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**Proceedings of the Seventh 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  
Saturday, the 24th February, 1940.

*Present:*

The Hon'ble Mr. Basanta Kumar Das, Speaker in the Chair, the ten  
Hon'ble Ministers and 91 members.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

(Starred question No. 70 standing in the name of Maulavi Abdur Rah-  
man was not put and answered as the questioner was absent.)

**UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**

(to which answers were laid on the table)

**Proposal from the South Sylhet Local Board for establishing sub-  
sidised dispensaries in the South Sylhet subdivision of the Sylhet  
district.**

**Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI** asked :

61. Will Government be pleased to state—  
(a) Whether Government have received any proposal from the South  
Sylhet Local Board for establishing subsidised dispensaries  
in the South Sylhet subdivision of the Sylhet district?  
(b) If so, what action, if any, have the Government taken on that  
proposal?

**The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN  
CHAUDHURI** replied :

61.(a) & (b)—The South Sylhet Local Board asked for withdrawal of  
the Government Sub-Assistant Surgeons in charge of their dispensaries with  
a view to replace them by their own doctors and to open certain subsidised  
dispensaries apparently with the aid of the compensatory grant received at  
present from Government. The Board apparently did not realise that the  
compensatory grants and the contributions—which are merely paper transac-  
tions and cancel each other—came into existence to provide for the nominal  
withdrawal of the *free services* of Sub-Assistant Surgeons by Government and  
that if the Sub-Assistant Surgeons were withdrawn, it will mean no saving  
but additional expense to the Board which will have to pay their doctor  
themselves. In case the Board is prepared to face this expense, Govern-  
ment will be prepared to consider the withdrawal of their officers as opportu-  
nities for their absorption arise.

**Proposed Conference of the Chairmen of Local Bodies**

**Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY** asked :

62.(a) Are Government aware that a Conference of the Chairmen of  
Local Bodies was proposed to be held recently by the Government of  
Assam?

(b) Is it a fact that a questionnaire was circulated to the Local Boards of the province for deciding the subject-matter for discussion for such a conference ?

(c) Do Government propose to hold the proposed conference in near future ?

(d) If not, why not ?

**The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI** replied :

62.(a)—Yes, by the Ministry which resigned on September 1938.

(b)—No questionnaire was circulated but the boards were consulted on the inclusion of certain questions of principles connected with the amendment of the Act in the agenda of the proposed conference.

(c)—The matter is under the consideration of the present Government.

(d)—Does not arise.

**Number of Ministerial employees in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, including the Subdivisional offices**

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY** asked :

63. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of ministerial employees both in the upper grade as well as in the lower grade, in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, including the subdivisional offices ?

(b) The number of Moslem clerks both in the upper grade as well as in the lower grade, attached to the offices of the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet ?

(c) The number of ministerial appointments filled up by the present Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet ?

(d) The number of Moslems who have got permanent ministerial service during the time of the present Deputy Commissioner ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA** replied :

63.(a)—The total number of ministerial employees in different grades of the Deputy Commissioner's Establishment (including subdivisions) is—

Superior grades (Minimum Rs. 100)	...	...	...	...	11
Upper division (Rs. 80 to Rs. 120)	...	...	...	...	17
Lower division	...	...	...	...	189
Government surveyor	...	...	...	...	1
Supervisor Kanungoes	...	...	...	...	11

(b)—The total number of Muslim clerks in different grades is—

Superior grade	...	...	...	...	3
Upper division	...	...	...	...	4
Lower division	...	...	...	...	88
Supervisor Kanungoes	...	...	...	...	5

(c) and (d)—The number of appointments filled up by the present Deputy Commissioner is 6 of which 4 appointments were given to Muslims, 1 to a Scheduled Caste man and the remaining one to a caste Hindu.

In 1937 when the present Deputy Commissioner was officiating in Sylhet he made 2 permanent appointments and both were of Muslims.

**Number of ex-tea garden coolies settled in the different districts of the province**

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY** asked :

64. Will Government be pleased to state, district by district, the number of ex-tea garden coolies, that have settled in the different districts of the province ?

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

64.—The figures are not available, and it would be extremely difficult to obtain them. According to the method of estimating adopted in 1921, viz., 6 persons for every 5 acres settled with ex-tea garden labourers, the numbers in the Assam Valley districts and Cachar would be—

Cachar	...	...	...	...	...	33,419
Kamrup	...	...	...	...	...	17,138
Darrang	...	...	...	...	...	1,41,973
Nowgong	...	...	...	...	...	27,871
Sibsagar	...	...	...	...	...	98,035
Lakhimpur	...	...	...	...	...	1,45,364

But the calculation cannot of course be relied upon as at all strict and is not applicable to permanently settled districts.

**Re the standard of Weights Bill In the Indian Legislative Assembly**

**Srijut JOGENDRA NARAYAN MANDAL** asked :

65.(a) With reference to the reply given by Government to question No.108.(a), (b) and (c) in the last March-April Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly will Government be pleased to state whether the Standard of Weights Bill in the Indian Legislative Assembly has been passed ?

(b) If so, whether steps have been taken by Government to initiate a similar legislation in order to give relief to the suffering raiyats ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA** replied :

65.(a)—Yes.

(b)—The matter is under consideration.

**Srijut JOGENDRA NARAYAN MANDAL**: Will it be taken up before the next Session ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA**: I am not in a position to say that. All I can say is that we are considering the question. Probably we may have to invite opinions of the Deputy Commissioners.

## GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET AND DISCUSSION ON CHARGED EXPENDITURE

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Order, order. The House will now start general discussion of the Budget and also discussion, if any, of estimates of expenditure charged upon the Revenues of the province, other than estimates relating to expenditure referred to in paragraph (a) of sub-section (3) of section 73 of the Government of India Act.

The other day I asked the Leaders of different parties to supply me with the names of the hon. members who want to take part in the general discussion of the Budget. I have received the names from the Leader of the Congress Party and some names from the Leaders of some of the other parties. Now the Government Party has not yet supplied me with the names but I was told by one of the Hon'ble Ministers that about 15 members from the Ministerialist Party would take part in the general discussion of the Budget. But I wish to ask the Hon'ble Ministers to supply me with the names so that I may decide as to the time-limit that I am to fix for each to now is 28. If the number from the Ministerialist Party be 15 that would come to about 43. Hon. members would realise that within the time that has to be devoted to the general discussion of the Budget, I am afraid, it would not be possible for 45 members to speak. I would, therefore, request the Hon'ble Premier to supply me with the names of the hon. members who want to speak from his party and also the dates on which they want to speak. One hon. member, Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahab Chaudhury, has himself informed me that he would speak to-day. He would be given an opportunity to speak accordingly. I have got also two names more, one is Mr. Moore and the other is Mr. Whittaker. Mr. Moore wants to speak on the 26th and Mr. Whittaker on the 27th.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :** I shall be able to supply the names after recess to-day, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Am I to take it that except the hon. member, Dewan Muhammad Ahab Chaudhury, no other member from his party would speak to day ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :** That is the idea, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Now we have got almost one hour extra on account of the fact that there were very few questions to be answered to-day and that would really be of great help to us. I may tell hon. members that the two parts of the discussion namely the general discussion of the Budget and also the discussion, if any, of estimates of expenditure charged upon the revenues of the province other than estimates relating to expenditure referred to in paragraph (a) of sub-section (3) of section 73 of the Government of India Act may be taken up together. So, hon. members, who want to speak, may speak on the two items mentioned in the order paper. The time-limit would be 15 minutes for each speech. Of course, the Hon'ble Premier, who has got to reply on the last day, must get more time than 15 minutes and so also the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, who was Finance Minister in the previous Government, would get special consideration as to the time to be given to them for their speeches.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY :** May I point out, Sir, that on the other day when I spoke to you I think I mentioned that there would be from 15 to 20 members speaking from the Ministerial side.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** If time permits that may be done. I may point out however that last year, members of the Ministerialists' side practically did not take part in the debate.

**Sr'jut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** I also made a prayer for a little special time for the hon. member, Mr. Mookerjee, who wanted to speak.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Very well, when he begins to speak I shall consider that.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, no one will grudge the Hon'ble Sir Muhammad Saadulla the warmest of congratulations on his presenting his seventh Budget to the provincial Legislature. It is indeed a unique piece of good fortune that rarely falls to the lot of any politician. But alas! what is this Budget that has come out of the deft fingers of one who has been so accustomed to handle the finances of the province? Did the House look for a cheap commentary on the last Budget presented to the House by my hon. friend Mr. Ahmed? Indeed, Sir, this Budget is so full of cheap gibes and personal flings that it bears the mark of wounded vanity and injured pride on every page of it. After recounting at great length the sins of commission and omission on the part of the last Government, Sir Muhammad opines: "This state of affairs cannot continue long and we should devise ways and means to wipe off our debt and start with a clean slate. One way of improving our finances is the method of retrenchment and the other way is by finding out ways of adding to our resources". If at his seventh attempt at straightening out the finances of the province, we find him still devising ways and means, then certainly little has Mr. Ahmed to be ashamed of what he performed at his first. Have the Fates ordained that Sir Muhammad should be the Robert Bruce in Assam Finance? I have in vain ransacked the present Budget for any constructive suggestion of ways and means to augment our resources.

Sir Muhammad has fallen foul of Mr. Ahmed for his plentifulness of measures of taxation, but has not suggested by what better methods he can achieve the object which is the problem of our problems. But, Sir Muhammad has no compunction to utilise the funds collected through the much maligned taxation measures of the last Government. The threat of reviving the Criminal Investigation Department and the prospect of the increased provision of Ministers' salaries will alike call for funds—to name only two items of expenditure which stare us in the face. Sir, if Mr. Ahmed's Budget was one of taxations, Sir Muhammad's Budget is one of Appointments (*laughter*). I shall presently proceed to prove how. What an irony of fate that money collected by one Government for beneficent measures should be dissipated by another in this wanton manner?

Sir Muhammad hinted here and there about the extravagance of the former Government but I shall attempt to show how his Budget is an uncharted ocean of extravagance compared to the drops of the last Government. To begin with, I cannot see the justification for having an extravagant establishment as contemplated for the realisation of Agricultural Income-tax. It is undisputed that at least 80 per cent. of the income to accrue under this head will come out of the Tea Industry. The Central Government will assess the Tea Industry as usual; they will have to work out the rates on the basis of the 40 per cent. of the income of Tea. It would be a very simple matter to work out the Agricultural Income-tax out of the data compulsorily compilable by the Central Government. I do not suppose that even 20 per cent. of assesses under Agricultural Income-tax would be constituted by Zemindars and Mirasdars. That could easily be seen to by the Central Government as in the current year. Before giving this system a trial and before any difficulties have actually been experienced it is surely

extravagant to come up with an elaborate scheme involving several thousands leaving the nation-building departments famished.

The Hon'ble Premier has found fault with his predecessor in office for sleeping over the Retrenchment proposals as formed by the Retrenchment Committee. But what is his own way of implementing the same? He resurrects the second Conservator for the Forest Department which was wiped out by not only the Retrenchment Committee of his own previous Government but the Retrenchment Committee of the pre-autonomy days where once the present Minister of Education so ably plied the axe of retrenchment. True, Sir Muhammad's criticisms of the last Government indicate an over-whelming zeal for retrenchment on his part. But one looks in vain for any efforts on his part to convert that zeal into action. There is no indication of even a vestige of retrenchment. As against that, the the eye of even a casual observer. It is as if Sir Muhammad had set out this province has got on so far. I can quite understand that these new posts may serve as a welcome ballast to Sir Muhammad's pathetic efforts at stable Government-making; but how on earth, the province is to be benefited by the depleting of its resources on salaries, is what passes one's comprehension.

A very amusing phase of the Budget, however, lies in the incorporation of schemes of last Government in his own Budget which last year provoked the holy horror of those who adorn to-day the Treasury Benches. I mention this in no carping spirit. On the other hand, I congratulate them on the dawning of good sense. It is certainly too late never to amend. I refer among others to the Deputy Speaker's Salary Bill. The opposition set up by the present Government to this and similar other measures which have now been adopted makes it clear therefore that the opposition was inspired not by *bona fide* motives but a mere desire to cast stones at political adversaries—an attitude unworthy of those who profess to such an overpowering sense of anxiety for the well-being of the province.

Surprisingly enough, in certain portions of the Budget speech, Sir Muhammad makes observations which indicate as if the condition of the general public of the province was up-grade. While discussing the Budget under the Head—Registration, Sir Muhammad has clearly shown his opinion the economic condition of the people has improved. We notice this in his train of thinking confirmed by his further remarks to the effect that even people in some of the backward areas were displaying readiness to submit to voluntary taxation. He goes a step further when he holds that the cinema is a source of recreation for the poor of this country. In the circumstances, he would have no qualms of conscience to reconsider the question of remission of land-revenue. Is it because of this notion of the improvement of the economic condition of the people in his charge that Sir Muhammad feels no pricks of conscience to bring up proposals for the amelioration of his own condition and that of his colleagues and dangle posts of inducement for those who would fall for them at the cost of the relief of the tax-payers which the last Government tried to secure in howsoever small a measure? Is it because of this ill-conceived notion of the condition of the poor masses that he takes no measures to control the growing rise in the revenues of the province under the Head of *ganja* and liquor and adopts this indirect and crude method of taxing them? The expenditure incurred by the last Government for opium prohibition was in the opinion of this Doyen of Assam Finance tantamount to being thrown away and how he regretted that this ill-conceived expenditure could very well have equipped the province with as

many as 4000 primary schools? Will he now calculate how many primary schools the province could have been equipped with if he forgot a little about himself and his worthy colleagues and did not dissipate his creative energy merely in the matter of creation of a long train of posts which could confer no material benefits on the toiling masses?

In this connection I cannot help adverting again to Sir Muhammad's own valuable ideas about the futility of prohibition measures adopted by the last Government. His ideas rest on the highly interesting and instructive observations of the outgoing Commissioner of Excise as also expert medical opinion. But may I ask why in the face of all his convictions reinforced by authoritative departmental and scientific opinion, he does not hesitate to risk an expenditure of as much as 4 and half lacs, possibly more on a perfectly infructuous endeavour? Does he believe then in his heart of hearts that some merit does lie in the measures he outwardly disowns?

Or, is he afraid of public opinion which would not forgive the abandonment of such an epoch-making reform? It cannot be that the public coffers are bursting with money that Sir Muhammad would wilfully throw away good money after bad.

Sir Muhammad has taken considerable pains to make out how all taxation measures of the last Government will adversely affect the masses. He has waxed particularly warm about the evil effects that the Agricultural Income-tax is likely to produce on the poor. And in support of his contention, he opines that landlords will devise ways and means to transfer the burdens from their shoulders to their tenantry's. I call this a mere bogey. For, no Landlord would be stupid enough to enhance the rents in view of the fact that all over the country the tenantry is in heavy arrears and there is a demand to free the tenantry from the burden of accumulated arrears. There is no need to dwell at greater length upon a baseless apprehension. The second string to Sir Muhammad's bow in this connection is tea. His information is that the price of tea has already shot up and therefore the poor man's drink will throw a heavier burden on his slender resources. But I am afraid there is a little confusion in the mind of this Master of Finance about the real position of the tea trade. True it is that the price of tea, that is exported, increased after the declaration of war but even this is showing a tendency to decline. But the tea for internal consumption has been steadily going down in price as figures of public auction of such tea will clearly bear out. So, Sir Muhammad's reading of the situation is by no means correct, although he jumped to the conclusion that the taxation measures of the last Government have hit the poor most. I have endeavoured to prove on the Hon'ble Premier's own showing that there is no basis to hold that these measures have hurt the interests of the poor. But I am very happy to enjoy at least once the proud privilege of being of the same mind with the Hon'ble Premier in his expression of opinion that these taxation measures have not benefited the poor at all. If they confer no benefit on the poor it is because all the benefit they were capable of rendering has been diverted to other channels and the interests of the public have been subordinated to those of the arbiters of their destinies. Does not such adverse criticism come from this quarter with ill grace considering that much benefit is about to flow to them out of these measures of taxation?

While on the subject of Agricultural Income-tax, may I repeat Sir, what I stated last year "that a substantial portion of the income likely to come out of Agricultural Income-tax should be earmarked for being spent in connection with improvement of garden communications, conditions of labour and other crying needs relating to labourers in view of the fact that brunt of the taxation would be borne by Planters";



I will now take up the question of the appointment of a Private Secretary for the Premier and 10 Parliamentary Secretaries. One has to pay the penalty for one's greatness and Sir Muhammad is entitled to public sympathy that this office imposes such a heavy strain on his physical strength. Certainly, a Private Secretary could relieve him of considerable strain. But if we analyse the motive behind the appointment of Parliamentary Secretaries, we find little to commend them. Sir, the Hon'ble Premier does not say that his colleagues are so heavily worked that they could not carry on without Parliamentary Secretaries. If a band of 10 Ministers could not do adequate justice to the affairs of Government, I am sure, Sir Muhammad would have or could have easily further enlarged his Cabinet. But Sir Muhammad does not say so. He is fair enough to admit that he is moved by purely altruistic motives in trying to create ten more alluring posts. He means these posts to be so many avenues for the acquisition of administrative experience by ten men who might some day blossom forth as full-fledged administrators. But why the tax-payer should pay for this training class is not clear. Sir Muhammad seeks to derive inspiration in this matter from Congress provinces. But we are not aware that in certain provinces the same motives as advanced by Sir Muhammad, brought Parliamentary Secretaries into being. Sir Muhammad must therefore have needs of his own for this innovation. Obviously, it has nothing to do with the well-being of the province.

The Hon'ble Premier is still harping on his pet scheme of the highest Tribunal for Assam. Once before, he gave us a complete picture of his dream Tribunal but it was full of so many ifs and buts that there is small wonder that it was turned down at the top. Similarly there is still the hope held out of a University; although unlike his scheme of a High Court, the Hon'ble Premier does not proceed to elaborate it. But when a Government pleads inability to find pro er aid for a handful of colleges there are in the province, when schools in the rural areas are about to die out for want of aid, when for a paltry sum such a deserving cause as that of an almost complete Medical Institution is being frustrated from year to year, is it not meaningless idle talk about fantastic schemes? In a province like Assam where the masses are wallowing in ignorance and illiteracy there are hardly any efforts worth the name to liquidate it. The initiative which the last Government took in the matter has all but ended. And instead, we hear of big schemes to capture the imagination of the higher classes with not a thought for the poor. The idea of a University without having a sufficient network of schools well-maintained and kept up to the proper standard is like building a superstructure on a loose foundation. We are interested to hear that the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture is now busily occupied with evolving an agricultural scheme. If it has any merit in it, my only prayer is that may it fructify. For, I recall with regret that his elaborately conceived educational scheme with its promise of free, compulsory primary education including even the revival of our national games such as *hadududu* is no more heard of and he himself has been shoved out of the domain of education and after passing through the wilderness of Forests and percolating through Excise, he finds himself let loose on our fields.

Speaking of Industries Sir, a sense of chivalry restrains criticism. For, I feel reluctant to be severe where a lady is concerned. All I can say is that like the eternal woman of the Kitchen Hon'ble Miss Dunn has held out hopes of a richer fare for us at home with plenty of fish and ghee. But I cannot help commenting on the ungallant action of those responsible for it in the curtailment of the budget under Industries, whereas all other departments have received increased grants. I cannot help recalling Sir

Muhammad Saadulla's observations on the working of the co-operative movement in Assam last year. Sir Muhammad Saadulla then said: "The second item by which the groaning poverty of the people would have been lessened was by bringing cheap credit to their grasp. That could be done by intensifying the co-operative credit movement. Hon. members will look in vain for any expenditure under co-operative system in the budget proposals". In the Budget of Sir Muhammad we do not look in vain for expenditure under this head. Expenditure there is but as is characteristic of his present Budget, the expenditure is called for by the creation of a few posts. Sir Muhammad offered other two illuminating suggestions to remove the poverty of the masses, namely, reduction of the burden of taxation and extension of the Debt Conciliation Board. We have no indications that there will be reduction of taxation; on the other hand, we have the veiled threat of having the question of remission reopened with obvious motives. And we know next to nothing about his efforts for extension of Debt Conciliation Boards.

Sir, I dare not impose a heavier strain on the House. I have attempted to show the glaring discrepancy between precepts and examples on the part of Sir Muhammad. After appropriating the proceeds of practically all the taxation measures introduced by the previous Government, Sir Muhammad, be it noted, presents a deficit Budget and even then does not hesitate to taunt his predecessors in office but for whose efforts, much of what he himself claims credit for, would have remained locked up in the domain of his imagination. This is not Sir Muhammad's maiden Budget as it was Mr. Ahmed's last year. For, Sir Muhammad himself has very self-complacently reminded us that this is his seventh effort at Budget making. Sir Muhammad has addressed the following remarks to Mr. Ahmed: "I have no doubt that hon. members will have realised by now that my hon. friend the late Finance Minister is not the *deus ex-machina* or the saviour of Assam's finances, a role which he appropriated to himself". To my mind, these are words which fit the speaker rather than him for whom they were meant. It is because of this, Sir, that I have dubbed Sir Muhammad as the Robert Bruce of Assam Finance. (*Opposition applause.*)

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir. After the lapse of some months we all meet here again, to discuss the budget estimates for 1940-41. During this short intervening period the world has witnessed great changes. Mighty empires and independent states have crumbled down and have disappeared from the map of the world. They have brought revolutionary changes not only in our political thoughts and ideas but also in the economic world.

