



The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 1-30 P.M., on Friday, the 19th March, 1948.

P R E S E N T

The Hon'ble Mr. Lakshesvar Borooah, Speaker, in the Chair, the eight Hon'ble Ministers and forty-two Members.

Oath of Allegiance

The following Members were sworn in :—

1. Mr. Khorsing Terang.
2. Maulavi Mufazzal Hussain.
3. Mr. Janggin Sangma Lashkar.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Abolition of Zamindari

†Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA asked :

- \*19. (a) Are Government aware that after the policy of Government having been announced in respect of the abolition of Zamindari, some of the Zamindars of land with immigrants are doing a lot of mischiefs by indiscriminate settlement altogether without any regard to Government Policy ?
- (b) If so, will Government be pleased to state—
- (i) Whether they propose to enquire into the matter ; and
- (ii) Whether they propose to take into account such acts of the Zamindars at the time of paying compensation to them ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

19. (a)—Government have received several representations to this effect.
- (b) (i)—Government have already deputed an officer (Rai Saheb J. K. Chakravarty) to enquire into the matter.
- (ii)—Government have already warned the Zamindars to this effect.

††Maulavi MD. ABUL KASHEM : Are Government aware that due to the influx of immigrants from Pakistan there is chance of communal discord in the district ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : We have not received any information yet of any apprehension of communal trouble.

†Put by Srijut Hem Chandra Hazarika on authorisation.

‡Speech not corrected.

## Realisation of Sales tax

†Srijut DALBIR SINGH LOHAR asked :

- \*20. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether a dealer as defined in Assam Sales Tax Act, is authorised to realise the tax from the purchasers ?
- (b) Are Government aware that after the operation of the Act dealers and sub-dealers are charging sales tax from the purchasers ?
- (c) Will Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken to forbid dealers and sub-dealers from exacting unauthorised realisation of sales tax from consumers residing both in towns and villages ?
- (d) Will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken to notify the provisions of the Assam Sales Tax Act in Vernacular for the convenience of the public and people residing in rural areas ?
- (e) Will Government be pleased to state under what conditions the dealers and sub-dealers are authorised to realise sales tax ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

20. (a)—As the liability to pay tax to Government rests on a registered dealer, he is entitled to realise it from unregistered dealers and consumers either in the form of tax or increased prices. As unregistered dealers pay the tax at the time of purchase of his stock-in-trade from a registered dealer, he is naturally entitled to reimburse himself by increasing his sale-price to that extent.

(b)—Government have no information and it is not understood what is intended to be conveyed by the terms "Dealers" and "Sub-dealers." The Act recognises two categories of dealers, i. e., registered and unregistered. Apparently the tax is realised by registered dealers as such and by unregistered dealers by increasing the sale-price.

(c)—The question does not arise as no unauthorised realisation has come to the notice of Government.

(d)—In the absence of a technical vocabulary, it is somewhat difficult to publish the Act and the Rules in Vernacular, but steps are being taken to translate the Act and the rules as early as possible. In the meantime Press Notes in English, Bengali and Assamese detailing the main provisions were published and widely circulated.

(e)—The hon. Members' attention is drawn to the replies to Question (a) and also to the Act and the Rules thereunder.

As soon as we got some information from Srijut Bhadra Kanta Gogoi during the Budget discussion that some dealers were realising sales tax even for exempted commodities, I issued an order to enquire whether it was a fact and what steps could be taken to prevent such illegal exactions under the guise of realising sales tax.

† Put by Maulavi Abdul Halim on authorisation.

## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

**Government Stipendiaries in the Benares Hindu University****Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR** asked :

85. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that three stipends were granted to three students from Assam who were prosecuting their studies in the Engineering College of the Benares Hindu University and that the stipends were to commence from the month of June or July of 1946 ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that ~~no stipends were paid to these students for~~ only in the year 1946 and that no payment of the stipends has been made during the year 1947 and the remaining months of 1946 ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware that this irregularity and delay in paying stipends are causing great hardship to the poor students.
- (d) Whether Government propose to issue necessary orders for payment of the stipends in arrears and to direct payments to be made regularly in future ?

**Srijut MOHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY** (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

85. (a)—Yes, from July 1946.
- (b)—Government have no information about the non-receipt of scholarship by Assam Scholars during 1946 and 1947, at the Benares Hindu University.
- (c)—Does not arise.
- (d)—An enquiry is being made and necessary action will be taken.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR** : Will Government be pleased to state whether any enquiry has been actually made ?**Srijut MOHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY** (Parliamentary Secretary) : An enquiry has actually been made and it has been found that the scholarship has been paid regularly.**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR** : Have the arrears been paid ?**Srijut MOHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY** (Parliamentary Secretary) : Yes, Sir, if there were any at all at any time.**Production of Endi, Muga and Pat in Province****Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR** asked :

86. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The names of the districts in the Province which produce (i) Endi, (ii) Muga and (iii) Pat in good quantities ?

- (b) The quantities of (i) Endi, (ii) Muga and (iii) Pat produced in each of the districts during the years 1944, 1945 and 1946 ?
- (c) The quantities of (i) castor seeds and (ii) castor oil produced in the Province during the years 1944, 1945 and 1946 ?
- (d) The quantities of castor oil (i) exported from and (ii) imported to this Province ?
- (e) The steps the Government have undertaken for expansion of production during the years 1944, 1945 and 1946 (showing the extent of the progress made during the said periods in each district) ?
- (f) Whether there is room for increasing the production of (i) Endi and (ii) Muga in the Province ?
- (g) If so, whether Government propose to prepare a scheme for increasing the production of these commodities throughout the Province and to put the same into operation as early as possible ?

**Srijut BIMALAPRASAD CHALIHA** (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

86. (a)—Sibsagar, Darrang, Kamrup, Goalpara, Lakhimpur and Nowgong.

(b)—No such district statistics are available. The total out-put of Endi, Muga and Pat in the Province for the years 1944, 1945 and 1946 is given below :—

Endi—420,000 lbs. (cut cocoons)	400,000 lbs. (cut cocoons)	430,000 lbs. (cut cocoons)
Muga— 10,000 lbs. (reeled silk.)	100,000 lbs. (reeled silk.)	105,000 lbs. (reeled silk.)
40,000 lbs. (waste silk)	40,000 lbs. (waste silk)	41,000 lbs. (waste silk)
Pat— 9,400 lbs. (reeled silk)	9,000 lbs. (reeled silk)	9,500 lbs. (reeled silk)
5,000 lbs. (waste silk.)	4,500 lbs. (waste silk)	4,700 lbs. (waste silk)

(c) & (d)—The information is being obtained.

