

Proceedings of the Ninth 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 2 p. m., on
Friday, the 7th March, 1941.

Present

CORRECTION SLIP TO THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
DEBATES BUDGET SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY HELD IN
MARCH, 1941

Correction Slip No. 2 of 1941.

For the words " The Hon'ble Maulavi Munawwar Ali replied ", where
ever they occur below Unstarred questions, put and answered during the
1941 March Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly, substitute the word
" The Hon'ble Dr. Mahendra Nath Saikia replied ".

[File No. As.-17-L.A. of 1941.]

SHILLONG:
The 15th July 1941.

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

A. G. P. (L.A.) No. 85-500-16-7-1941.

The Hon'ble MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN GHOSSEBARI replied :

7. (a) The probable cost of establishing a Broadcasting Station in
Assam was examined

(b) In view of the high cost involved (probably considerably over
one lakh of rupees) it was decided not to pursue the matter further at
present.

(Starred question No. 8 standing in the name of Maulavi Abdur
Rahman was not put and answered as the questioner was absent).

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table).

Re Dismissal of one Maulavi Tamizuddin Bora, an officer of
Mechpara Court of Wards' Estate

Kumar AJIT NARAYAN DEV asked :

18. Is it a fact that one Maulavi Tamizuddin Bora, an officer of the
Mechpara Court of Wards' Estate was recently dismissed on account of
some charges of corruption and neglect of duty ?

19. Is it a fact that the said officer was reappointed after a few months
on a lower scale of pay ?

20. Is it a fact that he is holding the same post as before?

21. Will Government be pleased to state the reasons why he was not appointed?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied:

18.—The Deputy Commissioner, Goalpara, dismissed him on charges of corruption and of having neglected the interest of the Estate.

19 and 20.—On appeal he was reinstated to the post of Deputy Ranger of Mechpara Wards' Estate by the Court of Wards but his salary was reduced from Rs. 54 to Rs. 45 per mensem.

21.—The Court of Wards, after considering all aspects of the case, was satisfied that a reduction in salary would meet the ends of justice in this case.

Re Low price of jute

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked

22. (a) Are Government aware of the hardship of the tenants of the immigrant areas caused, among other things, by the extremely low price of jute?

(b) If so, what help they are going to extend to these people?

(c) Do Government propose to remit 50 per cent. of their *Nazar* and grant *Myadi Patta* to all those who have paid, or now pay, *Nazar* at the rate of Rs. 5 per *bigha*?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied:

22. (a)—Government are aware that the price of jute fell very nearly as far below the average price as it rose above that price a year ago; it is now showing signs of recovery; Government have had no reports of any hardship from the immigrant areas.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—The question is not properly understood. Rates of premium vary in different districts and there is no intention of remitting dues at present in view of the fact that remission of land revenue upto 50 per cent. is already in force.

Erosion danger to the Sadar Ghat, Silchar

Mr. C. W. MORLEY asked:

23. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they have enquired into the erosion danger to the Sadar Ghat, Silchar, as pointed out by Mr. Chanda during the last Session?

(b) If not, why not ?

24. (a) Are Government aware that this Ghat is definitely a dangerous crossing during the rains, owing to the narrowness of the landing on the Silchar side ?

(b) If so, what action do Government propose to take to preserve the Ghat and improve the safety of the crossing ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi **ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI** replied :

23. (a) and (b)—The matter is under enquiry by the Superintending Engineer.

24. (a) and (b)—The Superintending Engineer has been instructed to report on this point also.

General discussion on the Budget and discussion on charged expenditure

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not grudge the Hon'ble Finance Minister the credit that is his due for the labour he has undertaken in preparing and presenting the Budget for the year 1941-42 particularly when it is remembered that he took charge of the department of finance late in the year. But Sir, I am afraid, I cannot congratulate him for the Budget that he has presented before us. On a careful scrutiny of the Budget and on hearing his lengthy Budget speech I cannot help feeling that the Budget that he has presented is a disappointing and depressing one. He has taken recourse to the helpless policy of drift and has advised us to leave the finances of the province more to the care of Providence than to anybody else. Sir, with a veteran like Sir Md. Saadulla who had the honour of presenting as many as seven Budgets as his chief, we expected a better performance, we expected a far better handling of our financial problems but Sir, all our hopes have been belied by the Budget that he has presented before us.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister has enunciated a very sound principle of budgeting in the earlier pages of his Budget speech. This is what he has said in page 1 "The budget is the starting point of financial control by the Executive as well as by the Legislature. It is the basis of orderly finance, without which there can be no lasting social progress. Apart from financial control, the main object in preparing a budget is the enforcement of economy. The balancing of the budget is the first requisite of financial stability and occupies the same place in financial administration as the maintenance of law and order in the executive administration. One or two deficit budgets in succession may not perhaps matter and may be condoned if due to exceptional circumstances, but a Government which habitually budgeted for more expenditure than the revenue at its disposal would soon suffer in financial credit. Unbalanced budgets are bound, sooner or later, to weaken the faith of investors and to lead to monetary inflation, which, if uncontrolled, will terminate in national disaster."

Sir, if we judge his Budget by the standard by which we judge the Budget of any other Province, I am afraid, he would stand self-condemned. His Budget shows that the financial position is at all satisfactory or at least satisfactory as it should be. Admittedly Sir, we have a deficit to the extent of about three lakhs of rupees this year. Last year the Budget estimated a surplus of about three lakhs of rupees but from the revised estimates for the year 1940-41 it appears that instead of surplus, the year will close with a deficit of about three lakhs of rupees. In this connection it is not out of place to mention that these are the only two years in which Assam is in deficit. The Hon'ble Finance Minister says in page 3 of his Budget speech that "This is the first time in the last thirteen years when the actual revenue exceeded actual expenditure". This means that within a course of last 13 years, Assam had the misfortune of having as many as 12 deficit budgets. It is, therefore, clear that Assam is suffering from chronic deficit. Only in the year 1938-39, about which the Hon'ble Finance Minister has referred in page 3 of his Budget speech, improvement was shown due to some taxation measures taken up by the Congress-Coalition Government. But, Sir, I am surprised to find that the Hon'ble Finance Minister has not hesitated to cast a sting at my friend hon. Mr. Ahmed for his alleged optimism. However, let me say that his optimism might be, is it not a fact, Sir, that but for the optimism of Mr. Ahmed, the Hon'ble Finance Minister's position would have been far more hopeless (hear, hear)? Is it not a fact, Sir, that he has now the advantage of utilising an annual income of 30 lakhs of rupees derived from these taxation measures and that the Congress-Coalition Government is responsible for this? So, casting a sting at Mr. Ahmed, particularly when he is behind the prison bar is, to say the least, most unlaudable. Any way Sir, the fact remains that we had 12 deficit budgets in course of last thirteen years. So would it be far wrong for me to say in the words of the Hon'ble Finance Minister that Assam Government has turned to be a Government which habitually budgeted for more expenditure than the revenue at its disposal and would soon suffer in financial credit?"

Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has asked us to condone this deficit. He says that one or two deficit budgets in succession may not perhaps matter and may be condoned if due to exceptional circumstances, but Sir, I am sorry to say that he has not told us what are the exceptional circumstances which have resulted in this deficit—what is the unusual situation which is responsible for this—what is the prospect in the near future for a surplus in the next year? Sir, I have already stated that Assam is suffering from chronic deficit and that is for more than a decade. Over and above that it should also be remembered that Government took a loan of fifty lakhs of rupees last year and they have got a liability of more than a crore of rupees in the shape of a State Provident Fund. These loans and liabilities have got to be paid and if these liabilities are taken into account, I am afraid, the deficit would be far greater than what is shown in the Budget. Besides that Sir, our revenue income shows a tendency towards fall whereas our expenditure is mounting up year by year and is likely to go higher up if costly schemes like University, Medical College etc., are taken up. The situation is therefore gloomy but we have not found in the Budget speech of the Finance Minister any indication as to how he is going to solve all these difficulties. So I am again constrained to say in the words of the Hon'ble Finance Minister that "Assam having had unbalanced budgets for a number of years is heading towards a national disaster."

Sir, from a Finance Minister who seems to be so conscious of the sound principles of budgeting, we expected that he would at least suggest some remedy for all these financial difficulties. But, Sir, barring a doubtful remedy of retrenchment, he has not given us any suggestion whatsoever.

With regard to retrenchment too I am sorry to say that Government took an unusually long time to consider these proposals and I don't know as yet when they will actually be given effect to. Even if they are given effect to, I am afraid, there will not be much immediate relief to the provincial exchequer, because, if I remember aright, of all the retrenchment proposals, substantial savings can only be expected from reduction of the scales of pay. But so long the existing incumbents continue, no immediate relief can be had on that account. There would no doubt be some savings if the retrenchment proposals are given effect to, but I don't think that the savings that can be expected from it can meet the situation. The Hon'ble Finance Minister said at page 2 of his Budget speech that "in the absence of any other measure of taxation due to the deplorable economic condition of the people, the only other means of meeting this deficit is by retrenchment." So if retrenchment alone cannot cover the whole deficit, I do not know how he is going to meet the situation, how he is going to solve the financial problem of the province in the near future, what are the ways to augment our income, what are the means of reducing our expenditure. We find no indication from his Budget speech of any plan or policy as to how he is going to meet our financial difficulties. He has simply followed a policy of drift with a pious hope that things will improve as a matter of course. Sir, if the past be any indication of the present, the situation is not likely to improve at all unless a bold and comprehensive policy is taken up by the Hon'ble Finance Minister. The Hon'ble Finance Minister, as I have already said, besides presenting a deficit budget, has failed to give us any hope for the future and that is why I was saying that this is a disappointing and depressing Budget.

