

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

The Assembly met at the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, the 31st August 1937

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

Establishment of a Medical School at Sylhet

BABU DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI asked :

*269. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government propose to start the Medical School at Sylhet immediately ?
- (b) If the answer is in the affirmative, what will be the approximate date of opening the school ?
- (c) Is it a fact that public opinion strongly demands the starting of the school at once ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that existence of only one school in the whole province at one corner is absolutely inadequate to serve the medical needs of the province ?

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

269. (a)—The reply is in the negative.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—The public of Sylhet naturally desire the school to be started as soon as possible.

(d)—This is a matter on which the present Government have not yet come to a conclusion.

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: (c) The reply is not properly accurate, Sir. Is it not a fact that public opinion strongly demands the starting of the school at once?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I have already stated that the public of Sylhet naturally wants the school to be started at once.

Representation of Mayamoria Communities in different Services of Government.

SRIJUT LAKHESVAR BAROOAH asked :

*270. (a) Is it a fact that the Mayamoria community, i.e., the disciples of Aniruddha Dev forms a considerable section of the population of Lakhimpur, Sibsagar, Darrang and Nowgong districts?

(b) Is it a fact that the community is not represented in the ministerial services in the offices of the Deputy Commissioners, Executive Engineers and Superintendents of Police of those districts?

(c) If so, do Government propose to provide for adequate representation of the community in these services?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

270. (a), (b) and (c)—Government have no figures to show the number of the Mayamoria community in the districts or services mentioned. As they are a sub-caste of the Assam Valley Hindus, they are treated as part of that community for the purpose of representation in the public services.

SRIJUT LAKHESVAR BAROOAH: Will the Hon'ble Minister please consider the case of that community if the figure of their population is supplied to him?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am afraid, Sir, it will not be justifiable to take the case of this community specially because there are many number of sub-castes among the Hindu community, and it is very difficult to take each separate sub-caste into consideration for purpose of service.

Non-realization of Agricultural loan

MAULAVI ABDUL AZIZ asked :

*271. Does the Hon'ble Minister in charge propose to order for the non-realization of Agricultural loan altogether in consideration of the economic condition of the people?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

271.—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to question No.888(4) asked by Maulavi Munawwar Ali in the current session of the Assembly.

Darrang Raj Court of Wards Estate

KUMAR AJIT NARAYAN DEV asked :

*272. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that contrary to Government orders the Manager of the Darrang Raj Court of Wards Estate usually delays the payment of allowance to the proprietors?

(b) Whether the premium income (Nazar) of the estate accruing out of the giving of settlement of lands to the immigrants, has fallen beyond expectation?

- (c) Whether proper accounts of Nazar, Salamis and sale proceeds of the forest produce are properly kept in the said Court of Wards office ?
- (d) Whether the accounts are not yet thoroughly audited by any competent authority ?
- (e) Whether a portion of the "Khamar" lands is settled with a Mymensinghia tenant by the Manager on the face of the opposition of the proprietors ?
- (f) Whether "Sanban Kar" is collected by the Bijni Raj Wards Estate authority on different basis from different persons ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

272. (a)—There has been no unusual delay. Some delay is unavoidable owing to the bills having to come through Manager and Sub-divisional Officer before being passed by the Deputy Commissioner.

(b)—There has been no premium system hitherto, so the income has always been nil.

(c)—Accounts of sale proceeds of forest produce are properly kept. There are no receipts from Nazar and Salami.

(d)—Under rule 157, audit by the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts is not necessary, as the demand does not exceed Rs. 50,000. The office has been thoroughly inspected by the Deputy Commissioner.

(e)—No "Khamar" land is settled with any Mymensinghia tenant.

(f)—The rates imposed from pre-court times vary in different localities.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: (f) What is the sanction of law behind it ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Well, Sir, I am unable to give any information on this subject.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Am I not clear, Sir ? I want to know what is the sanction of law behind "Sanban Kar" ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I am not prepared to discuss a legal question.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: How does the estate realise this "Sanban Kar" ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: As I have said, Sir, the rates have been imposed from pre-court times, and they are continuing.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: I want to know how the legality of imposing such a tax can be supported ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Will the hon. member please repeat ?

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: I want to know the sanction of law behind this system of "Sanban Kar" within these states. How does these states realise this, and under what law and what authority ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: As I have said I am not prepared to discuss the legal aspect of the question here, but these rates have been realised from pre-court times, and I think it has all the sanctity of law being based on long-established custom.

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: May we know who is the Manager ? Is he a Government servant or an outsider ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: The Manager of the Bijni Estate is a Government servant, whose services have been lent.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Is it legal to realise such a tax on the part of the estate?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: That question has been practically answered.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: That is not a complete answer, Sir. The Hon'ble Minister has said that they are realised from pre-court times, and sanctioned by usage. Is the Council of Ministry going to pursue the same policy even now?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: That policy will be continued until a different decision is arrived at by a Court of Law.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May I know the attitude of the Council of Ministry with regard to this question? Do they not think that this is an unjust tax?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Government only represents the proprietors of the estate in this matter.

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURI: (d) Is it a fact that auditing by the Deputy Commissioner or his subordinate officers, of estates whose income is less than Rs. 50,000 is not satisfactory?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: We have no reason to come to this conclusion.

KUMAR AJIT NARAYAN DEV: Is it a fact that some of the privileged tenants, who were allowed by the proprietors to render service in lieu of rent, were forced by the Manager to pay in cash?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I have no information. If the hon. member desires, I will give him the information.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: (e) May I know how "Khamar" land came out?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I think, Sir, I would require notice of that question. The original question was "whether a portion of the 'Khamar' lands is settled with a Mymensinghia tenant by the Manager on the face of the opposition of the proprietors"? The reply is "No 'Khamar' land is settled with any Mymensinghia tenant".

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Sir, I would quote section 95 of the Goalpara Tenancy Act to show that "Sanban Kar" is an illegal tax.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: We are now in question No. (e), Sir, regarding 'Khamar' lands.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: How did 'khamar' lands come out?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I do not understand the question.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The hon. member should put his question clearly.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: The origin of "Khamar" lands, Sir?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: (No answer.)

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Sir, for showing the unjustifiable nature of "Sanban kar" and its illegal realisation, I would refer to section 95 of the Goalpara Tenancy Act, which reads as follows:—
"All impositions upon a tenant for the use and occupation of the lands of his tenancy, in addition to the actual rent, which are not specially authorised by this Act, or by any other Act or Regulation for the time being in force"

shall be illegal and all stipulations and reservations for the payment of such shall be void". So I want to know what steps the Ministry intend to take with regard to "Sanban kar" ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: As I have already said it is a complicated legal question how far the existence of a long-established usage affects the law. I take it that the local authorities are convinced that the law in this instance has been overridden by long-established usage.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Is it a question of policy ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: No, it is not a question of policy.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The hon. member says it is illegal but Government do not admit that.

KUMAR AJIT NARAYAN DEV: Have Government received any representation from the members of the Darrang Raj family with regard to "Khamar" lands ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I do not remember to have received such a representation.

Number of estates advertised for sale and number of warrants for attachment of movable properties

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

*273. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state the number of estates advertised for sale and the number of warrants for attachment of movable properties in 1933-34, 1934-35, 1935-36 and in 1936-37 (*up to date*) in Goalpara, Kamrup, Darrang, Nowgong, Sibsagar and Lakhimpur Districts for default of payment of land revenue ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

273.—The hon. member is referred to columns 5 and 7 of Appendix VI of the Reports on the Land Revenue Administration for the years 1933 to 1936. The figures for the year 1936-37 are not yet available.

Members of the Assam Provincial Service

MAULAVI ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY asked :

*274. (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of persons, other than the natives of the province, holding posts in the various departments in the Assam Provincial Service at present ?

(b) How many of these officers are domiciled in the province ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

274. (a) and (b)—Government regret they cannot supply the information, which would involve the examination of a number of individual cases extending back over many years and a great amount of labour.

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN : May I know whether there are some outsiders employed under the Government of Assam ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : The question was as regards people domiciled in Assam, and the supplementary question refers to outsiders. Yes, there are some.

MAULAVI DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY : Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to give preference to the people of Sunamganj subdivision in regard to appointments to these posts ?

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

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN : May I know whether Government will stop this practice ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : As far as practicable Government will give preference to the indigenous people.

Number of persons dealt with under the Assam Criminal Amendment Act, 1936

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED asked :

*275. Will the Hon'ble Judicial Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) The number of persons who have been dealt with under the Assam Criminal Amendment Act, 1936 ?

(b) The number of persons who are still under detention without trial under the said Act ?

(d) Whether the Hon'ble Minister proposes to take steps for the repeal of the said Act and for the release of detenus, if any ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

275. (a)—The hon. member probably refers to the Assam Criminal Law Amendment Act (III of 1934), and not to the amending Act (II of 1936) which deals with the commencement, extent, etc. of the main Act.

The number of persons dealt with under the Act (III of 1934) since it came into force is 21.

(b)—At present there are two persons detained in and one externed from Assam under the Act (III of 1934).

(d)—No. The cases of all detenus are reviewed from time to time, and appropriate orders passed.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Am I to understand that Government is not prepared to repeal this Act ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I have said many times on the floor of this House that the cases of these people will be considered in October.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : My question is not with regard to the cases of persons. I want to know whether Government will take the initiative for repealing this Act ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I have also replied that Government do not want to repeal the Act.

Free supply of Government publications to the Curzon Hall Library, Gauhati

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED asked :

*276. Is it a fact that the Curzon Hall Library at Gauhati does not get a free supply of all Government publications ? If so, will Government be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether Government publications such as reports, etc. of administrative departments are meant for circulation and the public libraries are the best medium of such circulation ;
- (b) whether the Curzon Hall Library at Gauhati is not one of the premier public libraries in Assam ;
- (c) whether large number of Government annual reports and other publications remain unsold every year ;
- (d) whether the free supply of Government publications to the said library was given sometime ago ;
- (e) what considerations and reasons actuated Government to discontinue the said free supply for the past few years ;
- (f) whether the Secretary to the Curzon Hall Library approached the Government of Bengal and the Government of India for a free supply of their respective publications and that both these Governments were prepared to do so provided the application was recommended by the Government of Assam ;
- (g) whether the Secretary to the Curzon Hall Library approached the Government of Assam for the requisite recommendation in the matter and for a free supply of their own publications on several occasions ;
- (h) whether on every occasion the representation and the request of the Secretary in both the matters were turned down ;
- (i) whether Government are now prepared to make the necessary recommendation and to give a free supply of their own publications ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

276.—Yes.

(a)—Some Government publications are meant for circulation and some are not. Whether libraries are the best medium of circulation is a matter of opinion.

(b)—Government are prepared to take it from the hon. member that this is so.

(c)—No. A few copies only are kept for future requirements.

(d)—Yes, for some years till 1931.

(e)—As a measure of retrenchment.

(f), (g) and (h)—Yes. The applications were not forwarded as was considered unlikely that the Government of India and the Government of Bengal would agree to a free supply of the publications, since the Assam Government has itself to pay for publications received from those Governments.

(i)—No. Government regret that they are unable at present to do so.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : May I know how much will it cost Government to supply free copies to the Curzon Hall Library ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : I am unable to give the information.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Can we have a rough idea of the cost ?

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

Cotton College, Gauhati

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED asked :

*277. (I) Is it a fact that there is no provision for teaching (i) Botany in B.A. classes, (ii) Physiology and (iii) Geology in Cotton College at Gauhati ?

(II) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is not a serious disadvantage to the Assamese students that they are not given facilities for taking up one or other of these subjects ?
- (b) Whether there is always a large number of Assamese students available who desire to offer one or other of these subjects in their course of study ?
- (c) Whether there is a strong public demand in Assam to open out classes in these subjects ?
- (d) Whether the Hon'ble Minister is aware of the fact that the course of study in Medical College at Calcutta is proposed to be curtailed by one year and it is contemplated that only those I.Sc. candidates who have passed in Physiology will be allowed admission in the Medical College ?
- (e) Whether for reasons given in (d) the Assamese students desiring to pursue medical course in Medical College will not be hampered and suffer a great disadvantage if classes in Physiology are not opened in Cotton College, Gauhati ?
- (f) Whether the provision for teaching Botany in B. A. classes will not be of assistance to the scheme of Citrus culture ?
- (g) Whether in view of the nature of the province a study in Botany and Geology is necessary and useful ?
- (h) Whether the Hon'ble Minister proposes to open the classes in these subjects at an early date ?

*278. Will the Hon'ble Minister of Education be pleased to state —

- (a) The number of seats available for students in (i) I.Sc. and (ii) B.Sc. classes in Cotton College, Gauhati ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that more students than the number of seats available in I.Sc. and B.Sc. classes have been applying for admission in the College ?
- (c) Whether there is a strong public demand for the increase of seats in these classes ?
- (d) Whether the Hon'ble Minister proposes to increase the number of seats in the I.Sc. and B.Sc. classes in the Cotton College, Gauhati, at an early date ; if so, when and to what extent.

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

277. (I)—Yes.

(II)(a)—Yes, as regards Botany.

(b)—Yes, as regards Botany. No applications for permission to take Physiology or Geology have been received, but some Assam scholars have taken these subjects in Colleges in Bengal.

(c)—Government believe there is a demand for Botany.

(d)—There is a proposal to alter the regulations for the M. B. Examination but it is not contemplated that I. Sc. candidates who have not passed in Physiology will not be allowed admission into Medical Colleges.

(e)—No.

()—The Citrus culture scheme will employ a few experts only and the teaching of Botany in Cotton College cannot be said to have much connection with it.

(g)—The question appears to ask for the expression of opinion. Obviously the study of Botany and Geology is not necessary for all students though it would be useful to some.

(h)—When funds are available.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether it is a fact that preference will be given only to those students who have taken Physiology in the matter of admission into the Medical College at Calcutta ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED : I am not aware of the fact.

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

278. (a)—(i) 1st year—72.

2nd year—72.

(ii) 3rd year—20.

4th year—20.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Yes, when and to the extent that funds are available.

Improvement of the manufacturing and marketing of *Endi* and *Munga* Silk

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED asked :

*279. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Industries be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the markets of *endi* and *munga* are steadily falling ?

(b) If so, for what reasons ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that the markets of *endi* and *munga* are being captured by other silks ?

(d) If so, for what reasons ?

(e) Whether it is a fact that a large number of people depend on the sale of *endi* and *munga* for the payment of land revenue ?

(f) Whether there is any person in the weaving staff who knows washing and finishing of *endi* and *munga* in the scientific way ?

(g) What steps has the Hon'ble Minister taken for improving the manufacturing and marketing of *endi* and *munga* Silk ?

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

279. (a) - Yes.

(b)—Because of the worldwide trade depression and fall in the purchasing power of the people.

(c)—The *endi* market to some extent but not the *munga* market.

(d)—By the importation of cheap *endi* cloth from Bhagalpur and elsewhere and by imported imitation *endi*.

(e)—Some people partly depend on it.

(f)—Yes.

(g)—By introducing improved spinning Charkas and reeling appliances and by instructing the people to standardize their products and to give an improved finish. As regards marketing sales of these cloths are pushed through the Government Emporium and Central Stores by the travelling canvassers.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Does the Hon'ble Minister mean to say that he is also helping to get good prices for the products of these *endi* and *munga*?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HYDAR KHAN: Yes, Sir. The department is helping.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Has the Hon'ble Minister taken any step to have *munga* and *endi* purchased by the officials of Government?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HYDAR KHAN: We cannot force it on them.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Has the Hon'ble Minister ever encouraged this industry by himself purchasing them?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Not a matter of public importance for Government.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: During these six months has the Hon'ble Minister ever visited any weaving institution by way of helping them?

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

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Is it not the duty of the Marketing Officer to encourage the sale of these products?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HYDAR KHAN: Yes, they are doing all they can.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Did the Marketing Officer ever approach any firm to purchase *endi* and *munga* from Assam?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: That is also again going beyond the scope of the question.

Number of thefts and burglaries committed in the Gauhati Town during the last four years

SRIJUT BELI RAM DAS asked :

*280.(a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of thefts and burglaries in the Gauhati town during the last four years till the end of July, 1937?

(b) How many of those cases were detected by the Police and how many are still under investigation?

(c) How many persons were convicted of those offences?

(e) Did the Inspectors and the higher police officers personally investigate those cases of thefts and burglaries?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA
replied :

280. (a)—

Years				Thefts	Burglaries
1933	...	...	...	72	29
1934	...	...	...	56	42
1935	...	...	...	85	33
1936	...	...	...	87	33
1937	...	...	...	51	24

(up to 31st July 1937).

(b) (i)—

Cases detected

Years				Thefts	Burglaries
1933	...	...	...	17	5
1934	...	...	...	24	6
1935	...	...	...	32	4
1936	...	...	...	22	7
1937	...	...	...	11	5

(ii)—No case is still under investigation.

(c)—

Persons convicted

Years				Thefts	Burglaries
1933	...	...	...	15	2
1934	...	...	...	18	9
1935	...	...	...	32	5
1936	...	...	...	23	6
1937	...	...	...	8	4

(In 1937—3 persons in a burglary case and also 3 persons in theft cases are awaiting trial.)

(i)—No cases of thefts and burglaries were investigated by Inspectors and Police Officers of higher rank.

(ii)—Number of cases in which investigation was supervised :—

Year	Thefts		Burglaries		Remarks
	Inspectors	Police officers of higher rank	Inspectors	Police officers of higher rank	
1933	...	*	*	*	*Information not available. Records destroyed.
1934	...	24	...	25	
1935	...	11	1	15	
1936	...	6	...	18	
1937	...	10	...	13	
(up to 31st July 1937).					

Cattle mortality in different thanas of Goalpara Subdivision

SRIJUT JOGENDRA CHANDRA NATH asked :

*281. Will the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state—

- (a) The extent of cattle mortality in the different thanas of the Goalpara subdivision as a result of the epidemic that is raging since some time ?
- (b) What is the nature of the epidemic ?
- (c) Whether the Department has taken steps to counteract the disease ? If so, what is the nature of the steps taken ?
- (d) The actual figures of deaths up till now for the different thanas of the Goalpara subdivision ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that innumerable plough-cattle have been carried away by the epidemic ?
- (f) Is it a fact that it was not possible for a solitary Veterinary Sub-Assistant Surgeon to work in such a big area as covered by Dudnai, Goalpara and Lakhipur thanas ?
- (g) Whether Government propose to create another post of Veterinary Sub-Assistant Surgeon in the South Bank of the Goalpara subdivision ?

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

281. (a)—Cattle mortality was severe in that part of Goalpara subdivision which lies on the south bank of the Brahmaputra.

(b)—Principally Rinderpest; also Anthrax, Hæmorrhagic Septicæmia and Foot-and-mouth disease.

(c)—Yes. Two extra Veterinary Assistant Surgeons were sent from Gauhati to supplement the local Veterinary Assistant Surgeon. In addition, the Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, Abhoyapuri, was temporarily withdrawn to work on the South Bank. The Veterinary Inspector, Central Assam Circle, was deputed to Goalpara to organise epidemic work and the John's Disease Officer, Assam, was temporarily withdrawn from his normal duty and specially deputed to investigate and systematise epidemic work there. In all 178 villages were visited, 1,651 cases were treated and 4,810 animals were inoculated.

(d)—The figure of deaths of cattle in the South Bank for the period from the 1st April to the 19th July 1937 is reported to be 730.

(e)—A considerable number of plough-cattle are reported to have died—about 30 per cent. of the total mortality.

(f)—One Veterinary Sub-Assistant Surgeon could not cope with the epidemic.

(g)—The question of strengthening the Veterinary Department is under the consideration of Government.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Will the Hon'ble Minister explain to us the diseases mentioned in the answers ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HYDAR KHAN: Those are mostly technical terms.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: The names might be technical but the diseases are not. Will he explain a little of each ?

RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTT: Very few of us do understand the meanings of these.

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN: Do Government admit that the staff under the Veterinary Department is very inadequate to cope with the needs of the province?

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

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN: Do Government propose to increase the number?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: The hon. member will find the answer in reply to question (g).

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN: May we know, Sir, whether Veterinary Assistants are bound to attend cases without fees whenever informed?

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

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: It does not arise. But I think the Hon'ble Minister can reply.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: No, Sir.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Has the Hon'ble Minister himself understood the technical expressions?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I think the question is not a proper question.

KUMAR AJIT NARAYAN DEV: May we know, Sir, the causes of these diseases?

(No reply.)

Amount of local rates and revenue derived from gardens in the Province

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SARMAH asked:

*282. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The amount of land revenue and local rates derived from the gardens in the Province?

(b) If these land revenue and local rates increased due to any resettlement like the temporary settled paddy lands?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied:

282. (a)—For 1935-36 the land revenue was Rs.16,01,408.

The figure for local rates is not separately available for gardens.

(b)—Yes.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the land revenue per acre of the lands in the tea garden area?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I have not got that figure.

Number of days spent by Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Circle, on tour

SRIJUT BHUBAN CHANDRA GOGOI asked:

*283. Will Government be pleased to state the number of days for which the Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Division, was out on tour in the year 1936-37?

*284. (i) Will Government be pleased to state the number of days separately spent by the Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Division, in the inspection of the High Schools of Sibsagar, Golaghat, Dibrugarh and Gauhati subdivisions, with dates and gist of inspection notes?

(ii) the number of days spent at Shillong and for what purpose?

*285. Is it a fact that (a) the Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Division, often accompanies the Director of Public Instruction in the inspection of schools? (b) Is it necessary? (c) Is it not waste of public money?

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

283.—Two hundred and eighteen days.

284. (i)—The hon. member is referred to the replies given to similar questions asked by Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua at this session of the Assembly.

As to the second part of the question Government are not prepared to give the gist of the inspection notes which are mainly concerned with the methods of teaching of the various teachers.

(ii)—Twenty-five. The purposes of the visits were to attend the All Assam Jamboree, the meetings of the Middle School Examination Moderation Board and the Text Book Committee and the convocation of the Assam Sanskrit Association.

MAULAVI GHYASUDDIN AHMED: Is Government aware that the Inspector of Schools seldom goes to Goalpara for inspection?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: I am not aware of that.

MAULAVI GHYASUDDIN AHMED: Did he visit the subdivision last year?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: I shall enquire into the matter.

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

285.—The hon. member is referred to the replies given to similar questions asked by Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua at this session of the Assembly.

Supply of breeding bulls by Government

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked:

*286. (a) Is it a fact that the 93 bulls supplied by Government and the Local Boards in 1935-36 are not sufficient for the area where 25,733 weedy bulls were castrated?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what steps are being taken for the prevention of the evils arising out of such wide castration?

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

286. (a)—Only weedy bulls were castrated. Good local bulls suitable for breeding were not castrated. The question, therefore does not arise.

(b)—Does not arise.

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA: Do Government know that, on account of the castration of a large number of weedy bulls, no bulls remain in the villages to serve the cows, and only undesirable ones are retained?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: No, Sir.

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA: Will Government be pleased to state what steps are being taken for the evils arising out of such wide castration?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: We do not think it as an evil. Only the weedy ones are castrated.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

UNSTARRED SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS

Grievances of the *ryots* of the Dhekiajuli mouza re realisation of land revenue

SRIJUT OMEO KUMAR DAS asked :

5. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state whether he received a communication regarding the grievances of *ryots* of Dhekiajuli mouza from Srijut Omeo Kumar Das, M.L.A. ?

6. Is it a fact that some *ryots* who paid their land revenue for the year 1933-34 duly, have also been served with auction sale notices for arrears of land revenue for that year ?

7. (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state whether he made any enquiry into the matter ?

(b) If so, what is the result of the enquiry ?

8. Is it a fact that the grievances of the *ryots* are found to be true ?

9. (a) If so, what steps are being taken by Government to redress the grievances of the *ryots*, and

(b) What steps are being taken by Government against the Mouzadar ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

5.—Yes.

6.—Yes.

7. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Thirty-eight people produced receipts showing payment of their land revenue for 1338, 1339 and 3 receipts for 1340 (1933-34). All of these were issued on the back of *pattas* or on chit of papers and on used counterfoil receipts by the Mohurrirs of the Mauzadar. All Mohurrirs who used *kutchas* receipts whether their purpose was honest or not have been dismissed.

8.—Yes.

9. (a)—The Mauzadar has acknowledged receipt of all the amounts realised by his *ex*-Mohurrirs and stopped the *Bakijai* proceedings.

(b)—Since Government letter to Srijut Das, dated the 24th July 1937 the Commissioner has reported as follows:—

The Mohurrirs issued *kutchas* receipts while the Mauzadar was ill and without his knowledge. But for these irregularities committed by his Mohurrirs, the Mauzadar had a good record of service and he rendered good work to Government. The Mauzadar has been severely warned and asked to keep better control in future. Otherwise his services must be dispensed with even though he has been a good Mauzadar in the past. Government consider that the action taken by the Commissioner is adequate for the present.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Scheme for solution of the unemployment problem

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

593. (a) Is Government aware that unemployment is causing acute distress amongst the educated section of our people ?

(b) Have Government found any plan or programme to solve the unemployment problem ?

(c) If not, do Government propose to draw up some scheme and publish the same without delay ?

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

593. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The hon. member is referred to the reply given at this session to a similar question by Babu Lalit Mohan Kar.

(c)—The question does not arise.

Number of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons in the Province

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

594. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Veterinary Department be pleased to inform—

(a) What is the number of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons in the province ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Royal Agricultural Commission (Linlithgow Commission) in their report estimated the cattle population of Assam to be about 58 lakhs and recommended that there should be one Veterinary Assistant Surgeon for every 25,000 animals ?

(c) Is it a fact that the recommendations have not been given effect to ? If so, will Government be pleased to state why ?

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

594. (a)—60.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes. On account of the cost which would have been nearly 3 lakhs recurring. Proposals for strengthening the present staff are now under the consideration of Government.

Improvement of Cattle breeding in Assam

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

595. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Live-stock Department be pleased to state how the amount of Rs. 65,000 granted by the Central Government for improvement of cattle in Assam was spent ?

596. Will Government be pleased to furnish the details for the information of the House ?

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

595.—The amount has not been spent.

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Will Government be pleased to say what were the difficulties which prevented Government from spending the money so long ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: We have prepared a scheme, which will be put into execution very shortly.

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: May I know, Sir, whether any scheme has been really framed ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: I have already replied in the affirmative.

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: May we know when the scheme will be put into execution?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: As early as possible

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

596.—It is proposed to allot Rs 15,000 as a grant to the Assam Live-stock Association. The balance, viz., Rs. 50,000 will be used to purchase breeding bulls and to distribute them all over the province in charge of suitable persons who will receive a maintenance allowance for looking after them. The details of the scheme are still under consideration.

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA: May I know from where those bulls are going to be purchased?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: From other provinces like Bengal, Bihar and other places.

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA: By what farm, Khanapara or Sylhet?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: Through the Department.

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA: May I know whether the Khana-para Farm will have any connection in purchasing the breeding bulls ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: No.

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Will Government be pleased to give us an idea as to the constitution and function of the Assam Live-stock Association ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: It is constituted of several members to see that the breed is improved.

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Do I understand that this Association is constituted of officials as well as non-officials ?

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

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAWDHURI: Are Government aware that the Subdivisional Officers exercise their official influence in order to realise subscriptions for the Live-stock Association ?

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

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: I want to know who constitute the Association, whether they are all Government servants or there are other non-official members?

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

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: May I know what is the number of non-official members of the Association?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: I do not remember the exact number.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: In the latter part of the answer it is stated that Rs.50,000 will be used to purchase breeding bulls and to distribute them all over the province in charge of suitable persons who will receive a maintenance allowance for looking after them. Will these suitable persons be competent to treat all the technical diseases, mentioned by the Hon'ble Minister?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: Those persons will only look after the bulls.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Will those persons be competent to treat the technical diseases?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: Diseases will be treated by the Veterinary Department.

MR. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: May I know who will select those suitable persons?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: The Government.

