

Proceedings of the Second Session of the First Assam Legislative Assembly, assembled under the provision of the Government of India Act, 1935

The Assembly met at the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 11 a. m. on Tuesday, the 24th August, 1937

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

Number of Khutis, Bathans and cattle in Mussalpur area of Kamrup District

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked :

*194. (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge aware that there are large number of khutis and bathans of buffaloes and cattle in Mussalpur area of Kamrup district ?

(b) Is it a fact that a very large number of cattle die every year in epidemic diseases in this area ?

*195. Is it a fact that there is no Veterinary hospital within 30 miles of the area and graziers do not get any help even during epidemic ?

196. (a) If so, do Government propose to establish a Veterinary Dispensary in Mussalpur area to serve the Graziers occupying the biggest grazing reserve in Kamrup from where Government realises a very large amount of grazing tax ?

(b) Is it a fact that this area is a backward area in the district of Kamrup ?

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

194. (a)—There are a certain number of *khutis* in the area.

(b)—Not every year. Heavy mortality was reported in 1935-36.

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA : What is the actual number ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN : I am not aware of the actual number.

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA : Will the Hon'ble Minister enquire into that ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN : I will try.

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

195.—No.

196. (a)—Any proposal from the Gauhati Local Board to this effect will receive consideration,

(b)—Yea.

**Prevalence of Naga sore, eye diseases, etc., in Mussalpur area
in Kamrup District**

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked :

*197. (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Health aware that "Naga sore", eye diseases, Dysentery, Malaria, Tuberculosis prevail in epidemic form throughout the year in Mussalpur area, specially in the Dakshin and the Uttar Baska Mauzas in the district of Kamrup ?

(b) If so, do the Hon'ble Minister in charge propose to hold an enquiry and take immediate steps for prevention and cure of such diseases in backward area of the Kamrup district ?

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

197. (a)—Government are aware that the area is an unhealthy one. A survey was carried out in January 1937 with the following results —

Leprosy	...	...	...	...	...	90
Kala azar	...	...	...	...	...	2
Suspected	...	...	...	...	...	7
Yaws	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Naga sore	...	...	...	...	...	5
T. B.	...	...	...	...	...	8

(b)—An enquiry has been made as stated in my reply above. As the result of this enquiry a Public Health Dispensary was opened at Ambari last month.

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA : Will it continue ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : Yes, it will continue as long as it is necessary.

SRIJUT SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA : Sir, সৰু পথাৰ, বৰ পথাৰ আৰু মৰাঙ্গি যোন্ধাৰ বহুত মানুহ যে নগাঘাত পীড়িত হৈছে আৰু বেয়া বন্ধে গৰিছে সেইটো জানেনে ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : If there be any Naga sore I shall make an inquiry.

SRIJUT PARAMANANDA DAS : Has the Public Health Department been able to discover any standard method of treating Naga ulcer ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : I do not know. I have to find out whether any special medicine for Naga sore has been discovered.

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA : Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the Hon'ble Minister of Public Health of the last Government gave a hope to establish a permanent dispensary there at the expense of Government ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : When once the dispensary has been established it will be there unless there be some reasons to remove it.

Number of breeding bulls maintained by Government

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked :

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

- (a) The number of breeding bulls showing the different types or breeds separately, issued out to the public for breeding purposes, since the establishment of the Live Stock Department in Assam ?
- (b) The number of progeny obtained from them year by year since 1929 and the number of such progeny still surviving ?
- (c) The average daily yield of milk in the different Government cattle farms in Assam in the month of June, 1937 ?

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

198. (a)—Two hundred and twenty bulls of the following types or breeds were issued since 1930—

Bulls of Up-country Indian breeds and crosses ...	200
between these breeds and local cattle.	

Bulls of local breed and similar breeds obtained ...	20.
from near by the Province.	

(b)—Government are unable to furnish the information as no record is kept.

(c)—The average daily yield of milk in the Government Cattle Farms in June 1937 was —

Average total daily yield
of milk in seers.

Upper Shillong Farm	7 mds. 6 srs.
Khanapara Farm	1 md. 17 srs.
Sylhet Farm	2 mds. 9 srs.
Jorhat Farm	1 md. 11 srs.

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge take it from me that the progeny of these bulls does not survive ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: I am not aware of that.

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA: Will the Hon'ble Minister enquire and ask the Department to submit a report on this point ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: Yes, I will.

Contract work on the Shillong-Gauhati Road

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED asked :

*199. Is it a fact that contract for original work at miles 13, 14, 15 and 16 on Gauhati-Shillong Road for the year 1937-38 has already been given ?

*200. If so, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Works Department be pleased to state—

- (a) The number and names of persons who submitted tenders for the said works ?
- (b) Whether the contractor who has been given the contract had offered the lowest rate in his tender ; if not, for what reasons his tender has been accepted ?

- (c) The names of those contractors, if any, who had offered the lower rates than those of the contractor whose tender has been accepted ?
- (d) The name of contractor who was given this work in previous years ?
- (e) Whether the old contractor was one of the persons who had submitted the tenders for the said work ?
- (f) If so, for what reasons his tender was not accepted ?
- (g) Whether the contractor who has been given the work, has ever had any remark passed against him by an Executive Engineer or any other officer on account of unsatisfactory work ?
- (h) If so, when, for what and on how many occasions ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

199.—No.

200.—Does not arise.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Is it a fact that Maulavi Abdul Khair has this year been given a contract at miles 13, 14, 15 and 16 ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : No contract for original work has been given on those miles to any one.

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA : Is it not a fact that such contracts are given subject to the approval of road materials by an expert from Alipore ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : No.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA : Was any contract given to Maulavi Abdul Khair for repairs in this portion of the road ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I require notice of the question.

Length of service of present Director of Public Instruction and Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Circle

SRIJUT JOGESCHANDRA GOHAIN asked :

*201. Will Government be pleased to state (a) for how many years Mr. Small has been serving as Director of Public Instruction of Assam and (b) Srijut Sarat Chandra Goswami as Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Division ?

*202 Will Government be pleased to state (a) whether the post of Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Division, is a non-transferable one ?

(b) If not, do Government propose to take immediate steps to make necessary changes in the post for public interest ?

(c) If not, why not ?

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

201. (a)—Mr. Small was appointed substantively as Director of Public Instruction on the 1st October 1931.

(b)—About 8 years including officiating service.

202. (a)—It is transferable.

(b)—No.

(c)—Because it would be against public interest to transfer Srijut Sarat Chandra Goswami. Srijut Sarat Chandra Goswami is an Assamese and has exceptional knowledge of educational conditions in the Assam Valley.

Dibru-Sadiya Railway

SRIJUT JOGESCHANDRA GOHAIN asked :

*203. Is it a fact that—

- (a) A portion of the Dibru-Sadiya Railway line between Chowkidingi Railway Gate and Dibru-Sadiya Railway New Workshop passes either through or by the side of the boundary line of Dibrugarh Municipality and that this portion of the Railway line has no fencing and that as a result a large number of cattle and some human beings as well are killed or maimed every year ?
- (b) If Government have no information, do Government propose to make an enquiry ?

*204. Is it a fact—

- (a) that the present Chairman of the Dibrugarh Municipality is a retained pleader of the Dibru-Sadiya Railway Company ?
- (b) Do Government propose to take the matter in hand and ask the Railway Company to fence that portion of the line at an early date ?

*205. Is it a fact—

- (a) that there was a proposal, a few years ago, to fence the said portion of the Railway line and also to open a public road alongside the Railway line from Chowkidingi Railway Gate to New Workshop and for the purpose the land was surveyed and a sketch of the proposed road was prepared by the Railway Company and handed over to Government ?
- (b) If so, what the delay is due to ?
- (c) Do Government propose now to take up the above matter in hand ?
- (d) If not, why not ?

*206. Will Government be pleased to state the number of cattle and human beings killed or maimed in the Railway line between Dibrugarh Bazar Station and New Workshop during the last 5 years ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

203. (a)—Yes. There is no fencing beyond the Mankata level crossing. As regards accidents to cattle, etc., the hon. member is referred to reply to question No. 206 below.

(b)—Does not arise.

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether this part of the town is thickly populated.

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

204. (a)—No.

(b)—Reply to question No. 205 below may be seen.

205. (a), (b), (c) and (d)—Yes. The Railway Board decided in 1931 that this portion should be fenced with "Pages" fencing and in order to avoid using the Railway embankment a foot-path 5 feet wide should be provided alongside for public safety. The cost of the foot-path being divided half and half between Railway and Government and the latter maintaining it in future. The Railway authorities in the end expressed their unwillingness

to bear their allotted share of the cost of foot-path. The Senior Inspector of Railways discussed the matter with the local officers and the Agent and was convinced that the matter was not of an urgent and imperative nature. The inhabitants of the locality were also not in favour of fencing this portion of the line.

206.—One boy killed, four men injured and one cow knocked down.

Distance from Gauhati to Shillong and from Shillong to Sylhet

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SARMAH asked :

*207. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (i) Distance from Gauhati to Shillong and from Shillong to Sylhet ?
- (ii) What is the fare by road to Shillong from Gauhati and Sylhet respectively ?
- (iii) Is it a fact that the fares are not proportionate to the length of mileage ? If so, why is the difference ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

207.—The hon. member is referred to the answers already given to questions 794(i) and (iii) asked by Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma, M.L.A., during the present session of the Assembly.

The fares are not proportionate to the distance. The conditions of the permits on the Sylhet-Shillong Road and the contract with the Commercial Carrying Company are different. In the latter case the Commercial Carrying Company must run certain passenger cars daily whether there is a demand for them or not. No such condition is laid down in the permits for the Shillong-Sylhet Road.

*208.—(Absent).

Expenditure of the training class for teachers in Shillong

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA asked :

*209. Will Government be pleased to state the expense of the training class for teachers in Shillong ?

*210. Will Government be pleased to state the probable cost of attaching such a class to the Earle Law College at Gauhati with the same Principal ?

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

209.—The arrangement made with St. Edmund's College is that Government will pay that College a contribution of Rs.5,000 a year for 3 years and thereafter at the rate of Rs.8,000 a year on condition that the College will admit annually at least twenty teachers deputed or nominated by Government for training. It is also proposed to construct a hostel for the accommodation of the students deputed by Government at a cost of Rs.14,500.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Has any complaint been received from the St. Edmund's College that the grant given to the College is not sufficient.

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. -
WAHEED: It has been referred to in my reply. There is a contract.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: My question has not been answered, Sir.

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASAR MD.
WAHEED: Yes, I have received a complaint, but they are compelled, under the contract, to run the College with this contribution.

210.—It will not be possible to attach a B. T. Class to the Earle Law College with the same Principal for the following reasons:—

1. The Principal is not qualified for the work.

2. The accommodation in the College and hostel is insufficient.

The annual cost of the staff of a purely Government Training College would be approximately Rs.10,000.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Cannot such a class be attached to the Cotton College at Gauhati? If it is attached to the Earle Law College the cost will be Rs. 10,000.

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD.
WAHEED: May I ask the hon member whether the classes are to be opened in addition to the classes in the St. Edmund's College?

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: My question was that if this class were attached to the Earle law College, it will cost Rs.10,000. Cannot such classes be attached to the Cotton College?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD.
WAHEED: The question does not arise, perhaps. Well, I said that the Principal is not qualified for the work.

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA: Will the Hon'ble Minister say when the Principal of the College will retire?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD.
WHEED: That does not arise.

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA: I suggest that it arises from the answer that the Principal is not qualified.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister is not willing to reply.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:
We thought that you already ruled that it does not arise.

Number of Primary Schools in the Province

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA asked:

*211. Will Government be pleased to state:—

- (1) the number of Primary Schools under the control of Government and the Boards and those known as Venture Primary Schools in each district of Assam,
- (2) the amount spent by Government for a pupil in each district excluding the Local Board and Municipal Board grants, and
- (3) the number of pupils served by a teacher in each district of the province?

*212. (a) Do Government propose to increase the grant for primary education and if so by how much?

(b) Do Government propose to distribute their grants for primary education among the districts according to the population and the backwardness of the people?

(c) Is it a fact that the immigrants, the Lalungs, the Kacharis, the Mikirs and the ex-tea garden people in the district are the most backward?

*213. (a) Is it a fact that the people named in question (c) above and also the Koivarttas of Nowgong have started a large number of Primary Schools and they are awaiting Government grants?

(b) Do Government propose to make the necessary grant to the Nowgong Local Board for the specific purpose?

(c) Do Government propose to provide funds for taking over all the Venture Primary schools in the province even by retrenchment in the secondary course?

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

211. (1)—Number of Primary Schools under Government Local Bodies and aided on 31st March 1937

Number of Venture (un-aided) Primary Schools on 31st March 1937

Surma Valley	Sylhet	...	1,751	...	377
	Cachar	...	428	...	114
	Khasi and Jaintia Hills	...	390	...	151
	Naga Hills	...	109	...	29
	Lushai Hills	...	196	...	14
			<hr/> 2,874		<hr/> 685
	Lakhimpur	...	390	...	59
	Sibsagar	...	574	...	79
	Nowgong	...	310	...	88
	Darrang	...	326	...	57
	Kamrup	...	705	...	185
	Goalpara	...	661	...	62
	Garó Hills	...	211	...	Nil
			<hr/> 3,177		<hr/> 530

(2)—Sylhet	...	...	...	Rs.	3.6
Cachar	...	...	...		3.5
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	...	...	...		1.8
Naga Hills	...	...	...		6.5
Lushai Hills	...	...	...		0.6
Lakhimpur	...	...	...		3.6
Sibsagar	...	...	...		2.8
Nowgong	...	...	...		2.4
Darrang	...	...	...		2.9
Kamrup	...	...	...		2.8
Goalpara	...	...	...		2.5
Garó Hills	...	...	...		7.4

(3)—Sylhet	...	...	...	35.7
Cachar	...	...	...	36.1
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	...	...	...	25.3
Naga Hills	...	...	...	29.4
Lushai Hills	...	...	...	37.3
Lakhimpur	...	...	...	36.6
Sibsagar	...	...	...	41.4
Nowgong	...	...	...	47.6
Darrang	...	...	...	32.2
Kamrup	...	...	...	39.9
Goalpara	...	...	...	36.3
Garó Hills	...	...	...	25.3

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us a copy of this statement ?

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

MR. W. FLEMING: On a point of order, Sir. Would it not be better if such questions were not starred because in that case the answers would be laid on the table and it would save much time ?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The other day I gave a ruling that statements regarding the starred questions should be laid on the table and that would obviate the difficulty which the hon. member points out.

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

212. (a)—Yes. An additional sum of half a lakh has been included in the current year's budget.

(b)—The principle of distribution is under consideration.

(c)—Yes.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the principle or the basis to be followed in the distribution of this amount and whether the backward and other hill tribes will receive due consideration over others ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: I have already replied that the matter is under the consideration of Government.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: May we have an idea, Sir, whether the matter of distribution will be left to the Education Department or it will be in the hands of the Hon'ble Minister of Education ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: I have already replied that the matter is under consideration.

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA: Sir, do not the Government consider the area of the districts to be an important relevant factor in the matter of distribution of these grants ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: Sir, I have already replied that the whole matter is under consideration.

MR. C. GOLDSMITH: May I know, Sir, what is meant by venture primary schools ? Is it under the direction of Government or entirely private ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: Sir, venture schools are all private schools.

RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DATTA: May I suggest to the Hon'ble Minister of Education that when he answers the questions he will face us squarely ? We cannot follow him.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:
Is he not to face the Chair, Sir?

RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DATTA: Even then he will please face us.

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

213. (a)—There are many venture schools in Nowgong. Some of them must have been started among the classes mentioned.

(b)—An extra grant will be made to the Board this year and it will be for the Board to determine what venture schools should be taken up.

(c)—Government intend to do all in their power to foster primary education but this cannot be done by retrenchment in the secondary course.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Has the Hon'ble Minister made any estimate as to how much money will be required to take all the venture schools as mentioned in to-day's list?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: No, Sir. No estimate was made.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Sir, about Rs.50,000 has been provided in the budget this year and may I know how many schools the Hon'ble Minister intends to take up?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: About 350 schools will be taken up.

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SARMAH: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to make provision for the inclusion of the schools started by the backward communities?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: They will have their due share from the allotments made over to the Local Boards.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that according to the list, which is just now mentioned, Nowgong is the most aggrieved district in the province?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: Nowgong is not the most aggrieved district. It has got 310 schools.

Number of Cattle purchased by Government during the last three years

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH asked:

*214. Will Government be pleased to state:—

- (a) The number of cattle (showing bulls and cows separately) purchased by Government during the last three years and the expenditure incurred in doing so?
- (b) The number of such cattle intended for the Khanapara Farm and the Sylhet Farm and also the Jorhat Farm, if any?
- (c) The number of such cattle intended for the Khanapara Farm but were subsequently transferred to the Sylhet Farm?
- (d) The number of cattle killed by Jhone's disease showing number separately in each of the Farms and also the number of imported cattle and local cattle killed in the Farms?
- (e) Whether any amount has been received from the Central Agricultural Research Institute (or the Cattle Improvement Fund), and if so, what is being done with such amount, barring supply of breeding bulls?

- (f) What was the amount incurred for the two Officers attending the Simla Conference for improvement of cattle and what benefit has been derived from it?
- (g) What is the expenditure for the Shillong Farm for each of the last three years, separately?
- (h) What is the number of cattle in the Shillong Farm? What is the average milk output there and what is being done with it?

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

214. (a) and (b)—The number of cattle purchased by Government during the last 3 years (up to 31st March 1937) is as follows:—

	Bulls	Cows	Cost
			Rs. a. p.
For the Khanapara Farm—15 bull calves 10 Scinde heifers			2,007 10 0
For the Jorhat Farm ... 2 " "			111 11 0
For the Sylhet Farm ... 11 " "		4 cows	227 0 0
For the Shillong Farm ... 2 bulls			2,682 7 9
(includes 1 Fresian bull from England)			
Total ...			5,028 12 9
For direct issue to Villages, Assam Valley—36 Hariana calves...			1,164 10 9
For direct issue to Villages, Surma Valley—20 Bhairab bulls...			1,161 0 0
Total ...			2,325 10 9

(c)—In 1934-35, 9 heifers or young cows of the above were transferred from the Khanapara Farm to the Sylhet Farm.

(d)—Total number of cattle which have died from the disease—15.
Total number which have been destroyed after test due to the presence of the disease under veterinary advice—480.

Total number died and destroyed

	Imported Breeds	Local Breeds	Cross between imported breed and local
Khanapara Farm ...	118	20	157
Sylhet Farm ...	66	36	62
Jorhat Farm ...	...	...	26
Jail Dairies ...	10	...	...
	194	56	245

(e)—Nothing from the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research but the Government of India have promised a grant of Rs.15,000 to the Assam Live-stock Improvement Association and another grant of Rs.50,000 for a scheme for cattle breeding.

(f)—Rupees 1,200. The benefit that arises from the pooling of ideas and the knowledge gained by discussion with delegates from other provinces.

