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Prep:

**Proceedings of the Sixteenth 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 Tuesday, the
20th March 1945

PRESENT

The Hon'ble Mr. Basanta Kumar Das, Speaker, in the Chair, the ten Hon'ble Ministers
and seventy-seven hon. Members

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Refusal of special quota of food-stuffs during the last Magh Bihoo festival

Srijut SURENDRA NATH BURAGOHAIN asked :

*177. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the Subdivisional Officer, Sibsagar, refused to allow any special quota of food-stuffs on the occasion of the last *Magh Bihoo* ?
- (b) If so, why and whether Government propose to issue necessary directions in the matter for his future guidance ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

177. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Is *Magh Bihoo* a festival which has been included in the list of festivals for special issue of rations ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Yes, Sir.

Re Tezpur-Rangapara Motor Service

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN asked :

*178. (a) Are Government aware that the public are experiencing great inconvenience on account of the stoppage of Tezpur-Rangapara Motor Service ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to remove this inconvenience by granting permits to Motor Services immediately on the said route ?

*179. (a) Are Government aware that great inconvenience is caused to the public on account of the limited number of Motor Services between Tezpur and North Gauhati as well as Tezpur-Biswanath, Charali and Hawaijan ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to remove the inconvenience by granting more permits to Motor Services on the said routes ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

178. (a)—Government are aware that the stoppage of Motor Services involves inconvenience which they regret ?

(b)—This route was stopped because since there is a parallel Railway Service, petrol rationing dictated economy of services and Government regret that until the position alters they cannot re-open it.

179. (a) & (b)—The inconvenience appears to have been mainly due to the failure of permit holders to secure vehicles, but it is hoped that soon all the 5 permit holders on the former and the 14 in the latter route will secure vehicles on Lease/Lend terms.

Srijut MAHADEV SARMA: With regard to Question 178(b), is it not a fact that the parallel Railway runs very irregularly in these days?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am not aware of that.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Are Government aware that the accommodation in that particular Railway is most insufficient?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: No, Sir, the accommodation is not insufficient.

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: Will Government take it from me that there is only one passenger train from Tezpur to Rangapara which is inadequate for going and coming of the passengers?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have already mentioned that if the petrol position becomes easier, I shall consider reopening the route.

Vegetable seeds supplied by Agriculture Department

Srijut BELIRAM DAS asked:

- *180. Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Agriculture be pleased to state—
- The quantity of vegetable seeds such as Cabbages, Cauliflowers, etc., supplied by the Agriculture Department to the public during the year 1944-45?
 - Whether the Hon'ble Minister is aware that seeds supplied to public by the said Department in the year 1944-45 have proved unsuccessful?
 - Where from those seeds were imported?
 - Whether it is a fact that vegetable cultivation in the year 1944-45 has not been a successful one?
 - Whether any officer of the Agriculture Department visited any of the places wherefrom vegetables are supplied to the Gauhati town?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA replied:

180. (a)—A statement is laid on the table. (printed below).

LIST OF VEGETABLE SEEDS SUPPLIED BY AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT TO THE PUBLIC

Cabbage	...	...	...	127	lbs.	10	oz.
Cauliflower	...	...	...	91	"	13½	"
Knol Khol	...	...	...	53	"		"
Turnip	...	...	...	72	"	5½	"
Carrot	...	...	...	28	"	8	"
Beet	...	...	...	11	"	5	"
Radish (Country and English)	...	...	...	1,347	"	13	"
Tomato	...	...	...	23	"		"
Lettuce	...	...	...	8	"	8	"
Brinjals	...	...	...	14	"		"
Onion	...	...	...				3 maunds.
Muskmelon	...	...	...	5½	lbs.		
Water melon	...	...	...	5½	"		
French bean	...	...	...	343	"		
Peas	...	...	...	51	lbs.	4	oz.
Spinach	...	...	...	2	lbs.		
Capsicum	...	...	...	1	oz.		

- (b)—Government are not aware of this.
- (c)—The seeds were obtained from the Directors of Agriculture, Kashmir, and Queta and also from important Seed Firms in the country ?
- (d)—No. If it were not successful, Assam would not have stood up to the demand in the way it has done.
- (e)—Agriculture Inspector, Gauhati, Agricultural Demonstrator, Polasbari and Rural Uplift Organiser, Goral and Rampur visited Polasbari, Goral and North Bank of Goral.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: With regard to (b), may I enquire of the Hon'ble Minister whether he will ask the Departmental Authorities to make an enquiry in view of the fact that in most cases these seeds proved a failure ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: So far as vegetable seeds are concerned they have not proved a failure in the Surma Valley. However, Sir, we can do that, as suggested by the hon. Member.

(Starred Questions Nos. 181-183 were not put and answered as the Questioner Maulavi Mabarak Ali was absent.)

Scheme for direct purchase of paddy and rice in Surma Valley

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

*184. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The scheme they have lately adopted for the direct purchase of paddy and rice in the Surma Valley ?
- (b) The various classes of posts they have created for the purpose and the functions of each such class ?
- (c) The names of persons appointed in each kind of these posts ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that most of the officers had been recruited from Government Service ?
- (e) If so, from which service each of these officers has been taken ?
- (f) Why these posts were not advertised and outsiders given a chance ?
- (g) Whether Government are aware that due to the appointment of a good number of officers from the Education Department the efficiency of that Department will deteriorate ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

*184. (a)—The hon. Member is referred to reply to Unstarred Question 41(a) asked by him at the present Session of the Assembly.

(b)—(1) Deputy Director of Supply (Procurement). He is the administrative head of the rice and paddy procurement scheme in Surma Valley and devices means and ways for its effective operations.

(2) Controllers of Supply (Procurement). Their duties are to assist the Deputy Director of Supply (Procurement) in different branches of his work such as procurement, transport, distribution and enforcement.

(3) Inspectors—for procurement and other works. They will tour about supervising the day-to-day work of the subordinate staff and carry out orders of the Controller and Deputy Director of Supply.

(4) Ministerial staff:—They are engaged in clerical work.

(5) Store-keepers:—Their duties are to weigh, examine contents and to take charge of all quantities of rice and paddy delivered at centres specified.

(c)—The list is placed on Library table.

(d)—Yes. Specially the Controllers and Inspectors of Supply (Procurement).

(e)—The Deputy Director of Supply (Procurement) is an officer of the Excise Department.

The Controllers and Inspectors of Supply (Procurement), from Nos. 1 to 16 are taken from the Education Department, Nos. 17 and 18 are from outside and Nos. 19 and 20 are from the Ministerial services.

(f)—As the appointments had to be made at once for the immediate operation of the rice and paddy procurement scheme in the Surma Valley, there was no time to advertise the posts.

(g)—Government do not consider so.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I enquire whether the scheme which the Hon'ble Premier has just now stated was considered in any Cabinet meeting?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: No, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is it not a fact that this scheme was adopted by the officers concerned?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: No, Sir, the Deputy Commissioner, the Deputy Director of Supply (Procurement), the Director of Supply and myself sat together to discuss the ways and means to implement the wishes of the Legislature, as expressed in the November Session, and we drew up the scheme.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Do not Government consider that the scheme is defective so far as procurement is concerned?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: We have no materials as yet to declare that this scheme is defective.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is it a fact that some of the officers appointed in the Surma Valley are close relatives of some of the high officials of the district?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am not aware of that. As I have already mentioned, 16 were taken from the Education Department—men who were recommended and released by that Department, two from the Ministerial services and only two from outside.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is it a fact that in some cases one brother has been appointed as store-keeper, the other brother as Inspector and the third brother as a license-holder?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am not aware of that.

Licences for export of potato to Bengal

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Sir, I do not like to ask Starred Question No. 185.

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA: I had some supplementaries to ask on Starred Question No. 185.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: But the hon. Member does not like to ask this Question. However, if the Hon'ble Premier likes, he may answer it under Rule 38.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have no objection, Sir.

†185. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The names of persons to whom licenses for export of potato from this Province to Bengal were issued since the restriction for its export was imposed in the Province?

- (b) Whether these licenses were issued to growers in the plains or dealers in Khasi and Jaintia Hills potatoes only ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the Agriculture Inspector, Sunamganj, enquired into one case and found that a license was issued in the name of a fictitious person ?
- (d) Under what principle these licenses were issued and who issued the licenses ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

*185 (a)—A list is laid on the table (printed below).

NAME OF LICENSEES FOR EXPORTING POTATO TO BENGAL

(Names of permit holders)

1. Dakshina Ranjan Gupta Chaudhuri, M.A., B.L., M.L.A., Maulvibazar.
2. Choudhuri, Abdur Rozaque, Habiganj.
3. P. B. Kar, Sylhet.
4. A. P. Nandi, Lamabazar.
5. L. M. Shome, Dariapara.
6. Siti Bhusan Deb, c/o Ramkrishna Ashram, Sylhet.
7. Mansuf Uddin Ahmed Choudhury, village Budhimantapur, P. O. Dullavpur.
8. Aftab Uddin, Sylhet.
9. Kalipada Kar, Sylhet.
10. Md. Jahirul Haque, Sylhet.
11. S. R. Datta, Srimangal.
12. Naresh Chandra Kar, Putijuri.
13. Matilal Das, Kazirbazar, Sylhet.
14. R. Naug and S. Kar, Habiganj.
15. Abdul Ahmed Khan, c/o Khan Sahib Nurul Hussain Khan, Pleader, Habiganj.
16. Mofizmea of Umed Nagar.
17. Animesh Chandra Roy, west of Church.
18. Md. Babru Mea, village Daulatpur.
19. Choudhury, Abdur Rozaque, Habiganj.
20. Radhesh Mazumdar, Sylhet.
21. Ambika Charan Roy, Habiganj town.
22. Md. Ali Akhtar Khan of Prithimpassa.
23. Datta Choudhuri Brothers of Habiganj.
24. Jitendra Kumar Bhadra, Sylhet.
25. P. B. Kar, Dariapara, Sylhet.
26. G. K. Mazumdar, Dharmanagar, Sylhet.
27. Abdul Bari, Raikhail P. O. Jalalpur.
28. Rasamay Deb Nath, Chhatak, Sylhet.
29. Abdul Mahsim, Bagbari, Chhatak.
30. Suchir Ch. De, Topekhana, Sylhet.
31. Bipin Chandra Guha, Gopinathpur, Habiganj.
32. Md. Idris Ali, Jori.
33. Mohim Chandra Acherjee, Chhatak.
34. Harendra Lal Paul, Chhatak.
35. Said Ali, Chhatak.
36. Abdul Ahad Khan, Habiganj.
37. Rash Behari Das, for Nuruddin Khaliluddin, Chhatak bazar.
38. Md. Sonaula, Sylhet.
39. Tuta Mia, Station Road.
40. Asad Ulla, Pirpur, Sylhet.

41. Ajit Kumar Dastidar, Daspara.
 42. Abid Ali, Nalirpar, Habiganj.
 43. Ramani Mohan Roy, Birat.
 44. Abdul Manaf, Kazirbazar.

(b)—Licenses issued in Sylhet were in respect of potatoes grown in this district.

(c)—No such case has been reported.

(d)—The licenses were issued by Government on application by large scale growers or *bonafide* traders.

The list is a long one consisting of 44 members. The name of the first permit holder is our Friend, Babu Dakshina Ranjan Gupta Chaudhuri, M.A., B.L., M.L.A., Maulvibazar. Probably my Friend will be able to find the list from the table. I won't detail any further.

†Mr BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: The purpose is served.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, the purpose is served.

†Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA: From the list I find that not a single man from the Assam Valley has been favoured with a licence. May I know the reason why?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: There is no surplus potato grown in the Assam Valley to be exported, whereas it is so in the Surma Valley. Last year, export at this time was banned by the Military authorities. They are not taking the entire quantity now and therefore we have issued licenses.

Licenses for sale of plantains in the markets

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked:

- *186. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether license is required for the sale of plantains in markets within the same district of the Province?
- (b) If not, are Government aware that plantain sellers are detained by the checkers at the checking stations?
- (c) Is it a fact that no licence is required for moving with plantains for sale from market to market in the Sunamganj subdivision?
- (d) Are Government aware that the plantain dealers cannot move freely with plantains from market to market in the subdivision of Sunamganj?
- (e) Do Government propose to issue orders to all checking offices not to harass the petty dealers in plantains when they carry on business within the same district or to issue licences to such plantain dealers?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

186. (a)—No.
 (b)—Government have received no such complaint.
 (c)—Yes.
 (d)—Government are informed that it is not true.
 (e)—Government do not think it necessary.

Agricultural Development Scheme

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked:

*187. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether they have taken up any Agricultural Development Scheme in the Province during the current year?

- (b) If so, will Government be pleased to state how many such schemes have been taken up in the Subdivision of Sunamganj and what are the nature of those schemes ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA replied :

187.(a)—The Agriculture Department contemplate to take up the schemes as shown in the statement laid on the table (printed below) for their Grow-More-Food Campaign for 1945-46, if approved by the Government of India.

SCHEMES TO BE TAKEN UP BY AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR GROW-MORE-FOOD CAMPAIGN

- (1) Seed Distribution Scheme.
- (2) Manure Distribution Scheme.
- (3) Paddy Seed Multiplication Scheme.
- (4) Production and Marketing of Vegetables Scheme.
- (5) Horticultural Scheme for the production of fruit plants and vegetable seeds.
- (6) Agricultural Training Scheme.
- (7) Irrigation (small projects) and Pumping Scheme.
- (8) Poultry and Goat Breeding Scheme.
- (9) Cattle Breeding and Milk Production Scheme.
- (10) Transport (Trucks) Scheme for speedy movement of seeds, etc.
- (11) Preservation of Productive Cattle Scheme.

(b)—No scheme was drawn up for any particular Subdivision or District.

†Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Am I to understand Sir, that beside the Grow-More-Food Scheme no other scheme has been adopted by the Government ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: All the schemes go in the Grow-More-Food Scheme.

†Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister why the approval of the Government of India is required as regards all the schemes ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: For financial help.

†Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Is it a fact that Government of India will be forthcoming with funds for all the schemes ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: We hope so, Sir. They will bear certain percentage of it.

Census of Cattle

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*188.(a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have taken any census of cattle in the Province recently ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a report of the same ?

*189. Will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken recently to improve the cattle position of the Province ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA replied :

188.(a)—Yes.

(b)—The report is not ready yet.

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Will Government publish the report in the official Gazette as soon as it is ready?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: The suggestion will be remembered.

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA replied:

189. Arrangements are being made for the import of 2,000 plough cattle from Bihar. The herds in Khanapara, Sylhet, Shillong and Jorhat cattle farms are being increased. A special scheme for cattle breeding has been included in the three-year Grow-More-Food plans beginning from 1945-46.

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, may we know by what procedure the herds in these cattle farms are being increased?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: By improved breeding. We are keeping breeding bulls in Government farms as well as in different centres.

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Do Government propose to bring in imported cows from outside the Province?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: We have been trying our level best to get some from the Punjab but nothing has been finally decided.

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Who will decide?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: We are negotiating.

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Is it in the contemplation of Government that the Punjab will supply milch-cows?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: As I have already said we are negotiating.

Assam Provincial Motor Transport Organisation

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked:

*190. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account of the Assam Provincial Motor Transport Organisation for the year 1943-44?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

190.—A copy of the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account of Assam Transport for the year 1943-44 has been laid on the Library table.

Utilisation of medical officers in Post-War Reconstruction Scheme

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked:

*191. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have got sufficient number of qualified medical men for the Post-War Reconstruction works in the Province for Medical and Public Health Departments?

(b) If not, what steps have been taken to meet the demands of the Province in this respect?

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN replied:

191. (a)—After the War a good number of Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons of the Medical and Public Health Departments deputed to Military duty will revert to civil duty and then it will be possible to utilise their services in Post-War Reconstruction work.

(b)—Does not arise.

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May we enquire whether Government is definite whether after the War the medical men who will come to the civil side will serve the purpose so far as the Post-War Reconstruction scheme is concerned?

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: I hope, they will.

Import and distribution of Fine Cloths

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*192. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The total quantity of fine cloths imported by them direct and through cloth dealers separately during the year 1944 (figures to be shown district by district) ?
- (b) The procedure followed by Government in each district of the Province for distribution of the above mentioned cloths ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

192. (a)—Presuming that by "fine cloth" is meant mill-made cloth other than standard cloth, Government purchased no such cloth themselves but helped certain authorised dealers to purchase and import the following approximate quantities, viz.:—
June, July, August and September, 1944 — 660 bales a month ; November, 1944 — 3,100 bales, December, 1944 — 3,100 bales. Besides these quantities, about 1,000 bales were procured from Calcutta through the Government offices of the Textile Controller, Bengal, between October and December, 1944.

All these quantities were procured for the Province as a whole and distributed among the various districts on the basis of a percentage fixed for each district according to its population. In addition to these quantities, the dealers imported cloth, mostly from the Calcutta Market, through their own resources, the quantity of which is not known to Government.

(b)—The procedure so far followed in regard to the distribution of cloth procured with the help of Government has been to ask the local officers to select a small number of wholesale dealers, to whom the procuring agents consign the district or subdivisional quota and who, in their turn, distribute it among retail dealers under the direction of the local officers. As regards cloth procured by dealers through their own resources, the distribution is left to them. For the future it is proposed to distribute the quota of each subdivision through a wholesale Co-operative Society of dealers, which will distribute the cloth among the various wholesalers according to a quota to be fixed for each on the basis of his actual transactions in 1940-41-42. The wholesalers in their turn will sell the cloth to retailers attached to each on a regional basis.

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Are Government aware that distribution so far made is most unsatisfactory and it was distributed mostly amongst the Government officers but the general public did not derive any benefit out of it ?

† The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am not aware of that. But I have heard complaints that the distribution did not satisfy the people. That was due partly to the fact that the quantity so far received is too small to satisfy public needs.

† Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Is it a fact that certain shops have been reserved for Government officers at Sylhet?

† The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: In Sylhet the Deputy Commissioner is trying to see to the equitable distribution amongst all the people. So he has, on an experimental basis, reserved two retail shops for purchase by Government servants. He has also reserved two shops specially for the town people in Sylhet. This is an experimental measure and if it satisfies the public needs, it will be extended.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I know, Sir, what is the basis of these Subdivisional quotas ?

† The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: On population basis, Sir.

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May I know who helps the private dealers, about whose indents the Government is not aware, in securing the railway and steamer space?

† The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Government are not aware as to how they secure railway or steamer space.

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the quota fixed for Assam is distributed either by Government direct or by their Agents?

† The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The quota is fixed by the Regional Priority Committee and it is not fixed either by us or by the Agents. The traders probably utilised the space when Government did not move their own goods.

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, may I enquire from the Hon'ble Prime Minister whether any one can utilise the quota of Assam without any approval or certificate received from the Government or their Agents?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The Government Agent has no power to transfer the waggon space or steamer space allotted to Government to private traders. Up till now I have not heard of any case in which the Government Agents have utilised their power in this way. But if on a day when Government quota was not utilised either in the railway or in the steamer, the private traders might have availed this quota but I am not aware by what means.

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Are Government definitely aware that these private traders indented mill-made cloths over and above the bales mentioned by the Hon'ble Prime Minister?

† The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, Sir, before this. The private traders got their quotas before we were given a separate quota of 4,600 bales when our quota was tagged with Bengal, that is, before November 1944.

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May we know, Sir, what was the quantity of that quota given to the private persons?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: As I said, Sir, we do not know that quantity. Our quota was merged in the Bengal quota and our traders were asked to take from the middlemen in Calcutta and they utilised part of their quota meant for Assam during that period. Since then export of a single yard of cloth from Bengal has been banned. We are getting cloth from Bombay and Ahmedabad.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I ask the Hon'ble Prime Minister to explain how the quota is fixed on population basis?

† The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, can I be more explicit? We know the population of a certain Subdivision, we know the total population of the Province and we also know the quantity of cloth that has been brought. We distribute it on the proportionate basis according to the number of population.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Sir, how many *dhuties* and *sarees* are allotted to each of the families containing males and females—say of 5 members?

† The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, I am not aware as to how many *dhuties* and *sarees* are allotted but the Government of India has laid down that on an average more than 12 yards cannot be given per capita during a year.

† Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: May I know, Sir, whether Bengal mills, like the Dhakeswari Cotton Mill in Bengal have got their agents in Assam and the agents are being allotted quotas?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It was so, Sir, before Bengal promulgated their ban on export on cloth. Now we are not allowed to get any cloth from Bengal mills.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Is it not a fact that the Bengal mills are still notifying to their agents, Sir, that their quotas are lying in their stock there for want of transport?

† The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : That must be the quota before November 1944. No new quota has been given to us from Bengal after that.

† Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the quotas for June and July have not yet arrived and we do not know the whereabouts of those ?

† The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am sorry, Sir, I also do not know anything.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Ministerial Service Officers of Habiganj Civil Court are complaining that they are not getting equal number of *sarees* and *dhuties* as the clerks of the Criminal Courts? Will the Hon'ble Prime Minister make an enquiry ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: My Friend made a complaint direct yesterday. We have had no complaint as yet. How can I make an enquiry ? The fact is that the complaint has been made to the Deputy Commissioner and he will surely take steps.