(e)—No such steps were taken by Government except supply of disease-free seeds to some of the Endi and Muga growers of the Province. There was a decrease in production due to the unprecedented conditions of the war.

(f)—Yes.

(g)—Government have recently sanctioned a comprehensive “Five Years’ Scheme” for improvement of the Silk Industry in the Province including Muga and Endi Silk. The schemes are being put into operation immediately.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR** : Will Government be pleased to give the House some idea as to the schemes that are being put into operation particularly in the case of production of Endi ?

**Srijut BIMALAPRASAD CHALIHA** (Parliamentary Secretary) : Yes, Sir, so far Endi is concerned it is proposed to establish three Endi Seed Granges from which disease-free seeds will be distributed to the rearers. I want to give some information to the House about the scheme as a whole. The scheme proposes to establish eleven Endi Silk Farms.

We have at present five Silk Farms. There is provision to subsidise private sericulturists for the increase of silk worm food plants. It is also proposed to set up a filature and a sericulture research institute and to establish one propaganda branch. There is also provision to start a sericulture training institute and to train 20 science graduates in sericulture. In brief this is the comprehensive scheme which is referred to in answer to (g).

### Abolition of Zamindari

**Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA** asked :

87. Are Government aware—

- (a) That the Zamindars of Goalpara District, specially Chapar Trust Estate, are settling up lands to outsiders <sup>very</sup> speedily as the prospective date ~~of the~~ abolition of Zamindari is being nearer and nearer ?
- (b) That the settlement is being ~~very~~ speedily as the prospective date ~~of the~~ abolition of Zamindari is being nearer and nearer ?
- (c) That within a very short time no land will at all be available for any development in Zamindari areas ?
- (d) That the Zamindars are doing this in violation of the land policy of Government to get more money as premia before abolition of Zamindari ?

88. If so, will Government be pleased to state what steps they propose to take against the Zamindars concerned ?

89. (a) Are Government aware that some of the Zamindars of Goalpara District are destroying their forest wealth by indiscriminate disposal of their forest produces ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state (i)-what steps have been taken so far and (ii) what steps they propose to take in the matter ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI** replied :

87-89.—Government have received representations to this effect and have already deputed an officer to enquire into these allegations and are awaiting his report.

**Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE** : Do Government propose to acquire the Zamindari and intermediary rights immediately to remove all these troubles and difficulties ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI** : I think, this will be done but we have not yet got the plan ready. We have deputed an officer to submit a report when the matter will be taken into consideration as to how and at what stage it can be done. But it will always be desirable that the intermediaries should also be purchased so that the Government will have to deal with the actual cultivators directly.

**Maulavi MD. ABUL KASHEM** : Will Government be pleased to enquire whether the Zemindars of Koroibari allowed some immigrants to settle in Kodaldhowa reserve in Koroibari Estate ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI** : Has this anything to do with the Question ?

**Maulavi MD. ABUL KASHEM:** Yes, Sir, the answer has been that an officer has been deputed to enquire into this matter in the District of Goalpara and this is in that district.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Yes, he will go and look into the matter.

**Nalbari Veterinary Dispensary**

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR** asked:

90. Are Government aware—

(a) That the Nalbari Veterinary Dispensary is one of the oldest dispensaries in the Province?

(b) That the record of attendance of patients in this Dispensary is highest in the Province?

(c) That its jurisdiction extends to the entire north bank of the Gauhati Subdivision where it is centrally situated?

(d) That the cattle population within the jurisdiction of the Dispensary is huge and the locality is thickly populated?

(e) That having regard to the importance and heavy service rendered by this Dispensary high and responsible Government officials have been recommending the employment of a Second Veterinary Assistant Surgeon in this Dispensary?

(f) That the Dispensary Committee by their resolution, dated the 1st July 1947 has moved the Department to convert the Dispensary into a regular Hospital?

91. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they have received the above-mentioned resolution of the Dispensary Committee containing the request?

(b) Whether Government have received any public representation containing similar prayer?

(c) Whether Government propose to take early steps to raise the status of the Dispensary to that of a hospital?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR** replied:

90. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Nalbari is one of the dispensaries recording highest attendance of patients.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—A Second Veterinary Assistant Surgeon was sanctioned by Government for the Gauhati Local Board in 1941, but the Local Board could not avail of it for want of fund.

(f)—Yes.

91. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes, for opening Veterinary Dispensary in Nalbari Circle.

(c)—No contemplation at present. There is a proposal to establish a Veterinary Hospital at each of the District headquarters of the Province in connection with the Post-War Development work. Government will give next priority to Subdivisional towns in respect of establishment of Veterinary Hospitals. After that Government will consider if it can be done in places like Nalbari.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** Sir, the Government were pleased to sanction a Second Veterinary Assistant Surgeon for the Nalbari Dispensary and the reply is that the Local Board could not avail of it for want of fund. Do not Government consider it necessary that the Local Board should be provided with a special grant so that it can appoint a Second Veterinary Assistant Surgeon?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR:** Sir, the question may be considered if the Local Board comes forward with a proposal.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** Sir, in reply Government says that the Local Board has pleaded inability to employ a Second Veterinary Assistant Surgeon for want of fund. Will Government consider to provide a special grant for the purpose?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR:** Sir, that side of the question has not been considered. If the Local Board comes forward with any proposal to get help from the Government, that will be taken into consideration.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** Now, Sir, it has been admitted by Government that the jurisdiction of the Nalbari Veterinary Dispensary is very extensive and that the number of patients in that dispensary is the highest in the Province and that the Gauhati Subdivision is as big as two subdivisions. In view of this do not Government consider that there should be another hospital in the northern bank of the Gauhati Subdivision?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR:** Sir, the reply is there. Government have proposed to establish a Veterinary Hospital in each of the District headquarters first and then in each of the Subdivisional headquarters and then will come the important places. At present Government have other difficulties in providing the Nalbari Dispensary with an additional doctor because there are subdivisions where there are dispensaries but without any doctor. The question of provision of a second doctor to Nalbari should be considered from two points of view—one is whether Government have any spare doctor and the other is whether the Local Board concerned can pay for the doctor. If both these could be satisfied then there would be no trouble.



**Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEV:** Sir, is it a fact that there is a proposal to start a Veterinary dispensary at Rangiya?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR:** I do not think, Sir.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** As regards the 2nd difficulty, the Government can solve, but the first is somewhat difficult because we may not have trained doctors, but the 2nd difficulty can be solved by Government.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR:** That is a question of finance. If Government can arrange a special grant in that case this can be done.

