

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 11 A.M., on Saturday, the 17th March, 1945.

PRESENT

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Assam Process Servers Association Conference at Habiganj

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*142. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have received the copies of resolutions passed in the meeting of the Assam Process Servers Conference held at Habiganj during December, 1944 ?

(b) If so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take and when on the said resolutions ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

142. (a)—Yes. These have only just been received.

(b)—They are under consideration.

Bribery and Corruptions amongst Government Employees

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*143. Will Government be pleased to state whether they intend to start immediately a committee consisting of the Members of the Legislature to enquire into the allegations of bribery and corruptions amongst the Government employees ?

†The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

143.—No. Enquiry into allegations of corruptions is properly a function of the police, and cannot effectively be conducted by an *ad hoc* committee constituted by executive order, Government will welcome co-operation from the Assembly and the public in the form of concrete evidence, communicated confidentially or otherwise, which the giver is prepared to substantiate in court, and which can then be placed in the hands of the Police Department for investigation.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Will Government be pleased to state whether any special instruction has been issued to the Police Department so that they can take special care in the matter and whether they have already begun their work in this respect ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, no special instruction has been issued to the Criminal Investigation Department as I mentioned yesterday on the floor of the House.

†The Question was replied by the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman as the Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla was absent at the moment when the question was put.

Molestation of people and encroachment on patta lands by immigrants in Baghbar of Barpeta

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS asked :

- *144. (a) Are Government aware that the Assamese Village Baghbar in Mauza Baghbar of the Barpeta Subdivision is surrounded all sides by immigrant villagers ?
 (b) Is it a fact that there was a dacoity recently in the house of one Nareswar Gaonbura residing in the said locality ?
 (c) Are Government aware that some of the villagers of Baghbar being cited as witness, participated in the identification of some immigrants of the neighbouring villages as participants in the said dacoity ?
 (d) Are Government aware of the instances that since after such identification, the Kachari and other Hindu people of Baghbar are being molested by immigrants of the neighbouring villages with organised forcible encroachments on their *patta* lands by taking away their mustard and other crops from the fields, by ploughing the same with a view to oust them therefrom, by threatening with personal violence, etc. ?
 (e) Are Government aware that as a result, the Baghbar people have been forced to give up going to their fields for fear of their lives ?
 (f) Is it a fact that recently they moved the Subdivisional Officer, Barpeta and the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup with petitions and telegrams praying for protection ?
 (g) If so, do Government propose to take immediate steps to control the situation ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

144. (a) to (g)—Government have no information. If the allegation of encroachment is correct, it is open to the *patta* holders to protect their interests in the land through Criminal or Civil Courts. The revenue authority has no jurisdiction in the matter.

Grant of dearness allowance to Local Bodies Primary School Teachers

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS asked :

- *145. Will Government be pleased to state—
 (a) Which of the Local Bodies of Assam have granted dearness allowance of Rs.3 per head per mensem to their local primary school teachers on the basis of Government contributing 60 per cent. of the same ?
 (b) The total expenditure incurred by Government as such contribution in 1944 ?
 (c) Since when each of such Local Bodies granted the allowance ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

145. (a), (b) & (c)—A statement showing in detail the information asked for is placed on the Library Table.

(Starred questions Nos. 146 to 152 standing in the name of Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Choudhury were not put and answered as the questioner was absent.)

Requisition of Guns in South Sylhet Subdivision

Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURY asked :

- *153. (a) Is it a fact that several guns belonging to private individuals in the South Sylhet Subdivision were requisitioned under the Defence of India Rules ?
 (b) In view of the altered situation in the Country, do Government propose to return their guns to their respective owners ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

153. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The matter is under examination with the Deputy Commissioner and Inspector General of Police.

Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURY: Are they required to apply again ?

†The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It will not be necessary, Sir. We have issued instruction to the Deputy Commissioner who will consult the Subdivisional Officer and see that the guns are returned to the owners.

†Maulavi ABDUL AZIZ: How long it will take for the Government to come to a decision ?

†The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: A decision has already been arrived at and orders have been issued to the Deputy Commissioner.

Re Holding of Meetings by Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy at Habiganj

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

*154. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Additional District Magistrate of Sylhet permitted Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy, M.L.A., to hold meetings at Habiganj town on the 26th January, 1945 and at Nabiganj on the 14th January, 1945 ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the aforesaid permission was subsequently withdrawn ?

(c) If so, why ?

(d) Whether Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy, M.L.A., was duly informed about this refusal ?

(e) If not, why not ?

(f) Whether it is a fact that permission was given to him to hold meetings in various places in the Sunamganj Subdivision on the 12th, 15th, 17th, 23rd, 26th and 28th January, 1945 and that all the meetings were allowed to be held ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

154. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—In regard to the meeting at Nabiganj a letter was received from Babu Debabrata Bhattacharjee who was to arrange the meeting, expressing inability to hold the meeting on the 14th and asking for another date, the permission to hold the meeting on the 14th was therefore formally withdrawn by an order of the 23rd January. As to the meeting at Habiganj on 26th January, 1945 it was learnt that Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy, to whom permission has been granted, would be unable to be present and it was not considered advisable to allow the meeting in his absence.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Does not arise.

(f)—Yes.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Is it a fact that Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy was not present in all the meetings in the Sunamganj Subdivision on the 12th, 15th, 17th, 23rd, 26th, and 28th January, 1945 and that all the meetings were allowed to be held ?

†The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It was my Friend's Subdivision and we thought that he had influence there, whether present or absent, and therefore Sunamganj meetings were allowed to be held.

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Why the subsequent permission was not given so far as the Nabiganj meeting was concerned ?

† The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : The organiser did not apply for a subsequent date.

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : He simply applied that he would not be able to hold the meeting on that date.

† The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Government did not arrange this meeting.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY : May I know whether he subsequently applied for permission ?

† The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : My report is that he did not subsequently apply.

Re Sadhusing, an externee from Digboi

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

*155. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Why Sadhusing, an externee from Digboi, has not been allowed to visit that place to look after his properties which are being destroyed for want of supervision ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that his wife also applied to the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, to be allowed to go to Digboi on 27th July, 1944 ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that she has also been refused permission by the Superintendent of Police, Dibrugarh to go to Digboi ?

(d) If so, why ?

(e) Whether Government propose to allow Sadhusing to go to Digboi once to see the condition of his properties and make necessary repair ?

(f) If not, why not ?

(g) Whether Government propose to allow his wife to go to Digboi ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

155 (a)—The place is included in a Protected Area, to which on his record he cannot be granted permission. His property has been ascertained to be under care.

(b)—(g)—A reference is invited to the replies given to Starred Questions No. 72 (a)—(d) by Srijut Lakshesvar Borooh at this Session.

Trade Adviser to the Government of Assam

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

*156. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that Mr. A. C. Dutta, Trade Adviser to the Government of Assam in Calcutta is acting as honorary Trade Agent of Tripura Raj State ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the staff maintained by the Government of Assam is utilised by Mr. Dutta for procuring goods for the Tripura Raj State in Calcutta ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

156. (a) & (b)—Government have no definite information but they are enquiring.

Emergent meeting of Assam Chamber of Commerce

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

*157. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether they have received a copy of a resolution relating to some consumer goods passed at an emergent meeting of the Governing Body of the Assam Chamber of Commerce held on the 21st August, 1944 ?
- (b) If so, whether any steps have been taken on the suggestions made in that resolution ?
- (c) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

157. (a)—No.

(b) & (c)—Do not arise.

Licenses for Transport of Orange to Bengal

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

*158. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) On what principle the licenses for transport of orange to Bengal for this season were issued by the Government of Assam ?
- (b) The names of persons with their addresses to whom such licenses were issued in the district of Sylhet ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

158. (a)—Permits for export of orange to Bengal were granted to the Orange Export Associations formed in the district according to surplus available after meeting the demand of military and civil population in the district.

(b)—

1. Chhatak Orange Export Association.
2. Dwarabazar „ „ „
3. Sunamganj „ „ „
4. Karimganj „ „ „
5. Sylhet „ „ „
6. Sylhet Fresh Fruit Dealers Association.
7. Maulavi Soefulla Talukdar.
8. Maulavi Azizur Roza Choudhury.
9. Maulavi Nuruddin Ahmed.
10. Babu Sudhir Ranjan Datta and 3 others of Sylhet.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Were all of these persons genuine orange dealers ?

† The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The first six as I mentioned, are genuine orange dealers.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: May I know what was the source of information of the Government that they are genuine dealers ?

† The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It is the report of local officers.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: May I know what was the report of the Subdivisional Officer of Sunamganj regarding Soefulla ?

† The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Speaking from memory, Sir, he is one of the *dalals*.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Shall I be permitted to say that he is a *benamdar* of a Member of this House ?

† The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I don't think the information is correct.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Is it a fact that a license was issued to this gentleman from Shillong and not by the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet?

† The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: A petition was submitted here and orders were issued from Government.

Maulavi MAUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: May I know why other applicants were not granted licenses from Shillong and why an exception was made in this case?

† The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: In this case the gentleman approached me to consider his case and I gave orders.

Grant of Permits for using Cement in Sylhet

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked:

*159. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The names of persons or bodies other than Military to whom permission was granted by the Government of Assam for using cement in the district of Sylhet and the quantity granted to each of them after the promulgation of the Cement Control Order?
- (b) The names of persons or bodies with their addresses other than Military who constructed buildings in which cement was used in the district of Sylhet after the promulgation of the Cement Control Order?
- (c) Whether Government propose to enquire about the quality of cement issued through blackmarkets at Chhatak?
- (d) The names and addresses of persons prosecuted in the district of Sylhet since the promulgation of the Cement Control Order for using cement without permission?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

159. (a)—Nil. No permits are granted by or on behalf of the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet. Application is to be made to the Hon. Regional Cement Adviser to the Government of India at Calcutta. Such applications are sometimes received by the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet for his recommendation which is given in specially deserving cases. This recommendation may also be given by any other official or by non-official gentlemen.

(b)—Government have no information.

(c)—Government have no information of the existence of a blackmarket.

(d)—There has been no prosecution of using cement without permission.

(d)—There was one detection of a case of hoarding but the accused died before trial.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Is it a fact that Government connived at the blackmarketing in cement?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: We have got no information of the existence of blackmarketing in cement.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: May we know why Government did not hold any enquiry before they came forward with this reply whether in Sunamganj and Chhatak any person purchased cement without any authority from Government?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The Question is "whether Government propose to enquire about the quality of cement issued through blackmarkets at Chhatak"—enquiry about the quality is sought. As Government are not using such cement, they do not want to hold any enquiry.

License for Transport of Orange outside the Province

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

*160. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The names of persons whose license for transport of orange outside the Province was cancelled by Government during this season ?
- (b) The date of passing the order of cancellation ?
- (c) The date of receipt of the order by the party concerned ?
- (d) The reason for each cancellation ?
- (e) The names of licensees whose license has not been renewed after the period for which the license was intended to operate ?
- (f) The reasons for such non-renewal ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

160. (a)—No license was cancelled.

(b), (c) & (d)—Do not arise.

(e)—

1. Karimganj Orange Export Association.
2. Sunamganj Orange Export Association.
3. Dwarabazar Orange Export Association.
4. Maulavi M. Sayefulla Talukdar.
5. Orange Export Association, Sylhet.
6. Fresh Fruit Dealers Association.
7. Sudhir Ranjan Datta and 3 others.
8. Maulavi Azizur Roza Choudhury.
9. Maulavi Nuruddin Ahmed.
10. Chhatak Orange Export Association, Chhatak.

(f)—As with the season advancing there was no exportable surplus.

†Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: Will Government take it from me that Jaldhup people were losers on account of this arrangement by the Government ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I do not know whether anybody was loser.

†Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: Have they not submitted applications to this effect ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Application to whom ?

†Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: To Government.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: If they had applied to the Deputy Commissioner, I am not aware of it, because up till now no communication has been received from the Deputy Commissioner on this subject. So far as I am concerned, I have not received any petition from anybody in Jaldhup.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Is it a fact that prices of orange shot up after the export license was issued ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Prices went up on account of a very big demand.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Is it a fact that those who supplied oranges to the Military were under an agreement to supply at a special rate ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: That may be so. I do not know what are the terms of contract between the Military and the suppliers.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Did not Government order that the Military supply should be ensured before any export was allowed ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: That was our instruction to the Deputy Commissioner.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Is it a fact that the Military suppliers were put to a loss because the price went up ?

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

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Will Government make an enquiry and take steps so that such loss may not occur again to the suppliers ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I do not see any necessity for an enquiry. It is a private business between the Military Department and the contractors. The Government has no responsibility in the matter.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : But does not Government take the responsibility by putting an embargo on the export ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : That is entirely a separate Question. We wanted to ensure the Military supply.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Is it not the duty of the Government to ensure that the prices which the producers get are satisfactory ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : My hon. Friend supplied the information that prices shot up. Therefore the growers must have been more than satisfied.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Did Government make an enquiry at what price the Military contractors were getting their oranges ?

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

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Then how was it justified for Government to impose restrictions on the export ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : The restriction on export was according to the size of the surplus. We had to see that the Military supply was ensured and the local people got sufficient for their consumption.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Was it not the duty of Government to see that the price offered to the growers by the Military suppliers was fair and equitable ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : The surplus that was allowed to be exported gave the growers sufficient margin.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Is it the contention of the Government that the growers were to make good the losses which they sustained in fulfilling Military commitments by the profit from export ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I am not aware of any such policy ?

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table.)

Population of Caste Hindus (other than Ahoms), etc.

Srijut SURENDRANATH BURAGOHAİN asked :

110. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the total population of Caste Hindus (other than Ahoms), Scheduled Castes, Muslims, Tribals and Ahoms in the districts of Sibsagar and Lakhimpur ; Subdivision by Sub-division ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

110.—A statement which excludes the population resident on tea estates is given below :—

Population figures of Sibsagar and Lakhimpur Districts

Communities	Sibsagar district			Lakhimpur district	
	Jorhat Subdivision	Sibsagar Subdivision	Golaghat Subdivision	Dibrugarh Subdivision	North Lakhimpur Subdivision
	Figures as adopted for communal table	Figures as adopted for communal table	Figures as adopted for communal table	Figures as adopted for communal table	Figures as adopted for communal table
1. Caste Hindus (Other than Ahoms)	154,184	92,457	115,563	143,548	63,199
2. Scheduled Castes	23,287	12,081	11,875	16,373	11,373
3. Muslims	12,526	21,682	11,474	17,417	18,155
4. Tribals	54,451	38,472	65,812	132,424	65,992
(a) Assam Tribes	33,005	16,601	50,961	57,881	49,041
(b) Tea Garden Tribes	21,446	21,871	14,851	74,543	16,951
5. Ahoms (Including Bhuddist Ahoms).	37,596	121,460	20,078	73,209	26,464

Re Scarcity of Coins

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

111. Are Government aware—

(a) That one pice coins have now-a-days become very scarce in the Province ?

(b) The hardship that has been caused to the poorer classes of people for want of such coins while paying ferry tolls and railway or steamer fares ?

112. (a) If the answer to the above Questions be in the affirmative, do Government propose to move the Central Government to make one pice coins adequately available in the Province ?

(b) Do Government propose to suggest to the Central Government the desirability of suspending issue of half-anna pieces and of issuing one pice coins in adequate quantity in place of half-anna ones if paucity of necessary metals be the cause of the scarcity of one pice coins ?

(c) Do Government propose to take necessary steps and move the authorities concerned where necessary for the use of one pice stamps in the absence of pice coins by the ferry-toll collectors and steamer and Railway ticket sellers until the latter are available ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

111. & 112.—Reports from treasuries show that there is an adequate supply of pice coins in stock and it is for the toll collectors and the steamer and railway companies to indent for the amount required for every day use.

Re Political Prisoners

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

113. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The total number of security prisoners detained on the 14th January, 1945 in each of the different jails of the Province ?

(b) The names (with the name of the district to which each of them belongs) of those security prisoners who have applied or on whose behalf applications for grant of allowance for maintenance of their families have been made but no allowances have been granted as yet ?

- (c) The reasons for which the allowance has not yet been granted in each case ?
- (d) Whether the reasons for refusal have been communicated to the applicants ?
- (e) If not, why not ?
- (f) Who is the final authority to grant or reject applications for such allowance ?
- (g) Whether it is a fact that in most cases the authorities do not even acknowledge receipt of applications for such allowance ?
- (h) Whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the list of security prisoners, who applied for but have not yet been granted any allowance for maintenance of their families published in the *Assamiya* of the 23rd December, 1944 ?
- (i) Whether it is a fact that those security prisoners have been detained in jail without trial for more than the last two years ?
- (j) Whether their attention has been drawn to the allegation made in the said statement that the authorities have not arrived at a decision even though 6 to 9 applications have been made to them by an applicant or have not cared to communicate the final orders to the applicants ?
- (k) Whether Government propose to instruct the officers concerned to acknowledge receipt of applications and to communicate the result of the applications to the applicants without undue delay in future ?
- (l) In those cases where allowances have been granted, whether the same has been given from the date of detention or from the date of passing the order ?
- (m) If from the date of passing the order, why allowances have not been granted from the date of detention ?
- (n) Whether Government have continued paying family allowances to those security prisoners who have been interned or externed after release from jail ?
- (o) If not, whether Government propose to withdraw such internment or externment orders or in the alternative, to provide them with adequate allowances for maintenance of their families ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

113. (a) & (b)—A reference is invited to the replies given to Starred Question No.63(a) & (b) asked by Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee, M.L.A., at this Session.

(c)—When a family allowance is refused, it is either because the prisoner has no family, or because it is known that the family is not in need of such assistance.

(d)—When a family allowance is unjustified, the Deputy Commissioner concerned is asked to inform the applicant accordingly.

(e)—Does not arise.

(f)—Government.

(g)—Government are not aware of the precise practice followed, but they have now instructed Deputy Commissioners to acknowledge applications and forward them immediately to Government pending examination of the claim in order to overcome any grievance in this connection.

(h)—Government have seen the publication referred to.

(i)—They have been detained for various periods, in some cases considerably more and in some cases less than a year.

(j)—As already stated, when an application is refused by Government the Deputy Commissioner concerned is asked to inform the applicant of the decision.

(k)—Attention is invited to the reply to Question (g) above.

(l)—The date of effect is governed by the merits in each case.

(m)—As already stated the allowances are granted according to ascertained need.