The progress of science has conquered space and is overcoming the old national institutions and geographical boundaries. In relation to modern transport, the different parts of the world are becoming like the next door back-gardens. Though Assam is the secluded North-Eastern Frontier province of India, yet any action in Central Europe has its effects even in our far off villages. Assam is a part of the world politics and she cannot separate herself from the current problems of the world. Moreover, Sir, since the declaration of war by Britain against the dictatorial tyranny, India and Assam have cast their lot with the rise and fall of the democracies. Her economic prosperity is entirely inter-related with the economic stabilisation of the world. Not to speak of our Central Budget, even our provincial and personal budgets will be moulded by the economic situation of the world. In the words of a great thinker I mean Mr. Palme Dutt "World Economic stabilisation has dissolved, since the world economic crisis. All the questions of the future of world organisation, of war or peace, of

international political relations, are thrown into the melting pot. In the place of the old obsolete post-war issues of reparations and war debts, of reduction of armaments, etc., new questions occupy the centre of the stage to-day, questions of the so-called 'have' and 'have-not' powers of the redistribution of colonies, of the distribution of colonial raw materials, of revisionism and the *status quo*, of collective security, of economic self-sufficiency, etc.—all these questions and slogans of the present day express with ominous clearness the advance of imperialism once again to war for the re-division of the world.

The menace of the New World War overhangs the present world situation. On all sides the world is felt to be drifting to catastrophe without control yet the majority of political leaders and statesmen have no solution to offer. What must be done—can a new world war be prevented—how? This question tears at the hearts of the masses of the population in every country”.

The present war which may be rightly called a world war is shaping the economy of our province. It was characterised by a great Financier like Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarkar, as War economy. Sir Jeremy Raisman, Finance Member of the Government of India, said that war was in its overwhelming effect an economic calamity though, it might produce temporarily and locally certain beneficent results. I sincerely appreciate the views expressed by the present Finance Minister of Bengal, I mean Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy when he sounded a note of warning and said “The immediate effects of the war have been for the most part beneficial to the economy of the province but it would be dangerous to enlarge our own commitments on the basis of that prosperity and not to take precautions against the slump which all previous experience suggests must inevitably follow. Further we must be ready and prepared to take our due share in the burden of the war should events move nearer home and involve us more directly and closely.

The position has been very ably reviewed in the recently published report of the Central Board of the Directors of the Reserve Bank and I make no apology for quoting the following extract—“On the whole therefore the economic outlook at the end of 1939 appeared to be brighter than at any time during the past ten years, although the memories of the aftermath of the last year were sufficiently recent to lead to a fairly general realisation of the fact that the war profits are essentially artificial and transient and that in a major conflict of this nature no country can hope to escape the inevitable strain on her economic resources.”

Sir, after this above preliminary remarks I come to economic and political situation of our province. I may mention here that economics and politics are two inter-dependent subjects. They may be called two legs upon which the budget estimates of our province depend. Sir, I think it will not be out of place, if I refer incidentally to the political situation of Assam and shall try to make it relevant to the present budget estimates of our province. Because, Sir, the change of Government brings also a change in our budget estimates and the policy of the administration of the province.

It is well-known to the House that just after the declaration of the war, Mr. Gandhi gave his word to His Excellency the Viceroy, that he would lend his unconditional support to Britain. But afterwards he and his Working Committee of the Congress changed their opinion and decided that Ministries of all the Congress provinces should tender their resignation and create a constitutional deadlock in India. May I ask, Sir, what is the cause of the *gussa* of the Congress? Lord Zetland eulogised the Congress as the most numerous and most powerful party in India. His only fault was this, Sir, that he did

not recognise the Congress as the only all-inclusive body in India and along with the Congress, mentioned the name of the Moslem League.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. member is not speaking to the Budget.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** I am going to speak about the Budget, Sir.

They could not tolerate it and the Congress Ministries in other provinces resigned and what did our Congress Coalition Ministry in Assam do? Though very reluctantly and rebuked by the High Command, they at last tendered their resignation and relieved our poor province of a great *Avishap*.

**Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA:** A Deliverance Day!

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** They also wanted to create a constitutional deadlock in our province. But it was left for Sir Saiyid Saadulla and his United Party, who stood up and amidst the applause of whole of India took up the challenge of the Congress and are running the administration with great success. (*Hear, hear.*) We offer our sincere congratulations to him on his great success and lend our united and loyal support to him and his colleagues.

Now, Sir, the great issue before the House to-day is—whether they want to work out or wreck the constitution and thereby create a chaos and anarchy in the province. I hope, Sir, the House will give me a reply with an emphatic “No.”

Sir, we want freedom. We want independence. We believe that freedom is our birth right, but whose freedom? We want freedom not only for the majority or minority community, we want freedom not only for a political party, but we want freedom for all communities and minorities—nay for the whole of India. Sir, we yield to none in our demand for the freedom of India but in the words of our Leader, I mean the Hon'ble Prime Minister, “That is no justification for leading the country to a hunger strike and asking her to deny herself the breakfast she is already partaking while the full dinner is cooking for the consumption in time.”

Sir, our Congress Government of Assam before they assumed office gave pledges to their electorate that they would reduce the heavy burden of taxation and give relief to the poor. We also hoped that they would bring down paradise on the earth. But alas, we the poor Kisans and labourers have been disillusioned now. Instead of giving relief to the poor agriculturists, they have imposed heavy burden of agricultural tax on their shoulder and have broken their economic backbone. They introduced the Wardha system of education against vehement opposition of the Muslim members and issued circular for playing music before mosques and they now sow the seed of communal riots in Assam. Congress Government in Assam will always be remembered by the future generations for the imposition of Agricultural tax, issuing the communal circular and the Digboi shooting.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I advise the hon. member to speak strictly on the Budget. Up till now I have heard nothing about the Budget.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** Yes, Sir, I will speak about the Budget,

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. member is criticising party politics and enunciating principles of his own party. That is not what is

wanted. I allowed him to make some preliminary remarks, but the preliminary remarks are going to be too many.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** These are relevant to the Budget, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. member should come to the Budget at once.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** Some of our friends, are apt to compare the Congress Government with *Ram Raj* but the Editor of the *Protiva* truly characterised the Congress as *Ravan Raj*, i.e., reign of *Adharma* and *Zooloom*. Now, Sir, the reign of *Ravan* has been overthrown and a true "*Ram Raj*" has been established in Assam.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, after hearing the lengthy and fighting speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister and going through the Budget I am constrained to come to the conclusion that the present Ministry is with a spirit of vengeance, as it were, bent upon stifling the Congress policy and the programme, undoing the little good the Congress Coalition Ministry did and pushing to the background the few good proposals and schemes which the former Ministry formulated for giving some relief to the poor, ignorant and down-trodden mass and for bringing about their social, moral and economic advancement. Sir, even the autocratic Governors of the Congress provinces have not behaved like this even after the Congress Ministers had resigned.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** Is my hon. friend speaking strictly on the Budget, Sir.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** But alas! The ways of our present Indian Ministers of Assam are different. To say the least their attitude is highly regrettable, if not disgraceful. Sir, I make this remark with a sense of deep regret. Because we could never expect that an Indian Ministry could go to the length of undoing and stifling with such light-heartedness, such benevolent policy and programme undertaken by the Congress Coalition Ministry.

Sir, I give my reasons for making this unpleasant remarks.

Sir, it is an undeniable fact that our cultivating classes had been overburdened with the heavy load of land revenue. They had been patiently bearing the ever increasing burden of debts to the tune of 30 crores of Rupees. So, Sir, it is the primary duty of every national Government to give the utmost relief to these poor people who form the backbone of the nation. The Congress Coalition Ministry undertook to perform this duty and would have given it to the fullest extent had it not had to resign on a higher national call. But what is the attitude of our present Ministry in this matter? Has it accepted the policy of remission of land revenue cheerfully and ungrudgingly? Certainly not. On the contrary the Hon'ble Finance Minister has practically told us in his Budget speech that 'spoon feeding our cultivators is of no good' and he has not forgotten to give us a mild hint that remission of land revenue may not be extended for the year 1941-42, on the ground that it has not taught our peasants to be thrifty and to save money gained from remission. Funny reasonings no doubt!

Now, I come to the next question, viz., the policy of total prohibition of opium—the uppermost crying need of the people of this province. For the social, moral and economic upliftment of that unfortunate section of our brethren addicted to opium, Sir, the Congress Coalition Ministry, as soon as it came to office, took up this programme, started total prohibition

in two worst affected subdivisions, chalked out a plan for extending it to other parts of the valley from the beginning of this year and to exterminate opium during the course of three years. But alas! What is the attitude of the present Ministry in this burning question? Has it accepted it? No. It has definitely refused to pursue the policy to extend total prohibition to other parts of the province and to stop opium consumption within the course of three years though it has condescended to continue the experiment in the Dibrugarh and Sibsagar subdivisions for a year only. And we are afraid, it will be abandoned in the nearest future. The grounds advanced by the Hon'ble Finance Minister for abandoning the policy of total prohibition of opium are that cases of smuggling are increasing and that the addicts, after giving up opium, are taking to liquor or ganja. These futile reasonings will, I believe, appeal to none. And none will fail to find out the real motive lying behind the Ministry's reluctance to forego the Excise Revenue.

*Opium* The Assam Prohibition Bill, prohibiting consumption of liquor, ganja, etc., sponsored by the Congress Coalition Government and passed by the Upper House has been given an early good-bye, as if in the interests of the 16 lakhs of tea garden population and the 6 lakhs of hill population who mostly indulge in these drugs. The ground advanced for the abandonment is that the magnitude of the task will be tremendous. But, Sir, did not the Congress Coalition Ministry realise the full responsibility of the task when they undertook it?

The mass literacy scheme of the Congress Coalition Government, Sir, is being looked up by the present Government with veritable step-motherly affection. As will be seen from the fact that they have made a provision of Rs. 12,000 only in the Budget for this stupendous task, as if to put this scheme to ridicule. And I am sure they will not allow it to succeed. Already the Premier has practically told us that the Congress scheme shall have to wait till a new scheme of their own is ushered into. And I apprehend that the sum total of all this will be that after some waste of public money we will cease to hear anything about mass literacy campaign.

The Wardha scheme of basic education which the Congress Coalition Government wanted to give a trial to, with the idea of giving our youths some opportunity to learn some crafts according to their aptitude, so that they might earn a morsel of food by their honest labour, has been shunned by the present Ministry, as if it was untouchable or smelt Gandhism.

Now let me come to the question of Ministers' salaries and Parliamentary Secretaries. Sir, the Congress Coalition Ministry as soon as it took office reduced their salary to Rs. 750 per month including house and motor allowances according to the Congress policy. The Premier did not think it fit to make an invidious distinction in pay from his colleagues and as a matter of fact this salary is quite adequate and reasonable in a poor country like India and specially in a poor province like Assam. But the present Ministry as soon as it came to power, has reversed the plan and has increased their number to ten and is going to raise their monthly salary to Rs. 1,000 each (including House and Motor allowances) and the Premier is going to take Rs. 2,000 per month as if he has come from some foreign country and is, therefore, entitled to some overseas allowance or compensation. They are not satisfied with this. They are going to have ten Parliamentary Secretaries with fat salaries and the Premier is going to have a highly paid Private Secretary in addition.

The Agricultural Income-tax Act—passed by the Congress Coalition Ministry which, the Premier admits, will bring out annually 25 lakh of rupees from the pocket of the rich and will be for the benefit of the needy—narrowly escaped repealment at the hand of the present Government for its alleged criminal offence of raising the price of tea—Sir Saadulla's poor man's drink. But it was found to be necessary as it supplied the Government with the main prop for making it stand. So it was spared. The same remarks apply to other taxation measures of the Congress Coalition Government which are going to earn 4 or 5 lakhs of revenue to the Government. But the pity of the whole affair is that the Hon'ble Finance Minister did not deem it fit to express a word of gratefulness to the Congress Ministry for their earning so many lakhs of rupees for him by their various taxation measures.

Now, Sir, are these not onslaughts upon Congress policy and programme? Are these not open attacks to stifle everything the Congress Ministry undertook to do? If they are not, I do not know what they are.

Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has lamented pitifully throughout his Budget speech over the melancholy financial state of the province. He had to admit that the Province is heavily in debts to the extent of half a crore of rupees, that the next year's budget is going to run with a deficit of about 5 lakhs, that our poor cultivating classes are groaning under a burden of debts to the extent of 30 crores of rupees, that the administration will have to be run by borrowing, that for want of funds he could not make good provision for the nation-building departments. But alas! How do his Government propose to liquidate these miseries of the poor province?

Here are the remedies proposed by Sir Saadulla's Government:—“Raise the number of Ministers to ten; increase their salaries to Rs.1,000 per month in the name of protecting their dignity; double the Premier's salary; give him a fat salaried Private Secretary; double the Premier's salary; Secretaries with robust pay; create publicity department; create new posts of Assistant Directors and Assistant Inspectors as much as you like. Do this immediately—for they cannot wait—and all the maladies of the province born of poverty will disappear. For do not they know that “পিতরি প্রীতিনাপন্নৈ প্রীয়ন্তে সৰ্বদেবতাঃ” ? If the Ministry be pleased and happy, the rest of the population of the province will automatically be happy.

This is, in substance, the plan and policy of the present Government for serving the people whom providence has placed under their protecting care and these are the symbols of their love for the poor half-fed, half-clad countrymen of theirs.

Sir, I want to speak a few words more about one or two very important matters, if you permit, before I take my seat. Sir, the subject of Botany is a very important one, specially for the people of this province where Forest is the principal wealth of the nation. Now, Sir, in the Cotton College at Gauhati, there is no provision for teaching the subject in the degree classes. We have been repeatedly requesting the Government that arrangements should be made for teaching the subject in the degree classes of that College without delay. The Director of Public Instruction has submitted his proposals long ago; but yet the Government have not paid any heed to this crying public demand. From his Budget speech we find that Sir Saadulla's Ministry is going to employ ten Parliamentary Secretaries with a view to teach them the art of governing people. But, Sir, would it not be better to open Botany classes in Colleges with lesser cost to teach our

youths the knowledge of Botany instead of spending huge amount of money in teaching the art of governing to Parliamentary Secretaries, many of whom may not have the good fortune of coming to this House again.

Sir, the system of Ayurvedic treatment, as I have said yesterday, has stood numberless onslaughts at the hands of foreign systems and alien rulers and has proved its vitality and supremacy before the world beyond any doubt. Time has now come with the establishment of popular Governments for its resuscitation and restoration to the dignified seat it is entitled. The Assam Ayurvedic Vidyapith of Gauhati is making repeated request to the government for some grants. But the Government have paid no heed to its prayers. This budget has not, I am sorry to find, made any provision for encouraging this system. But I hope the Government, whoever they may be; should not fail to give it its dues and if this Government make some provision for encouraging the system, say by establishment of some subsidized Ayurvedic Dispensaries, as I have suggested yesterday, I believe this will go to a great extent to benefit the people.

With these few words, Sir, I resume my seat.

**Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI:** Mr. Speaker, I admit, Sir, that it is with a sense of nervousness and some amount of palpitation of heart that I rise to speak. Because, Sir, when discussing the second budget of Sir Muhammad I had the misfortune of uttering some unpleasant remarks which exasperated him so much that he poured forth some venom on my poor head. Hence this sense of apprehension on my part, Sir.

I don't know, Sir, whether to laugh or weep over the formation by Sir Muhammad Saadulla his Ministry No.3. I don't know how he is feeling by stepping into the cast off shoes of the Congress Coalition Ministry. As only the wearer knows where the shoe pinches I leave it to him to answer.

Now I am coming to the budget proper. With a natural dread of figures, I shall touch only some broad and salient points of it. I am glad, Sir, that Sir Muhammad Saadulla has admitted that his budget with a surplus revenue of Trs.4,98 is more apparent than real, and if the newspaper reports are correct, the subvention of 30 lacs of rupees which was given to our province is being stopped, because the Niemeyer Award is going to be set aside and the province will get only a portion of the Central Income-tax. A portion of the Income-tax, *i.e.*, 1½ crores will be distributed among the various provinces. I do not know, Sir, what will be our share. I think it will not be more than Rs.15 lacs and consequently the budget is sure to be a deficit one.

Sir, coming to memorandum, page 12, it is stated that a permanent loan of Rs.50 lacs will be necessary in the year 1940-41. I rubbed my eyes when I read those lines. I could not believe myself that Sir Muhammad Saadulla who in the year 1938 delivered a sermon on the evil effects of floating a loan for new schemes, could go back upon his words and go to the loan market in the year 1940. With due apology to him I present to the House the speech he delivered in this connection on 23rd March 1938.

“ The reply from my friends in the Opposite will be, why don't you borrow ?”

That will be mortgaging the future generation for the benefit of the present generation. Sir, from what little of financial problems I have studied, I cannot bring myself to that conclusion, and it is my view that the present generation has no right to burden the future generation with a heavy load



of debt. But I forgot, Sir, that much water has flown the river Brahma-putra and much snow has fallen on the summit of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills during this interval of two years. Verily, we live to learn!

In page 21 of the Memorandum it is written "The Budget provides for an increased consumption of *ganja* which normally takes place each year". Though the reason for this increase has been attributed to "baneful effect of this forcible stoppage of opium rations" this admission does not absolve the Government from their responsibility in this matter. We want prohibition, the country wants prohibition, and nothing but total prohibition will satisfy the public. We must see that the administration of our province is not run—to quote the words of late Mr. Ghaliha—"with tainted money". No money is too big and no effort too small for the eradication for the drink and smoke habit of a nation. No civilised Government will profit by the vice of a section of its population.

In page 35 of the Memorandum it is stated "the budget shows an increase of Rs. 1,16,000 over the current year's sanctioned grant, and is due (1) partly to an increase in the number comprising the Ministry with a resultant increase in other charges, and partly to the provision of higher rates of pay for the Hon'ble Ministers; (2) to the provision for 10 Parliamentary Secretaries for the Hon'ble Ministers; and (3) to the inclusion of a Private Secretary to the Hon'ble Prime Minister". Well, Sir, regarding the pay of Hon'ble Ministers, I will not say anything because from 1925, I had been a silent spectator and a mute observer from over the gallery there, to many wordy battles fought, won and lost within the four walls of this Chamber, to the sickening wrangling and unsatiable greed and lust for money displayed by respective Ministers in their respective times, so I will not say anything about this on this occasion. I hope to see a repetition of the same disgraceful conduct when Salary Bills come up before the House. As regards the Private Secretary, I do not grudge the Hon'ble Premier, a Private Secretary. Sir, he was complaining to us the other day that his health suffered. With the appointment of a Secretary, I hope he will be greatly relieved of his heavy responsibilities and I pray to God that he may live long.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Thank you, Sir.

**Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI:** I wish to say a few words regarding Parliamentary Secretaries. The reason for appointing Parliamentary Secretaries as stated by Sir Muhammad Saadulla is that "these posts serve a double purpose; the first one is of paramount political importance, *viz.*, to train up a set of people who may become future administrators of the province and such officers may give relief to the Ministers by serving as a sort of liaison officers and acquainting the Ministers on the one hand and the Constituency on the other, with their points of view." Well, Sir, the names that are whispered in our ears in connection with the appointments of the Parliamentary Secretaries do not inspire confidence in me regarding the future administrators.

**The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY:** You can come in.

**Mr. BAIDYA NATH MOOKERJEE:** There will be too many.  
**Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI:** Sir, in this connection, I am reminded of a remark passed by the *Ananda Bazar Patrika* regarding some political luminaries in Bengal. If the rumours are correct remarks of the paper fit them well. The remarks were "এদের অপদাথ বলিলেও সম্মান করা হয়।" (*Laughter*).

I next come to the Medical Department. On page 101 of the Memorandum it is stated that a sum of Rs.4,803 is provided for 16 beds in the Female Hospital at Sylhet. Well, Sir, the people of Sylhet are crying hoarse for the establishment of a Medical School at Sylhet, but what is the effect of these cries—only 16 beds in the Civil Hospital! I think this is an insult to injury. The previous bureaucratic Government was committed to the principle of establishing a Medical School at Sylhet, and spent some four lakhs over the establishment of school buildings there and they dropped the idea only for scarcity of funds. Other autonomous Governments from 1937 were also committed to the principle but the question was shelved owing to paucity of funds. Now I ask the present Saadulla Government whether it will respect the pledge of the previous Governments and start the School at once. With the passing of the Agricultural Income-tax Act, the plea of want of funds goes into the background.

And lastly, Sir, our Hon'ble Premier is giving us ghee and the Bengal Premier has given us "Kodu" in his famous Rangpur speech. Will any of the Hon'ble Ministers take upon himself the task of cooking? May I suggest that the Hon'ble Minister for Industries will take up the responsibility. As she naturally belongs to the class of Annapurna or Drupodi, it is her birthright to be incharge of the kitchen? Will she take up the job and put *kodubhat* to the mouth of the hungry millions of Assam, so that as Bengal has got *dalbhat* from the Bengal Premier; we may get *kodubhat* from our Premier. (*Laughter*).

With these few remarks, I beg to resume my seat.

**Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN:** মাননীয় সভাপতি মহাশয়, মাননীয় অর্থসচিব আমাদের সম্মুখে যে বাজেট উপস্থিত করিয়াছেন তাহাতে প্রজাবৃন্দের মঙ্গলজনক বিশেষ কোন কাজ আছে বলিয়া আমি মনে করি না। (*hear, hear!*) দীর্ঘকাল যাবৎ তিনি আমলাতন্ত্র গভর্নমেন্ট পরিচালিত করিয়াছেন এবং আমলাতন্ত্রের প্রতি বিশেষ দৃষ্টি রাখিয়াই তিনি এই বাজেট প্রস্তুত করিয়াছেন। (*hear, hear!*) দেশের প্রধান সমস্যা, দেশের শতকরা ৮০ জন নিরন্ন কৃষক, যাহাদের আর্থিক অবস্থা উন্নত না হইলে দেশ রসাতলে যাইবে এবং দেশের শিক্ষিত যুবক, যাহারা নিজেদের জীবন নির্বাহ করিতে না পারিয়া দিবা-রাত্র মৃত্যু কামনা করিতেছে, এই বাজেটে সেই কৃষক ও শিক্ষিত যুবকদের প্রতি মোটেই কিছু করা হয় নাই! (*hear, hear!*) কৃষকেরা দীর্ঘকাল যাবৎ গভর্নমেন্টের নিকট করুণ আবেদন জানাইয়া প্রকাশ করিয়াছেন যে প্রত্যেক জেলায় অন্ততঃ বিভিন্ন এলাকায় Model Farm বা আদর্শ কৃষি ফার্ম স্থাপন করিয়া উন্নত ধরণের কৃষি উৎপাদনের প্রণালী শিক্ষা দেওয়া হউক, কিন্তু এই বাজেটে সেই করুণ আবেদনের প্রতি মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মোটেই দৃষ্টি করেন নাই। (*hear, hear!*) তৎপর শিক্ষিত যুবক সম্প্রদায় যাহারা দিবা-রাত্র চাকরি চাকরি করিয়া শিলঙের প্রত্যেক মেঝের দ্বারে দ্বারে ধন্য দিতেছেন তাহাদের অবস্থা কিরূপ ভয়াবহ তাহা জানিয়াও তাহা মোচনের জন্ত কোন কনিট স্থাপন করা বা এমন কোন শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠান স্থাপন করা যাহার দ্বারা সেই অভাব দূর হইতে পারে তাহার কোনও ব্যবস্থা এই বাজেটে করেন নাই। গভর্নমেন্টকে যখনই দেশের কোন মঙ্গলজনক কাজ করিতে বলা হয় তখনই তাহারা উত্তর দেন যে আর্থিক অবস্থা খারাপের জন্ত তাহা করা সম্ভবপর হইতেছে

না। ইণ্ডিয়া গভর্ণমেন্ট দীর্ঘকাল যাবৎ আসাম প্রদেশ হইতে পেট্রল শুদ্ধ এবং অশুদ্ধ আয় গ্রহণ করিতেছেন। মাননীয় অর্থসচিব যদি অন্ততঃপক্ষে ইণ্ডিয়া গভর্ণমেন্টকে জানাইবার ব্যবস্থা করিতেন যে সেই টাকা যদি আমরাদিগকে ফেরৎ দেওয়া না হয় বা পেট্রল শুদ্ধ হইতে আসামকে উপযুক্ত পরিমাণে টাকা প্রদান করা না হয় তাহা হইলে আমরা এই এসেম্বলী House বর্জন করিতে রাজী আছি এবং এই দেশের শাসন গভর্ণরের দ্বারা পরিচালিত করুন—এই শাসনের সঙ্গে আমাদের সম্পর্ক নাই—তাহা হইলে নিশ্চয় আমরা সেই টাকা ইণ্ডিয়া গভর্ণমেন্টের নিকট হইতে পাইতাম। (hear, hear !)

তৎপর আমার মনে হয় মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মনে করিতেছেন যে হিন্দু মেম্বারদিগকে রাজী না রাখিলে তাহার মিনিষ্টি রাখা অসম্ভব, তাই তিনি মুসলমান সম্প্রদায়ের প্রতি মোটেই জায় বিচার করেন নাই অথবা যে সমস্ত দাবী জায় সম্বন্ধে সে সব প্রত্যাখান করিয়াছেন। আসাম ভেলীর মুসলমান সম্প্রদায় দীর্ঘকাল যাবৎ আবেদন নিবেদন জানাইয়াছেন যে আসাম ভেলীর মন্ত্রক-মাদ্রাসার জন্ত খরচা ভেলীর জায় একজন Special Deputy Inspector নিযুক্ত করা হউক। তৎপ্রতি মাননীয় অর্থসচিবের দৃষ্টিপাত করার সুযোগ হয় নাই। তাহার একমাত্র কারণ এই হইতে পারে যে ইহা করিলে হিন্দুসম্প্রদায় বা হিন্দু মেম্বারগণ নाराজ হইবেন।

মাদ্রাসার জন্ত যে ১০,০০০ টাকা গ্রান্ট ধার্য করিয়াছেন তাহা অত্যন্ত কম হইয়াছে। দীর্ঘকাল যাবৎ আসামের গরীব মুসলমানেরা মুষ্টি বা অশুদ্ধ ভিক্ষার দ্বারা বহু মাদ্রাসা চালাইয়াছেন। এখন এই ছুদ্দিনে তাহা চালানো মোটেই সম্ভবপর নহে। ইহা গভর্ণমেন্ট জানা সত্ত্বেও মাদ্রাসার জন্ত উপযুক্ত পরিমাণ টাকা রাখেন নাই।

কৃষি বিভাগের জন্ত যে টাকা রাখিয়াছেন, সেই টাকার অধিকাংশ ব্যয় হয়, কৃষি বিভাগের অফিসার বৃন্দের জন্ত। বীজের জন্ত মাত্র ১২,০০০ টাকা এবং পল্লী উন্নয়ন কার্যের জন্ত মাত্র ২৫,০০০ টাকা ধার্য করিয়াছেন। ইহা সম্পূর্ণ অযুক্তিকর এবং সমুদ্রে বালু নিক্ষেপ মাত্র। কৃষি বিভাগে কতকগুলি অফিসার প্রতিপালন করা ছাড়া আর কিছুই নহে। আমার মনে হয় এই পল্লী উন্নয়ন কার্য এবং কৃষি বিভাগের বীজ দান কার্য বা কৃষির উন্নতির জন্ত আরও অতিরিক্ত টাকা বরাদ্দ করা উচিত।

আসামে, বহু জঙ্গলে, জমি পতিত থাকা সত্ত্বেও শত শত জমি শূন্য প্রজা অনাহারে জীবন নির্বাহ করিতেছে। একদিকে এই জঙ্গল জমিগুলি পত্তনদিলে তাহাদের জীবন নির্বাহের ব্যবস্থা করা হইত এবং অগ্ৰদিকে ঐ সমস্ত খাজনার টাকার দ্বারা দেশের নিরক্ষর কৃষকদের ভিতর বাধ্যতামূলক প্রাইমারী শিক্ষা আইন, যাহা দীর্ঘকাল যাবৎ পাস করিয়া রাখা হইয়াছে, তাহা কার্যকরী করার সুযোগ পাওয়া যাইত। এই আইন যদি কার্যকরী করা না হয়, শুধু নিরক্ষরতা দূর করা হইবে—ইহা বলিয়া কতিপয় Deputy Inspector এর দ্বারা বক্তৃতা দিলেই নিরক্ষরতা দূর করা কাজ সম্ভবপর হইবে না। উপযুক্ত পরিমাণ টাকা বরাদ্দ করিয়া

বাধ্যতামূলক প্রাইমারী শিক্ষা আইন কার্যকরী না করা পর্যন্ত কৃষকদিগের প্রতি বর্তমান মন্ত্রী মণ্ডলীর কোন দরদ আছে বলিখা প্রতিপন্ন হইবে না। (hear, hear!) দেশের নিরক্ষরদিগকে শিক্ষাদান করুন। আমার মনে হয় এই অফিসারদিগকে না পোষিয়া, শুধু তাহাদের ভাতাবুদ্ধি না করিয়া, তাহাদের পদ আরও উন্নততর না করিয়া, দেশের নিরক্ষরদিগকে শিক্ষাদান করিয়া মনুষ্যত্ব প্রকাশ করুন—মানবতা প্রকাশ করুন। শুধু অফিসারদের ধ্বংসবাদ জ্ঞাপনের দ্বারা আপনাদের মিনিষ্টি উর্দ্ধকাল টিকিয়া থাকা সম্ভবপর হইবে না। (hear, hear!)

আমি মনে করিয়াছিলাম যে বর্তমান দায়িত্বশীল গভর্ণমেন্টের আমলে আসাম প্রদেশের অফিসারগণ পূর্ববর্তী ব্রিটিশ গভর্ণমেন্টের আমলে যেরূপ দস্ত করিয়া কাজ করিয়াছেন তাহাদের সেই ভাবের পরিবর্তন হইবে। কিন্তু তাহাদের সেই ভাবের একটুও পরিবর্তন আসে নাই। তাহারা সর্বদাই মনে করেন যে তাহারা আসাম প্রদেশের জন সাধারণের প্রভু—তাহারা এখনও মনে করেন না যে তাহারা এই দেশের জন সাধারণের servant, এই ভাবনা আসার কারণ তাহারা মোটা বেতন ভোগ করিয়া পূর্ববর্তী সাহেবী style এ থাকেন এবং সেজন্যই তাহাদের সঙ্গে সহযোগিতা করা সম্ভবপর হয় না। (Hear, hear).

Retrenchment Committeeর জন্ত বহু টাকা খরচ করা স্বত্বেও আজ পর্যন্ত কোন স্থায়ী প্রতীকার হয় নাই। রিপোর্ট কার্য পরিণত না করিলে এত টাকা ব্যয় করিয়া কমিটি বসানো নিরর্থক এবং সাধন কার্যে ব্যয় কম করা হইবে বলিয়া যে প্রতিশ্রুতি দেওয়া হইয়াছিল তাহা মিথ্যা ব্যতীত আর কিছুই নহে।

শিল্প শিক্ষা কৃষকদের জন্ত অত্যন্ত প্রয়োজনীয় জিনিস। শিল্প শিক্ষার কোন ব্যবস্থা না থাকিলে শুধু কৃষির দ্বারা তাহাদের উন্নতি হওয়া সম্ভবপর নহে। এই শিল্প শিক্ষার জন্ত দীর্ঘকাল যাবৎ আসামের হিন্দু, মুসলমান সকল সম্প্রদায়ের প্রজা গভর্ণমেন্টের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিয়াছেন। কিন্তু গভর্ণমেন্ট তৎপ্রতি কেন যে দৃষ্টিপাত করিতেছেন না ইহা বুঝিতে পারিতেছি না। আমার মনে হয় এই বাজেটে এমন কোন একটা ব্যবস্থা করা গভর্ণমেন্টের উচিত ছিল যাহাতে অন্ততঃপক্ষে সমস্ত আসামের যে সমস্ত কুটির শিল্প আছে তাহা উদ্ধার করিবার জন্ত survey করা এবং সেই সমস্ত শিক্ষা উদ্ধার করিয়া আবার পুনরায় প্রজাবৃন্দের ভিতর প্রচলন করা।

তৎপর, আসামে বহু খনিজ পদার্থ আছে, যেমন সিমেন্ট, লোহা, কয়লা ইত্যাদি, যাহা উদ্ধার করিলে আসামের অনেক টাকা আয় হইতে পারে। (hear, hear!) কিন্তু বর্তমান মন্ত্রীগণ এসব উদ্ধার করিয়া আয়ের পথ বুদ্ধি করিবার জন্ত কোন চেষ্টা করেন নাই। উপযুক্ত অফিসার নিযুক্ত করিয়া আসামের যে সব খনিজ পদার্থ আছে তাহা উদ্ধার করিয়া আয়ের পথ বুদ্ধি না করিলে—যে কোন কাজের জন্ত “টাকা নাই” এ কথাতেই শেষ হইবে।

আসামে ইউনিভার্সিটি এবং হাইকোর্ট না থাকায় আসাম যে একটা প্রদেশ, এই গল্প প্রকাশ করিবার জ্ঞান স্থান নাই। ইউনিভার্সিটির বিশেষ দরকার আছে—হাই কোর্টের দরকার আছে; শুধু মনে করিলেই হয় না; কি করিয়া এই কাজগুলি করা যায় তাহা বিবেচনা করা উচিত। আমি মনে করি আমলা বৃন্দের দিকে শুধু দৃষ্টি না করিয়া জন সাধারণ যাহাতে সন্তুষ্ট হয় তৎপ্রতি দৃষ্টি রাখা বর্তমান মন্ত্রী মণ্ডলীর কর্তব্য।

তৎপর যে কোনও কমিটি করা হউক না কেন, কমিটির রিপোর্ট দীর্ঘকাল পড়িয়া থাকে। কমিটির রিপোর্ট তাড়াতাড়ি বিবেচনা করা উচিত। Line System কমিটির রিপোর্ট দীর্ঘকাল যাবৎ পড়িয়া আছে, আজ পর্যন্তও তাহার প্রতীকার হয় নাই। এই কমিটির রিপোর্ট বিবেচনা করিয়া আজ আসামের সাম্প্রদায়িক বিরোধ নিবারণ করা উচিত। আজ মুসলমানেরা মনে করিতেছেন যে মুসলমানদিগকে জমি দেওয়া হইবে না বা হিন্দুরা মনে করিতেছেন যে মুসলমানদিগকে সমস্ত জমি দেওয়া হইবে। আসামে যদি শান্তি স্থাপন করিতে চান, আমি বলি ঞায় সম্ভব ভাবে, মানবতার দিকে লক্ষ্য রাখিয়া এবং জমি শূন্য প্রজ্ঞাদিগকে কি ভাবে জমি দিলে হিন্দু, মুসলমান, অসমীয়া, বাঙ্গালী সমস্ত প্রজ্ঞার ভিতর শান্তি স্থাপন হইতে পারে তৎপ্রতি লক্ষ্য রাখিয়া অতি সম্বর Line System কমিটির রিপোর্ট সমাধান করা উচিত।

আমি সাহস করিয়া বলিতে চাই যে আসামে নিরক্ষরতা দূর করিবার জ্ঞান যতক্ষণ পর্যন্ত আপনারা বাজেটে কোন provision না রাখিবেন ততক্ষণ পর্যন্ত হতই আফালন করা হউক না কেন দেশের কখনও উন্নতি হইবে না। দেশ চায় শিক্ষা। আজ দেড় শত বৎসর ইংরাজের অধীনে থাকিয়াও আসামের শতকরা ৯৯ জন লোক অশিক্ষিত রহিয়া গিয়াছে। এই গ্লানির জ্ঞান ব্রিটিশ গভর্নমেন্ট পরিচালিত এই গভর্নমেন্টকে শত শত নিন্দাবাদ দেওয়া বাঞ্ছনীয়। (hear, hear!) এই নিরক্ষরতা দূর করিতে হইলে বাধ্যতা মূলক প্রাইমারী শিক্ষা আইন, যাহা দীর্ঘকাল পড়িয়া আছে তাহাকে এই বৎসরের মধ্যে কার্যকরী করা উচিত ইহাই আমার অনুরোধ।

**Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR:** Mr. Speaker Sir, সর্বপ্রথমে আমি আমাদের বর্তমান মন্ত্রীসভাকে তাহাদের জোরবরাতের জ্ঞান অভিনন্দিত করিতেছি। বার বার চেষ্টা করিয়া বিফল মনোরথ হওয়ার পরও কেবলমাত্র ভাগ্যবলে তাহারা সংখ্যালঘিষ্ঠ হওয়াও কোন প্রকার পুরুষাকার না ফলাইয়া একটা প্রদেশের শাসনতরণীর কাণ্ডারী হইতে পারিয়াছেন। তাহাদের সকল ব্যথা, সকল কাঁটা আজ ধরা হইয়া গোলাপ হইয়া ফুটিয়া উঠিয়াছে। এমন ভাগ্য বর্তমান গণতান্ত্রিক রাষ্ট্রের কোন রাজনৈতিক দলের ভাগ্যে ঘটয়া উঠে নাই এবং ভবিষ্যতেও ঘটবার সম্ভাবনা নাই। মাতৃগর্ভ হইতে ভূমিষ্ঠ হওয়ার পরক্ষণেই রণাঙ্গনে অবতীর্ণ হইয়া বীরত্ব প্রদর্শন এখন আর হিন্দুপুরাণের বর্ণিত অলিক কাহিনী নহে। আমাদের বর্তমান মন্ত্রীসভা গদীতে বসিয়া ভূমিস্পর্শ করিবার পূর্বেই পূর্ব গভর্নমেন্টের বহু

order বাতিল করিয়া তাহাদের প্রভাব, প্রতাপ এবং অধিকার পরিচালনা করার সৌভাগ্য-লাভ করিবার সুযোগ পাইয়া প্রকৃতপক্ষে ইতিহাসে স্মরণীয় হইয়া রহিলেন। অগ্রপশ্চাৎ চিন্তা, ইত্যন্ততঃ করা বা কোন প্রকার ছুঁড়াবনা ও তাহাদের পোষাইতে হয় নাই। এদিক দিয়াও তাহাদের জুড়ীমেলা সম্ভবপর নহে।

কংগ্রেস কোয়ালিশন মন্ত্রীদের ভ্রমণ ব্যাপার নিয়া গত বাজেট অধিবেশন মুখর হইয়া উঠিয়াছিল। যাহারা সেইকালে নানাভাবে তরল উপহাস ও কঠোর সমালোচনা করিয়া কোয়ালিশন মন্ত্রীদের ব্যতিবাস্ত ও নিজে গলদঘর্ষ হইয়া উঠিতেন বক্তৃতার উৎপাতে দর্শকদের পর্য্যন্ত অশ্রু ছুটাইয়াছিলেন, আজ “সানন্দদড়ী” হাতে পাওয়ার পর জোড়ে জোড়ে, হালিতে হালিতে, সবাক্বব, সসঙ্গী ও সসঙ্গিনী, নগরে নগরে, গ্রামে গ্রামে, বিজনে বিগিনে, জলে স্থলে, আলোকে আধারে, সারা প্রদেশ এবং প্রদেশের বাহিরে জোড়তোড় করিয়া কর্ষশক্তি, বসজ্ঞান এবং অর্থনীতি জ্ঞানের পরিচয় দিয়াছেন তাহাও অভূতপূর্ব এবং অচিন্তনীয় ব্যাপার সন্দেহ নাই (laughter)।

স্থানে স্থানে মন্ত্রী অভ্যর্থনার দালালেরা ঢোল পিটাইয়াও যথাযোগ্য অভ্যর্থনাকারীর যোগাড় করিতে না পারিয়া স্কুলের ছাত্র মাষ্টারদের ডাকিয়া নিয়া ফারম পূর্ণ করিয়াছেন। ফলে, যে বিভাগের মন্ত্রীই হউন না কেন, মফস্বলে গেলেই সেই অঞ্চলের স্কুলগুলি অন্ততঃ ৩ দিনের বন্ধ পাইতে বঞ্চিত হয় নাই। বিশেষভাবে এইজন্তই আমাদের মন্ত্রীরা স্কুলের ছেলেদের একান্ত আকাজক্ষার বস্তু এবং প্রিয় হইয়া উঠিয়াছেন।

বাজেটে আর্থিক দিক দিয়া T. A. ব্যতীতও ১৯৩৯-৪০ ইংরাজীতে মন্ত্রীদের জন্ম ৫৬,০০০ টাকার স্থলে ১৯৪০-৪১ সালে ১,৬৪,৩৫২ টাকা বাজেটে বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে। প্রধান মন্ত্রী মাসিক ২,০০০ এবং অন্যান্য মন্ত্রীরা মাসিক ১,০০০ টাকা বেতন, ১০ জন পালিয়ামেন্টারী সেক্রেটারীর ৩০০ টাকা মাসিক হিসাবে ৩৬,০০০ টাকা, তদুপরি প্রধান মন্ত্রীর জন্ম আর একজন প্রাইভেট সেক্রেটারীর মাসিক ৫০০ টাকা বেতন ও ১০০ টাকা এলাওয়েঞ্চ এবং জনপ্রিয় মন্ত্রীদের জনহিতকর কার্য যাহা জনসাধারণের অনুভূতির বাহিরে, তাহা জন সাধারণকে অনুভব করাইবার জন্ম একটা পাবলিসিটি বিভাগ—তাহার জন্ম ১৫,৭৫২ টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে। ‘পেটে খেলে পিঠে সয়’। আগে নিজের পেট না ভরিয়া দেশের কাজের ভারী বোঝা বহন করা প্রকৃত পক্ষেই বাস্তব ব্যাপার নহে। স্বদেশ সেবা ও স্বজাতিহিতৈষণা, দল বা ব্যক্তি বিশেষের এক চেটিয়া সম্পত্তি নহে—ইহা অতি সত্য কথা; কিন্তু, ব্যক্তিস্বার্থ ও গণস্বার্থের মধ্যে সংঘাত বাজিলে, ব্যক্তিস্বার্থকে উপেক্ষা করিয়া গণস্বার্থকে প্রাধান্য দিবার মত ব্যক্তি বা দল, বিশেষভাবে, এই হতভাগ্য দেশে বাস্তবিকই বিরল। আত্মত্যাগের উপরই দেশসেবার ভিত্তি, একথা সত্য হইলেও আমাদের ঋষিবাক্য ‘শরীর মাদাং খলু ধর্ম সাধনম্’ এ কথাটাও ভুলিলে চলিবে না। মন্ত্রীদের বেতন ব্যাপারে একটা লক্ষ করিবার বিষয়—প্রধান মন্ত্রী এবং অন্যান্য মন্ত্রীদের বেতনের পার্থক্যতা। প্রস্তাবিত মন্ত্রীদের বেতন বিলের Objects and Reasons এ লিখা আছে—

“ The salaries and allowances provided by the Act which it is proposed to repeal in accordance with the policy of the Congress party, which was then in office, are not sufficient to maintain Ministers in reasonable dignity.”

কিন্তু মন্ত্রিসভার ২ জন সদস্যের dignity প্রধান মন্ত্রীর dignity র অর্ধেক ধাৰ্য করা হইয়াছে। ইহার কারণে আবার বলা হইয়াছে great responsibilities and greater expenditure এর জন্য প্রধান মন্ত্রীর অত্যাচ্ছ মন্ত্রী হইতে দ্বিগুণ বেতন পাওয়া দরকার। প্রধান মন্ত্রী এবং অত্যাচ্ছ মন্ত্রীদের মধ্যে reasonable dignity এবং greater expenditure এ প্রভেদটা অত্যাচ্ছ মাননীয় মন্ত্রীদের মন হইতে জানিবার উৎকর্ষাটা আমাদের রহিয়া গেল। ২নং সাড়লা গভর্ণমেন্টের সময় একজন মন্ত্রী ৭৫০০ টাকা বেতন পাইতেন এবং বর্তমান মন্ত্রিসভায় ৭০০০ টাকা বেতনে ইতিপূর্বে কাজ করিয়াছেন ও করিতে ইচ্ছুক ছিলেন—এমন একাধিক জনও আছেন। ইউরোপীয় বুদ্ধের জন্য এদেশে সকল জিনিষের মূল্য বাড়িয়া চলিয়াছে। Reasonable dignity র মূল্যও কি তার জন্যই বাড়িয়া চলিতেছে ? (laughter).

