

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

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 11 a.m., on
Monday, the 20th March, 1939.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Directors and Advisory Board of the Commercial Carrying
Company, Limited

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA asked :

*122. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The names of the Directors of the Commercial Carrying Com-
pany which has been granted the monopoly of the Pandu-
Shillong Road ?

(b) If there is any Assamese honorary Director ?

(c) If so, what is his name ?

*123. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The names of the members of the Advisory Board of the
Commercial Carrying Company ?

(b) Who appoints these members ?

(c) How many times a year, this Advisory Board meets ?

(d) What are the functions of this Advisory Board ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

According to information received from the Company, replies are
as follows :—

122. (a)—Rai Bahadur S. C. Chaudhuri.

Mr. S. Bhattacharjee.

Khan Bahadur Atawar Rahaman.

Khan Bahadur Keramat Ali.

Mr. P. S. Guha.

Rai Bahadur Jiwanram Goenka.

Mr. S. C. Mukherjee.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Khan Bahadur Keramat Ali.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: May I enquire how many shares
Khan Bahadur Keramat Ali holds in the Company ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I am not definitely
sure, but I hear the share is Rs.10,000.

Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI: It is stated that Khan Bahadur Keramat Ali is an honorary director, may I know whether he is only an honorary director and does not hold any shares at all?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The answer is that he has got shares.

Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI: If he holds any shares, how can he be an honorary director?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I have no information beyond the fact that he is a director.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Why is he called a director when he gets no remuneration?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: It is not known to me.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Am I to understand, Sir, that these are free shares? Shares without payment?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I am not aware of it.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Is it a fact that he gets a monthly remuneration?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I am not aware of it.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Will Government be pleased to make an enquiry about it?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I do not see any necessity for doing that.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: In view of the fact that he gets a monthly remuneration, how can he be called an honorary director?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I have no information. The question does not concern the Government any way.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I know whether Government has got any control over the Company?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The agreement is there, and the Company is under the control of the Government so far as these conditions are concerned.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is it not a fact that the Government has given the contract under certain conditions?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: As I have said the conditions are laid down in the agreement.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I know whether Government can go beyond those conditions?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: There is no question of going beyond those conditions.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Perhaps the hon. member means whether there is anything in the contract specifying any condition as to how the directors should be appointed.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: We know nothing about the appointment of the directorate. All that is known is that 2/5th^s of the capital of the Company should be subscribed within the province.

Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI: Is it not a fact that Khan Bahadur Keramat Ali got his shares on the eve of the termination of the former contract?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Possibly; but I am not aware of that.

Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI: Will Government make an enquiry about it ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I do not see any utility in making enquiries. Our relationship is governed by the terms of the agreement, and if there is an infringement of any conditions in the agreement, Government will make an enquiry.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

123. (a)—The Company has no Advisory Committee.

(b), (c) and (d)—Do not arise.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Is it not a fact that there was one before ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I think there was one.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: May I know what is the objection to having one now ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I cannot say anything beyond the fact that the relations of the Company and Government are governed by a contract, and we cannot go beyond that.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: May I know why that advisory committee was dropped ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I do not know.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOCKERJEE: Is there anything in the contract under which this can be done ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I have not got the terms of the contract before me, but I do not think that there is anything in the contract under which an advisory committee can be insisted on.

Buildings of some of the Courts at Habiganj

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

*124. (a) Are Government aware that some of the criminal courts at Habiganj sit in wretched buildings ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to reconstruct them ?

*125. Will Government be pleased to state the number of times the office buildings at Habiganj were burnt down ?

*126. Will Government be pleased to state whether there is any retiring room for the Magistrates at Habiganj ?

*127. Are Government aware of the hardships undergone by the litigant public at Habiganj during the rains specially for want of a witness-shed there ?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN replied :

124. (a)—Yes. Four out of the six courts sit in *kutcha* buildings with low plinths.

(b)—Yes, when funds are available.

125.—Twice, in 1896 and 1930.

126.—There is only one retiring room for the Subdivisional Officer.

127.—Some inconvenience is caused to the litigant public who however can and do take shelter in the spacious verandahs of the court buildings.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I know whether Government is aware that these Court premises go under water during the rains ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: This point was discussed yesterday, and I do not know why this question is persisted in.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: But I did not get an assurance from the Government.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Premier has said what he had to say.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Do Government consider that this is one of the very urgent matters which should be taken up as soon as funds are available ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: An answer was given in connection with the cut motion.

Deprovincialisation of the Colleges and starting of a teaching University in Assam

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

*128. (a) Do Government propose to examine the financial aspect of deprovincialising the colleges and to start a teaching university with the existing staff of both the colleges ?

(b) Did the Retrenchment Committee consider any such question ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

128. (a)—As regards the former part of the question, Government are prepared to examine the suggestion, but the financial implications of combining the two colleges into a new teaching university are obviously so serious that they consider it useless to examine the latter.

(b)—No.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I know whether Government called for any expert opinion ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: As I said the very fact that the two colleges have got to be re-established and taken to a new site would involve an expenditure which can be well imagined. And as regards the first part of the question, as I said we are prepared to examine that question.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Does the Hon'ble Premier consider that there will be a good saving if my proposal is accepted ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: It is very difficult to say if the recurring expenditure will be less in the ultimate, but at the beginning it will definitely increase the expenditure in view of the heavy capital expenditure that will be involved.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: If this scheme is adopted, may I know whether the teachings of the colleges will any way be hampered ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: That is a matter of opinion. Everything will depend on the management concerned.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I suggest that all these questions from 129 to 134 be called out together.

Government Communique re music before mosques

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN asked :

*129. Is it a fact that the principle of restricting of music before places of public worship and hospitals at all times had been recognised by the Assam Government in the past ?

*130. Has the attention of the present Government of Assam been drawn to condition 4 of the Form for Procession License (Form No.198) to be granted by the Superintendent of Police under the provision of the Police Act ?

*131. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government collected information as to the practice obtaining in various parts of this province before issuing the recent Communique on the subject ?

(b) Whether there was any trouble in any part of the province except Sylhet regarding play of music before mosques ?

*132. (a) Are Government aware that the different communities have long been living in peace and amity under the old practice of "No music before mosques at all times" ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons why they had made a departure from the old practice in their Communique, dated the 9th January by restricting music before mosques only during prayer times ?

*133. Are Government aware that the aforesaid Communique is productive of communal feelings in those places where they do not exist at all ?

*134. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the above Communique received the approval of the three Muhammadan Members of the Cabinet ?

(b) Whether they have received complaints regarding the inequity of the above Communique ?

(c) If so, do they propose to consider the expediency of withdrawing it ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: This question was dealt with for about half an hour yesterday. I am just reading out the answer.

129.—Government do not admit that the restriction has been at all times of day and night. Everybody has a right to the King's highway. The restriction of music at certain periods before places of public worship is imposed out of respect to religious feelings, and before hospitals out of considerations of humanity to save sick people from being unnecessarily disturbed.

130.—Yes.

131. (a)—No detailed enquiries were made as Government was aware what the general practice was.

(b)—Yes, in Hailakandi in July 1938.

132. (a) and (b)—Because a breach was threatened in the good relations subsisting between the Hindu and Muhammadan communities, Government had no alternative left but to issue the orders conveyed in their Communique of the 9th January 1939.

133.—No.

134. (a)—It would be improper for Government to divulge what advice is tendered by any Minister to the Governor.

(b)—The only specific complaint was as regards the omission to provide for a time for midday prayer on days other than Fridays but this has since been remedied by a Gazette Communiqué issued on the 15th February 1939.

(c)—No.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: With regard to question No.130, are Government aware that in Bengal the same form is being used?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Well, Sir, the form that has been in use is the form from which these hours of time have been taken. That is my information. The Bengal form contains definite hours of prayer.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: We don't use these forms here?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: No, we did not use those forms here.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Is it a fact that the Hon'ble Prime Minister went to Sylhet to try for a compromise by holding a meeting?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes, that was answered yesterday. The Hon'ble Premier said that he went down to Sylhet and held a meeting of the leaders of both the communities and a settlement was arrived at in his presence.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Is it a fact that a Committee was formed to make a compromise and that Committee on the 14th October issued the following statement which was signed by all those present:—"We, on behalf of the Hindu community, say that music before places of public worship, when objected to, is improper and we express regret for all those who did not stop music"?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Yes, Sir, I do not definitely remember the contents but there was some kind of writing before the Deputy Commissioner by certain Hindu gentlemen as well as by certain Muhammadan gentlemen on or about 14th October.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Is it a fact that the leaders of the Hindu community expressed regret for playing music before mosque?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I do not know that. All that I can say is that there was some kind of writing before the Deputy Commissioner.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Here are the contents of that writing and I can read that.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: May I ask the Hon'ble Premier whether he himself went through this document when he went there?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I think that was the basis of discussion that was followed later on.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: May I ask the Hon'ble Premier to say whether he himself committed to that principle?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: It is not a question of my personal principle, but as Government, I have got to see to the general public opinion.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: May I know whether there was a compromise already arrived at before the Government issued the communique that every community must show respect to each other's religion and stop music before every house of worship?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: In reply to that I can only say that when I went to Sylhet I had been to the house of every leading Muhammadan gentleman and I had been also similarly to the house of every leading Hindu gentleman at Sylhet. There was difficulty for both the communities even to meet and through this humble self's intervention both the communities met together, and in that meeting certain questions were solved but not in a manner in which the communique has been issued. But it was soon found that as soon as I had come back, both the communities repudiated those conditions and telegram after telegram was received till Government saw no other way but to lay down a particular line of action which according to Government would be fair to the feelings of both the communities and which was particularly applied in a neighbouring province.

Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: Is it a fact that the leaders of the Muhammadan community also expressed regret?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Yes.

Re Worship of Hindu Gods and Goddesses in some school premises

Maulavi MABARAK ALI asked :

*135. (a) Are Government aware—

(i) That images of the Hindu Gods and Goddesses are allowed to be installed and worshipped by the Hindu pupils in the premises of the Middle Vernacular Schools, the Girls' Schools and some other schools at Karimganj and kept there for months together?

(ii) That such a practice wounds the religious susceptibilities of the pupils of other religions who read in these institutions?

(b) Do Government propose to stop such a practice in all public schools of the Province?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

135. (a) (i)—No.
(ii)—Does not arise.

(b)—Does not arise.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Accommodation in the Sunamganj Government High School

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY asked :

85. (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Education aware that the two Sections of Class III of the Sunamganj Government High School sit in the morning for lack of accommodation?

(b) Is the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge aware that such holding of classes in the morning brings dislocation of teaching in the school ?

(c) Do Government propose to extend the school building immediately ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

85. (a)—Government have no information but are aware that the accommodation is insufficient.

(b)—It may be so.

(c)—It has not been possible so far to find the large amount* required for the purpose. Government will consider the question of extension when funds become available.

[*Rs.30,194.]

Re conferring of Titles

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

86. (a) Will the Hon'ble Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the present Government is against the conferring of Titles ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to abstain from making any recommendations in this respect in future ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

86. (a) and (b)—The Council of Ministers does not make any recommendations for Honours. This is a part of the Royal Prerogative of His Majesty who functions through his Representatives, the Vic-roy and the Governor.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Will Government be pleased to say who furnishes the lists of persons who are conferred with these titles to His Excellency the Governor ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : I am not in a position to reply to the question, as a matter of fact, I do not know.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : Is it an item of Congress programme that this Ministry should not recommend for titles ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : It would be seen that there is no possibility even for that as the reply would show.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA : Is it as a matter of rule that the Council of Ministers does not make any recommendations ; or has it ceased to make recommendations since the Congress Coalition Ministry has assumed office ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : As a matter of fact this is not a matter which can be disclosed. But it can be definitely said, so far as Congress Governments are concerned, we do not make any recommendation.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : May I know whether in view of the fact that the Congress Coalition is against titles, the Hon'ble Minister Khan Bahadur Mahmud Ali is going to renounce his title with the Congress at his back ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Order, order, this question does not arise.

Point of order re admissibility of certain cut motions

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a point of order. When I was moving my cut motion the day before yesterday you ruled it out of order as it was a cut motion on the ground.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: If the hon. member wanted to make a statement he should have done so then and there. However, he can go on now.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: You disallowed it on the ground that it is an economic cut and so I could not criticise the action of the Government. But in the last Budget Session when a motion like this was moved by my hon. friend Rabindra Nath Aditya.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Which motion?

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: Proceedings of the Assam Legislative Assembly, Volume I, No.5, dated the 21st and 22nd February 1938, page 310. That cut motion was moved by my hon. friend Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya who is a member of the Congress Party and it was allowed. He made a criticism of the principle and policy of the Ministry. But in my case the motion was ruled out of order. The motion of Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya was like this "That the provision of Rs.35,300 under Grant No.9, Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head—H.—Ministers (total), at page 64 of the budget be refused, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.20,97,300 do stand reduced by Rs.35,300." He starts his speech by saying "My object in moving this cut motion is to criticise the action of the Ministry on two points mainly—on the inclusion of the Commissioners' expenditure in the budget and secondly on the question of statement made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister regarding the resignation of the last Ministry". But there was no question of economy there.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: But the hon. member will remember that there is also a previous ruling given by me that when there is a cut motion suggesting economy in the expenditure under any grant, the hon. member must show why this economy should be effected. I then gave also the ruling that when there is to be a censure motion it must be valued at Rs.100 or at a lesser sum or at a sum not much above Rs.100. When the hon. member moved his motion day before yesterday, I disallowed it by saying that in proposing the economy by a cut motion he might also criticise the policy of the Ministry within certain limitations. He was to show in what way the economy was to be effected and in doing that he might also criticise the policy of the Government in regard to that form of expenditure he wanted to omit. But the hon. member said that he wanted only to criticise the policy of the Government. Now as I read the speech of the hon. member Mr. Aditya in connection with the cut motion referred to by the hon. member, although he started by saying that he wanted to criticise the policy of the Ministry it was not so much for criticising the policy of the Government that he wanted to reject that item of expenditure. It may be that although it looked like a criticism of the Government policy he really wanted to effect an economy. It might be that the impropriety of the motion escaped my attention, therefore I did not disallow it. But the previous ruling is there, as I have said at the very outset, indicating the way in which an economy cut has to be moved.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: I was not aware of that.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That was a long ruling. When there is to be a censure motion it must be valued at Rs.100 or below or at a sum not much above Rs.100.

Adjournment motion on account of the eviction of immigrants from village Pukhuripur in Kamrup District

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I have got notice of an adjournment motion by Maulavi Syed Abdur Rouf.

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF : I beg leave of the House to move "That the Assembly do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., the situation arising out of the eviction of immigrants from village Pukhuripur in Mauza Pubhanandi in the district of Kamrup".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : When did the eviction take place?

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF : The occurrence took place on the 9th March and we have come to know of it only last evening when one man from that village a victim of this eviction reached Shillong.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Does the Hon'ble Minister for Revenue desire to say anything?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as I am concerned I am absolutely unaware of the circumstances under which the alleged eviction has taken place. Even from the statement of the hon. member I find the eviction took place on the 9th March 1939. If this is so, the hon. member has come up for this permission after twelve days. This village is situated not far away from here and is within easy reach from Gauhati in which subdivision the village is situated. I am sure he must have got notice of it earlier and therefore should have brought this motion earlier.

Srijuto ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : He says he did not get information till yesterday.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Moreover, Sir, it is very difficult for me to reply to such a vague allegation. He himself has not stated the circumstances under which the eviction took place and for which he seeks to censure the Government.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : If there has been eviction, has the Hon'ble Minister got to say anything in regard to that?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Mr. Speaker, Sir. No eviction could have taken place unless it was due to the fact that encroachers had squatted within the reserved area where not only the immigrants but also the indigenous people have been prohibited from squatting since the 1st of April 1937. That is the Government order. It is very difficult for me to reply to the charges which the hon. member wants to levy against the Government without knowing what they are.

I would like to add also, Sir, if the eviction was made, it must have been affected under the order of the Deputy Commissioner. If the hon. member or the persons who have represented these grievances, are not satisfied with the order of the Deputy Commissioner, it is open to them to appeal to the Commissioner and the Revenue Tribunal.

Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister is evidently speaking without knowledge of facts. He himself says he knows nothing about the occurrence.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : He also complains that sufficient facts have not been given.

Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY : There is a precedent, Sir, in the Central Legislature, namely, that when Government is not in possession of facts, time is allowed and discussion takes place at a later date. I therefore think it would be better if the motion is discussed at a later date, as the Government is not in possession of facts.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. members know that no adjournment motion can be taken up to-day and also on the dates on which voting on demands will continue, because every day the whole time is booked for the demands. I think also that the object of this motion can be achieved if a discussion is raised in connection with a cut motion in the budget, which is also generally done. I understand there are some cut motions standing in the name of the member who has raised this question. He can take advantage of any of these motions in urging his point. I shall allow him an opportunity to raise this question in connection with a cut motion, so that Government in the meantime may gather facts. Meantime I shall decide nothing as to whether it is in order or not. When the object can be achieved in a different way, I think the hon. member should not insist that I should give my decision as to whether the motion, is in order or not.

Maulavi Syed ABUR ROUF: If it should be moved in a cut motion, it should be moved only under the Land Revenue Demand. If you allow me, Sir, to discuss the matter under motion 20 under Land Revenue, that will suffice.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes, it can be discussed under that motion.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Sir, I would ask you to enlighten me on one point. It strikes me that the order of eviction is an order passed under the Land Revenue Regulation. If so, such an order is appealable to the Commissioner and afterward to the Revenue Tribunal. At the time of filing petition or an appeal against an order of eviction a prayer can be made for staying the eviction. Practically speaking, under the new constitution the Government has nothing to do with a specific order of eviction passed against an individual. But of course the general policy of eviction can be discussed as to whether power should rest with the Deputy Commissioner or not. What I want to know is whether that policy only or the specific matter also can be discussed. A particular case of eviction may also be *subjudice* at the time of discussion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: In discussing such a matter the action can be criticised on the floor of the House if that action is accompanied by any harshness or *Zulum*. As to the legality or illegality of the eviction, that must be left to be decided by the Revenue Courts or by civil Court. But if there is any other thing connected with the eviction for which the Government can be censured, for instance, as I have said, if there is any harshness or *Zulum* accompanying the eviction, then that matter can be discussed on the floor of the House by an adjournment motion.