Import and distribution of yarn

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :—

*193. Will Government be pleased to state :—

- (a) The total quantity of yarn imported by them direct and through dealers separately during the year 1944 (figures to be shown district by district) ?
- (b) The procedure adopted by Government in each district of the Province for distribution of the same ?

*194. Will Government be pleased to state, year by year, the total quantity of yarn imported into the Province during the years 1938 to 1943 ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

193. (a)—Except for 200 bales of yarn of special quality procured by the Government Emporium, Gauhati, from Madras, Government made no purchases of yarn in 1944. One authorised agent, however, procured 348 bales from Bombay and Madras in November, which have been ordered to be consigned to the firm of Messrs. Lunkaram Sohanlal at Gauhati and Karimganj. Figures relating to purchases made by dealers privately are not available.

(b)—So far as the procedure followed at present is concerned, the question does not arise. As regards the future, the same policy as in the case of cloth, as described in the reply to question 192(a), will be followed.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May we know how these 348 bales that were indented by the agent were distributed?

† The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: As I have replied, Sir, these bales were procured from Bombay and Madras in November, which have been ordered to be consigned to the firm of Messrs. Lunkaram Sohanlal at Gauhati and Karimganj. These firms have only recently given the sole right of indenting yarn and the yarn will be distributed to different branches—one is situated at Karimganj and the other in Fenchuganj. I know of these two branches in the Surma Valley and they have branches in the Assam Valley also. These will be distributed to dealers who have been in this yarn trade for the previous three years on selection by the District Officers.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, my question was how these 348 bales were distributed and not about the future?

† The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: They have not yet reached. These bales have been procured and are in transit.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: What about the 200 bales that were indented by the Gauhati Emporium? Whether these were used by the Emporium or distributed?

† The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The Emporium distributed to the hand-loom weavers from whom they get their finished cloths.

† Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA: Are Government aware, Sir, that there is scarcity of yarn in the districts?

† The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, Sir.

† Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA: Then what steps they are taking, Sir?

† The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It is on account of facilitating procurement that my Hon'ble Colleague gave sole right of procurement to one firm who has got agencies in yarn procuring areas.

Srijut SURENDRA NATH BURAGOHAJ: May I know, Sir, who was the agent who purchased this yarn from Madras?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am not quite sure, Sir, but it may be a young man from Sylhet—A. Latif R. Ahmed.

Srijut SURENDRA NATH BURAGOHAJ: Why was that agency ordered to send the consignment to the firm of Messrs. Lunkaram Sohanlal at Gauhati and Karimganj, Sir?

† The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Because it had already taken a long time in reaching Assam. And in the meantime there was a great scarcity and my Hon'ble Colleague selected that firm to be the sole procurer and distributor in the Province.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

194.—No statistics are available.

Indoor Hospital at Baniyachong

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked:

*195. Will Government be pleased to state when the indoor hospital at Baniyachong was opened and with how many beds?

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN replied:

195.—An Emergency Hospital was opened at Baniyachong on the 4th December 1944. On the 17th January 1945, when the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals and the Director of Public Health paid a visit to the Hospital, it had 31 beds and it was raised to 50 beds a week later.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Do Government propose to increase the number of beds in the indoor hospital at Baniyachong?

† The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: If necessary, yes.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May I know whether Government have received any information that there is no necessity of increasing the number of beds at present?

† The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: That is the latest information, Sir.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: In whose opinion, Sir?

† The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: The Inspector General of Civil Hospitals and the Director of Public Health opined in their joint report.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: What is the date of that report, Sir?

† The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: I do not remember the exact date, Sir.

Requisition of houses for use of private firms

Srijut JADAV PRASAD CHALIHA asked:

*196. (a) Are Government aware that the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, has been requisitioning houses at present for the use of private firms?

(b) Are Government aware that this is causing hardship and annoyance to the owners?

(c) Is it a fact that employees of the Pekin Syndicate occupied a Bungalow at Tinsukia without the consent of the owner and subsequently refused to pay the rent which they amicably settled with him ?

(d) Is it a fact that the Pekin Syndicate later approached the Rent Control Board for reduction of the settled rent without any result ?

(e) Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, requisitioned the same house for that firm as per Memo. No.111/B.47/162-68 of the 6th January 1945 with effect from 1st April 1944, and fixed 1/3rd of the rent at which the house was arranged by the party, in spite of the Rent Controller dismissing their plea for reduction of rent ?

(f) Do Government propose to take necessary steps to withdraw the aforesaid requisition order and see that such things may not occur in future ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

196. (a)—Houses are requisitioned sometimes for private firms who are Government agents for supply of essential articles.

(b)—Government are aware that requisition causes some hardship.

(c) and (e)—Several buildings at Tinsukia were occupied by Pekin Syndicate. It is presumed that the hon. Member here refers to the Chang house of Messrs. P. C. Chatterjee which was last requisitioned for the Pekin Syndicate on formal demand from the Military headquarters. Government have no information of any rent settlement made privately. The rent on requisition was fixed after local enquiry at the current valuation.

(d)—Government have no information.

(f)—No.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: Sir, I heard the Hon'ble Minister replying that houses are requisitioned sometimes for private firms who are Government agents for supply of essential articles and I would like to know whether Government would requisition private houses for Military contractors who supply bamboos and timber, etc.

†The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: That is a hypothetical Question, Sir. Each Question is answered on its own merits.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: Then my Question also can be answered on its merit, Sir.

†The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Our principle is that houses are requisitioned for supply of essential articles.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: Will the Hon'ble Minister state whether the Assam Oil Company is a private firm or not ?

†The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Does this Question arise, Sir ?

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: It arises because at Tinsukia several houses were requisitioned for that firm.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It has not been elicited whether the houses were requisitioned for the Assam Oil Company. It must be elicited first and then the supplementaries will arise.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Will Government please state whether any houses have been requisitioned for the Assam Oil Company ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: I want notice of this Question, Sir.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Mr. L. K. Handique, Director of Agriculture

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMIRUDDIN asked :

128. (a) Is it a fact that Mr. L. K. Handique, the officiating Director of Agriculture, ordered, on the 1st November 1944, the Head Clerk of the office of the Economic Botanist to remove his office at once from its present site elsewhere ?

(b) If so, (i) why the order was given in such a hurry and (ii) whether the Economic Botanist was in or out of Shillong on that day ?

(c) (i) What was the urgency on the part of Mr. Handique to personally go to the office of the Economic Botanist and make over the order of office shifting to the Head Clerk and (ii) why the ordinary course of official etiquette was not pursued in this case ?

(d) Whether the Director personally inspected the newly selected house for the shifting of this office ?

(e) If so, whether he found sufficient space for its accommodation there ?

(f) Is it also a fact that on the same very date Mr. Handique took an over-zealous part in putting one Rai Sahib Anath Bandhu Dutta, an outgoing Registrar of the Secretariat, in forcible occupation of one of the office rooms of the Economic Botanist ?

(g) If so, why ?

(h) Whether the said Rai Sahib Anath Bandhu Dutta also on the following morning forcibly entered into the said office room with a handful of outsiders and threw away Government records and other properties ?

(i) If so, whether any information against such high-handedness was lodged before the local police ?

(j) What actions have so far been taken by the local police against the trespassers ?

(k) Is it also a fact that Mr. Handique subsequently cancelled the said order of shifting the office of the Economic Botanist ?

(l) If so, why ?

(m) What disciplinary actions do Government propose to take against this officer for these acts ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA replied :

128. (a)—Yes.

(b) (i)—The order was passed timely and not in a hurry.

(ii)—The Economic Botanist was out of Shillong on that day.

(c) (i)—The officiating Director of Agriculture went to see for himself if the accommodation available in the proposed office building was equal to the accommodation in the existing office.

(ii)—Does not arise.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—No.

(g)—Does not arise.

(h)—It is reported to be so by the Head Clerk of the Economic Botanist.

(i) & (j)—Police were informed. The matter is still under police enquiry.

(k)—Yes.

(l)—Because the Head Clerk alleged that Rai Sahib A. B. Dutta wanted to occupy the building by force.

(m)—Does not arise.

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEB: With regard to (i) and (j) the reply is that the matter is still under police enquiry. It appears, Sir, that the occurrence took place about 5 months back and I do not understand why the matter should be still under police enquiry.

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: We are just awaiting the police report and we do not know why they are taking so much time.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the fact that the occurrence took place nearly 5 months back, will the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture take an active interest in finding out the reason for such inordinate delay in the submission of the police report ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: I will make an enquiry, Sir.

Re Silchar Hospital

Mr. W. D. RUTHERFURD asked :

129. (a) Are Government aware that the Civil Hospital, Silchar, has recently been reduced to a deplorable condition by earthquake shock ?

(b) Are Government aware that the Local Board which is responsible for its maintenance has informed the Civil Surgeon that there are no more funds available with them for repair and upkeep of this Hospital building ?

(c) If so, do Government propose to make a special grant to this Hospital ?

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN replied :

129. (a)—It is not a fact that the Civil Hospital at Silchar has been reduced to a deplorable condition by the recent earthquake shock. Only two partition walls—one in the main surgical and the other in the medical ward were badly damaged and had to be partly removed. Beyond that there were minor cracks and displacement of plaster.

(b)—The Local Board has intimated its inability to provide any funds for repair works in addition to its allotment of Rs.600 for annual repairs.

(c)—Not unless the Local Board can show to the satisfaction of Government that they are unable to meet these Petty repairs out of their own resources.

Mr. W. D. RUTHERFURD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know why my original Question has been altered. My original Question refers to the general deplorable condition of the Silchar Civil Hospital buildings and contained no reference to earthquake damage.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What is the Question ?

Mr. W. D. RUTHERFURD: My Question is why was my original Question altered to make reference to damage caused by earthquake shock ?

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: Government have not altered that Question, Sir. The Question submitted to me was :

“Are Government aware that the Civil Hospital, Silchar, has recently been reduced to a deplorable condition by earthquake shock ?” and I have replied accordingly.

Mr. W. D. RUTHERFURD: Will the Hon'ble Minister please find out who was responsible for altering my Question ?

†The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when any hon. Member sends out any Question it is received in the office of the Hon'ble Speaker. That office sends a copy to the Department and the Department with materials for reply submits the Question to the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge. We go by the Question as we receive it in our office. If there has been any change it Hon'ble Speaker's office would change the Question.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: After the Questions are admitted by me, admitted who give notice of the Questions and if there be anything wrong with regard to any of the admitted Questions it is the duty of the hon. Members concerned to draw the attention of the Assembly Department to that for necessary corrections.

Mr. W. D. RUTHERFURD: However, Sir, is Government aware that only the smallest repairs, both to the Hospital buildings and the staff quarters, have been carried out for very many years ? That is the deplorable condition that I am referring to.

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: The only body responsible for making repairs to the Hospital buildings is the Local Board concerned and if they represent to Government with facts and figures that they are absolutely unable to carry out the repairs, Government will surely see if they can help in the matter.

Dr. C. G. TERRELL: Sir, referring to the principle underlying this Question, may I enquire whether Government will consider the desirability of provincialising all the remaining seven District Hospitals in this Province as soon as possible ?

†Speech not corrected.

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: It is the aim of the Government to provincialise all the Hospitals in the Province and we will try to expedite the matter.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Sir, is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the Civil Surgeon of Silchar deploras the condition of this Hospital so much that he has asked many private persons to come to the rescue?

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: I am not aware of that, Sir.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Will Government refuse to state whether they have received any representation or note from the Civil Surgeon of Silchar in this respect?

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: No, Sir, as far as I know.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister make an enquiry into the state of this Hospital?

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: The matter has been brought to the notice of the Government and due consideration is being given to this effect.

Re grant of Hill allowances to Subdivisional and other Officers

Rev. L. GATPHOH asked:

130. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons why Jowai Subdivision is treated differently from other Hill Districts, as regards granting of Hill allowances to Subdivisional Officer and other Officers?

(b) Is it a fact that the cost of living at Jowai in pre-war days was as high as in other Hill Districts in Assam?

(c) Is it a fact that Government bear the cost of carriage of all controlled foodstuffs, such as sugar, salt, oil, etc., from Shillong to Jowai, in order to keep down the high cost of living in the town of Jowai and in other parts of the Subdivision?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

130. (a)—Government are not prepared to admit the implication that there is any discrimination in regard to this Subdivision. Any case for an allowance is examined on its merits.

(b)—No cost of living indices are available, but Government were of opinion, at the times when representations for allowances were made on the position in various districts compared, that this was not the case.

(c)—Yes.

Students deputed for technical training

Srijut SURENDRANATH BURAGOHAİN asked:

131. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they have taken any decision on the number of studentship to be sponsored by them for technical training abroad in pursuance of the scheme announced by the Government of India towards the end of January last?

(b) If so, what are the courses for which awards will be available?

(c) Whether any Selection Committee for this Province has been appointed in this matter?

(d) When the advertisements inviting applications are likely to be issued?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied:

131. (a)—Yes.

(b)—1. Mechanical Engineering.
2. Electrical Engineering.
3. Hydraulic Engineering.

4. Industrial Chemistry.
5. Forestry.
6. Chemical Engineering.
7. M. R. C. V. S. Course at Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.
8. Agricultural Engineering.
9. Sericulture.
10. Textile Engineering.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Notice already issued to Gazette and other Newspapers on the 2nd March 1945.

†Srijut SURENDRANATH BURAGOHAJN: Sir, may I know about the personnel of the Select Committee set up ?

†The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: The Members of the Public Service Commission will be assisted by the experts of some Departments.

†Srijut SURENDRANATH BURAGOHAJN: Who will be the experts, Sir, to assist the Public Service Commission ?

†The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: For each subject there will be separate experts, *viz.*, Director of Public Instruction, the Electrical Advisor to Government, the Chief Engineer, the Director of Agriculture, and so on.

Re Warders of Jails

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

132. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the warders in each jail of the Province have to perform fourteen hours duty every day ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that they are to work three hours at a stretch for night watch in the Sylhet Jail ?
- (c) Whether they get rice, dal, mustard oil, etc., as free ration ?
- (d) If not, why not ?
- (e) (i) The number of warders and (ii) the number of family quarters available for warders in each of the jails in Assam ?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that there are only 16 family quarters for warders in the Sylhet Jail ?
- (g) Whether Government propose to increase the number of family quarters in each jail of the Province ?
- (h) Whether Government propose to increase the salary of the jail warders ?
- (i) Whether it is a fact that the warders in Sylhet Jail suffer for insufficiency of pure drinking water ?
- (j) Whether it is a fact that they are to depend upon water of the Dhopadighi tank ?
- (k) Whether it is a fact that there were two deaths due to cholera in the Sylhet Jail about the last week of November 1944 ?
- (l) Whether Government propose to take necessary steps for the supply of pure drinking water for warders in the Sylhet Jail ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

132. (a)—No.

(b)—Yes. Those who work for 6 hours in day time are put to 3 hours duty at night, total hours of duty being 9 hours a day.

(c)—They are allowed free rations or dearness allowance.

(d)—Does not arise.

(e) (i) & (ii)—

Jails	Number of warders including head warders and female warders	Number of family quarters including female warders' quarters
Silchar	18	7
Sylhet	42	18
Shillong	14	7
Aijal	6	5
Dhubri	12	4
Gauhati	35	15
Tezpur	32	8
Nowgong	14	} The information has been called for from the Jail Superintendent.
Dibrugarh	17	
Jorhat	28	6
Sunamganj	8	2
Karimganj	8	2
Habiganj	9	5
South Sylhet	8	4
Mangaldai	7	3
Sibsagar	8	2
Golaghat	7	2
North Lakhimpur	7	3
Tura	7	2

(f)—No, *vide* reply to (e) (ii) above.

(g)—Number of family quarters is being increased every year.

(h)—There is no such proposal.

(i)—There is no reason to think so. The drinking water for the staff quarters of the Jail is drawn from the Municipal supply.

(j)—No. Any tank water required is obtained from the jail tanks.

(k)—The deaths were in the warders quarters. An aged mother of one warder died and another warder who attended her cremation also contracted the disease and died.

(l) Government are prepared to take the matter up with the Municipal Board, if any difficulty is shown.

† Srijut MAHADEV SARMA: May I know, Sir, whether Government has received any application or representation to the effect?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: I do not remember to have received any such application up till now.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Is it not a fact that formerly there were two hours watch at night whereas it is now three hours?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: I want notice of this Question, Sir.

Schedule of fare for Bus Service between Karimganj and Sylhet

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked:

133. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The schedule of fare for Bus Service between Karimganj and Sylhet?

(b) The rates at which the passengers are actually charged?

(c) The number of daily trips allowed to the Karimganj-Sylhet Bus Service?

(d) Whether it is a fact that the permissible number of trips being too small, there are public complaints both about overloading and refusal of accommodation to many intending passengers?

(e) Whether Government are aware that condition of some of these buses is very unsatisfactory?

(f) Whether Government propose to increase the number of daily trips for Karimganj-Sylhet buses ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

				Rs. a. p.
133. (a)—Sylhet to Karimganj ...	...	...	...	2 12 0
Sylhet to Galapganj ...	...	...	...	0 10 0
Sylhet to Ranaping ...	...	...	...	1 3 0
Sylhet to Churkai ...	...	...	...	1 9 0
Sylhet to Sheola ..	...	...	...	1 12 0

(1) The above represents the Third Class fare. Upper Class fare is annas 4 more than Third Class. First Class (driving seat) fare is annas 8 more than Third Class.

(2) Children below 12 years and above 3 years are charged half the above fare.

(3) Luggage—15 seers free, thereafter 9 pies per maund per mile.

(b)—The passengers are charged actually at the above rates.

(c)—Three trips are allowed daily both ways.

(d)—The number of trips allowed is too few. No public complaint has been received about overloading or refusal of accommodation to intending passengers, but in actual fact the demand is greater than the service can supply. This is entirely due to the rationing of petrol. If and when conditions allow the issue of more petrols, extra services will be provided.

(e)—The condition of no bus is unsatisfactory. There are some old model buses but these are examined and passed fit to ply as Stage Carriages by the Government Inspector of Motor Vehicles. New vehicles are not available.

(f)—Petrol rationing does not allow any increase in the number of daily trips for Sylhet-Karimganj buses at present.

† Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Do Government consider that this fair is very excessive ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : We discussed this matter in connection with a Cut Motion also. Considering everything at the present moment this fare is not excessive. My Friend compares the fares between Sylhet-Karimganj and Sylhet-Shillong. The volume of traffic on the Sylhet-Shillong road is so big that there is a chance of reduced fares. The bus owners find it difficult to maintain their transport service unless they get necessary supply of parts which are in often cases rare. Taking all this kind of troubles into consideration, the Regional Transport Authority has adopted this fare. Unless there is a change in the condition of petrol rationing, labour wages, etc., I doubt whether there will be any chance of reduction of the rates.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER : Would the Hon'ble Prime Minister say whether the bus owners get full loads on every trip ?

† The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I will answer that later on. The number of new buses allowed is too small. I admitted in reply to a Question that petrol rationing does not allow us to increase the number of traffic. If more traffic could be plied, the earning would have been more.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER : Will the Hon'ble Prime Minister ask the Provincial Motor Transport Controller to try to replace the old vehicles by modern ones which would actually save much petrol compared with the petrol consumed by dilapidated buses ?

† The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : We cannot force the bus owners to replace their old buses by Lease Lend vehicles unless they apply for them and unless our Motor Vehicles Inspectors condemn the old buses.

Mr. BAIDYNATH MOOKERJEE : Are Government aware that the bus owners are even making good money by carrying passengers on the roof of their buses ?

† The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Government do not admit that those people carry passengers on the roof and I have given a reply in answer to Question (d).

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Sir, I am lodging a complaint on the floor of this House that those people really carry passengers on the roofs of their buses and if Government will make an enquiry, I am ready to give all possible assistance to the Government in this respect.

† The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I thank the hon. Member for offering his services for this cause and I will be only too willing to accept the offer.

Superintendents of Supply (Standard Cloth)

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED asked :

134. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) How many Superintendents of Supply (Standard Cloth) are there in Assam ?

(b) Who appointed them and on whose selection ?

(c) Whether the scale of pay of Supply Superintendents (Standard Cloth) are lower than the scale of pay of the Sub-Inspectors of Supply ?

(d) If not, why they were appointed direct ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

134. (a)—Two.

(b)—Government appointed one of them on the recommendation of Public Service Commission and the other with the approval of His Excellency before the Public Service Commission's list was ready.

(c)—No.

(d)—One of them was appointed direct as there was no time to advertise the post and the appointment had to be made immediately.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Sir, may I know from Government whether they appointed those two persons on a permanent basis or on a contract basis for a particular period ?

† The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : They were Government officers and now they have only been selected for those posts.

Paper Control Economy Inspector and the Superintendent of Co-operative Consumer Goods

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED asked :

135. (a) Is it a fact that some posts of Paper Control Economy Inspector and the Superintendent of Co-operative Consumer Goods are going to be created ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether persons for those posts have already been selected ?