(n)—When an allowance is sanctioned for a security prisoner, it ceases with effect from the date of his release from jail, unless Government for special reasons consider that the released prisoner is so affected by any restrictions placed upon him that continued assistance is necessary.

(o)—No. Government are not prepared to grant allowances to those interned or externed unless the need for it is justified.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Sir, my Question No.113(l) was why family allowances were not paid to the security prisoners from the date of their detention and the Government reply is that the date of effect is governed by the merits in each case. Will Government be pleased to explain what is meant by 'merits in each case' ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Government laid as a policy that no family allowance will be given to security prisoners unless they applied. Some applied early, they got the order early. Some applied one year late, Government did not think necessary to give retrospective effect in those cases. But in certain cases when it was found on enquiry that the family had to borrow money in order to maintain themselves, Government took a compassionate view and gave retrospective effect.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Were allowances given from the date of first application ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Generally so.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Will Government take it from me that Government and not from the date of first application ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : There may have been one or two such cases and unless those cases are specifically mentioned, I am not in a position to reply.

†Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURY : In reply to Question No. 113(o) it is said "No. Government are not prepared to grant allowances to those interned or externed unless the need for it justified." Who ascertains the needs ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Government, through their local officers.

†Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURY : May I know who are the local agents, the Police or some other officers ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : We ask the Deputy Commissioner and he may employ his own agency, Magisterial or the Sub-Deputy Collectors and sometimes the Police, for materials to report to Government.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Is it a fact that the security prisoners who have been restricted within certain localities after release have been very much handicapped in earning their livelihood ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : That may be so and in suitable cases we have made amends for it.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Is it not a fact that in many cases allowances have not been granted to people who have been interned within small towns or Thanas ?

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

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Will Government consider the desirability of granting allowances to those people who have thus been deprived of their facilities of earning livelihood due to the restrictions imposed ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Government have considered, and will consider in future, any applications received from this category of gentlemen.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA : Are Government aware that one Muktear of North Lakhimpur, Mr. Tirtheswar Hazarika, was not allowed for a long time to practise in North Lakhimpur Courts after his release ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: By whom, Sir?
Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: By the Subdivisional Officer, on account of his certificate not having been renewed?

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

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: He made representations to the Government as well as to the District Judge of the Assam Valley districts and still he did not receive the renewed certificate till February?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I will require notice of that Question.

Removal of black-out restrictions

Mr. C. W. MORLEY asked:

114. Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to consider removing all black-out restrictions in the towns of the Province?

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

114.—Yes, as rapidly as this becomes feasible, but in this matter, Government has to conform to policy laid down by the Government of India.

Mr. C. W. MORLEY: Could not Government give us some idea of the time which must elapse before removal of these restrictions?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: There has been some relaxation in the lighting restrictions, Sir, and so far as our information goes, the bottom coverings of the lights have been removed—only the top covering remains. As soon as the danger will diminish there will be further relaxation in the lighting restrictions.

Mr. C. W. MORLEY: In this matter, do Assam Government approach the Central Government, or do the latter issue instructions?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: The Assam Government approach the Central Government and on their instructions, they relax these restrictions.

Mr. C. W. MORLEY: Will this Government again approach the Central Government for this purpose?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: We shall consider the suggestion, Sir. As a matter of fact we have been approaching the Central Government from time to time and according to their instructions, we act.

Chairmen and personnel of Debt Conciliation Boards in Surma Valley

Maulavi ABDUL AZIZ asked:

115. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The names of Chairmen and other personnel of all the Debt Conciliation Boards at present functioning in the Surma Valley?
- (b) The establishment cost of each of those Boards including allowances of members and Chairmen per month for the period from April 1943, to December 1944 and the number of cases instituted therein and disposed of by them during the said period?
- (c) The total number of the Debt Conciliation Boards in the Province and the total cost incurred by Government annually on account of these Boards?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

115. (a)—The hon. Member's attention is drawn to the reply given to Starred Question No.3 asked by Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee in the November Session of the Assembly, 1944. Since then, no change in the personnel has occurred except in the case of the Silchar Board which was reconstituted in December 1944, with the following gentlemen :—

1. Maulavi Namwar Ali Barbhuiya, B.L., M.L.A. (Chairman).
2. Maulavi Masaddar Ali Bar Laskar of Malugram, Silchar Town (Member).
3. Babu Tara Charan Deshmukhya, B.A., retired Sub-Deputy Collector (Member).
4. Babu Hara Prasad Das, B.A., B.T. (Hailakandi), retired Deputy Inspector of Schools (Member).
5. Maulavi Sirajur Rahman (of Kanakpur, Silchar) (Member).
6. Maulavi Wajid Ali Chaudhury (of Algapur, Hailakandi) (Member).
7. Babu Lochan Mani Nath (of Barenga), retired Sub-Registrar (Member).

(b) & (c)—The hon. Member is referred to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 74 asked by Babu Kamini Kumar Sen in this Session of the Assembly. Separate call for them as the labour involved in the work of compilation will be incommensurate with the result.

†Maulavi ABDUL AZIZ : With regard to Question No.115(c), the reply is "..... propose to call for them as the labour involved in the work of compilation will be incommensurate with the result". Was it a very huge task for Government to collect the figure of the total number of Debt Conciliation Boards in the Province ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : The hon. Member has been referred to Unstarred Question No 74 asked by Babu Kamini Kumar Sen in this Session.

Re Officers of the Supply Department

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA asked :

116. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of various officers at present in the Supply Department ?
- (b) What are their designations and monthly salaries ?
- (c) Whether Government propose to form a committee of officials and non-officials to investigate about the value of immovable property acquired and the amount of bank balance kept by each of those officers, subsequent to their appointment in the Supply Department ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

116. A list is placed below—

(a)—215 [as shown against (b) below.]

(b)— (1) Superintendents of Supply	...	8	} at Rs. 200—20—300 per month each.
(2) Assistant Controllers of Rationing	...	9	
(3) Superintendents of Supply (Standard Cloth)	...	2	
(4) Superintendent of Supply for Paper Control Economy Order	...	1	

†Speech not corrected.

- (5) Inspectors of Supply ... 2—One at Rs. 125—10—225 per month and another at Rs. 125—125—150—20/2—210—210 (E. B.)—230—20/2—250—25/2—325—325 (E. B.)—350—25/2—400 (New).
- (6) Inspector for Consumer Goods at Calcutta. 1 } at Rs. 125—10—225 per month each.
- (7) Inspector of Supply (Procurement), Sylhet. 27 }
- (8) Inspector of Consumer Goods (who are under the administrative control of the Excise Commissioner). 16—at Rs. 100—5/2—12 5 per month each.
- (9) Inspector of Supply for Rice and Paddy Control at Sylhet. 1—at Rs. 125—5—150 per month.
- (10) Special Officer, Rice Control, Goalpara. 1—at Rs. 200—10—340 plus special pay of Rs. 50 per month.
- (11) Special Officer, Rice Control, Sunamganj. 1—at Rs. 320 plus special pay Rs. 50 per month in the scale of Rs. 150—175—200—200—20/2—260—260 (E. B.)—280—20/2—400.
- (12) Deputy Director of Supply (Procurement), Sylhet. 1—at Rs. 800—50—1,000 per month.
- (13) Controllers of Supply for rice and Paddy Procurement Scheme in Surma Valley. 3—at Rs. 300—25—500 per month, special pay of Rs. 50 per month each.
- (14) Sub-Inspectors of Supply including Sub-Inspectors for Rationing and Standard Cloth. 124—at Rs. 100—4—140 (E. B.)—5—200 per month each.
- (15) Sub-Inspectors of Supply for Rice and Paddy Control at Sylhet. 12— Ditto ditto.
- (16) Sub-Inspectors of Supply for Rice and Paddy Control at Goalpara. 3— Ditto ditto.
- (17) Trade Adviser to the Government of Assam, Calcutta. 1—at Rs. 900 per month in addition to his pension.
- (18) Deputy Director of Supply (Accounts). 1—at Rs. 600—40—800 per month in addition to his pension.
- (19) Under-Secretary to the Government of Assam, Supply Department. 1—at Rs. 550 plus special pay of Rs. 150 per month in scale of Rs. 250—275—300—50/2—500—500 (E. B.)—550—50/2—700—700 (E. B.)—750—5/2—850.

(c)—No.
 † Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I enquire whether any application was called for for the post of Deputy Director of Supply (Procurement), Sylhet, Controllers of Supply for Rice and Paddy Procurement Scheme in the Surma Valley and Inspectors of Supply for Rice and Paddy Control at Sylhet ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: If the hon. Member refers to the last set of appointments, there was no application invited for the posts of Inspectors for we had to take over from the two Government purchasing agencies by the 31st December, and as selection through the Public Service Commission would entail delay, we asked the different Departments of Government to spare Officers, if possible. We got about fifteen from the Education Department, two from other Departments and about six were taken direct, but each appointment was regularised by the approval of His Excellency the Governor, as required by the Regulations of the Public Service Commission.

† Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Do not Government consider that the Education Department, which has spared so many Officers, will suffer a great deal?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, Sir, we are afraid that it may be so. Therefore we requested the Director of Public Instruction whether he would be able to give us twenty-five Officers from the Education Department. The Director of Public Instruction went down to Sylhet, consulted the Inspector of Schools and the Deputy Commissioner and released seventeen men out of whom one refused to join this post.

† Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is it not a fact that even now all the vacancies in the Education Department have not been filled up by suitable candidates?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: That is not our information.

Re Khari Masur Dal

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN asked:

117. (a) Are Government aware that the Khari Masur Dal is the best Masur Dal and that its price in Bihar is Rs. 13-8 per maund?

(b) Is it a fact that the price of lower quality of Masur Dal has been fixed by Government at Rs. 26 per maund in Assam?

(c) Is it a fact that Government have recently fixed Rs. 34 per maund of Masur Dal imported by one Firm of Gauhati?

(d) If so, on what basis the rate has been fixed?

(e) Are Government aware that all kinds of Dal are now very cheap in Bihar?

(f) If so, why such a high price has been fixed for its sale in Assam?

(g) Are Government aware that the traders can import such Dals from outside at a lesser price?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

117. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Government price for ordinary Masur Dal is Rs. 21-12 only.

(c)—The Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, allowed it.

(d)—On the basis of invoices produced by the traders and the other charges claimed.

(e)—Prices of Dal have come down in Bihar.

(f)—As supplies from Bihar are not enough Government had to procure Dal from Calcutta in the past where the price was generally more than Rs. 25 a maund. Hence the average price is high. With more and more of cheaper Dal coming, prices here will also be correspondingly reduced but there will naturally be a time lag.

(g)—Question (c) above belies the suggestion. Government cannot obviously leave the cheap Dal to trade and supplement it by costly purchases elsewhere by themselves.

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN: May I know the amount of *Masur dal* purchased from Bihar and at what rate?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: My hon. Friend should have tabled a separate Question; I cannot give the figures off hand?

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN: May I take it that it was purchased at Rs. 13-8-0?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have said "Yes", and my hon. Friend can make his deduction.

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: So far as *dal* is concerned, may I know whether any quota was fixed by the Central Government for this Province?

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

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May I know the names of the Provinces from which our quota was fixed?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Three Provinces, *viz.*, the Central Provinces for *Mug* and *Khesari* and United Provinces and Bihar for the other varieties.

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Are we to understand that the Bihar Government could not supply us our entire quota fixed from them?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: They could supply, but there was a certain misunderstanding by their district Officers of Government orders, and therefore there was some delay in supply.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Will Government be pleased to state whether *Masur dal* is still being procured through Calcutta?

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

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: When the price in Bihar is Rs.13-8-0 do not Government consider their fixing the price at Rs.21-12-0 in Assam too high?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I think if my hon. Friend will ask Mr. Mookerjee, he will get a satisfactory explanation of that. The matter was thoroughly discussed in the meeting of the Economic Advisory Board the other day. The original price fixed by the Bihar Government was Rs.19-8-0 and we therefore fixed our price at Rs.23-8-0. But the Bihar Government without informing this Government or our agents, reduced the price. Our procuring agents, Messrs. Shaw Wallace and Co., without knowing the Bihar Government's action, was submitting their bills at the rate of Rs.19-8-0 and so this Government had to continue their price of Rs.23-8-0. Later, on a reference to Bihar, they said that they had reduced their price by six rupees, and although we have got our money back, I am sorry, for want of information either on the part of our agents or the Government, for six months people had to pay a higher price for *dal*.

† Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Have not Government made a huge profit out of this mistake?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Government did get some profit.

† Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Will Government consider reducing the price still further so as to give this benefit to the people?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I will consider this suggestion, Sir.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: Will Government take steps to recover the excess amount paid, from the Agency?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: That has already been realised from the Bihar Government, whom we paid.

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May I know whether the procurements which took place from Calcutta by the Agents were from the Government, or from the open market, or from the blackmarket?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: They were obtained from Calcutta from the controlled market.

† Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: How is it that the Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup allowed the price to rise up to Rs.34 per maund?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have asked for the Deputy Commissioner's explanation.

† Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN: May I know the name of the firms?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I do not know. I have asked for the complete details.

† Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: May I know whether we can get *Dal* at a reasonable reduced rate ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The price of *Dal* has been reduced now.

Re Chairman of the Hailakandi Town Committee

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

118. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether any no-confidence motion was passed against the Chairman of the Hailakandi Town Committee in a meeting of the members held on 4th March, 1944 ?
- (b) If so, why no action has yet been taken by the Government on that no-confidence motion ?
- (c) Whether the budget proposals of the aforesaid Town Committee for 1944-45 were passed by its members ?
- (d) If not, how the expenditure for the said Town Committee for the above financial year was incurred by the Chairman ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY replied :

118. (a)—Yes and the Chairman is reported to have resigned.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—No.

(d)—As the budgets of the Municipal institutions do not come up to Government in time for sanction the Boards and Town Committees are authorised at the beginning of the financial year to incur necessary expenditure till the formal sanction of the budgets is accorded.

Adjournment Motions

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I have got notices of two Adjournment Motions.

Adjournment Motion re virtual starvation of some people in Goalpara town as a result of Supply Sub-Inspector's action

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg leave to move that this House do now adjourn to discuss a definite and urgent matter of public importance, namely, the situation arising out of 56 persons' virtual starvation in the Goalpara town as a result of the action of the supply Sub-Inspector of that place.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: আপনি এই বিষয়টা কবে জেনেছেন ?

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA: আজ জানিয়াছি। আজ বেলা ৯টায় একখানা টেলিগ্রাম ও একখানা Express delivery letter পাইয়াছি। এই সেই টেলিগ্রাম ও letter, ইহা হইতে জানিয়াছি।

গোয়ালপাড়া জেলার Supply Sub-Inspector Srijut Sris Chandra Datta গোয়ালপাড়ার মিষ্টির দোকানদারদের কিছুদিন যাবত চিনি দিতেছেন না। ইতিপূর্বে মাসিক ২৫ টাকা হিসাবে প্রত্যেক মিঠাইওয়ালার নিকট হইতে নিয়া কিছু কিছু চিনি দিতেন, এই মাসে প্রত্যেকের নিকট হইতে ৫০ হিসাবে ঘুষ চার্জ করায় এবং উহা দিতে অপারগ হওয়ায় চিনি দেওয়া বন্ধ করিয়াছেন।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করি এই খবর আপনি কি করে পেলেন যে ২৫ টাকা করে নিয়ে চিনি দেওয়া হত ? This is a serious allegation.

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA: তাহারা যে দরখাস্ত পাঠাইয়াছেন তাহা হইতে জানিতে পারিয়াছি।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: দরখাস্ত ত telegram এ আসতে পারে না ?

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA: Express delivery চিঠিতে দরখাস্ত আসিয়াছে। এখন Supply Sub-Inspector Srijut Sris Chandra Datta মিষ্টির

দোকানদারদের নিকট হইতে মাসিক ৫০ টাকা হিসাবে প্রত্যেকের নিকট টাকা চাহিতেছেন এবং তাহা না দেওয়ার জন্য তাহাদের চিনি দেওয়া বন্ধ হইয়াছে। ইহার ফলে তাহাদের কারবার বন্ধ হইয়াছে এবং ৫৬ জন লোক অনাহারে কষ্ট পাইতেছে। টেলিগ্রামে বলা হইয়াছে "Submitted petition take action". দরখাস্ত হইয়াছে এই.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : কতজনে দরখাস্ত করেছে ?

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA : ৬ জন। দরখাস্তখানা এই :—১ম:

দরখাস্ত—দরখাস্তকারিগণ—১নং শ্রীহরনাথ দে, ২নং শ্রীচিন্তাহরণ দে, ৩নং শ্রীরমেশ চন্দ্র পাল চৌধুরী, ৪নং শ্রীঅমূল্য রতন কর, ৫নং শ্রীআকালুরাম দে, ৬নং শ্রীপ্রিয়নাথ দে মোঃ গোয়ালপাড়া।

দরখাস্তকারিগণের বিনীত নিবেদন এই :—

“আমরা উক্ত দরখাস্তকারিগণ বহুকাল যাবত লাইসেন্সপ্রাপ্ত মিষ্টির দোকান করিয়া সপরিবারে জীবিকা নিব্বাহ করিয়া আসিতেছি। চিনি, ময়দা ইত্যাদি কণ্ট্রোল হওয়ার পর হইতে আমরা প্রত্যেক দরখাস্তকারী প্রতিমাসে ২৬০ মণ (এক বস্তা) চিনি এবং ২/ মণ (এক বস্তা) ময়দা পাইয়া আসিতেছিলাম।

উক্ত পরিমাণ চিনি ও ময়দার জন্য গোয়ালপাড়ার টাউন ছাপ্পাই সার্ভ-ইন্সপেক্টর (শ্রীযুত শ্রীশ চন্দ্র দত্ত) আমাদের একান্ত অনিচ্ছাসত্ত্বেও প্রত্যেক দরখাস্তকারীর নিকট হইতে মাসিক ২৫ টাকা অতিরিক্ত আদায় করিয়া পরে চিনি ময়দা দিতেন। টাকা না দেওয়া পর্যন্ত আমরা চিনি ময়দা পাইতাম না কিন্তু গত ডিসেম্বর মাস হইতে উক্ত ছাপ্পাই সার্ভ-ইন্সপেক্টর আমাদের প্রত্যেকের নিকট হইতে মাসিক ৫০ টাকা হিসাবে অতিরিক্ত দাবী করেন। আমরা এত টাকা দিতে অসম্মত ও অসমর্থ হওয়ায় ডিসেম্বর মাস হইতে আমাদের চিনি একপ্রকার বন্ধ হইয়া যায়। ডিসেম্বর, জানুয়ারী ও ফেব্রুয়ারী এই তিন মাসে ৩নং দরখাস্তকারী ৩/ মণ চিনি, ১, ২, ৫, এবং ৬নং দরখাস্তকারী ২/ মণ এবং ৪নং দরখাস্তকারী মাত্র অর্ধ মণ চিনি পাইয়াছি। ফলে আমাদের জীবিকা নিব্বাহের একমাত্র উপায় মিষ্টির দোকান বন্ধ হইবার উপক্রম হইয়াছে এবং আমরা সপরিবারে মৃত্যু-পথ-যাত্রী হইতে বসিয়াছি।

দরখাস্তকারিগণের পরিবারের লোক সংখ্যা ১নং—৬ জন, ২নং—৮ জন, ৩নং—১১ জন, ৪নং—১২ জন, ৫নং—৫ জন, ৬নং—৯ জন।

অতএব আমাদের বিনীত প্রার্থনা উক্ত ঘটনার তদন্তক্রমে যথাবিহিত প্রতিবিধান করতঃ এই দুইদিনে গরীব দরখাস্তকারিগণের জীবন রক্ষার ব্যবস্থা করিতে আজ্ঞা হয়।

দরখাস্তকারিগণ—

- ১নং শ্রীহরনাথ দে পক্ষ শ্রীরমণী মোহন দে।
 ২নং শ্রীচিন্তাহরণ দে।
 ৩নং শ্রীরমেশ চন্দ্র পাল চৌধুরী।
 ৪নং শ্রীঅমূল্যরতন কর।
 ৫নং শ্রীআকালুরাম দে।
 ৬নং শ্রীপ্রিয়নাথ দে।”

টিপ সই

৫নং শ্রীআকালুরাম দে,
 বঃ শ্রীশফুল কুমার চন্দ।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : আপনি কি বলতে পারেন যে এই দরখাস্তকারীদের

দস্তখত genuine ?