হতভাগ্য নিম্ন প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয়ের শিক্ষক-শিক্ষয়িত্রীদের বেতন বৃদ্ধির কোন ব্যবস্থা বর্তমান বাজেটে করা হয় নাই। নিম্ন প্রাথমিক শিক্ষকদের বেতন বৃদ্ধি সংক্রান্ত আমার প্রস্তাব ২নং সাড়লা গভর্ণমেন্ট কার্যে পরিণত করিতে আপত্তি করিলেও কংগ্রেস কোয়ালিশন গভর্ণমেন্টের হাতে ক্ষমতা আসিলে পর প্রধান মন্ত্রী মিঃ বড়দলই এই প্রস্তাবে তাহার সহানুভূতি জ্ঞাপন করিয়া আর্থিক সংস্থানের জন্য সময় চাহিলে বর্তমান গভর্ণমেন্টদল—তৎকালীন বিরুদ্ধদল—তাহাতে অসম্মতি জ্ঞাপন করিয়া তৎক্ষণাত এই প্রস্তাব কার্যে পরিণত করিবার দাবী করেন। এই প্রস্তাব নিয়া সর্বপ্রথম উভয়দলের মধ্যে শক্তি পরীক্ষাও হয়। বর্তমান গভর্ণমেন্টের মহিলা সদস্য মাননীয় মিস্ মেভিস্ ডানু প্রথম বাজেট বক্তৃতায় এইসব প্রাথমিক শিক্ষকদের চাপরাসী হইতে অধম বলিয়া বর্ণনা করিয়াছিলেন এবং আমার প্রস্তাব আলোচনার কালে ২।৩ বৎসরে ক্রমশঃ বেতন বাড়াইতে সম্মত হইবার মধ্যে আমার প্রস্তাব সংশোধন করিয়া লইতে অনুরোধ জানাইয়াছিলেন। দরিদ্র পাঠশালা শিক্ষকদের কথা আজকের দিনে বিস্মৃত হইয়া বর্তমান গভর্ণমেন্ট প্রকৃত পক্ষেই সকলকে বিস্মৃত করিয়াছেন। আমাদের বর্তমান মন্ত্রিসভা যে মনে ও মুখে এক নহেন—ইহা তাহার এক উজ্জ্বল দৃষ্টান্ত।

শ্রীহট্ট মেডিকেল স্কুলের কোন ব্যবস্থা এযাত্রায়ও হয় নাই। কালের অপেক্ষায় এইভাবে আমাদের কালই অতিবাহিত হইবে। আমি জ্যোতিষী না হইলেও এই বিষয় ভবিষ্যৎবাণী করিতে পারিব। ১৯৩৭ ইংরাজীর আগষ্টমাসে বর্তমান কৃষিমন্ত্রী মাননীয় মৌলবী মনোয়ার আলী একটি ছাটাই প্রস্তাব আনিয়া ১নং সাড়লা গভর্ণমেন্টকে শ্রীহট্ট মেডিকেল স্কুলের জন্য ব্যয় বরাদ্দ না করার জন্য নিন্দা সূচক প্রস্তাব পাশ করান; বর্তমান মেডিকেল মিনিষ্টার মাননীয় শ্রীযুক্ত হীরেন্দ্র কুমার চক্রবর্তী, P. W. D. বিভাগের মন্ত্রী মাননীয় মৌলবী আব্দুল মতীন

চৌধুরী, L. S.-G. মিনিষ্টার মাননীয় মৌলবী মুদাক্কির হুসেইন চৌধুরী এই চারজন মন্ত্রী এই প্রস্তাবের সমর্থক ছিলেন। অতীত মন্ত্রীর নিরপেক্ষ থাকা স্বত্বেও বর্তমান শিক্ষা মন্ত্রী মিঃ রোহিণী কুমার চৌধুরী একা এই প্রস্তাবের বিরুদ্ধতা করিলেও বক্তৃতার সময় বলেন— I am saying that a medical school is necessary at Sylhet but where is the money now? কৃষি আয়কর আইন এবং অতীত ট্যাক্স আইন পাশ হওয়ার পরও সেই পুরাণো কথা এবং ভবিষ্যতের আশার কাহিনী শুনিতে শুনিতেই কি আমাদের জীবন কাল অতিবাহিত হইবে? গতকাল্য উচ্চ পরিষদেও শ্রী হট্ট মেডিকেল স্কুলের প্রস্তাব ভোটাধিক্যে পাশ হইয়াছে। উভয় পরিষদে এই প্রস্তাব পাশ হওয়ার পরও কি তাহা ভবিষ্যতের গর্ভে রহিবে?

শ্রী হট্ট মুরারিচাঁদ কলেজের অধ্যাপক মিঃ কল্যাণ কুমার পুরকায়স্থ পাব্লিক সার্ভিস কমিশনের প্রথম নমিনেশন পাইয়া ২নং সাতুল্লা গভর্ণমেন্টের আমলে শ্রী হট্ট কলেজে অধ্যাপক নিযুক্ত হন। পুনরায় এই বৎসর এই পদের জন্ত বিজ্ঞাপন দেওয়া হইলে তিনি আবার প্রথম নমিনেশন প্রাপ্ত হইয়া কংগ্রেস-কোয়ালিশন গভর্ণমেন্ট কর্তৃক এই পদে পুনঃ নিযুক্ত হন। ক্ষমতা হাতে আসার পরক্ষণেই বর্তমান মন্ত্রীসভা এই order উন্টাইয়া দিয়া তাহাকে পদচ্যুত করেন। ক্রমাগত ১১ বৎসর চাকুরী করার পর রাজনৈতিক কারণে আর একজন খ্যাতনামা অধ্যাপক শ্রীযুক্ত প্রমোদ গোস্বামী গোহাটা কলেজ হইতে বিতাড়িত হন। কংগ্রেস-কোয়ালিশন মন্ত্রীসভা তাহাকে পুনরায় নিযুক্ত করার প্রতিশ্রুতি দেওয়ার পর পদত্যাগ করার অব্যবহিত পূর্বে এক শূণ্যপদে নিযুক্ত করেন। এই যাত্রাও বর্তমান মন্ত্রীসভার কৃপায় তিনি বিতাড়িত হইয়াছেন। বলা বাহুল্য এই উভয় নিযুক্তির জন্ত পূর্বব্যবস্থা অনুসারে অল্প কোন সম্প্রদায় ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত বা বঞ্চিত হইতেন না। ইহার একমাত্র কারণ তাহারা উভয়ে স্বরমাভেলীর হিন্দু। হয়ত বলা হইবে যে তাহারা over-represented সম্প্রদায়ভুক্ত। কিন্তু অল্প সম্প্রদায়ভুক্ত কেহ বা কেহ কেহ কোন বিভাগে over-represented হওয়া স্বত্বেও তাহাদের চাকুরী দিতে বা বজায় রাখিতে বাধা জন্মে নাই। এই উভয় নিযুক্তি ব্যাপারে বর্তমান গভর্ণমেন্ট যে স্বেচ্ছাচারিতা এবং অবিচার করিয়াছেন তাহা কেবল তাহাদের বেলায় সম্ভবপর—ইহার তুলনা মেলা সম্ভবপর নহে। স্বরমাভেলীর হিন্দুর অপরাধ তাহারা প্রতিভায়, শক্তিতে এবং মেধায় অগ্রসর সম্প্রদায়—সুতরাং আইন করিয়া বা গায়ের জোরে যেন তেন প্রকারে তাহাদিগকে বঞ্চিত করিতে হইবে। ইহা আইন সম্মত জুলুম, বিবেক বুদ্ধি সম্মত স্বেচ্ছাচারিতা, মানব ধর্ম্মানুসারে অত্যাচার। স্বরমাভেলীর হিন্দুরা মিস্টার জিন্না সাহেবের দলভুক্ত হইলে এইজন্ত কোন বিশেষ দিবস বা রয়াল কমিশন বসান সম্ভব ব্যাপার ছিল না। স্বরমাভেলীর হিন্দুদের উপর যে ভাবে বেপরোয়া অত্যাচার এবং অবিচার চলিতেছে তাহা আজ আর নিরীহ ভদ্রলোকের মত সহ্য করিয়া চলিবার ধৈর্য্য অনেকেই হারাইয়া ফেলিতেছেন। এই অবস্থায় তাহার প্রতিবিধান হওয়া একান্ত প্রয়োজন। শূণ্যগর্ভ আক্ষালন করিয়া নহে—



প্রকৃতপথ চিন্তা করিয়া, উদ্দেশ্যের সততা, একতা ও দৃঢ়তার সহিত এই কাজে আমাদের এক হইয়া দাড়াইতে হইবে। আমরা গণেরকে বিশেষ ক্ষমতা প্রয়োগ করিবার আবেদন বা আন্দার করিয়া নিজকে ছোট করিব না। নিজের পায়ে ভর দিয়া মাথা উঠু করিয়া দাড়াইয়া ইহার প্রতিকার চিন্তা করিতে হইবে। মেধা যেখানে অযোগ্যতা, ত্যাগ যেখানে ব্যর্থ, ভদ্রতা যেখানে বেকুবী, মহত্ব যেখানে অবজ্ঞাত সেই স্থানে কোন পথে চলা উচিত তাহা আজ চিন্তা করিবার সময় আসিয়াছে। আমরা কাহারও অহুগ্রহ ভীতি করিবনা, ব্যক্তিগত লাভালাভের কথা ভাবিবনা, অস্ত্রের ত্রায়া দাবীতে হস্তক্ষেপ করিব না—আমাদের উপর যাহাতে কোন অবিচার না হয় কেবল তাহাই দাবী করিব। সে দাবী মাহুযমাজেই মাহুযের কাছে করে—করিতে পারে।

Officer দের নিয়োগ ও বদলী ব্যাপারে আজ অনেকেরই দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিয়াছে। সরকারী কর্মচারীদিগকে দলগত রাজনীতির উদ্দেশ্যে রাখা একান্ত প্রয়োজন; নতুবা ইহার কুপ্রভাব সারাদেশে ব্যাপ্ত হইবে এবং তাহারাজেও ভোগিবে এই বিষয়ে সন্দেহ নাই।

মাস্ত্রদায়িক অশান্তি দেশের মধ্যে আজ সর্কাপেক্ষা বড় সমস্যা। ইহা যে কোন গভর্নমেন্টের পক্ষে লজ্জার কথা। আসামের বর্তমান প্রধান মন্ত্রী এই বিষয় তাহার ব্যক্তিগত প্রভাব বিস্তার করিলে, আমরা আশা করি তাহা প্রশমিত হইবে।

এক কথায় বলা যাইতে পারে বর্তমান বৎসরের বাজেট বিশেষত্ব বিহীন। মাননীয় মন্ত্রীরা নিজের এবং নিজেরদের ঢাক-ঢোলের জ্ঞাত ব্যয় বরাদ্দ করিতে যে প্রকারে ব্যস্ততা ও বিবেচনা প্রকাশ করিয়াছেন অতুল স্থলে তাহা সম্ভবপর হয় নাই।

New Schemes এ বিশেষভাবে কর্মচারী বৃদ্ধির যতটা ব্যবস্থা করা হইয়াছে প্রকৃত কাজের ব্যবস্থা সেই অল্পপাতেও হয় নাই। যাহাদের চলার পথ নাই, শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা নাই, রোগের ঔষধ নাই, পানীয় জল নাই তাহারা যে তিমিরে আছে সেই তিমিরেই রহিবে। সমুদ্রে বারিবিন্দুবৎ লোকদেখান ব্যবস্থায় তাহাদের অভাব যাইবে না। আজ দেশের অগণিত মুচ, মুক, ম্লান মুখে হাসি ফুটাইতে হইলে, ইহাদিগকে বাচাইতে হইলে; এই গুরুতর কাজের দায়িত্ব যিনি নিবেন, তাহাকে সর্কপ্রথম নিজের কথা ভাবিলে চলিবে না, dignity র চিন্তায় চিন্তিত হইলে চলিবে না, ত্যাগের ধর্মে তাহাকে আচ্ছাদিত হইয়াই সেই কাজে নামিতে হইবে। আমাদের এই আশা কি অরণ্যে রোদন হইবে ?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** It appears to me that some hon. members are labouring under a mis-conception as to what a general discussion of the Budget should be. In such a discussion, the hon. members are entitled to criticise the provisions made in the Budget. And in criticising the provisions of the Budget, they may criticise the policy of the Ministers as is discernible from those provisions. They can give vent to the grievances, if there be any, against the Government on the strength of the well-known principle, "Grievances before supply". Any passing reference to outside matters in order to develop criticism is also allowed. I hope the hon. members will make their speeches, remembering these points.

**Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA :** Mr speaker, Sir. The Seventh Budget speech of the Premier thrice-born under the new Constitution leaves no impression of his long drawn experience in which he prided himself. I shall not use the usual invectives thrown from the armoury of the Opposition against the budget introduced by a party Government nor shall I cavil at the starvation allowance provided for the nation-building departments although I am fully alive to the fact that about half crore of rupees will be an additional gain to the provincial coffers from the taxation measures passed by the last Government together with the increased receipts estimated from the Centre. Sir, the province has been taxed to its utmost capacity, still curiously enough the Minister for Industries will have to remain content with the manufacture of ghee and pisciculture, the Agriculture Minister with a dozen of Demonstrators, Public Health Minister with 10 additional Sub-Assistant Surgeons and the Education Minister with Rs.3,400 for the development of education amongst the scheduled, tribal and Ex-tea garden labour classes and so on. These are the specimens of "efforts to bring in an all-round improvement in our nation-building departments". We shall have at least the satisfaction that the province shall have no dearth of pure ghee and fish, to be served by the Hon'ble Minister of Industries. The Hon'ble Premier was eloquent in his condemnation of the taxation measures passed by the Congress-Coalition Government in as much as they hit the poorer section, but Sir, I would have admired his sincerity if he could forego the condemned revenue from these measures in his budget estimates. Like a petulant child he curses the diet he feeds and grows on. If the charges on account of Ministers' Private Secretary and Parliamentary Secretaries record an increase of one lakh and sixteen thousand, the explanation may be found in the fact that the Ministers have been inspired with the ideal of "prosperity and happiness not only for the present generation but also for their coming generation". Sir, if this amount is interpreted in terms of primary schools, a favourite expression with the Hon'ble Premier, I may at once say that at least 1000 (one thousand) primary schools could have been started with this sum of one lakh and sixteen thousand. Sir, the Premier has highly flattered himself over his achievement in reducing half per cent. interest for Treasury Bills. But may we remind him that the interest and price of treasury bills are regulated more by the laws of demand and supply in the money market than by any other code of personal relationship. If the Governor of the Reserve Bank has shown any personal favour, he has violated a sacred trust of the Indian public. I may also add Sir, that perhaps due to curtailment of foreign remittances, the interest of the treasury bills has gone down at this period of chaotic international trade relations. If our Premier's personal influence can raise the credit of the province, why then he starts a Depreciation Fund of Rs.75 thousand for steadying the price of his debentures?

Sir, we would naturally expect to hear from the Premier, the circumstances which led to his assumption of the office from which the Congress-Coalition Ministers voluntarily resigned as a protest against the war policy of the Government. When we heard of some conditions imposed on the Governor before acceptance of the responsibility of administration by Sir Saadulla, we naturally deluded ourselves into the belief that by the conditions, he referred to the Defence of India Act and the connected rules and ordinances. We also surmised that they might refer to the points of the Viceregal statement which the League sought to clarify. We had also a lurking hope that the disemployed employees of Digboi might engage the attention of Sir Saadulla before he would consent to form a Cabinet.

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Sir Saadulla's sense of dignity would deter him from appearing as a tin God of Shillong while the Ordinances would be broadcasted over the head of the Ministry—that was our impression. We were anxiously expecting at every moment of his speech to hear some explanations on these points. Far from this, we discerned in the speech, his morbid anxiety to increase his staff to deal with the war situation. Not a word of sympathy for the unfortunate Digboi strikers, not a bit of assurance to the tea labour of the province, not even a passing reference to the working of the Ordinances in the province. Probably his hungry mouth lost all restraint at the sight of a breakfast, forgetting for the moment that it was merely the surfeit of a deserted table. He pounces upon the putrid crumbs not like the ' princely eagle but like the greedy vulture.' Did he care to know at what suffering, at what sacrifice the breakfast was cooked? It was not cooked in the beggar's hearth, it was cooked on the fire of struggle which the Indian National Congress lit up. Sir Muhammad Saadulla betrays himself into the belief that India is still at its breakfast hour, but if he can read the signs of the time, he will soon realise that the country has reached the Dinner time inspite of the reactionary effort to retard the wheel of progress. This time it will be a Dinner for the hungry millions of Indians served by the Constituent Assembly equipped with the right of self-determination. The world order is in a melting pot and India will emerge out of it free from the shackles of imperialist domination.

Sir, the Premier seems to yield to none in his condemnation of the new Act, but may we pertinently ask what tangible evidence he has up till now adduced in support of his condemnation? Provincial Autonomy clipped off its wings by the Viceregal Ordinances promulgated by a series of Extraordinary issues of the *Assam Gazette*, fails to dispel his infatuation for it.

The Hon'ble Premier discountenances the Federal Scheme though for reasons not identical with those of the Congress and at the same time wants to utilise the intervening period to shape our requirements before the constitutional discussions are started again. What a novel way has he shown in his budget to shape our requirements! Sophistry must have its limits!

As a pernicious effect of separate electorate, the communal feeling has been pumped to the bursting point throughout the country. I can do no better than quote Sir Sikandar Hyat Khan from his Rotary Club speech: "The greatest danger was that with separate electorate the electioneering campaign was likely to create bitterness and might widen the gulf which already existed." He thought that religious and communal feelings would be exploited to the extreme.

Lord Zetland in his statement in the House of Lords in December last said "I am convinced that so long as the legislatures are divided on communal rather than on Political lines, so long will serious difficulty be experienced in the working of democratic institutions with success. What we have to aim at is a state of affairs under which the legislator will think of himself as an Indian first and as Hindu or Moslem afterwards. When that has been achieved, the greatest stumbling block in the way of India's progress will have been removed."

The Hon'ble Premier's budget speech leads us nowhere in the direction of shaping out requirements for the purpose of framing a new constitution for India. Like many other leaders of the Moslem League, he does not know his own mind, he does not know what he stands for. He is dancing to the tune of his Imperialist Masters and upper dogs of the country. So his efforts at pacifying the hungry masses by throwing a few crumbs here and there can hoodwink nobody. He is guilty of jettisoning the greater in-

terest of the country for the sake of aggrandising himself. If the independence of India is the objective of all political parties, it cannot be expected that the British Government will give it on a beggar's bowl. India will have her independence inspite of reactionaries. It is no good dwelling upon the details of the budget of a Finance Minister who has brought a perverted outlook to bear on the political problems of the country.

This is what I can serve on the breakfast table of Sir Muhammad Saad-ulla.

**Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN :** Mr. Speaker, Sir. This has become customary to deliver budget speeches though they are seldom given effect to, but we feel only this consolation that we have made our grievances heard to the Government. Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister throughout his budget speech criticises the previous Government for their over-zealous patriotism and advises them to be practical but he even lacks in practicalism. So many schemes are drawn up but petty amounts are provided for them to show to the people that they are doing good to them. Sir, ours is a poor and deficit province as stated by the Hon'ble Finance Minister, and I do not think the necessity of those shows. Sir, it would have been much better to find out one or two schemes and to finance them so that the province may be benefited at large. Sir, I suggest that like the Government of Mysore our Government should take one or two big industries in hand and start the work ; raw materials are abundant in our province. Sir, in Assam it is very difficult for the people without State aid or without foreign capital to start big industries like paper, jute and cement. These industries will solve the unemployment problem and will improve the condition of the people at large. My resolution for exploring the minerals of the province was passed in this House but no Committee was appointed to give effect to that resolution to find out whether raw materials are available in the hills or in the plains, as my hon. friend Mr. Hamid Khan has just referred to. Sir, in the present budget, no provision has been made for State aid to big industries except in one case where he has provided Rs.2,070 for one Dairy Farm in Goalpara where the Hon'ble Minister found that the milkmen are oppressed by the Marwarie traders. I challenge his statement that the Marwaries are taking exhorbitant rate of interest from the milkmen and taking away the produce for adulteration. Such statement of the Hon'ble Minister is an insinuation and made without any basis. It is far from truth and should be exterminated from the budget speech. No doubt, capitalists will derive the lion share in the profit of the produce unless the Government advance loan to the people at a nominal rate, to write it off in the future years, but not like the co-operative banks which are so much criticised in this House. Sir, I think, it would have been better for Government to establish ghee grading stations as the Governments of other provinces have done to grade ghee and pack it in those stations to get better prices for them. This ghee is sold in the market under the mark "Ag mark " and gets better price as it is pure and packed before Government officers, after chemical examination.

Sir, it is not befitting a popular Government to belittle one community—permanently-settled in the province hundreds of years ago, in the public eye falsely.

Sir, it is known to all how this community opened hospitals, schools, libraries, Goshalas and other public charitable institutions in the province without any help from Government. There are rich men in the province but none have done so as we have done. Sir, one of my friends yesterday from the Government party wanted to oust us from the province—at least that was his desire as it appears from his question. My friend should know

that we have permanently settled in Assam more than 100 years ago and consider it as our home and we will never go out of it like other people. My friend claims to have come from Arab and it is not expected that he will go back there ; so also will we.

Now, I come to my subject again. I find, Sir, in the head "Education" nothing has been provided for Hindi education except a petty amount of Rs. 1,000 for Hindi Prachar.