Realisation of rent and Local rate from the tenants of Bijni and Mechpara Wards Estates

MAULANA ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

597. Will Government be pleased to state, separately, the total amount of rent and local rate due to be realised from the tenants in the Bijni and Mechpara Wards Estates annually?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

597.—The current demands for the year 1342 B.S., are given below:—

		Rent	Local Rate
		Rs.	Rs.
Bijni Raj Wards Estate	... ..	4,85,735	25,284
Mechpara Wards Estate	... ..	2,19,115	11,762

The figures naturally vary from year to year. Figures for 1343 B.S., are not yet available.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May I know how much is due to Government from these estates out of the local rate and rent?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: The answer is already there.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: The answer is not there.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: What else is wanted.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: This is with regard to the amount realised from the tenants. My question is how much does Government get out of the rents and local rate to be realised from the Mechpara and Bijni Ward Estates?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: That question does not arise.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I think that question cannot be answered now. It requires calculation and that will have to be found out from the registers.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Will Government require notice of that question?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Yes, if notice is given we shall try to give the answer.

Question of Unemployed youths in the Province

SRIJUT JOGENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

598. Has the new Government of Assam any definite proposal to tackle the question of unemployment amongst the educated youths of the province?

599. Does Government see the desirability of creating a separate portfolio of unemployment under one of the existing Hon'ble Ministers?

600. Will Government be pleased to propose the appointment of a Sub-Committee (say of five consisting of one official and four non-officials) to deal with the subject in all its aspects and present a detailed workable scheme before this House?

601. What is the number of educated unemployed youths who have passed the Matriculation Examination and read upwards and others in the province up to 1937 June? Will Government be pleased to cause a census to be made?

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

599 and 601.—The hon. member is referred to the replies given to similar questions asked at this session by Babu Lalit Mohan Kar.

599.—It would be difficult to put "unemployment" under one particular Minister. For example unemployment in Tea gardens would normally fall to be dealt with by the Minister who normally dealt with Tea garden affairs. Similarly the question of *e.g.*, unemployed doctors would be most suitably dealt with by the Minister in charge of the Medical portfolio. The point raised by the hon. member will, however, be further considered.

SRIJUT JOGENDRA NATH BARUA: The reply is "The point raised by the hon. member will, however, be further considered". May I know when does the Hon'ble Minister propose to consider it further?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: This point was raised in the Upper House and what was stated there may not be relevant here. There is already under the business rules a sub-head of "unemployment" and it is technically in charge of my Hon'ble colleague, the Education Minister. But in practice we find difficulties as has been enumerated in the reply. For example, if it is a question of unemployment of doctors we have got to go to the Minister in charge of Medical and so on. In practice when the question of unemployment comes, different departments have got to consider the matter.

SRIJUT JOGENDRA NATH BARUA: My question has remained unanswered. In reply to question 599 the Hon'ble Minister says that the point will, however, be further considered. And when does he propose to consider it further?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: We have already considered and are considering that the creation of a separate portfolio of unemployment does not meet the wishes of the hon. member, because there are many difficulties. If there is a vacancy in the School Service, we have got to go to the Education Minister and if it is a question of unemployed doctors, we have got to go to the Minister in charge of Medical Department. Therefore we are considering whether we should open a register in the Secretariat as was done by the interim Ministry in Bihar. We are not considering the matter of having a separate portfolio for "unemployment."

SRIJUT JOGENDRA NATH BARUA: The Hon'ble Minister has replied that the question of having a separate portfolio of unemployment will be further taken into consideration. When will it be considered? That is my simple question and I require a simple answer.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The question is referring to the opening of a separate portfolio for unemployment. I have already explained that although technically there is such a department in charge of my Hon'ble Colleague the Education Minister, in actual working, it has got to be spread over all the departments. Therefore, we are not further considering that question. The only question that needs scrutiny is whether we should start a register of unemployed youths in the Secretariat.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI: May I enquire what is meant by the phrase 'unemployment in tea gardens'?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I mean unemployment of labourers in tea gardens.

BABU DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: Do not Government consider that the creation of a portfolio will also help the unemployment problem?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: One Minister is already technically in charge of this portfolio.

BABU DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: Is Government going to have a separate Minister who will have no other portfolio except unemployment?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: There is no such proposal with the present Ministry.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Sir, in bold letters the name of the Minister in charge 'Hon'ble Maulavi Ali Haidar Khan' appears. But we find the Chief Minister replying. We do not think the Minister in charge is very serious about the unemployment problem. We want him to be serious. I want to know whether he is as serious, as we are, to employ unemployed youths. Let him not shift his burden to the Chief Minister as he has done in answering these questions.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The Minister in charge has already replied to the question.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have already said that all the Ministers are dealing with the unemployment problem and I, as Minister in Chief, have, therefore, answered these questions.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Does he want to tackle this problem of unemployment only by providing Government employment?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: No. We are trying to provide in every way. That matter has been discussed threadbare, Sir.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI: May I know whether any request has been made to the tea garden owners in the province from the side of the Government to give preference in the matter of employment to the children of the soil?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The children of the soil generally do not take up tea garden work. The very small number that work in the gardens are 'faltoo' labourers.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI: I mean clerks, mohurriirs etc.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, Sir. We requested the tea industry to take in as many Assemese or local people as possible. I think the hon. leader of the group will consider the question and pass it on to his companies.

MAULAVI GHYASUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Chief Minister request the zamindars of the province also?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The Hon'ble Minister in charge of land revenue, who is in charge of the Court of Wards, has already asked the Court of Wards to give preference to local people.

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Instead of asking the leader of Planting group cannot the Hon'ble Minister formally request each tea estate to see that people of this province are provided in tea gardens?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: These are all private companies. I do not see how Government can force these companies.

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: I simply want Government to request them in writing. Will he be pleased to translate his wish into writing to each tea estate?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: We do not propose to write to different companies. We will request the Indian Tea Association.

SRIJUT DEVESWAR SHARMA: Do Government propose to write to the Railway Companies, the Steamer Companies and the Oil Company?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: As regards the Oil Company the General Manager is luckily one of the members of the House. I think we can convey our request to him here.

MAULAVI GHYASUDDIN AHMED: Will Government be pleased to write a letter to the Zamindars' Association so that something may be done?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am not personally aware of any such Association, and my Hon'ble Colleague says he has not heard of any such Association.

DR. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: Will Government be pleased to move authorities to remove quack doctors from tea gardens? (*Laughter.*)

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I do not understand what is meant by quack doctors. If he means unqualified doctors, tea estates cannot appoint them.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI: Perhaps he means unregistered doctors.

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to write a letter to the railways and request them to employ unemployed youths of the province?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am prepared to do it, Sir.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI ALI HAIDER KHAN replied:

600.—Not at present. An Unemployment Committee was appointed by the late Government and a copy of the *ad interim* report of that Committee will be found on the library table.

Tube wells for the people of Inathnagar and Ilampur

MAULAVI MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY asked:

602. Will Government please state (a) whether it is a fact that the people of Inathnagar in the Dharmapassa Thana and of Ilampur of Tahirpur Thana applied for Tube wells to the Subdivisional Officer of Sunamganj and that these applications were rejected?

(b) If so, will Government please state what were the grounds assigned by the Subdivisional Officer while rejecting the applications?

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

602.(a)—The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

(b)—Does not arise.

Names of newly opened Country Spirit Shops

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked:

603. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Excise please state—

- (a) the names of the Country Spirit shops opened since April 1937 and the mauzas where they are located?
- (b) the names of the Canteen shops opened since April 1937 and the mauzas where they are located?
- (c) names of the firms to whom licences for foreign liquor shops have been given since April 1937 and the names of the districts where the firms are situated?

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

603.(a)—The following are the new Country Spirit shops opened in the province since the April 1st, 1937. The opening of the shops was sanctioned prior to that date—

- (1) Buralikson Country Spirit shop in Khumtai mauza, Golaghat subdivision, Sibsagar district.
- (2) Boklial Country Spirit shop in Morongi mauza of Golaghat subdivision, Sibsagar district.
- (3) Badshahganj Country Spirit shop in Bowlam mauza, Sunamganj subdivision, Sylhet district.
- (4) Kanaighat Country Spirit shop in Dalairchar mauza, North Sylhet.

(b)—No Canteen was opened ; but seven lessee manager shops sanctioned prior to the 1st April 1937 were opened in the following tea garden areas—

- (1) Kuhum Tea Estate, Sibsagar.
- (2) Chardeo ditto ditto.
- (3) Bihubar ditto ditto.
- (4) Tingalibam ditto ditto.
- (5) Teok ditto ditto.
- (6) Abhayjan ditto ditto.
- (7) Topia Tea Estate, Darrang.

These were, of course, all opened with the consent of the Managers concerned.

(c)(1)—Karimganj Railway Refreshment Room 'off' license in Sylhet district settled with Messrs. G. F. Kellner & Co.

(2)—Silghat Foreign Liquor 'off' license in Nowgong district settled with Messrs. Jagatbandhu Pharmacy and Stores, Ltd.

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: My question was quite plain and I wanted a plain answer. May I know whether the present Government cannot revise the orders of the previous Government regarding opening of liquor shops.

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Orders were passed by the previous Government and no petition has come to this Government for the sake of abolishing the shops.

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: Cannot the present Government revise the previous order?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: No, unless there are some reasons for it.

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: Is the present Government committed to the policy of opening new liquor shops?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: No.

Complaint against Mr. R. N. De, Divisional Forest Officer, Kachugaon

SRIJUT BELI RAM DAS asked :

604. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state if the Conservator of Forests or Government received a telegram from the Padrees of Kachugaon complaining against Mr. R. N. De, Divisional Forest Officer, Kachugaon Division, about a month ago?

605. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state if it was mentioned in the telegram that Mr. R. N. De assaulted one Padree for not saluting him?

606. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the said Mr. R. N. De, Divisional Forest Officer, wants salute from all persons passing by his gate and that no body can ride on cycle or take an umbrella by his gate?

607. Is it a fact that the Conservator of Forests has asked the said Mr. R. N. De, the person complained against, to enquire into the allegations?

608. Do the Hon'ble Minister in charge propose to direct an impartial enquiry and to take drastic steps against the said officer?

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

604.—No, but a letter of this description was received by the Conservator.

SRIJUT BELI RAM DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the contents of the letter addressed by the Padres of Kachugaon to the Conservator of Forests?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: This is the letter.

SRIJUT BELI RAM DAS: Was it mentioned in the said letter that Mr. R. N. De caught hold of the Padre by his cloth first and then he was assaulted.

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: Here is the letter. I shall read it.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Order, order. Time is up. This may be taken up to-morrow.

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

605.—The letter contained an allegation to that effect.

606.—Government have no such information, but enquiry can be made if desired.

607.—The letter was sent to Mr. De for a report.

608.—Government see no reason for a further enquiry.

Adjournment motion re. the Scarcity of food in the Barpeta Subdivision

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS: Sir, I gave notice of an adjournment motions which reads like this.

SRIJUT BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: Sir, may I know whether the Retrenchment Committee has been formed?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The hon. member who is speaking about the adjournment motion he wants to move should not be interrupted now.

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS: That this Assembly be adjourned to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance and of recent occurrence, namely, the situation arising out of scarcity of food prevailing in about sixty-five villages in the Hastinapur, the Bhawanipur, and the Bizni Mauzas in the Barpeta Subdivision and the failure on the part of Government to give any relief to the affected people.

May I know, Sir, if I have the permission to move this motion?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I want to know some of the facts which have led the hon. member to move this adjournment motion.

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS: Sir, the matter is one of urgent public importance and of recent occurrence. There has been a draught from the beginning of the year and it has resulted in the scarcity of food and has affected a great number of people of as many as sixty-five villages in the Hastinapur, the Bhawanipur and the Bizni Mauzas in the Barpeta Subdivision.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Is there any authentic report about that?

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS: Yes, Sir, I have received a telegram from my constituency only last night at about 10 o'clock. This telegram has come from a responsible person of the locality who is also a member of the Local Board. The telegram reads like this—"Famine prevailing in Hastinapur, Bhawanipur and Bizni Mauzas. Urgent steps solicited". Besides this, Sir, some report appeared in the *Weekly Assamiya* of the 14th of August last.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Which paper is that ?

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS: The report appeared in the weekly issue of the *Assamiya* of the 14th of August. I read out a portion from it.

বৰপেটা ৰায়তৰ দুৰ্ভিক্ষ

হস্তিনাপুৰ, ভবানীপুৰ, বীজনী আদি মৌজাৰ শতকৰা ৮০ৰ নাহুহৰ আকাল সৰু পেটাৰ শ্ৰীযুত সোনাৰাম চৌধুৰীয়ে জনাইছে:— বৰপেটা অহুৰিখাত আহুধান আদিৰ খেতি নোহোৱাৰ বাবে এইবোৰ বৰপেটা মহকুমাৰ হস্তিনাপুৰ আৰু ভবানীপুৰ মৌজাৰ শতকৰা ৮০ৰ লোকৰ আৰু বিজনী মৌজাৰ শতকৰা প্ৰায় ৯০ৰ গিৰীৰ খাবলৈ নোহোৱা হৈছে। যি বিগাক গৰুৰ ৰায়তৰ খাবলৈ নোহোৱা হৈছে তাৰ নাগ তলত দিয়া হল।

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS: Then, Sir, comes the list of villages. There are about 65 villages. My attention was drawn to this report on the 15th August and on the 16th I submitted a set of short notice questions. On the 25th I got the reply from the Hon'ble Speaker that he had to disallow my question as the Hon'ble Minister in-charge regretted his inability to give his consent to these short notice questions on the ground that they could not be answered without previous inquiry which would take time.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: What was the date ?

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS: It was on the 25th when I got the reply from the Hon'ble Speaker.

Sir, when I left for Shillong, I had no knowledge of this scarcity of food. It is of recent occurrence. The matter is urgent in this sense, that if no immediate relief be forthcoming, there may be loss of lives and the situation may reach an acute stage and the people of these villages may have to face a famine. So, Sir, my adjournment motion is for a definite matter of urgent public importance which is of recent occurrence.

May I have permission to move the motion now, Sir ?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I think, the Hon'ble Minister may say what he has got to say.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Whether the matter is technically the subject-matter of an adjournment motion or not, Government is already taking steps. We have asked the Commissioner to make an inquiry and do the needful. Sir, whether the motion is moved or not or whether the motion is carried or not, Government is fully alive to its responsibility and will do all that lies in their power to relieve the distress of the people. This is all what I have got to say.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Up-till-now what has been done ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I have already instructed the Commissioner to do the needful and submit a report. Beyond this I have got no further information.

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS: In this connection, I would like to submit that the gentleman who has sent this telegram to me last night lives in the midst of this affected areas and from this telegram received only last night I can only presume that no steps are being taken till yesterday.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I will again send a telegram to the Commissioner to-day to do what is possible for the relief of the distressed people.

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS: Sir, after hearing the Hon'ble Revenue Minister, I do not like to move the adjournment motion but at the same time I hope that he will expedite the inquiry and render all possible assistance to really affected people.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: From what has been said by the hon. member who wants to move this adjournment motion and from what has been said by the Hon'ble Revenue Minister, I am disposed to think that it is a matter of urgent public importance, but as the hon. mover is satisfied with the assurance given by the Hon'ble Revenue Minister and he is not willing to move that motion, I need not give my decision as to whether the motion is in order or not.

FLOODS IN CACHAR

MR. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: Sir, I placed in the hands of the Hon'ble Revenue Minister certain information about the grave nature of the flood situation in Cachar. May I know, if any information has since been received from the Deputy Commissioner about the situation there?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I have not received any further information but I am expecting to get it soon.

FLOODS IN SOUTH SYLHET SUBDIVISION

BABU DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: Sir, I have just received a telegram from a person of the South Sylhet Subdivision to the effect that there has been flood and certain Thanas have also been affected. I am ready to hand over the telegram to the Hon'ble Revenue Minister if he wants it and I want to know whether he is going to take any action on that.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I shall be glad to receive that telegram.

MR. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: The Hon'ble Revenue Minister should not be glad to receive such telegrams.

RETRENCHMENT COMMITTEE

SRIJUT BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: On a point of information, Sir. May I know if the Retrenchment Committee has been formed and if so, what are the names of the members of that Committee? If the Committee has not yet been formed, then may I suggest that this House should suggest the names of the personnel of the Retrenchment Committee?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I do not know whether the Retrenchment Committee has been formed or not.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

GRANT No. 24

50.—*Civil Works—excluding Establishment and Tools and Plant charges.*

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Order, order. The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla may move his demand.

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.39,92,700 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 "50.—Civil Works"—(excluding Establishment and Tools and Plant charges).

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The first cut motion stands in the name of Srijut Jadav Prasad Chaliha. This is an economic cut. I would ask the hon. member to add after the last sentence the following:—"that is, the amount of the grant do stand reduced by Rs. 61,583".

SRIJUT JADAV PRASAD CHALIHA: Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 1,77,400 under Grant No. 24, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(a)—Buildings, Detailed head—General Administration, at page 169 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 61,583, that is the amount of the grant do stand reduced by Rs. 61,583.

Sir, my motion relates to the proposal for disallowing the construction of a hostel for Muhammadan and scheduled class members of the Legislative Council, which is estimated to cost Rs. 77,550, as this Council is not wanted.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: May I rise, Sir, to remove a misconception? I thought my hon. friend made a mistake about the words "Legislative Council". There is no member from the scheduled castes in the Upper House—Legislative Council—who requires accommodation. There is only one nominated member from scheduled castes, but he has got his own house at Shillong. I want to inform the hon. member that the accommodation is not meant for members of the Legislative Council only, but for members of the Assembly as well.

SRIJUT JADAV PRASAD CHALIHA: The word "Council" appears in the detailed budget.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Office used the word "Council" by mistake, in the sense this word was used before the 1st April. I rise to point out that the hostel is not meant for Council only, but for the members of this House as well.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The hostel is for accommodation of members of both the Houses.

SRIJUT JADAV PRASAD CHALIHA: All right, Sir, now, I submit we are going to spend that huge sum of Rs. 77,550 at this time, when we have not been able to provide for the needs of the people, but we are going to spend it for the convenience of their representatives.

Before we agree to spend such a huge sum for the representatives of the people we must find out if it is indispensable. Accommodation is available in Shillong in plenty, the Assembly members get an allowance while in Shillong; they have been making their own arrangements now, and why should they not be able to manage in this manner in future, at least till they have catered for the urgent needs of the people, for which they have come here?

We are here to administer the revenues which the raiyats are paying even at the sacrifice of their hearth and home. We have heard in the debates on the floor of the House the misery and privations of the people who have sent us here. Are we to treat our trust so lightly as all that? Before spending a single pie for our comfort we must be quite sure that we have discharged our obligations to the raiyats. Have we provided in the budget for any scheme that will give food to the foodless, home to the homeless, clothes to the naked? Have we provided for compulsory primary education for the children? Is not 94 per cent. of the people illiterate? What have we provided for them? Are not the raiyats dying like cats and dogs for want of medical help? Perhaps a dose of quinine in time would have saved many lives. We have still to provide drinking water for them. We have only Rs. 1,500 to solve the unemployment problem, and the

magnificent sum of Rs. 2,000 for the much advertised agricultural colony for educated young men who are lying idle as the State has given them the wrong education, and it did not make them self-reliant, and self-supporting. Is it not adding insult to injury? It is an insult to the self-respect of the representatives of the people to be promised a magnificent building costing Rs. 77,550 which they will occupy for only 60 days in the year, while the cause of the raiyats remains forgotten.

Sir, we are making this provision while 40,000 of our people are still registered opium addicts, and we are not providing a single pie for reclaiming one from the habit that is eating into the vital of the people.

Sir, we as custodians of the revenues paid with the life blood of our countrymen, should have more sense of responsibility, and we must promise not to spend a single pie out of it for our own comfort and advantage till we can discharge our obligations.

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

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The motion moved is that the provision of Rs. 1,77,400 under Grant No. 24, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head,—A.—Original Works, sub-head—(a).—Buildings, Detailed head—General Administration, at page 169 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 61,583; that is, the amount of the grant do stand reduced by Rs. 61,583.

SRIJUT MAHADEV SARMA: সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, মই এই প্ৰস্তাব সম্পূৰ্ণ-ৰূপে সমৰ্থন কৰোঁ। ময়ো এই প্ৰসঙ্গত ঠিক প্ৰায় একে ধৰণৰ এটা প্ৰস্তাব দিছোঁ আৰু সেইটো মোৰ নামে ৮ নম্বৰ motionত আছে। সেই বাবে এই প্ৰসঙ্গত ময়ো কবলৈ থিয় হৈছোঁ। মই এইটো ভালকৈ জানিছোঁ যে এই প্ৰস্তাবৰ বিৰোধিতা কৰি মই মোৰ নিজৰ সুবিধা আৰু স্বৰ্গৰ বিৰুদ্ধে গৈছোঁ; কাৰণ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্ট আমাৰ মেম্বৰ সকলৰ সুবিধাৰ কাৰণে যি বিধান আগ বঢ়াইছে আমি তাক নাগালে বুলি কৈছোঁ। মই নিজে বুজিও নোতি হিচাপে ইয়াৰ বিৰোধিতা কৰিবলৈ বাধ্য হৈছোঁ। মই এইটো জানোঁ আৰু মোৰ বিমান বিনি মনত পৰে মই, কব পাৰোঁ যে ১৯২৮ কি ১৯২৯ চনত, যোৱা কাউন্সিলত, এনে ধৰণৰ এটা ভাব প্ৰকাশ পাইছিল যে কাউন্সিলৰ মেম্বাৰ সকলৰ কাৰণে থকাৰ ব্যবস্থা হোৱাটো ভাল। সেই সময়ত আমাৰ ৰাজস্বৰ অৱস্থা অতি ভাল আছিল অন্ততঃ তেতিয়া আমাৰ deficit বাজেট নাছিল। সেই বাবে হয়তো মেম্বাৰ সকলৰ সুবিধাৰ কাৰণে দৃষ্টি কৰিবলৈ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ সুবিধা আছিল আৰু কৰিলে বেয়াও নাছিল। কিন্তু আজি আমি এনে অৱস্থাত পৰিছোঁ যি অৱস্থাত প্ৰজাৰ প্ৰতিনিধিবৰ্গৰ সুবিধাত কৈ প্ৰজাসাধাৰণৰ সুবিধাৰ ফালে চোৱাটোহে নোতি হিচাপে উচিত বুলি আমি বিবেচনা কৰোঁ। আমালৈ নাচাই সেই সুবিধা প্ৰজাসাধাৰণক দিবলৈহে মই গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টক টানি কওঁ। এই প্ৰস্তাবৰ ভিতৰত মই এটা সাধাৰণ গতানুগতিক নোতি লক্ষ্য কৰিছোঁ। সেই গতানুগতিক নোতিটো নো কি? আমোলাতন্ত্ৰ শাসন প্ৰণালীৰ যি বিলাক দেওৰ বাবে ভাৰতীয় প্ৰজাসাধাৰণে স্বাধীনতা বিচাৰে সেই বিলাকৰ ভিতৰত অগ্ৰতম হৈছে চোৱাটোকে চোৱা। অৰ্থাৎ আমোলাতন্ত্ৰ শাসন প্ৰণালীৰ অগ্ৰতম এটা উদ্দেশ্য “তেনীৰ মূৰত তেল” দিবৰ ব্যবস্থা কৰা। যি সকলক

নাটালেও হয় সেই সকলক আয়োগাত্মক শাসন প্ৰণালীয়ে চাবলৈ ব্যৱহা কৰে । তেওঁবিলাকে চায় তেওঁ বিলাকৰ চাকৰাৱাল সকলৰ সুখ আৰু সুবিধা কিমান বৰ্দ্ধা পৰিছে—দিবিলাকে কেতিয়াও নাচায় যে গাৰ্ভালীয়া মানুহ কিমান দুখত পৰিছে । আজি আমি এনে অৱস্থাত পৰিছোঁহি, সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, আপুনি জানে যে আমাৰ যি জন বৰ্দ্ধমান ডাইচৰ আৰ্ছে তেখেতে পোন প্ৰথমে প্ৰকাশ কৰিছে যে আমাৰ দৃষ্টি গাৰ্ভৰ ফালে পেলাব লগীয়া হৈছে । সেই ভাবে অহুপ্ৰাণিত হৈ আমিও কওঁ যে আমাৰ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টও গাৰ্ভৰ ফাললৈ দৃষ্টি কৰক আৰু তেখেত সকলে যে village development or village uplift scheme এটা কৰিব খুজিছে তাত এই টকা কেইটা খৰচ কৰা হওক । ৩৫ হাজাৰ গাৰ্ভৰে গঠিত এই প্ৰদেশ খনত মাত্ৰ ১৭ খন গাৰ্ভৰ উন্নতি বিধান কাৰ্য্য হাতত লবলৈ স্থিৰ কৰিছে । কি ভাবে উন্নতি কৰিব সেইবোৰ দিবিলাকৰ এতিয়াও considerationৰ ভিতৰত নি প্ৰকাশ পোৱা নাই । তাৰ নিমিত্তে পৰা হৈছে মাথোন ১০ হাজাৰ টকা । মই কওঁ, এই ৩১ হাজাৰ টকাও তাৰ লগতে লৈ ৪৪ খন গাৰ্ভ লৈ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে কাম আৰম্ভ কৰক । তেতিয়াহলে মই আশা কৰোঁ আমি আমাৰ কৰ্ত্তব্যৰ কিছু ওচৰ চাপিব পাৰিম । আৰু এটা কথা যদি ইয়াক কোনেবাই সাম্প্ৰদায়িক ভাবে লব খোজে তেন্তে মই এই খিনিতে পক্ষিকাৰ কৈ কওঁ যে আমি ঠিক তেনে ভাবে পৰা এই প্ৰস্তাব দাঙ্গি ধৰা নাই । আমি আমাৰ সকলো বন্ধুৰ সুবিধাৰ নিমিত্তে দৃষ্টি ৰাখোঁ আৰু বাহিৰলৈ সদায় প্ৰস্তুত । New hostel আৰু Inglesbyৰ যি ব্যৱস্থা ৰখা হৈছে, তাত যি সকলৰ নিতান্ত অসুবিধা হয় সেই সকলৰ কাৰণে আমি তাকো এৰি দিবলৈ প্ৰস্তুত আছোঁ । সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, যদি অসম্ভাৱিক নহয় মই কওঁ যে Inglesby টো বোলে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে ভাঙ্গিব খুজিছে । আমাৰ মতে তাক ভাঙ্গিবৰ কোনো প্ৰয়োজন নাই । তাক বৰং অলপ মেৰামত কৰি দিলেই সুবিধা হব । সেই কাৰণে মই বিবেচনা কৰোঁ যে এই টকা খিনি গাৰ্ভৰ উন্নতিৰমূলক বিধানত খৰচ কৰিলেই ভাল হব ।

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it will be better if I intervene at this stage. In this matter, we will be guided entirely by the decision of this House. The paternity of the scheme cannot be laid down on the present Ministry ; it was the previous Government who decided that so many as 108 members of the Lower House and 21 members of the Upper House will find difficulty in getting suitable accommodation, three different blocks shall have to be built, and a comprehensive scheme was drawn up. When we assumed charge, one block of that scheme was nearing completion, and that block was for caste Hindus. The two other blocks were meant for the Muhammadans and the scheduled castes. As soon as my Hon'ble Colleague, the Revenue Minister, came to know of it, he at once stopped the building of the other two blocks (the building of which are complained about), he thought that so long as members used to remain in the Earle Sanitorium, they had no difficulty in living together—Hindus both caste and Schedule and Moslems—but messing separately, so why should we segregate them here, and

so he at once stopped the construction of the other two blocks. One item of the schemes for building these three blocks was to demolish the old Inglesby Bungalow. As we had only completed seats for 15 members in the new hostel, we did not allow the Inglesby Bungalow to be demolished, but converted it at a little cost into another block. At present we have got 15 seats in the new hostel and 12 seats in the Inglesby Bungalow, altogether 27 seats. It is for the House to say whether they require more seats. If they say they require more seats in that case we shall have to build; if they say the accommodation is quite sufficient, we shall accept their verdict and stop all further construction of building. This is the position adopted by the present Ministry.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN: May I know how many applications have been received for accommodation?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: That is in charge of the Secretary of the Assembly.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I shall supply the information to the hon. member afterwards, because files will have to be brought here.