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA : হাঁ, আমি বলতে পারি যে এইটা এইসব

লোকের দরখাস্ত। আর একখানা দরখাস্ত এই :—
 ২য় দরখাস্ত—দরখাস্তকারী শ্রীহরেন্দ্র চন্দ্র দে পক্ষে শ্রীহীরালাল দে মোঃ গোয়ালপাড়া, আসাম। অধিনের বিনীত নিবেদন এই আমার পিতৃদেব গোয়ালপাড়া সহরে লাইসেন্সপ্রাপ্ত মিষ্টির দোকান গত ৩০ বৎসর যাবত করিয়া আসিতেছেন এবং মাত্র উক্ত আয়ের দ্বারাই সপরিবারে জীবিকানিব্বাহ করিয়া আসিতেছি। চিনি, ময়দা কণ্ট্রোল হওয়ার পর হইতে আমি মাসিক এক বস্তা (২৬০ মণ) চিনি ও এক বস্তা (২/ মণ) ময়দা পাইয়া আসিতেছিলাম। কিন্তু গত ১৯৪৪ সনের নভেম্বর মাসে গোয়ালপাড়ার টাউন ছাপ্পাই সার্ভ-ইন্সপেক্টর (শ্রীযুত শ্রীশচন্দ্র দত্ত) আমার নিকট ২০০ টাকা দাবী করেন এবং টাকা না দিলে চিনি, ময়দা পাইব না বলেন। আমি গরীব দোকানদার আমার পক্ষে এত টাকা দেওয়া সম্পূর্ণ অসম্ভব বিষয় উক্ত সার্ভ-ইন্সপেক্টর বাবুর নিকট অনেক অনুরোধ বিনয় করা সত্ত্বেও টাকা না দেওয়ায় আমার মাসিক চিনি ময়দা গত ১৯৪৪ সনের নভেম্বর মাস হইতে একেবারে বন্ধ করিয়া দিয়াছেন ফলে আমার দোকানও বন্ধ হয় এবং জীবিকানিব্বাহের একমাত্র উপায়ও বন্ধ হয়। আমার কোটা বন্ধ হওয়ায় আমার পরিবারের ৫ জন লোক সহ আমরা মৃত্যুপথের যাত্রী হইতে

বসিয়াছি। অতএব অধিনের বিনীত প্রার্থনা উপরোক্ত বিষয় যথাবিহিত প্রতিবিধান করতঃ এই দুদিনে দরখাস্তকারীর জীবিকানিব্বাহের প্রতিবিধান করিতে আজ্ঞা হয়। নিবেদন ইতি। ১৯৪৫ সন, ১২ই মার্চ।

শ্রীহিরালাল দে।”

এই প্রথম নয়। Sris Chandra Datta পূর্বে আরও এই প্রকার অনেক কিছু করিয়াছেন।

(Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia while moving his Adjournment Motion spoke in Bengali. He also read out two petitions sent to him by several sweetmeat sellers of Goalpara, accusing the Supply Sub-Inspector, Goalpara, for his refusal to supply flour and sugar to the sweetmeat sellers unless they paid gratifications.)

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Will it be parliamentary to say that? These are all slanderous.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: These are serious allegations.

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA: The telegram runs thus:

“Submitted petition take action.

Chintaharan Dey.”

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: অন্য কথা না বললেও চলবে। তাদের উচিত ছিল এই সব বিষয় পুলিশ বা Deputy Commissioner কে জানান। যাহা হউক আপনি যখন বলেছেন তখন Hon'ble Premier একটা উত্তর দিবেন। Will these people be prepared to give evidence before a law Court to have their evidence tested?

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA: হাঁ, তারা Courtএও এই বিষয়ে বলবে।

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: As you have already indicated, this is really not a matter for Adjournment Motion. My hon. Friend got information from those people direct only this morning. They have not approached Government. As my hon. Friend has laid all this before the House, I will take immediate action and start the enquiry, if he will submit the petitions to me.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: আপনি আপনার দরখাস্তগুলি Hon'ble Premierএর কাছে দিবেন। তিনি অবশ্য যাহা করবার তাহা করবেন।

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA: এই assurance পাওয়ার পর আমি এই বিষয়টা আর press করিতেছি না।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: As the hon. Member does not press his Motion, I need not decide whether it is in order or not. Srijut Surendranath Buragohain may now ask for leave to move his Adjournment Motion.

Adjournment Motion re: confusion created by Government Notification inviting applications for ten State scholarships for courses of study abroad in connection with the scheme sponsored by the Government of India.

Srijut SURENDRANATH BURAGOHAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg leave of the House to move that this Assembly do now adjourn for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the confusion created by the recent Assam Government Notification inviting applications from prospective candidates for ten state scholarships for courses of study abroad in connection with the scheme sponsored by the Government of India, inasmuch as the said notification is so made as to shut out a very large number of suitable candidates.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: When was this notification issued?

Srijut SURENDRANATH BURAGOHAIN: It was issued on the 7th of March, 1945.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Why the Adjournment Motion now?

Srijut SURENDRANATH BURAGOHAIN: I am explaining, Sir.

The complaint against this notification is two-fold. One is that the notification is so worded that it is intended to shut out the candidates who have obtained the B.Sc. degree. In support of this, if I read from one letter which I received late yesterday afternoon, the House will appreciate my contention. The letter in question goes on—“I was simply surprised to read it. The first thing regarding qualifications, is

states that 'none need apply who is not a native of the province, etc., and who has not passed the I.Sc. or the Senior Cambridge Examination or who is a holder of the B.Sc. degree'. I am really quite at a loss, to make any meaning of the last clause of the sentence. I can find no reason, why the B.Sc. degree should be regarded as a bar to the necessary qualifications for the candidature. In fact, it is the B.Sc.s that ought to have got the first preference according to the notification of the Central Government which says... 'the candidates should necessarily hold a degree and any technical knowledge will be regarded as an additional qualification'. But to the surprise of us all the B.Sc.s have been debarred from having a chance". Sir, I have got a copy of the notification itself which reads like this:—

"None need apply who has not passed the I.Sc. or Senior Cambridge Examination or is holder of a B.Sc. degree." That means persons who have passed the I.Sc. examination will be entitled to apply but those who have passed the B.Sc. will not be entitled to apply. Sir, I do not think that this is deliberate on the part of Government. Perhaps the omission of the word "not" before the word "passed" has created this confusion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Why this Adjournment Motion? This could have been rectified in other ways.

Srijut SURENDRANATH BURAGOHAİN: Secondly, Sir, the applications have been called to reach on or before the 15th. The Gazette in which this has been published is dated the 7th of this month. Sir, in my own place the *Assam Gazette* never reaches until after 5 days. So if it takes 5 days, there is hardly any time for anybody to apply after receipt of the Gazette. That is why the other letter which I received this morning, says like this, "This very belated publication means what they know best, if not to shut out the boys from applying. You will therefore kindly take necessary steps to mitigate the wrong done to the boys." Sir, the time that was left was hardly enough for anyone to apply. So a very large number of suitable candidates could not apply, Sir, first, those having passed the B.Sc. degree and secondly, those living at distant places.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think this will do.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you have already indicated, I do not think that this Motion is in order because this notification was issued on the 7th according to the statement of the hon. Mover, and so he ought to have come earlier before the House for this. Secondly, Sir, and I think, he has misread the notification in that it has shut out the graduates. On the other hand, we are calling for applications from both the I.Sc.s and B.Sc.s because there are two courses—one is graduate course and the other is a post-graduate course and in fact we have received more than 500 applications so far including B.Sc.s. So, I think, no wrong has been done to anybody.

As regards shortness of the notice, we are handicapped because the Government of India have asked us to send names of the first batch of the students by the 31st of March and as the hon. Members know we are to send the names one week ahead so as to reach Delhi by the 31st of March. So we could not but give short notice. I may inform the House that this is the first batch of students to be sent up...

*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURY: Sir, the Government of India's requirement is that there should be a holder of a degree plus experience. But, Sir, why the holder of a B.A. degree has been altogether excluded? They might apply for Sericulture.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Sir, the Government of India wanted only science students to be sent up.

*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Sir, as I read it, it says holder of a degree and experience.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What does the hon. Member want?

*Srijut SURENDRANATH BURAGOHAİN: Sir, the notice was very short and this matter was, as a matter of fact, published by the Government of India as far back as in January last, in their Press Communique. In spite of that fact this Government has made this inordinate delay and has given so little time.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: In spite of that 500 applications have been received by Government.

†Srijut SURENDRANATH BURAGOHAJN: But the fact remains, Sir, if the notice is read it really excludes those who hold the B.Sc. degree and some clarification of this is necessary in my opinion.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: But, Sir, there will be hardly any time to extend the time. There will be no time to send up the names in time.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Having heard the Hon'ble Member who has tabled this Adjournment Motion and the Hon'ble Minister, I do not think that this is a matter which can be discussed in an Adjournment Motion. So I do not give my consent to it.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

GRANT No.34.

(85A.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON PROVINCIAL SCHEMES CONNECTED WITH WAR.)

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.49,19,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1946, for the administration of the head "85A.—Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with war.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.49,19,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1946, for the administration of the head "85A.—Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with war."

There are as many as 40 Cut Motions tabled. Now, Cut Motions Nos.1-14 relate to Grain Storage Schemes, 15-18 Motor Transport Organisation Scheme, 19-20 Standard Cloth Scheme, 23-32 Consumer Goods Scheme and 32-37 to Rationing Scheme. Now these are all important matters and the hon. Members will try to speak briefly on the Motions that will be moved. I shall take up first the Cut Motion under Grain Storage Scheme. Now there are 14 Cut Motions. There is one economy Cut Motion tabled by Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy and the Motion tabled by Maulavi Abdul Bari Choudhury wants only to raise a discussion. I would first ask Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy to move his Cut Motion and then Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury will get his chance to move his Motion. Other Members who have tabled Cut Motions and do not like to move them may speak on these Cut Motions; but if any hon. Member wants to move his Cut Motion and wants to put it to vote, he may move separately.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Sir, as regards Cut Motion No.1*, I beg to inform that I will not move it. Some other Member may move his Motion.

†Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: Sir, Cut Motion No.12‡ standing in the name of Srijut Kameswar Das may be allowed to be discussed.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That will raise a discussion on the policy and if the hon. Member wants to move his Cut Motion he may do so. Those hon. Members who want to move their Cut Motions can move them, and others who do not like to move their Cut Motions, may take part in the debate and give their criticisms.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Sir, we would like that Cut Motion No.10** standing in the name of Srijut Sarveswar Barua be taken up first and afterwards we may discuss other Motions.

†Speech not corrected.

*That the provision of Rs.62,800 under Grant No.34, Major head—85-A.—Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with War, Minor head—A.—Grain Storage Scheme, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers at page 154 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.49,19,900 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To raise a discussion about the Grain-Storage policy of the Government.)
‡That the provision of Rs.25,12,300 under Grant No.34, Major head—85-A.—Capital outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with War, Major head—A.—Grain Storage Scheme (total), at page 154 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.49,19,900 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To criticise the mismanagement of the entire scheme by the Department.)
**That the provision of Rs.25,12,300 under Grant No.34, Major head—85-A.—Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with War, Minor head—A.—Grain Storage Scheme (total), at page 154 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.49,19,900 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To raise a discussion on the prevailing scarcity of mustard oil, salt, kerosene, sugar etc., in various parts of the Province.)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I want that there should be one reply from the Government to all the points that would be raised by these Motions. Srijut Sarveswar Barua, who has tabled Cut Motion No.10, will also get an opportunity to move his Motion.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: I think, Sir, Cut Motion No.12 will be more comprehensive.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I am allowing those Motions to be moved which raise the question of Government's policy in respect of a particular issue.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: In that case, Sir, the issues would jumble together.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Therefore, I am asking those hon. Members to move their Cut Motions which relate to one set of issues so that the Hon'ble Premier, who is perhaps ready with his replies, on all possible points that may be raised, would be able to finish in one reply. I think, that would facilitate the business of the House to be done expeditiously. Hence, I am asking Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy to move his Cut Motion No.2—which is an economic Cut Motion and which seeks to make a substantial reduction—and under the rules I am bound to allow him first to move his Motion.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I bring one point to your notice? You have allotted 1 hr. 45 minutes for the discussion of this Grant. As you mentioned just now, there will be 4 different items for discussion and if you do not allot separate time for each different item, there may not be any time for the discussion of the other items. So, Sir, I would request you whether it would not be convenient to allot separate time for discussion of each of the four different items.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: We have got about ten minutes from the Question hour and I think having regard to the state of the business of the day it will be necessary to extend time today. I will however try to see that these Demands are disposed of in 1 hr. 45 minutes.

Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy will now move his Cut Motion.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.25,12,300 under Grant No.34, Major head—85-A.—Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with the War, Minor head—A.—Grain Storage Scheme (total), at page 154 of the Budget, be refused, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.49,19,900 do stand reduced by Rs.25,12,300.

My object of moving this Cut Motion is to disapprove Government's action for their failure in procuring paddy and rice from the cultivators of the Surma Valley. Sir, only yesterday, I received the following telegram from the Muslim League President of Chargaon of Nabiganj area. The telegram runs as follows:—

“Paddy lying unsold peasantry almost ruined please arrange speedy sale”

I have got similar bundles of telegrams but I would not like to take up the valuable time of the House in reading out all those telegrams. The Hon'ble House may clearly realise the condition of the peasantry in the Surma Valley due to the policy pursued by the present Government in respect of procurement of rice and paddy.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Member wants to reduce the entire demand *i.e.*, Rs.25,12,300. So, unless he puts forward sufficient grounds, how this can be done?

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Yes, Sir, I am giving grounds. During the last November Session of the Assembly—the policy of direct purchase of rice and paddy by the Government, the fixation of bottom price, cancellation of the licenses of the Syndicates and setting up of Enquiry Committee to enquire into the misdeeds of the Syndicates were adopted. But the Ministry did not care to put this policy into practice. The Syndicates continued to purchase up to 31st December 1944. In course of December, it is understood lakhs and lakhs of rupees were issued to the Syndicates for purchase of rice and paddy. The bottom price is not yet fixed. Direct purchase by the Government is not yet begun. The personnel of the Enquiry Committee has been selected according to the choice of the Syndicates and not according to the wishes of the Government. When the Committee will begin its enquiry, it is not yet certain.

How the procurement is going on now? The Government purchase could not begin because the purchasing machinery was not granted money to start work till last February. The reason given is that the Hon'ble the Supply Minister and the Supply Secretary were both away from Shillong for a long time. So, the procurement had to be made through big license-holders. In Cachar, the Chakravarty Brothers, the main partner of the old Syndicate, got the licence and went on purchasing on behalf of the Government. Two or three other gentlemen, the nominees of the Chakravarty Brothers and some other League M. L. As got the licenses. Similarly, in Sylhet district, licenses for purchasing up to 20,000 maunds of rice were issued—and Government. No bottom price was fixed, so the license-holders were quite free to lower down the prices of rice and paddy, while the Government suppliers got Rs.12-8-0 per maund of rice, they lowered down their purchase price from the peasants to Rs.9 per maund. In Buro areas there is practically no purchasing agency in operation.

What is the Government plan of procurement? The Government have not yet fixed any bottom price. The Government are going to purchase directly from the peasants and we hear that money has been sanctioned to that end. But the direct purchase by the Government and the procurement through private license-holders will go hand in hand. Government won't purchase more than 200 maunds from a single cultivator. What would be the lot of cultivators who possess over 200 maunds? Already the dilatoriness on the part of the Government has caused immense loss to the cultivators and it has caused a great harm to the Grow-More-Food-Campaign. The speculators and the old Syndicates have been profitted by it the most. The policy that the Government are going to enforce in future for procurement does not propose to buy all the surplus paddy. It keeps a big loophole for the profiteers to exploit the peasantry. It is understood that Government have to supply only 4000 tons per month to Military and other Government agencies. The lack of transport arrangement is the main bottleneck on the way to procurement as the Government godowns are all fully engaged.

Due to quarrel between the Syndicates and the present procurement-officers, on account of high adulteration in the rice and paddy stocked by the Syndicates, the present procurement officers are not taking charge quickly of the stocks purchased by the Syndicate. As a result huge stocks of rice and paddy are being wasted, being exposed to rain and sun. And this is happening when the Province faces a food shortage in the coming months due to less out turn of crops in the past year. It is estimated that the loss that the Government is going to incur due to this may go up to 50 lakhs. In the Assam Valley districts the Steel Brothers are resorting to the same corrupt practices as was done by the Syndicates in the Surma Valley last year. The discontent amongst the peasantry is quite noticeable in all the purchasing centres.

