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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 2 p.m., on Friday, the 9th December, 1938.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

(Starred questions Nos.396-398 standing in the name of Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee were not called and answered as the questioner was absent.)

Post-graduate Scholarships

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

*399. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) The name of the student who got the post-graduate scholarship last time ?
- (b) The educational qualifications of the aforesaid student ?
- (c) Whether applications were invited by Government for the scholarship ?
- (d) If so, who were the applicants and what were their qualifications ?
- (e) If not, why not ?

*400. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason for the selection of the said scholar ?

*401. Are Government aware that there were several more meritorious and qualified students than the said scholar and that there has been a great resentment amongst the student community and the public for awarding the scholarship to the student ?

*402. Is it a fact that the father of the scholar is a Government pleader ?

*403. Is it a fact that the said Government pleader was a rival candidate to the Congress nominee in the last election to the Assam Legislative Assembly ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

399. (a) & (b)—Maulavi Amin Khan, B. A.
(c)—Applications were invited by the Director of Public Instruction, Assam.

(d)—The information is furnished below :—

Serial No.	Name of candidate	Year of passing the Degree Examination	Distinctions obtained in the Degree Examination	Remarks
1	Md. Amin Khan ...	1938	1st Class 1st in Persian.	
2	Jaleswar Chandra Das	1938	1st Class 2nd in Mathematics.	
3	Bhuban Chandra Sarma	1938	2nd Class 33rd in Economics.	Selected to represent Cotton College for the all-India Competitive debate.
4	Sasi Kanta Sarma ...	1938	2nd Class 8th in Mathematics.	
5	Saifuddin Chaudhuri ...	1938	2nd Class 2nd in Botany.	
6	Kshirode Bihari Deb ...	1938	2nd Class 70th in Economics.	
7	Dinamani Das... ..	1938	2nd Class 83rd in Economics.	
8	Jnanendra Kumar De ...	1938	2nd Class 16th in Physics.	
9	Md. Abul Kashem ...	1938	2nd Class 26th in Philosophy.	
10	Madan Chandra Bardalai	1938	2nd Class 17th in Sanskrit.	
11	Pramatha Chandra Dutta	1938	2nd Class 27th in Economics.	
12	Paban Chandra Mahanta	1938	2nd Class 19th in Physics.	
13	Uma Kanta Sarma ...	1938	2nd Class 4th in Philosophy.	
14	Md. Karim Bux ...	1938	Could not secure Honours in English.	

Serial No.	Name of candidate	Year of passing the Degree Examination.	Distinctions obtained in the Degree Examination	Remarks
15	Satyabrata Dutta	... 1938	2nd Class 33rd in Economics.	
16	Penok Roy Wajiri	... 1937	Could not secure Honours in Physics.	
17	Srish Chandra Nath	... 1938	2nd Class 15th in English.	
18	Liladhar Sarma Kataki...	1938	2nd Class 75th in Economics.	
19	Tarini Kanta Bhatta-charyya.	1938	2nd Class 35th in English.	
20	Md. Abdul Bari	... 1938	2nd Class 93rd in English.	
21	Phatik Chandra Das	... 1938	2nd Class 42nd in Chemistry.	
22	Bhupendra Mohan Majumdar.	1938	2nd Class 2nd in Chemistry.	
23	Durgabati Saikia	... 1938	Could not secure Honours.	Intends to prosecute her studies in Indian Vernacular.
24	Biman Chandra Borah	... 1938	Passed the B. A. Examination with distinction.	
25	Parulbala Sengupta	... 1938	2nd Class 45th in Philosophy.	
26	Amiya Duara ...	... 1938	2nd Class 36th in Philosophy.	
27	Cecil Anthony Roy	... 1938	2nd Class 68th in Economics.	
28	Abhay Charan Das	... 1938	2nd Class 81st in Economics.	
29	Devendra Nath Borah	... 1938	2nd Class 29th in History.	
30	Romesh Chandra Barua	1938	2nd Class 49th in Economics.	

(e)—Does not arise.

400.—He was selected by the Director as being the best candidate, as usual.

401.—No. The question presumably was intended to refer to the previous selection of Srijut Chandi Charan Barman, but the same answer would apply.

402.—No. This was true of the previous selection.

403.—No. It was, Government believe, true of the previous selection, but the award was made by the Director in view of the intention of the applicant to study Ancient Indian History and Culture with Archæology and Fine Arts. The award is not competitive and takes account not only of qualifications, but of the benefit expected to the province.

Malaria Research Officer of Assam

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA asked :

*404. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The qualifications acquired by the Malaria Research Officer of Assam both in India and abroad ?
- (b) His past experiences and services on the line, and
- (c) The pay and allowances paid to him by the Malaria Research Society ?
- (d) The amount of total contribution paid by Government annually to the Assam Malaria Research Society ?

*405. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The record of research work by the Assam Malaria Research Society for the last eight years with the appreciation or otherwise received from the known authorities on Malaria ?
- (b) The total amount spent by Government on the scheme so far, and
- (c) The net result of the researches and experiments carried on so far ?
- (d) The control, if any, exercised by Government on the application of the funds of the Society and how ?

*406. Do Government propose to appoint a regular Medical Service man with the requisite knowledge in Malaria training or a regular Expert of repute for a specified period on a contract or permanent basis at a cheaper cost and with greater efficiency ?

*407. (a) Are Government aware that several Provinces have now appointed Nutrition Specialists ?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the necessity for such an officer for this Province ?

*408. Do Government propose to give the requisite training to one junior officer of the Assam Medical Service either in Bangalore or in the All-India Hygiene Institute ?

*409. Will Government be pleased to state how lessons in Nutrition and Hygiene are imparted to our boys in schools now ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAM NATH DAS replied :

404. (a)—The qualifications of the Research Officer, Assam Medical Research Society, are:—

1. Doctor of Medicine, University of Oregon.
2. Post-graduate in Serological Technique, New York Polyclinic.

3. Post-graduate in Roentgenology, New York School of Roentgenology.
4. Graduate (with distinction), London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, University of London.
5. Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Conjoint Board Royal College of Physicians and Royal College of Surgeons, London.
6. Elected, Fellow Royal Entomological Society, London.

(b)—Twenty years' specialisation in all aspects of Tropical Medicine and especially in Malariology, six years of which have been devoted entirely to the latter subject, by having taught classes in Malariology for five years and by five years' original researches on different aspects of Malariology. Nine treatises have been accepted and published by authoritative Medical publications on the findings resulting from original researches in Malariology.

(c)—Rupees 1,800 per mensem.

(d)—Rupees 20,000.

**405. (a)—The following publications have been issued :—

1. The principles and methods of Malaria control in Assam.
2. The place of quinine, atabrin and plasmoquine in the treatment of malaria in Assam.
3. A note on Plasmoquine.
4. An improvised dissecting Microscope.
5. Malaria survey of two Tea Estates in Upper Assam.
6. Observations on malaria in Assam with special reference to cold weather and pre-monsoon anti-larval control.
7. Anti-larval oil applications by a one-man brushing method.
8. A description of larvæ of anopheles gigas var, Bailey.
9. Anopheles minimus in Assam, its cold weather bionomics and its relationship to anti-larval control.
10. On the economic aspect of malaria to Tea Estates.
11. A rapid method for the estimation of the arsenious oxide content of Paris Green.

Apart from published articles, typescript reports after completion of malaria surveys have been submitted for 63 different areas in Assam.

These and the Research Officer's personal reports have since 1933 annually received appreciation from the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Indian Research Fund Association, and at the annual Research Workers' Conference, as detailed in a short paper which has been laid on the table.

STATEMENT PLACED ON THE TABLE IN REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION No.405 (a) and (c) ASKED BY SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA, M.L.A.

Results of researches by the Malaria Research Society

The results of researches by the Society have been received with appreciation by the Malaria Advisory Committee at the Annual Research Workers' Conference. Extracts from the Annual Reports of the Scientific Advisory Committee, Indian Research Fund Association, are given below :—
1933.—“ Colonel Sinton (Chairman, Malaria Advisory Committee) said the scope of the investigations reported was very much greater than could be expected from the size of the grant (then Rs. 15,000) and indicated the stimulus which the support of the Indian Research Fund Association had given to Malaria work in Assam”.

** Note on the Assam Medical Research Society's Operations against Malaria, a copy of which was placed on members' tables, will be found at Appendix G,

1934.—“Many members of the Working Committee spoke highly of the valuable work being done by this Society”.

1935.—“Dr. Rice described the results of his investigations into the relationship between physiographical conditions and the seasonal prevalence of malaria in Assam. On the basis of his findings he has instituted malaria control measures, which if successful, might be expected to be of great practical importance. He reports that the preliminary results of this work are encouraging”.

1936.—“Dr. Rice described the results of his investigations during the past year and reported the good results obtained by mass treatment with plasmquine and cinchona over a period of five years. Experiments on cold weather and pre-monsoon control by anti-larval measures had produced promising results. Various anti-larval measures were described and gave rise to an interesting discussion. The Committee expressed its appreciation of the work carried out under Dr. Rice”.

1937.—“Dr. Rice described the results of his investigations during the past year..... Results of experimental cold weather and pre-monsoon anti-larval control were encouraging, but it is still too early to give an accurate evaluation of the efficacy of these methods.....The Committee expressed its appreciation of the work carried out under Dr. Rice's directions”.

Colonel Anderson, Honorary Secretary, in a recent report to the Governing Body of the Society stated ; “The services of Dr. Rice have been characterised by efficiency and by whole-hearted devotion to his work which is of the highest order and value to malaria research and which has been the subject of very favourable comment by the Malaria Advisory Committee of the Indian Research Fund Association. In fact I believe that the recent grant of Rs.1,00,000 to the Society by the Government of India, through the Indian Research Fund Association was in no small measure due to the work and researches carried out under Dr. Rice's direction and to the fact that in this officer the Society possesses a Research Officer of outstanding ability and energy”.

“It is most desirable that the experiments with cold weather control should be carried on to completion and that in doing so there should be no solution of continuity in the work which would be inevitable should Dr. Rice's services and experience no longer be at the Society's disposal. This work, should it prove as successful as the results up to date indicate may well be of incalculable value in helping to solve the malaria problem in this Province”.

“Finally, I feel sure that the Governing Body will agree with me that Dr. Rice commands the respect and complete confidence of the Society's constituents and that this fact is of no small importance in ensuring their continued support”.

(b)—Rupees 1,85,000 is the total contribution to be made to the Assam Medical Research Society up to 1938-39.

(c)—The results are given in the short paper already mentioned.

(d)—1. The administration of the Society is carried out by the Governing Body of 12 members, on which the Government is represented by a senior Government official as President, the Director of Public Health, and the Director, Pasteur Institute, as the Honorary Secretary and, at present, two members of the Legislative Assembly.

2. The Director, Pasteur Institute, as Honorary Secretary, acts as the administrative head of the Society and directs its activities.

3. Detailed reports of all surveys, treatment schemes and researches are submitted to Government as and when they are completed.

4. Reports of work done are submitted annually to Government,

5. The annual Budget Estimate is submitted to Government for their scrutiny and approval.

6. Financial statements are submitted quarterly to Government for their scrutiny.

7. The accounts of the Society are subject to the annual audit of the Examiner, Local Accounts, Assam, under the direction of the Government of Assam.

406.—The right of appointment, while the Society subsists, does not rest with Government. The arrangements to be made when the period of contract of the present Research Officer comes to an end in 1939 will shortly be considered by the Society, it is understood. If the suggestion is that the Society's organisation should be replaced by one created by Government, it will need careful consideration, as it would involve the loss to the province of some Rs.28,000 per annum contributed to the Society by the Indian Research Fund Association and other parties.

407. (a)—This may be so.

(b)—Government have had the idea in consideration for some years but this must compete with many other important demands.

408.—Not at present. In any case a fully qualified officer with diploma of Public Health would be required.

409.—These matters are taught from text-books in classes IV to VIII.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

(Short notice questions Nos.1-3 standing in the name of Mr Naba Kumar Dutta were not put as the questioner was absent.)

Man-eating tiger in Nowgong

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT asked :

4. Are Government aware that a man-eating tiger has been roaming in the district of Nowgong for the past two years and that the number of its victims is said to exceed 40 ?

5. Are Government aware that the latest victims were a girl of Lengteng Tea Estate in early October and a man in Simanabusti village within two or three minutes walk of the Forest Ranger's office ?

6. Is it a fact that the Forest Ranger made no attempt to follow up or destroy the beast ?

7. (a) Is it a fact that Government have taken no action whatever except offering a small reward of Rs.25 or Rs.50 ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to request the Commissioner, Assam Valley Division, to take immediate action ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

4 to 7.—Government have no information but will have the necessary enquiries made.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI* : May I know what steps Government can take in a matter like this ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI* : Asking the Armed Police to go and try their luck with the tiger.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Is there no Honorary Forest Officer in this area ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : I do not think there is any.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Does the Hon'ble Prime Minister mean to say that there is no Honorary Forest Officer in the district of Nowgong ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : I am now told there is.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Is it not a part of his duty to attend to these sort of things ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : It may be. But killing a man-eater is not quite an easy task as the hon. member seems to think.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN* : Are Government aware that as many as 7 persons have been killed recently at Madhabpur thana ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : Government have no information.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Will Government take it from me that this is a fact and many cases of death have been reported to the Deputy Commissioner and representations have also been sent to the Deputy Commissioner for necessary action and officers of the Tipperah State have been approached but nothing has been done ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : I think, I received a question to this effect and as it may be known to the hon. members some *shikaries* were requisitioned but they have not met with any luck.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY* : I was the questioner and I come from the Madhabpur constituency. I can inform the Government that no less than 7 men have been already killed by this man-eater. It is not a stray case during one year and this has been happening every year. No serious attempt has been made and I think that attempts should be made seriously and all possible help should be given to the *shikaries*.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The hon. member is making a statement and not asking a question.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : I realise that, Sir. But at the same time this is a matter which cannot be lightly dealt with. So I take this opportunity to bring it to the notice of the Government that so far as Raghunandanpur Hill is concerned it may be taken that this is not an isolated case and each year such things are happening and half a dozen or a dozen cases of deaths take place. So this.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : This is a very irregular procedure. The hon. member is making a long statement. Nor does it arise from the question.

