

Proceedings of the First Session of the Second 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 29th March 1946.

P R E S E N T :

The Hon'ble Mr. Debeswar Sarmah, Speaker, in the Chair, six Hon'ble Ministers and eighty-six Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Introduction of improved implements and methods of cultivation

†Maulavi MAKABBIR ALI MAZUMDAR asked :

*24. Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge be pleased to state—

- (a) The names and places in the Province where improved implements and improved methods of cultivation had been introduced by the Department of Agriculture ?
- (b) Whether the Hon'ble Minister has any scheme on the point ?
- (c) Whether the Hon'ble Minister has any scheme for reorganising the Agriculture Department to make it more useful ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

24. (a)—Improved implements like western plough, Planet Junior Hand Hoe, some gardening implements and sugarcane crushers have been introduced throughout the Province. As for the improved methods of cultivation demonstrations with manures in the proper spacing of crops, in number of seedlings per hole in the case of paddy, in economic seed rates and with improved seeds were carried out in a great number of cultivator's fields throughout the Province. Enumeration of these will involve great delays and extra labour.

(b)—There is no specific scheme on the point but the Department has provided for an Agricultural Engineer to invent and to introduce improved implements and has Seed Distribution Scheme for distributing improved seeds and Manure Distribution Scheme for giving manures at concessional rates.

†(Put by Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury on authorisation.)

(c)—The Agricultural Department has recently been reorganised and will be reorganised to prove useful to the Agriculturists in general including those in remote villages.

†Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: With regard to question No.24(a), may I know the names of the places where those implements have been introduced ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: I have already asked for the names of the places. These are being collected by the Department. These will be sent to the hon. Member when received.

†Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: May I know whether improved implements have at all been introduced in any place ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: The answer is already given.

†Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: May I have one or two names, Sir ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: I wanted the names from the Department but the names have not yet been supplied to me.

†Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: My question is, Sir, whether these have been tried in any place ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Department is collecting the names and the names will be given when obtained. The Hon'ble Minister has said that the names have not yet been supplied.

†Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: What does the Hon'ble Minister mean by 'improved implements' ? Are they scientific implements ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It is a question of opinion. The words 'improved implements' are sufficiently indicative.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: The answer is there. Improved implements are Western plough, Planet Junior Hand Hoe, some gardening implements and sugarcane crushers.

†Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Does the Hon'ble Minister intend to introduce power pumps for reorganising the Department ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: I suppose there is a contemplation in the Department to introduce implements like this.

†Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Does he mean by 'cultivation', cultivation of paddy only ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Not paddy only.

†Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: What else ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: To improve Rabi crops, *i.e.*, winter season crops.

†Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Does it include jute and potato ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Certainly it includes potato. As regards jute I am not sure.

†Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state whether pump machines have been supplied to Boro areas in Sunamganj Subdivision ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: None has been supplied as yet.

†Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: May I understand from the hon. Questioner, what he means by pump machinery ?

†Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: The hon. Member may consult the Dictionary.

Contracts for carrying gravels under the P. W. D.

‡Srijut KAMESWAR DAS asked :

*25. (a) Is it a fact that all large contracts for carrying gravels under the Public Works Department are given at first instance to the Assam Transport alone unless in any particular case they decline to execute the same ?

(b) Is it a fact that in some cases in which the Assam Transport declined to execute particular contract works themselves, they nominated the Allied Transport with request to Government to give the latter preferential consideration ?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state what action was taken thereon ?

(d) Is it a fact that the rate allowed to the Assam Transport is much higher than the rates allowed to others in such cases ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state the reason for giving higher rate to the Assam Transport and a lower rate to private contractors ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

25. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The Provincial Motor Transport Controller allotted haulage in the Barpeta Subdivision to the Allied Transport. There was no request to give preferential treatment.

(c) Allotment of the haulage to Allied Transport was not accepted. The Executive Engineer was instructed to make his own arrangements by calling for tenders and/or accepting rates not in excess of those agreed to by the Rates and Wages Board.

(d) & (e)—Yes. But rates must vary according to the nature of the job. Contractors who are entirely free to manage their own affairs are usually in a position to offer lower rates *ad hoc* than an official organisation like Assam Transport which must pay its way in the interest of the general tax-payer and was created in order to ensure the existence of transport under full control for all purposes for Government work.

†Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF: May I know whether Srijut Mahendramohan Choudhury has got the authority to put the question on behalf of Srijut Kameswar Das ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Hon. Srijut Kameswar Das has left a written authority to put the question by Srijut Mahendramohan Choudhury and under the rules this is allowed.

†Speech not corrected

†Put by Srijut Mahendramohan Choudhury on authorisation.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: Did I understand the Hon'ble Minister to have said that higher rate was paid in the interest of the general tax-payer?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Yes. It must pay its way in the interest of the general tax-payer.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: Will the Hon'ble Minister please enlighten the House who are connected with the Assam Transport business?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I understand that the Assam Transport was started in the year 1942, but I cannot say who are its members or who are connected with it. It is a Government business, I am informed.

Khan Sahib Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN: With regard to question No.25 (a), it appears from the answer that all the contracts were given to the Assam Transport. Does not the Hon'ble Minister think that by this method other private enter-prises will be killed and the interests of other contractors will suffer?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: That is a question of opinion.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: Does the Hon'ble Minister say that other concerns did not agree to carry gravels at a lower rate?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I did not say that.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: If any private concern come forward to carry gravels at a lower rate will Government consider the desirability of giving them contract?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: That will be considered, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: Will Government consider the cases of private companies even if it affects the Assam Transport?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: We shall see, Sir, what can be done.

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: Is it in the contemplation of Government to do away with the Assam Transport?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I am not in a position to reply to this question, as Assam Transport does not come under my portfolio.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister who are running the Allied Transport?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I myself wanted this information, but all the information I could get was that the Allied Transport is a private concern somewhere in Barpeta.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: May I know the special reasons for giving preferential treatment to this Allied Transport?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I have already said, Sir, that whatever information I could get has been placed before the House.

Maulavi ABDUL HAI: Have Government any information when was the Allied Transport started?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: It was started during the time of the last Government; beyond that I cannot say anything.

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: May I know the reasons why Assam Transport recommended the Allied Transport ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I have no information about that.

Mr. PRABHUDAYAL HIMATSINGKA: May be because they are allied.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I don't know.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table.)

Further Supplementary questions on unstarred question No. 85*

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: In the reply to question No.85, the Hon'ble Minister has stated "though they already have their eye on certain aspects of the situation". May we know what are those "aspects of the situation" ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That question was put and answered yesterday.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: May we know if the Hon'ble Minister wants to make it a precedent that in such matters he will form his policy on the report of the newspapers even if the Government officers do not submit any report ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: I do not understand what the grievance is. What I said is this ; that Government have seen reports in newspapers and Government are alive to the necessity that may arise of taking any precautionary steps. No tangible action has been taken in the manner suggested by the hon. Questioner. It is the duty of Government to take note of everything that comes to their notice and be ready for any eventuality.

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: Do Government realise that this kind of irresponsible and unwise question will have more a tendency of aggravating the situation than easing it ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order, this question is not permissible. It is not eliciting information but attacking the Questioner.

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: But, Sir, are Government alive to this danger ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: Government cannot prevent any hon. Member from putting such questions.

Khan Sahib Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN: I come from Habiganj, I reside in the Habiganj town.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order. The hon. Member may put questions, but it is not permissible for him to make a statement as he is doing now.

Khan Sahib Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN: Can the hon. Questioner supply any particular instance of "general lawlessness" at Habiganj ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: Yes, Sir, he did try to do so yesterday.

Khan Sahib Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN: He cited one instance only which appeared in a paper. Can he cite any other instance besides what was published in "Palli-bani" a paper not known to any one ?

*SHRI ABALA KANTA GUPTA asked:

85. Do Government propose to consider the suggestion of detailing extra Police to deal with cases of general lawlessness in Habiganj ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied:

85—Government are not clear what the hon. Member means by "cases of general lawlessness". They will have no hesitation in arranging for the provision of extra Police on any occasion when they consider it necessary for the preservation of public order. At present they have no reason to expect affairs to go out of hand in this subdivision, though they already have their eye on certain aspects of the situation.

Shri ABALA KANTA GUPTA: I have collected this informations from various sources and I have got nothing more to add at present.

Dhubri Government High School

Khan Bahadur Maulavi ABUAL MAJID ZIAOSH SHAMS asked :

86. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of students in the Dhubri Government High School in the months of April, December and January 1945 and 1946 separately ?
- (b) The number of students in the Gathati Government High School during the same months as mentioned in question (a) above ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that for the last several months, the number of teachers in the Dhubri Government High School has been only 24 ?
- (d) The number of teachers in the Dhubri Government High School during the last six months ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that for about 500 students in a High English School, two sections in each class must be maintained ?
- (f) Is it a fact that over and above the 28 teachers one additional teacher is necessary for teaching additional subjects ?
- (g) Whether it is a fact that including the additional subjects 5 teachers have been short in the Dhubri Government High School for the last 5 or 6 months ?
- (h) Whether it is a fact that for teaching Mechanics and Hygiene there is no teacher at the Dhubri Government High School ?
- (i) If the replies to questions 86 (g) and (h) above are in the affirmative when do the Government propose to remove the shortage by appointing or posting more teachers there ?
- (j) Whether there is any other Government High School in the Province in which there has been such shortage of teachers at present ?
- (k) What is the shortage of teachers due to in the Dhubri Government High School ?

87. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Besides the sanctioned and the notified holidays on how many days the Dhubri Government High School remained closed in 1945 ?
- (b) On how many days in 1945 the School broke off after some classes were held ?
- (c) The reasons which led to the closing of the School as stated in questions 87 (a) and (b) above ?
- (d) The number of days on which full classes were held in the Dhubri Government High School in 1945 ?

*The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

86. (a)—January 1945	...	409
April 1945	...	493
December 1945	...	488
January 1946	...	489
(b)—January 1945	...	454
April 1945	...	506
December 1945	...	528
January 1946	...	527

(c)—Yes.

(d)—24.

(e)—No. Sections are to be maintained having regard to the enrolment in each class and not on the total enrolment in the school.

*The questions were answered by the Hon'ble Mr. B. K. Das, in the absence of the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

(f)—No. The hon. Member is referred to Appendix III at pages 476-77 of the Education Department Rules and Orders.

(g)—No. The school has the required staff.

(h)—There is a post of Science Master for the purpose.

(i)—Does not arise.