Sir, how could it happen like this? How could the present Ministry defy the unanimous verdict of the House? The Ministry could be bent down during the November Session, because the Members of the Muslim League and the Congress Party joined their hands for saving the peasantry from their distress. But since November last the turns and twists in Assam politics and especially the land settlement issue have led to a conflict between the Congress and the League and the Hon'ble Premier could get his own way and defy the wishes of the people and this House. In course of this Session the situation has worsened still. Our Colleagues in the opposite benches—I mean the Members of the Muslim League have completely surrendered to the reactionary policy of the present Cabinet in their eagerness to somehow maintain the present Cabinet in office. Sir, it is unfortunate that those Members who honestly feel for the cultivators instead of changing the attitude of the present Cabinet have rendered themselves to the position of the 'Yes-men' of the Cabinet. We presume, it is for this reason that the League President Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan did not even attend this Session. But how we wish that he would be present here to tackle the situation consistent with the policy of the mighty organisation which he represents. Where the progressive forces fight among themselves, reaction reigns supreme. I, Sir, fervently appeal to my Muslim League Colleagues in this House to reconsider the

whole position and instead of somehow maintaining the position of the present Cabinet, even at the cost of the Muslim League prestige itself, they should rise equal to the occasion, enter into a negotiation with Congress on all vital issues—specially on food and procurement and civil liberty—and make a joint front against all corruption and bunglings to save our people from utter ruin.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs. 25,12,300 under Grant No. 34, Major head—85-A.—Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with the War, Minor head—A.—Grain Storage Scheme (total), at page 154 of the Budget, be refused, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 49,19,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 25,12,300.”

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Sir, I beg to move: that the provision of Rs. 25,12,300 under Grant No. 34, Major head—85-A.—Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with the War, Minor head—A.—Grain Storage Scheme (total), at page 154 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 49,19,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

The object of my Motion is to raise a discussion on the prevailing scarcity of mustard oil, salts, kerosene, sugar etc. in various parts of the Province.

When the Government have taken upon themselves the task of not only controlling the prices of foodstuffs but also of the supply of these to the people, it is up to them to see that the supply is regular and that the people may not suffer from the want of the daily necessities of life. It would not do to plead the transport difficulties and the failure of their agencies to procure goods in time or in sufficient quantities because they ought to have provided against these contingencies, as they are no longer new to the unforeseen factors in the present war time situation. If we take the case of mustard oil, it is a most indispensable article of our food, and the Hon'ble Prime Minister has admitted that at least the Assam Valley Districts are self-supporting in respect of this commodity. But according to his own showing, the Government Agent—Assam Valley Trading Syndicate—who purchased the last year's mustard seed crop, managed to smuggle away a large part of the crop to Bengal and as a result the Assam Valley Oil Mills have had to remain idle for a long period of their working season and hence the scarcity of mustard oil in the Assam Valley, where enough mustard seed is grown. This is a clear instance of the mishandling of the situation, because the principal cannot shirk off liability for wrongs committed by his agents. While the Government have thus allowed our own mustard seed to find its way to Bengal, they have failed to bring in time sufficient mustard oil from other provinces where it is available. Even what small quantities they have brought from outside is often found to be unfit for human consumption. Within the Valley itself, we find mustard seed growing areas like Majuli and North Lakhimpur, where there are no oil mills, have been left to their own fate in respect of mustard oil, as the Government have made no arrangement for giving a definite quota from the outturn of the mills, which get their supplies of mustard seed from these areas. This was revealed to me the other day when the proprietor of the Ganesh Oil Mills of Tezpur who gets 50 per cent. of the mustard seeds for his mills from the North Lakhimpur subdivision, told me that no quota of his out-turn has been allotted to North Lakhimpur subdivision, though the gentleman was fair enough to admit our claim to 25 per cent. of his out-turn. I took the mill owner immediately to the Hon'ble Sir Muhammad Saadulla who, after hearing me and the gentleman who bore me out, was convinced of our fair claim for a quota and promised to issue instructions through the Supply Department to the Deputy Commissioner, arrange for fixing a quota for the North Lakhimpur subdivision. In this way people in many places have been left in the lurch in respect of various articles of daily necessity for no fault of theirs. A place like Gauhati, the most important trade centre, not to speak of other places, has been suffering from acute dearth of sugar for about a couple of months. In spite of Hon'ble Prime Minister's assurance during the last November Session to issue directions to all district and subdivisional officers to increase the ration of salt to $\frac{1}{2}$ seer per head, we heard a chorus of complaints from so many Members yesterday that the rations had not been

raised in some districts. The direction in question reached my subdivision only after the middle of February last. As regards kerosene, the people of my subdivision have been in a very miserable plight, with a ridiculous ration of $\frac{1}{2}$ a seer per month per household. I gave notice of a few Questions on the subject, but, as is the case with all my Questions except two, they have not yet come up for reply. This paltry ration of $\frac{1}{2}$ a seer also has been recently subjected to a further cut of 25 per cent. in favour of some other place.

In view of such mismanagement we can not but call upon the Government to seriously consider how they can improve the situation, failing which they should make room for others.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs. 25,12,300 under Grant No. 34, Major head—85-A.—Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with the War, Minor head—A.—Grain Storage Scheme (total), at page 154 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 49,19,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.”
Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 25,12,300 under Grant No. 34, Major head—85-A.—Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with the War, Minor head—A.—Grain Storage Scheme (total), at page 154 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.* the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 49,19,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

The object of my bringing this Motion is to criticise the workings and management of the entire scheme by the Department. Looking at the figures of actuals 1943-44, the budget and revised 1944-45, and budget 1945-46, we find that there has been a considerable amount of a lag left at the close of each year. The total lag at the end of 1945-46, is estimated at Trs. 3,38,92. The increased expenditure each year is said to be due to large reserves of paddy and rice at the disposal of the Government. This large reserve has, however, been nowhere explained as to its extent and purpose. Then again though the expenditure and the lag at each year's end have been increasing no corresponding benefit is seen to have been accruing to the people who are undergoing trouble and hardships in increasing degrees. The increasing amounts of unrealised money though explained as responsible for large stocks of grains cannot but be due to the mismanagement of the Department. We have already heard from every quarter that there have been inadequate supply of almost all the essential articles of foodstuffs.

We do not understand why with so many Government agencies for procurement and distribution and for retailing, there should have been any inadequacy of food-stuff. It is not the case that these articles are not available. What seems to be the position is that there are too many agencies under the appointment of the Government with the result that some of these agencies practically do nothing but take out their quotas from the procuring agencies, hold them in stock for sometime thereby causing some delay and then distribute it to some other distributing or retailing agency again. This way time is lost and cost is increased. I don't see the work of the Assam Valley Supply Syndicate. They merely get their things from Messrs. Shaw Wallace and Company of Calcutta and distribute the same articles to the wholesalers in the different districts. These wholesalers in their turn again sell out to the retailers. So it seems that there are too many agencies. As there are wholesalers in every subdivision there can be no difficulty to get the things distributed direct from Messrs. Shaw Wallace. With the existence of too many intermediary agencies the ultimate cost is bound to rise delay is inevitable for the articles to reach the consumers and things are bound to deteriorate in the various courses of their transactions. It also gives scope for corruption in the meanwhile.

Sir, the co-operative societies are being neglected. I think they might be given full scope in the dealings of the necessary articles.

There is the general murmurings that most of the appointments have been made without proper advertisement and that some of these appointments have been indiscriminate.

Profiteering and hoarding are going on as merrily as can be conceived of without any steps being taken to check them. Corruption is also rampant. Only this morning we have heard of a peculiar case at Goalpara. This is, I think, only an illustration of the many cases that are going on in the country. Everywhere supply is not regularly given. Supply of things meant for a particular period reaches only long time after the lapse of the period meant. All these appear to be due to mismanagement. So, I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved :

"That the provision of Rs. 25,12,300 under Grant No. 34, Major head—85-A.—Capital outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with the War, Minor head—A.—Grain Storage Scheme (total), at page 154 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 49,19,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 100"

Dr. C. G. TERRELL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 25,12,300 under Grant No. 34, Major head—85-A.—Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with the War, Minor head—A.—Grain Storage Scheme (total), at page 154 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 49,19,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

My object of moving this Motion, Sir, is to draw the attention of Government to the urgent need for supply of pure mustard oil in Assam.

Sir, it will, I think, be agreed to by Government that there are good grounds for their accepting the fact that considerable anxiety exists owing to the widespread adulteration of mustard oil, and that there is a growing insistence for the supply of pure standard oil. We have ample evidence, and more could easily be made available,—that much of the mustard oil at present being retailed in this Province—emanating from controlled and uncontrolled sources—is of poor quality, often adulterated and contaminated and as such, injurious to the consumer.

Consumption of this unwholesome substance often results in various forms of bowel diseases and, indirectly, different toxic effects on the individual, dependant on the types of adulterant used. Apart altogether from any toxic effects, it must also be borne in mind that its food value is often negatived, and as we have to depend largely on mustard oil for the essential fat constituent of the diet of the people, it will be appreciated how serious is this loss.

At the risk of repetition, I can re-affirm that there is in this Province at the present time a great deal of adulterated mustard oil which is injurious to health and often unfit for human consumption.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister has again told us that owing to the inability of Assam to produce sufficient mustard oil for its requirements, particularly in the Surma Valley, large quantities have to be imported by Government from outside—notably the United Provinces. In view of this it does not appear to be beyond the bounds of practicability to suggest that imported oil should be controlled to the extent of a proper examination of a percentage by analysis, before it is distributed to the authorised dealers. This procedure would at least confirm whether the imported oil was pure or not. After its distribution, and as far as the oil manufactured in the Province is concerned, we must look to our own machinery and resources for combating adulteration, and it will be found that these are hopelessly inadequate and unsatisfactory. This is largely due to the fact that we have to depend upon the Assam Pure Food Act, whose provisions often fail in practice to achieve the objects for which it was designed.

It would not be out of place to briefly outline a few of the difficulties encountered in the operation of this Act, and foremost amongst them is the fact that the Act must be administered by Local Authorities.

Although there is no legal bar to Local Authorities appointing Health Officers and instituting prosecutions, it is found that in practice obstacles nearly always occur. These include a general lack of interest, lack of funds and the fact that permission of the Local Board Chairman must be obtained prior to any prosecution; and it will be understood that owing to local influences and party interests, this is often difficult to obtain. If the control by Local Authorities is to continue, then it should be compulsory for them to appoint Health Officers, and furthermore, that funds should be placed at the disposal of these urban and rural Health Officers authorised under the Act

towards the cost of prosecution. These officers should be fully recognised by, and co-operate with, the Police Department, independently of the Local Authorities, and it will be obvious to all that it would be greatly in the best interests that local authority control should completely disappear.

Apart from the above there are many defects in the body of the Act itself whose clauses are indefinite and encourage evasion. Some of these difficulties which have recently been encountered in one of the subdivisions in confirming successful prosecutions have been brought to my notice, and a few of them can with advantage be briefly mentioned—

(1) Increased punishment for repeated offences can be avoided by substitution of the name of some other member of the staff of the establishment concerned.

(2) I understand that the sale of adulterated oil as fuel has been allowed by the High Court in a recent case in Karinganj Subdivision, setting aside the conviction from the Lower Court. It is, I think, a most unfortunate and retrograde judgment, as many of the consuming public will use this oil for food, and in fact it is used very little for fuel purposes. The final result of this judgment can only be to increase the difficulty of those who are trying to expose this evil practice of adulteration.

(3) Under Rule 3 the accused has the right to demand that the Court obtain a further opinion by analysis of an expert other than the Assam Public Analyst. This often results in conflicting reports which go to benefit the accused, and it is against the interests of successful convictions that this right of a second opinion should be allowed. The Public Analyst's opinion should be final, but it may be found advisable to strengthen this department.

Other difficulties in administration and application of the Act include inadequate penalties, and also the fact that samples taken have to be paid for. Also that adulterated food-stuff unfit for human consumption must be handed over to the Local Authority for disposal or destruction as it thinks fit, instead of immediate destruction.

I will conclude with a few general observations and suggestions—

(a) That the Pure Food Act should be thoroughly revised and strengthened in the light of experience gained.

(b) That its administration should come directly under the Public Health Department and should be entirely divorced from Local Authorities, and that the Health Officers should be appointed by and be responsible to the Public Health Department and granted full powers.

(c) An inter-provincial arrangement should be made to cover all imported oil—this for the reason that under normal conditions the Surma Valley, for example, gets its supply of oil from such places as Chandpur, Bhairab, Ashuganj, Dacca and Calcutta.

The Assam Act, by reciprocity, should provide for the prosecution of traders concerned with exporting contaminated food-stuffs and unless this is done, Bengal merchants will be encouraged to dispose of such material to the unfortunate consumers in Assam.

(d) That at the earliest possible time the Public Health Department should be provincialised and arrangement be put in hand for the necessary legislation which would be involved:

(e) The Bombay Act provides for labelling of foodstuffs and also for the sale of foodstuffs of a certain prescribed standard, and this should be introduced so as to exclude all inferior material and enable a proper check to be maintained.

(f) It might not be out of place to refer once more to a suggestion which I put forward 4 years ago in this Assembly—to the effect that the whole mustard oil industry of Government and sold under license as in the case of country spirit.

The additional source of revenue to Government would compensate them for the necessary expenditure and would ensure that the consumer was able to purchase a pure standard mustard oil of one quality only.

To my mind, this is the best solution of all, but as it may again be considered unpracticable, I hope at least due consideration will be given to the other suggestions, which are made with a very genuine desire to see an early, radical and permanent

betterment in policy for the control and supply of all foodstuffs, and in particular of mustard oil.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved :

“That the provision of Rs.25,12,300 under Grant No. 34, Major head—85-A.—Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with the War, Minor head—A.—Grain Storage Scheme (total, at page 154 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.49,19,900 do stand reduced by Rs 100.”

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will only add a few words and will not make a speech

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : May I tell the hon. Member that I want that the Hon'ble Premier should begin his reply at 12.35.

Mr. JOBANG D MARAK : Sir, I will raise only one point regarding the arrangement for the distribution of foodstuffs and the difficulties that we are experiencing. I want to bring this to the notice of the Government for their needful action.

Regarding kerosene the Deputy Commissioner's order in the Garo Hills is that people who draw Rs. 60 and above per month are allowed to get white kerosene and those who draw below Rs.60 are allowed to get red kerosene. People have protested against this arrangement but no action has been taken as yet.

Then, about *ghee* distribution, people are placed in different categories—(a) people who will consume *ghee* at one seer per month will have to pay Rs.2-12-0 per seer, (b) those who will consume above one seer will have to pay Rs.3 to Rs.4 per seer and (c) those who will consume 5 seers or more will have to pay more than Rs.5 per seer. I myself had consultation with the Deputy Commissioner about this but he did not desire to change this plan. My suggestion was that the *ghee* required for the consumption of local people in the district should be given at a flat rate, but his intention is to give profit to the traders. The surplus *ghee* will be exported by the traders outside the district. I do not know what will be the price of these surplus *ghee*.

Regarding mustard oil, of course, I partly agreed with the Deputy Commissioner but the people protested very strongly against this arrangement. Monopoly was given to one Marwari who collects mustard seeds throughout the district at the rate of Rs.13-8-0 per maund, whereas there are some traders who are offering Rs.18 to Rs.20 per maund. So, this was the reason of complaint by the people. But I was partly satisfied with the explanation given by the Deputy Commissioner in which he said that the Marwari who has got a mill at Mankachar agreed to sell all the extracted oil out of mustard seeds he purchased to the Garo Hills people at the rate of Re. 1-6-0 at the wholesale store and one anna more at the retailsale store whereas we had to pay Re. 1-9-0 at the Government controlled stores. And everybody knows, Sir, the quality of the Government oil is very bad. Again, Sir, who will check whether the Marwari is exporting some oil from the entire supply of mustard seeds that he got? For this very fear of export of mustard seeds the Deputy Commissioner did not give them to the other tenderers, but my question is who will check what the Marwari was doing with the mustard seeds, and whether any seed was going out of the district?

Now, Sir, the arrangement made for the distribution of salt and sugar is very unsatisfactory. We used to get one seer of sugar per head per month, but the quota was reduced to half a seer, and what was worse, we were compelled to purchase *gur* supplied by Government along with sugar. The quality of the *gur* supplied in Government shops is so bad that it is fit only for distillation purpose. Though good quality *gur* was available at annas 0-9-0 for 3 powas in other shops, I do not understand why we should be compelled to take the bad quality *gur* supplied by Government. Unless one purchases *gur* with sugar, no sugar can be had.

With these few words, I resume my seat.

Mr. BAIDYNATH MOOKERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support all the Cut Motions moved by my hon. Friends. The point at issue is very simple because every hon. Member of this House feels in his heart of hearts the difficulties which we are experiencing now a days. Sir, I think, even the Hon'ble Prime Minister will not deny that the position of foodstuffs is not what we expected from this Department. Whenever we, not only the Members of this House but others also, meet there is only

one discussion that we are suffering for want of sugar for want of mustard oil, salt, and so on.

Now, Sir, it has been rightly mentioned by some of the hon. Members on the floor of this House that the figures in the Budget have been embodied in such a way that it is very difficult to enter into the real state of affairs. You will find, Sir, that so far as pay of officers is concerned, it is more than three times of what it was 3 years ago. The actuals for 1943-44 was Rs.20,761, the estimated figure for the last year was Rs.28,880, but the revised figure for the same is Rs.41,450 and the Budget estimate for 1945-46 is Rs.62,800. Sir, about establishment also you will find from Rs.1,55,343, the actual for 1943-44, the Budget estimate is Rs.3,28,700. The number of officers and establishment is being increased and with it our sufferings are also increasing.

Now, Sir, there is another relevant point, and that is under one head "Contingencies"; for purchase of foodstuffs inside the province, for purchase of foodstuffs outside the province and other miscellaneous expenditure—God knows what they are—the amount is Rs.30,00,000, and the total of contingencies is less than the revised estimate of last year. So, the purchase will be less than last year whereas the officers and establishment cost is going to be increased by more than 50 per cent. this year.

