

**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 Saturday, the 7th August, 1937*

**SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA:** Sir, on a point of information. Yesterday while opposing the motion of reference of the Assam Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1937, to a Select Committee, several members of this House referred to questions and answers which were not formally put till then. I want to know whether we are entitled to do so.

**THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER:** I do not know whether those questions were put up for that day.

**SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA:** But they were not formally put up.

**THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER:** If the hon. member will let me know the number of the question I can let him know.

**SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA:** Question No.92.

**THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER:** The question was put up for the 3rd. Now with regard to the unstarred questions when the answers are placed on the table it is taken that the questions have been answered; it is not necessary that the questions should be put formally. With regard to unstarred questions when the answers are placed on the table it is taken that they have been answered, so it cannot be said that the questions were not put formally. It is only for the purpose of putting supplementary questions that the questions are taken up from day to day.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### STARRED QUESTIONS

#### **Creation of a separate District Judge's Court for Upper Assam**

**SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH** asked :

\*53. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Hon'ble High Court has been pleased to suggest a separate District Judge's Court for Upper Assam ?

(b) If so, what steps, if any, have been taken to give effect to the suggestion ?

**THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI** replied :

53. (a)—Yes.

(b)—An estimate of the cost involved is being prepared but no final decision has as yet been arrived at by Government.

**KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI:** May I know when the Government expect to come to a final decision ?



THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I think in the course of this year.

MAULAVI GHYASUDDIN AHMED: Is there any proposal of putting a permanent Sub-Judge at Dhubri?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: There is no proposal of the kind.

MAULAVI GHYASUDDIN AHMED: Do the Government consider it advisable to put a permanent Sub-Judge there, in view of the fact that the number of cases, both civil and criminal, is larger there than in any other district in the Assam Valley.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I shall make a note of this question.

KUMAR AJIT NARAYAN DEB: Has a scheme been prepared?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: No scheme has been prepared, but the suggestion so far is that there will be a District Judge at Jorhat and one Sub-Judge will hold Court at Dibrugarh, and there will be one District Judge for the lower Assam districts and his seat will be at Gauhati; and the seat of one Sub-Judge at present is at Gauhati, but I shall take note of the suggestions made in the House.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI: Have the recommendations of this Government been submitted to the High Court?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Not yet.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI: When will it be submitted?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: We are considering the question. The whole proposal involves some expenditure. We have to provide Court buildings at Dibrugarh as well as at Jorhat, and also accommodation for the Judges both at Dibrugarh and at Jorhat, and so far as we have been able to gather, the whole cost will come to something like half a lakh of rupees non-recurring and the additional recurring expenditure will be about Rs.8,000.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI: Are the Government aware that the cost may be minimised if some buildings which are now vacant and are situated just near the present Court are taken up?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: If the hon. member is referring to the Executive Engineer's office or the Public Works Department office at Barbheta I can say that at the present moment we are in correspondence about it with the Public Works Department.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: Do we understand that the Government is considering the matter whether to have a Judge's Court or not? I want to know what considerations the Government are giving over this.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: They are considering the whole matter in their various aspects and they have taken note of the various requests.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to say whether he has accepted the suggestion that there should be a District Judge at Jorhat?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: We have not yet finally accepted it.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI: Is there any objection to accepting it?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: The matter is under consideration.



### Assam Provincial Retrenchment Committee

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH asked :

\*54. Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government intend to give effect to the suggestions offered by the Assam Provincial Retrenchment Committee appointed by the Government of Assam in 1930-31 ?
- (b) If so, when, *i.e.*, precisely from what date and whether the Government intend to give effect to all the recommendations or to some of the recommendations of the Committee ?
- (c) If the Government propose to give effect to only some of the recommendations of the Committee, which of the recommendations will be accepted and which will not be accepted with reasons for each item of refusal ?
- (d) If the reply to question (a) is in the negative will Government be pleased to state reasons ?
- (e) Will Government be pleased to lay the said Assam Provincial Retrenchment Committee's report on the table ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

54. (a) to (d)—The recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee of 1931 and the action taken thereon are contained in Government Resolution No. 3414-F.(b), dated the 30th September 1931, published in Part II of the *Assam Gazette*, dated the 7th October 1931. Those items on which no action was taken will presumably be considered by the Resources and Retrenchment Committee which it is now proposed to appoint.

(e)—As the Report contained recommendations dealing with All-India Services, Government are prohibited under the orders of the Secretary of State from making the Report public.

MR. NABAKUMAR DATTA: Am I to understand that Government propose to appoint a retrenchment committee ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I mentioned that in my speech introducing the budget.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: Will the Government be pleased to state whether Assam Government has been prohibited by the Government of India from laying this Retrenchment Committee's report on the table ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have already said, not by the Government of India, but by the Secretary of State.

BABU DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister kindly state the approximate time when the Retrenchment Committee is going to be appointed ?



THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I will consult the leaders of this House as soon as we are a bit free. I thought we would discuss it when we consider resolution No.12. If that resolution is not reached, then I shall take the House into confidence informally as soon as we get some leisure and then decide.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: Do I understand that the present Hon'ble Leader of the House was a party to the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee of 1931?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, I presided over that Committee.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: May we expect that the present Government would give effect to the recommendations of the Committee which was presided over by the present Leader of the House?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I shall take the House into my confidence and I will consider the entire matter in the Committee that will be appointed.

### Gaonburas in Assam

SRIJUT JOGENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

\*55. Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge been drawn to the resolution passed in the 1st session of the Assam Gaonbura Sammilan held at Nowgong on the 13th June 1937 under the Presidency of Srijut M. C. Bora, B.L., M.L.A. of Nowgong?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

55.—The answer is yes.

SRIJUT JOGENDRA NATH BARUA: What is the present emolument of the Gaonburas?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I can say only off-hand. I think the present emolument is only that he gets remission of revenue to the extent of three *puras* of land. But I cannot be very sure.

SRIJUT KARKA DALAY MIRI: Is it enough for them?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: That question is also under consideration.

SRIJUT JOGENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

\*56. Does the Hon'ble Minister propose to consider their cases sympathetically and favourably?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

56.—Government consider that the only resolution on which action should be taken for the present was a complaint of their being treated with disrespect. Government have issued instructions to their officers to use more consideration in future.

SRIJUT JOGENDRA NATH BARUA: Does the Hon'ble Minister in charge propose to increase their emoluments?

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



**SRIJUT JOGENDRA NATH BARUA:** Does the Hon'ble Minister propose to consider their case sympathetically and favourably?

**THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I do not understand what the hon. member is referring to, Sir. As regards this particular resolution we have already issued instructions that the Gaonburas should be treated with proper respect which he deserves.

**SRIJUT JOGENDRA NATH BARUA:** Was it the only one resolution that was forwarded or several resolutions were forwarded?

**THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Several resolutions on different subjects were forwarded and out of which we have only been able to take action on this resolution. The others are under consideration.

### **Water supply in Maulvibazar Town**

**BABU DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI** asked:

\*57. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether there is paucity of water supply in the town of Maulvibazar?
- (b) How many tanks are there in the town?
- (c) Can they supply the ordinary needs of the town?
- (d) Whether all the tube wells are out of order?
- (e) Whether Government propose to consider the desirability of sanctioning a Government grant of Rs.50,000 to the Maulvibazar Municipality for water supply?

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

The answers are as follows:

57. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Five.

(c)—Not in the dry season.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Government are quite willing to consider the question of a loan to the Municipality but cannot consider the question of a grant of half a lakh.

**BABU DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI:** Do Government know that there was an outbreak of cholera due to want of good drinking water?

**THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY:** The Government know that there was an outbreak of cholera in South Sylhet (Maulvi Bazar). But whether that was due to want of good water supply or it was due to other causes is not certain. It is suspected that the cholera came from some other sources.



MAULAVI ABDUL AZIZ: Is Government aware that the Municipality is in its infancy and requires help?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Government is aware that the Municipality has not been very long and Government will do all that it can to help it.

BABU HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI: If the Hon'ble Minister says that the cholera epidemic came from other sources, what is the basis of that information?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: In reply to one of the questions, it is said that it is supposed to have come from Tipperah and that the Dholai river water was infected somehow or other.

MAULAVI ABDUL AZIZ: Is Government prepared to take steps to check the original cause of this cholera?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: The original cause according to the report is that the Dholai river was infected near Tipperah.

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Is it not easy to throw the responsibility on other districts?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: It is not throwing responsibility. But that is the report of the experts.

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Anyway, the cause generally generates in other provinces?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: That, Sir, I cannot say.

MAULAVI ABDUL AZIZ: My question has not been answered. Is the Government prepared to remove the original cause which led to the outbreak of cholera in that town?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I have answered that question.

### **Number of Forest cases tried by Magistrates in Nowgong**

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA asked:

\*58. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of Forest cases tried by Magistrates in the district of Nowgong during 1936-37?

(b) In how many cases there were convictions and how many of them were compromised?

(c) Is it a fact that the retention of a separate pleader for Forest cases is dependent upon the number of cases that come up for trial? If so, what is the minimum number of cases that would require the retention of a pleader?

(d) What was the expense of the Government in retaining this separate Pleader during the last year, 1936-37?

(e) What is the total area under Forests in the district of Nowgong?



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

58. (a)—The number of Forest cases tried by Magistrates in the district of Nowgong during the year 1936-37 was 59.

(b)—The number of convictions were 37, acquittals 2 and the number pending at the close of the year was 20. No cases were compromised in the Courts.

(c)—No. The retention of a pleader depends upon the total amount of legal work necessary in a division, including the preparation and presentation of cases which go to court.

(d)—Rupees 240.

(e)—Reserved Forests ... .. 717 square miles.

Unclassed State Forests ... .. 2,801 „ „

Total ... .. 3,518 „ „

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI: Is there a Government Pleader at Nowgong ?

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

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI: Why is a separate pleader engaged for forest cases then ?

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

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: As regards (b), do these convictions include cases of compromise ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: I have already replied on that point.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Were these cases regularly tried ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: That is our report.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: May I know, whether, after this question was received, any enquiry was made in regard to the matter ?

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

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Does the report mention that these cases were compromised at all ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: No cases were compromised in court.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Was evidence recorded in all those cases, Sir ?

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

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I think it is going too far. The Hon'ble Minister's answer is that there were convictions.



**SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA :** If in spite of the presence of a Government pleader a separate pleader was engaged to conduct forest cases, shall we be wrong in saying that it is a case of extending Government patronage ?

**THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER :** This is a matter of opinion and cannot be allowed.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

#### Assam Public Service Commission

**MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN** asked :

87. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The annual total expenditure to be incurred on account of the establishment of the Public Service Commission in Assam ?
- (b) How many appointments in various departments are likely to be made during the year 1937 ?
- (c) Was Bengal or any other Province asked to have one Public Service Commission jointly with this Province ? If so, what answer was received ?

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

87. (a)—An estimate of the expenditure will be found under "25.—General Administration—N—Public Service Commission" in the annual budget estimates,—a copy of which already been circulated to the hon. members. It will be seen therefrom that the total annual expenditure has been calculated at Rs.63,926.

(b)—It is impossible to give any figure, as a number of incalculable factors are involved, such as death, transfer, promotion and premature retirement.

(c)—The question of Assam having a joint Public Service Commission with Bengal was fully considered. Bengal's answer was not found favourable to Assam on financial and administrative grounds.

**MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED :** How many appointments have been made and what work has been done by the Public Service Commission since its establishment ?

**THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :** That question is coming and I will supply all the figures.

**BABU DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI :** May we know the financial and administrative grounds on which a joint Public Service Commission with Bengal was considered unfavourable ?

**THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :** As regards the financial question, while negotiations were going on with Bengal, Bengal proposed that the joint Public Service Commission for Assam and Bengal should consist of one Chairman and two members from Bengal and two members from Assam. The work will be done by compartments. When recruitment for Assam would be necessary, the Chairman and the Assam members alone will sit. They also proposed that it would be



unfair to ask the Assam candidates to go to Calcutta, the headquarters of Bengal Public Service Commission, for interview at their expense. Therefore they proposed that the Assam Section will travel to Assam and hold their sitting in Assam. The matters did not go beyond the stage of negotiation. It was proposed by Bengal that Assam should bear one-third or one-fourth of the cost of the office as well as the pay of the Chairman. The pay of the Bengal Chairman is Rs. 4,000. They also said that they were going to have a very highly paid I. C. S. Officer as Secretary. The pay of the Bengal members will be Rs. 2,000 each, but we might give whatever we liked to our own members. On the whole it was found that the cost of this arrangement will be more expensive than a separate Public Service Commission for Assam would be.

As regards administration, we would have no hand in the office. The office will be entirely manned by people of Bengal because the headquarters will be in Calcutta. The second thing is that extra cost will be incurred by this province, first in sending all applications to Bengal, then in asking the Bengal Chairman to come to Assam for the purpose of interviews and thirdly, it was found by the then Cabinet that there was a very big volume of opinion that Assam, under those circumstances, should have a separate Public Service Commission.

BABU DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI : Was any estimate of the comparative cost made ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Yes, I have already given the figures.

BABU DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI : May I know the comparative cost, Sir ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : If we are to pay the Assam members the rates of salaries as Bengal have proposed for their members, the cost would be still higher.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Was the question of Assam having a joint Public Service Commission with the Central Government or with any other province than Bengal considered ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Yes. The Central Federal Commission refused to do our work. Assam Government did not consult any other provincial Government.

### Chunarughat Sub-Registrar's Office

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

88. Is it a fact that—

- (a) the Chunarughat Sub-Registrar's Office is a self-supporting one ?
- (b) Is it a fact that it is carrying on its works in a hired shop house ?
- (c) Is it a fact that there have been complaints from the public as well as from the staff that they are undergoing extreme inconvenience and trouble for want of an office building and a quarter.

(d) If the answer to (a), (b) and (c) above are in the affirmative do Government propose to construct an office building and a quarter.



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

88.(a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—No complaints from the public have been received but the staff have been asking for a departmental building.

(d)—The matter will be considered.

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAM: Is it not a fact that Government drew up a scheme for the construction of a Sub-Registry office at Chunarughat ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: I have no knowledge, Sir.

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN: Has any provision been made in the budget for the construction of that Sub-Registry office ?

(No reply).

May I not press a reply, Sir ?

KUMAR AJIT NARAYAN DEV: Are the Government aware that the Sub-Registrar at Dhubri is holding his office.....

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I do not think the question arises.

### **Cherramuha-Chunarughat and Chunarughat-Surma-Chundicherra Road**

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

89. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Works Department please state—

(a) whether the Government proposes to take over charge of Cherramuha-Chunarughat and Chunarughat-Surma-Chundicherra road from Habiganj Local Board ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to gravel the road ?

(c) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative when is it likely to be taken over by the Government ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

89. (a)—The new proposals which are being placed before the Communications Board include the improving and taking over by the Public Works Department of the portion of road referred to from Shaistaganj bazar *via* Chunarughat and Chundicherra to Surma. It is not proposed to take over the portion of Chunarughat-Muchikandi road from Cherramuha to Shaistaganj Bazar.

(b)—The portion when taken over will be gravelled.

(c)—This must depend on when the Government of India give a grant from the Road Fund Reserve.



**Total costs of travelling allowances granted to various officers of different departments in the year 1936**

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

90. Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) Total costs of mileage allowances granted to various officers of different departments who toured throughout the province, divisions and districts in the year 1936 ?
- (b) The number of such officers who maintain motors and those who maintain ponies ?
- (c) The number of occasions on which they used ponies or boats during the year 1936 ?
- (d) The maximum amount of mileage drawn by an officer of each Department during the year 1936 ?

91. (a) Is it a fact that places which are accessible by trains are very often visited with more costly conveyances ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to put a stop to this ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

90.—The time and labour which would be necessary to scrutinise every travelling allowance bill of every officer or Government servant in the province for a whole year in order to extract the desired information would be incommensurate with the result. Mileage forms a very small proportion of the total travelling allowance bill of the province. For general information however, it may be of interest to note that whereas in 1931 the total charges for travelling allowance were roughly 12½ lakhs, the revision of rates made in that year has reduced the charges in 1935-36 to a sum of 9 lakhs, a saving of nearly thirty per cent.

91. (a)—Whatever mode of conveyance officers may travel by travelling allowance is generally only admissible by the shortest, cheapest and most practicable route. Heads of Departments are however empowered to permit the drawal of travelling allowance by other than the cheapest or shortest route for special reasons which have to be recorded for the information of the Audit Officer.

(b)—Does not arise.

**Percentage of Muhammadan population in Municipalities**

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURI asked :

92. Will Government be pleased to place before the House a list of the municipalities of the province, showing the percentage of the Muhammadan population residing in each of the town and the percentage of the success of the Muhammadan candidates for commissionership in the last general election ?



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

92.—A list is placed on the table.

Name of Municipality	Total population at Census of 1931	Mohammedan population at census of 1931	Percentage of Mohammedan population	Total elected member	No. of Mohammedan elected	Percentage of successes at the last election	Remarks
Silchar ...	13,069	2,956	22.6	20	4	20	This Board has been superseded.
Sylhet ...	21,435	9,982	42	16	3	18.75	
Habiganj ...	7,577	2,167	28.5	...	...	...	
Karimganj ...	5,691	1,624	28.5	10	2	20	
Sunamganj ...	5,326	2,498	46.9	10	1	10	
Maulvi Bazar	4,314	2,128	49.3	10	2	20	
Shillong ...	4,608	421	6	13	1	7.6	
	16,692	857					
	21,300	1,278					
Dhubri ...	9,435	2,913	30.8	9	Nil	...	Election not yet held.
Goalpara ...	6,415	2,436	37.9	10	4	40	
Gauhati ...	21,797	4,146	19	16	1	6.25	
Barpeta ...	13,777	372	2.7	12	Nil	...	
Tezpur ...	10,268	2,111	20	12	2	16.6	
Nowgong ...	10,413	2,877	27.7	15	3	20	
Sibsagar ...	6,669	2,012	30	12	4	33.3	
Jorhat ...	8,334	2,001	23.9	12	2	16.6	
Golaghat ...	4,688	1,210	25.8	8	2	25	
Dibrugarh ...	18,734	4,521	...	17	...	...	
Tinsukia ...	5,160	957	...	10	1	...	

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA : Was nomination of municipal members to the municipalities made on the basis of percentage of the different communities among the rate-payers in the municipalities ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Does this question arise, Sir ?

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: It arises from the fact that the municipal constitution is composed of both elected and nominated members, and the Hon'ble Minister has also given a list showing the percentage of the different communities.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The question only relates to the percentage of Muhammadan population in the municipalities. If the intention of the hon. member was to ascertain whether the nomination bears any relation to the percentage of the Muhammadan population, I think that question should have been separately put.



**Amount spent from the Road Board Fund in the Sunamganj Sub-division**

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI asked :

93. Will the Government please state what amount they have spent from the Road Board Fund in the Subdivision of Sunamganj, District Sylhet ?

94. If they have not spent any amount, why not ?

95. Do the Government propose to take up the Sunamganj-Gobindganj Road under the Road Board this year ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

93.—Nil.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : Will the Government please state the reason why not a single cowrie was spent in this Subdivision ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Reply to the next question will explain that.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

94.—Originally two roads of this Subdivision—(1) Gobindganj-Sunamganj portion of the Sylhet-Sunamganj road and (2) Gobindganj to Chhatak Road estimated to cost about 12 lakhs were included in the second Road Board programme, but subsequently this programme had to be curtailed and the portion Gobindganj to Sunamganj, a *kutch*a road 29 miles in length, which would have required over 8½ lakhs of rupees for widening and raising only on account of the nature of the country was dropped by the Road Board in 1929. The second road of the Subdivision was however included as part of the Sylhet-Chhatak road estimated to cost a little over 4½ lakhs. Before however this road could be taken up for improvement, the second Road Board programme had to be closed down *sine die* on account of financial stringency. That is why no money was spent in road improvement in this Subdivision.

95.—Government propose to include a scheme for improving this road if it is recommended by the Communications Board of Assam. This, if so recommended will with other proposals be submitted to the Government of India with a request for the provision of funds from the reserve with the Government of India in "the Central Road Development Account".

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : May I know whether Government have given any instruction to the Communications Board to take up this road this year ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : We have included that road in our new road expansion scheme.

BABU HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI : Is it a fact that no member has been taken from Sunamganj on the Communications Board ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : The Board was constituted after consultation with this House. I do not know whether any member from Sunamganj is there or not.

BABU HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI : Do I understand that Sunamganj was the only subdivision that was deprived of any grant from the Road Board Fund ?



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

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: Is it a fact that the Sunamganj-Gobindganj Road is at the top of the list?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I do not know whether it was put at the top or bottom; but it was included in the scheme.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: Do Government propose to put this road at the top of the list?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The Board considers, according to the necessity of the different divisions, as to which roads should get preference.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: Is it a fact that the programme of the previous Board is still in existence?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Loans under those Boards have already been discontinued.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: Is not the present Board successor of the Board that preceded?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The present Board is a different one—the procedure to be adopted is different and even the finance sought is in someones else's hand. Last time road development was effected by means of loan. This time we have requested the Government of India to give us a grant from the Reserve of the Petrol Duty Fund. Our programme shall have to be dependent upon the amount of fund that we get from the Central Government.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: Will not the programme of the previous Board be worked now?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: A new comprehensive scheme has been drawn up.

**Age of Rai Bahadur Janaki Nath Das Purkayastha, a member of the Public Service Commission**

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI asked:

96. Will the Government please state—

(i) what was the age of Rai Bahadur Janaki Nath Das Purkayastha, a member of the Public Service Commission, when he was first recruited in the Government service, and

(ii) how many years before he retired from the Government service?

97. Is it a fact that he was required to prove by an affidavit that he was below 60 when he was appointed a member of the Public Service Commission?

98. If the answer to question No.97 be in the affirmative, will the Government please state whether the age given in the affidavit sworn by him is the same as that given by him while he first entered the service as an executive officer?

99. Will the Government please state whether he himself or anybody else on his behalf swore the affidavit to prove his age?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

96. (i)—24 years 2 months.

(ii)—On the 16th August 1929.



SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Is the answer to question 96 (ii) proper? Does it not require a mathematical calculation?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The hon. member is considered to be quite competent to make this simple mathematical calculation.

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA: In what year this gentleman entered Government service?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: That question was not asked. Why should I out of my own accord answer that question?

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA: In which year this gentleman was 24 years 2 months?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have given my answer to the question as asked. I have replied, 24 years 2 months. I submit, Sir, no supplementary question arises thereafter.

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA: In which year he was taken to service? Can we get that information?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The date of entry into service? No, Sir, I have not got the date.

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA: May we expect an answer afterwards?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: If my hon. friend writes, I will give it to him the next day.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Is he not too old to hold such an important post under the Government?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: There is no bar in his appointment as a member of the Public Service Commission.

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN: Is he not overage?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: It is a question of opinion.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Was it not necessary to condone his age?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: All these things depend on the question at what age he was appointed.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

97.—No.

98.—Does not arise.

99.—Neither he nor anybody else on his behalf swore such an affidavit

### Settlement of Sylhet Municipal Ferry-ghats

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI asked:

100. Will the Government please state whether it is a fact that the settlement of Sylhet Municipal ferry-ghats and of the right to realise tolls in respect of the Keane Bridge has been given to a person who is not a native of the Province?

101. If so, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge please state if there were other bidders for the settlement? If so, will the Hon'ble Minister state to the House the names of those bidders and what the bids offered respectively by all the bidders were?



THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

100.—Yes, but the lessee Babu Harisankar Prosad Sing with his predecessor and partner, the late Rai Bahadur Chhatrapati Sing has run these ferries successfully for 16 years past.

101.—Yes. A statement is placed below.

## KEANE BRIDGE

### SYLHET

Serial No.	Names of bidders	Amount of highest bids
		Rs.
1	Babu Harisankar Prosad Sing ... ..	27,200
2	„ Bepin Behari Choudhury ... ..	15,000
3	„ Matindra Chakravarty ... ..	26,500
4	Rai Sahib Nagendra K. Nandi ... ..	20,000
5	Babu Ramparikha Singh ... ..	26,000
6	„ Malchand ... ..	27,100
7	Maulvi Abdul Sobhan ... ..	27,000
8	„ Habibulla ... ..	22,000

## TOWN FERRIES

### SYLHET

1	Babu Harisankar Prosad Sing ... ..	7,050
2	„ Ramparikha Singh ... ..	7,000
3	Maulvi Wahed Ullah ... ..	6,100
4	Babu Malchand ... ..	6,200
5	Maulvi Habib Ullah ... ..	8,000

N.B.—Bridge and Ferries settled with the same person.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI: May I know whether Maulavi Abdul Sobhan is a local man?