(j)—Yes. Sylhet/Barpeta Government High Schools.

(k)—Does not arise, *vide* answer to (i) above.

Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE: With regard to question No.86(h), may I know whether there is any teacher teaching Mechanics and Hygiene in the Dhubri Government High School at present ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: The answer is "There is a post of Science Master for the purpose", and it appears that there is also an incumbent in that post.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Are we to take it that the teacher who has been appointed for Science is competent to teach Hygiene ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: Why not, Sir; I think Elements of Hygiene can be taught by a Science teacher.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: With regard to answer to question No.86 (i), may we know how many teachers are short in the Sylhet Government High School, and for what time ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: I want notice of that question, Sir.

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY: Do Government propose to make up the shortage of teachers in the Barpeta High School soon ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: If the shortage affects the quality of teaching Government will certainly appoint more teachers.

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY: Does not shortage affect the quality of teaching ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: Not always, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: In view of the fact that Sylhet Government High School is a very important institution, will Government take immediate steps for filling up the vacant posts ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: Government will certainly consider this, Sir.

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

87. (a)—17 days.

(b)—2 days.

(c)—Reasons for 87 (a) above—

7 days on account of visitors,

6 days on account of Central and Provincial Assembly Elections,

and 4 days on account of Middle School Leaving Certificate and Scholarship Examination.

Reasons for 87 (b) above—

The School went on strike on account of Subhas Day and Police Firing in Calcutta on 31st August, 1945 and 23rd November, 1945 respectively.

(d)—188 days (from 1st April 1945 to 11th March 1946).

Damages to cultivation by wild elephants in Jaintia Hills

Mr. LARSING KHYRIEM asked :

88. (a) Are Government aware of the damages done to cultivation by wild elephants in the interior of the Jaintia Hills ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to open Kheda Operation wherever necessary ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

88. (a)—Yes ; complaint of damage has already been brought to the notice of Government.

(b)—The matter has been noted for the elephant programme of 1946-47, which is the earliest season in which fresh hunting operations can now take place.

Purchasers of cloths (both Textile and Standard) for the Assam Province

Khan Bahadur Maulavi ABUAL MAJID ZIAOSH SHAMS asked :

89. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Who are the purchasers of cloths (both Textile and Standard) for the Assam Province ?

(b) Whether those purchasers have purchased the Assam quota for (i) November 1945, (ii) December 1945, (iii) January 1946 and (iv) for February 1946 ?

(c) If the answer for any of the months specified in question (b) above be in the negative, what are the reasons for such failure ?

(d) How much profit per cent. for these purchasers has been fixed ?

(e) Who are the district purchasers from these provincial purchasers, giving the names for every district ?

(f) The profit per cent. every district purchaser is making for his purchase, giving the figure for every district ?

(g) The profit per cent. each wholesaler is making from these district purchasers ?

(h) The profit the retailer is making from these wholesalers ?

(i) Whether it is a fact that for the District of Goalpara and for the Dhubri headquarter station the district purchasers have not got their quota of cloths for (i) November 1945, (ii) December 1945, (iii) January 1946 and (iv) February 1946 ?

(j) If the answer for any of the months specified in question (i) above be in the negative what are the reasons therefore ?

(k) What steps Government propose to take for non-supply and non-purchasing of cloth as stated in questions (b) and (i) above ?

90. (a) Are Government aware of the instance of black marketing now going on in Assam with regard to cloths ?

(b) Is it a fact that Government is contemplating introduction of rationing of cloths in Assam ?

(c) If so, when rationing of cloth will be introduced ?

*The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

89. (a)—The Textile Supply Company, and the Assam Provincial Co-operative Textile Supply Society in respect of non-Standard Cloth and the Government in respect of Standard Cloth.

(b)—Yes. Except a portion of November and some bales in December.

(c)—There is no question of complete failure. A part of our quota of non-Standard Cloth for November and December lapsed partly as the goods offered are found unsaleable and partly due to lack of funds of the Provincial Co-operative Textile Supply Society. Quota of Standard Cloth did not lapse and most of the December quota not purchased by the Provincial Society was revived and purchased by the Textile Supply Company.

(d) $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. in respect of non-Standard Cloth.

*The questions were answered by the Hon'ble Mr. Basanta Kumar Das in the absence of the Hon'ble Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee.

(e)—Subdivisional Co-operative Wholesale Societies in subdivisions and nominees of local officers where no such society exist (A list of such nominees is shown below.)

Names of nominees for District Purchasers

1. N. Cachar (Haffong)	...	Kalooram & Bros.	...	Haffong.
2. Kohima & Mokokchang	...	Messrs. P. B. Das & Co.	...	Manipur Road.
3. Aijal	...	Messrs. Chottalai Seth	...	Silchar.
4. Lungleh...	...	J. R. Chakravarty	...	Chittagong.
5. Digboi	...	General Manager, A. O.	...	Digboi.
		C. Ltd.		
6. Tirap	...	Political Officer	...	Margherita.
7. Garo Hills	...	Rai Meghraj Maising	...	Rowmarighat.
		Bahadur.		
8. Sadiya	...	Political Officer	...	Saikhowa Ghat.
9. Balipara	...	Messrs. Dhanraj Chatur-	...	Lokra.
		sen Jain.		
10. Imphal	...	Arts & Crafts Member	...	Manipur Road
				Stn.

(f)—Previously it was $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in case of unopened bales and 1 per cent. in case of opened bales. It was subsequently raised to a maximum of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Subject to issue to retailers at $14\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. above the *ex-mill* price.

(g)—Subdivisional Societies are usually the only wholesalers and the so-called wholesalers are treated as retailers. Where wholesalers are functioning, they are allowed 1 to 2 per cent. profit, the rate varies according to local needs.

(h)—Generally up to $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

(i)—No. Dhubri got 357 bales in November, 158 bales in December, and 162 in January. Goalpara got 98 bales in November, 40 in December and 44 in January. Information regarding February has not yet been received.

(j)—Does not arise.

(k)—Procuring agents have been instructed to purchase the full quota excepting the unsaleable and unwanted varieties.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: May I know, Sir, who are the Directors of the Assam Provincial Co-operative Textile Supply Society?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: To reply to that question, Sir, I will have to make certain enquiries from quarters concerned.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Sir, from the answer to question No. 89 (c), we find "Quota of Standard Cloth did not lapse and most of the December quota not purchased by the Provincial Society was revived and purchased by the Textile Supply Company" and from the answer to the question No. 89 (a), we find that "in respect of Standard Cloth Government were the purchasers". How is it that the Standard Cloth was purchased by the Textile Supply Company?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: This arrangement was made by the last Government and we do not know the reason for that.

Srijut LAKSHMIDHAR BORAH: Sir, from the answer to question No. 89(c) we find "A part of our quota of non-Standard Cloth for November and a fact that the goods were purchased under the instruction of a Government Officer who was deputed to Bombay and at much higher price than the ordinary price and so those goods were found unsaleable?"

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: The hon. Member has supplied certain information which Government will take note of and will try to ascertain whether it is a fact or not.

*Srijut LAKSHMIDHAR BORAH: Sir, in the same answer it is said that due to lack of funds of the Provincial Co-operative Textile Supply Society a part of the quota of those two months could not be purchased. Will Government take it from me that it is not due to lack of funds, Sir, but because the goods were purchased at much higher rate by the Textile Supply Company under the instruction of the Government Textile Officer stationed at Bombay. And for that reason those goods became unsaleable. Therefore the Bank which was supplying the funds so the Textile Supply Company, out of protest, stopped supplying further funds.

†The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: The hon. Member is supplying a large number of facts which the Government will enquire.

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA: In purchasing those goods, Sir, was there any corruption?

†The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: That is a matter of opinion.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: Sir, may I know whether the contract to the Textile Supply Company to purchase cloth was given after calling tenders?

*The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: It was done by the last Government. But as far as I know, it was not given by calling tenders.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: When the Provincial Co-operative Textile Supply Society failed to bring the quota for lack of funds why the contract has been renewed with that Society by the Government?

*The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: This Government is maintaining the arrangements made by the previous Government. Now this Government will consider what further arrangements can be made.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: What is the freight charged from Bombay to Assam, Sir?

*The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: I am not in a position to reply to this off-hand, Sir.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: In the answer to question No. 89 (f), it is stated "Previously it was $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in case of unopened bales and 1 per cent. in case of opened bales. It was subsequently raised to a maximum of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Subject to issue to retailers at $14\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. above the ex-mil price." In view of this $14\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in the case of retailers, what is the freight charge from Bombay to Assam, Sir?

*The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: I am not in a position to say now. As the Hon'ble Minister in-charge is engaged in the Upper House, the hon. Member may put this question again tomorrow as a supplementary question.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes, all the supplementary questions in this connection will stand over till tomorrow.

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied:

90. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes in respect of urban areas.

(c)—Already introduced in some parts and arrangements are being made to extend to the rest.

*Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY: Sir, with regard to question No. 90(b), the question is: "Is it a fact, that Government is contemplating introduction of rationing of cloth in Assam?" and the answer given is "Yes in respect of urban areas". May I know, Sir, what the Government propose to do in respect of rural areas?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: It will be found in answer to (c) that Government has already introduced rationing in some parts and

arrangements are being made to extend to the rest. If the hon. Member wants to know the names of the places where rationing has already been introduced I may tell him that they are Nowgong, Gauhati, Shillong and Sylhet. As regards introduction of rationing in rural areas, Government are considering whether it can be done.

*Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: May I know, Sir, what is the quota of cloth in the ration card *per capita*?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: Sir, I am only replying on behalf of the Hon'ble Supply Minister. He is engaged elsewhere. It appears that further supplementary questions, will be asked. May I ask, therefore that putting of further supplementary questions including the one just put be postponed for tomorrow so that the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge may be here to supply all necessary informations the House may want from him?

Post-War Reconstruction Schemes

Shri ABALA KANTA GUPTA asked:

91. Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Post-War Reconstruction be pleased to state whether he proposes to review the schemes of Post-War Reconstruction previously made and make necessary modifications where necessary?

†The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied:

91.—The hon. Member's attention is drawn to the statement made on this subject by the Hon'ble Finance Minister in his Budget Speech.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: May I know who made these schemes?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: Hon. Members know that an outline of the schemes in the form of a report was drafted by Mr. S. C. Ray, under the guidance of Sir Keith Cantlie, and then Mr. Hadi Hussain in consultation with the Heads of Departments prepared the schemes.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Is it a fact that there was a Central Reconstruction Committee and the schemes were examined before that Committee?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: Yes, that is so.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: In view of the importance of the Post-War Reconstruction Schemes, will Government please form a Planning Committee to reoast and remould the schemes in the light of the election manifesto of the Members of the Treasury Bench?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: Government will consider that question.