**Srijut DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI:** নই কওঁ Tribal area ৰ কাৰণেও এখন ডিচপেনচাৰী লাগে আৰু সেই বিষয়ে চৰকাৰক বিবেচনা কৰিবলৈ বিশেষ অনুৰোধ কৰিছোঁ।

**\*Srijut BELIRAM DAS:** In spite of one additional doctor at Nalbari more dispensaries should be opened out in tribal areas?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR:** The matter will be considered when Government will have trained doctors.

**\*Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA:** With regard to Question 90(e), Sir, in view of the fact that a second Veterinary Assistant Surgeon was sanctioned by the Government for the Nalbari Subdivision, will Government sanction additional Veterinary Assistant Surgeons for other Districts as well?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR:** From the trend of the reply it will appear, Sir, that the Nalbari Dispensary had the largest number of patients and on that consideration alone Government appointed another doctor for the said dispensary. But the Local Board could not avail of it for want of fund. Government will surely sanction appointment of additional doctors in other Districts as well if necessary.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** Will Government be pleased to say whether they have purchased the Tezpur Local Board Veterinary Dispensary at Rs. 26,600 or so?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR:** That is a new Question, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** There is no relevancy in this Question.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** My Question is that whether Government is contemplating taking similar action in the case of dispensaries of other places such as the Nalbari Dispensary?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR:** This is a new Question, Sir, and I cannot reply offhand.

### Colonisation of Longai and Singla Reserves

**Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN** asked :

92. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they are going to open the Longai and Singla Reserves for new colonisation and if so, when ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the principle of granting settlement in these areas ?

(c) Do Government propose to give priority to the minority community in the District of Sylhet while granting such settlement ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA** replied :

92. (a), (b) & (c)—The whole question of the relative needs of the Forest Department and of genuine cultivators of the locality with little or no land is under the consideration of Government.

**Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN** : In view of the reply given by the Government may I know how long it will take for them to come to a decision ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA** : As a matter of fact at present there is no such proposal for deforestation of any portion of the Reserve. I received representations from different sections of the people from that area and on receipt of those representations I asked the local Forest Officers to report whether there was any possibility of throwing open any portion of the Reserve. But from the reports received from them it appears that there is no such possibility. After having these reports from the local Forest Officers I have considered it necessary to go there personally to see what can be done in the matter. Sometime after the present Session of the Assembly I am thinking of going down to the place along with the Hon'ble Agricultural Minister who hails from that locality.

**Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN** : Thank you.

**\*Srijut BELIRAM DAS** : Sir, the Question is : "Do Government propose to give priority to the minority community in the District of Sylhet, etc. ?" How does the question of Sylhet arise here since Sylhet has been separated from Assam ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA** : The whole matter would be considered by Government.

**Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN** : I think Sir, it is known to all the hon. Members that according to a recent circular issued by the Government of India any resident of Pakistan who has or who may migrate in the Indian Dominion on or before 31st March next will be eligible for an appointment under the Government of India. Besides that I hope you have all noticed in the Draft Constitution of India that there is a provision that any one from Pakistan can acquire the right of the citizenship of India only if he files a declaration before the Constitution comes into force saying that he has been residing in the Indian Dominion for at least one month and that he intends to settle here permanently. All that indicate that Government of India desires that any resident

in Pakistan is entitled to come here and every facility would be given to him to settle here. That is how the Question becomes quite relevant in this connection.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR:** As a matter of fact it is a matter of policy in this case.

**\*Srijut LAKSHMIDHAR BORAH:** May I ask, Sir, whether Government is aware of the fact that the needs of the genuine cultivators are stronger than the needs of the Forest Department?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA:** Sir, we certainly do not ignore the demands of the people in genuine cases. If we find that there is any possibility of throwing open any portion of the Reserve we generally do that. But in this case we do not know what is the possibility.

**Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** Do we understand from Government that the claims of the minority Community of Sylhet will be considered in settlement of these deforested lands?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA:** So far as the Forest Department is concerned, Sir, our responsibility ceases with the disforestation and after that it will be the concern of the Revenue Department to decide with whom the lands should be settled.

**Dhubri Government High School and Lady Kerr Girls' High School,  
Dhubri.**

**Maulavi ABUAL MAJID ZIAOSH SHAMS** asked :

93. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) How many days in 1946 and in 1947 the full classes were held (1) in Dhubri Government High School, (2) in Lady Kerr Girls' High School of Dhubri?

(b) How many days, besides the notified days for half holidays, classes were dismissed (1) in Dhubri Government High School, (2) in Lady Kerr High School in the years 1946 and 1947?

(c) For what reasons the classes were not held fully for the appointed time in the years 1946 and 1947?

**Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY** (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

93. (a)—During the year 1946 full classes were held for (1) 168 days in case of the Dhubri Government High School, (2) 210 days in case of Lady Kerr Girls' High School and during 1947, 212 days in case of Lady Kerr Girls' High School and 191 days in case of Dhubri Government High School.

(b)—Besides the notified days for half holidays normal class work was suspended for 21 days in case of Dhubri Government High School and 47 days in case of Lady Kerr Girls' High School during 1946; and during 1947, 15 days in case of Lady Kerr Girls' High School and 28 days in case of Dhubri Government High School.

(c)—The reasons for not holding the full classes during the year 1946 (1) in the case of Dhubri Government High School are as follows:

(i) Condoling the death of students, one teacher and some eminent men.

- (ii) At the request of students farewell meetings were held on transfer of some teachers.
- (iii) On the occasion of some important festivals of both the Hindus and Muslims.
- (iv) On the occasion of friendly gathering of guardians.
- (v) His Excellency's and Director of Public Instruction, Assam, visit.
- (vi) Due to strike and other political disturbances caused by students of the School.

(2) In case of the Lady Kerr Girls' High School—

- (i) On account of rainy days for some days as the girls were drenched by the rain.
- (ii) Some days for preparation of lessons for examinations.
- (iii) Some days on the eve of the Hindu and Muslim festivals.
- (iv) Some days for the visits of their Excellencies, Ministers and Inspectors.
- (v) The closing and re-opening days of the school before and after Summer vacation.

The reasons for not holding the full classes during the year 1947 (I) in case of Dhubri Government High School are as follows

- (i) Eve of Summer Vacation, Pujas, Id, Bihu, Saraswati Puja, Educational Conferences, Middle School Leaving Certificate Examination, Annual Examination.
- (ii) Re-opening day after Summer vacation, guardians gathering day, prize distribution day.
- (iii) After the inspection of Assistant Director of Public Instruction.
- (iv) Students and teachers attended Scout Camp at Gauripur.
- (v) Condolence meeting.
- (vi) Farewell meeting on the occasion of transfer of teachers.
- (vii) Farewell on the retirement of one teacher.