(The motion was not proceeded with.)

Prime Minister's statement re arrangement of business of the House for the Budget Session, 1939

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I be allowed to make a small statement regarding the arrangement of the business of the House? You know, Sir, that the Agricultural Income-tax Bill and the Finance Bill have been fixed for discussion on the 6th of April. In view of the many matters that may be controversial in regard to these Bills, it may not be possible to finish the discussion on the 6th of April. We are therefore thinking, Sir, whether the sitting of the House, as was already announced by me in my initial statement, should not be extended beyond the Easter holidays. In the meanwhile I had the

privilege of consulting the hon. Leader of the Opposition and also the hon. Mr. Hockenhull and we have been able to come to some sort of understanding to the effect that we may forego the recess day on the 5th of April—a Wednesday—so that we can sit on the 5th and 6th—and if necessary till a late hour on the 6th—in order that we may be able to finish the business of the session within the 6th April. We wanted to have the facts stated before the House and have your permission in the matter so that the business can be arranged accordingly.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: As regards the sitting for late hours on the days on which the Assembly sits I shall certainly have no objection. As regards the question whether the House should sit on Wednesday, that is a matter which should be decided by the House, because as the rule now stands, there is no option left to me. Therefore, if we are to go against the rule, it must be by a decision of the House. If the House agree that on the 5th April, which is a Wednesday, the House should sit, then I shall certainly have no objection.

Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: I want to know one point, Sir. Can the House by agreeing to act contrary to the rule, do so and at the same time act legally? Can they by mere agreement go against the rule?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The House has framed the rule and it is its own decision that the rule should be like that. If again the House comes to the conclusion on a particular occasion that they should sit on a Wednesday, I do not think there would be any very great irregularity in the decision.

Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Can the rule be changed without going through definite procedure?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: If the rule is to be changed, there is a procedure. But what we want now is not practically speaking a change of the rule. We are only saying that on a particular Wednesday we shall sit. We are not ignoring the rule. This is not a precedent for holding that on all Wednesdays henceforth the House should sit.

Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: I think it is not free from legal objection.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I am not deciding the question, but I am leaving it to the House for the decision.

Mr. F. W. HOCKENHULL: Mr. Speaker, Sir. During the session, if for any reason, it is felt desirable that a particular matter under discussion should be completed on that particular afternoon rather than break off in the middle of discussion, the House has pressed the desirability of sitting until 4-30 or 5-30 p.m. as the case may be. I think, Sir, this also comes within the same category.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: As regards sitting late hours on a particular day, the discretion is entirely left to the Chair. The Chair can, out of its own accord, extend the time beyond 4 p.m. if he really feels that the business fixed for a particular day should be finished on that day.

Mr. F. W. HOCKENHULL: I quite agree with that point but the Chair invariably consults the opinion of the House and if the House agree then I think, that may be done without the violation of any rule.

Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: I beg to submit, Sir, that as regards Wednesday, the discretion is not left with the Chair.

Babu HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: I beg to submit, Sir, that if the House now agrees to sit on Wednesday, that will be illegal because the rule is definite on this matter that all Wednesdays should be holidays.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It will not be illegal but it will be irregular.

Babu HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: Yes, Sir. It will be irregular. If from time to time the House decides to act in violation of the rule, then it will be very bad precedent and every time there may be demand from the House to violate the rule and act according to its wish. It will set a very bad example.

Mr. F. W. HOCKENHULL: Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would like to make one more point clear. This Bill will come up before the House on Thursday the 6th April but it is likely to take more than one day. The 7th, 8th and 9th are holidays. It would mean considerable expenditure which may be avoided if the House would agree to be helpful in the matter. (*hear, hear.*) I do not see why the full privilege of discussing the Bill should not be given and at the same time considerable amount of halting allowance of the members should be saved. Many members would like to go away for the Easter holidays.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Sir, we have not heard the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, as between the two alternatives, *i.e.*, of sitting till after the Easter holidays and sitting on Wednesday, the 5th April, I would prefer to sit on Wednesday rather than to sit after the Easter Holidays and which will inconvenience every body. The hon. members also shall have to sit in Shillong for four days without doing anything and so some public funds will be wasted for nothing. As regards those who are professional people, they will be here for nearly a month by that time, and so it will be very hard on them if they are made to sit even after the Easter holidays.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: After the Easter holidays we shall have holidays again. I have found that before the 17th of April next we shall not get days which will be uninterrupted by holidays.

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Just now I understand from my hon. friend Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri that immediately after the Easter holidays comes the Assamese national festival of 'Bihu', which will inconvenience most of the Hindu members both on this side of the House as well as on the Government side.

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: From the Assembly Rule I find, Sir, that the Assembly shall ordinarily sit from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and then from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on all days except Wednesday, etc. The proviso says that the Speaker in his discretion may extend the time due to exigency of business.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That is with regard to hours.

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: I think, Sir, the word "ordinarily" indicates that there may be extraordinary occasion on which the Speaker or the House may have the right to alter the rule.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Speaker may extend ordinarily the hours of sitting and he cannot dispense with the holiday on a Wednesday which is fixed by the rule. Very well, we shall decide that point later on. We may proceed now with the business, but I may take it that it is the sense of the House that we should sit on the 5th of April next which is the sense and which according to Rule should be a holiday.

Mr. F. W. HOCKENHULL: Sir, it will be very convenient to us if a definite decision can be communicated to the House particularly to my group.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: That will also be very convenient to Government so that Government may not have to arrange for sitting beyond the Easter holidays.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes. We can decide that point tomorrow. After 4 p.m. we may devote few minutes to this matter and then come to a final decision.

The Sylhet Town Land Tenancy Bill, 1937—Communication of the fact of Council's disagreement on the amendments made by the Assembly

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Now I am to announce before the House the message which I have received from the Assam Legislative Council with regard to Sylhet Town Land Tenancy Bill.

"In pursuance of Rule 109(4) of its Rules, Part II, I am to inform you that the Assam Legislative Council at its meeting held on the 13th March, 1939, adopted the motion that the Council insists on the amendments made by it on the Sylhet Town Land Tenancy Bill, 1937, to which the originating Chamber has disagreed".

Under the Rules this Chamber is to communicate this fact of disagreement to His Excellency the Governor; and on behalf of the House I shall have to communicate that fact to His Excellency the Governor in due time so that His Excellency may decide whether a joint session of both the Houses should be summoned or not for the Bill.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

Grant No. 1 (7.—Land Revenue)

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.27,97,600 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1940, for the administration of the head "7.—Land Revenue."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.27,97,600 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1940, for the administration of the head '7.—Land Revenue'."

There are 25 cut motions tabled. The cut motions Nos.6 and 7—one in the name of Maulavi Jahanuddin Ahmed and the other in the name of Maulavi Mator Rahman Mia are practically the same. I shall first call upon Maulavi Jahanuddin Ahmed to move his motion and to show how this economy can be effected.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move. That the provision of Rs.5,029 under Grant No.1, Major Head...7.—Land Revenue, Minor Head—Charges of Administration—B.—Tahsil and other Establishments—Sub-head—3.—Management of Private Estates under Act X of 1892 (total), at page 30 of the Budget be refused, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.27,97,600 do stand reduced by Rs.5,029.

Sir, I find in the Budget at page 30 that a sum of Rs.5,029 has been allotted for the management of private estates. Sir, I do not understand why Government should spend any sum for the management of the private estates. My information goes that private estates are able to manage their

affairs themselves and they are doing it. I do not understand why Government should spend this sum for the benefit of the private estates, and my idea is that this sum should be refused as a measure of economy.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut motion moved :

“That the provision of Rs.5,029 under Grant No.1, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, Minor head—Charges of Administration—B.—Tahsil and other establishment—Sub-head—3.—Management of Private Estates under Act X of 1892 (total), at page 30 of the Budget be refused, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.27,97,600 do stand reduced by Rs.5,029”.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. member who has moved this cut motion has objected to this amount being included here on the ground that he sees no reason why public money should be spent for estates which are private, or for estates which the Government manage on behalf of certain private individuals. It is very easy for me to reply to this objection, and I shall only say that the expenditure which Government incur on behalf of these private estates is not chargeable on the funds which the tax-payers pay, but that that amount is realised from the private estates themselves. That being so, I see no justification in the arguments advanced by my hon. friend. As the hon. member will realise, these estates are taken either under the instructions of the Court of Wards or on behalf of such people who are not able to manage their own estates, and that before Government hand over the income to the wards they also deduct the necessary expenditure incurred by Government for managing the estates. Therefore the hon. member will be able to see that the expenditure shown here is not an expenditure from the public funds, but it is the expenditure from the proceeds which come into our hands from the estates themselves. In view of this explanation I hope the hon. member will withdraw his motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Does the hon. member press his motion ?

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : I am not satisfied with the reply, Sir. I want to say something on personal explanation.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The hon. member has no right to reply. So, the personal explanation should not be a reply.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : I want to know further from the Hon'ble Minister whether Government think that the sum they are getting from the management of these estates are income to the Government, or whether it is an income to the estates.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : The point raised by the hon. member is that Government are spending this money out of the revenues which we get from the general tax-payers, but that is not the case.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : My point is whether the money Government get from the management of these estates is an income to the Government or to the estates themselves.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN AHMED : The hon. member can easily find out that fact from the report which is published on the management of the Court of Wards.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

“That the provision of Rs.5,029 under Grant No.1, Major-head—7.—Land Revenue, Minor Head—Charges of Administration—B.—Tahsil and other Establishments—Sub-head—3.—Management of Private Estates under Act X of 1892 (total), at page 30 of the Budget be refused, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.27,97,600 do stand reduced by Rs.5,029”.

The motion was negatived.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

“That the provision of Rs.2,15,000 under Grant No.1, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, Minor head—Charges of Administration—A.—General Establishment, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 29 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.27,97,600 do stand reduced by Rs.101”.

The object of my motion is to criticize Government for not throwing open for settlement the reserves in Hakaluki and Langai in the Karimganj subdivision.

Sir, whenever we demand any money from Government the answer of the Government is that they are in want of funds, but when we are ready to give them funds they do not take it from us (*laughter*). On the other hand, they will take recourse to taxation right and left without knowing their ultimate consequences. Sir, huge areas of land under Hakaluki reserve and Langai reserve and also some other reserves which are not at all important from the forest and fishery points of view, are not going to be settled with the people. If that were done, some money must have come to the coffers of Government, and this money might have been utilised for nation building purposes. But though various petitions have been submitted by many people for the settlement of these lands, these are kept unsettled. Sir, every hon. member of this House knows that due to the increase of population by natural causes and consequent expansion in the family members, lands which are held in possession of the people have become quite inadequate to provide maintenance of the family members, and consequently many people from my subdivision are going to Tipperah and Assam and some other places. That is a sight very pitiable, which the Hon'ble Minister may withstand, but we cannot.

Sir, in the last Budget session of the Assembly such a motion was moved by Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya, and the members on the other side, including the Hon'ble Premier and his group, supported the motion and they went to the Ayes lobby, and I hope, on this occasion, they will have this much courage to follow me to the Ayes lobby and thus support my motion.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER. Cut motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs.2,15,000 under Grant No.1, Major-head—7.—Land Revenue, minor head—Charges of Administration—A.—General Establishment, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 29 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.101, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.27,97,600 do stand reduced by Rs.101.”

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is really encouraging, I find my hon. friend Mr. Aditya just stepping in while I am rising to speak. It is a matter which relates not to his own subdivision primarily, but this is a matter for entire Government as well. Various lands in Karimganj are lying waste, and much profit can be derived therefrom. I remember those who are on the Government side now were then much eloquent that Government should open out this land—I remember Mr. Aditya was very much eloquent. While Government is going to tax the poor people, the impoverished people of the province, I would once more ask the Hon'ble Ministers to realise the importance of this motion. I would ask whether Government is prepared to open out this vast area of land for settlement. If they open out this land for settlement, not only Government, but these landless people of the soil will be greatly relieved. These are good lands, and if settled, these will turn into profitable paddy lands. These are vast areas. So far as Ministers

are concerned this matter was placed before them and there was threadbare discussion over it in this House. They have taken to many taxation Bills, but they ought to have tapped the resources of the province. They should somehow or other meet the deficit Budget by opening out lands for people who are in need of them. I understand numbers of petitions have been filed, but all these petitions are lying with the Deputy Commissioner and also with the Government; but no attention has been given to them. These Hon'ble gentlemen at one time championed at the cause of the poor, but these very gentlemen are now going right and left to tax the people. They are going to tax the poor people without opening out cultivable waste lands for the good of the people and for the good of the province. It is a pity that these Ministers have been going to the district of Sylhet, but they do not look to this. Every time they do their luxurious trips at the cost of public money, but they never care to go to these areas—they cannot visit the Hakaluki area—they never considered this question. They do not care to look to the condition of these poor people. They can have a peep into these things when they go to that side either by motor car or by railway. I understand the Hon'ble Prime Minister and other Ministers travelled by the Kulaura side—they have been from one part of the district to the other—they have travelled several times but they never cared to see whether several thousands of rupees could be secured by releasing all these valuable lands to the people. They cannot bear immigrants coming to the province. But so far as the area in question is concerned, I must tell them it is no matter whether Muhammadans outnumber the Hindu population; and there is no harm releasing these lands for the people of the soil. They ought to try to improve the resources of the province by opening out these lands for settlement. If there is any honesty of consistency of these politicians, I would just ask them to release these lands for people. Application, I should say, is lying not only with the local authority, but also with the Local Government. They will rather slip over their plight and tax the poor people. As I have said already, if there be any honesty of consistency, the Members of the Government should support this motion. This is a right matter before us, because politicians must be always consistent, and those who were eloquent I would request them to act according to their words. By their association with the Cabinet they may forget their own principle and I would rather want to repeat what I have said that they should stick to their principle. I would ask the hon. members of this House to consider this—they very often professed to the world at large that they stood for the cause of the people. They should remember this and I would especially remind my friend Mr. Aditya what he said last time.

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the point raised by my hon. friend Maulavi Mabarak Ali needs very careful consideration from every section of the House for various reasons, a few of which I would like to detail for their consideration.

A reference to the census of every decade will reveal the fact that the population in the Sylhet district is growing at a tremendous rate. I calculated a few years ago—(I am speaking from memory and open to correction)—the increase in population in the Surma Valley was about 30 per cent. in 20 years. We all know the topography of Sylhet; it is very little space for further cultivation in that district, and therefore there culturable lands are provided for them the people will be compelled to go either outside the province or to emigrate to some other district of the province. Everyone knows that in the district of Nowgong there is an area near about Jamunamukh station on the Assam-Bengal Railway, which

is peopled by such immigrants from Karimganj and other subdivisions of Sylhet, and also Cachar; that place is generally known as the Sylhet block in the Nowgong district. During the enquiry by the Line Enquiry Committee, in which certain members of the Congress party, be it said to their credit, took part, it was accepted by everyone that the vast immigrant population which are landless at the present moment should be given lands to settle in, and if I understood the budget speech of the Hon'ble Revenue Minister correctly, he also accepts that principle, for he had a very impassioned passage in his speech where he said:—"We are however determined to tackle this question and propose to take it up in all seriousness after the session though our approach may not be the same as many of the hon. members here would like it to be. We regard it as a fully economic question and propose to deal with it in that way. We realise that the future not only of the indigenous people but also of those who have migrated to this province depends on the careful and proper handling of this question. Those who have come here leaving their relations, homes and familiar surroundings, have been forced to do so either because they had no land for cultivation in their own places or could no longer bear the oppression of the zamindars, money-lenders and other such middlemen. We wish to take note of these things and propose to avoid, as far as possible, lands falling in the hands of the few for the oppression of many. Some of the peasants themselves would not like to fall back into the same snare from which they had to escape". I read this passage to emphasize that he is also in sympathy with the proposal made by the Line Enquiry Committee, that the landless immigrants now living in Assam, should be given lands. It is also said that the number of such people would not be less than a lakh. Therefore if we want lands in the Assam Valley for these immigrants from outside the province, there will be hardly any more land for immigrants from the other Valley. That more land is required in the Surma Valley is also admitted by the Ministry from the fact that they are going to start reclamation of land by means of irrigation, for which they have provided a sum of Rs.15,000 in the Budget with a promise from the Hon'ble Finance Minister that he will see if this figure can be augmented. From all this, I deduce that culturable land is urgently required for the growing population of Surma Valley. If this is admitted, then without spending the ratepayers' money in providing culturable land by means of irrigation which will take some little time, why not enquire whether there is any culturable land within the immense forest reserves which are kept for the Forest Department? If these reserves contain any valuable timber, I would be the last person to recommend that they be denuded and the land be given for ordinary cultivation; but if it is ascertained by my hon. friend that lands are available which could be settled without impairing forest wealth such lands ought to be settled. It appears from the voting in the last Budget session on this matter. Hon. members voting for that motion thought that there were enough lands in these reserves for ordinary cultivation which without detriment to the Forest wealth of the province can be set apart for settlement. So I think it will be better for Government to look into this without spending money for reclamation of lands by irrigation. Sir, only last year in the Budget session one of the brilliant intellects from the Congress Bench, I refer to my hon. friend Mr. Rabindra Nath Aditya who moved a similar cut motion, and that cut motion was supported by the entire Congress block now consisting of the Treasury Bench and their followers behind. I remember that although my hon. friend the then Forest Minister, Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, gave an assurance that he will enquire if

any lands can be set apart from these reserves and opened for settlement, and in spite of that assurance, the matter was pressed to a division and as many as 48 members supported that cut motion. I only hope that those hon. members who supported that motion will now see their way to accept the same principle and that the flowing of the water under the Surma bridge during the last twelve months has not changed their attitude.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also rise to support this motion whole-heartedly, and I would remind my hon. friend Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya of his own words which he used in moving a similar cut motion. It is also known to the House that the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mahmud Ali, the Minister for Industries also, gave a very eloquent speech in supporting that motion. Sir, Mr. Aditya by moving this motion in February session, 1938 spoke before the House that the object of his motion was to criticise Government for not throwing open for settlement the reserves in Hakaluki and Langai in the Karimganj subdivision which, he admitted, ought to be brought under cultivation. Then, Sir, what the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur said is this: "Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by my hon. friend Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya. In the former sessions I brought forward many resolutions and motions on several times and as far as I remember Government replied that they would consider this proposal and do something, but nothing has yet been done. Sir, in course of last twelve years....."