(c) If not, whether Government propose to consider the cases of candidates belonging to Goalpara District while making these appointments ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

135. (a) — There are likely to be some posts of Inspectors of Supply for Paper Control Economy Order.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Government do not appoint candidates district by district. Appointments are made on the recommendations of Public Service Commission according to communal ratio.

Re Inhabitants of Assam

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA asked :

136. Will Government be pleased to state district by district—
- (i) The castes of inhabitants ;
 - (ii) Their number ;
 - (iii) Their profession ;
 - (iv) Their mother tongue ; and
 - (v) Culture ?
137. Will Government be pleased to state separately in each district of the Assam Valley—
- (a) If there are any people who have come from outside the Province to settle there ?
 - (b) If so, where they have come from ?
 - (c) What is their number ?
 - (d) What is their caste ?
 - (e) What is their profession or source of livelihood ?
 - (f) What is their mother tongue ?
 - (g) Where they have settled ?
138. Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) If the people referred to in Question 137 (a) are called immigrants ?
 - (b) If so, whether these Muslim immigrants form the majority in the Assam Valley ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

136.—Government have not the means to provide all the information asked for, which would involve a complete census report.

137. (a)—Yes.

(b)—There are settlers from many parts of the world, but no statistics are available.

(c)—Government are unable on the information provided at the last census, in which place of origin was not tabulated, to hazard a conjecture.

(d), (e), (f) & (g)—The Questions assume that there is only one class of settlers. As the hon. Member is aware, there are many classes.

138. (a)—Government usually use the term immigrant to signify persons who have come from neighbouring districts of Bengal to take up land for ordinary cultivation.

(b)—In the sense of the last reply the answer is in the affirmative.

Re Plying of Stage Carriages and Trucks (Lorries) in various parts of the Province

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA asked :

139. Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge be pleased to state—
- (a) The number of petitions (with names and addresses of petitioners) that have been submitted from 1942 up to date for permit to ply Stage Carriages and Trucks (Lorries) in various parts of the Province to the Authority, Lower Assam ?
 - (i) Assam Motor Vehicles Controller ; and
 - (ii) Regional Transport Authority, Lower Assam ?
 - (b) Whether he proposes to lay on the table a statement showing the number of permit holders in the Province for plying Stage Carriages and Trucks (Lorries) since 1942 to date together with (i) name and address of each permit holder, (ii) route for which the permit is granted, (iii) date of issue of permit, and (iv) the community to which each permit holder belongs ?

- (c) Whether any permit for plying Stage Carriages and Trucks (Lorries) in any part of the Province has ever been granted to immigrant Muslims (Bengalee) since 1942 to date ?
- (d) If so, what are the names and addresses of those permit holders ?
- (e) The number of such Stage Carriages and Lorries permitted to ply by the immigrant Muslims (Bengalee) with date of permit in each case ?
- (f) Route for which permit has been granted ?
- (g) If the reply to Question No. (c) above is in the negative, what are the reasons thereof ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

139. (a) to (g)—The information is not readily available and is being collected and endeavour made to get the information, if handy, from Regional Authorities.

Demands for Grants

GRANT No.11

(27.—Administration of Justice)

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.10,10,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1946, for the administration of the head "27.—Administration of Justice."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.10,10,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1946, for the administration of the head '27.—Administration of Justice'."

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.1,66,161 under Grant No.11, Major head—27.—Administration of Justice, Minor head—D.—Civil and Sessions Courts—D.—District and Sessions Judges, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 64 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.10,10,800 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

My object is to criticise the delay in renewal of the certificates of certain pleaders and Mukhtears on their release after incarceration. Sir, in the matter of the curtailment of civil liberties of Congressmen we find no end of weapons in the armoury of the bureaucracy. Besides the usual and well known weapon of trial on an explicit charge, when there is any, and imprisonment for a definite term, we have been arrested and imprisoned without charge for indefinite periods. Then again, on release from such incarcerations, internment or externment orders are in store for us with very galling and humiliating inroads on our liberty. This in itself, very often, seriously handicaps us in the pursuit of our livelihood. But over and above this when we find that the authorities administering law and justice knowingly put impediment in the way of lawyers released after detention in jail, in resuming their practice, by causing unusual delay in renewing their certificates, this can only be described as a most cruel weapon used by them from the armoury of the executive in direct collusion with the latter. One of the victims of this engine of oppression is our hon. Friend, Srijut Mahi Chandra Bora, whose application for renewal of certificate made in August 1943 was of no avail till December, i.e., till after he applied for renewal for 1944. The next instance I would like to cite is that of a young and promising Mukhtear of North Lakhimpur whose case I had just referred to the other day in a supplementary question. This gentleman Srijut Tirtheswar Hazarika was released after a detention for 21 months away from his home in June last and interned at North Lakhimpur. Soon after his release he applied for the renewal of his certificate and wanted to practise in the local criminal courts but he was not allowed to do so, by the Subdivisional Officer, who informed him that the District Judge was making certain enquiries about him and that pending the enquiry he could not be allowed to resume practice. His license was not only not

renewed—for the remaining half-year of 1944 for which he had applied—but he did not receive permission to practise till about the middle of February last after he had again applied in November for renewal of his certificate for 1945; though he had in the meantime submitted petitions to the District Judge and also the Chief Secretary to the Government, representing the extreme hardship to which he was thus put.

Srijut Hem Chandra Hazarika, B.L., Pleader, and another Mukhtear of North Lakhimpur who had applied for renewal of their licenses in November last did not get them renewed till the last week of February. These legal practitioners had thus to suspend their practice—the first for 8 months and the last two for about 12 months—for no other fault than that they are Congressmen and had been to jail merely on that score. I hope, Sir, the House will not countenance such unwarranted penalising of citizens by depriving them of their legitimate means of livelihood.

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

Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 30,000 under Grant No. 11, Major head—27.—Administration of Justice, Minor head—Civil and Sessions Courts—D.—District and Sessions Judges, Sub-head—5.—Contingencies, Detailed head—Allowances to jurors and assessors, at page 65 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 10,10,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

My object in moving this Cut Motion is to raise a discussion as to the inadequate allowance paid to the jurors.

Sir, the trial by jury has been a healthy system. It grew in England out of the common Law to bring common sense point of view to bear upon the administration of justice and had been brought to India to administer justice through the same common sense point of view. We have incorporated this from English law to India but to-day because of the paucity of good jurors this aspect of administering justice is rather at stake. The Sessions Judges complain that they do not get good jurors because of the inadequacy of their allowances. Sir, it is a fact that justice will not be administered in an equitable way unless good jurors are available. So I place the matter before the House and I don't like to detain the House any longer on this point. But I would press that the Hon'ble Minister will consider the question of allowance of these jurors. As the House is well aware, when the allowance of the hon. Members of this House, the allowances of the Government servants and allowances of all the people concerned have been increased there is no sensible reason why the allowance of these jurors should not be increased. I would request the Hon'ble Minister to have a sympathetic view in the matter and hope that this would be remedied.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motions moved :

1. "That the provision of Rs. 1,66,161 under Grant No. 11, Major head—27.—Administration of Justice, Minor head—D.—Civil and Sessions Courts—D.—District and Sessions Judges, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 64 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 10,10,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100."

2. "That the provision of Rs. 30,000 under Grant No. 11, Major head—27.—Administration of Justice, Minor head—Civil and Sessions Courts—D.—District and Sessions Judges, Sub-head—5.—Contingencies, Detailed head—Allowances to jurors and assessors, at page 65 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 10,10,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100."

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the Motion of Srijut Sarveswar Barua is concerned in the matter of renewal of certificates to the legal practitioners, the District Judge is empowered to renew certificates under the rules.

Sir, with regard to the cases which have been pointed out by Mr. Barua none of these was referred to the Government. The only case which was referred to the Government was that of Srijut Kamaksha Chandra Barthakur from Sibsagar and as soon as we got that reference from the District Judge we gave necessary direction to renew his certificate.....

†Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA : Was not any case represented to the Chief Secretary to the Government ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA : It has not come to me as yet. Sir, there is no reason to believe that we are not giving due consideration in the matter. From the single instance of the case I have just now cited it will be clear that we have given due consideration to the case and in future also we shall give due consideration to every case which will be coming to Government.

As regards the cases of these three gentlemen which have been mentioned by the hon. Mover I shall look into it and if necessary I shall issue necessary instruction to the Judge concerned to avoid unnecessary delay in future.

So far as the Motion of Babu Dakshina Ranjan Gupta Chaudhuri is concerned, *i.e.*, regarding the increase of allowance to the jurors, there have been many discussions over the subject in this Assembly in the nature of questions and answers and I have been stating all along that so far we have not received any complaint from the jurors themselves and as a matter of fact the rate which we are allowing to the jurors in Assam is more favourable than that of Bengal. We give our jurors an allowance up to the extent of Rs. 5 maximum whereas in Bengal they are given at only Rs. 2 or 3.

Now, the only complaint we have got recently is with regard to giving them allowance for the intervening holidays when they have to stay for trying the cases. We are considering that even now, and, it is still under consideration. So far as I am concerned I have been sympathetically dealing with this and we shall see what can be done.

†Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI : I won't press my Motion, Sir.

†Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA : My object in moving this Motion is not regarding renewal of license of these three persons. Licenses have already been renewed. What I want is that such things should not occur again. People should not be penalised on account of their political conviction in future.

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA : I have already stated, Sir, that we shall see what can be done in this respect.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is why does the Judge make a reference to Government about these matters ?

†The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA : Excepting that one single case, no other cases were referred to Government.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Why should the Judge refer to Government ? That is what the hon. Member wants to know.

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : On a point of information, Sir. Can we not raise points for discussion on the main Motion of the Hon'ble Minister ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Yes, that can be allowed. When there are Cut Motions, the practice is that after the Cut Motions are disposed of we generally put the main question and if any hon. Member wants to discuss the main question, I can allow that, but that intimation should be given to me beforehand.

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : In this connection I want to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to one fact and that is regarding the hard lot of the process servers.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : There were questions on this matter.

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Still we have not got anything definite from the Hon'ble Minister. So, I was thinking that I would speak on this on the main Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Does the hon. Member want to discuss the main Motion or oppose the main Motion ?

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : I wanted just to bring that fact which I have stated.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : When a particular grievance is to be ventilated, a Cut Motion is to be tabled. That is the practice that has been followed all these years. If the main grant is to be opposed, it is to be done on very substantial grounds.

†Mr. BAIDAYNATH MOOKERJEE : On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I tabled a Cut Motion under the grant for General Administration, but unfortunately I did not get any chance at that time and there was no time for this also. So, I have been compelled to raise this point here. This particular item is included both in the Administration of Justice and General Administration. As I did not get my chance under General Administration I have raised this point now and request the Hon'ble Minister to take steps to improve the position of the process servers.

†The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA : I have gone through the Resolution and even the speech delivered by the hon. Member. This matter concerns several departments and unless we consult other departments we cannot give any definite reply. All that I can say is that the matter will be sympathetically taken into consideration.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Do the hon. Members press their Motions? (Voices : No). I hope the hon. Members have got leave of the House to withdraw their Motions.

(After a pause).

The Motions stand withdrawn with the leave of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I am putting the main Demand. The question is : "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,10,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1946, for the administration of the head '27.—Administration of Justice.'"

The question was adopted.

GRANT No. 3

(8.—Provincial Excise)

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA GHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,44,500 be granted to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1946, for the administration of the head '8.—Provincial Excise'.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,44,500 be granted to defray certain charges certain which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1946, for the administration of the head '8.—Provincial Excise'."

There are Cut Motions tabled and we have got only half an hour's time for this. I want to know which of the Cut Motions are going to be moved.

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN :—Sir I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 40,548 under Grant No. 3, Major head—8.—Provincial Excise Minor head—B.—District Executive Establishment, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 35 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 4,44,500 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

The object of my Cut Motion is to bring to the notice of the Government that though there are Excise staff posted in the Tezpur District yet they do not detect profiteering by the lessees in selling liquor to the public at unauthorised rates. For example, for selling one bottle of 60 U. P. liquor at authorised rate of Re. 1-15-0, Rs. 3 to 4 is charged from the consumers and also for one bottle of 30 U. P. liquor at authorised rate of Rs. 3-7-0, Rs 5 to 6 is charged from the consumers.

Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Excise see that these shops are regularly inspected by the Excise staff and thereby such profiteering by the lessees in selling liquor to the consumers is checked? I would also suggest that the Superintendent of Excise and the Inspector are transferred from Tezpur to some other district as there

†Speech not corrected.

have been many complaints against the lessees for profiteering right and left at the connivance of the officers concerned. With these words I commend my Motion for the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Any other Cut Motion ?

(After a pause).

I take it that no other Cut Motion is going to be moved.

Cut Motion moved :

"That the provision of Rs. 40,548 under Grant No. 3, Major head—8.—Provincial Excise—Minor head—B.—District Executive Establishment, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 35 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 4,44,500 do stand reduced by Rs. 100".

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am undoubtedly glad for the information that we have got from my hon. Friend Mr. Sarwan that certain excise lessees are selling liquor at a higher price. But, Sir, if it is in his knowledge, why did he not report it to us or to the Inspector or the Superintendent of Excise to take prompt action and punish these people then and there ? I think that course would have been more proper to deal with a matter like this.

† Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: This had been reported twice, once to the Deputy Commissioner and once to the Additional Deputy Commissioner but no action was taken.

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: I think that makes his position worse because the complaints were made and both the Deputy Commissioner and the Additional Deputy Commissioner who are not Excise Officers did not consider these cases as such as they could take action. Any way I know that our Excise staff is very vigilant in this matter and they are always detecting cases of unauthorised sale of liquor. The Superintendent is also keeping proper eyes on his staff. I request all hon. Members to help us in checking any corruption in the sphere suggested by my hon. Friend. That will strengthen our hands and we are always ready to deal with such Officers very severely if they willingly neglect their duties. Besides that I cannot say anything. But I can mention that so far as the Excise staff is concerned, about keeping certain Officers at Tezpur my hon. Friend made several requests several times and we tried to accommodate him every time.

I understand, Sir, one Sub-Inspector of Excise was transferred from Tezpur a few months ago. Perhaps that gentleman was in the good book of my hon. Friend, and he did not raise any objection to the transfer, as the Officer was going to another post with better prospects.

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister please transfer the present Superintendent and Inspector of Excise, in order to check much profiteering which is going on there in certain shops ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: If any specific allegation is made against any Officer which the hon. Member may make to me either by a letter or verbally, I shall have an enquiry made and take necessary steps.

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: They are negligent of their duties, and so I want their transfer.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What does the hon. Member propose to do with the Motion ?

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: With the assurance of the Hon'ble Minister I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I hope the hon. Member has got leave of the House to withdraw his Motion.

(After a pause).

The Motion stands withdrawn with the leave of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,44,500 be granted to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March

1946, for the administration of the head '8.—Provincial Excise'."

The question was adopted.

GRANT No.17.

(37.—EDUCATION—OTHER THAN EUROPEAN)

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.59,60,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1946, for the administration of the the head " 37.—Education (other than European)."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.59,60,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1946, for the administration of the head ' 37.—Education (other than European) ' "

There are 71 Cut Motions ; of course one Motion stands in the name of three hon. Members. Of these, 19 are from the Congress Party, 35 from the Ministerialist Party, 9 from the Independent Party and 9 from three other hon. Members. I don't know how many Cut Motions can be discussed. I should allow at least 45 minutes to the Hon'ble Minister to reply to all the points that will be raised. This leaves us only 1½ hour for the Members to move their Cut Motions. May I know which of the Cut Motions are going to be moved ?

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: On our side, we shall move Motions Nos. 7, 27, 19 and 40.

Voices from the Independent Party: We shall move Cut Motions Nos.17, 60, 67, 51, and 69.

Voices from the Ministerialist Party: We shall move Cut Motions Nos.1, 4, 23, 69, 39, 45, 32, 50, 14, 29, 13, and 28.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Very well, let me see how many Motions can be disposed of. I shall now call upon Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed to move his Motion.

Maulavi NAZIRUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.24,350 under Grant No.17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—A.—Government Arts Colleges, Sub-head—1—Pay of officers, Detailed head—Principals, at page 85 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

My object in moving this Cut Motion is to raise a discussion about the urgency of starting I. Com. classes in the Government colleges.

The urgent necessity of starting I. Com. classes in the Government colleges at Sylhet and Gauhati is being agitated on the floor of this House for the last few years. I am sorry to find that no provision has been made for that in the present Budget. The necessity for Commerce cannot be over estimated in these days of industrial development. Teaching of those subjects will enable the students to find a proper career for them and they would not have to be drifted aimlessly to increase the number of unemployed youngmen. The expenditure that will be involved will not be too much. Only two posts of Professors or Lecturers will enable Government to start the subjects in the colleges. As regards accommodation this can be made by the adjustment of the existing premises. In some private colleges even I. Com. classes have already been started. I hope Government will seriously consider the matter and lose no further time in starting the classes in Government colleges.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.24,350 under Grant No.17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—A.—Government Arts Colleges, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Principals, at page 85 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

My object in moving this Cut Motion is to raise a discussion about the indifferent treatment of Government for the Women's College, Sylhet.

Sir, at the very outset I want to make it perfectly clear that on principle I am against the policy of the provincialisation of any educational institution. To my mind it appears that this is being done at the expense of Primary Education. Had Government adopted the policy of deprovincialisation more money could be made available for the spread of Primary Education.

But that is perhaps another matter. Government is not prepared to accept my view point. They are bent upon pursuing their own policy.

It is no doubt encouraging that Government have diverted their attention in promoting higher education amongst our girls but the differential treatment meted out to the Women's College at Sylhet should call for our protest. During the last Budget Session, we heard of the provincialisation of two such colleges. While the demand of Mr. R. K. Chaudhuri has been conceded, a similar demand from Mr. Mookerjee has been shelved for an uncertain future. (Mr. Mookerjee—as usual)

But I submit that was not a demand from Mr. Mookerjee alone. It was the united demand from the people of the Surma Valley (*Hear, Hear*). I am told that as the Women's College at Gauhati could secure a handsome donation from a generous individual, their case was considered. Should this be the criterion of a popular Government? I can boldly say that there is no dearth of generosity in the Surma Valley. A like amount could be collected at any moment. I want that both the colleges should receive equal consideration in the hands of the Government at the same time. Yes, Sir, I shall have no hesitation to withdraw my Motion if I can get a definite assurance from the Hon'ble Minister that provision will be made for the provincialisation of the Women's College at Sylhet even by a Supplementary Demand.

With these few words I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

✓ Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.14,930 under Grant No.17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—General charges—Q.—Direction, Sub-head—1.—Pay of officers, Detailed head—Director of Public Instruction, at page 91 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

This is the only Cut Motion which I tabled during the whole Session. My object is to raise a discussion on the inadequacy of the salary of the Director of Public Instruction in Assam. The salary which has been now fixed is inadequate. Further the policy which the Government have adopted for selecting the Director of Public Instruction leaves no room for drawing of the maximum salary of Rs. 1,500 by any Senior member of the Provincial Education Service. They generally retire before they have been able to secure any increment in the scale of pay in which they have joined.

With these few words, I beg to present the Cut Motion for the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does hon. Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy wish to move his Cut Motion No. 7? This was sufficiently discussed.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: I was not satisfied with the reply.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It cannot come up again and again. Very well.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 3,56,313 under grant No. 17, Major head—37—Education, Minor head—A.—Government Arts Colleges. Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 85 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my object in moving this Cut Motion is to raise a discussion for increase of salary of Primary School Teachers. It is known to everybody that this House has passed a Motion for Primary School Teachers in the matter of increase of their salaries. But we find they are having an increase in their allowance as a temporary measure. Something must be done on a permanent basis so that the salary can be increased and the verdict of the House is respected.

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

✓ Khan Sahib Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: I beg to move (1) that the provision of Rs.63,720 under Grant No.17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—B.—Direct Grants to Non-Government Arts Colleges (total), at page 85 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs.100 and (2) that the provision of Rs.4,78,612 under Grant No.17, Major head—37.—Education Minor hand—F.—Direct Grants to Non-Government Secondary Schools, Sub-head—1.—Recurring Grants (total), at page 88 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

Two of the Cut Motions Nos. 14 and 29 stand in my name, so I may be allowed

to speak a few words on them. The first Motion is intended to raise a discussion to urge upon Government to make additional provision for an Arabic Professor in the Brindaban College, Habiganj. Habiganj College is a first grade College and there is a great demand among the Muslim students for taking Arabic as a second language. So may I urge upon the Government to make additional provision for an Arabic Professor in the Brindaban College, Habiganj, in the district of Sylhet? It may not be irrelevant if I say that I also find that provision has been made for Rs.2,400 for Assam Rastrabhasa Prachar Society. May I be allowed to draw the attention of Government to the fact that the case of Anjumani Tarakki Urdu has been omitted? The Hindusthan Prachar Sabha held at Wardha on the 27th February last also adopted a resolution that both Urdu and Hindi should flourish side by side. May I also urge upon the Government to make provision for a similar amount or a portion from this amount for Anjumani Tarakki Urdu? The second Motion is to raise a discussion for introducing Urdu in Middle English Madrassas in place of Arabic as an optional subject. I also urge upon the Government not to insist on introduction of Urdu in Middle English Madrassas in place of Arabic as an optional subject. I also support the Motion moved by Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri.