Sir, I do not propose to go much into the details of the Budget as my hon. friends have already taken up many of the items and others I hope will take up the rest. I would only take up some salient items. But before I do that I would like to make a few observations with regard to the new items of expenditure that have been shown in the Budget. We are no doubt grateful to the Ministry for making a little higher provision in the nation-building departments. But, Sir, it will be seen from the last year's revised estimate that much of the money that was set apart for the nation-building departments still remains unspent and if the same thing happens in the next year, it is no use providing more money in the nation-building departments. I hope Sir, the Ministry will see that the money that is sanctioned is well spent. But Sir, in the selection of these new items I find that no plan or policy has been followed. They are in the nature of doles here and there, a contribution to this school and that dispensary, probably due to the pressure brought to bear upon the Government. They do not show that the problems of the province have been studied carefully or any methodical solution has been thought of. Sir, if we are to utilise our small resources to the maximum advantage, we cannot do much beneficial work without having a plan or policy before us. So I say that these new items, even though they may serve some individuals or some localities will do no good to solve our national problem. Money spent on them in this haphazard manner is bound to be ineffective if not totally mis-spent. Government has to tackle the whole problem. They must have some method in spending money on these new items and unless they have a plan it is no use making contribution here and giving a grant there. To illustrate my point I take the problem of primary education. Everybody recognises that primary education requires improvement. To tackle this problem I would suggest that we should first decide how many schools we want, what is the basis of their distribution in different localities,

what is the nature of education we are going to give, what is the type of teacher we are going to provide, what is the nature and quality of equipments we are going to give. After having made a scheme of work, we are to cost and spend some money for the improvement of the existing education, according to that scheme, we shall have the satisfaction of seeing that we have spent the money in a methodical way and we are proceeding towards an objective. But what is the present position? Localities where there are no schools at all are being ignored in favour of the localities which have a number of schools. Ill-equipped, and ill-staffed schools without an adequate or trained staff are starving for want of funds, while new schools are being taken up and I am sure they will also fail no better. Some projects which have been taken up long ago and where most of money has been spent, have been left incomplete, yet new and costly schemes are being taken up. Here I cannot help mentioning the case of Sakhel Medical School. The building was constructed at a cost of more than 5½ lakhs of rupees and for these 10 years it is lying as a standing disgrace to the Government. But without caring to finish that project Government is now taking up new costly and spectacular projects.

I do not think this is sound budgeting. Besides that, absence of plan and injudicious and arbitrary distribution of grants have marred the effect of new schemes and it is naturally expected that a little higher provision should have been made on them.

Sir, I now like to make some observations on some of the striking items in the Budget.

With regard to Parliamentary Secretaries Sir, in last year's Budget there was provision for 10 Parliamentary Secretaries but we now learn that 3 or 4 Parliamentary Secretaries have been appointed late last year. Our information is that they have no work in the Secretariat and from our experience for the last few days we find that they have no work here also. If there is no work for them, may I ask what is the utility for retaining them and what is the justification for spending public money without any useful purpose? I therefore urge upon the Hon'ble Finance Minister to consider whether it would not be advisable to do away with their services.

With regard to Publicity Department Sir, we expected after the inauguration of that Department that at least monthly or fortnightly we would get some information of the activities of Government in the shape of bulletins or periodicals. But barring a few communiques in the gazette, number of which are also not many, we do not find any indication of any useful activities of this Department. The public should get more and timely information of the activities of the Government if this Department is at all to be retained. In fact more publicity of the activities of the Publicity Department is needed.

With regard to the separation of Judicial and Executive, I am glad that Government asked for a report and they have got it. But where is the money? In this matter much hinges on finance and as we are running with deficit budgets for a number of years, I am afraid that the report of the Special Officer for the purpose will not help us very much.

Then Sir, I understand that the Criminal Investigation Department is being revived. The Hon'ble Finance Minister says that the Hon'ble Prime Minister's warning that he might be compelled to strengthen the Criminal Investigation Department has unfortunately been justified.

But I find Sir, that the money has not been placed as a voted expenditure but has been allotted by His Excellency the Governor for the due discharge of his special responsibility under Section 78(2) of the Government of India Act. I do not exactly understand the position. If the Ministry is convinced of the necessity of the Criminal Investigation Department, I do not understand what was the necessity for His Excellency to exercise his special responsibility. That was a voted item and was rejected some years ago by the Hon'ble House and if again the necessity is felt by the Ministry, I think the right course for them would have been to bring this item within the ordinary budget without leaving it to His Excellency's special responsibility.

With regard to Education Sir, I would like to say a word regarding Middle English Schools. It seems that nobody is willing to take charge of these Middle English Schools. So long they were being maintained by the Local Boards but Local Boards are reluctant to maintain them any further. Government also are not paying any heed. Last year, Sir, a sum of Rs.15 was allotted for the Middle English School in my locality named Horekrishna Middle English School. It can easily be understood that a sum of Rs.15 is totally inadequate for a Middle English School to maintain its efficiency. I would therefore urge on the Hon'ble Education Minister to take up the question of Middle English Schools and find some means for maintaining them properly. In many localities there are no other facilities for imparting English education except these Middle English Schools and Government would do well to pay more attention to them.

Lastly, Sir, I will take the Co-operative Department. Regarding the condition of the Co-operative movement it would do well if I read an extract from the speech of Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla in presenting last year's budget. He said thus:

"As regards Co-operative Department, I am very sorry to inform the House that the Co-operative movement in this province is in a moribund condition. Due to extreme hard times through which our peasantry has passed during the last ten years, the Rural Co-operative Societies have not been able to function properly or to pay up their dues to the Central Banks. In certain places Central Banks are in a tottering condition while the apex bank also is not in a position to help as it has not been able to get realisations from the Central Banks of outstanding debts."

That was the position described by the Hon'ble Prime Minister last year but Sir, the position has further deteriorated by this time. Most of the Central Banks in the province have stopped payment to their depositors and the working of the Co-operative movement has almost come to a standstill. They practically have no new investment. They are mainly concerned with their old liability. But however due to the establishment of the Debt Conciliation Boards and of the passing of the Temporary Postponement of Execution of Decrees Bill and the impending introduction of the Money Lender's Bill, realisation has come to a standstill. Government by their supervision and control induced the investors to invest their money in these Central Banks but now these Central Banks are unable to make any payment. Is it not the Government's legal and moral duty to look to the interest of these depositors? But Government has as yet taken no steps and I understand, that in pursuance of a resolution passed in the All-Assam Co-operative Conference, over which my friend Maulavi Abdur Rahman presided at Nowgong, all the Directors of Central Banks in the Province have given notice of their intention of resigning in a body from 1st April

1941 and they have asked Government to take charge of the Central Banks. I do not know whether Government have received any such information and what they are going to do to meet that crisis.

We have already adopted some ameliorative measures in the shape of the Money Lenders' Bill, Debt Conciliation Board and the Temporary Postponement of Execution of Debts Bill and all these refer to past debts but what about the future? Due to the passing of all these legislations money has become scarce in rural areas. Even in case of urgent necessities the poor cultivators do not get a single rupee. So unless facilities for rural credit are provided what is the utility of passing these measures? Even granting of a moratorium for all the past debts would not help the poor cultivators because 99 per cent. of them will have to borrow the new loan. Formerly in a village there were 10 or 15 moneylenders but now what is the position? You will scarcely find a professional money lender in a village. If you find any, you will find a dishonest one who will dictate his own terms for lending money. So unless you can give some facility to the poor cultivators for getting money in times of need I am afraid these legislations would result in doing more injury than good to them.

I think the Co-operative movement is the only source through which Government can supply rural credit and as such it is imperative on the part of the Government to see that the movement does not collapse or the depositors and general public do not lose faith in them. So, apart from their responsibility for the depositor's money, I think Government has the necessity for keeping the movement alive. But this movement is dying out.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister realised the urgency of the problem a year ago, but it is extremely surprising that nothing has been done within the course of a year. I would therefore conclude with an appeal to the Ministry to look to their dying departments first before taking up costly or spectacular schemes.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should like to offer the congratulations of the members of this Group to the new Finance Minister for the lucid manner in which he has presented this Budget. We hope that the Hon'ble Khanbahadur, by adding the duties of Finance Minister to those of Revenue Department, will be the means of sparing the Hon'ble Prime Minister the excessive burden which Sir Muhammad was carrying throughout the whole of the last year. We must all hope that it will not be necessary for the Prime Minister to endanger his health once more by taking on the multiple tasks which he had to take on in 1940.

The Budget speech has an additional merit. It has courage as well as lucidity. I doubt however whether the Finance Minister by the time I finish making this speech will regard courage as a virtue. The deficit of nearly 12 lakhs is a large one and whilst recognising the vocal and urgent needs of the welfare departments we do not share the Finance Minister's view that expenditure on these departments must go on increasing irrespective of the deficit. Courage carried to these lengths becomes recklessness and recklessness in a Finance Minister can destroy the credit of this province, and unfortunately the Finance Minister's own reputation (*hear, hear*). We on these benches, are as jealous of Finance Minister's reputation as he is himself.

Many of us are at a loss to understand why the Finance Minister appears to contemplate further deficit budgets with equanimity. The present Budget, in our opinion, can fairly be described as a prosperity budget. It follows on a period of rising prices. It follows on a period in which for the first time in 13 years revenue receipts have exceeded revenue expenditure. It follows on a period in which the province has fortunately been spared from

those natural calamities such as floods and drought which have played havoc with so many schemes of the Finance Minister's predecessors. The Ministry has entered into commitments on the basis of this prosperity which, it is doubtful, to say the least, whether they will be able to fulfil, should prices fall or natural calamities again overtake this province.