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

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the Chief Engineer was pleased to circulate a letter among Executive Engineers of the different districts to give contract to local men and that if difference in the rate from that of a foreigner be a very small amount, the local man should be given preference.

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

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI: Why was not Maulvi Abdul Sobhan given a contract when his tender was for Rs. 27,000 and that of Babu Harisankar Prosad Sing only Rs. 200 more?



THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: If my hon. friend will care to read the *nota-bene* under the reply to that question, he would have seen the reason.

MAULAVI MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: Is it not a fact that last year he was granted remission?

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

BABU HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI: Is it a fact that the lessee is very favourite with the powers that be?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: deny that charge, Sir.

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA: May I know if Maulavi Habibulla is a man of the province?

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

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA: May I know why were not the ferries settled with him?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have already answered this in reply to Khan Bahadur Keramat Ali's supplementary question. If hon. members will please read the N. B. portion under reply they will come to know why this bridge was settled with Hari Sankar Prosad Singh.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: Was it absolutely necessary that this ferry should be settled with that person.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Otherwise there will be friction between him and the lessee of the bridge.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: Why did Government allow a man of another province to get settlement in this province?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: This happened during the regime of the previous Government.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: Will Government take steps to see that these things are rectified.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: When proper time comes. As I have already said, these things were done by the previous Government.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Will Government please act according to the sense of the House regarding the settlement of the Bridge?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have already said that this was done by the previous Government.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: Are we to understand that the present Government does not approve of this action?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Our policy is, as far as possible to patronize children of the soil.

#### **Post of the Under-Secretary in Public Works Department**

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI asked:

102. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Works Department be pleased to state whether the occupant of the post of the Under-Secretary in the Public Works Department is to be a man with technical qualifications and if it is to be from the Imperial Service?

103. Is it a fact that all those who occupied this post previous to the present incumbent were Engineers?



104. If the answers to questions 102 and 103 be in the affirmative, will the Government please state why this practice was abandoned and instead of an Engineer, a clerk who has no technical knowledge has been placed in this post ?

105. Do Government propose to fill the post by a man with technical knowledge ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

102.—Yes.

103.—For present incumbent, please refer to reply to question 105. Except for the periods noted below, when the Registrar, Public Works Department, was placed in charge of the current duties of the Under-Secretary, Public Works Department, in addition to his own duties :—

From—6th May 1915 to 11th June 1915.

7th February 1917 to 24th June 1917.

4th October 1917 to 9th November 1917.

17th May 1920 to 22nd October 1920.

21st March 1921 to 20th October 1921.

29th June 1932 to 4th July 1932.

1st March 1936 to 8th June 1937.

104.—Owing to dearth of I.S.E. officers, the Registrar, Public Works Department, was placed in charge of the current non-technical duties of the Under-Secretary in addition to his own duties. The Registrar is a gazetted officer belonging to the Assam Provincial Service—(General Service)—and not a clerk.

105.—The post is now filled by an I.S.E. officer.

#### **Sinking of tube wells in Tahirpur Thana area**

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI asked :

106. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge please state whether Government are aware that there is scarcity of water in the area lying under the foot of the hill in the northern part of the Tahirpur Thana ?

107. If the answer is in the affirmative, do Government propose to plant tube wells in that locality in order to remove the scarcity in places where necessary ?

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

106.—Yes.

107.—The area has been included in the programme for the sinking of tube wells undertaken with the special grant received from the Government of India for rural uplift.

#### **Principal of the Government Madrassa, Sylhet**

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI asked :

108. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge please state—

(i) Whether Government first decided that the post of the Principal of the Government Madrassa, Sylhet, was to be in the Assam Education Service class I and that the decision of the Government was published in the *Assam Gazette* ; and

(ii) Whether the present Principal was subsequently appointed in class II of the Assam Education Service ?



109. Do Government propose to raise the status of the said post and appoint the Principal in Assam Education Service class I ?

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

108. (i) and (ii)—When the Assam Educational Service was reorganised in 1933 the post of Principal, Government Madrassa, Sylhet, was included in the class I posts, but subsequently for reasons of economy it was abolished as a class I post and a class II post was sanctioned in its stead.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: What was the amount saved annually by abolishing class I course, Sir ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: I have not got these figures.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: Did Government reduce the status of the Principals of the Murarichand College and Cotton College for reasons of economy ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: Does that question arise, Sir ?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: It arises.

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: The answer is: obviously for reasons of economy it was abolished.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: Did Government reduce the status of the post of the Principals of the Cotton and Murarichand Colleges.

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: We could not possibly reduce, because the Principals of the Cotton College and the Murarichand College are in the Indian Educational Service. They have got contracts with the Secretary of State for India.

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

109.—Yes—in connection with the scheme for the institution of title classes which has been included in the current year's budget.

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: Is the present incumbent, the present Principal of the Madrassa, qualified or incompetent.

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: This is a matter of opinion.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: This is a question of opinion.

MAULAVI MUNAWWARALI: May I submit, Sir, that this question arises, in this that each particular post has its qualifications laid down. So it is a question of fact.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: This is a question of opinion which is intended to get the answer that the present incumbent is incompetent.

### Assessment of taxes in Tura Town

MR. JABANG D. MARAK asked :

110. Is it a fact that the assessment of domestic cattle has been introduced in the Tura Town, and not in the other towns of the province with much larger area and population ?

111. Is it a fact that the rates of taxes in the Tura Town are higher than those levied at Haflong Town. If so, will Government please lay on the table a statement showing the different rates of taxes levied on different domestic cattle of these two towns ?



112. If the answer to 110 above is in the affirmative, do Government propose to introduce this tax in all the towns of the Province, and if so, at what rates ?

113. Is it a fact that this policy of the Provincial Government of assessing cattle kept within the town areas is contrary to His Excellency Viceroy's well known policy of encouraging to the utmost the keeping of domestic cattle ?

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

110.—The tax imposed on cattle in Tura Town by the late Government has been abolished by the present Government.

MR. JABANG D. MARAK : The original question was regarding the assessment of domestic cattle in Tura Town. Are you going to recover the amount from those who have paid for the last 14 months ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : That question does not arise. It has not been considered at all.

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA : From which date the tax was abolished ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : From the date of the issue of the order in the *Assam Gazette*.

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA : May I know the date ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : I am sorry I have not got the paper. Every hon. member is supplied with a copy of the *Assam Gazette* and the hon. member may find it out from the *Gazette*.

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA : Is the Hon'ble Minister prepared to answer the question ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : I have already answered that, Sir.

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

111, 112 and 113.—These questions do not now arise.

### **Laokhoa Road in Nowgong district**

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA asked :

114. Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the vehicular traffic in the Laokhoa road in the district of Nowgong and the necessity of its being taken over by the Road Board for shingling the same ?

115. Will Government be pleased to state whether Government has sanctioned any new scheme of shingling any road in the district of Nowgong during the current year ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

114.—Only in so far as that the Nowgong Local Board suggested, it, with many other roads in the district, should be taken over for improvement under the new Road Improvement Scheme under consideration.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA : Was any recommendation made by the Public Works Department for shingling the Laokhoa Road in the district of Nowgong ?



THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : This question, in my opinion, does not arise under question No. 114. The question is "has the attention of the Government been drawn to the vehicular traffic in the Laokhoa road in the district of Nowgong and the necessity of its being taken over by the Road Board for shingling the same." My reply is 'only in so far as that the Nowgong Local Board suggested, it, with many other roads in the district, should be taken over for improvement under the new Road Improvement Scheme under consideration.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Did the Chief Engineer have a report about the Laokhoa Road ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I have no information.

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

115.—No. But many Nowgong schemes are included in the new Road Improvement Scheme at present under consideration.

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister how many Nowgong schemes are included in the new Road Improvement Scheme ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Many Nowgong schemes are included in the new Road Improvement Scheme, at present are under consideration.

#### **Occupation of Inspection Bungalows by members of Legislature**

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA asked :

116. Will Government be pleased to state whether the members of the Legislature are entitled to occupy the Inspection Bungalows in rural areas free of charge when on public duty ?

116.—No.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA : Do Government consider the desirability of allowing the members of the legislatures to occupy the Inspection Bungalows in rural areas free of charge when on public duty ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Sir, this matter has engaged my attention after I received notice of question No. 116, and I am now considering that.

#### **Improvement of communication in the Mikir Villages of Sibsagar and Nowgong Districts**

SRIJUT KHORSING TERANG asked :

117. Will Government be pleased to state what steps are being taken by the Local Government for the improvement of communications in the Mikir Villages of Sibsagar and Nowgong Districts ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

117.—If the hon. member will state explicitly the names of the villages to which he refers, enquiries will be made.

SRIJUT KHORSING TERANG: নগাওঁ আৰু শিৱসাগৰ জিলাৰ ভিতৰত মিকিৰ হিল areaত বহুতো পিচপৰা জাতিৰ গাওঁ আছে বুলি অসমৰ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে জানেনে ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : The supplementary question of my hon. friend Srijut Khorsing Terang is "are the Government aware of the existence of backward tribes in the districts of Nowgong and Sibsagar ?

My answer to that question is 'yes'.



নই জানো যে শিৱসাগৰ আৰু নগাওঁ জিলাৰ ভিতৰত বহুতো মিকিৰ গাঁও আছে।

**SRIJUT KHORSING TERANG:** যদিহে আদায় গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে জানে তেন্তে সেই areaত অহা যোৱাৰ সুবিধাৰ নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কিবা সুবিধা কৰি দিছে নে? অনুগ্রহ কৰি অস-  
মীয়াত যেন answer দিয়ে।

**THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** The hon. member's question is "has Government taken any steps to improve the communication in these villages"?

**THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** My reply is that I am prepared to enquire what communication is feasible between the villages if the hon. member explicitly mentions the names of the villages.

যদি মাননীয় মেম্বাৰে যোক কোন গাঁৱৰ পৰা কোন গাঁৱলৈ বাস্তা লাগে এইটো বুজাই  
কয় তেনেহলে নই সেই বিষয়ে enquiry কৰিম।

**SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA:** Was any recommendation made by the Deputy Commissioner of those two districts for the improvement of communication?

**THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** I am not aware of that, Sir.

**SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enquire if any communication is possible in those villages?

**THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** I have just now replied to my hon. friend Srijut Khorsing Terang that if he gives the names of terminal villages, I will make an enquiry as to what communication is possible.

**SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SARMAH:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please take the initiative in making enquiry about the condition of the roads in Mikir villages?

**THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** As the hon. member who represents that locality as well as the community is in a much better position to know the requirements of traffic on a particular road or roads in his locality, I am asking for his suggestion.

**SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA:** Is there no Government agency?

**THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Yes, Sir, there is Government agency but local people are in a better position to know the condition and necessity of the Mikir villages.

### *Re Haj Pilgrimage*

**MAULAVI DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURI**  
**VIDYABINODE** asked:

118. Is it a fact that the Haj pilgrims from Assam undergo a great deal of trouble and suffer much inconvenience at the time of embarkation on board the pilgrim ship at Calcutta?

119. (a) If so, do Government propose to move the proper authorities to appoint a Haj Officer at Calcutta at least for the three months of the Haj Session to look after the interests of the Haj pilgrims?



(b) to send a request to the Government of Bengal to co-opt at least three members from Assam in the Calcutta Port Haj Committee ?

(c) to request to the Railway Board to grant concession tickets to Haj pilgrims during the Haj Session ?

(d) to appoint the President of the Khadimul Hujjaj Society as the Assam Haj Officer as an experimental measure ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

118.—Government is aware and it is likely, that the intending Haj pilgrims from Assam find much trouble and inconvenience from the time they arrive at Calcutta up to their embarkation on the pilgrim ship.

MAULAVI DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURI VIDYABINODE : Do Government propose to send a request to the Government of Bengal to co-opt the President of the Khadimul Hujjaj Society as a member from Assam in Calcutta Port Haj Committee ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I will take the suggestion of the hon. member into consideration.

MAULAVI DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURI VIDYABINODE : Are Government aware of the fact that the Hindu pilgrims are given Railway concession during their pilgrimage ? If so, will he kindly consider why this concessions will not be extended to the Haj pilgrims in India during the Haj Session ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : We are not aware of that, Sir. We will enquire from the Railway Board.

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : Is there any Haj Board under the Government of Assam ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : There is none.

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : Do the Government consider the desirability of having a Haj portfolio in Assam ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : There is no Haj portfolio even in Bengal which has got a port for the pilgrims, though they have got a Port Haj Committee.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Hon'ble Minister please state what is the number of the pilgrims that go annually on pilgrimage ?

THE HON'BLE MAULVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : That question does not arise, Sir (*laughter*).

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

119. (a)—Government do not propose to appoint a Haj Officer for Assam at Calcutta in view of the fact that there is already a Port Haj Committee in Calcutta to look after the pilgrims and our Provincial Haj Committee is in close touch with that body. Moreover, such an appointment will mean additional cost to the Province.

(b)—Government are prepared and will approach Government of Bengal to co-opt, at least one member from Assam resident in Calcutta, in the Port Haj Committee.

(c)—Government have no information whether in any other part of the country railway concessions are allowed to Haj pilgrims. They will enquire from the Railway Board and then decide their course of action.

(d)—Does not arise, in view of reply to (a).

MAULAVI MUNAWWARALI : Did Government make an estimate of cost for appointing a Special Haj Officer ?



THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Yes, Sir. If a Haj Officer is to be appointed for Assam at Calcutta for the benefit of the pilgrims from Assam, it will mean an additional cost to the province. I have not gone through the actual figure but I know that the Assistant Shipping Master at Calcutta is in charge of the pilgrims and he, as far as I know, draws a pay of about Rs. 1,000 per month. (*a voice*—one thousand a month?)

MAULAVI MUNAWWARALI : Can he not be appointed at least for three months in a year specially during the Haj Session?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : If we are to appoint a Haj officer, we cannot appoint him for a period only, but we will have to appoint him for the whole year.

### TIME LIMIT FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : Order, order. Now the hon. members are to begin General Discussion of the Budget. As I asked the hon. members to come to an agreement as to the time to be taken up by each of the parties and also the date on which particular members want to speak, I have been supplied with a chart in which I find that it has been settled amongst the parties that to-day should be given to the United Moslem Party, to the Independents and to the Progressive Party. The Independents are to begin the discussion and they are to continue upto 1 P.M., and from 2 P.M., the United Moslem Party will continue up to 3 P.M., and the rest of the time to be given to the members of the Progressive Party. On Monday the Congress Party would take up the discussion from 12 A.M., and continue upto 1 P.M., and from 3 P.M. to 4 P.M., and the United Moslem Party from 2 P.M. to 3 P.M., and 4 P.M. to 5 P.M. On the 10th the Congress Party would take up 3 P.M. to 5 P.M., and the United Moslem Party from 2 P.M. to 3 P.M., the European Party from 12-30. P.M. to 1 P.M. The 12th should be given to the Ministers for their replies because hon. members know that on the 12th we shall have only 1 hour and when five Ministers are to speak that hour should be given to them. So this is the arrangement.

MR. NABA KUMAR DUTT : On a point of order, Sir. We think 9th was fixed for the Independent and not Tuesday, the 10th.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : Mr. Hockenhull told me it was Tuesday, the 10th.

MR. NABA KUMAR DUTTA : We have got no time on the 10th, Sir.

MAULAVI ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY : May I know, Sir, what time has been fixed for the Moslem League Party?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : I notice that Moslem League Party has not been given any place. I think they are to begin the discussion to-day. 2 P.M. to 3 P.M. has been given to the United Moslem Party and 3 P.M. to 5 P.M., to the members of the Progressive Party and the Moslem League Party.

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : That is not correct, Sir. Yesterday we arranged that each party will get a portion of the time for each day and Progressive Party should get 20 minutes to-day, 30 minutes on the 9th and 30 minutes on the 10th.

MR. NABA KUMAR DUTTA : The time fixed for Independent Party was 30 minutes on Monday.



MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: That is not valid ?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Order, order. We may begin the discussion to-day.

MAULAVI ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: Sir, I do not agree to the arrangement. I was not present in the meeting. I thought it would sit to-day. I came at 10-30 A.M., but did not find anybody.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Will the hon. member please suggest to me what time he requires ?

MAULAVI ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: Sir, can you give us two hours out of these days ?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I am afraid two hours is too much for a party of 10. The European Group consisting of the same number as the Moslem League Party are taking only half an hour. You may take one hour.

MAULAVI ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: One and half hours, Sir.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: No, this will curtail the time of other parties.

MAULAVI ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: One and quarter hour, then.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: (*Laughing*). No the bargain is closed and the Hon'ble Member's party would get only one hour. (*laughter*).

MR. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: We want half an hour on Monday, Sir.

MAULAVI ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: May I know, Sir, which day you have allotted to the Moslem League members. Will you distribute them in 3 days ?

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

MAULAVI ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: We leave it to you, Sir.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: You may take one hour to-day.

MAULAVI ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: No, Sir, leave it on the 9th.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: But the time on the 9th has been allotted to other parties.

MAULAVI ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: I suggest to-day, to-morrow and day after.

MR. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Will you give us some time to-day ?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Order, order. If no agreement is arrived at I will fix the time for each party and the procedure I shall lay down will be followed.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: That is the best arrangement, Sir.

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA: Sir, in paragraph 3 at page 8 of the Memorandum on Budget Estimates of the Government of Assam for the year 1937-38, is the figure Rs.51,03 correct ?

RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DATTA: Why not ask the Deputy Secretary, Finance ?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: You may refer to the Hon'ble Minister.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I cannot say anything off-hand but I will look up the figure.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister cannot say off-hand. He will have to look into the figures and give the information required.

#### GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, as I look at the figures of Rs.35,48,000 shown as the estimated receipts from the provincial Excise during the year 1937-38 it occurs to me to ask what will be the financial fate



of Assam if these undesirable receipts continue to go down and down till they disappear as they should do in the course of next few years. There is no prospect of the expansion of the provincial revenues under the principal heads such as land revenue, stamps and registration after the enhancement resulting from the recent resettlement proceedings and the Stamp and Court fees Amendment Acts. And the receipts under other principal heads of revenue are likely to remain quite stationary as before even if they do not go down which is not unlikely. How are we then to meet the increased and increasing cost of the top heavy provincial autonomy which we have all assembled here to work out. None of us certainly think of approaching the people for further taxation and the only way open to us is to find out means and ways of retrenchment in the existing cost of administration. Comparing the figures of 1933-34 and 1937-38 we shall find that the cost of general administration has increased from Rs.24,80,000 to Rs.33,03,000 and that of police has increased from Rs.27,17,000 to Rs.31,82,000. Sir, the policy that prevention is better than cure should have been adopted in respect of this particular head of expenditure. Sir, the total budgeted expenditure from the revenues of the Government of Assam for the year 1937-38 is shown to Rs.2,82,48,000; thus we find that general administration and Police consume a little less than a quarter of the total expenditure. This, in my humble opinion, is not a very wise disposition of the public money. For years past people have insisted upon economy, and retrenchment committees appointed by the Government, have also recommended economy in various directions. It pains me very much to find that the authorities responsible for the budget have shown no anxiety for economy in the cost of administration such as is absolutely necessary in the interests of good Government. Rupees 2,26,000 shown as the excess of revenue over expenditure from revenue is as I have already stated a most uncertain figure liable to be disproved by the very probable and desirable reduction of the excise revenue. I for myself find it difficult to rejoice over this estimated balance in the hands of the Hon'ble Finance Minister.

It seems that the Government have been all along living beyond their own means. The Government of India was pleased to write off debts contracted prior to the 1st of April 1936 and the total relief thus obtained exceeds two crores. But inspite of this there remains a deficit of Rs.46,78,000 at the end of the year 1936-37 and we are called upon to cover this deficit by loan from the open market. Add to this the liability of the province to the extent of Rs.90,00,000 under the head State Provident Funds. I do not know what arrangement the Hon'ble Finance Minister will make to get out of this indebtedness as aforesaid. While referring to this amount the Hon'ble Finance Minister in his budget speech has asked the hon. members of this House not to stagger at the enormity of the figures. I do not know whether the hon. member cherishes any idea in his mind that in future there will be again some sort of change and the province will be thus relieved of this burden. However we cannot honestly take the matter as such. There is no denying the fact that this is a deficit and we are morally bound to make it up, sooner or later.

Reading together the accounts of the provincial and capital revenues we find that there is a closing balance of Rs.35,06,000 after deducting the total expenditure of Rs.4,80,14,000 from the total receipts under both heads of Rs.5,15,20,000. Of this balance we are bound to retain unspent the amount of Rs.13,00,000 as the normal treasury balance of Assam and Rs.5,00,000 in the form of credits in the Reserve Bank and Rs.4,00,000 as the unspent balance of the grants made by the Government of India for the economic development of rural areas, etc. I have already dealt with the uncertain



character of the balance of Rs.2,26,000 included in the said balance of Rs.35,06,000 and the rest of the said balance is also earmarked as deposits, etc. which is repayable according to the statement "C"—capital expenditure of the Government.

The result is that the province will be left with no balance upon which we can build any hope of achievement in any of the nation-building departments.

Coming to the proportion of voted and charged money on the expenditure side we find that the expenditure from the provincial revenues Rs.2,22,88,000 is voted and Rs.46,05,000 charged money, and in the total expenditure of both the capital and the provincial revenue we find that Rs.2,28,84,000 is voted and Rs.2,37,73,000 charged money out of a total expenditure of Rs.4,80,14,000 (excluding Rs.13,57,000 the budgeted expenditure for excluded areas).

Sir, I shall conclude after a short reference to the new scheme foreshadowed in the budget. A paltry sum of Rs.1,500 has been provided for the establishment of the Training Farm for the unemployed educated youths and I am afraid from my perusal of the note in the remarks column that the Surma Valley people will get no share of the same. Then we find a provision of Rs.2,000 for the establishment of Agricultural Colonies, and it is proposed to spend these amounts in the form of loans to youths who will be required to cultivate the land for genuine agricultural purposes to reside upon the leased lands and to give their own labour to the venture. Then we find a provision of Rs.10,000 as a grant to the Village Development Fund for village reconstruction and uplift. All that I can say is that these provisions bear no proportion to the urgency of the needs of the nation which lives in the villages and to the gravity of the economic difficulties which our educated unemployed youths are daily fighting for their very existence. Let us hope that our Ministers will lose no time in formulating a really beneficial scheme for giving relief to the needy villagers and the unemployed educated youths.

Sir, the major portion of the revenue comes from the masses, but what has been done for them? How much money has been reserved for their uplift? In my humble opinion, Sir, the most vital problem before us is the all-round improvement of the masses, but alas, very little has been allotted for them.

In my humble opinion, Sir, these problems ought to have been uppermost in the minds of the budget-makers in preference to any other things in the list of new schemes, which might wait for some time more, and in this view of the matter I shall not touch upon them here but propose to deal with them when the demands for grants will be made.

Sir, I am a novice in the budget discussion, and it is not unlikely that I may have been mistaken in my appreciation of the budget disposition of the provincial money. It is farthest from my mind to be hostile to our Ministers from the very beginning, and I remain in the hope that our Ministers will spare no pains to act up to the wishes of the people and win gratitude of all in due course of time by the efficiency of their administration.

MAULAVI ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: Sir, I regret, I cannot congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister or the Ministry, over the budget that has been introduced this year. Of all the new Provincial Governments, the Assam Ministry was conspicuous for the discreet silence, that they maintained over their policy and programme. When recently, Sir, the Government convened a conference of the Departmental Heads and experts with much publicity and propaganda, the public expected that



they would produce a comprehensive and constructive programme. The public waited anxiously for the publication of the budget, but they were doomed to disappointment. Mountain was in labour and produced the proverbial mouse. This the budget is a typically bureaucratic budget and follows the tradition of its predecessors. There is bankruptcy of new idea, bankruptcy of constructive statesmanship. It evades the vital issues that affect the masses, and I would say, Sir, that this is a very disappointing budget that has been produced by the Ministry under the new Constitution.

Sir, the most important and urgent problem that should have engaged the attention of the Ministry is the problem of mass education, the problem of removing illiteracy from our country. The essential pre-requisite of rural uplift is the educational uplift of the masses. Every improvement, every progress, depends upon that. Whether we want to improve agriculture by introducing modern methods or machinery, whether we want to tackle the problem of indebtedness, through the co-operative movement, or whether we want to improve public health by improved knowledge of hygiene and sanitation, everywhere we are confronted with that great obstacle, the obstacle of the illiteracy of our masses, and that obstacle must be broken, if progress is to be achieved in any direction. Sir, Government will no doubt say that I am only emphasising the obvious problem and that the Government is cognisant of the problem, that they are alive to their responsibility and have provided Rs.50,000 recurring for primary education. The Hon'ble Chief Minister told us yesterday that ten lakhs were allotted for primary education. Sir, I would submit most respectfully that this is not a question merely of more money and more schools. The question is complicated by the problem of the wastage and stagnation in our primary schools. The Director of Public Instruction in his report last year says that 80 per cent. of our boys leave the primary schools before the course is completed. This retards the progress of literacy and the method of spending money is wasteful. In 1935-36 the Government made a similar grant of Rs.40,000 to the local boards and the Director also said in his report that several local boards failed to utilise the money. They did not know what to do with it and still the Government is handing over Rs.50,000 to the local boards to spend in a haphazard and wasteful way. The main function of the Ministry is to prepare a well thought out scheme dealing comprehensively with the problem of mass education and with the problem of stagnation and wastage in the primary stages and lay down definite line of advance, by stages, if necessary.