As regards the actual position, the Government themselves have admitted that it is very difficult to give accurate figures, even approximate figures. So far as the lag is concerned, it is increasing every year. It has been rightly pointed out by Mr. Kameswar Das that all these points have not been explained in the Budget Memorandum. We expected to get some explanation of the round figures in the Budget Memorandum. But there also the Government have finished their duty in one or two sentences. They themselves say "The scheme will have to be continued in the Budget year, and the estimated expenditure is Trs.5,75,12 while recoveries have been taken at Trs.5,50,00, leaving a deficit of Trs.25,12. The total lag at the end of 1945-46 will thus stand at Trs. 3,38,92 from the inception of the scheme in 1942-43. The figures are necessarily only extremely rough estimates". Now, Sir, where such a big amount which is more than the income of this Government even at the present time when there are so many windfalls, is going to be spent, nothing has been placed before this hon. House by which we can really understand what is going on so far as this Department is concerned.

As regards supply, Sir, as I have already stated everybody feels in his heart of hearts how the matter is going on. Some articles have been controlled and some rationed, but we see irregularity everywhere. We always hear that we shall get half a seer of salt per head but uptill now no effect has been given to it. The other day, I heard not only on the floor of this House but elsewhere that from April Government will give effect to it. I do not know what will happen.

As regards kerosene oil it has been sufficiently discussed. So, I do not want to take any more time of the House.

Srijit MAHI CHANDRA BORA. Mr. Speaker, Sir, much has been said on the floor of this House and outside about the unwholesome character of the controlled commodities that have been supplied to the consumers. I do not like to dilate on this further. I am, however, glad to note that some improvement in the quality of foodstuffs have been affected. The Gur supplied now by the Assam Valley Syndicate does no longer scare away ants as it used to do before but the stench emitted by the article is still an enigma to children to the great satisfaction of their parents. The Dal formerly refused to be boiled to be edible has very kindly consented now to be so due to the efforts and direction of the Hon'ble Premier though it still demands enough time, persuasion, coaxing and cajoling on the part of those in charge of the culinary department of the households. But though they have improved in quality their quantities are reduced and people have been forced to pay prices for pebbles and dirt. etc. mixed with them. The Atta and Flour which have become articles of luxury are still full of vitaminous elements like maggots and worms. Mustard oil has completely disappeared from the open market and what is available in the black-market is highly adulterated. Its prices are ruling at a very high level. At present, milk, vegetables and fish constitute a distinct problem by themselves. *Mal-nutrition*

of a grave character has become a chronic trouble whose incidence is widespread. Heavy deterioration in the health of the people is a patent reality which has been further accentuated by the bad quality of foodstuffs that the agencies of the Government are supplying. In the November Session of the Assembly, Sir, I humbly suggested to the Hon'ble Premier to advise the Assam Valley Supply Syndicate to change their name and style to that of the Assam Valley 'Sucking' Syndicate. But to my grief, my suggestion has not yet been accepted and, I am afraid, it will never be.

As regards corruption in the Department the less said the better.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER.—There was a long discussion about corruptions the other day.

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA. Very well, Sir, I am not referring to it.

The other day some friends of mine were complaining about the scarcity of some essential consumer goods. An old gentleman was listening to their grievances with rapt attention. He suddenly jumped from his seat and raising his index finger at them asked them whether they had gone through the book "Cheta Bani". Sir, I may inform this Hon. House that this book has become the best seller in the market and it has reached almost all the nooks and corners of this Province. It has predicted that 'Kalijuga' is at an end and that 'Satyajuga' is near. The old gentleman confronted all of us with the bold assertion that 'Satyajuga' has been dawning in Assam. "Have you not seen", "he said, "that for want of razors and clippers our hair has become long? For want of mustard and hair oil our hair has become matted? For scarcity of razors and razor blades our beards and moustaches have grown in direct defiance to the ancient 'Rishis' and modern Shaws. For want of cloth we are going to be so many 'Digambaras'. Does not the quota of Kerosene remind you of Milton's 'Visible Darkness'? You have all been condemning the modern system of education as an evil. Does not the scarcity of paper, stand in the way of such education? Is not ignorance a bliss? Consumption of unwholesome and adulterated foods and malnutrition have forced many a people to die young but you dullards, you forget that this has enabled them to live longer in heaven where there is no serfdom where there is no want. You should try to convince the people about the necessity of diminishing their wants and thereby to prepare them for the glorious age at least the days of Adam and Eve to come." The advice of the old man deserves our serious consideration.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have only three comments. I am afraid, I am quite uncharitable where the Supply Department is concerned. But I should like to make certain suggestions about the presentation of these accounts. In spite of the publication of the Reports of the Public Accounts Committee and the Appropriation Committee there is no means of finding how the Supply Department is conducting its trading. The Supply Department has an income of 6¼ per cent. cess on rice and on indigenous commodities and levy of a 10 per cent. cess on imported commodities. But at the present moment the levy on import and the cess on the indigenous commodities are all bunched together under general receipts. I hope the Government intend to collect these accounts as far as rice and paddy are concerned and keep these separate from the accounts as far as imports are concerned. Secondly, I hope they will keep two accounts for the indigenous commodities of rice and paddy separately for the two Valleys so that this Assembly will have some means of estimating how trading is done in two different areas—one area where it is done by private enterprise and another area where it is done by a Government agency. My main suspicion is that in the Surma Valley we have lost in 1944 a very large sum of money on rice and paddy accumulated at the end of December, 1944, much of which has not yet been sold and of which the market price has dropped, in my estimate, by Rs.2 or Rs.2-8-0 per maund. Whenever Government do present their accounts for Supply Department, I hope we shall be able to see where we have made our profits and where we have made our losses not only between the two Valleys but between the two groups of commodities, namely, first imports and second, rice and paddy grown within the Province. This, Sir, is the only reason for my intervening in this debate. I am asking a good deal more than the present accounts which are masking the whole position. Government should split it up these accounts between the two Valleys and split it up between the two groups of commodities.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I find that the intention of my Friend Comrade Karuna Sindhu Roy is as much as mine, that is, we should try to procure as much paddy and rice from the cultivators direct as is possible so as to relieve the pecuniary difficulty of these people and also to relieve the very short godown space the cultivators have for the next boro crops that will be coming in May. But I cannot understand his mentality when he wants to reduce the entire sum that I have provided for this purpose.

The House endorsed my suggestion in the November Session that we would purchase direct from the cultivators, keep the goods in their charges and advance 40 per cent. of the price. For this purpose, money will be required, and in the Budget I have provided the money under the head, which my hon. Friend wants now to cut out entirely. If hon. Members will turn to page 154 of the Budget, the very first scheme they will find is the Grain Storage Scheme—Expenditure on establishment and purchase of food-stuffs, etc.—Rs.5,75 lakhs and odds. Deduct—Receipts and recoveries on account of sale proceeds of food-stuffs, etc.—Rs.5,50 lakhs. The balance is 25 lakhs. My Friend wants to reduce the entire sum, thereby crippling the fund from which the money shall have to be advanced. It is for this reason why I wanted to know, Sir, what the support of my Friend Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee meant and he was pleased to say that he was supporting every Motion that has been placed before the House. I am surprised at this altitude. I think in his heart of hearts Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee does not want the entire sum to be reduced.

My Friend Mr. Karuna Sindhu Roy has placed before the House his arguments or his grounds for complaints against the present Ministry regarding this department. We had heard at least ten times on the floor of this House the same speech from the comrade. I am constrained therefore to repeat the same argument that I advanced in the past. My Friend has referred again to the advance of money to the Syndicate in December and has loudly criticised that lakhs of rupees were given to the Syndicate to buy in December, 1944. If my Friend has got some subterranean means of getting information, he is sadly lacking in the real explanation of the money that was advanced. The Syndicate have got to send their monthly reports. Generally, the monthly reports reach Shillong by the 25th of the month subsequent, to the month of accounts. As the House refused to allow to continue these two Syndicates to operate, they closed the accounts and, according to their books, they stopped purchase of fresh rice and paddy in certain areas from the 25th November last. In the last return, they submitted their bill for purchases made for October and after taking accounts it was found that for the quantities they have delivered to Government they have to get about 6 lakhs of rupees more. As this Syndicate had given a bank guarantee for 10 lakhs of rupees I ordered that 6 lakhs of rupees could be paid. This payment was not for the purpose of giving them some capital to buy in the month of December as my Friend insinuate.

I am tired of stating the reasons for the change in the personnel of the Enquiry Committee which my Friend has again urged in support of his Cut Motion. The same question as regards bottom price I have answered to-day *ad nauseam*. So I won't repeat. But one point I will mention about which he said that procurement direct from the cultivators had not yet started. In reply to very many questions I said that my report is that procurement had started towards the end of February in certain areas, of course. My Friends do not seem to realise the various difficulties from which this scheme is suffering. It is not possible for Government servants who will be purchasing direct from the cultivators to carry big sums of money in loose coins or in currency notes from house to house. What we thought is to engage some Banks to advance money in different subdivisions so that the cultivators who are to get money will get from near their home. But unfortunately the Finance Department insists that if we are to entrust this business to any Bank, it must be a scheduled Bank. I cannot complain on this reservation by the Finance Department. But at the same time, there is a dearth of scheduled Bank in the Surma Valley and therefore the question is hanging fire. We have

advanced money from the Sylhet treasury and the cultivators who are now to receive this 40 per cent. advance shall have to come to Sylhet. At the present moment a satisfactory solution about the Bank to be engaged for issuing the money has not been arrived at. (*A voice* :— That will not be possible.) It is not possible! But we are considering whether a certain Bank which has got the largest number of branches in these subdivisions could not be engaged provided this Bank would give guarantee of a scheduled Bank.

My friend Mr. Karuna Sindhu Roy also stated that although Government said that they would be taking monthly four thousand tons of rice from the Surma Valley but for lack of transport this will not be carried. I can assure him, Sir, that this four thousand tons per month have been carried over the Hill Section from the Surma Valley towards Upper Assam. All the transport has been arranged for but just at the present moment one of the customers ceased to take any more until further notice. Therefore, the movement over the Hill Section has been limited from March to 2,500 tons only. We are trying to secure other customers and I can assure the House, if we find any customer, arrangement will be made for transport not only for four thousands tons but even for a heavier quantity. Therefore, Sir, I request Mr. Karuna Sindhu Roy to see that there is no foundation in the charges that he has made. Satisfactory explanations have been given to every charge and he will see that it will not be in the best interests of the cultivators themselves if he presses his Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Premier will continue after lunch.

Adjournment

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

After lunch

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I next take the Motion of my hon. Friend Srijut Sarveswar Barua. He has stated certain things which we have already debated. He said that the supplies are irregular. I quite agree with him. Then he complained about mustard oil about which I have spoken at great length on many occasions. My hon. Friend has said that most of the stuffs that come from outside are unfit for human consumption. We have had complaints about that from our hon. Friend Dr. Terrell as well. I can say this much, Sir, that at one time it was arranged that whenever any consignment of oil was sent from a Province—in this case it was the United Province—three samples would be taken, one would be sent to the Central Government, one would be sent to the analyst of the Province exporting and the third would be sent to the analyst of the Province importing, but for some reasons or other that was not given effect to by the Central Government. I will again press upon the Central Government to adopt that procedure so that there may be a little check on adulteration at the source.

Then, again, Sir, as regards oil produced in the Province itself, we have an Inspector of Supply attached to the oil mills at Gauhati and I will ask him to take a sample of every consignment and to send it on for analysis to our public analyst and if it is found to be good then also we will allow the consignment to be issued to districts where there is necessity for it. The great difficulty about mustard oil has been, as I mentioned the other day, that adulteration with ground-nut oil may not be deleterious but adulteration with linseed oil will be harmful for human consumption but it is difficult to find the adulteration. I will see, Sir, whether any proper check could be enforced on adulteration as far as possible. My hon. Friend Srijut Sarveswar Barua was good enough to come to my residence along with the proprietor of the Ganesh Mill of Tezpur and made 'bandabast' in my presence with the Ganesh Mill that as they got the entire supply of seeds from the North Lakhimpur Subdivision they should reserve some quantity of mustard oil for supply to that Subdivision. I also impressed upon the Supply Department to the necessity to supply mustard oil produced by the Ganesh Mill a

Tezpur to the North Lakhimpur Subdivision and I have also issued orders immediately for supplying 25 per cent. of the total output of the Ganesh Mill to North Lakhimpur Subdivision. I hope, Sir, that this step taken by myself only two or three days ago at the instance of Srijut Sarveswar Barua will give some relief to the people of that Subdivision.

Then, Sir, my hon. Friend has stated about the shortage of sugar. As I mentioned before the House that, at one time, Government of India wanted to reduce our quota, and the quota of every Province has been reduced. But to our great pleasure we find that our efforts in preserving our quota of sugar for the Province has been given effect to by the Central Government. It is in the distribution of sugar in the Province itself that there is some difficulty. We have heard that sugar is short in certain areas. This is due to transport difficulty over the Oudh and Tirhut Railway. We have done our best to see that transport over that railway is expedited and Sir L. Misra, the Railway Board Member will be here by the 21st and I will take up this matter with him.

Then, Sir, I am sorry to hear that rationed quota of half a seer of salt has not yet been allowed to people in the countryside. I have already passed orders that from the 1st of January the ration of salt should be increased to half a seer per head, and if in certain areas this has not been given effect to, it is because of the fact that stock positions in those areas were not very good. We have now sufficient stock for about 2 months' consumption in the Province and I have passed strict orders that half a seer of salt must be issued to all and sundry from the 1st April 1945.

Then my hon. Friend spoke about kerosene oil. In this matter I am sorry to say that I have been in rather a helpless position. The quota of kerosene for the Province of Assam was reduced by the Central Government to 50 per cent. of the supply issued in 1941. Therefore, we cannot expect to get the quantity of kerosene that we require. Local officers have done their best to give kerosene according to requirements, in certain areas as much as two bottles have been issued, but I am sorry to hear that in certain areas only half a bottle of kerosene per month has been issued. It is perfectly correct to say that even a bottle of kerosene is not sufficient for any family to last by the Burma Oil Company and the Government of India the Government of India have given concession to this Company to issue the ration or rather the quota through their own agents. The bulk of kerosene is not handed over to the Government of Assam. The quantity that has been given to the Province is being issued by the special agents of the Burma Oil Company. It is therefore difficult for the Deputy Commissioners to try to eke out the quota for the different localities. I will again press the Central Government to see whether they cannot increase our quota of kerosene to some extent. My Friend Srijut Kameswar Das is of opinion that the expectation of Government of recoveries by sale will not materialise. He says that after scrutinising the previous figures. Both my Friends, Srijuts Sarveswar Barua and Kameswar Das think that all difficulties are due to mismanagement. They have not given me any suggestion how to manage the distribution of imported stuffs to make it more equitable and popular, and in spite of making this vague and general statement that our supply affair is mismanaged, they have not dilated where the mismanagement is. On Government side they have done their level best to see that every one gets his or her share of commodities that are controlled by Government. If there has been some *gumal* over this matter it may be due to some local officers or licensee and unless my Friends co-operate in citing concrete instances about these matters, I am helpless to detect delinquents from the top. Hon. Srijut Kameswar Das thinks that defects are due to the handling by too many agencies. He has asked why there should be a procuring agency at Calcutta and why distribution cannot be made direct from Calcutta to the wholesalers. Probably all these criticisms are due to misinformation or misunderstanding of the present situation and he does not know the details about transport system now in vogue. The transport by railways is divided into full wagon load "small". The "small" consignments have got to be combined in order to make an entire wagon load. Therefore, so far as the transport of all these imported commodities is concerned, the railway authorities refuse to book them in "small" consignments unless a full wagon is filled before they are transported. A wholesaler may not require a full wagon load

of consignment and even if any one requires a little more than a wagon load he does not get more than one wagon. Consequently direct issue from Calcutta is not possible to our wholesalers.

For the distribution of the goods co-operative societies have been included in the scheme. As I dealt with this question only the other day I think I need not deal with it again now beyond saying that it is the intention of the Government to utilise the co-operative societies as far as possible. Up till now 1,600 co-operative societies for consumer goods have been registered and about 600 more are remaining to be registered. As all these co-operative societies are too small and have not got much capital they are not in a position to pay for larger quantity of goods which they would like to possess and on the other hand, if they buy from the wholesalers the societies may lose. Therefore, as I stated the other day, which I have now been compelled to repeat, I have issued instructions that those co-operative societies who are able to pay for and buy 5 bag consignments of any commodity at one time, they will be given those commodities from the Government agents at wholesale rates. In this way, Sir, we are trying our level best to help the co-operative societies to get the goods at a cheaper rate.

Some hon. Members criticised that we had a large number of appointments. All these appointments have been made to see that the Government orders about profiteering are carried out and hoarding checked. One hon. Member criticised on the one hand that too many appointments have been made but on the other hand criticised that nothing had been done to check profiteering and hoarding. As regards hoarding, I doubt very much when many of my Friends have criticised about the shortness of supply, that there is any room for this. There may have been cases of profiteering, but wherever we have been able to lay our hands we have tried to check it.

I now come, Sir, to the very constructive speech by my hon. Friend Dr. Terrell. We have heard about adulteration of mustard oil and he has suggested that on account of the defects in the Assam Pure Food Act, there have been difficulties in checking this adulteration. As I mentioned the other day, Sir, it will be very difficult to lay blame on any particular source of supply, for when a retailer sells adulterated oil he will say that he has purchased that oil from the wholesaler, the wholesaler will say that he got it from Government store or from the Government distributing agent and the distributing agent will say that he got it from the Calcutta agent and so on. So the prosecuting staff may not be in a position to detect the source where the oil has been adulterated. If the hon. Members of the House think that a few prosecutions will be a healthy check, I will see that there be sufficient prosecutions of those who are selling adulterated oil and commodities. But, as Dr. Terrell has himself given a news about a certain High Court judgment, if the High Court judgment becomes what has been stated before the House, then there will be hardly any room for prosecution for selling adulterated mustard oil. The difficulties in the administration of the Assam Pure Food Act that have been laid before the House by Dr. Terrell, will receive Government's serious consideration. One particular point that he has stated is that at present the prosecution lies with the Local Bodies and it is difficult to move them to prosecute the people concerned and he suggested that this power should be handed over to the Public Health Department. He as well as other hon. Members know it well that unless the Act is modified this transfer of power cannot be made. Lastly, Sir, my Friend has said that the rule in the Act gives a great advantage to the accused who has been granted the right of second analysis by an outside Analyst. So his suggestion about interprovincial reciprocation as regards prosecution will receive my serious attention.