* Speech not corrected.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Dacoity with murder

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

1199. Has the attention of the Hon'ble Judicial Minister been drawn to an article under the caption "Dacoity with murder—Two Government pleaders appointed for the Crown" published in the *Times of Assam* dated the 18th June 1938 ?

1200. Is it a fact that a junior pleader was engaged to conduct the prosecution in preference to the Government pleader ?

1201. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state at whose suggestions the aforesaid pleader was engaged by the Deputy Commissioner, Nowgong ?

1202. Is it a fact that the Government pleader represented the matter to the Deputy Commissioner ?

1203. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table the representation, if any, made by the Government pleader ?

1204. Is it a fact that owing to the representation, the Government pleader was also engaged to conduct the prosecution with the result that in place of one, two pleaders for the prosecution were appointed on heavy fees in the case ?

1205. Does the Hon'ble Minister propose to take steps to prevent recrudescence of such anomalies in future ?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN replied :

1199.—Yes.

1200.—A junior pleader was engaged as the Government pleader was expected to be occupied with another case.

1201.—Government are not prepared to disclose the sources of advice given in such cases.

1202.—The Government pleader informed the Deputy Commissioner that the case in which he was engaged being delayed, he was free to accept brief in this case.

1203.—Government are not aware of any written representation.

1204.—The Government pleader was placed in charge of the case and the junior pleader was employed as an associate pleader as he was thoroughly conversant with the records of this important case.

1205.—Does not arise.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : May I ask the hon. member, who has put these questions, what are the implications of these questions ? Does he mean to say that an associate pleader should not have been engaged in this case ?

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA : So far as I understand the Government pleader was vehemently opposed to the appointment of an associate pleader and Government appointed one against his wishes.

Deaths caused by man-eaters

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY asked :

1206. Will Government be pleased to state the number of deaths caused by man-eaters either in the Raghunandan Hills or in the vicinity of the Raghunandan Hills in the course of the last 8 years ?

1207. Are Government aware that thousands of people of the neighbouring villages live on the earning of the forest produces of this Raghunandan Hills ?

1208. Is it a fact that no attempt has been made by Government to kill these man-eaters ?

1209. Is it a fact that the local people wanted this year the services of trained elephants, but this was not provided ?

1210. Will Government be pleased to state the number of licenses for guns, Government have granted and the number of licenses Government have cancelled in the course of the last 4 years in the district of Sylhet ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

1206.—1934	...	...	...	...	1
1935	...	...	...	...	Nil
1936	...	...	...	...	2
1937	...	...	...	...	1

Figures for the preceding 4 years cannot be supplied as the records have been destroyed.

1207.—People of the neighbouring villages add to their earnings by selling the forest produce of the Raghunandan Hills.

1208.—No. The local officers always take all possible steps to deal with man-eaters, both by deputing armed constables and by declaring suitable rewards for the encouragement of *shikaris* to kill them.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : Are Government satisfied that the steps taken by the local officers are sufficient for the purpose ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : It is very difficult to say what would be sufficient step for killing man-eaters who are very sly animals.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : Is the Hon'ble Prime Minister in a position to say what steps were taken by the local officers ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : The reply is there in the answer, namely, that Government is sending armed constables and also declared some reward for killing of the animal concerned.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : May I take it then that the Hon'ble Premier is satisfied with the steps taken by the local officers ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : As I have said, it is very difficult to say. I suppose if a *shikar* could be arranged it is possible that the animal might have been got. But it is very difficult to say what would be the proper step to kill a man-eater.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY : Are armed constables able to kill the man-eating tiger ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : They are expected to at any rate.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY : May I know whether Government have any knowledge that they are able to kill that tiger ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I cannot say that Sir.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

1209.—No. The Subdiv'sional Officer who is not himself provided with elephants requested the Minister of Tripura State to send some trained elephants with *shikaris* to kill a man-eater which was roaming in these hills. But the pest disappeared in the meantime.

1210.—

Year	Granted	Cancelled
1934	184	344
1935	189	241
1936	312	529
1937	273	669

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: Is it not a fact that cancellation of licenses for guns has got some relation to the ravages by tigers and man-eaters ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: We understand the implication of that question. We are thinking as to whether we should not extend the number of licenses for the defence of the lives of the cultivators and their cattle.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Will the Hon'ble Prime Minister bear in mind that Srijut Paramananda Das had applied for a license and did not get the same ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: We have answered that question and the answer is there already.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I know whether the Government admit that the steps taken by them are inadequate to stop its depredations ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: It is difficult to state what steps should be taken to kill the man-eater.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Do Government propose to increase the number of guns in that locality ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The matter is receiving our consideration.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: May I know whether Government will be prepared to use trained elephants for the purpose of killing these man-eaters ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: It is more or less for the *shikaris* to arrange for the elephants. Unless there are elephants at the disposal of the Government it becomes very difficult.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: Does not Government consider it desirable to keep some trained elephants at the disposal of the Deputy Commissioner ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The present policy of the Government has been to do away with the keeping of elephants now-a-days when the roads are motorable. At any rate there is no want of elephants available and for the particular purpose of shooting man-eaters Government do not consider that some elephants should be particularly maintained.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: I am not asking for any luxury, Sir. When the lives of the people are to be saved from the ravages of man-eater, is it not necessary to maintain trained elephants ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: That object can very well be attained, Sir, by hiring an elephant.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Will Government be pleased to convey to the proper authorities the apprehension that we feel about the man-eaters?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: That apprehension must be in the minds of the local officers concerned.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Will Government take serious steps having regard to the fact that people are killed every year?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: As I have already said, it is very difficult to kill a man-eater.

Grants to Medical Colleges

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH asked :

1211. Will the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) What amount is contributed by the Government of Assam annually to (i) Calcutta Medical College, (ii) Belgachia Medical College for reserving seats for Assam students?

(b) What amount is spent annually for granting scholarships to Assam students studying in the Medical Colleges of Calcutta?

1212. Will the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state what will be the minimum cost of raising the Berry-White Medical School to College standard with minimum requirements?

1213. Will the Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state the amount spent annually for girls students studying in the Campbell Medical School?

1214. (a) Is it a fact that facilities to girl students have been given in the Berry-White Medical School to study Medicine?

(b) If so, does the Hon'ble Minister propose to stop the expenditure incurred for Campbell Medical School and spent it for giving improved facilities to girls studying in the Berry-White Medical School?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

1211. (a) & (b)—No seats are reserved for Assam students in Belgachia Medical College nor is any contribution made towards its maintenance.

As regards Calcutta Medical College the approximate average annual contribution as well as the expenditure incurred on scholarships were mentioned in reply to question 235 asked by Srijut Mahi Chandra Bora in the last December Session of the Assembly, to which a reference is invited.

1212 —A rough estimate was obtained some years ago, for the proposal to establish a Medical College in place of a Medical School at Sylhet. The amounts were Rs. 6,20,000 non-recurring and Rs. 1,37,546 recurring. These sums may be roughly taken as the minimum cost of establishing a College at Dibrugarh, but it must be understood that it is very doubtful if the clinical material, etc., would make such a project practicable, and if it came within the scope of practical consideration a much closer financial examination would be necessary.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Is it not a fact that the expenditure will be much less at Dibrugarh, as there is a school already there ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: It may be, Sir.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enquire as to what will be the cost if the school is turned into a college ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: I shall do that.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Do I understand that, apart from the question of finance, there is no objection to the establishment of a Medical College either at Sylhet or at Dibrugarh.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: The Government have not come to any decision as regards the establishment of such a college. But if such an institution is opened, it will be controlled by the All-India Medical Council.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: My question, Sir, is whether apart from the question of funds, there is any other objection to the establishment of a Medical College in the province ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: I have already said that the Government have not examined the question. But we have received no objections also as yet.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: If and when funds are available, where would that college be located, whether at Dibrugarh or at Sylhet ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: I have already said that Government have not decided the question and Government cannot apprehend the objection.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Are Government considering the question of establishing a Medical College in Assam ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Not yet, Sir.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Why not, Sir ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Because of want of funds.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: If the question of finance is done away with, have Government any objection to establish a college in Assam, either at Sylhet or at Dibrugarh ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: That does not arise now. The Government have not yet come to that stage.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: The plain question is this. Apart from the question of finance, have Government any objection to the establishment of a medical college in this province ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: The question has not yet come under the consideration of Government.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Who has to make the move, Sir ? Is the Government to make a move or proposal from outside to come ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: I cannot say anything more than what I have already said.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Is it not the ambition of this Government to establish a medical college in Assam ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member will properly frame his question by avoiding the word "ambition".

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: The Government of Assam have got Provincial Autonomy and the Congress has taken up office. May I know whether it is within their comprehension in near future to establish a medical college in Assam? I want to know whether they are considering it at all.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister has already replied.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: May I know if the Hon'ble Minister thinks that there will be sufficient number of corpses for dissection and sufficient number of interesting cases which will be necessary for a medical college?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: We have not yet examined the question, Sir.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied:

1213.—The contribution—exclusive of scholarships—varies every year and the average in recent years is in the neighbourhood of Rs. 7,500. The amount spent on scholarships is Rs. 2,000 approximately.

1214. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Government would like to do this if suitable residential accommodation could be provided for the girls at Dibrugarh. This is under enquiry.

Forced Labour system in forest areas

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked:

1215. Will Government be pleased to state whether the forced labour system is prevalent in the Forest areas of Goalpara?

1216. Is it a fact that the number of working days of forced labour has recently been increased in Sidli Government Forest areas from ten to twelve days?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied:

1215.—There are forest villages in Goalpara as elsewhere which give so many days' free labour in return for cultivating land at reduced rates of revenue.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: With reference to the answer given may I enquire whether the Hon'ble Minister examined the question when he was in Goalpara last?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: I think that question was replied. That matter was sufficiently discussed.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister say "yes" or "no"?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: That was done.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May I know the personnel of the people who represented to the Hon'ble Minister during his visit to Goalpara? Were only the Congress Committees invited or the interior people also?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: I cannot exactly point out the people who approached us. But as far as I remember there were some other than the Congress people. I cannot exactly give the names, but there were others.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May I know the nationality —I mean the community—to which they belonged?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: People of all communities came to us.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May I know whether during his last tour to Goalpara the Hon'ble Minister met some labourers at Goalpara at a conference?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: I do not remember who were the people who approached us.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Were they labourers?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: I cannot say whether they were labourers or not. Most probably there were some from the forest areas.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: What grievances were represented to the Hon'ble Minister?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: I think the question was sufficiently discussed the other day?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I remember some questions were asked.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: It is a very important question, Sir. Simply a circulation on notices to District Congress Committees is not enough. I want to know whether the Hon'ble Minister has given opportunity to others. May I ask what were the grievances represented to him either by petition or orally?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: We sent notices to the Congress committees and to district authority to inform the people regarding their grievances. Before going to Goalpara we first finished Dhubri subdivision. There were many who were residents, but I do not exactly remember whether they came from reserved forest village; there were some who resided near reserved border. Their grievances were about the reduction of forced labour. In Goalpara also they came not only from the Goalpara town itself but from several other places and they approached us with their grievances.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: What were the grievances?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: Reduction of forced labour.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: I want to know the nature of the grievances which the labourers at Goalpara specially represented to the two Hon'ble Ministers when they visited Goalpara. They say, at different centres they met people, but what were the nature of the grievances?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: I have already replied.

Colonel A. B. BEDDOW: Is this form of forced labour a survival of the pre-British rule?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That is a question of opinion.

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: I do not think there is such forced labour now in existence.

Colonel A. B. BEDDOW: Does Government approve of this forced labour?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: We do not at all.

Colonel A. B. BEDDOW: May I ask the Hon'ble Finance Minister? Is not the Government behind him in the statement he made yesterday about the substitution of rates for personal service?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I do not know what the hon. member is insinuating because there is nothing in my statement to warrant that the present Government approve the system of

forced labour. What I said was that personal service was rendered by a tenant to his landlord in consideration of the land held by the former. That does not mean that the system of forced labour was prevalent in pre-British days.

Colonel A. B. BEDDOW: How are the labourers invited to go to work?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I cannot explain these things here. The hon. member should realise that their land was given in consideration of service rendered by a tenant which is not the same thing as exacting forced labour from the people.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Does the Hon'ble Minister mean to say that rates of revenue are realised from the labourers throughout the province?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: I think not.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: May I know in what district the labourer is absolutely exempted from payment of land revenue?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: It was in the district of Kamrup.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Is that the only district?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: So far I have got this information.