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: On a point of information from the hon. member. Did the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur oppose that motion?

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: He supported that motion.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Has he opposed this motion?

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: I do not know. He may. I may remind the House that all the members who came from that locality supported the motion and the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur, who is an old member of this House since even before the pre-Reform days, moved many motions and resolutions on this subject from 1926 onwards and Government gave an assurance that this matter would be taken up as early as possible. So this is not a new thing, it has been dragged on by the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur from 1926. And who else spoke on this matter? Babu Balaram Sircar also spoke.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes, all members who have come from Karimganj.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: It has been said by Sir Muhammad Saadulla that as many as 48 members including the Hon'ble Premier voted for the motion brought by my hon. friend Mr. Aditya last year. I was also one of the voters. May I point to this hon. House that I was also a matter that concerns a particular subdivision, this should though it is a principle on the part of the Government that such kind of reserves should be thrown open for cultivation if required. With these words I also lend my support to the motion.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also want to say a few words on this subject. I rise to support this motion and I can assure the House that I do not do so merely to expose my hon. friend Mr. Aditya. If we only want to show to the House the inconsistency of the Congress Coalition Party, there will be no end of that game.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH : What are the inconsistencies ?

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : But I support this motion on different ground. On account of the admitted existence of a large number of people from outside the province in this province who want settlement of land and on account of the vital necessity of reservation of a suitable area of land for expansion of the indigenous people and for the people who have already settled here, the problem of land settlement has become very acute in the Assam Valley Districts. It is therefore meet and proper that a serious and earnest enquiry is made to find out how far it is possible to provide land in Sylhet for the people of that district. I should have thought, Sir, that after having pressed a motion on this subject to a division, the members of the Congress Coalition Party, at any rate the Congress Party, would be far more vigilant and active in finding out whether such opening of reserves is possible or not and I should have expected the Hon'ble Revenue Minister who has been moving recently a great deal in the Surma Valley Districts to have come to a decision on this point already.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have heard a sermon on the principle of consistency by my hon. friend Maulavi Ashrafuddin Md. Chaudhury and also by the hon. Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri. We live to learn. Last year when this motion was brought before this House all those members who have asked us to be consistent or to take a lesson in consistency, opposed this motion and I am glad that those very members have to-day supported what one year ago they thought to be most improper (*hear hear*). I am glad that even the hon. Leader of the Opposition and the then Hon'ble Revenue Minister who thought that these reserves should not be thrown open ; have supported this motion.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Did I say that ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : At least in respect of one of the reasons, his opinion was that Government should make an enquiry and see if that reserve should be thrown open to the people of Karimganj. Everyone knows that the motion was opposed by the then Government and 48 members of this side of the House had voted for opening of that reserve.

Sir, this matter is being enquired into. It was not possible for the Government to conduct an enquiry into this affair before the commencement of the winter season and I can assure the hon. mover that if land can be found in any of these reserves which can be settled with the people of Karimganj, this Government will be too willing to throw open some portions of these reserves for settlement. Sir, not only Government are taking steps of making proper enquiry into this matter but also we have been writing to the local officers to expedite the enquiry and let us have their report at an early date. As soon as the report is received, Government will take proper action in the matter. With this assurance that we are considering this matter and that we are consistent, I hope the hon. member will withdraw his motion.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: On a point of information, may I know what Government have done in this matter ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Government have taken up the enquiry and have asked for a report from the local officers.

Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Are we to understand from the Hon'ble Revenue Minister that the land will be thrown open to the Karimganj people only and to nobody else ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I think the claim of the Karimganj people is prior.

Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: It may be prior, but the case of others may be taken into consideration.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: On a matter of personal explanation, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister of Revenue said that I opposed this motion last year. That is not correct. I may read the speech in that connection.

Srijut BELI RAM DAS: Did he make an enquiry ?

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I ordered an enquiry.

Srijut BELI RAM DAS: What was the result ?

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Ask your Hon'ble Minister.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: But he never sees the file.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: This is what I said in dealing with the motion last year: "I think the hon. mover of this motion and the other hon. members who have spoken on this motion want to bring this particular matter to the pointed notice of the Government. It is really quite natural that everyone should like to have a plot of land—cultivable land—near his house and no one desires to be compelled to leave his home and find out land either in the districts of Nowgong or Tipperah. It is only natural also to wish that the land which is available goes to the indigenous people of the soil. Now, Sir, so far as this particular area is concerned, we know that there is some land lying waste in Hakaluki and Langai, but there are fisheries in the former place and so far Government have been very unwilling to settle those waste lands because there is friction between the lessees of the fisheries and the settlers. These fisheries bring in an income of Rs.40,000 per year. But as the hon. members coming from Karimganj say that there are no available lands in Hakaluki and Langai, I shall have an enquiry made again and if such lands can be settled without detriment to the interests of the fisheries, they may be settled." That was my clear speech. Then I said "So far as the Government is concerned, I think this is the first time when the matter has been mooted in this House. My hon. friend Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali said that he brought this matter before the Council nearly for a *yuga* or 12 years but the *yuga* has changed now and we hope for better things". We hope for still better things now. This enquiry must have been made in the cold weather. I had an enquiry instituted. If that has not been abandoned by the present Revenue Minister, it should have been completed now.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : What were you doing since February ?

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Inquiry was to have been made in last winter.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Order, order. Is the hon. member pressing his motion.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI : Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

“ That the provision of Rs.2,15,000 under Grant No.1, Major head 7.—Land Revenue, Minor head—Charges of the Administration—A.—General Establishment, Sub-head—1.—Pay of officers (total), at page 29 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.27,97,600 do stand reduced by Rs.101.”

The Assembly divided.

Ayes—38

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| 1. Babu Hirendra Chandra Chakravarty. | 18. Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia. |
| 2. Dr. Mahendra Nath Saikia. | 19. Maulavi Mabarak Ali. |
| 3. Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri. | 20. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur Rahman. |
| 4. Maulavi Abdul Aziz. | 21. Maulavi Munawwar Ali. |
| 5. Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhuri. | 22. Maulavi Muzarrof Ali Laskar. |
| 6. Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan. | 23. Maulavi Namwar Ali Barbhuiya. |
| 7. Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhuri. | 24. Maulavi Sheikh Osman Ali Sadagar. |
| 8. Maulavi Abdur Rahman. | 25. Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla. |
| 9. Maulavi Syed Abdur Rouf. | 26. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman. |
| 10. Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahab Chaudhury. | 27. Col. A. B. Beddow. |
| 11. Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali. | 28. Mr. A. H. Ball. |
| 12. Maulavi Ashrafuddin Md. Chaudhury. | 29. Mr. F. W. Blennerhassett. |
| 13. Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed. | 30. Mr. J. R. Clayton. |
| 14. Khan Bahadur Dewan Eklmur Roza Chaudhury. | 31. Mr. W. R. Faull. |
| 15. Maulavi Ghyasuddin Ahmed. | 32. Mr. F. W. Hockenhull. |
| 16. Maulavi Jahanuddin Ahmed. | 33. Mr. W. J. Gray. |
| 17. Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Choudhury. | 34. Mr. D. B. H. Moore. |
| | 35. Mr. R. A. Palmer. |
| | 36. Srijut Binode Kumar J. Sarwan. |
| | 37. Rev. L. Gatphoh. |
| | 38. Mr. C. Goldsmith, |

Noes—56

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|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. The Hon'ble Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi. | 25. Srijut Jogeschandra Gohain. |
| 2. The Hon'ble Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed. | 26. Babu Kalachand Roy. |
| 3. The Hon'ble Babu Kamini Kumar Sen. | 27. Srijut Kameswar Das. |
| 4. The Hon'ble Srijut Ramnath Das. | 28. Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy. |
| 5. The Hon'ble Babu Akshay Kumar Das. | 29. Mr. Kedarmal Brahmin. |
| 6. The Hon'ble Maulavi Md. Ali Haidar Khan. | 30. Srijut Krishna Nath Sarma. |
| 7. The Hon'ble Srijut Rupnath Brahma. | 31. Srijut Lakshesvar Borooah. |
| 8. The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali. | 32. Babu Lalit Mohan Kar. |
| 9. Kumar Ajit Narayan Dev. | 33. Srijut Mahadev Sarma. |
| 10. Mr. Arun Kumar Chanda. | 34. Srijut Mahi Chandra Bora. |
| 11. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee. | 35. Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta. |
| 12. Srijut Beliram Das. | 36. Srijut Omeo Kumar Das. |
| 13. Srijut Bepin Chandra Medhi. | 37. Rai Bahadur Promode Chandra Dutt. |
| 14. Srijut Bhuban Chandra Gogoi. | 38. Srijut Purandar Sarma. |
| 15. Babu Bipin Behari Das. | 39. Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma. |
| 16. Srijut Bishnu Ram Medhi. | 40. Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya. |
| 17. Babu Dakshinaranjan Gupta Chaudhuri. | 41. Srijut Rajani Kanta Barooah. |
| 18. Srijut Debeswar Sarmah. | 42. Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua. |
| 19. Srijut Ghanashyam Das. | 43. Srijut Sankar Chandra Barua. |
| 20. Srijut Gauri Kanta Talukdar. | 44. Srijut Sarveswar Barua. |
| 21. Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan. | 45. Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma. |
| 22. Babu Harendra Narayan Chaudhuri. | 46. Maulavi Dewan Ali Raja. |
| 23. Srijut Jadav Prasad Chaliha. | 47. Maulavi Muhammad Amir-uddin. |
| 24. Srijut Jogendra Chandra Nath. | 48. Mr. Benjamin Ch. Momin. |
| | 49. Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das. |
| | 50. Srijut Bideshi Pan Tanti. |
| | 51. Srijut Dhirsingh Deuri. |
| | 52. Mr. Jobang D. Marak. |
| | 53. Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy. |
| | 54. Srijut Karka Dalay Miri. |
| | 55. Srijut Khorsing Terang. |
| | 56. Srijut Rabi Chandra Kachari. |

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Order, order. Ayes 38 and Noes 56. The motion is lost. (Maulvi Ashrafuddin Md. Chaudhury : *(Hear, hear)*)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : What is there in the announcements of the Chair that one hon. member should say 'hear, hear'? What does he mean by that? Will the hon. member explain?

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : It was not directed to the Chair.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The hon. member should be careful. When the Chair was announcing the result he said 'hear, hear'. The result announced is not in favour of the hon. member. It is against his party.

The motion was negatived, ✓

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move—

“That the provision of Rs.2,15,000 under Grant No. 1, Major head 7.—Land Revenue, Minor head—Charges of Administration—A.—General Establishment, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 29 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.27,97,600 do stand reduced by Rs. 100 ”

Sir, in moving this motion at the outset I may be allowed to remark that the Government is in charge of the administration of two private estates in the district of Goalpara under the Court of Wards; one is Bijni and the other is Mechpara. The rest are privately managed estates, though the tenants of which were also affected by the floods. During the discussion of this motion I shall chiefly confine my remarks to the flood-affected tenants of these two estates alone, with the administration of which the Government is directly concerned, and also allude to the miserable condition of the flood-affected tenants of other estates along with them.

This House is well aware, Sir, that during the last monsoon months the river Brahmaputra was in high flood. The hill-streams that feed this river were also over-flooded.

The whole of the Assam Valley and the riparian lands went under water. The flood was very much unexpected and it came at a time when the cultivators were not in a position to collect their crops from their fields. There was, Sir, a draught due to want of rains and the cultivators, as a matter of fact, had no opportunity or rather could not sow their crops in time. They had to wait for a considerable time for sowing their crops. Practically the sowing was done a bit late and before the cultivators could reap their crops untimely the flood came. It was so sudden that the cultivators could not collect their crops from the fields. They were taken by surprise and in course of three or four days the whole field of the cultivators was inundated. Their houses were sunk and they had to remove within a very short time their cattle and other belongings to high lands. Before they could settle in other places the flood receded to a certain extent and the cultivators hoped that it will gradually sink and so they remained in their old home for some-time. But unfortunately another flood came in quick succession. So Sir, they had no opportunity of sowing any crop till then. The whole fields were again inundated and these tenants were rendered helpless. Sir, in this way, in quick succession the tenants experienced four floods by which they were rendered absolutely helpless. Everybody knows that the tenants, particularly the tenants of Goalpara were very much hard hit owing to these floods. Government sanctioned certain agricultural loans. And though through the doings of local officers and their men on the spot the sanction remained only in paper as a means of the Congress propaganda, a major portion of it remained undistributed. Local officers distributed rice. Mr. R. L. Ujir, Manager, Mechpara, did commendably good work, but Mr. R. K. Sarma, Manager, Bijni, is reported to have given rice from Abhayapuri and Jogighopa centres only one day during the course of 4 months of acute flood-distress. The poor people had to depend upon the alms and rice distributed by the local officers. For sometime they had to depend on others, and till considerable time later, they had to depend upon manual labour in town areas far away from their home. That too was found quite insufficient to meet their daily needs. They were in abject condition of misery, and they did not know how to eke out their existence. For five or six continuous

months, these tenants had nothing to fall back upon. They had to part with their whole resources such as plough cattle and other belongings. As we know, Sir, Goalpara is the largest jute growing area, and the people of that place generally fall back upon their major crop like jute for paying their annual rent. But, Sir, it was a time when jute crop was also destroyed along with *Bau* and *Ashu*. The jute crop having been destroyed, they were in difficulty to pay their rent. Herein I may mention, Sir, that during the last two or three years there was a general slump of jute market. I may also be permitted to say in this connection that Government is in certain way responsible for a general slump of jute in Assam Valley districts. As I have said, my district of Goalpara is the largest jute growing district of the province, but most part of it cannot sell their jute locally. As the cultivators do not find any market for jute in Assam, they have got to pass on to Sairchabari—a place which is away from Assam. As soon as the jute are taken to Sairchabari, they are passed as Bengal jute. Consequently coupled with cost of transport, it fetches either no price or less price than what the Bengal jute would fetch. The attention of the Government was drawn to this particular fact times without number that there is considerable difficulty for marketing of jute, and that the Marketing Officer ought to be more vigilant about this. During the last cold weather the senior Marketing Officer Mr. A. S. Low from the Government of India visited that district and we had the opportunity of telling him there that we have got no good market for our jute and that we have always got to take our jute to Bengal where it is passed as Bengal jute and under above circumstances it fetches less price.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: For how many minutes more the hon. member will speak?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: I will speak for five minutes more.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member has already spoken for ten minutes.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: I would crave your hospitality to allow me to speak for sometime more.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: My hospitality is to be well-rationed. (*Laughter* from all sides of the House).

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: This hospitality will give bread to my hungry flood-affected people, Sir.

ADJOURNMENT

The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 2 p.m.

After Lunch

The Assembly reassembled after lunch at 2 p.m.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before lunch I wanted to detail that jute, the principal crop having been destroyed, left no margin for payment of land revenue. So jute is gone, *Ashu* and *Bao* are gone. The poor cultivators have been reduced to a helpless plight. They have, for want, sold away their plough cattle; they have sold away their utensils; some of them have sold away their children for dire want.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Will the hon. member please explain how they sold away their children? It is indeed a very startling information.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: I will explain like this—a child born of a mother has been sold away for price. There is not one, but several instances which have occurred in the Goalpara district.

Srijut BELIRAM DAS: What was the age of the child?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: He is much younger to the hon. questioner.

So, Sir, one fact to which I wanted to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Revenue Minister is the activities of Congress along with Moslem League in the distribution of flood relief in Goalpara. Goalpara Local Board gave Rs.1,000 to the relief fund organised by Congress for distribution among the flood-stricken people of our subdivision. That too proved inadequate. The distress was so wide-spread and varied that all resources tapped, failed to rise equal to the occasion. So, Sir, it was with a ray of hope that we looked up for succour when Congress came in power. We naturally hoped that they will see that these flood-stricken people in my district are no longer sufferers for want of food, and harassed for payment of rents. As they are completely done for.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member has spoken for double the time.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: I will shorten my speech.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member has not yet come to the point.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: This is a very important measure, Sir. Flood-affected tenants of my district have nothing to fall back upon. Principal crops having been destroyed, other belongings having been sold, nothing has been left for paying their rent. Distress is daily in the increase.

Thousands of people are affected. The flood-affected tenants of Goalpara have approached the Government by representations during the last visit of the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister that they wanted remission of rent. At this stage may I say that as he has recently paid a visit to the district and has seen the condition of the peasantry. I hope he will prevail upon his Government to see that the payment of rent at least of those estates, over which he has got control will be remitted. With these words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs.2,15,000 under Grant No.1, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, Minor head—Charges of Administration—A—General Establishment, Sub-head—1.—Pay of officers (total), at page 29 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.27,97,600 do stand reduced by Rs.100.”