(2) In case of Lady Kerr Girls' High School—

- (i) From 14th to 21st and 23rd May 1947 for Muslim League disturbances.
- (ii) 25th August and 13th September 1947 for rainy days.
- (iii) 22nd and 23rd September 1947 for preparation for old students' gathering.
- (iv) 6th November 1947 for re-opening after Puja Holidays.

**Maulavi ABUAL MAZID ZIAOSH SHAMS:** Sir, from the reply given it appears that the Dhubri Government High School held classes for 168 days in the year 1946 and 191 days in the year 1947. The number of holidays then increased in the year 1946. Do Government consider it necessary to give instructions to the authority concerned so that classes may not be dismissed on flimsy grounds?

**Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY** (Parliamentary Secretary) : The Director of Public Instruction has been asked to see that the schools do not remain closed or classes thereof are not dismissed on flimsy grounds. He has also been asked to see that holidays are given very sparingly.

#### Report of the Pay Committee

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY** asked :

94. (a) Is it a fact that the Assam Pay Committee was to have submitted its report within two months of its appointment?
- (b) If so, whether the Report has been submitted?
- (c) If not, why not?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI** replied :

94. (a)—Yes.  
 (b)—The Report has been submitted recently and is under print.  
 (c)—Does not arise.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY** : Sir, my Question was : "Is it a fact that the Assam Pay Committee was to have submitted its report within two months of its appointment" and the reply given is : "Yes". Was it actually within two months of its appointment that the report was submitted ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI** : Sir, only recently, on the 4th March last, the final report has been submitted to Government.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY** : Sir, when can we expect a copy of the report ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI** : The report will be considered by the Government. Government have not yet decided if the same will be published or not.

### Scarcity of Cement and Corrugated Iron Sheets in the Province

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR** asked :

95. (a) Are Government aware that scarcity of cement in the market is causing great inconvenience to the people of the Province ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what measures they have taken to solve the scarcity of cement ?

96. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) What is Assam's quota of cement ?

(b) From where Assam is to import its share of cement ?

(c) Whether our quota is being received regularly ?

(d) The name of the Agent or Agents who procure our quota ?

(e) The method of distribution of the quota ?

97. (a) Are Government aware that scarcity of corrugated iron sheets is causing great hardship to the people of the Province ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what measures they have taken to make the corrugated iron sheets available in greater quantity ?

98. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) What is Assam's quota of corrugated iron sheets ?

(b) The name or names of the persons or firms authorised to import the same in the Province ?

(c) The present method of importing corrugated iron sheets in Assam ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS** replied :

95. (a)—Yes.

(b)—There is no statutory control over the cement. However, recently some dealers have been appointed, who will stock the cement for distribution on permit system to the consumers.

96. (a)—There is no quota system.

(b)—From Assam-Bengal Cement Company (Chhatak Factory) and Cement Marketing Company of India, Calcutta.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—Same as (b) above.

(e)—The cement is distributed through the local stockist on permits issued by respective Deputy Commissioners and Sub-Divisional Officers upto 1 (one) ton and for quantity more than this Permits are issued by the Director of Consumer Goods, Assam.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** Sir, when there is no statutory control over cement can anybody and everybody import cement?

**The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS:** No, Sir, what I mean is that there is no Cement Control Order just as Foodgrain Control Order.

**\*Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA:** Sir, can anybody bring cement from Calcutta?

**The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS:** No one can indent cement without authorisation certificates. Though there is no statutory control, yet the Central Government by private arrangement with the manufacturers distributes the commodity with the advice of the Honorary Cement Adviser.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** Who issues permits for purchasing cement in Assam?

**The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS:** On representation by this Government, the Assam Government has been given a quota for consumption in the Province recently and this quota is distributed under our permits.

**\*Mr HARENDRA NATH SARMA:** Sir, may I know the function of the Honorary Cement Adviser when there is no control over cement?

**The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS:** His function is only about distribution among the provinces.

**\*Mr. HARENDRA NATH SARMA:** Sir, my point is if there is no control over this commodity then there is no necessity of appointing the Honorary Cement Adviser. Even though this is not a controlled commodity now, when any application for this is sent it is rejected on this or that ground.

**The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS:** As I have already stated that we hold no jurisdiction over distribution of cement. I am not in a position to state anything about the Honorary Cement Adviser. And I have nothing further to add.

**The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS** replied:

97. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The Government of India make the allotment of quota of corrugated iron sheets to all Provinces in India on the basis of available stock. The matter was referred to the Iron and Steel Controller from time to time to increase the quota.

98. (a)—Period I/1947 No allotment.

Period II/1947 540 tons.

Period III/1947 545 tons.

\*Speech not corrected.

Period IV/1947 210 tons.

Period I/1948 281 tons.

(b)—The list of Registered Stockholders authorised to import corrugated iron sheets is placed on the table.

### LIST OF REGISTERED STOCKHOLDERS IN ASSAM

Serial No.	District	Name and address of the Party
1	2	3
1	Cachar ...	<p>Messrs. H. C. R. K. Bhuiya (Silchar Branch), Janiganj Bazar, Silchar.</p> <p>Messrs. Ramkishenseth, Janiganj Bazar, Silchar.</p> <p>Messrs. Baldeodas Assaram Seth, Janiganj Bazar, Silchar.</p> <p>Messrs. H. C. R. K. Bhuiya (Hailakandi Branch), Hailakandi.</p> <p>Messrs. Kaluram &amp; Brothers, Haflong.</p> <p>Messrs. Khan Saheb Abdul Karim Choudhury, Karimganj.</p> <p>Messrs. Jogendra Chandra Roy, Karimganj.</p> <p>Messrs. H. C. R. K. Bhuiya (Badarpur Branch), Badarpur.</p>
2	Khasi and Jaintia Hills.	<p>Messrs. Kedarmull Keshardeo, Barabazar (G. S. Road), Shillong.</p> <p>Messrs. Radha Kishen Jalewa, Mawkhar, Shillong.</p> <p>Messrs. Roy Brothers, Police Bazar, Shillong.</p> <p>Messrs. Narsingh Prasad Das &amp; Sons, G. S. Road, Shillong.</p> <p>Messrs. Modon Gopal Roy Diengdoh, Barabazar, Shillong.</p> <p>Messrs. Srilal Keshordeo, Police Bazar, Shillong.</p>
3	Kamrup	<p>Messrs. Sawalram Radha Krishna, Gauhati.</p> <p>Messrs. Annanda Charan Das &amp; Co., Gauhati.</p> <p>Messrs. Hukumchand Biseswarlal, Gauhati.</p> <p>Messrs. Sundaram Gauri Shankar, Gauhati.</p> <p>Messrs. Mohanram Soorajmull, Gauhati.</p> <p>Messrs. Dev Brothers, Fancy Bazar, Gauhati.</p> <p>Messrs. Jiwanram Jesraj, Gauhati.</p> <p>Messrs. Chunilal Kanhaivalall Serawgi, Palasbari.</p> <p>Messrs. Gajendra Narayan Choudhury &amp; Sons, Nalbari.</p>