MR. JOBANG D. MARAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, unless you guarantee to reserve for me a room in the hostel where I am enjoying the comfort I am not prepared to oppose the motion. I rise to oppose the motion. Many of the hon. members come from a long distance, and it will be very difficult for them to get suitable accommodation here, specially in the cold weather. In my opinion more accommodations should be provided.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I think that as the Hon'ble Chief Minister has replied the motion should be put to vote.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: As I have already said I shall be guided by the vote of the House, so I should like to hear the views of the different groups.

SRIJUT GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we from this group support the motion moved by the hon. Srijut Jadab Prasad Chaliha, a member of our party, although I am opposed to any kind of accommodation based on communal lines.....

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Accommodation on communal lines has been done away with.

SRIJUT GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I am glad to hear that the principle of having different hostels for the the caste Hindus, the Muhammadans and the people of the scheduled castes has been done away with. The accommodation provided in the present hostel can be availed of by those who want to avail it, and the rest can and are making arrangements for themselves in the Earle Sanitorium and elsewhere in the town.

MR. C. GOLDSMITH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I heard the Hon'ble Chief Minister to say that if there is necessity new blocks will be built. Therefore, I think we can leave the matter in the hands of the Department, and in the meantime there should be no objection to the motion being withdrawn.

MAULAVI DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want that there should be separate accommodation for Muslim members with a room for their prayers.

SRIJUT GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I think, Sir, the rooms that are there now would be more than sufficient to accommodate those who are objecting to this motion.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: We will not apply for them.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN: I do not think that the Hon'ble Minister has ascertained the requirements of the Hon'ble House. Before that is done this project can at least be postponed for next year.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: We have got no objection, Sir. As a matter of fact we would only be too glad if that money could be saved for us.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: Has the Hon'ble Minister ascertained also as to the manner in which the new hostel has to be constructed and whether the present ones are liked by the members or not?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: For the existing ones, we are not responsible. These were built according to specifications already approved by previous Government.

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Any one who has seen these hostels accommodation does not like it. Sir, there is no attached bath room and it is causing a great inconvenience to the hon. members there. If the Hon'ble the Chief Minister decides to start the hostel.....

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The question is whether any hostel should be built at all.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The position of Government is this. If the hon. members of this House decide that there should be no further construction of building, we will be the last persons to spend any single penny. But if the House thinks that it is difficult for them to find accommodation and construction of further blocks should be undertaken, let them say so and give us the funds and we will build. On the other hand, if they say 'No, we do not want any hostel', of course, we will be only too glad to accept the verdict of the House and save the money.

Then comes the question as regards the type and specification whether each room should have a bath room and so forth. Since that question has to be decided later on, in considering the question of convenience of members, let us first decide whether we want any more hostel or not. On that we want first the views of the House.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: On this side of the House, we want that there should be further accommodation provided. We want to live together and do our things in a concerted manner. We have experienced even during this session of the Assembly how out of 108 members the hostels can accommodate only about 27. It is, therefore, very urgent that further accommodation should be provided here in the hostels.

As regards the suggestion of my hon. friend here, with due deference to his orthodox feelings.....

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Whose orthodox feeling?

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: I am referring to my hon. friend Dewan Ahab Chaudhury. He wants that a separate block should be made for the Moslems with a prayer hall. I think that our requirements for prayers will be fulfilled if a prayer room is provided. Sir, we do not want any more segregation and we are tired of segregation. We have too many compartments and we have now reached a stage where segregation should be spurned. As regards the religious feelings of the communities some suitable provision may be made. I suggest, Sir, that we have felt very great inconvenience in this hostel for want of different necessary things. We have each lived our mode of life which we cannot change at once. We require an attached bath room and we require another parlour. There should be a room in which we can receive friends and talk to them and there should be a separate room for sleeping. I think, the Hon'ble Finance Member will bear all these suggestions in mind when he constructs new hostels.

MAULAVI DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: If all the members want to live in the hostels, then, Sir, how to accommodate them?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: That is what I want to know whether all the members want accommodation. At the moment it is still a hypothetical question.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: I think, Sir, the previous Government wanted accommodation for at least 60 members. When there has been provided accommodation for 60 members then the next question whether further construction is required arises.

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: If that is done at all, it should be done for 101 members, Sir.

The question was then put to the House and the House divided with the following result:—

Ayes.—57.

1. Kumar Ajit Narayan Dev.
2. Babu Akshay Kumar Das.
3. Mr. Arun Kumar Chanda.
4. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee.
5. Babu Balaram Sircar.
6. Srijut Beliram Das.
7. Srijut Bhuban Chandra Gogoi.
8. Babu Bipin Behari Das.
9. Srijut Bipin Chandra Medhi.
10. Babu Dakshinaranjan Gupta Chaudhuri.
11. Srijut Debeswar Sarmah.
12. Srijut Ghanashyam Das.
13. Srijut Gauri Kanta Talukdar.
14. Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi.
15. Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan.
16. Babu Harendra Narayan Chaudhuri.
17. Srijut Jadav Prasad Chaliha.
18. Srijut Jogendra Chandra Nath.
19. Srijut Jogendra Nath Barua.
20. Srijut Jogeschandra Gohain.
21. Babu Kalachand Roy.
22. Srijut Kameswar Das.
23. Babu Kamini Kumar Sen.
24. Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy.
25. Mr. Kedarmal Brahmin.
26. Srijut Krishna Nath Sarma.
27. Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya.
28. Srijut Laksheswar Borooah.
29. Babu Lalit Mohan Kar.
30. Srijut Mahadev Sarma.
31. Dr. Mahendra Nath Saikia.
32. Srijut Mahi Chandra Bora.
33. Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta.
34. Srijut Omeo Kumar Das.

Noes.—20.

1. Maulavi Abdul Aziz.
2. Maulavi Abdul Bari Choudhury.
3. Maulavi Abdur Rahman.
4. Maulavi Md Abdus Salam.
5. Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahabab Chaudhury.
6. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Keramat Ali.
7. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali.
8. Maulavi Mabarak Ali.
9. Khan Sahib Maulavi Mudabbir Hussain Chaudhury.
10. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur Rahman.
11. Maulavi Munawwar Ali.
12. Maulavi Namwar Ali Barbhuiya.
13. Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed.
14. Khan Sahib Maulavi Sayidur Rahman.
15. Mr. Benjamin Ch. Momin.
16. Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das.
17. Srijut Bideshi Pan Tanti.
18. Rev. L. Gatphoh.
19. Mr. C. Goldsmith.
20. Mr. Jobang D. Marak.

35. Srijiit Paramananda Das.
36. Rai Bahadur Promode Chandra Dutt.
37. Srijiit Purandar Sarma.
38. Srijiit Purna Chandra Sarma.
39. Srijiit Rajani Kanta Barooah.
40. Srijiit Rajendra Nath Barua.
41. Srijiit Ram Nath Das.
42. Srijiit Sankar Chandra Barua.
43. Srijiit Sarveswar Barua.
44. Babu Shibendra Chandra Biswas.
45. Srijiit Siddhi Nath Sarma.
46. Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan.
47. Maulavi Ashrafuddin Md. Chaudhury.
48. Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed.
49. Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.
50. Maulavi Ghyasuddin Ahmed.
51. Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Choudhury.
52. Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia.
53. Maulavi Sheikh Osman Ali Sadagar.
54. Miss Mavis Dunn.
55. Srijiit Binode Kumar J. Sarwan.
56. Srijiit Dhirsingh Deuri.
57. Srijiit Rabi Chandra Kachari.

Ayes being 57 and noes 20, the motion was carried.

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Sir, those who have voted for the motion (No.1), should, I think, have preference.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I shall remember it (*laughter*).

As regards the next motion in the name of Maulavi Munawwarali I do not understand whether it is a censure cut or an economy cut.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: Both, Sir. I beg to move, that the provision of Rs. 14,59,999 under Grant No. 24, Major Head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A.—Original Works (total), at page 170 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 9,999.

MAULAVI DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: May we know whether a separate prayer room will be provided for the Muhammadans?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I will look into the matter and try to provide one.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI : Sir, these four figures 9,999 in the original demand were very tempting to me so much so that I wanted a reduction by the amount. The figure that would then stand would be 14,50,000—a figure which would be more welcome to any one who will have an interest in mathematics (*laughter*)

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : What has the hon. member got to say about economy ?

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI : I have denoted my intention for moving this motion. I want that use of foreign irons be altogether discontinued in the Public Works Department and that Indian irons be used instead and further that Government should adopt a policy of re-inforced cement concrete and cement brick method in the Public Works Department together with a policy of avoiding the use of foreign irons. Sir, why I demand that Government should adopt a policy of re-inforced cement concrete and cement brick method will be apparent when I say that this will also solve the question of unemployment to a great extent. There will be brick methods all over the country and a large number of unemployed people will be employed in brick manufactures. Cement is made in India and there is also a great scope in this province for production of cement. We have seen the disaster caused by the terrible earthquake in Quetta and by the last earthquakes in Behar and Goalpara. These earthquakes have shown beyond the shadow of a doubt that the re-inforced cement concrete and brick work is strong enough to defy even such disastrous earthquakes. The Tata irons are quite good and can stand foreign competition, an also re-inforced cement concrete work should be adopted. I wish that not a piece of iron be brought from foreign land. This will solve the economic condition and the economic difficulties in the province. This is a matter of great policy and the Ministry will do well and will earn the gratitude of the people if they have courage to adopt this policy and announce this on the floor of this House.

The motion was put by the Hon'ble Speaker.

SRIJUT GOPI NATH BARDOLOI : Sir, we on this side of the House think that the principle enunciated in this motion is quite reasonable. We think that all Indian irons, as far as possible, should be made use of in buildings and in every work that is taken up by Government. With these words I support the motion moved by my hon. friend Maulavi Munawwar Ali.

MR. JOBANG D. MARAK : Hon'ble the Speaker, Sir, I stand to oppose the motion for the following reasons. Firstly because this motion is not in accordance with the world wide policy of the world international commercial policy. To boycott foreign goods may mean some disadvantage to the great Indian merchants of the great commercial marts of India, as of Calcutta, Bombay and Madras etc. And further, Sir, the tone of the motion will tell on us, the people of Assam, where there are no large commercial marts, that we are very narrow minded people, and have no idea or knowledge of the world and international trade which all nations of the earth do advocate. And, Sir, the method proposed by the hon. mover is only for the experts who can adopt the new method of re-inforced cement concrete, etc., and this will not be practicable for the people living in the country side. With these words, Sir, I oppose the motion.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am feeling that I am blessed to-day because I have got blessings of the two sides of the House.

The policy which they are recommending by this cut motion has already been followed by the present Government and their predecessors as well. We have all along been trying to get only Indian iron for our requirements. When Indian mills cannot supply, then only we import British material but we have never used any foreign iron. At the present juncture, with this mad race for increased armaments by the big Powers even the British irons are not available. If we want to place any orders, they say they cannot supply within the next 18 months. So within the limit, we are following the policy that is recommended by my hon. friend Maulavi Munawwar Ali.

As regards the second point that we should adopt re-inforced cement concrete and cement brick methods for our buildings, that is a matter for experts and in all cases that kind of building is not cheaper than the other structures. Much depends on the availability of raw materials, such as sand, concrete chips and other requisites. I hope my hon. friend will give that bit of latitude to our Public Works Department to think of all the available raw materials, before deciding whether in a particular building we should use re-inforced cement concrete. I hope my hon. friend will see his way to withdraw his cut motion.

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA: Is not British material foreign?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: British material is not 'foreign' in the technical sense of the term.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: In view of the statement made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion?

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

The House was adjourned for lunch at 2 P. M.

The House re-assembled after lunch.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Order, order. It appears from the motion* of Maulavi Mabarak Ali that he wants to criticise the policy of the Government in increasing the expenditure on the Police. As a rule such motion should be valued at Rs.100 or less but here the amount is Rs.8,973. So in that view, I think, the motion is not in order.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Not only that Sir. I have got another objection to this motion. According to the note on the cut motion tabled by my hon. friend, I find that he wants to criticise the policy of the Government for increasing expenditure on Police. It ought to have come under the Police budget and not here. Similarly next motion stands in the name of my hon. friend Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan and he also wants to discuss about the proposed factory in Nowgong Jail. These two motions are not, therefore, in order, because the civil works department is merely an instrument of carrying out orders of the Administrative Departments. Administrative Departments provide money and Public Works Department are only to carry out the order. When the hon. members want to discuss about the expenditure on the police and the Factory in Nowgong Jail, they ought to have come under respective demands and not under this head.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I think, the Hon'ble Chief Minister is right. Here the policy of administration regarding the Police Department is wanted to be discussed but as the cut motion relates to civil work, I think it is not in order.

* That the provision of Rs.20,073 under grant No. 24, Major head 50—Civil works, Minor head A.—Original works, Sub-head (a)—Buildings—Police (other than Assam Rifles) at page 169 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.8,973. (To criticise the policy of Government for increasing the expenditure on the police).

MAULAVI MABARAK ALI: On a point of order, Sir. This motion relates to construction of buildings and I think it comes within the purview of this?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: But the hon. member wants to criticise the policy of the Government for increasing the expenditure on the police. From the motion it does not appear that he wants to discuss about the question of construction of buildings.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Cannot it be said, Sir, that the expenditure on police means expenditure for buildings for the Police Station?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Of course, it may be said but the motion is not properly worded and so it is out of order. The next motion* stands in the name of Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan and he wants to say that the factory in Nowgong Jail is not necessary.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, this motion relates to jail but it has come under 'buildings'.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Yes, it relates to Jail but the motion has come under 'buildings', and so I think, the Public Works Department is not to answer for the policy of the Jail Department.

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN: Sir, this amount was not included in the Budget, under Jail and Convict Settlements head because it relates to factory building in Nowgong Jail, and has been shown under the head of "Civil works" so I had to move this cut motion under this head. However, I do not like to move the motion.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, he does not want to move the motion.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Does not the hon. member want to move the motion?

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN: Yes, Sir, I do not like to move this motion in view of the fact that Mahatma Gandhi recently gave out a statement that the jails should be converted into industrial factories?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Next motion stands in the name of Maulavi Munawwar Ali. This motion is also for the purpose of criticising defective construction of the Assembly Hall, etc., but it is valued at Rs.599. If the hon. member wants to criticise the unsatisfactory arrangement and its scanty accommodation the motion should have been valued at Rs.100 or at a lesser sum.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: Sir, I am prepared to bring it to Rs.99?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: In that case the hon. member will have to wait till motion No.6 is taken up because it is valued at Rs. 101, but if he wants to value it at Rs.100, then of course, I will allow him to move his motion first.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: Very well, Sir, I value it at Rs.100?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The hon. member may move his motion.

* That the provision of Rs. 25,653 under Grant No. 24, Major head—50—Civil works, Minor head—A.—Original works, Sub-head—(a)—Buildings—Jails and convict settlements, at page 169 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.7,153. (The proposed factory in Nowgong Jail is considered unnecessary for the present).

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg, to move that the provision of Rs.3,37,599 under Grant No.24, Major head.—50.—Civil works, Minor head.—A.—Original works, Sub-head—(a)—Buildings, total, at page 169 of the budget be reduced by Rs.100?

COL. A. B. BEDDOW: On a point of order, Sir. Will the hon. member withdraw his cut motion if the Public Works Department fix amplifiers in the House?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The hon. member perhaps knows that this Assembly Department is a separate department and if really the hon. member wants to criticise the unsatisfactory arrangement of this building, of course, he is quite in order.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: I beg to move Sir, that the provision of Rs.3,37,599 under Grant No. 24, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head.—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(a) Buildings, total, at page 169 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100; i.e., the amount of the grant do stand reduced to Rs.3,37,499.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the object of my motion is this. I want to criticise and very strongly criticize the defective construction of the Assembly Hall. This is my first point. The hon. members, who have been here during this month, have complained from day to day, and from hour to hour, that they are not audible. Although, Sir, we raise our voice to the pitch the sound reverberates and there are echoes and re-echoes and we hear nothing. You will, I am sure, Mr. Speaker, agree with me that this is so, and it is due to the unscientific construction of this Hall. Sir, I read a bit of science and thereby I understand that the sound waves focus at some points; but the Hall is so constructed that from that focus the waves go round and do not reach the cardrums of the hon. members. I desire, that a sound expert should be consulted in order to reconstruct this Hall. This is my first point, which every hon. member of this House complains against.

Then, Mr. Speaker, the second point is the unsatisfactory sitting arrangement. Every hon. member feels this inconvenience. When we put our things on the desk they slide down and we cannot pick them up for want of sufficient space. As a result the pencil is missed, paper is missed, and some times the book also.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I think the hon. member approved of these plans.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: Yes, Sir, but I complain and bitterly complain, and I hope all the hon. members here agree with me when I say so. Sir, you have seen the rush of visitors after the inauguration of the Provincial Autonomy in this Province. There is naturally an over-anxiety on the part of the public to see the *tamasha*. [Laughter]

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The hon. member is not in order in using this disparaging term.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: In that case, Sir, I modify it and replace it by "our performances". None perhaps in this House is so keenly aware of the disappointment of the public than Mr. Speaker, you yourself are. Perhaps that has been your most unpleasant duty to reject applications for accommodation in the visitors' galleries. I would take liberty of this Hon'ble House to make certain suggestions. I think a very large number or number of visitors can be accommodated if my suggestions are given effect to. My suggestion first of all is that a gallery be opened in front (west side of the House), and that wall be demolished and a theatre be constructed that side. Then, Sir, to my mind a portion of the wall on the southern side might be demolished, and there might be an extension to make a gallery over there. This will accommodate more than

these two sides (North and East) accommodate, and this should be done in a manner so that all the visitors may be equally able to hear and see. We have also noticed the inconvenience that is felt all-round. I find in my front many anxious visitors taking their stand from behind. If a gallery were built that would not have been the case. Every one of the anxious and curious visitors would have been put to hear and see to the same extent.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: What is the hon. member's suggestion about acoustics?

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: I think, Sir, a very good engineer who is expert in acoustics, might be consulted in this respect, and also certain experiments might be performed here. A speaker might be posted to different points, and certain other persons might hear him from point to point.

Then Sir, the third point that I put forward is the defect in ventilation. That is a minor matter and it can be easily remedied. I do not lay more stress on this point than make a mere mention of it.

May I also suggest that there might be separate accommodation for ladies, so that it might encourage Moslem ladies. So far as I know of my community, most of them will not come but still provision of accommodation for purdah-nashin ladies might provide an incentive for them to come.

Sir, my friends are poking me to speak something about loudspeakers. I noticed the use of loudspeakers in the old Bengal Legislative Council, but I could not become enamoured of it. My experience of it did not appeal to me very much, but all the same I bring this point to your kind notice, as my hon. friends here are very anxious on this point.

Sir, with these few words I place my motion for the consideration of my hon. friends here.

[The motion was put by the Hon'ble Speaker.]

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAYYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: My hon. friend, the mover of this motion also wanted to speak about the unsatisfactory sitting arrangement, but, Sir, he forgot to mention it.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: I did mention it, Sir.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAYYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: There is another cut motion, Sir, No. 6 in which Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee wants to raise a discussion on the same subject. Is it not better that he speaks before any other hon. member.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Instead of moving a separate motion, the hon. member may speak on this motion. After this motion is discussed, his motion cannot be taken up; because the discussion will be barred by the discussion that is going on now.

MR. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the previous Speakers have contented themselves with airing the grievances of those persons who come here and look down upon us in this Assembly, but I propose to mention some of the grievances which we the members of this House feel. I do not suppose that my hon. friends will contend the proposition that I am competent more than any one else to expatiate on the discomforts that we are feeling in the House. I do not know the motive of the brilliant brains who designed these seats of torture. It may be that they were guided by a spirit of generosity; they wanted to keep us wide awake, that we might not

go off to sleep in the midst of our deliberations, or that they wanted these straight-backed-seats to straighten out our backbones? To what extent our backbones have been straightened up, it is for the House to judge. Whatever the motive, Sir, I would say that it was an act of perversity on their part to have taken this revenge on the members of this House in this way....

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : For what fault?

MR. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA : Because of the unpleasant duty of this House to criticise their actions (*laughter*) and the only revenge that I should like to have upon them is that they should also sit on these seats from 11 to 5 and listen to all sorts of speeches wise and otherwise, (*laughter*). So I submit that when any alterations are made, the attention of the authorities should be drawn to the fact that we come here to do a little work, and that we should be provided with reasonably comfortable seats to enable us to perform it without having to submit to such tortures?

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would like to bring to the notice of Government that, if my information is correct, in all other provinces suitable places are provided for the press reporters, but here I find that the newspaper reporters are being driven from post to pillar and pillar to post. They were first given a place just to my right, and then they were driven to that corner to the north-west, and now I find them amongst the visitors in "B" Gallery. I do not know if they can hear the speeches that are being delivered here especially from the opposition block.....

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH : They reported your 75 per cent. reduction all right.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI : Yes, but not that of yours and, therefore, I think they should be given a better place.

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to support this motion, and in supporting the motion I would like to mention the personal inconvenience which I have had to undergo during the last four weeks. I understand Mr. Chaudhury, the Hon'ble Minister for Revenue, is the loudest speaker amongst the members of the Cabinet, but even though I sit only some four or five cubits away from him I cannot hear what he says.

And then again, another complaint which has been made by many of my hon. friends sitting opposite is that they do not hear me though I speak out at the utmost top of my voice.

Then, again, Sir, it has been complained that the paint with which the walls have been painted hurts the eyesight. It has been complained of and I personally feel that when we look towards the wall we feel uncomfortable.

*A voice :—*you can suggest some colour.

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN : I would suggest green.

Then, again, I come to the question of seats. These are very uncomfortable. When anybody wants to go out from the middle he has to tread on other people's feet, and when anybody wants to write anything on the desk that has been provided he has to stoop in a very uncomfortable position. Then there is no place to keep our caps on, and we cannot be sitting here whole day holding it in our hands. Then, Sir, it reminds me that when I was reading in the School, in an Upper Primary School, I found that sometimes my books were taken away by other boys by mistake and sometimes it was the other way, and similarly in this House sometimes

when I go out I find that some of my papers have been taken away by someone by mistake. So I say that these seats are very uncomfortable; we are not here for an hour, but we have been here for the last one month, and sitting from 11 to 5, and this sort of discomfort cannot be endured for such a long period.

It is also true, as has been suggested by my hon. friend Khan Bahadur Keramat Ali, that the press reporters cannot hear all the people from this side of the House. They also complained, at least some of the reporters complained to me that they cannot hear what the people from this side say. No one here is stringent or unwilling to use his voice at the loudest but still if we hear all these complaints, it means that there is something really defective. With these words I would appeal to the Hon'ble Minister to see that some suitable arrangement should be made. There is one other thing I would like to mention. That is with regard to the seating arrangements for the Hon'ble Ministers. I think they should be allowed such seats that they may be able to face the House on all sides. Otherwise, on many occasions even the Hon'ble Revenue Minister and the Hon'ble Education Minister are not audible. Of course they are trying their utmost to become audible to all. But we cannot hear them. I think the voice is very easily audible from persons who are sitting in front of the Speaker. There seems to be some defect for which we are not able to hear. Then again, on the floor some arrangement of carpet should be made and at least the passage below the seats should be covered.

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MUHAMMAD CHAUDHURY: Sir, there have been so many gentlemen coming forward to support this motion that I am tempted to rise and oppose it. Otherwise, Sir, the motion will go without any opposition.

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: On a point of order, Sir, is that the spirit with which he should oppose the motion? He says that because so many members supported it.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The hon. member is quite at liberty to oppose the motion.

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MUHAMMAD CHAUDHURY: I am giving my reasons Sir, it is all very well for the hon. members Mr. Chanda or Mr. Mookerjee or Maulavi Munawwar Ali to say that they are finding it difficult and inconvenient with regard to the seating arrangements. But, Sir, I never feel any discomfort.

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: You are a straight line.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The hon. member should be allowed to go on.

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MUHAMMAD CHAUDHURY: Sir, it has been suggested that the walls should be painted green. But, Sir, I am myself green because I am a young man and I am representing the colour green in myself.

Now, Sir, the arrangement that has already been made at a great cost, if it is to be changed and altered that would mean much expenditure and we should try and economise expense in all ways.

So far as the press is concerned, we are not personally concerned with them. But they are certainly put to difficulty by present arrangements.

So far as the loud speakers are concerned even Maulavi Munawwar Ali had to admit that there was one experiment in the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta and after 24 hours that had to be removed. A loud speaker in a

House like this is not probably suitable and will not serve the purpose. Ladies should not be allowed to come out and look down upon us—and Sir, who will look after our children?

So far as the Hon'ble the Revenue Member's voice is concerned, I should say there is no certainty in the voice of any one. It sometimes happens to be loud and at times it is not and those sitting in the extreme corners will always have difficulty in hearing now and then. I am afraid we cannot have it louder by any sort of application made to him. As I said it is natural that it fails sometimes. And we cannot repair or improve it.

With these words I oppose the motion.

MR. JOBANG D. MARAK : Sir, I support the motion (*loud laughter*). I think, Sir, I have carefully noted all the suggestions made by the hon. mover but I am sorry to say that the hon. mover has left out one very important item, and that is the seating arrangements made for the Hon'ble Ministers which are inconvenient. In this House it is very important that we should all hear the Ministers' speeches and hear what all they say. Otherwise we are disappointed altogether. So it was suggested by one of the previous speakers that their seats should be placed in the front of your seat.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : That cannot be done.

MR. JOBANG D. MARAK : Of course Sir I am not familiar with the seating arrangements made in this House. I am simply saying what my personal opinion is.

Another thing is this. The Hon'ble Ministers have so many big files and it is very very inconvenient for them to lay the files on the floor and, therefore, some sort of arrangement should be made for them. They should be given tables or bigger desks should be provided for them.

Of course as far as our seats are concerned, I could agree with the last speaker because we are comfortable (*loud laughter*). But, Sir, the other point that further extension should be made for the gallery for the public, I agree, in this with the mover. The public must have interest in the affairs of this House. I quite agree with the proposal for this extension. I also agree with regard to other points also. With these words I support the motion.

BABU DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURY : Mr Speaker, Sir, all the bulky Members of the House got up and supported the hon. Mover. The Hon'ble Ministers have also their supporters. But alas there was none who came to the relief of the lean and thin tall figures. Sir, myself and my hon. friend here (Srijut Debeswar Sarmah) have our own grievances. We cannot stretch our knees and feel as if we are in bar fetters in a prison house. When we have to pass one another we find it a great difficulty. We have to raise our legs upwards and put the heads downwards. That is the punishment we are put to. Again, Sir, as regards the voices, day in and day out, we have heard complaints that we cannot hear the Hon'ble Members. Sir, before we came to the House we heard that the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister was a great orator. But when we are here what do we find? We do not hear him on many occasions and we only see his theatrical gestures and performances and waving locks of his bobbed hairs. The other day we heard from the Hon'ble the Chief Minister that his chest is wide enough. In spite of his strong lungs, we cannot always hear him well. Therefore, some arrangement should be made so that we may follow and hear the Hon'ble Members of the House.

Again, as regards the gallery, we hear that on the last occasion it was complained by the Public Works Department that if there be such visitors, the galleries may collapse. If that be the case, I must say the construction of the galleries must have been defective and as such there must be some arrangement so that it may be properly constructed.

One other thing I must mention is the provision of carpets. For want of it I myself slipped twice and I was almost breaking my knees but for one Hon'ble European gentleman coming to my rescue. Then I should have gone to my constituency and told them that I had broken my knees in trying to serve them. I therefore suggest carpetting.