With these few words I resume my seat.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to move Cut Motions Nos. 17 and 60. I shall follow Khan Sahib, Sir.

Sir, I beg to move (1) that the provision of Rs.63,720 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—B—Direct Grants to Non-Government Arts Colleges (total), at page 85 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100 and (2) that the total provision of Rs.59,60,800 under Grant No.17, Major head—37.—Education, at page 84 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

My object in moving Cut Motion No.17 is to criticise Government for their failure to provincialise the Sylhet Women's College from the next financial year.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Sir, a similar Motion has already been moved.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: But I am also moving.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member may either support the other Motion or he may move his own Motion because the other Motion may be withdrawn.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, I would not have moved this but for the alternative suggestion of my hon. Friend. So I am compelled to move my Motion without supporting him. My hon. Friend's alternative is either to give assurance that the Government would provincialise from the next year or they should come with a Supplementary Demand before the House. Now I shall make the position clear that the Government should provincialise this Sylhet Women's College from the next session—by next session, I mean Sir, the University Session and should come before the House with a Supplementary Demand. In this connection, Sir, I think, it will not be out of place if I mention the assurance and a part of the speech which was delivered by the Hon'ble Education Minister while replying to the Cut Motion of my hon. Friend Mr. R. K. Chaudhuri that when the question of provincialising of any women's college will come up the case of Sylhet College should be considered first. These were the wordings and Sir, I do not like to use harsh words—I do not know why he has defaulted—for, in other matters I find that the Hon'ble Education Minister is slowly making a headway and really if there has been any improvement in any department, it is in this Department. Sir, I boldly say this. So I do not want to use any harsh words though I feel his action very much. The Sylhet people did not expect this from him. We always esteem him to be a man of word and I hope, Sir, that he will give a definite assurance that the Sylhet Women's College will be provincialised from the next session, that is, June or July next and he will come before the House with a Supplementary Demand and I hope that the Hon'ble House will give their full support to this.

As regards, Motion No. 60, Sir, which is intended to criticise the policy of Government with regard to the Education Department, as the time is very limited, I shall just place a few suggestions before the Hon'ble Minister for Education. I have already praised him, Sir, so I do not want to repeat it. I shall put before him a few cases which really deserve sympathetic consideration of the Government. I shall mention first of all, the

case of Madan Mohan College, Sylhet. Sir, last year when I approached the Hon'ble Minister-in charge, I was assured that some increased provision will be made for this College but, Sir, I am sorry to find that no increased provision has been made for this College.

So far as the Gurucharan College and Madhab Charan College are concerned, Sir, you will find that all other colleges have received something except these two. I do not know, Sir, how he forgot about these two. And as regards the Brindaban College, Sir, there is a non-recurring grant but this College deserves more favourable consideration from Government. I hope that the case of Brindaban College also should be considered favourably.

Now, Sir, I shall touch the hard lot of a few schools. I shall take up first the Kishori Mohan Girls' School, Sylhet. I raised this question last year and the Hon'ble Minister gave some assurance....

†Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Sir, Cut Motion No. 60 relates to criticising the policy of the Department. I think, the hon. Member is not quite relevant.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: He is relevant in the sense that Government are not giving grant to many of the schools and that as a policy.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Sir, is it not criticising the Hon'ble Minister who gave assurance but did not keep to that?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I am sorry, Sir, I did not expect this from my hon. Friend Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury. Let me finish and he will find everything in my last sentence. I am criticising Government because these institutions deserved sympathetic consideration from Government and they have not got as yet any consideration from the Government.

†Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: These are matters of details and not the policy of Government.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Yes, the policy will come afterwards. Unless I place all these things before the House, how shall I be justified in criticising because the question of policy involved is that these institutions have not received the proper consideration from Government. On the other hand there is clear proof of partial treatment for different institutions.

†Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: I am sorry, Sir, I could not follow his logic.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, we hear so much about the Deaf and Dumb School of Sylhet from different quarters but no increased provision has been made for this School. I think, Sir, it is high time that Government should see that this institution is provincialised because this is the only one of its kind in the whole of this Province.

Now, Sir, so far as the Murarichand College and the Cotton College are concerned, there was a demand last year and even year before last that there should be Post-Graduate Classes in these two Colleges. We are hearing loud talks, of course not from the Government side, about the University but, I think, if they have got any such intention, Government should see that Post-Graduate Classes are opened in these two Colleges, of course not all at a time but they can just make a beginning.

Now, Sir, as regards Secondary Schools. So far as the Government school teachers' lot is concerned, I think, it is my duty to bring it to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister that he should give most considerate attention to the Resolutions that were passed in the Assam Educational Conference held early this year. Sir, there is heart-burning among the teachers due to direct recruitment, for the cases of those who are serving this Department for a long time are being over-looked and people from outside are being put over their heads. This is one among other genuine grievances. I think, all their genuine grievances should be properly dealt with.

As regards Primary School Teachers much has already been said and I do not want to take any more time of the House in dilating on this point.

Lastly, Sir, I shall take up the case of Lecturers and Assistant Lecturers. We got assurance from the Government that in the very near future there should be only one class of service after amalgamating the three classes and this was under the consideration of the Government. It is now more than a year and we hope to hear definitely something about this from the Hon'ble Minister of Education.

In conclusion, I would like to say that this matter ought to have got the proper attention and care of Government, and that the lot of those institutions I have referred should be improved in the very near future, and so far as the Sylhet Women's College is concerned, I hope the Hon'ble Minister of Education will kindly accept my suggestion and give us the assurance that it would be provincialised from the next session.

With these words, Sir, I commend my Motions to the acceptance of the House

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 63,720 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—B.—Direct Grants to Non-Government Arts Colleges (total), at page 85 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

My intention is to raise a discussion on the desirability of giving recurring and non-recurring grants to the M. C. College at Barpeta.

At the outset, I must thank the Hon'ble Education Minister for his sympathetic look upon the College. Last year he raised the recurring grant of the College from Rs.200 to Rs.400. I admit that he is always sympathetic to ward us and to this College. I do not grudge the other colleges also which have got more favourable treatment in his hand and have got more recurring and non-recurring grants from him. But, Sir, we want more sympathy from him. Without his sympathy the College cannot stand. The College has undergone a series of misfortunes in the last subversive movement; the hostel building was burnt down. This has cost us nearly Rs.7,000 to rebuild it. We had old materials of the buildings, otherwise this building would have cost us Rs.15,000. We want a college building which will cost us nearly Rs.25,000. We have got pressure from the University and from the students for it. Without an independent college building we have felt serious difficulty to maintain discipline in the College, because the classes have been managed in the school building of Barpeta Vidyapith by arrangement. The construction of the building has been undertaken but the fund in hand is very short. If the balance of Rs. 10,000 be not given to the College by the Government by way of non-recurring grant, we are quite helpless. I do not think that the Government cannot find this amount from the budgeted amount for grant to non-Government Arts Colleges.

If they cannot find it now they may bring a Supplementary Budget next time for this amount if they consider the demand of the College to be just and reasonable.

Sir, the recurring grant of Rs. 400 is not sufficient for this College. I hope that it should be raised to Rs. 600.

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

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move (1) that the Provision of Rs. 63,720 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—B.—Direct Grants to Non-Government Arts Colleges (total), at page 85 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100, and

(2) that the provision of Rs. 4,78,612 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education Minor head—F.—Direct Grants to Non-Government Secondary Schools, Sub-head—1.—Recurring Grants (total), at page 88 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

Sir, my intention of moving the first Cut Motion is to criticise Government for making inadequate provision for non-Government Arts Colleges. Sir, it is seen that our people are now making a good progress towards starting non-Government Colleges in almost every Subdivisional headquarters and the public is also giving a very good response towards meeting the expenditure of those colleges. But unless Government come to the aid of those institutions with a very sympathetic attitude it is not possible on the part of the public alone to run those colleges. From the number of Cut Motions tabled it would be seen that most of the hon. Members have urged upon the Government to make a very adequate provision of money for those colleges which are now functioning in the Province. I would, Sir, particularly urge upon the Government to consider the case of the Habiganj Brindaban College, for which a few Cut Motions have been tabled by three of the hon. Members. Sir, the Brindaban College is one of the first grade non-Government colleges in the Province and the Muslims of that Subdivision are finding a great impediment in their way to get their children admitted into the Arabic classes for want of an Arabic Teacher. The College authorities have approached the University to affiliate Arabic and Bengalee up to the B. A. standard and when this will be agreed to by the University authorities, two more Professors would be required and this will need further financial commitments.

In this connection, Sir, I would simply refer to the inspection notes of the Director of Public Instruction, Assam, and the Hon'ble Minister of Education, Assam. The Director of Public Instruction Assam, in his inspection note, dated 14th March 1943 said—"I appreciate the financial difficulty of the College authorities and in order to place this Institution on a suitable footing the financial grants-in-aid will have to be doubled or trebled."

Then again, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister of Education during his kind visit to that institution said—"It has been represented to me that the monthly grants-in-aid to this College is inadequate and the teachers are very low paid. The Director of Public Instruction should consider the desirability of increasing the monthly grants-in-aid from the next financial year." This was two years back and last year also I drew the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to this fact but unfortunately, Sir, I find that this College was deprived of getting an additional grant not only last year but this year also its case has not been considered in respect of giving grants in aid. Although I appreciate the sincerity of the Hon'ble Minister of Education in sanctioning a non-recurring grant of Rs. 2,000 for this College, the College has been experiencing difficulty for want of recurring grants. Even last year all other colleges in the Province received an additional grant of Rs. 200 each towards recurring grant, but unfortunately the case of the Habiganj College has not received due consideration in spite of earnest request through letter to the Hon'ble Minister to make provision for a Supplementary Grant to meet the necessary expenditure. I urge on him to consider the case of this College on the same level as the Silchar and Jorhat Colleges, by granting Rs. 200 this year.

My second Cut Motion is with regard to secondary schools. Here also I find, Sir, that the provision which the Government has made towards the direct grants to the secondary schools is not adequate. The result of most of the aided high schools can legitimately demand better treatment at the hands of the Government. You will find, Sir, from the annual report that certain aided high schools have been showing brilliant results—much better results compared with the results of the Government high schools. But the teachers who are serving in those aided schools are receiving much lower pay even during these hard days and so they cannot make their both ends meet. Their case was placed before the Government on many occasions by their association after holding conferences, but Government has done something only last year by providing a very small provision for them. The additional allowance which the Government has given to them is very inadequate compared with the allowances granted to the Government teachers serving in their high schools. Government teachers have been granted free ration among other concessions during this war time. But the

allowance granted to the aided school teachers is so inadequate that they cannot even meet their bare necessities. I therefore urge on Government to see that something more is done to increase the war time allowances of the teachers serving in the aided high schools.

Sir, I will now come to the subject of the Primary School Teachers, and I may request Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy who has brought a Motion on this, to remain satisfied with the assurance from the Hon'ble Minister who agrees to give a flat rate of additional allowance of Rs. 5 to all the Primary School Teachers. I am told, Sir, the number of such teachers is about 10,000 including the teachers under the Municipalities, Local Boards and the Government. I now request Government to apply this concession to all the teachers in the Province so that all will get the same equal treatment.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 76,255 under grant No.17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—E.—Government Secondary Schools—(a) Secondary Schools for boys, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Teaching Staff, at page 87 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

My intention in bringing this Motion is to raise a discussion about the re-organisation of the Assam School Service with improved time scale of pay. Sir, the hon. Members are aware that the very cream of our graduates are generally employed in the Assam School Service. But their pay and prospects are not at all alluring. The pay that they get at the present moment compares very unfavourably with other services. At present there are three classes in the Assam School Service, *viz.*, Class I, Class II and Class III. Teachers employed in Class III hardly expect promotion until they are on the verge of retirement. Very recently, in the month of February, a conference of the secondary school teachers was held at Silchar under the presidency of Mr. Mookerjee. In that conference some resolutions were passed and I believe a copy of that resolutions was forwarded to the Hon'ble Education Minister. One of the resolutions suggested that the starting pay of the teachers in the Assam School Service should be from Rs. 125. Sir, I think it is a modest demand which should be conceded to by the Hon'ble Education Minister. There is another matter which they stressed in the conference and they suggested that all these three classes of services should be amalgamated into one. There should be only one class under the Assam School Service and when the Sub-Inspectors or Teachers are promoted as Deputy Inspectors, Headmasters and Assistant Headmasters they should be given a charge allowance only Rs. 100 in the case of the former two posts and Rs. 50 in the case of Assistant Head Masters. The Assam School Service ought to be organised in the light of these recommendations. With these words, Sir, I commend my Motion for the acceptance of the House.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 12,42,922 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—E.—Government Secondary Schools (total), at page 83 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

By this Motion I propose to ventilate the grievances of the hardworked teachers of the secondary schools in Assam. Sir, I quite appreciate the policy of Government of promoting teachers of outstanding ability by superseding those that occupy higher place in the cadre. But the teachers who possess that high degree of efficiency and are superseded have really a genuine grievance. Sir, lately the Government promoted two such teachers belonging to the Muslim and tribal communities by superseding the claims of many and this action of the Government has caused a commotion among the entire personnel of the affected service. I understand the teachers have ventilated their grievances to Government by memorials and resolutions.

I appreciate the reasonableness of the contention that unless the Government took that action the Muslim and tribal teachers would not have the chance of occupying position of Head Masters or Assistant Headmasters for 50 years to come. This arrangement will deteriorate and has, I understand, deteriorated the efficiency of teaching. In the matter of teaching, Sir, efficiency should always be the governing

factor in manning the services and communal representation should play as much a secondary place as possible. Sir, I have been mandated the other day—a day or two before my leaving Dibrugarh—by a representative body of guardians requesting to press the same view on the Government. I hope the Hon'ble Minister in future will not pursue a similar policy and put obstacles in the way of the hard worked teachers to secure in the normal course of things positions which they aspire to acquire.

With these few words I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

ADJOURNMENT

The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 2 P.M.

After lunch

Mr. C. GOLDSMITH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move (:) that the provision of Rs. 6,53,512 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—F.—Direct Grants to Non-Government Secondary Schools (total), at page 88 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,60,800 do stand reduced by Re. 1, and

(2) that the provision of Rs. 91,200 under grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—K.—Direct grants to Non-Government Primary Schools (total), at page 89 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs 59,60,800 do stand reduced by Re.1.

My object in moving the first Motion is to raise a discussion for inadequate provision made for non-Government Secondary Schools.

Government made a non-recurring grant of Rs. 50,000 last year and thereby a little help was rendered to the non-Government secondary schools in the Province. For that reason these schools are grateful. But this year this provision has been withdrawn and a new policy has been substituted which says that all non-Government secondary schools wanting the grant ought to contribute something so that the pay of their teachers can be raised by Rs. 5, of which Rs. 2 ought to be contributed by these schools and Rs. 3 by the Government. Now I do not understand why Government does not realise that these schools so long contributed for their maintenance and they have contributed to their capacity. Now again Government comes forward saying that they ought to contribute something so that Government can contribute their share. This is a condition they have laid down—you pay 2 and we pay 3. I therefore suggest that Government will consider very carefully that these schools are unable to pay and therefore Government should find out whether the individual schools have the capacity of contributing and accordingly grant the money not on any condition but on a flat rate of Rs. 3 or 5. This is for the secondary schools.

My second Motion is in connection with the Christian Primary Schools in Kamrup for increased grants.

For the Christian primary schools in the Kamrup district Government have been making grants for some years. Now the pupils of these schools have increased in number very considerably but the grant has remained the same for many many years. I request Government to consider the case of these schools specially in these hard times when prices of things are high and increase the grants to these schools.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 41,055 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—G.—Grants to Local Bodies for Secondary Schools at page 83 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100. My object is to urge upon Government the need of granting dearness allowance to the teachers of Aided, Local Board and Municipal Middle Vernacular and Middle English Schools.

Sir, we do not find any provision in the Budget for granting dearness allowance to the teachers of these Schools though these classes of teachers are equally hit by the present dearness of the commodities. I remember the Hon'ble Minister for Education agreed to make some such provision while replying to a Cut Motion under the Supplementary Grant. I have reverted to this subject only to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in regard to next year's budget as I am afraid it may escape his notice. I refer to page 88 of the Budget where item (G) has been altogether omitted.

Item (G) under the sub-heads at page 83 of the Budget shows that the amount of Rs. 41,055 is to be repeated next year also. There is no provision for dearness allowance. But at page 88 the whole amount has been omitted. Item (G) is for grants to Local Bodies for secondary schools. Therefore I am afraid that may entirely escape the Hon'ble Minister's notice though he held out a promise that he would consider the matter and see if such a provision can be made in relation to the Supplementary Demands. With these words I commend my Motion for the acceptance of the House.

I have also to speak in support of Mr. Lakshesvar Borooah's Motion. Sir, there is undoubtedly heart-burning amongst many teachers on account of this sort of supersession of their claims and I therefore think that though for this time it has been found necessary to supersede the claims of these teachers in favour of one from the tribal class and one from the Muslims, such things may not recur in future.

Srijut SURENDRA NATH BURAGOHAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 59,60,800 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, at page 84 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

My object in moving this Cut Motion is to raise a discussion regarding the occupation of premises of educational institutions by the Military.

This matter of continued occupation of premises of educational institutions of this Province by the Military has been discussed in this House at several Sessions in the past and it had rightly evoked sharp protests from all sections of the House and had provoked public opinion all over the Province. By moving this Cut Motion I do not however, mean to suggest that our Government has been sitting quiet over this question, but I merely want to strengthen their hands by showing that this House is solidly behind them. Now that the war is receding from our borders, I hope they will see that our educational institutions are released from the hands of the Military authorities. With these few words I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

Srijut GHANA KANTA GOGOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 59,60,800 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37—Education, at page 84 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100. My object is to raise a discussion on the educational policy of Government I have tabled some other Cut Motions also which I do not think necessary to move as the Hon'ble Education Minister kindly gave me the assurance that he would consider the points raised therein. This Hon'ble House has adopted a Resolution the other day to introduce compulsory primary education in this Province and I hope the Government will find the necessary funds for the same. I have gathered from the Hon'ble Education Minister that the question of provincialising the secondary schools cannot be considered now. I submit that education must be a Government business and this Government must consider the question of provincialisation of all the secondary schools. In the meanwhile I suggest that the recurring grants to the secondary aided schools should be substantially raised, and non-recurring grants should also be given in deserving cases. The Education Department, I think, has suggested that aided schools should raise their fee rates in order to ameliorate the condition of the aided school teachers. My suggestion is that, if fee rates are at all to be raised, all schools should do so, and the surplus income accruing from the Government secondary schools may be utilised for giving increased grants to the aided schools. The Department should also absorb increasing number of teachers of the aided schools on a planned basis into the different grades of the School Service in the meantime. The Mass Literacy Campaign should be pushed on extensively and intensively.

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

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA: Sir, I beg to move (1) that the provision of Rs. 6,53,512 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—F.—Direct Grants to Non-Government Secondary Schools (total), at page 88 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100 (to raise a discussion about the desirability of giving adequate grant both recurring and non-recurring to the Rakhaldubi High English School to Gendauri

Middle English School and to other educational institutions run by Muslims in the Goalpara Subdivision) and (2) that the provision of Rs. 1,77,290 under Grant No. 17, Major, head—37.—Education, Minor head—N.—Direct grants to Non-Government Special Schools (total), at page 91 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

(To raise a discussion about the desirability of giving increased grants-in-aid to Katarihara Senior and Rakhaldubi Junior Madrassahs and of giving new grants-in-aid to Aolatali, Hazuarchar and Karaibari Junior Madrassahs in Goalpara Subdivision.)

