kumar J. Sarwan.
57. Rev. L. Gatphoh.
58. Mr. C. Goldsmith.
59. Mr. Jobang D. Marak.
60. Srijut Karka Dalay Miri.
61. Srijut Khorsing Terang.
62. Mr. P. Prida.
63. Srijut Rabi Chandra Kachari.
64. Srijut Rupnath Brahma.

The Ayes being 39 and the Noes being 64 the motion was lost.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Then comes the motion of Khan Sahib Maulavi Sayidur Rahman.

The question is "that this Assembly considers the recommendations of the Revenue Enquiry Committee as inadequate in many respects but having due regard to the present financial position of the Government of Assam, accepts the decision of the Government based on those recommendations for what it is worth and at the same time urges upon the Government to implement the amendment adopted by the House during the last Session, e.g., remission of revenue at the flat rate of 33 per cent. as soon as funds permit".

The motion was put and carried.

#### MOTION REGARDING BALLOT VOTING BY SYMBOLS IN LOCAL BOARD ELECTIONS

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Then there is another motion in the name of Srijut Mahadeb Sarma.

\*SRIJUT MAHADEV SARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I move this motion I want certain information from the Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government. I put several short notice questions which have been admitted and replies have been before us all, but they have fallen through according to Rules. May I know whether the Government still stick to the position which we got in reply to these questions regarding the ballot voting by symbols in Local Board elections?

\* "That this House is of opinion that the ballot system of voting by symbols be introduced in the ensuing Local Board election of this Province."

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Government has already given replies to the questions. If the hon. member moves his motion the Government will be guided by the vote of the House, but if not, the replies are there.

SRIJUT MAHADEV SARMA: May I take it, Sir, that the Government still adheres to the reply given to my question 7 (b) ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: The replies are already there.

SRIJUT MAHADEV SARMA: Then I do not wish to move the motion.

#### PRESENTATION OF \*AUTHENTICATED SCHEDULE OF AUTHORISED EXPENDITURE IN RELATION TO SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I beg to pre-sent, Sir, the authenticated\* schedule of authorised expenditure in relation to supplementary demands for grants.

#### EXPRESSION OF CONDOLENCE ON THE DEATH OF SIR MICHAEL KEANE AND SIR J. C. BOSE

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I am to place before the House the two letters which have been received in response to the expression of condolence on the death of Sir Michael Keane and Sir J. C. Bose. Lady Keane has written to the Hon'ble Chief Minister as follows:—"I very much appreciate your kind sympathy in my terrible grief. I shall be very grateful if you will convey to the Assembly my deep gratitude for all their expressions of affection and esteem for my husband and his work, and for their kind condolences"

The Secretary to Lady Bose writes:—"I am desired by Lady Bose to acknowledge your message of condolence on behalf of the Legislative Assembly on the death of Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose. Sympathy from his friends and admirers is a source of consolation to his bereaved relations. Thanking you for your remembrance"

#### EXPUNGING OF CERTAIN PORTION OF ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS

Now, before we disperse, I want to announce to the House with regard to a certain matter. The House perhaps remembers that on the 13th there was a statement made by Babu Harendra Narayan Chaudhury against an hon. member of this House. I have given my deep and anxious thought over this matter, and I have thought whether this should go down in print and form part of our proceedings. I have realised that the publication of such matters would really disfigure the proceedings. So I want to expunge this portion of the proceedings which contains that allegation.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are very much obliged to you for this, and it was really painful to think that our proceedings which are conducted with decorum should be disfigured by statements of such a libellous nature.

#### PROROGATION OF THE ASSEMBLY

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I have to announce a message of His Excellency the Governor. "In exercise of the power conferred by clause (b) of sub-section (2) of Section 62 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I, Robert Niel Reid, hereby prorogue the Assam Legislative Assembly, at the conclusion of its meeting of the 21st December 1937".

The House then stands prorogued.

\*Appendix A

Shillong,

The 12th February 1938.

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.

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## APPENDIX—A

AUTHENTICATED SCHEDULE OF SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENTS OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1937-38 LAID BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY UNDER SECTION 81 OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT, 1935.

Number of grant	Heads	Amount already authenticated under section 80 of Government of India Act, 1935	Supplementary amount laid before the Assembly	Amount of cut made by the Assembly	Amount included by Governor	Amounts now authenticated (Voted)
		Non-excluded areas (Voted)	Non-excluded areas (Voted)			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Rs.	Rs.			Rs.
9.	25.—General Administration.	18,63,254	25,300	...	...	25,300
24.	50.—Civil Works (excluding Tools and Plant and establishment).	39,31,117	5,850	...	...	5,850
	Grand total	57,94,376	31,150	...	...	31,150

*The 20th December 1937.*

R. N. REID,  
Governor.