Serial No.	District	Name and address of the Party
1	2	3
3 Kamrup ( <i>concl'd.</i> ) ...		Messrs. East India Mercantile Agency, Barpeta, Barpeta.
4 Goalpara	...	Messrs. Narsingdas Srilall, Barpeta. Messrs. Chaturbhuj Ghisalal, Dhubri. Messrs. Town Stores, Dhubri. Messrs. Haji Abdul Jabbar and Sons, Dhubri. Messrs. Hukunchand Bahadur Singh, Goalpara. Messrs. Rowatmal Jaskaram, Goalpara.
5 Darrang ...	...	Messrs. Kilburn and Company, Tezpur. Messrs. Ramlal Ranglal, Kharupetia. Messrs. S. N. Sarma and Company, Tangla.
6 Nowgong	...	Messrs. Hanuman Bux Inderchand Lohia, Haibargoan, Nowgong, Assam. Messrs. Rukmanand Ajit Saria, Haibargoan, Nowgong, Assam. Messrs. Bhagabati Prasad Ghisalall, Haibargoan, Nowgong, Assam. Messrs. Nagarmal More, Haibargoan, Nowgong, Assam.
7 Sibsagar ...	...	Messrs. L. N. Thakur and Company, Jorhat. Messrs. Arjunlal Ganeshmal Gattuns, Jorhat. Messrs. Doss and Company, Jorhat. Messrs. Amolakchand Muralidhar, Sibsagar. Messrs. Nathuram Jaidaval, Sibsagar. Messrs. Moslem Brothers, Golaghat. Messrs. Birdichand Sitaram, Sarupathar, Golaghat.
8 Lakhimpur	...	Messrs. Durga Dutt Lachminarayan, Tinsukia. Messrs. S. Birsingh and Sons, Doom Dooma. Messrs. Bhimraj Chaturmall, Fibrugarh. Messrs. Kanhaivalall Dhansukdas, North Lakhimpur.
9 Garo Hills	...	Messrs. Abdul Jabbar and Sons, Tura. Messrs. Joynarayan Khendalwal, Tura Bazar, Tura.

(c)—The Assam quota of corrugated iron sheet is distributed amongst the Registered Stockholders of Assam and authorisation letters are issued to them by the Provincial Iron and Steel Authority, Assam. On the strength of this authorisation letter the Registered Stockholders get the corrugated iron sheets from the Controlled Stockholders at Calcutta or from the main producers and import into Assam for distribution to consumers.



**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR :** Who puts the limit on the quantity of corrugated iron sheets that can be imported by an individual ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS :** The limit is fixed by the Steel and Iron Controller for the individual stock-holders.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR :** Then, he is at the mercy of the Controller ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS :** I cannot say whether he is at his mercy. What I can say is that we have no control.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR :** How does he decide the limit of corrugated iron sheets to be distributed to individuals ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS :** As I have already stated, the Provincial Government have no control over the distribution of the corrugated iron sheets and consumer goods to stock-holders. Regarding individual consumers, the method of distribution in the districts, the Questioner may be aware.

#### Maintenance of record of rights in Zamindari Estates

**Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA** asked :

99. (a) Are Government aware that no records of rights are maintained in the Zamindari Estates ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether necessary steps have been taken to prepare records of right, rent rolls, etc., in the Zamindari Estates ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether an approximate date has been fixed for the abolition of Zamindari ?

(d) If so, when ?

(e) If not, when does Government propose to fix it ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI** replied :

99. (a)—Yes.

(b)—This will be taken up as soon as the Zamindari System is abolished.

(c) and (d)—No.

(e)—The abolition of Zamindari requires a very careful examination and it will take some time before all the details regarding compensation and the method of payment are finalised. The hon. Member may rest assured that steps are being taken to finalise all details.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Now, we come to Demands for Grants.

#### DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

##### GRANT NO.23

( "43—Industries and Supplies" )

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,86,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1949 for the administration of the head—"43.—Industries and Supplies".

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.3,86,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1949 for the administration of the head—'43.—Industries and Supplies'".

There are several Cut Motions and we have only half an hour for discussion of this Demand. We have got six Cut Motions but from the Motions it appears that it will be sufficient if only two motions are taken up.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI :** With your permission, Sir, the Parliamentary Secretary will reply to the Cut Motions.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** As I said before, I ask the Opposition Party as well the Government Party as to what they should do about the discussion of the Cut Motions. I find that the Motions may be classified in two groups—one standing in the name of Maulavi Muhammad Abul Kashem which is an economy cut and his remarks should be confined to suggestions as to how this economy should be effected and the other one is an omnibus Cut Motion meant to raise a discussion on the general policy of the Department. So, Motions Nos. 1 and 6 will serve the purpose. Therefore, what am I to do about the time limit? Would it do if I give ten minutes for Motion No. 1 and twenty minutes for Motion No. 6?

(Voices : Yes Yes.)

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Maulavi Muhammad Abul Kashem will move his Motion now.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 64,755 under Grant No. 23, Major head—43.—Industries and Supplies, Minor head—A.—Industrial Development (total), at page 162 of the Budget, be refused, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 3,86,100 do stand reduced by Rs. 64,755.

The purpose of my moving this Cut Motion is to raise a discussion for saving money by entrusting all the duties to the Officers of the Agricultural Department

Sir, under this head I find that there are some Marketing Officers who are working as officers to collect information as regards market prices for sale and distribution of commodities produced here and these officers are working practically only for the purpose of giving Government sufficient information as to the prices. There is a price limit prevailing in different parts of the country, and I find that officers of the Agriculture Department—especially the Agricultural Inspectors and others who are under them are working in different parts of rural areas as well as towns, are acquainted with the agriculturists and industrialists. I think it would serve the purpose if these officers are asked, in addition to their own duties, to submit the prices prevailing in different markets during the course of their work in different areas. This will relieve the Marketing Officers from their present duties and they may be utilised in some other Departments where we want new staff. In this way we can save Rs. 64,000 and odd. As the Government and the hon. Members of the Assembly know, this year our Budget is a deficit one for new enterprises. So, I think, this saving can be done without detriment to the public interest and as such, my Cut Motion may be accepted by the House.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Cut Motion moved :

"That the provision of Rs. 64,755 under Grant No. 23, Major head—43.—Industries and Supplies, Minor head—A.—Industrial Development (total), at page 162 of the Budget, be refused, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 3,86,100 do stand reduced by Rs. 64,755".