(g)—The gross expenditure, gross receipts and net expenditure are as follows:—

Year	Total expenditure			Receipt			Net expenditure					
		Rs.	as.	p.		Rs.	as.	p.		Rs.	as.	p.
1934-35	...	25,424	2	6		21,398	1	9		4,026	0	9
1935-36	...	29,944	0	6		18,821	1	6		11,122	15	0
1936-37	...	28,725	1	3		18,943	14	9		9,781	2	6

(h)—Eighty (excluding 18 work bullocks). The average yield per cow during the year ending 31st March 1937 was 10 seers daily. The milk is sold in Shillong. Receipts from sale of milk for the year ending 31st March 1937 were Rs.14,427.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May I know whether English bulls are superior to Indian bulls?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: I could not hear the hon. member.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May I know how much money Government spent for importing bulls from England?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: We have got two bulls which cost us Rs. 2,682-7-9 but as regards the price of the English bulls, I have not got the figure just now.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state what was the necessity of the importation of the bulls from England?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: The bulls were imported from England for better breeding.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the idea behind of transferring the cattle from one farm to another?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: Sir, I think there is no harm in transferring the bulls from one farm to another for the purpose of better breeding. The bulls are imported for the whole province and not for any particular farm.

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: Has Government come to any definite conclusion as to which class of bulls is suitable to the department?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: We are trying, but we have not yet been able to find out the exact breed suitable.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: Will the Hon'ble Minister please enlighten the House as to what would be the approximate value of 480 heads of cattle shot down?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: I cannot say the price, but they had to be shot down.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: Will the Hon'ble Minister enlighten the House as to how this disease originated in the Assam farms, and whether any veterinary help was taken at the time of purchasing these imported cattle?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: As far as I know, this disease was imported into the province from outside.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: Was any veterinary help taken at the time of purchase?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: I think it was. MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the bulls affected by John's disease were transferred from Khanapara farm to the Sylhet farm?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: I am not aware of that.

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURI: Is it a fact that certain cattle affected by John's disease were sold by the Manager of the Sylhet farm to the villagers?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: I think it was, but we are enquiring into the matter.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: Sir, who is the head of the Livestock Department? Has he got any veterinary qualifications?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: It is not required.

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURI: (f) Have those officers submitted any note of the experience they have gathered by attending the Simla Conference and how these are to be followed by the officers?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: I have not seen the report.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: May I make a submission to the Chair, Sir? In the mother of Parliaments—I mean the House of Commons—the practice is not so much of discussions by way of resolutions, but important matters are thrashed out by way of questions and answers. If we are also granted a little latitude in important matters, I think the public will be benefited.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Yes, in important matters, if any supplementary question arises, answers should be given, as specifically as possible.

SRIJUT LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: Am I to understand that the Agriculture Department has not been able to ascertain which kind of bulls is suitable for the province of Assam?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN:—I have already answered that question.

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that all herds of cattle in Government farms and dairies are infected with John's disease?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: I cannot admit that.

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA: Yes, it is mentioned in the Report of the Agriculture Department. Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of this?

[No reply.]

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY: Is it a fact that the Manager of the Sylhet farm has been ordered to kill the bulls affected by John's disease within the compound of the farm, and not to sell them to outsiders?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: I am not aware of that.

MR. NABAKUMAR DUTTA: What is John's disease, Sir?

[No reply.]

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Did the Hon'ble Minister visit any of these farms?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: Not yet, Sir.

Special provision for the educational uplift of the backward tribal people

SRIJUT RUPNATH BRAHMA asked :

*215. Will Government be pleased to state whether any special provisions have been made for the educational uplift of the backward tribal people of the plains of Assam, and if so, what are the provisions made ?

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

215.—Special provisions have existed for many years for the grant of special scholarships to the backward classes of the community. The hon. member is referred particularly to the rules at pages 256 and 277 of the Education Department Rules and Orders.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Are Government aware that 88 venture schools in the district of Nowgong are almost all in the backward areas ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : It does not arise, Sir. We have already finished the discussion about venture schools.

SRIJUT RUPNATH BRAHMA: Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge aware of the fact that Goalpara plain tribal area is the largest plain tribal area in the province ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: Yes, Sir.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Hon'ble Minister be prepared to take up all the venture schools in the tribal area in the whole province ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: We shall make a recommendation to the Local Board.

SRIJUT KARKA DALAY MIRI: Sir, অগাধৰ tribal area ত Lower Primary আৰু Middle English কুল কিমান আছে ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED : I want notice of that question.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Representation of Nath Community in Government Services

SRIJUT JOGENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

467. Will Government be pleased to state the number of Sub-Deputy Collectors, teachers, Assam School Service and Lower Schools Service, Police Sub-Inspectors and clerks amongst the members of the Nath community in Assam Valley ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

467.—The hon. member may refer to the Civil List and other gradation lists. Further information is not available, since the Nath community of the Assam Valley Division is not recognised as a separate unit for purposes of making appointments.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA : Has the Hon'ble Minister ever consulted the Assam Civil List himself ?

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

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA : Is in the Civil List mentioned the community of the Member of the Service ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I understand that when the surname 'Nath' is there, that particular officer belongs to the Nath community.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA : Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Nath people have got other surnames than 'Nath', such as 'Barua' and 'Bora' ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I do not know that, Sir.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Hon'ble Minister admit that there has been a mistake in the answer to this question ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : No, Sir, I will never admit that.

Re Political suspect, Babu Hemanga Kumar Biswas

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

468. Is it a fact that Hemanga Kumar Biswas, son of Babu Har Kumar Biswas, Zeminder, Mirashi, Habiganj, is even now under the Police surveillance ?

469. Is it a fact that he has been suffering from Tuberculosis since 1931 and residing at Shillong for treatment ?

470. Is it a fact that the young man has no connection with any revolutionary movement ?

471. If the answer is in the negative, will Government be pleased to state facts for which he is kept under the Police surveillance ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

468.—No.

469.—Government have no information.

BABU KARUNA SINDHU ROY : Am I to understand that Government has no information about the fact that Babu Hemanga Kumar Biswas Das released from the Gauhati Jail in 1932, as he was suffering from tuberculosis ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : He was suspected of having tuberculosis, but Government have no information whether since then he is stopping at Shillong for treatment.

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

470.—Government do not propose to disclose any information on this point.

471.—Does not arise.

Re Book entitled "Padma Purana"

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY
asked :

472. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge please state whether Government know that a book named "Padma Purana" (পদ্মপুরাণ) is published by one Babu Phaninda Nath Das of Kutichand Library, Sylhet ?

473. Is it a fact that this book contains a chapter named Hasan-Husan in which a fictitious story of Huzrat Husan and Hasein (be peace on them) is given in a language that may give provocation to the Muhammadans ?

474. If so, do Government propose to take action against the Book ?

475. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge please state whether a question on the same book was asked in the last Council by some members and Government have taken no action ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

472.—Yes.

473.—The book contains a chapter named Hasan and Husan. Whether it is provocative is a matter of opinion.

MAULAVI DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Are Government aware of the fact that the chapter on Imam Husan and Husein of Padma Purana has created great discontent and resentment among the Moslem community ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :
I have read the chapter, but the word "Imam" is not there. The story is about two Muhammadan kings, Husan and Husein. The author did not mention that they were the Prophet's grandsons. By Imam Husan and Husein we know the Prophet's grandsons are meant. But the sentiments expressed there are surely insulting to the religious belief of Mahommedans. This is my personal opinion.

MAULAVI DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Are Government aware of the fact that a communal riot broke out in Akhalia in the district of Sylhet, mainly on the basis of such communal questions, regarding the staging of a theatre on the life of our holy Prophet, and both the Hindu and Muhammadan communities suffered a great deal ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :
That question does not arise, Sir. We are discussing about Padma Purana.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: It is a new matter which is being introduced.

MAULAVI DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Do Government propose to expunge that chapter from the book ? If immediate steps are not taken, I want to sound a note of warning to the Government of Assam who will be responsible if the history of the Rangila Rasul is again repeated in Assam in general and in Sylhet in particular ?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The hon. member is not entitled to sound a note of warning to Government by a question.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY: Do Government propose to proscribe the book?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The matter is under consideration.

MR. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: Has the Hon'ble Minister in charge seen or read a book named "World History" by that eminent writer H. G. Wells?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Does that question arise, Sir?

MR. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that grossly libellous statements are made in that book against the Prophet and the Holy Quran?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

MR. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: I think it does come under the mischief of this question.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: In that case let there be a separate question.

MR. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: Very well, Sir.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

474.—The matter is under consideration.

475.—Yes.

Prescribed uniform for Government officials

SRIJUT BHUBAN CHANDRA GOGOI asked:

476. Will Government be pleased to state the names of the Departments, the officials of which are to wear uniform dress?

477. Will Government be pleased to state whether there are prescribed dresses for officials, other than those included in question 62?

478. If there are no prescribed dresses, have those officers option of wearing their dresses?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

476-478.—The last two questions are not properly understood. All officials, high and low of the Police Department have to wear the prescribed uniform. The lower grades of Excise, Forest and Jail Departments also have to put on uniform dresses of their Departments. Where no particular uniform has been prescribed for any service or grade of service in a Department, the office-holder is free to put on any decent dress.

SRIJUT BHUBAN CHANDRA GOGOI: On a point of information, Sir.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Supplementary questions are put to elicit information.

SRIJUT BHUBAN CHANDRA GOGOI: Whether the dress worn by the Hon'ble Revenue Minister falls within the category of "decent dress".

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I find that the hon. member is himself affecting the same dress.

SRIJUT BHUBAN CHANDRA GOGOI : But those officers who have no uniform, are they entitled to use the dress worn by the Hon'ble Revenue Minister ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : It is for the Hon'ble Minister to choose his own dress.

SRIJUT BHUBAN CHANDRA GOGOI : Can such Government officer wear the dress while on duty ?

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

Newspaper article re Muslim Hatred

MAULAVI DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY asked :

479. Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article headed by গল্পপুত্ৰৰ মূল্যবোধ published in the *Tugabheri*, dated the 5th April 1937 ?

480. If so do Government propose to make an enquiry into the matter and take necessary steps to remove the grievances of the Muslims ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

479.—Yes.

480.—The matter is under consideration.

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : May I know how long it will take the Government to come to a finding ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : About a fortnight from this date.

Annual cost of printing of forms.

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SARMAH asked :

481. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Total amount of printing cost annually of the Government of Assam ?
- (b) Amount of work done in Presses outside the Province ?
- (c) Amount of work done in Presses in the Assam Valley Districts and the Surma Valley Districts respectively ?
- (d) Whether Government will henceforth give all the works to the Presses in the Province and stop the same to be done in Presses outside the Province ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

481.(a)—The annual cost paid by Government for the printing of standardised forms during the last three years is as follows :—

1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
75,771	73,006	2,63,327

The figure relating to the year 1936-37 covers (1) the cost of forms obtained for 2½ years' consumption, (ii) Rs. 49,555-12-8 paid to the Government of Bengal on account of High Court (Civil) forms and

(iii) the cost of the local printing of some forms necessitated by the termination of the contract with Messrs. Karim Bux Bros in June 1936.

(b)—The amounts paid to presses outside the province are—

1934-35	1935-36	1936-37
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
33,818	21,362	76,980

(c)—The cost of forms printed by presses in the Assam Valley Districts and Surma Valley Districts is as shown below :—

	1934-35	1935-36	1936-37
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Valley Districts	19,780	29,841	32,580
Surma Valley Districts	21,966	21,698	96,947

(d)—This will be considered at the time of making the next contracts. SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA : Is it a fact that Government can cancel a contract within the year ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : I want notice of that question.

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA : Is it not the policy of Government to give contracts for Government printing work to the presses within the province after the termination of the contracts which have already been given to persons outside the province ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : The intention of Government is to give as much work as possible within the province.

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA : Is Government aware that the presses in the province are now fully equipped and as such are able to take up all the work of Government ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : I cannot say that, Sir.

Council House for the Upper Chamber

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SARMAH asked :

482. Will Government be pleased to state—

- Cost of building the Council House for the Upper Chamber ?
- Cost of erecting the quarters for the members ?
- Whether sufficient number of rented houses were not available in Shillong for accommodation of members ?
- Has any representation been made to erect a separate quarter for the M. L. A.'s of the Schedule caste ? If not, why a separate accommodation for the Schedule caste members is taken in hand by Government ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

482.—The estimates are not yet closed and final figures cannot be given. The estimated figures are as follows—

- The anticipated total cost is Rs.1,04,394.
- Rupees 48,855.

(c)—That is a matter of opinion. Government considered that there was not sufficient suitable accommodation available.

- No. But the matter is under consideration.

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SARMAH: Was the sanction of the whole Council taken?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, Sir, the matter was placed before them.

Re-excavation of the *khal* passing through villages Ektiarpur, Minpur, etc.

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY asked:

483. Is it a fact that the *khal* passing through the villages Ektiarpur, Minpur, Satparia, Bagashura, Pyaim and Shakuchail within Police Station Madhabpur had got silted up and no longer carries the water of the Raghunandan Hills to the east and that there has been consequent failure of crops for some years in the villages? If so, will Government consider the desirability of immediately undertaking a re-excavation of the said *khal*?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

483.—Government believe that silting up is taking place in the area referred to in the question. Suitable action cannot be taken without collecting statistics all over the adjacent land and rivers and this is not possible without an irrigation division.

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: Is it known to Government that the poor cultivators are deprived of their paddy for want of proper irrigation?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have already replied that silting up is taking place and therefore the *khal* may have overflowed its banks.

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: Do Government propose to take any action in the matter?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, Sir, the question of an Irrigation Division has been engaging the attention of Government for some time, but for want of funds we have not been able to do anything; it will cost about two lakhs of rupees.

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge see that action is taken in the matter?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: As soon as funds permit, Sir.

Re-settlement of ferries over the Brahmaputra river

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA asked:

484. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) If the last Government had settled the ferries over the Brahmaputra at Kakilamukh, Gauhati and Dhubri for 15 years from 1928 till 1943 with Rai Bahadur Chandra Ketu Singh of Bihar and if the said Rai Bahadur had failed to provide the requisite number of steamer according to specifications?

- (b) If the said Government allowed him to purchase the Government steamers plying at those ferries ?
If so, at what price each of those steamers was sold to him and what was the cost price of each ?
- (c) If the said Government steamers did not answer the requisite specifications for running those ferries according to the terms of the contract and if they were still allowed to be used by the said lessee at those ferries ?
- (d) If the said lessee pleaded inability to pay the yearly revenue at the stipulated rate of Rs.2,000 since 1935-36 and whether he having failed to pay the same the lease had to be terminated and fresh tenders called in 1937 ?
- (e) If an Assamese local tenderer offered Rs. 2,500 a year for the Kakilamukh and Auniati Ferries and subsequently raised it to Rs. 3,000 a year and also he offered to provide a steamer larger in size and swifter in speed than either of the two steamers the Nelly and Curlew purchased from the Government and plied at the said ferry by the Rai Bahadur one after the other ?
- (f) If the said ferry has been settled again with the said Rai Bahadur and if he has proposed to manage the ferry with one of those old steamers purchased from the Government with a spare steamer at Dhubri ?
- (g) If so, what are the terms and conditions—including the amount fixed as yearly revenue and duration of the contract under which the said ferry has been settled with the said lessee and also what are the reasons for settling the ferry with an outsider in preference to a local Assamese tenderer ?
- (h) Whether it is a fact that the old steamer purchased from the Government and now in use at the ghat is too small for the traffic and has always to tow a country boat with the surplus traffic ?
- (i) If Government are aware that a passenger dropped down from the said country boat and was drowned in the mid-stream of the Brahmaputra on the 20th March 1937, in the presence of the Deputy Superintendent of Police of Lakhimpur ?

485. If the answers to (h) and (i) of question 484 are in the affirmative what actions, if any, have been or are being taken by the present Government to provide a suitable and sufficiently commodious steamer at the ferry and to avert such dangers and accidents in the future ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

484.(a)—Yes.

Yes. He applied for permission to use the then existing steamers which he purchased from the Government of Assam for the purpose.

He had no spare steamer for some years but has now got one.

(b)—Yes. The statement given below will give the information

Name of steam launch		Original price	Sale price
		Rs.	Rs.
1. Curlew	...	21,558	5,000
2. Nelly	...	27,000	3,500
3. Egret	...	50,371	8,000

The prices received were the best offer obtainable after advertising the sales,

(c)—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to question No. 484(a).

(d)—Under the terms of the lease, the lessee is to pay an annual rent of Rs.3,000 for the first six years and for the remaining period of the lease, if the receipts justify it, Rs.6,000 per annum. The review of the income of the ferries for the last 6 years did not justify to an enhancement of the rent as per stipulation in the lease and Government have been allowing the lessee to continue to run the ferries at the rate of Rs.3,000 for the last 3 years.

(e)—An offer of Rs. 2,500 was received from a native of Assam. Government have no information about the bid having been subsequently increased. He offered to provide a steamer which he stated was unsuitable for carrying motor cars or cattle and prepared to tow a flat.

(f)—The original settlement is still in force. Government advertised the re-sale of the ferries but as no favourable offer was received allowed the old lease to continue.

(g)—The lessee has been allowed to continue to run the steam ferries on previous terms and conditions in addition settlement of the neighbouring Local Board boat ferries have been made with him for a period of 7 years on a yearly payment of Rs.1,000 each for the Auniati and Rajadwar-Ujanbazar and Rs. 4,100 for the Pandu-Amingaon ferries. On the condition that there will be an annual increase of not more than Rs. 100 for each ferry when increased traffic justifies the increase. The notice inviting tenders revealed that no local man or Company was able or willing to invest the capital necessary to run even one steam ferry.

(h)—Government have no information but are making enquiries.

(i)—A police report states that a passenger accidentally fell off the ferry boat and was drowned.

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA: Was there anything in the lease to the effect that if he runs to a loss he will be allowed to run the ferry at a lower rate?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The answer is clear, Sir. "Under the terms of the lease the lessee is to pay an annual rent of Rs.3,000 for the first six years and for the remaining period of the lease, if the receipts justify it, Rs. 6,000 per annum. The review of the income of the ferries for the last 6 years did not justify an enhancement of the rent as per stipulation in the lease and Government have been allowing the lessee to continue to run the ferries at the rate of Rs.3,000 for the last 3 years".

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA: May I know whether it was allowed under the terms of the lease that at Dhubri the lessee will be allowed to run this ferry by country boats?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, Sir, when the old steamer become disable and there is no other steamer to replace her, the ferry is run by country boats.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: It is a fact that it is run by country boats. But was it a condition?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I want notice of that.

MAULAVI GHYASUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister take it from me that Rai Bahadur Chandra Ketu Sing is following the practice of employing country boats from the month of November up to the month of April every year?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Government is not aware of it but if the hon. member assures me that this practice is going on every year from November to April, I will make enquiries and see that redress is done.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : Government is surely appraised of the fact of the terms of the contract. From November to April country boat is used by this lessee. Will Government change it ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : If it is against the terms of the lease, surely Government will see that this is not continued.

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA : Will Government be pleased to lay on the table of the House a copy of the lease ?

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

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA : If the original settlement is still in force will Government be pleased to state why advertisement for resale of the ferries was issued ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Because he could not fulfil all the terms of the contract and, therefore, Government thought that they will resell the ferries. But there were no bidders.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : With regard to (i), where a "boat" is mentioned I want to know whether it is a 'country boat' or a 'steam boat' ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : It is a 'steam boat'.