Sir, I referred to the bankruptcy of constructive ideas. That bankruptcy is nowhere more evident than in the failure of the Ministry to produce such a scheme. The Hon'ble Chief Minister told us yesterday that the Government was relying on the antediluvian Primary Education Act and said that they could not take the initiative. This allotment of Rs.50,000 for Primary Education in my opinion is a mere stunt and it is no contribution towards the progress of the movement for removing the illiteracy in the country.

Then, Sir, there is another problem on which I want to say a few words. It is about the rural indebtedness. The Assam Banking Enquiry Committee calculated that the volume of agricultural debt in our province amounts to Rs.22 crores. That was in the year 1928-29. Because of depression the situation has considerably deteriorated since. I want to know what the Government proposes to do in this matter. The co-operative movement has failed to mitigate the hardship. Instead of emancipating the agriculturists from the clutches of the money-lenders, because of the initial



mistake made in starting co-operative societies on unsound lines, the extension of the movement has resulted in the raiyat being further enmeshed in debt. Cheap credit was made available to the agriculturists but they had no conception of the co-operative principles and they went on borrowing money beyond their capacity to repay and used it for unproductive purposes. The result has been, as the Registrar pointed out in his report that as many societies are going into liquidation as are being newly started. It sounds paradoxical but the fact remains that instead of alleviating, the co-operative movement has aggravated the problem of rural indebtedness.

Last year an Act was passed called the Debt Conciliation Act to relieve the debtors from their burden and Rules have been framed under that Act. The Hon'ble Chief Minister in his speech made reference to that Act. I may be mistaken, Sir, but I looked through all the pages of the bulky volume and I could not find any provision for the establishment of a Debt Conciliation Board. I hope Government do not intend to make it a dead letter.

The only other point that I want to deal with is the Public Health. About Public Health, I think it will be generally admitted that any Government sensible of its responsibility for the welfare of the masses would have made a determined effort for the improvement of the Public Health and hygiene of the province. Every year, Sir, innumerable people die of preventible diseases like malaria, small-pox and cholera. But the medical provision made for these in this province is the scantiest. There are numerous villages where there is not one single dispensary within the radius of many a mile. Yet in this surplus budget we have no provision for a single additional dispensary. What the Government propose to do is to give some doles to private medical practitioners and the amount budgeted for the purpose is very much less than what has been thrown into that pond at Sibsagar. The surplus money has been squandered on fancy projects. There are items like starting Unions in Nalbari for filling pits at Palashbari, for giving grants for typewriting school at Gauhati—Schools the like of which are to be found now-a-days in every street corner. But no money is made available for such an important project like the Sylhet Medical School. If the school were started, it would have produced scores of medical men every year. These doctors would have spread themselves in villages and ministered to the needs of suffering humanity. But no provision has been made for the purpose.

Not only that, we all expected that under the popular Ministry the grant under nation-building departments in Public Health and Medical would increase. But I find that under several sub-heads the grant has actually been reduced. I give you a few instances. The number of Sub-Assistant Surgeons who are in charge of dispensaries has been reduced from 125 to 122. When, Sir, in our province one child in every six dies in its infancy there was provision for 12 dhayees and nurses to serve the needs of the province; even that has been reduced by one. The most surprising thing is that the patients have been robbed of their diet. In the revised estimate of 1936-37, Rs.35,000 was spent for the provision of diet for patients. This amount has been reduced to Rs.32,000. Then again the grant for public health purposes has been fictitiously swelled by including the grant of Rs.1,75,000 from the Government of India. If that sum is deducted the grant for public health purposes stands at Rs.21,000 as against Rs.52,000 revised estimate last year. They have reduced also the grants for epidemic diseases. For epidemic diseases in the year 1935-36, the actual amount spent was Rs.2,31,000. This year the budget provides a sum of Rs.57,000. Then again, Sir, medical stores for epidemic diseases and epidemic units have also been cut down. In the budget estimate for 1936-37 a provision of



Rs.49,000 was made for medical stores for epidemic diseases. But this year the estimate is Rs.45,000. For medical stores for Epidemic Units in the revised estimates for 1936-37 the amount was Rs.14,000. It has been reduced to Rs.6,000.

Sir, even the Ministers of the much-abused beauracratc system of Government were more sympathetic to suffering humanity than our popular ministry. One of the increases that I find is in the grant for the Mental Hospital in Tezpur. If, Sir, this budget is an index, I think that increase is probably justified.

BABU LALIT MOHAN KAR : Sir, at the very outset, I must frankly confess that the financial position of our province as disclosed in the Budget statement for the year 1937-38, has disappointed me. According to the statement, as presented to the Assembly, the total receipts from revenue heads amount to rupees two crores eighty-four lakhs seventy-four thousands and the total expenditure from revenues to two crores eighty-two lakhs forty eight thousand, leaving a balance of rupees two lakhs twenty-six thousand in hand. If this balance could be taken as indicative of the real position of the province, we would have been filled with some hope for the future. But that is not to be, as the real state of things is otherwise.

We are told that the figure on the receipt side under the head "Stamps" includes an amount of rupees two lakhs fifty thousand which is expected as additional revenue due to enhanced stamp rates under the Assam Stamps and Court-fees (Amendment) Acts, 1936. The Assembly need hardly be told how this additional taxation was liked or disliked by the people of the province. The small balance of rupees two lakhs twenty-six thousand shown as excess of revenue over expenditure from revenues, would have been at once wiped off rendering the budget a deficit one, if the people were not forced to bear this additional taxation, only for the purpose of meeting the cost of the top-heavy administration. Like the additional stamp revenues, the estimated receipt of a lakh of rupees from the progressive enhancement of land revenue as the result of re-settlement in certain districts, is anything but welcome to the people. It appears that Excise revenue from opium, wine and *ganja* still stands at rupees thirty-five lakhs forty-eight thousand to the utter shame and discredit of both the Government and the people of Assam. We all know that when a man attempts to commit suicide, he is punished by the Government. But what do we find here ? Here thousands of men and women are committing suicide inch by inch by taking opium, wine and *ganja*, but both the Government and the people are condoning it on receipt of hush-money, as it were, in the shape of Excise revenue. Is it too much to expect that the Hon'ble Ministers and the peoples' representatives in the legislature will spare no pains to get rid of this tainted revenue from the receipt side of the next budget ?

Looking backward, we find that the year 1936-37 closed with a deficit of rupees forty-six lakhs seventy-eight thousand and the Government will have to cover this amount by raising loan in the open market, as advised by the Hon'ble Finance Minister. It is hardly any consolation to us that the Government of India will grant a short term loan to cover the said deficit till such time as the Assam Government is able to float a loan in the open market. This is not all. The Hon'ble Finance Minister points out a further liability taken over by the present Government of rupees ninety lakhs on account of State Provident Funds, and it is not at all clear from the budget statement how this liability will be met from provincial revenues, I shall be much obliged if the Hon'ble Finance Minister will kindly further enlighten me in the matter.



Sir, thus, judging the statement of the provincial revenues and expenditure by themselves, independently of the capital revenues and expenditure, I find nothing to cheer myself up in the present and prospective financial position of the province. There was a deficit in the past, there is a deficit in the present and there will be a deficit in the future; and without claiming to be a prophet I make bold to say that, unless drastic measures for retrenchment are enforced without delay, the Ministers may find themselves reduced to the plight of imposing fresh taxation or by borrowing, for no other purpose than for daily administration. I will mention some amongst many of the directions in which public opinion has urged economy in administrative expenditure, *viz.*, (1) Abolition of the two Commissionerships; (2) Reduction in the salaries of Ministers and their establishment; (3) Reduction in the pay of the officers of the Public Service Commission; (4) Abolition of the posts of Assistant and Deputy Superintendents of Police; (5) Abolition of the posts of Assistant Inspectors of Schools.

Sir, now turning to the capital revenues and capital expenditure, we find that the former is rupees two crores eight lakhs forty-six thousand and the latter rupees one crore ninety-seven lakhs sixty-six thousand. Thus here the excess of revenues over expenditure is rupees ten lakhs eighty thousand. But the capital revenues are in the nature of deposits and advances, not at all like the provincial revenues with which the Assembly is mainly concerned for the prosperity of the province and the savings therefrom means nothing but balance kept in deposit (to be spent for specified purpose in the near future). So we cannot count upon these savings for the transaction of our ordinary business of administration.

The total receipts from provincial and capital revenues taken together appear to be rupees four crores ninety-three lakhs twenty thousand. Adding to this the opening balance of rupees twenty-two lakhs, the grand total stands at rupees five crores fifteen lakhs twenty thousand. Deducting from it the total expenditure, both provincial and capital, *i.e.*, rupees four crores eighty lakhs fourteen thousand, the closing balance has been shown to be rupees thirty-five lakhs six thousand. This figure is made up of the opening balance, the savings from the capital revenues and the excess of revenue over expenditure from revenues, as aforesaid. The opening balance is nothing but a gift from the Government of India to enable the Government of Assam to make a start, of which rupees thirteen lakhs will serve as funds for the normal treasury balance, and rupees five lakhs as funds for the minimum bank balance to be maintained with the Reserve Bank by our Government the balance of rupees four lakhs being the unspent balance of the grant previously made by the Government of India for the economic development of rural areas. Thus the only amount that will be available for ordinary administrative purposes in future is rupees two lakhs twenty-six thousand, provided the budget estimates prove correct; but to all intents and purposes, this small balance may be well left out of consideration.

Sir, with the advent of the new Constitution we expected that there would be a change of policy and the legislature would have substantial control over the finances of the province. But the budget statement shows that out of a total budgeted expenditure of rupees four crores eighty lakhs fourteen thousand as much as rupees two crores fifty-one lakhs thirty thousand, *i.e.*, more than 50 per cent. of the total, is beyond the voting powers of the Assembly. And this supplies the correct measure of provincial autonomy. In this connection I should



like to draw the attention of the Assembly to the fact that as much as rupees thirty-seven thousand five hundred out of the fund obtained from the Government of India for economic development of rural areas has been budgeted as discretionary grant by the Governor, the Ministers and the Commissioners. The rest of the money will be spent by different departmental authorities without assigning any share to the Local Boards of the province upon which the responsibility for rural uplift mainly rests. The apprehension arises naturally in the minds of the people, if the Government are not preparing to compel the people to tax themselves, whether in the form of increased local rates or in other ways, for meeting their manifold needs. The people in the permanently settled areas have protested in vain against the doubling of local rates, but it was all a cry in the wilderness, and the Government made no secret of their policy of asking the Local Boards to shift for themselves.

Our villagers will not be pleased certainly to be told that a paltry sum of Rupees ten thousand has been budgeted for village re-construction, rupees fifty thousand for expansion of primary education and rupees one thousand five hundred for a training farm for unemployed educated youths. As against this, we find a sum of rupees thirty-four thousand one hundred and thirty is being spent for the re-construction of a residential building for the Superintendent of Police at Dhubri.

The budgeted expenditure for 1937-38 on General Administration shows an increase of about nine lakhs over that in 1933-34, and on Police the increase during the same period comes up to about four lakhs. I doubt if the Assembly will be convinced of the propriety of this liberal expenditure under the heads aforesaid, in view of the ridiculous sums allotted on some of the important new schemes in the nation-building departments. How I wish that the Hon'ble Ministers had seen their way to hold out some hopes to the people of Sylhet for the establishment of a Medical School at Sylhet in response to the popular demands for the last decade. And I honestly believe that sufficient money can be made available by adopting measures of economy in different directions as indicated above.

Sir, the policy of the Government as disclosed in the Budget estimates can be summed up in the Bengali saying "দিনগত পাপকয়". The Government is somehow dragging on its existence as of old. No attempt has been made towards retrenchment, without recourse to which it is not possible to do anything substantial; neither has any provision been made for the amelioration of the masses which compose the bulk of the population of this province.

**SRIJIT RABI CHANDRA KACHARI:** Sir I come from a community of this Province which up till this time was unrepresented in the legislature. So at the outset, I express, on behalf of my community, our deep gratitude for this right which we have received under this new Constitution of Provincial Autonomy from the British Parliament.

We are, Sir, not only living in backward tracts but we are backward in every respect. In the midst of such unfavourable circumstances the little progress we have made educationally or otherwise has not been yet recognised.

This is to my mind partly due to our own inability and partly due to indifference of our more fortunate brethren and to want of proper encouragement at the hands of Government.



But I am glad to inform this House that our people once ruled in this Province in the long past though their present condition is so deplorable. Moreover our community is helping the British Government as the members of the community have enlisted themselves in the Military and Police Departments at present. And no body can deny the fact that some of them sacrificed their lives at the time of the Great War in their service at Mesopotamia for the interests of the Government. But our service for the benefit of the country and of the Government was not considered so long.

However I must admit that the angle of vision of our community and of most advanced brethren of other communities and that of the Government has changed to a great extent, and we have found or forced a place into a corner of their heart. We are grateful for this attitude also. Now we are thankful that we have representatives in this Provincial Assembly to represent our legitimate rights which were so long ignored and overlooked. In this hope, Sir, I now rise to speak a few words on behalf of my community in the particular and it is hoped that cold sympathy will not be shown towards me, in this Budget session of the Assembly.

We wish to have an equal share in the services of which we were so long deprived. I am sorry to say that none of our tribal communities has found a place in the Provincial Civil Service of the Government though there are more than a dozen graduates praying for generous favour of the Government.

In the regime of the previous Government, I know, Sir, there was a circular that some 16 per cent. of appointments in the provincial services must come to the tribal people, but there has not been a single appointment in this service from the tribal people of the plains. I would draw the attention of the Government to the fact that our tribal peoples of the plains should get a due share of representation in the district and the provincial services.

I am glad to hear that the Hon'ble Minister of Education has granted some amount in the budget for the improvement of primary education in the rural areas. Sir, I consider that it will be my duty to demand a share of it specially for the improvement of the backward communities for giving them primary and secondary education. Specially I draw the attention of the Government to the Kokrajhar High School in the northern part of the district of Goalpara which has been started in a central place of the backward tribal areas by the poor backward tribal people themselves mainly for the benefit of the backward tribal people. I hope that the Government will distribute a sufficient grant from the provisions in the budget of 1937-38 for the said Kokrajhar High English school.

I should tell the Government that we have neither a good road system nor an adequate supply of water in our rural areas. This is, I think, due to having a very few members in our Local Boards to represent our grievances properly. Sir, I request that an adequate grant specially to our community may be made to improve our roads and water-supply.

In many Local Boards, Sir, we have practically no representatives. We want representation in the Local Boards according to population basis. At the same time we want separate electorates and not joint electorates. I think this is not an unreasonable demand.

In another matter, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to the special scholarships that are now given to the Scheduled and backward students for secondary education. We want that these scholarships should be given separately to each class. We want also a similar treatment in the Berry-White Medical School to reserve some scholarships at least for our backward tribal students.



I find that Government has proposed to make an experiment to establish some model villages in every district. One such village might very usefully be attempted in rather a backward area like Baska in my district. As regards village reconstruction, Sir, we are very anxious to see some of our villages get a share of useful institutions such as village authorities and co-operative societies.

These are some of the demands of our community. But, Sir, I am happy to find that there will be some surplus in the budget this year. This will possibly enable the Government to carry on some of the nation building projects gradually which the village life of our country so pressingly demands. Sir, the condition of the raiyats is really very deplorable. They are handicapped in various ways. These difficulties like paying land revenue, rural indebtedness, natural calamities from which they suffer every year require the greatest attention at the present moment.

Lastly, I appeal to the House and to the Government to render us adequate facilities and help in order to achieve equal position in economic and educational progress and thereby enable us to play our part in the affairs of the administration of the province.

**SRIJUT KARKA DALAY MIRI:** মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, আজি অনেক দিন অসম ব্যৱস্থাপক পৰিষদৰ বা বান পৰি থকা ভৈয়ামৰ আদিবাসী সকলৰ মুখ ছুখ; মনৰ ভাব এই সভাত প্ৰকাশ কৰিবলৈ সুযোগ দিয়া বাবে ভৈয়ামৰ আদিবাসী সকলৰ প্ৰতি যি স্বৰূপে অসম গৱৰ্ণৰৰ ওচৰত কৃতজ্ঞতা জনাইছো। এই বছৰ বাজেট অংগীকৰণ কৰাতকৈ ভৈয়ামৰ আদিবাসী সকলৰ কেইটামান অভাৱ অভিযোগ চমুকৈ এই সভাত প্ৰকাশ কৰাটো মোৰ পক্ষে উচিত হ'ব।

মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, বেদখলী টঙানি মিৰি ৰায়ত সম্পৰ্কে অসম গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে তদন্ত কৰি উক্ত ৰায়তৰ প্ৰতি যি সহানুভূতি দেখুৱালে এই বাবে মই উক্ত ৰায়ত সকলৰ প্ৰতিনিধি হিচাবে অসম গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টক ধন্যবাদ জনাইছো। আৰু টঙানি ৰায়ত সকলে লক্ষিমপুৰ জিলাৰ ডিপুটী কমিচনাৰ চাহাবৰ আগত নতুন নিচিন্তাটো তেওঁ বিলাকৰ ভোগ দখল ঠাই এৰি দিম বুলি প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতি দি পিচত যাবলৈ আপত্তি কৰা বাবে তেওঁবিলাকৰ প্ৰতি গৰিহণা জনাইছো।

উপৰোক্ত ঘটনা মিৰি ৰায়তৰ প্ৰতি নতুন বা প্ৰথম নহয়। এনেকুৱা ঘটনা আগেয়ে অনেকবাৰ অসম চৰকাৰ বাহাদুৰৰ কৰ্মচাৰীৰ দ্বাৰা হৈ গৈছে। প্ৰথমবাৰ আজি ১৯১৬ বছৰ আগত গোলাঘাট মহকুমাৰ বকুলি চাপৰিত থকা মিৰি ৰায়তৰ ঘৰ বাৰী ভাঙি জুই লগাই দি পুৰি পেলোৱা হৈছিল। ২য় বাৰ ৮৯ বছৰ আগত ডিব্ৰুগড় মহকুমাৰ গৰুমৰা চাপৰিৰ মিৰি ৰায়তৰ ঘৰ বাৰী জুই দি পুৰি পেলোৱা হৈছিল। ৩য় বাৰ ২০ বছৰ আগত যোৰহাট মহকুমাৰ শম্ভুগৰা ওপুৰি মিৰি ৰায়তৰ ঘৰ বাৰী ভাঙি দিয়া হৈছিল। ৪র্থ বাৰ ডিব্ৰুগড় মহকুমাৰ অকাজান মিৰি ৰায়তক (কেইমান টঙানি মিৰি ৰায়ত) নটিট দি বুলেবে খেদি দিয়া হৈছিল। ৫ম বাৰ আজি কেইবাহ মানৰ আগত মলোৱাগ কংকুৰ মিৰি ৰায়তৰ পথাৰক টঙি কেইটা



মান হাতীৰে ভাঙ্গি দিয়া হৈছিল। এইদৰে আজি অনেক দিনৰ পৰা দুখীয়া শাস্তি  
 প্ৰিয় মিৰি বায়তৰ ওপৰত অসম গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ কৰ্মচাৰী সকলে অত্যাচাৰ কৰি আহিছে।  
 এখে নেচি অসম চৰকাৰৰ নীতি? এই বিলাক ঘটনাৰ মূল কাৰণ হৈছে কৰ্তৃপক্ষ  
 সকলৰ দোষত। আজি কেইবা পুৰুষৰ পৰা ভোগ দখল কৰি অহা মাটি এৰি দিবলৈ  
 আপত্তি কৰাটো সকলো মানুহৰেই স্বাভাৱিক। দেছুৱালী গোৱাল। সকলৰ এখন দৰ-  
 খাস্তাই কেইবা পুৰুষৰ পৰা ভোগ দখল কৰি অহা মাটি কাটি নিব পাৰে বা কৰ্তৃপক্ষ  
 সকলে দিবলৈ কুজীত নহয় তেন্তে তাতকৈ কিবা অন্যায় হব পাৰেনে? কেতিয়াও  
 কৰ্মচাৰী সকলে গ্ৰেজিং বিজাৰ্ড কৰোতে উচিত বিচাৰ নকৰি পক্ষ বিপক্ষলৈ গ্ৰেজিং  
 বিজাৰ্ড কৰা দেখা যায়। কিছুমান ঠাইত নিচেই গাৰ্বৰ ওচৰত গ্ৰেজিং বিজাৰ্ড কৰি  
 স্থানীয়লোক আৰু দেছুৱালী গোৱালৰ ভিতৰত অশান্তিৰ সৃষ্টি কৰি আহিছে। বৰ্ত্ত-  
 মান মিৰি বায়তৰ ওপৰত দুটা ধুমুহা আহি পৰিছে। এফালে ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ গৰাখহনীয়াত  
 পৰি মিৰি বায়তৰ মাটিৰ অভাৱ দিনে দিনে বেচি হৈ আহিছে আৰু আনফালে  
 কৰ্তৃপক্ষ সকলৰ সহায়ত ওচৰৰ মাটিবোৰ দেছুৱালী খুটীয়াগাৰ কাৰণে গ্ৰেজিং বিজাৰ্ড  
 কৰিব লাগিছে। ইয়াৰ উপৰিও মিৰিৰ শস্যৰ ওপৰত দেছুৱালী খুটীয়াগাৰ গৰু মহৰ  
 উপদ্ৰৱ। মিৰি সকলক কোনো প্ৰকাৰেই ইতৰ প্ৰাণীতকৈ ভাল বাৰহাৰ কৰিছে বুলি  
 ধৰিব নোৱাৰি। দে-দখলী টঙানি গাৰ্বৰ ডেৰশ-দুশ মানুহক গৰম আৰু বাৰিষা  
 কাল এটা ঘৰত থাকিবলৈ দিয়াটোৱেই ইয়াৰ সন্দেহ প্ৰমাণ। আজিকালি প্ৰভিন্সিয়েল  
 অটনমিৰ দিনত এই বাৰহাৰ বা ঘটনা কলিকতাৰ অন্ধকূপ ইত্যাতকৈ কোনো গুণেই  
 কম বুলি ধৰিব নোৱাৰি। ভবিষ্যতলৈ যাতে এনে ধৰনৰ জুৰ্ম হব নোৱাৰে তাৰ  
 কাৰণে মিৰি গাৰ্বৰ পৰা অন্ততঃ তিনি মাইল দূৰৈত যাতে গ্ৰেজিং বিজাৰ্ড নহয় তাৰ  
 কাৰণে এই সভাৰ প্ৰতি দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিলোঁ।

অসম চৰকাৰ বাহাহুৰে অসম উপত্যকাৰ আদিবাসী যাক ইংৰাজীত Backward  
 tribal of the plains বুলি কয় তেওঁবিলাকৰ প্ৰতি শিক্ষা দীক্ষা বা চাকৰীৰ বিশেষৰূপে  
 বন্দবস্ত কৰা আমি দেখিবলৈ পোৱা নাই। আজি ইংৰাজ আমোলত থকা কত  
 বছৰ হৈ গৈছে কিন্তু আজিলৈকে সুবিধা কৰি দিয়া নাই। পাহাৰীয়া যাক ইংৰাজীত  
 Hill tribes বুলি কয় তেওঁ বিলাকৰ লৰা ছোৱালীৰ কাৰণে স্কুলীয়াতকৈ বৃত্তি আৰু ফ্ৰি  
 ষ্টুডেণ্টচিপৰ বন্দবস্ত আছে; মুছলমান লৰা ছোৱালীৰ কাৰণে বৃত্তি আৰু ফ্ৰি ষ্টুডেণ্টচিপৰ  
 বন্দবস্ত আছে, খ্ৰীষ্টানৰ কাৰণে স্কুলীয়া বন্দবস্ত আছে আৰু টোংলৰ কাৰণে স্কুলীয়া  
 বন্দবস্ত আছে; এইদৰে চাকৰীতো স্কুলীয়া বন্দবস্ত আছে। কিন্তু Plainsৰ Back-  
 ward tribeৰ কাৰণে কিবা স্কুলীয়া বন্দবস্ত আছেনে? ইয়াৰ পৰা বুজিব পাৰি অসম  
 গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে 'জোৰ যাৰ মূলুক তাৰ' এই নীতি অবলম্বন কৰি আহিছে। আশা কৰো  
 বৰ্ত্তমান সংস্কাৰত অনেকখিনি সুবিধা কৰিব।