Assam Engineering Service

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY asked:

92. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether they are contemplating to fill up the four vacancies in the cadre of Executive Engineers in the Province by direct recruitment?
- (b) If so, whether the candidates who have applied for the posts possess the necessary qualifications as advertised?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that there are men with equal academic qualifications and experience in the present Provincial Service of Engineers?
- (d) If so, whether Government propose to fill up those vacancies by promotion as has been the practice hitherto?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied:

92. (a)—There are two vacancies in the Class I Assam Engineering Service for Executive Engineers. These will be filled up by selection from Class II.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—Vacancies will be filled up by selection according to the rules.

*Speech not corrected.

† The question was answered by the Hon'ble Mr. Basanta Kumar Das in the absence of the Hon'ble Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee.

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY: Is it a fact that lately applications were invited for appointments of four officers in Class I of the Assam Engineering Service?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Yes, advertisement was issued for those appointments.

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY: Will those applications be considered?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Those applications will be dealt with.

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY: May I take from the Hon'ble Minister's reply that those appointments will be made after consideration of the applications received?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Appointments will be made on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission when it comes.

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY: From the reply given to question No. 92(a), may I take that these vacancies will be filled up by selection from Class II of the Assam Engineering Service?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Yes, that is the reply if the officers are found suitable.

Epidemic diseases

Dr. C. G. TERRELL asked:

93. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they have taken any steps for the protection of the population against preventable epidemic diseases, such as cholera, by annual inoculation and small-pox by ensuring that every individual has been vaccinated?

(b) If the reply to question (a) above is in the negative, do Government propose to give proper consideration to this matter?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied:

93. (a) & (b)—It is not practicable to give annual cholera inoculation to all. Inoculation is done during cholera epidemics in necessary areas.

Vaccination is compulsory only in the Municipal areas, and in areas declared small-pox infected by the Deputy Commissioner concerned. Proposals to improve vaccination work are under Government consideration.

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: Are Government aware that there are some areas in the Province which are being annually visited by cholera epidemic?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Sir, there may be certain places.

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: Do Government propose to inoculate all the persons belonging to those areas?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Government will see to that, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Are Government aware that inoculation during the epidemic period proves sometimes very dangerous?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Government are not aware of that.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Will Government please enquire into the matter?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: I shall take the suggestion, Sir.

Permanently settled area of Garo Hills

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM asked:

94. (a) Is it a fact that the major part of the Plains portion of Garo Hills belongs to the permanently settled area?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to lay on the table the terms of the leases under which they have taken these lands from the Zamindars?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

94. (a)—The hon. Member is referred to page CXVIII of the Introduction to the Land Revenue Manual. Only 428 acres of plains land in the Garo Hills is now permanently settled.

(b)—Copies of the Agreements concluded in 1878 are laid on the table.

AGREEMENT WITH THE ZAMINDARS OF MECHPARA

Agreement made at Goalpara this second day of June 1878 by A. C. Campbell, Esq., Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara, on behalf of the Secretary of State for India, on one side, and Babus Khogendra Narain Chaudhuri, Tilok Ram Chaudhuri, Udhab Ram Chaudhuri, Bholanath Chaudhuri, Komla-Kanto Chaudhuri, Loke Nath Chaudhuri, and Bhadresvar Chaudhuri, Zamindars of Mechpara, inhabitants of Lakhipur, district Goalpara, and proprietors of land which from the subject of this agreement, on behalf of themselves, their heirs, executors and assignees on the other side.

1. That the said Zamindars of Mechpara agree to withdraw on the following conditions their civil suit now pending before the Judge of the Assam Valley Districts to establish their rights to receive the rents collected on, and to get possession of certain lands, being portions of their permanently-settled estate of pargana Mechpara, in Goalpara district, which have been demarcated by Mr. Beckett, and declare to be within the Garo Hills district, as notified in the *Assam Gazette* of 15th July 1875.

2. That the said A. C. Campbell, the Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara, on behalf of the Secretary of State for India, tenders to the Zamindars of Mechpara above named a sum of Rs. 14,700 being equal to twenty times the average estimated annual income of three years of the villages situated beyond the old Goalpara boundary, as described in the survey maps of 1853-54, and the said Zamindars received the same and agree for themselves, their heirs, executors, and assignees to resign in perpetuity to the Secretary of State for India all rights, titles and interests possessed by them in the said villages and lands, and, should the amount now paid to be found after survey of tract and adjustment of accounts to be less than what is due to the Zamindars, the said A. C. Campbell, Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara, on behalf of the Secretary of State for India, or whoever may be the Deputy Commissioner for the time being shall pay the deficit, and, should the said amount be proved to be in excess, the Zamindars above named shall refund the excess by deduction from future payments to be made to them by Government on account of the "A" villages.

3. That the said A. C. Campbell, Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara, on behalf of the Secretary of State for India, hereby agrees that the Government admits the said Zamindars, their heirs, assignees, and executors, the "A" villages within the old boundary of the Goalpara district, as described in the survey map of 1853-54, shall realise them, pay to the said Zamindars, their heirs, assignees and executors on or before the 31st March of each financial year, through the Deputy Commissioner of the Garo Hills, 75 per cent. of the collections of all descriptions, retain 25 per cent. on account of collection charges, and furnish every year, to the said Zamindars, their heirs, executors, and assignees collection papers and accounts of such collections.

4. That the said A. C. Campbell, Officiating Deputy Commissioner, Goalpara, on behalf of the Secretary of State for India, hereby agrees that the land marked "B" in the plaint, a schedule of which is attached to this agreement, remain in the permanent possession of the said Zamindars, their heirs, executors,

and assignees, that they shall make all settlements, realise all the rents and profits, etc., thereof, independently, at the rates fixed by the Deputy Commissioner of the Garo Hills, that they shall not realise any rents or profits in excess of the rates so fixed; and that as the said Zamindars are greatly assisted by the Government in realising the rents, and as they are protected from the oppressions and persecutions of the neighbouring savage people by Government, they will remit 15 per cent. on the annual collections, with the collection papers, on or before the 31st March of every financial year to the Deputy Commissioner of the Garo Hills, and shall themselves receive 85 per cent. on account of proprietary rights.

5. That the said A. C. Campbell, Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara, on behalf of the Secretary of State for India, hereby agrees that the said Zamindars, their heirs, executors, and assignees shall retain the full possession of, and power to exercise in the "A" and "B" tracts whatever rights over wild elephants they have in other parts of their permanently-settled Zamindari, or such rights over wild animals which other proprietors of permanently-settled lands have; but the said A. C. Campbell, on behalf of the Secretary of State for India, does not hereby create or concede any right which the said Zamindars never legally possessed or exercised.

6. That both the parties agree that the demarcation be effected in the beginning of the next cold season between the "A" and "B" villages, and in effecting this demarcation the villages and lands managed by the Surbarakar of the Garo Hills shall be deemed "A" villages, and the villages and land managed previous to 1875 by the Zamindars be deemed "B" villages. That the demarcation be effected on the basis of the Zamindari and the said Surbarakar's papers.

7. That the said A. C. Campbell, Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara, on behalf of the Secretary of State for India, agrees to pay to the said Zamindars the sum of Rs. 16,000 only on account of payments due to them for collections in "A" and "B" villages from the date on which the said Zamindars ceased to receive revenue from them up to date of this agreement, that an exact statement of amounts payable on the above accounts to the Zamindars be prepared as early as practicable, and any sum ascertained to be still due to the said Zamindars be immediately paid by Government to them or their heirs, assignees, or executors, and should there be any amount found to have been paid in excess, the said Zamindars agree to refund it by deductions from the payments to be made to them by Government on account of the "A" villages.

8. That the said A. C. Campbell, Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara, on behalf of the Secretary of State for India, hereby agrees to pay the said Zamindars the sum of Rs. 5,000 in satisfaction of all costs incurred by them in prosecution of the suit before the Judge of the Assam Valley Districts, and on their agreeing to forego all claims to interest on the accumulated collections of the past years to which they may deem themselves entitled.

9. That the said A. C. Campbell, Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara, on behalf of the Secretary of State for India, doth hereby covenant to make over the management of the "B" villages to the said Zamindars within one calendar month from the date of this agreement, along with papers relating to their assessments.

10. That the said Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara hands over to the Zamindars mentioned above extract, paragraph 1, of letter No. 853, dated the 8th May 1878, of the India Government, empowering him to execute this agreement on behalf of the Secretary of State for India.

(Signatures and Schedule of "B" Villages.

AGREEMENT WITH THE ZAMINDAR OF BIJNI

Agreement made at Dhubri this tenth day of June 1878, by A. C. Campbell, Esq., Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara, on behalf of the Secretary of State for India in Council, on one side, and Raja Kumud Narain Deb, Zamindar of parganas Habraghat and Khunthaghat, inhabitant of Dumria, in district of Goalpara, proprietor of lands which from the subject of this agreement, on behalf of himself, his heirs, executors, and assignees, on the other side.

1. That the said Zamindar Raja Kumud Narain Deb agrees to withdraw on the following conditions, his civil suit now pending before the Judge of the Assam Valley Districts to establish his right to receive the rents collected on, and to recover possession of certain lands, being portion of his permanently-settled estate of pargana Habraghat in the district of Goalpara, which have been demarcated by Mr. Beckett, and declared to be within the Garo Hills district, as notified in the *Assam Gazette* of the 15th July 1875.

2. That the said A. C. Campbell, Esq., Officiating Deputy Commissioner, of Goalpara, on behalf of the Secretary of State in Council for India, hereby admit the said zamindar's, his heir's, executors' and assignees' rights as proprietors of permanently-settled lands over the rents and profits of the lands, the subject of this agreement, the said lands being a part of his permanently-settled pargana Habraghat, and the said Zamindar agrees that Government shall realise the rents and profits thereof, and pay to the said Zamindar, his heirs, executors, and assignees, on or before, the 31st March of each financial year, through the Deputy Commissioner of the Garo Hills, 75 per cent. of the collections of all descriptions, retain 25 per cent. on account of collection charges, and furnish to the said Zamindar, his heirs, executors and assignees collection papers and accounts of such collections.