Also, there is no arrangement for proper ventilation. On account of that we feel headache and giddy often times by hearing the same song from day to day in support of the Ministry just as my hon. friend Mr. Morak does.

With these few suggestions I support the motion.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I think the Hon'ble Chief Minister should reply.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am in a difficulty as regards this motion for you know, Sir, that you are in charge of the Assembly Department as well as this Chamber.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: But I always look to the Leader of the House to speak on my behalf.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I want simply to place certain facts before the hon. members. As regards the defective construction of this hall, of all persons my hon. friend, the mover, Maulavi Munawwar Ali ought to know that it was he who started this hall. It was built in 1921 when he was a member of the old Council. Even I who came to represent Assam Valley in the Legislative Council since 1913 was absent at that period. So if there was any difficulty in the hall, either in construction or acoustics, its existence dates from 1921 and I have not heard any complaint from him so long. This hall, including its adjuncts, was constructed at a cost of nearly 3 lakhs. A remodelling of the present hall will cost quite a good amount. Sir, I myself, as a science student, has read a little bit of acoustics, but I would not like to bring it out of my rusty memory and speak as to how to remove the defects. As my hon. friend said, it would be the duty of an expert in acoustics to see how the audibility in the House can be increased. What I want to point out, Sir is that it will not be in good taste to criticise either this Government or the Hon'ble Speaker who is in charge of the Assembly and this House for a defect which has been in existence for the last 16 years.

MAULAVI MUNAWWARALI: On a point of explanation, Sir. I do not criticise anybody, but what I want is the removal of the defects.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The word "criticism" is the c, Sir, in the note to the motion—"to criticise the defective construction of the Assembly Hall".

The next item is about the unsatisfactory seating arrangements. About that, Sir, hon. members, and especially you, Sir, know that the seating arrangement was evolved after prolonged discussion between the Hon'ble President of the old Council and Mr. Blank, the Secretary of the Legislative Council then, and the Chief Engineer. The Hon'ble President went the length of having sample seats of the type that is reproduced here. But they were tested by—unfortunately for us—the then President, the Hon'ble Maulavi Faizur Ali, who represents in type my hon. friends Sriji Deveswar Sarmah and Babu Dakshina Ranjan Gupta, and this sample was passed. All these arrangements have cost nearly Rs.10,000.

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKHERJEE: Probably he did not think of people like Mr. Chanda and myself.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: If these seating arrangements are to be re-done for the comfort of myself or my *vis-a-vis* over there, for the comfort of Mr. Chanda or for the matter of that for my friend Mr. Osman Sadagar at the opposite corner it would cost a good deal more.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN: What about Maulavi Sayidur Rahman?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: He did not complain. That will mean, Sir, that we should spend at least another Rs.5,000 if not more. I am at one with my hon. friend, Maulavi Munawwarali when he says that these desks are so constructed that you cannot keep anything over them. Every thing rolls off. Most probably hon. members have noticed me always begging of the assistant for a pencil, because my pencil always rolls down. But I must warn him about one thing. If he wants that there should be some kind of obstruction, or in order to accommodate my friend, Mr. Abdur Rahman, to give him a bigger desk to write on, he will have to consider his own bulk as evidenced by the difficulty in which I stand. I spoke to the Hon'ble Speaker that the Ministers shall have to bring a large number of files and that therefore in making seating arrangements, the desks should be a little broader. The result is, although my friends, have got only 12 inches of torture, we have been provided with 25 inches of the same stuff. As a matter of fact, though I am broad about the chest, I have unfortunately a broader waist measurement, and so cannot stand in my seat on account of the desk and I have always to get outside and violate the rule of not facing the Hon'ble Speaker. On account of my taking position this way and also on account of the fact that I have a large number of files, I generally block the traffic in the passage by my side. I have got about 25 files on the way at present. I am afraid I will be hauled up some day for damages if some members tumble down and get hurt.

All the suggestions that have been made will be duly considered by the Hon'ble Speaker who is in charge of the Assembly, and if with our local knowledge and local experts, any improvement can be made, we will try to meet them.

As regards acoustics, Sir, I have got personal knowledge of the Calcutta High Court, where the court rooms have got the same difficulty. Some engineers tried various kinds of experiments. In many of those rooms they hung wires. Their idea was that these wires would obstruct the wave lengths so that the audibility will be improved. But these attempts ended in failure. In the sessions court, an amplifier was tried, with the result that it had to be removed within 24 hours. I have got my own experience with the loud-speaker and amplifiers which are used in big meetings. These have got the effect of making the voice have a very metallic twang and of making the sound very unpleasant after a short time.

Then as regards the galleries, the hon. mover has suggested having a sort of theatre on the west. For a big assemblage like this, it is necessary for members to go to the lounge room and rest and go to the library also. The visitors who go to the gallery will have to go by the respective staircases. A gallery in this side will entirely close the foyer and members will be inconvenienced in going to the lounge and the library. Next it was suggested that there should be another visitors' gallery on the south. That would, I believe, Sir, spoil the symmetry of the building and also would mean quite a good amount. I doubt whether the supports and posts that are on this side of the hall have been made so heavy as to bear the weight of a gallery on the top.

Then, Sir, as regards defective ventilation. There cannot be any difficulty here, but that ventilation can be very easily provided by making those glass windows on the top movable. But one defect is that generally in the winter we get the sun from the southern side and those who have sat

in the old Council during those days know that we had been compelled to request the then Hon'ble President to put shutters to keep the sun shine from troubling us.

Sir, all these defects will be considered very carefully by the Department and after we have thought over the matter and given our instruction, those that are feasible will be carried out by the Public Works Department which is in my charge. In fact, I think, it will be admitted on all hands that the intention of my hon. friend Maulavi Munawwar Ali has been achieved and he will be pleased to withdraw his cut motion.

THE HON'BLE the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Chief Minister has said that with regard to the requirements of the members of this House it is the Speaker who is to put up proposals and that when these proposals would be put up he as the Finance Minister will certainly consider them.

Now with regard to the defects that have been pointed out by the hon. members I should inform the House that on the very first day when I entered this hall, I noticed all these defects and when this House was pleased to place me in occupation of this Chair I at once directed my attention to see what I could do in order to remove these defects. The accommodation of the visitors including the press reporters attracted my attention first and with regard to that I had consultations with the Chief Engineer and the Superintending Engineer; and when there were complaints from the press reporters that the gallery that was allotted to them was not adequate and was not a suitable place for them, I thought of shifting their place to the "B" gallery and had the present arrangement made. The arrangement that has been made is only experimental.

With regard to the seats, I thought over this matter; but one of the defects the hon. members are complaining of is due to the fact that this hall, which was built for accommodation of 53 members in the old Council is being utilised for the accommodation of 108 members including myself. Now if the seats are to be made commodious and comfortable for the members then I do not know what suitable arrangement can be devised in this hall without making it cramped. Now if these seats be made wider then the space that has been left for the Reporters will not be such as the hon. members now see. There will be more encroachment on their space and we shall find that the comfort which we are now hankering after will not be real comfort. But with the existing arrangement we shall see what can be done to carry out the suggestions of the hon. members. And at the earliest opportunity I shall put up my proposals and give suggestions. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has told the House that when these proposals would be put up and suggestions given, he would consult the experts and do whatever he can.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: On the assurance given by the Hon'ble Chief Minister and the statement that you, Mr. Speaker, have made I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

The motion was with the leave of the House withdrawn.

THE HON'BLE the SPEAKER: Then comes the motion* which stands in the name of Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma. Of course I think this motion is not in order. He wants to raise a discussion for shifting the offices of Registration and Sadar Sub-Deputy Collector at Nowgong and granting Rs.7,000 for the purpose to vacate the settlement buildings to make room by exchange of buildings for the Girls' High English School of Nowgong.

* That the provision of Rs.40,000 under Grant No.24, Major head -50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(a)—Buildings, detailed head—Registration at page 169 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100.

(To raise a discussion for shifting the offices of registration and Sadar Sub-Deputy Collector at Nowgong and granting Rs.7,000 for the purpose to vacate the Settlement buildings to make room by exchange of buildings for the Girls' High English Schools of Nowgong.)

Now the shifting of the office of Registration and Sub-Deputy Collector did not rest with the Public Works Department. That was decided by another department. The Public Works Department is only to carry out the orders of that Department.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA : Sir, I think this cut motion is relevant to this demand, because the Government of Assam through the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Division wrote to the Secretary of the Nowgong Girls' High School that there was a provision made for the purpose of building a separate house for the offices of Registration and Sadar Sub-Deputy Collector and others in order to make an arrangement for the exchange of the settlement buildings with some other buildings for the Girls' High School at Nowgong ; and that is why I have brought this motion.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : I think that was an arrangement made between two Departments—the Education Department and the Registration Department and on the strength of that arrangement the shifting of these offices has been sanctioned and the building is going to be constructed.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA : Some provision ought to be made for building the Sub-Registry office, Sub-Deputy Collector's office and some other offices that will make accommodation in the settlement buildings in Nowgong for the Dawson High School.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : But that is not to be decided by the Public Works Department. The decision is to be made by the Department concerned.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI : What the hon. member perhaps wants is this. The Departments concerned made the arrangement under the advice of the Public Works Department. First of all they asked the Public Works Department to advise them as to whether this can be done or not and is the Public Works Department advised them they made the arrangement.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : I do not know whether that is a fact. The Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Works Department will please explain.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : The Public Works Department has absolutely nothing to do with this. As the note suggests, the point that my hon. friend wanted to discuss is about shifting of the offices of Registration and Sadar Sub-Deputy Collector at Nowgong, and granting Rs.7,000 to some institution for the purpose of vacating the settlement buildings to make room by exchange for the Girls' High School of Nowgong.

In the first place the Public Works Department has got no cash fund at their disposal to make grants to other Departments.

In the next place there is the old settlement building no longer used by the Revenue Department, as the settlement operations have been finished. That building was sought by the public of Nowgong for the purpose of establishing a girls' school there, but in the meantime the Sub-Registrar and the Sub-Deputy Collector of the Sadar Circle were given some rooms to start their offices in. All these concerns the administrative Departments and the Public Works Department have nothing to do. In that view, Sir, you are perfectly justified in saying that the Public Works Department cannot be held responsible for the arrangement and for the promise of grant that seems to have been made by the late Government.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.39,31,117 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1933 for the administration of the head 50 Civil Works—(Excluding Establishment and Tools and Plant charges).

The motion was carried.

GRANT No. 20

41—VETERINARY

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.1,59,200 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 Head "41.—Veterinary".

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

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN: I beg, Sir, to move that the provision of Rs.3,500 under Grant No. 20, Major Head 41.—Veterinary, Minor head—A.—Superintendence, Sub-head—3.—Allowances and Honoraria, Detailed head—Travelling allowance of Officers, at page 154 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100.

Sir, I move this cut motion to criticise the Government policy on the workings of the Department about inadequacy of Veterinary Staff, utter negligence or indifference to introduce Goat-Virus Serum for the protection of cattle in Assam, etc.

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN: সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, আমাৰ এই ডিপাৰ্টমেন্টো আৰম্ভ কৰা আছিল ৩০ বছৰ হৈছে। এই ৩০ বছৰ ভিতৰত মাত্ৰ ৬০ জন ভেটেনাৰী এচিষ্টেণ্ট চাৰ্জৰ্ণ, ৪ জন ইন্সপেক্টৰ আৰু এজন চুপাৰিনটেণ্ডেণ্ট এই ডিপাৰ্টমেন্টৰ কাম কৰিবৰ নিমিত্তে নিযুক্ত হৈছে। ভাৰতৰ অন্যান্য ঠাইত এই ডিপাৰ্টমেন্টে বহুতো উন্নতি কৰিছে আৰু ভেটেনাৰী বিভাগ যি খুব আৱশ্যকীয় এই বিষয়ে ভাৰতৰ সকলো প্ৰদেশতে সকলোৰে স্বীকাৰ কৰিছে, আৰু সেই বিভাগৰ নিমিত্তে সকলো প্ৰদেশতে যথেষ্ট টকা ব্যয় কৰা হয়। কিন্তু আমাৰ আমাৰ দেশত গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে এই ডিপাৰ্টমেন্টক সমূলি neglect অৰ্থাৎ আওহেলা কৰিছে। এইটো সকলোৰেই স্বীকাৰ কৰিব যে গৰুৰ উন্নতিৰ ওপৰতহে বায়তৰ অৱস্থা বিশেষকৈ নিৰ্ভৰ কৰে। বায়তৰ সম্বল হৈছে গৰু, ম'হ, ছাগলী, ঘোঁৰা ইত্যাদি জন্তু বিলাকেই। এই জন্তু বিলাকে সিবিলাকৰ খেতিবাতি, বেহাৰোপাৰ আদি সকলোতে সহায় কৰে। আমাৰ দেশৰ প্ৰাকৃতিক অৱস্থাৰ কাৰণে খেতিয়ক সকলে অন্য কোনো বস্তু বা আধুনিক method গ্ৰহণ কৰিব নোৱাৰে। যি বিলাকে কলৰ নাঙল ব্যৱহাৰ কৰিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰি চাইছে, সিবিলাক তাত বিফল হৈছে। গৰু ম'হৰ বাহিৰে অন্য একোৰ দ্বাৰা খেতি কৰিব পৰা নাই। এনে আৱশ্যকীয় বিভাগটোৰ উন্নতি কৰিবৰ নিমিত্তে গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে একেবাৰেই মন দিয়া নাই। লিনলিথ'গ' কমিশ্বনৰ ৰিপোৰ্ট মতে আমাৰ দেশত ৫৭,৮৫,০০০ গৰু আছে; এই সংখ্যা—ঘোঁৰা, ম'হ ছাগলী আদি জন্তু বিলাকক ধৰা হোৱা নাই। এই ৫৭,৮৫,০০০ গৰুৰ ৬০ জন ভেটেনাৰী এচিষ্টেণ্ট চাৰ্জৰ্ণে চিকিৎসা কৰিবলৈ হলে গড়ে জন প্ৰতি প্ৰায় এক লাখকৈ পৰে। কিন্তু বয়েল কমিশ্বনৰ মতে এজন ভেটেনাৰী ডাক্তৰে ২৫ হেজাৰ গৰু ম'হ চিকিৎসা কৰিব পাৰে। সিদিনাখন অনাৰেবোল এগ্ৰিকালচাৰ বিভাগৰ মিনিষ্টাৰে যিটো হিচাপ দিছে তাৰ পৰা দেখা যায় যে কোনো কোনো জিলাত যেনে নগাঁৱত প্ৰায় ১৫ লাখকৈ একোজন ভেটেনাৰী এচিষ্টেণ্ট চাৰ্জৰ্ণৰ ভাগত পৰিছে। নগাঁৱত মুঠই তিনিজন ভেটেনাৰী এচিষ্টেণ্ট চাৰ্জৰ্ণ

আছে। একোজন ২২ লাখকৈ গৰু চিকিৎসা কৰা যে অসম্ভৱ তাক সহজে বুজিব পাৰি। ভেটেনাৰী ডাক্তৰ সকলে সিংবিলাতৰ সামৰ্থ্যৰ অতিবিক্ত কাম কৰিব লগীয়া হৈছে। সেই নিমিত্তে ভেটেনাৰী ডাক্তৰ বিলাক ঘনাই ঘনাই বেমাৰত পৰে। সংখ্যা কম হোৱাৰ নিমিত্তে তেওঁবিলাকে আটাই বিগাক গৰুৰ protection দিব বা বন্ধা কৰিব পৰা নাই, আৰু একোজন ডাক্তৰে গড়ে ১,০২১ বৰ্গ মাথলকৈ ঘূৰিব লাগে। এইটো physically impossible অৰ্থাৎ কোনো মানুহৰ শাৰীৰিক সামৰ্থ্যৰে এই কাম কৰিব নোৱাৰে। আমাৰ ইয়াত যি কেইজন ডাক্তৰ আছে তেওঁবিলাকে প্ৰকৃতপক্ষে অন্যান্য প্ৰদেশতকৈ দুগুণ পৰিশ্ৰম কৰিব লগীয়া হৈছে আৰু বাস্তবিকতে তেওঁবিলাকে কৰিছেও। ইয়াৰ ভিতৰত যোৱা ৫ বছৰত ১ লাখ ১০ হাজাৰ গৰু মৰিছে। তাৰ মানে প্ৰত্যেক বছৰত গড়ে ২২ হাজাৰকৈ গৰু মৰিছে। কিন্তু প্ৰকৃত পক্ষে এই সংখ্যাটো ঠিক নহয়। কাৰণ ভেটেনাৰী ডাক্তৰ সকলে যেতিয়া গৰু চিকিৎসা কৰিবলৈ যি যি গাঁৱলৈ যায় তেতিয়া তেওঁবিলাকে এই মৃত্যুৰ সংখ্যা গাৱঁৰ মানুহৰ পৰা সংগ্ৰহ কৰে। প্ৰকৃত পক্ষে ইয়াৰ তিনিগুণ গৰুৰ মৃত্যু হৈছে। ইয়াৰ পৰাই বুজিব পাৰিব প্ৰকৃততে বাইতৰ কিমান ভদ্ৰ প্ৰত্যেক বছৰে নষ্ট হৈছে। ইয়াৰ ভিতৰত ৬৫ হাজাৰ গৰু reinderpest বা গো বসন্তত যোৱা ৫ বছৰৰ ভিতৰত মৰিছে। তাৰ মানে প্ৰত্যেক বছৰত গড়ে ১৩ হাজাৰকৈ গৰু reinderpest বা ভহনি বেমাৰত মৰিছে। এই যে rinderpest বা গো বসন্ত বেমাৰত ইমানবোৰ গৰু মৰিছে তাক গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ ৰিপোৰ্টতে উল্লেখ কৰা হৈছে প্ৰকৃততে ইয়াৰ তিনি চাৰি গুণ গৰু নৰে। আজিকালি এই বেমাৰৰ চিকিৎসা কৰা অতি সহজ হৈ পৰিছে। আগেয়ে Serum Alone (চিৰাম এলন) নামে এটা দৰবেৰে এই বেমাৰৰ চিকিৎসা কৰা হৈছিল আৰু তাৰ ফল মুঠেই ৯ দিনলৈহে থাকে। আৰু ১৯৩৫-৩৬ চনৰ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ ৰিপোৰ্টৰ পৰা দেখা যায় যে চিৰাম এলন দি ২৭,৪১৫টা গৰু চিকিৎসা কৰিছিল প্ৰত্যেক হাজাৰত ৪০০ টকা খৰচ হৈছিল। মুঠতে গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে ১১ হাজাৰ টকা এই চিকিৎসাৰ নিমিত্তে খৰচ কৰিছিল। পিচত ৭০,০৮১টা গৰু Goat-Virus Serumৰে চিকিৎসা কৰোঁতে প্ৰত্যেক হাজাৰত ৬ টকাকৈ মাত্ৰ খৰচ কৰিছিল; অৰ্থাৎ ৭০,০৮১টা গৰু মাত্ৰ ৪২০ টকা খৰচ কৰিয়েই চিকিৎসা কৰিব পাৰিছে। এই Goat-Virus injection আগেয়ে মুক্তেশ্বৰৰ পৰা অনা হৈছিল; এতিয়া বঙ্গদেশৰ পৰা অনা হয়। এই Goat-Virus যদি গোহাটীত তৈয়াৰ কৰা হয় তেনেহলে ৬ টকাৰে ১৫ হাজাৰৰ পৰা ২০ হাজাৰলৈকে গৰু বন্ধা কৰিব পাৰিব। তৰ্কস্থলত তাৰ আধা ধৰিলেও অৰ্থাৎ ৬ টকাত ১০ হাজাৰকৈ ধৰিলেও ৩,৪৮০ টকাৰে গোটেই ৫৮ লাখ গৰু বন্ধা কৰিব পাৰিব আৰু সি ১০ বছৰলৈ স্থায়ী হব। এনে স্থলতো গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে আমাৰ ইয়াতে এই Goat-Virus তৈয়াৰ কৰিবৰ কোনো ব্যৱস্থা কৰা নাই। কিন্তু গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ ৰিপোৰ্টৰ পৰা দেখা যায় যে আগেয়ে এই Goat-Virus তৈয়াৰ কৰিবৰ নিমিত্তে গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে গোহাটীত তেনেকুৱা arrangement বা ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছিল; কিন্তু কি কাৰনে এতিয়া বন্ধ কৰি ৰাখিছে তাক বুজা টান। অনাৰেবোল ৰেভিনিউ মিনিষ্টাৰ স্ৰীযুত বোহিনী কুমাৰ চৌধুৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই এবাৰ ভেটেনাৰী এচিষ্টেণ্ট

চাকৰিৰ এচিয়েচনত সভাপতি হওঁত কৈছিল যে ভেটেনাৰী ডিপাৰ্টমেন্টটো হ'ব এৰে বৰে খতম কৰিব লাগে নহ'ল তাৰ উন্নতি কৰিব লাগে। তেখেতে suggestion দিছিল যে আসামত Goat-Virus Serum কবোতে বি saving হয় সেই টকাৰে ভেটেনাৰী ডাক্তৰ বাখি তাৰ দ্বাৰা গৰু বিলাকক বক্ষা কৰিবলৈ ব্যবস্থা কৰিব লাগে। কিন্তু আচাৰিত কথা বে এতিয়াও সেই ব্যবস্থা কথা হোৱা নাই।

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The hon. member has spoken for 12 minutes.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, the subject matter of his speech is rather interesting and I think the hon. member may be allowed to go on.

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN: আৰু weedy bullsৰ নিশ্চয়তা উত্তৰা সম্বন্ধে এটা কথা কওঁ। ১৯৩৪।৩৫ চনত ২৩,২২২ আৰু ১৯৩৫।৩৬ চনত ২৫,৩১৪ weedy bulls বন্ধোৱা হৈছে। সেই ঠাইত গৰ্ভমণ্ডে ১৯৩৪।৩৫ চনত ৬৫টা আৰু ১৯৩৫।৩৬ চনত ৯৩টা breeding bull বা বাঁড় গৰু দিছে। breeding bull (বাঁড়) যথেষ্ট পৰিমাণে নিদিয়াৰ কাৰণে গাই বিলাক uncovered হৈ থাকে (সাৰ খাবলৈ নাপায়) আৰু তাৰ নিমিত্তে গাই বিলাক বাজী হৈ যাব লাগিছে আৰু পোৱালী হলেও ক্ৰিটিবা নেমেবা হয়গৈ। যদিও এই weedy bulls বিলাক নষ্ট কৰিবলৈ departmentএ হুকুম দিছে তথাপি মোৰ মনেৰে ভেটেনাৰী চুপাৰিন্টেন্ডেণ্টে খুব জোৰাৰি এই weedy bulls বিলাক নষ্ট কৰাইছে। গৰ্ভমণ্ডেৰ উদ্দেশ্য আছিল বোধকৰো weedy bulls বোৰ শুচাই তাৰ ঠাইত ভাল ভাল bulls ৰখা। Weedy bulls বোৰ castrate কৰি যদি গৰ্ভমণ্ডে stud bull supply নকৰে তেনেহলে দেশৰ অপকাৰন বাগিৰে উপকাৰ হোৱা টান। মই আশা কৰো অশান্ত অনাবোলা দেশৰ সকলো এই বিষয়ে বিবেচনা কৰি চাব। এই ডিপাৰ্টমেন্ট এটা অতি আৱশ্যকীয় ডিপাৰ্টমেন্ট; কিন্তু প্রকৃত পক্ষে ইয়াক ভালকৈ চলোৱা হোৱা নাই। ইয়াকৈ মই এই প্রস্তাবটো দাখিল ধৰিলো।

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The motion moved is that the provision of Rs.3,500 under Grant No.20, Major head 41.—Veterinary, Minor head A.—Superintendence, Sub-head—3.—Allowances and Honoraria, Detailed head—Travelling allowance of officers, at page 154 of the budget be reduced by Rs.100.

SRIJUT LAKHESVAR BOROOAH: Sir, I congratulate my hon. friend Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan for bringing in this important matter for discussion on the floor of this House and the able way in which he moved it. I endorse every word that my hon. friend has spoken just now. Under the present arrangement Sir, only two Veterinary Surgeons are provided in the subdivision to minister to the needs of thousand villages. I may say for certain that this is true in the case of my subdivision Dibrugarh, where the two Veterinary Surgeons have got to go round 1,894 villages besides attending to the houses

of the Assam Valley Light Horse and the Polo ponies of European Tea Planters, who live in large number in my subdivision. Sir, you will be surprised to hear that one of these two miserable creatures has got to go about 1,147 villages and to traverse an area of 2,872 square miles with a bicycle. Sir, the present arrangement to meet the requirements of the villages is unsatisfactory. To add to the situation, Sir, we find from the reply given by the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture to question No. 596 of hon. Srijut Gaurikanta Talukdar that he proposes to buy and distribute breeding bulls for Rs.50,000. We find, Sir, that in the budget not a single pie has been provided to look to the health of the innumerable animals that are going to be purchased with the huge amount. It requires no foreteller to say that the animals would lie in danger of succumbing to the diseases that appear so frequently in the villages. Sir, the time is very short and with these few words I support the motion of my hon. friend Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan.

SRIJUT GAURIKANTA TALUKDAR: Sir, I rise to point out to the Government only one matter *viz.*, the question of prevention of the disease known as Rinderpest. This disease takes away a very large number of our cattle population every year. Formerly this disease was combated with the 'Scrum Alone' system which used to cost the Government thousands of rupees. Now-a-days the 'Goat-Tissue' vaccines are used as preventive and they are said to be very efficacious. This vaccine, Sir, is at present brought from Bengal. But if the vaccine be prepared locally the cost will be nominal. We are told that this vaccine prepared locally for the use of 1,000 cattle will cost about Rs 6 whereas the vaccines for the same number of cattle if purchased from elsewhere will cost about Rs.400. So I urge the Government to prepare the vaccine locally. This vaccine can very easily be prepared in this province without the help of an expert. I understand, Sir, that there was a move that the vaccine should be prepared locally at Gauhati and that some implements were also purchased for this purpose and that they are lying unused at the Guahati Veterinary Hospital. This scheme Sir, should have been given effect to and it should not have been kept in abeyance so long. With these few words, Sir, I support the motion.

MR. JOBANG D. MARAK: Sir, I like to speak a few words in connection with this motion. There is inadequate staff of Veterinary Officers in Garo Hills. Our district is a big one but we have got only one Veterinary Assistant Surgeon.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: As the hon. member knows the scope of the discussion is limited.....

MR. JOBANG D. MARAK: I will finish it soon, Sir. I find that the Veterinary Assistant Surgeon is practically doing nothing there in Garo Hills. He renders no help to the poor cultivators in the country side. He is stationed at Tura but he has not got any sufficient medicine. He is just like a man who goes to his field and without plough, etc. If any cultivator comes for any medicine then he cannot give any medicine. So I place this fact before the House and I hope the Hon'ble Minister will take steps to increase the number of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons in Garo Hills and also supply adequate medicine for the need of the poor people. With these few words I support the motion and beg to resume my seat.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI: I hope the Hon'ble Minister in charge will at once agree with me when I say that the Veterinary Department has been very inadequately staffed. The number of Veterinary Surgeons is indeed very small in the Jorhat subdivision. There are only two Veterinary Assistant Surgeons and they cannot look after all the villages, even sometimes in the town they are not available. Therefore I think, the sooner the number of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons is increased the better.

As regards the second point I do not understand what the hon. mover means. He wants to criticise "utter negligence or indifference to introduce Goat-Virus Serum for the protection of the cattle in Assam". I do not know whether in Nowgong this serum has been introduced at all, but I know personally that this serum was introduced at least in Jorhat. I myself had the opportunity of accompanying the Veterinary Superintendent to certain Mauzas, where these serums were introduced; some cattle were treated with these serums, and great effect was seen as a result of this in the villages. It has been asked why these serums have not been manufactured in this Province. I consulted the Veterinary Superintendent and asked him whether they can be manufactured here. He told me that the cost would be very great, and it was not at all necessary to manufacture serums here.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, I will just speak about one point, which has been mentioned by my hon. friends, and that is about not manufacturing Goat-Tissue Serum in this province. As regards the rest my friend the Hon'ble Minister in charge will reply.