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA: মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, আমার মাননীয় বন্ধুপ্রবর মৌলভী আমজাদ আলী সাহেব যে ছাটাই প্রস্তাব আনয়ন করিয়াছেন তাহা আমি সমর্থন করি এবং তদসম্পর্কে কিছু বলিতে চাই। গত কয়েক বৎসর যাবৎ উপর্যুপরি অকাল বর্ষায় গোয়ালপাড়া জিলায় ব্রহ্মপুত্রভেলীর স্থান সমূহে প্রজার আবাদি শস্যাদি সম্পূর্ণ নষ্ট হইয়া আসিতেছে এবং গত বৎসর সময় মত বৃষ্টি না হওয়ায় ঠিক সময়ে কৃষকেরা শস্য রোপন করিতে পারে নাই। তৎপর শস্য ছোট থাকিতেই অত্যধিক বৃষ্টি হওয়ায় ব্রহ্মপুত্রের জল হঠাৎ বাড়িয়া গিয়া সেই সমস্ত শস্য ডুবিয়া পচিয়া নষ্ট হইয়া গিয়াছে। ব্রহ্মপুত্রের দক্ষিণ পারে যে সমস্ত স্থান উচু ছিল ব্রহ্মপুত্রের স্রোতে সেই সমস্ত স্থান ভাঙ্গিয়া

শীত হইয়া পান প্রাণিত হইয়া ভিতরে যে সমস্ত শস্ত কৃষকদের ছিল তাহা সমস্তই ধ্বংস হইয়া গিয়াছে। এষ্ট অঞ্চলের সমস্ত কৃষকদের বাড়ী ঘর ডুবিয়া গিয়াছিল, ফলে তাহাদের গরু বাছুর, ঘর দরজা এবং অপরাপর সমস্ত জিনিষ ভাসিয়া গিয়াছে। তাহার পর পাট, আশুধান, আমনধান সব শস্তই ডুবিয়া নষ্ট হইয়াছে। আশুধান তাহারা কিছুমাত্র সংগ্রহ করিতে পারে নাই। পাট এবং অন্যান্য শস্ত যাহাব দ্বারা কৃষকের পয়সা উপার্জনের একমাত্র অবলম্বন তাহাও ডুবিয়া এবং পচিয়া যাওয়ায় তাহারা কিছুই সংগ্রহ করিতে পারে নাই। আশুধানের সঙ্গে যে আমনধান বপন করা হয় সেই ধানও অধিক দিন জলে ডুবিয়া থাকায় পচিয়া গিয়াছে। তৎপর ঐ অঞ্চলে যে সমস্ত জমি আবাদের উপযুক্ত ছিল যেখানে আবাদ করিয়া কৃষকেরা শস্ত পাইত সেই সমস্ত জমিতেও ব্রহ্মপুত্রের ঢালায় বালু পড়িয়া মরুভূমিতে পরিণত হইয়াছে। প্রজার বাড়ী ঘর নষ্ট হওয়ায়, ও শস্যাদি নষ্ট হওয়ায় তাহাদের জীবন ধারণের কোন উপায় না থাকায় গবর্নমেন্টের নিকট অনেক আবেদন নিবেদন পেশ করা হইয়াছিল। ফলে গবর্নমেন্ট যে সাহায্য দিয়াছিলেন তাহার দ্বারা সকলের বেশীদিন জীবন ধারণের কোন ব্যবস্থাই হয় নাই ফলে অনাহারে থাকিয়া অখাদ্য কুখাদ্য যেমন কাঁচা কলা, কাঁচা কচু, কচুডাটা, কলাগাছ, কলাগাছের মোথা এবং কচুরীর ডাটা পর্য্যন্ত অনেকে সিন্ধ করিয়া খাইয়াছে এবং তদ্রূপ অকালে মৃত্যুমুখে পতিত হইয়াছে। অত্যধিক বর্ষার সময়ের শেষ অবস্থায় গবর্নমেন্টের পক্ষ হইতে জীবন রক্ষার জন্য প্রাপ্ত নৌকা দিয়া সেই সমস্ত মানুষ ও গরু গারো হিলে উচু স্থানে পান করিয়া দেওয়া হইয়াছিল সেই সময় গরু রক্ষা করিবার জন্য সামান্য ভূমি দানা ইত্যাদি গরুকে খাইবার জন্য যাহা দেওয়া হইয়াছিল পেটের জ্বালায় সেই সমস্তই কতিপয় ক্ষুধার্ত মানুষ খাইয়াছিল এবং তাহার ফলে কলেরা এবং অন্যান্য সংক্রামক পীড়ায় বহু প্রজা প্রাণ হারাইয়াছে এবং এখনও হারাইতেছে।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: আপনার পাঁচ মিনিট হইয়া গিয়াছে।

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA: আমি আরো কিছু বলবো। আমরা গোয়ালপাড়া জিলার প্রজাদের দুর্দশার কথা বলিবার সুবিধা পাই না তাহাদের কোনই উপকার হইতেছে না সেই জন্য আরোও কিছু বলিতে চাই।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: গবর্নমেন্ট যে remission দেন নাই সেই কথাই বলুন। গবর্নমেন্ট remission না দেওয়ায় প্রজার যে অসুবিধা হইয়াছে কেবল সেই কথাই বলুন।

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA: তারপর পরক্ষা ধানের বীজ পরপর ৩.৪ বার যাহা বুনানী করা হইয়াছিল উপর্যুপরি তিনবার বর্ষায় তাহা সমস্তই নষ্ট হইয়া গিয়াছে এবং রবিশস্ত্র যাহা কিছু হইয়াছিল তাহাও কীট পতঙ্গে সমস্তই নষ্ট করিয়া ফেলিয়াছে। প্রজার কোনরূপ উপায় বা সংস্থান নাই যদ্বারা স্ত্রীপুত্র লইয়া জীবন ধারণ করিতে পারে এবং

এখন কোন কাজ কর্তৃক তাহারাও পায় না, যাহা দ্বারা নিজেদের প্রাণ বাঁচাতে পারে। কিম্বা এমন কোন সম্ভাবনাও নাই যাহাতে ঐ জমিতে পুনরায় শস্ত আবাদ করিয়া পরিবার প্রতিপালন করিতে পারে। এই সমস্ত জানিয়া শুনিয়াও Ward State হইতে যে প্রকারে গরীব প্রজার খাজানা আদায়ের ব্যবস্থা করা হইয়াছে তাহাতে প্রজার বাঁচিয়া থাকা অসম্ভব হইয়া পড়িয়াছে এবং বাধা হইয়া তাহাদের অন্য জায়গায় চলিয়া যাইতে হইতেছে। তাহারা জমিদারের পূর্ক বকেয়া খাজানা দিতে পারে নাই। এই বৎসরের খাজানাও দিতে অক্ষম। বর্তমান বর্ষের বকেয়া খাজানা এবং গত বৎসরের খাজানা প্রজাদের দিবার ক্ষমতা একেবারেই নাই এই জন্য সেই সমস্ত পূর্ক বাকী খাজানা এবং বর্তমান ১৩৪৫ সনের বৎসরের জমিদারের প্রাপ্য খাজানা মাফ হওয়া একান্ত দরকার।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : জমিদারের খাজানা মাফ হওয়ার কথা এখানে নাই। এখানে কথা হচ্ছে গবর্ণমেন্টের রেভিনিউ। জমিদারের খাজানা এক কথা, গবর্ণমেন্ট রেভিনিউ অন্য কথা।

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA : আমি ওয়ার্ড ষ্টেটের কথা বলিতেছি।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : ওয়ার্ড ষ্টেটের অন্য কথা। এখানে যে বিষয়ের আলোচনা করিবার জন্য নোটিশ দেওয়া হইয়াছে তাহাতে গবর্ণমেন্ট রেভিনিউ কেন মাফ দেওয়া হয় নাই—সেই কথা ছাড়া অন্য কথা আসে না।

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA : গবর্ণমেন্ট জমিদারদের খাজানা মাফ দিলেই জমিদার প্রজার খাজানা মাফ দিতে পারে। খাজানা মাপ দিবার জন্য যদি জমিদারকে বলা হয় তাহা হইলে জমিদার বলিবে যে “গবর্ণমেন্ট মাফ না দিলে আমরা কি করিয়া মাফ দিব।” কাজেই জমিদারদের খাজানা মাফ দিয়া প্রজাদের খাজানা মাফের ব্যবস্থা করা একান্ত দরকার।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : তাহা হইলে বলুন জমিদারকে খাজানা মাপ দিতে হইবে।

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to support this motion.

Sir, here I find a motion for not granting remission of land revenue to tenants of Goalpara. My hon. friend Maulavi Amjad Ali has referred mainly to the estates managed by the Government under the Court of Wards, but I will go a bit further. I think it should cover the Khas Mahal areas of the district under the Government. Sir, you are perhaps aware that Guma and Latka mauzas of the district are managed by the Government — both of them are temporarily-settled areas. Guma mauza is being washed away every year by the Gangadhar, and last year a sudden onrush of water inundated a large portion of that area as a result of which the tenants totally lost their crops. As this area is the farthest part of Assam,

perhaps this Government did not think it proper to take any information of that area. Everyone who knows that locality, knows how difficult it is to reach that locality. It has Bhutan on one side, and Cooch Bihar and Jalpaiguri on the other side. Communication there is very bad and it is very inaccessible and no one can get there easily during the rainy season. Lots of tenants of that area suffer terribly almost every year. During the repeated floods of last year they lost jute and *ashu* crops. I find from the reports of the Government that in the Barpeta Subdivision Government have given remission of land revenue to those areas which were very badly affected by flood.

Next I would refer to Latka mauza, which area was inundated by the water of Gadadhar. This mauza is very small in area, but the people living there experienced great difficulty owing to the fact that they lost their crops totally and are unable to pay their land revenue. Sir, you know how the Government is jealous over the realisation of land revenue; they issue distress warrants and without caring for the loss of the tenants they attach cattle and implements for the realisation of the revenue. The Government had neglected to give any sort of remission in that area and I do not see why Government should apply that principle in some cases — why they should give remission in one area and exclude another.

With these few words I support the motion of my hon. friend Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this motion of my hon. friend Maulavi Amjad Ali, and would like to speak a few words about the sufferings of the tenants of the Goalpara district under the management of the Government.

Sir, as has been stated by my hon. friends Maulavi Amjad Ali, Maulavi Matior Rahman and Maulavi Ghyasuddin Ahmed, you all know how severe a flood it was last year which spread over the district of Goalpara. Sir, as has been mentioned by my hon. friend Mr. Amjad Ali that there were four successive floods due to which crops of the tenants were totally lost and the people had nothing and still have nothing to pay the revenue of the Government. So far as I remember, the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Revenue gave us an assurance in the last session that he would give remission of land revenue to those flood-affected areas, but up till now we do not see if he has made any attempt to fulfill his promise. Sir, it is very deplorable on the part of the Government who claim to be the friends of the poor tenants to find that up till now they have done nothing to give the poor tenants of our district some remission in the land revenue. I will also mention here the area of Gosaigaon circle and also some portion of Kokrajhar and Bijni which are under the management of the Government under Sidli Tahsil office and Gosaigaon Tahsil office. Here transplanted paddy is the main source of agricultural produce. As you know, Sir, the rainy season of the last year came late and it also lasted late. So the people of these areas who mainly depend on the transplanted paddy could not get their crop as it was flooded over rapidly by the floods.

As regards some portion of the Garo Hills District, I will also mention here that this portion is also under the management of the Government and you know that this is the portion on the south bank of the Brahmaputra river. From Goalpara down to Mankachar the whole of the Brahmaputra was flooded over. The Government have up till now made no provision at all to give relief to the people of this area.

Here, I would like to say something about the distribution of relief in Chapra and Bilashipara. Sir, the distribution of relief mainly depended on the Estate officers. I myself approached the Deputy Commissioner

of our district several times to put some Government officers in charge of the distribution of relief in those two areas. But, Sir, only for a week a Sub-Deputy Collector was placed in charge of that area and the Deputy Commissioner said that the Government was unable to provide any officer for distribution of the relief in those two areas because, as you know, all the Estate officers were against distribution of any relief because by that they would not be able to show to the Government that the sufferings of the tenants were not severe. That means the Estate officers did not like to show the suffering of the tenants so that they may not find difficulty in realising the rent.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I hope the hon. member will finish.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : All right, Sir, I will finish. Sir, the distribution of relief was hopeless in those two centres. Now when the flood has gone down the people somehow or other managed to sow their winter crops, but unfortunately these crops were also eaten up by insects in various places of the district and the people of those areas have absolutely nothing. So, as the Hon'ble Minister of Revenue promised to give more relief to the flood-affected areas, I hope he will keep his word and give them adequate relief. With these words I support the motion.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Mr. Speaker, Sir, excepting for a few references that have been made by my hon. friend Mr. Ghyasuddin Ahmed, I have not been able to follow the purpose for which this motion has been sponsored. As you will see, Sir, it was intended to criticise the policy of the Government for not granting remission of land revenue in Goalpara to the flood-affected tenants of that district. I think, the hon. mover, who has moved this motion and also other members who have supported him, will agree that the only revenue which the Government gets from this district is either from the *khas* land or from the land which is permanently settled with the zamindars. The revenue for the latter is realised by the Government not from the tenants but from the zamindars who have been given the settlement. I am surprised that the hon. member should come forward with such a motion when he knows fully well that under Article VI of the Permanent Settlement Regulations I of 1793 the Zamindars cannot claim any remission on account of inundation or any other calamity unless and until that law is changed. Now with regard to the matter to which our attention has been drawn by Mr. Ghyasuddin Ahmed, I am not wrong in saying that generally the area, which was affected by the Brahmaputra flood was a permanently settled one and not the one covering *khas* lands.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED : On a point of information, Sir, I said that it was affected by the Gangadhar.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Now, Sir, two mauzas have been mentioned by him as requiring attention and consideration of the Government. It is the policy of this Government that people settled in temporarily-settled areas or possessing lands direct under Government, if they have been affected by floods, land revenue should then get suspension, if on enquiry it is found that they have been affected by floods and deserve such consideration. The same principle will apply to the tenants of the mauzas mentioned by the hon. member.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : May I know when the enquiry will be held ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I should like to add that before the remission is given, revenue collection must be suspended; after the year is closed and an enquiry into individual cases has been made the remission of land revenue in such cases as are found to be deserving of consideration will be given. I hope in view of the position explained by me the hon. mover will withdraw his motion?

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: May I know whether there are Government *khas* lands in Sidli and other estates?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I have already stated that the areas affected by floods were mostly permanently-settled areas and as far as our information goes no *khas* land was very badly affected by the flood. But if specific instances are brought to the notice of Government, we are prepared to make an enquiry and give remission in deserving cases.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister enquire whether the areas near the Manas river, Ai, Champamati and Gangadhar rivers were affected by floods?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I have nothing more to add, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister has already given his reply. He says that he is making enquiry. He is not as yet aware.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: When will the enquiry be finished? We want reduction just now when the people are suffering.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Can the Hon'ble Minister give any idea?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Sir, we have to rely on the reports sent to us by the local officers; and as far as we are concerned no such information has yet been given to us by the local officers or by the members concerned that *khas* areas have been affected by floods. Now the hon. member Mr. Ghyasuddin Ahmed has drawn my attention to two mauzas and I have given him the assurance that Government will make enquiries if these two mauzas have in fact been affected by floods.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: I am anxious also to know the Revenue Minister's attitude towards the flood-affected tenants of Bijni and Mechpara Court of Wards because they are directly under his management and he knows the condition of the tenants of these two estates and I want to know whether any relief to the sufferers in remission of rent is possible and whether he would do it.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Does the motion relate to rents, Sir?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Even in spite of that may I know that, Sir?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does the Hon'ble Minister wish to say anything in reply?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Sir, in the case of tenants who are under the management of the Court of Wards, I have already enunciated the principle that suspension must precede remission. If on enquiry, it is found that there are some persons who have been badly affected by floods, the collection of revenue in those cases will be suspended. After the close of the year the matter will be enquired into again for the purpose of considering the question of remission.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: If I correctly understand him, the position is this, that the collection of rent in these estates has been suspended until the enquiry is finished?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: No.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Then?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: In deserving cases rent will have to be suspended, and after the close of the year the question of remission will be taken up.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: With the assurance given by Government, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

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

Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: I rise to a point of order, Sir. You have made it a rule to allow the economic cut motions to be moved first. But I would like to draw your attention to the nature and gravity of urgency of the other cut motions and request you to give preference to those cut motions also which relate to matters of urgent public importance.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: All motions are censure motions now. The hon. member will consult the lists. There are only two cut motions which have different object and the others are all censure motions. Therefore, I should proceed according to the value of the motions.

Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: Amongst the other cut motions my motion No.20 relates to matters of urgent public importance and as such my motion may be given preference over the rest.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Even with regard to cut motions, I am not required to take into consideration which motion is of urgent public importance. I am to proceed according to the rules which says that I should proceed according to the arrangements in the Budget.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: I want also to raise a point of order as the one raised by Dr. Saikia.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I am not able to understand the hon. member.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: I want to clear one other matter, Sir. So far as I remember, if I remember aright, you also gave the ruling about the value of cut motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: Then preference will be given to those whose motions carry a higher value and so on?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I am proceeding in that way.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: As regards Dr. Saikia's motion, it was for reduction by Rs.101 and the others are for reduction by Rs. 100.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member will please look to the rule. Dr. Saikia's motion relates to Minor head (f); I am now in Minor head (a).

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: All right, Sir.

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED: I beg to move—

That the provision of Rs.2,15,000 under Grant No.1, Major head—

7—Land Revenue, Minor head—Charges of Administration—

A.—General Establishment, Sub-head—I.—Pay of officers (total),

at page 29 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount

of the whole grant of Rs.27,97,600 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

The object of my motion is to criticise the policy of Government for not having been able to control the Sub-Deputy Collector of Kalaigaon circle in the Mangaldai subdivision, who has refused settlement of land to the

Muslims. Sir, there are a great number of Muslim residents in the village of Muslim Ghopa in mauza Rainakuchi of the Mangaldai subdivision. The population of this village will be about 1,500, and they are indigenous people. These people have got a very small area of land for cultivation, the produce of which goes hardly towards the maintenance of themselves and their families. The lands which are available and suitable for cultivation in the subdivision have been almost settled by outsiders and some people of this village wanted to hold *pura* in some part of the Kalaigaon Circle. With this view some 30 people went to Kalaigaon Circle to open out land. They opened up the land and erected their sheds thereon. Then one fine morning the Sub-Deputy Collector went to the spot and told them that the land is not meant for the Muslims. When they were told like that, the people had to go away from the place. If the land had been reserved for some other purposes, the people would have had no objection. But the fact is that some outsiders are actually opening up the land there, and they have not been told anything by the Sub-Deputy Collector. The people who have come in are Namasudras and they have come from Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. But these indigenous people, when they went there, were not allowed to settle and had to return. This is the grievance which I want to ventilate by my motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut motion moved:—

“That the provision of Rs.2,15,000 under Grant No.I, Major head—

7.—Land Revenue, Minor head—Charges of Administration—A.—General Establishment, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 29 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.27,97,600 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this motion moved by my hon. friend Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed. Sir, I have in my budget speech referred to certain facts which relate to the event which occurred in this circle of the Mangaldai subdivision. The Hon'ble Premier during his autumn tour in the district of Goalpara on his way from Dhubri to Goalpara, I know that several persons saw him in various Steamer-ghats. These persons were rendered homeless during the last flood. They lost all their crops and their plough cattle also during the flood. These people represented to the Hon'ble Premier, who took pity on them and remarked that the south bank was doomed forever and they should find out places in the north bank for their shelter and living. Accordingly, a large number of people from the south bank, all of them Muslims, went in search of land to various places in the north bank. My information is that about 200 families went to Kalaigaon Circle for land. There they found suitable lands unoccupied, and also that settlement was going on. So they approached the Sub-Deputy Collector for the purpose, but they were refused settlement.