গৌরালপাড়া subdivision এ গৌরালপাড়া টাউনে এবং অভয়াপুরীতে এই দুই যায়গায় দুইটা হাইস্কুল আছে। গৌরালপাড়া টাউন হইতে দক্ষিণ শালমারা পর্যন্ত ৬০ মাইল স্থানের মধ্যে দুই লক্ষ ইমিগ্রেশন মুসলমানের বাস। এইসব লোকের ছেলেদের লিখাপড়া শিখিবার কোনই ব্যবস্থা নাই তজজন্য তাহারা সকলেই মুর্থ থাকিয়া যাইতেছে। লক্ষীপুরে একটা হাইস্কুল আছে বটে কিন্তু যায়গাটা নোটাই ভাল নয়—পাঁহাড়ের কিনারায় চারিদিকে নদীতে ঘেরা। ইমিগ্রেশনদের বাসস্থান হইতে অনেক দূরে এবং তথায় মুসলমান ছেলেদের থাকিবার জন্য কোন সুবিধা ও বোডিংএর ব্যবস্থা নাই এবং ইমিগ্রেশন মুসলমানদের বসতি ৫৭ মাইলের ভিতর নাই। অভয়াপুরী হইতে বরপেটা প্রায় ৪০ মাইল। তথায় প্রায় দুই লক্ষ ইমিগ্রেশনের বাস, এর ভিতর কোন হাইস্কুল নাই। ঐ অঞ্চলে চাকলাতে একটা হাইস্কুল হওয়া একান্ত উচিত। গত বৎসর হইতে রাখালডুবিতে একটা স্কুল খোলা হইয়াছে; Class VIII পর্যন্ত class ও খোলা হইয়াছে। বহু-চেষ্টা সত্ত্বেও উহাতে কোন recurring বা non-recurring সাহায্য এপর্যন্ত পাওয়া যায় নাই। গৌরালপাড়া সহরে মফঃস্বলের ছাত্রদের থাকিবার স্থান বা হাইস্কুলে মুছলিম বোডিংএর কোন ব্যবস্থা নাই। তজজন্য ছেলেদের পড়াশুনার খুবই অসুবিধা। মফঃস্বলে হাইস্কুল না থাকায় মাইনর স্কুল পাশ করার পর ছেলেদের উচ্চ শিক্ষার কোনরূপ সুবিধা নাই। সেইজন্য চুনানী অঞ্চলে রাখালডুবিতে যে স্কুলটি ইতিমধ্যে খোলা হইয়াছে তাহাতে গভর্ণমেন্টের recurring এবং non-recurring উপযুক্ত পরিমাণ সাহায্য দেওয়া উচিত। রাখালডুবি ও চাকলাতে দুইটা Junior Madrassa আছে। ইহাতে মাত্র ৪০ টাকা হিসাবে সাহায্য দেওয়া হইতেছে। যেখানে লক্ষ লক্ষ লোকের অসংখ্যক ছেলে পড়িবে সেখানে মাত্র ৪০ টাকা সাহায্যে উহা চলিতে পারে না। স্থানীয়-লোকেরা চাঁদা করিয়া পাকা ঘর করিয়াছে কিন্তু বর্তমানে তাহাদের আর্থিক অবস্থা ধারাপ হওয়ায় তাহারা আর এই স্কুল চালাইতে পারিতেছে না কাজেই গভর্ণমেন্টের সাহায্য মাসিক ৪০ টাকার যায়গায় অন্ততঃ ১০০ টাকা হওয়া উচিত। চাকলার মাদ্রাসাতে ১০০ সাহায্য দেওয়া উচিত। বহুদিন যাবত গেন্দাউরিতে একটা Middle English স্কুল খোলা হইয়াছে এবাবত উহাতে কোন সাহায্য পাওয়া যায় নাই, অগোণে উহাতে উপযুক্ত পরিমাণে সাহায্য দেওয়া একান্ত দরকার। লক্ষীপুর থানার অধীন আওলাতলি, হজুয়ারচর ও করাইবাড়ী; শালমারার অধীন লাঙ্গলা ও জপেয়ারচর এই কয়টি জুনিয়র মাদ্রাসাতেও উপযুক্ত সাহায্য দেওয়া উচিত। রাখালডুবি ও চাকলা হাইস্কুল হইলে এই সমস্ত মাদ্রাসায় পাশ করা ছেলেদের উচ্চশিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা হইবে নতুবা তাহারা অশিক্ষিতই রহিয়া যাইবে। এইজন্যই আমি এই Cut Motions আনিয়াছি। আমি আশা করি, মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় এই রাখালডুবি, চাকলা হাইস্কুল এবং উপরোক্ত মাদ্রাসাগুলির জন্য বর্তমান বৎসর হইতেই উপযুক্ত সাহায্যের অবশ্য অবশ্য ব্যবস্থা করিবেন ও কাটারীহারা শিনিয়ার মাদ্রাসার মাসিক সাহায্য আরও বাড়াইয়া মাসিক ২০০ টাকা করিবার অনুরোধ করি।

(Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia, M.L.A., while moving his Motions spoke in Bengali and contended that increased grants-in-aid should be given to the High Schools and Madrassahs in the immigrant areas in the Goalpara Subdivision and especially to the Rakhaldubi High School and Chakla Madrassah. He also urged for opening of more schools in the said areas on population basis.)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motions moved:

(1) "That the provision of Rs. 24,350 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—A.—Government Arts Colleges, Sub-head—1.—Pay of officers, Detailed head—Principals, at page 85 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100"

(2) "That the provision of Rs. 24,350 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—A.—Government Arts Colleges, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Principals, at page 85 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100"

(3) "That the provision of Rs. 14,930 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—General charges—Q.—Direction, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Director of Public Instruction, at page 91 of the Budget, be

reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100”;

(4) “That the provision of Rs. 3,56,313 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—A.—Government Arts Colleges, Sub head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 85 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100”;

(5) “That the provision of Rs. 63,720 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—B.—Direct Grants to Non-Government Arts Colleges (total), at page 85 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100”;

(6) That the provision of Rs. 4,78,612 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education Minor head—F.—Direct Grant to Non-Government Secondary Schools, Sub-head—1.—Recurring Grants (total), at page 88 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.”

(7) “That the provision of Rs. 63,720 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—B.—Direct Grants to Non-Government Arts Colleges (total), at page 85 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100”;

(8) “That the total provision of Rs. 59,60,800 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, at page 84 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100”;

(9) “That the provision of Rs. 63,720 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—B.—Direct Grants to Non-Government Arts Colleges (total), at page 85 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100”;

(10) “That the provision of Rs. 63,720 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—B.—Direct Grants to Non-Government Arts Colleges (total), at page 85 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100”;

(11) “That the provision of Rs. 4,78,612 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—F.—Direct Grants to Non-Government Secondary Schools, Sub-head—1.—Recurring Grants (total), at page 88 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100”;

(12) “That the provision of Rs. 76,255 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—E.—Government Secondary Schools—(a) Secondary Schools for boys, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Teaching Staff, at page 87 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100”;

(13) “That the provision of Rs. 12,42,922 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—E.—Government Secondary Schools (total), at page 83 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100”;

(14) “That the provision of Rs. 6,53,512 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—F.—Direct Grants to Non-Government Secondary Schools (total), at page 88 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,60,800 do stand reduced by Re. 1”;

(15) “That the provision of Rs. 91,200 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—K.—Direct grants to Non-Government Primary Schools (total), at page 89 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,60,800 do stand reduced by Re. 1”;

(16) “That the provision of Rs. 41,055 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—G.—Grants to Local Bodies for Secondary Schools at page 83 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100”;

(17) “That the total provision of Rs. 59,60,800 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, at page 84, of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100”;

(18) "That the total provision of Rs. 59,60,800 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, at page 84 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100",

(19) "That the provision of Rs. 6,53,512 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—F.—Direct Grants to Non-Government Secondary Schools (total), at page 88 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100",

(20) "That the provision of Rs. 1,77,290 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—N.—Direct grants to Non-Government Special Schools (total), at page 91 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100".

Now, the debate may begin. I would ask the Hon'ble Minister to begin his replies to all the points raised at 2.45 P. M.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to speak a few words in support of the Cut Motion moved by my hon. Friend Srijut Sarveswar Barua. In the case of primary school teachers we find, Sir, that their dearness allowance is proposed to be paid to such an extent as would bring their pay *plus* the dearness allowance at Rs. 20. But, Sir, this benefit has not been extended to the teachers of the Municipal and Local Board Middle Vernacular and Middle English schools. I see no justification whatsoever for making this invidious distinction. Sir, the teachers of the Middle Vernacular and Middle English schools have to reside mostly in towns with their families, and it is known to everyone in this House how difficult it is for them to maintain themselves in towns with the insignificant pay they are getting. If anybody deserves better consideration in regard to the dearness allowance, these teachers come first. I hope Government will please extend the same helping hand to this poor class of teachers also.

Sir, I also wish to say a few words in regard to the Motion moved by my hon. Friend Mr. Buragohain. I have already spoken at great length about the difficulties created by the Military requisitioning of the premises of educational institutions, and I do not want to dilate upon that question any more. I would simply request Government to lose no time in demanding the Military authorities to vacate the premises belonging to our educational institutions. There is practically no reason why they should continue to occupy those houses. As I have pointed out in my Budget speech, there are lots of semi-permanent houses built by the Military where they can very easily and conveniently shift. Sir, the miserable plight of the Boarders of the Cotton College hostels has been already described by me at great length. It has also been brought to the notice of the Government how our boys and girls are suffering in the prosecution of their studies. Sir, similar difficulties have arisen in respect of educational institutions almost in every town of the Province owing to their houses being requisitioned by the Military. I earnestly request the Government that they should exercise all their influence and power for getting the houses vacated by the Military immediately.

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA : I congratulate the Hon'ble Minister of Education for the various measures that have been adopted for the educational advancement of the Province. I am glad that the scope and the extent of public education has not been curtailed in the name of the war. But Sir, I am pained to find that the efficiency in teaching in almost all the Government High English Schools has greatly deteriorated in recent times. People say that it is due to the communal considerations and favouritism on the part of the power that be, in the matter of selection and promotion of teachers. My esteemed colleague Srijut Lakshesvar Borooh has cited two instances to show how legitimate claims of the experienced, efficient and senior teachers have been superseded by the promotion of some junior teachers of the teaching staff. Sir, this has caused a great deal of resentment in the mind of the senior and efficient teachers. Their grievance is legitimate, just and genuine. It is a natural desire on the part of the parents and guardians of the children and their wards to see that they are placed under efficient teachers. I hope, Sir, this desire should not be allowed to be frustrated on communal considerations. Much good cannot be expected from teachers who have been smarting under genuine grievances.

Sir, another fact, I would bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister is that our students have been experiencing a great deal of difficulty in the matter of prosecution of their studies owing to the paucity of kerosene and scarcity of paper.

One more word and I have done. The provision of Rs. 1,500 that has been provided in the Budget for the newly established college at Nowgong is quite inadequate. It is a very petty sum. The college has got 143 students at present and it has got affiliation from the University and we have made all possible arrangements to start the second year class in this session. I hope, at the time of the distribution of the recurring grants the case of this college will not be overlooked.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my hon. Friends have discussed various points very ably and I do not like to dilate on these points. I will only touch a very few points and that very briefly. While discussing the Education Budget my Friends have not spoken about the Junior Madrassas. It is not unknown to the Hon'ble Minister of Education that these Madrassas are already starving. Some of the Madrassas are getting Rs. 20, some Rs. 25 and some Rs. 35, as aid per month. These Madrassas do also admit hindu students and every year a large number of hindu students with the muslim boys come out from these institutions. In villages these are the only institutions that attract hindu and muslim boys and serve the purpose of feeder schools for the high schools. Ordinarily, these Madrassas are located in villages in the interior and the officers of the Education Department find it difficult to visit these institutions very frequently. Perhaps, due to this reason, they could not consider the case of these Madrassas and the Madrassas are being neglected like anything. I place the case of these Madrassas before the House with the hope that the Hon'ble Minister will kindly take into consideration the cases of these neglected Madrassas and try his level best to improve the lot of these institutions.

Hon. Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri raised a very pertinent question regarding the pay of the Director of Public Instruction. I do not know why there should be a difference between the pay of an Indian Director of Public Instruction and a European Director of Public Instruction. There is no difference between the duties performed by a European Director of Public Instruction and those performed by an Indian Director of Public Instruction. He carries important duties and responsibilities. He being a man of this country is known to many gentlemen. Many people come and see him. He is to take personal interests in many matters that concern education and therefore, his responsibility is far greater than the responsibility of a European Director of Public Instruction (*Hear, hear*). I know, Sir, persons who held the post of Director of Public Instruction in Assam got much more pay though they had no family but an Indian Director of Public Instruction who has got a big family to maintain gets less pay.

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA : What amount is he drawing ?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY : He is getting that pay which has been fixed for Assam Educational Service, Class I.

Srijut BELIRAM DAS : What is his qualification ?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY : His qualification is such that he is fit to hold the post of Director of Public Instruction and he was thought fit by the Government of India and therefore he has been appointed the Director of Public Instruction. Further Sir, I think, the Hon'ble Minister of Education will consider this matter very favourably.

I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the Assistant Lecturers of colleges. These unfortunate people are equally qualified with the Professors. But while a Professor gets Rs. 800 a month an unfortunate Lecturer gets Rs. 125 although he has to perform duties similar those to of a Professor.

Sir, this matter was brought before this House by Mr. Mookerjee more than once and assurances were given by the Government but still these assurances did not materialise. I again remind the Hon'ble Minister of Education to take up their case and try his level best to improve their lots.

Sir, I want to touch one other point more regarding the teaching of Urdu in place of Arabic in Junior Madrassas. My Hon'ble Friend Alhaj Khan Sahib Dewan Maulavi Ahabab Choudhury has raised a protest against this proposed change in the curricula of the Madrassas. I know, Sir, that in Junior Madrassas "Qolubi," a book of stories, just like "Kathamala", is taught. If that book is left out and religious books in "Urdu" are substituted, in that case I do not know, Sir, how Islam will be in danger. To-day I see works of Iqbal in his hand and not the work of Imra-ul-Quis. Urdu is

a living language. The renaissance in the Muslim Nation has been brought by Urdu poets and writers like Ghalib, Akbar, Iqbal, Shibli, Hali and Abul Kalam Azad. I will ask my Friend to withdraw his opposition and at the same time request the Hon'ble Minister for Education to introduce Urdu in Junior Madrassas in place of Arabic as soon as possible and to bring a new life among the students of the Junior Madrassas. Urdu is the lingua franca of India. One can learn "*Dinial*" or any other subject very easily through Urdu, because Urdu is the language of the commoner,—language of the villagers, language of the poor people, language of the proletariat. No king or court ever encouraged or patronised Urdu. Urdu got its recognition by itself—by its strength and by its merit. I hope, this will find favour with the Hon'ble Minister and he will forthwith bring into operation the recommendation of the Muslim Education Conference.

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I tabled a Cut Motion* urging upon the necessity for increasing the recurring grant of Madan Mohon College. My hon. Friend Mr Mookerjee has already mentioned the case of this college and he has also said that this is one of the two unfortunate colleges which did not get any consideration at the hands of the Government this year. My special point in urging upon this demand is the fact that this Madan Mohon College is also teaching Commerce in its Intermediate classes. By a Cut Motion my hon. Friend Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed has stressed the necessity of opening Commerce classes in the Government colleges. I submit, Sir, Madan Mohon College is the only institution in the Surma Valley which is teaching Commerce. Another factor has also to be stressed. So far I know the Jorhat College is also teaching Commerce to the students and has got a specific grant for this purpose only. Moreover, Sir, as you yourself know, this Madan Mohon College has had very recently to acquire certain lands under compulsion—under compulsion from the University—at a huge cost. All these money they had to find by borrowing. So, at this juncture, it will be a very great help to this institution if the Government will enhance the maintenance grant. It is really giving very good service to the people of Sylhet and the Government will be doing a great service by extending their generous help to this college.

Sir, about the Women's College, Sylhet, Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury and Mr. Mookerjee have spoken. We expect that without making any invidious distinction Government would forthwith provincialise this Women's College also from the next session and come forward by a Supplementary Grant, if necessary to meet the expenditure I expect, Sir, a Supplementary Grant for the Madan Mohon College also.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wanted to say something on the Motion moved by Mr. Maqbul Hussain Chaudhuri.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member has already spoken once.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Yes, Sir, but I will say only one word. I find that there is some sort of misunderstanding in the minds of some hon. Members regarding the Motion moved by hon. Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri. Sir it is not the incumbent that we are concerned with; we wanted to raise the status of the post of the Director of Public Instruction. No distinction should be made between the Directors of Public Instruction who are selected from the Assam Educational Service and those selected from the Indian Educational Service. It is the status that we are going to maintain.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want some information from the hon. Mover Mr. Goldsmith regarding the Christian Primary Schools in Kamrup about which he was speaking. May I know from the hon. Mover whether they are private schools? (*A voice—yes*). He has mentioned that for many years though the number of pupils have increased considerably Government have not increased the grant. But, Sir, he has not mentioned the average enrolment in the schools in question so that the Hon'ble Minister might be in a position to take up the question of these schools. So, this Motion is not clear and I cannot support this Motion. There should be no Christian schools for the Christians alone. Sir, in

* That the provision of Rs. 63,720 under grant No 17, Major head—37.— Education, minor head — Direct Grants Non-Government Art Colleges (total), at page 85 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs 100., i.e. the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,60,800 do stant reduced by Rs. 100.

(To urge upon Government the necessity of increasing the recurring grant to Madan Mohan College, Sylhet, in view of the fact that the College is also teaching Commerce in Intermediate Classes.)

Garo Hills there are more than 200 Government Primary Schools in which the Christians read along with others. These are purely Government schools and Government have removed the grants-in-aid from the Mission Schools so that educational work may be done by Government themselves. This is also being done in the Khasi Hills. So my suggestion is that the Government should follow the method of Garo Hills and the Khasi Hills in Kamrup as far as the Garo Primary Schools are concerned in that district which are being managed by the Mission, under grant-in-aid basis.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the large number of Cut Motions tabled and moved in this House, I am happy to note that my Department has received the largest share of attention from this hon. House. I am obliged to the many of the hon. Members for appreciating what little I have been able to do in the matter of advancing the cause of education in this Province. I am particularly grateful to Mr. Mookerjee who is known to be a very hostile critic of Government in that he had a few good words to say on my behalf. I am entirely at one with those who think that in any scheme of Post-War Reconstruction, Education should have the most important place. I personally give the first place to Education although as a Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department I do not minimise the importance of communication.

Ours is the largest Budget; we are spending about 12½ per cent. of the total expenditure. We have provided Rs. 4½ lakhs for Education only out of a total of 10 lakhs available, for the new schemes. This indicates, Sir, how anxious the whole Cabinet is to advance the cause of Education in this Province. I am particularly grateful to the Hon'ble Premier and my Hon'ble Colleagues for accommodating and allowing me a large share of the expenditure on the new schemes. Yet our demands are many as will be evidenced from the large number of Cut Motions tabled under Education to-day. I will begin first with the Director of Public Instruction.

Sir, many of the hon. Members had spoken this morning about the inadequate scale of pay for the Director of Public Instruction. The Director of Public Instruction's post was borne in the cadre of the Indian Educational Service. When that post was deserved it was the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee of this hon. House that the Director of Public Instruction should have a scale of pay of Rs. 800—1,000. The Government after mature consideration thought it proper to improve the scale and raised it from Rs. 1,200 to Rs. 1,500. Then, Sir, the revision of the scale of pay of the Director of Public Instruction cannot be discussed in course of a Cut Motion like this. If the hon. Members desire that the scale should be improved, it is up to them to come forward with a Resolution or a Motion in this House to get the verdict of the House.

Now, Sir, many of the hon. Members have spoken about more increased grants to the Arts Colleges. Some of the Arts Colleges were established some years ago; some recently and some are going to be established. Personally speaking, I am not in favour of multiplying the number of Arts Colleges; for times are such that we need more and more scientific education.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Wherefrom money should come?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Money must be found out. So, Sir, personally I am not in favour of multiplying the number of these Arts Colleges. Then, as regards the colleges which have been mentioned to-day by several Members of this House, there are some colleges like the Modan Mohon College and the Gurucharan College, which received, I think, a substantial grant only the last year. As regards the Barpeta College, I think, that college also received a recurring grant only the last year. It is not possible to make an increased grant every year to each of such colleges. There are some colleges which were not given any grant, for example, the Brindaban College at Habiganj, which has been given a recurring grant this year. However, Sir, we

will remember the case of those colleges which have been mentioned and will see what can be done to increase their grants in the near future.

Then, my hon. Friend, Mr. Mookerjee, spoke about the Women's College at Sylhet, and in this connection he referred to a speech of mine delivered on the last occasion. I should like to read out to the House what I said on that occasion.

Regarding the Women's College at Gauhati, I said :—“There is one thing very depressing about this College, namely, small number of students. In the Women's College at Sylhet, I am glad to tell, that the number is about 100 whereas in the Radhakanta Handiqui College the number is near about 50 only. So, there is a great disparity in the condition of these Colleges and if the question of provincialisation arises, I think, first consideration will have to be paid to the Sylhet College”.

I still stand by these remarks, Sir, but there are certain factors which stand in the way. The Sylhet Women's College has got no buildings of its own, (Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee—Because Government have not given) the land and the site selected by the Government for the buildings is in the occupation of the military and besides they have not got any reserve fund for building purposes. (Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee: We have got, Sir, to the extent of Rs. 20,000) whereas the Gauhati College had buildings of its own as well as asset of Rs. 90,000 contributed by the charity of that large hearted gentleman—Rai Bahadur Radha Kanta Handiqui. (Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee: Sir, Government gave the buildings. It is misleading the House, Sir).

My hon. Friend Mr. Mookerjee asked me to come forward with the proposal to provincialise this college—the Sylhet College—by the next Session, but is it possible—where is the money to come from? The Budget as it stands does not provide for the provincialisation of that College and the next Session begins in July next; and there will be no Session of the House in the meantime. So how can the expenditure be obtained? (Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee: By Supplementary Demand, Sir) Very well. Many of the hon. Members have spoken about Supplementary Demands. They know full well that Supplementary Demands are only admissible under certain circumstances for an item of expenditure which was not foreseen at the time the Budget was prepared.