3. That the said A. C. Campbell, Esq., Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara, on behalf of the Secretary of State in Council for India, hereby agrees that the said Zamindar, his heirs, executors and assignees shall retain the possession of, and power to exercise in, the said lands whatever rights over wild elephants he has in other parts of permanently-settled zamindari, or such rights over wild animals which other proprietors of permanently-settled lands have: but he, the said A. C. Campbell, Esq., on behalf of the said Secretary of State, does not hereby concede or create any new right which the said Zamindar never legally possessed or exercised.

4. That the said A. C. Campbell, Esq., Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara, on behalf of the Secretary of State for India, hereby agrees to pay the said Zamindar the sum of Rs. 2,000. in satisfaction of all costs incurred by him in the prosecution of the suit before the Judge of the Assam Valley Districts, and Rs. 116, being the amount realised from the said lands by the Deputy Commissioner of Garo Hills from 31st March 1876 to 31st April 1878.

(Signatures and Schedule of "B" villages.)

AGREEMENTS WITH THE ZAMINDARS OF KARAIBARI

(1)

This agreement is made this sixth day of September 1878, by A. C. Campbell, Esq., Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara, on behalf of the Secretary of State for India, on one side, and by Bhubanesvari Debya, mother of Jotindro Mohun Lahiri, minor, a shareholder Zamindar of 12-anna portion of pargana Karaibari, in the district of Goalpara, for herself, her heirs, executors, and assignees, on the other side.

2. That I, A. C. Campbell, Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara, on behalf of the Secretary of State for India, do hereby agree that the

boundary of Pargana Karaibari, as laid down in the Government Survey map of 1849-54, be maintained as the boundary of the said Pargana Karaibari, and that the portion included in the district of the Garo Hills by Mr. Beckett's demarcation remain under the jurisdiction of the Garo Hills district, and the remaining portion under that of the district of Goalpara.

3. That I, Bhubanesvari Debya, mother of Jotindro Mohun Lahiri, minor, a shareholder Zamindar, for myself, my heirs, executors, and assignees, do hereby relinquish for ever all Zamindari rights and interests which I now possess or have ever possessed in the tract situated east of the boundary of the Karaibari Pargana, as shown in the Government Survey map of 1849-54 of Goalpara district, and will accept as compensation for the same an amount to be calculated at 20 times of the average collections of the last three years before the 1st April 1874, less "karan", Jumma, and 25 per cent. on account of collection charges, *i. e.*, the actual sums which we derived from the said tracts in those three years. That the amount of compensation thus calculated be paid to me according to my share at the option of Government, either in a lump sum or by annuity at the rate of 5 per cent. on the said amount of compensation.

4. That I, A. C. Campbell, Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara, on behalf of the Secretary of State for India, do hereby recognise that all the land between the former boundary of the Karaibari pargana as shown in the Government survey map of 1849-54, and the boundary laid down by Mr. Beckett, and exhibited in the Government survey map of 1876, is a portion of the permanently-settled estate of the Zamindars of pargana Karaibari, that they possess therein all Zamindari rights and interest, but that the said tract of land will remain under the management of the Government, who will make all collections within the said tract and pay the same to the Zamindars according to their respective shares, deducting only "karan", Jumma and 25 per cent. on account of collection charges, and that in such places where "karan" Jumma has not hitherto been levied, the same will not now be collected.

5. That I, A. C. Campbell, Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara, on behalf of the Secretary of State for India, do not hereby recognise the right of the Zamindars to catch wild elephants in the tract mentioned in the above parganah, or in any other tract, but that their claims to such right will receive the same consideration as granted to other Zamindars similarly situated.

6. That I, Bhubanesvari Debya, mother of Jotindro Mohun Lahiri, minor, a shareholder Zamindar of pargana Karaibari, do hereby agree that the land between the east of Mr. Beckett's boundary and the former boundary be surveyed and the boundary be well marked out by stone prisms, and that the cost of the survey be paid by me, which may be deducted from the money that will be payable to me under this agreement.

7. That I, A. C. Campbell, Officiating Deputy Commissioner, on behalf of the Secretary of State for India, do hereby agree that the compensation on account of abolition of "sairat" collections be continued to be paid to the Zamindars of pargana Karaibari, as has hitherto been done.

8. That the said A. C. Campbell hereby agrees that any grass or bamboos or wood or other material required by the Zamindars for the construction of their private cutcherries or houses will be granted them free of cost, on application to the Deputy Commissioner, Garo Hills.

9. That the said A. C. Campbell, and Bhubanesvari Debya, mother of Jotindro Mohun Lahiri, minor, agree that these terms be subject to the confirmation of the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

(Signatures)

(2)

This agreement is made this sixth day of September 1878, by A. C. Campbell, Esqr., Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara, on behalf of the Secretary of State for India, on one side, and by Nil Komal Lahiri, Hari Sharn Moitra, and Konuktara Debya, shareholder Zamindars of 12-anna portion of pargana Karaibari, in the district of Goalpara, for themselves, their heirs, executors, and assignees on the other side.

2. That I, A. C. Campbell, Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara, on behalf of the Secretary of State for India, do hereby agree that the boundary of pargana Karaibari, as laid down in the Government survey map of 1849-54, be maintained as the boundary of the said pargana Karaibari, and that the portion included in the district of the Garo Hills by Mr. Beckett's demarcation remain under the jurisdiction of the Garo Hills district, and the remaining portion under that of the district of Goalpara.

3. That I, Nil Komal Lahiri, I, Hari Sharn Moitra, and I, Konuktara Debya, shareholder Zamindars, for ourselves, our heirs, executors, and assignees, do hereby relinquish for ever all zamindari rights and interests which we now possess or have ever possessed in the tract situated east of the boundary of the Karaibari pargana as shown in the Government survey map of 1849-54 of Goalpara district, and will accept as compensation for the same an amount to be calculated at 20 times of the average collections of the last three years before the 1st April 1874, less "Karan", Jumma and 25 per cent. on account of collection charges *i.e.*, the actual sums which we derived from the said tracts in those three years, that the amount of compensation thus calculated be paid to us at the option of Government, either in a lump sum or by annuity, at the rate of 5 per cent. on the said amount of compensation.

4. That I, A. C. Campbell, Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara, on behalf of the Secretary of State for India, do hereby recognise that all the land between the former boundary of the Karaibari pargana as shown in the Government survey map of 1849-54, and the boundary laid down by Mr. Beckett and exhibited in the Government survey map of 1876, is a portion of the permanently-settled estate of the Zamindars of pargana Karaibari that they possess there in all Zamindari rights and interests: but that the said tract of land will remain under the management of the Government, who will make all collections within the said tract and pay the same to the Zamindars according to their respective shares, deducting only "karan", jumma and 25 per cent. on account of collection charges, and that in such places where "karan", jumma has not hitherto been levied, the same will not now be collected.

5. That I, A. C. Campbell, Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara, on behalf of the Secretary of State for India, do not hereby recognise the right of the Zamindars of the pargana to catch wild elephants in the tract mentioned in the above paragraph or in any other tract, but that their claims to such will receive the same consideration as granted to other Zamindars similarly situated.

6. That I, Nil Komal Lahiri, Hari Sharn Moitra, and Konuktara Debya, shareholder Zamindars of pargana Karaibari, do hereby agree that the land between the east of Mr. Beckett's boundary and the former boundary be surveyed, and the boundary be well-marked out by stone prisms, and that the cost of the survey be paid by us, which may be deducted from the money that will be payable to us under this agreement.

7. That I, A. C. Campbell, Officiating Deputy Commissioner, on behalf of the Secretary of State for India, do hereby agree that the compensation on account of abolition of "sairat" collections be continued to be paid to the Zamindars of pargana Karaibari, as has hitherto been done.

8. That the said A. C. Campbell hereby agrees that any grass or bamboos or wood or other material required by the Zamindars for the construction of their

private cutcherries or houses will be granted them free of cost, on application to the Deputy Commissioner, Garo Hills.

9. That the said A. C. Campbell and Nil Komal Lahiri, Hari Sharn Moitra, and Konuktara Debya, agree that these terms be subject to the confirmation of the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

(Signatures.)

(3)

This agreement is made this sixth day of September 1878, by A. C. Campbell, Esqr., Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara, on behalf of the Secretary of State for India, on one side, and by Gunomoni Debya and Barada Sundari Debya, Zamindars of the 4-anna portion of pargana Karaibari, in the district of Goalpara, for themselves, their heirs, executors, and assignees, on the other side.

2. That I, A. C. Campbell, Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara, on behalf of the Secretary of State for India, do hereby agree that the boundary of pargana Karaibari as laid down in the Government survey map of 1849-54 be maintained as the boundary of the said pargana Karaibari, and that the portion included in the district of the Garo Hills by Mr. Beckett's demarcation remain under the jurisdiction of the Garo Hills district, and the remaining portion under that of the district of Goalpara.

3. That I, Gunomoni Debya, and I, Barada Sundari Debya, for ourselves, our heirs, executors and assignees, do hereby relinquish for ever all Zamindari rights and interest which we now possess or have ever possessed in the tract situated east of the boundary of the Karaibari pargana as shown in the Government survey map of Goalpara district of 1849-54, and will accept as compensation for the same an amount to be calculated at 20 times of the average collections of the last three years before the 1st April 1874, less "karan", jumma at 25 per cent. on account of collection charges, *i. e.*, the actual sums which we derived from the said tracts in those three years. That the amount of compensation thus calculated be paid to us at the option of Government, either in a lump sum or by annuity at the rate of 5 per cent. on the said amount of compensation.

4. That I, A. C. Campbell, Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara, on behalf of the Secretary of State for India, do hereby recognise that all the land between the former boundary of the Karaibari pargana, as shown in the Government survey map of 1849-54, and the boundary laid down by Mr. Beckett and exhibited in the Government survey map of 1876, is a portion of the permanently-settled estate of the Zamindars of pargana Karaibari, that they possess therein all zamindari rights and interests, but that the said tract of land will remain under the management of the Government, who will make all collections within the said tract and pay the same to the Zamindars according to their respective shares, deducting only "karan", jumma and 25 per cent. on account of collection charges, and that in such places where "karan", jumma has not hitherto been levied, the same will not now be collected.

5. That I, A. C. Campbell, Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara, on behalf of the Secretary of State for India, do not hereby recognise the right of the Zemindars of pargana Karaibari to catch wild elephants within the tract mentioned in the above paragraph or in any other tract, but their claims to such right will receive the same consideration as granted to other Zamindars similarly situated.