I do not know what is the policy of Government as regards settlement of land. If it is the declared policy of Government not to give any settlement of land to those who migrate from other provinces, then I would say that this principle cannot be applied to those people who are natives of this province. Sir, is it because that these persons are Muhammadans and therefore they were refused settlement? If it is so then it is deplorable. These people when they lost everything are entitled to protection from Government of this province. But the way in which these people have been treated is nothing short of cruelty. The result was that these two hundred families had to return bag-and-baggage to their original homes, where they found that their fields were covered with sand.

I remember to have heard from a gentleman who met the Hon'ble Premier on his way to Tura only a very short time back that the latter remarked that a permanent fund shall have to be raised to help these people in these areas. If Government think that the people are really suffering for want of suitable land, I do not understand why settlement of land was refused to these two hundred families. With these few words, Sir, I support the motion.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the motion before the House raises a very important issue, namely, the policy of Government that has been adopted with regard to settlement of land with the indigenous people and the immigrants. The circle about which the hon. mover made mention is Kalaigaon. In the course of the enquiry of the Line System Committee we had a lot of information regarding this circle. We were told that there was a large tract of land lying waste in that circle, which might be settled with future settlers. Now the point which has been raised by my hon. friend is this, that in spite of there being large tracts of land lying waste, when the indigenous people went there they were refused settlement. On the contrary some outsiders coming from outside the province have been allowed occupation of these lands. The other day the Hon'ble Finance Minister said that the question is wholly an economical one and he proposed to deal with that question in that way. Now may I ask the Hon'ble Finance Minister if it is his view because the indigenous people have got their own land in a particular area that they should be refused settlement elsewhere? Is it the policy of Government to give preference to the foreigners to indigenous people? If that be the policy, then surely Government should be censured for adopting such a policy, because we have been hearing all the time and we have been accustomed to think that the indigenous people have got the right of preference in the matter of settlement of lands? Of course, if the facts which have been stated by the hon. mover be true then only this question arises. I hope the Hon'ble Finance Minister will be pleased to make an inquiry and if the facts as stated are found to be true then it will be up to Government to declare their policy with regard to the settlement of land with the indigenous people.

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to say only a word or two by way of supporting this motion. It is well-known to this House that some 15 or 20 villages in the Barpeta subdivision have been engulfed in the bosom of the Brahmaputra. A portion of that subdivision has been washed away by the recent flood. The inhabitants of some of these villages came to know that lands were available in Kalaigaon circle in Mangaldai subdivision and went to that side. They, however, heard that the Namasudra immigrants from Bengal were being allowed to settle there. They naturally thought that there should be no distinction between immigrants and immigrants only on the ground that one section was Hindu and the other section Muhammadan.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: There were both Muhammadans and Hindus? (*voices*:—Yes).

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF: It was found, Sir, that people from the west Bengal were given settlement there. These people were mostly tea garden coolies and therefore 95 per cent. of them, if not more, were Hindus. This Kalaigaon circle is not within the colonisation area. This area is not also closed to the immigrants. The Sub-Deputy Collector of that circle found that he had no right to realise premium from these immigrants and

therefore he did not think it worth-while or wise to allow settlement to the immigrants from this subdivision though some of them have settled in this province for the last 15 or 20 years. By the middle of September these immigrants returned from that place disappointed. Of course, it is not a new thing in the history of Assam. During the Line Inquiry Committee and on many other occasions, we have found that though it is not the open policy of Government, the secret policy of Government is there to create trouble and Lines among the Hindus and the Muhammadans. Sir, it has been advocated by the Congress people that it is not their intention to view anything from the communal point of view, but Sir, fact remains as they are and we are bound to say that such things are happening not only here but in other parts of the province too. I would, therefore, earnestly request the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Revenue to see whether really injustice is being done to the Muhammadan community as a whole, irrespective of the fact whether they are immigrants or not.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI*: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hope the Hon'ble Revenue Minister will kindly accept the suggestion of Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman in making inquiry in this matter. I would also request him to take into consideration two points at the time of making the inquiry. Firstly, he will please inquire whether these lands for which this motion is moved were reserved for foreigners or it was open for settlement to anybody who may come and ask for the land. If it was reserved for foreigners then this motion has absolutely no value, but if it was open for settlement to anybody then Government will please consider whether the Sub-Deputy Collector was justified in telling the people who were Muhammadans that this land was not intended for the Assamese Muhammadans. If the land was open for settlement and if the Assamese Muhammadans went there, then has the Sub-Deputy Collector any right to tell them that the land was not meant for them and to settle the land with the foreigners? This is the point which I would press upon the Hon'ble Finance Minister to inquire. If it be found that the Assamese Muhammadans went there first and that the Sub-Deputy Collector settled the land with the foreigners in preference to the Assamese Muhammadans, then I hope Government will kindly take action against the Sub-Deputy Collector. (*Voices from the Congress Benches*:—Surely).

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE*: Let us know whether you oppose or support the motion.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: The hon. member may infer from my speech whether I support or oppose the motion.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the motion before the House has been moved to criticise Government for not controlling a certain Sub-Deputy Collector. The hon. member who has moved this motion and also those who have spoken in its favour, know it fully well that the settlement of lands is given under the Land Settlement Regulation according to which the power of giving settlement of lands, rests with the Deputy Commissioner and not with the Sub-Deputy Collector. If there is any foundation in the complaints that some persons belonging to the constituency of Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed have not been given settlement of particular plots, they should have appealed to the Deputy Commissioner, Commissioner and the Revenue Tribunal.

*Speech not corrected.

Sir, I would have expected the hon. member to approach me after he had failed to get the remedy in the normal and usual way. I can, however, assure the hon. members of this House that as far as the policy of this Government goes in relation to the question of settlement of land between the immigrants and indigenous persons preference will be given to the indigenous people, whether they are Hindus or Muhammadans (*hear, hear!*). There can be no question of discrimination; we have passed no such orders that the land should be given to an individual on consideration of communal grounds. I would wish the hon. member, who has made this charge against the Sub-Deputy Collector, to come forward with a petition to the Deputy Commissioner stating specifically all the facts of the allegations and to show, if called upon to do so, that the claim of indigenous people had been ignored by him. I can give this assurance Sir, that after this petition is filed and after the hon. member has proved those charges against the Sub-Deputy Collector, it will be my duty to take such action as Government may think necessary against the officer for flouting the orders of Government (*hear, hear!*) and on such vague charges as had been made, not only I but any one else in my position will feel diffident to take any action unless those charges are substantiated or proved. So, I would request the hon. member to mention those charges and prove them.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: On a point of information, Sir. Will the Hon'ble Minister kindly consent to enquire it personally?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Sir, I have no reason to disbelieve our local officers (*laughter from the Opposition Benches*). But if it is proved that justice has not been done by the Deputy Commissioner or the Commissioner, I am prepared to make an enquiry into the matter personally.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: On a point of information, Sir. Has the Hon'ble Revenue Minister any reason to disbelieve the hon. member Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I have no reason to disbelieve him, but I assert that no such facts have been brought to my notice, and even now the hon. member has failed to specify the particular charges against the Sub-Deputy Collector. That is my point. If the hon. member can specifically lay down these charges against the Sub-Deputy Collector concerned, proper enquiry will be made, and if he cannot get his remedy from the Deputy Commissioner he should refer the matter to me and I shall personally look into it. It is, however, unfortunate that charges of this nature are made so haphazardly.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: On a point of information, Sir. It may be that a petition before the Deputy Commissioner will be time-barred by this time. Therefore if it is placed before the Hon'ble Minister now will he kindly make an enquiry?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: A petition presented to the Deputy Commissioner, and involving the question of policy of Government, cannot be time-barred.

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Do I understand the Hon'ble Minister to say that the settlers, who have been refused settlement by the Sub-Deputy Collector, should appeal to the Deputy Commissioner first? The Deputy Commissioner is there to settle land, and not to declare the policy of Government. Would it not be better if Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed puts these facts in a petition and places it before the Hon'ble Revenue Minister for taking such action as he deems necessary?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Sir, as far as I could follow the discussions, the policy of Government was being criticised. I was given to understand that this Government had issued orders to the

local officers to give settlement of land on communal basis, and to discriminate one community against the other. I repudiate this charge. If the hon. member can show that the Sub-Deputy Collector has acted in that way, proper action will be taken against him.

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, the short note given by the hon. Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed in connection with this motion runs thus: "To criticise the policy of Government for not having been able to control the Sub-Deputy Collector of Kalaigaon Circle....., who has refused settlement of land to the Muslims". This clearly presupposes that Government order is for giving settlement, but the Sub-Deputy Collector has not carried out that order. Therefore no question of policy or settlement arises; the only thing with which the motion is concerned is the conduct of the Sub-Deputy Collector.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: How can the question of controlling the Sub-Deputy Collector arise when the charges levelled against him were not brought to our notice before this cut motion was moved in this House?

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: That is why I say it is no use going to the Deputy Commissioner or the Commissioner; it is a matter for Government. If the policy of Government had been carried out by the Sub-Deputy Collector, well and good, but if the policy of Government had not been carried out by him, and if it is true that people who are entitled to settlement were refused settlement, will the Hon'ble Minister make an enquiry and take such action as he deems fit?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Yes Sir, I shall make an enquiry if specific charges are brought to my notice.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Is not the order of the Sub-Deputy Collector, who refused settlement to certain persons, appealable?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Yes, Sir, it is appealable to the Deputy Commissioner, the Commissioner, and lastly to the Revenue Tribunal.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: In this particular case I wish to know whether that procedure was followed or not.

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, the Sub-Deputy Collector refused settlement to these people. They did not go to him or the Deputy Commissioner again because the land was settled with some other people. They represented this matter to Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed, who is the member of their constituency, with the request to bring it to the notice of the Government. The only thing that I want to know is whether Government is prepared to make an enquiry into the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: That will be done, but I wish the matter had been brought to my notice earlier.

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED: In view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Revenue Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

(The motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn).

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The next motion stands in the name of Babu Hirendra Chandra Chakravarty. Another similar motion, viz., motion No.5, stands in his name. These two motions want to discuss practically the same thing. I think, if he moves one motion his purpose will be served.

Babu HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, (*Ironical cheers from the Ministerialist Party*) there is a little difference. Though motion No.5 includes motion No.4, the latter is more specific than the former.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Very well, the hon. member may proceed.

Babu HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY : If you allow me, Sir, I will move one motion and refer to the other in course of my speech.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : All right.

Babu HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY : Sir, I beg to move.

“That the provision of Rs.2,15,000 under Grant No.1, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, Minor head—Charges of Administration—A.—General Establishment, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 29 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.50, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.27,97,600 do stand reduced by Rs.50.”

My object is, Sir, to criticise Government for not granting 50 per cent. reduction of Land Revenue for the year 1938-39, 1345 B. S. By my other motion, I wanted to criticise Government for unsatisfactory remission of land revenue.

Sir, this demand was put before the Government many times mostly by the members of the Congress group. Sir, it was only in the August session of 1937 that a resolution was moved by my friend, Srijut Siddhinath Sarma for 50 per cent. reduction of land revenue, and, Sir, as will be clear from the proceedings of that session, almost all the members of that group very eloquently and feelingly spoke supporting this motion. Sir, it will be clear from their speeches that the hon. members, who took part in the debate very sincerely felt that there is a necessity of 50 per cent. reduction. I may mention before the House that the present time is rather more critical than what it was in 1937. We all know that the country was visited by a devastating flood and that the condition of the people is very bad indeed ; and as a result, it has become impossible for the cultivators or *raiya*s to pay up their rent. Government ordered that the tenants would get remission of rent on the very proportion the landlord will get remission from Government. So, Sir, if the landlord gets 50 per cent. remission from Government, the landlord has also to give 50 per cent. remission or eight annas per rupee to his tenant. So, Sir, it is a question of not giving any relief to the landlord class only, but it is in fact a relief both to the landlords and tenants.

Sir, as regards the unsatisfactory remission, particularly in my district, I would like to draw the attention of the House to these figures. Sir, the previous Government granted remission to the extent of annas five per rupee for *pattas* up to Rs.12, but the present Government have ordered remission of annas five up to *patta* for Rs.8. So, Sir, *pattas* between Rs.8 and 12 are not getting that five annas remission. So the rate of remission has been reduced. Then, Sir, the former Government granted remission for *pattas* above Rs.12 of annas two, the present Government has granted remission for *pattas* above Rs.8 of annas three. *Pattas* above Rs.8 to Rs.12 used to get remission of annas five, whereas *pattas* above Rs.8 would get annas three now. So there is a distinct reduction of the remission.

I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Finance Minister that the rate of reduction should be enhanced and relief should be given to the people. Of course, I apprehend Government will say that it is impossible to grant eight annas reduction ; but I should like to say, when my friends opposite could feel that eight annas reduction per rupee was necessary previously, they should not now grudge that reduction and try to manage Government by curtailing expenditure. But even if they are unable to grant reduction

to that extent, they should at least try to enhance the rate of reduction to annas six or a like amount.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut motion moved :

“ That the provision of Rs.2,15,000, under Grant No.1, Major-head—7.—Land Revenue, Minor-head—Charges of Administration—A—General Establishment, Sub-head—1.—Pay of officers (total), at page 29 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.50, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.27,97,600 do stand reduced by Rs.50 ”.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, I rise to oppose this motion.

Sir, when my friend the mover of this cut motion stood to move his motion, I expected that he himself being a zemindar would cite his own example.....

Babu HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: I am not such a big zemindar as my friend is.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I expected he would say, that he has done this and that, being an ordinary zemindar and would request the extraordinary zemindar—I mean Government—to reduce rent accordingly. But, Sir, I was disappointed.

His first point was that of the rate which he has himself shown and that will clearly show that his arguments were most fallacious.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Does not my friend Babu Hirendra Chandra Chakravarty live in a temporarily-settled area? His zemindari land lies in the temporarily-settled area.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: My hon. friend had said, in his speech that previously up to Rs.12, the remission was five annas per rupee and now the remission is five annas per rupee up to Rs.8 and that previously above rupees twelve, annas two per rupee was granted, but now above Rs.8, annas three per rupee is granted. Sir, I would request my friend to calculate a bit cautiously so that he could find out the real position whether less as stated by him, than the previous year or more has been remitted during the year in question.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Hon. member has got only five minutes more and he should finish by that time.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Yes Sir, so I request my hon. friend that before he gives figures for criticising Government he should calculate the figures very cautiously and carefully so that he may not be criticised for his carelessness as it is in the present case.

Sir, my hon. friends have asked, what about 50 per cent. reduction? The present Government, while in Opposition, did never say that as soon as they would be in office, they would then and there grant 50 per cent. reduction. I challenge anybody who can show this kind of statement from this Government. But still for the satisfaction of my friends, though I am not in the Cabinet, I can say that I shall see that they give 50 per cent. of remission of land revenue. I am sure it will come, the gesture is there. The present Government have already given more than what the previous Government gave (question). Their idea is to give relief to the poor. They have got this much sense of duty.....

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: On a point of information, Sir. May I know if the Agriculture Income-tax Bill is passed, there will be a remission of 50 per cent. land revenue granted.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: When the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the portfolio will give a reply he will give my hon. friend the exact reply, but this much I can say as a member of the Coalition party that it is the policy of our Government that we must give a remission to the

extent of 50 per cent., but not in a day. We have shown the gesture, and as soon as Government are in a position, they will give this relief as sure as death.

Babu HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: On a point of information, Sir. He has not answered my query.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: If the hon. member wants to know about the 50 per cent. remission, I would remind him that Government is doing many more things besides the remission of land revenue, many things which the previous Government could not even imagine (*loud laughter*). The 50 per cent. remission has not been given in respect of land revenue, but if the new services rendered are considered along with the enhanced rate of remission of the year concerned, it will be found that it is not far below 50 per cent.

Babu HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: The hon. member has not answered my question.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: This is not a question period. Sir, if this be the idea of my hon. friends of the Opposition Bench that by giving 50 per cent. relief to the people of the temporarily-settled areas the duty of Government would be over, they are sadly mistaken. We, those who are on the side of Government want that Government should not only give this 50 per cent. remission but should also do many more things for nation-building purposes simultaneously with this remission.

Babu HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: On a point of information, Sir. The hon. member has said that Government are doing many more things. May we know what they are?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I would request the hon. member to go through the budget speech of the Hon'ble Minister, and to consult my budget speech also in which I mentioned these things. I think my hon. friend was asleep at that time or was absent from his seat.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member's time is up.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, I have said my say in brief and if you do not grant me any more time, I will take my seat without detailing them.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is really gratifying to see that some of the members of the Opposition have become imbued with the Congress ideal (*hear, hear!*). Although we have not been successful in having the consistent loyalty to the Congress pledge which some of them signed, we have the satisfaction to see that they are trying to follow in the footsteps of the Congress. I find my hon. friend Mr. Hirendra Chandra Chakravarty arguing vehemently in favour of 50 per cent. remission of land revenue. I thought as if scriptures were being cited from some unexpected and unaccustomed quarters. Sir, this Government, as the Budget will show, is trying its level best to redeem its election pledges. This year the remission that was granted in land revenue may not be 50 per cent., but it was certainly greater than what was granted by the previous Government (question). Besides this, remission has been granted for floods; add to this the relief granted as gratuitous relief, testwork, agricultural loans and all that. Then, there is the expensive scheme of prohibition. All this will go to show that although 50 per cent. remission has not been granted, they approximate to this amount by way of rebate granted in these shapes and the direct remissions taken together.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJI: Though not in cash, in kind.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: My hon. friend Mr. Chakravarty spoke something about the landlords giving a reduction. Even in respect of reduction in the last year's land revenue, there was a rule that

landlords would be entitled to remission on their granting the same to their tenants. The landlords took the benefit themselves. But has this provision been utilised in favour of tenants in his own subdivision ?