The gap of 12 lakhs is not a disastrous figure, but clearly some means must be found of bridging the gap in future. The impression that deficits in Assam are inevitable must be scotched once and for all. The first means of bridging is retrenchment and Government's long-delayed orders on the retrenchment Committee's proposals will be awaited with interests. But regarding retrenchment I think we should extend our sympathy to the Finance Minister. I am ready to believe that with the many welfare activities and programmes launched by this Government retrenchment will not go very far to meet the deficit and other means must be found. The second means of bridging this gap would be to withdraw in substantial part the remissions of land revenue. I am aware that this is a subject on which there is a good deal of feeling from all benches in this House, but I must ask the hon. members to put their emotions aside and consider this question dispassionately. Remissions have now reached the fantastic figure of Rs.40 lakhs and have continued at this figure for two years and are promised for yet a third year. With so much work crying to be done and so little money with which to do it I hope Government will give their very serious consideration to this fundamental question of revenue remission. I have sufficient confidence in the ability and in the sincerity of this Government to believe that they could spend the money now remitted in revenue to far greater advantage than that which accrues by individual petty revenue-payers spending this money direct themselves. We should examine this question in terms of provincial welfare. Wise expenditure of 15 or 20 lakhs of this land revenue would greatly increase not only the public welfare but would increase the productive power of that stratum of society which should be our main aim to elevate. This step requires courage but, in my opinion, it would earn great merit from all sections of the community. I do not agree with the Finance Minister when he says that the cultivator owing to the rise in prices has not been able to improve his lot. The rise in the price of agricultural produce, with the unfortunate exception of jute, has undoubtedly increased his prosperity. Government's own comment, in this Memorandum, about the maintenance of excise revenue admits that the cultivator's lot has improved with the rise in prices. It is true that the prices of other commodities have also increased, but the balance is undoubtedly still in favour of the cultivator. I took the trouble to ascertain last year what additional wages the tea industry has paid over a period of four months and the figure reported was a surprising one, between 4 and 5 lakhs over the corresponding period in 1939 (*hear, hear*). These increased wages are mainly spent on the purchase of food and my contention is that with so much additional money going into circulation from merely one industry the cultivator must be receiving a share. We all agree that the cultivator's share is not as high as it should be, but the fact nevertheless is true that some of this additional money has gone into the pockets of the cultivator. I would suggest to the Finance Minister that this comparative — I emphasise the word comparative — prosperity of the cultivator will be maintained during the current year because the great shortage of shipping will reduce heavily imports of Burma rice. Assam in past years has looked to Burma for the supply of the deficiency in rice, but this year owing to the War a shortage of shipping means that there is and will be, an increased competition for rice grown in Assam. Increased competition — and neither this Government nor

any other Government can defy this economic law—will increase the prices which the cultivator receives for his produce. Anything which increases the cultivator's prosperity is to be welcome, and we do welcome it.

We suggest, however, that a prudent Finance Minister must take a share in this increased prosperity and build up a reserve which will enable him to face bad times and yet maintain a high level of expenditure on the welfare departments. The highest function of a Finance Minister is to increase the cultivator's power to produce wealth for his own consumption. The cultivator himself is not the best man to do the work of a farmer or moneyer. And, as I said before, I believe sufficiently in the ability of this Government and in its sincerity to know that these expenditures of money now committed as land revenue will be far more beneficial to the cultivator than direct expenditure by the cultivators themselves.

There is of course a third means of bridging the gap, and the Finance Minister has courageously indicated it. That means is taxation. I suggest, however, that scope for increased provincial taxation is limited by the paramount taxation needs of the Central Government. As we have seen in the last budget introduced in Delhi in 1946, central taxation is increasing, and no person watching the course of the world war can but believe that more and more central taxation will be necessary. This taxation is required mainly for the defence needs of India, and it is fitting that this increased taxation for the purpose of an emergency should be for the centre, even though it means that the taxations payable in the provinces are correspondingly reduced. For that increased taxation, I am glad to say, to be spent mainly on the soldiers, sailors and the airman of India so gallantly defending this country in a world cause, namely the preservation of liberty.

It may be, however, that the Finance Minister will consider himself driven to finding new sources of taxation within the province. We do not preclude the possibility of increased taxation, but we do ask that this taxation shall be on the broadest possible basis. I would like him to examine at the same time the possibility of drawing on the land revenue for financing a really constructive programme.

A succession of deficit budgets such as the Finance Minister seems to contemplate has another serious feature. Whatever measures of taxation the Ministry may introduce there is no escape from the fact that the taxable resources of Assam are limited. Fortunately, however, Assam's natural resources are not so limited. The proper utilization of these natural resources can only be financed by large scale loans. The recent improvement in communications, for example, has undoubtedly increased the wealth of the province. There are, however, other sources of wealth, such as hydro-electric power, which only await finance to bring them into production.

If this province's finances are prudently managed, there is no reason why Assam should not, after the war, float a long term loan for these development schemes. A loan, however, on reasonable terms can only be had by a province whose credit stands high, and in my view nothing damages financial credit so much as a series of deficit budgets.

These general criticisms do not, however, detract from the praise which certain features of the budget deserve. Some of the new schemes show imagination. We welcome proposals for the Health Unit at Golaghat, the Tuberculosis Clinic at Shillong, increased aid to the Deaf and Dumb School at Sylhet, as part of the campaign to relieve suffering and improve physical well-being. We welcome too the greatly increased expenditure on education, though our welcome here is mixed with our wonder at the success of the Education Minister's public-spirited rapacity. We hope that

in later budgets other Ministers will receive more generous treatment, even though they lack the Education Minister's eloquence or ingenuity or both. (*Hear, hear.*)

We welcome also the setting up of a Labour Department. It is increasingly clear that the problems facing employers and industrial labour are more easily solved if the parties to disputes know what the precise facts of their cases are. To provide these facts will be the first function of the Labour Department and we hope that the importance of this Department will be widely recognised.

We are glad, too, that the Minister for Public Works Department has already in hand schemes to try out the provisions of the new Embankment and Drainage Act, for which he laboured so hard. We read with alarm that Hon'ble Mr. Matin Chaudhuri's tours carry him into districts where elephants show a disposition to wreck his car, but we trust that the success of these schemes will commensurate with the dangers which he undergoes.

The Finance Minister has referred to the disappointing yield of the agricultural income-tax, but I think it is more accurate to blame the delays in collection rather than the tax itself (*hear, hear*). There are many cases in which the Income-tax Department could greatly assist the tax-payer. For example, it should surely be possible for large companies with headquarters in Calcutta to pay their tax into a Calcutta Bank as they are very ready to do, instead of asking them to arrange, with great trouble and expense, to remit the money to Assam. I doubt whether the setting up of a Provincial Taxation Department will in any way expedite the payment of this tax, because from the nature of the tax it is dependent on the Central Government's assessment. Once the Central Government's assessment is complete there is no objection whatever to the payment of the tax. But nothing which the Provincial Taxation Department can do will unfortunately expedite the Central Government's assessment.

As an example of the Finance Minister's courage I refer to the illuminating remarks about the manner in which Government have appointed the Parliamentary Secretaries. These have been appointed by much wear and tear within the Party, because so many members were candidates for the posts. The Finance Minister's frankness encourages me to similar frankness. We on these benches took no part in the selection of these Parliamentary Secretaries. Our view from the outset was that a province with 10 Ministers has no need of Parliamentary Secretaries. (*Hear, hear*). But if Government considered that there was any such necessity, the choice of these was a Government responsibility and not one which should be exercised by what the cynic might call a method of give and take.

It may be urged that party approval is a feature of democratic Government, but if Government's leaders, who are the Ministers, cannot be trusted to appoint their own lieutenants, it is high time the Party acquired another political creed. We can only hope that outside critics will not judge the present Ministry on the past records or future performance of the new Parliamentary Secretaries.

Before I sit down I should like to summarise the views of this group on the Budget. We recognise fully the Government's need for promoting welfare schemes. We recognise too that the Finance Minister, within the limits of his resources—and they are very limited—has dealt out even-handed justice. We share his anxiety about the financial standing of the province, and though we are not prepared to say, as some critics have said, that the deficit of 12 lakhs is a disaster, we do say and we hope that the Finance Minister shares our views that a recurrence of avoidable deficits would have the most unfortunate effects.

In view of this we think it is a prosperity budget in which the Finance Minister has optimistically and generously entered into many commitments which cannot stand in a period of stress. We do not believe that the present prosperity will continue indefinitely and we urge Government to guard jealously the financial credit of this province so that when the opportunity occurs for Government to embark on a reconstruction programme, financed by loans, the standing of the Assam Government will enable it to borrow at gilt-edged rates.

Finally on the subject of taxation, we consider that the yield of taxation, old and new, must be used for the paramount need of defending this country from the enemies of our gates. Assam has resources, and its people demand its utilization. It is because we believe that the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Finance Minister will be able to develop these resources for the good of the province which they have served for so long and so well that we make our criticisms, and hope that they will consider our suggestions.

Babu BALARAM SIRCAR: Mr Speaker, Sir, most of the speakers on the general Budget discussion have spoken highly of the Hon'ble Finance Minister, but I am not in a position to congratulate him on his presentation of the Budget. The Budget, if minutely looked into, will speak the bankruptcy of the brains, ideas and new schemes of the Government. Scarcely here and there we find, some projects only in name, but not to the expectation of the public in general. The electorates have sent their representatives on the definite assurance that their representative will improve their condition by finding out new means and methods, but what we find is nothing but the planned method of increasing the Minister's salaries and keeping their position by appointing Parliamentary Secretaries. But these Secretaries, as a matter of fact, have no work but to draw salaries. They are not even given seats behind the Hon'ble Ministers.