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA : If it was readvertised for sale on account of the failure of the lessee to carry out the terms of the lease in that case why were the ferries resettled with the defaulter again ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Because, as I said, nobody came up to take the lease, and Government had to run it somehow or other. Public Works Department ran the ferry from Gauhati to North Gauhati some years before and they were running at great loss.

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA : Are Government sure that there were no offer for settlement ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Yes, Sir, for all three ferries together.

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA : Then did they get individual officers for the different ferries ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Only in one case.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : With regard to (i) did the passenger in question fall from the steamer or the country boat ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : The passenger was walking along the gangway of the country boat and fell down.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : Was it not particularly a dangerous act to tie a country boat to a steamer ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : My hon. friend has not probably understood my reply. The question put is "If Government are aware that passenger dropped down from the said country boat and was drowned in the midstream of the Brahmaputra on the 20th March 1937, in the presence of the Deputy Superintendent of

Police of Lakhimpur". Our reports say that the passenger was walking along the gangway on the side of the boat and fell on account of his own negligence, and not on account of any other defect.

MAULAVI GHYASUDDIN AHMED : With regard to (d), do Government keep an account of the receipts by the lessee in different places ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Yes, Sir. Government check the accounts kept by the lessee.

MAULAVI GHYASUDDIN AHMED : Is there any one attached to each ferry to check the toll accounts ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : No.

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

485.—Action taken will depend on the result of the enquiries as proposed at (h) of question 484.

Newspaper article re "Pricking and Bubble" in connection with the appointment of Babu Sailendra Chandra Datta

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

486. Will Government be pleased to state if Babu Sailendra Chandra Datta, Subdivisional Officer, Public Works Department, Dibrugarh, is an Overseer ?

487. Is it a fact that he has superseded more than 60 Overseers ?

(a) If so, has any Overseer who has thus been superseded, put in any petition to the authorities for this supersession ?

(b) if so, has any action been taken on this petition ?

(c) if not, do Government propose to take any action ?

488. Has the attention of Government been drawn to the *Sylhet Chronicle* in the issue of 31st March last to the caption "Pricking the Bubble" contributed—and to its concluding portions "As regards the appointment of Babu Sailendra Chandra Datta and his superseding 67 Overseers, it is said that two successive Chief Engineers took a fancy of his attainments and technical skill, and strongly urged his lift as promised at the time of his appointment ?

489. Is the statement contained therein true ? Is it a fact that promise was given at the time of his appointment ?

(a) Will Government be pleased to state who gave the said promise and what the exact promise was ? Could a promise like this be given ? Has Government given any such promise to anybody else in the Public Works Department ?

(b) Is it an official secret that such promise was given ? How could such secret leak out ?

490. Is it a fact that Babu Sailendra Chandra Datta is a Mechanical and Electrical Engineer from Benares Hindu University ?

491.(a) Are Government aware that two successive Chief Engineers took a fancy of his attainments and technical skill ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to give the names of those two Chief Engineers who strongly urged his lift ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

486.—Yes, if Babu Sailendra Mohan Datta, No. 57, page 13 of the classified list, is meant.

487.—He has been placed in charge of the Dibrugarh Subdivision by superseding 42 Overseers.

(a)—No petition has been received.

(b) & (c)—Does not arise.

488.—Yes, if the article of the 31st of May is meant.

489.—No promise of any sort was given at the time of his appointment.

(a) & (b)—Does not arise.

490.—He is a B.Sc. in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering from the Benares Hindu University.

491.(a)—Government are aware that his departmental superiors recognised his skill and efficiency as being far above that of the ordinary Overseers.

(b)—Mr. E. P. Burke, C.I.E., I.S.E.

and

Mr. G. Reid Shaw, I.S.E.

Subordinate Excise Service

MAULAVI NAZIRUDDIN AHMED asked :

492. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Excise be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of vacancies filled up in the Subordinate Excise Service and in the office of the Excise Commissioner during the last four years ?
- (b) How many of these appointments were filled up by candidates of the Muhammadan community of the Sylhet district and how many of them were recruited from the North Sylhet Subdivision alone ?
- (c) Whether the candidates were put to any test ?
- (d) If so, who was the question setter and who was the examiner of the answer papers ?
- (e) Whether the answer papers have been preserved in the office of the Commissioner of Excise ?

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

492. (a)—Twenty-one (including 5 temporary) in the Subordinate Excise Service and 4 in the Excise Commissioner's Office.

(b)—Out of the 21 vacancies in the Subordinate Excise Service 5 were filled by Muhammadan candidates from Sylhet district of whom three belonged to the North Sylhet Subdivision. Out of the 4 vacancies in the Excise Commissioner's Office two were filled by Muhammadan candidates from Sylhet district of whom one belonged to North Sylhet.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—The previous and present Excise Commissioner.

(e)—Yes.

Director of Land Records

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI SAYIDUR RAHMAN asked :

493. (i) Is it a fact that the Director of Land Records has not enough work to do ?

(ii) If so, do Government propose to consider the feasibility of combining the post with that of the Commissioner of Excise ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

493. (i)—No.

(ii)—Does not arise.

Ammunition shop at Nazira

SRIJUT BHUBAN CHANDRA GOGOI asked :

494. Will Government be pleased to state the number of applications for the ammunition shop at Nazira, from the children of the soil and the domiciled ?

495. Will Government be pleased to state with whom the said shop was settled ?

496. Will Government be pleased to state whether he is an Assamese or domiciled ?

497. If he is neither an Assamese nor a domiciled, will Government be pleased to state the reason for the settlement of the same with him ?

498. Do Government propose to revise their order and settle the same with an indigene ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

494.—Two from the children of the soil and none from any domiciled person.

495.—With Messrs. Hajee Md. Esuf and Sons.

496.—Government have since the question learnt that the proprietors of the Firm originally came from Dacca, but they have been settled in Nazira for 70 years.

497.—The Firm were on inquiry found to be the most suitable of the candidates as being a well-established Firm and because they possessed a pucca storage-shed which no other candidate possessed.

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA : Do Government mean that a pucca storage-shed should be made before putting in applications ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : That is one of the conditions for obtaining a licence for ammunition shop.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

498.—No.

Menials employed under the Local Bodies

SRIJUT BHUBAN CHANDRA GOGOI asked :

499. Is it a fact that the menials, under Local Bodies are not entitled to the privilege of Provident Fund ?

500. Is it a fact that they are not entitled for pension ?

501. Is it a fact that their pay is very poor and they cannot afford to save ?

502. Do Government propose to extend the privilege of Provident Fund to all menials of Government, including the Local Bodies ?

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

499.—Yes.

500.—Yes.

501.—Government understand that their pay is generally adequate for the class of men employed. Local Bodies have, of course, full power to increase the pay of their menials if they consider it insufficient.

502.—In the absence of any specific request from the menials themselves Government do not propose to admit menials as subscribers to the General Provident Fund. As regards the menials under the Local Bodies the matter is primarily one for those bodies to consider.

Maintenance of roads by improved mechanical methods

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS asked :

503. Will the Hon'ble Minister for Public Works Department state —

(a) the mileage of metalled roads, gravelled roads and roads maintained by improved methods of mechanical means in each of the civil subdivisions of the province under (i) the Public Works Department and (ii) the Road Board (or the Communication Board) ?

(b) the costs incurred in connection with all these classes of roads in each of the civil subdivisions of the province, year by year, for the last 9 years, by (i) the Public Works Department and (ii) the Road Board (or the Communication Board) ?

504. (a) Is it a fact that the only road selected for metalling by the Road Board in the civil subdivision of Barpeta was the road from Barpeta to Barpeta Road station ?

(b) If so, what was the estimated cost thereof ?

(c) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that instead of being metalled the road has only been gravelled ?

(d) If so, what is the amount incurred in gravelling and whether the difference of the estimated cost of metalling and cost of gravelling has actually been spent for the improvement of other roads in the said subdivision ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

503. (a) (i)—A statement showing the mileage of metalled and gravelled roads maintained by the Public Works Department in each subdivision is placed on the table. No separate list of roads which are not gravelled and which are maintained solely by mechanical methods is available ?

Statement showing the mileage of pucca roads and gravelled roads in the different subdivisions in the plains districts of the province including the Khasi and Jaintia Hills district

Names of Civil subdivisions	Mileage of pucca roads	Mileage of gravelled roads	Names of districts
1	2	3	4
North Sylhet	41.35	23.50	} Sylhet district.
Maulvibazar	5.84	34.46	
Habiganj	4.57	2.00	
Sunamganj	Nil	Nil	
Karimganj	3.32	35.71	
Tezpur	16.17	103.95	} Darrang district.
Mangaldai	11.77	53.69	
Dhubri	1.45	10.44	} Goalpara district.
Goalpara	12.28	53.84	
Gauhati	50.34	52.59	} Kamrup district.
Barpeta	Nil	11.78(a)	
Nowgong	19.34	131.36	Nowgong district.
Dibrugarh	58.92	89.98	} Lakhimpur district.
North Lakhimpur	10.81	69.73	
Jorhat	17.52	48.47	} Sibsagar district.
Sibsagar	7.33	76.33	
Golaghat	6.07	117.87(b)	

(a) Includes 1.35 miles of creteways.

(b) This length includes 8,778 r.ft. of gravelled surface treated with various bitumen compound as experimental purpose.

Names of Civil subdivisions	Mileage of pucca roads	Mileage of gravelled roads	Names of districts
1	2	3	4
Silchar	38.87	5.61	} Cachar district.
Hailakandi	19.17	15.86	
Shillong	151.93	6.50	
Jowai	2.12	.....	} Khasi and Jaintia Hills district.

(ii)—The Communications Board is only an Advisory Board and does not maintain any roads.

(b)—The time and labour which would be necessary to prepare the statement called for would be incommensurate with the results which would be obtained.

BABU DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: Will Government be prepared to take into consideration the mileage in the figures given in giving further grants for road development in respective subdivision.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I could not follow the hon. member. If he means that Government is giving grants from the money that is obtained from reserve of the petrol fund, he is mistaken. He is himself a Member of the Communications Board and knows that there is a comprehensive scheme for the whole province and the money is spent on schemes that are first approved by the Communications Board and then by the House.

BABU HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI: May I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister, Public Works Department, to the disparity between the two columns in the different subdivisions?

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

BABU KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Will Government state what was the difficulty in constructing the cold weather tracks in the Sunamganj subdivision?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: No question of difficulty, Sir. But we are proposing to have a road from Sylhet to Sunamganj from the Road Development fund.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

504. (a)—The Barpeta-Simalguri road was the only road in the Barpeta subdivision selected by the Road Board (now Board of Communications) for metalling in the Second Road Board programme of works.

(b)—Rs. 3,23,551.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Only Rs. 43,877 was spent on bridging when the entire Second Road Board programme of works had to be closed down as Government decided not to take the remaining portion of the loan which financed the scheme owing to the then general depression throughout India. The road has since been gravelled.

Construction of cold weather tracks in Sunamganj subdivision

BABU KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked:

505. (a) Do Government propose to construct cold weather tracks in the subdivision of Sunamganj?

(c) Will Government please ascertain from the postal authorities and state what is the nature of the path by which the postal peons travel from Sachna to Tahirpur?

(d) Is it a fact that they travel through jungles and mud throughout the dry season? If so, do Government propose to cause an enquiry to be made to find means to have a cold weather track from Sachna to Tahirpur?

506. (a) Is it a fact that passengers face various inconveniences in the steamer journey during the rains between Sylhet and Sunamganj owing to the irregularity of service?

(b) Do Government propose to address the Steamer Company to take steps for regularising the service ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Steamers reach and leave Sylhet at any time at night ?

(d) Is it a fact that the mail is also carried by this irregular steamer service ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAYYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

505. (a)—No.

(c)—The Postal authorities who have been consulted state that during the dry season the postal peons attached to the Post offices falling on the route from Sachna to Tahirpur *via* Beheli are not required to travel by the mail line from Sachna to Tahirpur, except for the portion Sachna to Rahimapur—11 miles—which lies along the bank of a *khal* and village "cultivated in the shape of mud or jungle."

CORRECTION SLIP TO THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
DEBATES, VOL. II, No. 11 OF 1937

No. 14

At page 1078, after question 508 *insert* the following, questions :—

509. Is it a fact that this bund was put up at the expense of the North Sylhet Local Board and passed by the Commissioner as a road connecting two villages ?

510. Is it a fact that this so-called road closes a *nala* which is one of the outlets of the Renga Pargana ?

511. Is it a fact that when the Sunamganj Local Board projected for an embankment near Kalnichar *dhala* to serve the purpose of both road and bund, it was turned down by the then Commissioner Mr. Bentinck on the ground that Local Boards cannot spend for bunds ?

512. Do Government propose to consider the advisability of asking the Local Board to remove the bund and erect a bridge over the *nala* ?

513. Is Government aware that at the said meeting serious allegations of highhandedness and oppression were made against Government officers who were employed to realise agricultural loans in Renga last winter ?

514. Do Government propose to investigate into the matter and bring the officers concerned to justice according to the findings of the investigation ?

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.

public right should first be decided by,
time for a Civil suit to be started by either party. AS

steps the case under section 133, Criminal Procedure Code, was struck off. Subsequently certain persons applied for permission to institute a civil suit under section 93 of the Code of Civil Procedure and sanction was given in January 1937 subject to the condition that Government would not be liable in any event for the cost of the petitioners.

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: It seems that the Deputy Commissioner reported that there was no ground for an executive order. And then he asked the people to take action under section 133 of the Criminal Procedure Code. They adopted that procedure and afterwards the people were referred to the Civil Court. I understand that the bund was constructed out of the Local Board fund. Will Government consider it their duty to alleviate the grievances of the public if any action of local board road is causing nuisance to the public?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: The Local Board, Sir, and it can do as it likes regarding the bund. If it

CORRECTION SLIP TO THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES, VOL.II, No.11 OF 1937

No.15

At page 1079, after the replies to question No.508 and before the "Demands for Grants", insert the following replies:—

509.—The bund was constructed at the expense of the Local Board of its communication grant and with the help of the people of village Karpur, Pargana Boaljur.

510.—Renga is one of the affected parganas.

511.—Government have no information.

512.—No. The matter is one for the Local Board to decide.

513.—Government have no information.

514.—As already stated Government have no information and in absence of definite information do not propose to take any action.

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, A

head 37.—Education (other than European).

The motion was put from the Chair.

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I beg, Sir, to move that the provision of Rs.3,81,391 under Grant No.16. Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—University Education, Sub-head—A.—Government Arts Colleges (total), at page 110 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100. I have tabled this motion, Sir, to criticise the indifference of Government in opening Botany class in the Murarichand College, Sylhet.

Sir, in this province there are two Government Colleges. Of course they are first grade colleges but only in name. One of them is situated at

Gauhati for the Assam Valley people and the other at Sylhet for the Surma Valley people. Sir, these colleges being Government colleges should have been model institutions. But there are many subjects which are not taught in these colleges. Especially the want of a Botany class is keenly felt by the students of the Surma Valley. Sir, Botany is a very common and useful subject which is taught in other provinces, even in the private mofussil colleges. Sir, the people of the Surma Valley are trying their best to induce Government to open a Botany class in the Murarichand College at Sylhet, but in vain. Government is quite indifferent in this matter. Sir, the utility of the Botany class need not be explained in detail. It has very great importance from the agricultural point of view, more especially in a province where agriculture is the mainstay. Sir, the students who go out to Calcutta to study medicine feel themselves very much handicapped for want of a training in this subject. Sir, in the I.A. and I.Sc. classes many students take up Botany as an additional subject, for after deducting a certain percentage of marks, the extra marks are added to the aggregate, so that the students who take this additional subject can secure a higher place in the University examinations. Sir, I think in this House all the hon. members will support me in my motion. With these few words I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble Speaker put the motion.

MAULAVI NAMWAR ALI BARBHUIYA: On a point of information, Sir. Motion No.19* which stands in my name is an identical motion.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Order, order. It is not an identical motion. The matter which the hon. member wants to discuss is quite different.

MAULAVI NAMWAR ALI BARBHUIYA: My grievance is for opening a class without a teacher.

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS: Sir, I wish to speak a few words in this connection. It is admitted, Sir, that Assam is a backward province. It is backward also in regard to collegiate education. If we look into the number of students receiving collegiate education in the province, it appears that not even one student out of about 5,600 of the whole population is receiving collegiate education in the province. There is a cry for a University in Assam, but a University will not be possible if we do not expand the existing colleges gradually. There is scope for introducing Botany classes in the two Government colleges of the province up to the degree course. I suppose the cost will not be much. There is need of introducing other courses also, namely, the B. Com. and the M. A. in English in the Cotton College. If the dream of a University for Assam is to materialise in near future, I think Government should come forward with their proposals to expand the existing colleges by introducing new courses of study therein and raising the existing courses where necessary and possible. In the current year, Sir, we find that there has been no greater provision made in regard to collegiate education over that of the last year. The provision in 1936-37 was about Rs.4,32,000 and almost has the same amount been provided for this year. What I

* That the provision of Rs. 5,98,343 under Grant No. 16.—Major head 37.—Education, Minor head—Secondary Education, Sub-head—E.—Government Secondary Schools, Detailed head (a).—Secondary School for boys—2.—Pay of Establishment—Teaching staff, at page 112 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1.

(To raise a discussion for not providing an Arabic teacher in the Silchar Government High School).

have stated relates of course to education in the arts and science colleges. Government has made no provision for expansion and it is regrettable. Over and above this the average cost of expenditure incurred by Government per head of students in the Cotton College, Gauhati, has been reduced to Rs. 138 from Rs. 152 instead of having it increased as in the Murarichand College. I suggest that there should be Botany classes introduced in the colleges of the province up to the degree course in Cotton College. I would also suggest that B. Com. course should also be introduced into the courses of study in the two colleges immediately.

BABU SHIBENDRA CHANDRA BISWAS: Botany is an important subject and the Murarichand College is the only Government College in the Surma Valley. So it is urgently required that Botany class should be started in this College and I therefore wish that the House will support the motion almost unanimously.

BABU HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: Sir, I also support this motion. The Calcutta Medical College always gives preference to those students who have passed I. Sc. with Botany. Now, Sir, the students who pass I. Sc. from the Murarichand College cannot get preference because there is no Botany class in this College. Again Government grants some scholarships to the medical students who study in Calcutta and these scholarships are granted on merits. Those students who take Botany get extra marks and thus secure higher position in the list and these scholarships generally go to such boys. Now, Sir, as there is no Botany class in the Murarichand College our students are deprived of this facility and therefore they are actually in need of Botany class in this College. With these words I support the motion.

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: I agree with the hon. mover that for want of provision for the study of Botany in the Murarichand College, students have to go to Calcutta to prosecute studies in that subject. That involves a good deal of expenditure and inconvenience to these students. The question is one of funds. I assure the hon. mover that the matter will receive our consideration. I confine my remarks to the Murarichand College only because the motion relates to the opening of Botany class in the Murarichand College.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: What about the opening of a Botany class for B.A. in the Cotton College? This has been mentioned by my friend Srijut Kameswar Das.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: As the motion relates to the Murarichand College only, the Hon'ble Education Minister is right in confining his remarks to the Murarichand College.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Will it not be fair to consider that question also?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: That matter will also receive our consideration. I know there is Botany up to I. Sc. in the Cotton College and the Director of Public Instruction has also recommended that Botany class should be opened in that College up to B. A.