বৰ্ত্তমান Reform ত কেইটামান প্ৰতিনিধি দিলেই তেওঁবিলাকৰ প্ৰতি অনেক ধিনি কাম কৰা হৈছে বুলি অসম চৰকাৰে ভাবিলে ভুল হব। তেওঁ বিলাকৰ লৰা ছোৱালীৰ শিক্ষা দীক্ষাৰ কাৰণে যথোচিত মতে স্কুলৰ মাছুল মাফ কৰি দিব লাগিব। যথোচিত মতে উচ্চ শিক্ষা লাভাৰ্থে বৃত্তি দি উৎসাহ দিব লাগিব। উচ্চ শিক্ষাৰ কাৰণে জেনেবেল, মুছলমান, হিন্দু, বেকওয়াৰ্ছ বুলি বৃত্তি স্কলীয়া কৈ বন্দবস্ত কৰা দেখি আহিছো। কিন্তু ভৈয়ামৰ আদিবাসী সকলৰ কাৰণে Backward tribal—plains বুলি স্কলীয়া বন্দবস্ত নাই। Backward বুলি যি স্কলীয়া বৃত্তি ঠিক কৰিছে এইটো একে বাবেই বেবেৰিবাং। তাত উচ্চ হিন্দু—কোচ, কেওঁকে আদি কৰি সকলো সম্প্ৰদায়কে ধৰা হৈছে। ই এটা চালবাজী মাগোন। Plainsৰ backward tribeক চিনেগাহে দেখুৱা হৈছে। এনেকুৱা বেবিৰিবাং বন্দবস্তৰ পৰা plains tribe বিলাকৰ লৰা ছোৱালী বিলাকে কিবা বিশেষ সুবিধা পাব বুলি বিশ্বাস কৰিব নোৱাৰি।

১৯৩৭/৩৮ চনৰ কাৰণে যিখন বাজেট তৈয়াৰী কৰা হৈছে তাত কিছুমান সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ শিক্ষা দীক্ষাৰ কাৰণে স্কলীয়া কৈ টকা ধৰা হৈছে। কিন্তু তাত backward tribal—plainsৰ শিক্ষা দীক্ষাৰ কাৰণে বা হাস্পতাল, আলি পহুলি, কুৰাঁ নাদৰ কাৰণে কিবা বিশেষ বন্দবস্ত কৰা আছে বুলি বিশ্বাস কৰিব নোৱাৰি। Plainsৰ backward tribeৰ ভিতৰতো লোক সংখ্যা হিচাবে প্ৰত্যেক সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ ভিতৰত চাকৰী, বৃত্তি আদি সকলো বিষয়ত ভাগ কৰি দিব লাগিব। Tribal—plains হিচাবে এটা সমষ্টি ধৰি নিলে কোনো কোনো সম্প্ৰদায়ে ভাগ নাপাবও পাৰে। Plainsৰ tribe বিলাকৰ লৰা ছোৱালীবোৰৰ merit হিচাবে নধৰি বৰ্ত্তমান সময়ত তৃতীয় বিভাগত মেটিক পাচ কৰা লৰাকো উচ্চ শিক্ষাৰ উৎসাহৰ্থে বৃত্তি দিয়াটো উচিত হব। প্ৰাইমাৰী শিক্ষাৰ কাৰণে বৰ্ত্তমান বাজেটত ৫০ হেজাৰ টকা ধৰা হৈছে। কিন্তু গাওঁবোৰৰ স্কুলৰ অভাবলৈ লক্ষ কৰিলেই ই অতি সামান্য। বৰ্ত্তমান গাওঁবোৰত যি বোৰ প্ৰাইভেট স্কুল আছে সেই সকলোবোৰ এই টকাৰে হাতত লব পাৰিব বুলি বিশ্বাস কৰিব নোৱাৰি।

ভৈয়ামৰ আদিবাসীৰ ভিতৰত ৩৭ জনমান গ্ৰেজুয়েট বৰ্ত্তমান আছে। তেওঁবিলাকৰ ভিতৰত চাকৰি প্ৰাৰ্থীক সুবিধা দি উক্ত সম্প্ৰদায় বিলাকক উৎসাহ দিয়াটো চৰকাৰৰ উচিত আছিল। সম্প্ৰতি মিনি, কছাৰি, দেউৰী, লালুং, খামতি, মিকিৰ আদি সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ ভিতৰত উজ্জ্বলমান অসম চিহ্নল চাৰ্ভিচত আছে। উক্ত সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ ভিতৰত মেটিক পাচ কৰা বেচি নহলেও কেইজন মান সম্প্ৰতি আছে তেওঁবিলাকৰ বিদ্যাবুদ্ধি অল্পপাতে তেওঁ বিলাকক চাকৰি দিয়াটো উচিত। উক্ত সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ ভিতৰত স্কুল নিচেই কম। স্কুলৰ অভাৱত শ শ লৰা ছোৱালীয়ে আন্ধাৰত পৰি আছে। তেওঁবিলাকৰ লৰা ছোৱালীৰ শিক্ষাদীক্ষাৰ কাৰণে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে স্কলীয়াকৈ টকা বন্দবস্ত কৰি স্থানীয় লোকেল বোৰ্ড লৈ দিয়াটো উচিত। তেওঁবিলাকৰ পৰা খাজানা, বণকৰ বুলি যিমান টকা আদায় কৰে, তাৰ পতকৰা এভাগো সুবিধা পোৱা নাই। তেওঁবিলাকৰ গাৱত আলি, পহুলি, কুৰাঁ, নাদ,



হাস্পাতাল নাই বুলি কলেও বঢ়াই কোৱা নহয়। বিশেষকৈ শিবি গাওঁবোৰত আলি, পহুলি, হাস্পাতাল, কুৱা, নাদৰ সপোনবোৰ অগোচৰ।

লক্ষীমপুৰ আৰু শিৱসাগৰ জিলাৰ আৰু তেজপুৰ মহকুমাৰ অন্তৰ্গত পানীত তল যোৱা ঠাইত থকা মানুহ বিলাকক ১ম আৰু ২য় শ্ৰেণীৰ কাঠৰ নাও এখন দুখনকৈ, লোক সংখ্যা অনুপাতে বৰুৱা কামৰ ব্যৱহাৰৰ কাৰণে জৰুৰী বিজ্ঞাতৰ পৰা বিনা মাছুলত পাচ কৰি দিয়াটো চৰকাৰৰ অন্তায় নহব। কাৰণ একো পৰিয়ালৰ জীৱন মৰণ এখন নাৱৰ ওপৰত নিভৰ কৰে। বিশেষকৈ ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ আৰু শোৱনশিৰীৰ পাৰত থকা বায়ত সকলে প্ৰায় বাৰ মাহ নাৱৰ ওপৰত নিভৰ কৰিব লাগে। তেওঁ বিলাকৰ ডাঙৰ সৰু সকলো বৰুৱা কাম প্ৰায় নাৱৰ ওপৰত নিভৰ কৰে। প্ৰত্যেক পৰিয়ালক দুখন এখনকৈ নাও দিয়াত চৰকাৰৰ অনেকখিনি লোকচান হব এইটো সঁচা; কিন্তু বায়ত সকলৰ কষ্টলৈ লক্ষ কৰিলে ই অতি সামান্য। শ শ পকা বাস্তা বান্ধাতে কোটি কোটি টকা চৰকাৰৰ খৰচ হৈছে কিন্তু এই বুলি আলি পহুলি নবন্ধাকৈ থকা নাই।

আজিকালি দুখীয়া খেতিয়ক শ্ৰেণীৰ গৰু মহৰ ওপৰত বণকৰ লগোৱাত তেওঁ বিলাকৰ দুখৰ সীমা নাইকিয়া হৈছে। আজি কেই বছৰ মানৰ পৰা দুখীয়া বাইজে বনকৰৰ কৰ্ত্তৃপক্ষ সকলৰ পৰা যিমান জুলুম পাই আহিছে বোধ হয় কোনো বিভাগতে এনেকুৱা জুলুম পোৱা নাই। মহচন্দ্ৰৰ আৰু গ্ৰেজিং চুপাৰিন টেন ডেটেই হৈছে হত্যা কৰ্ত্তা বিধাতা। বৰ্ত্তমান গ্ৰেজিং আইনখন যিদৰে কৰিছে এই আইনে দুখীয়া বায়তৰ তেজ শোষণ কৰিছে। সেই আইন মতে কৰ্ত্তৃপক্ষৰ ইচ্ছামতে জৰিমনা, বনকৰ আদি বায়তৰ পৰা আদায় কৰিব পাৰে। তেওঁ বিলাকৰ ওপৰত কোনো ওজৰ আপত্তি নাথাকে। বায়তৰ এই বিলাক জুলুমৰ পৰা বন্ধা কৰিবৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰ বাহাৰুৱে এটি উপায় অবলম্বন কৰাটো উচিত হব।

দুখীয়া বায়তে বছৰি শ শ মৌন মাছ, সবিসহ উপাৰ্জন কৰে। কিন্তু মহাজন সকলৰ ঠগ প্ৰবন্ধনাত পৰি আধা মূল্যত বিক্ৰি কৰি আহিছে। এই বোৰৰ পৰা হাত সাৰিবৰ কাৰণে মাৰ্কেটিং অফিচাৰ ৰাখিছে। কিন্তু এই অফিচাৰক অকল শিলং পাহাৰত ৰাখিলেই বায়তৰ উপকাৰ কৰা হল বুলি ভবাটো চৰকাৰৰ অন্তায় হব।

দুখীয়া বায়তৰ উপকাৰার্থে আসামত কেইবাখনো গৱৰ্ণমেণ্ট-কৃষি ফাৰ্ম আছে। এই বোৰত খৰচ কৰিবৰ কাৰণে বছৰি হেজাৰ হেজাৰ টকা বাজেটত স্কীমাকৈ ৰখা হয়। আৰু ইয়াৰ উপৰিও বোটানিষ্ট, কেমিষ্ট, এণ্টলজিষ্ট বুলি অনেক অফিচাৰ ৰখা হৈছে। তেওঁ বিলাকৰ কাৰণেও অনেক টকা খৰচ হয়। কিন্তু তেওঁ বিলাকৰ পৰা দুখীয়া খেতিয়ক শ্ৰেণীৰ কিমান দূৰ উপকাৰ হৈছে এই বিষয়ে সকলোৰে বেচ বুজিছে। কৃষি বিভাগৰ কিছুমান অলাগতিয়াগ উৰু অফিচাৰ উঠাই প্ৰত্যেক মৌজাই মৌজাই একোজনকৈ ডিমনষ্ট্ৰেটৰ ৰাখিলে বায়তৰ বেচি কাম হব।



অসম গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে খেতিয়ক শ্ৰেণীৰ খাজানা কিছু কমাই দিয়াত কিয় ইমান আপত্তি কৰে কব নোৱাৰে। কিছুমান উপকৰা অলাগতিয়াল পোষ্ট উঠাই কিছুমান টকা উলিয়াই খাজনাৰ পৰা কম হোৱা টকা ধিনি বাজেটত পূৰাব পাৰে।

কানি মহা বিহে অসমীয়াক বিশেষকৈ ভৈয়ামৰ আদিবাসী সকলক ধ্বংস কৰিছে। অসম চৰকাৰে টকাৰ লালসাত এই মহা বিহে কানিক দেশৰ পৰা উঠাই দিবলৈ টান পাইছে। বৰ্তমান কানি উঠুৱাব বি নীতি অবলম্বন কৰিছে এই নীতিৰ দ্বাৰা দেশৰ পৰা কানি উঠাবলৈ আৰু অনেক দিন লাগিব। ৩৭ বছৰৰ আগত কানি তদন্ত কমিটিয়ে বোগীক ডাক্তৰৰ দ্বাৰা পৰীক্ষা কৰি নতুন পাট্টা দিয়াৰ বি আইন বান্ধিলে তাতো অনেক আসোৱাহ আছে। যদি অসমীয়া বেমাৰীয়ে কানি খাই ভাল হয় তেন্তে আন আন দেশৰ বোগী বিলাকে কি খায় বেমাৰি ভাল কৰে? নতুন পাট্টা দিয়াটো একেবাৰে বন্ধ কৰিলে অসমীয়া কানীয়া কিছু কম হ'ব বুলি আমাৰ বিশ্বাস। দেশৰ আৰ্থিক গন্যাতনৰ লগে লগে কানীয়া বোৰেও কানি খোৱা অনেক ধিনি কমাই আনিছে। স্মৃতি কানীয়া বোৰৰ মাজত দুই বৰ্গৰ পট্টা দেখা যায়। এট হৈছে permanent আৰু আনটো temporary পট্টা। permanent পট্টাবোৰত প্ৰায় তিনি তোলা কানি থকা দেখিবলৈ পাও আৰু এই কানি ধাৰজীবনৰ কাৰণে দিয়া হয়—ইয়াক কাটকুট কৰা নহয়। Temporary পট্টাবোৰৰ বছৰি কিছু কৰ্ত্তন কৰা হয়। যিবোৰ কানীয়াই permanent পট্টা পাইছে সিহঁতে আধা খায় আৰু আধা কানি temporary পট্টাদাৰ হ'তক তোলাত ৮\১২\ টকা হিচাপে বিক্ৰি কৰি দিয়ে। Temporary পট্টাৰ কানীয়া বোৰৰ পট্টাত যদিও কানি কমোৱা হৈছে তথাপি সিহঁতে কানি পোৱা অভ্যাস আগৰ দৰেই ৰাখে। গতিকে ermanent পট্টাৰ কানিবোৰ অন্ততঃ এতোলাকৈ বা তাতকৈ বেচি কৰ্ত্তন কৰিলে নতুন কানীয়াৰ সৃষ্টি হ'বলৈ সুবিধা নহ'ব। আৰু লগে লগে temporary license holder কানীয়াবোৰেও কানি কমাবলৈ বাধ্য হ'ব।

বোৰহাট মহকুমাৰ অন্তৰ্গত মাজুলী area প্ৰায় ৪২০ বৰ্গ মাইল। এই থাইব পৰা ৰেৰকাৰ বাহাজুৰৰ প্ৰায় দেড় লাখ টকা উপাৰ্জন হয়। ইয়াৰ ৰায়তে গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ পৰা কোনোবিষয়তে বিশেষ সহায় পোৱা নাই। মাজুলী ৰায়তৰ লৰাছোৱালীৰ শিক্ষাৰ কাৰণে দুখন মাইনৰ স্কুল খোলা হৈছে। ইয়াৰ ভিতৰৰ এখনে চৰকাৰৰ পৰা এটি পইচাও গ্ৰাণ্ট পোৱা নাই। আন খনে কেইটামান টকাৰ গ্ৰাণ্ট পাইছে। উক্ত স্কুল দুখন টনকীয়াল কৰিবৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে কিছুমান টকা বাজেটত স্কলৰটকৈ ধৰিলে অন্যায়কৰা নহ'ব। আৰু উক্ত ৰায়তৰ মাহ, সব্বিয়হ আদি কৃষিজাত বস্তুবোৰ অনায়াসে উচিত ঠাইলৈ নি উচিত দামত বিক্ৰি কৰিবৰ সুবিধাৰ্থে বদতিৰ পৰা দিচাং মুখলৈকে এটি Public Works Department আলি বান্ধিবৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰ বাহাজুৰে বাজেটত কিছু টকা ধৰা নিতান্ত উচিত হ'ব।

সভাপতি মহাশয়, এই কেই আখাৰ কথা কৈ এই সময়ৰপি মাৰিলোঁ! আশা কৰোঁ এই সভাই মই উল্লেখ কৰা বিষয় বোৰলৈ অলপ লক্ষ ৰাখিব।



(After lunch with the Deputy Speaker Maulavi Muhammad Amiruddin in the Chair).

**SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS** :—Sir, at the very outset, I have one complaint to make. It is regarding the time that we are given to prepare the budget. My idea is that the draft budget should be sent to the members at least a month before the session actually begins. (*Hear, hear*). The budget, as it appears to me, is not only an important and an intricate subject but it also indicates something more than what the budget figures apparently mean. I, therefore, suggest that copies of the budget should be sent to the hon. members well in time. My second complaint is regarding the putting of figures as at present generally for three years. I should like that there should be figures for 5 years including three years' actuals instead of one year's actuals as at present.

The third complaint is that we have got no Standing Finance Committee elected from amongst the members of this House to advise the Finance Department. I would suggest one such Committee and I would suggest also that unlike the usages of the pre-autonomous days the members of such Committee be given greater scope and better facilities to scrutinise the items of expenditure before the actual drafting of the budget is completed.

My fourth complaint is that there are frequent changes in the mode of accounting and in the modes of classification of the heads and sub-heads, etc., in the budget. The non-official members are not very conversant with the complicacies of account and so they find it very difficult to follow these frequent changes. There have been some explanations put forward by the Hon'ble Finance Minister that the introduction of the Government of India Act, 1935, has made some changes in the classification necessary. I would like that there should be no more classification from year to year than is absolutely necessary by the implications of the aforesaid Act.

Now to the budget itself. It has been said that it is a surplus budget. I am not going now to examine it in detail how far it is a surplus budget or a deficit budget but it appears that in reality it is far from a surplus budget. From the very statement of the Hon'ble Finance Minister it appears to be a deficit budget if we leave out of account the subvention that has been granted by the Government of India. It is to be seen whether even if we take into account the subvention of these thirty lakhs, the budget is a surplus one. Sir, I have been asked generally to deal with the financial aspect of the budget. I have suspicion that there has been over estimation in the receipt side as far as at least certain items are concerned. In the land revenue item I would venture to suggest that there has been over estimation. The Hon'ble Revenue Minister has, in his statement, stated that last year's account of revenue receipts was not encouraging and that it showed signs of improvement only in the month of March last. On the basis of this improvement in the figures of a month he has probably based his calculation for the next year and it is why I say that the land revenue receipt has been over estimated. There are other such items which I refrain from dealing with for the time being. Government are making no doubt some apparent attempts to adopt some important measures in the year under discussion. But it is to be considered whether these attempts are real and genuine and how far they go in the right direction or to the required extent. That they are not to the required extent and that the sums provided are small, have been admitted by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister himself, but he wants us to understand that the resources of the province give but little scope for further sums being provided. He also says that the sums provided are for 6 months and not for a year. In the



latter explanation he is, I think, not correct. Government have been functioning and the Hon'ble Finance Minister being himself the head of the Council of Ministers from the very beginning of the year, that is from 1st April 1937, it makes very little difference whether the sums provided in the budget for a particular year are actually spent in the earlier or latter part of it.

THE HON'BLE THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member will cut short. He has only three minutes more.

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS: I for myself am not convinced that the explanation offered by the Hon'ble Finance Minister in this respect is satisfactory.

As to his second contention that the resources at his disposal are scanty I would like to put him a question. Is he not also the head of the Government? Is it not the duty of the Hon'ble Finance Minister being also the head of the Council of Ministers therefore to try to make money available for purposes of beneficent activities and for the amelioration of the conditions of the people? Sir, it is not a question whether he is successful or not in his attempts, but it is a question to see whether he has made any attempt at all in this direction and to what extent? We are thankful to him that he is planning to approach the Higher Authorities for the whole or at least a portion of the proceeds of the excise duty on petrol and kerosene produced in Assam. I think, Sir, Assam is fully entitled to this duty and by neglecting this legitimate claim of Assam in this respect the Central Government have done a great injustice. This is a claim, which if admitted, will be a recurring source of income to the Province. We are also thankful to him that the Government of Assam have approached the Central Government for being exonerated from payment of the loan of Rs. 32 lakhs which the Government had to take to tide over the last year's deficit. I think the Government have been able to make out a strong case for it and I hope they will be successful.

The Hon'ble the Finance Minister while raising his voice of protest against the inequitable burden thrown upon us for the maintenance of the Assam Rifles has not indicated anything to show that Government is going to move the Central Government in this matter also. We all agree with the Hon'ble Finance Minister when he says that the semi-military organisation, the Assam Rifles, is mainly required as a militia for guarding the Eastern Frontiers and the expenditure should, therefore, be borne entirely by the Central Government. On an examination of the average provincial contribution which Assam used to make for this organisation in the few years past prior to the introduction of this present Act, we find that the allocation of 15/55ths of the total expenditure on this force as now fixed for the Province has also been unjustly higher. It seems that the Hon'ble Finance Minister is moving with an idea of getting relief from this quarter, *i.e.*, from the Central Government. But I am constrained to say that he has done nothing and has shown no signs of any attempt being made to make money available in this very Province—of course not by imposition of new taxes on the masses but by adopting a policy of reduction of expenditure, retrenchment of services, working of the undeveloped resources, and if necessary by taxing the Industries and the rich to a certain extent. We have a hint from him when introducing the budget that the formation of a committee of Resources and Retrenchment is under his contemplation with a view to improve ways and means without surrendering efficiency in the services. Barring this the Government have done nothing during the last 4 months. There are of course some measures which may be of a controversial nature to a great degree and those measures may require consideration by a Committee. But there are, however, at



least some other measures in which the Government might have taken immediate steps without any appreciable opposition from any quarter. I would like to cite one instance. The public opinion regarding the Upper Chamber in Assam is unanimous. Assam did not want this reactionary House nor was Assam consulted properly by the authorities. It was imposed upon us in spite of our protests to safeguard the best interests of the capitalists and the imperialists. Yet for this Chamber Assam will have each year to spend a good deal of the poor tax payers' money which might have been made available in other directions for the good of the general public. There is a provision in section 308 of the Government of India Act, 1935, that to get the Upper Chamber abolished one of the Ministers is to move a resolution recommending the abolition and another resolution addressing His Majesty to the same effect. It is pertinent therefore to ask, why has not the Ministry taken up this question in hand and moved resolutions accordingly? Are they in doubt as to the success? If they fail in an attempt like this let them resign and go to the country on this issue. I am sure the electorate will support them whole heartedly and their opponents, if any, will have to go to the wall.

Then again a good deal has been said in the different statements of the Hon'ble Ministers about their attempt to achieve their utmost in the nation building departments. I am afraid however, the problem has not been approached from the right direction. It is not always so much to see how much we spend in any particular department as it is to see what department is able to give the greatest permanent advantage to the country and is selected as a Primary Department. At present there is no such selection for special consideration in the nation building departments. Moreover the proportion of expenditure in the establishments to that of works in the various departments is rather unduly high. It has been the tendency of the Government in the past to give increased salaries and improve the grades in the services whenever there are any surplus in the Provincial revenue and to impose new taxes whenever difficulty arises in the financial position of the Government. That is a tendency which is most dangerous and I think the present Government is not a party to it.

It has also been the tendency to see that there should be proportionate rise or proportionate fall in the various departments in charge of the different Ministers.

**MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** The hon. member's time is up, Sir.

**THE HON'BLE THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I think you have exceeded the time. You should sit down.

**SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS:** If you do not allow me time, I am ready to take my seat.

[At this time the hon. member sat down and Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia began to speak in Bengali.]

**MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN:** On a point of order, Sir. The hon. member was finishing up his speech. It would be better had he been allowed 2 minutes time more. That was a very interesting speech.

**MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI:** He was developing his point very nicely, Sir. I think he should be allowed to finish.

**MAULAVI SYED ABDUR ROUF:** Yes, Sir. He should get some time more.

**THE HON'BLE THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** In the fitness of things, I am prepared to allow him 2 or 3 minutes more.

**SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS (contd.):** The Hon'ble Finance Minister has stated that the Education Department has got the lion's share in the



Budget this year. The Hon'ble Education Minister has also boasted that his is the biggest of all education budgets of previous years. But I would like them to consider the following all important factors :—

Firstly, the general education in a country is the foundation and necessary antecedent of increased economic activity in all branches of national production, in agriculture, small industries, manufactures and commerce.

Secondly, the consequence of the increase of popular education is a more equal distribution of the proceeds of labour contributing to the general prosperity, social peace and the development of all the powers of the nation.