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied:

1216.—No.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: By the word 'no' are we to understand that forced labour is still in existence?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: Forced labour has not been increased.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: In that case, does the Hon'ble Minister admit that forced labour is still prevalent?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: I have already replied that it is not prevalent.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: May I know whether some forced labour is prevalent in forest areas of Goalpara? In reply to question No. 1216 it has been said that the working days of forced labour have not been increased. This shows that the system of forced labour is prevalent even now. If so, how is it that in reply to question No. 1215 it is said that there is no forced labour?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The working days have not been increased.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: By question No. 1215 it was asked, "Will Government be pleased to state whether the forced labour system is prevalent in the forest areas of Goalpara?" The Hon'ble Minister does not reply to that question at all. Whereas in reply to question No. 1216, he says that the number of working days of forced labour was not increased.

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: I think the reply is all right. Any how there has been no such increase. I have no further information regarding this matter.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: May I know if the number of working days of forced labour is still 10 days in the Sidli area?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: I am not aware of that.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: The other day the Hon'ble Minister was pleased to say that the number of days of forced labour has been reduced to 5. My question is whether it is 5 days or 10 days in Sidli area?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: I have replied that I am not aware of that particularly in the Sidli area.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: My question whether that reduction has been granted to Sidli area ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: It will be applied every where.

Srijut BELIRAM DAS: In reply to question 1215 the Hon'ble Minister has said that there are forest villages in Goalpara as elsewhere which give so many days' free labour. I want to know what he means by 'so many days' free labour' ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: I mean 10 days' labour.

Question re Babu Girindra Nath Dhar

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

1217. (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister of Education aware that Babu Girindra Nath Dhar was serving as a teacher of the Rebati Raman Middle English School, Moglabazar (Sylhet) for about 22 years prior to 1932 ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether his services were dispensed with in April 1932 because of his Congress activities ?

1218. Do Government propose to consider the desirability of restoring him to the post ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

1217. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes, on 10th June 1932.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: May I know if the Rebati Raman Middle English School is a Government school or Government aided school ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: This is an aided school.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: May I know who dispensed with the services of this teacher ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Apparently the Managing Committee.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Is it open to the present Government to interfere in a matter like this after so many years ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: It is open to the Government to examine any matter if it is brought to their notice.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Is it a fact that he was dismissed as a result of carrying out the policy of the old Government ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Yes.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is it a fact that the other day the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education replied that he had no hand over the Managing Committees of aided schools ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I did not say that we had no authority over this school.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Is it a fact that the then Government persuaded the Managing Committee to get rid of this man ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I think that is a fact.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Has the Government any information about that ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Yes, we have papers regarding that.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is it because of his Congress activities that induced the Managing Committee to dispense with his services?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Yes, the reply is there. He was suspected to have joined in the Congress activities.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Has the Local Government any control over the management of an aided school?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: As I have said Government have the power of direction and that direction can be exercised even now.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is it not the policy of Government to punish a public servant who takes part in political activities in order to maintain discipline?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: That might be done by the past Government, but now according to the present Government, participation in political activities by persons other than Government servant is not an offence.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Is the present Government out to revive all such cases if brought to their notice?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: We have not yet decided the question, but as far as I am personally concerned I think the people who have joined in non-violent political activities should not be punished.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Does the Hon'ble Premier propose to restore the pension of Dr. Das?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: We have not yet decided that, but I think we should restore it.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Will those persons who were penalised in 1921 on account of their Congress activities get any relief from the present Government?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The matter has not yet been decided, but if the hon. member wants that that should be considered, then that can be considered.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether the people who will carry on the Muslim League propaganda will be exempted from any such punishment?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: If it is not violent and if it is a legitimate activity, the same principle will be applied.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: Is the Muslim League propaganda a legitimate propaganda?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I must make a distinction. The better part of the propaganda, *i.e.*, matters relating to the relief to the people is not only legitimate but proper propaganda.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: If somebody carries on Congress propaganda will Government reward him?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member is straying far away from the main question.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: If the propaganda is not a violent one they will surely be considered. May I know if the Hon'ble Minister has information of any violent propaganda by Leaguers?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: If we are to go by rumours then I must say that some propaganda of the League is not what it should be.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :
1218.—The case will be considered on its own merit if and when a representation is received from him.

Question re Maulavi Abdul Munim Chowdhuri, a lecturer of Murarichand College

Maulavi Md. ABDUS SALAM asked :

1219. (a) Is it a fact that Maulavi Abdul Munim Chowdhuri, a lecturer in History in the Murarichand College, Sylhet, has been appointed Assistant Inspector of Schools of Surma Valley and Hill Districts ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether his appointment has been treated (i) as a promotion from Class II to Class I of the Assam Education Service

or

(ii) as a recruitment from one service to another ?

1220. (a) If the answer to question 1219 (b) (i) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether Government consulted the Public Service Commission in the matter ?

(b) If the answer to question 1219 (b) (ii) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether the appointment has been made by the Public Service Commission ?

1221. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they follow any definite principle in appointing the Assistant Inspector of Schools of the Surma Valley ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether it was followed in this appointment ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

1219. (a)—No. He officiated in certain occasions, but the permanent vacancy will not be filled, at any rate at present from the Assam Educational Service cadres.

(b)—Does not arise. Classes I and II are treated as classes of the same service.

1220. (a)—Does not arise. As a temporary arrangement the duties will be discharged by an officer of the Assam School Service, but the Commission is being consulted.

(b)—Does not arise.

1221. (a)—Government propose to consider whether the post is necessary and when they come to a decision will decide in what service it should be included.

(b)—The present arrangement is temporary.

Question re transfer of teachers

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA asked :

1222. Will the Hon'ble Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) The principle followed in transferring some teachers of the Surma Valley to the Assam Valley ?

(b) If those teachers know Assamese and if they have been able to teach in the Assam Valley Schools through the Assamese medium ?

(c) Whether these transfers were made to give chances of promotion to those teachers and whether it is a fact that they have superseded many experienced teachers in the Assam Valley ?

(d) If any transfer has been made from the Assam Valley to the Surma Valley since the transfers to the Assam Valley took place ?

(e) If so, when and who are they ?

1223. Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the teachers transferred to the Assam Valley have been able to teach nothing but English in the Assam Valley Schools and that too in the top classes only of the High Schools ?

1224. Do Government propose to retransfer those teachers back to the Surma Valley ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

1222-1224.—The service has hitherto been treated as provincial, with a single cadre in each class. Teachers transferred into a language area not their own are required to pass within two years in that language of that area. The following teachers have been transferred from the Assam Valley to the Surma Valley—

Babu Akshoy Kumar Bhattacharyya in 1933.

„ Harasundar Bhattacharyya in 1933.

Maulavi Amjad Ali in 1934.

Babu Tridasnath Das in 1935.

„ Sarada Charan Bhattacharyya in 1935.

„ Pramoda Charan Banerjee in 1936.

„ Sarada Charan Ganguli in 1936.

„ Satish Chandra Ganguli in 1936.

Srijut Kabi Chandra Mahanta in 1936.

Babu Satis Chandra Chakravarty in 1937.

„ Natabar Bhattacharyya in 1938.

Government are alive to the full implications of the question whether a separate cadre should be arranged for each valley in view of the introduction of instruction through the medium of the vernacular, and are considering it in all its bearings including the claims of officers already in service.

Aided High Schools

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY asked :

1225. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of Aided High Schools in the Province ?

(b) The names of those schools, the total number of teachers employed in the school, the strength of the Muslim teachers and their pay in comparison with the graded pay of the non-muslim teachers ?

1226. Are Government aware that the Assistant Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education has not visited these aided schools ?

1227. Is it a fact that in many of these institutions, books or literature of Islamic culture and civilisation are not subscribed ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPI NATH BARDOLOI replied :

1225. (a) and (b)—A statement has been placed on the library table. There is no graded pay in the Aided High Schools.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: Just now the Hon'ble Prime Minister has been pleased to say that the last Government got controlling power over the management of the Aided High Schools. From the statement laid on the library table it appears that the Muhammadan teachers are very few in number in the Aided Schools. Will Government be pleased to state the reason why the Muslims are so neglected in the matter of appointments in these schools?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The hon. member may very well know that a circular had already been issued to all the Head Masters of the aided schools to fill up the deficiency in the representation. Beyond that I cannot account for the reason of disparity that has taken place during the time of the previous Government.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: Is the mere issue of a circular enough guarantee?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That is a question of opinion.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: That is, Sir, more or less a matter of opinion.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: Am I not entitled to think that circulars are not given effect to unless there is some force behind to apply this?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I should say that the hon. member is advancing an argument and the form of his question is such as is hardly permissible here.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: May I know whether the Government think it a duty to see that the circular is carried into effect?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Yes, Sir.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: Am I not entitled to say that the circulars have not been properly respected to by the Head Masters?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: All that I can say is that the question is much too general. If the hon. member can show any particular case that the circular has not been obeyed then Government will be only too pleased to take action.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: Am I to understand from the statement placed on the table that the proper number of Muhammadan appointments has not been given?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Possibly it may be, but there may be at the same time many reasons for this. Probably the qualified candidates were not available. I am not aware of that.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: May I know whether the Government take the report of the Head Masters as gospel truth, without making any proper enquiry?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: We are proceeding to a hypothetical question.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Are Government aware that the contribution made by the Muhammadans for the establishment of schools is comparatively small?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I have not the full information, Sir, but possibly it may be so.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: Is it a fact that Government is granting aid to these schools for the very existence?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member is not quite explicit. However, the Hon'ble Minister may attempt a reply.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: It may be very well known to the hon. member that the aid is given to a school at a certain stage of its existence. It is quite possible that the very existence had been brought about by means other than Government.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : I am confining myself only to the circular that has already been issued by Government and I want to know whether the spirit of that circular is duly respected to and whether Government will make it a point to see that the circular is properly carried into practice.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : It has already been answered.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

1226.—The Assistant Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education does visit Aided High schools as far as possible, but it is impossible for one officer to visit all the aided schools in the Province.

1227.—Government have no information.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : The answer to the question is that Government have no information. May I request the Hon'ble Minister in charge to institute an inquiry about this ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : Yes, Sir. I shall be glad to do so.

Suppression of Johne's disease

Maulavi Md. ABDUS SALAM asked :

1228. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The total amount of loss sustained by Government in the destruction of animals in connection with the suppression of Johne's disease from Government Farms ?
- (b) Whether Government is satisfied with the results thus obtained ?
- (c) The steps that are taken at present to ascertain the incidence of the disease ?
- (d) The nature of disciplinary action taken by Government against the officers who conducted the sale of animals suffering from Johne's disease from the Sylhet Cattle Farm to local market ?
- (e) The total number of diseased animals thus sold from the Sylhet Farm ?
- (f) The total number of these animals purchased back, if any ?
- (g) The amount received by sale of those animals and the amount paid in re-purchasing them ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS replied :

1228. (a)—The value of the animals destroyed was approximately Rs.20,000 spread over 4 years.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Periodic tests will be held in the Government farms in order to ensure that the disease has not revived. As regards private cattle, the cases will be dealt with as they occur. As no report has been received of the spread of the disease for a long time, no special action appears necessary.

(d)—The Manager of the Farm who was solely responsible has since been censured and transferred.

(e)—Sixteen.

(f)—Three.

(g)—The three animals were re-purchased at the price at which they were sold, viz., Rs 14-8.

Primary Education under Dibrugarh Local Board

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BAROOAH asked :

1229. Will the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the expenditure on Primary Education incurred by the Dibrugarh Local Board is the lowest in the whole province ?

1230. Is it a fact that according to an outgoing Board's resolution the annual budget of the above Board is to be placed before a Sub-Committee called the Finance Committee ?

1231. Is it a fact that all contract works over Rs. 500 are to be placed in the Public Works Department Committee before they are placed in the General Meeting ?

1232. Will the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state if the above Sub-Committee (Public Works Department Committee) were called by the Chairman for 1935-36, 1936-37, 1937-38 and tenders for contracts placed before the Sub-Committee ?

1233. Is it a fact that a deputation of the members of the rural constituencies of the Dibrugarh Local Board headed by Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman, M.L.A., waited on the Commissioner, Assam Valley Division, during his visit to Dibrugarh in August, 1935 and submitted a memorial stating that—

- (a) Budgets were never placed before the Finance Committee.
- (b) Contract works over Rs.500 were never placed before the Public Works Department Committee.
- (c) Bills of contractors for work done in a particular rural member's constituency were never sent to that member for checking contract works ?

1234. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the allegation contained in the memorial were enquired into by the Commissioner, Assam Valley Division ?
- (b) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN replied :

1229.—Yes, proportionately.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BAROOAH : Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to direct the authorities concerned to raise the expenditure of the primary education in this Local Board.

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN : replied :

1230.—No. Government are informed that there was no such resolution.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BAROOAH : May I know from the Hon'ble Minister by whom the information was supplied ?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN : The information was supplied by the Chairman.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BAROOAH : Will Government be pleased to inquire whether the information supplied by the Chairman is correct or not ?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN : Yes, Sir. I shall be glad to inquire.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BAROOAH : Sir, if from the inquiry it can be proved that the information is not correct then will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to inquire the reason for it ?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN : Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN replied :

1231.—Yes: but the Chairman reports that the Board subsequently empowered him each year to distribute contracts to the lowest tenderers

1232.—No.

1233.—Yes, a deputation approached the Commissioner with various complaints.

1234. (a)—Yes. The Commissioner did not find the complaints justified, but intends to examine the procedure regarding contracts again.

(b)—Does not arise.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BAROOAH: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the Commissioner inspected the Local Board in view of the allegation made in the memorial?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: I don't think so.