MR. BAIDYA NATH MOOKERJEE: Am I to understand that this matter will receive favourable consideration in the near future?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: Yes, it will, but that is a question of funds.

MR. BAIDYA NATH MOOKERJEE: Am I to understand that it will receive consideration before the next budget?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED : The matter will be considered before the next budget and if funds permit we are going to open the class with effect from the next session.

MR. BAIDYA NATH MOOKERJEE : With this assurance I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

The motion was with the leave of the House withdrawn.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN : Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.3,81,391 under Grant No. 16, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—University Education, Sub-head—(A)—Government Arts Colleges (total), at page 110 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100.

I have tabled this motion to criticise the policy of Government in making appointments to the tutorial staff of the Colleges and in this connection I like to refer to only two matters.

The first is as regards the policy in making appointments to the tutorial staff of the Colleges. The policy is, as we have been given to understand repeatedly on the floor of this House, that in the matter of making appointments of lecturers and professors merit and merit alone will be the sole criterion and no other question will come in. Only the other day, during the last budget session, the Director of Public Instruction assured us on the floor of this House that this has been the policy and this will be the policy. I think Sir, I would do well if I read a few sentences of his speech. That is what he says—"Sir, we are always trying to get the best teachers we can get, and this is the rule that ought to be adopted in making appointments in the colleges. I quite agree with the hon. member that as regards college appointments we should not work on communal considerations (*hear, hear*). Appointments are made by the Selection Board, and the instructions given them by Government are to select the best men available. I think the whole House will agree with me that when the question of university education comes in, it is essential that we should get the best men available to teach our boys in college. In any case, Sir, Government has definitely laid down that, as a matter of principle, appointments shall go by merit and that is the only criterion which can be accepted for these appointments."

Sir, this has been the policy, but there is the persistent rumour that this policy is going to be changed. I do not know whether there is any truth in it. If there is no truth then I have nothing to say. I understand that the main source of this rumour is the silence of Government in making an appointment in place of Mr. Thomas who has been taken as Secretary of the Public Service Commission. Mr. Thomas' appointment as Secretary of the Public Service Commission was made about three months ago, but during this period of three months no attempt has been made even to advertise the post. So the public has been rather alarmed and I think this is the cause of the rumour. Sir, if there is any change in the policy, I think, I should take this opportunity of recording my humble protest to that. We want that our boys should be taught by the best teacher available and we cannot afford even to have the second best. The policy of giving preference to other considerations over the consideration of merit will, I think, do more injury than good even to the persons who are intended to be benefited. In this connection Sir, I am tempted to read a portion of the speech of my Hon'ble friend Mr. Nichols-Roy our Minister for Local Self-Government who supported the motion in the last budget session of the Council because I entirely agree with the view which has been so ably expressed by him. It runs as follows :—"Sir, I also feel some delicacy to

speak on this point. I am strongly of opinion that in the matter of university education Government have pursued a very wise policy. I also belong to a minority community, but I do not want my community to be represented in the colleges as professors and lecturers if it has not produced efficient men who are fit to teach in the colleges. I would rather go unrepresented in the service therein. I would rather bring men from anywhere who have the best qualifications for training our young men so that they may become equal to the biggest men in the world. We want to send our men to other countries for the sake of getting education, but if we can import such men at a cheap cost so much the better for our people. If we carry on this communal question even to this extent, university education will be a failure in our midst."

That is what he said, and I entirely agree with his views. I understand Sir, this was the policy. Of course, Sir, there may be some consideration for giving communal or other consideration in any other service except education. But if this policy is extended to education, I think, Sir, the persons who are intended to be benefited will also be sufferers thereby. So, Sir, I would be glad if the Hon'ble Minister contradicts the rumour that has been persistent, and also assures us that there will be no change in the policy and even if he intends to make any change, this House will be given an opportunity to discuss the matter before they come to a decision.

The next point is about the appointment of tutors in Colleges. So long, Sir, we know that there are lecturers.

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: This cut motion relates to tutorial staff. What were you discussing so long?

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Professors are also included in the tutorial staff, I mean. (*Voices—No.*)

I think, Sir, I should proceed with my next point. The next point I should like to place before the House is about the appointment of tutors in place of lecturers and professors. I do not know why this bad economy is effected. The matter originated like this. In the Cotton College when there was a question of strengthening the staff, instead of taking some lecturers, tutors were taken in at a fixed allowance of Rs.100 or something like that. These tutors, Sir, are doing exactly the same sort of service as the Professors and Lecturers are doing; they have got almost the same qualification as these Professors and Lecturers possess. And yet I do not know why they have been left out of the graded service. The result is, half-hearted and inefficient work. Besides this by these appointments collegiate service suffers in dignity too. For a paltry sum of Rs.100 I do not think education in Colleges should be made to suffer in this way. These tutors are also given a stamp of inferiority and their services become unattractive to our best students and only those who have failed in other avenues will only come forward to fill these posts of tutors. Therefore I suggest that the posts of tutors should be altogether abolished.

With these few words, Sir, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

MAULAVI DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: I rise to oppose the motion moved by my friend Babu Kamini Kumar Sen. First of all, Sir, it pains me very much to hear such communal question raised by my friend. Is it not unpleasant to raise such a question at this time when the communities are trying to come to some agreement. Now, Sir, he has raised the question of educational efficiency. But Sir, there are so many professors of the other community with second or third class in the Murari-chand College and how can the question of efficiency be raised. I did

not hear any protest from the other community to this, but when a few members of our community were taken, we hear of communalism and efficiency.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN: On a personal explanation, Sir; I did not mention any community. I do not mind whether a Hindu or a Muhammadan or a person from the Assam Valley or Surma Valley is appointed. I want the best man available.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: From the speech of the hon. member it appeared that there was nothing which can justify the hon. member to say that he was speaking from any communal motive.

MAULAVI DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Then, Sir he asked for an assurance from the Hon'ble Minister. Sir, there can be no assurance given so long as there are these communities in this country. He cannot give any assurance with regard to this question. This communal question should be dropped at once and I oppose this motion with all my heart.

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: Sir, without going into the matter whether in the motion there is any insinuation about communal representation or not, I should like to submit before the House that there is some practical consideration with regard to the matter. From mere academical qualifications it is very difficult to judge whether this gentleman is the best or the other gentleman is the best candidate. A first class M.A. is not always the very best professor or lecturer. We have seen on many occasions that even a second class man is by far better than a first class first. If we look to the Civil List we will find that there are many professors and lecturers who are second class men. Hon. members will find it an unsafe *data* to rely on that a first class man is always the best.

There is another difficulty. In some Universities we find that some student has got a first class first but in that year you may find that in the other University there is no first class first. The standard of examination is not the same. The examiners are not the same. So it is very difficult to say that a first class man should supersede a second class man.

Sir the same question of efficiency was raised when Muhammadan candidates were being taken into the Assam School Service. It was said that by taking Muslim teachers in schools, imparting of education was going to be deteriorated. But what did we find later on? We found after several years' experience that under the management of Muhammadan teachers students were doing really well in University examinations. Apart from this, Sir, I now come to the cut motion which concerns only with the tutorial staff. There are three cadres of service in the College namely Professors, Lecturers and Tutors. The cut motion relates to Tutors only. So far as the Murarichand College is concerned, my information is that there was rush of students for admission and that they were not given admission due to the shortness of the Tutors. There was a proposal submitted to the Hon'ble Minister of Education for appointing certain tutors so that the students may get admission. There was also a proposal from the Cotton College at Gauhati that some tutors must be appointed. I had a talk with the Principal of the Murarichand College over the matter when I recommended for the admission of certain boys in the College. The Principal said that appointment of tutors are necessary as the students do not get admission. So, I think, there is some necessity for the appointment of the tutors. We always hear that retrenchment is going on in all offices and in all branches of the Government depart-

ment. So, I think the pay of Rs. 100 for the tutors will be rather less costly than that of the Professors or Lecturers. With these few words I oppose the motion.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY: Sir, I rise to oppose the motion. The hon. mover has based his argument, upon rumours and I think anything based on rumours should not receive any serious consideration of this house (*hear, hear*).

MAULAVI ABDUL AZIZ: Sir, I rise to oppose the motion. The motion before the House relates to tutors. There are two Colleges in this province namely the Murarichand College at Sylhet and the Cotton College at Gauhati. There is of course, nothing of communalism in the motion but indirectly there was some insinuation of communalism in the speech of the hon. mover. I, therefore, submit, Sir, that the portion of his speech containing the touch of communalism is not relevant. What is most upper most in the mind of my hon. friend is perhaps regarding the pay of the tutors. The two tutors were taken in for the purpose of coaching the students on a fixed salary. I think my hon. friend is trying to make a uniform level of salary for all, and his motion aims at that. I should like to submit that so long as they are tutors, my hon. friend should not speak of any hardship to them due to the fixed salary. They must remain satisfied with the pay fixed for these posts. Then my hon. friend has said that they are men of first class degrees. But my submission before the House is this that if they desire to have higher pay then they ought not to have come and accepted the posts. When they have accepted the posts they should remain satisfied with the pay. On the floor of this House we are trying to reduce the salaries of all Government Officials. All these days we have been taking of the top heaviness of the administration. We read in the papers and have heard many lectures about it in this very Hall. We are going to have the views of Mahatma Gandhi as an ideal, and according to him the maximum salary for a Government Servant in a state should not be more than Rs.500. So, I submit, Sir, that a pay of Rs.100 is a decent salary and there should not be any grievance about that. With these few words I oppose the motion.

MAULANA ABDUL HAMID KHAN: Sir, বোগ্যতা জিনিষটা যদি গবর্ণ-মেন্টের ডিপ্লোমার উপর নির্ভর করা হয়, তাহা হইলে আমি মনে করি সেটা অবিচার করা হইবে। ফার্স্ট ক্লাশ এম, এম সি, বা এম, এ degree holder স্কুল কলেজে যে তা'বে পড়ায় তাহার চেয়ে হয়ত আই, এ, পাশ লোক অনেক ভাল পড়াইতে পারে। যদি ৬ মাস বা এক বৎসর কলেজে পড়াইয়া কে ছাত্রকে কত ভাল বুঝাইতে পারে এবং কাহার lecture হইতে স্কুল কলেজের ছাত্রেরা কি রকম ভাবে উপকার পায়, তাহার উপর নির্ভর করিয়া যদি বোগ্যতা নির্ণয় করা হয় তাহা হইলে, সেটাকেই সঠিক বোগ্যতা বলিয়া মনে করিতে হইবে। কিন্তু যদি শুধু ডিপ্লোমার দিকে লক্ষ্য রাখিয়া বোগ্যতা নির্ণয় করা হয় এবং যদি বলা হয় যে অগ্রাঙ্ক communityর ভিতর বোগ্য লোক নাই, তাহা হইলে আমি মনে করি সেটা অবিচার করা হইবে। এবং কোনরূপ জনরবের উপর নির্ভর করিয়া কাহারও উপর কোনরূপ দোষারোপ না করাই সঙ্গত বলিয়া মনে করি।

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Sir, I think, this is a motion only for discussion and not for any final action. There is an Act which provides for the Public Service Commission. It is the duty of the Public Service

Commission to consider about the qualifications and to make appointments. So, I think this House is trying to take away that power which is given to the Public Service Commission. In view of this I oppose this motion.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Sir, I am also in a sense opposed to the motion of the hon. mover which he has brought in for discussion before this House. I had an occasion to speak about the grievances from which the Assamese people and the Muhammadans have, as a rule, suffered in the past. I will cite an instance of one particular gentleman named Mr. Hiranya Kumar Bhuyan. He is a first class M.Sc., and now a Lecturer of the Cotton College. He applied for Professorship on one occasion but he was given second nomination by the Selection Board whereas another candidate of lesser qualification was given the first nomination. On that ground Mr. Bhuyan did not get the appointment on that occasion. On a second occasion he applied for another vacancy and he was given the first nomination by the Selection Board but in spite of that, Government superseded his claim and gave the appointment to one who was a second class one, who got fourth nomination. So, Sir, in the past the Assamese people have suffered not on account of the fact that Government did not consider the question of different communities but because a particular community has always got advantage over the other communities and Muhammadans and the Assamese people have suffered as a consequence in the past.

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED : Sir, I should first refer to the policy. The hon. member has said that it was the policy of the previous Government to have the best man available for appointment to a vacancy in the College. Sir, we have been following the recruitment rules framed by Government particularly Rule No. 5 of the rules for appointment to the Assam Educational Service.

Rule No. 5 lays down that when a vacancy occurs the Director of Public Instruction shall obtain orders from Government whether the vacancy is to be filled up by selection or by promotion, as to the minimum requirements of the post, and as to the community from which if suitable candidates are available, the appointment is to be made in order to secure communal representation. That is rule No. 5 of the Rules for appointments to the Assam Educational Service.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN : On a point of information, Sir. Was that rule in vogue before 1st of April 1937 ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED : Yes, Sir.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN : Do I understand that the Director of Public Instruction enunciated a wrong principle ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED : Well I cannot say that, but instances have been cited by my hon. friend, the Hon'ble Revenue Minister, to show that Government did not follow the principle that the best men should be appointed. We followed the Government rule stated above. He has cited instances and those instances prove the rule.

Sir, as regards the tutorial staff, there are three grades now. One is that of tutors, the second is that of lecturers, and the third is that of professors. The professors are the heads of the respective departments.

These grades are necessary. In making appointments to these three grades I can assure the House that the minimum qualifications require for the appointment of lecturers will be insisted upon. There will be no difference between the lecturers and tutors in respect of qualifications

and there is very little difference between the qualifications of lecturers and those of professors. The professors are in charge of departments. A professor may be a second class man and the lecturer a first-class one ; for instances, I might say that in the Cotton College there were two professors in philosophy one of whom, Mr. Thomas, has gone over to the Public Service Commission, and the other professor is a second class man. That second class man has been recommended to have the charge of the department, as he was one of the professors, and in his place a lecturer is to be appointed now, and I can assure the House that the minimum qualifications that will be prescribed for this lecturer will be a first class degree in Philosophy of any Indian University. I think the advertisement has already been made for a first-class man in Philosophy. So, Sir, there is no difference between the qualifications of a lecturer, a tutor and a professor ; only experience and other things count, but as regards their qualifications they are generally on the same footing. I can assure the House that the qualifications of tutors, who will be appointed, will be generally equal to those of lecturers and professors. Recently we have appointed two tutors in the Murarichand College, one of them is a first class first of the Dacca University, and the other is a second class man in philosophy. Here we are insisting on the qualifications required by a lecturer ; we are not going to appoint a third class man as tutor in any of these colleges.

I think I have explained the whole matter in a nutshell, and I would not like to take more time because there are so many cut motions upon me, and I wish that most of them may be disposed of. On this assurance I hope, the hon. member will find it possible to withdraw his cut motion.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN : Do I understand, Sir, that the best man available will be appointed irrespective of the community to which he belongs ? Do I understand also that if there be an advertisement, selection will be made from the applications received, and that the best man available will be appointed ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED : In the case I have referred to, the advertisement has already gone up and published in the papers, and there is the Public Service Commission now who are the custodian of rights and privileges of the service.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN : That I can understand, Sir. During the last Budget Session the Director of Public Instruction said that Government policy was to make appointments only on consideration of merit. So, Sir, Public Service Commission will have to be guided by the instructions of Government, and if Government is ready to instruct them to select the best man available, I have nothing more to say.

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED : Sir, I have already quoted the rule, and the rules are before the Public Service Commission. We have followed these rules, and the Public Service Commission will certainly follow them.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN : Do I understand, Sir, that the Director of Public Instruction wrongly interpreted the rules in the last Budget Session ?

MAULAVI DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY : May I know from the Hon'ble Chief Minister what will be the effect of that circular which was issued by Government ?

[No reply].

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : On a point of information, Sir. Are we to understand from the speech of the Hon'ble Education Minister

that women candidates, if they possess the requisite qualifications, will be ineligible for the post?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: I think that does not arise, Sir.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: The Hon'ble Minister has mentioned about men candidates only. [Laughter.]

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN: As the Hon'ble Minister has promised to appoint a first class man, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: The hon. member would better say man or woman.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Yes, Sir, I would rather be glad if women are appointed. [Laughter].

The motion was, with the leave of the House, withdrawn.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 3,81,391 under grant No. 16, Major Head—37.—Education, Minor Head—University Education, Sub-head—A.—Government Arts Colleges (total), at page 110 of the budget, be reduced by Rs.100.

Sir, I have tabled this motion in order to raise a discussion on the restriction imposed on admission of students to the Cotton College, Gauhati.

MR. JOBANG D. MARAK: On a point of information, Sir. Is the restriction going on now?

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Why is the hon. member so impatient? He has not heard what I am going to say. Sir, this restriction with regard to admission of students to the Cotton College was enforced, as I understand by the previous Government. In order to do away with this restriction a representation was made by the public of Gauhati, and I learned from the Hon'ble Minister of Education the other day that the restriction has been withdrawn. Sir, my complaint is that Government has failed to notify properly this information to the public with the result that many students, who would have liked to take admission in the Cotton College, have been driven to other colleges outside the province. The matter was represented to the present Government sometime in the first or second week of June, and I also later wrote a personal letter to the Hon'ble Minister. But even the common courtesy of acknowledging receipt of the letters was denied to us. The representation made by the public of Gauhati was not even acknowledged either by the Hon'ble Minister of Education or by the Director of Public Instruction. Sir, it was on the 22nd or 23rd of June I wrote a personal letter to the Hon'ble Minister asking him to let me know what Government had decided in regard to this matter. Not hearing from him I wrote on the 30th June 1937 to the Principal of the College whether he had received any information from Government with regard to this imposed restriction or not, but all that he could tell me was that two sections would be opened in the First Year Class and that it was for Government to inform me whether the restriction had been removed or not. Sir, the public is quite ignorant about the withdrawal of the restrictions and I think we are quite justified in claiming that this information be published in the Government organ for the information of the public.

Secondly, my purpose is also to raise a discussion about the imposed restriction of seats for the I.Sc. and B.Sc. classes. So far as I know more students for these two classes have been applying than there is room for them at present, and I think it will be most proper that Government should now increase the number of seats both in the I.Sc. and B.Sc. classes in the Cotton College.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI MUFIZUR RAHMAN: Is the Hon'ble Minister for Education aware that in the Murarichand College, Sylhet, many students were refused admission for want of adequate staff and accommodation?

CHAIRMAN: The question does not arise, but if the Hon'ble Minister wants to reply he can do so.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI MUFIZUR RAHMAN: Did the Hon'ble Minister for Education received any representation from the Governing Body recommending for removal of restrictions and provision of adequate staff and accommodation?

CHAIRMAN: This question is beyond the scope of the cut motion. If the hon. member wants to get some information out of the Hon'ble Minister he can take an opportunity elsewhere.

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Sir, I rise to support this motion. My complaint is that the number of seats in the Cotton College in the I.Sc. and B.Sc. classes is very small. Most of our students now-a-days are anxious to join these classes, but the number of seats in these classes is limited. I think Government should make proper provision for staff and accommodation to allow a larger number of students to be admitted to the I.Sc. and B.Sc. classes.