Sir, except in Shillong, the Government is giving no aid to any Hindi School of the province. Our present Education Minister when he was the Revenue Minister in the previous Government in 1937, promised to give aid to a Hindi High School started by the Marwaris of Dibrugarh, but he has provided not a single pie for the same in the Budget. Everybody should be treated equally by the Government, when these institutions are open to all, though a lump sum of money has been provided for European education.

Sir, in revenue matters Government should adopt the business policy. The forest and other Government contracts should be allotted to the highest bidders, and no artificial distinction should be made between late settlers who are called domiciled and early settlers who are called indigenous people.

Sir, Lac is one of the main forest products of Assam in the Mikir Hills of the Nowgong district. For years past, the people were to pay royalty thereof to Government when they sent the same outside Assam. A year ago, the Government wanted that the Lac godowns should be registered and royalty paid immediately, but due to public objection, the Government were pleased to withdraw the said order. Now it has been again enforced. I hope the Government will please realise the difficulty of the people and withdraw the order and allow the matter as it was. Otherwise, the business will be ruined and the producer as well as the seller will suffer a loss.

Sir, in my previous budget speech, I drew the attention of the Government to the artificial vegetable ghee which is generally mixed with the natural ghee and passed as such in the market. The Punjab Government passed a law by which this vegetable ghee will be coloured red, green and such other colour as it cannot be mixed with pure ghee so as to pass as the same. I hope our Government should also take such legislation for the sake of public health. Here in Shillong we find adulterated ghee selling in every street and lane.

Sir, coming to the subject 'Medical', we find that no provision has been made for maternity hospitals which are badly needed—at least one in every town. Sir, though we find here at least one Hon'ble lady Minister in our Cabinet, still I do not find any provision made for female hospitals or wards anywhere. Whether it is due to the fact that this sex does not fall ill or whether it is the negligence of the Ministry towards this sex—I do not know.

Sir, our province is rich to some extent in big Trunk roads, but it is lacking in good freeder roads in small towns and villages. Sir, Hojai is a rising town in the Nowgong district. There are many villages surrounding it mainly settled by Sylhet Muhammadan emigrants. They are to bring their paddy to this town in the winter alone. The Hojai-Dobak road leading to these villages become impassable in the rainy season. It becomes so muddy that at some place a full bullock will go down the mud. A scheme has been passed and Rs. 60,000 has been sanctioned but the work has not yet begun. I hope the Hon'ble Minister, Public Works Department, will please commence the work immediately beginning from the Railway station.

Sir, in the list of new schemes we find only two big schemes incurring heavy expenditure and they are connected with the Government. I doubt whether people at large will derive any benefit therefrom.

Sir, in conclusion, I want to refer only to one question, and that is that of domicile. Sir, the great Indian National Congress has appointed a Committee about this matter and it is of opinion that the issuing of domicile certificate be abolished forthwith and all people living in a province for more than 10 years who have made the province their home should be counted as provincials and no difference of status should be made between them and the indigenous people. I hope the present Government will also adopt this policy at an early date.

With these words, I resume my seat.

#### Adjournment.

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

#### After lunch

**Srijut KRISHNA NATH SARMAH:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have met here under the shadow of a great crisis. We all know the reasons of the resignation of the Congress Ministry. We want complete independence and the resignation of the Ministry is a great step. We are on the threshold of a coming struggle. There is jubilation all over the country and the country is fully prepared for more—more sacrifice. This resignation of the Ministry led to the suspension of the Constitution in seven provinces.

In Assam, the present Ministry came into existence. This is the fourth year and we have got the fourth Ministry. From a cabinet of five members it is going to be enlarged to twenty including Parliamentary Secretaries and still the stability is at stake. It will be only free from danger when we have a cabinet of 54 members. Like rolling stones Ministries are coming in and going out of office. The Constitution has been a failure in Assam from the very beginning. The principle here is "first Ministry and then majority is followed by change of sides with the change of Ministry. This is more than failure of the constitution. The entire administration has become demoralized. This sort of administration will not bring independence nor is it in any way beneficial to the people at large. India is not prepared to be satisfied with such a sham constitution.

Sir, only the Congress Coalition Government have done something beneficial to the people during the brief period. (1) It has wiped out the opium curse in two subdivisions and would have wiped it out throughout the province if it were in office, (2) it has granted the greatest amount of remission of land revenue possible under the circumstances, (3) it has paved the way for additional income of about Rs.35 lacs a year, (4) its mass illiteracy drive, its attempts to increase the pay of Lower Primary Pandits, etc. But all are upset overnight by the present Ministry. I am really sorry to hear the old stale arguments advanced against total prohibition by Hon'ble the Premier. The policy is made by Government and not by the Excise Commissioner. Last year the scheme of total prohibition was unanimously accepted by the Assembly. (A voice—question.) The Excise Commissioner spent 9 months in carrying out the policy of the Government and the same Excise Commissioner refused to accept the privilege of 4 months' leave before retirement for the sake of second stage of prohibition upto Gauhati by the 15th of January 1940. His report is rather encouraging. The success by 70 per cent. in one subdivision and by 40 or 50 per cent. in the other subdivision, in 9 months, is highly gratifying and this

present Government should have carried out the prohibition with more speed.

The public opinion is in favour of prohibition. About sixteen thousand addicts were treated medically by the Public Health Department at a great cost. The opium shops were closed down for ever. 624 cases of smuggling were tried during the period. This is a record and this has become possible because of total prohibition. By vigilance of a few months more, the smuggling would disappear.

Under the original scheme, the Government issued about 20,000 passes to new addicts, addicts above 50 years were excluded—those attaining 50 years have their rations restored. Corruption and bribery became rampant, smuggling increased, habit greatly spread, unregistered addicts multiplied, etc.

The original 10 per cent. reduction policy reduced the number in paper only. If the unregistered addicts are taken into account, we are in the same position as in the beginning. The question is not how much opium an addict takes but how widespread is the habit everywhere even after ten years.

Smuggling is the outcome of this policy and even the highest officials are suspected of being in the pay of the smugglers. This has been admitted by Government and the entire Department has become a hot bed of corruption. This original policy will free the registered addicts only when every one of them will die and not before.

Increase of *ganja* and liquor consumption is not a new thing. The fall of opium revenue is being made up by the rise of *ganja* and liquor by secret propaganda and also as a direct cause of a sign of prosperity among the consumers. The little rise in *ganja* and liquor is now going to be attributed to total prohibition. This is another false plea which the Ministry is asked to swallow. The Government must take steps that *ganja* and liquor consumption must not increase and issue strict orders to that effect.

✓ The only way to stop the habit is by total prohibition. The only way to wipe out smugglers is by total prohibition. I consider this action of the present Ministry to be a Himalayan blunder. The sin which they have thus committed by not carrying on total prohibition to the finish, will never be excused by the present or by future generations. The Hon'ble Prime Minister has accused the policy of the Congress Coalition Government as one of prohibition. We do not know whether the policy of the present Government is one of intoxication, otherwise they would not have stopped prohibition overnight. *Sapmari lengorot bikh thoa* is most dangerous for the success of the prohibition scheme in Sibsagar and Dibrugarh. The policy of the Congress Coalition Government so far as the total prohibition of *ganja* and liquor is concerned, has been totally abandoned by the present Government. Though prohibition bill has been introduced and passed by the Legislative Council, the Hon'ble Prime Minister has said that he has for reasons known to him dropped the Bill. ✓

Regarding land revenue reduction, the statement made by the Hon'ble Premier is most alarming. The Paddy cultivation is a losing concern. Every resettlement operation artificially reclassifies the land to a higher class. The less is the yield the better is the class and more revenue is the theory. Government admits that the raiyats are indebted to the extent of about 25 to 30 crores. How is it possible for them to be thrifty and save the amount of remission granted to them? The prospect of increase of price of paddy and of agricultural produce is not much beneficial to the people. The real profit goes to the middlemen. There is a large number of beggars in our villages at present; about 60 per cent. of the village people have no stock

of paddy in their granaries. If the remission of land revenue is withdrawn in the next year, there will be great disaster and ruin to our people. On the other hand, I urge the Government to make the reduction to be permanent.

Regarding total prohibition of *ganja* and liquor, a Prohibition Bill was introduced and passed by the Upper House by the Congress-Coalition Government, but for reasons known to the Hon'ble Premier himself, this beneficial measure has been withdrawn, as if to run the administration, money from consumption of *ganja* and liquor from the poorest of the people by the moral and physical degradation of the vast mass of consumers is no concern to them. This is another Himalayan blunder on the part of the present Ministry. People will never excuse them.

I appeal to the present Ministry in the name of humanity to push on the total prohibition of opium as outlined in the scheme immediately. There is yet time to take it up.

Great credit goes to Doctors, Congress volunteers, officials and non-officials and workers who have devoted whole-heartedly for the success of the scheme of total prohibition of opium in Sibsagar and Dibrugarh subdivisions. Credit also goes to the members of the Excise staff for detecting larger number of smuggling cases and for their tact and ability to check smuggling in the prohibited area.

This is not possible to give an exhaustive reply at the short time at our disposal.

**Srijut BELIRAM DAS:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, this budget has been presented to the House by one seasoned Finance Minister, the Hon'ble Sir Muhammad Saadulla, whose profession has been for the last decade, as an administrator of the Province. His budget speech is an attempt to vilify Congress and Congress-Coalition Government, a Government owing to whose charity he has been able to become the Finance Minister to-day. He cannot see the bright things, he cannot look at the bright side of the picture, he has always been trying to find fault with any work done by the last Government.

*Immigrants*  
 Sir, since this Ministry has come into power, there has been a great panic in our province. There have been regular invasions and inroads by immigrants into the Lines and Reserves of our province, and the people have become panic stricken, and they have lost all hopes of safety under this Government. The immigrants have forcibly entered into the lands owned by the Assamese cultivators—both Hindus and Musalmans, tribals and scheduled castes. Their agricultural produce has been taken away. Fishermen have been deprived of their fish, as fish is being forcibly taken away by the immigrants. In this state of affairs I cannot congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for presenting this budget before us. Sir, while he is so much anxious for making provisions for the settlement of land with the immigrants, he should not have forgotten that there is a greater demand for land by the Assamese people in our province. Coming as he does from the Gauhati constituency, he should have known that there is a greater demand for land, mostly from the Muhammadan cultivators. He should have known that Palasbari has been washed away by erosion and thus thousands of people have become landless; they have been trying in vain to get land. I would urge upon the Hon'ble Finance Minister that before settling lands with the immigrants, he should try to settle land with the landless Assamese people who are practically starving. Sir, this Ministry has now 10 Ministers and 10 Parliamentary Secretaries, and it is proposed now to take a Private Secretary for the Hon'ble Premier. How I wished



that the number was increased by 2 more, so that the football team of the Assam Government was completed.

Sir, the most important item that the Congress-Coalition Government took up, *i.e.*, the total prohibition, has been shelved by this Government. For the information of the House, I can say that long before the Congress-Coalition Government resigned, one of the prominent members of the Government said that if they could again come to power one day after the resignation, this prohibition scheme would not be given effect to, and they have kept their word. Sir the pet theory of the Hon'ble Finance Minister of gradual curtailment of the rations of opium is at the root of bringing contraband opium to the province. I say that the gradual cutting down of rations and not making any propaganda amongst the addicts not to replace the cut-down rations is the root cause of bringing contraband opium. I would therefore urge upon the Government to ponder over the matter and try to give effect to the prohibition scheme that was passed by the last Government.

Sir, some taxation measures were brought in by the last Government with the object of taking out some schemes, with the money thus raised, for the amelioration of the conditions of our people. But we are surprised to see that the money thus obtained is going to be appropriated in raising the pay of the Hon'ble Ministers and in meeting the salaries of the Parliamentary Secretaries, and not to benefit the general public. Nowhere in this budget, we find any provision made for the spread of education amongst the scheduled, tribals and labour except a few scholarships. He has, of course, made some provision for raising some High Schools in the Surma Valley—in Hailakandi, Sunamganj, Silchar and Jowai, but he has not found any school in the Assam Valley to encourage. I ask the Hon'ble Finance Minister as to what he has done for the uplift of the scheduled, tribals and labouring classes—for their uplift and for their education?

Sir, while he has realised the necessity for providing additional grants for Madrassa Education, he has entirely forgotten these poor down trodden people and I charge him for neglecting their cause.

Now, Sir, I want to make some observations about the Forest Department. The Hon'ble Premier has come forward with a proposal to appoint a second Conservator of Forests. This post of second Conservator was abolished long before and the abolition has been recommended by the Retrenchment Committee also. The Forest Department has always been a top heavy Department and manned always by men of the Civilian status. Now to add one more officer would mean that the bulk of the revenue of the Department will be eaten up by the officers at the top alone. And it will only mean bringing in an alligator by digging ditches. Of course, he has said that he would be able to save some Rs.22,000 by this proposal, but his figures are fictitious and it will be seen in the long run that there will be additional expenditure only and no saving. In 1938-39, he assured me in reply to a cut motion of mine that he was trying to minimise the number of I. F. S. officers in the Forest Department; and I would now ask him to stick to what he said in that reply.

Sir, from the Forest Administration Report of this year, I came to learn that the Government was willing to totally abolish free labour system in the Forest Department. But in the budget speech, however, there has been no

mention of abolishing free labour. Sir, I want to bring to the notice of the Government for their consideration the following fact. There are large number of elephants at the disposal of the Forest Department and it is needless, in these days of better transport and communication, to maintain so many elephants. If the number is reduced by half, it will be quite possible to abolish free labour system by spending the sum thus saved in paying for the labours that will be needed by the Forest Department. According to my information the maintenance expense for these elephants will be Rs.74,000. And I hope the Government will give due consideration to this fact and abolish this free labour, and confer some benefit on the hungry people of the province.

Another thing is this. While at the top the Forest Department officers are getting fat salaries and while they are getting some Rs.2½ lakhs of rupees in the shape of pay and overseas allowances, the actual workers, the Rangers, the Deputy Rangers, the Foresters and the Forest Guards are practically starving. They have to remain in jungles, they are often attacked by fever and they have to carry quinine always with them so as to be able to do their routine work. These hard working officers are given a meagre salary, a salary on which they cannot maintain themselves. The topmost officers who only come on a visit to these localities are enjoying fat salaries, these subordinates should have their salary increased so that they can maintain themselves humanly.

Sir, I have seen in this department that there is a grade system of pay of Rangers, Deputy Rangers and Foresters. I think there is no other departments where there is grade system of pay. The Foresters, the Forest Guards, the Rangers and the Deputy Rangers are not given the benefit of time-scale of pay which they rightly deserve. I would ask the Government to remedy this defect.

Sir, I have learnt with great concern that after the reduction of the labour system by 5 days the forest Guards in the different ranges have been made to clear the jungles and do all works that was entrusted or used to be done by the daily labourers in the forest. If this is true, then I cannot but condemn this Government for this and I only hope that this Government will enquire into this matter and do the needful.

Sir, another complaint is that the Assamese contractors are not getting proper encouragement from the Government in the matter of granting forest contracts. It is the outsiders who get better encouragement from the Government and not the people of the province. Selection trees are often denied to the Assamese contractors while the outsiders are given selected trees whenever they ask. The reason alleged being that most of the higher officers who can recommend selected trees are all outsiders. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to see that our people, *i.e.*, the Assamese people, are encouraged and they are not ousted by the outsiders.

With these words I resume my seat.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Any hon. member from this side of the House may speak.

**Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have no preparation at all for making speeches to-day, but I notice that nobody was standing up, so I should like to speak one or two words.

Regarding budgetary figures, I have nothing to say. I think the Hon'ble Premier has taken into consideration all the requirements and needs of the places concerned. Sir, I think very seriously about the question of constitutional deadlock of the day. What is the cause of it! the real cause of it? I think, the communal tension and the root of the communal question is the poverty of the country and the unemployment of the country and I believe, Sir, as soon as the question of bread and butter is provided for all in sufficiency, the question of communalism and so forth will go away.

As some hon. members have already spoken that our goal is to achieve Indian freedom and liberty, we all agree on this point and there is no one on this floor who will not agree to this. But, Sir, one word I would like to say in this connection. The Opposition side—I mean the Congress Party—desires to achieve this independence or freedom or liberty or *swaraj* whatever we may call it without the co-operation and help from the British Government. But, Sir, the majority of the Indian people—whether Hindu, Muhammadan, Garo or Khasi—all agree that we do not at present want a complete severance from the British Government. So, that is my desire and my belief that we want freedom and liberty with the co-operation of the British Government and under the guidance of the British Government. For this reason the question of economy comes and the question of finance comes and the budgetary question comes. Of course, I also quite agree with some hon. members that the budget is too expensive—that the proposals put forth before the House are too expensive, I agree (*hear, hear!*). But on the other side we see that if we want good government and good administration and also some achievements to be done by the Government we want something substantial which means the question of majority and unless there is a majority no Government can stand, no Cabinet can stand and there is no knowing how long this Cabinet can stand (*laughter*). This depends entirely on the question of majority. So we must consider that question seriously so that the Cabinet may be stable and with the help of the Cabinet we may all work together for the benefit of the country. So I say the Hon'ble Premier is far superior, I think, to most of the hon. members of this House and he is an expert in financial matter. The majority of this House has selected him as the Leader of the House (*A voice: We have not selected*). The majority has selected. So I say since we have selected him as our leader we shall have to follow his guide, we shall have to accept his proposals and so forth, with due consideration of course.

Sir, there may be some omissions in the budget and I want to point them out to the Hon'ble Minister. Last year—1938-39, 36 Mission Primary Schools were taken over by the Government but no non-recurring grant was provided for the building, furniture and apparatus and this year also no grant has been provided for that purpose. So I want the Hon'ble Minister to give his serious consideration to this matter. Another point I notice in the budget is about Madrasas. For Madrasas the amount allotted is about Rs.10,000 but for the backward, plains tribal and hills tribal and *ex-tea* garden coolies only Rs.3,000 has been provided. I think this is somewhat unreasonable. I hope the Hon'ble Premier will consider this question also.

About communications, Sir, I note that many people are crying for good communications but I do not think there is any district like the Garo

Hills that is suffering from bad communication. We in the Garo Hills have no direct communication from the headquarters of a district to the headquarters of the province. I have a bulky file about my quarelling over this question. I notice in the Communications Board meetings the allotment made for different roads is much higher. For a road from Dalguma to Dhudnai, only about 10 miles or so, Rs.1,10,000 has been provided, but for the most important road from Lakhipur to Mankachar—a length of about 90 to 100 miles only one lakh rupees was allotted. Now Mr. Nath, Sub-divisional Officer of Darrang is beginning to survey the road from the Lakhipur side. Another thing I want to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister is the Tura-Bajingdobah Road. The Deputy Commissioner of Garo Hills took up this road and it was almost completed—only 12 more miles have been left to be done. It was constructed out of the Tura District Fund and the Rural Improvement Fund from the Central Government. But the road has been left incomplete for want of funds. This would be the shortest road from Tura to Shillong and I have spoken also about this road to Mr. Pennell, the Chief Engineer, the Secretary, Public Works Department, Government of Assam, in the months of May and July last. (*Voice from Congress bench* : What about Garo Hills ?) I have nothing to say more about Garo Hills to-day. Another point I want to say for the consideration of the hon. members is that many hon. members have spoken about the pay and prospect but I have nothing to say about this. We must consider the fact that we want better and more comfortable living and I think nobody will deny that your or my pay should be increased or raised. As regards the retrenchment proposal, I am deadly against it. We should not touch the salaries up to Assam Civil Service because this will affect the pockets of our own brothers. We want to improve the living standard of our own people and if we touch and reduce their pay then the lives of so many people who are dependant on these officers will be very miserable. Similarly the question of raising the salaries of the Ministers should not be so much protested. (*Laughter*).

**Babu BIPIN BEHARI DAS** : Mr. Speaker, Sir. The budget placed before the Hon. House by the Hon'ble Premier is a disappointing one from the schedule and tribal point of view. Their numerical strength is not a matter to be ignored and it is a well-known fact that they are most backward in education. It is a matter of great regret that no money has been specially set apart for the spread of primary, secondary and higher education among the scheduled and tribal people. From the budget it appears that the present Saadulla Cabinet wants to keep us in deep ignorance. The Congress-Coalition Government gave grants-in-aid to about 69 Venture schools last year in the Surma Valley and there are many Venture schools waiting for Government grants but for which they will be wiped out of existence. In the Assam Valley Districts also a huge amount of money was also set apart for the same purpose last year. This year however only a paltry sum of Rs.3,492 has been provided for the creation of certain Primary and Middle Vernacular and Middle English special scholarship for the development of education amongst the boys of the schedule, tribal and *ex-tea* garden labour classes but I may point out that this is too inadequate sum when their population is taken into consideration. So this sum should be increased. Matriculation scholarships should be specially set apart for the schedule caste from the next April. To encourage education among the schedule caste people free studentships in Government High Schools and Colleges should be granted immediately by the Government according to their population. Special Officers have been appointed to look after the

education of the Muhammadans but it is strange indeed that the present Saadulla Cabinet is not at all willing to appoint any officer to look after the education of the scheduled castes. Do they think that the appointment of a Special Officer is a mere waste of money? The Ministers have come forward with their Salary Bills before the Hon. House. In Seven Congress provinces the Hon'ble Ministers were satisfied by drawing as their salary a sum of Rs.750 including the house rent and conveyance allowance. The Congress-Coalition Government in Assam also drew Rs.700 including house rent and conveyance allowance. They had the same responsibility and they would have continued to function with same salary had they not resigned in obedience to the call of the Congress High Command. The incomes of the provinces of Bombay and Madras are far greater than that of Assam. If the Hon'ble Ministers of those provinces could work efficiently and live on reasonable dignity with Rs.750 as their salary, I find no reason why the present Saadulla Cabinet should not do so with the same amount of money which the Congress-Coalition Government drew in Assam when they were in office. One more interesting fact is that there is a gulf of difference in the salary of the Ministers whose responsibility and dignity are in no way less. Why should there be so much difference in pay? Am I to understand that the Hon'ble Premier who will draw Rs.2,000 because he will discharge the duties of all other Ministers and others will draw Rs.1,000 because they will sit idle? Provincial Exchequer is thus going to be drained off by the enlargement of the Cabinet by provision of higher salaries for the Ministers and by the appointment of Secretaries, Publicity Officers and a Private Secretary to the Hon'ble Premier. All these things were not in existence before. The publicity work can very well be done by one of the Ministers and a good deal of money can be saved thereby. There is a crying need for medical education in Assam and one School at Dibrugarh is not sufficient for the purpose. The Congress-Coalition Government promised to provide money in this year's budget but owing to their resignation Sir Saadulla took charge of the administration of the province. The present Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Medical has not however provided any sum for this purpose. No money has been provided for any other new project to improve the economic condition of the children of the soil but for Ghee Industry. No money has also been provided for the supply of pure drinking water in rural areas, though thousands of people die every year when cholera epidemic break out. I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Excise that in settlement of Excise shops in the subdivision of Habiganj, the rights of the schedule castes have been totally ignored by the local authority in spite of the Government circular. Last year four shops were given to the schedule caste people but this year only one shop has been settled with them. Will the Government please enquire into the matter and remedy the injustice done to them? What I have been able to understand is that the Ministry is busy to further their own self-interest. They did not care to look to the interest of the people by whom they have been elected, so this year's budget is a budget for the Ministers and not for the people. The previous Ministry passed orders regarding electricity in Karimganj and Habiganj but these orders have not yet been communicated and the present Ministry also ordered for the cancellation of some appointments of the previous Ministry in the Education Department. I do not know whether there is any motive behind all these things. If these state of things continue people will be denied of justice and they will lose all faith in the present administration of province. How long can a popular Government continue ignoring the people altogether? The day of judgment may not be long in coming.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** The number of hon. members who have taken part in the discussion of the Budget, is not yet very large and there is still sufficient time left. I think, hon. members will endeavour to utilise every minute of the time allotted to them.