Cancellation of Opium Passes

Srijut KRISHNA NATH SARMA asked :

1235. Will Government be pleased to state district by district the number of opium passes of addicts below 50 years of age cancelled by the 31st March 1938?

1236. Do Government propose to treat such addicts in Hospitals to eradicate the habit?

1237. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether there are addicts below 50 years of age in any of the districts?

(b) If so, what is their number and what are the reasons for not cancelling their passes?

(c) Whether it is a fact that many of the addicts who are under 50 years of age raise their age to above 50 years to avoid their passes being cancelled?

1238. Will Government be pleased to state the number of addicts whose rations have been reduced to nil by the operations of the 10 per cent. cut?

1239. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether 10 per cent. cut policy of rations of opium addicts was carried on year after year since 1928 or the policy was stopped from time to time?

(b) The area excluded from the operation of this reduction of rations?

1240. Will Government be pleased to state—(a) The total number of addicts whose rations are restored year after year since 1928 till 31st August 1938, and the total quantity of rations consumed by them every year?

(b) The total number of permanent passes granted during the last 10 years since 1928 till 31st August 1938?

(c) The total number of temporary passes granted during the same period year by year district by district?

(d) The total number of temporary passes converted into permanent ones during the same period?

(e) The number of temporary passes cancelled at the end of the fixed period during that time?

1241. Will Government be pleased to state approximately the probable number of addicts in the whole Province, who take opium without pass?

1242. (a) Is it a fact that Government have stopped issuing new passes either permanent or temporary since October 1937 ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to adhere strictly to this policy henceforward ?

1243. Will Government be pleased to state the number of addicts district by district—

(a) above 50 years and below 55 years ?

(b) above 55 years and below 60 years ?

(c) above 60 years and below 65 years ?

(d) above 65 years and below 70 years ?

(e) above 70 years ?

1244. Will Government be pleased to state the number of passes collected due to death of the addicts during the period between 1928 and 31st August 1938 ?

1245. (a) Do Government propose to reduce opium consumption to nil from the province of Assam without further delay ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to start an intensive temperance campaign throughout the Province with the aid of Congress Workers and Boy-Scouts ?

1246. Do Government propose at the end of their ten years policy to open out hospitals for the treatment of addicts near the opium shops ?

1247. Are Government aware that rewards to officers for the detection of smuggling lead to corruption ?

1248. Do Government propose henceforward to spend the amount budgeted for rewards to officers and outsiders, for the temperance campaign and for the treatment of the addicts in hospitals ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS replied :

1235.—Government have not the figures required, since it has not been attempted to differentiate between cancellations on account of death, abandonment of the habit, or reduction on the ten years' system, etc. But the following figures may be of assistance :—

Number of passholders on 1st April 1928...	...	85,976
Passes since issued	... ..	15,501
Total, gross	... ..	101,477
Passes in existence on 31st March 1938...	...	33,057
Number of passholders removed from the registers in ten years.	...	68,420

1236.—The suggestion has for some years been under consideration, but there is no certain cure and no means to compel attendance in hospital, even if there were accommodation for such numbers. Government have ordered an experiment with Modino's treatment in the jails.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain what is meant by 'Modino's treatment'?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Such a question should not be allowed, as it is intended to test the general knowledge of the Hon'ble Minister.

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS : It requires a Civil Surgeon to explain the meaning of this.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in which of the jails this 'Modino's treatment' has been introduced?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: In Nowgong Jail.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Is it the only jail in the province?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: I have no other information.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: May I know, Sir, if this Modino's treatment is a certain cure?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: Not so.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Is it a fact, Sir, that previously some opium eaters were subjected to this treatment?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: Yes, Sir. They were subjected to this treatment.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Does the Hon'ble Minister mean to say that the persons treated under this treatment have got back to their habit?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: Some persons have relapsed to their habit.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Is that the Hon'ble Minister's information that some have actually relapsed to their habit?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: Yes, Sir.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Then why did the Hon'ble Minister say that this treatment is a certain cure?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: How can a man say that this treatment is a perfect treatment?

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: What is the result obtained in Burma where this treatment was first introduced?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: Assam is not concerned with the result of treatment in Burma (*laughter*).

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Should not this province be benefited by the example of Burma?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: This is more or less a question of opinion.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: If any experiment in Burma is successful then should not the other Governments inquire about it?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: Government may inquire about it.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: If the treatment in Burma proved successful then is it not the duty of the Government to inquire as to what that treatment is?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: Government will inquire about it.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order.

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS replied.

1237. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Government are not in a position to give the present numbers without elaborate enquiries, which would take a considerable time. Such enquiries were, however, made regarding the numbers as they stood on 1st April 1937 and the total was then 9,803 in the whole of Assam. Further enquiries were recently made and the number up to date stood at 6,631 in Included areas and 1,803 in Partially Excluded areas. The reasons for the existence of such passholders are that a number of passes were given after the ten year period had begun, and also, in order to ensure the safe

working of the system, reduction had to be stopped in some cases on medical advice, or as in the Partially Excluded areas, for administrative reasons.

(c)—No. Ages are recorded in the registers and amendment is only allowed in rare cases where a manifest mistake has been made.

1238.—For the reason given in the reply to question this is difficult to say ; but the number is probably in the neighbourhood of 20,000. This of course excludes deaths and cancellations for other reasons.

1239. (a)—The reduction was carried on uninterruptedly in respect of consumers under the age of 50, save in the Partially Excluded areas.

(b)—The main reason for not making the annual reduction regularly or in full in the Partially Excluded areas was that good grounds were reported by the local officers for fearing that this would endanger the success of the experiment as a whole.

1240. (a) to (e)—Government regret that they have no particulars on these points. They regularly have received returns which exhibit the working of the registration and reduction system as a whole, *viz.*, the number of permanent and temporary passes from time to time, the numbers of passes, permanent and temporary, issued during each quarter as from the year 1935, when the form was revised, the number of temporary passes made permanent in each quarter after that date, the total rations, and the total consumption, but they have not the facts about individual consumers whose rations were increased or the reduction thereof stopped, and it would be impossible to obtain now accurate figures in respect of those who have been removed from the registers. The following figures will however be helpful :—

Total consumers on 1st April 1928	...	...	85,976
Total consumers on 1st April 1938—			
Permanent	...	...	32,314
Temporary	...	...	743
			33,057
Consumption in—			
1928-29	...	...	25,058
1929-30	...	...	23,630
1930-31	...	...	20,494
1931-32	...	...	16,905
1932-33	...	...	14,224
1933-34	...	...	12,694
1934-35	...	...	11,753
1935-36	...	...	10,740
1936-37	...	...	9,592
1937-38	...	...	8,295

1241.—Various attempts have been made to estimate the number from time to time, but from the nature of the problem the necessary conclusion has been that no reliable estimate can be made.

1242. (a)—From October 1937 the power of district officers to issue new passes has been stopped.

(b)—Yes, so far as can be seen but future policy is being formulated, and it remains to be seen whether Government can keep the detailed administration in their own hands, and whether strict central control enables illicit trade to be reduced to a minimum.

1243.—The information is not available, and the collection of it would involve such time and labour that the reply would be out of date by the time it was ready.

1244.—Attempts have been made to collect figures as to the expired passes which have been surrendered from year to year or have been collected, and the lessees are expected to co-operate in the matter, but it is very difficult to ensure the return of the pass when a man dies or leaves the province, and the results are, therefore, quite unreliable.

1245. (a)—Government are closely considering the whole question. It will be recognized that the question of prohibiting opium even where it is used for medicinal purposes is a very difficult one.

(b)—Government will certainly welcome co-operation in discouraging the use of opium from every direction, but they entertain some doubts whether propaganda in itself will check the habit, which is usually indulged secretly.

1246.—For the reason given in reply to question No.1236 the suggestion does not appear practicable.

1247.—No.

1248.—No Government are satisfied by irrefutable evidence that the danger to their policy from smuggling is very real, and they must engage every reasonable method to check and stop it.

Patients Wards at Assam Oil Company, Digboi

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BAROOAH asked :

1249.(a) Is the Hon'ble Minister for Medical Department aware that the Assam Oil Company at Digboi have no separate wards for dangerous contagious diseases, viz., Pthisis, Dysentery, Cholera, Typhoid Fever, and that patients suffering from those diseases are lodged in the same room and hall ?

(b) Is it a fact that in the 3rd week of August last about 9 Pthisis patients were lodged in one and the same house ; and one Chinese woman suffering from Pthisis was lodged with two other patients in a small room ?

(c) Will the Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state if the Civil Surgeon, Lakhimpur, inspects the hospital ?

(d) If so, when he did so last ?

(e) Did he report about the danger of lodging all the patients in one house ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

1249.(a)—No. Government have made enquiries and understand that infective pthisis patients are accommodated in a large verandah open on three sides. Cases which are proved non-infective, and patients suffering from other communicable diseases, are accommodated as far as possible in separate wards. The building of a new hospital will provide more separate wards for such purposes. It may be noted that patients suffering from typhoid or dysentery do not, in fact, present any danger if for shortage at the moment of separate wards they have to be lodged with other patients.

(b)—The Company have obliged Government by supplying the facts ; there were five cases of proved pthisis, who were accommodated in the verandah already mentioned. Two cases proved non-infective occupied a small ward to themselves, and one patient who was proved non-infective was in a ward with other patients. The Chinese woman was not a patient at all, but attending her sick child.

(c)—There is no legal provision requiring or entitling the Civil Surgeon to make such inspections. No doubt, as Chief Health Officer of the district, he keeps touch with the medical facilities provided by the Company.

(d) & (e)—Do not arise.

Ministerial appointment in Police Department

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

1250. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that there is a circular order in the Police Department that in any leave or permanent vacancy in the Ministerial establishment under it Muhammadan clerks should be taken in ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that one Sudhir Chandra Gupta was appointed in May 1937, in a leave vacancy in the Sylhet Police office in contravention of the said Government order ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the said Sudhir Chandra Gupta is the brother of Nalini Mohan Gupta, a clerk of the Sylhet Police office and also the brother of the Accountant of the Inspector-General of Police office, Shillong ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that this Sudhir Chandra Gupta was appointed in a permanent vacancy in the Kohima Police office and that he was discharged by Mr. T. P. M. O'Callaghan, the then Inspector-General of Police of Assam, during his inspection of the Kohima Police office, in the year 1932 or 1933 ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that this Sudhir Chandra Gupta was allowed to handle all crime papers in the Police office, Sylhet, two months prior to his said appointment ?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that this gentleman is still officiating in a leave vacancy in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Shillong ?
- (g) If the answers to questions (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) above are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state how and why this gentleman is re-appointed on so many occasions ?

1251. (a) Is it a fact that one Sukriti Ranjan Datta was appointed in April 1938, in a leave vacancy in the office of the Superintendent, Railway Police, Haflong, in contravention of the Government order ?

(b) Is it a fact that he is the son of the Head clerk, Superintendent, Railway Police office, Haflong ?

(c) Is it a fact that he is a student of the 2nd year class of the Murarichand College, Sylhet ?

(d) Is it a fact that the Accountant of that office was not granted leave till Sukriti Ranjan Datta reached Haflong after the College closed ?

(e) Is it a fact that this Sukriti Ranjan Datta was discharged on 30th June 1938 to enable him to join the College on 1st July 1938 and then one Muhammadan gentleman was appointed for the remaining portion of the leave granted to the Accountant ?

(f) If the answers to questions (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) above are in affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if they propose to take steps for disregarding the Government order by the Heads of the office ?

1252. Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that one Dinabandhu Singh and one Khasi gentleman were appointed in February 1938, in the Police offices under the Police Department though it was advertised in the Gazette that Mussalmans will be taken in ?

1253. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Why this sort of irregularities are done in the Police Department ?
- (b) Whether Government propose to take any steps for this irregularity and to prevent similar irregularities in future ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

1250. (a)—Yes. The order which is dated 7th May 1937, is to the effect that suitable Muhammadans should be taken on in temporary and permanent vacancies when opportunity occurs. It was issued because of the shortage of Muhammadans in the clerical branch.

(b)—A clerk in charge of the Crime Branch, Sylhet Police office, applied for leave and applications from outsiders with office experience were duly called for. Amongst the candidates no suitable Muhammadan was available. So, Babu Sudhir Chandra Gupta, who had had about 7 years' experience of Police work at the time, was appointed by the Superintendent of Police, Sylhet, after due and careful consideration.

(c)—Babu Sudhir Chandra Gupta is a brother of Babu Nalini Mohan Gupta, clerk of the Sylhet Police office. He is not related to the Accountant of the office of the Inspector-General of Police, Assam.

(d)—Babu Sudhir Chandra Gupta was not appointed in a permanent vacancy in the Kohima Police office. He was an officiating clerk in the Battalion office at Kohima.

Mr. T. P. M. O'Callaghan, the then Inspector-General of Police, made certain unfavourable remarks against him during his inspection of the Battalion office in March 1934 and Sudhir Chandra Gupta was discharged when his term expired in October 1934.

(e)—No.

(f)—Babu Sudhir Chandra Gupta is now officiating as a motor clerk in the office of the Deputy Commissioner in charge of Police, Khasi and Jaintia Hills. Originally a Hindu of the Assam Valley was appointed to act in the vacancy but as his work was found to be unsatisfactory, Babu Sudhir Chandra Gupta was appointed to act simply because of his long experience. The vacancy has since become substantive as the permanent incumbent has been invalided and the question of filling it with a candidate from an under-represented community is under consideration.