I am glad that my Friend Mr. Marak has placed before the House the Deputy Commissioner's orders about the procedure he has adopted for issuing kerosene, ghee and mustard oil. He extends his support to the measures taken about mustard oil. I would not detain the House by enumerating all this. So far as kerosene is concerned everyone knows that white kerosene is used for lamps with glass chimneys where as the red kerosene is used generally for naked lamps, *i. e.* "chakies." The supply of white kerosene is smaller whereas the supply of red kerosene greater. Therefore a planned distribution of equal quantity of both cannot be made.

Now, as regards distribution of ghee, probably my Friend has mentioned about the ghee that is manufactured in the district itself. But ghee is in very short supply in the Province itself. We imported three thousand maunds of ghee from the United Provinces which is now being supplied throughout the Province. But this is just a drop in the bucket. We gave permit to another party to bring five thousand maunds of ghee from Nepal. Curiously enough, although this contractor of the Government had bought the necessary quantity from Nepal and is wanting to have it transported through the United Provinces, that Province is standing in the way. We will be requesting the United Provinces Government to allow transport of this ghee which has already been procured even if it necessary to debit it against the quota that the United Provinces Government has given to us. My Friend says that sugar is not issued to the people according to their requirements and the small quantity of one seer per month has been limited, and that a half seer of Gur which is very bad has been supplemented. He further says that unless one buys both sugar and Gur, only sugar is not supplied to anybody. As sugar is in short stock, Sir, in order to meet the necessity for sweets and a dietary item of our people, the Deputy Commissioner has taken steps to see that people buy both Gur and sugar.

Sir, my Friends Mr. Whittaker and Mr. Mookerjee have criticised the manner in which this huge expenditure has been placed before the House in the Budget Estimates. Sir, I have already requested the Finance Department to see that in future a separate Estimate with greater details is placed before the House as is done under the Public Works Department Estimates. Hon. Members will find no difficulty in understanding the transactions of this Department and the financial implications of these transactions in greater details in next year's Budget.

My Friend Srijut Mahi Chandra Bora has, in a very humorous speech, both commended the Government as well as criticised them quite vehemently. He said that there is some improvement in the quality of the food-stuffs that are now issued by Government but the quantity has been reduced. The quantity of which commodity he has not stated in his speech. Sir, we are doing our level best to procure the best quality of foodstuffs. We are doing our level best to see that the quantities that have been allotted to us of controlled goods are not reduced and at the same time we have been impressing upon the Central Government to increase our quotas of different articles. As an instance I can mention, Sir, that very recently, *i. e.*, about a week ago, we have received information that six thousand tons of Gur has been allotted as an extra quota for 1945 by the Central Government.

Sir, I am sorry that I had to repeat various matters which I had put before the House on many occasions but as hon. Members have dilated on them, I had to reply in short to those. My hon. Friend Srijut Mahi Chandra Bora mentioned about con-summer goods that as there is separate quota the supply should be sufficient. Sir, I will see to this that the supply is made properly.

Lastly, Sir, I will conclude by saying that the suggestion made by Mr. Whittaker, the Leader of the European Group about the figures of all commodities of both the Valleys to be shown separately, I am perfectly sure, will be attended to by the Finance Department.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Out of the four Cut Motions that have been moved three are from Members belonging to the Congress Party and one is by Dr. Terrell. Does Dr. Terrell press his Motion to the vote?

Dr. C. G. TERRELL: No, Sir. I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Has the hon. Member got leave of the House to withdraw his Motion? (*After a pause.*)

The Motion stands withdrawn by the leave of the House.

Of the three Cut Motions may I know if the Congress Party want to press their Motions?

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: No, Sir. I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Has the hon. Member got leave of the House to withdraw his Motion? (*After a pause.*)

The Motion stands withdrawn by the leave of the House.

What about the other two Motions?

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Has the hon. Member got leave of the House to withdraw his Motion? (*After a pause.*)

The Motion stands withdrawn by the leave of the House.

Then comes Srijut Kameswar Das's Motion No. 12.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: I want to press it, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I am putting it to the vote.

The question is: "That the provision of Rs. 25,12,300 under Grant No. 34, Major head—85A.—Capital outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with the War, Minor head—A.—Grain Storage Scheme (total), at page 154 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 49,19,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 100".

The Assembly divided

AYES—38

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| 1. Babu Akshay Kumar Das. | 20. Babu Lalit Mohon Kar. |
| 2. Mr. Arun Kumar Chanda. | 21. Srijut Mahadev Sarma. |
| 3. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee. | 22. Srijut Mahi Chandra Bora. |
| 4. Srijut Beliram Das. | 23. Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri. |
| 5. Srijut Bepin Chandra Medhi. | 24. Babu Nirendra Nath Dev. |
| 6. Babu Dakshina Ranjan Gupta Chaudhuri. | 25. Srijut Paramananda Das. |
| 7. Srijut Ghanashyam Das. | 26. Srijut Purandar Sarma, |
| 8. Srijut Gaurikanta Talukdar. | 27. Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya. |
| 9. Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi. | 28. Rai Sahib Doulat Chandra Gohain. |
| 10. Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan. | 29. Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua. |
| 11. Babu Harendra Narayan Chaudhuri. | 30. Srijut Ram Nath Das. |
| 12. Srijut Jadav Prasad Chaliha. | 31. Srijut Sarveswar Barua. |
| 13. Srijut Jogendra Chandra Nath. | 32. Babu Shibendra Chandra Biswas. |
| 14. Srijut Ghana Kanta Gogoi. | 33. Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma. |
| 15. Srijut Kameswar Das. | 34. Srijut Surendranath Buragohain. |
| 16. Babu Kamini Kumar Sen. | 35. Maulavi Abdul Aziz. |
| 17. Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy. | 36. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali. |
| 18. Mr. Kedarmal Brahmin. | 37. Srijut Dhirsingh Deuri. |
| 19. Srijut Lakshesvar Borooah. | 38. Babu Sanat Kumar Ahir. |

NOES—39

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| 1. The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla. | 9. The Hon'ble Miss Mavis Dunn. |
| 2. The Hon'ble Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta. | 10. The Hon'ble Srijut Rupnath Brahma. |
| 3. The Hon'ble Maulavi Munawwar Ali. | 11. Babu Bipin Behari Das. |
| 4. The Hon'ble Srijut Hirendra Chandra Chakravarty. | 12. Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury. |
| 5. The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi Mudabbir Hussain Chaudhuri. | 13. Khan Bahadur Hazi Abdul Majid Chaudhury. |
| 6. The Hon'ble Dr. Mahendra Nath Saikia. | 14. Maulavi Abdur Rahman. |
| 7. The Hon'ble Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhuri. | 15. Maulavi Syed Abdur Rouf. |
| 8. The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman. | 16. Maulavi Md. Abdus Salam. |
| | 17. Khan Sahib Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahbab Chaudhury. |
| | 18. Maulavi Dewan Ali Raja. |
| | 19. Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed. |
| | 20. Khan Bahadur Dewan Eklmur Roja Chaudhury. |

NOES—concl'd.

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| 21. Maulavi Ghyasuddin Ahmed. | 29. Mr. D. B. H. Moore. |
| 22. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Keramat Ali. | 30. Mr. C. W. Morley. |
| 23. Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury. | 31. Mr. R. A. Palmer. |
| 24. Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia. | 32. Dr. C. G. Terrell. |
| 25. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur Rahman. | 33. Mr. W. D. Rutherford. |
| 26. Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed. | 34. Mr. A. Whittaker. |
| 27. Shams-ul-Ulama Maulana Abu Nasr Md. Waheed. | 35. Mr. Benjamin Ch. Momin. |
| 28. Mr. F. W. Blennerhassett. | 36. Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das. |
| The question was lost. | 37. Srijut Bideshi Pan Tanti. |
| | 38. Mr. Binode Kumar J. Sarwan. |
| | 39. Rev. L. Gatphoh. |

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Then we take up Cut Motions on Motor Transport Organisation Scheme—Motions Nos. 14 to 18.

Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 8,00,000 under Grant No. 34, Major head—85-A.—Capital outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with the War, Minor head—B.—Motor Transport Organisation, Sub-head—Pay and allowances of officers, at page 155 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 49,19,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

The object of my moving the Motion is to criticise Government for corruption with regard to distribution of vehicles.

Sir, so far as this Department is concerned, the air of Shillong and also of the plains is thick with certain rumours. We hear whispers even among the highly-placed Government officials. The other day only we discussed about the paucity of buses and the bad condition in which they are at present. We maintained, Sir, that this was due to the fact that the bus-owners and the people were not getting sufficient number of lease-lend automobiles, and also due to the fact that various considerations are brought to bear on the question of getting lease-lend vehicles. It is strongly rumoured, Sir, that if an automobile costs Rs. 7,000, one has got to spend another Rs. 7,000 if he has to get a vehicle. Even for obtaining an application form one has got to spend Rs. 100.

With regard to the administration of this Department, there has been no audit, and no balance-sheets have been issued ; this fact was referred to by Mr. Whittaker during the general discussion of the Budget, and since the creation of this Department no audited accounts have been presented to this House. Sir, I understand that there is enough corruption in this Department and we hope Government will do their utmost to remedy this, and see that in all cases people get lease-lend vehicles, so that communications may improve and the sufferings of the people decrease. With these few words, I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved :

“That the provision of Rs. 8,00,000 under Grant No. 34, Major head—85-A.—Capital outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with the War, Minor head—B.—Motor Transport Organisation, Sub-head—Pay and allowances of officers, at page 155 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 49,19,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.”

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 12,75,000 under Grant No. 34, Major head—85-A.—Capital outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with the War, Minor head—B.—Motor Transport Organisation (total), at page 155 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 49,19,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

By this Motion I want to criticise the working of the organisation particularly for failure of the Government to arrange passenger service to ease transport difficulties. Sir, due to war the number of trains both in the main line and the branch lines in the Province has been drastically curtailed. To add to the difficulties, the bus services which used to supplement the railway service have also been curtailed. As a result the congestion in both the services is beyond description. For want of accommodation, Sir, people travel on the foot-boards and roofs even at great risk to their lives.

Very recently, Sir, three such persons travelling by the Dibru-Saidiya Railway were crushed to death in a clash between a military lorry and the train in Dibrugarh near Makum junction. Hardly a month ago, Sir, near Dibrugarh another person met with death in a clash between a military lorry and the train, the unfortunate fellow was travelling in the foot-board for want of accommodation. I submit, Sir, that the Ministry is responsible for these unfortunate occurrences. Now that owing to war condition the bus services have been curtailed, it is up to the Ministry to provide passenger services in the Assam Motor Transport Organisation in order to ease the transport difficulties of the public.

With these few words, I strongly urge Government to immediately provide passenger service in the Motor Transport Department particularly in the Dibrugarh subdivision which owing to its being a highly commercialised subdivision the number of travelling public is much larger than in any other place of Assam.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved: "That the provision of Rs. 12,75,000, under Grant No. 34, Major head—85 A.—Capital outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with the War, Minor head—B.—Motor Transport Organisation (total), at page 155 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 49,19,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 100".

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Srijut Dakshinaranjan Gupta Chaudhuri has spoken about the corruption in the Motor Transport Department. He mentioned, Sir, that unless the officers concerned receive illegal gratification no lease-lend vehicles are issued. He went to the length of saying that even for obtaining a form for application the intending applicant has to spend as much as Rs. 100. I could not quite follow why any application form is necessary; anyone and everyone can apply on any piece of paper. There is no prescribed form for applying to the Motor Transport Controller for issue of a lend-lease vehicle. Sir, my hon. Friend probably did not realise that the lease-lend vehicles are in very short supply. Anybody and everybody cannot get these vehicles, for what will be the use of getting a vehicle unless he or she can ply it for public service? And for plying for public service a permit has got to be secured either for a stage carriage, or private carrier, or public carrier, from the Regional Transport Authorities which are independent bodies created by Statute under the Indian Motor Vehicles Act. They are not under the Motor Transport Controller at all. Now, these bodies, set up under the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, first decide the routes on which particular buses or lorries will be allowed to ply. They also decide what should be the number which will be allowed to ply in view of the traffic carried on any particular route. It is after these bodies, which consist of both officials and non officials, have granted permits that lend-lease vehicles are issued by the Motor Transport Controller. Whether my Friend was criticising the Motor Transport Department or the Department of these Regional Transport Authorities, I could not gather from his speech. Any way Sir, these rumours about the corrupt officers in all Government Departments are right. While we discussed the question of corruption under "General Administration" I spoke plainly and frankly that if sufficient co-operation from the public is obtained I will spare no pains to set all the machinery of Government in play to check corruption. My Friend Mr. Lakshesvar Borooah mentioned the case of the route Dibrugarh-Tinsukia. It was a very popular route.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: I mentioned only of Makum junction and Dibrugarh town.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: There have been accidents on account of rash driving by the Military. We have reported every case that has come to our notice to the respective Military authorities and in some cases action has been taken. In some cases we have not had any result. We have placed the matter in the hands of the highest Military authorities in this line, that is, to Major General Rankin.

Then again, Sir, my hon. Friend made an appeal that Dibrugarh which is a very industrially advanced subdivision requires more buses on the roads for the transport of passengers. But so far as Dibrugarh-Tinsukia route is concerned, on account of the

shortage of petrol, this was withdrawn. If my hon. Friend wants I can give him this information that the Regional Transport Authorities recommended the re-opening of this route to public vehicles. We in the Transport Authority accepted that recommendation but the Petrol Rationing Authorities could not see their way to issue petrol that was necessary for buses plying in the route, as there is a parallel Railway Service. I will take up this matter with the two representatives of the Central Government who are visiting Shillong on the 21st March, 1945 and I will see if anything can be done.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does the hon. Member, Mr. Dakshina Ranjan Gupta Chaudhuri, press his Motion?

Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the provision of Rs.8,00,000 under Grant No. 34, Major Head 85-A.—Capital outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with the War, Minor Head—B.—Motor Transport Organisation, Sub-head—Pay and allowances of officers, at page 155 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 49,19,900, do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

The question was negatived.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does Srijut Lakshesvar Borooah press his Motion?

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the provision of Rs.12,75,000, under Grant No. 34, Major Head 85-A.—Capital outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with the War, Minor Head—B.—Motor Transport Organisation (total), at page 155 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.49,19,900 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

The Assembly divided

AYES—39.

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| 1. Babu Akshay Kumar Das. | 19. Srijut Lakshesvar Borooah. |
| 2. Mr. Arun Kumar Chanda. | 20. Babu Lalit Mohon Kar. |
| 3. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee. | 21. Srijut Mahadev Sarma. |
| 4. Srijut Beliram Das. | 22. Srijut Mahi Chandra Bora. |
| 5. Srijut Bepin Chandra Medhi. | 23. Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri. |
| 6. Babu Dakshina Ranjan Gupta Chaudhuri. | 24. Babu Nirendra Nath Dev. |
| 7. Srijut Ghanashyam Das. | 25. Srijut Paramananda Das. |
| 8. Srijut Gaurikanta Talukdar. | 26. Srijut Purandar Sarma. |
| 9. Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi. | 27. Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya. |
| 10. Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan. | 28. Rai Sahib Doulat Chandra Gohain. |
| 11. Babu Harendra Narayan Chaudhuri. | 29. Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua. |
| 12. Srijut Jadav Prasad Chaliha. | 30. Srijut Ram Nath Das. |
| 13. Srijut Jogendra Chandra Nath. | 31. Srijut Sarveswar Barua. |
| 14. Srijut Ghana Kanta Gogoi. | 32. Babu Shibendra Chandra Biswas. |
| 15. Srijut Kameswar Das. | 33. Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma. |
| 16. Babu Kamini Kumar Sen. | 34. Srijut Surendranath Buragohain. |
| 17. Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy. | 35. Maulavi Abdul Aziz. |
| 18. Mr. Kedarmal Brahmin. | 36. Maulavi Dewan Ali Raja. |
| | 37. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali. |
| | 38. Srijut Dhirsingh Deuri. |
| | 39. Babu Sanat Kumar Ahir. |

NOES—39.

1. The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla.
2. The Hon'ble Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta.
3. The Hon'ble Maulavi Munawwar Ali.
4. The Hon'ble Srijut Hirendra Chandra Chakravarty.
5. The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi Mudabbir Hussain Chaudhuri.
6. The Hon'ble Dr. Mahendra Nath Saikia.
7. The Hon'ble Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhuri.
8. The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman.
9. The Hon'ble Miss Mavis Dunn.
10. The Hon'ble Srijut Rupnath Brahma.
11. Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury.
12. Khan Bahadur Hazi Abdul Majid Chaudhury.
13. Maulavi Abdur Rahman.
14. Maulavi Syed Abdur Rouf.
15. Maulavi Md. Abdus Salam.
16. Khan Sahib Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahabab Chaudhury.
17. Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed.
18. Khan Bahadur Dewan Eklmur Roza Chaudhury.
19. Maulavi Ghyasuddin Ahmed.
20. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Keramat Ali.
21. Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury.
22. Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia.
23. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur Rahman.
24. Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed.
25. Shams-ul-Ulama Maulana Abu Nasr Md. Waheed.
26. Mr. F. W. Blennerhassett.
27. Mr. D. B. H. Moore.
28. Mr. C. W. Morley.
29. Mr. R. A. Palmer.
30. Dr. C. G. Terrell.
31. Mr. W. D. Rutherford.
32. Mr. A. Whittaker.
33. Mr. Benjamin Ch. Momin.
34. Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das.
35. Srijut Bideshi Pan Tanti.
36. Mr. Binode Kumar J. Sarwan.
37. Rev. L. Gatphoh.
38. Mr. Jobang D. Marak.
39. Srijut Khorsing Terang.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It is for the first time during these eight years that we have got an equality of votes in this House. Now, this is a censure Motion and the Government is not to be censured with the help of the vote of the Chair. Therefore I give my casting vote in favour of 'Noes'. (*Loud applause.*)

The Motion was lost.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Now we are still to dispose of Cut Motions on Standard Cloth, some on Consumer Goods Scheme and some on Rationing. But we have got only 24 minutes at our disposal. I wish to know which of the Cut Motions are to be moved. Are Motions on Consumer Goods or on the Rationing scheme to be moved?

Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURY: On consumer goods, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Which Motion?

Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURY: No. 24.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Very well, the hon. Member may move it.

Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 10,800 under Grant No. 34, Major head—85-A.—Capital outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with the War, Minor head—D.—Consumer Goods Scheme, Sub-head—Pay of officers, at page 155 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 49,19,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

The object of my moving the Motion is to criticise the Consumer Goods Scheme as formulated and given effect to by Government.