6. That I, Gunomoni Debya, and I, Barada Sundari Debya, do hereby agree that the land between the east of Mr. Beckett's boundary and the former boundary be surveyed, and the boundary be well-marked out by stone prisms, and that the cost of the survey be paid by us, which may be deducted from the money that will be payable to us under this agreement.

7. That I, A. C. Campbell, Officiating Deputy Commissioner, on behalf of the Secretary of State for India, do hereby agree that the compensation on account of abolition of "sairat" collections be continued to be paid to the Zamindars of pargana Karaibari, as has hitherto been done.

8. That the said A. C. Campbell, hereby agrees that any grass or bamboos or wood or other material required by the Zamindars for the construction of their private cutcherries or houses will be granted them free of cost, on application to the Deputy Commissioner of Garo Hills.

9. That I, Gunomoni Debya, and I, Barada Sundari Debya, hereby acknowledge to have received from the said A. C. Campbell the sum of Rs.10,000 as an advance on collections payable to us under clauses 3 and 4 of this agreement, and that the said amount be subject to adjustment on the accounts for the said tracts being made up.

10. That the said A. C. Campbell and Gunomoni and Barada Sundari Debya agree that these terms be subject to the confirmation of the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

(Signatures.)

*Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: Do Government mean that only 428 acres of plains land in the Garo Hills is permanently-settled area which had been taken by them on lease from different Zamindars?

†The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: Yes, that is in the answer.

*Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: The expression "permanently-settled" used in the reply is different from "permanently settled area" used in my Question. Will the Hon'ble Minister please state the reason for such difference?

*The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: There was some dispute between the Government and the Zamindars, and according to the terms of the settlement some lands are leased by Government as being permanently settled. For this reason the expression "permanently settled" has been used in the reply. Only 428 acres is the area that is leased by Government as being permanently settled. For this reason copy of the Agreement has been attached to the answer of the Question.

*Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF: It is found in paragraphs 2 and 5 of the Agreement that there are two schedules "A" and "B" villages but we do not find them attached to the Agreement. May we know, Sir, what is the reason?

*The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: It is because the Agreement was made subject to the scrutiny on the floor of the House.

*Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: I am not clear, Sir. What is meant by "now permanently-settled"?

*The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: The portion mentioned in the reply has been admitted by Government to be permanently-settled area. It may be within the district of the Garo Hills, but all the same, the portion of the land is permanently-settled estate of the Zamindars. That is what is meant.

*Maulavi ABDUL HAI: May I know, Sir, whether there was any permanently-settled area in the Garo Hills?

* Speech not corrected.

† The questions were answered by the Hon'ble Mr. Basanta Kumar Das in absence of the Hon'ble Srijiut Bishnuram Medhi.

*The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: I want notice of this Question, Sir.

*Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF: Sir, we find mention of a map of 1853-54 in paragraph 3 of the Agreement. May I know, Sir, whether this is the Reyneld's map or not.

*The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: With regard to this Question, I require notice because it will have to be ascertained if this is Reyneld's map or it was prepared by any other authority.

*Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF: In paragraph 4 of the Agreement we find that Government were protecting the Zaminders against the oppressions of savage people. Are the Garos still a savage people, Sir?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Agreement cannot be criticised on the floor of the House but only information regarding this matter can be had and this Agreement was laid on the table in pursuance of the Question.

*The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: It appears, Sir, Government are being subjected to cross-examination on account of this Agreement.

Establishment of Agricultural Training Schools

Shri ABALA KANTA GUPTA asked:

95. (a) Is it a fact that three schools are to be started shortly one at Jorhat, one at Gauhati and the other at Sylhet for agricultural training at a cost of over two and half lakhs of rupees?

(b) Do Government propose to take immediate steps to establish one such institution instead of three for teaching both junior and senior courses in Agriculture?

(c) If not, why not?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied:

95. (a)—Yes.

(b) & (c)—Government are contemplating to have a full-fledged Agricultural Institute in the Province.

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY: Sir, from the replies to Question No 95(a), we find that Government admit to start three Agricultural Schools in Assam but from replies to Question No. 95(b) we find that Government propose to establish one institution for the whole Province. From these replies it is not clear to us what the Government intend to do, whether they are going to start three Schools or only one institution for the whole Province. Will the Hon'ble Minister please enlighten us on this point?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Three Agricultural Schools will be established and Government is contemplating to establish another full-fledged institution quite independently for the whole Province.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Do not Government consider it a sheer waste of money to start three Schools when they propose to have one full-fledged Agricultural College in the Province? Will Government consider this

question and abandon the idea of starting three Agricultural Schools in the Province ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: This question will be considered, Sir, but it cannot be taken for granted that starting of three schools and another full-fledged institution will mean sheer waste of money.

Maulavi ABDUL HAI: May I know, Sir, if the full-fledged institution will be a school or a college ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: It will be of college status, I think.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Where this full-fledged institution will be located, Sir ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: The site has not yet been selected.

Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Then the schools will feed the college, is that so ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: It may be.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister how many Agricultural Colleges are there in the whole of India ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: I want notice of this Question, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: May I ask the Hon'ble Minister to take note of this fact before he finally decides to establish an Agricultural College in Assam ?

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Is the hon. Questioner aware that there is insistent demand for more agricultural colleges throughout India ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I was wondering whether we are sitting in the Indian Legislative Assembly or in the Assam Legislative Assembly.

Supply of D. D. T. or Gammexane

Dr. C. G. TERRELL asked :

96. Will Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken to obtain supplies of D. D. T. or Gammexane for use of the civil population in this Province ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

96.—Government have from time to time made request to the Central Government and a small quantity of D. D. T. (225 lbs.) was received.

The Government of India have now asked for Assam's requirements, and some further quantities of both D. D. T. and Pyrethrum are expected in due course.

No Gammexane is at present expected.

Dr. C. G. TERRELL: Will the Hon'ble Minister inform us why Assam has been treated so badly by the Government of India in respect of supply of this very important insecticide ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: I do not know the full reasons, Sir. But so far as I know, they were short of stock.

Dr. C. G. TERRELL: May I know, Sir, when the supply is made available if a certain portion at any rate would be made available for the civil part of the population, industrial organisations and tea gardens and so on, or whether all of it would be earmarked for Government schemes such as schemes for protection of villagers against *Kala-azar*, or whether it will also be made available for ordinary civil needs of the population in Assam ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: That depends upon the supply, Sir, that we would be getting from the Government of India.

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: In reply to this Question, the Government says—"The Government of India have now asked for Assam's requirements, and some further quantities of both D.D.T. and Pyrethrum are expected in due course". May I know, Sir, whether Assam's requirements include both for the public and the Government.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Yes, Sir, both for the public and Government.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: What is the process of its distribution, Sir?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: According to the present process, Sir, it is distributed through the Public Health Department when stock permits.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Can it be available from the Public Health Medical Officers?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Yes, Sir.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Can it be available by mere asking, Sir?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Not by mere asking but on application.

Dr. C. G. TERRELL: Sir, the Hon'ble Minister said that Government of India have asked for Assam's requirements. May I know, Sir, whether Assam's requirements have been submitted to the Central Government, and if so, what is the amount of Assam's requirements?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: The Government of India have asked us very recently to submit our requirements and we have asked the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals and the Director of Public Health to ascertain our requirements and after they have ascertained, we will submit it to the Government of India.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: After all this discussion, may I know from the Hon'ble Minister what is exactly the D.D.T. and what are its efficacies?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think, hon. Dr. Terrell's Question remains partly unreplyed. Has the requirement been submitted to the Government of India?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Not yet, Sir. Our requirements have not yet been ascertained by the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals and the Director of Public Health.

Dr. C. G. TERRELL: May I ask, Sir, in view of this important matter and the very urgent need in this Province for this insecticide that the requirements should be very carefully estimated and possibly be checked by those who have experience in its use—those who know most about it.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: That will be considered, Sir.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Will Government take into consideration the requirements of the public when distribution is made?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Sir, the requirements of the public will be taken into consideration.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Question of Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury remained unanswered. In view of the fact that we have got one hour and ten minutes at our disposal and today is the last day for Demands for Grants, I hope the hon. Member will get his information outside the House.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Unfortunately we do not know what is D.D.T.

Demands for grants

GRANT No. 23.

(43.—INDUSTRIES.)

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.3,51,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1947 for the administration of the head "43.—Industries".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.3,51,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1947 for the administration of the head '43.—Industries'."

There are as many as twelve Cut Motions and the time allotted is only half an hour. May I know which of the Cut Motions will be moved?

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: I think, Cut Motion No. 9 will cover all the Motions. It stands in the name of Maulavi Ali Haidar Khan.

Maulavi ALI HAIDAR KHAN: I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 3,51,200 under Grant No. 23, Major head—43.—Industries, at page 126 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 3,51,200 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my object in moving this Cut Motion is to raise a discussion about the Industrial policy of the Government. I feel it my painful duty to criticise the Government's policy and its Department—the Department of Industries—for no part or little part they have played in the development of this important Department. The Government have definitely failed to evolve any policy or programme and things have been allowed to drift on. Files after files were started, schemes were drawn up, Questions were put in the Legislature, but all in vain. They all lacked proper guidance and sincerity. Big ideas were conceived but produced little or nothing.

With all the trouble and expenses some cottage industries were started here and there and I should say, not with a view to help the people but with a view to justify the existence of the much-spoken Industries Department. These have also proved a failure. To say more would not add to their credit and so the less said the better.

Sir, our country has got a very good scope for agricultural and industrial development. We can do things to our heart's content. We have our forest produces and various kinds of raw materials. We have also large areas of hills which should undergo Geological Survey and be exploited.

Above all, we have abundance of raw materials which Nature has given us; but, Sir, it is a pity to find that we are still nowhere and have no industry in our country of which we can be proud. Sir, all these days we have supplied others with our raw materials and have fed foreign industries and what have we gained by this? Nothing but economic slavery with all its bitterness. Our import has always been much more than our exports. We have suffered enough and unless we can wake up from our slumber our sufferings shall have no limit.

The British Parliamentary Mission have come to our country and God willing, we hope that we shall soon be entering into a new era. If this be so, then our responsibilities will be much greater than what it is today. We shall have to maintain our independence in every respect, not merely in words and speeches but in economic life as well. So, Sir, this is the time when we should get to work in order to build the life line of our country—Education, Health, Agriculture, Industries, etc. and improve the economic system in order to get in line with other independent countries of the world.