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** As none is going to take part, the Parliamentary Secretary may reply.

**Srijut BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am afraid the hon. Mover of the Cut Motion has misunderstood the whole Industrial Development Plan. Collection of statistics is not the only function which these officers will have to do. It can be seen in the details of the Industrial Development Budget that there is provision for development of the Weaving Institutes and Sericulture and also of the marketing organisation. These things are more than collection of mere statistics. I am afraid, Sir, even if we accept the suggestion of the hon. Mover of the Motion and entrust the Agricultural Officers with the work of collecting statistics for industries, even then, I am afraid, it will be impossible for them to do the work properly for the Industries Section. Therefore, while I sincerely appreciate the desire of the hon. Mover for saving provincial expenditure, I very much regret that it is not possible to accept his suggestion. Therefore, I beg to oppose the Cut Motion.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** What the hon. Member proposes to do in view of the reply given by the Parliamentary Secretary ?

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, as our Parliamentary Secretary is not in favour of cutting the expenditure under this head by entrusting this work to some other Department, as he fears that the work will consequently suffer. I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Cut Motion with a request to the House as well as to the Parliamentary Secretary and the Government that they will consider whether it will be possible for them in the near future to make arrangement for entrusting this work to the Industries Department Officers concerned as well as Agricultural Officers concerned which will not be difficult for them to perform.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his Cut Motion ?

The Cut Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Then we take Cut Motion No. 6. Maulavi Abual Majid Ziaosh Shams to move.

**Maulavi ABUAL MAJID ZIAOSH SHAMS :** I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 3,86,100 under Grant No. 23, Major head—43—Industries and Supplies, at page 161 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 3,86,100 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Cut Motion moved.

“That the total provision of Rs. 3,86,100 under Grant No. 23, Major head—43.—Industries and Supplies, at page 161 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 3,86,100 do stand reduced by Re. 1.”

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** The hon. Member will get 5 minutes only.

**Maulavi ABUAL MAJID ZIAOSH SHAMS :** The purpose of my moving the Cut Motion is to criticise the policy of Government. Mr. Speaker, Sir, my earnest desire is that as we have got now independence which has broaden our outlook and if it has not already been done so, it should baroden our outlook and

the former policy of favouritism and partiality should be given up under all the Departments and also under this particular Department of Industry and Supply. If we go through some of the answers which have been given by the Government in course of the last one year, we find that particular districts have been more favoured than the others. We have seen that particular races and communities are more favoured than others in different branches of Government in regard to appointments, etc., and particularly in the Procurement Branch of the Supply Department. I am simply drawing the attention of this august House to the reply which was given yesterday to my Question regarding distribution of corrugated iron sheets; whereas, such districts like Kamrup and Sibsagar which have got almost the same population as that of Goalpara District, the district of Goalpara got about half the quantity of corrugated iron sheets than the other two districts.

**Srijut BELIRAM DAS:** It is not the quantity but quality that counts.

**Maulavi ABUAL MAJID ZIAOSH SHAMS:** So, Sir, that should not be countenanced. Our policy must change. Another request to the Departmental Heads and for the matter of that to the Government is this that it is proposed that there will be new Demonstrators of Weaving, who will form peripatetic *i.e.*, tour parties and each peripatetic party will consist of 4 or 5 Demonstrators. As Goalpara District is very backward in the matter of weaving, so far as cottage weaving industry is concerned, I would earnestly request that there should be a permanent peripatetic party specially for the southern part of the district as the people there are very willing to take up this industry and they will profit very much by it if they are given instruction to learn it.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. Member's 5 minutes' time is over.

**Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am taking part in the discussion to ventilate the grievances of my district. There is in fact no Industrial Training Centre in this district. For want of industrial training particularly in weaving, the people suffered most during the years of cloth scarcity. The immigrants were the worst victims as knowledge of weaving is unknown to them. If training in weaving is given to them they will pick it up very promptly and thus this will give an impetus to them to develop this industry in Assam.

As regards fishery and sericulture, there are certain places in the District of Goalpara, where the training of the above industries can be very easily introduced and the people will be very willing to take them up. In the Budget Estimates for this Department, I find that in the year 1946-47 a sum of about Rs.79,744 was spent, in the year 1947-48—Rs.64,693 were spent and for the year 1948-49 a sum of Rs.68,506 has been earmarked to be spent. This huge amount of money of the Government is being spent in this Department, but to what purpose? We do not find any practical benefit done to the people of the Province. So my request to the Government, in this new set-up, is that this industry should be very carefully studied and the people should be taught in all the spheres of this industry.

With these words, Sir, I support the Cut Motion moved by hon. Maulavi Abual Majid Ziaosh Shams.

✓ **Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** Sir, I will support the Cut Motion of Maulavi Abual Majid Ziaosh Shams and would request the Government to see that the money under this head is spent mainly in the District of Goalpara which is most backward in this respect and where weaving is practically unknown not only to the immigrants, but even to the local people. So also is

the case of sericulture. I would, therefore, request the Government that during the time of opening new centres due consideration should be given for opening new centres in the important centres of the District of Goalpara.

**Srijut BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the hon. Member for raising discussion on this very important subject for the development of the Province. I also thank him for reminding the Government of the new circumstances and for suggesting the ways as to how to get free from the cankers which were present before. I can assure the hon. Member that as for ourselves we are working to our full capacity to do something good of the country. So far as the backward districts are concerned and so far as the backward areas and backward people are concerned, I can assure the hon. Member that Government will certainly give high priority to all those areas. It will be seen from the development plan that Government wants to change the whole picture of the countryside as soon as possible. In that plan we have fixed period at five years. I think, Sir, the present Government is quite free from nepotism, favouritism, partiality and all such things. If there be any specific instance and if the same is brought to the notice of the Government, Government will certainly do justice to it. Government will bear in mind all the very good suggestions made about the peripetatic training parties and training centres for fishery and sericulture and Government will do their best to develop the backward areas and backward people. With these words, Sir, I would request the hon. Member to withdraw his Cut Motion.

**Maulavi ABUAL MAZID ZIASOSH SHAMS :** In the backward areas Goalpara should be included.

**Srijut BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA :** I agree with the hon. Member that Goalpara is not a very forward district, but I may be permitted to say that backwardness cannot be removed by Government alone. The responsibility of carrying ahead the people rests more with the popular representatives, than with the Government sitting here in Shillong (*hear, hear.*)

**Maulavi ABUAL MAZID ZIAOSH SHAMS :** We are doing our part. With the very kind assurance given by my hon. Friend, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Has the hon. Member got the leave of the House to withdraw his Cut Motion.