Another thing we see in the Gazette is that admission is going to be regulated on communal basis. If that is going to be true it will certainly create a very sad state of things.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I could not hear what he said about communal representation, Sir.

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: I find from the Gazette that admission in the Cotton College will be on the basis of communal strength, that is to say, according to the basis of communal representation. I shall be glad to know if that portion of the notice has been withdrawn from the Gazette. I hope our Government will not allow communalism to perpetuate our educational institutions.

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: Sir, the restriction has been removed. There is no complaint about that. It was our duty to remove it, and of course I do not expect any thanks. It was my duty to see that restriction should not be imposed upon students who are aspiring for higher sphere of life.

Well, the complaint is that the hon. member addressed a personal letter to me. I do not remember having received any personal letter from him, but I remember one from the leader of the party opposite, and I think I have sent a reply to that letter. He also saw me and I also gave him an assurance. As for official letters they are sent to my office, to the Secretariat, and I do not know whether they were acknowledged or not. As for removing the restriction it was our duty and we have removed it, and we do not want any thanks for it. As regards more seats in the I.Sc. and B.Sc. classes, it is a very difficult question; it requires funds. Place sufficient funds at my disposal and I shall at once develop it into an Oxford University.

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Then we can do it ourselves. Why should we come to Government?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: The difficulty to open additional seats in the I.Sc. and B.Sc. classes is not a simple question as in the case of providing tutors for Civics and Logic. The question of laboratory arises. It is a very difficult one. As most of the hon. members have experience of college laboratories, it is not an easy matter that can be achieved within the limited resources that are at our disposal. But anyhow this matter will also be considered subject to the condition that funds permit. We shall prepare the scheme and everything but the House will have to place at our disposal the necessary funds by passing the budget.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Sir, I find that the Hon'ble Minister has gone to the extent of denying the receipt of a letter from me and I do not know if this denial also includes that of a representation made by the public of Gauhati. My whole object is that, even if the restriction is removed, for which, I am thankful to the Hon'ble Minister, the information has not been communicated to the public or to the persons, who on behalf of the said public, communicated with the Hon'ble Minister and requested that the restrictions should be done away with.

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: I did not mean that I should extort thanks from him. But he has thanked me all the same and I accept it. I still say that I received no personal letter from him as I received from the hon. the Leader of the Opposition. If I had received any official letter, as I said, those letters I might have sent to the Secretary for dealing with them officially.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Why was not the reply given?

BABU HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTI: (From the Chair): Does the hon. member withdraw his motion?

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I want to elicit more information before I consider the question of withdrawal.

BABU HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTI: (From the Chair): In that case we can now adjourn for lunch and take it up again.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Sir, I won't take much time and the matter will be finished soon. The Hon'ble Minister denies a letter from me and says he may have sent the said representation to the Secretary. Whether the reply was sent by the Secretary or not is not an important matter but the real question is whether withdrawal of imposed restriction has been properly notified or not. The fact that admission in Cotton College will be restricted under Government orders has been published in the gazette and it was proper that the withdrawal of the said restrictions should have it be communicated to the public through the same sources.

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: One word of explanation, Sir. When I said that an official letter was received containing the resolutions of a public meeting held under the Presidency of my hon. friend here, to that letter of course I personally did not reply. I do not remember to have done so. But I would ask the hon. member whether he would withdraw the motion on the assurance, practical assurance, that the restriction has already been removed.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister publish this matter in the gazette? The public has not been properly informed of the withdrawal of the said restriction. They have only read in the gazette about the imposition of the restriction.

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: The Principal was informed and he was expected to inform the public or, I should say the Leader of the Opposition should have informed the public because he has got the reply.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Here is the letter I received from the Principal which says "As regards the restriction it is for Government to issue orders". It is dated the 30th June 1937.

BABU HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTI: (from the chair) I do not follow what the hon. member wants. Does he want to know why Government has not informed the public by issuing a notification? If so, the Hon'ble Minister can answer to that question. The matter will then be simplified.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: My Hon'ble Colleague has already informed the House that Government orders were conveyed to the Principal and students, who require admission in the Cotton College, are expected to go to the Principal and not to look to the gazette. That is why he did not publish any notification in the gazette.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: It was published in the gazette that under Government orders the admission in the said college will be restricted and until and unless the order is cancelled or a notification issued to that effect in the gazette, the public will remain in doubt about the matter.

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURI: Is there any time for admission in the College?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The information was published in the papers. Before admission in the next session, if the previous notification is contradicted in the gazette that there will be no further restriction, will that serve the purpose of my hon. friend?

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: That will do. With that assurance I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

The motion was with the leave of the House withdrawn.

The House adjourned for lunch.

(After lunch)

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA: I beg to move, Sir, that the provision of Rs.3,09,720, under Grant No. 16, Major head 37.—Education, Minor head—University Education, Sub-head—A—Government Arts Colleges, Detailed head 1.—Pay of Officers, Professors and Lecturers, at page 110 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.2. This motion, Sir, is to criticise Government for not providing an additional class for Assamese in lieu of Sanskrit to the Assamese girl students of Cotton College in the Intermediate Classes.

Sir, it has really pained me to state that the teaching of Assamese language and literature has been systematically neglected by this Government.

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: By which Government, Sir?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: By this Government.

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA: Government have failed to move the Calcutta University for the inclusion of Assamese language as a principal language for the M.A. University course. Assamese has been taught only as a subsidiary language in the University in the M.A. course, but it ought to have been included as a principal language just like the other language Mythili, Hindi, Oriya etc. Again, Sir, Government

have not yet moved the authorities for the inclusion of Assamese as a second language in the B.A. course just like Bengali. Now, Sir, the curriculum of the Calcutta University says that those girls who are willing to take Assamese as a second language in lieu of Sanskrit should be allowed every facility. But no provision has been made for teaching Assamese as an additional language for these girls who are willing to take it in lieu of Sanskrit. Therefore my submission is to invite the attention of the Hon'ble Minister for Education and to request him to make immediate provision for the teaching of Assamese as a second language in the Cotton College, the only Government College of Assam Valley.

The motion was put to the House by the Hon'ble Speaker.

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Sir, there is a motion,* in my name lower down in the list, No. 80, on a similar subject, namely the opening of a separate section for girls in the Cotton College. May I speak on this motion?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The hon. member's motion is to open a separate section for the female students in the Cotton College, and this motion is for criticizing Government for not opening an additional class for girl students in lieu of Sanskrit in the same college. The hon. member's motion is wider in scope.

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI SAYIDUR RAHMAN: But I am afraid I shall have no opportunity of speaking on that motion.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: If there be a vote on this motion and it be carried, then it will be considered that only the point that has been discussed in this motion has been accepted by the House. The hon. member may speak what he has to say.

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI SAYIDUR RAHMAN: My point in tabling my motion is that there should be a separate section for the girl students of the Cotton College. It is an admitted fact that we are having more and more girl students in the Cotton College now. Co-education, although it is not favoured by all, is favoured by some; and co-education, I think hon. members will agree, requires special facilities for girl students. And this fact is also admitted by the department. I find in the Administration Report of 1930-31 the following:—"Even in the few Government Arts Colleges of the province a larger number of women students are getting themselves admitted every year. In the Murarichand College at Sylhet the need for providing special facilities for women students has already arisen and the whole policy of co-education is engaging consideration."

Sir, we would have liked very much to have a separate college for the girl students of this province, but as that is not possible within the limited resources of the province, I think the next alternative would be to have a separate section for the girl students with the object of having a free and fair teaching to the boys and girls and also a better and healthier atmosphere in the institution itself. Now the question of funds is looming large in our minds. It may be said that Government has got no funds to provide the separate section. But I would point out that the cost involved in this project will not be too much. First of all there is another important matter, namely, restriction of admission of students in the Cotton College.

* That the total provision of Rs.33,17,500 under grant No. 16, major Head—37—Education at page 107 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100.

(To impress upon Government the necessity of opening a separate section for female students in the Cotton College.)

Now the number of girl students in that college is about 60 and they are usurping the seats reserved for boys. If a separate section be opened for the girl students, the restriction can be removed. Then comes the question of teachers. Now the professors and lecturers in the Cotton College have to put in only 15 hours' work per week. According to the university regulation a professor has to put in 21 hours' work and as a matter of fact in some Calcutta colleges I am told they put in 27 hours' work. It is also known to the public that the staff of our colleges enjoy holiday over five months a year. So I think the professors are having very easy time and they will not grudge the additional work that will be imposed upon them by having a separate section for the girls. Separate sections have already been opened in some Bengal colleges, I think, in the Ashutosh College, Bhowanipur College, Mymensing College and in the B. M. College of Barisal. So from the financial point of view I do not think this separation will stand in the way ; and until this is done, I think, it is disadvantageous for the boys as well as for the girls to have their education in one class under one professor. Therefore in this view of the matter, I hope the Hon'ble Minister would see his way to open separate section for the girls in the Cotton College. Of course my motion confines itself to the Cotton College, but I think we should have no objection if a separate section is opened in the Murarichand College also where the number of girl students is equally great.

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED : Sir, as regards introduction of Assamese, I have full sympathy with the proposal and we are moving the University to make Assamese a principal language, and a note on the subject dealing with the claims of Assamese is under preparation for forwarding to the University. So we are taking action in this matter as far as possible. The question of allowing Assamese in lieu of Sanskrit is bound up with the question of making Assamese a principal language and we are claiming this concession both for males and females.

As regards the question of opening a female section, as the hon. member has quoted from the Administration Report, the matter is engaging our serious attention.

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA : What about providing an additional class for Assamese in lieu of Sanskrit in the Cotton College ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : It has already been said by my Hon'ble Colleague that we are now preparing a note claiming that Assamese should be taken as a principal language and if the University accepts our contention students, both male and female, will be able to take up this language in place of Sanskrit.

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA : The University has already accepted Assamese as a principal language and according to the curriculum of the Calcutta University girls are allowed to take up Assamese as an additional subject in place of Sanskrit for the intermediate courses. But there is no provision in the Cotton College for that. Also in M.A. Assamese should be included as a principal subject, where it has been now included as a subsidiary subject.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : We are approaching the University to make this a principal subject. As regards additional class for girls, there is already a lecturer who teaches Assamese in the Cotton College. He can take up the additional Assamese class for the girls.

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA : He can take up but he is not taking.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : Except on special occasions I always call upon the Hon'ble Minister in charge to give the reply. In this case the Hon'ble Education Minister has already given his reply although the hon. member has said that he has not heard anything about the additional class. Much time of the House is wasted if the Hon'ble Chief Minister is to speak again for the Hon'ble Minister in charge. I think there may be no necessity for revision of his speech.

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA : I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion, Sir.

The motion was with the leave of the House withdrawn.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Sir, I rise to move,

That the provision of Rs.25,931 under Grant No. 16, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—University Education, sub-head—A.—Government Arts Colleges, Detailed head—2.—Pay of Establishment (total), at page 110 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.2.

Sir, I have tabled this motion with a view to criticise the authorities for not providing a separate reading or common room for male students in the Cotton College, Gauhati.

Not much need be said on this motion. The only fact that I want to bring to the notice of the House is that there are more than 600 students in the Cotton College and it is indeed a great pity that no provision is made for them to rest or to keep themselves occupied during the leisure hours with books and magazines. I think that I need not waste the time of the House by speaking more about this motion and I hope the Hon'ble Minister will give us the necessary assurance which is the purpose of this motion.

(The Hon'ble the Speaker then put the question).

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED : Sir, my information is that there was an old reading room, but that that was not sufficient ; it could not cope with the gradual expansion of the College. But at any rate we shall consider the question whether bigger rooms could be provided with funds at our disposal.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Sir I think the Hon'ble Minister for Education could take the information from me that there was an old room in the Umacharan Hall

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : The hon. member is not entitled to make a second speech.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Sir, on a point of explanation. There is no room in the College now.....

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED : I have already given my reply that the matter will be considered.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Favourably ?

On this consideration I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

The motion was, with the leave of the House, withdrawn.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH : Sir, I would draw your attention to my cut motion No. 10. Motions Nos. 6, 7, 8 and 9 relate to individual cases, but No. 10 relates to all non-Government Arts Colleges. So if it is permitted, Government may give the same assurance and there will be economy of time.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : I find the hon. member's motion (No. 10) is wide enough to include all these. Therefore I think that following the procedure which I have adopted yesterday, the hon. members may

move their motions and the Hon'ble Minister may give one reply. The motions will be put to vote if there is any necessity for that.

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: I beg, Sir, to move that the provision of Rs. 5,600 under Grant No. 16, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—B.—Direct grants to non-Government Arts Colleges (total), at page 110 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, this motion is a complaint against the differential treatment that has been accorded to Habiganj both by the present and the past Government.

Sir, if I remember aright, one of her ablest sons, Rai Bahadur Promode Chandra Datta was in the helm of affairs during the regime of the past Government. What was the result? Habiganj did not receive the treatment she expected at the hands of her own son.

Sir, again most probably the same fate awaits her now also. I think she is not going to receive any more generous treatment from her son-in-law the present Education Minister. Sir, I find in the province there are three non-Government colleges—I mean private colleges. Two have received grant-in-aid, but alas Habiganj did not. Sir, in this connection may I ask whether the other colleges were better staffed and better equipped.

Sir at least to some of the hon. members it is known that Habiganj is the premier subdivision in this province. With regard to population and area she compares favourably with many of the districts of Bengal, and a few in Assam. Her contribution towards the political regeneration of the country is also not very small. Her son, late Bipin Chandra Pal may be well styled as the father of the Indian nationalism. In the Education Department too her sons are shining well not only in Assam but in the sister province of Bengal. Sir, with regard to revenue if we compare the subdivision of Habiganj with the other subdivisions in the district of Sylhet, it will be seen that she pays largest amount of revenue as well as local rate, but Sir, her claims, it is seen, are going to be superseded. So, with these words, Sir, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The motion moved is that the provision of Rs. 5,600 under grant No. 16, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—B.—Direct grant to non-Government Arts Colleges (total), at page 110 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100.

This would also include the claims of the Jorhat College which forms the subject-matter of cut motion No. 8.

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: On a point of information, Sir. I have got a similar motion * No. 7.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: This motion need not be moved. If the hon. member wants to raise some points about the Brindaban College, he may speak.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: I beg, Sir, to move that the provision of Rs. 5,600 under grant No. 16, major head.—37.—Education, minor head.—B.—Direct grants to non-Government Arts Colleges (total), at page 110 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1.

* That the provision of Rs. 5,600 under Grant No. 16, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—University Education, sub-head—B,—Direct Grants to non-Government Arts Colleges (total), at page 110 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100.

(To urge on Government to make a suitable grant-in-aid to Brindaban College Habiganj.)

Sir, I have tabled this motion to criticise Government for not making adequate provision for the non-Government Arts Colleges.

Sir, only an hour ago it was told in this House that the doors of Cotton College were going to be shut against the surplus students for want of accommodation, there. So, if Government does not consider it to be its weakness to be consistent or in other words if consistency is not taken as weakness then it is in the fitness of things that they should provide funds by way of help for other institutions where students may join for higher education. If in Government Colleges there are no rooms and the creation of more rooms be very costly then the private colleges may be given sufficient subsidy so that students may be accommodated there and higher education may have the necessary encouragement from Government. Sir, this is the general principle which we want Government to follow. I beg to mention here about the Jorhat College and I hope to be excused if I take little time of the House for an important though local matter. It may not even be taken as a local matter because the Cotton College at Gauhati is or at any rate may be more often taken as an Inter Provincial College. I need not dilate upon this.

Jorhat College was started in the year 1930-31 with 15 students only purely as a private enterprise for the advancement of education. In 1931-32 the number of students rose to 67 from 15 ; next year, i.e., in 1932-33 it rose to 105 ; in 1933-34 to 108 ; in 1934-35, 127 ; in 1935-36 to 150 and in 1936-37, 154. In 1932, 3 students passed ; in 1933, 16 ; in 1934, 46 ; in 1935, 33 ; in 1936, 26 and in 1937, 53. If we compare the result of the Jorhat College with that of Cotton College for which a huge amount out of the Provincial Exchequer goes out we will find that the results of the Jorhat College are very good. Without any fear of being contradicted I may also state before the House that Jorhat College has been very lucky to have a Principal in the person of Mr. Handique who has the highest educational qualifications in India as well as in Europe, in general line. The Professors are also of very high educational standing. This college did not receive any help from Government in the past. Only it has been lucky enough to get a small recurring grant of Rs. 1,000 per annum this year. Now, Sir, the college authorities have approached the University of Calcutta for affiliating the B. A. Course. The Professors and students of the college are doing their best to help the institution by their spirit of sacrifice and service. They are raising funds and benevolent gentlemen of Jorhat are also helping the college with funds. The land and the house worth near about Rs. 50,000 have been given by Mr. Muralidhar Borooah of Jorhat for the purpose of this college and the Principal Mr. Handique is also trying his best to make the college a success even at very considerable personal sacrifice. Now if Government be pleased to give us a small sum of Rs. 5,000 then we can with the money which has been raised just start 3rd and 4th year classes and thus relieve the Cotton College of the pressure which is coming up from Upper Assam. So, Sir, I trust my submission before the House will receive due consideration and hope that Government will not let down such a laudable object by refusing a small sum of Rs. 5,000.

MR. F. W. HOCKENHULL : Will the hon. member please tell us what are the fees at Cotton and Jorhat Colleges ?

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH : Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education be pleased to enlighten us on the subject (*Laughter*) ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED : I have no information, Sir.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : The motion moved is that the provision of Rs. 5,600 under grant No.16, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—B.—Direct grants to non-Government Arts Colleges (total) at page 110 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, an identical motion, motion No. 9 stands in my name. It is to criticise Government for non-provision of grants for Brindaban College at Habiganj.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : The hon. member can speak but he should economise time.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI : Yes, Sir, I will economise time, I am always anxious for economy of time.

I rise to offer my whole-hearted support to the motion moved by my hon. friend Khan Sahib Maulavi Mudabbir Hussain Chaudhuri. As a matter of fact, I tabled a resolution in the previous Council recommending adequate grant to all the three colleges. I have every sympathy for these three colleges as I had something to do at the time of their starting. I had been to the localities of these three colleges being deputed by the University of Calcutta to report as to whether they deserved affiliation in respect of the two colleges, but in respect of the College at Silchar I had to report on its working. I have satisfied myself that all the three colleges deserved substantial and adequate grants. For these reasons, I recommended in my resolution on more than two occasions for giving grants to them all. But, I fail to see why this step-motherly treatment has been meted out to the Brindaban College at Habiganj. It stands in no category of inferiority. As a matter of fact, this college was second in point of time and it has shown brilliant results in the University examinations. Brindaban College stands first in order of merit. Sir, both boys and girls are taught in this college and they appear in the examinations and show brilliant results. This college should be given equal treatment with the others and I would request the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education to see his way to make equal provisions for this college this very year as he has done for the others. We shall wait to hear the Hon'ble Minister and if a satisfactory reply is forthcoming we shall perhaps decide to withdraw the motion. Otherwise, Sir, we shall know our duty (*laughter*).