Sir, during the last session of the Assembly we heard many sweet words and many encouraging words about this Department. Sir, the Hon'ble Premier said that the agriculturists will have their own implements, that the middle classes will have their toilet of everyday use and everybody will have all the necessaries of their life. But, Sir, after a lapse of 3 or 4 months everybody finds that things stand where they were. I heard that the worthless things that were brought in by the Trade Commissioner or

the Trade Adviser, as for example the soap that was brought into this Province, is still lying idle and there was an auction for this purpose. I understand that the price was fixed up at Rs.45 per maund and nobody is taking these at even Rs. 8 per maund. Sir, the Trade Adviser to this Government with regard to these consumer goods, it has been said on one occasion, is also a Trade Adviser to the Tripura Raj. Nobody knows, Sir, what good he is rendering to this Province. Although there is a Trade Adviser, nobody is getting his requirements. It was also told in this House that we will get everything, but, Sir, after a lapse of 4 or 5 months we see nothing of that kind. Moreover, Sir, when people require articles of food they have got to run from door to door. Even on medical certificate these things are not procured. I know of several cases when advised by the Doctors to take Glucose the patient's relative had to run from the Excise Sub-Inspector to the Subdivisional Officer and back again to the Excise Sub-Inspector and then to a particular shop concerned and then only back to his home without the medicine. This also happened with regard to barley and other articles which are required by the ailing patients. Everybody in this House, Sir, will agree with me when I say that with regard to those articles people were in a much better position when private dealers dealt with those things before these consumer goods affairs came into this Province.

I do not want to detain the House, Sir, any longer and with these words I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs.10,800 under Grant No.34, Major head—85-A.—Capital outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with the War, Minor head—D.—Consumer Goods Scheme, Sub-head—Pay of officers, at page 155 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 49,19,900 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got a Cut Motion No. 31*standing in my name and I want to speak a few words about it.

Sir, in the last November session we heard a lot about the performances of the Civil Supply Agency in Calcutta as well as the Trade Adviser. After returning to my place at Dibrugarh after the last November session more definite information reached my ears. I was told that several thousands of rupees worth of washing soaps were sent to dealers in Dibrugarh and Tinsukia and I was also told that their quality was so bad that no purchaser went near it. The dealers were pressing the Government to take back the stuff and after repeated pressure the Government directed the Excise Superintendent to sell those articles in auction. The auction was held a few days before I left Dibrugarh. My information is that those stuffs that were purchased at Rs. 45 per maund could not fetch even Rs.8 per maund and therefore the whole stuff is lying in the godown. The result is that Government have to sustain a heavy loss of several thousands of rupees. I submit, Sir, this does not speak well neither of the Trade Adviser nor of the Civil Supply Agency, whoever is responsible for sending the stuff.

With these few words, Sir, I support the Motion before the House.

Mr. D. B. H. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will be very brief and I would like just to mention a few points in connection with the distribution of consumer goods.

*That the provision of Rs. 2,97,100 under Grant No.34, Major head—85-A.—Capital outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with the War, minor head—D.—Consumer Goods Scheme (total), at page 155 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 49,19,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

(To criticise the Government for supplying washing soap to Dibrugarh that are absolutely of inferior quality as such lying undisposed with resultant threatened loss to Government and also for restrictions against procuring corrugated iron sheets by the public.)

Sir, I agree with Mr. Gupta Chaudhuri that the existing scheme of distribution certainly needs drastic revision. The present system might have worked satisfactorily before the introduction of rationing, but now that rationing has been introduced in 7 or 8 large towns some form of reorganisation is called for. At present certain retailers find it impossible to obtain supply of certain articles, while other dealers in the same district, by method best known to themselves, succeed in obtaining the same articles through the Supply Department. If the supply organisation is to work efficiently and with the minimum of hardship and inconvenience to the general public, distribution of consumer goods in each district must be carefully planned and carried out on equitable basis for all concerned. If this is not done, unequal or unfair distribution to a favoured few must inevitably lead to inconvenience and local shortage for the purchasing public and at the same time encourage black marketing. Government in the shape of the Supply Department should be held responsible solely for procurement and delivery to the various districts.

At this point the various Deputy Commissioners should take over and, with the assistance of capable officers of proved integrity, should be responsible for the storage, distribution, price-fixing, rationing and the issue of permits in their respective districts.

These assisting officers should be experienced men vested with the powers of a 3rd Class Magistrate, and should be placed in-charge of each District Civil Supply Organisation, under the general supervision of the Deputy Commissioner.

If the required number of these officers—officers of experience and with the necessary qualifications—are at present not available, they should be found.

The whole problem of supplies in Assam under present-day condition is a vast one. It means the procurement and fair distribution of the largest possible number and variety of foodstuffs, articles and goods to the purchasing public spread over vast areas with the least possible delay at reasonable prices. It is a problem which demands a clear-cut policy at the top, and men of experience and the highest integrity in-charge of the Organisation in the Districts. It means the summary trial of offences by Magistrates who can and will tour the countryside so that persons who are public spirited enough to report offences are not harassed by the law's inevitable delays. It also means wide publicity in the Districts so that small dealers as well as the public may know what their rights are. But most important of all, it means the drastic elimination of favouritism and graft. It does not mean the granting of virtual monopolies to certain favoured firms and individuals with "friends at court", to the partial or complete exclusion of the more humble and less fortunate man or business. It does not mean a chaotic system whereby permits for a particular article can be issued by two or three different authorities.

Finally, it surely does not mean wastage of tens of thousands maunds of rice and foodstuffs due to hoarding and lack of efficient storage accommodation.

I hope, Sir, I have said enough to convince Government that some action is urgently necessary. With these words, Sir, I support the Motion.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Sir, in the Scheme of Consumer Goods it is very difficult to say who is the proper authority because there are so many officials bossing over this Department. There is the Deputy Controller General of Consumer Goods and there is now a new post—Assistant Controller General of Consumer Goods. These two officers were appointed by the Government of India to look after the interests of this Province. Then there are one Trade Adviser and also the Civil Supply Agency in Calcutta. These are the two agencies in Calcutta to look after our consumer goods. Then in Shillong there is the Excise Commissioner who is the Director of Consumer Goods and also the Secretary, Civil Supply Department. Therefore there are so many authorities over this Department and every one is eager to help us by placing orders for consumer goods, but most of them know very little about the particular commodities for which they place orders. That is why we find that the consumer goods procured on behalf of Government are of inferior quality

than those procured through private agencies or dealers. Price of those articles procured by Government is also higher than those procured by private dealers. Then again, Sir, whenever the quality or price is questioned, everyone of these authorities tries to throw the responsibility on the other—the Civil Supply Agency say, “we have got these goods on the order of the Trade Adviser”, and the Trade Adviser says, “I have got the samples of the articles ordered by me and if in the course of despatch by the Civil Supply Agency something goes wrong in the quality, I am helpless”, and the Deputy Controller of Consumer Goods says, “well, I ordered for good quality goods, but if the things that reach the Province are not the same for which I placed the order then the Agency is responsible for that”. Ultimately it is the consumer who is destined to suffer.

The next question is about the rate of commission granted to the Civil Supply Agency. Their function is mere handling of the Assam traders' goods bought from Calcutta merchants. Calcutta merchants generally quote F. O. R. prices that is, they deliver the goods upto the steamer or railway godowns of Calcutta. So the only task of the Civil Supply Agency is to submit forwarding notes and distribute the transport quota that is allotted to the Province. Therefore, Sir, for that function only, a commission of Rs. 3-2 per cent. is, to say the least, preposterous. We know, Sir, that during the pre-war time the commission agents in Calcutta used to charge not more than rupee one for buying, packing and sending the goods to steamer or railway godowns. In this case the Civil Supply Agency practically has no risk whatsoever. On account of this high commission our private traders are very much reluctant to utilise the services of this Government Agency in Calcutta.

With these words, Sir, I like to finish my speech, as the time allotted is very short. I hope the Hon'ble Premier would give due consideration to what I have just now said.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the facts stated by my Friends opposite are not quite correct. This control of consumer goods is not our own. It is an order passed by the Government of India and we are to fall in line. The consumer goods are so short in all the Provinces that the Government of India divided the whole of India into different regions, and for the eastern zone they appointed one Deputy Controller General of Consumer Goods who is to look after the necessity of four Provinces—Behar, Bengal, Assam and Orissa. This officer formerly used to visit our Province at least once in every two months to look into our requirements and tried to provide us with them as much as possible. At one stage it was found that he had to do too much tour in the four Provinces under his charge. So he could not look into the general interests of Assam and as a result one particular consignment of washing soap about which my Friend, Srijut Lakshesvar Borooah has mentioned, and which was sent at the instance of this particular officer, was extremely unsatisfactory. My hon. Friend Mr. Aditya has mentioned that in the Province itself we have got Excise Commissioner as Director as well as the Secretary of Civil Supply who has also some say in the matter. I may inform him that there is no competition in Assam between officials for indenting different kinds of goods. We have left the article of stationery to be dealt with by the private traders. It is open to them to buy those articles themselves at Calcutta or through Civil Supply Agency who are the Government agents there. At present the Government Agency is handling the heavier kinds of goods for which the Government has got a quota. We know that at present sufficient corrugated iron is being brought into our country and this has been handled by the Civil Supply Agency. My Friend Mr. Aditya says that the commission offered to this Agency is very high. He has forgotten for the moment that the time is changed now. The function of the Civil Supply Agency is fourfold. This has to help the Assam traders in procuring the goods that they want to send to Assam. If that help is not needed the Agency has to collect the goods, bring into its own godowns, keep them there and arrange for transport if the transport is not readily available to send the goods straightaway. Thus the Agency has to minimise the difficulties about transport. Sometimes they advance the capital also. We had a discussion only the other day about the Regional Priority Committee at Calcutta when I said that this Priority Committee allows our

Government agents first preference to send the goods on Government account. But the goods bought by private traders cannot be sent by them early owing to transport difficulties, for private goods are given Priority No. 4. So it is not a very easy task to get the transport that is necessary to send those consumer goods from Calcutta to Assam. It is the duty of the Civil Supply Agency to see that the transport is obtained from the Regional Priority Committee and the goods are safely brought to the railway yard and despatched. For all these—godown hire, handling of the goods, arranging for transport and sometimes interest entail lot of trouble and expenses. It was for this reason that this rate of commission of two pice per rupee was fixed in consultation with the Deputy Controller General of Consumer Goods. My Friend, the Mover, has mentioned that there is another person, the Trade Adviser, in this connection. We appointed him with the idea that he would be able to help in looking after the interests of the traders to see that they can get goods and also goods of good quality. Unfortunately, without taking the permission of this Government and without our knowledge he has accepted the trade advisership of Tripura State. The matter is being investigated by me and I cannot say anything at this stage as to what would be as the result. But it was with the best intention that we appointed one whom we knew, Trade Adviser at Calcutta. Mr. Moore complained that the distribution of the consumer goods, whatever little was coming to the Province, was bad. I do not know in what way we should distribute these goods that are brought to Assam. Goods that come on traders' own account are sold by them to those who possess permits from district officers and goods that come on Government account are sold to the public through certain licensed dealers who are given permits by the local officials in consultation with the Provincial Director of Consumer Goods. If any better method for distribution can be thought of, I will be very glad of such suggestions. There was a suggestion for rationing of the goods that come in. The rationing of the goods pre-supposes that there should be ample supply of such goods and that the supply should be regular. So there is no use rationing such goods which Government cannot hope to supply regularly.

My Friend, Mr. Moore, has admitted that supply question in the Province is a huge one and he wants wide publicity of the goods that are brought to this Province. I will see, Sir, what can be done in the matter. This publicity, as very rightly suggested, must be a district publicity and not a provincial publicity. Any way, Sir, I will see that the distribution can be very carefully planned and carried out.

The Mover of this Cut Motion has mentioned that Glucose and Glaxo cannot be had at all although doctors prescribe for these. It will be news to him that these are all well controlled and a quota is given. So far as Glaxo is concerned I know conditions as I buy it because I have children in my house. The quota that has been given to different districts by the manufacturer is very small and so the supply is rather limited. Sir, we will try our level best to give as much consumer goods as is possible.

Sir, we are encouraging our middle men to go to Calcutta and get their stock from there. The difficulty of travelling to Calcutta is too well known to everybody and accomodation there is practically unavailable. So our traders do not like the idea of going to Calcutta but up till now, Sir, they have been well served by the Civil Supply Agency.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does the hon. Mover press his Motion?

Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: No, Sir.

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

(After a pause).

The Motion stands withdrawn with the leave of the House. I am putting the main question before the House.

The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.49,19,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1946, for the administration of the head '85-A.—Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with war.”

The question was adopted.

GRANT No. 31.

(63.—EXTRAORDINARY CHARGES)

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.2,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1946, for the administration of the head '63.—Extraordinary Charges'.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.2,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1946, for the administration of the head '63.—Extraordinary Charges'.

The hon. Members will note that we are to dispose of three Grants by 5 o'clock.

Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: Sir, I do not like to move my Cut Motion*.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then I am putting the main question before the House.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.2,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1946, for the administration of the head "63.—Extraordinary Charges".

The question was adopted.

GRANT No. 33.

(64 B—CIVIL DEFENCE)

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.15,43,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1946, for the administration of the head '64B.—Civil Defence'.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.15,43,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1946, for the administration of head '64B.—Civil Defence'.

All the hon. Members who tabled Cut Motions on this grant are absent, except Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy. Does he want to move his Cut Motion No. 10?

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Yer, Sir. I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.15,43,200 under Grant No. 33, Major head—64B.—Civil Defence, at page 152 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.15,43,200 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, though I do not grudge liquidation of A. R. P. Department at the present moment, but my point for criticism is that due arrangements should be made for the provision of persons thus thrown out with the liquidation of A. R. P. Department. I want to know from the Government whether they have made arrangements for provision of these persons who have been discharged by now. If nothing has yet been done, what steps have been taken to re-appoint them in other Departments. Unless a satisfactory reply is given I shall press my Motion, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

"That the total provision of Rs. 15,43,200 under Grant No. 33, Major head—64B.—Civil Defence, at page 152 of the Budget, be reduced, by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 15,43,200 do stand reduced by Re. 1".

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the services of the A.R. P. Department, as notified have been regarded as War service by the Government of India. Those persons who are on the point of discharge, majority of them are being re-employed, and with regard to those

*That the provision of Rs. 2,000 under Grant No. 31, Major head—63—Extra-ordinary Charges, Minor head—A.—Charges in India (total), at page 150 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 100, amount of the whole grant of Rs. 2,000 do stand reduced by Rs. 100. (To criticise the administration of the Small Savings Scheme by the Government.)

who have already been discharged, some of them have been absorbed in the Police Department and some in the Office of the Comptroller, Assam and the rest who have remained to be re-employed are on leave according to the A. R. P. Regulations. Sir, we are trying to find employment for them and I hope almost all of them are likely to be employed in near future in other Departments of the Government.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does the hon. Mover press his Motion?

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: In view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

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

(After a pause)

The Motion stands withdrawn by the leave of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then I am putting the main question before the House.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,43,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1946, for the administration of the head '64B.—Civil Defence'."

The question was adopted.

GRANT No. 21.

(41.—VETERINARY)

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,96,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1946, for the administration of the head "41.—Veterinary".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,96,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1946, for the administration of the head '41.—Veterinary'."

There are 15 Cut Motions. Does Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury, want to move his Motion?

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Yes Sir. I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 9,000 under Grant No. 21, Major head—41.—Veterinary, Minor Head—A.—Superintendence, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Director, at page 122 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 2,96,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, my intention is to raise a discussion about the urgent necessity of starting two more Veterinary dispensaries in the Subdivision of Sunamganj. Sir, Sunamganj is the biggest Subdivision in the Surma Valley in area and the communication of the Subdivision is most difficult. In the circumstances only two dispensaries—one located at Jagannathpur and the other at Sunamganj—are hardly sufficient to meet the demands of the people.

Another thing that requires consideration is the potency of vaccine. Each of the two Veterinary Surgeons has to attend to a very extensive area and the vaccine before it reaches the destination, loses its efficacy.

Our demand is that at least two more dispensaries should be started in the Subdivision of Sunamganj. In this year's Budget we find that one dispensary has been provided for Nabiganj and another for Sibsagar. The Sunamganj Local Board are prepared to meet a part of the non-recurring expenditure that will be required for buildings if the Government come forward with a proposal to bear the entire recurring expenditure. This matter is being agitated for the last few years. On one occasion the Sunamganj Local Board out of despair adopted a resolution for the abolition of these two dispensaries as they thought that the two dispensaries were not sufficient to meet the demand of the people. Sir, I do hope that the Government will take this aspect of the matter into consideration and see their way to establish two more dispensaries in Sunamganj.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved :

“ That the provision of Rs.9,000 under Grant No.21, Major head—41.—Veterinary, Minor Head—A.—Superintendence, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Director, at page 122 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,96,900 do stand reduced by Rs.100.”

Srijut GHANA KANTA GOGOI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.2,07,827 under Grant No.21, Major head—41.—Veterinary, Minor head—B.—Subordinate Establishment (total), at page 123 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,96,900 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

Sir, my intention is to raise a discussion about the question of raising the initial pay of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons. In support of my Motion, I draw the attention of this hon'ble House to the fact that India and specially Assam is a land of agriculture and agriculturists. The well-being of an agricultural country depends upon the welfare of live-stock. The wealth of Assam lies in its fields, flocks and herds. Real Assam lies in fields and pastures, the milking cows, ploughing ox, the manger and furrows. In short, the wealth of Assam is invested in its live-stock, as much as in her fertile fields:

Now, Sir, the neglected Veterinarians are the guardians of this national wealth. The dumb servitors of the Assamese people are to be properly taken care of, by the Veterinary, in regard to their health and well-being. What is lacking now, is the right type of people to man the Veterinary services and it is due to the fact that these people do not get the emoluments that may ensure a decent living. The existing staff of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons feel that their pay and prospects are not attractive. It has to be remembered that the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons are men with scientific training and, I think, they should have the same scale of pay, as enjoyed by the Sub-Assistant Surgeons. I think, they have the right to it. The initial pay should be raised at least to Rs.75 a month. As regards the pay and prospects of the Field Assistants, I think, that, this class of service also, should have a better scale of pay.