The Cut Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Now I am putting the Demand as a question.

The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,86,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1949 for the administration of the head ‘43.— Industries and Supplies.”

The question was adopted.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Next we come to grant No. 22. — Co-operation.

## GRANT No.22

(" 42.—CO-OPERATION ")

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI :** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,12,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1949 for the administration of the head "42.—Co-operation."

Here also the Cut Motions should be replied by the Parliamentary Secretary.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Motion moved.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,12,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1949 for the administration of the head '42—Co-operation.'"

I find there are 4 Cut Motions. I think if one is moved, hon. Members may take part in the discussion. I allot 20 minutes for this — 7 minutes to the Mover and 8 minutes to the Parliamentary Secretary and rest to the other Members. Which Cut Motion does the Deputy Leader of the Opposition want to take up?

**Maulavi ABUAL MAZID ZIAOSH SHAMS :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 3,12,500 under Grant No. 22, Major head — 42.— Co-operation, at page 158 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.* the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 3,12, 500 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

By this Cut Motion I want to criticise the policy of Government with regard to this Department.

Sir, these are the days of Co-operation no doubt. We know Government is running such a department as the Co-operative Credit Societies imbued with high motive of reducing agricultural indebtedness of the town people as well as the villagers so that with small interest they can borrow money. But I should like to say that these Co-operative Credit Societies have not worked well, rather they are failures. If we look at the Budget Memorandum in vain will we try to find out about the working of the co-operative credit societies. We know of very many co-operative credit societies in the villages that have been wound up on account of the corruption or dishonesty or on account of other reasons. Now Government owes a duty to this House to have explained in their memorandum about the working of these co-operative credit societies, but nothing has been done. My humble belief is and I think there are many in this House who will share in my belief that these co-operative credit societies have outlived their existence and usefulness and so also this Department to a very great extent. As this Department must go hand in hand with the rise and fall of the Co-operative Credit Societies and officers concerned who run these Societies also should go to some extent and their number reduced. But nothing has been done and no explanation has been given by the Government. If we look at the Budget explanatory notes we find that Government intends to launch also Co-operative Fishery Societies *i.e.*, fishermen will combine and purchase fisheries and necessary equipment and try to preserve their things, that is, fish, process them and try to find out good markets. For this reason Government will give Co-operative education and give money for the capital equipment. Sir, what has been done by this Department in the past? Nothing has been stated in the explanatory notes. What is the Government expectation regarding this matter? That we do not know either, but a large sum of money is going to be spent over these ventures. There should have been explanatory note.

As regards system of co-operative farming I think that some move will be also taken in that direction for purchasing seeds collectively or in a co-operative way and for purchasing manure, up-to-date machinery and so forth, so that farming may go on a co-operative basis which may help the Grow-More-Food Campaign. At the same time, good marketing officers will be appointed to find good markets for the produces of these people. Now, Sir, what is the line on which the Government is launching this co-operative movement? Nothing has been stated in detail in the Budget note. With this I would criticise the policy of the Government with the request that the Co-operative Department may be reduced. It has outlived its usefulness. Government should have been given more details about what they want to do in regard to fisheries. With these words, I criticise the policy of the Government.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Cut Motion moved :

"That the total provision of Rs.3,12,500 under Grant No.22, Major head—42 Co-operation, at page 158 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.3,12,500 do stand reduced by Re.1"

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, while supporting the Cut Motion of Maulavi Abul Majid Ziaosh Shams, I would oppose the view expressed by him in the matter. He said that as the Co-operative Credit Societies have failed so the number of officers in the staff should be curtailed and expenditure cut down. But I would say that actually the Co-operative Credit Societies have failed in the rural areas. We find from examination that these generally met their fate probably because of the party faction or dishonesty amongst the people, but Co-operative Societies in many places have worked wonders. At least during the days of the distribution of controlled commodities in many places Co-operative Societies have worked well and have served people well, better than any other shopkeepers, and with the withdrawal of the control over these goods I would rather ask the Government to see that these Co-operative stores which served the people at the time of their distress could continue to serve the people in some other spheres of life. As he speaks of Co-operative farming and other things I would say that they would succeed in Co-operative farming as well. If it has been possible in Russia this will be possible in India as well, because India has got her freedom. Our officers should co-operate with the people and see that the Co-operative Department works well. My view in supporting the Cut Motion is that when the Co-operative Societies are working being mainly dependent on the money that they are receiving from the people, the people at that time paid money to purchase shares in the hope of getting controlled commodities. Now with the withdrawal of control over commodities the Societies should get money from Government. If in any area the Government find that the Co-operative Societies have worked well they should give loan where they will find that the money will not be misappropriated and the Society is well organised. These Co-operative officers should not help the Consumers' Co-operative Stores because they had to be dependent on the money of the people working there. The officers of the Co-operative Department also should have been a little more active, so that they may spend their energy in seeing that the people are protected by this movement and also in trying to open new Co-operative Stores in places where these are not in existence. Officers are not taking very much trouble now. I do not know why. In certain places if any particular Inspector has done nothing I do not know. But people of their own initiative have done this. So I would request my Friend, the Parliamentary Secretary, to see that the officers feel that they are not servants of the bureaucratic

days but servants of the people. They should serve them faithfully and remember that if they do not serve their masters they will lose their job. With these words, I support the Motion.

**Srijut NILMONI PHOOKAN**: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak a few words, not in supporting the Cut Motion, but with a view to throwing out some constructive suggestions (The Hon'ble Speaker: In support of the Original Demand?). Yes, Sir, I had the privilege of being an Honorary Co-operative Organiser some 25 years ago. Though I do not claim that honour now, I have been taking some interest in the co-operative movement throughout my life. I am a great believer in co-operative movement because it was originally conceived by Lord Curzon to relieve the indebted rural population from the clutches of the Mahajans. Since then co-operative credit society was the only thing our people possibly thought of, and under this principle of relieving the rural population from the clutches of the Mahajans these co-operative societies organised co-operative credit. But unfortunately, Sir, the main principles of thrift and honesty never counted much with those people who began to handle this machinery. In every village society the most notorious men got into the Directorate, so much so that I myself detected at Jorhat, in some of the liquidated societies, the figure "1" was made "2" by two different kinds of ink, though the strange thing is that no Auditor auditing these accounts season in and season out could detect. And a good amount of people's money, about a lakh of rupees, evaporated in the morass of Jorhat Central Bank. With all the legal luminaries in the Directorate the misappropriation was detected after seven or eight years. All these years, of course, every year Auditors went and audited the account. So, there is remissness on the part of Government Officers who supervise these institutions. I have no doubt about that. I can prove to the hilt that in the case of some of these societies these officers were never serious in auditing the accounts, as for instance, the failure of detection for long of the notorious case of Jorhat Co-operative Central Bank (*A voice*:—Jorhat is not notorious) I mean the notorious case of the Jorhat Central Bank, and there were other notorious banks in other districts also. However, Sir, because of past failure I should suggest that from now on the co-operative movement should be entrusted only to honest men and no capitalist should be allowed to poke his nose, as we see now-a-days that most of the wholesale dealers co-operative societies are controlled by capitalists where few enjoy and others suffer.