I am glad to find that the hon. mover has very appreciatively spoken about the introduction of Goat-Tissue Serum for preventing cattle mortality in this province. But I find in the note, as has just now been mentioned by my hon. friend the Khan Bahadur, that it was the idea of the hon. mover to censure Government for utter negligence or indifference to introduce Goat-Virus Serum for the protection of the cattle in Assam. Sir, the note and the speech are contradictory. In this respect, I am able to inform the House that last year 1,14,000 cattle were injected with this Goat-Tissue Serum, and it cost us only Rs. 900. Formerly when the ordinary Serum was used, it used to cost us Rs. 4,300. Previous Government calculated the cost to the province, if Goat-Tissue Serum is produced in our own laboratory at Gauhati; it was found that it would mean an annual recurring cost of Rs. 12,000 and therefore the scheme was stopped. At present we are spending less than Rs. 1,000 in getting the Serum that is necessary, and we can get the Serum quickly from Bengal and at the same time quite cheaply. Therefore, Sir, instead of the Department being censured it ought to be congratulated on the fine achievement it has scored. Under the able and enthusiastic supervision of our friend, Rai Sahib S. Ghosh, this Department has been able to show great benefits to the raiyats as regards prevention of cattle mortality.

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Sir, I support my hon. friend Srijut Lakshesvar Barooah regarding the dearth of Veterinary Officers in our part of the country. Recently there was an epidemic and it was found that the number of veterinary officers posted was quite insufficient to cope with the disease. So I am at one with the hon. members who say that this Department is under-staffed. The Veterinary Department is closely connected with the Agriculture Department. So, I want to direct the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge that if he wants to improve the agriculture of our province, I think he should reinforce the Veterinary Department.

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN: Sir, I am also of the same opinion with the hon. mover in respect of inadequacy of the staff that are maintained by Government under the Veterinary Department.

During the question hour, Sir, I put several questions to the Hon'ble Minister in charge, and he admitted that the staff is very inadequate. Now, Sir, as for myself, I have personal experience that in a subdivision like Habiganj only two Veterinary Sub-Assistant Surgeons are provided. They

are required to run from North to South of the subdivision—the distance being 60 miles. Sir, one is posted at Shaistaganj, and he is to go just up to the border of Bengal, and up to the border of Maulvi Bazar subdivision to look to the condition of those areas. There is another difficulty, Sir. During their absence from the station if there is any epidemic—a sudden outbreak of disease—people go to their places but do not get them in proper time.

Again, Sir, another complaint I received from the public generally is that sometimes these doctors charge fees. I put some questions this morning on this point also, but I could not get a clear reply from the Hon'ble Minister, as to whether they should charge anything. I want to know clearly from the Hon'ble Minister whether these doctors are all entitled to charge anything.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: Sir, I admit that we are short of staff in this Department, and I have probably said in reply to some questions that we are considering the matter. As regards Goat-Tissue vaccines—its utility and the cost which it will involve if it is to be manufactured here—has been clearly mentioned by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. So I do not think it necessary to repeat it again.

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN: তেপেতে কৈছে বে virus serum
তৈয়াৰ কৰিলে ১২,০০০ টকা খৰচ হ'ব। মই সেইটো মানি বে নেবাৰো। খুব বেচি
হলে দুহাজাৰ টকা খৰচ হ'ব পাৰে।

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, the Veterinary Superintendent is here. I consulted him and the figures that I gave were obtained from him.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: As regards charging of fees just now stated by one hon. member I think they are entitled to fees, but not during the epidemic period.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: On a point of information, Sir. We could not follow whether the Hon'ble Minister is going to give us more Veterinary Assistants.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: I have said the matter is under consideration, and I hope more men would be provided.

But the difficulty, Sir, is that it is a matter for the local boards to take initiative. We have written them to take up this in hand and Government hope that things will improve in future.

Lastly, about Garo Hills, I will not forget the request put forward by Mr. Marak.

MR. BAIDYANAT MOOKERJEE: Are we to understand that our grievances will be removed very soon?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: Yes Sir, I hope so.

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN: মন্থো মন্থাংগে assurance দিব্বাৰ নিবিত্তে
মই Hon'ble House ৰ অনুমতি গৈ এই প্ৰস্তাবটো withdraw কৰিলো।

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

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.1,59,200 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 Head—"41.—Veterinary".

The motion was adopted.

GRANT NO. 21

42—Co-operative credit

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.1,00,600 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—"42.—Co-operative Credit".

The motion was put by the Hon'ble Speaker.

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 7,880 under Grant No. 21, Major head—42.—Co-operative Credit, Minor head—A.—Superintendence, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Assistant Registrars, at page 158 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., that the amount of the Grant do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To criticise the general policy of the Department and its failure to satisfy the needs of the province.)

Sir, in moving this motion my object is to draw the attention of the authorities to some of the prominent defects of this Department.

Sir, I should say that this Department of Co-operative Credit is not a Department of co-operation but of non-co-operation.....

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: We cannot hear the hon. member, Sir.

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: The House is defective.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI: Is there any objection to the hon. member coming forward?

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: It may be that all the members will have to do the same thing.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The hon. member can come forward and take one of the front seats and speak therefrom.

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: I said, Sir, that this is a department of non-co-operation because the Co-operative Department have not co-operated with the basic principles and ideas of co-operation, and it is a department of non-co-operation because the officers and co-operators themselves also non-co-operate with the actual facts and circumstances prevailing in the province. Therefore they are not really able to satisfy the needs of the province. This Department is rather considered by the people as a money lending department of the Government. The people do not view this Department in its true perspective. We find that Co-operative Societies have grown up like mushrooms in the province in recent years, but they have not yet imbibed the true spirit of co-operation among themselves, and the result has been unsuccessful law suits, *benami* transactions and bogus societies. So this Department should try to diffuse the true spirit of co-operation amongst the villagers in order to ensure success of their policy.

Sir, there are two kinds of societies—credit and non-credit. About the credit societies; we have got the rural agricultural societies and the industrial societies. Now, as for the agricultural societies; the agriculturist require loans for two purposes, one to meet their seasonal demands at the time of cultivation for the purchase of seeds, cattle, etc.—temporary necessities which they are to meet; and another, a long term loan, to wipe off their past indebtedness. These are the two kinds of loan, a short period loan and a long period loan. Our Co-operative Department have confused and conglomerated these two ideas. The same Society is giving loans repayable in one or two or three years, without regard to the long period or short

period necessity. A man who is already in debt to the extent of some Rs.500 takes a loan of Rs.100 from the newly-started society for a short term, but does he benefit himself? Not at all, because thereby he adds only to the burden of his debt. He has already got a debt of Rs.500 and he takes another Rs.100 (as a matter of fact after paying for the share, etc., he gets only about Rs.85 in hand) out of that Rs.85 he will pay something by way of interest to his village money-lenders, and something to meet the pressing demand of his landlord, and something he will spend in the bazar, and thus the money he takes as a loan is practically wasted. In this way the loan granted by the Society is spent for a very unproductive purpose. Sir, if we are to free the agriculturists from indebtedness, we should first ascertain the amount of their total debts, and then what is requisite on temporary account, and what is required on block account. If we give them a loan without first enquiring into all this we do not at all remedy the inherent defect of the system. For this purpose a loan of Rs.100 repayable in one or two or three years will be of no avail to poor agriculturist. So I would ask the Government to consider this side of the question very carefully whether these Societies cannot give a long term loan repayable within 10 or 20 years.

Unless such loans can be granted to wipe off the indebtedness permanently no actual relief can be brought home to these people.

Secondly, Sir, as for the non-credit Agricultural Societies I would suggest only one or two instances. I shall refer to consolidation of holding societies and village grain store societies. These former societies can be easily formed with a view to consolidate the holdings of the poor peasants and to facilitate cultivation at cheaper costs. Also, village grain stores can be opened, in order to secure fair price for the agricultural produce. What happens is this. These poor agriculturists get pressing demand from their landlords or their money-lenders soon after the harvest season. So that it generally happens that immediately after they have harvested the crops they are forced to dump the market by throwing the entire crop in a lump so much so that they get a very low price for their produce. Instead of that if there is a village grain store and the ryot is allowed to deposit his crop there, thereon the security of that deposit receipt he can get advances from banks at very low rate of interest and meet his demands by those short loans at lower interest. Then he may sell the crop at proper time when he can get proper value. Also these village grain stores will incidentally provide a safe custody to the produce. These things do not cost much and the village grain stores can be established in every village, or at least within a radius of five miles and then the poor villagers would be saved from having to dump the market by their produce.

Then, Sir, there are many other non-credit Societies that come to the relief of the ryots but for shortness of time I mentioned only two. We may take a lesson from other provinces and countries with regard to the other kinds of non-credit societies that will bring relief to the agriculturists. As for Industrial Societies we have not made any advancement. If we start some Industrial Societies to help and advance the cottage industries that would naturally help the agriculturist to improve his financial resources and pay off his debts. The Co-operative Department, so far as we know, have done nothing to help the formation of Industrial Societies. But they should pay immediate attention to the formation of village Industrial Societies and thereby give proper financial backing to the villagers. The investment of some of our Central Banks are almost paralysed. In order to facilitate the return of their money, they should invest some more money to these people in industrial and other pursuits so that they can augment their repaying capacity and return the money already invested in rural credit societies.

With these words I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House (The Speaker then read out the motion to the House.)

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA: Sir, a similar cut motion stands in my name. Therefore, I would like to speak on this motion.

I support the motion which has been moved by my hon. friend Babu Rabindranath Aditya and I endorse the suggestion which have been made by him. He has made many valuable suggestions with regard to the improvement of this Co-operative movement in our province. We have no adequate agencies to make this movement popular in the province. There are no doubt village banks started here and there. But most of the people who are concerned in them, have no idea whatsoever about Co-operative movement.

The number of Co-operative Inspectors is very small and one Inspector has generally got to go round two or three subdivisions that are in his charge. Central Banks have not a sufficient number of Supervisors with them for want of money. Even the Secretaries and the Chairmen of the village banks do not get opportunities to have the ideas of co-operative banks from the officers who are now engaged in this department.

To remove these defects, the number of Inspectors required should be increased very soon and the central banks should be given adequate grants from the Government in order to increase the number of Supervisors and in order to popularise this movement in the villages. And, as in other provinces, conferences should be held in the district headquarters or in subdivisional headquarters in order to popularise the ideas amongst the villagers. With these suggestions, I would like to support this cut motion.

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: Sir, a similar motion stands in my name and so I want to speak a few words on this occasion. I will not detain the House for long but I will make only a few suggestions in the same vein as my friends who spoke before. I find, Sir, that the Government is budgeting only 3 per cent. of the estimated expenditure this year for this department. This amount, I think, is absolutely low and hopeless, and I think the figure is quite insufficient for the purpose. I should have thought that more money would have been given for this department.

Firstly, Sir, I would point out that Co-operative movement in Assam is deteriorating from time to time and I have been supported in this remark by Mr. S. L. Mehta, the present Registrar of Co-operative Societies. He said "the position of the Agricultural Credit Societies is becoming more and more serious every year. Unless there is some distinct rise in the price of the agricultural produce, there is little chance of its reviving." This fact has been admitted by Government and the cause which led to this state of affairs, I think, should be carefully gone into by the Government. I find that there have been certain defects in the Department, as I find myself being a Chairman of the Central Bank and also having some hand in the organisation of these co-operative credit societies. What we find is that the *benami* transactions and wilful revenue sales are greatly responsible for this deterioration. Perhaps the House will bear me out when I say that these villagers who take loans, enter into a sort of unholy league with other members of the villages and when a decree or an award is passed, these debtors try to frustrate the loans that have been given to them by the rural societies. They enter into collision with other members of the villages and when a decree or award comes they devise means to have their lands sold out in revenue sales. To stop that there should be a prohibition in the law, which I find does not exist at present, except a conditional attachment in awards which is allowed by the rules. But that, Sir, I think is not sufficient, because it takes some time to have a conditional attachment from

the Registrar. In the meantime the person who wants to sell his property willfully in the revenue sales takes recourse to the tactics mentioned above and the bank cannot get anything from him, because he has no property. So also in the case of *benami* transactions the properties are given in others' names, so that he escapes the burden. To combat this I think a prohibition rule should be thought out by legislation. In other provinces like Madras they have a Co-operative Act, but we have no such law as yet. I think, and I presume also it is the feeling of this House, that it is high time that we have a consolidated Co-operative Act for Assam. That will be a great relief, in that it will give as a good handling of these rural societies and also other banks. I also find that in these rules by which we are governed there is no power given for the suppression of the committees as we have in the Madras Act. We find in some village societies, Sir, that the Chairman and the Secretary combine, they happen to be influential men and the rest of the members do not dare to go against them or to propose a change, and as such the bank or the rural societies stagnates for no change in the personnel for a long time. As a matter of fact we have seen many such cases, especially in my subdivision. Here we find in the rules which we have before us that there is no power given to the Registrar or the Inspecting Officer for the Suppression of Committees in such a contingency. I think this fact should be noted by the present Ministry.

I think, Sir, my friends have already spoken about the insufficiency of the staff and I fully realise this fact. Unless we have an Inspector in every subdivision, I think, Sir, the condition of the rural societies will go from bad to worse and the day will come when there will be no chance of their revival.

One other point and I have done. The Central Bank should, I think, be given advances or loans from the Provincial Bank, because there is money of depositors in the Central Bank and when they find they cannot get their money it is given out by these depositors that this bank has become defunct; the news is carried down to the villages and the same air of distrust prevails, as a result the societies become stagnant spelling ruin to the debtors and creditors. So I would impress upon the Minister in charge that loans should be given to the Central Banks, so that they may pay up the depositors and also finance the rural societies which need money to save stagnation. With these words, Sir, I support the motion of my hon. friend.

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Sir, the Co-operative Movement has not been able to make its headway in this province. Firstly, this Movement has reached only a fringe of the population of the province. From the reports I find that the number of members is only 7 per cent. of the rural population. I find also from the Government Report that this department is not working as it should have. I am referring to the last annual report of the Department for the year ending the 31st March 1936. I have made a short synopsis of the report and if I read it through, the hon. members will be able to judge what this department is doing. "The Registrar spent 134 days on tour and inspected 14 urban and 48 rural societies out of about 1,300. The Inspectors could not do the minimum touring and most of their time was occupied in liquidation and arbitration work at headquarters. The Co-operative staff had no special training. The year continued to be gloomy. The position of the agricultural societies was distressing. The position of most central banks was far from satisfactory. Out of 18, 8 could not meet even their normal expenses. Of agricultural credit societies 25 were registered, out of which 24 went into liquidation. There was an all-round fall in the funds. The net profits

fell considerably. The position of the Co-operative stores was not at all encouraging. Out of 11 stores four worked at a loss and one was not working at all. One hundred eighteen societies went into liquidation. The normal work of the Inspectors suffered a great deal." The Registrar admits that the Inspectors do not find sufficient time to devote to the reorganisation and rehabilitation of the societies."

Curiously enough I find in to-day's *Times of Assam* some remarks by "An Observer" under the heading "The Administrative Outlook of Assam". They are as follows:—

"In Assam it appears to be almost a failure, and source of ultimate harassment to the people. It is due mostly to the lack of local experience, and neglect of the vital principles of co-operation. The rules and regulations based as they were on the example of circumstances prevailing in the highly advanced countries were not all suitable for this poor province. On the other hand the officers from top to bottom do not appear to be as efficient as they should be for the service. The Registrar who guides everything from the comfortable heights of Shillong on the reports of subordinate officers could seldom discern how the world moves below. He does not appear to have taken any initiative in the matter of improving the societies, or giving a push to the dormant spirit of the....."

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Is the hon. member supporting the motion or opposing it?

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I am criticising this department. I will speak about my attitude towards the motion afterwards. Let the hon. member have some patience. He will know it. "He does not appear to have taken any initiative in the matter of improving the societies, or giving a push to the dormant spirit of the most defunct banks and societies. There is very little use of a Registrar."

I think most of these remarks are true to a certain extent. So I would tell the Hon'ble Minister in charge that, if he wants to show any improvement in this department, he should, I believe, not only reinforce the staff but make the staff as efficient as it should be. Those officers who may not work or who have not worked, should be asked to go, and those who are willing to work in the department in the interest of the province should come in. If an assurance be given by the Hon'ble Minister that he will overhaul the department, I think the hon. mover may kindly withdraw his motion.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: There is only one minute left. Hon. members who have spoken on this cut motion have all given their ideas. But it seems that they are not at all anxious to know what the Hon'ble Minister has got to say. (Several hon. members: *we are.*) For a fair discussion of the question that is raised the Hon'ble Minister should be given an opportunity to have his say. Now the time is reached and I shall have to put the demand to vote.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.1,00,600 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 "42.—Co-operative Credit."

The motion was carried.

GRANT No. 23.

47.—Miscellaneous Departments.

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.93,800 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 "47.—Miscellaneous Departments".

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : I do not like to press my motion* in view of the fact that my hon. friend Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta is going to move a similar motion and perhaps my point would be covered by his motion.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : Then comes the motion standing in the name of Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta.

MR. NABA KUMAR DUTTA : Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.8,375 under grant No. 23, Major head—47.—Miscellaneous Departments, Minor head—B.—Inspector of Boilers, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Inspectors, at page 166 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.3,000

I have tabled this cut motion, Sir, to omit the provision for a third Boiler Inspector. Owing to shortness of time I shall be very brief in my speech. The appointment of a third Boiler Inspector would be absolutely superfluous. If the work of inspection of boilers is becoming difficult to carry out, it is due to its ineffective working than to the want of an extra hand. Sir, under the present circumstances there is no justification whatsoever for increasing the staff of Boiler Inspectors. The number of boilers in Assam is gradually decreasing as oil engines are replacing them. Sir, it is said that there are one thousand boilers in Assam. Even assuming that this figure is absolutely correct, the difficulty of inspection is rather superficial. Out of these one thousand boilers, I believe, Digboi has got over 200 boilers and these boilers can be inspected by one Inspector easily in one month's time. The rest of one thousand boilers can be very well managed by the Chief Inspector of Boilers with the help of the second Boiler Inspector. We must not forget Sir, that tea gardens are very close to each other and the inspection of boilers is certainly not half as difficult as can be *prima facie* made to look. Again an illuminating comparison can be made between the factory inspectorate and the boiler inspectorates I believe 729 factories are managed by the one Inspector of factories with the help of one Assistant Inspector of Factories. This alone proves that the demand for a third Inspector of Boilers over and above the Chief Inspector and two Inspectors of Boilers is an idle one especially in view of the fact I have already stated. The work of inspection of boilers can very well be managed by the present staff if waste of time is guarded against. I should like to say that if the Chief Inspector of Boilers becomes more vigilant then such difficulty could be very well avoided. With these few words Sir I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

* That the provision of Rs.3,000 under Grant No. 23. Major head—47.—Miscellaneous Departments, Minor head—A.—Inspector of Factories, Sub-head—1.—Pay of officers, Detailed head—Assistant Electric and Factory Inspector, at page 166 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1.

(To discuss the question of amalgamation of Factory and Boiler Inspectors).

MR. F. W. HOCKENHULL : Sir, I beg to oppose this cut motion. This is a matter on which I spoke at length during the last budget session of the old Council. In the first place, I may say that practically speaking boiler inspection cost the province nothing. The boiler inspectorate is made to pay its own way. If there are one thousand boilers the ultimate cost is borne by the proprietors of the boilers, i.e., the cost of these one thousand boilers and the total cost of the Department is divided among the proprietors. So that every boiler is really paying for its own inspection. If there are more boilers there is less charge. If, as the hon. mover says, the number of boilers is decreasing then each boiler has to pay more than what it used to pay before.

Now the difficulty about boiler inspection is just this. The boiler inspection first of all cannot be done halfhazardly by a surprise visit. Before a boiler can be really inspected it has to be opened up and put in such a condition that it becomes available for inspection. That is to be done 3 or 4 days before the Inspector visits the place. Secondly boiler inspection in tea gardens is to be made during the short cold weather season when most of the factories are not in use. So it really runs to this, that every inspection of boiler in the tea garden is to be made within the short cold season and in view of the fact that this convenience is to be given to the proprietors of boilers there should be sufficient staff the cost of which would be borne by the proprietors themselves. If they want more Boiler Inspectors they are prepared to pay them. "He who pays the piper calls the tune."

In view of the fact that it costs the Government practically nothing and that it gives a certain amount of advantage to the province itself, I think, we should not grudge the appointment of a third Inspector. I do not think it will be right on our part to criticise Government by asking for more men if the people who are going to be employed are necessary adequately to do the work.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI : I want to know whether the third Boiler Inspector would be paying for himself ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : The third Boiler Inspector will not cost anything to the Government.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : If there is a saving on account of the third Boiler Inspector, will not that amount which will be saved be spent on other matters ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : The matter has already been explained by my hon. friend Mr. Hockenhull. If the expenditure is reduced the fees to be paid by the proprietors is to be reduced.

MR. NABA KUMAR DUTTA : On a personal explanation, Sir. I think if we do not appoint a third Inspector of Boilers, the fees could be reduced.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Fees will be reduced, but inspection will not be properly done.

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : I propose that Factory Inspector may also take the work of Boiler Inspection because where there is factory there is a boiler. Further during off season when he does not inspect boilers he may inspect factories. I think these two posts can be amalgamated consistently with efficiency. I think, the post of the third Boiler Inspector could be amalgamated with the post of Factory Inspector.

MR. W. FLEMING : Does the hon. member suggest that all factories should be inspected by the Factory Inspector ?

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : If we accept that principle that our Boiler Inspectors are capable of Factory inspection, I think we can minimise expenditure.

Secondly, Sir, we have heard that recently a Boiler Inspector has been appointed only a few months ago on a pay of Rs. 500 without any advertisement. This bungling should not be encouraged. A regular advertisement ought to be made and published in papers and the appointment may be made in due course, especially for a post which entails a salary of Rs. 500 per month. Because this post costs nothing to the Government coffer that is no reason why we should appoint someone without due advertisement and tax the proprietors of boilers; it will be better if we can give them some relief and savings of Government fund be utilised for other purposes.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge tell us whether it is a fact that when Inspector of Boilers from Bengal managed the inspection of Assam, the number was more than what it is at present?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I cannot exactly say the number of Boilers then, but I can inform the House that Bengal had a large staff and they could have the inspection work done quite well with that staff.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI: May I know whether it is the pressure put upon the Government in the late Council that Boiler Inspectors could be recruited in this Province from among local candidates?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: After a very strenuous fight put up by some of the members of the last Council including hon. Rai Bahadur Nilambar Datta we had an Inspector in Assam.

MR. NABA KUMAR DATTA: I do not think he ever suggested a third Boiler Inspector.

MR. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: Is there any reason that a son should suffer for the sins of his father?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Not necessarily but some sons enjoy the properties of the fathers.

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI SAIYIDUR RAHMAN: Is it not a fact that this Department is not self-supporting?

MR. W. FLEMING: I would ask the Revenue Minister whether it is not a fact that boilers are being more regularly and systematically inspected now than in the past?

THE HON'BLE the SPEAKER: It would be better if the Hon'ble Minister gives a general reply.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you have noticed in the Budget Memorandum, in Assam there are about 1,000 boilers to be inspected. As boilers certificates are not current for more than 12 months, inspection has to be made annually. At present the Boiler Inspectorate consists of one Chief Inspector and two Inspectors. The staff has proved quite inadequate for carrying out the inspection work and during the past two years an additional temporary Inspector had to be entertained for 3 or 4 months in each year to help the permanent staff. The temporary arrangement has however been found unsatisfactory and it is proposed to appoint a third Inspector of Boilers with effect from 1st October 1937. The cost is covered by the fees received for inspections. It has been clearly stated in the memorandum.

We had to appoint one temporary man from time to time. As we could not get a temporary man for a small pay, we had to appoint Mr. Ballantine, an expert in the matter who used to be paid Rs. 500 per month.

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Was the post advertised?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: It is not necessary to advertise that post. Government is unwilling to run to unnecessary expenditure when it can be avoided.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI : On a point of information, Sir. If the Budget is passed will not the new appointment be advertised ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Yes, because we have to appoint a man permanently. We have qualified natives of the province. The selection will be made by the Public Service Commission. The scale of pay is Rs. 250 to Rs. 500. Hon. members will remember how we had to strive hard in order to have a Boiler Inspectorate for Assam and to find employments for natives of the province. We have been able to create two appointments for natives of the province and this will mean a third appointment. This will involve no cost to Government.

Now, Sir, the other point which was raised by Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya that the Factory Inspector may be entrusted with this work. I am afraid he will be startled to find the amount of work which the Factory Inspector has to do here in this province. There are about 729 regular factories in all of which there are 394 electrified factories. The Factory Inspector happens also to be Electrical Adviser as well as Factory Inspector. There are 375 electrified buildings on Public Works Department books in Assam. There are electrified building belongings to the Forest Department. The total Government buildings electrified is about 400. There are 133 lightning conductors. The number of tests actually done by the Inspector of Factories, in 1935, for electrical installation was 320, running Conductor, 124 and magazine 5. In 1936, Electrical installation was 310, Running Conductors, 116 and magazine 7. Then, Sir, item No. 1 which I have mentioned consists of 729 factories and item No. 5 provides explosive magazine. Inspection of these things are the statutory duties of the Electrical Adviser. So it is inconceivable that the Electrical Adviser after doing all these factory works will have any time to do the work of the Inspector of Boilers. I think, Sir, all these facts will convince the hon. members of this house that this cut does not aim at bringing any real economy to Government but it risks the Government to criticise for inefficiency of inspection in the Boiler's department which we have got now. The Boiler owners, Sir, may not like inspection of their boilers but we have got to look to the safety of the thousands of labourers who are engaged there. It is for this reason, Sir, *i.e.*, in order to have effective inspection, that we have provided for the appointment of the third Boiler Inspector.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Sir, three things have been made clear to this House. First one is that there is a Boiler's Act under which it is the duty of Government to have boiler in the Factory or in any industrial concern tested at least once a year. That is a statutory duty. Second thing is that we have got more than a thousand of these boilers to test and the testing of one boiler on an average takes three to four hours. Fees realised for testing is dependent on horse power, or heating surface of the boiler and the average is Rs.64 per boiler. It has already been mentioned that most of these boilers are in the Tea districts. Generally from April to November the boilers in the Tea industry remain at work, and it will mean tremendous loss to the concern if these boilers are not tested at the particular period December to March. Therefore, Sir, for the benefit of the boiler owners, we are restricted to a very small period during which testing has got to be done. As my Hon'ble colleague just now mentioned, if a boiler is not properly tested or perfunctorily tested or even not tested, then there is a chance of accident and lives may be lost. In that case Government will be charged as negligent of not performing the statutory duty. Under all

these circumstances, Sir, it is necessary to have a proper staff. As the hon. members are aware, we had our inspections or testings of boilers done previously by the staff from Bengal. In order to provide employment to our educated youths, there was constant pressure upon the then Government by the late Council to start our own Boiler Inspectorate and after a good deal of correspondence with Bengal, which had to maintain a larger staff than was necessary for their own use, we started our own Boiler Inspectorate and we had to take two of the Officers then serving in Bengal. These two Officers found it very difficult to complete their statutory duties of the inspection of boilers under the limitations that I have already mentioned. The boilers are not grouped together in one place. An Inspector takes on an average three hours for the inspection of a boiler and at the same time he has got to move from place to place and therefore on an average an Inspector can inspect only one or at best two boilers in a day. We have got 365 days in a year and if on an average, two inspections are done by our two Officers, then they cannot finish their inspection during the course of the year. We had, therefore, to take temporary men. I am pleased to find, Sir, that my hon. friend Mr. Aditya raised a constitutional question whether it was proper to entertain a temporary man without advertisement. That was done, Sir, in the Pre-Ministry days. As it was a temporary arrangement which was necessitated by the exigencies of the then situation, I think, nobody can complain anything against us. Now we find, Sir, that if we are to perform our duties properly, we must have a staff of three Inspectors, and we want your support to make room for one of our qualified young men. Of course, we shall advertise the post through the Public Service Commission and if any suitable local candidate be available and selected Government will appoint him to the post of the third Inspector. As my Hon'ble Colleague has pointed out specially at the present moment we have got to take a temporary man for four or five months on a pay of Rs. 500 per month *i.e.*, we have got to spend Rs.2,000 for four months. If we take a permanent man whose services can be utilised in various ways and whose services are very necessary for the purpose of inspection of boilers, we propose to give him a salary of Rs.250 per month. In that case, we will get the services of a whole-time Officer and at the same time a qualified man of the province, if any, will be provided, for the sum of Rs.3,000 in place of Rs.2,000 which will be spent after a temporary Inspector. This is really going to cost the province nothing at all in comparison with the duty which he is bound to perform. This amount will rather be realised by the inspection fees of the boilers that will be tested by that particular Officer. Sir, all the materials that are necessary to understand the implications of this cut motion are before the house and I hope the hon. members will form their own judgment.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: What does the hon. mover propose to do? Does he want that the motion should be put to vote or to be withdrawn.