If we want to live like freemen and wish to achieve our object then, first of all, we must deserve it. We are living in a world of competition and diplomacy and if we want to survive we must prove our fitness. We should be independent both in ideas and action and shake off inferiority complex from our minds. Sir, if we look to the small countries of the world we will find that almost all are in a better economic condition than we are, though their resources are negligible in comparison to that of ours. Why then cannot we improve our condition? One thing may be said that they are independent whereas we are not. I admit it, but, Sir, we can yet do a lot if we can do away with our slave mentality and our inferiority complex.

However, I would like to be brief and say something as to how this Department of Industries could function to the best interests of the country in the light as I see it from a layman's point of view.

Sir, now that money would be available from the Government of India, I would suggest that this Government adopt a policy of industrialization of this Province and start major industries, such as—Paper Mills, Textile Mills, Sugar Mills, Glass Factories, Jute Mills, Iron and Steel Works, Chemical works, etc., without any further delay with a highly technical expert as Head of the Industries Department. He should be both theoretical and practical and at the same time, should possess a thorough knowledge of different industries and commerce outside India.

Now, the question can be put as to how these industries should be started. I would suggest, Sir, that the major industries should be started on Company system, the shares being sold to the public keeping, say, 25 to 30 per cent. by the Government. This will not only encourage people but will create confidence in the public mind, and at the same time, this will allow people to have a good start in such enterprises.

As for the smaller industries, those may be left solely to the public and subsidised by the Government if such subsidy is required by the promoters.

Lastly, about the cottage industries, Sir, they should be left entirely to the villagers only to be run either individually or collectively as they may think best and convenient, the Department taking such care as to help them with their advices and demonstrations.

Before I finish, Sir, I would draw the attention of the Government and request them to provide ample facilities to the public for the transport of their products through Railways and Steamers at a cheaper rate and find out markets for their disposal.

I hope, the hon. House will give its sympathetic consideration to my suggestions.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

"That the total provision of Rs. 3,51,200 under Grant No. 23, Major Head—43.—Industries, at page 126 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 3,51,200 do stand reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. W. D. RUTHERFURD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Cut Motion with just a few words on a most important matter which is affecting the industries in Assam. To enable Industries to thrive, it is essential that plenty of small change and small denomination notes be available to the public. The scarcity of small coins is mercifully a thing of the past, but the public are now experiencing great trouble with dirty and soiled notes. The sub-treasuries are refusing to accept for exchange soiled or torn notes and these must now be sent to the Currency Office, Calcutta. This is surely an unnecessary hardship to inflict on the public, and I should like the assurance of Government that old and soiled notes will be freely exchanged on presentation at all sub-treasuries in Assam.

Maulavi MAYEEN-UD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is to draw the immediate attention of the Government to the need of providing facilities to the intending businessmen of Assam to start paper, cotton and sugar mills and other industries in Assam that I rise to support the cut motion moved by hon. Friend, Maulavi Ali Haidar Khan. Sir, the pity of pities is that Assam being one of the richest Provinces in India in raw materials, is behind all other Provinces in India in business and industry. God, in his kindness has filled up the forests of Assam with raw materials for all kinds of industries, but poor as we are, we have not up till now been able to utilise them to our advantage. There is not a single industry in Assam worth the name which can compete with the world market, and the few that are in existence in Assam are also, to our misfortune, not in the hands of the people of Assam. Having the advantage of their capital the foreigners have come into Assam and are exploiting us to their fullest advantage (cries of "Question" from the European Benches). The truth of my statement will be established from the very fact that since the introduction of the Government of India Act, 1935, the people of Assam could not send a son of Assam to the Assembly to represent her commerce and industry in this hon. House. How long are we to allow the gifts of God meant for the people of the soil to be used by others to their advantage?

Sir, with the cessation of hostilities all the industrial countries in the world have become wide awake to take the best advantage of all scientific inventions and discoveries during the war and every country is out to take the fullest advantage possible in the field of industry and business. But, Sir, are we to remain where we are? I hear that various kinds of new business are going to be introduced in Assam and that people from other Provinces are pouring into Assam to exploit us. But I should ring a note of warning to the Government that if they encourage outsiders in preference to the indigenous businessmen of the Province and shower their patronage to them in matters of business, the people of Assam, Hindus and Muslims, will not tolerate it and will stand solidly against such a move on the part of the Government.

Sir, there is immense scope for the establishment of paper, cotton and sugar mills in Assam and if my informations are correct, the Government have already made necessary survey about the sites to be selected for such industries both in the Surma Valley and in the Assam Valley and after proper investigations, have been satisfied that sufficient bamboo pulps are available in the Manu and Kushi-yara valleys in the Sylhet District to justify the establishment of a paper mill at Manumukh and Manu Railway station has been found to be a suitable place for starting cotton mills as large quantities of cotton grow in Kailashahar area in Hill Tippera. If a right move is given by the Government by way of encouraging the sons of the soil in matters of business, I can assure the hon. House that within 10 years, Assam will become one of the foremost industrial Provinces in India. So far as my information goes, there are two Chambers of Commerce in Assam—one is the Assam Chamber of Commerce and the other, the Muslim Chamber of Commerce. If the Government make it a point to consult the representatives of the two Chambers before patronizing any individual or a group of individuals in any industry and introduce the same with their help and co-operation, it will not only encourage the people of Assam to take to industry and business but will go a great way towards solving the unemployment problem of Assam. The few industries and business which exist in Assam are not only in the hands of outsiders but are also manned by the outsiders; and hence the people of Assam have not taken any interest so long in the field of industries. I therefore urge upon the Government, and I am sure all the hon. Members of this House will join with me, that they should give due importance to the two Chambers mentioned before and should not encourage any individual or a group of individuals to take up any industry without consulting the said Chambers.

In conclusion I, earnestly request the hon. Members of the Government Benches to rise above the valley question and see that Surma Valley is not deprived of its legitimate share in the field of business. By sheer weight of majority in the Government Party they should not try to take everything that comes to Assam away to their homes.

In the end, I would request the hon. Members of the Surma Valley in the Government Benches to be alive to this fact and see that by their negligence and want of strength of mind, Surma Valley is not deprived of its rightful shares in business and industry which are to grow up in the very near future. If they fail they should remember that responsibility will be theirs. We want our due share in the field of business.

With these words, Sir, I support the Cut Motion moved by my hon. Friend, Maulavi Ali Haidar Khan.

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED: The Industries Department is known as one of the nation building departments. During the war period this Department was not given so much importance, only on the argument of transport difficulties and want of requisite materials. It is about a year that the war has ended, but I am surprised to see the Budget figures for this Department. Any one scrutinising the Budget provision will be disappointed to find that our so-called popular Congress Ministry instead of providing money for new schemes for the development of the Industries Department in its various spheres of activities have made a cut of Rs. 8,000 from the previous year's estimate. Sir, is it not high time for taking up the people's cause in right earnest? Is it not the most opportune time for undertaking big projects such as cotton mills, jute mills, paper mills, sugar mills, match factories, soap factories, etc? May I urge upon the Government to see their way to take up big projects as early as possible?

Sir, the few schemes of cottage industries are not working satisfactorily for want of adequate staff. A few Demonstrators are not enough even to take up the work for the urban areas of the Province. The cultivators of the rural areas, specially of our subdivision (I mean Sunamganj), remain idle for six months in the year. These people may easily be taught spinning and weaving if regular propaganda and demonstrations are made in the villages by trained employees of the Government. I suggest that provision for one Demonstrator with proper training for each Thana be made for advertisement and making propaganda by demonstration and lantern lectures in rural areas, specially in village-markets and Lower Primary Schools, with a view to create interest in our cultivators, so that they may take up the work seriously. In this connection, Sir, I further suggest that the Agriculture, Co-operative and Publicity Departments may join hands in mutual co-operation with this Department to improve the activities of their respective spheres in the remotest corner of the rural areas.

With these few words, I support the Motion.

Khan Sahib Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak a few words in support of the motion.

First of all, I would like to state that starting of rice mills, in the Surma Valley particularly, is an imperative necessity. Now-a-days labour has become very rare and dear and we do not find people for husking paddy. So, it is necessary that rice mills should be started both for the benefit of the cultivators and the general consumers. We do not find that Government has taken any initiative in the matter of starting rice mills for the benefit of the Province.

Then, Sir, we find that starting of oil mills is also necessary. Even now-a-days, as everybody knows, we are importing oil from the Punjab, U. P. and other Provinces, though sufficient quantities of mustard seeds are grown in this Province. If oil mills are started, this will certainly make up the

deficiency in the supply of oil. Also the people of this Province will be pecuniarily benefited. I would therefore draw the pointed attention of the Department of Industries to this matter.

Next I come to Weaving, Sir. This ought to be the main cottage industry in the Province. So far as the Assam Valley is concerned, we find that the people in that valley are more apt to produce cloth, but so far as the Surma Valley is concerned we do not find that any sufficient quantity of cloth is produced in that valley. It is necessary that weaving looms should be started at every important rural centre with Government experts to teach people and also to encourage them to take up weaving in the villages. In the Habiganj subdivision, Sir, from where I come, there is a weaving school at Inatganj. I personally know, Sir, that it is a very efficient and useful school. During the last war this school supplied a large quantity of cloth to Government. This school has applied to Government again and again for some sort of grant, but it appears that it simply cried in the wilderness. This school also came up to the Habiganj Local Board for grant. I as a member of the Local Board have been trying to give some grant to this useful institution, but for paucity of funds it could not be done. There is another weaving school managed and started by the Ramakrishna Mission near about Inatganj which is also rendering very useful service, but this institution too is not getting any encouragement. I draw the attention of the Department of Industries and urge them to help these two schools with suitable grants in order to make them more useful to the public.

Then, Sir, there are other branches which might be very usefully tried in this Province. Our people particularly during the rainy season, remain idle for greater part of the day. If they are trained in the art of hosiery work, sufficient advancement can be made and the people may be benefited. Sir, these are very useful things and it is necessary that the Department of Industries should take more interest in these industries and give them proper facilities for development and advancement.

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

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: মাননীয় মুখপাত্র মহাশয়, Industry সম্বন্ধে আলোচনার জন্য যে Cut motion উপস্থাপন করা হয়েছে, সে সম্বন্ধে আমারও কৈফিয়ৎ আছে এবং বিরুদ্ধপক্ষ যে সমস্ত বিষয় আলোচনা করেছেন সেদিকে আমাদের অনেক কিছু ভাববারও আছে। যদিও বক্তাদের কেহ কেহ Commerce, currency ইত্যাদি বিষয় উল্লেখ করেছেন এবং বড় বড় শিল্প সম্বন্ধে অনেক কথা বলেছেন.....