The Hon'ble Sriji HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTI: On a point of explanation, Sir. The hon. member says that the Parliamentary Secretaries are not sitting behind the Hon'ble Ministers. May I point out that they are sitting behind the Ministers?

Babu BALARAM SIRCAR: Yes, but they are sitting near the wall, Sir, (laughter).

Is this the proof of the statement of the Hon'ble the Premier, given in the last budget session, that the Parliamentary Secretaries would be the future administrators of the Province? (Laughter.) Are these Parliamentary Secretaries getting training from the wall instead of from the Hon'ble Ministers? (Laughter.) The Hon'ble House is to see the truth of my statement by looking at the seats of the Parliamentary Secretaries in the House.

It is useless to talk much about the Budget. Simply what I want to say is the unkindness of the present Government towards the scheduled castes people. It pains me much when I see a provision of Rs. 3,000 only for venture schools for all the scheduled caste areas in the province. I do not grudge the ample provisions made for education for other communities, but, Sir, I am pained to see that the Government have totally forgotten the necessity of the illiterate, backward and oppressed scheduled castes people. Only the other day the scheduled castes people have got impetus to impart education amongst their children. Upon this the scheduled castes people have started venture schools in those areas where they predominate. The number of the venture schools will be not less than three hundred in the province in scheduled castes areas. All of them are expecting grants from the Government, but I ask how much they will get from this sum of Rs. 3,000 provided in the Budget.

So much I have spoken about the primary education. Now I turn to the provision of the secondary education for the children of the scheduled castes people. I find in the Budget a sum of Rs. 25,000 has been allotted to help the secondary education. But there is not a single *cowrie* provided for Srigouri Girls' Middle Vernacular School and Balaut Middle English School for boys though I drew the pointed attention of the Government in my last budget speech. These are the only two secondary schools in the scheduled castes areas in the Karimganj subdivision—nay, in the district of Sylhet.

Sir, it is a well known fact that the scheduled castes people are proverbially poor. They cannot educate their children for want of money, but I find that the Government is also equally poor to this community. They have not provided any increased sum, specially in the shape of scholarships to be distributed amongst the scheduled castes boys who will come out successful in the Primary and Secondary examinations.

Now I draw the attention of the Government to another most urgent and important matter. Sir, there is only one hostel at Sylhet for the accommodation of the Scheduled castes boys in the Province. The hostel at present is maintained by the generous subscriptions of the public, and on a small donation from the Harijan Shevak Shanga. The hostel is now in debt. The local people are also very sloth to subscribe. The Secretary of the Hostel, Professor Mr. J. K. Chaudhury, has incurred a debt of nearly Rs. 1,000 which nobody knows how to repay. All these matters have repeatedly been brought to the notice of the Government, but the result is that only a provision of Rs. 300 has been made for sinking a tube-well in the hostel compound, but no monthly recurring grant is given. Am I to understand thereby that the students of the hostel will now go on living by drinking mineral water of the tube-well?

Now, Sir, I won't take much time of the Hon'ble House by crying in the wilderness. I shall speak a word or two about the condition of the subsidised dispensaries. The price of the medicine has gone up due to war, but there is no increased grant for medicines. In these days a grant of Rs. 200 a year for the medicine to a dispensary is like a drop in the ocean. Not only that, Sir, but no provision is also made for the increment of the salaries of the doctors and for the engagement of the peons or chowkidars for the dispensaries. People work for future prospects. How can we expect better work from an ill-paid doctor having no future?

Sir, Government promised last year to consider about the increment of the salaries of the doctors and about the increment of the provision of the medicines, and about the engagement of peons or chowkidars to the dispensaries, but I find the Government are quite indifferent towards the welfare of this Department, this year, having made no consideration at all about the above-mentioned affairs.

Sir, with this hope that the Government will reconsider the case of the poor scheduled caste communities as regards the educational grant, and also they will reconsider about the deplorable condition of the subsidised dispensaries, I resume my seat.

✓ **Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I take my stand on the floor of this House and look round I cannot but remember how all these years we were working together side by side with my hon. friends who are behind the prison bars to-day. In a depleted House like this I feel a sense of great insecurity and consider myself duty bound to watch diligently the budgeting for the coming financial year. I say this with the greatest respect to my hon. friends in this House. I say this without

any wish to achieve a party-triumph for I know that I belong to a party which can triumph no more to-day in this House, as most of its veteran members are absent.

Sir, when I enter into a discussion of the Budget estimates presented before the House, I am afraid, I cannot help thinking that our trades and industries, in fact, the whole economic system near at hand, seem to be seriously affected by the War and in that case, all these estimates will go topsy-turvy. But on the assumption that there will be no abnormality in the economic life of the Province during the coming financial year, I am entitled to feel some satisfaction to find so many new projects in this year's Budget. But when I closely look at the different items of revenue and expenditure, most of my initial satisfaction disappears and not only I have to become less cheerful, but in many cases I become fully disappointed. Even a cursory glance at the Budget reveals how handsomely the finances of the province have benefited from increase in the provincial share of income-tax and from taxes on Agricultural income. When I voted for the Agricultural Income Tax Bill in 1939 and thereby created a big hole in my own pocket, I did so, Sir, in the hope that we shall all derive benefits from the various nation-building works which it will be possible to undertake with the proceeds of this tax. Many of my hon. friends who are today members of the Government vehemently opposed the Bill and today when they are reaping its fruits, I hope that they will bless us and appreciate the spirit of sacrifice that urged us to support that Bill. But here I must warn the Government against possible miscalculation. The tea industry has always to face many ups and downs and its market is highly fluctuating. During war times many estates may go to the walls and those which have joined Government contract can make only a very limited profit. Under such circumstances the proceeds from this tax may be vitally affected, and hence the Government should not set up an expensive staff for assessment. It seems to me that the provision for a provincial Assistant Commissioner at so much cost is redundant and the Government can manage assessment efficiently without the creation of such a prize post.

Passing over to the item of revenue, Sir, I find that the percentage of remission sanctioned in 1939-40 is being continued for another year. I may in this connection appeal to the authorities to give some relief to uneconomic tea estates. The tea industry, as I have already said, is bound to be vitally affected by the War. Trade routes are more or less becoming risky and large markets are being lost. The rationing of tea is bound to have some permanent effect on the industry. In view of such circumstances the uneconomic concerns which belong to petty Indian planters are facing a great crisis and they deserve full sympathies from the authorities.

The brightest spot in the Budget is the provision for the total prohibition of opium throughout the province, except of course the excluded areas. Thus the bold step taken by the Congress Coalition Ministry in introducing total prohibition in two subdivisions where opium consumption was very high, has been brought to a practical conclusion. The fundamental question now is the discovery of methods and measures for the prevention of smuggling and I hope that if attempts are made to enlist public co-operation, prohibition will soon become a real success. We should not also forget about our countrymen who live in places which happen to be excluded areas and attempts should be made by moving the proper authorities to introduce prohibition in these areas.

Sir, when I look at the long list of educational projects in the Budget, I do not fail to appreciate them. But the two most burning questions in the educational sphere are the University question and the question of

education of the masses. So far as the first is concerned I am glad to find that a Bill has been introduced in the House, but it will not be out of place if I remind the Hon'ble Education Minister that his parliamentary powers will be admired by the Assamese people the day, he with a determination sees through the project of a University at Gauhati. I want to know what leading man dare rise in this House, I care not on which side he sits, who for a moment pretends that he cannot realise the sentiments of the Assamese people with regard to the site of the University.

So far as the Literacy Campaign is concerned, the high enthusiasm that was raised by the ceremonious inauguration of the campaign some months ago seems to have died out. In many villages, villagers have given up attending schools and till now we have no statistics to gauge the work done. But in the province of Bihar excellent work has been done and several lakhs of adults have been educated. The reason for the success of the Bihar scheme is undoubtedly due to popular support. In Assam, I am afraid, the scheme depends too much on official initiative and support and no proper attempt has been made to harness the services of voluntary workers. Though many took pledges to educate some illiterate people, very few of these pledges are being respected now.

While talking of educational projects, Sir, I cannot but deplore the lot of the Assistant Lecturers of the two Government Colleges. In a country where a man's position, prestige and opportunities for studies depend on his income, the low scale of pay granted to these officers must detrimentally affect the interests of education and I hope the authorities will sympathetically consider their cases.

Coming to the Agricultural Department I want to say a few words about the Model Village scheme. Sir, we are told that the people have grasped the meaning and the utility of the scheme and are eager to bring it into action with self-help as the outstanding motto and the Government now want to open 15 centres. Model villages are after all models which should inspire villagers of other parts to undertake similar works voluntarily. It seems to me that the general attitude of the people of villages is that no model village can be opened out without Government help. These Model Village centres create local enthusiasm but the main ideal for which such centres are opened, namely, to set a model to villagers living elsewhere has not been obtained. I hope, Sir, proper attempts will be made to bring home to the villagers the real meaning of the Model Villages. I am glad to find, Sir, that the havoc created by the recrudescence of *kala azar* in the subdivision of Golaghat has after all drawn the attention of the Government and the Government is now going to take advantage of the Health Unit scheme under the Rockefeller Foundation. Sir, it seems that this deadly disease is reappearing in a new form and the Brahmachari specific which was a panacea for this disease is proving a failure. I should like to suggest, Sir, that a committee should be set up immediately with physicians like Dr. Brahmachari to go into the cause and remedy of the disease in this new form.