MR. NABA KUMAR DATTA: Sir, in view of the statements made by the Hon'ble Revenue Minister and the Hon'ble Chief Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I hope the hon. member has the leave of the house to withdraw the motion.

(The motion was with the leave of the House withdrawn.)

We have got only three minutes and there are two more cuts. If any hon. member wants to move any motion in the meantime, he can do so.

The original demand was then put to the House and carried.

DISCUSSION OF THE DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

SRIJUT GOPI NATH BARDOLOI: Sir, I rise to speak a few words in reference to the time that is allotted for the discussion of the grants. We find, Sir, that we have not been able to accommodate ourselves in the manner you were pleased to ask in regard to discussion on matters of general interest and in certain matters we had to take the time of the House on trivial subjects. So we find, Sir, that the time that has been allotted is really insufficient for the purpose of discussing the general policy even of the grants and of items of grants that is presented before the House. So, Sir, I at least on behalf of this side, of the House request that in the next budget session some arrangements should be made so that the time may be extended. I hope the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the Hon'ble the Speaker and His Excellency the Governor will take this matter into consideration and will find it possible to allot more time for discussion of grants and items of grants.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: Sir, I am quite at one with my hon. friend Srijut Gopi Nath Bardoloi about the shortness of time and I hope that sufficient time will be given for discussion on items of grants next time.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAYYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, as regards the observations made by my hon. friend the Leader of Opposition, I am at one with him. You, Sir, may remember that in the formal discussion we had before allotting time for demand for grants we agreed that the experience of this session will guide us in allotting time in the future. I am quite willing to stick to that assurance (*hear, hear*). I am sure, Sir, you and His Excellency on the one side, and I as the Leader of the House, provided I be here at the time of next budget, will try our best to see that more time is available so that the questions of general policy may get sufficient time for discussion in this House.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: So, I also say that, if I remain here (*laughter*) I shall certainly try to act according to the request of the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition. As has been stated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the experience of this session will guide us in the matter in asking for allotting more time for budget discussion. The hon. members, I think, may rest assured that we will do our best in the matter.

Grant No.29

57.—Miscellaneous

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAYYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.5,50,300 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 head "57.—Miscellaneous".

[The motion was put by the Hon'ble Speaker.]

BABU RABINDRA NARAYAN ADITYA: Sir, when I tabled the motion standing in my name, I did not know really the object for which the amount would be spent, but now I have heard something about it, and I am satisfied that this sum is spent for a noble purpose, and therefore I do not like to press my motion (*hear, hear*).

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Does the hon. member want to hear the Hon'ble Chief Minister?

BABU RABINDRA NARAYAN ADITYA: Yes, Sir, we want to hear something about it, from him.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Unless the motion is moved how can I speak, Sir ?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : I think it will be better to move the motion, and then the Hon'ble Chief Minister will explain.

BABU RABINDRA NARAYAN ADITYA : I beg to move, Sir, that the provision of Rs.2,500 under Grant No.29, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—D.—Donation for charitable purposes, Sub-head—1.—Contributions, etc., Detailed head—St. Andrew's Colonial Homes at Kalimpong, at page 186 of the Budget, be refused.

Sir, I do not like to say anything about it, and I hope to hear from the Hon'ble Chief Minister about the aims and objects of this grant.

[The Hon'ble Speaker then put the motion to the House.]

MAULAVI DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHOUDHURY : Sir, I should like to say a few words regarding the motion moved by hon. Mr. Aditya. Under the minor head D, we find that it is provided that this donation is for charitable purposes. Government should contribute a greater sum of money for charitable purposes. Sir, I do not grudge or envy the St. Andrew's Colonial Homes for the favour; the Government have conferred upon them. But, Sir, it is a matter for regret that Government is somewhat reluctant, I should say, to contribute a small sum of money to the Khadimul Hujjaj which has been started at Calcutta for charitable purposes by the Assam Arabic students who reside in Calcutta.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : I think the hon. member is going beyond the scope of this motion. It is for the purpose of refusing a sum of Rs.2,500, which has been allotted for a certain institution, and I think the hon. member cannot bring in another institution.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I think, Sir, the hon. member's idea is that Government is giving this amount to one charitable institution; let them continue to give it, but at the same time he says there are other similar charitable institutions which should be helped.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : Did he not begin by saying that he was supporting the motion ?

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI : He is not supporting the motion, Sir,

MAULAVI DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHOUDHURY : Sir, in reply to my question the Hon'ble Finance Minister said that he could not make any provision in the budget for the Khadimul Hujjaj. Sir, it is no doubt a matter of great regret that Government plead their inability. The Government have admitted that they are aware of the fact that the Haj pilgrims undergo a great deal of trouble during the time of embarkation in Calcutta. Thanks to the patriotism of the students of the Khadimul Hujjaj who come to the rescue of the Haj pilgrims and become their friends and guides in the distress.

So, Sir, may I draw the pointed attention of the Government to the pitiable financial condition of the Khadimul Hujjaj and ask them to make a contribution towards the maintenance of this institution ? May I expect to hear a few kind and sympathetic words regarding this point from the Hon'ble Finance Minister.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Sir, the name of Dr. Graham, the founder of the Kalimpong Homes, is very nearly a household word in the Anglo-Indian and European communities in India. It was that generous missionary gentleman who, seeing the

destitute condition and also the starving standard of the poor Anglo-Indian boys, started a home in the salubrious Himalayan climate and gave them vocational training. This noble mission of Dr. Graham found ready response in the hearts of the charitable public and the institution was started which cost a sum of Rs.3½ lakhs annually. The total number of inmates of this institution is 660, out of which 165 goes from Assam. The Provincial Governments contribute a sum of Rs.55,000 annually. The balance of the expenditure is derived from donations from the public, and also from the sale proceeds of the goods manufactured by the boys of the Home.

Sir, although the number of students from Assam is very nearly one-fourth of the total number, we contribute a sum of Rs.2,500 only, and this contribution has gone a great way towards giving vocational training to these poor boys from the Anglo-Indian community of this province.

Sir, in the Retrenchment Committee of 1931, we considered whether we could cut this sum as this was a sum paid out of the province. After very careful deliberation and consideration of all factors, the then Government decided that this contribution should continue.

I request the hon. members, as a gesture of good will towards that minority community—that poor community, which has got no representation in this House—not to touch the small grant that is fulfilling a very noble work, a work which is very much in sympathy with our own ideals.

This work of human kindness to the deserving poor of giving vocational training to poor boys—all these humane principles which are very much in our hearts have been attained in this noble work of Dr. Graham. I would therefore request the hon. mover of this motion to withdraw his motion.

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the Hon'ble Chief Minister for the information which he has supplied to us. When I tabled this motion I did not know the scope of the grant. I thought that this was a contribution to one of the Bengal Institutions and as there are similar institutions in this province also, the amount would be better utilised within the province, but now that I have been fully enlightened I am glad to say that it is far from my intention to press this motion. Charity should know no racial or geographical limitations, and if our funds could permit more should be given towards charity. I am really glad that we are contributing this sum which is really small compared with the benefit that it is bringing to the children of this Province.

With these few words I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion. The motion was withdrawn by leave of the House.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.8,302 under Grant No. 29, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—D.—Donations for charitable purposes, at page 186 of the budget, be reduced by Rs. 20.

[Contribution of Rs. 72 (*vide* page 186 of the Budget) towards Muhammadan cemetery at Sylhet—too small—larger contribution urged.]

Sir, my intention in moving this motion is indicated above. Hon. members will find at page 186 of the budget a contribution of Rs.72 towards the Muhammadan cemetery at Sylhet, which I consider to be a very small, and I urge on the Government the necessity of allowing a larger amount. This amount has been provided for the pay of a chaukidar to keep watch over the Muhammadan cemetery at Sylhet. It was found that graves were made too near the houses, and Government thought it fit that there should be a cemetery where a large number of dead bodies could be interred. Therefore they provided for a chaukidar for a graveyard at Rs. 6 a month. What I would like to point out is that this pay is too inadequate. Moreover,

if they have provided for a chaukidar they should pay something more so that the graveyard is well kept ; there should be fencing round it, and there are other requirements also ; the pay of the chaukidar should also be raised. I have therefore brought this motion to bring these matters to the notice of the Government for consideration and for large-contributions.

MAULAVI DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: I support the motion.

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN: I beg to support the motion, and in supporting it I say that when the Government has so kindly contributed some money for this charitable purpose I think they should be more charitable in increasing the contribution. The amount allotted by the Government seems to be very ludicrous. Rupees 6 a month for a chaukidar to look after the graveyard is too little.

With these few words I support the motion.

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I also whole-heartedly support the motion.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the history of this contribution is not known to many of the hon. members of the House, and therefore I am compelled to lay the facts before the House. Muhammadan families, either through love or through sentiment, like to bury their dead in their own compounds so as to have a visible demonstration of their departed ones in front of their eyes, but as everyone knows this is a very insanitary procedure. In Sylhet which is the most populous of all towns in Assam so far as Muhammadan population is concerned, this practice of burying their dead in their own compounds was being followed till as early as 1905. The then head of the Government (the Chief Commissioner) proposed to the Muhammadan community of Sylhet that they should give up this insanitary and inelegant practice, and the Muhammadans of Sylhet agreed that if they were given a suitable high piece of land they would give up this habit. Consequently a piece of land on Manikpir Tila was granted to them for the purpose. Government also gave a non-recurring grant of Rs.3,000 for providing a fencing round the burial ground. Then, in order to maintain this burial ground properly, Government have been making a contribution at the rate of Rs.6 per mensem ever since. This contribution has been appearing in the budget in a lump sum with other items till 1935-36 and nobody knew that this contribution was being made. Since 1935-36 however under some rule of accounting, this amount has to be shown under a separate head under donations for charitable purposes. Therefore it has now seen the light of day. Sir, every town in the province has got a Moslem burial ground but no other town has been fortunate enough to get a contribution from Government. Sylhet is the only lucky instance.

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Do the Government grudge it?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I do not grudge the amount. If the House wants that this particular cemetery should receive a bigger contribution from Government coffers, I will look into the matter and see if provision can be made for the maintenance of a mali or a chaukidar for the cemetery. With this assurance I hope the hon. member will see his way to withdraw his motion.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: On the assurance of the Hon'ble Chief Minister I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

The motion was withdrawn by leave of the House.

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: On a point of information, Sir, what is the assurance given, Sir? We have not heard anything.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: There has been an assurance given. The Hon'ble Chief Minister said that if that be the opinion of the House he will certainly do what he can.

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: When will that be tested, Sir ?
 MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: Perhaps in his opinion the Chief Minister considered that the House wished that this increase must be given.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: When I saw there was no voice of opposition and on the other hand when there has been a large-hearted Hindu gentleman to support it, I think naturally that the House wants this contribution if possible to be increased.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The next motion is in the name of Srijut Lakheswar Barooah.

SRIJUT LAKHESVAR BAROOAH: I see that there is a more important cut motion in the name of my hon. friend Khan Sahib Sayidur Rahman next to me. In order to give him precedence I do not propose to move my motion.*

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Khan Sahib Sayidur Rahman may move his motion.

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI SAYIDUR RAHMAN: In deference to the wishes of a section of the House I do not propose to move this motion† (laughter).

SRIJUT LAKHESVAR BAROOAH: I am sorry I did not move my motion.

Motions Nos. 5 † and 6 § standing in the names of Srijut Rajani Kanta Barooah and Srijut Ghanasyam Das were not moved.

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS: I beg to move—

That the provision of Rs.2,70,660 under Grant No. 29, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—L.—Contributions, Sub-head (a)—Contributions to local bodies, etc., (total) at page 188 of the budget, be reduced by Rs.2, i.e., the amount of the grant stands reduced by Rs.2.

Sir, in the note underneath my motion my intention is clear. I see that the time is very short but I shall finish in a minute or two.

*That the provision of Rs.67,290 under Grant No.29, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—L.—Contributions, Sub-head—(a)—Contributions to Local Bodies, etc., Detailed head—Grants to Municipal Boards for general purposes, at page 188 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100.

(To raise a discussion about creation and redistribution of wards of the Dibrugarh Municipality.)

†That the provision of Rs.1,77,245 under Grant No.29, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—L.—Contributions, Sub-head—(a)—Contributions to Local Bodies, etc., Detailed head—Grants to Local Boards for general purposes, at page 188 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100.

(To protest against unequal and inequitable distribution of grants to the several Local Boards of this province and to urge for an even distribution of the grant to Local Boards in proportion to the Local rates realised by each.)

‡That the provision of Rs.1,77,245 under Grant No.29, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—L.—Contributions, Sub-head—(a)—Contributions to Local Bodies, etc., Detailed head—Grants to Local Boards for general purposes, at page 188 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100.

(To raise a discussion about representation of Indian Tea Planters through Assam Valley Indian Tea Planters' Association in Local Boards of Assam Valley.)

§That the provision of Rs.10,000 under Grant No.29, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—L.—Contributions, Sub-head—(a)—Contributions to Local Bodies, etc., Detailed head—Contribution to the village development fund, at page 188 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.2.

(To criticise the Government for not selecting a village in the Barpeta subdivision under the proposed model village scheme)

There are complaints from all quarters that the contributions to the different local bodies are not adequate and the distribution is not based on a general policy of equity. So far as the local bodies in the Brahmaputra Valley are concerned, the distribution is generally made on the population basis and not on any other considerations. I for myself think that that policy is not sound. There are other factors which the Government should consider when distributing the contributions.

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: May I ask the hon. member whether he means the grants given now are based on population basis only?

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS: That is my impression. When I was Chairman of the local board at Barpeta a few years back I think that was the basis on which the contribution was allowed. I see the time is up. I hope the hon. members will all support my motion for the inequitable policy that the Government is following in the distribution of the grants to the local bodies.

(The Hon'ble Speaker read out the motion to the House.)

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Sir, I have not understood what the hon. mover of this motion means. It appears that he has an idea that the distribution of the grants which the past Government gave to the local boards was based only on population. I think, Sir, that position was made very clear at the time when we were discussing the Local Rates Bill. The position is this.

These grants to local boards were made many years ago. Some of them were made over a quarter of a century ago. At that time there were many considerations that led up to it. The population was considered, the needs of the different local bodies were also considered and there were many other things which were taken into consideration as far as I could gather from the records. But these grants were continued from year to year. There is only a little bit of variation at the present time. I do not understand why the hon. mover of the motion would say now that this distribution was based only on population. That is not a fact.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: But what is the fact, Sir?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I have stated the facts.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: You are beating about the bush. We want the facts.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: We need not take notice of these remarks. The hon. member is making running commentaries.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: No. I want facts but you are beating about the bush and delaying.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Sir, that is the most disrespectful way of speaking in the House: sitting in the seat and making running comments and not allowing us to proceed.

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: We shall be very thankful to the hon. member if he would be kind to us; we have been very kind to him.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: He is wasting the time, Sir.

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Very well, Sir. The hon. member will not heed to my request. I shall go on.

The grants that are being given are continued on the basis that was decided by the previous Government according to the needs of each local board. There are different grants. There are the Communication grants,

the Educational grants, the Medical grants and there the general purposes grants and other grants. Each grant has its own history behind it. I will now speak about the Communication grants. When a local board takes road from the Government Public Works Department, the Government give to that local board a certain amount of grant. There are several roads from time to time that were handed over by the Public Works Department to the local boards and the grant would depend on the number of roads that were handed over by the Public Works Department to these Local Boards. Therefore the grants for communications would vary according to the number of roads that the Local Boards would take from the Public Works Department. But again there comes a time when the Local Board hands over a certain number of miles of road to the Public Works Department. Then the grant will be withdrawn or reduced. It goes on like that. Therefore, Sir, it is very difficult to say exactly at this time so late in the day on what basis the grants were distributed by the previous Governments.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: On a point of information, Sir. Will you be good enough to allow us to sit a few more minutes?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The hon. member knows that there are two resolutions to be disposed of to-day.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: Let us have the facts, Sir.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: He will give the facts if he is given time. But the time is up. Order, order.

The question is:—

That a sum not exceeding Rs.5,50,300 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 head "57.—Miscellaneous".

The motion was carried.

PROGRAMME OF ROAD IMPROVEMENT

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, I beg to move—

That this Assembly recommends that, subject to approval of schemes by the Government of India, the programme of road improvement drawn up after consultation with the Assam Communications Board, to be undertaken from the grants from the Central Road Fund do be approved within the limit of funds as may be allocated by the Government of India and that projects number 1, 2, 7, 9, 12, 15, 16, 20, 21, 42, and 53 of the proposed programme* be undertaken in the priority indicated as soon as suitable grants are received, the priority of the remaining schemes to be decided by the Assam Communications Board at a subsequent meeting

Sir, my hon. friends may be wondering why I have tabled this motion so soon after the deliberations of the Assam Communications Board. Hon. members may not be aware that, whenever we go up to the Central Government for funds for our road development from the reserve of the Petrol Excise Duty with the Central Government, our schemes have got to be scrutinised by the Standing Committee of Central Road Development Board. It is understood, Sir, that this body is meeting in September and, unless our schemes are before them, it may be that we may not get anything for one year. I mentioned to this House, if I remember aright—or it may be that I was mentioning it privately to friends in the Communications Board meeting that, since the creation of the smaller provinces of Orissa and Sindh, the funds which we could expect to get have become less and our chances more meagre than before. In

* Proposed programme of road improvement in Assam—vide Appendix A.

the past we cannot say that we were very badly treated; as a matter of fact we are very liberally treated. And we also on our part have given a good and prompt account of the money placed at our disposal. Assam was always ready with its programme, and as soon as money was given it was transferred to roads developing this country. That is why Assam has already got a good name with the Central Government.

Sir, I see a large number of motions tabled for urging the need of particular schemes which have been favoured by particular members. But I would beseech those hon. members to have patience for a while and let the proposals as they have evolved from our Communications Board, to which this House sent as many as 8 representatives, and who, I can assure the House, thoroughly went into the matter, stand. If we cut and chop, our programme will be delayed and most probably our case will not be placed before the next September session of that Standing Committee. There is an apprehension in the minds of certain hon. members of this House that, if a particular scheme stands beyond the third or fourth in the order of priority the chances of its being taken up are meagre. Sir, on account of the fact that our programme will be limited to the funds that we expect to get, it is impossible to say that all the schemes will be taken up at once; but funds being allotted, I can assure the House that we have got the men and the material to start almost all the programme simultaneously. To those hon. members who have tabled motions giving priority to their own schemes, to them also my request is that they should withdraw their motions in view of the statement that I have made.

Sir, with these remarks I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

The motion was put by the Chair.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: There are several amendments to this resolution. The first* one stands in the name of Srijut Rajani Kanta Barooah.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: On a point of information, Sir. In the proposed schemes, Jorhat subdivision has, I find, been scrupulously omitted. We also, find, Sir, from the scheme of model villages that, of all subdivisions, Jorhat has been excluded. Not a village of Jorhat has been taken in it. Again in the Road Board Scheme this subdivision has been omitted.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: This programme was drawn up, Sir, on the schemes that were submitted by our local officers, and authorities, namely, district officers of the general administration, the local boards of the subdivisions and the Public Works Department. Offhand, Sir, I cannot say if Jorhat was purposely excluded.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: I do not say like that, Sir.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Then I cannot say why no scheme for that area has been included. It may be that the Jorhat subdivision already possesses good roads or that some has been already given to them.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: Do I understand, Sir, that the District Officers or the Local Board have not put up a scheme? Is that the reason why Jorhat was omitted?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, I said that this scheme was drawn up after consulting the Local Boards and the Subdivisional Officers concerned and the Public Works Department. It may be that none of them thought that any scheme for Jorhat was of such urgent or imperative necessity as the others.

* Srijut Rajani Kanta Barooah to move :—

That for the figure " 2 " the figures 3, 14, 24, 35, 43, 47, 49, 50 and 54 be substituted.

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA: On a point of information, Sir, I may ask the Hon'ble Chief Minister one thing. How long will those schemes which are in this list but which have not been included in the Resolution have to wait if they are not taken up just now?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: That depends again upon funds that will be given by the Government of India. If we get our schemes ready, the question of priority is to be discussed in the Communications Board. If the Government of India be good enough to give us sufficient money then all the schemes can be pushed up in the next 5 years.

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA: Only the schemes which have been included in the Resolution?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I think I was not sufficiently clear. Since last year the Government of India is giving money according to the requirements and not on a definite percentage basis. Formerly we used to get annually a considerable sum but since last year those provinces who have got a cut-and-dried programme and who want money to finance them, are only given money according to requirement. Therefore we have prepared a scheme of very nearly one crore. It is too much to expect that the Government of India will be able to advance that big amount to us in a short space of time, but we have hoped that they will be good enough to give us about 6 to 7 lakhs during the next few years. We have drawn up our schemes and if we get the money the 59 schemes that are now pending in the list will be taken up.

SRIJUT GOPINATH BARDOLOI: What was the average amount of money that we received from the Government of India during the last 2 or 3 years?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The position is this. The extra excise duty on petrol goes to the Central coffers and it forms the Road Development Fund. Out of that the Central Government at the present moment distributes 80 per cent. of the income to the provinces according to the consumption of petrol in those provinces and the rest 20 per cent. is kept as Reserve. Accordingly they distribute our share of petrol duty. The original amount was on an average 2 lakhs within the last 4 years, but the Government of India, as I have already mentioned, has been kind enough to give us an adequate sum from the Reserve. At present we are asking them to give us one crore, if possible within the next 5 years and if not possible, within the next 10 years, and we have hopes, I cannot say how far it will materialise, of getting a big sum within the next 3 or 4 years. The Standing Committee of the Development Board of the Central Government will be sitting in September and our schemes must be placed before them.

MAULAVI NAMWAR ALI BARBHUIYA: From the statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister I understand that the local authorities of Cachar and the Public Works Department officers of the district of Cachar failed to submit any scheme for the consideration of the Government for the improvement of communication in Cachar?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, I will have to give the same answer as I have given to my friend Srijut Debeswar Sarmah. It is impossible for me to say without the file before me whether the Local Board of Cachar did recommend any special schemes.

I was mentioning just now that the average of the last 4 years was 2 lakhs which we got from the Central Government as our share on petrol. Now I am told by the Chief Engineer that the average was 2½ lakhs and from the Reserve Fund we got 35 lakhs during the last 4 years.

MR. JOBANG D. MARAK: Does it include any roads in the partially excluded areas?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMUD SAADULLA: Only one road has been included for the partially excluded areas and that road does not lead to Garo Hills (*loud laughte*).

MAULAVI MUNAWWARALI: It is stated in the resolution that the programme will be taken up in order of priority as soon as funds are available. What is meant by 'priority'? In the opening speech the Hon'ble Chief Minister stated that these projects will be taken up 'simultaneously'. Does the word 'priority' mean simultaneously?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The dictionary meaning of priority and simultaneously is known to my hon. friend who comes from the distinguished College of Aligarh. Taking up of the schemes, Sir, depends upon the amount that we will get from the Central Government. If we get a grant of Rs.25 lakhs I can assure my hon. friend that all the schemes will be taken up simultaneously, but if we get one lakh his Sunamganj road will not be taken up.

MAULAVI MUNAWWARALI: It is for this reason, Sir, that I have tabled this motion. May I move my motion, Sir?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I think there are certain grounds on which this selection is based. If the hon. member wants that this amendment should be taken up and the case of competing projects should be decided in this House, then I think we shall have to sit up to midnight to-day.

MAULAVI MUNAWWARALI: We are helpless, Sir. As regards the case of Sunamganj I do not think there is any member in this House who will not support me when they have heard the piteous story of Sunamganj. Therefore I wanted to place before the House the case of Sunamganj. If you would permit me, Sir, I would finish within 5 minutes?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I see, the hon. member's motion is the first and if he wants to move, he may move; but other hon. members will also move their motions. The result may very well be conjectured.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN: If all the schemes that appear in the resolution are made known, I will accept the proceedings of the Communication Board?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: All the schemes are ready. Now it is a question of priority—which one is to be taken first.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN: I suggest that the latter portion of the Resolution, *viz.*, the programme of road improvement drawn up after consultation with the Assam Communications Board to be undertaken from the grants from the Central Road Fund, may be omitted for the present.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Will it take us far.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN: The question is how the amount is spent. It will be 10 lakhs or 15 lakhs or 5 lakhs; we do not know as yet.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: As regards that I have got one word to say. The Government of India will take into consideration all the new schemes and if we show in our resolution the priority of the schemes, in that case we have got a better chance of getting more money. If we do not give priority to any scheme, they may give us less than what we ask for.

MAULAVI MUNAWWARALI: I think, Sir that in the letter to the Government of India, the phrase priority is redundant. Let all the schemes be placed before them. That will create greater impression. Let them consider all the schemes simultaneously?

MR. W. FLEMING: I think those who have studied this programme will all agree as to the amount of careful work that has been put into it by the Department. It is also equally clear from the speeches of hon. members who have addressed the House, that they have no key to the method of selection. So far as I am aware, Sir, the method of arriving at a basis for the scheme was to ask for proposals from all parts of the province. It will be fairly clear to anybody that by such a method we could not but get long view proposals and short view proposals—far-sighted proposals and near-sighted proposals. But the point is, the House is not in a position to know what was the method of selection. Now, Sir, I think there is sufficient evidence that the Board bestowed great care on it and I think we should be making a mistake at this moment if we disturbed their arrangement. We should do nothing that would jeopardise our chances of getting this money from the Central Government.

The scheme is for a crore of rupees and it is fixed for 10 years. I do not think that it is satisfactory that we should tie ourselves to details ten years ahead. Therefore in reading the second part of the resolution where it says: priority of the remaining schemes is to be decided by the Assam Communications Board at a subsequent meeting, I think it is only reasonable that members of this House should record their opinion that more than one subsequent meeting will be required and that something of real detail as to the method of selection of the schemes should be in the hands of members before the Communications Board meets next time. We should state our view that there should be some indication of scientific method in the selection of the schemes. No project should be taken merely because a member for—I won't name, Sir,—somewhere, or a member for somewhere else, has a local parochial scheme of his own.

MAULAVI MUNAWWARALI: I would tell him through you, Sir, that the Sunamganj project had topped the list three times and it has got down in a mysterious manner.

MR. W. FLEMING: The hon. member appears to have found that the shoe fits.

I would like to repeat that this Assembly should do nothing that would jeopardise getting money from the Central Government for a scheme which is wide enough and which is drawn with care.