Babu HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: Certainly.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: On the other hand, I have got a report from the Hailakandi subdivision. The report is from the Secretary of the Kathlacherra Congress Committee (Speaking of a particular zemindary) it says.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member cannot utilise this statement unless he takes the responsibility for it.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: On a point of order, Sir. Is the hon. member prepared to take the responsibility of the truth of the statement which he is going to read ?

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: It is a report already published a few months ago, and it has not been contradicted.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: On a point of order, Sir. Are we allowed to quote from newspaper reports ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes, when the hon. member is prepared to take the responsibility, he can.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: “খাজনা দিয়া মধ্যে মধ্যে রসিদ পায়, খাজনার মধ্যে যে দাত্ত দেয় তার কোনও নিদর্শন পায় না। ইহার ফলে এই হয় যে জমিদার বাকী খাজনার নালিশ করিতে দাত্ত প্রাপ্তির কোন উল্লেখই করেন না। এই কারণেই এক এক জনের নিকট শত শত টাকা দাবী করা হইতেছে। অতি নিষ্ঠুরতার সহিত উৎপীড়ণ করা হয়।”

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is it relevant, Sir ? Is he entitled to criticise the private conduct of a gentleman while the motion before the House is about reduction of land revenue ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: He has made it relevant. He has started by saying that the zemindar has not granted remission to the tenants although it is the declared policy of Government that the zemindar who grants remission to his tenants will get remission. His point is that instead of granting remission a certain zemindar is conducting himself in such a way as has brought against him such allegations.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: “একদিকে গৃহ মধ্যে আসন্ন প্রসবা জীলোকের প্রসব বেদনা উপস্থিত অতৃদিকে জমিদারের আদেশে তাহারই লোকজন সেই গৃহখানাই ভাঙ্গিতেছে। গৃহস্বামী করুণা অর্দ্ধঘণ্টা সময় ভিক্ষা চাহিয়াও পায় নাই। এই খাজনার দায়েই জনৈক প্রজার কণ্ট্রাক্টের টাকা ক্রোকাবদ্ধ করিয়া রাখা হইয়াছে। বহু বৎসর যাবৎ প্রজাদের আকুল প্রার্থনায়ও জমি জরিপ করা হয় না—জোত অধিকারের অতিরিক্ত জমির খাজনা দিতে প্রজারা বাধ্য। নদীর দ্বারা বিলুপ্ত জমির পরিমাণ প্রজার হিসাব হইতে কর্তন করা হয় নাই। অনেকে জমিদার বাড়ীতে বা স্থানীয় কাছারীতে চাকরী করিয়া বেতন পায় নাই। প্রত্যেক উৎসবেই প্রত্যেক প্রজাকে জমিদার বাড়ীতে নানারূপ শাকসজ্জী, ফলমূল্যাদি ও চাউল তৈয়ারী করিয়া দিতে হয়। বাকী খাজনা আদায় না হওয়ায় জনৈক বিধবার ১২২ কেদার জমি এ বৎসর পতিত আছে। জমিদার কস্মচারীদের নিষেধে কেহই ক্ষেত করে নাই, অথচ ঐ জমির এ বৎসরের খাজনা ঐ বিধবাকেই দিতে হইবে।”

(A voice: Who is this zemindar?)

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: The name of the Zemindar is Rai Sahib Srijut Har Kishore Chakravarty.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: I want a definite ruling from the Chair particularly on this point whether the hon. member is consistent and whether he has not gone outside the motion?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The points raised in the debate are to be met and the hon. member is trying to meet those points that have been raised. The hon. member may state the facts in his own words. (A voice: the time is over). Yes, the time is over. Order, order. The hon. member should not proceed further.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Sir, this is the state of affairs that is prevailing at Hailakandi now. My hon. friend Mr. Chakravarty knows the condition of the zemindari there and I need not elaborate on it. The zemindars have already got remission but they have not granted the same to the tenants. I would only conclude by saying "Physician heal thyself".

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: Does the Hon'ble Revenue Minister mean to say that the reduction of land revenue cannot be granted to the zemindars if they do not grant the same to the tenants?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: My difficulty is always with the hon. member that I do not understand him—he speaks from such a distance and in such a way.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: The Hon'ble Revenue Minister just now said that the reduction of land revenue cannot be granted

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: In the permanently-settled areas?

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: Yes, in the permanently-settled areas, the zemindars are not entitled to have land revenue reduction. So how this question comes?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The zemindar referred to in the newspaper is a zemindar who holds land not in a permanently-settled area. Hailakandi Subdivision is not a permanently settled area.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Is a member entitled to read from a newspaper?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes, when he takes the responsibility for the statement he makes and is also relevant.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: The other day one member from this side was asked not to read from the *Ananda Bazar Patrika*.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The statement referred to was not relevant to the point under discussion.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Was it proper to criticise Rai Sahib Har Kisore Chakravarty in his absence from the House only because that his son has brought this motion?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is really very curious that the party now in power who sponsored the resolution for the reduction of 50 per cent. land revenue should now come to oppose it. It was during the August session of the year 1937 that the resolution for 50 per cent. reduction was moved by the Congress. Several days passed between this resolution was moved and pressed to a division — during that recess canvassing was going on that 50 per cent. reduction was possible even in that state of the finances of the province. I then questioned, and I think it was legitimate and proper for me at that time to question, whether it would be at all

possible to run the administration of the province with 50 per cent. land revenue reduction at a flat rate? The Congressites and those who supported the Congressites told me that the administration was possible to be run with 50 per cent. reduction of land revenue at a flat rate. My hon. friend Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee also said that.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : I am still in favour of 50 per cent.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : I am glad. He says Sir, he is still in favour of 50 per cent. reduction. But he also says Sir, we have to wait. How long? May we ask? Have we yet to wait indefinitely for that time when 50 per cent. reduction would be given? Well, Sir, the last Government took office in April 1937 and in August this resolution was moved. As Mr. Mookerjee came to canvass me, did he not tell us that reduction at flat rate of 50 per cent. was possible even at that stage of the finance of the province.

Mr. BAIDYA NATH MOOKERJEE : Does he say that I went on canvassing? Is he referring to me?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : I quite see, Sir; that you have some difficulty in controlling this gentleman. If the talk of 50 per cent. reduction of land revenue was simply a camouflage of the party, who sponsored this resolution only to throw out the Saadulla Cabinet out of office, I did not understand that way. As a matter of fact I understood at that time that they were serious to give the reduction of 50 per cent. even in that financial condition of the province. They were canvassing that 50 per cent. reduction of revenue might be possible. It was then and there that they wanted that. But now the question of wait comes, "wait, you will know, wait you will see". The Hon'ble Revenue Minister has talked of big schemes, and nation-building activities. Sir, I have got great respect for the high sounding Congress programme and policy. I have heard them saying that lot of agricultural loan ought to be given and sufficient relief should be given to the flood-affected people. Sir, we have also to pay for their motor cars, we have got to pay for their beautiful houses, we have got to pay for their beautiful gardens at Shillong, and time will soon come when we shall have to pay for their many more beautiful things. But it is only at this late stage that they have come to realise that 50 per cent. reduction of land revenue at a flat rate is not possible.

If that be not the position of Government I am mistaken. I am open to correction.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Is the hon. member supporting the motion?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : Yes, I am supporting the motion, Sir.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : That is a good somersault.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : But not from Bengal to Assam though.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Why do you heed to these nonesense?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : I have had occasions to address public meetings; I have had occasions also to hear the harangues of Congressites. That was their election pledge. But will they redeem that pledge by reduction of 50 per cent. They stuck to fifty per cent. reduction throughout their preachings in villages. That was the standard. And that was the limit they had been preaching. Now that they have got into office, now that they have got into the helm of affairs they are trying to back out.

That was not the position which we understood them to mean previously? Will they now keep their promises? Their present attitude is deplorable. If inconsistency in an individual is a thing to be deplored, then why not of a party.

With these words I support the motion.

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN: আমি এই নোশন সর্বাঙ্গকরণে সমর্থন করিতেছি। তদউপলক্ষে জমির খাজনা যে শতকরা ৫০ টাকা হারে কম করা উচিত এ সম্বন্ধে এই হাউসের কতিপয় জমিদার অথবা কয়েকজন ধনিক মহাজন জমিদারের গৃহ জামাতা ব্যতীত আর সকলেই একমত হইবেন তাহাতে সন্দেহ নাই (*Opposition applause*) আসামের প্রত্যেক কৃষকের দৈনিক আয় এক আনা আট পাই। আসামের কৃষকদের ঘণের পরিমাণ ৪৪ কোটি টাকা, আসামে দৈনিক এক লক্ষ বিশ হাজার জন অনাহারে থাকে, প্রত্যেক পরিবারের ঋণ ৪৮৪ টাকা, এমতাবস্থায় আসামের মেরুদণ্ড স্বরূপ কৃষকদের শতকরা ৫০ টাকা খাজনা কমানের দাবী অত্যন্ত গ্রাহ্য সম্ভব।

Srijut BELIRAM DAS: আপনার কাছে জানতে পারি কি আপনি শতকরা ৫০ টাকা হারে খাজনা কমানোর জন্য ভোট দিয়াছিলেন কি?

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN: খাজনা হার শতকরা ৫০ টাকা কম করিলে দেশের গভর্নমেন্ট চলিতে পারে কি না ইহা একটা প্রশ্ন। ইহা করিলে আসাম গভর্নমেন্টের আয় অত্যধিকরূপে কমিয়া যাইবে বলিয়া যুক্তি দেওয়া হয় কিন্তু ছুপ ও পরিতাপের বিষয় এই যে নামমাত্র খাজনা দিয়া যে সমস্ত জমিদার লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা আয় ও ভোগ করিতেছে তাহাদের জমিদারী বাজেয়াপ্ত করিলেই গভর্নমেন্ট তাহাদের ক্ষতিপূরণ করিতে পারেন। তারপর বাংলা গভর্নমেন্ট বেরূপভাবে ধনিক ব্যবসায়ী অথবা হাজার হাজার টাকার বেতনে বাহারা গভর্নমেন্ট কর্মচারী তাহাদের উপর ৩০।৪০ টাকা হারে টেক্স বসায় সেই হারে আসামেও টেক্স বসাইলে এই ক্ষতি পূরণ হইতে পারে।

কৃষকদের বর্তমান অবস্থা কি? ১৩১৪ সালের পূর্বে কৃষকদের উৎপন্ন শস্যের যে মূল্য ছিল বর্তমানেও তাহাই হইয়াছে। জমির উর্বরতা শক্তি ধ্বংস হইয়া গিয়াছে। একথা কেহই অস্বীকার করিতে পারেন না। এমতাবস্থায় কৃষকদের উপর যদি অগ্রায় অত্যাচার করিয়া বৃদ্ধি হারে খাজনা আদায় করিবার চেষ্টা করা হয় তাহা হইলে আমি মনে করিব যে গভর্নমেন্ট তাহাদের দলের ধনিক বণিকদের চাপে কৃষকদের গ্রায়সম্পত্ত দাবী পূরণ করিতে পারেন না। যদি কৃষকদের দাবী পূরণ করা না হয় তবে তাহারা সংঘবদ্ধ হইয়া অল্পদিনের মধ্যে এমন একটা আন্দোলন সৃষ্টি করিবে যে বর্তমান গভর্নমেন্ট ইচ্ছায় না হইলেও অনিচ্ছায় শতকরা ৫০ টাকা খাজনার মাফ দিতে বাধ্য হইবেন। খাজনা শতকরা ৫০ টাকা কম করিলে গভর্নমেন্ট চলিবে কি না তাহার বিবেচনার চাইতে দেশের প্রজা জীবিত থাকিতে পারিবে কি না ইহার বিবেচনা করা অধিক উচিত। কয়েক বৎসরের খাজনার জন্ত তাহাদের হাল

গরু মহাজনদের কবলে গিয়াছে এবং এখন যদি কিছু কাল বৃদ্ধি হারে খাজনা আদায় করা হয় তাহা হইলে তাহারা মৃত্যুমুখে পতিত হইবে। সেইজন্য কৃষককুলকে রক্ষা করিবার জন্য খাজনার হার কমান উচিত। গত নির্বাচনের সময় যে প্রপাগেণ্ডা করা হইয়াছিল তাহাতে বলা হইয়াছিল যে শতকরা ৫০ টাকা হারে খাজনা কমান হইবে কিন্তু ছঃখের বিষয় এই যে “যে যান লঙ্কায় সেই হয় রাবণ” (*laughter*) বর্তমান গভর্নমেন্টরও তাহাই হইয়াছে (*Opposition applause*) কৃষকদের বর্তমান অবস্থা নিতান্ত খারাপ। গত কয়েক বৎসর উপর্যুপরি বহু কৃষিজাত শস্ত সমৃদয় নষ্ট হওয়ায় এবং পয়সার অভাবে গরিব কৃষক রোগে ঔষধ না পাওয়ায় হাজার হাজার মৃত্যুমুখে পতিত হইতেছে। যদি মহাজনদিগকে প্রবল করিবার ইচ্ছা গভর্নমেন্টের থাকে তাহা হইলে খাজনা কম করা না হইতে পারে; কিন্তু প্রকৃতপক্ষে যদি কৃষকের উপকার করিতে হয় তাহা হইলে খাজনা কমান উচিত। আমি আশা করি বর্তমান গভর্নমেন্ট এই খাজনা কমানের জন্য বিশেষ দৃষ্টি দিবেন; না হইলে তাহাদের ধ্বংস অনিবার্য।

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very sorry to find that the debate has descended to a very low level and members are indulging in charges and counter-charges only to cloud the issue before the House. The simple issue is whether Government have redeemed the solemn pledge that was given to the people in the country side that they would reduce land revenue by 50 per cent. (*hear, hear!*).

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: On a point of order, Sir, that is not the issue. The issue seems to be the granting of 50 per cent. of land revenue for the year 1938-39, 1345 B.S. No question of future remission.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: When the Congress Government came into office there was jubilation all over the country. They went into raptures and sang halaluja in the expectation that the millennium has come (*hear, hear!*).

Srijut BELIRAM DAS: It was not in the election manifesto.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: What was the cause of this jubilation? What was the occasion for this singing of halaluja? They all were in the expectation that the Congress party who had been announcing from housetops and on platforms that they would reduce the revenue on land by 50 per cent. would redeem their promises now that they accepted office. That is the cause of jubilation. What have they found now? They have been sadly disillusioned (*hear, hear!*). One hon. member Mr. Mookerjee told us that they have made a gesture and that they are trying their level best to redeem the pledge. Sir, I looked and that for an iota of indication in the speech of the Hon'ble Revenue Minister.

Srijut BELIRAM DAS: May I know whether it was not he who moved the amendment for thirty-three per cent. land revenue reduction and not fifty per cent.?

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Is it not in the information of the hon. member? Was he not present here?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The point is that he did not support 50 per cent. reduction and why it is that he is bringing that now? Whether the hon. member supported that, that is the question he is asking.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: The question does not arise, Sir, I will give the history of the course of events. I will remind this House of what has happened before. One of the shining lights of the Congress Party, Mr. Siddhinath Sarma, who had won the notriety of being the mouth-piece of the poor people, tabled a motion for a reduction of 50 per cent. That motion was lost. The motion which I had the honour to move, namely of having 33 per cent. as a flat rate, was adopted by this House. The last Government could not give full effect to the amendment that was carried in this House. The action of that Government also came in for criticism. There was a report, if I remember aright, and the Government communique that was issued as regards land revenue remission came in for discussion. The party now sitting in the Government Benches asked for the rejection of that report and the rejection of the Government offer of remission. But I moved an amendment on that occasion also that the remission as granted by Government, though inadequate and unsatisfactory, should be accepted for what it was worth and that amendment was carried. Then when the question of remission of revenue for this year came up, a Committee was summoned by the then Hon'ble Revenue Minister, Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri. My friend, Mr. Siddhinath Sarma, also attended that Committee meeting. In that Committee meeting I moved a motion that the revenue remission for this year should continue as in the last year. My motion was lost. Mr. Siddhinath Sarma in that Committee also moved a motion that he wanted 50 per cent. reduction, and he also suggested that the revenue should be supplemented by imposing taxes on agricultural income. Now that the Agricultural Income Tax Bill has come before the House and is being discussed now, will the Hon'ble Revenue Minister declare it on the floor of this House that, if this Bill be passed, will he at once grant 50 per cent. reduction? If he can make that statement before this House, then I shall give him credit for redeeming the pledge that was held out to the people.

Srijut SIDDHINATH SARMA: In that case will the hon. member support the Agricultural Income Tax Bill?

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: If he cares to give his assurance, I will ask the hon. mover of this motion to withdraw his motion (*loud laughter*). If such an assurance is not forthcoming, then we have to censure Government for not redeeming the pledge.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Am I to take it that it is not the wish of the Opposition that the 50 per cent. reduction should be given and that their wish simply to criticise Government for not keeping up to their promise?

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: We criticise, Sir, the sense of irresponsibility that they have shown in the matter. I they did not want to redeem the pledge, they ought not to have raised false hopes in the country-side. That is the simple question before the House, whether they, as honourable men, should not now redeem their pledge?

Now, Sir, there is another motion in the name of my hon. friend Mr. Chakravarty, about the unsatisfactory remission that has been given at present. The Government have adopted a policy of robbing Petter and paying Paul. They have given reductions in the country-side in different districts,

but they have withheld the remissions that were hitherto granted. During the last session I had the honour to move a resolution to that effect and I made mention of all the unsatisfactory features, but to-day I want to stress only one point. The remissions hitherto granted to the small towns have been withheld. The Government probably presume that the town people are all rich and do not deserve any relief in the matter of remission of land revenue. But that is far from the truth. Besides, there are some towns which had their assessment raised during the last re-settlement to an unreasonable pitch. The town of Tinsukia is a case in point. If you will allow me, Sir, I will give the present classification of lands with rates of revenue and the previous figures for the Tinsukia town.