So, Sir, I am afraid, this will not come under a Supplementary Demand, but still I will consult the Finance Department and if they are of the opinion that money can be found by a Supplementary Demand then I shall spare no pains to provincialise the Women's College of Sylhet as soon as possible. (Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee: Thank you.)

† Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA: What about the Nowgong College, Sir?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: It is not possible to give more now. We have already provided money for the Nowgong College and we have to see to the claims of the other colleges, some of whom have already been started and some are in the process of starting and we have to consider the cases of all the colleges together.

Sir, many of the hon. Members spoke about the hard lot of the Assistant Lecturers. I may tell the House that this proposal has been engaging the attention of the Government for about a year and we have not yet been able to arrive at a satisfactory solution of the problem. But, Sir, I hope that I shall be able to come to a decision very soon.

My Friend, Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed, moved a Motion about starting Intermediate Commerce Class in the Government College at Sylhet. This proposal once

came up before the Government, but it could not materialise for want of accommodation in the College. I think many of the hon. Members know that the Botany classes are held in the Arts Block and this has caused inconvenience to the arts section. We cannot have this class of Commerce opened unless we could increase our accommodation. We have already provided for extension of the Chemistry Laboratory this time. We are to provide for extension of the Physics Laboratory next year and when sufficient accommodation is available I am sure we will have this class attached to the Sylhet College.

Now coming to Secondary Education, it has been complained that the grants to the secondary schools are quite inadequate. I want to place before the House the figures for the last 7 years that were provided in the Budget for the maintenance of the venture secondary schools and for increased grants to the existing schools:—

		Rs.
In 1939-40	the grant was	20,000
1940-41	„ „	25,000
1941-42	„ „	25,000
1942-43	„ „	Nil
1943-44	„ „	25,000
1944-45	„ „	Nil
1945-46	„ „	50,000

The biggest amount on record during the last 7 years is in 1945-46. Now, many of the hon. Members have referred to particular schools in their own localities for increased grant. I can assure them that at the time of distribution of the money that has been provided in the Budget, we will consider their cases very carefully.

My Friend, Mr. Gogoi, has mentioned about the provincialisation of the high schools. Our policy has been to provincialise all the schools in the subdivisions and funds permitting, we will surely see that all the schools are provincialised gradually. In this connection many of the hon. Members raised the question about the scale of pay granted to the teachers of the Assam School Service. My hon. Friend, Mr. Mookerjee, as well as Mr. Abdul Bari Chaudhury referred to the Resolution passed by the Sylhet Educational Conference and the matter is already under the consideration of the Government. Some of the hon. Members complained that in making appointments to the Assam School Service we had superseded the claims of many teachers. It is not correct to say that we had ever superseded the claims of others. There was no case of promotion but it was a case of direct recruitment. This was done only to remove the communal disparity obtaining in the 1st two classes of the Assam School Service. Government decided that to remove that inequality at least 25 per cent. of the appointments should be made by direct recruitment and accordingly one Muslim outsider, a Head Master of an aided high school, has been appointed in class I of the Assam School Service. Another outsider, a plains tribal, has also been appointed in class II of the same service. I repudiate the suggestion made by Srijut Mahi Chandra Bora that the efficiency of teaching had suffered on account of communalism. There may be other reasons for deterioration in the efficiency of teaching. But surely communal representation is not the cause for any inefficiency in the teaching line. Some hon. Members complained about the deterioration in education due to the occupation of many of the educational buildings by the military. Of course, Government have been doing their level best to get all buildings, occupied by the military, released and as a result, I am glad to inform the House that two of the buildings, *viz.*, Sylhet Government High School and the Silchar Government High School, have lately been released. When those school buildings have been released, we are hoping that with the progress of the war we are going to have the release of all other educational buildings very soon.

As regards Middle Vernacular School, Teachers, Sir, some hon. Members complained that no money has been provided for granting any dearness allowance to the teachers of the Middle Vernacular Schools under the Local Bodies. I admit there is

an omission, but at the same time I must remind the House that Government do not undertake any responsibility for granting any dearness allowance to the Local Board employees. If the Local Boards themselves are prepared to contribute 40 per cent. of the cost involved then the Government will surely consider their cases.....

† Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Are now Government prepared to give some relief to the Middle Vernacular Teachers on the same footing as in the case of the Primary School Teachers?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: We will very carefully consider the suggestion. It is difficult to give any assurance at this moment. My Friend, Mr. Mookerjee mentioned about the Deaf and Dumb School. This school was given a liberal grant only last year.

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: What about provincialisation?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: It depends of course on many circumstances—mainly on the availability of funds.

Now I come to the much vexed question of pay and allowances to the primary school teachers. This question has been agitated many a time in this Hon'ble House and the other day the Hon'ble Premier gave the reason as to why Government could not give full effect to the wishes of the House. At the risk of repetition I would like to reiterate some of the arguments advanced. Hon. Members will remember that in 1938 an hon. Member of this House moved a resolution for increasing these salary of these teachers. This Resolution was discussed thread bare and on the assurance of the then Hon'ble Prime Minister, it was withdrawn.

Now, after the Resolution was withdrawn, the then Director of Public Instruction, Mr. Small, submitted a schedule of Rs.60,000 to implement this Resolution. But Government could not provide that small sum of Rs.60,000. Sir, as I said before, there are 10,188 teachers—all told. Now if we give at the rate of Rs.40 we require about Rs 34 lakhs and we have already adopted a Motion for introducing compulsory primary education also. If compulsion be introduced, then we will require in place of 10,000 teachers about 25,000 teachers and calculating at the rate of Rs.40 we will require about Rs.72 lakhs, *i. e.*, total 1 crore 5 lakhs. Sir, the hon. Mr. Karuna Sindhu Roy in his original Motion mentioned that the pay should be on time scale, *viz.*, Rs.40—75. If we are to adopt that, surely the cost will be more than rupees 2 crores. There was also a representation from forty-three Members of this Hon'ble House for giving a dearness allowance at the flat rate of Rs.15 per teacher. Now if we are to implement that also we will require a sum of Rs.16 lakhs. Out of a total of about Rs.60 lakhs for education we are spending about 21 lakhs on primary education. Is it possible, I ask the House, to implement the Resolution containing the wishes of the House to the full? We must not be guided by sentiment alone. We must be real and practical and must confine ourselves to practical politics. I have said times without number that Government will not accept the responsibility for the teachers who are working under the Local Bodies. Government have given the present concession for *immediate relief ex gratia* in deference to the wishes of this House. We have already provided 4½ lakhs of rupees in this Budget. Now, there has been a suggestion from my Friend on this side (pointing to the Ministerialist Party) that we should, instead of making the maximum pay Rs.20, give an additional allowance at the flat rate of Rs.5 to each. I think that will involve a cost of 1 to 1½ lakhs of rupees. I am quite sympathetic with the proposal and I can assure the House that I will do my level best to place the views of this House before the Cabinet (Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee:—Cabinet is here. The Hon'ble Finance Minister is here). But I must remind the House that no Province has hitherto been able to give a basic pay of Rs.40 to any of the primary school teachers. Even the Sargent Report which dealt exhaustively on this matter has laid down a scale of Rs.30 to 40 for the trained teachers. So the proposal which had been adopted by this House was a far ambitious one. Sir, as I have already said I will do my best to place the suggestions from this side (pointing to the Ministerialist Party) before the Cabinet and I hope I shall be able to do something in the matter.

† Speech not corrected.

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: What about Post Graduate classes ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Sir, at first we thought of opening Assamese Class in the Cotton College, but there was a difficulty. We found that the University could not prescribe any text book for the B.A. Honours Course. Even there was no Honours Class in Assamese at the Cotton College. So in the absence of Honours Class, no M.A., Class could be opened. We thought that it would have been very easy and quite modest, so we wanted to start with Assamese, but we could not. I shall remember this suggestion and see if any Post-Graduate Class can be opened or not in the near future. But there is one difficulty as I said before that unless our college buildings are restored, I think, it would be futile on our part to attempt for realisation of this.

Now, my Friend, Mr. Matior Rahman Mia, has mentioned the names of Langla, Hajirarchar, Aolatoli and Koraibari Madrassas. I can assure him that at the time of distribution of grants all these institutions will receive our best consideration.

Sir, my Friend, Mr. Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury, spoke about the deplorable condition of some of the junior Madrassas. Well, every year in the Budget we are providing a fair amount for these Madrassas and I hope I shall be able to ask the Director of Public Instruction to consider the case of those Madrassas which my hon. Friend particularly referred to if he will only give me a list of those institutions.

My hon. Friend, Khan Sahib Maulavi Dewan Ahab Chaudhury, has mentioned about granting money for the Urdu Anjuman-e-Tarake. We will bear this suggestion in mind and see what can be done. As regards his another suggestion for an Arabic Professor for the Habiganj College, I may say that, this is a private college and they will have to come up with a proposal. If the enrolment justifies for the appointment of a separate Professor for Arabic and if the authorities represent their case to the Government then we will consider that.

I think, Sir, I have dealt with all the points raised in the debate and I have nothing more to add.

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA: What about the paucity of paper and kerosene ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: In reply to certain Questions in the current Session I have already said that arrangements have been made so that paper and kerosene may be available to the students. We are taking every possible step to remove the grievances of the students.

Sr'jut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: What about making appointments from outside ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I said that it is not a case of promotion, it is a case of direct recruitment to the Assam School Service and we have done that only to remove the communal inequality. It will not be for a long time. Within five years we shall be able to make up the inequality.

†Khan Sahib Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: On a point of personal explanation, I want to say something to clarify the point.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member has no right of reply. If he has anything to say by way of personal explanation, he can do so.

†Khan Sahib Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Yes by way of personal explanation I want to say a few words regarding the point raised by my hon. Friend Maulavi Md. Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: No, no. If Mr. Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury misunderstood the hon. Member he ought to have stood up to offer his personal explanation at the time Mr. Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury had been speaking or just after he had concluded his speech.

Now, of these 20 Cut Motions, is any Cut Motion to be put to the vote of the House? Practically these Cut Motions cover the whole field of Education and replies have been given to the numerous points raised.

Does Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed want to press his Motion ?

†Maulavi NAZIRUDDIN AHMED: No, Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury want to press his Motions ?

†Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: No, Sir, I also ask for leave to withdraw.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy. Does he press his Motion ?

†Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Before withdrawing my Motion I would request the Hon'ble Education Minister to raise the remuneration of the Primary School Teachers to Rs.25 per month. Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does Maulavi Abdur Rahman want to press his Motions ?

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: No, Sir, I ask for leave to withdraw.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does Khan Sahib Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahab Chaudhury press his Motions ?

Khan Sahib Maulavi Dewan MUMAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: No, Sir, I also ask for leave to withdraw.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER. Does Mr. Mookerjee press his Motions ?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: No, Sir. Leave to withdraw the Motions is solicited.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Srijut Ghanashyam Das. Does he press his Motion ?

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS: No, Sir. I beg leave to withdraw.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does Mr. Lakshesvar Borooah press his

Motion ?

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: As I have not got any assurance from the Hon'ble Minister I want to press my Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the provision of Rs. 12,42,922 under grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—E.—Government Secondary Schools (total), at page 83 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.” That is cut motion No. 27 of Srijut Lakshesvar Borooah which wanted to raise a discussion about the propriety of superseding the claims of hard worked Secondary School Teachers by putting in teachers occupying low position in the cadre.

The Motion was negatived.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia press his Motions ?

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA: No, Sir, I ask for leave to withdraw.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does Mr. Goldsmith press his Motions ?

Mr. C. GOLDSMITH: I shall withdraw my Motions on getting an assurance from the Hon'ble Minister.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SYIDUR RAHMAN: The point that the hon. Member has suggested will be considered.

Mr. C. GOLDSMITH: I beg leave to withdraw the Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does Mr. Sarveswar Barua press his Motion ?

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: No, Sir. I ask for leave to withdraw.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri. He is not in his seat. Then I am obliged to put his Motion before the House.

The question is :

“That the provision of Rs. 14,390 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—General charges—Q—Direction, sub-head—1—Pay of officers, Detailed head—Director of Public Instruction, at page 91 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,60,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.”

This Cut Motion wanted to raise a discussion on the inadequacy of the salary of the Director of Public Instruction of Assam.

The Motion was negatived.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Srijut Ghana Kanta Gogoi. Does he press his Motion ?

Srijut GHANA KANTA GOGOI: No, Sir, I beg leave to withdraw.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Srijut Surendranath Buragohain. Does he want to press his Motion before the House ?

Srijut SURENDRANATH BURAGOHAIN: No, Sir. I beg leave to withdraw.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I hope the hon. Members have got leave of the House to withdraw their Motions.

(After a pause)

All the other Motions than those put to the vote of the House stand withdrawn with the leave of the House.

Now I am putting the main Demand to the vote of the House.

The question is :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs 59,60,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1946, for the administration of the head ‘37.—Education (other than European)’.”

The question was adopted.

GRANT No. 20

40.—AGRICULTURE.

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 48,46,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1946, for the administration of the head “40.—Agriculture.”

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.48,46,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1946, for the administration of the head ‘40.—Agriculture’.”

There are as many as 26 Cut Motions. May I know which of the Cut Motions are going to be moved ?

†Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: No.1.

†Mr. D.B.H. MOORE: No.8.

†Srijut SURENDRANATH BURAGOHAIN: No 10.

†Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: No.11.

†Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: No.7.

†Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: No.18.

†Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Nos.2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: No.15.

†Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: No.16.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: This will do. I see that 13 Cut Motions are going to be moved. If the hon. Members can economise time in their speeches, these 13 Motions can be moved and discussed.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 13,825 under Grant No. 20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—A.—Direction, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Director, at page

110 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 48,46,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

The purpose of my moving the Motion is to censure Government for their failure to implement the Grow More Food Scheme.

It is almost certain that without sufficient land, sufficient labour and sufficient irrigation works—sufficient food can never be produced. But Government are neglecting three of these factors. I shall explain this citing the case of Sunamganj Buro area. This time many lands have remained uncultivated in Sanir Haor, Matiani Haor and Halir Haor in the Buro area of the Sunamganj subdivision for the absence of Jirati cultivators and Jirati labourers from Mymensingh. They have not come this year as they were not allowed to take their paddy produce and paddy remuneration to their homes in Mymensingh. The Halir Haor lands have remained uncultivated also for the reason that Krishna Khal project has been abandoned.

The harvest time is coming; it is heard that Bhagalus, *i.e.*, the reapers from Dacca, Mymensingh and other districts will not come this year in sufficient number, as in some of the Ghatis they were oppressed and extorted by the checkers. Until Government give strong assurances for their safe departure with the paddy remuneration, they will never come, and cultivators' paddy will remain unharvested, thus ridiculing the Grow More Food Campaign of the Government.

Then, Sir, irrigation works have not been taken up in right earnest. The Krishna Khal project has been stopped. Abua Bund project has not even come up for consideration. Dredging of Tekatekuia river has not been taken up and therefore the Sanir Haor lands have also remained uncultivated. Bigger schemes of dredging the Surma and the Kushiara rivers have not even been thought of by the Government. I challenge the Government to refute my statement that a lesser quantity of land has been cultivated this year in the Sunamganj Buro area. The bumper crop is not coming this year. So, Government should take steps at once, so that the Bhagalus, the Jirati cultivators and the Jirati labourers can take their paddy produce and paddy remuneration to their homes this year. About the irrigation works, I must say the recommendations of the popular representatives, specially representatives of the Kisans who always work among the Kisans, and the representation made by the Kisans themselves about Bunds, canals, etc., should be sympathetically treated by the Government. Recently an accident has taken place in the Kushiara river near Jagannathpur. A military steamer ran aground about two months ago in the river. The military authorities to bring down the steamer to deep water were about to dig a Khal. The people of the locality vehemently protested and appealed to the Subdivisional Officer, and told him that their crop would be destroyed by the May flood if the Khal be dug. Some people of the area came to the ninth session of the Surma Valley Kisan Conference and a resolution was adopted to ask Government to prevent the military authorities from digging the Khal. I do not know what has been done by this time, as from the Conference I came direct to attend the Assembly Session, and I apprehend the Khal must have been dug by this time. I urge upon the Government to take steps for remedying this danger which will damage the crop.

I also request Government to take up the irrigation works in right earnest. I submitted from time to time lists of works to the Government, but not a single work has been taken up. One was taken up, but was later abandoned when only one landlord protested.

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

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 13,825, under Grant No. 20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—A.—Direction, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Director, at page 110 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 48,46,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

My object of moving this Cut Motion is to raise a discussion about the immediate necessity of collecting agricultural statistics.

Sir, I submit that at the present time there is no arrangement for collection of such statistics, in the absence of which we are practically groping in the dark. A

serious controversy is raging in this House for the last few years whether Assam is surplus or deficit in the matter of rice and paddy. Such controversy can only be set at rest if correct statistics are available. Similar is the case regarding jute, potato and other agricultural produces. The forecasts that are published by the Agriculture Department are mere guess-works and often misleading. I would, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge for arrangement of regular collection of agricultural statistics in Assam.

Then, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 13,825 under Grant No. 20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—A.—Direction, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Director, at page 110 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 48,46,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

The object of moving the Motion is to raise a discussion about the quality of seeds supplied by the Agriculture Department. Of late it has been a common complaint everywhere that the seeds supplied by the Government do not germinate. The Officers put in charge of the purchase of such seeds do not pay adequate attention to the quality of the seeds, and as such people's reliance on Government seeds is shaken. I would request the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge to take this matter into consideration and see that the quality of seeds supplied to the public really improves in near future.

Sir, I also beg to move that the provision of Rs. 13,825 under Grant No. 20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—A.—Direction, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Director, at page 110 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 48,46,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, by this Motion I seek to raise a discussion about the various control orders as regards the movement of agricultural produces.

†Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA : On a point of order, Sir. Does this subject, *viz.*, control orders relating to movement of agricultural produces, come under this Grant ?

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : They relate to agriculture.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Yes, it comes.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : Here I will not dilate upon the wide-spread corruption that these control orders have brought in their wake, but I would confine myself to the effect of these orders on the agricultural economy of the Province. There is no doubt that these orders have crippled the agriculturists. In the absence of a planned procurement scheme, the producers are finding enormous difficulty in disposing of their surplus produce. As a matter of fact these orders have choked the normal flow of the market. Government have not discharged their responsibility in providing avenues for the disposal of the agricultural commodity, and the result has been that the agriculturists find themselves in an extremely helpless condition. I think I need not refer to the Food Grains Control Order, because, we know, in this matter the hands of the Provincial Government are tied down by an All-India policy, but they are responsible for the Potato Control Order, the Oil-seed Control Order and the Orange Control Order and many ordinances of the type. Sir, it is really difficult for us to appreciate the utility of these orders which have choked the normal trade channels without conferring any reciprocal benefit on the people at large. Owing to the control of the movement of potatoes, the growers are not getting adequate price. While they purchased seeds from Government at the rate of Rs. 25 per maund, they were compelled to sell their produce to the military contractors at the rate of Rs. 3 per maund, while the contractors received Rs. 14 per maund from the military authorities. I submit this is a very serious matter, and I appeal to Government to take steps to withdraw the unnecessary control orders as early as possible.

Sir, I also beg to move Motion* No. 6 which seeks to raise a discussion about the

* That the provision of Rs. 13,805 under grant No 20 Major head 40—agriculture, Minor head. A—Direction, Sub head—1.—pay of officers, Detailed head—Director at page 110 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 100 *i.e.* the amount of the whole Grant of Rs. 48,46,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

(To raise a discussion about the co-operative marketing of agricultural produce.)

†Speech not corrected.

co-operative marketing of agricultural produce. Sir, adequate price can only be assured to the agriculturists if Government launch a campaign of co-operative marketing. My submission to the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge would be that this scheme of co-operative marketing should not be shelved for Post-War Reconstruction. From now they should start such a scheme.

With these few words, I commend all the Motions for the acceptance of the House.

Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: I beg, Sir, to move that the provision of Rs. 18,150 under Grant No. 20, Major-head—40—Agriculture, Minor head—D.—Agricultural Experiments and Research, Sub-head—(b).—Scheme for Agricultural Marketing—2.—Pay of Establishment (total), at page 112 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 48,46,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

My object of moving the Motion is to censure Government for their failure to find market for agricultural produce of the Province. I hope the Hon'ble Minister will agree with me that agriculture forms the mainstay of the people of the country. Even in the Post-War Reconstruction period agriculture will form the mainstay of the people, but anyone going through the Budget figure will fail to find any plan or policy. There seems to be no co-ordination between the different departments. Even when Government have launched the policy of "Grow-More-Food Campaign" we find no policy and no scheme. In spite of the fact that there have been Marketing Officer and Assistant Marketing Officers there seems to be no market for the agricultural produce of this Province. There is no control and there is no way of marketing the produce of the agriculturists. I want that the House will agree with me that in comparison with the finished products, the prices of agricultural produce have gone down and the agriculturists' lot has become very hard. In the absence of a planned policy of procurement and a planned policy of marketing, the agriculturist finds himself in a hopeless position. He cannot buy his clothes and other necessaries of life. Moreover instances have occurred in the district of Sylhet that cabbages which were to be delivered to certain agencies were refused and the agriculturists did not know where to go with their produce. Unless there is a clear-cut plan of marketing the produce of a country there is no necessity of "Grow More Food Campaign". You cannot get both things at one and the same time. I therefore press on the Hon'ble Minister that steps will be taken for proper marketing of the agricultural produce of the Province. I hope he will kindly help the poor agriculturists of the country. With these few words, I commend my Motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. D. B. H. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 3,95,080 under Grant No. 20, Major head—40—Agriculture, Minor—head—D—Agricultural Experiments and Research, Sub-head—(d).—Other Schemes, Detailed head—Poultry and breeding scheme at page 114 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 48,46,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

By this Motion I want to criticise Government for their failure to reduce the incidence of poultry disease in the Province. From the detailed estimates it will be found that a sum of rupees three lakhs, ninety-five thousand and odd has been allocated for poultry breeding and breeding of goats. I agree entirely with the Hon'ble Minister that some such breeding scheme, which forms a very important part of the "Grow More Food Campaign", should be taken up. But the sum allocated namely, three lakhs, ninety five thousand and odd is a considerable sum of money. It will be remembered possibly that I tried to make the point during the budget discussion that there is little use in spending very considerable sums of money on poultry breeding when disease is going to wipe out a large proportion of poultry every year. So the point I wish to raise today is to ask the Hon'ble Minister to let me know exactly what Government is doing in its turn to check this disastrous loss of poultry that is occurring every year. I believe, I am right in saying that this problem of poultry is not entirely confined to Assam. It is equally serious in every other Province in India. My suggestion for the Hon'ble Minister's consideration is that if we have not got sufficient staff for the

special investigation of this disease in Assam, then assistance might be sought for with the help of the Central Government by obtaining experts and expert opinion from other Provinces. But even if we get that opinion the point that I tried to stress in the Budget discussion is how this information is to be got round to the common man, the villagers and labourers. That is why I raised the suggestion—and I still consider it to be the only practical solution—that we should utilise the Publicity Department for getting this information round by propaganda, by leaflets and bulletins and films. It is most important that means be found to get this information round to the villagers and to the labourers. I am not stressing this subject merely for myself or merely on behalf of my Group. I am trying to push this point as I feel myself strongly that it is a tremendous problem affecting every family of this Province.

The question of sub-nutrition has already been raised in this House and quite clearly and obviously poultry and egg do and should form a considerable portion of the diet of the population. This point is one that requires immediate solution. The treatment of poultry disease and poultry breeding are definitely co-related and any scheme of poultry breeding, in my opinion, must make proper provision for the treatment of disease and I hope the Hon'ble Minister in his reply will tell me whether Government agree with this policy and are prepared to do anything to implement it.

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA: I beg to move Sir, that the provision of Rs. 38,13,018 under grant No 20 Major head 40—Agriculture, Minor head D—Agricultural Experiments and Research, Sub-head (d) Grow More Food Campaign (total) at page 114 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, i. e. the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 48,46,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

The object of my moving this Motion is to criticise the general policy of Government regarding the "Grow More Food Campaign".

মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, "অধিক শস্য ফলাও" এই আন্দোলন শুধু মুখে এবং কাগজে কলমেই আছে কিন্তু শস্য ফলান সম্বন্ধে গভণমেন্ট কিছই করিতেছেন না। শস্য ফলাইতে হইলে কৃষক এবং জমির দরকার। আসাম ভাষীতে যথেষ্ট landless people আছে। তাহাদের যদি জমি দেওয়া হয় তাহা হইলে বর্তমানে যে শস্য তাহারা ফলাইতেছে তাহার চাইতে অনেক অধিক শস্য ফলাইতে পারে। আসাম ভাষীতে বহু লোকের জমি নদীতে ভাঙ্গিয়া নিয়াছে ফলে তাহারা শস্য আবাদেৰ জন্য ভাল জমি পাইতেছে না। কাহাকেও কাহাকেও কিছু কিছু জমি দেওয়া হইয়াছে বটে কিন্তু আবাদেৰ উপযুক্ত ভাল জমি দেওয়া হয় নাই। যদি তাহাদিগকে ভাল জমি দেওয়া হয় তাহা হইলে আউশ ধান, পাট, রাবি শস্যাদি আবাদ করিয়া তাহারা যথেষ্ট পরিমাণে শস্য ফলাইতে পারে। এই জমি আবাদ করিতে হইলে ভাল গরুর দরকার কিন্তু কিছুদিন যাবত এইরূপ হইয়াছে যে Military হইতে বহু গরু লইয়া গিয়াছে এবং বাঁকী অধিকাংশ গরু রোগে মারা গিয়াছে ফলে বর্তমানে হালের গরুর দর প্রতি জোরা ৩০০৬০০ টাকা পর্যন্ত উঠিয়াছে। গরিব কৃষকেরা এত দাম দিয়া গরু কিনিতে পারিতেছে না সেইজন্য আবাদ করিতে পারিতেছেন না। জমি চাষ করিতে লাঙ্গলের দরকার কিন্তু লোহার অভাবে লাঙ্গল, কাচি কোদাল ইত্যাদি পাওয়া যাইতেছে না; কাজেই কৃষকেরা যাহারা আবাদ করিবে তাহাদের নিতান্ত অসুবিধা হইতেছে। ইমিগেণ্টরা পাটের চাষ ভাল করিতে পারে। তাহাদের যদি ভাল জমি, গরু ইত্যাদি দেওয়া হয় তাহা হইলে তাহারা যথেষ্ট ফসল জন্মাইতে পারিবে এবং তদ্বারা দেশের আয়ও যথেষ্ট বাড়িবে। হাট বাজারে ডিম, মোরগ ইত্যাদি অতি কম দামে বিক্রয় হয়—ডিম ২।৩ পয়সাও বিক্রি হয় কিন্তু Military Sub-contractor রা সেই সকল জিনিষ কিনিয়া নিয়া বেশী দামে বিক্রি করে। যাহারা প্রকৃতই ডিম উৎপাদন করে তাহারা ঠিক দাম পায় না; কাজেই এই সব জিনিষের দাম স্থির করিয়া দেওয়া গভণমেন্টের উচিত। গ্রীষ্মকালের বসন্তের মত একটা অসুখে অনেক মুরগী প্রাতি বৎসর মরিয়া যায় এর একটা ব্যবস্থা করা উচিত। তরি তরকারি ইত্যাদি হাটে বাজারে খুব কম মূল্যে বিক্রি হয় কিন্তু মিলিটারী অনেক বেশী মূল্যে খরিদ করে। যাহাতে দরিদ্র কৃষক এই সব জিনিষের উচিত মূল্য পায় তাহাৰ একটা ব্যবস্থা করা উচিত। এই সব জিনিষের দাম স্থির করিবার ভাল ব্যবস্থা যদি না করা হয় তাহা হইলে কৃষকের অবস্থা দিন দিন অতি নিঃস্ব হইবে এবং Grow More Food Campaign বিফল হইবে। আমার নামে ১৯ নং Cut Motion* আছে। উহা কৃষি বীজ ইত্যাদির সম্বন্ধে আলোচনার জন্য দিয়াছিলাম। কৃষকদের বীজ দিবার জন্য সুরমাভ্যালি হইতে ধান এবং পাটের বীজ আনা হয়—সেগুলি মোটেই

*That the total provision of Rs.48,46,800 under Grant No.20, Major head—40—Agriculture, at page 110 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100 i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.48,46,800 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

ভাল নয়। অর্ধেক পচা এবং অর্ধেকের চারা জনমায় না। ইহার ফলে ক্ষেত খারাপ হয় এবং কৃষকদের ভীষণ ক্ষতি হয়। রাবি শস্যের কীজ কৃষকদের সময় মত না দেওয়ার জন্য ফসল ভালভাবে জনমাইতে পারে না এবং তাহাদের পরিশ্রম বৃথা যায়। গভর্নমেন্টের ব্যবস্থা করা উচিত যাহাতে কৃষকেরা ভাল বীজ পায় এবং উহা ঠিক সময়ে পায়। মফস্বলে কতকগুলি কামদার নিযুক্ত করা হইয়াছে। ইহাদের বেশীর ভাগ স্থানীয় লোক। সেইজন্য তাহারা নিজেদের সাংসারিক কাজে দেখায় সর্বদা ব্যস্ত থাকে এবং তাহাদের কর্তব্য করে না। এইজন্য তাহাদের দ্বারা কৃষকদের কোনই উপকার হয় না। এইসব কামদারদের নিজেদের বাড়ীতে না রাখিয়া ভিন্ন জায়গায় কাজ করিতে দেওয়া উচিত। ইহা করিলে তাহারা নিজেদের কর্তব্য পালন করিবে। আশা করি গভর্নমেন্ট ও এই সমস্ত বিষয়ে বিশেষ ব্যবস্থা করিবেন।

[Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia, M.L.A., while moving the Cut Motion spoke in Bengali and said about the desirability of throwing more lands to the landless people in the Assam Valley in order to make the "Grow More Campaign" a success and for timely distribution of proper seeds.]

Srijut SURENDRANATH BURAGOHAJN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 21,057 under Grant No. 20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—F.—Agricultural Education (total), at page 117 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 48,46,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

My object in moving this Cut Motion before the House is to raise a discussion about the possibility and suitability of establishing an Agricultural Institute at Jorhat.

Sir, agriculture has rightly found the first place in the order of priority in the Government's Post-War Development Scheme in this Province and the need of an agricultural institute to turn out men who would execute the bold plan that the Government have taken up for the Post-War Development, is very great. Sir, Jorhat provides certain facilities for such an institute which cannot be found elsewhere in the Province. There is already a training class attached to the Government agricultural laboratory and the farm there. Jorhat is the headquarters station of the Economic Botanist and also of certain other agricultural officers whose services may be obtained as part time teachers for the institute. There is also a big laboratory run by the Indian Tea Association at Tocklai and at this experimental station there are to be found European and Indian Chemists and Entomologists whose services may also be similarly obtained for the institute that may be started at Jorhat. Sir, there is already a public demand for this, and I hope the Hon'ble Minister will give his serious consideration to it. With these words, Sir, I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

†Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 80,762 under Grant No. 20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—H.—Agricultural Demonstration, etc. (total), at page 118 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 48,46,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

By this Cut Motion, I want to urge upon Government the need of starting an experimental demonstration seed farm at North Lakhimpur.

Sir, my subdivision is cut off from the several centres of agricultural activities such as Jorhat and other places. Now there are many people who during their life time had never had an occasion to see any of the agricultural experimental farms which are away from the subdivision. Sir, there is one Agricultural Inspector at North Lakhimpur. He has hardly ample work there if such an institute is not established at North Lakhimpur. Sir, as far back as 1940, I think, a piece of land was acquired from an existing village grazing ground—about 50 Bighas of land was acquired—for establishing a demonstration seed farm just near the town of North Lakhimpur. But somehow or other the proposal was turned down and the land is lying waste up till now. Sir, I do not know how this proposal could not be given effect to even now in spite of the Government waxing eloquence about their Grow More Food Campaign. The object of my Motion is just to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Agriculture that it is high time that this demonstration seed farm be started in North Lakhimpur on the land that was acquired from the Revenue Department. With these words, Sir, I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 48,46,800 under Grant No. 20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, at page 110 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 48,46,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, I have tabled this Motion to criticise the policy of Government so far as this Department is concerned. Sir, there is one very big item, namely, Grow More Food Campaign and under the garb of that Scheme some most important branches of the Department have been very shabbily treated and I shall prove it forthwith. Under Experimental Farms, my Friend Srijut Sarveswar Barua has just now expressed his desire that there should be one farm in each Subdivision. This fact was brought to the notice of Government several times, but, what do we find in the Budget? We find that, so far as the experimental Farms are concerned, under the revised estimate Rs. 1,70,300 has been shown, whereas the provisions for the next year is Rs. 1,39,248. So, instead of increasing the amount it has been decreased. So far as the Deep Water Paddy Farms are concerned, you will find, Sir, that under the revised estimate a provision of Rs. 22,500 has been made whereas for the next year the provision is for Rs. 10,696. As regards the scheme for fruit culture, Rs. 14,000 has been provided under the revised estimate, whereas provision for the next year is Rs. 11,754. Then about the cattle nutrition scheme the amount is just the same as that of the current year. Under Agricultural Education we find that a provision for Rs. 26,300 has been made according to the revised estimates of the current year whereas the demand for the next year is Rs. 21,057. The same is the lot of Agricultural Demonstration. Under the revised estimate we find Rs. 92,000 has been provided for the current year, whereas for the next year the provision is Rs. 80,762. As regard Special Rural Uplift scheme, there also we find that there is a total increase of Rs. 1,500, but only under one head—Dearness Allowance—an additional sum of Rs. 3,400 has been provided.

So, Sir, I say that there is no increment—real increment under the branches I have mentioned. The amount that is going to be spent during the current year will actually be reduced and not increased during the next year. And under other heads—breeding operation under cattle farms, seed depot, etc., there is less provision than the current year.

As regards the Agricultural Marketing Section, Sir, I won't dilate on it here now because I shall get the opportunity to do full justice to this Branch them. Sir, I will touch upon the Sugar Cane Research Scheme. For this scheme no money has been provided this year. The head is entirely nil. As regards the Grow-More-Food Campaign, I think the Hon'ble Minister will say that they have made provisions for various works under this Head. My hon. Friend Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia has rightly remarked as to wherefrom the large amount of money that will be spent under this Head will come. In this connection, my first submission is whether there are properly qualified men to use that money in the right direction. My second point is whether they will get the cattle to give effect to this scheme and my third point is as regards the implements that will be required for the cultivation work.

Then again, Sir, a large amount of money has been provided for manure and seeds under the Grow-More-Food Campaign. It is all well and good, but I am afraid, we shall hear from Government at the end of the year—as we usually hear—that due to transport difficulty the quantity of manure and seeds could not be brought to the Province. And in most cases where the seeds will be supplied it would be found afterwards that they were not in proper condition, the reason being that the seeds and manure did not arrive in right time and the quality deteriorated through delay.

Lastly, Sir, I would urge upon Government to recruit properly qualified men even at the top so that the scheme should be a really successful one and that the money of the rate payers would not be wasted for nothing only for the sake of an experiment.

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

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 48,46,800 under Grant No. 20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, at page 110 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 48,46,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

By this motion, Sir, I want to raise a discussion about the policy of the Agriculture Department.

Sir, the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture represents the Indian Tea Gardens and I represent the tea garden labour; therefore, our interests are identical. So, I would request him to look after the needs of the *ex-tea* garden labourers residing inside the tea gardens as well as outside the tea gardens.

Sir, there has been a great dearth of good bulls in the villages as well as in tea gardens and I would request Government to import some good type of bulls for the cultivators. The villagers have no ploughing machinery and they depend wholly upon their poor type of bulls and I would urge upon Government the necessity of helping those villagers by supplying better type of bulls—a thing, which could easily be done by Government for the improvement of agriculture.

Now, Sir, we all know that there has been a great scarcity of milk, butter and Ghee for want of milch cow, and so I would request Government to stop slaughter of milch cows.

I would also request Government to throw open more waste lands, which are of no use to the Forest Department, to the *ex-tea* garden labourers so that they may cultivate much more and this will also serve to grow more food for the people of the Province. Government would also do well to carry on the works of drainage and embankment which would surely help good cultivation.

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

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 48,46,800 under Grant No. 20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, at page 110 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 48,46,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, by this Motion I want to discuss about the policy of the Agriculture Department.

The policy of the Agricultural Department in various places in the Province has been very often discussed. But I should like to speak on this subject only so far as Garo Hills District is concerned. Sir, some time in the year 1910 or 1911 Mr. Cunningham, the then Director of Public Instruction of Assam, published a pamphlet which was called, "Note on Education in the Garo Hills". In that pamphlet he attached great importance on agriculture in the Garo Hills, and in the note he stated that the method of cultivation that was in practice there could not be continued for long and the people of that place could not be able to depend on that method alone and for the future some better method of cultivation should have to be adopted, and that method was called "Jume cultivation". In pursuance to that note Mr. Simeon, the then Deputy Conservator of Forests, who was in charge of the Garo Hills Division, tried his best to open up some land for wet cultivation in the District and did some irrigation work as well. But he failed in his attempts. After him, the then Deputy Commissioner, late Col. Halliday, tried to introduce terrace cultivation, another method of cultivation—and he took some Mauzadars, Laskars and Nokmas of the place to show the method of terrace cultivation in the Naga Hills. But I pointed out that the terrace cultivation could not be successful in the Garo Hills because the natural soil of the Garo Hills was not suitable for that method of cultivation, and that method was successful in those places where the soil was clayey but the soil of the Garo Hills was brittle. In spite of that, Sir, some 2 or 3 Nagas from the Naga Hills were brought to our locality to introduce that kind of cultivation. But all the money and labour were wasted when that method proved failure and the Nagas had to go back after 6 months. Irrigation was started in some localities without having proper survey or plan. Thus, Sir, much of the money from our District fund was wasted.

I do not know what valuable work the Agricultural Demonstrators are doing in the Garo Hills. They submit their reports and tour diaries only to the Inspectors and to the Director and unless their reports and tour diaries come to Government, their work cannot be brought to the notice of the Government and naturally the Hon'ble Minister in-charge is ignorant of what the agricultural staff is doing. There are two Agricultural Demonstrators in our District, but I have not seen any valuable work that they have done

so far. So, Sir, I place this point before the Hon'ble Minister in order that he may see what those Demonstrators are actually doing in the Province as a whole.

Regarding orange cultivation in the Garo Hills, Sir, Mr. B. C. Allen while he was officiating as Commissioner, Assam Valley Division, had some talk with me when I was called up to the Deputy Commissioner's Bungalow to enquire of me about the prospect of cultivation of this fruit. (*Voices: Which year?*) Sometime between 1921 and 1922 (*Laughter*). He wanted to know why the Garos did not grow oranges in large scale and I had to point out to him that this was due to the fact that there was no good communication from Tura to the remote interior to carry oranges to markets. Even if they were brought to Tura the cost of transport would go so much that the price would not justify the trouble and expense of production in large scale. So only a small quantity of them was produced for local consumption.

Sir, it is known to all that agriculture is a very important matter and for proper development of agriculture, irrigation has got to be carried out. Both embankment and irrigation go hand in hand and are equally important. This is a thing which involves small amount of money. I may bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge that irrigation at Ampatigiri, Chongpotgiri, Sarmanda, Simsang-giri, Dalu-Dhappgiri, Khujikhura in my District of Garo Hills is vitally necessary.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motions moved:

- (1) "That the provision of Rs. 13,825 under Grant No. 20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—A.—Direction, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Director, at page 110 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 48,46,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100."
- (2) "That the provision of Rs. 13,825 under Grant No. 20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—A.—Direction, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Director, at page 110 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 48,46,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100."
- (3) "That the provision of Rs. 13,825 under Grant No. 20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—A.—Direction, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Director, at page 110 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 48,46,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100."
- (4) "That the provision of Rs. 13,825 under Grant No. 20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—A.—Direction, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Director, at page 110 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 48,46,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100."
- (5) "That the provision of Rs. 13,825 under Grant No. 20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—A.—Direction, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Director, at page 110 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 48,46,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100."
- (6) "That the provision of Rs. 18,150 under Grant No. 20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—D.—Agricultural Experiments and Research, Sub-head—(b).—Scheme for Agricultural Marketing—2.—Pay of Establishment (total), at page 112 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 48,46,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100."
- (7) "That the provision of Rs. 3,95,080 under Grant No. 20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—D.—Agricultural Experiments and Research, Sub-head—(d).—Other Schemes, Detailed head—Poultry and breeding scheme, at page 114 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 48,46,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100."
- (8) "That the provision of Rs. 38,13,018 under Grant No. 20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—D.—Agricultural Experiments and Research, Sub-head—(d).—Grow-More-Food Campaign (total), at page 114 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 48,46,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100."
- (9) "That the provision of Rs. 21,057 under Grant No. 20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—F.—Agricultural Education (total), at page 117 of

the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 48,46,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100."

(10) "That the provision of Rs. 80,762 under Grant No 20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—H.—Agricultural Demonstration, etc. (total), at page 118 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 48,46,800 do stand reduced by Rs 100."

(11) "That the total provision of Rs.48,46,800 under Grant No.20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, at page 110 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 48,46,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100."

(12) "That the total provision of Rs. 48,46,800 under Grant No. 20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, at page 110 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 48,46,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100."

(13) "That the total provision of Rs. 48,46,800 under Grant No. 20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, at page 110 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 48,46,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100."

Dr. C. G. TERRELL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in these days of sub-nutrition and mal-nutrition, it is difficult to understand how the value of the Soya Bean as an article of food appears to have largely been ignored, and in supporting this Cut Motion I should like once more to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture to this subject.