A Voice.—He should speak in English, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I know; he holds a high degree of the University, he is a Graduate. But I do not see why there should be any objection to any one speaking in his mother-tongue which is permissible under our standing Rules. And further more, in this connection I may be permitted to say, without meaning any reflection on anybody, that it is far better to deliver speeches in one's mother-tongue in the debate rather than bring manuscript speeches which sometime ill-fit the debate itself. I found that some hon. Members brought in manuscript speeches which did not fit in with the exigencies of the debate.

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: The difficulty lies in this, Sir, that many of the hon. Members here at least one party do not understand Bengali, Assamese or Hindusthani. That is the difficulty. So, when an hon. Member knows English, and can speak fluently in English he should, I think, speak in English unless it is decided once and for all that he should speak in his mothertongue.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: But the Rules framed allow a Member to speak in English, Bengali, Assamese and Hindusthani (Urdu and Hindi). Therefore there is no bar. As regards the hon. Members of the European, Group, they may be a little handicapped ; but I think most of them understand Bengali when it is spoken slowly.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID : But the Rules allow to speak in other languages only when an hon. Member is not fluent in English.

Maulavi ABDUR RASHEED : There are many hon. Members in this House who do not understand English.

Maulavi MUNNAWWAR ALI : When it is possible for an hon. Member to speak in English, he should do so, as English is the greatest common measure of understanding, that is the implication of the Rule in this matter.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I do not want to make any hard and fast rule in this respect. Therefore an hon. Member is entitled to speak in the language in which he feels the least inconvenience and least embarrassed so long as the language is within the four corners of the standing Rules. While speaking in English one is to think of the matter first and then to think how to put it and then he is to translate his thought into the English language and then form suitable sentences in English. Thus he is required in a few seconds to pass through several stages of mental work and strain before he utters what he has in mind. This is very embarrassing. We very often murder English grammar while delivering a speech in English. Therefore the best thing would be that those who think that they may speak in their mother tongue more conveniently they may do so. Of course this will be allowed within the limitations set forth in the Standing Rules. Now, as Mr. Sen Gupta is more proficient in Bengali than in English, he may speak in Bengali.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: যদিও শিল্প সম্বন্ধে অনেক কথার আলোচনা হয়েছে, তবুও সে সম্বন্ধে আদেশের একটু তফাৎ আছে বলে আমি কিছু বলতে বাধ্য হলাম। এখানে মাননীয় খালেক সাহেব যা বলেছেন তার সঙ্গে আমার মতের অনেকটা মিল আছে এবং মাননীয় আলী হাইদর সাহেব এবং অন্যান্য বক্তার যা বলেছেন তার সঙ্গে আমার মতের সম্পূর্ণ মিল করতে পারি নাই। তাঁদের বক্তৃতাতে যা বলা হয়েছে তাতে আমার মনে হয় এটা Cut Motion না হয়ে Add Motion হলেই ভাল হত।

এখানে Industry র জন্য ৩,৫১,২০০ টাকার বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে। তাঁরা যে সমস্ত বরাদ্দের কথা ধরেছেন তাতে আমার মনে হয় ৩ লাখের জায়গায় ৩০ লাখ হলেও বিশেষ কোন ফল হত না। সেজন্য এটাকে Cut Motion না বলে Add Motion ই বলা উচিত। এটা অত্যন্ত দুঃখের কথা যে যেখানে ৩ কোটি টাকার বাজেট হয়েছে, সেখানে মাত্র ৩ লাখ বা ৩০ লাখ টাকার বাজেট হয় Industry র জন্য—যে Industry Department এর মূল লক্ষ্য হবে লোককে Industrious করা, লোককে উদ্যোগী করা। সেভাবে লোককে উদ্যোগী করতে গেলে আমাদের দৃষ্টি দিতে হবে আমাদের লোককে কিভাবে আমরা উদ্যোগী করব এবং শিল্পেতে নিযুক্ত করব। সেই জিনিষটা দেখতে গেলে সর্বপ্রথম আমাদের গ্রামের কথাই মনে রাখতে হবে এবং গ্রামের দৃষ্টিভঙ্গী নিয়ে সেই জিনিষটা বিচার করতে হবে।

মাননীয় নুরুল হুসেন শাহেব বলেছেন যে সূক্ষ্ম ভেলীতে ধানের কল কেন হয় না। সেটা সৌভাগ্য কি দুর্ভাগ্য, বলা বড়ই কঠিন। সূক্ষ্ম ভেলীতে ধানের কল কেন হয় না তাহা আমি বিচার করে দেখেছি। সেখানে যে কলকজা প্রয়াসী লোক ছিলেন না তাহা নয়। সেখানে সব চাইতে বড় কথা ছিল যে সেখানে ধানের variety এত বেশী যে একটা কলে সব variety র ধান চালনী করা যায় না। এক নমুনার ধান না থাকলে ধানের কল ঠিক চলে না। কিন্তু ধানের কল করলে গ্রামের গরীব বিধবা এবং অন্যান্য যেসব লোক ধান ভেনে খায় তাদের অবস্থা কি হবে তাহা চিন্তা করেছেন কি না জানি না। এদিক দিয়ে দেখতে গেলে, আমরা গ্রামের প্রত্যেক লোককে কাজ দিতে পারব কি করে সেটা চিন্তা করাই প্রধান কর্তব্য। আজ Post-War এর প্রধান সমস্যা হয়েছে বেকার সমস্যা সমাধানের কথা। সেই বেকার সমস্যার কথা যদি ভাবতে হয় তাহলে কারা বেকার হয়ে গেছে এবং প্রত্যেক লোককে কি করে কাজ দিতে পারব সেটাই হবে আমাদের প্রশ্ন। এই সমস্যা সমাধান করতে গেলে আমরা যদি গ্রামের শিল্পের কথা না ভেবে বড় বড় শিল্প যেমন Textile mill, Paper mill ইত্যাদির কথাই ভাবি, তবে সেটা মুনাফার দিকেই যাওয়া হবে অর্থাৎ আমরা তাতে কতক লভ্যাংশ পেতে পারি মাত্র। কিন্তু মুষ্টিমেয় European and Indian Planters এবং Commerce প্রতিনিধি ছাড়া, আমরা—যারা গ্রামের গরীব জন সাধারণের ভোটার জোরে এই এসেমব্লিতে এসেছি, তাদের কথা যদি মনে করি, তাদের সমস্যা কি এবং তাদের শিল্প কি রকম হলে তাদের বেকার সমস্যার সমাধান হবে, তাহাই সব সময় আমাদের ভাবতে হবে এবং তা হলে বড় বড় কল কারখানার কথা ভাবতে পারি না। সেজন্য মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের কাছে আমার বিশেষ অনুরোধ—তিনি এমন ভাবে শিল্প কল্পনা করুন যাতে গ্রামের প্রত্যেক বেকারকে তিনি কাজ দিতে পারেন। তার জন্য আমি বলি না যে দেশের বড় বড় শিল্পের উন্নতি হবে না এবং আসামে যে সমস্ত শিল্পের কাজ এখনও রয়েছে তার উন্নতি হবে না। অনেকেই Hydro-Electric energy উৎপন্ন করে দেশের শিল্পের উন্নতি করতে চান, সেটা জানি। যারা সেই Hydro-Electric energy উৎপন্ন করতে চান, তাদের পক্ষে human energy র কতখানি অপচয় হচ্ছে সেটাই প্রথম ভেবে দেখা দরকার নয় কি? Human energy কে কাজে না লাগাতে পারার জন্য যে সমস্যা হয়েছে সেটা না ভেবে কেবল বেশী করে energy বাড়াবার কথা ভাবলে চলবে না। দেশের হাহাকার কিসের জন্য বাড়ে সেটাই ভাবতে হবে সব সময়। সেজন্য human energy কে কি ভাবে কাজে লাগাতে পারব সে কথা ভাববার সঙ্গে দেখতে হবে লোকগুলিকে কিভাবে energetic করতে পারব। যে শতকরা ৯০ ভাগ লোক গ্রামে থাকে, তাদের কি পরিমাণ কৃষিতে লাগবে, কি পরিমাণ গ্রাম্য শিল্পে থাকবে এবং কাহাদেরে বৃহত্তর শিল্পের জন্য দিতে পারব সেটা চিন্তা না করে যদি শুধু বড় বড় শিল্পের কথা ভাবি, তাহলে সেটা বড় রকম capitalism এর আলোচনা হতে পারে কিন্তু তাতে গ্রামের লোকের কোন উপকার হবে না।

গ্রামের শিল্প তিন ভাগে ভাগ করা যায়। একটা হয়েছে self-sufficient হওয়া। আমাদের নিত্যপ্রয়োজনীয় জিনিষগুলির যে সমস্ত জিনিষ আমরা নিজেরাই তৈয়ার করতে পারব তার জন্য আমরা বৃহত্তর শিল্পে যাব না যতক্ষণ পর্যন্ত না গ্রামের প্রত্যেক লোককে কাজ দেওয়ার জন্য ব্যবস্থা করতে পারব। সেটা না করে যদি বৃহত্তর শিল্পে যাই, তাহলে বেকার সমস্যা সমাধান কোন দিনই করতে পারব না এবং হাহাকার এখন যেমন আছে তেমনই থেকে যাবে। ইউরোপে আমরা দেখেছি যে পাশ্চাত্য বিজ্ঞান ক্রমশঃ উঠতে উঠতে Atom bomb এ পরিণত হয়েছে। এই Atom bomb এর পরিণতি কি হয়েছে সে সম্বন্ধে আজকে ইউরোপের যারা মনীষী তারা আবার কোন দৃষ্টিভঙ্গী নিয়ে চলতে আরম্ভ করেছেন, সেটা আমাদের ভুললে চলবে না। যখন বৃহত্তর শিল্পের দিকে যাব তখন আমরা যেন গ্রামকে অবহেলা করে না যাই এবং গ্রামের শিল্পের দিকে মন্ত্রী বাহাদুরও যেন দৃষ্টি রাখেন। বৃহত্তর শিল্পের কথা পরে ভাবতে পারব যদি গ্রামের শিল্প

বাঁচিয়ে তুলতে পারি। যদি গ্রামের লোকের ক্রয়ক্ষমতা বাড়িয়ে তুলতে না পারি তাহলে বৃহত্তর শিল্পের জিনিস কিনবে কে? যদি আমাদের সমস্ত জিনিস আমাদের দেশেই বিক্রি করতে হয়, যায়া কিনবে তাদের যদি পয়সা না থাকে, তাহলে এই শিল্প করার কোন লাভ হবে না। সময়ের সঙ্কীর্ণতার জন্য আমি আর কিছু বলিতেছি না। কেবল এইমাত্র বলি যে ক্রয়ক্ষমতা বাড়ানোর, গ্রামের সমস্ত লোককে কাজ দিবার এবং গ্রামের শিল্পের উন্নতির জন্য দৃষ্টি দেওয়াই হবে আমাদের প্রধান কর্তব্য এবং ইহাই আমার বক্তব্য।

[Babu Purnendu Kishore Sen Gupta, M.L.A. spoke in Bengali and urged to give prior consideration for the improvement of village industries, full employment of rural population and for increasing their purchasing power.]