(g)—Government have nothing to add to what is stated in the replies above.

1251.(a)—Babu Sukriti Ranjan Datta was appointed by the Superintendent of Railway Police, Assam, to act as a clerk in his office as no suitable Muhammadan candidate was available at the time. The Superintendent of Railway Police wanted to obtain a suitable Muhammadan candidate from Silchar but without success.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—No. The Accountant applied for leave on 5th April 1938 which was granted on 6th April 1938. He availed himself of his leave with effect from the afternoon of the 20th April 1938 and Sukriti Ranjan Datta reached Haflong on 11th April 1938.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—The order presupposes that suitable candidates will be forthcoming. This is not always the case.

1252.—A reference is invited to the advertisement dated the 14th August 1937, published at page 716 of the *Assam Gazette*, dated the 18th August 1937. It was stated in the notice that preference would be given to suitable Muhammadan candidates. This of course does not mean that the posts would invariably go to Muhammadan candidates, whether suitable or not.

Owing to the abolition of the temporary staff in the Criminal Investigation Department after the Assembly resolution in the Budget Session of 1937 two retrenched clerks of this Department (Dinabadhu Sinha and U Warrington) were appointed in the vacancies then existing in September 1937, and were subsequently confirmed.

1253. (a) & (b)—Government do not admit that irregularities have taken place.

Post-graduate Scholarships

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

1254. Will Government be pleased to give the names of the recipients of the post-graduate scholarships which were awarded during the years 1937-38 and 1938-39, showing the educational qualifications, native districts, names of their fathers or guardians with occupation ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

1254.—The information is furnished below :—

1937-38.—Srijut Chandi Charan Barman, B. A., of Kamrup, son of Srijut Kaliram Barman, Government Pleader, Gauhati.

1938-39.—Maulavi Amin Khan, B. A., of Goalpara, brother of Mr. Md. Akbar Khan, B. Com. (Leeds), Examiner of Local Accounts, Assam.

Girls' High School at Maulvi Bazar

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY asked :

1255. Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article under the caption "Maulvi Bazar Notes" in the *Sylhet Chronicle*, dated the 8th August 1938 ?

1256. Is it a fact that the Subdivisional Officer, South Sylhet, is the President of the Managing Committee of the Girls' High School at Maulvi Bazar ?

1257. Is it a fact that the Subdivisional Officer does not abide by the decision of the Managing Committee and deals with the affairs of the said School autocratically as he likes ?

1258. If the replies to questions 1255, 1256 and 1257 are in the affirmative, do Government propose to take necessary steps to remove the grievances of the public as reported in the newspaper ?

1259. If the replies to questions 1255, 1256 and 1257 above are in the negative, do Government propose to enquire into the matter ?

1260. Will Government be pleased to state the number of members in the Managing Committee of the Girls' High School, Maulvi Bazar ?

1261. Is it a fact that Khan Bahadur Syed Sikander Ali is the only Mohammadan member of the said Committee ?

1262. Is it a fact that the said Khan Bahadur fails to attend the meetings of the Managing Committee due to his old age.

1263. Are Government aware that only one Mohammadan member in the said Managing Committee is insufficient to represent the Mohammadan Community ?

1264. If the replies to questions 1261, 1262 and 1263 are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why the number of Mohammadan members has not been increased and the said Khan Bahadur has not been substituted by a capable Mohammadan ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

1255.—Yes.

1256.—Yes.

1257.—Government have not received any complaints to this effect. The decisions arrived at by the Committee during the last three years are understood to have been unanimous.

1258.—Does not arise.

1259.—Government will investigate any specific grievance which is brought to their notice.

1260.—Fifteen.

1261.—No.

1262.—No. Government understand that he takes an active interest in the school.

1263.—There are three Mohammadan members and this number cannot be considered inadequate in view of the Moslem enrolment.

1264.—Does not arise.

PRESENTATION OF AUTHENTICATED SCHEDULE

Presentation of authenticated schedule of authorised expenditure in relation to supplementary demands for grants for 1938-39

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the authenticated schedule* of authorised expenditure in relation to Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1938-39.

Statement regarding seating arrangement of the Deputy Speaker

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, before we proceed to the next item of business I want to address the Chair on a point of order.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : There is nothing yet before the House from which a point of order may arise.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : It is an important matter regarding arrangement of seats.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Does the hon. member want to make a statement ?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : I want to make a reference. Sir, Rule 8(1) of the Assembly Rules states : "The members shall sit in such order as the Speaker may appoint". So, Sir, it is your concern where the members should sit. Regarding the arrangement of seats certain Parliamentary conventions are followed.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : What is the point of the hon. member ?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : It is with regard to the seat of the Deputy Speaker. According to the established Parliamentary conventions, leaders of opposition parties and *ex*-Ministers who are members of Opposition, generally sit on the front benches opposite the Government members, but a seat on the left is reserved for the Deputy Speaker and the Deputy President. It is the practice of the British House of Commons and

* Appendix H,

generally followed in the legislatures of this country also. In this House too formerly the Deputy Speaker took his seat on the extreme right of the Opposition.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : From what book was the hon. member reading ?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : From " The Handbook of Indian Legislature " by Mr. K.R.Saxena, who is considered to be an expert. May I enquire from you how that convention has been given a go-by in this House ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : It was really no convention that I followed, when the seat of the Deputy Speaker was allotted on the left of the Chair, but the principle I followed in allotting the seat of the Deputy Speaker was that he should be near the Chair so that when he would be called upon to occupy the Chair in the Speaker's absence he might at once come and occupy the Chair. I may tell the hon member that the Deputy Speaker is a party man just as the hon. members, who in each session, constitute the panel of Chairmen, are. So if the Deputy Speaker want a seat in his party block, it would be proper to give him that seat, but that seat should be as near to me as possible. That was the principle that I have followed. I may also tell the hon. member that in the British House of Commons the principle followed is that Ministers are to occupy seats to the right of the Chair and Opposition to the left. With regard to other members there is no specified principle to be followed ; any member may sit anywhere, and wherever a member chooses to occupy a seat he is allowed to do it so long as he remains a member of the British House of Commons.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : With regard to the statement the Chair has just now made regarding allotment of seats, may I know to what party does the Deputy Speaker belong ? Has the Chair any information about it ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : He belongs to the Congress Coalition Party.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : Has he sent any written requisition that he wants a seat in the other block ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : He intimated his desire in writing to the Secretary to have a seat in his party block. And he has been given such a seat adhering, at the same time, to the principle of allotting the seat as near to the Chair as has been possible.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Previously, *i e.*, just after this House was constituted the Deputy Speaker belonged to the Government Party, but still he was allotted a seat in the Opposition block.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I do not think so. However, may I know from the hon. member (looking at Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali) why he is so particular about the seat of the Deputy Speaker ?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : Regarding the point you have referred to me, Sir, I should say that it is the duty of the Chair to establish good conventions. Sir, you being the guardian of liberties of this House, any time a doubt arises it is up to us, the members of the Assembly, to refer it to you and have it cleared. We are here to establish good conventions, and when a respectable party like the Congress have taken up the Government, it is all the more desirable that good conventions should be established in this House, and you, being lifted to the Chair from that party, are expected to be more particular about it, and we desire that Parliamentary conventions from the Mother of Parliaments may be observed here.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I shall always be very anxious to establish good Parliamentary conventions, but so long my difficulties have been numerous. Yet in this matter the hon. member may take it that the following of the principle I have mentioned is a good convention. I may point out also that the party affiliations of some of the members are so very shifting in this House that it is always very difficult to follow a definite principle. (*Hear, hear.*)

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, as I understood from the hon. member, who made the statement that in this House ex-Ministers are always expected to occupy the front seats in the Opposition. This is the convention. May I know from him whether this principle is being followed so far as his party is concerned? Will he try to set his own party in order first?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: I am not in charge of arranging seats; it is the concern of the Chair.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order, the time of the House should not be wasted like this.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS

Resolution declaring the opinion of the House on the remission of land revenue granted by Government for the year 1938-39.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following resolution:—

“That in the opinion of this House the remission of land revenue granted for the year 1938-39, as stated in the Government Resolution published in the *Assam Gazette* of 16th November, 1938, is inadequate and unsatisfactory”.

Sir, I move this resolution only with the object of lodging the protest of this House as well as of the people we represent, against the decision of the present Government. The Hon'ble Revenue Minister while sitting in the Opposition criticised me very severely when I moved my amendment for a 33 per cent. reduction. It will be pertinent on my part, I think, to refer to a part of his speech on that occasion. He said:—

“Khan Sahib Maulavi Sayidur Rahman while supporting the principle of the resolution spoke a lot about ‘responsibility’. He said it was his sense of responsibility that actuated him to go against the fifty per cent. reduction and compelled him to suggest 33 per cent. I am constrained to bring to the notice of the House that, though he has been sent here this time by the people, he has not yet changed the mentality of a nominated member of the old regime. Is it his sense of responsibility? He must not forget that this time he does not represent the British imperialism here but he represents the poor people who have sent him to this Assembly and who want fifty per cent. reduction”.

Now, the very same hon. member has been translated to the Treasury Benches and has the life's opportunity to redeem the pledge which he then gave not only to the people of the countryside but to this Hon'ble House. I am glad that Providence has granted him an opportunity of putting his mentality to the test. (*Hear, hear.*) I shall not be uncharitable, Sir, like him, but I cannot help pitying him in this sad predicament.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: This is taking out a grudge with a vengeance.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Sir, in the statement he admits: “we want to change this order of things. We want that a raiyat should pay what he can afford and Government must necessarily

spend if not the whole at least the major portion of this amount towards the uplift and betterment of the raiyats. We stand by every word of our pledge." But he goes on to say: "the financial condition of the province involved to such an extent that an immediate substantial increase in reduction would so far embarrass the province in the matter of finance as to leave no money whatsoever available for relief of other grievances". So his only plea for not implementing the resolution or the amendment is the bad state of the finances. Sir, when we moved for a 33 per cent. reduction we also said the very same thing; we also said that as responsible members of the House, in view of the financial condition of the Government, we could not go a step further than that, but I am glad now that the Hon'ble Revenue Minister has developed that sense of responsibility. (*Laughter.*)

Now, in this connection I would also like to remind the House what the Hon'ble Premier said about the reduction of land revenue. He said: "as far as our party—the Congress party—is concerned we cannot surrender the cause of the raiyats. We have had hundreds of resolutions; they have been sent from all parts of the country to all the hon. members; and I am sure the Hon'ble Revenue Minister must have got a large number of similar resolutions. It has also been our privilege to go about in the country and see for ourselves their poor condition. We think, Sir, that this reduction is adequately their due, and we will be failing in our duty if we do not stick to this reduction. I once more appeal to all the members of the House—to all members who are representing these poor, half-starved and naked raiyats—to rise to the occasion and give this resolution a chance, and see that the resolution is passed, *i.e.*, the resolution for a fifty per cent. reduction." (*Hear, hear.*)

Sir, the condition of the raiyats has deteriorated since, due to the recurrence of floods everywhere. So, if the condition of the raiyats then justified a reduction of 50 per cent., the present condition certainly warrants a much larger reduction than that.

Then as regards the financial deadlock, he said: "my submission to the House is that by accepting the resolution we are doing nothing, we are bringing no deadlock, we are bringing no difficulty in the administration of the Government, if only the Government be sincere in providing relief for the poor". Sir, I ask the hon. members of this House if the present Government has been sincere in providing this relief for the poor. On the mere plea of the financial condition of the province they have not given a reduction even at a flat rate of 33 per cent.

Now, about the inadequacy of the concessions that have been granted, I need quote only some of the hon. members on the Government side. As regards recommendation No. 1, my hon. friend Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma said: "recommendation No. 1 is meaningless, because it will extend only to a limited number of the men who have the hardihood to disobey Government order and continue possession in spite of the same. This 50 per cent. reduction should not therefore blind the House by its apparent display of generosity". Now, this criticism applies to concession No. 1, that had been made by the present Government, but as regards concession No. 2, the previous Government fixed a standard of payment of revenue of Rs. 12. As regards that Mr. Siddhi Nath Sarma said "the standard by which a 12 rupee or less patta holder has been accepted as poor is quite wrong; for may not a rich man have more than one patta of Rs. 12 or less? Therefore, Sir, the standard accepted by the Government is not a just standard and should be unacceptable to the House." Sir, the very standard which was criticised by my hon. friend Mr. Siddhi Nath Sarma has been still maintained by the present Government, and in the case of Sylhet and Cachar it has been lowered.

As regards the treatment of Sylhet and Cachar, I would like to read a portion of the speech of my hon. friend Mr. Chanda—I think he is not in his seat now. He said: "I do not grudge my friends of the Assam Valley for what crumbs of mercy have been made available to them. But what I submit is that I desire to invite the attention of the House to invidious distinction which the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister has made in the case of my district. There is nothing to justify this attitude of Government towards Cachar; no data on which it could have been justifiably arrived at. Sir, the condition of the people of Cachar is well-known to Government, and the fact that the other Valley in the province has received a higher rate of reduction than the district of Cachar is in the circumstances an obvious act of serious injustice". Now in spite of this, the present Government has thought it fit to give a reduction at a much lower rate to the people of Cachar and Sylhet. The concession has been withdrawn from the towns-people.

As regards that Mr. Siddhi Nath Sarma again, he said that the main point was whether the present assessment in town was excessive or not. In our opinion there are thousands of poor men living in towns who deserve consideration of the House. This consideration has been withheld by the Hon'ble Premier. (*Shame.*)

Then again, the concession has been withdrawn from the uneconomic tea gardens; I wish my hon. friend Mr. Dutta were here to offer a detailed criticism on this subject.