Sir, with regard to Jail administration, I want to draw the attention of this Government to the sufferings of the 'C' class political prisoners. I understand that these 'C' class political prisoners are required to sleep on the floor and are not allowed to use mosquito nets at night. One can very well imagine how difficult it is to pass a night without mosquito nets. I hope Government will be kind enough to pass an order so that these 'C' class political prisoners may use mosquito nets at night.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: We have already allowed it.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Not in Jorhat Jail

Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has mentioned the scheme for giving land to the landless people. Here I want to ask the Government to be very careful in distributing land because it is the duty of every Government to keep sufficient lands for future expansion. Moreover, Sir, the forest reserves are rapidly decreasing and from the latest report on forest administration it will be seen that the forest reserves form a very small percentage of the area of the province.

Sir, I may conclude by saying that if in discussion today I have been outspoken in my criticism, it is due to my desire that in these days when destruction is everywhere in the air, those who are at the helm of our administration, will give us programmes which will solve our many-sided problems.

Babu BIPIN BEHARI DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Budget that has been placed before us for discussion by the Hon'ble Finance Minister could not give any satisfaction to me from the scheduled castes point of view. I find nothing to congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister though I hoped much from the new hand. I have gone through the Budget and it is extremely disappointing to find that only a sum of Rs.3,000 has been ear-marked for the education of the scheduled castes in rural areas. With this poor sum only 20 schools can be given grant-in-aid whereas hundreds of venture schools are waiting Government grants but for which they will be wiped out of existence. I draw the attention of the Government to this fact and request them to reconsider the matter in view of the numerical strength and backwardness of the scheduled castes in education. From the allotment in the Budget it seems that the Government do not think at all for the scheduled castes. Money is not wanting to create an unnecessary post to supervise the work of the High Madrasa section of the Sylhet Government Madrasa under a Principal. Am I to understand that the Principal is not competent to look after the affairs of the Madrasa? I do not grudge the grants to the Sreehatta Sahitya Parishad, the Central Muslim Sahitya Sangsad and the Assam Sahitya Sabha but I am at a loss to understand the reason why the Assam Sahitya Sabha would get a grant from Rs.1,000 to Rs.1,500 whereas the Sreehatta Sahitya Parishad and the Central Muslim Sahitya Sangsad would each get a grant of Rs. 500 and Rs. 750 respectively. The Brindaban College, Habiganj, the Gurucharan College, Silchar will get a monthly grant of Rs.300 whereas the Jagannath Barua College, Jorhat will get a grant of Rs. 500 per month. This differential treatment is really painful and disappointing particularly when money is not available for the spread of the primary or secondary education amongst the scheduled castes who are steeped in deep ignorance. Are not Government in a position to curtail their unnecessary expenditure for the education of the scheduled castes? Is it not the duty of the civilized and popular Government to look to the growing needs of the people? Money is coming out abundantly for touring purposes in and outside the province but money is not available for nation-building departments, particularly education department. The posts of Parliamentary Secretaries have been created for nothing. They have not been given any work at all. They have no rooms, no chairs and tables. If that is the position what was the necessity of creating these posts? In the Assembly too, they sit idle in the back benches without any work. In the last Budget session I heard from the lips of the Hon'ble Premier that Parliamentary Secretaryship is a step to Ministership but from the nature of their work I find that it is not so. It seems that there is some other motive behind to appoint them and the Hon'ble House can easily imagine it. The Ministry seems to be more

busy with their own interests than for the interests of the masses. Days are coming very soon when they will have to walk from door to door for votes, when they will have to give an account of what they have done in fulfilment of the big promises they made before. In the Budget Speech it is mentioned that Government are doing their best to save old families of landlords from ruin by taking over the management of their estates under the Court of Wards. But should not Government think of other people who form 99 per cent of the population and upon whose welfare depends the good of the country? Poor cultivators are dying for want of pure drinking water but Government have not made any provision to solve the water problem. In times of cholera epidemic, thousands of people die for want of proper treatment but Government seem to be callous to such a state of things. Water-hyacinth is a dangerous element to the growth of *Aman* paddy as well as grass both in the winter and in the rainy season but the activities of the Government towards the eradication of this evil is practically nil. If this dangerous element is not eradicated soon, the lot of the poor cultivators will be still more worse. The Debt Conciliation Boards that have been established in different parts of the province have no power to settle cases like that of Bengal. They ought to be abolished unless they are given power to settle cases but it is a matter of regret that the Ministry have not come up before the Assembly with any amendments for the purpose.

The Assam Money Lenders' Bill sponsored by Mr. Abdul Aziz has not yet been enacted. We expected that it would give some sort of relief to the poor cultivators. But the delay in enacting the Bill will create much hardship in my locality *i. e.* Habiganj. This is the ploughing time and if the Bill is not enacted very soon, the persons who are in possession of the *Ijara* lands will plough the lands and further complication will arise. The Hon'ble Minister of Local Self-Government will understand the difficulties if it is not enacted soon. The crying need of the Surma Valley people is the early establishment of the Medical School at Sylhet, but it is strange to find that the Government has not yet thought fit to complete this project which was taken up long ago. The subsidised dispensaries are not doing good work as the pay of the doctors are very inadequate. I request the Government to increase their pay at least to Rs. 50 per month. Owing to war, the prices of the medicine have gone up, so more money should be allotted for purchasing medicine. In this connection, I may draw the attention of the Government to the effect that if Homeopathic doctors are appointed, good works can be expected, because the prices of the Homeopathic medicine is very low in comparison with Allopathic medicine.

We have heard nothing this year about Industries. Last year we heard from our Hon'ble Minister in charge of Industries about the manufacture and selling of ghee, but this year it is really disappointing that we have not got any suggestion about any new Industries though the Hon'ble Minister travelled from one end of India to the other. I request her to give us the benefit of her experience. But for industry a nation cannot prosper. National wealth comes from industry. But our Minister-in-charge does not think of any industry at all. I can't understand what she is doing all this time with regard to this important department. Assam is an agricultural province, but money set apart for this department is very meagre. It has got many things to do, but with this poor sum it would be impossible to do anything. The opening of rural uplift centres and the appointment of rural uplift organisers have not helped in any way for the upliftment of the villages. Improved methods of agriculture should

be adopted and taught to the agriculturists. The people should be taught to utilise the lands all the surplus lands. *Khar* crops by means of departmental projects. The lands are decaying gradually. A special officer should be appointed. The meeting of the Agricultural Commission should be recommended to the Government for the appointment of such an officer, but in the Budget I find no provision. I draw the attention of the Government to this important matter. The poor cultivators should be taught to use improved seeds and also learn improved seeds yield better result. Officers should be appointed for this purpose. The Government instead of thinking for the establishment of an agricultural school are contemplating to establish a University which the finance of the province will not justify at least at a time when we are having a deficit budget of about twelve lakhs of rupees. It is regrettable that Government do not think of our needs in terms of their relative urgency. Let us first think of our immediate needs than anything else. Thousands of cattle die every year but nothing is being done towards that direction. Cattle is our national wealth and I request the Government to appoint more Veterinary Sub-Assistant Surgeons to save the cattle from all kinds of preventable diseases.

In the name of war subscription, undue pressure is being put on the poor cultivators. I am afraid, in many cases subscriptions are not realised according to the capacity of the people. Rich people do not feel any difficulty on their part but it is a hardship to the poor cultivators if they are compelled to pay war subscriptions at least equal to an amount to the extent of Chowkidari tax paid by them. I draw the attention of the Government to this fact and request them to save these people from the reign of terror.

Yesterday the Hon'ble Minister of Education gave a reply to a question in connection with the Harijan Hostel at Sylhet which is the only hostel for the scheduled castes students in the province of Assam. In that reply he said that when funds permit he would consider the case of the Harijan Hostel, but Sir, quite a lot of money are being spent unnecessarily over many other things and funds are not wanting in their cases. One High school at Jowai and another at Kohima are being started to educate the tribal boys, but to help the scheduled castes boys who reside in the Harijan Hostel, no money is available. It is really a pity that Government should be so callous to the interest of the scheduled castes. May I not Sir, expect better treatment for this backward section of the Hindu Community? With these words, I resume my seat.

Maulavi MATIUR RAHMAN MIA: সভাপতি মহোদয়!

মাননীয় অর্থ সচিব বহুদর্শী, সচিব, পুরাতন ও পঞ্চ মন্ত্রিকের নির্দেশ ও উপদেশ অনুযায়ী দেশবাসীকে নিষ্কণায় বিদায় করবার জন্য তাঁর স্বলকায় মুঠানিধা বালি খলিব উপন্যাস স্বরূপ বাজেট বক্তৃতাটি বহু আয়াস সাধ্যে যে হাউসে উপস্থাপন করেছেন তত্ত্বজ্ঞানী তাঁকে ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন করছি।

আজ চার বৎসর যেতে চলেছে, এমনি হেয়ারী ধারায় তিনটি বাজেট গিয়াছে, এখন দিয়ে চারটি বাজেট পার হতে চলেছে; আর আমরাও গাড়ীর চাকার ন্যায় যথেষ্ট ঘুরতে চলছি। কতদূর এসেছি এবং কি করলাম তাঁর হিসাব নিচ্ছে নিজ নিজ constituencyর জন মণ্ডলী এবং ভোটারগণ। শেষ হিসাব নিকাশের আর মাত্র কয়েক মাস বাকী আছে।

খুশীকৃত জনশ্রুতি মন্ত্রীসভা দেশের কল্যাণের জন্য চেষ্টা করছেন কিনা এবং উচ্চতর দেশের জনসাধারণ কতদূর উপকৃত হচ্ছেছেন এবং কি পরিমাণ খুশী বা অখুশী হচ্ছেছেন তাঁর প্রমাণ তাঁরা পাবেন আগামী বছর সাধারণ Election-এর সময়। ভাল মন্দে বিচার হবে তখন এবং দেখা-শুনা, বুঝা-পাওয়া যাবে তার ফলে।