But nevertheless, I do think that hon. members of the House are in general agreement that they wish to know what is the method of selection. There have been suggestions made, as to what information is required, either an analysis of local trade conditions or an analysis of traffic. You cannot take a traffic analysis or at any rate not a useful one, over a road that does not exist or is in bad condition but there must be some data on which conclusions are formed and we should ask the Department concerned to make quite certain that the Communications Board has these facts in its hands before it is asked to decide on the priority of the rest of the scheme, probably 80 lakhs worth.

It seems to me, Sir, that the criticism which is possible in this House, and the fact that one member can come and say that this scheme was not considered and another can come and say that that scheme was not considered, is entirely due to the fact that the reasons for the choice of schemes were not submitted to the Communications Board which should have dealt with them. I think, Sir, if this is done for the remainder of the scheme then in the next discussion of the programme the House will have less trouble in arriving at a reasonable conclusion.

Then, Sir, I would also like to discuss the scope of the Communications Board itself.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : Let us first decide as to how we should proceed on. If it is the intention of the House that this amendment motion should be taken up then we shall have to wait but the time at our disposal, I think, will not be quite sufficient for the purpose.

MR. W. FLEMING : Sir, the considerations I am putting before the House are, I hope, such as will enable those who have tabled these motions to decide that at present time it will be better not to move their motions. The main object of my speech is that these detailed amendments are embarrassing at this stage and will lead to no useful purpose. I have not finished all I have to say, Sir, but if at this stage you wish to arrive at your ruling regarding the amendments, I shall with your permission give way and resume later.

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA : Sir, I understand from the Hon'ble Chief Minister that all these schemes that are in this programme have been prepared already and if now we like to substitute one scheme for the other, then there need not be any delay in submitting the schemes to the Government of India. If, of course, we had come forward with the demand for other roads which are not here in the proposed programme, in that case the matter might have been held up or delayed but now all that we have to do is to substitute one item which is already in the scheme for some others. I may point out, Sir, that the scheme for which at least I and my hon. friend Srijut Rajani Kanta Barua stand is only one scheme for many others. That would simply minimise the work of the Government and it will not increase the work because he will have to substitute one scheme already prepared for several others. Therefore there need not be any fear of more time being lost over this. If the schemes are already there, one scheme may easily be substituted for another and the list may be sent to the Government of India quite in time.

SRIJUT GOPINATH BARDOLOI : Sir, I would like to speak a word or two. I think, I have got to support Mr. Fleming and also the Hon'ble Chief Minister in this matter. We had appointed a Board from among our members. Of course, there were certain nominated members but after all it was a decision which was arrived at by the representatives of our own House and therefore it would not look very fair for us to go against the details of the recommendations that have been made. I am therefore disposed to think that it would be quite decent on our part to accept the proposals that have been put forward by the Board. Of course, in regard to certain principles, I think, we should be able to discuss them in this House but in regard to details as to how these principles have got to be worked out, I think, it will be better to leave it to the Board whom we appointed and whom we selected. That being the position, I request him to withdraw the amendment and not to embarrass ourselves with mere discussion on this matter (*hear, hear*). In regard to the matter of principle, enunciated in the recommendations, I am disposed to think that I may personally be at variance with it. I feel, Sir, if Srijut Rajani Kanta Barua's amendment would have been given effect to, I would be directly benefited but I do not know very exactly on what principle it has been made and it is for that simple reason that I consider, it will be embarrassing to be able to come to any definite conclusion in regard to that amendment even.

There may however be a difference in the outlook, I mean, about the whole principle of distribution. If I have been able to guess properly, I think, I would very much be in favour of the principle my hon. friend Srijut Rajani Kanta Barua has enunciated in his amendment. The present distribution that has been made, is, I think, on the basis of having long trunk roads running from one end of the country to the other. But there is also another aspect of the whole question of communication about which I think, the resolution of the Government of India also indicates, namely, that there should

be some ventures to have communications for the improvement of villages, and to have roads which will pass through the villages and connect them with the railway or trunk roads. This is very necessary in view of the fact that we have got to make the transport of the agricultural produce cheaper. I find Sir, that the principle that I have just now referred to has not been given much attention in the distribution that has been made in the present recommendations which has come in the shape of a resolution put forward by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. I think, however, Sir, we may leave this matter of principle and their applications to particular details to be discussed by the Board that is functioning or the Board that will function. So my request to all the hon. movers of the amendments is that it will be better for us all to withdraw the amendments now.

MR. W. FLEMING: Sir, I shall be very brief. I sat down to let you take the opinion of the House. I thank the hon. leader of the Opposition for his remarks with which I am in fairly complete agreement. I want to amplify them a little. So far, the Communications Board has had to deal with nothing except road matters. It seems to me, Sir, that road schemes should be dealt with in relation to every means of communication in the province (*hear, hear*) and that would involve the very principle which the hon. Mr. Gopinath Bardoloi has just enunciated. It seems to me, Sir, that when a project of a road from "A" to "B" is under discussion, it should be considered whether there is a railway in the vicinity and whether the river comes or does not come into the matter. Similarly a railway should have no right to proceed on its own initiative and spend what is in the last resort public money on an extension, over an alignment where, in these road minded days there will inevitably be a road. Therefore, Sir, to conclude I want to say this, that it seems to me that there ought to be a Ministry of Communications. I want to say that I think there should be a portfolio of Communications which should include all matters connected with Communications. Any project—road, railway or river—should come within the purview of that Ministry, and further, Sir, that Ministry should be advised by the Communications Board. Therefore, Sir, I suggest that any project of road, of railway, river, or of feeder roads, should come first of all within the purview of the Communications Board.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: There is an amendment* standing in the name of Maulavi Munawwarali. Is the hon. member going to move it? Does he hope that his amendment will be carried?

MAULAVI MUNAWWARALI: Sir, I wanted to place my case.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I think the case has been sufficiently placed and if the hon. member places his case, there are other hon. members who have tabled their amendments, and they will want to place their cases. I think the hon. member should withdraw his amendment.

MAULAVI MUNAWWARALI: I shall withdraw my amendment, Sir, if other hon. members do the same. But one principle which has been enunciated by my hon. friend Mr. Bardoloi seems to be very pernicious. It will have a pernicious effect on our deliberations here. My hon. friend thinks that whenever we elect our representatives in a Committee, and when they bring forward their recommendations before us, it would be flouting their opinion if we do not accept their recommendations *in toto*. If it were so, we would not have elected Select Committees to go into various Bills, and criticise their opinion when it comes up before us, and even sometimes upset it altogether. Therefore, Sir, it will mean no disrespect to the members of the Board if we do not accept their recommendations *in toto*. So, I want to tell the hon. members that it would not be proper on our part to accept the principle enunciated by hon. Mr. Bardoloi.

* Maulavi Munawwarali to move—

That in the fifth line of the said Resolution the five figures, 1, 2, 7, 9, 12, be re-arranged as follows :—12, 1, . . . 9.

As regards my amendment, I have indicated my willingness, though very reluctantly, to withdraw it if all the hon. gentlemen will withdraw theirs.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I think, from the discussion that has taken place, the hon. members, who have tabled amendments, will decide their course of action, so far as their amendments are concerned.

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA: Sir, there is one amendment standing in my name*. I would like to make a statement in one respect. Sir, I want to say that if priority to any item is to be given, and if it is to be given according to the urgency of provincial importance, in that case the North Trunk Road should have come first. If urgency is to be determined by the needs of the cultivators, in that case also, Sir, the portion of the North Trunk Road between North Lakhimpur and Dibrugarh should be improved first, because there is no road, no railway and no steamer communication there. That portion has been neglected and urgency given to other places. I do not understand on what principle the selection has been made. This road will not run parallel to any railway line, but rather will serve as an important feeder road. Therefore, I think if the Hon'ble Chief Minister takes these factors into consideration, and promise to give priority to that portion of the road I should withdraw my amendment. It is absolutely necessary to take up that portion in order to take the North Trunk Road up to a railway head and a commercial centre instead of stopping it at Chauldhoa as at present leading nowhere; it is at present a blind road. If he remembers these things, Sir, and consider all these factors I shall be glad to withdraw my motion.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The hon. members have got their representatives in the Board, and they can very well press before the Communications Board all these local grievances.

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA: I think, Sir, that was done. I beg to withdraw my amendment, Sir.

SRIJUT RAJANI KANTA BARUA: I also beg to withdraw my amendment.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: Sir, before we come to the end of it may I suggest to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Works Department to give notice to all members of this Assembly regarding the date of sitting of the Communications Board so that each member can place his case before the Board, as it is not possible for every member to be included therein.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: If necessary by advocates (*Laughter*) I take it that all the amendments are not going to be moved. I am placing this resolution.

[Then the Hon'ble Speaker put the main resolution to the House, and declared it carried.]

CONFIRMATION OF THE ASSAM COMMUNICATIONS BOARD

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I beg, Sir, to move:

This Assembly recommends that the Assam Communications Board as constituted provisionally in the Public Works Department Notification No. 45C.,† dated the 27th April 1937, be confirmed for the life time of the present Assembly subject to the modification that the Chief Engineer be relieved

*Srijut Sarveswar Barua to move:—

That the figures 1, 15, 16, 21 and 42 be deleted and the figure 24 be substituted for the figure 53.

†Appendix B.

of his duties as *ex-officio* Secretary and that the Superintending Engineers be appointed *ex-officio* Joint Secretaries to the Board.

[The Hon'ble Speaker put the resolution to the House.]

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: There are three amendments. One stands in the name of Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta. His amendment runs thus. "And further that the number of members of the Board be increased by two so as to include the two Indian members who have been elected by the Indian Tea Concerns to represent their interest in the Assembly". The same amendment stands in the name of Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee. I doubt very much whether they are in order.

As regards Maulavi Munawwar Ali's amendment, he wants to substitute the word "dissolved" in place of the word "confirmed". I think he can oppose the main resolution without making an amendment. This is a motion for confirmation, and if the hon. member wants to dissolve the Board he can oppose the main resolution. He can argue in favour of dissolution, and if he can bring the House to his side, the Board will not be confirmed. So, that can be done without tabling a motion.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: But there is something further—"that a new Assam Communications Board be constituted during the next session of the Assembly", that is something different.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The question of reconstitution will only come in if the Board be dissolved. The resolution is to the effect that the Board be confirmed and the hon. member wants that the Board be dissolved. Is it not asking for the contrary? However he can oppose the entire motion.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: Then, Sir, I oppose the motion of the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: But before that there are other amendments, that of Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee and that of Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta.

MR. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I intend to move my amendment because at present the Indian tea planting concerns are absolutely unrepresented on the Assam Communications Board. While there are three members on the Board from the European planters side—one nominated by the Assam Branch of the Indian Tea Association, one nominated by the Surma Valley Branch of the Indian Tea Association, and one representing the North Bank interest of the Indian Tea Association, there is none to represent the Indian tea concerns. As a matter of fact 95 per cent. of the Indian tea concerns are not members of the Indian Tea Association, and as such nominated members of the Indian Tea Association cannot represent the Indian tea concerns. Therefore I am moving this amendment. My amendment is this:—

That in the last line of the Resolution after the word "Board" the following words be added:—

"And further that the number of members of the Board be increased by two so as to include the two Indian members who have been elected by the Indian Tea Concerns to represent their interest in the Assembly."

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with due respect I quite agree with the ruling that has been given by the Chair. My motion is for confirmation of the Board. As regards the amendments my submission is that the two motions stand

together. We have got a Communications Board already consisting of 18 members, some of whom have not got a vote and are only observers. My motion before the House is that the Board as constituted by election of 8 members from this House be confirmed. I would like to point out however that at the time when the voting papers were distributed the word "provisional" appeared in the instructions, i.e., that the Board will be only provisional, that the representatives of the House will be there for a short time, as the Board is provisional. I understand that the reason why my hon. friend Maulavi Munawwar Ali wants that the Communications Board as at present constituted be dissolved is that owing to the fact that the Board was advertised to be provisional, many of his party who wanted to stand as candidates for representing this House on the Board did not stand. He may have reason before him for his amendment but as I have already said, he can do so by opposing the entire motion.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Unless this Board be formed it cannot function.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The Board has already functioned, but we wanted it to function for the rest of the life of this House, but this was not mentioned in the voting papers, and that is the only hitch. If the present Board is not confirmed and the House wishes that a fresh Communications Board should be elected from the representatives of the House *plus* the other members, then only other question of giving representation to the Indian tea planting group will arise. At present it cannot arise. So, my submission is that the three motions—(two of the representatives of the Indian tea planting concerns and that of my hon. friend Maulavi Munawwar Ali) stand or fall together.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: If what I have heard from the Hon'ble Chief Minister be the position then I am doubtful as to whether Maulavi Munawwar Ali's motion should be ruled out of order.

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN: If I heard him correctly I think the Hon'ble Chief Minister said that in the voting papers it was stated that the Board was provisional and that it would cease to function at the end of this session. Am I correct, Sir?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR, MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, Sir, it was stated that the Board will be provisional. It is also in the motion itself.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: In that case the amendment of Maulavi Munawwar Ali is in order.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir. As you have kindly ruled that my motion is in order I will move it. My motion runs thus:—

That in the third line of the said Resolution in place of the word "confirmed" the following be substituted:—

"dissolved and a new Assam Communications Board be constituted during the next Session of the Assembly".

and the resolution as amended will read thus:—

"This Assembly recommends that the Assam Communications Board as constituted provisionally in the Public Works Department Notification No. 45C., dated the 27th April 1937, be dissolved and a new Assam Communications Board be constituted during the next session of the Assembly for the lifetime of the present Assembly, subject to the modification that the Chief Engineer be relieved of his duties as *ex-officio* Secretary and that the Superintending Engineers be appointed *ex-officio* Joint Secretaries to the Board".

Sir, if my motion is accepted the result will be what the original intention of the Government and also of this Assembly was. We voted and we constituted the Assam Communications Board on the distinct understanding that it was merely provisional and that a fresh Board would be elected during this session of the Assembly.

I will not take the time of the hon. members. I simply request the Hon'ble Minister for Public Works Department to be good enough to accept my amendment. That will minimise my time and that will also carry out the original intention of the Government and the Assembly.

Sir, I would not take the time of the hon. members (Mr. Hockenfull—*hear, hear*). I will simply request the Hon'ble Minister for Public Works that he should be kind enough to see his way to accept my amendment and that will minimise time. That will only mean that the House is carrying out the original intentions of Government and the Assembly when it asked the House to make these elections only provisionally and till this session of the Assembly. I hope the Hon'ble Minister in charge will be pleased to accept this amendment.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: In view of the fact that at the time the Board was elected it was distinctly mentioned that the constitution of the Board will be only provisional, I do not see how I can oppose the amendment of my hon. friend.

SRIJUT GOPINATH BARDOLOI: On a point of order, Sir, I do not understand what the position of the Hon'ble Minister exactly is. He has moved a motion for the confirmation of the Board. Now he says he cannot help agreeing to the amendment for the dissolution of the Board. We do not understand what the position is exactly.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The position of the Government is quite clear. I want to be guided by the views of the House. At the time when the Board was elected in April last it was mentioned that the eight members would be elected provisionally. I leave it to the House, therefore, whether they want us to continue with the same Board or whether they want to elect a fresh one. At the same time I do not want it to be said that a trick was played on the members because it was stated in the letters to members that the Board would be only provisional and therefore many members who wanted to stand for election did not do so for that reason. I leave the decision on this matter to the House and shall abide by what they say.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: There is one little point of information, Sir. Is my information correct that between now and the next session of the Assembly there will be no sitting of the Communications Board?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: That is so, Sir. There is no programme ready to be placed before the Board during this period.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The question is that in the third line of the resolution, in place of the word 'confirmed' the following be substituted: "dissolved and a new Communications Board be constituted during the next session of the Assembly".

SRIJUT GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Sir, I accept the resolution as moved by the Hon'ble Minister for Public Works and oppose the amendment moved by the hon. member Maulavi Munawwar Ali; I do not really understand that there is anything before us to believe that the Board that we have already appointed would not be able to discharge their responsibilities. We had the recommendations that were submitted before the House and I think the House after due deliberation accepted their recommendations. I do not think that anything has come in between to take away the trust that we have in that Board and to reconstitute it in another manner.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: It is to be confirmed for the lifetime of the present Assembly, that is the resolution.

SRIJUT GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I think, Sir, they have so far discharged their functions very well and I have no manner of doubt that they are likely to discharge their duties better, in the future. With their present experience and knowledge, I think they will be in a better position to discharge their duty. Therefore, I oppose the amendment and support the resolution.

The amendment was put to the House and declared lost. The decision being challenged, the House divided with the following result :—

Ayes—19

1. Maulavi Abdul Aziz.
2. Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury.
3. Maulavi Abdur Rahman,
4. Maulavi Md. Abdus Salam.
5. Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahab Chaudhury.
6. Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed.
7. Maulavi Ghyasuddin Ahmed.
8. Maulavi Mabarak Ali.
9. Khan Sahib Maulavi Mudabir Hussain Chaudhuri.
10. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur Rahman.
11. Maulavi Munawwar Ali.
12. Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed.
13. Khan Sahib Maulavi Sayidur Rahman.
14. Mr. Benjamin Ch. Momin.
15. Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das.
16. Srijut Binode Kumar J. Sarwan.

Noes.—46

1. Mr. Arun Kumar Chanda.
2. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee.
3. Srijut Beliram Das.
4. Srijut Bhuban Chandra Gogoi.
5. Babu Bipin Behari Das.
6. Babu Dakshina Ranjan Gupta Chaudhuri.
7. Srijut Debeswar Sarmah.
8. Srijut Ghanashyam Das.
9. Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi.
10. Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan.
11. Srijut Jadav Prosad Chaliha.
12. Srijut Jogendra Chandra Nath.
13. Srijut Jogendra Nath Barua.
14. Srijut Kameswar Das.
15. Babu Kamini Kumar Sen.
16. Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy.
17. Mr. Kedarmal Brahmin.
18. Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya.
19. Srijut Lakhesvar Borooah.
20. Babu Lalit Mohon Kar.
21. Srijut Mahadev Sarma.
22. Srijut Mahi Chandra Bora.
23. Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta.
24. Srijut Omeo Kumar Das.
25. Srijut Paramananda Das.
26. Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma.
27. Srijut Rajani Kanta Barooah.
28. Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua.
29. Srijut Sankar Chandra Barua.
30. Srijut Sarveswar Barua.
31. Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma.
32. Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan.
33. Maulavi Muhammad Amiruddin.
34. Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali.
35. Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.
36. Col. A. B. Beddow.

17. Rev. L. Gatphoh.
18. Mr. C. Goldsmith.
19. Mr. Jobang D. Marak.

37. Mr. A. F. Bendall.
38. Mr. J. R. Clayton.
39. Mr. W. R. Faull.
40. Mr. W. Fleming.
41. Mr. B. I. Barry.
42. Mr. F. W. Hockenhull.
43. Mr. D. B. H. Moore.
44. Mr. R. A. Palmer.
45. Srijut Bideshi Pan Tanti.
46. Mr. P. Parida.

Ayes being 19 and Noes 46, the amendment was lost.

MR. NABAKUMAR DUTTA: I beg to move, Sir, the following amendment:

That in the last line of the Resolution after the word "Board" the following words be added:—

"And further that the number of members of the Board be increased by two so as to include the two Indian members who have been elected by the Indian Tea Concerns; to represent their interest in the Assembly".

I have just said what I have to say in this connection. I now leave the amendment for the acceptance of the House.

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Sir, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has just said that if the previous motion be negatived then the other motions also should go.

The Hon'ble the Speaker repeated the amendment to the House.

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, I have got a similar amendment. I therefore support this amendment.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, I leave the matter to the House.

The motion was put and carried.

The original resolution as amended was then put and carried.

The House was adjourned to Wednesday, the 1st September 1937, at 11 A.M.

SHILLONG :
The 19th October 1937.

A. K. BARUA,
Secretary, Assam Legislative Assembly.

APPENDIX A

PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF ROAD IMPROVEMENT
IN ASSAM

Serial No.	Name of project	Category according to Transport Advisory Council Policy— (1) Constructing major bridges (2) Improving road (3) Constructing road	Number of project as indicated in the map	Public Works Department Division	Civil District	Local Board or Public Works Department Road	Length of road to be constructed or improved (in miles)	Number of bridges to be constructed or improved	Rough cost of projects
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Rebuilding the Dooma bridge in mile 318 of the Assam Trunk Road.	2	Bridge 1	Lakhimpur	Lakhimpur	Public Works Department.	...	1 255'	Rs. 60,000
2	Improving the North Trunk Road from Dumnichouki (mile 76) via Maramanas (mile 150) to Garubhasa (mile 181).	2	32	Western Assam.	Kamrup and Goalpara.	Public Works Department and Dhubri Local Board.	105.5	Bamboo 57-4000' Timber 49-3048'	16,00,000
3	Improving Garubhasa-Kokrajhar-Phutkibari-Bilashipara-Gauripur road.	2	27	Ditto ...	Goalpara...	Ditto ...	49.69	...	2,70,000

Whether specially put forward		Order of urgency proposed by—		Remarks by the Superintending Engineers
(a) Railways (b) Steamer Companies (c) Transport Association (d) Executive Engineer (e) Tea Association		Local Board in area concerned	Commissioner, for the whole Valley	
11	12	13	14	
(d)	...	...	1	1. This bridge in the town of Doom Dooma, which is an important industrial centre, is beyond repair, and as the Trunk Road carries a very heavy motor traffic, it is essential to replace this bridge as early as possible.
(d)	Kamrup 1 Dhubri 3	...	1	2. The improvement of the Trunk Road is extremely important as it is holding up the development of the area through which it passes. Innumerable bamboo bridges and ferries are a great obstruction to development of motor transport. The bamboo bridges between Dumnichouki and Moramanas total 4,000 r.ft. and it will require about Rs.6,00,000 to get them bridged. There are 3,360 r.ft of ferries. We may for the present exclude the Benki which is a very big river and this will leave 1,360 r.ft. to be bridged.
(d)	1, 2 and 4	1	1	3. The cost shown does not include major bridges at Moragadadhar, Tipkai, Gaurang. The roads form not only part of the Trunk Road system on the North Bank but also serve as feeder roads to the Eastern Bengal Railway stations Bongaigaon, Kokrajhar and Fakiragram and the steamer station at Bilashipara.

Serial No.	Name of project	Category according to Transport Advisory Council Policy— (1) Constructing major bridges (2) Improving road (3) Constructing road	Number of project as indicated in the map	Public Works Department Division	Civil District	Local Board or Public Works Department Road.	Length of road to be constructed or improved (in miles)	Number of bridges to be constructed or improved	Rough cost of projects
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4	Bridging the Moragadadhar river on the Gauripur-Bilashipara road.	1	Bridge 26	Western Assam.	Goalpara...	Public Works Department. Dhubri...	..	1 900'	Rs. 1,35,000
5	Bridging the Gaurang river on the Phautkibari-Garubhasa road.	1	Bridge 30	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	..	1 500'	75,000
6	Bridging the Tipkai on the Gauripur-Bilashipara road.	1	Bridge 28	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Public Works Department.	..	1 1000'	1,60,000

Whether specially put forward by— (a) Railways (b) Steamer Companies (c) Transport Association (d) Executive Engineer (e) Tea Association	Order of urgency proposed by—		Remarks by the Superintending Engineers
	Local Board in area concerned	Commissioner, for the whole Valley	
11	12	13	14
(d)	...	Recommended.	4, 5 and 6. In order to bridge the major streams a start should be made from the Dhubri end and these three streams bridged.
(d)	...		
(d)	...		

Serial No.	Name of project	Category according to Transport Advisory Council Policy— (1) Constructing major bridges (2) Improving road (3) Constructing road	Number of project as indicated in the map	Public Works Department Division	Civil District	Local Board or Public Works Department Road	Length of road to be constructed or improved (in miles)	Number of bridges to be constructed or improved	Rough cost of projects
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7	Improving the Srimalangal-Shaistaganj road towards Agar-tala.	2	49	Sylhet ...	Sylhet ...	South Sylhet and Habiganj.	54	1 Khowai	Rs. 4,00,000

Whether specially put forward by— (a) Railways (b) Steamer Companies (c) Transport Association (d) Executive Engineer (e) Tea Association	Order of urgency proposed by— Local Board in area concerned		Remarks by the Superintending Engineers	
11	12	13	14	
(e)	3	Recom- mended, vide notes col. 14.	<p>7. After discussion with the Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Division, it is considered that the best method of improving communications in this area is—</p> <p>(1) Bring the Srimangal-Habiganj road to Shaistaganj from Mirpur instead of running along the east side of the Khowai river and then crossing to meet the Habiganj-Shaistaganj road in the 4th mile from Habiganj.</p> <p>The Khowai river will require bridging in either case.</p> <p>The advantage of this line is that traffic from the south of the district can then get direct to Mirpur for Srimangal, Maulvibazar and Sylhet without having to go nearly up to Habiganj.</p> <p>(2) From Shaistaganj follow the Muchikandi road as proposed by the local board as far as Chunarughat, 6 miles, then branch south west along the road through Chandpur and Teliapara Tea Estate to meet the Jagadishpur-Dharanghor road south of Itakhola railway station, thence due south down the road through Gobindpur the most southerly point, excluding the Lushai Hills, of the Province to Agartala, the Capital of Hill Tipperah, which lies slightly west of south and only some 12 miles distant.</p> <p>Since Agartala is already connected with Comilla by road this will give an inter-provincial arterial road from Comilla to Sylhet and Shillong.</p>	

Serial No.	Name of project	Category according to Transport Advisory Council Policy— (1) Constructing major bridges (2) Improving road (3) Constructing road	Number of project as indicated in the map	Public Works Department Division	Civil District	Local Board or Public Works Department Road	Length of road to be constructed or improved (in miles)	Number of bridges to be constructed or improved	Rough cost of projects
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8	Improving the Sylhet-Sherpur road.	2	46	Sylhet ...	Sylhet ...	Public Works Department.	22	2 Narkila and Baman-gaon.	Rs. 2,15,000
9	Improving the Karimganj Earle bridge approach road.	2	54	Cachar ...	Sylhet ...	Karimganj Municipality.	1	...	20,000
10	Replacing all timber bridges on the Cachar Trunk Road between Karimganj and Sheola ferry by permanent structures.	2	53	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Public Works Department.	...	...	70,000

Whether specially put forward by—		Order of urgency proposed by—		Remarks by the Superintending Engineers	
(a) Railways (b) Steamer Companies (c) Transport Association (d) Executive Engineer (e) Tea Association		Local Board in area concerned	Commissioner, for the whole Valley		
11	12	13	14		
...	...	...	...	8. With the opening of the Sherpur-Manumukh road there will be direct road communication from Sylhet to Maulvibazar and consequently with all roads radiating from it south and eastwards. It is therefore very necessary to construct these two small bridges as even now, when the road terminates at Sherpur, there is considerable traffic.	
...	...	Recom- mended.	...	9. The present approach runs through a particularly narrow congested bazar with very bad turns. By realignment the whole of the bazar area is avoided and the road is run up on to the bridge by easy curves. This is unquestionably of the first importance as under present conditions accidents are likely to occur daily.	
(d)	...	Very important.	...	10. It is obviously of the first importance to get rid of all semi-permanent bridges on the Public Works Department roads as apart from all other reasons this involves a big reduction in maintenance costs.	