Now the point is this. Of course the present Government says that they have given more than 25 per cent. in certain districts according to the incidence of the taxation. That may be. But what has been given by one hand has been taken away by the other. And in this whole adjustment, I think the policy of robbing Paul to pay Peter has been adopted. Now the Government of course will justify their action by saying that they could not do more in the present finances of the country. But we have considered this. On the last occasion also we said that from the people's point of view the concessions that were granted by the last Government were also inadequate. We must repeat that thing even now. Because inadequacy of the concessions must be considered from the people's stand point. Here only one criterion has been taken namely the incidence of taxation. But the main criterion should be the capacity of the people to pay. In this respect I think the people of Sylhet and Cachar are very badly off, because I find from the Administration Report for the year 1936-37, that the land revenue demand in Cachar was Rs.7,21,984 and out of this the arrear was Rs.3,97,138. In Sylhet temporary settled area the demand was Rs.6,94,376 and the arrear was Rs.3,15,419. From these figures it will be quite clear that the people of Sylhet and Cachar are unable to pay even the current demand. So their case, I think, deserved more sympathetic treatment than any other.

As regards the plea that Government have got a deficit of ten or eleven lakhs, I think the hon. Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri gave a crushing reply to that yesterday when he said that in the days of the old Government lakhs, they did not fail to grant remission of three annas in the rupee. So the mere fact that the Government is in deficit to the extent of Rs.30 or 40 lakhs, they did not fail to grant remission of three annas in the rupee. So the redeeming the pledge that was given times without number not only in this House but outside it for giving adequate relief to the poor people. My submission is that these concessions are only nominal and intended only to gag the Press and the public. The Press seems to be tuned by the Congress Party. When the Party was in Opposition, they would have nothing less than 50 per cent. and our conduct in opposing that resolution

for 50 per cent. was adversely commented upon. But now when the Party is in power and the Premier pleaded inability to redeem the pledge. The Press has admired his statesmanship (*Hear, hear.*) But the public in the country-side remain unaffected by this change in the tone of the Press. I think it is in their interests and on behalf of these people who have no voice in this House, that I should bring forward this resolution and I appeal to the other side of the House that if they have any genuine sympathy for the poor, and feel for those in the country-side who are half-starved and half-clad raiyats, then they should join with me and adopt this resolution unanimously—because this is a resolution not to censure the Government so much but to give expression to the unanimous wishes of the people of the country.

With these words, Sir, I move my resolution.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The resolution moved is: "that in the opinion of this House the remission of land revenue granted for the year 1938-39, as stated in the Government Resolution published in the *Assam Gazette* of 16th November, 1938, is inadequate and unsatisfactory".

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: On a point of information, Sir. May I know from the Hon'ble Revenue Minister whether he is going to grant any concession in the case of the *nisf-khiraj* pattadars?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I have already included in my statement, Sir, our position regarding *nisf-khiraj* pattadars and the hon. member will find the Government's view in the statement.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: We have no time to go through the statement which has just now been laid on the table.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: My statement is there, and if the hon. member will take pain to read it, he will find it out.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister can reply to the debate twice, and the hon. member will get what he wants from the replies to the debate.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I want to know, Sir, whether any concession will be granted to the *nisf-khiraj* pattadars.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I shall repeat the relevant portion, Sir, for the benefit of the hon. member.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: The question can be answered, Sir, by saying "yes" or "no".

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I shall read the whole statement for the benefit of the hon. member.

"We are fully aware of the agitation in the province regarding the concession or remission of revenue to *nisf-khiraj* pattadars as well and we feel that the demand is just, provided the concession or benefit granted by the Government to those pattadars is transmitted by them to their under-tenants. We are taking steps to find out if the *nisf-khiraj* pattadars are prepared to extend the privileges to their under-tenants and in view of such undertaking the Government propose to give favourable consideration to their cases".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think the Hon'ble Minister in charge may give his first reply now.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. mover of this resolution, who unfortunately is now absent from this House, has criticised me for my shifting ground and for the irresponsible attitude. I am alleged to have taken while a member of the Opposition. But, Sir, on the contrary I find that this very gentleman and his erst-while colleagues have to-day drifted to the view we held not many months ago. We at that time stood for 50 per cent reduction of land-

revenue and we stand by it even to-day (*Hear, hear.*) We stood for giving relief to the poor and semi-starved people and for doing all necessary things for their uplift and betterment, and we stand for their things even to-day.

Sir, it is not difficult to find that, when we moved that resolution of 50 per cent. reduction, we made it clear that the burden or incidence of taxation should shift from the poor to those who can afford to pay. We made it very clear at that time that the plea of financial condition of the province should not stand in the way and if the Government of the day would be prepared to be courageous to find means of adding to the income of the province, the resolution of the 50 per cent. reduction could easily be given effect to. We are also of the same opinion to-day. If in the current year we have not been able to give remission to the extent of 50 per cent., it is not because we have gone back on our words but because the hon. members who have now found themselves in the Opposition did not take any steps whatsoever to increase the revenue of the province from other sources (*hear, hear*) and the reasons for not doing so, Sir, are very clear and were made evident by the speech delivered by Mr. Chanda the other day in replying to Mr. Hockenhull on the motion of no-confidence against the present Government.

Sir, we have further been told that we, both myself and the Hon'ble Prime Minister, are going against the pledges that we made to the people. We categorically deny these charges and allegations. If the hon. members would have a little patience, they will find that we stand by, and intend to carry out, each and every word of our pledge; and the moment we find that we are not able to do so, we shall leave this place for the hon'ble gentlemen who have all on a sudden now began to feel so much for the poor people (*ironical laughter and cries of "hear, hear"*).

Then, Sir, we have been told that the people of Sylhet and Cachar are very poor and they should not have been given such a differential treatment. Sir, I have admitted in my statement that the quality of land may not be as good in Sylhet or Cachar as in Sibsagar, but that alone cannot explain away the difference in the incidence of revenue from 15 annas 6 pies to 6 annas 6 pies. The allowances for the inferior quality of the land and for the lesser price which the produce of these lands yield have been taken into consideration. What we on the other hand think is that the concession given to Cachar and Sylhet is adequate and proportionate to what has been given to the *raiya*t in other districts.

Sir, the hon. member and his supporters, if they care to study and compare the statement made by me the other day and the remissions which were granted by the previous Government to get in with what they would have granted if that Government had remained in power, they would find that we are giving by way of concession nearly 2½ lakhs more in the year 1938-39. Sir, though the remission granted is much more than that given in the previous years, we feel that the *raiya*t are entitled to 50 per cent. of reduction, and we stand by that resolution. During the coming year it will be our effort to implement our revenue by taxing those who can afford to pay and then give effect to our pledge and to our resolution which we moved only the other day in this House.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: The Hon'ble Finance Minister, Sir, has just now stated that he wanted to give 50 per cent. land revenue reduction, but that owing to financial difficulties he could not. Sir, the condition of the *raiya*t when we were on the Government side was better than the condition now prevailing throughout the province. You know, Sir, that this year, due to heavy rain all over the province, there were floods and

the condition of the people has become worse now than before, and they deserve more than 75 per cent. of land revenue reduction. Sir, from the beginning of this year.....

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: On a point of order, Sir, for the benefit of the hon. member I may point out.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: This is not a point of order.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I am sorry. On a point of information, Sir.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: Is it a point of information, Sir?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I have allowed the Hon'ble Minister to speak.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: My hon. friend is making out a case that because of the floods, the people should be given more remission this year than in the previous year. I will read from the statement:—"These remissions are for the current year only and are exclusive of any remission which may be granted by Government on account of the floods which have prevailed in both valleys this year."

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May I know whether there is an order that rent reductions in the flood-affected areas are to be stopped this year?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Yes, Sir. There is an order to that effect.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: The Hon'ble Revenue Minister was pleased to say that he will consider the cases of people in the flood-affected areas, not this year, but next year. Sir, the flood has affected this year. It may not affect in the coming year. So I want to tell the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister that he should have given in his resolution more than 75 per cent. of reduction in the flood-affected areas. You will find in the district of Goalpara an all-round remission of 20 per cent. only. Sir everybody knows very well that condition of *raiya*s in the Goalpara district is worse than anything. Sir there was scarcity of rain for which the *raiya*s could not sow their paddy and due to floods, people could not reap their paddy. They also could not get their jute in time though there was a demand from this quarter. So Government should grant some relief immediately. The relief given has been inadequate. We tabled some adjournment motions, but unfortunately those motions were ruled out of order. I take this opportunity to express the grievances of the people of the Goalpara district, so that the Hon'ble Minister for Revenue might agree to see the condition of these people and try to give some relief to the poor tenants.

Sir, I would like to point out one thing. When the Hon'ble Premier and the Hon'ble Srijut Rupnath Brahma went to see this flood-affected areas, they never cared to go to the villages. They were only consulting with the officers at Dhubri and they never visited the flood-affected areas and never enquired about them. These Hon'ble Ministers were going to the houses of hon. members of this House to canvass and strengthen their party. The Hon'ble the Premier went to the house of Srijut Santosh Kumar Barua and he was there for two hours. But he said that he went to see the condition of the flood-affected people.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: How does the hon. member say that the Hon'ble Minister did not go to the house of Srijut Santosh Kumar Barua to get information about floods? (Laughter.)

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: We know, Sir, because there was a time given to meet the Hon'ble Ministers in the Circuit House at Dhubri, and the members of the Goalpara district bars were given some time to consult the flood situation; but unfortunately the Premier went to Mr. Barua and waited there for two hours just to bring him to his side. That was the state of things by which the Hon'ble Ministers of this Government were inspecting the flood-affected areas. Now, Sir, I can point out that even the Minister who is in charge of Revenue and Finance did not care even to see the condition of the flood-affected people.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: You would then have brought the same charge against me also.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: Sir, by this resolution I want to press that the Hon'ble Minister in charge will be able to give at least 75 per cent. of land revenue reduction in the district of Goalpara.

Mr. J. R. CLAYTON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this resolution ends with the words 'inadequate' and 'unsatisfactory' with regard to this land revenue remission. I will not refer to the 'inadequacy'; there has been quite a lot said about it, and we have our own views about land revenue remission in general. We feel that a flat-rate of land revenue remission is not very desirable and we think the capacity of the *raiyats* to pay has not been sufficiently considered. It will be better if the capacity to pay were improved by improved agricultural methods. So this rate of remission should not be based upon the present low capacity of the *raiyat* to pay. As I said, I am not going to refer to the inadequacy of remission in district by district and community by community. I do think, however, that whenever this question of land revenue remission is being gone into, the capacity to pay should be thoroughly studied. I will refer now to the "unsatisfactory" aspect of the present remission of land revenue. I will refer to one case only. That is with regard to the uneconomic tea gardens. The statement made by the Government is: "We feel that the hardship done to the tenants and the distress caused by the slump are not so great as in the case of the rural population." This is really with reference to the uneconomic tea gardens. The statement goes on, "moreover land revenue paid by owners of tea gardens, however small, is only a minute proportion of the expenditure which those owners, as capitalists, have to incur". Well the word 'uneconomic' in itself describes the condition of many of the small Indian owned gardens in the Province. The classification of uneconomic gardens has been made by the Indian Tea Licensing Committee, who have very minute statistics. Everyone knows now-a-days the low price which tea is obtaining particularly in the Calcutta market, and the high cost that is incurred in manufacture. In some of the smaller Indian owned gardens they have the greatest trouble in running the industry in spite of the Tea Control Act which has done something towards the stabilisation of the price. In the statement before us, there is a great deal of propaganda. The first two pages contain nothing else. Many think that this decision that Government have come to is there because the owners of tea gardens are capitalists and as such they must be penalised. The statement says, "the amount they have to pay is only a minute portion of the expenditure". It may be, it is so. But when the profit is nil, the increase of expenditure may cause a large increase in the loss sustained by the smaller Indian concerns. Many of these concerns cannot sustain that loss. Their resources are small. It is on behalf of the small Indian gardens that I am now speaking. I think the past Government gave this remission on very good grounds on very good information. The classification that the previous Government accepted was taken from the Indian Tea Licensing Committee and I do not feel there is any justification for the withdrawal of this remission by the present Government.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Sir, we are accustomed to the misfirings of hon. Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, but when I heard the eloquence of hon. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman, I rubbed my eyes to ascertain whether he is the same Khan Bahadur who so vehemently defended the previous Government on a lesser amount of remission made by them. Of course, Sir, it is not my intention to inflict any postmortem wounds on the members and supporters of the last Government, but I am constrained to say that the Khan Bahadur's objection is more or less manufactured and it is not prompted by any sincerity of purpose.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I do not think the hon. member can say like that.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Then as regards the charge of invidious distinction in remission made between district and district, Sir, that charge has been refuted by Mr. Clayton who comes from the same party. He also justified the action of the present Government by saying that there were grounds in making some distinction in the question of land revenue reduction. The hon. Khan Bahadur conveniently forgets that his party left a legacy of debit balance of over 10 lakhs to this Government to work with, and that this Government is still to work under the budgetary provision made by the previous Government which brought a different outlook on the problem of finances of this province. So, even within the limitations imposed by the previous Government, I think, that the concessions granted by this Government is more than satisfactory and the question of the entire fulfilment of the pledges by this party would only come when this Government would be in a position to put the finances in the way it desires. Sir, the finances must be established on a superstructure which is well-planned and well-balanced. If this Government gets a chance to put the House in order certainly it will never shirk the responsibility of fulfilling the pledges it has given from time to time

Then about the question of old debts. The Khan Bahadur referred to the speech made by hon. Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri yesterday that the old Government was working with a deficit of 35 or 36 lakhs of rupees, still they granted remission. But he conveniently forgets that the implications of the debts of the previous Government are not the same as the implications of the debts incurred by the present Government. If he understands the implications of these two varieties of loans, certainly he would not find fault with the present Government for the remission they have granted.