These are the admitted theories and for these reasons alone, if not for anything else, the greatest care for fostering of all educational institutions in our province is one of the most important national duties of the present. Now primary education is a branch of this larger subject of education over which we are to give our utmost serious consideration. Under the present arrangements primary education is in charge of the local bodies whose resources are fixed and limited. No serious expansion of educational efforts is possible under the present arrangement. Local Boards derived their revenues from the one anna or two annas rates whatever it may be, but as the revenue settlements are fixed for definite periods the proceeds of the local rates are also more or less fixed. Government contribute no doubt a fraction of the cost, but as the resources of the local bodies themselves are fixed and inelastic the spread of primary education in the rural areas is absolutely inelastic for long periods. There are about 32,800 villages in Assam and there are only 5,810 primary schools, according to the Education Report of 1936. There are therefore about 3,000 villages without schools. Sir, they also pay the local rates just like others and yet educational facilities are denied to them. We find that in 1936 there were 2,77,369 scholars in the primary schools out of a population of 92½ lakhs, i.e., about 3 per cent. only. My complaint is that the Government have not been as liberal in this direction as they want us to believe.

In the other branches of Education also, i.e., in the Secondary and the University, the Government cannot be congratulated. In the Secondary education, apart from the question of unequal distribution in the different subdivisions, I would like to draw their attention that in a province like Assam where the percentage of the population getting Secondary education is a very negligible figure compared to other countries they should have been more liberal in making provision for. Assam has not a University, Assam has not any Engineering school, Assam has not any Agricultural school, and above all the only two Government Colleges of the province do not go to teach to the highest standards of examination recognised by the Calcutta University. We know that at the cost of the tax-payers' money a University scheme was prepared by the Government a few years ago, and so far as I am aware there was another prepared by a non-official body under the auspices of the Assam Association. If the Government do not mean to give a start to a University and mean to shelve it indefinitely, what was the good of having spent so much money over it?

I know that the subject of Education has, so far as our province is concerned, been a non-self-supporting one. We have heard in this House that to make primary education alone free and compulsory it will require 3 crores. The cost is no doubt prohibitive, but should it be the reason that the Government should not give their serious consideration over it and try to find out some means and ways to make at least some branches of the educational institutions of the province, if not wholly self-supporting, yet



paying a substantial portion of their costs, not going of course to the method of raising tuition fees at higher rates but by adopting some productive measures either in agriculture or in vocational lines? I may cite two instances for the guidance of the Government in this matter. I have personal knowledge of one such institution, and it is the Girish Bidyapith in the Bijni mauza of Barpeta Subdivision. The other, I am told, is at Majuli in the district of Sibsagar. The institution Girish Bidyapith teaches Sanskrit, and though it is open to all castes, all communities, all races, it is not that idea that I do suggest the Government to take from it. The particular ideal of that institution is that the students must earn their cost of education themselves. This ideal may not be feasible for all the localities and for all standards of boys but for almost all mofussil places and for boys between a certain limit of ages it may not be quite impossible. My idea is that unless productive labour is made a necessary adjunct to general study in some branches of the educational institutions at least expansion of education is bound to be slow. If any hon. member wishes to know how the Girish Bidyapith is working I shall be glad to discuss the matter with him.

I think, I have taken too much time of the House and so I stop my discussion here and do not go into the details of the different departments.

✓ MAULAVI MATIOR RAHMAN MIA: মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, এই বাজেট সংশ্লিষ্ট আমাদের অভাব অভিযোগ সংক্ষেপে কিছু আলোচনা করিতে চাই। বাজেট আসান গভর্ণমেন্টের বার্ষিক আয় ব্যয়ের হিসাব। বর্তমান আসান গভর্ণমেন্ট যে বাজেট উপস্থিত করিয়াছেন তাহাতে গভর্ণমেন্ট সমভাবে টাকা বিতরণ করেন নাই—এজন্য আমরা অত্যন্ত অসুবিধা ভোগ করিতেছি। আমাদের কি কি অসুবিধা—কি কি অভাব তাহা সভাপতি মহোদয়ের নিকট বিবৃত করিতে চাই।

প্রথম, আমরা বহুকাল যাবৎ বাংলাদেশ ছাড়িয়া আসিমে আসিয়াছি। তখন এই দেশের জমির খাজানা বা নজর ছিল না—বহু জমি পতিত হইয়া পড়িয়াছিল এবং দেশীয় জমিদার এবং কর্ণচারীরা আমাদেরকে আহ্বান করিয়া আনিয়া পতিত জমলা জমিতে বসতি করিতে দিয়াছিলেন, আমরা অত্যন্ত পরিশ্রমের সহিত সে সব জমলা পরিস্কার করি। তার পর নজর সেলামি বারদ বিঘাপ্রতি প্রথম ছই আনা, চারি আনা, একটাকা হইতে পরে ১০ টাকা, ৫০ টাকা পর্যন্ত আমাদের কাছ থেকে নিয়াছেন। এসব জমি পরিস্কার করিয়া যখন আমরা আবাদ আরম্ভ করি তখন খাজানা প্রায় ছিলই না। কিন্তু পরে বিঘাপ্রতি ৫ আনা ২ আনা হইতে আরম্ভ করিয়া এক টাকা হইতে ১৫ টাকা পর্যন্ত আমাদের দিতে হইয়াছে। আমার constituency মেছপাড়ার সংক্ষেপে আমি বলিতে পারি যে, যে জমিতে সামান্য পরিমাণ টাকাও আয় ছিল না এখন সেখানে লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা আয় হইতেছে। কিন্তু সেই Estate হইতে আমরা কোন রকম সাহায্য পাইতেছি না। সে সংক্ষেপে গভর্ণমেন্ট আমাদের প্রাত কোন দৃষ্টি রাখেন কি না জানি না। কিন্তু আমার মনে হয় আমাদের প্রতি গভর্ণমেন্ট কোন দৃষ্টি রাখেন না। গত census এর সময় সেখানকার মোট লোকসংখ্যা ছিল ৮১,৮৬৯ জন এবং তন্মধ্যে মুসলমান ৫৮,২৪৫ জন; অবশিষ্ট হিন্দু ও অন্যান্য জাতি। বর্তমানে বোধ হয় অনেক



বেশী হইয়াছে। মুসলমানের সংখ্যা এখন বোধহয় ৬২ হাজারের কম হইবে না। এই estate এর বাহা আর হইয়াছে তাহার অধিকাংশ আমাদের দ্বারাই। আমি একথা কোন হিংসার বশবর্তী হইয়া বলিতেছি না—আমি নায্য কথাই বলিতে চাই। এদেশের হিন্দু মুসলমান যাহারা আছেন তাহাদের দেয় খাজনা বিধা প্রতি ১/০ আনা, ১১/০ আনা কিন্তু আমাদের প্রতি নিরিখ বিধা প্রতি ১১ টাকা হইতে ৫১ টাকা পর্য্যন্ত। তাহাদের নজর নাই, কিন্তু আমাদের কাছ থেকে ১০১ টাকা হইতে কোন ক্ষেত্রে ৫০১ টাকা পর্য্যন্ত নজর নেওয়া হইতেছে। তাহাদিগকে এই estate এই চাকুরী দেওয়া হয়; কিন্তু আমরা যদি চাই তখন কতিপয় স্থানে বলা হয় “বেটা ভাটিয়া চকরা বাঙ্গাল, তোমরা জঙ্গল সাফা করিতে আসিয়াছ তোমরা জঙ্গল সাফা করিবে, কুলি মজুরি করিবে, তোমাদের জঙ্গ চাকার নয়”। ইহা বড়ই দুখের বিষয় গভর্নমেন্টকে জানাইতে বাধ্য হইতেছি যে আমাদের বুকের রক্ত দিয়া অসংখ্য টাকা ব্যয় করিয়া জঙ্গল পতিত জমি আবাদ করার জন্য estate বা গভর্নমেন্টের লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা আর হইতেছে, তবুও আমরা সামান্য পিয়ন, মুহরির, আমিনের বা কোন চাকরী করিতে গেলে বলা হয় যে, আমাদের জন্য চাকরী নয়। আর বলা হয় “বেটা ভাটিয়া চকরা বাঙ্গাল তোমরা জঙ্গল সাফা করিতে আসিয়াছ তোমাদের জন্য চাকরি নাই”। এই গেল estate এর কথা। আমরা লোকেল রেইট হিসাবে হাজার হাজার টাকা জমিদার যোগে লোকেল বোর্ডকে দেই। গবর্নমেন্ট ও লোকেল বোর্ডকে টাকা দেন। কিন্তু লোকেল বোর্ড আমাদের কোন সাহায্য করেন বলিয়া মনে হয় না। গত ১৯৩০-১৯৩১ সনের ভূমিকম্প আমাদের অঞ্চলের সমস্ত জায়গা ফাটিয়া বাবু পড়িয়া নষ্ট হইয়া গিয়াছে। কুঁয়া বলিতে একটিও নাই এবং জমি সম্পূর্ণ নষ্ট হইয়া গিয়াছে। আগে যে জমিতে ১০/ মন পাট পাওয়া যাইত এবং ১০ টাকা মণ বিক্রি হইয়া ১০০ টাকা পাওয়া যাইত, সেখানে এখন ১০ সের পাট জন্মায় এবং দর ও মণ প্রতি ৩১ টাকা হইতে ৫১ টাকার বেশী পাওয়া যায় না। কিন্তু এখনও জমির নজর বিধা প্রতি ১০১ টাকা হইতে ৫০১ এবং নিরিখ ১১ হইতে ৫১ পূর্ববৎ টাকাই আছে। তাহাতে আমরা বড়ই অসুবিধা ভোগ করিতেছি। এখন পূর্ববৎ শস্য উৎপন্ন হয় না এবং দর ও পূর্ববৎ নাই সে জন্য আমরা নিজ হইতে খরচ করিতে পারিনা কারণ আমরা সকলেই কৃষি জীবী কাজেই আমাদের নিজ নিজ উপার্জিত টাকা ব্যয় করিয়া কোন প্রকার কুয়া, ইন্দারা, রাস্তা বা অন্য কোন প্রকারের সুবিধা করিবার ক্ষমতা আমাদের নাই; পেটের ভাত এবং পরনের কাপড় নিয়াই আমাদের ব্যস্ত থাকিতে হয়। বোর্ডের সাহায্যের জন্য দরখাস্ত দিলে বলা হয় “কোথাকার বেটা? বাঙ্গাল ভাটিয়া চকরা তাহাদের আবার কুয়া লাগে”। আমরা দরখাস্ত দিলেও আমাদের ইন্দারা দেয়না, রাস্তা, বাট, পুল, বা স্কুল দেয় না। দুখের সহিত বলিতেছি যে, লক্ষাপুর থানার এলাকায়—গোয়াল পাড়া জেলার পশ্চিম constituency তে একটিও ভাল রাস্তা নাই। একটা রাস্তা আছে গোয়ালপাড়া হইতে শালমার পর্য্যন্ত; তাহাতে প্রায় পঞ্চাশ জায়গায় ভাঙ্গা, কোথাও কোন পুল নাই। সে সব জায়গায় বর্ষার সময় Public Works Department র নৌকা



দেয় বটে কিন্তু তাহা ডাক পার করিবার জন্য, সব সময় মাহুষ পার করিবার জন্য নহে ; গাড়ী নেওয়ার ও সুবিধা নাইই হাটিয়া যাওয়াও অসম্ভব । সেখানে কোন রেল নাই, টিমার নাই বা special মোটর সার্ভিস ও নাই । বোড়ে বহুবার চিৎকার করিয়াছি কিন্তু তাহারা কোন কণপাত করেন নাই । কাজেই সে বিষয়ে আমি গভর্ণমেন্টের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতেছি এবং অহরোধ করিতেছি যে বাজেটে যে টাকা ধরা হইয়াছে তাহা যেন শুধু ঐসমস্ত স্বার্থপর ব্যক্তিদের জন্য বা কোন ব্যক্তিগত স্বার্থের জন্য ব্যয়িত না হইয়া নরকসাগরণের উপকারের জন্য ব্যয়িত হয় ।

**SRIJUT PARAMANANDA DAS :** On a point of order Sir, can the hon. member utter such word as স্বার্থপর ?

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER (from the Chair) :** I think the tone of the word is rather objectionable and he should withdraw it.

**MAULAVI MATIOR RAHMAN MIA :** আচ্ছা আমি withdraw করিলাম । আর আমরা সবাই গরীব—আমাদের অধিকাংশলোক কৃষিজীবী । আমাদের হালচাষ করিবার জন্য গরু আছে—কিন্তু গরুর চিকিৎসার জন্য ডাক্তারখানা নাই ; মাহুষের চিকিৎসার জন্যও ডাক্তারখানা নাই । গোয়ালপাড়ায় একটি ডাক্তার খানা আছে কিন্তু বহুদূর সেখানে সব সময় যাওয়া সম্ভবপর নয় । কাজেই আমরা আশাকরি আমরা যে সমস্ত কৃষক আছে, আমাদের স্বাস্থ্য রক্ষার জন্য এবং জীবন রক্ষার জন্য লক্ষীপুর থানায় আরও একটি ডাক্তারখানা হওয়া দরকার, এবং এই বিষয়ে আমি গভর্ণমেন্টের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতেছি । এবং একটি গরুর ডাক্তারখানাও নিত্য দরকার । আমাদের ভিতর উচ্চ শিক্ষিত বা বেশীর ভাগ লেখা পড়া জানা লোক নাই যাহারা আছে অধিকাংশই অশিক্ষিত । এতদিন পর্য্যন্ত আমরা পেটের দায়ে ব্যস্ত ছিলাম । এখন অন্ততঃ পেটের দায়ের জন্ত চিন্তা আর একটু কম হইয়াছে (hear, hear,) আমাদের শিক্ষার জন্ত স্কুল, মাদ্রাসা বা মক্তব কিছুই নাই । আশা করি গভর্ণমেন্ট আমাদের এই অশিক্ষিত গরীব দেশের মেরুদণ্ড কৃষক দিগের ছেলে মেয়েদের শিক্ষার জন্ত মাদ্রাসা এবং মক্তব স্থাপনের জন্ত চেষ্টা করিবেন । আর আমাদের ঐখানে জোতদারী একটা প্রথা আছে । জমিদারের কাছ থেকে তাহারা ১০ সালের জন্য বন্দবস্ত করিয়া অতিরিক্ত জমি পত্তন নেয় । তাহারা উচ্চ হারে নজর লইয়া আমাদেরিগকে জমি পত্তন দেয় এবং অতিরিক্ত নিরিখে খাজনা নেয় । জমিদারেরা খাজনার টাকা প্রতি এক আনা হিসাবে লোকের রেট নেন । তাহারা যদি ১০০ টাকা খাজনা দেয় সে জাগার আমরা ৫০০ টাকা খাজনা দিলেও টাকা প্রতি এক আনা হিসাবে লোকের রেট নেন, এই লোকের রেটের ২৫ টাকাই জোতদারেরা ভোগ করেন এবং বাকী টাকাটা গভর্ণমেন্টের কাছে যায় । আমি আশা করি এরকম বেআইনি ভাবে জোতদারেরা আমাদের নিকট হইতে যাহাতে লোকের রেট নামে অতিরিক্ত টাকা অন্যান্য ভাবে আর নিতে না পারে তৎসম্বন্ধে গভর্ণমেন্ট অগোনে তীক্ষ্ণ দৃষ্টি নিক্ষেপ করিবেন ।



গাড়ীর ট্যাক্স সম্বন্ধে আমি বলিতে চাই যে আমরা গরীব কৃষক, যদি আমাদের ক্ষেত হইতে উৎপন্ন শস্য আনিবার জন্য গাড়ীর দুইটি চাকা ঘরে রাখি তাহাহইলে আমাদের বার্ষিক ৪০০ টাকা হিসাবে ট্যাক্স দিতে হয়। এটা কি নীতি এবং কি হিসাবে নেওয়া হয়? আমি মনে করি এটা অন্যায় ভাবে নেওয়া হয় এবং সেই ট্যাক্স দিতে আমরা অসমর্থ। যাহারা গাড়ী ভাড়া খটাইয়া উপার্জন করে এবং বোর্ডের রাস্তা দিয়া যাতায়াত করে তাহাদের কাছ থেকে ট্যাক্স নেওয়া যেতে পারে। কিন্তু আমরা যে জমির জন্য মালিকের খাজানা দিতেছি সেই জমির উৎপন্ন ফসল আনিবার জন্য যদি গাড়ীর দুইটি চাকা রাখি তাহাহইলে তাহার উপর কেন ট্যাক্স নেওয়া হয়; ইহাও দিতে বিলম্ব হইলে আদালত যোগে দণ্ড দেওয়া হয়। আমি মনে করি এই ট্যাক্স অন্যায় ভাবে জুলুম করিয়া নেওয়া হইতেছে। আমি আশা করি গভর্ণমেন্ট সৈদিকে সুনজর রাখিবেন।

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER (from the Chair): The hon. member has three minutes only.

MAULAVI MATIOR RAHMAN MIA: আমাদের প্রত্যেকের ঘরবাড়ী আছে; তাহার জন্য আমাদের প্রত্যেকের ১১/—২/৩ টাকা করিয়া চৌকিদারী ট্যাক্স দিতে হয়। কিন্তু কোন দিন আমরা দেখি নাই যে গ্রামে চৌকীদারেরা পাহারা দিতেছেন। যদি চৌকীদারেরা পাহারা দিতে না যায় তাহাহইলে মাহিনা দিয়া চৌকীদার রাখিবার কি দরকার এবং আমাদেরই বা ট্যাক্স দিবার প্রয়োজন কি? যদি চৌকীদারেরা পাহারা না দেয় তাহাহইলে গভর্ণমেন্ট যেন আমাদের সুবিধার নামে ফাকি দিয়া এই ট্যাক্স নেওয়াটা বন্ধ করেন।

আমরা এদেশে আসিয়া স্থায়ীভাবে বাস করিতেছি। এখন আমরা এদেশেরই প্রজা। আমরা এদেশের যথেষ্ট উন্নতি করিয়াছি এবং গবর্ণমেন্টকে যথেষ্ট রাজস্ব দিতেছি। আমাদের দ্বারা গবর্ণমেন্টের অনেক সুবিধা হওয়া স্বত্ত্বেও আমরা গবর্ণমেন্ট হইতে কোন সুবিধা পাইতেছি না। আমাদের domiciled question নাই—আমরা এই দেশীয় এবং স্থানীয় বাসিন্দা হইয়াছি। আমরা এই দেশের সার্থের সহিত আবদ্ধ এবং আমরা এই দেশেই থাকিব। আমরা আসামে স্থায়ীভাবে বস বাস করিতেছি। আসামের অধিবাসী প্রজা হিসাবে আমরা তাহাদের সর্বপ্রকার সমান অধিকার চাই। প্রজা হিসাবে এবং মানুষ হিসাবে গবর্ণমেন্টের নিকটও আমরা সমান অধিকার চাই। এখন আমাদেরকে যে অধিকার হইতে বঞ্চিত করিয়া রাখা হইয়াছে সেই অধিকার হইতে যেন আর আমাদের বঞ্চিত করিয়া রাখা না হয় এবং গভর্ণমেন্ট যেন আমাদের প্রতি সুনজর সন্মতি রাখিয়া আমাদের প্রতি মানবোচিত ব্যবহার করেন। আনুমানিক ব্যবহার কি ভাবে করা হয়?



আমরা এখন কোন আদালতে বা আফিসে যে কোন হিসাবে কোন চাকরির জন্য যাই তখন উপেক্ষিত ভাবে বলা হয় “বেটা ভাটিয়া, চকরা, বাঙ্গাল ময়মনসিংহিয়া”। এটা কোন প্রকার নীতি গভর্ণমেন্টের? গভর্ণমেন্টের কি কোন নিয়ম বা আইন আছে যে মানুষকে উপেক্ষা, অথবা তুচ্ছ মনে করিতে হইবে এবং ঘৃণা ব্যঞ্জক “ভাটিয়া” “চকরা” বলে খারাপ ভাব পোষণ করিতে হইবে? আমি আশা করি আমাদের গভর্ণমেন্ট এবিষয়ে স্তব্ধবস্থার ক্রমে সুনজর রাখিবেন এবং এখানে (হাউসে) দেশের বাহারা প্রতিনিধি আছেন তাঁহারা যেন বাহাতে আমাদের প্রতি ঘৃণা হয়, খারাপ ভাব পোষণ হয়, আমাদেরকে হিংসা ও করা হয়, যে কথা বলিলে আমাদের মনে খারাপ লাগে, প্রাণে ব্যাথা লাগে, সে হিসাবে যেন আমাদের প্রতি কণায় ও কার্যে ব্যবহার না করেন। এবং একই দেশের মানুষ হিসাবে, প্রজা হিসাবে যেন আমরা পরস্পর ভাল ভাবে মিলে-মিশে সমঅধিকারে, সমভাবে এই দেশে বাস করিতে পারি। ইহাই গভর্ণমেন্টের নিকট ও এই আসাম প্রদেশের প্রতিনিধি মহোদয়গণের নিকট বক্তব্য ও অনুরোধ।

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN: Sir, with an apology I am unable to congratulate the Treasury Benches for the preparation of the first budget under the new regime. A cursory glance at the figures convinces one that it is one of inflated receipts and expenditures. I am inclined to believe that the actual revenue receipts (the average of last three years) should have been shown to be the real income. In that case the real state of things would have been revealed. The revenue expenditure is in excess of the income and, thanks to the Treasury Benches, there is still a surplus budget.

Sir, the over-estimated income from the revenue heads is shown to be Trs. 2,84,74, but the total receipts inclusive of the opening balance comes to Rs. 5,15,20,000. Thus inflated, a surplus budget has been produced, and I cannot but note with great surprise the tact of those who manipulated it.

As regards the merit of the budget, the less said the better. It has singularly failed to meet with the popular demands. It has provided huge bank balances for some, contrary to the general wish of the public.

Sir, Assam, which was once governed by a Chief Commissioner with a Chief Secretary, is being governed now by one Governor with so many Secretaries and five Ministers and so many Heads of Departments. The cost is enormous. The provision for the monstrous Secretariat is Trs. 6,29, and the charges of general administration are Trs. 33,03. The figures for 1914 or 1917 are not available, but I can assure the House that they were much less.

Sir, it is an open secret that the Indian agriculturists are born in debt, they live in debt, and die in debt. They contribute the major portion of the revenue. Is this the way how we spend their money, by giving some more than they require, only to help them to indulge in unseemly luxuries of life? We create an artificial class, only at the cost of those who can hardly have two meals a day. I should like to know what part of it is going to be spent for their benefit—their economic regeneration? Sir, the provision that has been made for the poor in the rural area is rather too inadequate. Unless something substantial is done for them it will be a bad day for the administration and all concerned. To these dumb and mute teeming millions life is an irony of fate. Impart mass education and raise



them to the level of humanity. A Government which will fail to do so, will fail miserably and will have no landmark behind. Of late there appears to be a growing consciousness among the masses, and to neglect them any longer will be courting horrible consequences.

Sir, much more was expected of a popular Government. More bold and progressive steps should have been taken with a grim determination. But we find that the same stereotyped method is followed. It shows no ideas and imagination.

There is a provision in the budget for Trs.2,54, for the Criminal Investigation Department against Trs.1,74 and 2,25 in 1933-34 and 1934-35 respectively. Where is the difference between the past and the present? This department has outlived its utility and should be disbanded now.

Sir, coming to the Forest Department, I find that 80 per cent. of the revenue under Forest is consumed by it. The revenue expenditure is Trs. 2,24 only less than the inflated income. Does it reflect any credit?

Sir, the medical school buildings at Sylhet are standing monuments of disgrace to the past administration, and notwithstanding the apparent surplus budget no provision has been made for it and why?

There is a general notion that, notwithstanding a costly Public Service Commission, there are still loopholes for making appointments and promotions from the electioneering and political motives. The Government by its conduct should give a direct lie to it.

Sir, all possible attempts should be made for the spread of primary education, for the economic regeneration of the masses and for the revival of cottage industries. There is a large number of resolutions before the House cataloguing the needs of the rural areas, and to maintain a costly staff is not the serious attempt to tackle them. A more determined effort is necessary, which is unfortunately wanting in the budget provision made. I do not like to waste much time, but should like to make it known that the wishes of the people should find place in our programme.

Sir, before I resume my seat I must bring to the notice of this Hon'ble House the inadequate and deplorable provision made in the budget under the heads Medical and Agriculture. Though a sum of more than Rs.60,000 has been budgeted for Medical and Public Health Departments, it is to be regretted, Sir, that no money has been allotted for any original works in the Surma Valley.

Again, Sir, our venerable Education Minister has got the largeness of his heart to make provision for some grants to two non-Government Colleges, viz., Gurucharan College at Silchar and Jorhat College. But, Sir, to our utter misfortune Habiganj Brindaban College has been excluded from this list and it is indeed very lamentable. I understand this College occupies the first place in merit amongst these three private Colleges.

With these words I resume my seat.