**Srijut BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN :** Mr. Speaker, Sir. The budget for the year 1940-41 as presented to the House by the Hon'ble Premier seems to me very satisfactory. (*Hear! hear!*). The Hon'ble Premier has made ample provisions in the budget to meet the various needs of the province according to the means of the province. The Congress-Coalition Ministry in order to make their position more showy and prominent than Sir Saadulla's Ministry, made their provisions also in the last year's budget by imposing several taxes upon the rich as well as the poor. (*Hear, hear*). It is true that without funds nothing can be done. But the people must do according to their means, otherwise they become bankrupt. We find that the present Government do not want to tax the people as the last Government did. (*Hear, hear,—laughter*). The last Government never consulted the labour members of the legislature and they ignored them and treated them very unfairly, and so I lost faith in them. (*Laughter*). But I am very glad to find that the present Hon'ble Premier cares for the backward minority communities and the labourers and he and his colleagues have made ample provisions for educating the masses. (*Voice: where, where?*) backwards communities, not excluding the labourers (*Voice: particularly*) whose case is more important than other communities. Now, I come to the Ministers' salaries. The Ministers' salary is not too high considering their responsibilities and their dignity. It is a ludicrous thing to pay them less than other Government officials of the province.

As regards the Parliamentary Secretaries, we find that in other Congress Government provinces they need them and why should we grudge in the case of Assam when the Hon'ble Premier has made provisions for them in the budget. (*Hear, hear*). Following the principles of the Congress Provinces, the Hon'ble Premier has made the provisions in the budget for the Parliamentary Secretaries. It is more needful here in Assam, as it contains so many groups and sections of the people, and they must also be represented in the Cabinet, and this is a way opening for them. (*Hear, hear*).

In conclusion I say this only in order to remind the Hon'ble Premier for my constituency where the labourers are existing in great number to give special attention to village roads and subsidised dispensaries, as they are badly in need of them. I also ask the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Revenue to see that sufficient land is given to the *ex-garden* labourers who are settling down in Assam when they do not find any use to return to their country. I give credit to the Hon'ble Premier for making so nice a budget (*hear, hear*) for 1940-41. I have nothing more to say, and so, I resume my seat. (*Hear, hear*).

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Anyone of the hon. members from this side of the House is willing to speak ?

**Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN:** মাননীয় সভাপতি মহাশয়, বর্তমান যি বাজেট এই এচেম্বলী হাউচত পেচ কৰা হৈছে, সি বাস্তবিকৈ একেধাৰে সম্ভাৱজনক হোৱা নাই। এই কাৰণে মই কও যে যি বিলাক স্বীম হাতত লোৱা দেখুৱাইছে তাৰ পৰা যে প্ৰজাৰ বিশেষ সুখ সুবিধা বাঢ়িব সি নহয় আৰু যি কাৰণ লৈ এই নতুন constitution শাসন প্ৰণালী প্ৰচলন কৰা হৈছিল সেই উদ্দেশ্যবিলাক সমূলি বিফল হৈছে। প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই যি স্পীছ (speech) দিছে তাত আগাগোড়াই কংগ্ৰেছ পাৰ্টিৰ হে বিৰুদ্ধ সমালোচনা কৰা হৈছে, কিন্তু নতুন কাম বিশেষ একো হাতত লৈ দেখুৱাব কথা কব পৰা নাই। আৰু তাত যি সমান্ত নতুন ভাল কাম তেওঁলোকে কৰিছে বুলি বাহাৰি লব খুজিছে, প্ৰকৃতপক্ষে সেইবিলাকৰ গুৰিত কংগ্ৰেছৰ যথেষ্ট হাত আছে।

তেখেতে কৈছে যে কংগ্ৰেচে খাজনা মাফ দিয়াৰ সদায় বাহাৰি লব খোজাটো এটা মিছা অহঙ্কাৰ—কংগ্ৰেছৰ বহু আগৰ পৰাই তেওঁলোকেও খাজনা মাফ দি আহিছে। আমিও স্বীকাৰ কৰোঁ তেনে কৰাটো হয় কিন্তু কেনে অৱস্থাত কাৰ ঠেলাত সেই খাজনা মাফ দিছিল তাক পাহৰিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰাটোও ভুল। যেতিয়া world trade depression হৈ প্ৰজাৰ ভয়ঙ্কৰ অৰ্থ কষ্ট হয় তেতিয়া কংগ্ৰেছৰ জৰিয়তেই বহু সভাসমিতি কৰি, বায়ত সভাবিলাকেও আৰু মাননীয় শ্ৰীযুত বোহিনী চৌধুৰী প্ৰভৃতিয়েও সেই সময়ত এনেবিলাক সভাসমিতিৰ হেচাতেই সেই সময়ৰ কাউন্সিলত আঠ অনা খাজনা মাফৰ নিমিত্তে বৰকৈ চিন্তা-বাখৰ কৰি গবৰ্ণমেণ্টক ভয়ঙ্কৰ pressure হেঁচা দিছিল। তেনেবিলাক pressure অৰ্থাৎ হেঁচাত গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে খাজনা মাফ দিয়া কথা সঁচা কিন্তু গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে নিজে initiative লৈ একো কৰা নাছিল। এই গবৰ্ণমেণ্ট আৰু কংগ্ৰেছৰ লগত এইখিনিতে পাৰ্থক্য। গতিকে পূৰ্বে খাজনা মাফ দিয়া কথাত অসম গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ একো বাহাৰি নাই।

এতিয়া আকৌ কটু কটাফ (taunting) কৰি কৈছে যে কংগ্ৰেচেহে একমাত্ৰ প্ৰজাৰ হিত চিন্তাকাৰী (well wisher of the people)—সেইটো নহয় অসম গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে আগৰ পৰাই অসমত কানি গুচাবৰ নিমিত্তে চেষ্টা কৰি আহিছে। কিন্তু মই কও যে কংগ্ৰেচ-আন্দোলনেইহে ইয়াৰ গুৰিতে প্ৰধান। ১৯১৮ কি ১৯১৯ চনত ৬ বায়বাহাৰুৰ ফণীধৰ চলিহা ডাঙৰীয়াই কানিৰ ব্যৱসায় এটা immoral traffic বা পাপ ব্যবসায় বুলি কওঁতে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে তেওঁক ঠাট্টা কৰোতে সেই কথা পাৰ্লামেণ্টে পৰ্য্যন্ত উঠিছিল, আৰু গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে তেওঁক ক্ষমা খুজিব লগীয়া হৈছিল। ১৯১১ চনত কংগ্ৰেছৰ যি ভীষণ আন্দোলন হয় সেই আন্দোলনৰ ফলত গোটেই আসামত কানি প্ৰায় আধা কমি যায়। ১৯২৪ চনত দীনবন্ধু Rev. C. F. Andrewsক আসামলৈ আনি Opium Enquiry Committee কৰা হয়। বৃটিছ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে কি বকমে কানিৰ immoral traffic চলাইছে তাক তেওঁ জেনেভা কমিটিত পেচ কৰে। তেতিয়া বৃটিছ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে লাজ পাই আৰু কংগ্ৰেচ আন্দোলন

হোৱাৰ নিমিত্তে ration বান্ধি .০ বছৰত কানি উঠাই দিব বুলি কয়। কিন্তু দুখৰ বিষয় আৰু লাভৰ কথা যে যি কানি .০ বছৰত উঠি যাব লাগিছিল সেই কানি আজিলৈকে নুঠিল। তেনেস্থলত বাজেট speechত তেখেতে যি গোৱাৰ লব খুজিছে যে কানি কমোৱা আসাম গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ একান্ত উদ্দেশ্য, এই কথা সমূলি সচাঁ নহয়। কাৰণ ৰাইজৰ moral pressure নৈতিক হেঁচাৰ নিমিত্তেহে বাধ্য হৈ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে এইটো কৰিছে। যি গৱৰ্ণমেণ্ট প্ৰজাৰ নৈতিক হেঁচাত (moral pressureৰত) মান্ধি নহয় সেই গৱৰ্ণমেণ্ট কেতিয়াও টকিব নোৱাৰে। গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে for its own existence অৰ্থাৎ নিজৰ অস্তিত্বৰ নিমিত্তে সেইটো কথা কৰা সচা, কিন্তু প্ৰকৃতপক্ষে তাত তেওঁবিলাকৰ কোনো বাহাজৰি নাই।

অৱশ্যে মই ইয়াত সোমবাৰলৈ বক্তৃত্য দিয়াৰ পাল আছিল—সেই কাৰণে মই আজি যুগুত prepared নাছিলোঁ। হঠাৎ উঠাৰ কাৰণে মোৰ কথাবিলাক অলপ ইফাল সিফাল আগাপিছা হব পাৰে—সেই কাৰণে যেন মাননীয় মেম্বৰ সকলে মোক মাফ কৰে।

বাজেটত যিবিলাক নতুন স্কীম কিছু কিছু ওলাইছে সেইবিলাক আগতে কংগ্ৰেচ কোৱালিছন মন্ত্ৰী সকলে পাৰ্টিমিটিং কৰি আলোচনা কৰিছিল আৰু ইয়াৰ বাহিৰেও যিবিলাক নতুন নতুন scheme আলোচনা কৰি তেওঁবিলাকে কাম হাতত লব খুজিছিল সেইবিলাকৰ পৰা যে বৰ্তমান গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে কোনো সহায় পোৱা নাই, মই সেইটো কথা কব নোৱাৰোঁ। কাৰণ ইয়াৰ আগতে তেখেত সকলে বাজেটৰ scheme খচৰা তৈয়াৰ কৰি গৈছিল। তাকে কাটছাট কৰি অলপ লৰচৰ কৰি ইবিলাকে এতিয়া দিছে।

এগ্ৰিকালচাৰেল ডিপাৰ্টমেন্ট সম্পৰ্কে,—আমাৰ ইয়াত এগ্ৰিকালচাৰেল ডিভনষ্ট্ৰেটৰ কাৰণে বেচি জোৰ দিয়া হয়; কিন্তু সম্প্ৰতি প্ৰকৃততে এগ্ৰিকালচাৰ ডিপাৰ্টমেন্টতকৈ ভেটেৰিনেৰি ডিপাৰ্টমেন্টত হে বেচি জোৰ দিব লাগে। কাৰণ, প্ৰত্যেক বছৰে আসামত যিমান গৰু মৰে, যি সকলে গাৰুৰ খবৰ নেৰাখে সি সকলে তাক উপলব্ধি কৰিব নোৱাৰে। আসামৰ মানুহে বছৰি গৰু কিনোতে কিমান টকা খৰচ কৰে আৰু যুক্তপ্ৰদেশ আৰু বেহাৰ আদি প্ৰদেশৰ ফালৰ মানুহে গৰু বেচি আসামৰ পৰা কিমান টকা লৈ যায় তাক অনুমান কৰিব নোৱাৰি। এগ্ৰিকালচাৰেল ডিপাৰ্টমেন্টৰ নিমিত্তে যিমান টকা খৰচ হয় সেই টকা ভেটেৰিনেৰি আৰু লাইভষ্টক ডিপাৰ্টমেন্টৰ নিমিত্তে খৰচ কৰি গৰুৰ উন্নতিৰ নিমিত্তে প্ৰথম চেষ্টা কৰা ভাল। সেইটো হলে মোৰ মনেৰে বেচি ভাল হল হেতেন। এই দেশৰ খেতিৰ উন্নতি তেতিয়ালৈকে নহব যেতিয়ালৈকে এই দেশৰ লাইভষ্টকৰ উন্নতি কৰিব নোৱাৰিব। আমাৰ দেশৰ গৰু ম'হ নহলে হাল-খেতি কৰিব নোৱাৰি। machine যন্ত্ৰৰ কাম ইয়াত সফল successful হব নোৱাৰে। ছুটা এটা শুকান মাটিৰ খেতি হব পাৰে কিন্তু বাৰিষাৰ খেতি যন্ত্ৰৰ (machine) দ্বাৰা সম্ভৱ নহয়। সেই কাৰণে গৰু ম'হৰ খেতিয়েই সম্পূৰ্ণ ফলদায়ক আৰু সেই গৰু ম'হৰ যদি উন্নতি নকৰে তেনেহলে খেতিৰ আৰু খেতিয়কৰ কোনো উন্নতি কৰা সম্ভৱপৰ নহব। ১৯৩৭ আৰু ১৯৩৮ চনত ভেটেৰিনেৰি ডিপাৰ্টমেন্ট



সম্পর্কে চাটনি প্রস্তাব (cut motions) দি মই কঁহিয়াই দে-বাইছিলোঁ যে গৰু ম'হৰ উন্নতি নকৰিলে এই দেশৰ উন্নতি কেতিয়াও হব নোৱাৰে। সেই কাৰণে মই প্রস্তাব দিছিলো যে ইয়াত ভেটেবিনেৰি আন্তৰ্জাতিক সংখ্যা কম, সেই সংখ্যা ৪ ৫ গুণ কৰি বঢ়াব লাগে আৰু থান'য় থানায় একোজন ডাক্তৰ আৰু এচিষ্টেণ্ট দিব লাগে। Goat tissue vaccine দিলে গৰুৰ বসন্ত ১০ বছৰলৈকে নহয়। মানুহৰ চিটা দিবৰ নিমিত্তে ছত্ৰবৃষ্টি পৰিষ্কাৰ কৰা মানুহকে বখা হয়। অৰ্থাৎ ছাত্ৰবৃষ্টি পাচ কৰা মানুহে যদি মানুহক vaccine দিব পাৰে তেনেহলে গৰুকো দিব পাৰিব। আজিকালি মেটি কুলেচন আৰু আই, এ পাচ কৰা মানুহো বহুত পোৱা যায়। সেই বিলাককে নিযুক্ত কৰি goat tissue vaccine দিয়াই গৰু কেইটা বন্ধা কৰিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিব লাগিব। সেই সময়ত অনাৰেবল মৌলবী আৰু মতীন চৌধুৰী এগ্ৰিকালচাবেল আৰু ভেটেবিনেৰি ডিপাৰ্টমেন্টৰ মন্ত্ৰী আছিল। তেখেতে মোৰ প্রস্তাব গ্ৰহণ কৰিছিল। তাৰ পিচত কোৱালিচন মিনিষ্ট্ৰিয়ে সেইটো গ্ৰহণ কৰে আৰু ৪৩ জন ফিল্ড এ্যাসস্টেণ্ট নিযুক্ত কৰে। আৰু এই বছৰো আৰু ৪৩ জন বঢ়াই লৈ goat tissue vaccine দি গৰু বিলাকক বসন্ত ৰোগৰ পৰা immune কৰিবৰ নিমিত্তে প্রস্তাব মই পাৰ্টিক দিছিলোঁ আৰু পাৰ্টিয়ে বোধ কৰোঁ গ্ৰহণ কৰিছিল। কিন্তু বাজেটত দেখিলোঁ যে মাত্ৰ ১৭ জন লবলৈহে বন্দবস্ত কৰিছে। দুখৰ কথা যে যি সকলে শাসনতন্ত্ৰৰ কৰ্ণধাৰ হৈ গৱৰ্ণমেন্ট চলাবলৈ ভাব লৈছে সেই সকলে খেতিয়ক সকলৰ কি দুখ আৰু কি ৰকম দুৱৰস্থা হৈছে সেইবিলাক কথা হয় নেগানে, নহয় ignore আওকান কৰিছে। এগ্ৰিকালচাবেল ডিপাৰ্টমেন্টৰ ডিপুটী ডিৰেক্টৰ যিমানেই বঢ়াওক আসামৰ খেতিৰ অৱস্থা কেতিয়াও ভাল হব নোৱাৰে। যেতিয়ালৈকে গৰুবিলাকৰ উন্নতি নহয়, গৰু নিৰোগী নহয় তেতিয়ালৈকে মানুহৰ শক্তি বৃদ্ধি হব নোৱাৰে। বৰ্তমান যিজন ভাইচ'বয় আছে তেখেতে গৰু জাতিৰ উন্নতিৰ নিমিত্তে বহুত চেষ্টা কৰিছে আৰু সেই নিমিত্তে চেণ্টেল গৱৰ্ণমেন্টৰ পৰা প্ৰত্যেক প্ৰাদেশিক গৱৰ্ণমেন্টক কিছু টকা দান দিছে, কিন্তু আসাম প্ৰভিন্সিয়েল গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে সেই গৰুৰ বংশ বৃদ্ধি আৰু উন্নতি কৰিবৰ নিমিত্তে সমূলি কান সাৰ কৰা নাই আৰু তেওঁৰ সেই শুভ ইচ্ছাৰ মৰ্যাদা অৰ্থাৎ লাইভষ্টকৰ উন্নতিৰ নিমিত্তে তেখেতৰ বাজেট speech ত একো দেখা নাই। মই ভাবোঁ যেতিয়ালৈকে অসমৰ গো জাতিৰ উন্নতি নকৰিব তেতিয়ালৈকে অসমীয়া জাতিৰ উন্নতি কৰিব নোৱাৰিব। (A voice—মানুহৰ উন্নতি হৈছে—গৰুৰহে বাকী আছে) মানুহৰ উন্নতি গৰুৰ লগে লগে হব। উন্নত গৰুয়েই উন্নত খেতিৰ কৰ—আৰু উন্নত জাতিৰ চিন। দুখ ভাতৰ মূল উপায় গৰু।

মেডিকেল ডিপাৰ্টমেন্টৰ কথা দেখিছোঁ কিন্তু tuberculosis যক্ষ্মাৰ ইমান প্ৰকোপ হৈছে তথাপি সেই সম্পর্কে তেখেতে কি কৰিব তাক তেখেতৰ speechত নেদেখিলোঁ। মই ভাবোঁ যে প্ৰত্যেক চৰ্ভিডিভিজনত একোটা যক্ষ্মাৰ clinicৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগিছিল, কিন্তু একো কৰা নাই। সেই কাৰণে মই বৰ দুখ পাইছোঁ।

Subsidised dispensary, যেতিয়া প্ৰথমে প্ৰভিন্সিয়েল অট'নমিক মন্ত্ৰীসভা গঠিত হয়, তেতিয়া মেডিকেল বিভাগৰ মিনিষ্টাৰ ৰেভাৰেণ্ড নিকলাচ বায় নগাঁৱলৈ যাওঁতে প্ৰথমতে ময়ে suggest কৰিছিলোঁ যে subsidised dispensary কিছুমান খুলি দিলে বায়তৰ বহুত relief উপকাৰ হ'ব পাৰে। ইয়াত যদি গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে কিছু টকা দিয়ে আৰু যদি লোকেল বোৰ্ডেও কিছু contribution কৰে তেনেহলে বহুত কাম হ'ব পাৰে। মই এই সম্বন্ধে চিঠি দিছিলোঁ আৰু তেখেতে তাৰ উত্তৰত লেখিছিল যে কিছুমান subsidised dispensary open কৰিব আৰু তাৰ প্ৰস্তাব চলিছে। কিন্তু বাজেটৰ বক্তৃতাত দেখিলো যে গোটেই আসামত মাত্ৰ ১৫ খন subsidised dispensary হৈছিল। নগাঁৱত মাত্ৰ এখন কৰিছে। নগাঁৱৰ পশ্চিমাঞ্চল backward tract গোটেই পিচপৰা অঞ্চল, আলি পহুলি একো নাই। আইন ঠাইৰ খেতিয়কে ধানৰ মোগে ২ টকা পালে সেই ঠাইৰ খেতিয়কে মাত্ৰ ১ টকা পায় আৰু বাৰিষা গোটেই নগাঁৱৰ পৰা কোনো অহাযোৱা ৰাট নেথাকে— আৰু সকলো সৰু ছিন্ন হয়। Medical helpৰ ডাক্তাৰী চিকিৎসাৰ কোনো কথাই নাই। গাঁৱৰ মানুহে মোক কৈছে যে যোৱাবাৰ মায়ঙত তিনি মাহৰ ভিতৰত ৪৫ জন মানুহ মৰিছে। অনাৰেবল শ্ৰীযুত ৰামনাথ দাস মেডিকেল মিনিষ্টাৰ থাকোঁতে তেখেতক মই নিজে এই বিষয়ে দৰ্খাস্ত দিছিলো তেখেতে ১½ মাহ কি ২ মাহৰ সুৰত উত্তৰ দিলে যে—গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে সেই বিষয়ে ভাবিব লাগিছে। এতিয়াৰ অনাৰেবোল মেডিকেল মিনিষ্টাৰ শ্ৰীযুত হিৰেন্দ্ৰচন্দ্ৰ চক্ৰবৰ্তী মহাশয়ে মোক কৈছিল আপুনি এজন ডাক্তৰ দিয়ক, মই চাবচিডাইজড্ ডাক্তাৰখানা দিম। ডাক্তাৰ মোৰ হাতত নাই— গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ হাততহে আছে। ডালৰ বিচৰা আৰু নিযুক্ত কৰা গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ কৰ্তব্য, মোৰ নিশ্চয় নহয় when there is a necessity of a Dispensary and Government realised it definitely, the Government must find out a doctor for that dispensary. এনেকুৱা উত্তৰৰ নিমিত্তে মই সাজু নহওঁ আৰু অত্যন্ত দুখিত। সেই ঠাইৰ ২০ মাইলৰ ভিতৰত কোনো ডাক্তাৰখানা নাই আৰু একোটা ঔষধৰ অভাৱত মানুহ মৰিব লাগিছে। তাত যদি গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে এখন subsidised dispensary নিদিয়ে তেন্তে তাতকৈ দুখৰ বিষয় আৰু একো হ'ব নোৱাৰে।