মন্ত্রী সভার অল্প সময় ক হতেও দেখেছি, হারা ও চীৎকার করেও দেখেছি, হয়নি কোন লাভ। তাঁর বক্তাব্যব চীৎকারও অথবা বোদন বই আর কিছু হবেনা। বক্তাব্যব বাজেট বক্তৃতা এই বোধ হয় আমাদের,—আমাদের বলি কেন, আমার শেষ বাজেট বক্তৃতা হতে পারেন। জনবলিক হতে যেমন Immigrant-এর বাস্তা কন্ট্রোল করা হয়ে আসছে, উচ্চতর আর আমাদের এই পরিষদ সভায় আসা ভাগো ঘটে কিনা জানিনা। দুই মন্ত্রিপতি মহোদয়কে অনুবোধ করতে চাই—মন্ত্রী সভার ন্যায় তিনিও কি আমাদের সভার অভিযোগ মোচন বা দাখলের পরিবর্তে, আসামে আমাদের অস্তিত্বও লোপের শেষ সময়ে স্বাধীনভাবে প্রশ্নের দুই কথা এ House-এ জানিয়ে যেতে কি একটু সময় দিবার কৃপণতা করবেন? House-ত থালি—কংগ্রেস বন্ধুরাত জেলে। আমবাচিত এখন নিরপেক্ষ হবে—এবারকার পালিাত আমাদেরই বলবার।

মহোদয়, আজ সুদীর্ঘ চার বৎসর যাবত আসামের ভেদনীতিমূলক অবৈধ কুপ্রথা "লাটিন প্রথা" উঠিয়ে দিয়ে দেশের প্রত্যেক মানুষের সঙ্গে মানুষের প্রেম-প্ৰীতি, ভালবাসা গভীর ও সৌহার্দ। স্থাপনে দুনিয়ার অপরাপর দেশের ন্যায় আসামেও মুসলিম immigrant দিগকে অসামান্য সমান অধিকার না দেওয়ার অভিযোগ ও ন্যায্য দাবী পেশ করে আসা হচ্ছে ও তজজন্য বহু বকম প্রস্তাবনার পর গভর্ণমেন্ট পক্ষের তদন্ত, রিপোর্ট দাখিল ইত্যাদি পরও গত বৎসর ঘাণমাখীতে আসাম প্রাদেশিক মুসলিম লীগ কনফারেন্সে প্রায় লক্ষলোকের বোলা সভায় সম্মানসম্পদ প্রিমিয়ার.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Please read a bit slowly.

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA: মাননীয় স্যার মহম্মদ সৈয়দ সাদুল্লা স্বীকার করে এসেছিলেন যে 'আমি দু'মাসের মধ্যে জমিশূণ্য নিরাশ্রয় ব্যক্তিদিগকে জমি দিয়ে আশ্রয় দিব,' আমরা সকলেই সন্তুষ্ট হয়ে ছিলাম, কিন্তু কিছু মাত্র জমি পাওয়া যায়নাই। তৎপর নভেম্বর সেশনে বহু সাধা সাধনার পর বর্তমান গভর্ণমেন্ট স্থির সিদ্ধান্ত করলেন—এই বাজেট সেশনের পূর্বেই অথবা মধ্যেই জমিশূণ্য লোকদিগকে জমি দিবেন। কিন্তু এযাবত উহা কার্যো পরিণত করা হয় নাই। মাননীয় অর্থসচিব তাঁর বাজেট বক্তৃতায় বলেছেন—গভর্ণমেন্ট বাস্তবিকই নাকি আবার স্থির সিদ্ধান্তে উপনীত হয়েছেন জমিশূণ্য লোকদিগকে জমি দিতে। তজজন্য নাকি স্পেশাল অফিসার ইত্যাদি নিযুক্ত হয়েছে। মহোদয়, সুদীর্ঘকাল যাবত এরকম বহু স্ততি বাক্য শুনে আসছি। আর কোন বাক্য বা বাণী শুন্তে চাইনা,—চাই লক্ষ লক্ষ নিরাশ্রয় লোকের জন্য জমি। তা না পেলে, তারা কি বা কোন পন্থা অবলম্বন করলে জমি বা আশ্রয় পাবে, তারও উপায় জিজ্ঞাসা করি।

করতার পুণীভিত্তি পরীক্ষা দেশবাসীকে উৎসাহিত করার মূল্যবান কার্যকর ব্যবস্থা হিসেবে দেখা
কোন পুরকারই সঙ্কট নয় এবং উহা কার্যকরী সমর্থন প্রদান করে।

'কানিশোর' আশায়বাসীকে দেশের খেতিয়ক হওয়ার মূল্যবান কার্যকরী ব্যবস্থা হিসেবে দেখা
পুণী অনুসরণ ও উহা কার্যকরী করার উদ্দেশ্যে উহা কার্যকরী করার উদ্দেশ্যে উহা কার্যকরী
হাস্ত দিয়েছেন। উহা কার্যকরী করার উদ্দেশ্যে উহা কার্যকরী করার উদ্দেশ্যে উহা কার্যকরী
পারবেনা—তখন দেশবাসীকে পক্ষ হওয়ার উদ্দেশ্যে উহা কার্যকরী

শিক্ষা:—জনপুত্র গভর্ণমেন্ট জর্জিয়ায় উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচী পূর্ণ করা এবং উন্নয়ন
আরম্ভ করেছেন, উহা স্থানের বিদ্যালয় সংস্কার এবং কার্যকরী করার উদ্দেশ্যে
পরিণত হলে আমাদের আশায়বাসীকে দেশের উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচী পূর্ণ করা এবং উন্নয়ন
এবং সুখতার অজ্ঞান অন্ধকারে পড়ে থাকে পরীক্ষা করুন এবং উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচী
হবে সত্য, যদি বাস্তবিকই পুণীভিত্তিক শিক্ষা উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচী পূর্ণ করা এবং উন্নয়ন
শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা করা হয়। তখনকার বিদ্যালয়গুলি উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচী পূর্ণ করা এবং উন্নয়ন
বাদা নিজ মাতৃস্বয়ং স্বরূপ মাতৃভাষা ছাড়া বিচ্ছিন্ন বৃত্তান্তের মতলব বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচী
পরিচালনা করানো হয়, তবে শিক্ষার নামে বড়ই অবিচার করা হবে এবং উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচী
সম্পূর্ণ কার্যকরী পর্যায়গত হবে ও আমাদের অপূর্ণতার মতলব উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচী পূর্ণ করা এবং উন্নয়ন
যদি অবৈতিক বাধ্যতামূলক প্রাটিনারী শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা করা হয়, তবে উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচী পূর্ণ করা এবং উন্নয়ন
পরম উপকার সাধন হত। সুখতার যেমন মশা মরে না তেমনি উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচী পূর্ণ করা এবং উন্নয়ন
চোল পিটিয়া বা মস্তকের বজুতার নিরাকরতা দূর করা যায় না।

অনুভূত এবং পিছনে পড়ে থাকা জাতি বা সম্প্রদায়কে উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচী পূর্ণ করা এবং উন্নয়ন
সমকক্ষ করা যদি গভর্ণমেন্টের নীতি বা উদ্দেশ্য হয়, তবে গভর্ণমেন্টের উচিত ছিল
immigrantদের প্রাথমিক শিক্ষার জন্য পুণীভিত্তিকভাবে এক লক্ষ টাকা বাজেটে ধরা এবং
stipend & scholarship এর জন্য আরও ৫০ হাজার টাকা বাজেটে আঁতরণ করা।
Immigrant অঞ্চলে বেশী সংখ্যক স্থল মাদ্রাসা স্থাপন এবং স্থাপিত স্থল মাদ্রাসা গুলিতে
গভর্ণমেন্ট সাহায্য দিয়ে তাহাদিগকে শিক্ষার পথে উৎসাহিত করা। আমান ভানীতে
একটি মাত্র সিনিয়র মাদ্রাসা যাচা কাচারীছারায় প্রায় লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয়ে জনেশ্বরের পীর
সাইয়দ মরহুম শাহ সৈয়দ মছির উদ্দিন আহম্মদ কাদেরী মোগলানী সাইয়দ স্থাপন করে
ছিলেন, তাঁর অভাবে উক্ত মাদ্রাসায় মাত্র ১১০ টাকা হিসাবে গভর্ণমেন্টের সাহায্য পাওয়া
যাচ্ছে। উহাতে সত্যই এতবড় একটা মাদ্রাসা চলতে পারে না। কাজেই উক্ত মাদ্রাসায়
মাসিক সাহায্য ২০০ টাকায় পরিণত করা উচিত ছিল এবং ধর মেরামতি ও আগাবার পত্রের
জন্য অন্ততঃ ৩০০০ টাকা বাজেটে ধরা উচিত ছিল। মাননীয় শিক্ষামন্ত্রী কয়েক দিন
পূর্বে ঐ অঞ্চলের সর্ব সাধারণের একটি বিরাট সভায় আত্মত হয়ে গেলে উক্ত মাদ্রাসার জন্য
উপযুক্ত পরিমাণ recurring ও non-recurring সাহায্য দেওয়ার প্রতিশ্রুতি দিয়ে
এসেছেন। আশা করি তিনি অবশ্য উহা কার্যে পরিণত করবেন। এতদ্ব্যতীত
রাখালডু বি জুনিয়র মাদ্রাসা, গেন্দাউরি মাইন্যার স্কুল, লক্ষীপুর হাই স্কুল এবং অমধুরী গভর্ণ
পাঠশালায় উপযুক্ত পরিমাণ সাহায্যের ব্যবস্থা অবশ্য করবেন।