Special class trade site is being assessed at Rs.300 per *bigha*; first class trade site at Rs.150; first class residential land at Rs.12 per *bigha*. Whereas in the previous settlement, first class trade site was assessed at Rs.30, second class at Rs.10 and third class at Rs.5 and *bari* land at Rs.1-8-0 per *bigha*.

Now, due to trade depression, Sir, the anticipation of the Revenue Authorities regarding growth and expansion of Tinsukia town had been belied. The letting value of land in Tinsukia town had gone down much within the last few years and many lands are lying vacant for want of demand.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member has spoken for more than 10 minutes.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: In view of the importance of the matter I may be allowed a few more minutes, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: All right.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: When objection was raised to the phenomenal raising of revenue in this town, Government by resolution No.4216, dated the 18th December 1934, ruled that the residents will have to pay only one-third revenue for the first five years and two-thirds for the next 5 years and full revenue from 1944. Now, the second deferred enhancement falls due on the 1st April 1939. They had already submitted a representation to the Hon'ble Premier to grant them remission in the present demand and to defer the deferred enhancement due on the 1st April 1939. If Government are really sincere in their idea of granting relief to the poor, then I think this reasonable prayer of the town people of Tinsukia should have their earnest consideration. It is not too late now, and I hope Government will come forward to meet this legitimate demand of the people of the town where the pitch of assessment was very high. It is not a town really, but it is a village which has recently been raised to the standard of a town. With these few words, I support the motion.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion. I have enjoyed much the gestures and postures shown by Mr. Mookerjee as well as the eloquence of Mr. Rabindra Nath Aditya appended by quotations from Newspapers.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Let us now enjoy yours.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY: I think, Mr. Aditya could do well if he did not speak at all on this motion because every hon. member of this House as well as the public at-large know it full well that he was one of those who were instrumental to a case brought up by the Congress Government against Mr. Hirendra Chakravarty.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member should not refer to that.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY :

When Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman brought forward an amendment of 33 per cent. reduction to the resolution perhaps moved by Srijut Siddhinath Sarma, we supported his amendment. It was given out throughout the length and breadth of the province that those gentlemen who did not support the motion of Mr. Sarma were all 'Deshodruhis' and those who voted in favour of the motion were all 'Judhisthirs'. I am surprised to find that those hon. members are now opposing this motion themselves. I am not discussing the merit of the motion as many hon. members have done it before me. It matters little whether I support the motion or not, but fact remains that the Congress group moved a resolution asking for a reduction up to the extent of 50 per cent. and those 'Judhisthirs' are to-day opposing this very motion. With these few words, I support the motion.

Khan Bahadur Dewan EKLIMUR ROZA CHAUDHURY : এক

বৎসর পূর্বে কংগ্রেস যখন গবর্ণমেন্টের নখে ছিল না তখন তাহারা তার সাপ্তাহিক গবর্ণমেন্টকে আক্রমণ করিয়া যে সমস্ত বড় বড় কথা বলিয়াছিল.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The hon. member should be polite in his language.

Khan Bahadur Dewan EKLIMUR ROZA CHAUDHURY : একটা

গবর্ণমেন্টকে বলিতে হইলে বলিয়াছিলই বলিতে হইবে তথাপি আমি আপনার কথামতই বলিব। আচ্ছা, গবর্ণমেন্টকে আক্রমণ করিয়া যে সমস্ত বড় বড় কথা বলিয়াছিলেন, বর্তমানে ক্ষমতা কংগ্রেসের হাতে আসার পর তাহারা তাহাদের পূর্ব কথামত কাজ করিতেছেন না বলিয়া প্রতিপক্ষীয় মেম্বারগণ বার বার তাহাদের সেই সমস্ত উক্তি স্বরণ করাইয়া দিয়া কংগ্রেস পক্ষকে লজ্জা দেওয়ার চেষ্টা করিতেছেন, কিন্তু বাহারা গবর্ণমেন্ট ও তৎসহ ক্ষমতা হাতে পাওয়ার পরই লজ্জার মুণ্ডপাত করিয়া বসিয়াছেন (*Opposition applause*) অর্থাৎ নিলর্জের মত নিজের উক্তিরই অনাগ্রাসে প্রতিবাদ করিয়া যাইতেছেন তাহাদিগকে লজ্জার কথা বলিলেই তাহারা নুতন বধুর মত ঘোমটা টানিয়া লজ্জায় অধোবদন হইয়া যাইবেন এইরূপ আশা করা হাশ্বকর।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I always notice that the hon. member always travels beyond the limit of decency. In all his speeches, I have found that his language is objectionable. One of his speeches had to be omitted from the printed report of the proceedings. Such language is not befitting the Assembly.

Khan Bahadur Dewan EKLIMUR ROZA CHAUDHURY : আমি

বেঙ্গলে যতদূর দেখিয়াছি সেখানেও এরূপ ভাবে speech দেওয়া হয়। যে নারীর লজ্জা আছে সেইত লজ্জা পায় কিন্তু যে নারী নিলর্জের খাতায় নাম লিখাইয়া ফেলিয়াছে সে আবার লজ্জার ধার ধারিবে কিসের জন্ত? জনৈক মাতালের বন্ধু তাহাকে লক্ষ্য করিয়া বলিল—“ভাই তুমি যে সমস্ত অভক্ষ্য ভক্ষণ করিতে আরম্ভ করিয়াছ যদি কেহ দেখিতে পায় তাহা হইলে তোমার জাতি যে নষ্ট হইবে।”.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I want the hon. member should not speak in this strain, which is indeed very unhappy, and I should ask the hon. member to take his seat.

Khan Bahadur Dewan EKLIMUR ROZA CHAUDHURY : Sir
আমার point ঠিক আছে। ইহা শুনিয়া মাতল বলিল—“ বাবা আমার আবার জাতি
আছে নাকি যে তাহা আবার কোন কিছু ভঙ্গণ করিলেই উড়িয়া যাইবে? অপিচ আমার
কথা এই যে বাহার জাত আছে তাহার জাত মারা চলে এবং বাহার লজ্জা আছে তাহাকে
লজ্জা দেওয়া যার কিন্তু আদৌ বাহার বা বাহাদের লজ্জা বলিয়া কোন বানাই নাই তাহাকে
বা তাহাদিগকে লজ্জা দেওয়া অসম্ভব। বিশেষতঃ যে ঘোড়ার গায়ে ও মুখে জোর বেশী
সেই ঘোড়াকে যেরূপ কাটা লাগাম দিয়াও সারেস্তা করা যায় না।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I cannot allow to deliver the speech in this sort of language. The hon. member must take his seat now.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : I want to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Speaker that you are all along speaking in English which my hon. friend cannot understand.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I know full well that the hon. member who is speaking, understands English. The hon. member ought not to remind me of that.

Khan Bahadur Dewan EKLIMUR ROZA CHAUDHURY : আমি
বাংলা ভাষাই ভাল করিয়া জানি ও বাংলা ভাষাতেই বলি। ইংরাজী খুব ভাল জানি না।
আপনি খুব ভাল করিয়া ইংরাজী বলিলে আমি বুঝি না; কিন্তু খারাপ করিয়া বলিলে আমি
বুঝি। (Laughter).

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : আপনি যে ভাষায় বক্তৃতা করেন সেই সমস্ত
ভাষা এই এসেম্বলীর মর্যাদার উপযুক্ত নয়। এই ভাষায় বলা সম্ভব নয়। এই কথাই
আমি বলিতে চাই। আমি আপনাকে আর বক্তৃতা করিতে দিতে পারি না। আপনি
বসুন।

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : I certainly bow to your ruling but may I draw your attention to the fact that in other provinces, the policy of criticising the Government for any shameful act is not un-parliamentary.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The hon. member was introducing horses and asses in his speech and was making comparison of the doings of the Ministry with the behaviour of such animals. This is certainly not decent language.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : There are modes of putting things.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : No, I should not allow the hon. member to speak.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI : Should the Ministry then be compared with lions? (Laughter).

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: May I know whether the hon. members approve of the language used by him?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order. Srijut Debeshwar Sarmah may speak.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this motion concerns the five districts of Assam Valley and a portion of Cachar and a small portion of Goalpara.

So, when hon. members from the furthest corners of the Province are also taking interest in this matter, we the people of these districts really feel gratified and are obliged. But let us look at the tenor of the cut motion, which has been tabled to "criticise Government for not granting 50 per cent. reduction of land revenue for the year 1938-39".

Now, let us examine what reduction was granted by this Cabinet for the year under reference, and what other incidental remissions and reductions had to be granted for unforeseen circumstances. But before going straight to that matter may I say that the question of 50 per cent. land revenue reduction is based on the equitable principle of equal distribution of the incidence of taxation? The poor peasants of these districts, who pay land revenue to Government, have to bear the bulk of the cost of administration of the country and to that proportion they do not get benefit from the administration. So it is in the fitness of things that their revenue should be reduced to an equitable incidence. We wanted it, and we want it (*hear, hear!*) and I hope and trust the day is not far when this Government will be able to grant 50 per cent. reduction, particularly when we have the members of the Opposition also joining hands with us in this matter (*hear, hear!*).

Now, the aspersion that has been sought to be cast upon us is this that we are not trying to redeem the pledge. What is the pledge? My hon. friend Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman referred to the pledge more than once. I would not try to comment on the speeches of other members of the Opposition who spoke for this cut motion of 50 per cent. reduction but who voted against the reduction. Their conduct is too well-known to the country to attract any comment here in this Assembly.

Now, Sir, my hon. friend Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman said "they gave pledges to the country, and they ought to redeem them". I agree with him; if pledges were given they should be redeemed at all cost, but let us examine what are the pledges. I refer my hon. friend to the All-India Congress Election Manifesto. I am reading from the official copy.....

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: On a point of information, Sir. Would he also tell us what was the provincial manifesto on this point?

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: I am coming to that, Sir. I am now reading from "A Call to the Nation—Being the Election Manifesto of the Indian National Congress." At page 3, it is laid down "pending the formulation of a fuller programme the Congress reiterates its declaration made at Karachi—that it stands for a reform of the system of land tenure and revenue and rent, and an equitable adjustment of the burden on agricultural land, giving immediate relief to the smaller peasantry by a substantial reduction of agricultural rent and revenue now paid by them and exempting uneconomic holdings from payment of rent and revenue. This is at page 3 of the All-India Congress Manifesto. My hon. friend Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali wants me to read from the "Congress Nirbachani Istahar", *i.e.*, the provincial manifesto.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: On a point of information, Sir. Has the hon. member seen the pamphlet issued by Srijut Hem Chandra Barua, the President of the Congress Committee. He said
“কংগ্রেছক কিয় ভোট দিব লাগে।”

Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS: Nowhere it was stated in the manifesto that 50 per cent. reduction of land revenue would be granted. (*Hear, hear!*)

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: Now, Sir, I am reading from the provincial manifesto. At page 5, paragraph 9, sub-clause (ক), it is stated:

“খেতিয়ক সকলৰ সম্পৰ্কে বিশদ কৰ্ম পৰিকল্পনা গঠন নোহোৱালৈকে কংগ্রেছে এই সম্পৰ্কে কৰাচী কংগ্রেছত গৃহীত সিদ্ধান্তক দোহাৰি ঘোষণা কৰে যে—কংগ্রেছে ভূমিস্বত্ব ৰাজস্ব পদ্ধতি আৰু কৰ ধাৰ্য্যৰ প্ৰণালীবিনাক সংস্কাৰ কৰিব লাগিব, আৰু খেতিৰ মাটিত ৰাজস্বৰ বোজা এনে সহজ কৰি দিব লাগিব যেন সকল তৰপৰ খেতিয়ক সকলৰ খেতিৰ খাজানা উপযুক্ত পৰিমাণে কমি যায় আৰু আয় নোহোৱা মাটিৰ খাজানা বা ৰাজস্ব মাফ হয়।

So, Sir, in both these official copies of the Indian and provincial manifestos, under which we ran our election, there is no pledge which has been particularly mentioned by my hon. friend Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: On a point of information, Sir. Do I understand that the Congress never stood for 50 per cent. reduction of land revenue?

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: I am well aware of the point that is being driven at by my hon. friend Mr. Chaudhuri. Nowhere have we said, Sir, that we do not stand for 50 per cent. reduction of land revenue. We do stand for it, we want it, and we do hope we will have it. But the cut motion refers to failure of Government to grant 50 per cent. reduction for the year 1938-39. Now, Sir, let us examine that point. In the year 1938-39 land revenue reduction amounted to Rs.28,84,000. Of course, somebody might speak and rise to a point of information, but when he does not care to listen one is helpless. So, Sir, in the year under reference, remission of land revenue was granted to the extent of Rs.28,84,000 as against Rs.26,76,000 for the previous year by the previous Government. So, this year's reduction compares very favourably to the previous year. On the top of this what happened? Only an hour ago an hon. member wanted to censure Government by a cut motion to the effect that sufficient relief was not granted to flood-affected tenants of the Goalpara district. Both these motions in the same breath here are inconsistent, but for consistency we do not look up to certain quarters, and we are not afraid of these cut motions. Sir, in the year under reference, we find that agricultural loan and gratuitous relief and test relief amounted to Rs.9 lakhs. Over and above the revenue reduction of Rs.28,84,000, is this all? No, there is still another item for which the Cabinet had to make provision, and it is the remission of all land revenue in the flood-affected areas.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: This is repetition of what has already been said,

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH : What can I do, Sir? The Opposition members said that we had not granted sufficient reduction of land revenue for the year 1938-39. So, I say that, besides 29 lakhs of revenue reduction and 9 lakhs of gratuitous relief, another 6 lakhs of rupees had to be granted on account of remission of revenue to people of flood-stricken areas. The total amount thus comes to Rs.44 lakhs, which very nearly approaches 50 per cent. reduction. My hon. friend Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman asks that if the Agricultural Income-Tax Bill is passed will Government grant 50 per cent. reduction of land revenue? Sir, this is putting the cart before the horse. The hon. member should have first told the House that he was in favour of that Bill and that he stood for 50 per cent. reduction. In that case we could have appreciated his point. So, under the circumstances, the present Government could not, by any stretch of imagination, grant more reduction than what it did. We the Congress people stand for further and further reduction of land revenue till we reach the point 50 per cent. Who knows, if we cannot discover other avenues of revenue to the province so that, we can altogether remit revenue paid by the uneconomic holdings. We look up to the future—not very distant—when with the help of other resources of the province, we might remit altogether the revenue of the uneconomic holdings of actual agriculturists.

Khan Bahadur Dewan EKLIMUR ROZA CHAUDHURY : আমার একটা কথা আছে।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : আমি আপনার নিকট নিবেদন করিতেছি যে আপনার বক্তৃতার ভাষা যেন একটু সংবৃত হয়।

Khan Bahadur Dewan EKLIMUR ROZA CHAUDHURY : আমি একেবারে সমস্ত ছাড়িয়া দিয়া বলিব।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : এই সব গল্পের ভিতর দিয়া আপনি এমন ব্যঙ্গ করেন বাহা এই পরিষদের মর্যাদার হানিকর হয়। আপনাকে এইরূপ করিতে দেওয়া যায় না।

Khan Bahadur Dewan EKLIMUR ROZA CHAUDHURY : আমি সব ছাড়িয়া দিয়া আমার বক্তব্য এখনই শেষ করিতেছি। এবং মিনিষ্টারদের সহিত আর পণ্ডর তুলনা করিব না পুধু মানুষের সহিতই তাঁহাদের তুলনা করিব।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : আমার কথা হইয়াছে যে কেবল গালাগালি করিবেন না। ইহার ভিতর যেন বিষয় থাকে।

Khan Bahadur Dewan EKLIMUR ROZA CHAUDHURY : আমি খুব ছোট করিয়া গল্পটা বলিব। শরৎচন্দ্রের গ্রন্থে আছে—কোন এক ব্যক্তিকে জিজ্ঞাসা করা হইল যে সে কি ব্যবসা করে। সে উত্তর দিল আমি নাপিতের বাজও করি প্যাটার

কাজও করি। ছুখও খাই তামাকও খাই। আমার মনে হয় বর্তমান কংগ্রেসী এইরূপ। জমিদার হইতে প্রজা, সুদখোর হইতে অধমর্ণ এবং ধনী হইতে নির্ধন এমন কি চোর, জুয়াচোর, ধান্দাবাজ দলত্যাগী.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : আবার আপনার সেই বক্তৃতাতক্ষী। আপনি বহু, আপনাকে আর বক্তৃত্তা দিতে দেওয়া হইবে না। আপনার এখন কোন বক্তৃত্তা করার অধিকারও নাই।

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this motion two points have been raised. First, we have been criticised for not giving 50 per cent. reduction of land revenue for 1938-39. In this connection I should like to remind the hon. members that, when the question of reduction of land revenue came before this Government soon after we assumed office, we decided to give reduction of land revenue on a certain basis, and a resolution embodying Government's decision was published in the Gazette. That resolution was fully discussed in the last December Session of the Assembly and the House approved the decision of Government with regard to reduction of land revenue for 1938-39. The same question is again being discussed under this motion. This question has also been mixed up with the question of 50 per cent. reduction of land revenue, for which we, as a party, stand as facing to-day as we did before. I fail to see how any one can be justified in saying that, by not giving reduction for 1938-39, we shall not be giving reduction in future years. If these hon. members had been careful enough to go through the speech which I delivered on the opening day of the Assembly, they would find that I have mentioned clearly that the question of reduction of land revenue will be given due consideration by us in time to come. This question will be considered by us when the matter of reduction comes before Government in the Autumn session of this year, *i.e.*, before the dole for the next year are prepared and instructions from Government to the local officers are issued. Meanwhile, our finances improve, and we get money from other sources, we will implement the pledges that we have made to the people that we are here to reduce the incidence of taxation on the poor people.

Sir, then we have been told that the reduction has been unsatisfactory. Even if we give 50 per cent. reduction, according to some people it will be unsatisfactory. Unfortunately no member in this House could show how the reduction we have given was unsatisfactory. The hon. mover of the motion only referred to one point, and that was this, that in the case of Sylhet and Cachar, persons possessing *pattas* of Rs.8, were given reduction of five annas, while those of the Assam Valley possessing *pattas* of Rs.12 or less were given such reduction. We noticed that equitable reduction not be given on the basis of *patta*, but on the basis of holdings. A person who pays Rs.8 as land revenue in Sylhet or Cachar holds an equal quantity of land held by a person in the Assam Valley for which the latter pays Rs.12.