বাজেট speechত দেখা যায় যে ছিলেট মেডিকেল স্কুলৰ নিমিত্তে এতিয়া একো স্থিৰ কৰিব পৰা নাই। মোৰ মনেৰে তাত মেডিকেল স্কুল নকৰি সেই বিল্ডিং বিলাকতে এখন এগ্ৰিকালচাৰেল কলেজ কৰিলে ভাল হ'ব। বৰ্ত্তমানে এগ্ৰিকালচাৰেল, নহলে ভেটেৰিনেৰি কলেজ তাত কৰিব পাৰে। বিল্ডিং তৈয়াৰ হৈয়ে আছে—ত'তে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে অলপ টকা খৰচ কৰি তাকে কৰিব পাৰে। বেৰী হোয়াইট্ স্কুলক কলেজ কৰি তাত কৃষি আৰু ভেটেৰিনেৰী কলেজ কৰিব পাৰে।

ইণ্ডাষ্ট্ৰী ডিপাৰ্টমেন্টটো আমাৰ ইয়াত লৰা-ছোৱালীৰ ঋধেমালিৰ নিচিনা হৈছে। ইয়াত যিবিলাক কুটিৰ শিল্পৰ দ্বাৰা গৃহস্থৰ একোটা subsidiary উপক্ৰমিকা আয় হয় তেনেকুৱা বিলাকৰ নিমিত্তে সমূলি কান সাৰ কৰা নাই। বাণপানী বিপৰ্য্যস্ত অঞ্চলত বাৰিষা একো

কাম নেপাকিলে উইভিং দ্বাৰা গৃহস্থই কিছু উপাৰ্জন কৰিব পাৰে। সেই সময়ত ভাল কাম হৈছে weaving industry বা বোৱা কাৰ্য। সেই নিমিত্তে মই শিল্প বিভাগৰ ডাইৰেক্টৰ মিষ্টাৰ খুৰচেদ আলি আৰু ফাইনেঞ্চ নিমিষ্টাৰ আৰু শিল্প মন্ত্ৰীক দেখা কৰি কৈছিলো যে বানপানীৰ অঞ্চল বিলাকত কিছুমান উইভিং ডিমনেষ্ট্ৰেটৰ দিব লাগে আৰু Co-operative basisত কিছুমান সমবায় সমিতি খুলিব লাগে। কোয়েলিছন মন্ত্ৰী সভাই মোৰ প্ৰস্তাব গ্ৰহণ কৰি ১০ জন ডিমনেষ্ট্ৰেটৰৰ খৰছ বাজেটত ধৰা দেখিছিলো। কিন্তু দুখৰ বিষয় সি হৈ হুঠিল। বৰ্ত্তমানে উইভিং ডিপাৰ্টমেন্টৰ কাম একো হোৱা নাই আৰু Weaving Superintendentএ মাত্ৰ বহি বহি দৰ্ম্মহা ধোৱাহে দেখা যায়।

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. member has exceeded his time.

**Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN:** There is no speaker after me, and I came to speak on that consideration only, Sir. May I go on?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I cannot say. There may be some more speakers and so the hon. member will finish soon. It seems that hon. members are not utilizing the time of the House to-day. They may very well realise that on the next two days there will be numerous speakers and I shall not be able to accommodate all of them.

**Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN:** Please allow me 10 minutes, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I cannot allow you 10 minutes but I allow you two minutes.

**Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN:** আসামত যিবিলাক Co-operative বেঙ্ক আছে তাৰ ভিতৰত গাৰলৌয়া বেঙ্ক বিলাকৰ অৱস্থা নিতান্ত শোচনীয় যে তাক তেখেতে বাজেট speechতে স্বীকাৰ কৰিছে আৰু তাক স্বীকাৰ নকৰিও উপায় নাই। সেই বিলাকৰ তেখেতে উল্লেখ কৰিছে কিন্তু উন্নতি কৰিবৰ কোনো ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হোৱা নাই। যেতিয়ালৈকে long term loan, short-term loan আৰু scaling down of the debts অৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা নহয় তেতিয়ালৈকে প্ৰকৃতপক্ষে Co-operative Department successful হব—(সুফল ফলিব) নোৱাৰে। তাক একমাত্ৰ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টেই কৰিব পাৰে, কিন্তু গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে কয় যে টকা নাই। আমাৰ এজন বিশিষ্ট মেম্বাৰে অৱশ্যে এছেম্বলিৰ ভিতৰত নহয় বাহিৰত এটা ভাল নতুন suggestion দিছিল তেখেতে কৈছিল Provident Fundৰ যিবিলাক টকা জমি পৰি আছে সেই টকা কম সুদত খটুৱাই Co-operative বেঙ্ক বিলাকক বক্ষা কৰিব পাৰে। মই আশা কৰো সেই সম্বন্ধে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে বিবেচনা কৰিব। মোৰ সময় নাই—কিন্তু এই বিষয়ে আৰু অত্যাৱ্ত বিভাগৰ কথা মোৰ বহুতো কবলগীয়া আছিল।

বৰ্ত্তমানে মই অতি চুখেৰে আৰু সঙ্কুচিত (with delicacy) ভাবে উল্লেখ কৰিব লগীয়া হৈছে যে আমাৰ দেশত বৰ্ত্তমান মিনিষ্ট্ৰী হোৱাৰে পৰা এইটো লীগ মিনিষ্ট্ৰী বুলি এটা চো উঠিছে। এই মিনিষ্ট্ৰী হোৱাৰে পৰা নগাঁৱত ১৩ জনী হিন্দু ছোৱালী abducted অপহৃত হৈছে। লাইন প্ৰথাৰো মৰ্যাদা বক্ষা হোৱা নাই। অসমীয়া মানুহ যিবিলাক জাগাত আছিল সেই বিলাক ঠাই বলেৰে অধিকাৰ কৰিছে বুলি বহু সংবাদ পোৱা হৈছে। গৰুবাট মৌজাৰ চিৰিঙ্গা আৰু বজাআলিত কিছুমান অসমীয়া মানুহে হাবি কাটি খেতিবাতি কৰিবলৈ ধৰিছে; Colonisation officer এ সেইবিলাক মানুহক তাৰপৰা উঠিয়াবলৈ হুকুম দিছে বোলে। এই বিষয়ে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে যেন তৎক্ষণাত অনুসন্ধান কৰে। Line system

উঠি গল বুলি ভ্ৰাস্ত ধাৰণা হোৱাত, কেৱল নগাঁৱতে নহয় গোটেই আসামতে লাইন উঠি গৈছে বুলি চৌ উঠাত ইমিগ্ৰেণ্ট বিলাকে লাইন encroach অতিক্ৰম কৰিছে আৰু তাৰ পৰা অশান্তিৰ সৃষ্টি হৈছে। কালিকাজাৰিত যি ডোখৰ মাটিলৈ অনাবেবোল ডিপুটী স্পীকাৰৰে সৈতে গওগোল হৈছে সেই সন্মুখে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে অতি সোনকালে এটা হেপ্ট-নেপ্ট নকৰিলে ভাল নহব, নহলে তাত এতিয়া বহুত মানুহৰ prosecution হৈছে আৰু তাত ভীষণ অশান্তিৰ সৃষ্টি হৈছে। গতিকে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে সোনকালে enquiry কৰি উচিত বিধান কৰিব লাগে। এই ঘটনাই গোটেই অসমীয়া সমাজত তোলপাৰ লগাই মনোমালিন্ত আনিছে। কিন্তু sub-judice বুলি মই আৰু এই সন্মুখে বিশেষ কৰ নোৱাৰো। সোনকালে এই বিষয়ে উচিত বিচাৰ কৰি নিষ্পত্তি নকৰিলে তাৰপৰা ভয়ঙ্কৰ অশান্তি হব।

মোৰ সময় নাই গতিকে আৰু বিশেষ কৰ নোখোজো। ইয়াকে কৈ মই সামৰণি মাৰিলো।

**Srijut MAHADEV SARMA :** May I speak from my seat, Sir ?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Yes, the hon. member may speak. But I may inform the hon. members that the way in which we are proceeding to-day leads me to think that on the next two days I may not be able to accommodate every one of the speakers who have put down their names for those two days, because I quite perceive that there may be great competition on those days amongst members to speak and I do not know whether every one of the members who may want to speak will get a chance. The Congress Party has put down 10 members for the 26th and 9 for 27th and I have other members who have individually informed me that they will speak. Having regard to the number of members who want to speak on those days I am afraid, I may not be able to accommodate them all.

**Srijut MAHADEV SARMA :** মাননীয় সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, ভাৰতৰ বৰ্তমান মনিষী সকলে এই সময়টোক এটা ৰাজনৈতিক সন্ধিক্ষণ বুলি অভিহিত কৰিছে। ভাৰতীয় ৰাজনীতিৰ ই এটা সন্ধিক্ষণ বোলাৰ প্ৰধান কাৰণ হৈছে ইউৰোপত যুদ্ধ ঘোষণা আৰু তাৰ প্ৰভাব বিস্তাৰ আমাৰ ওপৰত। এই সন্ধিক্ষণৰ বৰ্তমান পৰিস্থিতিত আমাৰ প্ৰদেশৰ অহা বছৰৰ কাৰণে যি বাজেট আলোচনা কৰিবলৈ ব্যৱস্থা হৈছে সেইটো মুঠেই সময় উপযোগী হোৱা নাই বুলি মই বিবেচনা কৰোঁ। কাৰণ, ভাৰতৰ অন্যান্য প্ৰান্তৰ লোক সকলে যি সময়ত আত্মনিয়ন্ত্ৰনৰ ক্ষমতা লাভ কিস্বা স্বাধীনতা লাভ কৰিবৰ কাৰণে তেওঁলোকে নিজে প্ৰস্তুত হৈছে, সেই সময়ত আমাৰ অদৃষ্টৰ পৰিহাস স্বৰূপে ইয়াত বহি বাজেটৰ যোগ বিয়োগৰ অঙ্কত ব্যাপ্ত থাকিব লগীয়া হৈছে।—সঁচাকৈয়ে এই ব্যৱস্থাক মই অদৃষ্টৰ পৰিহাস বুলি ভাবোঁ। কংগ্ৰেচৰ অসহযোগে আৰু আমাৰ মন্ত্ৰী মণ্ডলীৰ বৃটিছ সাম্ৰাজ্যবাদক সহায়তা কিমান আকাশ পতাল প্ৰভেদ। এনে স্থলত এনেকুৱা এখন বাজেট আমি পাইছোঁ যি খনত আমাৰ দেশবাসীৰ মনত অলপো নতুন আশা বা আকাঙ্ক্ষাৰ আভাস দিব পৰা নাই। বৰ্তমান আমাৰ আগত দাঙ্গি ধৰা এই বাজেট খনক তাহানি খনৰ অমোলাতান্ত্ৰিক মনোভাৱ পূৰ্ণ পূৰণি ভেৰুৰা গোক ওলোৱা বাজেট বুলি বিবেচনা কৰোঁ। যি সময়ত আমাৰ প্ৰদেশত

ভাৰতীয় অন্তৰ্গত প্ৰদেশৰ লগত সমানে খোজ দি আমাৰ কংগ্ৰেচশূন্য মন্ত্ৰী সভাই পদত্যাগ কৰিলে, আমি ভাবিছিলোঁ আমাৰ দৰে সমান দেশ প্ৰেমিক আন দলৰ লগৰীয়া সহকৰ্মী বন্ধু সকলেও এই সময়ত ভাৰতৰ বিভিন্ন সম্প্ৰদায়ে এক লক্ষ্য—এক কৰ্মপন্থা গ্ৰহণ কৰি আমাৰ জাতীয় স্বাধীনতা অৰ্জন বিষয়ত সিবিলাকে সহায়তা কৰিব! কিন্তু বৰ দুখৰ কথা যে সিবিলাকে (আনদলে) জ্ঞাত পন্থা গ্ৰহণ কৰিলে আৰু তাৰ ফলত আজি আমি এনে নিদাকৰণ ভাবে বাজেটৰ পাত লুটিয়াই প্ৰতি নিৰ্ৰক্ষ বা দফাৰ পৰিমাণৰ অক্ষৰ যোগ বিয়োগত ব্যস্ত থাকিব লগীয়া হৈছোঁ।

পৰাধীন আৰু নিবন্ধ এটা জাতিৰ পক্ষে তাৰ স্বাধীনতা অৰ্জন কৰিবৰ পন্থা কি হব পাৰে সেইটো ভাৰতীয় মনিষী সকলে স্থিৰ কৰি দেশবাসীক তালৈ আহ্বান কৰিছে। সেইটো হৈছে মোৰ ভাবে ইংৰাজীতে কলে unity of action and unity of purpose হব লাগে। কৰ্ম পন্থা আৰু আদৰ্শবাদত সমগ্ৰ ভাৰতৰ লোক যদি এক হুৱে আবদ্ধ হব নোৱাৰে, একেটা মাথোন লক্ষ্য নেথাকে, তেনেহলে কেনেকৈ নিবন্ধ এটা জাতি স্বাধীন হোৱা সম্ভৱ হব পাৰে? আমি সেই কাৰণে আশা কৰিছিলোঁ যে এনে পৰিস্থিতিৰ মাজত আমি বাজেট আলোচনাত আগৰ দৰে যোগ দিবৰ প্ৰয়োজন নহব। এইটো open secret বা জনাজাত কথা দুজন বিশিষ্ট বন্ধুৰ চেষ্টাত আমাৰ প্ৰদেশত বৰ্তমান মন্ত্ৰী সভা গঠিত হৈছে। সি বিলাকৰ অন্তৰত স্বদেশ প্ৰেম নাই এইটো কথা মই নকওঁ। কিন্তু সি বিলাকৰ কাৰ্য্য পন্থা সূক্ষীয়া আৰু বেলেগ হলেও সেই বিভিন্নতাই, মই ভাবোঁ, আমাৰ বহল জাতীয় স্বার্থৰ সম্পূৰ্ণ বিপৰীতে গৈছে। কাজেই এই সময়ত বাজেটৰ বিভিন্ন items বা দফাৰ বিষয়ে আলোচনা কৰি লাভ কি হব? আমাৰ অভাৱ বহল, অভিযোগ যথেষ্ট—কিন্তু আমাৰ সেই সাধাৰণ অভিযোগ বিলাক পূৰণ কৰি নহয়, আমাৰ শত আপত্তি কৰি খণ্ডন নহয়? কিয় সদায় আমি জন হিতকৰ আৱশ্যকীয় কাৰ্য্যৰ বিপক্ষে টকাৰ অভাৱ বুলি প্ৰত্যুত্তৰ পাওঁ? সেইটো শাসন প্ৰণালীৰে দোষ বুলি মই বিবেচনা কৰোঁ। কিন্তু এই অস্বাভাৱিক অৱস্থা চিৰন্তৰ হবনে? যি শাসন প্ৰণালীৰ মাজত থাকি এই বাজেট প্ৰস্তুত কৰিছে সেই প্ৰণালীয়েই আমাৰ পক্ষে উপযোগী নহয়—সেই প্ৰণালীয়ে কেতিয়াও আমাক আমাৰ আকাঙ্ক্ষিত ঠাইলৈ নিব নোৱাৰে। সেই কাৰণেই ভাৰতীয় জাতীয়তাবাদী মনিষী সকলে কাৰ্য্যপন্থা স্থিৰ কৰিছিল যে স্বাধীনতা যদি পাওঁ, তেনেহলে আমাৰ দেশৰ শাসন প্ৰণালী এনেকুৱা ভাবে নিয়ন্ত্ৰিত কৰি লম যি প্ৰণালীৰ জৰিয়তে আমাৰ মানুহে অভীষ্ট ফল লাভ কৰিব পাৰিব। বৰ্তমান শাসন প্ৰণালীত উপৰিয়াল চৰকাৰি বিষয়া সকলৰ দৰমহা অতিপাত সৰহকৈ দিয়াত আয়তকৈ খৰচ অত্যয়কপে বেচি কৰাত আমাৰ জাতিৰ উন্নতিজনক কাৰ্য্যৰ নিমিত্তে খৰচ কৰিবলৈ সৰহ টকা ৰাখিব নোৱাৰে। এই প্ৰণালী বলবৎ থাকে মানেই এনে বিধান চলি থাকিব। আজি যি বাজেট উপস্থিত হৈছে তাত আমি আশা কৰা ধৰণৰ কিবা আভাস আছেনে? তাহানি খনৰ আমোলা তন্ত্ৰৰ বাজেট যি ভাবে আছিল আজিও সেই ভাবেই দেখোঁ—মাত্ৰ কৰবাত যোগ বা বিয়োগৰ চিনহে মাথোন আছে। আৰু দেখা পাওঁ আমাৰ প্ৰজা সকলে আকাঙ্ক্ষা কৰা

কোনো এটা কথাৰ আভাস এই বাজেটত নাই। সময়ৰ আৱশ্যকতাৰ লগত ইয়াৰ মুঠেই সামঞ্জস্য নাই।

আমাৰ প্ৰদেশত কানি বন্ধ আন্দোলন আৰু বিধান আগৰ যুক্ত মন্ত্ৰী সভাই আৰম্ভ কৰিছিল। ছখন জিলাত সেই আন্দোলন কৃত কাৰ্য্যতাৰে সৈতে চলিছিল বুলি আমি দাবী কৰোঁ। এনেকুৱাতো সিদিনা প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই আমাৰ আগত বাজেট দাখিল কৰোঁতে সি বিলাকে যি নীতি সম্পূৰ্ণ বৰ্জন কৰা হৈছে বুলি কয়, আমি কওঁ সেই কাৰণেই তেখেত সকলে সেই বিধান অন্ত্যস্ত জিলাতো আৰু বহলাই বাহাল কৰিব লাগিছিল। Excise Commissioner ৰায় বাহাদুৰ শ্ৰীগৰ্গেশ্বৰ শৰ্মা ডাঙৰীয়াই স্বীকাৰ কৰিছে যে শিৱসাগৰত ৭০ per cent. successful হৈছে আৰু ডিব্ৰুগড়ত ৪০ৰ পৰা ৫০ per cent লৈকে successful হৈছে। ভাবি চাওক এখন প্ৰদেশত ২ মাহৰ ভিতৰত ইয়াতবৈ আৰু কিমান বেচি কৃতকাৰ্য্য হব পাৰে? পূৰ্বে যি খন দেশত ইমান বেচি বকমে কানিৰ প্ৰচলন হৈছিল তাত যদি ৭০ per cent. success হয় তেনেহলে তাক success লুৰুলি কিহক বুলিব পাৰি? আৰু এই success ও (কৃতকাৰ্য্যতাও) অতি কম সময়ৰ ভিতৰতে হৈছে। যি হেতু চোৰাং কানিৰ ব্যৱসায় চলিব বা চলি আছে সেই হেতু আমি কানি বন্ধ কৰিব নোৱাৰোঁ—এই ভাব থাকিলে, এয়ে যুক্তি হলে, আমি ভাবিব নোৱাৰোঁ যে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে কেতিয়াবা এই কানি বন্ধ কৰিব পাৰিব। যুক্ত মন্ত্ৰী সভা থাকোঁতে এই দেশে বিভিন্ন বিধানৰ পৰা যি অলপ আশাৰ পোহৰ পাইছিল, যি অলপ ব্যাপক জন হিতকৰ কাৰ্য্যৰ আঁচনি কৰি লৈছিল বৰ্তমান মন্ত্ৰী মণ্ডলীয়ে দাখিল কৰা আজিৰ বাজেটে সেই আশাৰ পোহৰৰ জ্বলিকনিৰ ওপৰত কলা ডাঠ ঢাকনি দি তাক অন্ধকাৰ কৰি পেলালে।

Mass literacy নিৰক্ষৰতা দূৰ কৰা অভিযান সম্বন্ধে কংগ্ৰেচ যুক্ত মন্ত্ৰী সভাই যি চেষ্টা কৰিছিল সেইটো ইবিলাকে দলিয়াই পেলোৱা নাই বুলি কয়; কিন্তু বাজেটৰ পাচত দেখিছোঁ যে ১২,০০০ টকা মাথোন provide কৰিছে সমগ্ৰ আসামৰ মানুহৰ আকাঙ্ক্ষা পূৰ্ণ কৰিবৰ নিমিত্তে। এইটো সম্ভৱ নে? নিতান্ত unpopular হবৰ ভয়ত ১২,০০০ টকা মাথোন ৰাখিছে সাধাৰণ মানুহৰ চকুত ধূলি দিবলৈ যে ‘আমি নিৰক্ষৰতা দূৰ অভিযান বন্ধ কৰা নাই—আমি ৰাখিছোঁ।’