আসামে বিশুবিদ্যালয় স্থাপন আসামবাসীর পক্ষে বড়ই সৌভাগ্যের বিষয় মনেই নাই। এদেশের বেশী লোক লোক বাংলা ভাষা ভাষী। কিন্তু আমরা ভয় করি খাল কেটে কন্নীত এনে, কুম্বীকে খাঁড়ার ন্যায় পাছে বাংলা ভাষা আসাম ভাষী হতে চির বিদায় হয় না আসাম বিশুবিদ্যালয় একচেটিয়া ভাবে কামাখ্যা বিশু বিদ্যালয়ে পরিণত হয়।

আসামে বিশু বিদ্যালয় স্থাপন না হওয়ার পূর্বেই বাংলাভাষী স্কুলগুলিতে সাহায্য বা মজুরী পাচ্ছে না। তার নমুনা সাপটগ্রামে বহু মহশু টাকা ব্যয়ে অতি সুন্দর বিল্ডিংএ প্রায় শতাধিক ছাত্র থাকে পুরাতন স্কুলের জন্য ধন্য দিয়েও সাহায্য পাওয়া পূর্বের কথা, মজুরীও পেল না। অবশেষে বেঙ্গলে গিয়ে বহু চেষ্টায় কলিকাতা বিশুবিদ্যালয় হতে affiliation পাওয়া গিয়েছে। আর পাশের অসমীয়া ভাষাভাষী মাত্র ২০২৫ জন ছাত্র থাকে class VIII, IX পর্যন্ত বোঝা নতুন স্কুলে এককালীন সাহায্য ৮০০ টাকা এবং মাসিক সাহায্য ৬০০ টাকা দেওয়া হয়েছে। (shame! shame!!) বেশ দাতা গভর্ণমেন্ট। গোয়ালপাড়া টাউনে অসমীয়া বাঙ্গালী, হিন্দু মুসলমান মিলিত যে করনেশন গার্লস হাই স্কুলটি প্রায় ৩৫ বৎসর ধাকত খোলা হয়েছে, যাহা His Excellency, মাননীয় প্রিন্সিপাল, শিক্ষা মন্ত্রী, কৃষি মন্ত্রী, এক্সাইজ্ মন্ত্রী, ডিহিরেক্টর, ইন্স্পেক্টর ইত্যাদি সকলেই দেখে স্থান ও স্কুল পছন্দক্রমে এক কালীন কিছু সাহায্য দিয়ে এসেছেন এবং গভর্ণমেন্ট গ্রান্ট দেওয়ার প্রতিশ্রুতি দিয়ে আসবার পরও উক্ত গার্লস হাই স্কুলে কিছু মাত্র সাহায্য দেওয়া হয় নাই। দেওয়া হয়েছে গোয়ালপাড়া টাউনে মাইনার স্কুলে প্রাইমারী শিক্ষার জন্য ৬০০ টাকা ও মাসিক গ্রান্ট ৬০০ টাকা, যে হেতু তারা এবার class VII খুলবে, তারা চেয়ে ছিল ২০০ টাকা, কিন্তু দেওয়া হয়েছে ৬০০ টাকা। ধন্য আসাম গভর্ণমেন্ট, ধন্য তাঁর অযাচিত দান, এবং একচক্ষে নুন বেচা, অপর চক্ষে তেল বেচা তাঁর কাম (laughter)।

রাজস্ব :—আসাম ভাষীরা ব্রহ্মপুত্র নদীর উভয় পারশ্ব স্থানে ভূমিকম্পে ও নদীর ঢালায় বালু পড়ায়, উপযুপরি বন্যায় প্লাবিত হয়ে ধ্বংস হওয়ায় ও ক্রমান্বয়ে অতিরিক্ত খরা বাড়ায় শস্যাদি অজন্মায়, পাটের মূল্য কিছুমাত্র না থাকায় ও বিক্রি করতে না পারায় এবং যুদ্ধের জন্য সমস্ত জিনিষের মূল্য বৃদ্ধি হওয়ায় কৃষকদের অবস্থা অত্যন্ত শোচনীয় হয়ে পড়েছে। কাজেই প্রজাদিগকে বাকী ঋজানার দায় হতে মুক্তি দেওয়া উচিত এবং স্থান বিশেষে নিরিখ কম করা দরকার।

কৃষি :—দেশের পৌনে ঘোল আনা লোক কৃষিজীবী। তাদের উৎপন্ন শস্যের মধ্যে পাট বিক্রীকরেই তারা প্রতি বৎসর নগদ টাকা ২।৪ টাকা করে হাতে পেত। কাজেই তাদের সমস্ত শক্তি উহাতেই নিয়োজিত করত। যুদ্ধের জন্য পাট বিদেশে যেতে নাপারায় মাত্র ১।।০-২। টাকা মন দরে পাট বিক্রী হচেছ। উহাতে তারা তাদের মজুরীর টাকা পাচ্ছেনা। কাজেই অগৌণে বেঙ্গল গভর্ণমেন্টের ন্যায় আমাদের গভর্ণমেন্টও দেশের কৃষকদের উৎপন্ন সমস্ত পাট নিজেরা খরিদ করে বিক্রয়ের ব্যবস্থা করুন এবং অন্যান্য শস্যাদিও তাদের নিজ তত্ত্বাবধানে উপযুক্তদরে বিক্রয়ের ব্যবস্থা করুন।

হবে। চির নিদ্রায় হতেও পারেন। এই বিভাগের মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় নিজে একজন মস্তবস্ত স্মৃত্যাপসারী ধনী জমিদার। দুঃখ, বেদনা, অত্যাচার বালাই হয়ত জীবনে তাঁর নিকট ঘেঁষিতে পারে না। এখন তিনি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী, হাজার টাকা মাহিয়ানা পান—শিবিরে আরাম কেদারার থাকেন। গরীবের দুঃখ, পীড়ার বেদনা তিনি বুঝবেন কেমন করে? তিনি যদি দুঃস্থ জনের মরন বিত্রংগনীলা তাঁর করনায় নাশানতে পারেন, তবে আমি বলতে চাই, দুঃস্থতাগী উপযুক্ত লোকের হাতে তাঁর বিভাগের ভার দিলে তিনি অবসর গ্রহণ ক্রমে স্বকামে আরামে থাকতে পারেন।

বেকার সমস্যা : দুঃস্থের বহু মানি আমাদের শিক্ষায় শুধু গোলান তৈরীর ফলে গোলামী বিদ্যার শিক্ষা দেওয়া হচ্ছে। তাই দেশের ধনী, গরীব যুবক তাই বহুগণ কেহবা বাবার শক্তি অথবা কেহবা ঐশ্বরিক সম্পত্তি বিক্রয় করে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের খেতাব নিয়ে আসবে এবং সকলেই খুজছেন গভর্নমেন্টের চাকরী। আমাদের সুচতুর গভর্নমেন্ট এমনই ফাল্গুন, সম্মুখে দাঁতে স্বল্প পার্থক্য গতিম কমিশনের স্বজা না বেখে, ন্যায় অন্যায়, হিতাহিত জনশূন্য হয়ে শুধু মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়গণের ও তাঁদের উর্ধ্ব অফিসের কর্তৃত্বাধী মহাশয়গণের স্বাস্থ্য-বন্ধু, জাতি-কুটুম্ব, ও স্বজন-পুতিনেশীকে অবশেষে সম্মুখ Election এর ভোটি পাতিবার আশায়, উপযুক্ত অনুপযুক্ত বিচার না করে সময় থাকতেই পার করছেন সব একাধারে। আর অপরদিকে মাদের সাহায্যকারী নাই তাঁরা নিরুপায় হয়ে উদ্ভ্রান্তের মত যুগে বেড়াচ্ছেন মন্ত্রী মহোদয়গণের ঘরে ঘরে। যদিও অনিচ্ছা স্নেহেও অপরতা বাধ্য হয়ে কোথাও কাউকে নিয়োগের হুকুম কাগজেদেন, দুর্ভাগ্য বশতঃ উহা আর কাগ্যাকরী হয়ে উঠেনা। মাননীয় অধসচিব তাঁর বাজেট বক্তৃতায় বলেছেন—
“ উপযুক্ত ব্যয় শিক্ষিত বেকার যুবকদের জন্য একটি রেজিষ্টার বহি খোলা হবে এবং তাদের জন্য ইত্যাদি উপায়ের ব্যবস্থা করা হবে ”। মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে জিজ্ঞাসা করি তদপেক্ষায় তারা কি করবে এবং অপেক্ষিত সময়ের জন্য কি উপায় অবলম্বন করবেন? অগৌণে যদি শিক্ষিত বেকার সমস্যা সমাধানের ব্যবস্থা নাহয় তবে আমার মনেহয়, শীঘ্রই তারা মিলিত ভাবে আপনাদিগকে অবসর গ্রহণ করতে বাধ্যকরে নিজেরাই দেশের শাসনভার হাতে নিতে পারে। কাজেই অগৌণে স্থানে স্থানে বিভিন্ন রকম শিল্প বিদ্যালয় স্থাপন ক্রমে বেকার তাই বন্ধু দিগকে জীবিকা নিব্বাহের উপায়, দেশ রক্ষার শক্তি, অল্পহাতে শত্রুর সম্মুখীন হওয়ার সংসাহস অজর্জন এবং নিজেদের অস্তিত্ব রক্ষার ব্যবস্থা করা আশু প্রয়োজন।