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Sir, am I to support this motion, or to move my motion?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : The hon. member is entitled to speak on the motion, but I should like to ask the hon. member to take good care not to repeat the arguments put forward by the other hon. members, who spoke before, as the Demand will have to be put to the House at 3.

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Sir, I shall only mention a few points which have not been said by any of the hon. members, who spoke before me. As for the Jorhat College, my hon. friend Mr. Sarmah has given the history, and as regards the Silchar College I think Mr. Chanda will speak. So far as the Habiganj College is concerned I shall speak only a few words.

Sir, the Habiganj College was started in 1931, and was affiliated to the Calcutta University up to the I. A. standard in 1932. Now, Jorhat College and Silchar College have got grants.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : Yes, but they also want more grant.

MR. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA : By that I did not mean to exclude other colleges, Sir.

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: At present there are 67 students including 7 girl students in the first year class and 61 students including 1 girl student in the second year class. The college was affiliated in 1932, and up to the year 1937, 155 students have passed the I. A. Examination from this college. Out of these successful candidates 9 are girl students. The result of the college, as has been stated by the Maulavi Sahib, is uniformly good. Fifty-five students passed last year; the percentage of success was 87.5. The college authorities have also decided to submit a petition to the University of Calcutta to extend the affiliation up to the B. A. standard. The Director of Public Instruction was pleased to note in his inspection report that this college was in need of assistance. I shall only mention one point more and resume my seat.

The principal of the college gets only Rs.80. There are two first class M.A.'s. who get Rs.50 each, and the lowest paid professor gets only Rs.35. Sir, even the headmasters of private schools get more than Rs.100. There are eight professors in this college, the highest salary being Rs.80 and the lowest being Rs.35 only. I hope the whole House, as well as the Hon'ble Minister, will kindly consider all these points and grant suitable aid to the college.

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: Sir, the cases of these private colleges are deserving ones. The late Government treated them impartially, that is to say, I understand that no grant-in-aid was granted to any of these institutions. We know they have been doing good work—there is no question about that; the question is one of funds. This Government is in its infancy; no step-motherly treatment has been accorded to any one. On the other hand we have provided money for two colleges one at Jorhat and the other at Silchar, for their commendable self-help for opening B.A. classes—and for opening a female section respectively. While the Brindaban College is also a deserving one; I should have been very glad if the son of Habiganj referred to by the mover could have provided money during his term of office. Anyhow, my relationship with Habiganj as the mover says is very delicate, being a son-in-law of Habiganj and I realise that the case is a very strong one. I am only sorry that it has not been so long treated favourably. With the funds at our disposal we could not do more than provide money for the two colleges for opening a female section in the one and the B. A. classes in the other. But I can assure the House that we shall consider the case of Habiganj.

There is a question of the expansion of private colleges, as mentioned in my introductory speech, but everything depends upon money. Of course people are thinking that I have got the lion's share, and the Hon'ble Finance Minister also referred to it in his speech. I thank him as I thanked in my Introductory speech all the other Hon'ble Ministers for their sympathy and co-operation, but, at the same time I like to ask 'Lion's share of what'? Is it not the lion's share of something like half of a loaf, and would it not be anything short of a miracle worthy of that Great Teacher of Nazareth to satisfy the whole country side with half a loaf. At any rate, Sir, I assure the House that we have full sympathy for the needs of these private colleges, and we shall do our best to help them. I give the hon. mover this assurance, and I hope with this assurance, the cut motion, the last one I believe, will be withdrawn.

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Are we to understand that we are going to be helped during the current year?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: I can say this much that endeavours will be made.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SHARMA: With this assurance may I also take the assurance that the portion of the loaf will be given to the hungry brother first, and then he will keep for himself! I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion on the assurance given.

[The motion was, with the leave of the House, withdrawn.]

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The motion is that a sum not exceeding Rs.33,17,500 be granted 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 "37.—Education (other than European)".

[The motion was carried]

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Sir, I want to make a request that the time allotted for this important subject of Education to-day being very inadequate, there being over a hundred cut motions, I hope in future more time will be allowed for it.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The time was allotted by the House and I had no hand in the matter; I was of course consulted. I see that there are more than one hundred cut motions under this head, but most of them refer to local affairs, but there are also some which are meant for discussion of the very big policy of education. It was up to the hon. members to select the most important cuts and to discuss them. Hon. members have not done it, and if they feel that they did not get enough time to discuss these very important questions the members are themselves responsible.

GRANT No. 31

(LOANS AND ADVANCES BEARING AND NOT BEARING INTEREST)

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.4,44,000 be granted 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 "Loans and Advances".

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: There are three cut motions. The first one* stands in the name of Srijut Debeswar Sharma, and he wants to discuss the hardship caused by the realisation of agricultural loans. Now, I think this identical matter was discussed when we were discussing the demands for grants on Land Revenue. Of course I do not know what more points the hon. member wants to bring before the House except those which were discussed on that day.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SHARMA: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. The other day it was pointed out by the Leader of the House that this cut motion comes properly under Grant No. 31, and the Chair also approved of that. If I am permitted to move my cut I do not want anything except the assurance given to Mr. Chanda.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I also held that that motion could be discussed then. However, if the hon. member wants to discuss any other new points he could move his motion, but if his points are identical with those raised before I cannot allow him to move this motion.

*That the provision of Rs. 1,25,000 under Grant No.31, Major Head—Loans and Advances—Minor head—A.—Advances (total) at page 194 of Budget, be reduced by Rs. 101. (To raise a discussion regarding hardship caused in the matter of realisation of agricultural loans.)

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 15,000 under Grant No. 31, Major head—Loans and Advances, etc., Minor head—B.—Loans and Advances by the Provincial Governments, Sub-head—Miscellaneous Loans and Advances, at page 194 of the budget, be reduced by Rs.100.

Sir, in moving this motion it is my object to draw the pointed attention of the House and of the Hon'ble Minister as regards the conservative policy adopted by Government in granting industrial loans. Sir, we have noticed that only Rs. 15,000 was budgetted last year, and the same amount has been repeated this year for industrial loans in this province. I think the sum is ridiculous for the needs of a province like Assam. While other countries of the world are making the best use of their resources by economic advancement, in Assam we are trudging along the beaten track centuries old. The province of Assam could have developed the sugar industry, the cement industry, the glass industry, and many other industries, but unfortunately we have no capital to finance our industries, and that is why our industries are still undeveloped. Another thing is the delay by Government in granting the loans so that the very object of the loan is defeated even when a person is fortunate enough to get the loan. So I say that the policy of this Department is a policy extreme conservatism. Sir, we find that there is a Conservator of our Forests. I know from yesterday's discussion that he is not a proper Conservator at all, but the Director of Industries should be more properly termed the Conservator of Industries.

Another of my objects in moving this motion is the possibility of starting an Industrial Bank, and that can be done in this province perhaps with the least burden to the Government coffers. The capital of the Bank can be raised by debentures only if Government guarantees the payment of due interest on these debentures. I think the rate of interest is very low just now, and if Government is prepared to guarantee interest at $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. on the debentures enough capital will be forthcoming in the province for the Bank. And if by the issue of debentures an Industrial Bank is established, and if our industries are duly financed and prompt action is taken in granting loans the regeneration of our industries will not be far off.

With these few words I beg to move my motion for the acceptance of the House.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Sir, in my opinion, this motion has not only been misconceived but also misplaced. The major portion of the arguments advanced by my hon. friend the mover of this motion, is that we should give loans to big industries, or capitalists who will start cement factory or glass factory or industries of that sort. But we have got no such big business here. This small item of Rs.15,000 which is found in the budget is generally meant to give loans to those boys who learn handicrafts either in the Weaving Schools or the Technical Schools and want to start a small business of their own. We can help such people by lending small capital and it is with that intention that this small amount of Rs.15,000 has been provided. The cut should, therefore, be on the Industries budget because it is the Industries department who grant these loans. In regard to State aid the policy of Government has been not only liberal but also prompt. My hon. Friend has mentioned about the "dilatoriness" but in the words of the Government Benches it will be "watchfulness" on behalf of the general taxpayers money, because this money the Government Ministers are not paying from their own

pockets and its comes from the coffers of the general taxpayer. Government insists on sufficient security before loan is granted for each candidate who applies for Government aid, some times personal, of the landed security. The only time that is taken is in testing the security and nothing else.

Sir, my hon. friend incidentally spoke about our floating an Industrial Bank for the province. From his speech, I gather that he wants from Government a guarantee to the shareholders about payment of.....

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Debenture holders.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: That takes away the edge from his cut. It will be for the persons who want to float Industrial banks to apply to Government for the guarantee. Assam is very poor and our capital or annual income is a little over two and half crores. In order to finance an Industrial Bank which my hon. friend has in view it will require quite a big capital. We have got a glaring example of the Tata Industrial Bank which had crores of rupees as its capital.

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: It is not an Industrial Bank in the sense in which it is used and understood.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, I was a share holder of the Tata Industrial Bank and I can tell the House that it was an Industrial Bank. I ought to know as I have been stung to the quick. As regards the suggestion which has been given by my hon. friend for helping big industries I can say from my personal knowledge, because we are just now dealing with the application of a company that wants to start cement factory and who have applied for mineral concessions to Government for quarrying limestone. I have seen their prospectus and I can say that this company who want to manufacture 200 tons of cement a day will require a capital of Rs.35 lakhs. If we start financing such an enterprise the commitment of Government would be very high. The point is whether Assam is in a position to finance concerns of such a magnitude. If the hon. mover wants a small beginning to be made, we are already on the right lines and we are doing our best in the case of cottage industries.

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: On a point of personal explanation, the Hon'ble Minister has perhaps misunderstood my intention. The Tata Industrial Bank is called an Industrial Bank but all the same it is only an ordinary banking concern pure and simple. When I say Industrial Bank I mean a bank for the sole purpose of financing industry and giving long term loans. This is quite a different thing. We do not ask Government to finance an industry that costs Rs.25 lakhs. But I am asking Government to finance a concern which requires a sum between Rs.5,000 to one lakh. I think all these industries, of which I spoke can be managed with a capital ranging from Rs.5,000 to one lakh of rupees. Such industries Government should help as far as possible by starting an Industrial Bank or giving industrial loans as they think best.

The motion was put to the House and declared lost.

MAULAVI MUZARROF ALI LASKAR: Mr. speaker, Sir, I beg to move—

That the total provision of Rs.4,40,000 under Grant No. 31, Major Head "Loans and Advances" at page 193 of the budget, be reduced by Re.1.

These agricultural loans were issued to the people after the devastating floods in 1929 and thereafter. The loans were given on joint bonds of ten or more persons. The agriculturists had to take these loans for purchasing seeds, cattle, foodstuffs and making houses which were damaged by

the floods. They could not naturally pay their usual land revenues which also accumulated. That year was followed by cattle epidemic and the world wide depression and a number of successive years of flood. The price of agricultural produce went down. The authorities during the last six or seven years have mercilessly carried on the oppressive measures of realisation of these loans. Those who had any capacity to pay have paid up their dues. But others who were not in a position to do so have not yet paid or could not pay. Many of them have left the districts. The arrears are now being realised mostly from those who are comparatively well to do but have long paid up their own dues. Joint liability is being enforced indiscriminately.

The result of such coercive measures however is not at all satisfactory.

In reply to my unstarred question No. 1, we find that in Cachar about Rs. 30,000 was realised during the last one year, from June 1936 to May 1937. A staff of one Extra Assistant Commissioner, 3 Sub-Deputy Collectors, one to three clerks and 7 to 19 peons were engaged for the purpose. Besides this staff, the cost of extra establishment during this period of one year amounts to about Rs.2,000. A calculation of the pay of these officers and peons shows that the cost of realisation is out of all proportion in comparison with the amount realised. The arrear agricultural loans in my district amount at present to Rs.79,000 and odd out of a total sum of about seven lakhs issued. The outstanding amount represents a very small percentage of the total sum.

In the circumstances, it was only desirable that the arrear amount ought to have been written off. Considering the depressed condition of the people Government granted a small reduction in the land revenue and a further reduction, at present, is the crying demand of the public. In other provinces arrears of land revenue are being written off and reduction is being granted. But in our case Government did not consider it necessary even to write off this outstanding amount of agricultural loans.

With these words I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House as a token of the disapproval of the unpopular policy adopted by the so-called popular Government.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The motion moved is that the total provision of Rs.4,40,000 under Grant No. 31, Major head "Loans and Advances", at page 193 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1.

MAULAVI NAMWAR ALI BARBHUIYA: Sir, I rise to support this motion. But as I am not acquainted with the peculiar facts and circumstances of other districts, I should like to confine myself only to the case of the district of Cachar. Many hon. members know that Cachar is an agricultural district and that 99 per cent. of the population of the district are agriculturists. A sum of about seven lakhs of rupees was given as loan to the agriculturists of this district after the devastating flood of 1929, and the realisation, so far as I remember, began from the end of the year 1930. During all this time strenuous efforts accompanied by coercive and illegal measures and attachment and sale of plough cattle were made by Government, with the help of their battalion of officers and peons, to realise the loans issued but they failed to realise the entire amount, and a sum of about Rs.80,000 has remained unpaid. Those who could pay, paid their own share of the loans taken but many of these debtors had also to pay for their co-debtors as Government enforced the joint liability in the same way as private creditors do. The paying capacity of the people of the district of Cachar has tremendously gone down owing to world-wide economic depression and landlessness of a considerable portion of the agriculturists caused by their indebtedness both to private creditors and Government.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The hon. member will try to finish soon.

MAULAVI NAMWAR ALI BARBHUIYA: The failure of crops due to successive droughts and floods and fall in the price of agricultural produce and land have also added a good deal to the paying incapacity of the people. If the Hon'ble Minister will be pleased to look into the registers of sale cases of the Civil Courts and the Revenue Courts of the district of Cachar before 1930, he will find that Revenue-sale was unknown to the district of Cachar and even the number of Civil Court-sales was very small and insignificant. But now, Sir, the number of Revenue and Civil Court sales has enormously increased. Now and only a small amount of the loans given has remained unpaid. It was in the fitness of things, Sir, that Government would be pleased to make provision for remission of this petty amount. With these few words I support the motion, and I hope the hon. members will support it, as a token of their disapproval of the policy of Government in the matter of realisation of the loans issued to the poor cultivators at the time of their extreme difficulties for want of food stuff, plough-cattle and seed-grains etc., and in the matter of non-remission of the poultry amount that has yet remained unpaid owing to extreme helplessness and poverty of the agriculturists for the reasons stated.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, the subject matter of this cut motion is an old visitor. We have discussed this matter at least three times, if not more, during this session. If the hon. mover of the motion, as he has said, wants to censure the present Government for the policy that they have adopted as regards realisation of agricultural loans, then I should say, Sir, that he has suppressed all facts from this House. I think, Sir, when I place the facts before them, the House, instead of condemning or censuring the present Ministry, will on the other hand congratulate them for the bold policy they have adopted.

Sir, as the hon. mover has himself stated, these loans were given in 1929. Even after a lapse of 8 years, Rs. 7 lakhs of these loans are still outstanding. Of course all the 7 lakhs is not in Cachar but it is spread throughout the province. If Government were the hard-hearted Shylock as they are depicted to be, they would not have waited so long to realise the loans that they granted to the agriculturists. The fact that every year remissions are being given clearly proves that Government are adopting a lenient policy.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI MAHMUD ALI: May I know, Sir, whether last year any remission was granted to Karimganj?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, I have no figures about particular subdivisions. But I am sorry, Sir, if the then Ministry did not have an affectionate eye for Karimganj.

Sir, the difficulty of the agriculturists on account of the meagre agricultural produce in recent years and the poor return they are getting from their produce, my hon. friend the mover of this motion approached me along with the other representatives of Cachar, for relief and postponement of realisation till end of August. Forthwith the present Ministry, which is going to be condemned by the hon. mover of this cut motion, ordered the suspension of all realisation of agricultural loans till the next harvest, i.e., end of September. That is to say, we have given the agriculturists a reprieve till they bring in their new crops and sell them in order to pay the loan. If for this, the present Government is to be condemned, I have bored my broad chest to receive the condemnation.

MAULAVI NAMWAR ALI BARBHUIYA: We want to condemn Government not for not suspending but for making no provision.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: That is not the point, Sir. Then my hon. friend has not delineated the whole thing, properly for in the motion he says—'Cancellation of outstanding agricultural loan'. I am coming to that also. If this present Government passed an order of cancellation of outstanding loan forthwith they will be open to three charges. First they will be putting a premium on dishonesty. Every loan is issued with the idea of getting it back. There have been honest people who have paid their dues, and with them there is an end of the whole matter. Those are the honest debtors. Then there is the second class of debtors who, in spite of their willingness to pay, have got no means to do it. To these people we are willing to extend our helping hands and to wait for their payments. When able or to wipe their dates altogether. That has been the policy of the Council of Ministry and we have already instituted enquiries throughout the province to see what remissions are to be given. There is the third class who, although they are able to pay, think that they may go scot-free by mere agitation and delaying tactics. We are not going to help that sort of people, because it is not my money I am only the custodian and if to-morrow my friends of the opposition come to power, they will similarly be custodians of the taxpayers' money. If my hon. friend wants that we should continue our enquiry and come to a conclusion at the end of September as to how much of the loan to be remitted, we are prepared to do so. In passing, I may say that already remissions have been given in a number of cases in the Surma Valley. We have reports from the Commissioner about the remissions given. We are still pursuing our enquiry and at the end of September we will be in a position, say at the next session of this House, to say by how much we are prepared to wipe off and how much we propose to realise.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI MAHMUD ALI: May I know, Sir, who is making the enquiry?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The enquiry has been left to the Subdivisional Officer in Karimganj and to the Deputy Commissioner in Sadr subdivisions.

Sir, I appeal before the House condemns the present Ministry for these steps of relieving the agriculturists from payment at least during these months, they should wait till we finish our enquiry and give the result to the House. I suppose, Sir, in the fitness of things, my hon. friend will withdraw his so-called censure motion.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The time is up and I will now put the original motion.

MAULAVI ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: On a point of order, Sir. When this matter has been discussed by the House, I think, it should be given an opportunity to give its decision in the matter.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: So long we have followed the practice in this House that as soon as the time limit is reached cut motions are guillotined and the original motion is moved from the chair.

MAULAVI ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: I don't think it can be guillotined without giving the House an opportunity to give its decision.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Hitherto we have followed the practice that as soon as the time limit is reached we stop that motion and put the original motion to the House.

MAULAVI ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: The debate will discontinue and not the voting on the motion.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: But there is no time to put the motion to vote. Now I am to put the main motion which has been moved by the Hon'ble Minister.

MAULAVI ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: The House has not given any decision whether the motion is to be withdrawn or not.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Because the time is up.

The motion was not put for want of time.

The main motion is that a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,44,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1938, for administration of the head "Loans and Advances".

The motion was carried.

GRANT No. 18.

(39.—PUBLIC HEALTH)

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,04,000 be granted 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 "39.—Public Health".

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: There are 21 motions tabled under this grant and hon. members will get only 25 minutes. If there is any agreement I am ready to accommodate the hon. members. If there is no agreement then I shall proceed in the order which is given in the list.

SRIJUT OMEO KUMAR DAS: Sir, I have a motion No 7 which I wanted to move to urge the necessity of amalgamation of the Department of Public Health with that of Medical. Though the motion which stands in the name of my friend Mr. Mukherjee is not an identical motion, may I be allowed to speak.....