Sir, with these words, I whole-heartedly support the measures adopted by this Government towards the remission of land revenue and I hope that the House will extend their whole-hearted support to this Government in implementing their pledges in no distant time.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : At this stage I may inform the hon. members that we may extend the time of to-day's sitting and continue beyond 5 p.m. if they so desire. (*Voices from the Ministerialist Party: 'No' 'no'*). I am ready to sit sometime longer so that this resolution may be finished.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Sir, I do not know how far the Hon'ble Revenue Minister and the House will appreciate my speech on this subject. Those of us who belonged to the previous Government have been attacked for lack of imagination, lack of intelligence and lack of everything that is good. But still I can point out to the House that although we had to pay back a loan of 20 lakhs of rupees, even after making arrangements for repayment of that loan we left only a deficit of 5 lakhs which included an expenditure of 4 lakhs for flood affected areas and this deficit came about after giving remission of nearly 29 lakhs of rupees. Now,

Sir, after reading this beautiful document presented to the House by Hon'ble Minister we have come to understand first of all that no remission is going to be granted in respect of *Nisf-khiraj pattas* for the year 1938-39 although there was so much cry for it from his quarter in the past. Now the excuse that has been put forward by the Hon'ble Revenue Minister is that if he is not satisfied that the landlord will pass the remission on to their tenants, he will not be granting any remission to *Nisf-khiraj pattadars*. I think the Hon'ble Minister has already received a number of applications from the *Nisf-khiraj pattadars* in which they have stated that they will pass on the concession to their tenants. I hope my hon. friend Mr. Siddhinath Sarma will remember what agitation he made on their behalf. So this is the camouflage No. 1.

My Hon'ble friend the Revenue Minister claims that he has granted remission of more than 2 lakhs over the remission granted by the previous Government. Will the Hon'ble Revenue Minister be pleased to say how much he is going to get this year on account of extension of cultivation? Revenue increases every year on account of extension of cultivation and may I know how much he is going to get this year? Take the case of Nowgong where remission is increased by Rs. 6,000. I think land revenue has increased in that district on account of extension of cultivation very much more than Rs. 6,000. Then again the past Government had adopted the policy of giving liberal remission to the poor people—does not matter from where they come, whether they belong to Sylhet, Cachar or Kamrup. Poor people are to be treated equally everywhere and therefore five annas reduction was granted in respect of *pattas* paying Rs. 12 as revenue but now the Hon'ble Revenue Minister has made an invidious distinction between the poor people of different districts by granting them remission only up to Rs. 8 and no more. He has granted land revenue reduction at a little higher rate in some of the other districts but the benefit of this reduction does not actually go to the poorer class of people because they would not get remission of more than 5 annas in the rupee which they were given for 1937-38. Now if the Hon'ble Minister had any sympathy for the poor people, instead of granting 29 per cent. in particular district he should have granted 25 per cent. for all *pattas*. He should have granted more than 5 annas in the rupee for all *patta* holders. That would have shown that he has really some sympathy for the poor people. As for example in Nowgong district the benefit of the remission of Rs. 6,000 will not go to the poor people but it will go to the rich people who were outside the pale of 5 annas remission granted by the past Government. I hope, Sir, the House has followed me in that point that this grant of increased reduction in some districts has not benefited the poorer section—rather it has put some money in the pockets of the richer class of people who were hitherto getting a reduction of 25 per cent. only. There are persons Sir, who pay land revenue to the extent of Rs. 10,000 in the district of Kamrup. They previously got remission of 4 annas in the rupee. Now they will get a remission of little more than 4 annas.

Srijut SIDDHINATH SARMA: On a point of information, Sir. May I know who pays Rs. 10,000 as land revenue?

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I know that Srijut Upen-dra Nath Sen and some other gentlemen pay a large amount of revenue. Now my whole point is this that instead of giving a reduction of higher rate in particular districts, a higher rate of reduction ought to have been given to smaller *pattas*, and thus the poor people would have been greatly benefited. But, Sir, I am glad for one thing that the Hon'ble Revenue Minister and his colleagues have now realised that the flat rate of reduction is not

good idea and that the reduction ought to be graded. This principle which was laid by the previous Government has now been adopted by the present Government but in giving effect to that principle they have always leaned more towards the richer people than towards the poor and the reason is not far to seek. We have seen in recent times that the present Government has got greater sympathy towards the capitalists than towards the poor people. It is no wonder because the persons who are in affluent circumstances are helping the present Cabinet a great deal.

Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir. I only want to say just a few words as to how this land revenue reduction affects the poorer class of people in the districts of Sylhet and Cachar. I will not go into the larger question of how the Congress promised during their election to give 50 per cent. reduction and when they assumed office how they gave a reduction of 33 per cent. only as was given by the previous Government. This is a matter between the Congressmen and their electorates. When they will go to their constituencies, I am sure, they will hear more about it.

Srijut SIDDHINATH SARMA: May I know for which amount the hon. member voted?

Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: I voted for 33 per cent. reduction.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order, the hon. member should be allowed to go on.

Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: Sir, I am very much surprised to find that my hon. friend Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya who comes from Sylhet and who takes interest in the welfare of the poorer class of the people of Sylhet now supporting this measure of the Hon'ble Revenue Minister. Sir, the Congress pose as the friend and the champion for the masses, but the poorer people in Sylhet and Cachar are now realising how shallow is their claim and how false is their pretension.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: How do you know that?

Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: I keep myself in touch with the public. Sir, it is generally recognised that those people who pay revenue of Rs.12 and under are the class of people who need greatest relief and it was on this consideration the previous Government granted to this class of people an all-round reduction of 33 per cent. but, Sir, with the accession of the Congress in office, the poorer people seem to have leapt in sudden prosperity and do not seem to need the relief that they got a year ago. In my opinion the need for relief in Sylhet and Cachar particularly in Jaintia Parganas is much greater now than what it was a year ago. The hon. members are aware that recently Cachar had been devastated with a very severe flood and even gratuitous relief had to be given to several areas in that district. Jaintia Parganas which is a temporarily-settled area in the district of Sylhet is, as is well known, one of the poorest tracts in the whole province of Assam and besides this, it has also been affected by flood. So, Sir, it is the people of Jaintia Parganas and Cachar who need greater relief in the matter of land revenue reduction than people elsewhere, but they are getting less reduction than what they were given last year. It has already been said, Sir, that invidious distinction has been made between districts and districts and unfortunately the districts of Cachar and Sylhet have been the worst sufferers. To give a concrete example. In the district of Sibsagar the Estate of late Rai Bahadur Sivaprosad Barua has got a reduction of 30 per cent. in land revenue but the poor people of Sylhet and Cachar have got a reduction of 15 per cent. only.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA What does the hon. member mean?

Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: I am not referring to his Tea Estate, Sir. A multi-millionaire like him gets a reduction of 30 per cent. in land revenue while the poorer people of Sylhet and Cachar are getting only 15 per cent. reduction. My hon. friend Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri has rightly said that this shows leaning of the Congress towards the capitalists and towards the richer people. This richer people, as is well known, are the financier of the Congress and naturally the Congress have got to keep them in good humour. The poorer people of Sylhet and Cachar are thus going to be the worst sufferers in this respect. As a protest against this policy, I support this resolution.

Srijut SIDDHINATH SARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir. The position of the Congress remains the same as before (*Voices from the Opposition Benches* :— No), in connection with the land revenue reduction. Sir, in the last land revenue reduction Committee the position of the Congress has been made quite clear. My hon. friend Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman moved the following resolution in the last Land Revenue Enquiry Committee, *viz.*, that the existing remission should be continued for the next year exactly in its present form.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Has it been done?

Srijut SIDDHINATH SARMA: That has not been done by the previous Government.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: What has been done by the present Government?

Srijut SIDDHINATH SARMA: The remission that has been given by the present Government is greater than the remission that was granted by the previous Government and greater than what my hon. friend the mover of the present resolution proposed in the last Land Revenue Enquiry Committee.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Not in Cachar and Sylhet.

Srijut SIDDHINATH SARMA: In the last Land Revenue Enquiry Committee, the position of the Congress party was to the following effect and I moved the following resolution which was adopted by the majority of the Committee:—

“ This Committee recommends 50 per cent. reduction of land revenue to all *Khiraj* estates and that to recoup the deficit in the provincial revenue, tax be imposed on agricultural income of Rs.2,000 and over. Further, land held on lease from Government on concessional rates be assessed on normal rates particularly when land-holders belong to the capitalist class such as owners of tea gardens, oil fields, coal fields, lime quarries, etc. ”

The then Revenue Minister pointed out that these things could not be done within this year. To increase the resources of the Province from these sources to recoup the deficit would require some time. He said in the Committee that it would take at least a year. So, Sir, we agreed that existing remission be continued for the present year and to give effect to our resolution a Committee be formed to examine the whole question.

“ Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman then proposed that questions (1),(2) and (4) on the agenda of the last Land Revenue Enquiry Committee could not be properly answered without data being collected from the *raiyats* themselves and he moved the following resolution:—

“ This Committee recommends to the Government that a Sub-Committee be appointed consisting of 5 members of this Committee, to be chosen in consultation with the leaders of different groups of the Assembly, to examine these three questions by touring over the province and taking evidence where necessary. This resolution, after discussion, was adopted by a majority of 9 to 7. ” That means the imposition of agricultural income-tax on incomes over Rs.2 000, and to assess the land held on concessional rates by the capitalist class such as owners of tea gardens, oil fields, coal fields, etc.

So, Sir, the position is this. To give effect to our resolution of 50 per cent. reduction of land revenue, Government will have to recoup the deficit by imposing agricultural income-tax, by increasing taxes on petrol and on coal fields and on lands which are not assessed in the tea gardens, etc. This has been made abundantly clear in the Land Revenue Enquiry Committee. So, Sir, this question will have to be examined and we agreed to give some time to the Government to examine the questions and to give effect to the resolution. My hon. friend Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman also agreed to this and now it does not look well to change his attitude.

Next, Sir, my hon. friend Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman pointed out that the recommendation No.1 was meaningless. Yes, we still hold that recommendation No.1 is meaningless.

Sir, I still hold that payment of revenue of Rs.12 or less for a *patta* is not the criterion of poverty, because there are rich persons who have got *pattas*, the revenue of which is less than Rs.12. I may point out that our Premier has got several *pattas*, the revenue of which is less than Rs.12. So, Sir, I say that Congress position has not changed in any way in connection with the reduction of land revenue and Congress will give effect to its election pledges.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I could not entirely reply to the detailed criticisms that were levelled against the resolution. I pity the last speaker who was trying to wriggle out of the difficulty of his present position.

Sir, the issue has been sought to be clouded. It is not the issue whether I am consistent or inconsistent, or whether any member is consistent or inconsistent. The only question before the House is whether the remissions are adequate or inadequate. Can any hon. member of this House lay his hand on his heart and say that the present remissions are adequate and satisfactory? If they feel like that let them vote against this resolution, and the country will judge them but I expect consistency from them and support for my resolution. (*Hear, hear*).

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Mr. Speaker Sir, there are only one or two points to which I need reply. One of these points, which has been stated times without number by more than one speaker on the Opposition Benches is that we have, in cases of Cachar and Sylhet, given reduction of 33 per cent. only to those persons who hold *pattas* of Rs. 8 or less and not to those who hold *pattas* of Rs.12 or less as we have done in the case of temporarily-settled land in Assam Valley districts. In this connection, Sir, I should like to point out that the average incidence of land revenue in the temporarily-settled areas of Sylhet is 6 annas and 6 pies per *bigha* and in Cachar it is annas 8 and pies 10. It rises to annas 15 and pies 5 in Sibsagar. This means that a man paying land revenue of Re.1 in the Assam Valley districts is cultivating one *bigha* while in Sylhet two *bighas*, and in Cachar more than two. Sir, from these figures it can easily be seen that we have given proportionate and equal reductions to all the poor *rai-yats* all over Assam.

Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: May I ask one question? Do the poor people of Sylhet and Cachar who pay land revenue of Rs.8 or under get a greater relief from the revenue reduction under the present Government than they got from the previous Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Very much more. If the hon. member takes the trouble to scrutinise the figures, he will find that they are getting much more relief under the present Government than they in fact got from the previous Governments.