এনে মনোভাব দেখি মই কওঁ যি সময়ত সমগ্ৰ ভাৰতবৰ্ষৰ মানুহে, অকলৈ ভাৰতৰে নহয় পৃথিবীৰ জ্ঞানী মানুহে, অকল সেয়ে নহয়—আমাৰ শাসন বিধাতা বুট্‌ছ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ ডাঙৰ মনিষী সকলেও ভাৰতবৰ্ষৰ এটা জাতি বুলি স্বীকাৰ কৰিবলৈ প্ৰস্তুত হৈছে আৰু যি সময়ত স্বাধীনতা লাভৰ কাৰণে সকলোৰে মন আকাঙ্ক্ষিত আৰু আগ্ৰহান্বিত হৈ আছে, সেই সময়ত তাহানিৰ ধৰণেৰে মামুলি ধৰণৰ বাজেটৰ কথাটো আলচ কৰাটো সময়ৰ অপব্যৱহাৰ কৰা বুলি ভাবোঁ আৰু এই ৰাজনৈতিক যুগ সন্ধিক্ষণৰ পৰিস্থিতিত এই বিলাক ব্যৱস্থাৰ একো সামঞ্জস্য নাই বুলি মই ডাঠি কওঁ। তথাপি এই দিনত আমাৰ মন্ত্ৰী সকলে

কেনে ধৰণৰ মনোভাব লৈ কাম কৰিছে তাক এই বাজেটতে দেখা যায়। সি বিলাকে বৰ্তমান দেশৰ সমস্তা সমাধানৰ বাবে অকণো আস্থাবিকতাৰ ভাব দেখুৱাবলৈ যে ইচ্ছা নকৰে তাকেই আমি ইয়াত দেখোঁ।

আন ফালে চাওক—আমাৰ দেশৰ সাধাৰণ মানুহে কি ভাবে এই মন্ত্ৰী মণ্ডলীৰ কাৰ্য্যৰ ওপৰত প্ৰতিক্ৰিয়ামূলক ভাব গ্ৰহণ কৰিছে, যোৱা ২২ তাৰিখৰ অধিবেশনত যি বিলাক adjournment motions বিভিন্ন মেধাৰ সকলে এই সভাত দাখিল দিছিল, অলপ আলোচনাৰ পিচত সেই বিলাক গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ সন্তোষজনক প্ৰতিক্ৰিয়া পাই হয় কেনোবাই উঠাই ললে, নহলে, সভাপতি ডাঙৰী 'Out of order' কৰিলে। সেই motions বিলাকৰ পৰা আমাৰ দেশৰ অৱস্থা সম্বন্ধে নিশ্চয় অলপমান দৃষ্টি আমাৰ চকুত পৰে। সেইটো কি? সেইটো হৈছে সৰ্বসাধাৰণৰ এটা ভাগে এতিয়া ভাবিছে যে যি হেতু বৰ্তমান সময়ত মন্ত্ৰী আকৌ নিগাণী হৈছে সেই হেতু আমি আক এতিয়া কালৈকো ভয় কৰিব নেলাগে—যাব যেনে খুচি সেই বকমে চলিব পৰা যাব। নহলে, গাৰ বলেৰে য'তে ত'তে পমুৱা বিলাকে মাটি দখল কৰা সাধাৰণ শোভা যাত্ৰাৰ মানুহক বেপবোৱা ভাবে বাটত যাওঁতে যাওঁতে অপঘাত কৰা সম্ভৱ হয় নে? তেওঁবিলাকে ভাবিছে যে এই গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে সিবিলাকক প্ৰশ্ন দিব। এই যে মনোভাব, ইয়াৰ বাবে দায়ী কোন? এনেকুৱা বেয়া ভাব এই দেশত হোৱাটো দেশৰ হৰ্তা কৰ্তা হৈ মন্ত্ৰী কৰা লোক কেজনে শোভনীয় বুলি বিবেচনা কৰেনে কিম্বা এই ভাব আঁতৰ কৰিবলৈ চেষ্টা নকৰিবনে?

উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে তাৰ পিচত নিচেই সৰু সৰু কথাই যদি চকু দিয়ে—তালিৰ এটা সাধাৰণ কথালৈকে চাওক—তাতনো কি মনোভাব দেখা পায়? মই কলোঁ যে subsidised dispensary যদি নিচেই দূৰৈ ঠাইত থকা কোনো বিশেষ স্থবিধা নোপোৱা মানুহক আপোনালোকৰ পৰা ঔষধ দিবৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব খোজে, তেনেহলে তাহানিৰ সাধাৰণ ধৰণৰ টকা নাই বুলি কলে মানুহ সন্তুষ্ট থাকিব নোৱাৰে। সেই বিষয়ক গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ প্ৰস্তাৱৰ সংশোধনী হিচাবে মই ইমানকৈ কৈছিলোঁ যে ৩৫ টকাত কোনো ঠাইত ডাক্তৰ পোৱা সম্ভৱ নহয়। তথাপি মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ কি মনোভাব দেখিলোঁ? যিহেতু তেওঁ বিলাকৰ majority party তোমাৰ যুক্তিসঙ্গত কথাও নৰছে। আগৰ কংগ্ৰেচ যুক্ত মন্ত্ৰীসভাৰ মিনিষ্টাৰে subsidised dispensary ৰ ডাক্তৰৰ subsidy ৪৫ টকা কৰিবৰ নিমিত্তে প্ৰস্তাৱ দিছিল। যি হেতু ই কংগ্ৰেচ যুক্ত মন্ত্ৰীসভাৰ প্ৰস্তাৱ, সি গ্ৰহণ যোগ্য নহয়—তাতকৈ ৫ টকা কমাই দিয়া! মই আশা কৰোঁ সেইটো যুক্তি সিবিলাকৰ নহয়। আমাৰ দুৰ্বলতাৰ কাৰণেও হয়তো সেইটোৱেই হৈছে বুলি ভাবোঁ। আচলতে সেই সময়ত যদি ৪০ টকাত ডাক্তাৰ নেপায়, এতিয়া আমি ৪৫ টকা কৰোঁ। সেই কাৰণে বক্তৃতাত কৈছিলোঁ যে বেচি নোৱাৰিলেও ৪০।৪৫ টকা ডাক্তাৰৰ মাহিলি দৰমহা ধাৰ্য্য কৰিব লাগে। মই ভাবিছিলোঁ যে সেইটো তেওঁবিলাকে তৎক্ষণাত গ্ৰহণ কৰিব; কিন্তু সি হৈ নুঠিল।

তেওঁবিলাকৰ মনৰ ভাব কেনে ধৰণৰ তাক আপোনালোকে ভাবি চাওক । কিন্তু মই হলে বৰ হুখ পাইছোঁ । দেশৰ প্ৰতি কৰ্ত্তব্যৰ ভাব ইয়াত দেখা নাযায় ।

শিক্ষা বিভাগৰ টকাৰ যি ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হৈছে তাত অলপমান সতিনীৰ প্ৰতি ব্যৱহাৰ কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা যেন দেখা পাইছোঁ । সংস্কৃত শিক্ষাৰ বিষয়ে মুঠেই নলবাৰী কলেজৰ নিমিত্তে ৫০৮ টকাৰ ঠাইত ১:৫৮ টকা কৰা হৈছে । অথচ ১৫০৮ টকা নহলে কলেজ চলিব নোৱাৰে বুলি বাৰে বাৰে তাৰ পৰা আবেদন কৰা স্বত্বেও ১৫০৮ টকা নিদিলে । কিন্তু মাদ্ৰাচাৰ বাবে recurring grant ১০,০০০ টকা ধৰা হৈছে—যি মাদ্ৰাচা শিক্ষাৰ বাবে ইতিপূৰ্বে বহুতো টকা দিয়া হৈছে । সম্ভৱতঃ সেই টকা খৰচেই নহব । কাৰণ ইতি পূৰ্বে যদি এটা অনুষ্ঠানে সহায় পাই থাকে, তাত অলপ কম দি আৰু যি বিলাকে একেবাৰে পোৱা নাই সেই বিলাকত অলপ বঢ়াই দিয়া উচিত বুলি মই বিবেচনা কৰোঁ । আয়ুৰ্বেদ শিক্ষাৰ কেন্দ্ৰ আমাৰ দেশত নাছিল । এই দেশোপযোগী অনুষ্ঠান সম্প্ৰতি স্থাপনৰ ফল স্বৰূপে 'আয়ুৰ্বেদ বিদ্যাপীঠ' নামে এটা শিক্ষায়তন গোহাটীত স্থাপন কৰা হৈছে । তেওঁবিলাকৰ আবেদন নিবেদন কৰা স্বত্বেও বাজেটত তেওঁবিলাকৰ সাহায্যৰ বাবে অলপো ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হোৱা নাই ।

Backward tract ৰ শিক্ষাৰ কাৰণে যি টকা খোৱা হৈছে সি নিতান্ত অকিঞ্চিৎকৰ বুলি মই ভাবোঁ । যদিও আমাৰ প্ৰদেশত তেওঁবিলাকৰ দাবীয়েই সৰহ, কিন্তু তেওঁবিলাকৰ শিক্ষাৰ কাৰণে ৩৪ হাজাৰ টকা মাথোন খোৱা হৈছে । ই কণা হাঁহক পতান ধান দিয়া ব্যৱস্থা নহয় নে ?

সেই কাৰণে কওঁ যে বৰ্ত্তমান মন্ত্ৰী মণ্ডলীয়ে যি বাজেট দাখিল কৰিছে সি নিতান্ত গ্ৰহণ যোগ্য নহয় । তাহানিৰ পুৰণি কালৰ ভেকুৰা গোক্ৰ থকা এই বাজেটৰ কাৰণে আমি অলপো আগ্ৰহান্বিত নহওঁ আৰু তাক কোনো বকমে সমৰ্থন কৰিব নোৱাৰোঁ ।

**Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV;** Sir, I was to have spoken on Monday. As it seems it will not be possible to find much time on Monday, I want to finish up my speech to-day.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, uninitiated as I am as yet into the mysteries and juggleries of budget figures, it looks a little audacious on my part that I should at the very first sitting that I have come to attend, dare stand up to criticise the budget placed before the House by the wizard of a Financier of Sir Muhammad Saadulla's standing. But Sir, I claim to bring with me an experience of 20 years field service. During this last 20 years as an humble servant of the nation I have tried to mix with the masses—both Muhammadans and Hindus—and I have tried to understand how they are passing their days, what improvements political, economic or intellectual, are made in their lives by the Governments that be from time to time. And incidentally, Sir, I may remind the House that except for a few years, Sir Muhammad Saadulla has been connected with the administration of Assam—for the last 20 years as a Minister, Executive Councillor, Chief Minister and last but not the least as the Prime Minister of the present Government. During these 20 years, Sir Muhammad on his own pronouncement has fathered as many as seven budgets



for this province. Sir, these last twenty years have taken away from the rural areas whatever little drinking water the people could have in their villages. Nobody—landlord, moneylender or middle class families care any longer to have new tanks or reclaim the old ones in their villages. Local Boards have left their old tanks unreclaimed for long and they can take up very few new projects for want of funds and the latest position is that due to the rise in prices of materials owing to the European war, Local Boards have got to curtail their new projects now. Sir, to-day it is a horrible condition that the people in the villages are living under. Those of us here who are also Local Board Members will bear me out how embarrassed they become when they happen to go to the countryside by innumerable demands for tubewells and tanks from the villagers. I may request the Hon'ble Ministers to know from the officers under them who have to tour in villages in connection with their official work what a hopeless position it is with the villagers to-day so far as water-supply is concerned.

Sir, the Government recognises that supply of water is connected with public health very vitally. There is a provision of Rs. 1 lakh for water-supply under the Public Health Department Budget. But this one lakh is not even a drop where almost an ocean is required. The Government has to spend lakhs of rupees for Public Health and Medical Departments. If twenty years back it was malaria, cholera, *Kalazar* and small-pox which were ravaging the countryside, to-day in addition to all these—far more dangerous diseases like Tuberculosis and Leprosy have firmly established themselves in the countryside. Sir, a good deal of this could have been prevented by making arrangements for pure water supply in villages. Much of the medical and public health expenditure could have been curtailed if we had cared to supply pure water to the countryside. Sir, the receipt side of the Excise Department shows how steadily the revenue under liquor is growing from year to year and the Assam Government is enriching itself without any scruple on this immoral money. We are told that the planters of Assam are co-operating with the Government in checking the illicit manufacture of *Pachwai* and that complete arrangements have been made for supplying Government liquor to the people through licensed vendor. Sir, the Government is so careful to see that people get good quality of liquor and as for the supply of pure water let the people go to dogs, that seems to be the policy of the Government.

The next important point that I wish to take up is that the Government of Assam has neglected for too long any attempt at increasing the agricultural produce of the Province. To make matters short I may inform the House at once that while the province of Assam has got to import large quantities of rice and paddy every year for its own consumption, Burma, which is in no way better situated than Assam is exporting rice and paddy worth more than 20 crores of rupees every year after meeting its own requirements. And for producing this huge wealth the Agricultural Department of Burma distributes amongst the cultivators 250,000 maunds of high quality seeds every year. Our Agricultural Department of Assam has by its 22 years of work been able to supply 3,000 maunds of paddy seed annually to our cultivators. There is no wonder, Sir, that we have to import rice and paddy every year from Burma and from other provinces.

Sir, our sister provinces United Provinces and Bihar have during the past 9 years developed the sugar industry almost overnight to an extent which enables these two provinces to export sugar worth more than ten crores of rupees every year. Sir, we know how the Governments of those

provinces are giving encouragement to the cultivators as well as to the industrialists by all sorts of legislation and any other help that may be necessary. We are told our Jorhat Experimental Farm has found out a quality of sugarcane which can compete with any that the other provinces have produced; but, Sir, between the Research officers and the field staff of the Agriculture Department in this province they have made a complete agreement not to help each other and so the poor cultivator is left where he was twenty-two years back, notwithstanding lakhs of rupees having been squandered away in the name of the agricultural work during this period. Sir, there is a small thing like 'Pan'—betel leaves—which used to grow in the plains of Surma Valley plentifully even ten years back. After meeting the local demands our people used to export betel leaves to Bengal districts to the extent of not less than two and a half or three lakhs of rupees every year. Now, it has come to pass that instead of exporting anything we have to import large quantities from Khasi Hills for our local consumption and all this money is gone forever. And when the Agriculture Department was approached for remedy they said "Well give us money and then we shall see what is the remedy for the disease for which 'Pan' is not growing as plentifully as before." Sir, after twenty-two years of the existence of the Agricultural Department we are told they do not know what this disease is nor what may be the remedy. Sir, in India, in our own mother country there is such a body as the Indian Central Cotton Committee. It may be news to many but there is such a body as the Indian Central Cotton Committee in our own country. Its headquarters are in Bombay. The Government of India realises a cess on all cotton produced within the country as well as imported from outside and hands over the whole amount to the Central Cotton Committee for the purposes of improving the quality of the cotton produced in the country as well as for improving the quantity of the produce. Under this Central Cotton Committee research work is going on in several centres for improving the quality and quantity of cotton. This Committee gets 1 crore and 32 lakhs of rupees annually from cotton cess and they are spending this whole amount for improving the quality and quantity of cotton in the provinces of Madras, Bihar, Bombay, Sind, Central Province, United Provinces and the Punjab, but not a single pice is spent in Assam. And this Central Cotton Committee gets its cess also, I suppose, from the cotton grown wild in Assam—in the Garo Hills, Lushai Hills and North Cachar Hills and we can very legitimately claim a share of it. But thanks to our Agriculture Department—they have never cared to consult this Committee or seek their help for research or for improving the quality and quantity of cotton grown in Assam.

Sir, Sir John Russel, the Agricultural expert, who was employed by the Government of India for studying the agricultural conditions of the Indian provinces, after his tour in Assam remarked that Assam soil, particularly the tea growing areas, are very suitable for cinchona cultivation and Sir John Russel even went up to remark that a time may soon come when the whole of India will look upto Assam for the supply of its quinine requirements. Sir, in India we have to import quinine worth more than a crore of rupees and our finance Minister has provided for 36 thousand rupees for purchasing quinine through the Government of India, this, owing to the unnatural conditions that have arisen due to war. May I tell him, Sir, that the Government of Bengal has tried cinchona cultivation in the Darjeelin, Hills and it has been found to be a profitable concern. And though, Sir, John Russel said many years back that Assam soil is very suitable for cinchona cultivation, our Agricultural Department did not see their way to try it—not a pound of cinchona can be found to be grown in Assam. Sir,

these are a few suggestions I offer to our Agricultural Minister for his serious consideration and he may find them, if he will care to go through them, not so fantastic as they appear at the first sight.

Sir, according to the Tea Industry reports and Land Revenue Department reports I find that in Assam the area under tea gardens is 16 lakhs and odd acres, and of this only 4 lakhs and odd acres are under actual tea cultivation. The Director of Agriculture says in his report that it is 26 per cent. Sir, let us add another 24 per cent. to it for cooly lines, paddy fields and other things and even that makes it only 50 per cent. and the other 50 per cent. is lying unutilised for all these years. Sir, there is an insistent demand from some quarters for doing away with the Line System. I submit, Sir, here is a Line System as old as the tea industry itself and if we can make the tea industry grow cotton or cinchona in these eight lakhs of acres of land, Assam can have a huge wealth. Sir, I beg to request the Hon'ble Minister, Agriculture, to consult the Tea Planters—Indian and European—on this matter. If the planters will not agree to take up the suggestion, Sir, I submit—we shall have every right, by proper legislation to confiscate all those lands that are lying unutilised and bring them under cultivation—sugarcane, cotton or cinchona whatever it may be. Sir, I appeal to the Hon'ble Minister with all the earnestness that I can command to give his serious consideration over the matter. Sir, I appeal to the Hon'ble Agricultural Minister to rise up to the occasion and be the real Adam—who delved in the days of yore for the benefit of his progeny. I appeal to him to see how he can improve the quality and quantity of the agricultural produce of the province.

Sir, there are about ten lakhs of labourers in the tea gardens in Assam. During the off season most of them have nothing to do (*voices: No, No*) in the tea gardens. Sir, During the off season they are employed for two or three days only in the week. I submit, Sir, they can be very profitably employed if our Hon'ble Lady Minister in charge of Industry will study the economics of Charka and make arrangements for introducing that little thing in the tea gardens. Like that of Mother Eve spinning in her natural occupation and if she will take it up again she will have the blessings of ten lakhs of tea garden labourers.

Sir, I appeal to the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and the Hon'ble Minister of Industry, between them to, let them play the Adam and Eve manfully and womanfully so that this province of Assam may soon go back to its old days of health, wealth and glory.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Any other hon. member is willing to speak? (*After a pause.*) Then I may take it that no hon. member is going to speak.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir. May I submit a word before the House? Certain names of the members who are willing to take part in the debate have been submitted. Of course my name does not appear there. Now I find, that there is still time and when no hon. member is willing to speak, I think, I may be permitted to say a few sentences before the House.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Of course there is yet ten minutes' time and nobody was coming forward to speak. The hon. member may be allowed to speak.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir. I have no intention to take part in the deliberation this time because there is nothing new to me and there is no fancy that I should take part in the budget because I have grown old enough and I have got the experience of the last three years. This is the third year that we have been presented with a budget.

I know what is a budget, how it is prepared and how it is to be criticised. The theatrical speech which my friend Mr. Nirendra Nath Deb' has made before the House is, I think, a very valuable one and his speech has excited me to take my stand. It is really very much pleasing to me that Mr. Nirendra Nath Deb is a man of my co-village and he is also my old class friend (*laughter*) but fortunately or unfortunately I cannot say, my hon. friend belongs to one group of the House while I belong to another group, and this will facilitate the task so far as we are concerned with, the divergence of political ideas of this House. Sir, let me tell him that the theoretical ideas about which he has spoken before the House are not always practicable. One thing he has spoken before the House is that the tea areas which are now under actual cultivation are lying waste. This is not a fact. Though he is a co-villager of mine, he does not generally reside at home and so he has not got personal experience. Several gardens are situated within a radius of 10 to 12 miles from our village and so I have got an idea and personal knowledge that the areas which are not under actual cultivation are producing much useful produce. Again I may tell him that areas which have once been settled with the Tea-garden Managers cannot be taken back from them. Then, Sir, my hon. friend has spoken about the condition of Bihar and other provinces and I would tell him that it would be a glorious duty on his part if he can come forward with practical ideas in the near future. Of course, he is a new comer to this House for this session and so I cannot blame him for this. There is ample time to see what he can do. First when I entered the House, I also criticised the Government in this way. Now I as a party member of the Government have witnessed the responsibility of the Ministers. It is very easy to criticise a thing but when we take the responsibility ourselves, we see how difficult it is to put that into practice. Well, Sir, last year when the Opposition party came into power, they had to undergo also the same difficulties and we had the opportunity to criticise them like anything. It is most unfortunate that we shall never realise this difficulty and we will never admit the truth. We shall never appreciate the beneficial things done by the Government. I think, Sir, at least for the sake of humanity we must admit when a good thing is done by the Government. When we find that Government have done something wrong or against the general interest of the poor masses, then we should criticise them but unless we give them support or unless we appreciate the good work which they do for the benefit of poor masses, I don't know how they are to proceed on. Sir, I have nothing more to speak on the general discussion of the budget but I can simply refer my hon. friends who have spoken so loudly against the Budget in the way of criticising, to the articles which just have been published in the papers regarding this year's Budget. (*Loud laughter.*)

#### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 a.m. on Monday, the 26th February, 1940.

SHILLONG :

*The 21st March 1940.*

A. K. BARUA,

*Secretary Legislative Assembly, Assam.*