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I hope the hon. members will come to an agreement. If there is no such agreement I shall proceed according to the list.

(As there was no agreement, Mr. Baidyanath Mukherjee moved his motion).

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 3,01,036 under Grant No. 18, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—A.—Public Health Establishment, Sub-Head—(a).—Superintendence and other establishment (total), at page 135 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 12,900.

Sir, I have tabled this motion to recommend the abolition of the posts of Assistant Directors of Public Health. Government spend Rs. 8,79,200 under the head Public Health. This amount has been distributed under the following sub-heads:—Public Health Establishment, Grants for Public Health purposes, Epidemic Disease, Bacteriological Laboratories, Pasteur and Vaccine Institute, Works and Charges in England. Sir, I cannot but praise Government when I find here the increase of grant year by year. The total in 1933-34 was Rs. 6,28,000, in 1934-35 Rs. 6,69,000, in 1935-36 Rs. 7,09,000, in 1936-37 Rs. 7,31,000 and the budget estimate for the current year as I have already said before is Rs. 8,79,000. Thus we find that

there is an increase of Rs. 2,51,000 in the last four years. Now, Sir, how has this amount been distributed? For Public Health Establishment Rs. 3,29,000, Grants for Public Health purposes Rs. 1,96,000, Epidemic Disease Rs. 1,97,000, Bacteriological Laboratories Rs. 13,000, for Pasteur and Vaccine Institute Rs. 1,15,000, Works Rs. 22,000 and Charges in England Rs. 7,000. So we find that under the head Public Health Establishment there has been an increase of Rs. 2 lakhs during the period and there is an item absolutely new in this year's budget, *i.e.*, charges in England amounting to Rs. 7,000.

This new head represents nothing but the sterling overseas pay drawn in England. Now, Sir, the amount mentioned under the head—Public Health—three lakhs 29 thousand will be spent as it will be found at page 49 of memorandum on the budget for the current year. Pay of officers Rs. 42,440 ; pay of establishment—Rs. 2,06,826 ; allowances and honoraria—Rs. 39,010 ; Contingency—Rs. 17,340 out of this last item a sum of Rs. 6,000 only is meant for medical stores and appliances. Now, Sir, we can find how this money is going to be spent. Sir, for distribution of grants for Public Health purposes I think the Director is quite capable of doing this work without the help of his deputies. We have, Sir, one Director of Public Health, two Assistant Directors, six Assistant Surgeons, 89 Sub-Assistant Surgeons a lot of vaccinators, Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of vaccination and there are also compounders. Moreover, there is another officer—the Director of Pasteur Institute and an Assistant Director also. This branch is thus top-heavy out of all proportions. The money spent for giving aid and medicine to the public is very little in comparison with the cost of the top-heavy establishment. So I think Sir, one Director of Public Health, six Assistant Surgeons, 89 Sub-Assistant Surgeons and one Director of Pasteur Institute and his Assistants can quite well manage the affairs without these two Assistant Directors of Public Health and the money thus saved may be used for some real beneficial purpose of course in the same department. With these words, Sir, I beg to commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

(The Speaker then put the motion.)

MR. F. W. HOCKENHULL: Sir, I think we should be credited with having impartial views on matters of this kind. But I must say, that so far as I can understand from the speech of the hon. member it seems he completely misunderstood what this department of Public Health really stands for. I have said already in my budget speech that the first thing that we want in this province is an improvement of the Agricultural and Animal husbandry outlook of this province. Next we should look to the work of the Public Health department. Sir, in dealing with a matter of this kind as has been done by the hon. mover I did not imagine that anything could be so stupid, (*voices*—Is the word parliamentary Sir?).

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Yes, it is. Words like stupid and silly are parliamentary.

MR. F. W. HOCKENHULL: Now, Sir, the Public Health department is for the benefit for the whole province. When Dysentery is breaking out here and Cholera is breaking out there. When malaria and hookworm are epidemic in the Province to seek to abolish the thinking side of the Department seems to us so wanting in judgment as to warrant the conclusion that the mover would like to abolish the whole Department. It is useless to ask for more Sub-Assistant Surgeons if they are left without guidance. Co-ordination can only be done by superior staff. As the subordinate has neither status nor authority.

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: On a personal explanation, Sir, I would request the hon. member to read a few lines under the heading—"Expenditure heading of the budget memorandum at page 49 and then he will find whether I am talked, stupid or he is talking stupid.

REV. L. GATPHOH: Sir, I feel I shall be failing in my duty if I do not say a few words in which to express my views as regards a matter of so great an importance as Public Health. Health is one of the greatest if not the greatest asset of life. We all know it, although we often realise it when it is too late. It is also one of the most important factors closely and directly connected with the economic condition of the people of any country. Any attempt at solving the economic problems of this country that overlooks the fact is doomed to failure. A thing if it is to be done well, must be done from the right end. While we are out for nation building purposes, we must not ignore the health of the people. Measures must be taken and vigorous and extensive efforts must be made to preserve, protect and improve the health of the public. And this is the duty of the Public Health Department and as such we cannot over estimate it. If any criticism is to be made with regard to this department it is, I think, the staff is not sufficiently strong to cope with the work, that is waiting to be done in the Province and not that there are too many men in the staff of the Department some of whom are unnecessarily kept on and should be got rid of at once. Our experience teaches us that there must be officers of experience at the head. If there is to be efficient labour force there must be trained industrialists at the head of the Institution. So in this sense if we have more men in the Public Health Department there must be well trained and experienced men at the head. In my view we should have more men if this Department should work well.

I can say from my long experience of rural life that people in the country now keep an open mind as regards the question of health. It is no longer a matter of luck or fate with them. Now is a splendid opportunity for public Health people to go about and enlighten the people and teach them good habits and teach them how they can live well—teach them the source of illness and sickness. That is the only way we can do to improve the condition and health of the people. And if we cannot help the people in this direction all our efforts to improve the economic condition of the people will be fruitless.

MR. C. GOLDSMITH: Sir, I sympathise with the hon. mover for trying to reduce the expenditure but I am afraid, he has tapped the wrong place because the Public Health Department is of absolute necessity for the province of Assam which is full of *Kala-azar*, Malaria and other epidemics. As I understand, Public Health Department has a special function to perform. People trained there are specially trained for Public Health work. The Sub-Assistant Surgeons trained at Berry-White Medical School are trained not in Public health. The Assistant Directors of Public Health Department are supposed to know about public health work and this Public Health Department is not only to give medicines when sickness occurs, but to take preventive measures so that sickness may not occur. Now when we are trying to bring about rural reconstruction and nation-building programmes, this department of Public Health will be an absolute necessity. The Assistant Directors of Public Health may not have done very good work so long as to show any appreciable result and it may also be argued that they have no work to do but the Ministry must see that they have enough to do as the people are suffering from many diseases everywhere in the province. So, Sir, I think, we ought to think twice before we jump at any conclusion

that these posts should be abolished. I request the hon. mover to leave the matter to the Retrenchment Committee before which all the facts and figures will be laid down and they would be better Judges to decide the matter whether these posts should be abolished or not.

SRIJUT KARKA DALAY MIRI: Sir, বর্তমানে আগার গাউনলাকত এনেকুৰা ভাবে নানাবকৰ ৰোগ হবলৈ ধৰিছে তাগৈ চাই বাস্তবিকতে পাব্লিক হেলথ বিভাগৰ ৰব দৰকাৰ বুলি নহৈ ভাবো। মোৰ মনেৰে বৰ্তমান বিমান যাহহ আছে তাৰ ডবল বাথিলেও একো হানি নহব। লোকেলবোৰ্ড, বিলাকে বি হাসপাতাল দিছে সেয়ে যথেষ্ট নহয়। সেই বিলাক হাসপাতালৰ পৰা বাইলে বিশেষ একো উপকাৰ পোৱা নাই আৰু পাব নোৱাৰেও। গতিকে এই পাব্লিক হেলথ ডিপাৰ্টমেন্ট কমোৱাত কৈ বৰং বঢ়োৱাহে ভাল যেন দেখো।

MR. JOBANG D. MARAK: Sir, this motion, of course, seems to be a reasonable one. So far as the Public Health Department is concerned we the inhabitants of Garo Hills receive no service of the Officers of this department. Of course, Sir, when an outbreak of cholera or small-pox takes place the Mauzadars and Laskars report the case to the Deputy Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner sends the report to the Civil Surgeon who deputes the Sub-Assistant Surgeon for aid. There is leprosy asylum in the vicinity of the Tura Station and the ordinary medical officers render services there. Thus some services are rendered in the interior. So far as the abolition of this Public Health Department is concerned, I am at-one with my hon. friend Mr. Goldsmith who suggested that this matter should be left to the Retrenchment Committee who will be the best to decide the matter. So we should leave the matter to the Retrenchment Committee for decision.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN: On a point of information, Sir. Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge of Public Health tell us whether there is any person at present officiating as Assistant Director of Public Health?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Sir, just now we have got no officiating Assistant Director of Public Health but very soon we will get one. The Officer who is now officiating as Director of Public Health may be the Assistant Director of Public Health.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN: How long this arrangement has continued?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: It has, I think, continued for a few months only.

BABU DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: Is it not a fact that Government proposes to abolish one of the posts of the Assistant Directors of Public Health?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: There is no such proposal, Sir.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Sir, I wish to say a few words on this motion. I was a member of the Retrenchment Committee which sat in the year 1931. If my memory serves me right the Committee recommended that there should be a reduction in the number of Assistant Directors of Public Health as it thought that one Assistant Director of Public Health will suffice for the whole province. The idea was that the number of Assistant Surgeons should be increased and every Sub-division ought to have at-least an Assistant Surgeon in-charge of the

Public Health so that the public health work can be carried on more intensively. There was, of course, a section which was opposed to the reduction of the Assistant Directors of Public Health even by one. About that time, Sir, *i.e.*, in 1931 a conference was held by the then Minister in-charge of Public Health and to that conference Medical men and laymen from different districts of the province were invited and the whole question of public health was thoroughly considered but the conference came to the conclusion that these two posts of Assistant Directors of Public Health should be retained. Immediately or short time after this, a motion for abolition of the posts of the Assistant Directors of Public Health was brought before the House and that took place immediately after the virulent outbreak of cholera in the district of Sylhet. I remember to this day that although some members of my group I mean the members of the Assam Valley Districts were recommending the abolition of one of the posts of the Assistant Directors of Public Health, the members from the district of Sylhet who saw before their own eyes the benefit of the work done by the Assistant Directors of Public Health unanimously opposed the proposal of such reduction. I do not know if the hon. mover of the motion knew the late Rai Bahadur Nagendra Nath Chaudhuri who strenuously fought against the reduction of these two posts and he recited before the House what excellent work was done by these Officers during the out-break of cholera in the district of Sylhet.

Sir, at the present moment, after Dr. Paul took charge as the Director of Public Health, there is for some time only one Assistant Director of Public Health. Afterwards Capt. Surendra Nath Dutta, who was the public analyst in the laboratory here, has been now appointed Assistant Director of Public Health.

Now, Sir, we have got only one Assistant Director of Public Health, who is attached to the Surma Valley Districts, and for the six districts of the Assam Valley we have only the Director of Public Health to attend to. I think, Sir, that Government has by now realised that this arrangement is not quite satisfactory, and that another Assistant Director of Public Health is necessary. Now, Sir, while for the good of the public Government is considering that there should be another Assistant Director of Public Health, it comes as a bombshell that one hon. member from the district of Sylhet, who ought to have realised the benefits derived from such an officer, has come forward with a motion for the abolition of such a post. I think after what he has heard from each section of the House, he will realise that he should not persist in his motion.

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Sir, I rise to oppose this motion. I have always taken hostile view towards a motion of this kind, for the simple reason that it is in deference to the wishes of this House that the Hon'ble Minister proposed for a Retrenchment Committee. I consider it extremely unfair on the part of this House to anticipate the deliberations and findings of that Committee now. So I do not understand what is the sense in moving such motions for abolition of such posts in such a precipitate manner. I think we should not be swayed by other consideration, *viz.*, considerations of having earned cheap popularity by scoring a victory over Government; but I appeal to the discreet members of the House to take a sensible view of all things.

[*Laughter from some corner of the House*]

My friends are laughing. They are probably under the impression that as I am taking my seat behind the Ministry, I am only a blind supporter of the Ministry. That is not so. I appeal to the discreet members of this House to consider carefully what will be the consequences of this

motion. I think within the limited space of time only 45 minutes—it is not possible to come to a definite conclusion on a matter on which much may be said on both sides. Will it not be fair to wait till the deliberations of the proposed Committee? With these words, Sir, I oppose this motion.

BABU DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: Sir, with all the emphasis at my command I support the motion of Mr. Mookerjee. From what we have heard from Mr. Hockenhull we are led to think that the House is going to abolish the Public Health Department.

MR. F. W. HOCKENHULL: It comes to that.

BABU DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: How, by abolishing a particular post? Again, Sir, we have heard from my hon. friend Khan Sahib Sayidur Rahman that everything, all proposals of retrenchment, all posts which the House think should be retrenched, should be waived, and left to the Retrenchment Committee. Rather, Sir, he gives a greater authority to the Retrenchment Committee than this House. He thinks that the Retrenchment Committee is more competent to deal with these matters than this House.

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Certainly not, the hon. member is anticipating things.

BABU DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: Sir, we have heard enough on the matter, but no case has been made out for the retention of these particular officers. No body here wants to abolish the Public Health Department. Every body wants that more money should be spent for public health, for preventive measures, for propaganda work, for field work, so that people may take recourse to preventive measures, rather than retaining these high salaried officers. When cholera or other epidemic breaks out in any locality, these officers run their motor cars, visit the particular subdivision and we get enough reports that such and such locality was affected, and such and such aid was given; but people affected do not know what relief they get. We do not want this sort of things. We want real preventive measures. We want that people in rural areas should get real relief at the time of epidemics. We have heard all those speakers, who opposed this motion, but no body could make out a case for the retention of these particular posts.

Now, Sir, what are the functions of these officers, what are the particular duties they do? So far as we are concerned, after due deliberations and mature consideration, we think it is absolutely unnecessary to retain these officers. The Assistant Surgeons under the Public Health Department and the Director of Public Health can easily run the administration. We want real work. I would therefore, Sir, place it before the House that we consider these particular posts to be absolutely unnecessary, and the money saved thereby can be better utilised for combating cholera, *kala azar* and other preventable diseases.

MR. F. W. HOCKENHULL: By whom?

BABU DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: By the Assistant Surgeons and others. With these few words, Sir, I strongly support the motion.

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: Sir, with the retrenchment of officers, I am not ready to believe that there will be retrenchment of diseases (*hear, hear*). I have already stated that I do not advocate any radical change in a matter like this. Sir, so far as I understand, the facts and figures that have been put before this House, are not quite sufficient to justify the immediate abolition of these posts. This is a matter which we should leave to the Retrenchment Committee. In the

Retrenchment Committee we shall have facts and figures, there will be medical men who will consider every pros and cons of the question, who will see whether there is enough work for these officers to justify their existence. Sir, I am one with the hon. mover to say that we must strive to see if some how or other we can save money by retrenchment where there is a possibility, but the matter should also receive serious deliberation and consideration. The proper place for it is not a place like this. So I request the hon. mover to withdraw his motion, and to leave the matter in the hands of the Retrenchment Committee.

COL. A. B. BEDDOW: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think that one of the saddest sights I have seen is that of a Member of the Congress Party—that party pledged to human service—rising to support this motion. I fear, Sir, that it is once again the case that any stick will serve to beat a dog; the dog in this case being Government, but also how poor a stick to use!

As I said before I am grieved to find such action taken by a Member of the Congress party. There is no Member of the House, who can look back over even the past 5 years, and not realise the amazing improvement in public health in the villages and this improvement it is now proposed to cripple. With these few words I beg to oppose the motion.

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: The Congress knows its duties towards the people, Sir. And it is for their benefit that we want to remove the present top-heaviness of our Administration so that we may have money enough to engage large number of field workers.

SRIJUT DEVESWAR SARMAH: Sir, I wish to say a few words.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The hon. member should move a motion.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: I beg to support the motion.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: That is not the way. You should begin Mr. Speaker, Sir.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by my hon. friend Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee. The remark which has been passed by my hon. friend to the left tempts me to read out two extracts, one from a letter from the Civil Surgeon of Sibsagar, Col. J. L. Sen, and the other from the Deputy Commissioner of Sibsagar both of very recent date. (I will not take the time of the House but only read the relevant portions.) The extract from the letter of the Civil Surgeon reads like this:—"A case of malaria will require medicine for 7 days at least for a complete cure. With the present strength of epidemic doctors it is not possible to detail a doctor for one village to complete the treatment by visiting this village alone, for 7 days. If this be done then many other villages will remain unattended to". The next letter is from the Deputy Commissioner of Sibsagar. It reads:—"Fever and bowel complaints are rampant throughout the district this year, and I am afraid it will not be possible to send out doctors to all the villages, as their number is limited. I understand from the Civil Surgeon.....".

Now, Sir, what this motion aims at? It aims at cutting down unnecessary heads so that the field workers may be added to. The position is this, we do not wish to abolish the Public Health Department; the expert at the top is still there. We want to remove unnecessary overhead staff to add to the field workers.

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS ROY: On a point of order, Sir. Is not the Assistant Director of Public Health a field worker?

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: No, he is a motor car rider and not a field worker. If there be 3 or 4 or half dozen managers for a garden like Mr. Hockenhull, we do not see how that garden will be run, how they can efficiently manage the labour force, the staff and the plantation, and manufacture tea. One manager is enough to see that the plants grow well, and to look after the outturn and manufacture. That is what this motion aims at.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN: I will only add one word. When the Hon'ble Minister could manage without an Assistant Director of Public Health for 4 or 5 months, I do not see why he cannot manage without him altogether.

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Sir, there is a great difference between the Public Health Department and the Medical Department. An M. B. passing out from college requires a certain training in order to be a suitable man for the Public Health Department. We have only two more men.....

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Order, order. The motion must now be put.

The motion was put and carried.

GRANT NO. 17.

(38—MEDICAL)

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.10,29,300 be granted 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 "Medical Department."

MAULAVI MUNAWWARALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.2,57,899 under Grant No.17.....

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: On a point of order, Sir. The other day you ruled that such a motion should be confined to Rs.100.

MAULAVI MUNAWWARALI: I am prepared to reduce it to Rs.100.

I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 2,57,899 under Grant No.17, Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head—A.—Medical Establishment (total) at page 123 of the budget, be reduced by Rs. 100. The object of my motion is to criticise Government for not starting Medical School at Sylhet.

Sir, during the budget debates speakers after speakers from the Surma Valley spoke on the subject of this Medical School. It was amply clear from their speeches what the feelings of the people of the Surma Valley are in this respect and how dire is the necessity for a second Medical School in this province. I have simply brought forward this motion in accordance with their wishes and with reference to the utmost necessity. In the March session of 1927 I brought a motion of censure which was carried, and with deference to that censure motion Government undertook the construction of the Medical School at Sylhet. During that debate it was amply clear how dire was the necessity for a Medical School at Sylhet and it has been made abundantly clear during the Budget debate how indispensable is the necessity now. All parties including the Congress block and the planters block supported me. The leader of the planters' block, who was no less a man than Sir Walter (then Colonel) Smiles, supported me in these words:—"On this side of the House we voted for the establishment of a Medical School at Sylhet during the last session, and we still support this resolution." "In my opinion in connection with the medical budget the most urgent

necessity is to have a Medical School at Sylhet.) Now that our friends from Sylhet have definitely decided to stay with us in Assam, I think it is up to us to give them exactly the same privileges and amenities as we enjoy ourselves in Assam."