ঋণ-গালিগি বোর্ড:—ঋণ স্থানে জর্জরিত গর্বসাধারণকে মহাজন নামধারী কুসীদ জীবির হাত হতে রক্ষার জন্য ঋণ-লাঘব আইনের পরিবর্তে গভর্নমেন্ট যে, ঋণ-গালিগি বোর্ডের ব্যবস্থা করেছেন তদ্বারা কৃষকগণ আদৌ উপকৃত হবেনা। যাক, যাহা করেছেন তাহাই এযাবত বোর্ড স্থাপন ক্রমে সকল স্থানে কার্যাকরী করা হলনা। আশাকরি প্রস্তাবিত গোয়ালপাড়া ঋণ-গালিগি বোর্ড ১লা এপ্রিল হতে কার্যাকরী করবার অবশ্য ব্যবস্থা করবেন।

ভাষাকর immigrant দের বহুসংখ্যক হলেও মাক্ছুতীয়া বাঙ্গালীর পরিবর্তে গণনার ক্রমসংখ্যক হইলেনা হইলেও মাক্ছুতীয়া অসমীয়া ।

মহোদয়, আমরা মুসলিমীক সকল মুসলমান এক । আজ মুতন ভাবে আমি ভাণ করিতে চাই না । শুধু তাঁর মতকার বেনারি আমাদিগকে মুসলমান বলা হয় আর চাকরী, চাকরী, কৃষক, কস্টাইজি ইত্যাদি জনানা সববকেই আমাদিগকে immigrant, বাঙ্গালী, বেকার, ভাটীয়া, মসমলমাকরীয়া বলা হয় ও সবজা উপেক্ষা করে হয় তুচ্ছ বলে আমাদিগকে মাক্ছুতী বোলা হয় না । মহোদয়, আজ আমি এই House এ গভর্ণমেন্টকে বলতে চাই যে আমাদিগকে আসামপ্রাণীক মুসলমান হিসাবে গ্রহণ করে মাননীয় মন্ত্রী House এ গভর্ণমেন্ট করণ - আসামবাসী immigrant বা আসামের মুসলমানদের সার্বভৌমপাটিক হাভে সবববসমবে সমান অধিকার পাবে এবং দিন-না হয় আমরা কি অন্য অন্যর হবে যে নন-মুসলিম চাকরীর শ্রেণীর মতাম আমাদিগকে পৃথক মুসলমান হিসাবের ভাণ করে দেওয়া হউক এবং সাংগোষিত সাংগানুপাতিক হাভে চাকরী ইত্যাদি সবববসমবে ভাণ আমাদিগকে পৃথক ভাবে দেওয়া হউক অথবা আমাদের জন্য বাঙ্গালী বন্ধুদের মত গভর্ণমেন্টের আর্থাৎশানার ব্যবস্থা করা হউক । তবে, তৈরী হোববনাম আমাদেব জনা মাক্ছুতীয়া হবে না - আমাদেব জনা জেবখানা তৈরী করতে আসামের বাইন ভাণবতম হবে - বিসাত্তি খুলতেই হবে । কথাটা বড়ই অখীতিকব । কিও কি কবন, আপন আর্থাৎ খাণবতম বুঝে । তাই আমবাও আমাদেব দাবী হিসাব করে বুঝে নিবত চাই ।

মন্ত্রীসভার যদি দেশেরও দেশের সত্তা ও স্বাধীনতা বক্ষায় বেবে নাগতঃ সত্তা এবং আনশা-কীর কাম্য কবনাব সংসাহস বা আর্থাৎক ইচ্ছা না থাকে তবে আমি প্রথম মাননীয় প্রধান মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে বলতে চাই যে তিনি একজন দেশবিখ্যাত, স্বনামধন্য, বহুদর্শী, চরিত্র ও আদর্শ প্রতিস্থাপন বলে বর্ষেই স্বনামীত মক্ছুতম করেছেন । সুদীর্ঘ যুগাধিক কাল যাবত তিনি আসামের শাসন কাম্য পরিচালনা করে আসছেন । বাস্তবিকই তিনি সক্ষমের পাঠ তাঁর ব্যক্তিদের আর্থাৎ আমবা মখেই কবি । কিন্তু বড়ই দুঃখের বিষয় যে তাই বর্তমানে তাঁর কাফাকলাপে দেশের হিন্দু-মুসলমান কেহ স্বধী হতে পারছেন না । তাঁর ব্যক্তি বশতাই হউক বা অর্থাৎ কালের যেযানী মীতির কাফা পদ্ধতিতেই হউক, কিয়া পুনাতনের পরিবর্তে মুতনদের কামনারতই হউক অথবা দেশবাসীরই ভুল হউক, সতাই কেহ আর খুগী থাকতে পারছে না । তাই আমি তাঁকে অনুরোধ করতে চাই, তিনি আসাম গভর্ণমেন্টের নিকট হইতে বহু অর্থাৎ পেয়েছেন এবং ৫৫ বা ৬০ বৎসর বয়সে তাঁরই হাতে পড়া আইনের বলে কতশত লোককে চাকরী হতে অসময়ে invalid বলে অবসর গ্রহণ করতে বাধ্য করেছেন । এখন তাঁর হয়ত ৭০ বৎসর বয়স হবে । তিনি কি এখন তাঁর আইনের পাণ্ড হতে কেহাই পেতে চান ? আমার মনে হয় স্বেচ্ছায় তিনি অবসর গ্রহণ করলে তাঁর মহত্বই দেশে প্রকাশ হবে । অন্যান্য মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহোদয়গণকে বলতে চাই—চারবার পালা বদলি হয়েছে, এখনও কি আপনাদের পালা শেষ হয় নাই ? শীঘ্রই আপনাদের seat খালি করে দিয়ে অপর দলকে একটু সুবিধা দিবেন কি ? সময়ত আর নাই—নাত্র কয়েক মাস সম্বুখে ।

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN—Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to say something on the Budget as it has become a subject of the House.

I am sorry to say that I do not find any serious attempt on the part of Government to solve the financial problem. Since the very beginning of the Assembly we are hearing of several measures which are proposed, only in one case, I mean the writing pads which are supplied to the members.

Sir, commerce and industries play a vital part in the economic condition of the province. The more the province is developed, the better it would be for the people. In that province we find that some important goods worth millions for our daily requirements, but our Government is not taking any steps by which we can manufacture those goods here in Assam. Sir, big enterprises require Government encouragement, which the people are not getting. We can produce a state sugar, paper, etc. and cotton mills here for which raw material are abundant in Assam, but these enterprises require big capitals. The Government instead of supplying cheap money for these enterprises by starting industrial banks, encourage private capitalists not to lend for such purposes by passing the Money-lenders, the Decree Postponement and the Debt Conversion Act and such other measures. If they really want to help the poor agriculturists, what was the necessity of consolidating debts amounting up to Rs. 10000000, Sir, when we heard that our Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Industry Minister both went to Lucknow to attend the Industrial Conference we hoped that something valid would come out of their joint efforts. But we are sorry to note that nothing came out of it. I consider that as a serious waste of money.

Sir, when I turn to the Budget to see if I can find any amount provided for Hindi schools in Assam, I find that nothing has been allotted for that purpose. There are two Hindi High Schools in Assam, one at Dibrughath and the other at Tinukia, which are highly spoken of by the Director of Public Instruction. But nothing is provided for them in the Budget, though the provision for such schools in the Budget is Rs. 1,25,534. Similarly, Sir, there are Middle English schools at Jorhat, Golaghat, Gauhati and Shillong and their cases have not been considered by the Government. I cannot understand why the Government are so apathetic towards them. Not a single rupee is provided by way of non-recurrent, not to speak of recurring charges. Similarly in the case of the Sanskrit Tol started in Gauhati by the Marwaris some years ago, although the authorities approached the Hon'ble Premier and the Hon'ble Education Minister and they visited the Tol also, no substantial aid has been given. The students of this Tol are Assamese boys who are fed and taught free of charges. I therefore hope that Government will consider the cases of those institutions and give substantial aid by way of encouragement. The number of Hindi-speaking boys is not so big as to warrant the running of schools in every town. I therefore suggest that the Government should appoint one Hindi teacher in every Government High School in Assam, just as is the case in Shillong, so that the boys passing from these Hindi Middle English Schools can prosecute their studies in the High Schools.

I am glad to note that the Government is going to start a University of our own. It will surely satisfy a long-standing demand of our province. But I understand that among the Boards of Studies to be created, Hindi does not find a place. It may be due to mistake, and I hope that Government will give a place to Hindi in the Boards of studies otherwise it will not attract hindi speaking Capitalists. I should state that Gauhati is a proper place for the location of the University. There is already a Law College, an Arts and Science College and a Girls' College and a Museum

and all other requirements for the purpose. I therefore suggest that Government should consider this point while the Bill is being passed.

Sir, road construction plays an important part in the uplift of trade in Assam. In my last budget speech I drew the attention of the Government to the Doboka-Hojai road in the district of Nowgong. Hojai is a growing town and it is almost a good paddy centre of that district. But the main road leading to that town is the Doboka-Hojai road. Although vast sum has been provided for improvement and construction of this road, not a single pie has been spent on its construction out of that amount. I hope Government will immediately begin the work. If this is done the cultivators will get a good price for their paddy.

Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has forecasted some measures for new taxation. The people cannot bear any more burden of taxation and any such measures will be opposed by the whole section of the House. I think the Government will, instead of thinking of new taxation, try to minimise expenditure by retrenchment.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 A.M. on Saturday, the 8th March 1941.

SHILLONG.

The 18th April 1941.

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.