Then, as regards supervision, Sir, the old bureaucratic ways won't do now. Those who are in the Inspectorate must think that they are there only to lead the people to proper co-operative spirit. Their duty should be more to guide those who do not know how to handle these things than to pounce upon the people, who manage them, find fault and write in their diaries that "such and such co-operative society is not managed well and I recommend its liquidation". This should not be their duty. If they find that a co-operative society is not managed well, it should be their duty to find out ways and means and teach the people the principles of co-operation in such a way that they can go to the right path. These are the suggestions I have to make. The co-operative movement should increase in every sphere of life. I should rather give first consideration to co-operative movement whether in industrialising the country or in rural uplift.

**Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE**: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in supporting this Cut Motion I want to discuss the top-heaviness of the Department. In the Budget I find under the head "Direction", provision has been made for one Registrar and one Deputy Registrar, and under "Superintendence" provision has been made for one Assistant Registrar. I think this Deputy Registrar is unnecessary.



His work may very easily be done by the Assistant Registrar especially when Sylhet has been separated from Assam. I therefore think that the services of the Deputy Registrar might usefully be employed under Development Scheme.

**Srijut BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not know that Maulavi Abual Majid Ziaosh Shams is a gentleman with capitalistic outlook till I heard his speech on this Cut Motion. I am surprised to find that he thinks that the co-operative movement has outlived its usefulness (Maulavi Abual Majid Ziaosh Shams: I said that about co-operative credit societies. But I support co-operative farming, co-operative fishery and that sort of thing). I see. As for myself, Sir, I do not see any other way of bringing our countryside to the required standard of development without this co-operative movement—co-operation in every sphere of life, as has been said by Srijut Nilmoni Phookan. As a matter of fact, I feel that the only way for improving the condition of our people is in co-operation. I agree, Sir, that the present condition of the movement is not up to expectation, but at the same time we should remember that in a backward country a particular movement cannot advance by itself,—it can advance along with the other activities of the country as a whole. Now, all that I can tell the hon. Members is that we are taking up very seriously the reorganisation of this Department and bring it to real use of the people. Actually as said by Srijut Nilmoni Phookan, the Rural Development Scheme which this House will consider after some days, will depend to a great extent on the success of the co-operative movement. There was departmentalism between Co-operative, Industries and other Departments, but the hon. Members might remember what the Hon'ble Premier said during the course of his speech on the Rural Panchayat Bill. He said how this Government is proposing to break this departmentalism. They have now put the Co-operative Department, the Industries Department and the Rural Development Department under one Director and he is also the Secretary of these Departments. Within these few months the result is encouraging. There is some speed in work and there is better co-ordination and we hope in due course this Department will be in a position to justify its existence to the people of the villages.

With regard to the co-operative credit movement, I agree with the hon. Member that the present condition is not quite satisfactory, but we have been considering and as a matter of fact we have made certain progress to bring this credit movement to a proper line. For that we have proposed to re-organise the Provincial Co-operative Bank so that it can cater to the needs of the Rural Credit Societies and also Rural Industrial Societies. Hon. Members will appreciate that it will be impossible for Government to grant loans to all the individual societies. Therefore, in order to cater to the needs of the credit societies and also the industrial farming societies and other societies the solution seems to me is in re-organisation and augmentation of the Provincial Co-operative Bank. There are more than one reason for the failure of these co-operative societies. One is certainly the low percentage of literacy among the people and another is that want of proper education in co-operative movement. How to manage co-operative credit societies successfully is certainly a thing for which some special education is necessary. Therefore, Sir, Government has proposed, and, as a matter of fact, advertised for staff for Co-operative Training Institute wherein it is proposed besides the training of Co-operative Officers to train Co-operative Secretaries and also the Presidents and other workers of the Co-operative Movement. This is the way how Government propose to re-organise

this Co-operative Movement in this Province. The various suggestions made by the hon. Members will be borne in mind while proceeding with the work and for the suggestions thanks are due to them.

There is one point more on which I would like to say and that is with regard to the appointment of a Deputy Registrar. As I have said just now that we have put the Co-operative, Industries and Rural Development Departments under a Joint Director and for that reason the appointment of a Deputy Registrar is necessary to look to the works properly. For the Director of Industries who is also the Director of Rural Development and Registrar of Co-operative Societies, it is not possible to go into all the details of the various Departments under his charge unless he is assisted by somebody. The suggestion that the Assistant Registrar should help him will not be helpful as the Assistant Registrar has certain special duties. The Assistant Registrar has to work more as a Controlling Officer of the Inspectors and other Co-operative Officers in the districts. The assistance which he renders to the Director is in a different direction. Therefore, Government thinks that for the progress of this Movement the service of a Deputy Registrar is indispensable. With these words, Sir, I would request the hon. Mover of this Cut Motion to please withdraw his Motion.

**Maulavi ABDUAL MAJID ZIAOSH-SHAMS:** Sir, with the assurance given that there will be greater efforts made in this direction I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his Motion?

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

**The Honble the SPEAKER:** Then I am putting the original Demands as a question.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.3,12,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1949 for the administration of the head '42-Co-operation'".

The question was adopted.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** We have some time at our disposal—about half an hour. We will now proceed with non-official business, that is, Resolution—Mr. Morely.

**Mr. C. W. MORLEY:** Sir, I am afraid, I have not come prepared for this.

**Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** This is meant for 29th, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** If time permits non-official business will also be taken up on the days fixed for Government Business.

**Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** But in the Programme the Resolutions have been put on the last day.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** You are mistaken. A statement was made by myself on the very first day that, if time permits, non-official business will be taken up on official days also.

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** We do not see anything, we cannot read. The Supply of electricity has been suspended for some time today, by the Hydro-Electric Company.

**Mr. C. W. MORLEY:** We cannot see.

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** Sir, we are prepared to sit provided we are supplied with lights.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Some repairing operation is being carried on in the Power House and therefore it is not possible to provide light. Is it the sense of the House to adjourn now?

(Voices: Yes, yes).

### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M., on Saturday, the 20th March, 1948.

SHILLONG:

*The 11th May, 1948.*

A. K. BARUA,

*Secretary, Assam Legislative Assembly.*