This was how Colonel Smiles supported.

Then the leader of the Congress block, Mr. Nabin Chandra Bardaloi, whose demise is mourned not only by Assam but by the whole of India, gave me his unstinted support. At page 620 of the proceedings of the Legislative Council of 1927 he said ("So far as the Medical School is concerned, I join my friend Lt.-Colonel Smiles in thinking that there should be another Medical School in the province. In view of the fact that the question has been shelved for some years, I think the Medical School should be started at Sylhet".) He concluded by saying that it was a necessity in order to relieve congestion. One school was not sufficient to relieve the congestion and the establishment of this school at Sylhet became a dire necessity. Then Mr. Speaker, Sir, you as a Member of the Congress block gave me your utmost support. So, Sir, from all quarters I got support, including my hon. friend Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, now Revenue Minister.

Now what is the state of things? The question was taken up and immediately after the censure which I characterise as the heaviest possible censure that I have given, my motion was carried without a division. This was in March 1927.

Where are we now in 1937, a decade has passed? Sir, in 1928, I put a question in order to elicit some information. It is at page 635 of the Council proceedings. Question No.308 "Will Government be pleased to state what action, if any, they have taken (1) towards starting a Medical School at Sylhet—

(a) what site, if any, has been selected for the purpose, giving a description of the same;

(b) when may the said school (if work already started) be completed."

Khan Bahadur Kutubuddin Sahib who was then in charge of Public Works Department replied and his reply is at page 308 and runs as follows: "A project amounting to Rs. 7,71,443 for the construction of the Medical School at Sylhet has been administratively approved and the work put in hand, etc., etc.". And he concluded by saying that the work will take about three years to complete. In 1930 again, the same question was brought forward by a question, question No.140, and it was put by our late lamented Rai Bahadur Nagendranath Chaudhury. He asked whether the Government would be pleased to state when they expected to complete the construction of Sylhet Medical School and to start the school. The reply given by Rai Bahadur Kanak Lal Barua, the then Minister of Local Self-Government, is that he expected that the buildings would be completed early in 1931 and classes would be started during that year. Sir, Since 1927 the people of Assam are being tantalised in this way. What do we find in 1932? In reply to a question put by my friend Birendralal Das, at page 1014, the Government gave the information. By question No.266A he wanted to elicit the information regarding the cost and he was told that the cost already incurred was Rs.8,37,312. This amount was spent up to the end of 1931-32 against the sanctioned estimate of Rs.8,94,511. Now, Sir, the school was completed, the buildings were completed.....

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The hon. member must finish.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: We have decided that from my party very few members will speak.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: There may be other hon. members willing to speak from other sides.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: I assure you, Sir, that no other member from my side will speak.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: There are other sides.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: It was in 1932 that a sum of Rs.8 lakhs and odd was spent and the glory of this Government is being declared by the monuments that have been erected at Sylhet. Sir, they are pining in the cold shade of neglect. Now, what is the duty of this Assembly? The province is committed to it. In the previous Council, that exponent of freedom, toleration and brotherhood who is no less a man than Srijut Nabin Chandra Bardaloi whose revered memory we all respect, gave unstinted support to this; the Planting block supported me and all the independents gave me support and Government had not the courage to press the motion to a division. That was the state of things in 1927. What is the state of things now? Sir, this Government had large accumulated debts and we have been freed from that now. The present Government have been challenged and taken to task for not having made necessary retrenchments while there were scopes for retrenchments. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that if Government wish for a moment to start this school they can do it at once because there is so much room for retrenchment. During the course of these few days we have retrenched to the extent of a lakh and a half. As to the necessity of a second school, there is no one here I hope who would contradict me for a moment even the man in the street knows this. I think the Hon'ble Minister who holds the portfolio of Local Self-Government ought to have indicated in the budget that he had really a desire to see that the scheme of the Medical School at Sylhet was brought into fruition by providing a token demand of a rupee for it. If he had no money he might have put in a demand of even a rupee to indicate his mind.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I think the hon. member should finish now.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: When he has not done so, I think he well merits and well deserves that this motion be carried.

(The motion was read out by the Hon'ble the Speaker.)

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I rise to oppose this motion. My hon. friend Maulavi Munawwar Ali has said that there is none in this House who will not admit the necessity of this school. I for one could not admit the urgency or necessity of this school now. It was a necessity in 1927 but much water has flown down the Surma during this decade. The Lady Keane Bridge has depleted the resources of the province.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: On a point of information, Sir, that was financed from the Road Board programme of one crore loan and I hope the hon. member knows it.

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI SAYIDUR RAHMAN: But the maintenance of the bridge I think is provincial—the maintenance of the bridge, Sir, has caused a heavy strain. Now, Sir, we all know that this medical service is now full and the question of unemployment has come in. I know of many students who have passed out of the Berry-White Medical School but who are roaming about in places for jobs. There is no room either in the Medical or in the Public Health Department for them.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Because there are unemployed graduates, therefore will the hon. member agree, Sir, to abolish the colleges?

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Here the students pass out from a school which gives technical education for a technical purpose. They qualify themselves as medical practitioners. But there is no demand for medical practitioners now.

Now, Sir, if I were to raise the question of Valleys, I think the Sylhetis are over-represented in the service now.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Is the hon. member in order, Sir?

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI SAYIDUR RAHMAN: So I maintain, Sir, that at present there is no such demand for medical education as to necessitate the waste of a large sum of money on this project. I understand another six lakhs will be required for this purpose. I think this expenditure will be a sheer waste in this present juncture.

So far as our present requirements are concerned, there is the Berry-White Medical School, Sir, which is catering for the needs of the whole province. In this school, Sir, the students from the Surma Valley will be about 40 per cent. and in the staff there are five teachers, out of whom two are Sylhetis and none from the Assam Valley. So I think, Sir, that the needs of the Sylheti students are being served by the Berry-White Medical School, and it is sheer waste of money to open another school at Sylhet and to swell the number of unemployed. In this view of the matter, Sir, I oppose the motion.

BABU DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: Sir, my hon. friend, Khan Sahib Sayidur Rahman has thought it fit to re-introduce a poison into this House, of which we thought we had been relieved in this session. The present motion relates to the questions of the establishment of another Medical School in the province. There is no question of the representation of Sylhetis in the services, and this extraneous subject has been brought before this House only to poison the minds of hon. members and to raise the feeling of valley jealousy, which we thought had vanished from this House.

Coming direct to the subject-matter, Sir, I think it is rather strange that the hon. member should think that the establishment of a Medical School, wherever it may be located, is a sheer waste of money. As a matter of fact, Sir, the necessity of a medical School at Sylhet was recognised as early as the year 1926. I will read an extract from Hon'ble Mr. Botham's speech while moving his Supplementary Grant No.5 in 1926. He says: "There has been an important demand for the immediate establishment of a Medical School. The need for such an institution has long been recognised by the Government and a resolution to that effect was carried in the July Session of Council in 1926." After this, Sir, Government has spent near about 8 lakhs for the establishment of this school, and I have got figures to show that nearly Rs.56,000 will be required to meet the recurring expenditure of the school.

The main point is not, Sir, that there should be another school in the Surma Valley, because there is one school in the Assam Valley. I would ask every member to lose sight of that factor and consider whether there is any necessity for another Medical School in the province—whether the Medical School at Dibrugarh is sufficient to accommodate the students who every year go there for admission. Sir, in Bengal about ten years ago there were only two schools. Now what do we find there? In every division there is more than one Medical School receiving aid from Government and there are also certain other Government institutions. But, Sir, in this province, after the establishment of the Berry-White Medical School through the grace of a private individual, there has been no second school. And year by year about three to four hundred students are coming back being disappointed to get admission into the school. I may say that I am speaking this from personal experience. It may be for want of accommodation or other reasons, but the students who thus come back without getting admission comprise not only the students of Sylhet but also of the Assam Valley, both

Hindus and Muhammadans. I therefore say most emphatically that there is imperative necessity for another school in the province. Another ground for pressing the establishment of the school at Sylhet is that 14 annas of the work has already been done. Government have accepted the policy of having another such school. They recognised the necessity therefor as far as back as 1927.

In these circumstances I ask whether it behoves the hon. member to say that there is no necessity for a Medical School at Sylhet. When we require more and more of trained medical officers for supply of medicine and giving medical aid to the people of the rural areas, I do not at all understand his statement that there is no demand for more medical men. My friend hon. Khan Sahib lives at Dibrugarh. Am I to take it, Sir, that my hon. friend has not visited the rural areas and is not acquainted with their medical needs and requirements? In these areas people suffer for want of medical aid. They are mostly treated by quacks and they die for want of qualified medical officers. If the schools turn out qualified medical officers, the students, instead of knocking at the doors of the Public Service Commission or those of my Hon'ble friend Mr. Nichols-Roy, can go to the country-side and settle there with the subsidy granted by the Local Boards. They will thus be not only serving themselves but will be serving the rural population in whose midst they will live. In the rural areas, Sir, if we calculate the death rate year by year among women and children and even men, we are forced to come to the conclusion that more qualified medical men are absolutely necessary. I therefore think that, if my hon. friend will give his mature consideration to this matter, he will never say that the expenditure required for another Medical School is a sheer waste. With these words, Sir, I support the motion.

DR. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: Is that the view of the Congress group, Sir, on this motion?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: That does not arise.

MR. W. FLEMING: Sir, this is a question on which we are quite neutral. It is a question on which we want light. But I do not think we are getting much from the way the debate is being led. We want facts. We want logical arguments. Sir, hon. member who has just sat down has told us that one of his strongest reasons for going on with Medical School at Sylhet is that the building is about 14 annas finished. Sir, there is a building not far from here which is not 14 annas, but 16 annas finished. And I put it to hon. member himself that he would not think this a sufficient reason for the continuance of the purpose for which the building was built. Sir, I want only to express here that in dealing with a question such as this we are not dealing with facts, we are not dealing with a logically presented case, but dealing with sentiments and statements of opinion made by previous speakers under different circumstances. I wish to emphasize, Sir, that we are not to be guided by sentiment on such a subject. We have no preconceived opinion of any kind whatsoever on this subject, and we shall be delighted to support a case presented on merits but not a case as presented now. I am not sure whether it would not be a good idea if the hon. member from Habiganj South told us what he has to say on the matter. I think he has more accurate information than most of us—certainly more than I.

RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTT: Sir, my hon. friend Mr. Fleming has asked me to say what I think of this matter. As far as the view of this Government is concerned it has been consistently in favour of the Medical School. But there are some people who say that the students now turned out by the Medical School cannot be absorbed in Government

service, so what is the use of providing for more students coming out of those institutions? They will only swell the roll of the unemployed.

Now the question will have to be considered not with reference to the Government service but with reference to the need of the country for medical aid. Do we require, as a matter of fact, more men trained in the western system of treatment? I would ask my friend Mr. Fleming to come with me and visit some villages. He will find that there is no dispensary, no doctor within the radius of 5 or 6 miles and the only medical aid is available from quacks who either cure them or kill them. If we want to extend the blessings of western system of treatment we must have more people trained in the Medical School. That is the reason which induced this Government to construct the Medical School buildings at Sylhet and not with a view to see how many people can be absorbed in the Government service.

Then, Sir, my hon. friend Mr. Sayidur Rahman has said that there are too many now. My friend Mr. Sen has rightly interrupted him by asking what he is going to do with the graduates, scores of graduates, coming out of the colleges—graduates not only of these two colleges, but also of the colleges the people of this province themselves have started, *viz.*, the one at Jorhat, the one at Silchar and the one at Habiganj. What are these? This shows that there is a demand for these institutions and when there is demand for the Medical School that demand should be met. I can say from my personal experience that more than a hundred students belonging to Sylhet are now reading in some Bengal Medical Schools. Think of the cost, trouble and worry of those students. Now what is the proportion of seats for Sylhet students in the Berry-White School? Only 60 seats have been allotted for Sylhet in this institution. Sir, unfortunately for this province we have proportions not only as regards Government service but also in regard to seats in colleges and schools also. Will my Hon'ble Friend the Minister in charge tell me how many Sylhet boys can be admitted in the Berry-White Medical School out of 160?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: It has been increased to 200 and out of this 40 per cent., *i.e.*, about 80 seats go to the Surma Valley.

RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DATTA: I find that more than one hundred Sylhet students are in Dacca, Calcutta, Bankura and other places.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Do not the Sylhet students like to go to Dibrugarh?

RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DATTA: There are rules allotting seats to different communities. I myself had to deal with this matter and I found it very difficult. If you give seats to the hill and tribal boys, then little room remains for others. Why should not the province afford facilities to all those who want? That is the whole point. I think the facilities which are reserved in the Berry-White Medical School are not enough. When there are so many Arts colleges in the province, I do not see why there should not be a second Medical School.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN: I think the motion has been sufficiently discussed and time is almost up. We would like to hear the Hon'ble Minister.

MR. C. GOLDSMITH: The hon. mover has said that this question of Medical School at Sylhet has been started from 1929 and even before and he has said that the Congress and the planters have been supporting the establishment of the school. If funds are available surely something can be done for the school. The hon. mover said that if Government are willing

then at once they can manage the school. But the Hon'ble Minister in charge can say whether Government is in a position to do so.

Another thing the mover has said is that the Retrenchment Committee will be doing its work soon and about 2 lakhs of rupees will be retrenched. Now, Sir, the whole of Assam is looking forward to the Retrenchment Committee and the money that is realised from retrenchment—if the whole of that money or say half of it goes to Sylhet, what will the people of Assam think? I think the question should not be pressed at a moment when the finances of the province are very very low. Some say that the Medical School is still necessary. These Sub-Assistant Surgeons when they get their training, do not do any work in rural areas; they look to Government posts, and do not think of helping the people.

There is another question that my hon. friend raised here. Colleges produce men who after training can go to the Industrial Department; they can go to the Agricultural Department, and other Departments. So these colleges are necessary; but a Medical School is entirely technical and those that are trained in that profession must be provided for in that kind of profession only.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The hon. member must stop now.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Sir, I feel that I owe an explanation to this House. In those years when that motion to which reference has been made was carried, the Government of Assam had plenty of funds at their disposal and the general tendency of the people was to provide for the district of Sylhet as much convenience as the people desired. But what are the days to which we have arrived now? I do not say that a Medical School at Sylhet is unnecessary, but considering the state of the finances, are we in a position to spend now or in the near future a sum of Rupees six lakhs which will be necessary to have the Medical School at Sylhet opened?

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Sir, has the Hon'ble Minister a right to reply. He is adopting delaying tactics.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I have said nothing irrelevant. The Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government ought to have some time to give his reply. Unfortunately he was deprived of that opportunity in the last question. I want to ask one question to hon. members from Sylhet. We have already got a school and at least 40 per cent. of students can go there. We have got no Medical College. Is it not much better for us to strive and aspire for a medical college in this province? Would it not be far better than the establishment of a medical school? This Medical College is more important than a medical school. (*Interruptions.*) I am sorry that hon. members have treated this motion very lightly. I am saying that a medical school is necessary at Sylhet, but where is the money now? (*Interruptions.*)

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Sir, I want to say this much that it was in my former Ministry that this school building was started at Sylhet and it was by the order of the previous Legislature and Government. Now, Sir, I want to say that I shall be happy indeed if I can find funds to start this school at once and (the question with this Government is not whether there is any necessity of a second Medical School, but it is the question of funds.) We are not in a position to start it at once. There will be the need for a hospital which will cost about 4 lakhs and equipment about 1 lakh and a recurring expenditure of about 1 lakh. If we had the money we would start it at once. We are very anxious to see that the school is started, but we have no money to do so. When funds are available we shall start this school.

The motion was put and the House divided with the following result:—

Ayes—32

1. Babu Akshay Kumar Das.
2. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee.
3. Babu Bipin Behari Das.
4. Babu Hirendra Chandra Chakravarty.
5. Babu Kalachand Roy.
6. Babu Kamini Kumar Sen.
7. Babu Lalit Mohan Kar.
8. Rai Bahadur Promode Chandra Dutt.
9. Maulavi Abdul Aziz.
10. Maulavi Abdul Bari Choudhury.
11. Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan.
12. Khan Bahadur Hazi Abdul Majid Choudhury.
13. Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhury.
14. Maulavi Abdur Rahman.
15. Maulavi Syed Abdur Rouf.
16. Maulavi Md. Abdus Salam.
17. Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahbab Chaudhuri.
18. Maulavi Dewan Ali Raja.
19. Maulavi Muhammad Amiruddin.
20. Maulavi Ashrafuddin Md. Chaudhury.
21. Khan Bahadur Dewan Eklmur Roza Chaudhury.
22. Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.
23. Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury.
24. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali.
25. Maulavi Matiur Rahman Mia.
26. Maulavi Mabararak Ali.
27. Khan Sahib Maulavi Mudabbir Hussain Chaudhury.
28. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur Rahman.
29. Maulavi Munawwar Ali.
30. Maulavi Muzarraf Ali Laskar.
31. Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed.
32. Maulavi Sheikh Osman Ali Sadagar.

Noes—30

1. Kumar Ajit Narayan Deb.
2. Srijut Jogendra Narayan Mandal.
3. Dr. Mahendra Nath Saikia.
4. Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta.
5. Srijut Ram Nath Das.
6. The Hon'ble Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri.
7. Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed.
8. Maulavi Ghyasuddin Ahmed.
9. Khan Sahib Maulavi Sayidur Rahman.
10. Col. A. B. Beddow.
11. Mr. A. F. Bendall.
12. Mr. J. R. Clayton.
13. Mr. W. R. Faull.
14. Mr. W. Fleming.
15. Mr. B. I. Barry.
16. Mr. F. W. Hockenhull.
17. Mr. D. B. H. Moore.
18. Mr. R. A. Palmer.
19. Mr. Benjamin Ch. Momin.
20. Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das.
21. Srijut Bideshi Pan Tanti.
22. Srijut Binode Kumar J. Sarwan.
23. Srijut Dhirsingh Deuri.
24. Rev. L. Gatphoh.
25. Mr. C. Goldsmith.
26. Srijut Karka Dalay Miri.
27. Srijut Khorsing Terang.
28. Mr. P. Parida.
29. Srijut Rabi Chandra Kachari.
30. Srijut Rupnath Brahma.

Ayes being 32, Noes 30, the motion was carried.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.10,29,200 be granted 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 "Medical Department".

[The motion was carried]

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Perhaps the hon. members know that the Advocate-General will address the House to-morrow, on the point of order that was raised by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

[A voice].—At what time?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I wish to consult the House to fix the time. To my mind it appears that it would be convenient to suspend the questions, so that the first hour may be devoted to that matter. If the House agrees, I want to fix that time.

[Several hon. members].—That is the best time.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 11 a.m. to-morrow.

Shillong,

2nd October 1937. }

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary, Assam Legislative Assembly.