**SRIJUT MAHADEV SARMA:** সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, অৰ্থ নীতিৰ জটিল আৰু কুটিল প্ৰশ্ন সম্বন্ধে মোৰ বিশেষ জ্ঞান নথকাৰ বাবে নিজকে জগৰীয়া বুলি বিবেচনা কৰিলেও এই প্ৰদেশৰ বহুৰকীয়া অস্ব ব্যৱস্থা হিচাপ বতৰিয়া আমাৰ আগত দাঙি ধৰিছে, মই প্ৰজা-বৰ্গৰ প্ৰতিনিধি হৈ আহি সেই সম্বন্ধে মোৰ মনৰ ভাব প্ৰকাশ নকৰিলে কৰ্তব্যত ক্ৰটি হয় বুলি ভাবি, এই বিষয়ে মই দু আঘাৰ মান কথা কবলৈ আগ বাঢ়িছোঁ। মই পোনতে কৈছোঁ যে অৰ্থনীতি কুটিল আৰু জটিল প্ৰশ্নৰ মীমাংসালৈ নোসোমালেও সিদিনা এই বাজেট প্ৰথমতে আমাৰ আগত দাঙি ধৰোঁতে অৰ্থ নীতিৰ মহোদয়ৰ এটা কথাই মোক সাহস দিছে



সেইটো হৈছে It is well understood that the budget of a Government reflects their policy অৰ্থাৎ কোনো এখন গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ বাজেটৰ দ্বাৰা সিবিলাকৰ মনোভাব, সিবিলাকে কি ভাবে দেশ শাসন কৰিব খোজে সেইটো প্ৰকাশ পায়। মই এই বাজেটৰ সাধাৰণ আলোচনাত আমাৰ মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ সেই কথাটিৰ ওপৰত নিৰ্ভৰ কৰি সিবিলাকৰ দুই চাৰিটা মনোভাব ইয়াত কেনেকৈ প্ৰকাশ পাইছে সেই সম্বন্ধে দুই চাৰিটা কথা কম। মই এই কথাটো কবলৈ বাওঁতে পোন প্ৰথমতে অতি দুখেৰে আক সিবিলাকৰ প্ৰতি যথেষ্ট প্ৰজ্ঞা ৰাখি কব পোৱোঁ যে এই বাজেটখন ইংৰাজীত কবলৈ হলে Hopelessly reactionary and unacceptable—অৰ্থাৎ অতীব প্ৰতিক্ৰিয়াশীল আৰু অগ্ৰহণীয়। প্ৰজ্ঞা সমূহে আজি ১৯৩৭ চনৰ ইমান দিন অহোপুৰুষাৰ্থ কৰি তেওঁবিলাকৰ হাতলৈ ৰাজকীয় ক্ষমতা আনিবৰ বাবে সিবিলাক চেষ্টা কৰি আহিছে তাৰ ফলত ১৯৩৫ চনৰ Government of India Actৰ যি ফেবি ক্ষমতা আৰু স্বাধীন ভাব দিছে, প্ৰজ্ঞা সাধাৰণে দেখি নিতান্ত সন্তুষ্ট হব যে তাৰ অলপো ক্ষমতাৰ ব্যৱহাৰ কৰা নাই। ভাৰতৰ অত্যন্ত প্ৰদেশে দেখি মূৰ দোৰাঁব যে আদাম প্ৰদেশ এতিয়াও তাহানিৰ মাকাতাব যুগতে পৰি আছে। দ্বিতীয়তে মই কওঁ ১৯৩৫ চনৰ Government of India Actক যদি কোনোবাই বেচি অপমান কৰিছে—আওকান কৰিছে, ইয়াৰ স্বত্ব আৰু ক্ষমতা প্ৰয়োগ কৰিবলৈ বিবেচনা কৰা নাই তেনে হলে আমাৰ এই বাজেটখনেই তাক পূৰ্ণভাবে দেখুৱাই দিছে (hear, hear)। সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, ই বৰ দুখৰ আৰু পৰিতাপৰ কথা। আজিৰ নিচিনা দিনত যি ঠাইত প্ৰজ্ঞা সাধাৰণে বাচি দিয়া মন্ত্ৰীমণ্ডলীৰ হাতলৈ গবৰ্ণমেণ্ট অহাৰ থলতো প্ৰজ্ঞাসাধাৰণে বিচৰা—সাধাৰণ দাবী কেইটাৰ অকনমানো সন্ধান অন্ততঃ এই বাজেটৰ ভিতৰত বিচাৰি নেপাই হতাশ নহব নে? অষ্টৰ পৰিহাস ইয়াতকৈ আৰু কি হব পাৰে? বন্ধু সকল, সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, এইটো কথা আমি সকলোৰে জানো যে ভাৰতীয় প্ৰজ্ঞা সাধাৰণে আজি অত দিন যুজ কৰি শাসনৰ ক্ষমতা নিজৰ হাতলৈ আনিবলৈ যি চেষ্টা কৰি, আন্দোলন কৰি থকাত আমাৰ শাসনৰ গৰাকী বৃটিছ পাৰ্লামেণ্টে অহুগ্ৰহ কৰি এইখিনিটোক এতিয়ালৈকে ৰাজী হৈছে যে তেওঁবিলাকে progressive realisation of self-Government অৰ্থাৎ আমাক দোপত দোপে, খাপত খাপে আগুৱাই নি পূৰ্ণ স্বায়ত্তশাসন দিবলৈ ৰাজী হৈছে। এই দোপত দোপে, খাপত খাপে তুলি নিব খোজা ব্যৱস্থাৰ ভিতৰত এইখন বাজেটত কোনটো আগোনা লোকে দেখিছে? (Laughter.) দোপত দোপে ওপৰলৈ নিয়াৰ সলনি খোপত খোপে তললৈ নিয়াৰ কথাহে ইয়াত আছে; আগুৱাই নিয়াৰ কথা মই হলে ইয়াত বিচাৰি কোনো ঠাইত পোৱা নাই, পিচলৈ হোঁচকাই নিয়াৰ কথাহে ইয়াত আছে। ইয়াৰ প্ৰকৃষ্ট প্ৰমাণ বাজেটৰ পৰাই দেখুৱাওঁ চাওক। Progressive realisation of self-Governmentৰ দ্বাৰাত আমাৰ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে Primary Education Scheme আৰু unemployment solution scheme কৰিবলৈ বাজেটত সিবিলাক বিধান কৰিছে সেই বিলাকৰ ভিতৰতে সিবিলাকৰ মনোভাব স্পষ্টৰূপে প্ৰকাশ পাইছে। কেনেকৈ প্ৰকাশ পাইছে?



সিবিলাকে Primary Education compulsory কৰিবলৈ এতিয়াই সাহস নকৰে। সেইটো লোকেণ বোৰ্ডৰ ওপৰত ভাৰ দিছে। তেওঁবিলাকে ৫০ হেজাৰ টকা বাজেটত ৰাখিছে—তাৰে Venture স্কুল চলাবলৈ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে। তেওঁবিলাকে কৈছে যে সম্প্ৰতি Primary Education বহলোৱা যাওক। তাৰ পিচত compulsory education সম্বন্ধে তেখেত সকলে আলোচনা কৰিব অৰ্থাৎ আগতে গ্ৰাইমেৰী শিক্ষাৰ ব্যৱস্থা বহলাব আৰু পিচত বাধ্যতামূলক কৰিব। বন্ধু সকল, আমাৰ গাৱঁৰ বাইজে সিবিলাক কথা আশা কৰে, সিবিলাক অৰ্থাৎ আৰু বিবুলি আশা কৰে, সিবিলাক দাবী কৰে, সেইবিলাকৰ বিষয়ে এই মন্ত্ৰীমণ্ডলীৰ মনোভাব কি দেখিছো? ধৰক পোণতে খাহানা সম্বন্ধে,—যদি শোধে যে আপোনালোকে land revenue সম্বন্ধে কিবা বিবেচনা কৰিছনে? তেতিয়া সিবিলাকে উত্তৰ দিয়ে—“It is under our consideration and sympathetic consideration.” Unemployment solve কৰিবলৈ দিহা কৰা village reconstruction scheme ও “under careful consideration” এই দৰে আটাইবোৰ বাইজৰ পক্ষৰ কথাই “under consideration.” আটাইবোৰ দাবীয়েই consideration ৰূপে মন্ত্ৰীমণ্ডলীৰ উমনি পাব লাগিছে। মোৰ ভয় হয় জানোচা বেচিটকৈ উমনি পাই পাই ঘোলা হৈ পৰে! (laughter.) আশ্চৰ্য্যৰ বিষয়, আপোনালোকৰ হাঁহি উঠিব আৰু গুনি হতাশ হব যে আটাই বিলাক সিবিলাকৰ under consideration ন; আটাইবোৰ কথা যে considerationতে আছে আজি চাৰি মাহে তেওঁবিলাকে কৰিছে কি? এই চাৰি মাহত বাইজৰ ভালেমান টকা খৰচ হৈছে। এই consideration বোৰে একোটা ৰূপলৈ দোপত দোপে কেনে ভাবে আমাৰ হাতত ধৰা দিয়ে দেখা যাওক। মন্ত্ৰী ডাক্তাৰীয়া সকলে village reconstructionত ধৰিছে—অৰ্থাৎ সিবিলাকে গাঁৱৰ মাজত কিবা কৰিব খোজে। কৰিবৰ দৰকৰো হৈছে কাৰণ মহাত্মা গান্ধীৰ village reconstruction বা uplift প্ৰ’গ্ৰাম ওলাইছে; কাজেই গবৰ্ণমেণ্টবোৰ অলপ কিবা কৰাৰ প্ৰয়োজন হৈছে। তেওঁলোকক যদি শোধে “ডাক্তাৰীয়া, আপোনালোকৰ scheme তৈয়াৰ হলনে?” তেওঁলোকে তেতিয়াই উত্তৰ দিব “এইটো আমাৰ serious considerationত আছে।” কাজেই চাওক আমি কেনে ভাবে নতুন শাসনতন্ত্ৰত কেনে অবস্থাত পাবছোঁহি। ওপৰৰ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে এইটো হুলবকৈ প্ৰচাৰ কৰিছে “You are in the threshold of a new era of Provincial Autonomy” এইবোৰ ডাক্তৰ ডাক্তৰ শব্দ আমাক নালাগে। তেওঁবিলাকে কি কৰিব খোজে সেই বিলাকৰ অকনমানো আভাস মন্ত্ৰীমণ্ডলীয়ে দিব নোৱাৰিলে যেতিয়া বাইজ সকল হতাশ নহৈ বাকি কি হব? এই বিলাক কাৰণত যদি এই বাজেট খনক প্ৰতিক্ৰিয়াশীল বুলি কোৱা হয় তেন্তে অত্যাৱ কথা কোৱা হবনে? আগ ৰাতি যোৱা কিম্বা প্ৰজাৰ প্ৰকৃত কল্যাণৰ কিম্বা পোৱা ক্ষমতাৰ ব্যৱহাৰৰ কি সন্ধান এই বাজেটে দিব পাৰিছে? আমাক এই কংগ্ৰেছপন্থী সকলক তেওঁলোকে (গবৰ্ণমেণ্ট) সন্মান ওপৰ চকুৰা বুলি ভাবে। মই সেইটো কথা মানোঁ। কিন্তু মানিলেও এইটো কথা নটক



পাৰিনে যে সিবিলকে এনেকুৰা এটা programme ও লব নোৱাৰিলেনে যাৰ পৰা আমাৰ দেশৰ প্ৰজা সাধাৰণৰ কল্যাণ আৰু লগতে prestige বাঢ়িব হেঁতেন। বন্ধুসকল—

**THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :** This is the third time that the hon. member is addressing the House direct.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER (from the Chair):** I hope the hon. member will maintain the dignity of the House.

**SRIJUT MAHADEV SARMA :** মই সন্মানৰে সৈতে কওঁ যে মোৰ ভুল হৈছে— মাফ কৰিব। সভাপতি ডাক্তাৰীয়া, মই কওঁ এইটো কথা যে আমি বাহিৰত আন প্ৰদেশৰ কাৰ্য্যাবলীত কি দেখিছোঁ? বৰ্ত্তমানে বাহিৰত যি কাৰ্য্য বা যেনে ক্ৰিয়া কলাপ চলিব লাগিছে, সভাপতি ডাক্তাৰীয়া, আমি সকলোৰে সেই বিষয়ে দৃষ্টি কাৰহোঁহক। কিন্তু সেইবোৰ কাৰ্য্য প্ৰণালী বা কাৰ্য্য পদ্ধতিৰ ফাললৈ চাই যেতিয়া আমাৰ প্ৰদেশৰ কাৰ্য্য পদ্ধতিৰ ফাললৈ চকু দিওঁ তেতিয়া আমি লাভকে পামনে হুখকে পাম? আমি মৰো-জীওঁ-দাঁ আদি হব লগীয়াত পৰো। কাষেই এই বিলাক ভাবি চিন্তি এই বাজেট খনই মই প্ৰতিক্ৰিয়াশীল বুলিছো আৰু অগ্ৰহণীয় বুলিছো। আমাৰ অৰ্থ সচিব মহাশয়ে পোন প্ৰথমতে বক্তৃতা কৰিবলৈ আৰম্ভ কৰোঁতে এটা কথা কৈছিল—সেই কথাৰ নিমিত্তে অংশো হেৰুওঁতক ধন্যবাদ দিব লাগে। তেখেতে কৈছিল—“Without recording an emphatic protest against the meagre subvention recommended by Sir Otto Niemeyer ”। তেখেতে এইটো সুবিধা লৈছে যে Otto Niemeyer এ এই প্ৰদেশৰ নিমিত্তে মাৰ্খিক যি ব্যৱস্থা কৰিলে সেইটোত তেখেতৰ protest আপত্তি আছে। আমি ও সেই কথাত তেখেতৰ লগত আছোঁ। Otto Niemeyer এ যে আমাক নিতান্ত অনায়াস কৰিছে সেইটো কথা মানোঁ। তেখেতে যাক কৈছে “I am planning to approach the higher authorities again on the subject of a suitable help to the province whose needs are very many and who has got no elastic source of revenue.” মই আশা কৰোঁ মন্ত্ৰী মণ্ডলীয়ে এই কথাটো শীঘ্ৰে হাতত লব।

**MAULAVI SYED ABDUR ROUF :** In Part II, rule 9 of the Assembly Rules, it is clearly written that if any member is unacquainted or not sufficiently acquainted with the English language he may address the Assembly in any recognised language of the province, provided that the Speaker may call on any member to speak in any language in which he is known to be proficient. But I see that the hon. member is sufficiently acquainted with the English language.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER (from the Chair):** He may know English, but he may not know the language quite sufficiently to address the House.

**SRIJUT MAHADEV SARMA :** যি জন বন্ধুৰ মোৰ প্ৰতি ইমান দয়া ভাব তেখেতক স্মৃতি বিনোদ ভাবে আপোনাৰ জৰিয়তে ইয়াকে কওঁ যে মই স্বীকাৰ কৰোঁ যে মই ইংৰাজী জানো। কিন্তু ইংৰাজী জানিলেও মোৰ মনৰ ভাব মোৰ মাতৃভাষাৰ জৰিয়তে যেনে ভাবে প্ৰকাশ কৰিব পাৰো, ইংৰাজী ভাষাত ঠিক সেই দৰে প্ৰকাশ কৰিব নোৱাৰিম বুলি ভাবিছো মই মাতৃভাষাত কৈছো।



MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is hopelessly over.

SRIJUT MAHADEV SARMA: আপুনি ৰৈছে, মোক বৰ দিগদাৰি কৰি মাৰিছে। সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, অনুগ্রহ কৰি মোক আৰু অলপ সময় দিয়ক (laughter)।

SRIJUT RABI CHANDRA KACHARI: The Assembly wishes to give him more time to finish his speech.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER (from the Chair): He has already taken sufficient time.

(Voices): He ought to be given two or three minutes more.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER (from the Chair): Very well, if the House so pleases I may allow him 5 minutes more.

MR. W. FLEMING: Will he please translate his jokes?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: He knows English. He used to address the old Council in English.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER (from the Chair): It will be odd if he speaks half in English and half in Assamese. Let him finish in Assamese.

SRIJUT MAHADEV SARMA: সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, আপুনি অনুগ্রহ কৰি মোক বন্ধু সকলৰ অনুৰোধত মোক আকৌ সময় দিয়াত ধন্যবাদেৰে সৈতে মোৰ দুই চাৰিটা কথা বিবাদ পৰিছিল তাৰ ভিতৰত ইমানকে কব খোজোঁ। আমাৰ মন্ত্ৰী গুণলীৰ সিবিলাকৰ কাৰ্য্য প্ৰণালীত অলপমান ক্ৰটি বটছে বুলি সিবিলাকে নজনা নহয়। অৰ্থসচিব মহোদয়ৰ বক্তৃতাৰ শেষত এঠাইত এই দৰে স্বীকাৰ কৰিছে "The Ministry have done their best to relieve hardship of the agriculturists and have suspended the realisation of the outstanding balance". আৰু they are against any ambitious scheme without regarding the stringent Finance, অৰ্থাৎ ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰা সিবিলাকে দেখুৱাব খোজে যে প্ৰকৃত ভাবে সিবিলাকে বিখিনি পাৰে কৰিছে আৰু আগলৈকো কৰিব সম্ভৱ হ'লে। মই কওঁ, সিবিলাকে যে কিবা কৰি পাৰিলেহেঁতেন তাৰ কোনো আভাস বাণ্টেৰ ক'তো একো কথা নাই। আৰু এটা হাঁহি উঠাৰ কথা হৈছে the proposal to start an agricultural colony with Rs. 1,500 এইটো হাঁহি উঠিবৰে কথা। ১,৫০০ টকাৰে agricultural colony স্থাপন কৰা একো কামৰ কথা নহয়। আন এঠাইত Advance to cultivators বুলি ২,০০০ টকাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হৈছে। আৰু তাত কোৱা হৈছে ২৫০ টকা একো একো জনৰ বাবে ধাৰে দিয়া হ'ব। কাৰেই মুঠতে গোটেইখন প্ৰদেশৰ ভিতৰত ৮ জনে এই টকা ধাৰে পাব ইমান unemployed ৰ ভিতৰত। ই হাঁহি উঠিবৰে কথা। ইপিনে দেখুওৱা হৈছে সিবিলাকৰ হাতত ২,২৬,০০০ টকা বাহিৰ হৈছে। তাৰে পৰা সিবিলাকে অলপ আহল-বহল ব্যৱস্থা ৰাখি নোৱাৰিলেনে? তদুপৰি সবাতোকৈ চৰা স্বায়ত্বশাসন বিভাগৰ মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ মনোভাব গ'ল কালি মিউনিচিপাল এজ সম্বন্ধে যি দৰে প্ৰকাশ পাইছে সেইটো আৰু ভয়ঙ্কৰ। সিবিলাকে সিবিলাকৰ হাতত থকা বাণ্ঠীয় ক্ষমতাৰ মনশে এৰিব নোখোজে বাইতৰ হাতলৈ। আজিৰ দিনতো এনে মানোভাব দেখি আচৰিত হৈছোঁ যে মিউনিচিপালিটিৰ ওপৰৰ পৰা যদি ডিপুটি কমিছনাৰ



ক্ষমতা খৰ্চ কৰা হয় তেনেহলে কিয়ানি সিবিলাকৰ (municipality দিলাকৰ) অৱস্থা ভীষণ অৱস্থাত পৰিণত হ'ব। গোলমাল কৰি আটাইবোৰ ছেদেলি-ভেদেলি হ'ব। সেই ভাৱিয়েই হ'ব পাৰে তেখেতে কৈছিল এইটো revolutionary। বাগ্মী, Municipalityৰ ওপৰত পৰা ডিপুটি কমিচনাৰৰ ক্ষমতা অলপ খৰ্চ কৰি বাইজে বাচি দিয়া প্ৰতিনিধি বৰ্গলৈ নিয়াৰ বিধান। এই municipality বোৰ চহৰত নহয়নে? তাত শান্তি ৰক্ষাৰ বিধানবোৰ যেনে পুলিচ, আদালত, মেজিষ্ট্ৰেট ইত্যাদি নাইনে? তাৰ ওপৰত নো municipality বোৰে কি ভৱ্যৰূপ ল'ব? মই কওঁ বৰং এই বিধান মন্ত্ৰী ডাক্তাৰীয়াই নাদৰে মানি ল'ব লাগিছিল। এই আপু, তাগনিকলীয়া মনোভাৱেৰে স্বায়ত্ত্ব শাসন বিভাগৰ মন্ত্ৰীপদ লৈ মন্ত্ৰীপদকে আৰু স্বায়ত্ত্ব শাসন শব্দকে তেখেতে উপহাস কৰিছে বুলি আমি ভাবোঁ। কাৰণ আজিৰ দিনত সাধাৰণ প্ৰজাবৰ্গই যেতিয়া এই কথা শুনিব যেতিয়া সঁচাকৈয়ে সিবিলাকে নিতান্ত লাজ আৰু দুঃখিত হ'ব।

Nomination to Local Bodies সম্বন্ধেও মন্ত্ৰী ডাক্তাৰীয়াৰ মনোভাব স্পষ্ট। আজিৰ দিনত কিন্তু এনে Favouritism মুঠেই অগ্ৰহণীয়। চহৰত বাস কৰা ভদ্ৰলোক সকল নিশ্চয় আন্দোলন দাৰী নহয়। আন্দোলন চলে গাঁৱত। তাত হ'ব গোলমাল। তথাপি নো মন্ত্ৰী ডাক্তাৰীয়াৰ ইমান ভয় কিয়? আমি ভাবোঁ—ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰা Self-Government ক সম্পূৰ্ণৰূপে আৰু দস্তৰ মতে লাজ দিয়া হৈছে। এইটো তেখেতৰ বাবে নিতান্ত অশোভনীয়। সেই কাৰণে কওঁ এই বাস্তৱত প্ৰজা সাধাৰণক কানে সুবিধা দিয়া বা ক্ষমতা বঢ়াবৰ বাবস্থা কৰা নাই। মাক্ৰাতাৰ আন্দোলন মনোভাব বা আন্দোলনতৰী বাবস্থা গাত্ৰ বাজেটত থকাত ই সম্পূৰ্ণৰূপে অগ্ৰহণীয়।

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI MUFIZUR RAHMAN: Sir, the hon. members have got volumes of Budget, and I do not like to waste the time of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister and his colleagues. It will be discourteous on my part if I do not congratulate the Hon'ble the Finance Minister and his colleagues for presenting before us a fat Budget, though with a small surplus, to meet the needs of nature, i.e., earthquake and flood, of course in keeping with an era of hope ushered in by the introduction of autonomous Government which His Majesty has graciously been pleased to give us—Government of the people by the people and for the people. Sir, we require more money for our nation-building purposes. The intention of the popular Ministers to appoint a committee of Resources and Retrenchment, of course, may be hoped to give us more money but I am afraid, it may not have the same fate like the Retrenchment Committees of the previous years (hear, hear).

Now I come to the question of communication. Thanks to the tea plantation, areas in the more distant and far away parts of the country are much better developed in respect of roads etc. but many places in a district need improvement of communications very badly. I myself come from the south of North Sylhet. There is an important market named Balaganj which requires improvement of communication. The opening of Sylhet-Kulaura Railway line has connected Fenchuganj but it has no connection with Balaganj which is on the bank of river Kushiara. There is no regular steamer service. On account of bad communication Balaganj has fallen to the background and it is no longer a prosperous market. I would appeal to



the Hon'ble Finance Minister to look into the claims of this old market. It is a question of seven miles to be connected with the most important road called Sylhet-Sherpur road which connects the Subdivision of Maulvibazar also. This road is very important for business purposes but the people living near about Balaganj have no connection whatsoever with this road. The people of Mourapur and Ghilachora of Fenchuganj thana have no village roads. It is gratifying to note that some money has been received from the Central Development Fund. I hope the Deputy Commissioner of the district will consider the requirement of these places. It is a question of seven miles only and to make a motorable road between Balaganj and Tajpur will not cost more than Rs.25,000. Though it has not been provided in the budget, I hope the Hon'ble Finance Minister will consider the claims of Balaganj. The people living near about Balaganj used to come with great difficulty to the Registration office at Balaganj which has been shifted from there very recently. Now if money for this purpose cannot be provided from the money received for the improvement of communication from the Central Government, then the people living near Balaganj will have to suffer much in going to Tajpur on account of bad communication. I appeal to the Hon'ble Finance Minister, when preparing road development scheme from advances from the Central Board Development Account to give the claim of Balaganj the first place in the scheme.

Next comes the question of primary education. I know that hundreds of primary schools and Maktabas for boys and girls have been started but they are simply struggling for existence. Our bankrupt Local Boards cannot help them. There are some Middle English schools which do not receive any help from the Local Board of North Sylhet but the middle English schools of Karimganj and other places do receive help from their Local Boards. I understand that there was a circular that middle English schools should not be taken over by the Local Boards. Now the question is whether Government is prepared to take over all the Middle English Schools which were subsidised by the Local Boards.