No one has been able to convince the House that the reduction in any case has been less than what was granted by the previous Government. For the information of the House I would like to quote some figures in this connection. The incidence or percentage of concession in 1937-38 in the case of Goalpara amounted to 22½ per cent. while in 1938-39, it will amount to 26½ per cent. In the case of Kamrup, it was 28 per cent., but in the present year it will be 30 per cent. In Darrang it was 27½ per cent., but in

the case of the current year it will be 29 per cent. In Nowgong it was 25½ per cent., now it will be 29 per cent. In Sibsagar it was 27½ per cent., now it will be 31 per cent. In Lakhimpur it was 27 per cent., now it will be 30 per cent. In the Garo Hills it was 12½ per cent., now it will be 23 per cent. In the case of Cachar, about which the hon. mover spoke, it was 21 per cent., but in the current year it will be 25 per cent. In Sylhet it was 20 per cent., now it will be 23 per cent.

So from all these figures hon. members will realise that the reduction on account of land revenue given by the present Government is much higher than that granted by the previous Government. I can assure the hon. members that if we had not been compelled to give the amount for the gratuitous relief, test relief and for agricultural loans and also if we had not to bear losses on account of remission in flood-affected areas, we would have given even further remission than what we have granted.

This question in short was thoroughly discussed on the floor of the House, and what we have done is in consonance with the wishes expressed by the majority of the members. Moreover, I do not see any justification for such criticism.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: On a point of information, Sir. May I know whether the Hon'ble Minister is alive to his responsibility and will he stick to his principle?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Yes, I shall stick to every word of what I have said.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: On a point of information, Sir. May I know whether the Hon'ble Minister will consider about Tinsukia?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I shall make an enquiry into the matter. I cannot commit myself at this stage.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: On a point of information, Sir. May I know that when it was possible to grant 50 per cent. remission in 1937 why it is not possible to do it now?

No reply.

(Cries of "cannot answer" and laughter from the Opposition benches)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the provision of Rs.2,15,000 under Grant No.1, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, Minor head—Charges of Administration—A—General Establishment, Sub-head—1.—Pay of officers (total), at page 29 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.50, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.27,97,600 do stand reduced by Rs.50.

The motion was negatived.

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move, Sir:

"That the provision of Rs.5,029 under Grant No.1, Major head—7.—Land Revenue—Minor head—Charges of Administration—B.—Tahsil and other Establishment—Sub-head—3.—Management of the private Estates under Act X of 1892 (total), at page 30 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.27,97,600 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

(My object is to criticise the policy of Government in the Estates.)

(At this stage the Hon'ble the Speaker left the Chair and the Deputy Speaker occupied it.)

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: On a point of order, Sir. This matter was discussed when an identical motion was moved by the hon. member.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER : I find that this matter was discussed under motions Nos. 6 and 7, but as the hon. mover who is in possession of the floor, did not participate in the discussion under those motions, I am bound to allow him to speak.

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, গোয়ালপাড়া জিলার জমিদারীর মধ্যে দুইটি জমিদারী কোর্ট অব ওয়ার্ডসের এলাকাধিনে আছে। উক্ত দুইটি স্টেটে প্রজার প্রতি কি কি অগ্রায় ব্যবহার করা হয় সেই সম্বন্ধে আমি আলোচনা করিব। উক্ত স্টেটে প্রজাদের মধ্যে যাহারা পূর্বেই জমি পত্তনি নিরাছে অর্থাৎ দেশীয় বলিয়া কথিত তাহাদের জন্ম নিরিখ আছে প্রতি বিঘায় ১০ হইতে ১০০ কিন্তু বাংলা হইতে আগত প্রজা যাহারা বহু অর্থ ব্যয়ে নিজের জীবন তুচ্ছ করে জঙ্গল কাটয়া জমি পরিষ্কার ক্রমে আবাদ করিয়া প্রত্যেক জমিদারের বহু পরিমাণ আয় বৃদ্ধি করিয়াছে ও করিতেছে সেই প্রজাদের নিকট হইতে বিঘা প্রতি জমির নিরিখ ২০ টাকা বা তদোর্ধ্ব হিসাবে আদায় করিবার কারণ কি? যে সমস্ত জমি কোন দিন বর্ষায় ডুবে না ভূমিকম্পে নষ্ট হয় না ঢালায় বাগী পড়ে না সেই সমস্ত জমির বিঘা প্রতি নিরিখ ধার্য হইয়াছে ১০ হইতে ১০০ পর্যন্ত কিন্তু যে জমি প্রতি বৎসর বর্ষায় ডুবিয়া শষ্য নষ্ট হয় ভূমিকম্পে খারাপ হইয়া, অনাবাদের অযোগ্য হইয়া পড়িয়া থাকে সেই জমির নিরিখ একই স্টেটে এত বেশী হইবার কারণ কি? বিজনী রাজ ওয়ার্ড স্টেটে দেশীয় কোন প্রজার নিকট হইতে ছন কর বন কর বলিয়া কোন tax বা কর আদায় করা হয় না কিন্তু বাংলা আগত প্রজার নিকট হইতে ১১০ হিসাবে প্রতি বৎসর ছন বন কর আদায় করা হয়। মেছ পারা ওয়ার্ড স্টেটের প্রত্যেক প্রজার নিকট হইতে লোকেলপাশ ১১০ হিসাবে প্রতি বৎসর আদায় করা হয়। ইহার কারণ কি? একই স্টেটের ভিতর একই যায়গাতে থাকা কতিপয় প্রজার নিকট হইতে টেক্স আদায় করা হইবে না এবং কেবল বাংলা আগত মুসলমান প্রজার প্রত্যেকের নিকট হইতে প্রতি বৎসর ১১০ টাকা হিসাবে উক্ত টেক্স আদায় করা হয়। ইহার রহস্য বা কারণ কি আমি বুঝিতে পারি না। আমি এই বিষয় গভর্নমেন্টের নিকট জানাইতেছি যে গভর্নমেন্ট উক্ত বিষয় তদন্ত ক্রমে বিহিত প্রতিকার করিবেন। প্লাবিত বালুকা শষ্য হীন সেই সমস্ত প্রজার জমির বকেয়া খাজনার জন্ম গরু বাছুর ঘটা বাটা জমি সম্পূর্ণ নিশ্চয়ভাবে নিলা বিক্রয় ক্রমে ভীটাছাড়া করা হইতেছে।

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Sir, the hon. member has said all these things in a previous motion.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER : That was another motion, the hon. member should go on.

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA : খরিদা ঘাস, জমিতে পত্তন কালিন জমিদারের অফিসারগণের ব্যক্তিগত ডবল অগ্রায় লাভের জন্ম প্রায়ই দেখা যায়—একজনের দখলি জমির উপর অগ্র প্রজাকে পত্তন দিয়া মারা মারি কাটা কাটি, ঘোর অশান্তিও

দাঙ্গাহাঙ্গানার সৃষ্টি করিতেছে। ইহাতে প্রজাদের মধ্যে ভীষণ অশান্তি এবং অতিরিক্ত কারণ হইয়াছে ও হইতেছে। মেহপারা ও বিজনী ষ্টেটে বর্তমানে সংখ্যানুপাতে মুসলমানের পরিমাণ বেশী হইবে। কিন্তু বড়ই ছুখের বিষয় যে সেই মুসলমান প্রজাদের চিত্ত হইতে উপযুক্ত প্রার্থী থাকা সত্ত্বেও তাহাদিগকে ষ্টেটে কোন চাকুরী দেওয়া হয় না। এষ্ট বিষয়ে আমি এই হাউসে কয়েক বৎসর যাবৎ বহু আলোচনা করিয়া আসিয়াছি কিন্তু গভর্ণমেন্ট প্রতিশ্রুতি দেওয়া সত্ত্বেও সেই বিষয়ে তাহার প্রকৃত ব্যবস্থা করিতেছেন না কেন? এখন করিবেন কি না? যে সমস্ত প্রজা নিজের শরীরের রক্ত জল করিয়া অশান্তি অর্থ ও কঠোর পারিশ্রমে জঙ্গল পরিষ্কার করিয়া আবাদ করিয়া ষ্টেটের আয় উন্নতি করিবে আর সেই প্রজাই ঐ সমস্ত ষ্টেটে সামান্য চাকুরীতে চুকিয়া নিজেদের জীবিকা নির্বাহ করিবার অধিকার কেন পাবে না এবং থাকিবে না? এ বিষয়ে আপত্তি করা সত্ত্বেও আপত্তি না করার কারণ কি তাহা আমি বুঝি না। প্রজারা দিবা রাত্রি হাট ভাঙ্গা পরিষ্কার করিয়া জমিদারের আয় করিয়া দিবে। আর সেই জমিদারের কার্যে বা চাকুরীতে—তাহাদের মুসলমান প্রজাগণ কেন নিজেদের জীবিকা নির্বাহের ব্যবস্থা করিতে পারিবে না? ইতিপূর্বে এই হাউসে প্রশ্ন দেওয়া হইয়াছিল। ষ্টেটের চাকুরীতে মুসলমান কর্মচারীর সংখ্যা যে হিসাব পাওয়া গিয়াছে তাহা নিতান্ত কম।—বরং বড়পেটা ও বিভিন্ন স্থান হইতে উচ্চতম কর্মচারীগণ ক্রমশই আন্দানী করিতেছেন। এখন উহা বন্ধ ক্রমে ষ্টেট হইতে প্রজার সংখ্যানুপাতে উপযুক্ত পরিমাণে ষ্টেটের মুসলমানদের মধ্য হইতে ষ্টেট কর্মচারী নিযুক্ত করিবার ব্যবস্থা করা একান্ত সম্ভব। আরো অত্যন্ত বহু বিষয় আছে যাহার আলোচনা ইতি পূর্বে বহুবার করা হইয়াছে।

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member is exceeding his time.

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA: ইতিপূর্বে আমার বাজেট স্পিচে বলিয়াছি এবং question ও দিয়াছিলাম যে জমিদারদের এলাকাধিনে জোতদারগণ জমিদারকে আদায় দেওয়ার অতিরিক্ত টাকা প্রজার নিকট হইতে লোকেল রেট্ নামে আদায় করেন কিন্তু সেই সব লোকেল রেট্ জমিদারকে আদায় দেওয়া হয় না। আমি জানিতে চাই জোতদার বা কেন এই টাকা অগ্রায় ভাবে প্রজার নিকট হইতে আদায় করেন এবং এই আদায়ের রদ রহিত সম্বন্ধে গভর্ণমেন্ট কি করিয়াছেন এবং করিবেন? তারপর প্রজাস্বত্ব আইনে অধিকার না থাকা সত্ত্বেও জমিদার জোতদারেরা প্রজার নিকট হইতে অগ্রায়ভাবে বাজে অবোয়াব যথা তহরী, পরবী, তলবানা, মুশুগী, ভেটী, মরচা আদায় করেন এবং বেগার ভাঙ্গরী ইত্যাদীর কাজ করেন এমন কি জোতদার বা কতিপয় জমিদার নিজ নিজ উৎসবে যথা :—বিবাহে, শ্রাদ্ধে অন্নপ্রাসনে প্রজাকে সাহায্য করিতে বাধ্য করেন এবং অগ্রায়ভাবে তাহাদের নিকট হইতে টাকা ধরিয়া টাকা আদায় করেন। এই সম্বন্ধে বহুবার আলোচনা করা হইয়াছে এবং বহুবার ইহার প্রতিকারার্থে অনুরোধ করা হইয়াছে কিন্তু এ যাবৎ কিছুই

করা হয় নাই। দৃষ্টান্ত স্বরূপ আমি ছই একটা বিষয়ের উল্লেখ করিতে পারি কিন্তু ঐসব বহুবার বলা হইয়াছে আর বলার দরকার মনে করি না। কাজেই এই গভর্নমেন্টের পরিচালনাধিনে যে সমস্ত ওয়ার্ড ষ্টেট বা প্রাইভেট ষ্টেট আছে সেই ষ্টেটের প্রজাদের উপর যে কতদূর অত্যাচার বা বেআইনী জুলুম করা হইতেছে, গভর্নমেন্ট জানিয়া শুনিয়া কেন—তাহার কোন প্রতিকারই করিতেছেন না—অগোনে সেই বিষয়েই আমি যথপোযুক্ত ব্যবস্থা এং আবশ্যকীয় প্রতিকার করিতে গভর্নমেন্টকে জানাইতেছি।

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in this cut motion I want to criticise the policy of Government in Bijni Raj Court of Ward's Estate, regarding forest. Sir, the policy that they have been following there now, is this. As regards the settlement of coupes in the Bijni Raj Ward's, Estate there are some procedures and I will just relate to those procedures to give an idea to the hon. members of this House. Previously the Estate used to auction its coupes and this auctioned money was taken as a monopoly fee and not as royalty just like the Government forest. Sir, when the coupes are auctioned and settled this monopoly fee used to be paid by the contractors to the Estate and after cutting the logs they are again to pay the royalty according to the measurement or sometimes according to the proportion of the division of 8 annas to 8 annas. That is, 8 annas is given as royalty to the Estate and the other 8 annas to the contractor and his Daffadar. Now, Sir, this system which was in force so long, was objected to by the contractors of Bijni Raj Ward's Estate in the Khutaghat Parganas and there was an association of the contractors. These contractors boycotted the auction this year as they found it very difficult on account of this monopoly fee which the Estate used to charge at the time of auction and they went on a strike on the day of auction and sent a wire to the Hon'ble Minister in charge that this system should be abolished and the system of Government should be replaced in the Court of Wards' Estates also. Then, Sir, after this wire they filed a petition to the Hon'ble Finance Minister also objecting this system and afterwards the Estate, when they found the contractors not taking part in the auction, called for tenders.

When it is the idea of Government that corruptions should be abolished and when auction is one of the systems to abolish corruption among the Estate officers so that they may not treat different contractors among different way by adopting some bad means, Government should take up in a matter and do the needful. Now, Sir, this Estate has called for tenders instead of auction. The Estate officers were canvassing some of the contractors to submit tenders. Sir, the Estate officers canvassed and they contracted to give them some preference to break the strike. When the auction promised was there, there was already corruption and by the introduction of this tender system the corruption is still increased. Sir, I had brought all these to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister. But defying the orders of the Hon'ble Minister, the State officer still called for more tenders.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member has already exceeded his time limit.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: I shall be obliged if you will give me some more time because I am stating a very important grievance.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot allow more than two minutes.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : Sir, we expected at least that some coupes will be auctioned this year. Up till now, when the session is going to be over, the Estate is not yet called to have some of the coupes auctioned. It is becoming very difficult for the contractors because they were expecting justice at a very early date from the Hon'ble Minister in charge. But up till now they have received nothing.

Khan Bahadur Dewan EKLIMUR ROZA CHAUDHURY :

জড়িয়ে গেল শব্দ মুঠা হুটী তারে
জীবন বীণা ঠিক সুরে তাই বাজে না'রে ।

(Laughter)

The DEPUTY SPEAKER : আমি আপনাকে আগেই স্বরণ করিয়া দিচ্ছি যে যদি আপনি গোলমাল সৃষ্টি করেন তাহা হইলে আমি আপনাকে একটু দসবার জন্ত বলতে বাধ্য হব । অনুরোধ করিয়া গোলমাল করিবেন না ।

Khan Bahadur Dewan EKLIMUR ROZA CHAUDHURY : হা, আপনি বসিতে বলিলেই আমি একটু বিশ্রাম করিব ।

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : গোলমাল অন্তে করে উনি বক্তৃতা দেন ।

Khan Bahadur Dewan EKLIMUR ROZA CHAUDHURY : এই জন্ত ঠিক সুরে এই গভর্নমেন্টের তাল বাজিতেছে না । তাহাদের জমিদার এক ধারে, প্রজা এক ধারে, ধনী এক ধারে, দরিদ্র এক ধারে, স্মৃদখোর এক ধারে, অধমর্ন একধারে এই প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বি সম্প্রদায়দের আশ্রয় দিতে যাইয়া এবং উভয়েরই মন রক্ষা করার চেষ্টা করিয়া এই গভর্নমেন্ট বাহুঁড় সাজিতে বাধ্য হইয়াছেন । সেই জন্ত তাহাদের জীবন বীণার তার ঠিক সুরে বাজিতেছে না । এই Court of Wards এর অর্থ কি ? যে সমস্ত লোক অনাথ শিশু তাহাদের জমিদারী ষ্টেট কোর্ট অব্ ওয়ার্ডে নেওয়া হয় অথবা বাহারা একেবারে অপদার্থ উহাদের estate কোর্ট অব্ ওয়ার্ডে নেওয়া হয় । এই সমস্ত লোককে গভর্নমেন্ট রক্ষা করিতে যাইতেছেন এবং অন্য দিকে প্রজাদের কিছু কিছু সুবিধা দিতে চাহিতেছেন । এই দুইয়ের সামঞ্জস্য করা গভর্নমেন্টের পক্ষে কষ্ট হইবে । তাহাদের দরিদ্রের পক্ষ লওয়া উচিত । আমাদের জন্ত তাহাদের চিন্তা করিবার দরকার নাই—আমরা চাই না । আমাদের উপর-ওয়ালা বাহা হয় করিবেন । বাহারা দরিদ্র তাহাদের জন্ত গভর্নমেন্টকে কাজ করিতে হইবে । আমার অনুরোধ গভর্নমেন্ট দুই চার জনের জন্ত যেন চিন্তা না করেন এবং Court of Wards Estate প্রজাদের উপর অত্যাচার অবিচার না করেন । গভর্নমেন্টের দরিদ্র প্রজার জন্ত চিন্তা করা উচিত ।

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sure I shall not be able to finish my points before we rise for the day in another two minutes. So should I begin now? If you can give me another five minutes, I may be able to finish. Now there are only two minutes left.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House, I think, do not like to sit beyond 5 p.m.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: As I come to discuss this motion, at the outset I should say that I support it. The first question that I want to place before the House is the question of land settlement in the Court of Wards' Estates.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member may speak on this particular motion again to-morrow.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 a.m., on Tuesday, the 21st March, 1939.

Shillong,
The 12th May, 1939.

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