In other Provinces propaganda to encourage Soya Bean cultivation has been very successful both directly and indirectly and has made good progress. The food value of this Bean is unsurpassed. It contains in liberal quantities all the essential vitamins and is also rich in protein and particularly fat content. The latter is of special merit as it is normally deficient in the diet of the people. In China, Soya Bean is the staple food of the people and it is not too much to say that it has been responsible for the successful fight against aggression that has been put up by China for the last seven years. Many items of nourishing food-stuffs are extracted from the bean—notably milk, flour and oil apart from its use as a direct food. The main criticism that one hears against its use in India is the longer time it takes in cooking and a slightly different taste to the ordinary bean. It only requires a short time to become accustomed to this and to acquire the art of cooking. From an industrial point of view this bean is assuming increasing importance and it is used largely in the manufacture of paints and varnishes and bakelite—also plastics with its many derivatives—the bodies of modern cars are largely made from these articles. Its value to agriculture is not the least in importance—Bacteria which accumulate around the roots of the plant impart nitrogen to and enrich the soil. It is often used as a green crop for manure and hoed into the soil green, or after the crop of beans have been garnered. From experiments made in potato growing with Soya Bean as a rotation crop it is found that the soil is so enriched that the potato crop is increased very considerably and this should be of particular interest to cultivators in these hills.

Once again I commend its value to the Hon'ble Minister with a hope that Government will take up propaganda for encouraging the cultivators of this important food item in Assam.

Srijut GHANA KANTA GOGOI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. Abdul Bari Chaudhury. It is really a sad thing that we are placed in the dark for want of statistics. Sir, collection of agricultural statistics is vitally necessary. The question of surplus and deficit in food and other products and the question of fixing prices of commodities, can be done only when exact statistics are collected. The methods adopted by the Tea Industry should be an eye-opener to this Government. Only correct statistics may regulate exports and imports. Planned production and planned marketing can only be done when exact statistics are made available.

I also support the Motion moved by hon. Mr. Moore. I draw the attention of this hon'ble House that poultry farming can greatly improve the economic condition of the peasants of the Province. The question of mal-nutrition can to a great extent be solved, if eggs and poultry form a part of the people's food. So, I fully agree that Government should by propaganda and other methods, effectively teach and encourage people to take to scientific methods of poultry breeding.

I also support the Cut Motion moved by Mr. Buragohain. The need of an agricultural institute in Assam cannot but be over-emphasised. The establishment of such an institute should not any more be delayed and Jorhat is the proper place for such an institution.

Sir, I also support the Motion moved by Srijut Sarveswar Barua. I would like to suggest that Government should start model agricultural and cattle farms in every subdivision of the Province where sheep, goats, and poultry should also be reared and scientific methods of rearing be demonstrated for the benefit of the people. The cost of maintenance of these farms should, to a great extent, be met by the earnings of the farms.

Sir, I also suggest that all the Agricultural, Veterinary and Sericultural staff should be housed in the model farms.

With these words, I support all the Motions moved by the different hon. Members.

Srijut MAHADEV SARMA: মাননীয় সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, মাননীয় বৈদ্যনাথ মখাৰ্জী মহোদয়ে যি মোছন দাঙ্গি ধৰিছে মই তাক সমৰ্থন কৰোঁ।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I hope the hon. Member will be very brief.

Srijut MAHADEV SARMA: মই কথা কবই নাজানো আৰু যেতিয়া কওঁ চমুকৈয়ে কওঁ। ডাঙৰীয়া, গভৰ্ণমেন্টৰ কাৰ্য্যৰ কঠোৰ সমালোচনা কৰি কথা কবলৈ বাধ্য হৈছোঁ কাৰ্য্যগতত। অলপ আগতে মাননীয় শিক্ষা মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে বৰ গোঁৱৰ কৰি কৈছে যে তেখেতৰ শিক্ষা বিভাগে এই হাউচৰ সমস্ত মেম্বৰৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিছে আৰু তাতে ৭১টা মোছন সমালোচনাৰ বাবে দিয়া হৈছে। কথাটো সঁচা। তেখেতৰ গোঁৱৰত আমিও, ব্যবস্থাপক সভাৰ সভ্য সকলো, গোঁৱৰাণিত হৈছোঁ। তেখেতৰ বিভাগৰ কাম মস্তকৰ কিন্তু পুস্তাবিত বিষয় হৈছে কৃষিবিভাগৰ—যি পেটৰ ভাত জোগায়। পেটত ভাত নেথাকিলে একো কৰিব নোৱাৰি—সেইটো দিয়ে কৃষি বিভাগে। এই কাৰণে কৃষি বিভাগক যদি হয় কৰা হয় তেনেহলে মনত বৰ দুখ লাগে আৰু সেই নিমিত্তেই এই বিভাগৰ কথা নকৈ নোৱাৰিলোঁ। এই বিভাগীয় কাৰ্য্যৰ মুঠ ফল হিচাবে গাঁৱৰ ফালে চালে দেখোঁ যে গভৰ্ণমেন্টে এই বিভাগটোক বাহিৰত খুব ভালকৈ দেখুৱাই ৰাখিছে কিন্তু প্ৰকৃতপক্ষে কৃষি বিভাগৰ দ্বাৰা আমাৰ খেতিয়ক সকলৰ প্ৰকৃত উপকাৰ একো হোৱা নাই বা জনসাধাৰণৰো একো উন্নতিমূলক বা সহায় জনক কাম হোৱা নাই। অফিছাৰ বিলাকৰ কথা নকওঁয়েই, যদি বেয়া নেপায় তেনেহলে মই কওঁ যে এই বিভাগৰ মন্ত্ৰীমহোদয়েও একো ভাল কাম কৰা নাই। বৰ্তমানত প্ৰাদেশিক স্মাৰ্ভ শাসনৰ সময়ত আমাৰ নিৰ্বাচিত প্ৰতিনিধি সকলৰ হাতত যথেষ্ট ক্ষমতা থকা সত্ত্বেও আমাৰ গভৰ্ণমেন্টৰ দৃষ্টি-ভঙ্গীসেৱা ভাবৰ পৰা পৰিবৰ্ত্তন হোৱা দেখা নেজায়। দেশৰ দুখীয়াৰ পৰা অন্যাৰ্য্য ভাবে টকা পইচা আনি খৰছ কৰা হৈছে। অথচ তাৰ দ্বাৰা প্ৰকৃত কাম হোৱা দেখা পালে বা লক্ষ্য কৰিলে মনত বৰ বেজাৰ লাগে। সেই মনৰ বেজাৰ যেতিয়া আমি প্ৰকাশ কৰোঁ আমাক ৰাজদ্ৰোহী আৰু Good Government ৰ বিৰোধী বুলি জ্ঞান কৰি জেইলত আটক কৰি ৰাখে। যদি কওঁ যে গভৰ্ণমেন্টে প্ৰকৃত পক্ষে যি ভাবে চলা উচিত সেই ভাবে চলা নাই তেনে হলেই আমাক দোষী বুলি ভবা হয়। তেতিয়াই আমি law and order ভঙা অপৰাধী। ডাঙৰীয়া, অলপতে জেইলৰ পৰা ওলাই আহি দেখিলোঁ যে পৃথিবীখন উলটি গৈছে। বঙ্গালীত এটা প্ৰবচন আছে “কাৰও পক্ষে সৰ্ববনাশ, কাৰও বা পোষ মাস”। সৰ্ববনাশ চিৰকালৰ দৰে সেই গাঁৱলীয়া দুখীয়া সকলৰ আৰু “পোষ মাস” সদায় চাৰিও ফালৰ পৰা শুই অনা capitalist বা ধনী সকলৰ—হোৱাৰে হয় আৰু নোহোৱাৰে নাই। আজি কালি তাহানি কথাত শুনা কথা, কামত বাতাবাতি বৰলোক। মই দেখিছোঁ কোনো কোনো মানুহ ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ Contract পায় কোনোৱে বাতাবাতি Co-operative Society form কৰে আৰু

সেইবোৰ Co-operative Societyৰ ভাগ সকলোৰে নেপায় মাত্ৰ কেইজনমানহে ভাগ পায়। বিভাগীয় কিবা এটা উন্নতি কৰিবলৈ হলে দেখা যায় খুব ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ অফিচাৰ নিযুক্ত হ'ব। অফিচাৰ নিযুক্ত হলেই সকলো হল আৰু আন একো দৰকাৰ নাই। কিন্তু ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰা Food problem solved হৈছে নে? Grow-More-Food Campaign ও এটা ভেকোভাওনা ইয়াৰে গাৰ'ব মানুহৰ একো উপকাৰ হোৱা নাই। এইবোৰ শুনিলো আন খেতি ভাল নহল অলপ enquiry কৰি জানিলো যে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে কাতিৰ শেষত খেতিয়কক গুটি দিলে তেতিয়া খেতিৰ সময় পাব হৈ গৈছে। গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে যদি তেওঁবিলাকৰ দৃষ্টিভঙ্গী সেৱা ভাবলৈ পৰিবৰ্তন নকৰে আৰু সেই ভাবে কাম নকৰে তেনেহলে দেশৰ পুৰুষ উপকাৰ হ'ব নোৱাৰে আৰু আমিও তেওঁবিলাকৰ কাম সমৰ্থন কৰিব নোৱাৰোঁ আৰু পুৰিবাদ কৰিবলৈ বাধ্য।

[Srijut Mahadev Sarma, M. L. A., while supporting the Motion of Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee spoke in Assamese and remarked that the work of the Agriculture Department was not satisfactory in as much as it did no good to the people. He also complained for the delay in distribution of potato seed to the cultivators.]

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is fully realised that agriculture to-day is a matter of the highest national importance and the outspoken criticism of the hon. Members is an echo of the intelligent interest taken by the public at large in the workings of the Agriculture Department. Sir, this Department is not an independent unit having exclusive control over its policy which is affected by various factors over which it has very little or no control at all. But all the same—the policy of this Department has been one of unprecedented vigour. Whatever one may say about the Grow-More-Food Campaign in this Province, it should be borne in mind that the Province has been able to feed under these war time conditions not only her normal population but also a vast portion of military personnel as well as thousands of outsiders, mainly labourers, who have flowed into this Province for various works. This is so, Sir, in spite of the fact that the climatic conditions of this Province vary almost every month and moreover the import of rice into this Province from Burma and Manipur State has been totally stopped. The weather conditions during 1944 were very unfavourable and the talks of a possible famine were in the air. But thanks to the indefatigable works of the Agriculture Department such fears were falsified. Between the years 1939-40 and 1943-44 rice produce increased by 31.5 per cent. and the areas under sugarcane and potato increased by 5.21 and 43.2 per cent. respectively. Food crops were substituted for jute over 41.8 per cent. of the area under jute and water control was provided to over 500 square miles of rice cultivation. The works done by this Department will further become apparent when I dilate upon the various points raised by the hon. Members.

With regard to my Friend Mr. Karuna Sindhu Roy's complaint that *buro* cultivation is not very successful this time in Sunamganj, I may say, Sir, that according to our report more lands were brought under *buro* cultivation this year and I find it difficult to accept his statement.

Regarding irrigation projects in Sunamganj Subdivision, we have taken up many and I gave the names of those in course of my reply to his Question the other day.

Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury has raised the question of improvement of agricultural statistics. Sir, we are taking all steps that are possible for us to improve the agricultural statistics as soon as possible. As a matter of fact we prepared one plain table survey report and this was submitted to the Government of India, but afterwards we changed it as we decided to do aerial survey if possible. For that purpose we communicated with the Bengal Government and the Bengal Government was kind enough to send to Assam the Commissioner of Chittagong Division. We had consultation with him and we have prepared a scheme which has been forwarded to the Government of India and as soon as we get a reply from them, I think, we shall be able to give effect to it.

With regard to the quality of seed, Sir, it is wrong to say that all seeds distributed by the Department do not germinate. Hon. Members will, of course, agree that it is not at all possible for us or for any other department now-a-days to bring seeds from other Provinces quickly. We generally bring seeds from Bihar and it takes about a month or so to reach this Province. Again there is difficulty of godowns and from the godowns to the field it takes long time for want of trucks. But we have provided funds this year for purchase of several trucks and I hope this difficulty will not arise in future.

Regarding control orders on the movement of agricultural produce, Sir, this matter was explained several times by the Hon'ble Premier and I have nothing further to add to it. But I can only say that these control orders are necessary for equitable distribution of agricultural produce in the Province. Had there been no control orders there would have been shortage of rice when there was a famine in the sister Province of Bengal. What is true of two Provinces is also true of two localities. So, under restricted movement of agricultural produce scarcity of food in some localities was avoided.

Coming to the question of co-operative marketing, such a scheme, Sir, I understand, has been lately taken up by the Boroda State and is under experimental stage. This scheme is being financed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. As soon as we know about the result of this scheme we intend to experiment such a scheme in our Province with the help of the Government of India.

Babu Dakshina Ranjan Gupta Chaudhury has raised the question of marketing of agricultural produce. Sir, the agriculturists now-a-days do not bother very much about this, as they have got a ready market in this Province. In spite of that fact, the hon. Members know that we have got a Marketing Section of this Department and that Section has been doing all that is possible to find market for the agricultural produce and to help the agriculturists as much as possible under these abnormal war-time conditions. We have got one appointed agent in Calcutta through whom the agriculturists sell their produce in Calcutta. Sir, I have to move in this Session a Motion for the extension of the term of the Agricultural Marketing Scheme, when I shall be able to dilate upon the subject and explain to the hon. Members the utility of the Marketing Section.

My hon. Friend, Mr. Moore, wants to know what action we have taken with regard to poultry disease. Sir, this subject is being taken up by the Veterinary Department. One Veterinary Assistant Surgeon was trained in the Research Institute at Mukteswar under the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research scheme, and was appointed Assistant Veterinary Investigation Officer in charge of Poultry Disease. This Officer works single-handed in all the Provinces of India, including Bombay and Madras. The salary of this Officer in Bombay is from Rs.150-250, just like ours, and this whole scheme is financed between this Government and the Government of India on fifty-fifty basis. However, Sir, if the Government of India agree, we will try to increase the staff of this Officer. In order to check the depletion of the stock of poultry we have prepared two schemes and we want to give effect to them from 1945-46. Scheme No. I (Basic scheme) contemplates a considerable increase in the production of superior breeds of birds (ducks and fowls), in addition to present existing stocks, at six Government farms. These farms are the Upper Shillong Farm, the Khanapara Farm, the Sylhet Farm, the Titabar Farm, the Dalgaon Farm and the Pukra Duck Breeding Farm. The birds will be of the following breeds:—

Fowls—Rhode Island Red and White Leghorn.

Ducks—Khaki Campbell and White Breasted Nageswari.

At each of the stations 1,000 chickens and ducklings will be raised annually. The additional sum that will be required for this scheme in each station will be Rs. 6,210 and the whole scheme will cost Government about Rs. 84,120.

The second scheme is a sort of village subsidized extension scheme. Fifty fowl and duck breeding centres, located in suitable areas of the Province, are contemplated. Each centre will cover an area of several villages within a radius of ten miles. The ratio of cocks to hens will be 1 : 10, and the scheme will cost Government Rs. 1,38,960.

We have sent this scheme to the Government of India for approval, and as soon as we get their approval we will try to give effect to it.

My Friend, Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia, has raised the question of land settlement for cultivation. This is a matter purely for the Revenue Department, and I do not want to say anything on this subject. He also raised the question of selling cattle to the Military by the villagers. The other day I said, Sir, that Government were helpless unless the people would co-operate with us in this matter. Regarding jute cultivation, we are paying more attention to the food-crops, but the staff

maintained with the help of the Government of India are doing demonstration work in the villages, and this time the Government of India have been pleased to grant Rs 2,000 for jute grading station in Nowgong.

Regarding poultry disease, Sir, I have just said that we will try to increase the number of Officers of this Department.

My Friend Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia has also complained that Kamdars should not be kept in their home districts. If we receive any complaint against any Kamdar, either from any hon. Member or from any outsider, we shall certainly take necessary action in the matter.

Then, Sir, Mr. Buragohain has urged upon Government to establish an Agricultural Institute at Jorhat. Sir, in this year's Budget we have made provision for three agricultural schools for elementary training; one will be at Jorhat, another at Gauhati and the third at Sylhet. We have sent the scheme to the Government of India for financial help, and it is our intention to develop one of these elementary training schools into a full-fledged school in the near future.

My hon. friend, Mr. Sarveswar Barua, has requested us to open one experimental and demonstration seed farm at North Lakhimpur. As a matter of fact there is one proposal which is receiving our consideration, and I hope we will be able to open one at North Lakhimpur in the near future.

Mr. Mookerjee as usual made some observations with regard to the Budget figures of our Department. He said that the provisions shown in this year's Budget were less than the actuals of 1944-45. I should like to say, Sir, that the revised Budget of 1945-46 will surely be more than the provision that we have made at the moment. Regarding the necessity for more cattle, I may inform him that we have already made arrangements with Bihar to import 2,000 heads of cattle to this Province, and it will not take very long to get them into our Province, as the Bihar Government have agreed to help our contractors to purchase this cattle and also to arrange wagons. Mr. Mookerjee also asked us to recruit qualified men in the Department. I may inform him that we have already made provisions to recruit one Agricultural Engineer and one Animal Husbandry Expert from the United Kingdom. We have requested the Government of India to find out suitable men for these two posts. Mr. Sarwan has said that as I represent the Indian Planting Community I should look to the interest of the labourers also. I can assure him that their side will never be overlooked by me. He also mentioned about slaughtering of cattle in this Province. Sir, yesterday I explained the whole situation. We have already passed orders and asked our officers to prohibit slaughtering of cows below the age of 10 or cows in milk. I said yesterday that we want co-operation of the public in this respect. We have not a big police force to check any such cases in villages.

Mr. Marak has asked me to inspect the diaries of Demonstrators. Sir, as a matter of fact, the diaries of Demonstrators are sent to Inspectors of the Circles, and if any Demonstrator passes his time lazily, it is the duty of the Inspector to check him and take him to task. I understand there are two Demonstrators in the Garo Hills. If they are not doing good work, I request Mr. Marak to bring this to the notice of the Inspector there. He also said about the orange cultivation that was doing very well in the year 1923. If it was so, I would only ask Mr. Marak to request his villagers to take up this business and bring more land under orange cultivation.

Dr. Terrell has brought the question of Soya Bean cultivation in this Province. I may mention that in two places in this Province we tried to have Soya Bean cultivation. We have tried this at Jorhat Experimental Farm and in the Upper Shillong Farm. We have asked people to take up this cultivation but the people do not like the taste and it seems that they do not like to cultivate this on account of the taste alone. Even then Sir, our Inspectors and Demonstrators have been exhorting the people to take up this cultivation the value of which is very high.

†Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK : What about irrigation ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA : Regarding irrigation in the Garo Hills, Sir, I could not follow my Friend well. If he gives me the names of places in writing I will certainly see if some of them can be taken up by the Department.

Lastly, Sir, I beg to point out that we have passed through a period when reconstruction is in the air. The policy of this Department is to prepare ground for such a reconstruction and in this march of ours I hope the hon. Members will give us their good will.

With these words, I appeal to the hon. Members not to press their Motions.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Does Mr. Karuna Sindhu Roy press his Motion ?

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY : No Sir. I beg leave to withdraw.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Does Babu Dakshina Ranjan Gupta Chaudhuri press his Motion ? I find he is absent. I will put it to the vote of the House.

The question is :

“ That the provision of Rs. 18,150 under Grant No. 20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—D—Agricultural Experiments and Research, Sub-head—(b).—Scheme for Agricultural Marketing—2.—Pay of Establishment (total), at page 112 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 48,46,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100”.

The question was negatived.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : May I ask Mr. Moore whether he presses his Motion ?

Mr. D. B. H. MOORE : May I ask the Hon'ble Minister two questions ? Will he consider my suggestions and publish pamphlets ? Thesecond question is will he consider if we have not sufficient officers here, the question of obtaining experts from other Provinces.

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA : We will take up this matter with the Government of India and request them to send experts to this Province at least for some time. Regarding publishing pamphlets, it will be done, Sir.

Mr. D. B. H. MOORE : Then I beg leave to withdraw my Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Does Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia press his Motion ?

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA : No, Sir. I ask for leave to withdraw.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Does Mr. Abdul Bari Chaudhury press his Motions ?

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : No, Sir. I also ask for leave to withdraw.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Does Mr. Buragohain press his Motion ?

Srijut SURENDRA NATH BURAGOHAIN : No, Sir. I solicit leave to withdraw.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Does Mr. Sarveswar Barua press his Motion ?

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA : No, Sir. Leave to withdraw is asked for.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Does Mr. Mookerjee press his Motion ?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : No, Sir. I ask for leave to withdraw.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Do Mr. Sarwan and Mr. Marak press their Motions ?

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN : No, Sir. I do not like to press my Motion.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK : No, Sir. I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I hope the hon. Members have leave of the House to withdraw their Motions.

(After a pause.)

The Motions stand withdrawn with the leave of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :
 "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 48,46,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1946, for the administration of the head '40.—Agriculture'".
 The question was adopted.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 A.M, on Thursday, the 22nd March, 1945.

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

SHILLONG,

The 7th June, 1945