Serial No.	Name of project	Category according to Transport Advisory Council Policy— (1) Constructing major bridges (2) Improving road (3) Constructing road	Number of project as indicated in the map	Public Works Department Division	Civil District	Local Board or Public Works Department Road	Length of road to be constructed or improved (in miles)	Number of bridges to be constructed or improved	Rough cost of projects
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	Bridging the Sadipur in mile 22 of the Sylhet-Sherpur road.	1	Bridge 47	Sylhet ...	Sylhet ...	Public Works Department. Sunamganj and North Sylhet.	...	1 420'	Rs. 1,00,000
12	Improving the Sylhet-Sunamganj road.	2	44	Ditto ...	Ditto ...		41	...	8,25,000
13	Constructing a road between Lakhipur and Mankachar.	3	25	Lower Assam and Western Assam.	Goalpara and Garo Hills.	Public Works Department.	50.00	...	8,00,000

Whether specially put forward by— (a) Railways (b) Steamer Companies (c) Transport Association (d) Executive Engineer (e) Tea Association	Order of urgency proposed by—		Remarks by the Superintending Engineers
	Local Board in area concerned	Commissioner, for the whole Valley	
11	12	13	14
...	...	...	11. The remarks on item 8 apply in this case also. This bridge will have to be on a diversion to avoid the deep scour pit at the existing ferry site when there is up to 50' depth of water during the cold weather months.
...	1	Third out of ten.	12. To link the subdivisional town of Sunamganj with its headquarters town of Sylhet by an all-weather road is obviously of great importance. Rs. Sylhet-Gobindganj—12 miles ... 1,00,000 Gobindganj-Sunamganj—29 miles... ... 7,25,000 <u>8,25,000</u>
...	...	...	13. His Excellency (Sir Michael Keane) has ordered in file C1-R/7 of 1935 that a scheme for a through road be taken up as soon as funds permit.

Serial No.	Name of project	Category according to Transport Advisory Council Policy— (1) Constructing major bridges (2) Improving road (3) Constructing road	Number of project as indicated in the map	Public Works Department Division	Civil District	Local Board or Public Works Department Road	Length of road to be constructed or improved (in miles)	Number of bridges to be constructed or improved	Rough cost of projects
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	Improving communications between Fakirganj and the new alignment of the Assam Trunk Road now proposed between Lakhipur and Mankachar.	2 & 3	25A	Western Assam.	Goalpara...	Public Works Department.	7.0	...	Rs. 1,00,000
15	Improving the Hojai-Doboka road.	2	18	Lower Assam.	Nowgong...	Nowgong	8.75	⁷ Nos. 288'	60,000
16	Replacing timber bridges on the Assam Trunk Road west of Gauhati.	2	Bridge 22	Lower Assam.	Kamrup ...	Public Works Department.	...	22 Nos. 1,332 r.ft.	2,70,000
17	Bridging the Manu at Maulvibazar.	1	Bridge 48	Sylhet ...	Sylhet ...	Ditto ...	...	1 No. 440 r.ft.	1,20,000

Whether specially put forward by— (a) Railways (b) Steamer Companies (c) Transport Association (d) Executive Engineer (e) Tea Association	Order of urgency proposed by—	Remarks by the Superintending Engineers	
11	12	13	14
...	...	...	14. To link Fakirganj an important steamerghat opposite Dhubri with Assam Trunk road.
...	1	1st for the District.	15. This road connects the area south of the Jamuna river a fast growing immigrant area, with Hojai Railway station.
(d)	...	...	16. It is obviously of the first importance to get rid of all settli-permanent bridges on Public Works Department roads as apart from all other reasons this involves a big reduction in maintenance costs.
(d)	...	6th out of 10.	17. With the opening of the Sherpur-Manumukh road there will be a large increase of traffic between Sylhet, Kulaura and Juri district via this crossing in Maulvi bazar. A road bridge is therefore really necessary to replace the ferry the approaches to which are always difficult.

Serial No.	Name of project	Category according to Transport Advisory Council Policy— (1) Constructing major bridges (2) Improving road (3) Constructing road	Number of project as indicated in the map	Public Works Department Division	Civil District	Local Board or Public Works Department Road	Length of road to be constructed or improved (in miles)	Number of bridges to be constructed or improved	Rough cost of projects
1	2	3	4	5		7	8	9	10
18	Replacing the timber bridges East of Gauhati on the Assam Trunk Road.	2	Bridge 21	Lower Assam	Nowgong...	Public Works Department.	...	34 Nos. 1484r.ft.	3,00,000
19	Bridging the Boginadi in North Lakhimpur in mile 12 of North Trunk Road between North Lakhimpur and Chaldhoa.	1	Bridge 42	Central Assam.	Lakhimpur	Ditto.	...	1 No. 400'	80,000

Whether specially put forward by— (a) Railways (b) Steamship Companies (c) Transport Association (d) Executive Engineer (e) Tea Association	Order of urgency proposed by—		Remarks by the Superintending Engineers
	Local Board in area concerned	Commissioner, for the whole Valley	
11	12	13	
(d)	...	...
	1	1st for the Local Board area.	14
18. It is obviously of the first importance to get rid of all semi-permanent bridges on the Public Works Department roads as apart from all other reasons this involves a big reduction in maintenance costs.			
19. This river is temporarily bridged in the cold weather, but it is exceedingly difficult to cross in the rainy season which leads to stoppage of traffic on an important road.			

Serial No.	Name of project	Category according to Transport Advisory Council Policy— (1) Constructing major bridges (2) Improving road (3) Constructing road	Number of project as indicated in the map	Public Works Department Division	Civil District	Local Board or Public Works Department Road	Length of road to be constructed or improved (in miles)	Number of bridges to be constructed or improved	Rough cost of projects
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
20	Bridging the Khandajan and Barnadi in Mangaldai sub-division.	2	Bridge 37 36	Central Assam.	Darrang ...	Public Works Department.	...	2 Nos.	70,000
21	Bridging the Borgang in Darrang district.	1	Bridge 39	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	...	1 800'	3,00,000
22	Bridging the Gabru in the Darrang district.	1	Bridge 38	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	...	1 360'	60,000
23	Constructing a bridge over the Buroi river.	1	Bridge 40	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	...	1 1500'	4,00,000

Whether specially put forward by—		Order of urgency proposed by—		Remarks by the Superintending Engineers
(a) Railways (b) Steamer Companies (c) Transport Association (d) Executive Engineer (e) Tea Association		Local Board in area concerned	Commissioner, for the whole Valley	
11	12	13	14	
(d)	...	4th for the district.	20. These ferries on the North Trunk Road are an obstacle to the development of the town of Mangaldai.	
(d) and (e)	2	1st for the district.	21. This is on the North Trunk Road. During rains the ferry mar cannot ply and the river thus cuts off communications between important areas. The site will have to be selected with due regard to its stability.	
(d) and (e)	3	No recommendation.	22. The stream makes an undesirable break in good communications from Tezpur towards Mangaldai.	
(d)	2	Recommended.	23. For maintaining through communications on the North Trunk road in an area which is not served by Railway, it is important to bridge the river Buroi. It will improve the communications between the Darrang district and North Lakhimpur.	

Serial No.	Name of project	Category according to Transport Advisory Council Policy— (1) Constructing major bridges (2) Improving road (3) Constructing road	Number of project as indicated in the map	Public Works Department Division	Civil District	Local Board or Public Works Department Road	Length of road to be constructed as improved (in miles)	Number of bridges to be constructed or improved	Rough cost of projects
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
24	Improving the North Trunk Road from Sonarighat (opposite Dibrugarh) to Chaldhoa to connect North Lakhimpur with the district headquarters.	2	43	Central Assam.	Lakhimpur	Public Works Department and North Lakhimpur Local Board.	39	...	9,00,000
25	Bridging the Sadakhal in the Cachar Trunk Road.	1	Bridge 51	Sylhet ...	Sylhet ...	Public Works Department.	...	1 960'	2,00,000

Whether specially put forward by— (a) Railways (b) Steamer Companies (c) Transport Association (d) Executive Engineer (e) Tea Association	Order of urgency proposed by—		Remarks by the Superintending Engineers
	Local Board in area concerned	Commissioner, for the whole Valley	
11	12	13	14
(e)	1	Recom- mended.	24. It is not possible to reach North Lakhimpur from the district headquarters at Dibrugarh without going through the neighbouring district of Sibsagar by a circuitous route. For administrative reasons, as well as for opening up the <i>do-ab</i> between Brahmaputra and Subansiri rivers which is at present cut off from civilisation it is necessary to improve this road.
...	...	...	25. The Cachar Trunk road from Sylhet to Karimganj was breached at this point near Sheola many years ago and the Sadakhal was formed. It is not considered wise to reduce the existing waterway so a bridge of 24 spans of 40' is proposed. This bridge is within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of the Kushiara crossing at Sheola and should be bridged so as to reduce the number of ferries between Sylhet and Karimganj to the one at Sheola only.

Serial No.	Name of project	Category according to Transport Advisory Council Policy— (1) Constructing major bridges (2) Improving road (3) Constructing road	Number of project as indicated in the map	Public Works Department Division	Civil District	Local Board or Public Works Department Road	Length of road to be constructed or improved (in miles)	Number of bridges to be constructed or improved	Rough cost of projects
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
26	Improvement of the Tingkhong road by gravelling from Naharkatia up to Bhojo station.	2	4	Lakhimpur	Lakhimpur and Sibsagar.	Dibrugarh and Sibsagar.	30	..	1,10,000
27	Gravelling and bridging the Sepon-Suffrai road.	2	7	Ditto ..	Sibsagar ..	Public Works Department	7	..	25,000
28	Improving Dhodar Ali from Desoi bridge to its junction with Seleng Railway station feeder road, and also improving the feeder road to the Seleng Railway station.	2	11	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Jorhat ...	14.5	..	45,000

Whether specially put forward by— (a) Railways (b) Steamer Companies (c) Transport Association (d) Executive Engineer (e) Tea Association	Order of urgency proposed by— Local Board in area concerned		Remarks by the Superintending Engineers
11	12	13	
(c) and (e)	...	1st for the district. See notes to tem 38.	26. Both the Deputy Commissioner and Local Board consider this road to be the first in importance for being improved. It also opens up an area to which access is not easy.
...	2	...	27. The road is on our books, its turn must come now for gravelling and replacing the bamboo bridges with permanent ones.
...	3	...	28. This road serves a number of important tea gardens which should have facility of communication with Mariani Junction and Seleng Railway Station.

Serial No.	Name of project	Category according to Transport Advisory Council Policy— (1) Constructing major bridges (2) Improving road (3) Constructing road	Number of project as indicated in the map	Public Works Department Division	Civil District	Local Board or Public Works Department Road	Length of road to be constructed or improved (in miles)	Number of bridges to be constructed or improved	Rough cost of projects
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
									Rs.
29	Improving the Assam Trunk road from Jorhat to mile 194, including the widening of the Bhogdoi bridge.	2	12	Lakhimpur	Sibsagar ...	Public Works Department.	...	...	41,000
30	Replacing timber bridges on Assam Trunk road (Dibrugarh Local Board area.)	2	Bridge 2	Ditto ...	Lakhimpur	Ditto ...	...	9 Nos. 141'.	10,000
31	Improving the Hugri-juli or Lahoal Jolipur road.	2	3	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Dibrugarh	15.5	...	45,000

Order of urgency proposed by—		Remarks by the Superintending Engineers	
Whether specially put forward by— (a) Railways (b) Steamer Companies (c) Transport Association (d) Executive Engineer (e) Tea Association	Local Board in area concerned	Commissioner, for the whole Valley	
	12	13	
11	...	...	14
...	...	...	29. The Bhogdoi bridge is a long narrow bridge and being within the town of Jorhat it causes great inconvenience to traffic. There has been a demand from the Jorhat public for its widening which is fully justified. The metalled portion mile 192-194 is wearing out very fast, it should be surface dressed with Bitumen.
(d)	2nd	No mention made.	30. This is overdue and these timber bridges must be replaced with permanent ones.
(d)	3rd	2nd for the Local Board area.	31. This is the main route from Dibrugarh to Joipur and joins up the Trunk road with the Dhodar Ali passing through important villages.

Serial No.	Name of project	Category according to Transport Advisory Council Policy— (1) Constructing major bridges (2) Improving road (3) Constructing road	Number of project as indicated in the map	Public Works Department Division	Civil District	Local Board or Public Works Department Road	Length of road to be constructed or improved (in miles)	Number of bridges to be constructed or improved	Rough cost of projects
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
32	Improving the Geleky Ali and Ladoigarh Ali from Dhodar Ali at Nazira to Amguri Railway Station.	2	9	Ditto ...	Sibsagar ...	Sibsagar	21.9	...	Rs. 80,000
33	Improving the feeder Road from Sapekhati Railway Station to Dhodar Ali.	2	5	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	3.0	...	10,000
34	Improving the feeder road from Lakhwa Railway Station to Dhodar Ali	2	8	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	6.0	...	6,000

Whether specially put forward by— (a) Railways (b) Steamship Companies (c) Transport Association (d) Executive Engineer (e) Tea Association	Order of urgency proposed by		Remarks by the Superintending Engineers
	Local Board in area concerned	Commissioner, for the whole Valley	
11	12	13	14
(e)	2nd	2nd for the Local Board area.	32. Recommended by Deputy Commissioner and Local Board as second in importance and supported by Indian Tea Association.
(d)	...		
(d)	...		33-34. This is a very desirable improvement, these roads connect up the railway stations with the Dhodar Ali which is being improved at present.

Serial No.	Name of project	Category according to Transport Advisory Council Policy— (1) Constructing major bridges (2) Improving road (3) Constructing road	Number of project as indicated in the map	Public Works Department Division	Civil District	Local Board or Public Works Department Road	Length of road to be constructed or improved (in miles)	Number of bridges to be constructed or improved	Rough cost of projects
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		10
35	Improving the Kamarbandha Ali (from Kakodanga bridge to Kamarbandha Ali Railway Station).	2	14	Golaghat...	Sibsagar ...	Golaghat	6.62	2 190'	Rs. 26,000
36	Improving the Morangi Ali	2	16	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	13.75	7 397'	1,03,000
37	Construction of a bridge over the Dhansirighat in the second mile of Golaghat Dimapur Road.	1	Bridge 15	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Public Works Department.	...	1 560 r.ft.	1,53,000

Whether specially put forward by— (a) Railways (b) Steamer Companies (c) Transport Association (d) Executive Engineer (e) Tea Association	Order of urgency proposed by—		Remarks by the Superintending Engineers	
	Local Board in area concerned	Commissioner, for the whole Valley		
11	12	13	14	
(d) and (e)	7	1 for the area.	35. Placed first in order of urgency by the Deputy Commissioner. There is a large cattle market on the road and several tea gardens. This will be a continuation of the improvement proposed by the Jorhat Local Board for the portion of the road that lies within that subdivision (<i>vide</i> item 39.)	
(d) and (e)	8	2nd	36. To improve communications in the district.	
(d) and (e)	1	Not mentioned.	37. This bridge close to the town of Golaghat will help to connect up the town and the railway station with roads and undeveloped country on the other bank of the river Dhansiri.	
		Proposed by Deputy Commissioner.		

Serial No.	Name of project	Category according to Advisory Council Policy— (1) Constructing major bridges (2) Improving road (3) Constructing road	Number or project as indicated in the map	Public Works Department Division	Civil District	Local Board or Public Works Department Road	Length of road to be constructed or improved (in miles)	Number of bridges to be constructed or improved	Rough cost of projects
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
38	Improving the Sologuri Ali from Moran thana and portion of Haruhat Ali to the junction with old Rajgarh Ali near Tinali Tea garden.	2	6	Lakhimpur	Lakhimpur	Dibrugarh	20.5	Rs. ..	Rs. 68,000
39	Improvement of the Kamarbandha Ali from Jorhat to Kakodanga bridge.	2	13	Ditto ...	Sibsagar ...	Jorhat ...	13.2	...	48,000

Whether specially put forward by— (a) Railways (b) Steamer Companies (c) Transport Association (d) Executive Engineer (e) Tea Association	Order of urgency proposed by— Local Board in area concerned		Remarks by the Superintending Engineers
11	12	13	
...	...	1	14
...	Subsequently recommended to take precedence to Tinali-Bhojo portion of item 26.	38. Recommended by the Deputy Commissioner. I agree as there have been demands from the planters in the past for improving this.	
...	1st for the Local Board area.	39. Direct shorter route from Jorhat to Golaghat through tea gardens and Bastis. Further extension up to Golaghat has been considered with proposals for Golaghat Division (<i>vide</i> item 35.)	

Serial No.	Name of project	Category according to Transport Advisory Council Policy— (1) Constructing major bridges (2) Improving road (3) Constructing road	Number of project as indicated in the map	Public Works Department Division	Civil District	Local Board or Public Works Department Road	Length of road to be constructed or improved (in miles)	Number of bridges to be constructed or improved	Rough cost of projects
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
40	Construction of a bridge over the Dhalaswar river on the Cachar Trunk Road.	1	Bridge 55	Cachar ...	Cachar ...	Public Works Department.	...	1 320'	Rs. 75,000
41	Improving the North Trunk Road from Chaldhoa to North Lakhimpur.	2	41	Central Assam.	Lakhimpur	Public Works Department.	23	32-2,308 r.ft.	3,16,000
42	Replacing timber bridges on the Nowgong-Kampur road.	2	20	Lower Assam.	Nowgong...	Public Works Department.	...	10-483 r.ft.	1,00,000

Whether specially put forward by—		Order of urgency proposed by—		Remarks by the Superintending Engineers
(a) Railways (b) Steamer Companies (c) Transport Association (d) Executive Engineer (e) Tea Association		Local Board in area concerned	Commissioner, for the whole Valley	
11	12	13	14	
(d)	...	Very important.	40. Until the remainder of the Cachar Trunk road from the east end of this bridge to Silchar is bridged which is not likely to be completed for many years the main route from Sylhet to Silchar will be to turn south immediately on crossing this bridge down the North Hailakandi road, to Hailakandi and thence to Silchar by the metalled Silchar-Hailakandi road. Thus with the opening of the Karimganj-Bhanga road this bridge becomes of the utmost importance being on the main arterial Sylhet-Silchar road.	
(e)	1	Recommended.	41. It is not possible to reach North Lakhimpur from the district headquarters at Dibrugarh without going through the neighbouring district of Sibsagar by a circuitous route. This will be a continuation of the improvement proposed, <i>vide</i> item 24, on the remaining portion of the North Trunk Road between Dibrugarh and North Lakhimpur.	
(d)	...	...	42. It is obviously of the first importance to get rid of all semi-permanent bridges on Public Works Department roads as apart from all other reasons this involves a big reduction in maintenance cost.	

Serial No.	Name of project	Category according to Transport Advisory Council Policy (1) Constructing major bridges (2) Improving road (3) Constructing road	Number of project as indicated in the map	Public Works Department Division	Civil District	Local Board or Public Works Department Road	Length of road to be constructed or improved (in miles)	Number of bridges to be constructed or improved	Rough cost of projects
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
43	Improving the Nalbari — Hajo-Amin-gaon road.	2	35	Western Assam.	Kamrup ...	Gauhati	31	...	Rs. 1,50,000
44	Replacing timber bridges on the Kothiatoli-Amlucki road.	2	Bridge 17	Lower Assam.	Nowgong...	Public Works Department.	...	33—883' r.ft.	1,70,000
45	Improving the Phutkibari Fakiragram road.	2	29	Western Assam.	Goalpara...	Public Works Department.	4.17	...	14,000
46	Construction of a bridge over the Katakhal river at Matijuri on the Silchar-Hailakandi road.	1	Bridge 56	Cachar ...	Cachar ...	Public Works Department.	...	1—400' r.ft.	1,00,000

Whether specially put forward by— (a) Railways (b) Steamer Companies (c) Transport Association (d) Executive Engineer (e) Tea Association	Order of urgency proposed by—		Remarks by the Superintending Engineers
	Local Board in area concerned	Commissioner, for the whole Valley	
11	12	13	14
...	...	1st for Kamrup district North Bank.	43. A feeder road to Eastern Bengal Railway which will link up backward areas with the Railway.
(d)	44. It is obviously of the first importance to get rid of all semi-permanent bridges on Public Works Department roads as apart from all other reasons this involves a big reduction in maintenance costs.
(d)	...	No. 3 for the Local Board area.	45. A feeder road to Eastern Bengal Railway which will link up backward areas with the Railway.
(d)	46. This is the only unbridged river between Hailakandi and Silchar and will be of the first importance for the reason stated against item 40.

Serial No.	Name of project	Category according to Transport Advisory Council Policy— (1) Constructing major bridges (2) Improving road (3) Constructing road	Number of project as indicated in the map	Public Works Department Division	Civil District	Local Board or Public Works Department Road	Length of road to be constructed or improved (in miles)	Number of bridges to be constructed or improved	Rough cost of projects
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
47	Improving the Sorbhog feeder road.	2	33	Western Assam.	Kamrup ...	Barpeta	3.55	...	Rs. 10,000
48	Construction of a bridge over the Jaitinga river at Barkhola.	1	57	Cachar ...	Cachar ...	Silchar	...	1—325' r.ft.	72,000
49	Improving the Sorupeta feeder road.	2	34	Western Assam.	Kamrup ...	Barpeta	3.00	...	8,000
50	Improving the Polasbari-Loharghat road.	2	23	Lower Assam.	Kamrup ...	Gauhati	13.00	...	75,000

Whether specially put forward by— (a) Railways (b) Steamship Companies (c) Transport Association (d) Executive Engineer (e) Tea Association	Order of urgency proposed by— Local Board in area concerned	Commissioner, for the whole Valley	Remarks by the Superintending Engineer
11	12	13	14
(d)	1	May be considered.	47. A feeder road to the Eastern Bengal Railway which will link up backward areas with the Railway.
...	...	...	48. There is at present no bridge across the Jatinga river which consequently forms a serious obstacle to communications in the northern part of the district since, being a hill river, crossing by ferry is frequently dangerous during the rains and the cold weather temporary bridge is often washed away by an early spate on subsidence of which insufficient water is left to float the mhar boat.
(d)	2	...	49. A feeder road to the Eastern Bengal Railway which will link up backward areas with the Railway.
...	...	Re c o m- mended.	50. This road is of great provincial importance as it is the main road by which Sal timber is exported from Assam. Half of this road is already metalled.

Serial No.	Name of project	Category according to Transport Advisory Council Policy— (1) Constructing major bridges (2) Improving road (3) Constructing road	Number of project as indicated in the map	Public Works Department Division	Civil District	Local Board or Public Works Department Road	Length of road to be constructed or improved (in miles)	Number of bridges to be constructed or improved	Rough cost of projects
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
51	Improving the feeder road from Selenghat Railway Station Assam-Bengal Railway to Teok.	2	10	Lakhimpur	Sibsagar ...	Jorhat ...	5.00	...	Rs. 25,000
52	Improving the Churkhai-Kanaighat road.	2	52	Sylhet ...	Sylhet ...	Karimganj and North Sylhet.	12.15	15 Nos. 1,230 r.ft.	3,10,000
53	Improving the Damra-Dalgoma road.	2	24	Lower Assam	Goalpara...	Goalpara	14.50	16 Nos. 755 r.ft.	1,10,000
54	Improving the Lakhimpur-Chunarri road.	2	24A	Lower Assam	Goalpara...	Goalpara	6.0	...	60,000

Whether specially put forward by— (a) Railways (b) Steamer Companies (c) Transport Association (d) Executive Engineer (e) Tea Association	Order of urgency proposed by—		Remarks by the Superintending Engineers
	Local Board in area concerned	Commissioner, for the whole Valley	
11	12	13	14
(e)	...	2nd for the L. B. area.	51. A feeder road to Assam-Bengal Railway.
(d)	2nd	7th out of 10.	52. Kanaighat is at present isolated without any motorable road connections. By this improvement Kanaighat will be linked with the Cachar Trunk road at Churkhai and thus with Sylhet its headquarters town and Karimganj.
(d)	1st	1st for the L.B. area.	53. This road connects Damra with Dalgoma on the Brahmaputra, crossing the Assam Trunk road at Dudnai, thus linking up these important business centres with the Steamerghat.
...	7th	Recommended.	54. This locality is increasing in importance on account of its immigrant population and productivity.

Serial No.	Name of project	Category according to Transport Advisory Council Policy— (1) Constructing major bridges (2) Improving road (3) Constructing road	Number of project as indicated in the map	Public Works Department Division	Civil District	Local Board or Public Works Department Road	Length of road to be constructed or improved (in miles)	Number of bridges to be constructed or improved	Rough cost of projects
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
55	Improving the Jamunamukh-Doboka road.	2	19	Lower Assam	Nowgong	Nowgong	12.00	9—246'	Rs. 75,000
56	Improving the feeder road to Juri Railway station. (Linking the Karimganj-Latu-Barlekha road and the Juri-Phultola road).	2	50	Cachar ...	Sylhet ...	Karimganj	2,024 r.ft.	...	8,000
57	Improving the North Trunk road from Garubhasa to San-kosh.	2	31	Western Assam.	Goalpara	Forest Department.	34.00	27 1,166 r.ft.	4,65,000

Whether specially put forward by— (a) Railways (b) Steamer Companies (c) Transport Association (d) Executive Engineer (e) Tea Association	Order of urgency proposed by—		Remarks by the Superintending Engineers
	Local Board in area concerned	Commissioner, for the whole Valley	
11	12	13	14
(d)	5	...	55. This road runs along the north bank of the Jamuna river and acts as a feeder road to Jamunamukh Railway station.
(d)	...	...	56. This short length of road is to connect the existing Karimganj-Latu-Borlekha road directly to Juri Railway station and thence to the Juri Valley road system.
(d) And Forest Department.	2	...	57. This road is the only outlet to the province of Bengal on the North of the river Brahmaputra, and being part of the trunk road system, its improvement is very necessary to link up the province of Assam with Bengal and to improve communications in the Goalpara district.

Whether specially put forward by—	Order of urgency proposed by—	Remarks by the Superintending Engineers	
(a) Railways (b) Steamer Companies (c) Transport Association (d) Executive Engineer (e) Tea Association	Local Board in area concerned	12	13
11	12	14	
...	...	58. This was raised by the Commissioner and Local Self-Government have ordered that it will find a place in this programme.	
...	...	1. His Excellency Sir Michael Keane passed orders that 1½ lakhs is to be earmarked for the lower section of the Silchar-Aijal road and a detailed estimate is now under preparation.	

APPENDIX F

*No.45-C.—In this Department Notification No. 211-C., dated the 24th November 1934, a Communications Board was formed for the life time of the Assam Legislative Council. With effect from the 1st April 1937 that Board become in-operative and during the inaugural session of the Assam Legislative Assembly it was not possible to place the matter for their consideration. Meanwhile it is necessary to keep a Board to advise Government on all important schemes relating to the development of Communications generally in the province of Assam. The Government of Assam are therefore pleased to order that pending the formal constitution of a new Board the following members shall form the provisional Communications Board for Assam:—

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Honourable Minister in charge of the Public Works Department. | } President. |
| 2. Secretary to the Government of Assam in the Education and Local Self-Government Departments. | } Members. |
| 3. Secretary to the Government of Assam in the Finance Department. | |
| 4. Chief Engineer and Secretary to the Government of Assam in the Public Works Department. | Member and <i>Ex-officio</i> Secretary. |
| 5. Srijut Mohi Chandra Bora, B.L., M.L.A. | } Members elected by the members of the Assembly other than the Planting members. |
| 6. Mr. Arun Kumar Chanda, Bar-at-Law, M.L.A. | |
| 7. Srijut Santosh Kumar Barua, B.A., M.L.A. | |
| 8. Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma, B.L., M.L.A. | |
| 9. Srijut Lakhesvar Barooah, B.L., M.L.A. | |
| 10. Babu Dakshina Ranjan Gupta Chaudhur, M.A., B.L., M.L.A. | |
| 11. Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali, B.A., LL.B., M.L.A. | |
| 12. Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, Bar-at-Law, M.L.A. | |
| 13. A member, nominated by the Assam Branch of the Indian Tea Association. | |
| 14. A member, nominated by the Surma Valley Branch of the Indian Tea Association. | |

- | | |
|--|--|
| 15. Agent, Assam-Bengal Railway or his nominee. | Representing Railways operating in Assam (except Jorhat Provincial Railway). |
| 16. Representative of the Joint Steamer Companies. | Representing the Steamer Companies operating in Assam and the Jorhat Provincial Railway. |
| 17. An Observer representing the recognised Local Transport Associations interested in the development of Communications in Assam. | } In non-voting capacity. |
| 18. An Observer representing the North Bank interest of the Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association. | |

G. REID SHAW,

*Secretary to the Government of Assam
in the Public Works Department.*