The next point, I would like to deal with is medical. It is most disappointing to ignore the greatest demand of Sylhet Medical School (*hear, hear*). The popular Ministers are not considering about that school. The opening of the Sylhet Medical School will help the middle class unemployed youths as well as the public. This school will turn out doctors who will be able to settle in the remotest parts of the villages and do some services to the poor people in return either in cash or kind, and save the people from the danger of being in want of medical aid. I understand that the Hon'ble Minister is going to subsidise the private practitioner to start dispensaries. I have lately been with the Assistant Director of Public Health in the far away corner of Sylhet Subdivision. I found that many *Kala azar* doctors were there who gave injections to the people but many people of many villages could not go to the doctors nor the doctors could go to those villages owing to the want of communication. They could go neither by boat nor by land. So, Sir, my suggestion would be to keep a Compounder with some medicines under the *Kala azar* Sub-Assistant Surgeons in those far away villages which are beyond the reach of any Local Board dispensary to help the people. I know, Sir, that cholera breaks out in villages and the report comes to the authorities in two or three days; by the time villagers are ruined. *Kala azar* doctors have very little to do here. So, Sir, if some compounders are kept there with some medicine it would be a great help to the poor people. At present the work is very slow. I will tell you an instance. A report was received from an Officer in April and the doctor went there in July (*laughter*).



Next I have to deal with agriculture. I am an agriculturist myself and I am a representative of the Sylhet Krishak Sammiloni. I see that some money has been provided for Demonstrators but we want more farms in more far away and distant places so that the people may know how to cultivate and what manure to use and what will be the profit. Of course there are some two or three farms at Akbarpur and other places but the people of the remotest parts of the country do not get any actual help from these farms. Mere distribution of seeds do not help us. I would have been more glad if more qualified Demonstrators were budgeted for.

Then I have got to say a few words about the Veterinary Department. Our cattle were dying very heavily lately. They are in charge of one or two Veterinary Assistant Surgeons who cannot look after all these cattle. We require more Veterinary Assistant Surgeons to look after our cattle. Now we find one Veterinary Assistant has got a vast area under his jurisdiction and as such he cannot look after all the cattle. At the same time the Veterinary Department should be under one head—the head of the Agricultural Department. Both the departments should go hand in hand, and work side by side. The hon. members perhaps know that there is no grass to feed our cattle. The agricultural department should show how to grow fodder and to improve the livestock. I had a talk with some officials of the Veterinary Department. He is in favour of improving the cattle. But it is not possible to do so, so long the two departments are separated. So I would be very glad if these two departments work under the same head. But in places at Sylhet there is no grass to feed our cattle. This is a duty of the Agriculture Department to show us how to grow fodder and maintain our cattle for the improvement of the livestock. I asked some official of the Veterinary Department about this fodder supply. He told me he was in favour of improving the cattle but it was not his duty to improve the fodder necessary for the maintenance of cattle because that was under Agricultural Department. So I would be very pleased if these two departments are worked under the same authority. Then, Sir, the map is not here. It is in the Congress waiting room. At a glance in the map along the right bank of the Kushiara river you find vast areas are being overflowed by flood in Kushiara for the last twelve years from below Sheola to opposite Inathganj. People could not grow any Amon crop, the little Buro crop that they could grow was damaged by an early flood of Kushiara and people had not sufficient paddy for their maintenance. I am sorry the map is not here; otherwise I could have shown the real position to the hon. members. I have said that the little Buro that they grew was also damaged by the early flood of Kushiara. The people have not sufficient paddy to maintain themselves. Over and above they have to pay the agricultural loan they took from Government from time to time. Thanks to the Ministry that the collection has been suspended up to 30th September, but that does not help them much. Considering their condition I would urge upon the Ministry to consider their case favourably.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER** (from the Chair): The hon. member has 3 minutes more.

**KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI MAFIZUR RAHMAN**: I have nearly finished, Sir. I would appeal to the Ministry to write off the outstanding amount of loan due to them. Then I want to say a few words about drinking water. So my appeal to the Ministry is to favourably



consider the case of the debtor and write off the outstanding balance. Lastly about drinking water. It is a well-known fact that in the last cold weather when there was drought there was dearth of drinking water and in some places people had to suffer much. Tube-wells are a failure in Sylhet. The Chairman of the Local Board told me that he had to spend about 4 to 5 thousand rupees for sinking tube-wells because he had to go from place to place and try for water. The popular demand is for replenishing the old tanks and Government have to provide for tanks. As I said before we require more money for our nation-building purposes and I hope the Hon'ble Minister will kindly consider the case. With these few words, Sir, I resume my seat.

[At this time the Deputy Speaker vacated the Chair and the Hon'ble Speaker occupied it.]

KHAN BAHADUR DEWAN EKLIMUR ROZA CHAUDHURY:

মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, গত ইলেকশনে আমি বিশ্বনাথ constituency হইতে এসেমব্লীতে stand করি। কিন্তু আমার দোভাগা এবং জনসাধারণের ছর্ভাগ্য এই যে আমার ইলেকশন ব্যাপারে পুঁজু খরচ হয় নাই বলিলেও চলে। সুতরাং আমার পক্ষে মোটের ব্যবহারের যে বিশেষ আবশ্যক ঘটে নাই তাহা বলাই বাহুল্য। অতএব এখন বোধ হয় চক্ষে আজুল দিয়া দেখাইয়া দিতে হইবে না যে বিশ্বনাথ-এলাকায় রাস্তার অভাব কত বাপক। বিশেষতঃ বিশ্বনাথ Police Station হইতে লামাকাজি পর্যন্ত একটি রাস্তা বা মড়ক না থাকায় স্থানীয় অধিবাসীগণ ভিষণ কষ্ট ভোগ করিতেছে—এদিকে আমি মাননীয় চীফ মিনিষ্টারের শুভ দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতেছি।

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: Sir, in rising to speak on the Budget the first thing that strikes me is that the Government of Assam failed to represent the case of this Government to the Subvention Committee, i. e. before Sir Otto Niemeyer. Sir, it appears that the Government of Assam have suffered a great loss and I think this Government will try their best to see whether it can be compensated by additional subvention. Now, Sir, in going through the Budget it appears to me that we are still under the old regime. The reflexion of the Budget in our mind does not in any way convince us that we are under a popular Government. No scheme to remove indebtedness of peasants or improvement of sanitation has been made. It seems that it lacks originality, it lacks in ideas. It does not at all fulfill our expectations. The main resources of the Province are to be explored, that is to say, from the preservation of oranges, pineapples, manufacture of lime, cement and also from cow-hides and other hides, potatoes etc. coal-mines and denationalisation of country liquor. All these things have absolutely been lost sight of. I think the Government cannot look forward for any taxation. The main resources on which they are going to depend appears to be land revenue, secondly, the forests and thirdly, the excise.

As to revenue, the main and principal income is expected from land revenue. From the discussion that took place in this session it seems that that source is not very encouraging. This is a very shaky source without any strong foundation and I think the Hon'ble Finance Minister now realises that it will not be a solid basis. Second is, Sir, forest. On this point I have got to say this much that I am going to support my hon. friend Khan Bahadur Mufizur Rahman and I know that within the last few years all the



grazing lands which were thrown open to the cattle have been rather closed down and they have now formed a part of the Government forest.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: In what places?

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: In Nowapara, Itakhola and other places. The only thing that the Forest Department is doing is some plantation. This could have been done by rangers and big officers are not required for this purpose. What originality they have shown? What important thing they have done? Only some trees have been planted. What is the utility of a heavy department like this?

Next we come to the probable resources from Excise. I cannot congratulate the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Excise. I know that he himself is always against Consumption-policy and he cannot congratulate himself because after all this is a source of income derived from the degradation of soul.

Now, Sir, after what I have touched on the resources of our income I will now discuss about the Police Administration—charges on Police account. On this point, Sir, I have got to say this much that I. B. Department has got no justification to remain. Under the Criminal Law Amendment Act of Assam there were four cases tried by the Special Tribunal. I had the privilege to defend two accused in two cases. I can say this much that the money that was spent for the trials by Special Tribunal was quite unnecessary. Under a Sessions trial we would have got the same result. This is only a paraphernalia, a show; the revolutionary movement is not in existence in this Province. It is for the provision of some outsiders that is people coming from Bengal, that this Department has some sort of existence. That was probably the interest of the last Government to retain this Department and I hope the popular Government will do away with this. Sir, we are here clamouring for the abolition of Line system but we are allowing the outsiders—people from Bengal to overflow our district. Bengalis are taken to be much more in touch with the terrorist movement. In that case the Civil Police should be managed by all Muslims as unfortunately the convicts are mostly Muslims but I do not like such principle to be followed. Any way I. B. D. must be altogether closed, as there is no necessity for it.

As regards the Assam Rifles, there is already an indication by the Hon'ble Chief Minister that its necessity is not so much for us but for the Central Government, and attempts must be made that the whole of this amount is met by the Central Government.

In this connection I beg to point out that there have been some criminal cases where a lot of money has been wasted and the cases have resulted in acquittal. In one case a respectable gentleman was prosecuted under section 110, Criminal Procedure Code, for a dacoity which he is said to have committed in the house of his tenant a Namasudra, who used to earn his bread by daily labour. The Magistrate discharged the accused. Then a motion was filed not before the Sessions Judge but before the officiating Additional District Judge and he was committed to the Court of Sessions—in the Court of Mr. Lodge—and some jurors were summoned—but then in the absence of the accused this list of jurors was changed in disregard to the Criminal Procedure Code; then the special jurors were summoned and in the trial the accused was acquitted but even after that the Government of Assam was pleased to pursue the matter and the Legal Remembrancer of Bengal said that there was nothing in it. I would ask how much money was spent on this case.....



**THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** On a point of information. Will the hon. member be pleased to give me the names of the parties?

**MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** His name appears in the admitted questions. The case is Yunus Chaudhury *versus* the King Emperor.

There was another case under section 110 in which some persons, who have got a very big business in Calcutta and who remain there most of the time, were prosecuted here in the district of Sylhet. In that case it is rather painful to relate that although two gentlemen, members of this House, stood surety to have them released on bail, bail was refused by the trying Magistrate. And then the Magistrate bound them down. The matter was referred to the Sessions Judge and the case ended in acquittal. Here also a lot of money was spent. So I think Government money should not be wasted in bringing up false and frivolous cases by the police.

I have already said something about the Public Works Department and drawn attention to the fact that people coming from Bihar are getting preference over the local people, and there is another, such instance apart from the Sylhet Bridge in the matter of giving out contracts. The policy must be changed.

Now I come to the Education Department and to the budget speech of the Hon'ble Education Minister. I shall take only the Education portion here. Primary Education, betterment of the pay and prospect of primary school teachers, have not been duly considered. I think it is not the first time in this House—members from different parts of the Surma Valley have on repeated occasions for the last 8 years and more been crying in the wilderness that the Medical School at Sylhet must be started. Sir, 8 lakhs of rupees has been invested in it already, and the buildings that are standing there are standing as disgrace that no provision has been made for that. It is the crying need not only of the people of the Surma Valley but the crying need of humanity. Sir, we are poor people and we cannot afford to send our boys to Dibrugarh or Dacca or Calcutta. Sir, the Hon'ble Minister for Medical is not alone concerned, but I think the Hon'ble Minister for Education is also concerned as he comes from the very town and he knows that this Medical School is a real necessity.

As regards the Forest Department, this is a luxurious Department in which they are spending their time only in planting some trees.

As regards the Revenue Department, the receipts from revenue will not increase to any great extent, and some new sources of revenue should be explored.

As for Irrigation, most of the places in the Surma Valley, and specially in the Habiganj subdivisional areas in my constituency, *viz.*, Madhabpur, there is no irrigation and a lot of damage is being done there by floods.

As regards the Public Works Department I have already referred to it, and I would add that some sort of arrangement must be made to connect Bholaganj with Chhatak, as that will help the cement business to a great extent.

**SRIJUT OMEO KUMAR DAS:** Sir, rising to discuss the budget, I have to commence by expressing my full sympathy for the Hon'ble Finance Minister. He has been entrusted with the administration of a Government which if I am permitted to quote the language of Sir Abraham Lainé,—would have long ago declared itself insolvent had it been a limited concern. Our Finance Minister has been entrusted with an administration which is on the verge of insolvency. But, Sir, I have to



thank him for his ingenuity in presenting us a surplus budget which in reality is a deficit budget. I do not want to deal at all with the expenditure side of the budget for which I will have opportunity at a later stage. I only want to confine myself with the receipt side of it.

Sir, first let me take our share of the jute duty. He has shown in the budget that we are going to have Rs. 11,16,000. But his expectation, I have to submit, is not warranted by facts. Our share of the jute duty has been increased by  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. by the Otto Niemeyer Committee and the increase of  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. would mean in round figures  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs. The actual figure for the last year was Rs. 8,18,000 only and we ought to have calculated on that basis. But he has not done that. His expectation of Rs. 11 lakhs and odd is therefore not justified. Moreover we have to keep in view of the provisions of clause 2 of section 140 of the Government of India Act which assigns our share to be in proportion with the jute grown. And I understand from the jute forecast that the cultivated acreage of the jute has fallen by 4,800 acres. The figure for last year was 1,57,500 and from the jute forecast, I understand it is 1,52,700 this year and thus there is a fall of 4,800 acres. Therefore this expectation of Rs. 11 lakhs and odd is not justified. By the highest computation it cannot exceed 9 lakhs and a half.

Now, let me take the land revenue. Our popular Minister who is in charge of the land Revenue says that he expects there would be an increase of 7 lakhs in land revenue with the gradual improvement of the economic condition of the *raiya*. But I beg to differ from him. The economic condition of the *raiya* has not improved. He also says that with the enhanced rate of land revenue as contemplated in the deferred enhancement during the last settlement there would be an increase in the income from land revenue. I expected from a popular Minister like Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri for deferring the enhanced rates which were contemplated in the resettlement operations. He is a popular Minister and moreover he is committed in his election manifesto to reduce the land revenue. Here, Sir, I have got his election manifesto and if I may be

permitted to quote it: he says thus in this manifesto—অসমীয়া ৰায়তৰ মাটিৰ খাজনা কমোৱা মোৰ বাস্তৱতা জীৱন এটি মুখ্য উদ্দেশ্য আৰু সেই উদ্দেশ্য সফল কৰিবলৈ মই যত্ন কৰি আহিছোঁ। সেই যত্নৰ সাংখ্যিক ফল স্বৰূপে টকা প্ৰতি তিনি আনা হিছাপে ৰাইজে যোৱা ৫ বছৰ কাল খাজনা মাফ পাই আহিছে। কিন্তু সাময়িক হিছাপে টকা প্ৰতি মাত্ৰ তিনি অনাকৈ খাজনা মাফ অসমীয়া দুখীয়া ৰায়তৰ পক্ষে বৰেই নহয়। ৰাইজে যদি অসমৰ মাটিৰ খাজনা কমাব লাগে বুলি সমৰ্থন কৰে তেনে হলে মোক ভোট দি খাজনা বাতৰি কম হয় তাৰ নিমিত্তে চেষ্ঠা কৰিবলৈ উদগনি দিয়ে যেন এই হৈ মোৰ মিনতি। নোক ভোট দিয়া মানে মাটিৰ খাজনা কমোৱা নীতি সমৰ্থন কৰা বুলি ধৰি লয় আৰু চৰকাৰে, ভাবিব.....

BABU RABINDRANATH ADITYA: He did not perhaps expect at that time that he would become a Minister.

SRIJUT OMEO KUMAR DAS: But I am sorry to find him now about to enforce the enhancement rules asserting that there has been a gradual improvement of the economic condition of the *raiya*s just as his predecessors who sat on the Treasury benches had done before. The economic condition, I beg to submit, has not improved. The *raiya*s' condition is



going from bad to worse with the fall of agricultural prices. Sir, I beg to submit that with the adoption of coercive measures Revenue Minister may be able to realise enhanced rates of revenue. But, this would reduce the *raiya*t to destitution. Sir, I thank our Revenue Minister for taking into account the weather conditions of some districts in our province. He apprehends that there would be a failure of crops with the want of adequate rain. This failure of crops, let me hope, will not come to pass. But man proposes and God disposes. There may be occasion for further reduction of rates which is now at three annas in the rupee. Now, Sir, you can find that this expectation of 7 lakhs from land revenue is not justified.

Then let me come to the Stamp and Court-fees. Our Finance Minister expects that there would be an additional income of Rs.2,50,000. But let me say that this is also not justified and I need not adduce my own arguments. Let me quote the arguments which were used by my friend Hon'ble Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri in the last September session of the Assam Legislative Council when Mr. Scott was bringing in the Court-fees and Stamp Amendment bills. He said then that during the three years of 1925-28 when the condition of the people was better, the Government could not have more than 3½ lakhs and how could we expect more than half of that sum now. If that be so, the expectation of an additional income from the Stamp and Court-fees enhancement vanishes into thin air. From these three items, the jute duty, the land revenue and receipts from stamps and court-fees, the surplus of 2 lakhs dwindles into nothing.

Sir, let me thank our Hon'ble Finance Minister for his frankness, while he has given us a rosy picture of a surplus budget, he has not kept hidden from our view the dark cloud of the loan which we will have to face next year. As a journalist I had always raised my feeble voice of protest against the borrowing proposals of the Government. The borrowing proposals must be based on the material benefit to the posterity. We must take into account while taking a loan how far it will conduce to the material benefit of our posterity. Here we are going to cover the sheer waste that has been brought about by financial irresponsibility of some of the predecessors—and even our Finance Minister cannot deny that he had no share in it. Mr. Scott also admitted last year that the fact “that we had behind us a Government like the Central Government engendered in us a spirit of financial irresponsibility”. Sir, with this loan which is to be thrown upon the poor *raiya*t, the dawn of the new era, which we were told was to bring relief to the *raiya*t will, I am afraid, set into a gloomy evening. The Government of Assam could not put its case properly before the Meston Committee. The case of Assam went by default in the Niemeyer Committee. And now a loan of Rs.48 lakhs and 76 thousand is going to be thrust upon us. This loan means that our poor province, which is the least developed of all the provinces in India, will not be able to do anything in the nation-building departments. And with this loan on the dawn of the new era the Reformed Constitution, if I may be permitted to repeat the words of Sir Beatson Bell, is “doomed to impotence and failure.”

**SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SARMAH:** Sir, before going to discuss the budget for the year 1937-38, I want to draw the attention of the House to the fate of a grant which we received from the Central Government in 1935-36 for rural development. In 1935-36 the Government of India granted a sum of Rs.5 lakhs 97 thousand for the improvement of rural areas. In that year only Rs.1,93,000 was spent and the balance was carried over to the next year. The Government of Assam grossly failed in not spending the amount within the year. On the other hand they raised in that year about Rs.7,96,000 from the poor people and brought more distress and misery upon them.



Now, before going to the question of expenditure, I shall confine my attention to our sources of revenue. From Land Revenue Rs.7 lakhs is expected over the Revised estimate of 1936-37 and about Rs.18 lakhs 48 thousand over the Revised estimate of 1933-34. From the year 1932-33 till the present there is the economic depression. The increment in land revenue due to the last resettlement has relieved our people of all their earthly possessions. They are over head and ears in debt. Their brass utensils and gold ornaments have been drained away, no moveables are available for attachment for arrears of land revenue, a regular campaign against immovable property has been carried on, people have been evicted from their annulled estates, their standing crops have been destroyed with the aid of elephants and people have been prosecuted and fined for alleged trespass upon the annulled estates. The corrugated iron sheets from the roofs of granaries are also attached and removed and all sorts of conceivable and inconceivable methods have been used. The people have become homeless and helpless and are gasping for relief. The result is that there is an all round demand for reduction of land revenue by 50 per cent. The 50 per cent. reduction was thrice passed in the old Council and our Revenue Minister was at the head of the supporters of this demand for reduction in the old Council. Now, Sir, in the explanatory note under land revenue we have been told that the increase under Revised estimates is due almost entirely to the gradual improvement in economic condition and also to the fact that the progressive enhancement of land revenue in certain districts (Sibsagar and Kamrup), as a result of the last resettlement, falls due in the budget year, bringing in an additional revenue to the extent of Rs.1 lakh. So, Sir, it appears, whenever money is realised by various oppressive methods and the people are forced to pay although they are bled white heat thereby, the Government attribute the increased revenue to better economic conditions.

Now, Sir, coming to the revenue under Provincial Excise, this revenue is a shame and humiliation to Government. The Assam Government is sometimes called, an 'Opium Government', as it lives on the proceeds of a *vice* which is known to produce the moral and physical degeneration of its addicts, and this appellation, Sir, is a disgrace of the first order. We are told that Government have adopted a policy of total prohibition by a progressive cut of rations of 10 per cent. a year spread over a period of 10 years. With a view to give effect to this policy the opium eaters were registered. It is rather shameless on the part of Government to reopen the register and grant Rs.6,289 new passes in 1929-30 and to go on granting the same year after year on medical grounds. Now passes granted in 1930-31 number 13 ; in 1931-32 they number 390 ; in 1932-33 they number 1,340. We do not yet know the figures for the years 1934-35, 1935-36, 1936-37 and 1937-38. So, during the four years 1929-30 to 1932-33 more than 8,000 passes have been issued.

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : Will the hon. member read the figures again ?

(The hon. member repeated the figures).

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SARMAH : It is alleged that this policy encouraged smuggling and other sources of corruption. The opium vendors became a batch of open smugglers, and by giving short weight and thereby saving almost 1,717 seers of opium annually, they sold it at a higher price to unregistered consumers ranging in number from 8,000 to 9,000. In order to prevent this the Government of Assam assumed the role of a rival and legalised smuggler by granting new passes to new consumers on medical grounds and opening new opium shops in different areas. And in order to whitewash their action of granting new



passes and opening new opium shops to prevent smuggling, a most shameless document, namely the Opium Enquiry Report, was produced by Government in 1933. It is reported in that document that the real cure of opium addiction must be undertaken in hospitals or other institutions where strict control of the addicts can be exercised. Colonel J. L. Sen, I.M.S., Civil Surgeon, Sibsagar, said that opium addicts can be cured by modinus treatment and the price per head is fixed at Rs.8, and any number of them can be treated as outdoor patients. This statement was made on 23rd July 1937 on my enquiry regarding this. We have heard from the Excise Minister yesterday that the number of opium eaters is about 40,000 now. At the rate of Rs.8 per head a sum of Rs.3,20,000 will be required to cure all these opium eaters within 15 days if Government is really sincere in their desire to cure the opium habit. Here is an extract from the Opium Committee Report: "Its classification as a poison in Britain shows that this drug demands the greatest care and discrimination in its use"! Knowing all this the main recommendation of the Committee is as follows:—"The Register should be re-opened for the registration of consumers of the age of 45 and over. The widest publicity should be given to the re-opening of the registers, etc. The new passes should be permanent and subject to annual reduction in the case of consumers so long they are under 50 years of age."

The new passes were granted even before this recommendation, but Government perhaps thought that their action, inspite of the policy, is subject to harsh criticism and they cannot run the show brazen faced any more; therefore they wanted an enquiry committee to support their action. It is deplorable that they did not make experiment in hospitals though they knew that it is the surest method of cure of opium addiction. The Government of India sacrificed a good deal of revenue in respect of the opium exported out of India for the good of the Chinese and other eastern nations. In the pre-war days the average income from this source was 9.96 crores and they have almost in the year 1935-36 abolished the entire income from that source.

**THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY:** Do I understand that the Government of India have abolished all the excise income?

**SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SARMAH:** Yes. Now that we have our Provincial Autonomy we must ask the Government of India in all fairness and humility to stop the internal trade of opium into this Province and reduce the poppy cultivation accordingly to save the Assamese people from misery, unhappiness, moral and physical degradation and demoralisation and pass the Dangerous Drugs Act penalising its use and prescribing the offence of smuggling with severe punishment and put all the opium addicts in the different hospitals in the Province for treatment and engage all the excise staff from the Excise Commissioner down to the ordinary chaprasi to check the smuggling. Sir Michael Keane, late Governor of Assam, said, among other things, that it was better not to run the administration than live on the vice of the moral and physical degradation of the people. Translate this into action at once and do the proper thing in the right moment.

**Liquor.**—This source of revenue come mostly from tea garden labour force. Like opium revenue the combined effect of reducing the retail price of country spirit to outbid the smugglers and the gradual improvement in the tea industry and the economic condition of the people are taken advantage of by Government to give facility to more liquor consumption and as if the tea garden population receive more money to pay for more liquor and more revenue to Government. During the last five years Rs. 72,53,000 have been realised from the people as liquor revenue by the



Government and will it not be pertinent to ask how much is spent for education and welfare scheme? I think Government has no reply to this.