Then, Sir, another charge which has been levelled against the Government is that we have given more reduction to rich people. If the hon. members would care to read the Resolution of Government, they would find that the remission on all those *pattas* is conditional; that is to say the holders of big *pattas* will not get any concession if the reduction granted by the Government is not transmitted by these people to their tenants. No one can deny that rich people, holding big *pattas*, do not cultivate the land themselves, but rent it out to be cultivated by the poor people, i.e., their tenants. The remission, therefore, which we have granted to the rich people will ultimately be transmitted and benefit the poorer people; the benefit will not go to the rich people. From these facts alone, it will be clear that the arguments advanced by the members of the Opposition are without any basis and directed purely with a motive to create difficulties and not to help the present Government in implementing the undertaking, which we have given to the people.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: On a point of information, Sir. The Hon'ble Minister has just stated that he has passed orders for staying realisation of rent in the flooded areas. The other day also he stated that he had already issued instructions to the district officers of Goalpara to distribute the grants sanctioned by the Bijni Court of Wards. But a telegram has just been handed to me saying that this has not been done. Does it mean that the order is still in the Secretariat or in the Post Office?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Does that question arise, Sir?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: He only wants some information.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: If he wants information, I am going to repeat what I have already said. If he has a specific grievance against any District Officer, let him substantiate this grievance, and I am prepared to make an enquiry.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: I want to know whether he has already issued orders regarding this matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I am not going to say anything beyond what I have said in my statement to-day.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question before the House is: "That in the opinion of this House the remission of land revenue granted for the year 1938-39, as stated in the Government Resolution published in the *Assam Gazette* of 16th November, 1938, is inadequate and unsatisfactory".

The resolution was then pressed to a division and the House divided as follows:—

Ayes—34

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|---|--|
| 1. Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla. | 10. Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed. |
| 2. Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri. | 11. Khan Bahadur Dewan Eklimur Roza Chaudhury. |
| 3. Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhury. | 12. Maulavi Jahanuddin Ahmed. |
| 4. Babu Hirendra Chandra Chakravarty. | 13. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Keramat Ali. |
| 5. Srijut Jogendra Narayan Mandal. | 14. Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Choudhury. |
| 6. Maulavi Abdur Rahman. | 15. Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia. |
| 7. Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahab Chaudhury. | 16. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur Rahman. |
| 8. Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali. | 17. Maulavi Muzarraf Ali Laskar. |
| 9. Maulavi Ashrafuddin Md. Chaudhury. | 18. Maulavi Namwar Ali Barbhuiya. |
| | 19. Maulavi Sheik Osman Ali Sadagar. |

Ayes—34—*Concl'd.*

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| 20. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman. | 27. Mr. F. W. Hockenull. |
| 21. Col. A. B. Beddow. | 28. Mr. D. B. H. Moore. |
| 22. Mr. A. F. Bendall. | 29. Mr. R. A. Palmer. |
| 23. Mr. F. W. Blennerhassett. | 30. Miss Mavis Dunn. |
| 24. Mr. H. F. Clark. | 31. Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das. |
| 25. Mr. J. R. Clayton. | 32. Srijut Binode Kumar J. Sarwan. |
| 26. Mr. W. R. Faull. | 33. Rev. L. Gatphoh. |
| | 34. Mr. C. Goldsmith. |

Noes—54

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|---|--|
| 1. The Hon'ble Babu Akshay Kumar Das. | 30. Srijut Mahadev Sarma. |
| 2. Kumar Ajit Narayan Deb. | 31. Srijut Mahi Chandra Bora. |
| 3. Mr. Arun Kumar Chanda. | 32. Srijut Omeo Kumar Das. |
| 4. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee. | 33. Srijut Paramananda Das. |
| 5. Babu Balaram Sircar. | 34. Rai Bahadur Promode Chandra Dutt. |
| 6. Srijut Beliram Das. | 35. Srijut Purandar Sarma. |
| 7. Srijut Bepin Chandra Medhi. | 36. Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma. |
| 8. Srijut Bhuban Chandra Gogoi. | 37. Srijut Rajani Kanta Barooah. |
| 9. Babu Bipin Behari Das. | 38. Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua. |
| 10. Srijut Bishnu Ram Medhi. | 39. The Hon'ble Srijut Ram Nath Das. |
| 11. Babu Dakshinaranjan Gupta Chaudhuri. | 40. Srijut Sankar Chandra Barua. |
| 12. Srijut Debeswar Sarmah. | 41. Srijut Sarveswar Barua. |
| 13. Srijut Ghanashyam Das. | 42. Babu Shibendra Chandra Biswas. |
| 14. Srijut Gaurikanta Talukdar. | 43. Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma. |
| 15. The Hon'ble Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi. | 44. The Hon'ble Maulavi Md. Ali Haidar Khan. |
| 16. Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan. | 45. Maulavi Muhammad Amiruddin. |
| 17. Babu Harendra Narayan Chaudhuri. | 46. The Hon'ble Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed. |
| 18. Srijut Jadav Prasad Chaliha. | 47. The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali. |
| 19. Srijut Jogendra Chandra Nath. | 48. Srijut Bideshi Pan Tanti. |
| 20. Srijut Jogeschandra Gohain. | 49. Srijut Dhirsingh Deuri. |
| 21. Babu Kalachand Roy. | 50. Mr. Jobang D. Marak. |
| 22. Srijut Kameswar Das. | 51. Srijut Karka Dalay Miri. |
| 23. The Hon'ble Babu Kamini Kumar Sen. | 52. Srijut Khorsing Terang. |
| 24. Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy. | 53. Srijut Rabi Chandra Kachari. |
| 25. Mr. Kedarmal Brahmin. | 54. The Hon'ble Srijut Rupnath Brahma. |
| 26. Srijut Krishna Nath Sarmah. | |
| 27. Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya. | |
| 28. Srijut Lakshesvar Borooah. | |
| 29. Babu Lalit Mohon Kar. | |

The Ayes being 34 and the Noes 54 the resolution was lost.

PROROGATION

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Now I shall announce the message from His Excellency the Governor proroguing the Assembly under section 62 of the Government of India Act, 1935.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 62 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I, Robert Niel Reid, hereby prorogue the Assam Legislative Assembly, at the conclusion of its meeting of the 9th December, 1938.

SHILLONG:

The 7th December 1938.

The Assembly was then prorogued.

R. N. REID,
Governor.SHILLONG:
The 4th February 1939.A. K. BARUA,
Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.

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NOTE ON THE ASSAM MEDICAL RESEARCH SOCIETY'S
OPERATIONS AGAINST MALARIA

Both Government and Industrial bodies have, in the past, expended large sum on vain endeavours to establish effective malaria control because recommendations had been based on unscientific basic principles. The control measures adopted had been based on the analogy of the measures used with success in other parts of the world but without scientific knowledge of the bionomics and breeding habits of the local insect vector responsible in Assam for the transmission of malaria.

It must be explained that 31 species of anophelines have been found in Assam, any one or more of which might have been the carrier species. In 1929, Strickland and Ramsay reported *A—minimus* to be the carrier species in Cachar. It became necessary therefore to determine whether, in fact, this species was the responsible carrier species in all parts of Assam. The Society, in a random sampling of 63 different survey areas in different parts of Assam, have on the basis of 54,500 dissections of anopheline mosquitoes, proved *A—minimus* to be the principal vector species, although four other species have been found infected.

It then became necessary to determine accurately the breeding habits and bionomics of *A—minimus* before any scientific fundamental principles for malaria control recommendations could be presented. On the basis of 800,000 larval catches, from healthy, moderately endemic and hyperendemic areas, with the complete data as to the monthly period of catch and the type breeding places of each specimen the society, have now the requisite scientific data to lay down specific scientific recommendations as to the breeding places of *A—minimus* and the period when control measures should be applied under varying topographical conditions.

Other factors apart from the bionomics of *A—minimus* have had to be studied in relation to all types of malariogenic areas in Assam, *e. g.*, the flight distance of *A—minimus*, the capability of transmitting malaria according to seasons, the effects of larval drift in streams ; the type and prevalence of the plasmodium species in different parts of Assam, etc.

On the basis of the work described above a classification of malariogenic water areas in Assam has been published, and experimental control projects were selected where control measures have been put into operation. It has been necessary to determine the efficacy of the measures recommended on a scientific basis as these were not in accordance with measures previously advocated by other workers. As has been stated by the Scientific Advisory Board, Indian Research Fund Association, in 1935, if these experimental measures prove successful, they may be expected to be of great practical importance.

The results to date indicate that the measures are proving successful and therefore may be of incalculable value in solving the malaria problem in Assam as is shown by the following :—

Experimental Areas	When Control started Cold Weather	Before Control		Present	
		Spleen Rate	Parasite Rate	Spleen Rate	Parasite Rate
Nowgong Town	1935-36	51.2	34.6	8.3	4.3
Gauhati Town	1934-35	21.6	24.0	6.1	6.6
North Lakhimpur Town ..	1934-35	31.6	46.4	23.3	10.3
Mangaldai Town	1934-35	31.5	25.7	7.8	2.2
Surma Valley Villages ..	1935-36	48.0	40.1	8.9	10.5
Assam Valley Villages* ..	1935-36*	76.5	54.6	62.3	38.6

* Although villagers in this group had previously agreed not to do so, they cut the bank of a river, flooding about 370 acres of land, and have hence reduced the value of this experiment.

Researches by the Society have included the efficacy of rice bran as a larvicide, the efficacy of re-inforced Cinchona febrifuge, the use of a slow intravenous method of quinine treatment, the uses of Plasmequine and of Atebrin, the periodicity of malaria factors in Assam, the development of a one man brushing method for application of oil as a larvicide, the development of appliances for the prevention of larval drift, the development of the shaded broad drain method of larval control, the efficacy of Pyrocide 20 as a larvicide and experiments to determine the effects of Iothomi chrysantha as a shade plant for malaria control.

The Society have completed the training in malariology of 107 medical licentiates of whom 63 were Sub-Assistant Surgeons of the Medical and Public Health Departments and 44 were licentiates employees of Local Boards, Tea, Railway and Oil Companies in the Province. Seventy men have completed their training as Malaria Inspectors and have subsequently been placed in employment.

The Society works in close co-operation with the Public Health Department and the Provincial Advisory Malaria Committee, giving recommendations for, and supervision of, the anti-larval, treatment and other schemes in relation to malaria in Assam.

The results of researches by the Society have been received with appreciation by the Malaria Advisory Committee at the Annual Research Workers' Conference. Extracts from the Annual Reports of the Scientific Advisory Committee, Indian Research Fund Association, are given below :—

1933.—“ Colonel Sinton (Chairman, Malaria Advisory Committee) said the scope of the investigations reported was very much greater than could be expected from the size of the grant (then Rs.15,000) and indicated the stimulus which the support of the Indian Research Fund Association had given to malaria work in Assam ”.

1934.—“ Many members of the Working Committee spoke highly of the valuable work being done by this Society ”.

1935.—“ Dr. Rice described the results of his investigations into the relationship between physiographical conditions and the seasonal prevalence of malaria in Assam. On the basis of his findings he has instituted malaria control measures, which, if successful, might be expected to be of great practical importance. He reports that the preliminary results of this work are encouraging.”

1936.—“ Dr. Rice described the results of his investigations during the past year and reported the good results obtained by mass treatment with plasmoquine and cinchona over a period of five years. Experiments on cold weather and pre-monsoon control by anti-larval measures had produced promising results. Various anti-larval measures were described and gave rise to an interesting discussion. The Committee expressed its appreciation of the work carried out under Dr. Rice ”.

1937.—“ Dr. Rice described the results of his investigations during the past year.....Results of experimental cold weather and pre-monsoon anti-larval control were encouraging, but it is still too early to give an accurate evaluation of the efficacy of these methods.....The Committee expressed its appreciation of the work carried out under Dr. Rice's directions ”.

Colonel Anderson, Honorary Secretary, in a recent report to the Governing Body of the Society stated ; “ The services of Dr. Rice have been characterised by efficiency and by whole-hearted devotion to his work which is of the highest order and value to malaria research and which has been the subject of very favourable comment by the Malaria Advisory Committee of the Indian Research Fund Association. In fact, I believe that the recent grant of Rs.1,00,000 to the Society by the Government of India, through the Indian Research Fund Association, was in no small measure due to the work and researches carried out under Dr. Rice's direction and to the fact that in this officer the Society possesses a Research Officer of outstanding ability and energy ”

“ It is most desirable that the experiments with cold weather controlshould be carried on to completion and that in doing so there should be no solution of continuity in the work which would be inevitable should Dr. Rice's services and experience no longer be at the Society's disposal. This work, should it prove as successful as the results up-to-date indicate, may well be of incalculable value in helping to solve the malaria problem in this Province.”

“ Finally, I feel sure that the Governing Body will agree with me that Dr. Rice commands the respect and complete confidence of the Society's constituents and that this fact is of no small importance in ensuring their continued support ”

AUTHENTICATED SCHEDULE OF SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENTS OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR
1938-39, LAID BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN THE DECEMBER SESSION, 1938, UNDER
SECTION 81 OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT, 1935

Number of Grant	Heads	Amount already authenticated under sections 80 and 81 of the Government of India Act, 1935			Supplementary amount laid before the Assembly			Amount of cut made by the Assembly	Amount included by Governor	Total authenticated amount			Remarks
		Non-excluded areas (Voted)	Non-excluded areas (Charged)	Excluded areas	Non-excluded areas (Voted)	Non-excluded areas (Charged)	Excluded areas			Non-excluded areas (Voted)	Non-excluded areas (Charged)	Excluded areas	
1	10.—Forests ..	Rs. 8,87,300	..	Rs. ..	Rs. ..	Rs. ..	Rs. ..	Rs. ..	Rs. 8,97,980	..	Rs. ..	Rs. ..	14
2	27.—Administration of Justice.	6,60,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,67,000	..	..	..
3	40.—Agriculture ..	5,93,500	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,03,344	..	..	..
4	41.—Veterinary ..	..	900	..	..	300	..	..	..	1,200	..	..
	Total ..	21,40,800	900	..	27,524	300	21,68,324	1,200	

R. N. REID,
Governor.

The 7th December, 1938.

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