Finally, Sir, I would like to say that in any scheme of national planning and reconstruction, the Veterinary Department must play a very great part and in order to do justice to the existing staff under employment and to attract the right type of people in future the pay and prospects of the whole Veterinary Service should be revised.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved :

“ That the provision of Rs.2,07,827 under Grant No.21, Major head—41.—Veterinary, Minor head—B.—Subordinate Establishment (total), at page 123 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,96,900 do stand reduced by Rs.100.”

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.2,96,900 under Grant No.21, Major head—41.—Veterinary, at page 121 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,96,900 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

My intention is only to raise a discussion about the policy of the Veterinary Department.

There is no new scheme in the Budget, for the present, in so far as the Veterinary Department in Garo Hills is concerned. The vast majority of the people of Assam depend for their bread on agriculture. Cattle is the main source or backbone of agriculture—I mean to say the success of agriculture is dependent on cattle and no cultivation can be carried on without them. The Veterinary Department is to achieve good animal breeding, feeding and health. The work of the Veterinary Department mainly consists of the treatment and health of animals.

The Civil Veterinary Department did not receive adequate attention in the past and therefore it is all the more necessary that there should be a substantial re-organisation in this department. This is also proposed in the scheme for the Post-War Re-

The present staff of the Civil Veterinary Department have to deal with the prevention and control of the contagious diseases amongst the live-stock in the villages. It is very difficult for the present staff of only 150 or so to tackle the huge problem of control and treatment of the large number of live-stock in the Province. For this reason, Sir, a scheme has been proposed for carrying out the general and specific works concerned in the control and treatment of cattle diseases. It would be necessary to have at least 280 Veterinary Assistant Surgeons and 510 Field Assistants for dealing with over 70,00,000 of cattle in Assam, and I am glad to note that our Government is taking serious steps for the improvement of the Department.

The staff for Garo Hills is absolutely inadequate. Only two Veterinary Assistant Surgeons and two Field Assistants are there and one of which is already out. He is in the Porter Corps and Government have not taken steps to replace him by another man. So I place this point before Government for remedial action.

There should be, Sir, at least three Veterinary Sub-Assistant Surgeons with Field Assistants and one Inspector for the Garo Hills; one Veterinary Sub-Assistant Surgeon for the headquarters at Tura, one for the northern constituency and another for the southern constituency, and one Inspector for the whole of the district. This, Sir, I am not asking for too much.

The present arrangement is bad. One Veterinary Sub-Assistant Surgeon is placed at Mankachar, which place is outside the Garo Hills district. His headquarters should be either at Bajejdobah or Fulbari. Mankachar is easily accessible from the Tura headquarters as there is a motor bus service with four timings daily between Tura and Mankachar, and the area in the Northern constituency is very great extending upto Kamrup district along the Goalpara district, comprising Mouzas Nos. V, VI and VII, plains Mouzas, and Mouzas III and IV Hills Mouzas. The headquarters of the proposed Veterinary Sub-Assistant Surgeon for the southern constituency should be at Baghmara which comprises plains Mouzas Nos. IX and X and hills Mouzas Nos. I and II. These are very big areas, and the present staff is inadequate. I hope Government will consider this matter.

Sir, regarding the treatment and helping the people in the villages I will suggest one thing. These Sub-Assistant Surgeons should be instructed by the Inspector, because unless they are properly instructed how will they instruct the villagers? They must be taught to take care of the cattle and the method of feeding the cattle. With regard to diseases there are two methods of treatment, the preventive method and the curative method. The villagers should be instructed in the preventive method. When any epidemic breaks out they should be instructed what sort of water or grass they should give to the animals, and medicines should also be provided. I hope the Hon'ble Minister will take note of this fact.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

"That the total provision of Rs.2,96,900 under grant No. 21, Major head—41.—Veterinary, at page 121 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,96,900 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my hon. Friends Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury and Mr. Marak have spoken elaborately on all the points which I wanted to place. Sir, there is no gainsaying about the necessity of more veterinary dispensaries in the Province. Assam is an agricultural Province and therefore cattle is the most essential wealth of the agriculturists. Now, during the last two years a large number of cattle has been swept away by epidemics; not only that, our military friends have in a few months devoured something like one lakh heads of cattle. This has resulted in milk becoming scarce and costly. Ghee is almost unavailable. Many of our Shillong friends are taking a kind of vegetable Ghee at 2-8-0 a pound as substitute for Ghee. In this way, Sir, we are gradually going to be deprived of our most valuable and substantial food which we need for our health. I therefore urge upon the Government to establish more veterinary dispensaries in rural centres and make proper arrangements for the treatment of ailing cattle and at the same time

stop free slaughter of cattle by the Military. At present the Veterinary Department is not so popular; it is almost unknown to the village people because in a subdivision there is only one or two veterinary dispensaries and many people do not know anything about the way of treatment obtaining therefrom. Sir, in the subdivision of Sunamganj there is one dispensary at Sunamganj and another at Jagannathpur. If a man from Salla requires the help of the Veterinary Surgeon it will take at least two days for him to come and take the doctor to his place, by which time his ailing cattle might die. This is the condition everywhere. Now when we are talking of Post-War Reconstruction, I think Government should be very careful on the question of improving the Veterinary Department.

I wish to touch one point more, and that is about the condition of the Veterinary Field Assistants. I find from the Budget Memorandum that out of 110 Veterinary Field Assistants 85 are going to be made permanent and Government remark that they have been found to be very useful to the Department, especially for their control of outbreaks of cattle disease in the Province. While Government recognise their services to be very useful they propose a scale of Rs. 20—50 per mensem for these people. This is nothing but ridiculous. I would propose a scale of at least Rs. 40—80 per mensem for each of the Field Assistants. These people are rendering valuable services to the villagers and to some extent they have popularised the Department in the areas where they serve. I brought this matter to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister more than once, but I find the position remains the same. I will ask the Hon'ble Minister to consider the lot of these people again and bring in a Supplementary Demand, if possible, in order to ameliorate the condition of these useful Veterinary Field Assistants.

With these few words, I resume my seat.

Mr. BENODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got a few words to say regarding the facts that I know of the Veterinary Department.

There is only one Veterinary Surgeon posted at Tezpur. He has got eleven Mauzas and many tea gardens which he has to attend. He has also to attend to military camps and political area Lokhra. The duty which has been entrusted upon him, I feel, he cannot cope with. The poor villagers are very ignorant in the veterinary science. So, I would be very thankful if Government would take special steps for the good of the agriculturists and help them in the treatment of diseases. There have been much cattle disease and many cattle died and there has been great loss to the poor agriculturists. Also we heard that diseases had spread many times in the past but nothing has been done by Government to assist the villagers in the matter. The Veterinary Assistant Surgeons are very few in number and so also there are a few Field Assistants. I find some of them are not satisfied with the salary they are getting. I would request the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge to see if he could raise their salary to get better service from them.

Sir, the last thing that I would like to say is about pamphlets. The Hon'ble Minister-in-charge should see that some pamphlets and literatures be written and distributed among the agriculturists to save them from the loss. I have these facts which I am placing before the House, and I hope the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge will take steps in the matter.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to give my whole-hearted support to the Motion which has been brought before the House by my Friend, Mr. Jobang D. Marak, for reasons already known to the House. I say 'already known to the House' because I have referred to the matter once or twice on the floor of this House before. The slaughter of bullocks and cows as allowed by the present Government deserves a legitimate censure by this House.

Sir, we understood that there was a standing Government order that cattle under a certain age should not be allowed to be slaughtered. I have drawn the attention of the Hon'ble Minister more than once that this order has not been carried out at all and that cattle, I mean the milch cattle, are being slaughtered every day and these cattle are being driven up to Shillong and Gauhati under the every nose of the District Officers and the Police Officers. Nothing has been done.

I had suggested that there must be an agency at Nongpoh but the Government reply is that they were short of veterinary officers and that the Police could not judge the age of the cattle and so they are being slaughtered. My Friend, the Minister of Agriculture, who had the advantage of crossing overseas and who has also seen the English beeves at close quarter, is naturally unorthodox about the slaughter of cattle in this Province, and does not mind such slaughter. So I can find that that is the only explanation for his indifference in this matter and if the slaughter is allowed to go on, in a few years the Assamese cattle will be weeded out altogether. Sir, I should ask the Government to be a bit serious in the matter. They can issue general instructions to the Police stations by which these cattle pass to check them and people should not be allowed to move cattle from one place to another unless they get a permit or a licence. If this instruction is adopted, I think, the Government policy will be carried out.

There are other matters which have been dealt with by Messrs. Gogoi and Marak and I support their views also.

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not want to speak this afternoon particularly, but I feel I must rise to support the spirit of this Motion which has been moved concerning this Department. I do not feel, Sir, personally that this Department is given anything like sufficient attention. I say this because it is surely a matter of elementary sense that a department concerned so much with the health of the people should do better than the present policy which they are adopting; a "penny-wise and pound foolish" policy.

It occurs to me if we were to offer the right amount of money we might possibly attract the right people to this Service and, based on the right people, you probably could get a decent policy going for cattle improvement in the Province. But the present way of doing it, Sir, is leading us nowhere. It is just playing at it. Milk is scarce and becoming scarcer and, as far as I can see, no real attempt is being made to improve the position.

One other thing; this cattle destruction which Mr. Rohini Chaudhuri says is still going on. It occurs to me the slaughter of cattle going on in this Province is one of those ways which, properly handled and controlled, might lead to better cattle. We have an opportunity of getting rid of cattle that we do not want. I suggest, Sir, that this restriction which Government have placed on buying and selling of cattle for slaughter, if properly enforced, will do a lot in the way of removing unwanted cattle. I do not think Mr. Chaudhuri's way of getting at control is going to do much good. He suggested that Police should stop the cattle that are going along our roads to the slaughter house, and that the barred cattle should be taken from the dealer—After that what?

(At this stage Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri rose to speak.)

I am not giving way, Sir. I think, Sir, that what is going to lead to a lot more bribeable bureaucrats who will take still more and more bribes. So I do not think the suggestion is on the right line. I personally have seen fit cattle being driven to the slaughter houses and I have seen them arriving there, but I believe the Army are taking steps to see that they are sorted out at these slaughter depots. For instance, in Golaghat there is a Cattle Farm which is run by a certain Major Edwards, where those cattle which he thinks should not be slaughtered because they are milch cattle or cattle fit for breeding or for work, are stopped, looked after by him and eventually handed over to the civilian population again through the Assam Government. Now, Sir, if that could be done in every slaughter house and in every Army Cattle Farm, there would be something to it and I suggest Government might examine this as a way of preventing the slaughter of good cattle. But to ask the Police to stop the people driving cattle along the roads and to surrender those cattle would merely mean that the Police would take another three rupees; and that would be all that.

That is all I have to say, Sir.

Dr. C. G. TERRELL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will say one word in general support of this Motion and to remind the House of a serious defect that exists in the Veterinary Organisation, and that is the lack of efficient and proper laboratory facilities. Sir,

there is only one Veterinary Laboratory, as far as I know, in the Province. That is at Gauhati. And, undoubtedly for the efficient working of the Veterinary Department there ought to be another laboratory in the Surma Valley to be situated either at Silchar or at Sylhet for dealing with the work so far as the Surma Valley is concerned. There is an enormous amount of delay between the time a specimen is taken, for example a blood slide is taken for examination of possible infectious diseases in cattle, and then it has to be sent all the way to Gauhati, and by the time the examination is made in that laboratory and the report has been forthcoming—very often there is a delay of a week or 10 days and sometimes more, and by that time a serious epidemic may have occurred. Attention should be given apart altogether from the Post-War Reconstruction Schemes to set up a Laboratory in the Surma Valley and also for the purpose of cold storage of vaccine and serum which to be efficacious in stopping epidemics must be used at the earliest possible opportunity.

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problems of the Veterinary Department have become full of wide issues. Though in this country the bullock is the only motive power for cultivation and the generation for the cow has been handed down through remote antiquity, I shall not be far from truth, Sir, if I say that the cattle diseases have received the attention they deserve only in recent years. The changing economic conditions have doubtless created an all-round increased demand for veterinary facilities and the Veterinary Department has been infused with a vigour to protect cattle and poultry from diseases. With regard to cattle disease, Sir, the Veterinary Department has been doing all that is possible with its limited staff to treat the cattle and visit almost all the villages of this Province. During the year 1943-44 a total number of 2,69,780 cases were treated and 3,81,789 animals were vaccinated and inoculated. We have, Sir, in our Department 85 Veterinary Field Assistants and they have been made permanent and 17 new men have been taking training at Gauhati. The duties of these Field Assistants, Sir, are not to treat or diagnose the cattle diseases but to do vaccination and inoculation under the supervision of the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons. Sir, we get Goat Tissue Vaccine from Bengal Veterinary College every year for treatment of cattle but due to war condition the supply of these vaccines have been greatly curtailed and most of these Veterinary Field Assistants have to spend their time doing nothing. At present in place of these vaccines, Sir, the Bengal Government have given us very recently a desecrated vaccine and we are just watching whether we will get the same result with this vaccine and if it is proved successful, we will certainly consider the question of appointing more Veterinary Field Assistants to deal with cattle diseases. (*A voice*—There will be no cattle to treat after a few months.)

Now, Sir, Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury has pressed for two veterinary dispensaries in Sunamganj subdivision. It has been the policy of this Government to open one or two new veterinary dispensaries every year. We have made provision in 1945-46 for two more veterinary dispensaries—one to be opened at a place called Sonari in the Sibsagar district and the other at Nabiganj in the district of Sylhet. We have also opened in the current year two veterinary dispensaries—one at Jowai and another at Ghagmari.

Sir, the initiative for a veterinary dispensary, according to procedure, must come first from the Local Boards. If the Sunamganj Local Board will agree to bear a certain percentage of the capital cost we will certainly consider the proposal to open, if not two, at least one.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: The recurring cost will be borne by the Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: At least the people of the locality should agree to bear a certain amount of cost of the veterinary dispensaries.

Now, with regard to potency of vaccine, Sir. The potency of the vaccine that we get from Bengal Veterinary College, remains only for seven days and in these days of transport difficulty it is very difficult to get these vaccines from Calcutta within seven days and send them to affected areas.

Maulavi Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury raised the question of opening out more veterinary dispensaries in rural areas. I have already said, Sir, that every year we endeavour to open out at least two or three veterinary dispensaries in the Province. We cannot open out more, Sir, because of the fact that the Veterinary Assistants are not available here. We also cannot send more than fifteen students to Bengal Veterinary College as the Bengal Government have allotted only fifteen seats for Assam Students in Bengal Veterinary College (*A voice*—Why not start a college here?) At the moment, Sir, we have eight students in the Bengal Veterinary College and we can send seven more this year to that college from this Province. Unless more seats can be arranged in Bengal Veterinary College, we cannot train more students in that college and the question of opening up more veterinary dispensaries every year cannot be taken up.

Now, with regard to pay and prospects of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons, Sir. The pay and prospects of the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons of this Province are almost the same like Bengal and Orissa and we cannot take up this question separately. It will be unwise to do so as in that case officers of other departments will put in their claims as well. However, Sir, if the question comes up to revise the pay of the low-paid officers, I will certainly take up this matter also.

As regards the pay and prospects of the Veterinary Field Assistants, Sir, these Veterinary Field Assistants were given first a grade of salary ranging from Rs. 20—40 per month. Afterwards they were put on a permanent footing and their pay was raised from Rs. 20—50. They have been given a travelling allowance of Rs. 10 and over and above they have been given 40 per cent. increment of travelling allowance. They also get war and dearness allowances and rice concession like other Government servants. From this, Sir, hon. Members will find that we are not unmindful to the pay and prospect of these Veterinary Field Assistants.

Sir, we appreciate the suggestion that pamphlets giving instructions regarding cattle and poultry diseases should be circulated and we will make the necessary arrangement with the Publicity Department to issue such pamphlets in the future.

Regarding slaughter of cattle, Sir, we are not at all indifferent to this matter. Orders have already been issued to all District Officers to prosecute any person who may be found selling any cattle below the age of ten or cows-in-milk. But, Sir, in this respect unless we get the co-operation from the public it is absolutely impossible for any Government to take strong measures. We have got no big Police force or a huge number of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons to visit every village to detect every case. I would request the hon. Members of this House to help us in getting co-operation from the public in this respect.

With regard to scarcity of milk, I can inform the hon. Members that Government have fixed the price of milk in almost all the towns of this Province, and also in many places we have prohibited sale of milk to Chinese Restaurants. We are also trying our best to get powdered milk from the United Kingdom.

Then, Sir, my hon. Friend, Dr. Terrell, has suggested to establish one more Veterinary laboratory at Sylhet. We have one such laboratory at Gauhati at the moment. The whole Scheme of this is financed by this Government and the Imperial Research Council on a fifty-fifty basis. At the moment we have only one Officer to do the research work in this laboratory at Gauhati and the question of establishing another laboratory at Surma Valley can only be taken up if the Government of India agree to this. However, Sir, we will move in this matter and see if it will not be possible to open up another laboratory in the Surma Valley.

Regarding Cold Storage Vaccination, Sir, we have got one Cold Storage at Gauhati but even then we could not get at the moment sufficient supply of vaccine from Bengal on account of transport difficulty. But as soon as conditions will improve we will see, Sir, whether it will not be possible to manufacture such goat tissue vaccine in this Province.

I hope, Sir, the hon. Members will agree that the Department is not spending its time lazily but following a progressive policy to which I hope the hon. Members will lend their support. With these words, Sir, I request the hon. Member to withdraw his Motion.

Srijut GHANA KANTA GOGOI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Bengal and Orissa scales for Veterinary Assistant Surgeons are better than Assam's scale?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DATTA: So far as my information goes, Sir, pay and prospect in Bengal are not better than that of our Veterinary Assistant Surgeons. Their starting pay was Rs. 45 whereas our starting pay is Rs. 55. If it has been revised recently, I am not aware of that, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury press his Motion?

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: I won't press my Motion, Sir.

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

(After a pause.) The Motion stands withdrawn.

Srijut GHANAKANTA GOGOI: No, Sir, with the leave of the House Does Srijut Ghana Kanta Gogoi press his Motion?

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

(After a pause) The Motion stands withdrawn with the leave of the House.

Does Mr. Jobang D. Marak press his Motion?

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: No, Sir.

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

(After a pause) The Motion stands withdrawn with the leave of the House.

I am then putting the entire Grant as a question.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,96,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1946, for the administration of the head '41.—Veterinary'".

The question was adopted.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 A.M., on Monday, the 19th March, 1945.

SHILLONG :

The 29th May, 1945. }

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