So far as the consumption of hemp is concerned it is also increasing and the increase of revenue from this source is ascribed as due to the improvement of the economic condition of the people. On the other hand it is quite the opposite—so much degradation and demoralisation and nothing else.

*Stamps.*—The introduction of Assam Stamps and Court-fees Amendment Act, 1936, with effect from the 1st January 1937 is responsible for an additional revenue of Rs. 2,50,000, i.e., in order to relieve the world wide depression Government have made a provision of more realisation from them and in fact Government have robbed the hermits of their weeds and left nothing in their hands to call their own.

From the expenditure side of Government we have seen that the high officials have not suffered even a cup of tea in the morning. The Provincial Autonomy must see a reversal of this policy. It is strange that the high officials never feel any pang of conscience for their immoral association with the immoral sources of taxation. When we talk of economy and retrenchment in every field of administration we never do with malice to ask our servants to minimise their luxuries. It is principally for the well-being of our mass people who form about 90 per cent. of the population of the province that we cry for economy and try to prune the budget of its leaves and branches to ensure a rich harvest in the next year. Our plant is the tax-payer, ignorant and illiterate men, in the villages. All manures must be thrown at their doors so that we may get a good harvest. The balancing of budget here must mean the balancing of budgets in our village homes. The century of British rule in Assam has produced increased progress in railways, telegraphs and telephones and hundred and one improvements costing crores of rupees to the people. This rule had drained away money from the country homes with the speed of wireless. Every hidden sources of wealth was dug out of the ground. The coal mines and forests were forced to dislodge their wealth at the feet of the scientific explorer. Palatial buildings, tunnels and bridges, metal roads, artificial lakes and parks surpass even the natural grandeur and scenery of the Province, but the scientific explorer has not been able to advance the cause of primary education. We might very well complain that our rulers have not the heart to develop the human element to its full growth, have not the courage to bestow the same care and attention to them as they do to the parks and gardens.

*Forest.*—Our forest is the future capital of the province and is being exhausted year after year by keeping a huge army of servants who are merely wasting the sources of wealth and doing no service to the nation. If by an expenditure of Rs. 11,74,000 we can expect to gain only Rs. 16,24,000 what is the use of so called scientific experiments to find out the touch stones and go on wasting public money in search of it in vain.

*Registration.*—The increase of Rs. 8,000 is the result of raising of fees on certain documents. This is also another taxation on the poor people.

So far the Government of India realised from the Government of Assam from 1921-22 to 1926-27 48·80 crores and paid back only 12·07 crores. Assam contributes every year to the central exchequer  $1\frac{1}{2}$  crores in the shape of Petrol and Kerosene taxes and any other 25 lakhs as income tax. We have been told that the Government of India have not wiped out the debt of 32 lakhs the deficit for the year 1936-37 but have agreed to grant a loan to be repaid within 18 months. Thus after robbing our Province to the verge



of bankruptcy the Government of India want to realise the pound of flesh from us. After all we are to blame, we had not pressed our claims in the past. When we receive money we do the same thing. We rob our people and we are robbed by the Government of India. We increase our expenditure beyond our means and thereby lead to bankruptcy like the prodigal son in the Bible. When they require money they realise it either by more drunkenness or by more opium and *ganja* consumption or by any other sources of taxation, just or unjust ; whether the people have the capacity or not the steam roller of taxation goes merrily on and on.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : The hon. member's time is up.

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SARMAH : Sir, I may be permitted only five minutes more.

Now, Sir, pay your attention to the improvement of villages to uplift the sufferers and down-trodden. This is the vital problem and any negligence will result in disaster. For your existence they must live, they must be able to pay for your comfort. It is the village people from whom you draw money in hundred and one ways and when the money comes to your hands you call it your own money, and not public money or a sacred trust fund, to be spent properly. Do not raise your ambition too high ; your point should be to serve the people. If you find that your services are not meant for the people, but meant for yourself only, please stand aside. This is the advice every Government servant however big he may be, whatever salary he may draw, must remember that nobody pays a servant without return of any work from him.

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

BABU SHIBENDRA CHANDRA BISWAS : Sir, it is under a feeling of deep disappointment that I rise to speak to-day. With the ushering in of the new regime, we thought that we would find an attempt on the part of the Government to develop nation-building activities ; but I fail to find any such attempt on the part of the present Finance Minister. The budget is no doubt, apparently a balanced one. I use the word "apparently" consciously. It was expected by us that the new Government, which is said to be popular, will take advantage of the remission of debts by the Central Government, and the additional subvention, in increasing the nation-building activities. But in point of fact, almost the whole amount has been absorbed in maintaining the top-heavy administration of a proverbially poor province, just as we were accustomed to find in pre-autonomous days. It is for this reason that I cannot call this balancing of the Budget a real one.

This House is now composed of elected representatives and the Cabinet now being responsible to the House is ultimately answerable to the people of the province. Can we not expect, in these circumstances, of the Hon'ble Leader of the House to have shown more sincerity of his purpose by bringing the proposal of retrenchment which has been the crying demand of the people ? I hope such proposal of retrenchment will be brought forward by the hon. members of this House in course of detailed discussions of the Budget. But such proposal would have been more graceful in the new regime, had they come from the side of the popular Ministers. The proposed Ministers' Salary Bill and the provisions of the province. I find other provinces more favourably situated than ours have made arrangements for joint Public Service Commission in order to economise the expenditure. We have been connected with Bengal on many matters and I fail to understand why the Hon'ble Leader of the



House has missed to take advantage of the provision of the Government of India Act in setting up a joint Public Service Commission with Bengal.

Sir, my constituency is a low lying part of the Sylhet district. The dire want of drinking water which was felt in the last dry season, has never been experienced in the whole career of these over three score long years of my life. Moreover, the silting up of the natural course of the Barak river has disconnected the subdivisional town from the eastern and northern portions of my constituency—I mean the thanas of Baniyachung, Ajmiriganj and Nabiganj, even in this rainy season. It can only better be imagined than described—the predicament in which the people have fallen in a low lying area when their subdivisional headquarters is not approachable by any means in this part of the year.

Can any one conceive the idea that any part of the British territory should remain inaccessible to the principal stations in this advanced state of civilisation? And I feel no doubt that the Hon'ble Leader of the House would have earned the blessings of both God and man had he paid more attention to the removal of these just grievances of the millions of population than showing an anxiety for maintaining the *status quo* of pay and emoluments.

**SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR :** Sir, I rise to make a few remarks on the Budget with some amount of disappointment for which I was not really prepared. I believed that our new Ministry would make some departure from the old, hackneyed and disappointing arrangement in the matter of placing the provincial budget. I hoped that some really substantial provisions would be made by the Hon'ble Ministers for the economic relief of the people, for removal of illiteracy of the teeming millions, for betterment of health and sanitation of the miserable thousands, for development and reorientation of the nation-building departments. I thought that our "popular" Ministers would bring forward some proposals for coping effectively with the growing problem of unemployment, some proposals in furtherance of higher and technical and vocational education. I thought that our Ministry by a thorough overhauling of the former rotten schemes of things, by drastic retrenchment in various directions, would find some amount of additional money to be spent for the prosperity and welfare of the poor masses. But the budget has belied all expectations.

No doubt, Sir, we find in the budget a long list of some so called new schemes by which our Hon'ble Ministers are hoping to please the disappointed people. They have cleverly thrown little crumbs in all directions, probably with the object of pleasing all sections of our countryman. They have styled and vauntingly declared before the country even such petty works as "conversion of Tarabari outpost into a police station, splitting up of Jaldhup police station into two, award of a scholarship of Rs.200 to an Anglo-Indian or a European girl, remission of Rs. 140 on account of free-studentship in the two Government Colleges, establishment of an Middle English School at Tika, a Hostel for girls at Dibrugarh, grant of Rs.2,300 to the proposed Nalbari Town Committee, restoration of fees to outside pleaders etc., etc.," as new schemes. The previous Governments also did similar things, if not more important public services. But they did not probably advertise in this way. Our Hon'ble Ministers have at least made a new departure in this direction. But will the country be hoodwinked by this high sounding words? Certainly not. The country demands substantial work and not petty repairs coated with high sounding names.



We have been presented with a surplus budget. To me, Sir, it is in reality a deficit budget. It has been somehow balanced with inflated accounts on the receipt side. One instance will be sufficient to prove my contention. The budget has shown a sum of 2 lakhs 26 thousand as surplus. And that figure is certainly arrived at mainly from the income the Ministry expects to derive from land revenue. They have expected, we find, an increased income of about 7 lakhs of rupees from land revenue. Now, Sir, let us examine how far they are justified in expecting such a huge increased income from land revenue. The Hon'ble Revenue Minister in his speech has hinted at the ground for his expectation. He has told us that "actually during the year 1936-37, collections differed very little from the budget estimate and were even a little deficit until the month of February. But in the month of March 1937, constituted a record in revenue collection and not only made up the previous deficiency but resulted in an excess of over 4 lakhs over the revised figure. This collection has led us to budget for a collection of Rs. 1,14,00,000 in the current year which, we have every expectation, will be realised in the absence of unforeseen floods or disaster".

Now, Sir, I think the hon. members of the House will be interested to know the secret of this increased collection of revenue in the month of March last. We all know that our mauzadars are paid commission at the rate of 10 per cent. for revenue realised up to Rs.10,000 and at the rate of 5 per cent. for sums above that amount. This year, Sir, the Government offered commission at the rate of 10 per cent. for sums upto Rs.15,000 to those mauzadars who would pay up their dues before 1st of June 1937. This temptation induced most of the mauzadars to struggle hard for early realisation of revenue to protect their reputation and to earn the reward if possible. It also led some of the mauzadars to issue untimely and indiscriminate warrants of attachment and to put undue pressure upon the poor *raiya*s. But in spite of all these how many mauzadars have succeeded in securing the reward? A very few. And the majority of these who have succeeded to pay up their dues in time have done so either from their own pocket or by borrowing and thereby filling the pockets of money-lenders. This novel methods, Sir, though tends to create a false notion regarding the paying capacity of the *raiya*s does not reflect the real economic condition of people. This is the story of early realisation of land revenue, Sir. And I do not know whether our popular Ministers are going to repeat this offer and create further cause of hardship for the indigent *raiya*s. If they do so, people will be bound to say that they have got no heart.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : On a point of information, Sir. Does the hon. member mean to say that the mauzadars issued larger numbers of attachments than in previous years?

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : That is my information. Of course I cannot vouch for the accuracy of the statement.

Then, Sir, the foremost burning problem of the province is the question of reduction of land revenue. We are all aware of the dire economic distress under which the people of the province generally and the peasant of the temporarily-settled areas particularly are groaning. We are all aware of the heart-rending appeals of the peasants of the Assam Valley for reduction of 50 per cent. land revenue. We are aware of the pathetic appeals made in this behalf by numerous peasants' meetings from one end of the province to the other. We are all aware of the awful fall of price of the agricultural produce and the consequent appalling distress of the peasants. The Hon'ble Minister in charge of Revenue also while



he was plain Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri knew it full well. As recently as March 19th, 1936, he fought tooth and nail for reduction by 50 per cent. of land revenue of the starving peasants of the temporarily-settled areas on these grounds. But now that he has become the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Land Revenue he has discovered that within this one year the starving peasants have prospered by leaps and bounds and that the Assam villages have become a land flowing with milk and honey and that there is no necessity for making any provisions for reduction of land revenue even by annas 3 in a rupee. And so he proposes to raise 7 lakhs of rupees more revenue—one lakh by giving effect to the progressive enhancement scheme of the last settlement and 6 lakhs by squeezing out of the unfortunate peasants. This I say, is the unkindest cut of all. The Hon'ble Revenue Minister has come to this House with the votes of the peasants giving them the promise that if he be returned he will try his best to reduce the land revenue. He has told us times without number that reduction of land revenue is the mission of his life.

**THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** I was not his rival in the election campaign.

**SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR :** People thought now that he has become the Revenue Minister, his first act would be to reduce the land revenue by 50 per cent. But alas ! what has he done in the budget ? He has not proposed to make a reduction of land revenue even by 3 annas in the rupee. He has as a matter of fact, made no provision for any reduction of land revenue. Of course the Hon'ble Minister has given us some hope in his speech that the Government has not given up the idea of reduction of land revenue and that, as my hon. friend, Srijut Mahadev Sarma has said, the matter is receiving their serious consideration. But this is a serious question of utmost importance for the people. And our ministry instead of keeping us in a fix ought to have been able to declare Sir, why the matter is still under consideration ? What was the Ministry doing for the last 4 months, that they could not arrive at a decision in this matter ? The real reason, Sir, is that they had to present a balanced budget before us. If they reduce the revenue the so-called surplus budget will vanish in the air and a deficit one will appear in its place in its nakedness. The Ministry do not also dare to say that they are opposed to reduction of land revenue for various reasons. So they have not declared their decision. And they will not do so till a certain Bill is passed. This is in my opinion the psychology of their indecision.

**THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER :** The hon. member should finish now. **SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR :** One word more, Sir ; because that is a most important question that I have left out.

**THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER :** The most important question should have come up first. (*Laughter*).

**SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR :** I beg your indulgence, Sir, for a few minutes more. I cannot conclude my remarks without saying a few words about another heavy burden under which the people of the Assam Valley are groaning. I mean the exorbitant taxes they have to pay to the Commercial Carrying Limited, Company on the Gauhati-Shillong Road.

**THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER :** The hon. member may leave that matter for another member of the Congress Party, to which the hon. member belongs.



SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: But I have got the figures, Sir.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Will the hon. member say anything about Nalbari Criminal Court? (*Laughter*).

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: If necessary, I shall do that. Now, Sir, the distance between Gauhati and Shillong is only 63 miles. But we are to pay to the Company fares at the prohibitive rates of Rs.18 for 1st class, Rs.12 for second class, Rs.8 for intermediate class and Rs.4 for 3rd class passengers; for luggage ten annas per 10 seers or part thereof, for goods 6 annas per 10 seers or part thereof. Whereas the distance between Sylhet and Shillong is 86 miles, but the highest rate of fares on this road has been fixed at Rs.3 for all classes and for luggage Rs.2 per maund and for goods Re.1 per maund; in practice we understand, people pay much below these rates. Sir, this disparity in fares and freights is telling very much upon the people of the Assam Valley. Poorer people of the valley cannot have the good fortune of seeing the capital of their province. Not to speak of other commodities.....

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Order, order. The hon. member must resume his seat. Does any other member wish to speak?

[After a pause]

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Then may I take it that no other member wishes to take part in the debate to-day?

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: We want to hear from the other side.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Which side?

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: The side opposite to us, Sir.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: They are eager to hear from the Congress Side. (*Laughter*).

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Sir, it appears there is no one coming up, may I be allowed to continue?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: That will be encroaching upon other member's right, if some other member wishes to speak, I cannot allow the hon. member to continue.

[After a pause]

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Should I allow Mr. Talukder to go on?

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN: If there is no other member, Sir, let the hon. member be allowed to speak.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: All right. The hon. member may go on.

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: I would express my gratefulness to the Chair and my hon. friends who have helped me in this matter.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The hon. member should not think that he has right to take as much time as he likes.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: On a point of information, Sir. Will this portion of his speech be printed—I mean reported and published in the proceedings?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Why not? Whatever will be delivered on the floor of this House will be reported.

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Then, Sir, not to speak of other commodities, even rice, *dal*, vegetables, fish, etc. have almost ceased to be sent to Shillong from this Valley. Potatoes and other hill produces imported from Shillong are sold at prohibitive prices in



the Assam Valley. All these are due to the monopoly the Commercial Carrying Company enjoys. If this monopoly is abolished, I believe there will be no cause or occasion for the public to complain. Sir, the grievances of the Assam Valley people are not unknown to our Ministry. Two members of the Cabinet at least have personal knowledge about these hardships. They are certainly aware of the pathetic appeals made by the people from the various parts of the Valley for reduction of these taxes. But the Ministry have delightfully ignored these appeals and have shown no sign of giving them any relief whatsoever in the budget. Sir, this is our "popular" Ministry, ready to trample under foot the pathetic appeals of our people for the removal of their most genuine grievances. Now, Sir, as the Minister in charge of Land Revenue asked me to speak something of my own constituency I say that my constituency is the worst sufferer in respect of communication. It has been divided into various sections by the two rivers, Pagladia and Buradia and there are several Public Works Department ferries. And two of them are very important: one at Koriara on the Pagladia river and another at Buradia Ghat on the Buradia river. The tolls realised on these ferries are so exorbitant that people have to.....

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: May I intervene in the debate, Sir? My hon. friend has put a question regarding these two ferries and I have replied that the tolls levied on them are the same as other ferries in Assam, and not higher.

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Sir, I shall speak on behalf of the whole province. In our province the toll levied on the Public Works Department ferries is exorbitant and should be reduced at least by 50 per cent. A loaded cart has to pay 8 annas per trip and 6 annas for the return trip. An unloaded cart has to pay 6 annas per trip, a man carrying loads has to pay 1 anna per trip and 6 pies ordinarily, with the result that the agricultural produce does not get proper price. If a loaded cart comes from interior to the bazar it has to pay 14 annas per trip. Now these 14 annas mean additional taxation on the agricultural produces. The result has been that the places which are cut off by some river do not get proper price for their agricultural produce. The worst sufferers are the peasants who have to reduce the price of their agricultural produce for meeting the additional taxation imposed upon them by the heavy tolls charged on the Public Works Department ferries. This grievance is universal and applies to the whole of the province. The relaxation of these heavy tolls on these ferries will go to raise the price of agricultural produce in the rural areas and this a method which Government could have resorted to, if they were really desirous of solving the problem of raising the price of agricultural produce. My whole grievance is that the system of levying exorbitant tolls on Public Works Department ferries should have been fully discussed by the Ministry and by reducing the tolls should have been they ought to have helped the peasants in raising the price of their agricultural produce. Is it too much to expect from the Government?

Now, Sir, the Government's reply probably will be: How can the Government make such sacrifices in revenue and run the administration? True, the budget is to be balanced. But are there no other means for the Government to do that? Did Government seriously try to curtail expenditure? Did they try any effective retrenchment and economy?



If the Government wanted to make the budget a surplus one they should have gone to the quarters where money was available. I mean they ought to have effected an effective retrenchment instead of going to the peasants' door, who are already suffering economically and are unable to pay their revenue. Government also might have removed the top-heaviness of the Administration. We have been crying hoarse to remove this top-heaviness, but they are making it more and more top-heavy. I think if they had made an honest attempt to curtail the expenditure from the top and practised a judicious retrenchment in all the Departments, combined certain departments and services, and made the Provincial Service men do the work of all-India men, they would have got such a large amount of money as would have made their budget more than balanced.

Sir, I was asked by the Hon'ble Revenue Minister a question about the criminal court at Nalbari. The way in which this court is being carried on is a disgrace to the Government. At present it sits for four days in the week. And on the days on which it sits, the accused persons who are not on bail are taken there from Gauhati jail in the morning. And as there is no arrangement there either for accommodation or for cooking for these men they have to depend upon *gur* and parched rice, etc. The trying Magistrate sometimes stays at the Circuit House and sometimes in a tent. The pleaders and moharers go there from Gauhati in the morning and for want of proper accommodation they have to go and take shelter in shops and huts and sometimes under the trees. And they have to return to Gauhati in a hurry by the next available train in the afternoon. The hardships are so great that many senior pleaders refuse to go there even if they are paid handsomely.....

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: On a point of information. Is it not a fact that some pleaders have made their residence there? I have heard that two or three of them have done so.

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: No, it is not a fact. Is this not a very undesirable state of things, Sir? And that is why we have been asking to do away with this present unsatisfactory arrangement and to give us a permanent Court there at Nalbari.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: On another point of information. Did not the hon. member say at the time of elections that he would see that the court at Nalbari is perpetuated?

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: I said nothing about any court in the course of my election campaign. We were carrying on our election campaign on the basis of the congress election manifesto and we had no necessity for supplementing our manifesto by extraneous hopes and promises.

#### STATEMENT MADE BY THE HON'BLE SPEAKER REGARDING ALLOTMENT OF DAYS FOR DISCUSSION OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Before we disperse for to-day I would like to draw the attention of the House to a very important matter regarding the voting on demands, which will be coming up on the 16th and will be continued up to the 31st of this month. I would draw the attention of the hon. members to Rule 15 of the Legislative Assembly Rules, Part 1. Hon. members will see from that rule that



there are two time limits—one to be fixed by His Excellency the Governor and the other fixed by the rule itself. His Excellency the Governor is to fix a time limit by allotting the total number of days within which the voting should be finished, and the other time limit fixed by the rules itself is one within which a particular demand should be finished. It would appear that the maximum time limit allowed by that rule to be fixed by His Excellency the Governor is 15 days, and that not more than two days can be devoted to the discussion of a particular demand. Hon. members will please note that the days that have been allotted by His Excellency are only 10 days for the purpose of voting on demands, and during these 10 days the voting must be finished and hon. members will not be allowed to take more than two days for the discussion on any one demand. There is a difference in the present rules and the rules that obtained in the old Council. According to the rules that were in vogue then, the Governor was to fix the day on which a particular demand was to be taken up and also the hour or hours within which the discussion was to be finished; but in the present rules, hon. members will find that save and except the fixing of the time limit for finishing discussion on all the demands the Governor has nothing to do with regard to the manner as regards time and the order in which the discussion for the disposal of the demands should be made. It is a change that aims at a close approximation of the practice that obtains in the House of Commons. It is intended that the critics of the budget should be the judges of the time they would devote to the discussion of a particular demand. So it will be necessary for this House to decide how many days they are to devote to the discussion of a particular demand, of course subject to the rule prescribing the time limit I have referred to and also to decide on which date which particular demand should be taken up. So it will be the duty of this House to intimate to me their decision as to the allotment of days for the discussion of the various demands. The House knows that there are 31 demands to be disposed of within 10 days.

There are three alternatives in this matter one of which the House may adopt. The first one is that the Leaders of the various parties may discuss the matter amongst themselves and then send me a list by Monday, the 9th August showing clearly the demands which they desire to take up on each of the days allotted for the purpose and the hours they desire to devote for the discussion of each such demand. The second alternative is that Leaders of the various parties may only come to a decision as to which Demand or Demands they would pay special attention to and while intimating that decision to me they may supply me with the list showing the order of preference according to importance. If this alternative is adopted, the allotment of days and the fixation of time for discussion of the demands may be relegated to me.

The third alternative is that only a list of the Demands may be supplied to me according to importance. If this is done there will be no need to fix any specified date or hour for the discussion of any particular Demand. And subject only to the restriction imposed by rule 15 (2) *i. e.*, no particular Demand may be discussed for more than two days, the discussion of the Demands will proceed.

In this connection I should also draw the attention of the hon. members to the time limit imposed by Assembly Rule 92 for giving notices of motions to refuse or reduce any Demand for Grant. It must be borne in mind that sufficient time must be given to the Secretary to



examine the Cut Motions and to prepare, print and circulate the lists in good time to the members. There will, of course be no time for the motions to go through any process of admission. The question whether any motion is out of order or not will be left to the decision of the House. If the first two alternatives are adopted, notices of cut motions must be received by the Assembly Department at or before 3 p.m. two clear days before the day on which the relevant Demand will be under consideration. If the third alternative is followed, the time limit of two clear days' notice will have to be reckoned from the very first day, viz., 16th August, allotted by His Excellency for voting on Demands for Grants. The Secretary will in that case have one consolidated list printed for all the Demands arranged according to the preference given by the House with the Cut Motions under each relevant item. If this is done there will be no loss of time of the House, it will be in that case incumbent on the House to see that all the important items are finished before 5 p.m. on the last day. At 5 p.m., on the last day the Chair shall guillotine the rest under rule 15(4). If the House decides to adopt the third alternative, notices of all Cut Motions must reach the Assembly Office before 3 p.m., on the 13th August. Hon. members are requested to give notice of their motions from the very beginning in the proper form instead of rushing through at the last moment.

I may add that if the House wants to follow the second alternative, i.e., relegate the authority to me, I may tell the House that I have got a list prepared in order to expedite matters and to help the hon. members. The Leaders of the various parties may have the list for consultation and come to a decision in the matter. It is up to the hon. members to see that the arrangement shown in the list meets their wishes. The responsibility of allotment of dates for particular demands rests with them. I may also add that if the members want that even in the third alternative definite hour should be fixed for the discussion of any one demand, the fixation of hours for particular demands may be left to me to be decided after receipt of Cut Motions on the 13th August.

The House stands adjourned to 11 a.m., on Monday, the 9th August 1937.

SHILLONG,  
The 7th September 1937.

A. K. BARUA,  
Secretary,  
Legislative Assembly, Assam.