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the hon. Members for the criticisms which they have offered on the Department of Industries. Many of them have given various kinds of suggestions and we shall examine them all when the proceedings are printed and try to benefit in our attempt to develop the industries in the Province. I do not want to waste the time of the House by discussing the remarks against the Department of Industries as it was run in the past. This Government is quite awake to the necessity of developing industries in Assam. When the Province will be autonomous, we shall have to develop our industries if we have to keep pace with the progress of India and of the world. What kinds of industry will be within the power of the autonomous Government of Assam and what kinds of industry will be under the control of the Government of India, are the questions which are being discussed now. These are the questions to be settled by the Government of India and the Provincial Governments.

Now, Sir, in regard to industries, there are two kinds, *viz.*, the major industries and the cottage industries. For the present the Government of Assam has been engaged in the development of cottage industries only and has not in any way spent its time and money for the development of major industries. The Government of Assam will have, no doubt, to spend money for the major industries, but how they will be run is a question which is being considered by this Government. There are some who consider that big industries, such as, cotton mill, paper mill and sugar mill, should be run entirely under the control of the State. There are others who say that the mills may be run on the State as well as private capital but will be controlled by the State. I understand that the hon. Mover of the Cut Motion has referred to that system. All these questions will be considered by the Government and it will take some time to decide which measure should be adopted. I may inform the hon. Member, who has said that Assam should not be exploited by capitalists from outside the Province, that this Government is very much in sympathy with that suggestion and is quite awake on the point that Assam should stand on its own capital and should not be exploited by capitalists from outside the Province as far as practicable.

Then, Sir, as regards cottage industries, we realise that big industries may not benefit the mass people or the people in villages and so, the industries in villages will have to be developed so that the villagers may not be at the mercy of the big capitalists or may not be altogether deprived of whatever they can run. Therefore, it is an incumbent duty of the Government of Assam to develop the cottage industries.

It has been said, Sir, by an hon. Member that there is no new scheme in the Budget for this year. Hon. Members have no doubt heard what the Hon'ble Finance Minister has said in his Budget speech regarding this Government's policy. Then he said that all the new schemes will have to be examined by this Government. We have had no time at all to do so as we had only four weeks before the sitting of this Assembly and this is going for almost a month. But, Sir,

we have some Post-war schemes which also will have to be examined carefully and will be put forward in the July session of this Assembly. I think I may inform the hon. Members of the Post-war schemes that we have framed at present. They are—training of technical personnel, development of fisheries, cottage industries, institutes and factories, establishment of an Industrial Research Laboratory, establishment of a Sericulture Research Laboratory. It is very important that there should be a Research Institute for sericulture. Sericulture is a promising industry which can be introduced almost everywhere in the whole of Assam and can be run independently by each family. Then, there are many other schemes which I may inform the hon. Member just now. We want to start cottage industries and factories for hand-loom weaving and spinning, manufacture of tools and agricultural implements and many other industrial works which can be done by the people in our villages. We are going to propagate such industrial works in the Province, that the villagers may get the benefit of them.

As regards big industries, I have already said that Government is considering the question whether such industries should be started and controlled by the State and what should be the policy of Government in future. We will have to decide what kind of industries will be State industries and what kind of industries will be private industries. We are not sleeping but we are quite awake in this respect. There will be big changes in India and we are to keep pace with these.

Then, Sir, another hon. Member has suggested that there should be plenty of small coins and that spoil notes should be made cashable in every treasury of Government. This question, Sir, will be considered by Government. We shall have to write to the Government of India in regard to that. I think, Sir, I have tried to reply to all the points raised by different hon. Members.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: In view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister, does the hon. Mover of the Cut Motion want to press his Motion?

Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: I like to withdraw my Motion, Sir.

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

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then I am putting the main Demand.

The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,51,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1947 for the administration of the head ‘43.—Industries.’”

The question was adopted.

GRANT No. 22

(42.—CO-OPERATION)

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,39,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1947 for the administration of the head “42.—Co-operation”.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,39,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1947 for the administration of the head ‘42.—Co-operation’.”

There are 10 Cut Motions and I would call upon Maulavi Md. Abdul Latif to move his Cut Motion No. 4.

Maulavi MD. ABDUL LATIF: Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 78,440 under grant No. 22, Major head 42.—Co-operation, Minor head—A.—Direction (total), at page 125 of the Budget be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 3,39,500 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

My object in moving this Cut Motion is to raise a discussion about the Co-operative Societies in Assam.

Sir, there are innumerable co-operative societies both in the rural as well as in the urban areas but most of them are working very unsatisfactorily. The principle of these co-operative societies is to help and aid the industries or factories that are established in the rural or urban areas but at present these co-operative societies are not discharging their duties properly in this respect and this is only because of the fact that money lent by such societies to members go for individual purposes and not for any social or co-operative enterprises. I, therefore, urge on the Government to reorganise them in such a way that they should help people both in the urban as well as in the rural areas in their industrial purposes as well as in other enterprises.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs. 78,440 under grant No 22 Major head—42.—Co-operation, Minor head—A.—Direction (total), at page 125 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 3,39,500 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

Maulavi MAYEEN-UD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY: Sir, the Co-operative Department is receiving a step-motherly treatment from the Government from the very beginning. I fail to understand why such a Department which has direct approach to the people in the interior should be treated like this. It is through this Department that the collective activities of the people for their economic, educational and moral well-being can be helped and encouraged. But the Government seems to be absolutely callous about it. The idea of organising the co-operative stores was not only to provide the daily necessities of the people through such societies but also to encourage the people to take to business. But the dual system of control administered over such societies, has given those connected with such stores, a very bitter experience and my information is that in almost all the stores, unless the store resorted to black-marketing, the controlled articles had to be sold at a price much lower than the cost incurred by the stores in getting them in their respective areas; and due to this cent, per cent. of such stores are undergoing heavy losses. All the hon. Members of this House will bear me out when I say that most of these stores have done good services to the people during the worst period of the war and as such they deserve special attention of the Government in their Post-war planning.

To my mind, Sir, this Department is one of the most important Departments of the Government and its importance will be increased a hundred times during the Post-war period. If Government want to render real help and assistance to the people of Assam as the representative of the people, for the people and by the people, they can do a lot towards improving the poor condition of the millions living in Assam through this Department. In this connection, I may suggest a few of the methods by which this Department can come to the immediate rescue of the poor people of the Province.

(1) The existing village societies should forthwith be reorganised and placed under better control. It is well-known to every one of us that due to the indifference of the Government towards this Department these societies which were established with a view to help the people have become the personal properties of the Secretaries and Presidents of the societies; and as the condition of the village societies are hopeless one cannot expect that the condition either of

the central co-operative stores or banks will be better, rather in some cases it is worse. It is therefore essential that such societies should be reorganised forthwith, and in doing so the Government should consult the local Congress and Muslim League Organisations and seek their help and co-operation in the matter.

(2) *Land Mortgage Bank.* There is no such bank worth the name in Assam. I know of one Muslim Land Mortgage Bank at Sylhet, but about its financial condition, the less said the better. While a village credit society provides short and medium term credit, long term credit can be provided through the medium of Land Mortgage Banks. With a Central Land Mortgage Bank at Shillong, as is the case in Madras, we can have the branches all over the Province and thereby help the cultivators and other poor people who could not otherwise be able to get mency from any other source.

(3) *Marketing Societies.* The object of such societies would be to advance loans to the members on the security of their produce and to rent or own godowns to facilitate the grant of loans to members and the sale of their produce at the maximum possible price. They will be organisations of agricultural producers who will combine together in order to get a better return of their produce.

(4) Then I would suggest that there should be Milk Supply Societies. It is well-known to every hon. Member of this House that pure milk has become a thing of the past. Unless one rears a cow, one can not expect to get pure milk and it is not possible for every one to rear a cow. So, the need for milk supply societies has become all the more great. A milk supply society will assist its members in buying and maintaining good milch cows and buffaloes and in arranging for the sale to the public and to institutions of pure milk or its by-products to the best advantage of its members. It may also have among its objects the purchase and maintenance of breeding cattle and also the machinery necessary for the preparation of milk products.

(5) Sir, I would also stress on the necessity for establishing Weavers' Co-operative Societies. Such societies should be established in areas where various kinds of cloths are made by the indigenous people of Assam. The object of such a society will be to enable its member to purchase raw materials and appliances advantageously, to give him better wages, fuller and more continuous employment to make him independent of the middlemen, to help him to get rid of the evils of his indebtedness and other bad habits and to make him thrifty and self-reliant. Such societies will act as a brake on the cupidity of master-weavers and compel them to stop their unscrupulous methods of exploitation of worker weavers.

(6) Now, Sir, coming to the Cottage Industries Societies, I should like to point out that the main object of the Cottage Industries Societies should be to improve the cottage industries and the economic condition of the artisans who are engaged in these industries. The main items of business of a Cottage Industries Society should be, (1) to purchase such raw materials and appliances as may be required for the industry and retail them either for cash or credit to its members, (2) to provide the necessary technical guidance, (3) to grant loans to members, (4) to purchase and hold in common or let on hire improved appliances connected with the industry, (5) to purchase or receive for sale the finished products of members and sell them to the best advantage and (6) to act as the agent for joint purchase of the domestic and other requirements of its members and for sale of their finished products.

Sir, apart from these, we may have (a) Cattle Breeding Societies to promote the uneconomic interest of the members by improving their methods of cattle-breeding and (b) Building Societies, to provide suitable dwelling houses for the poorer and middle classes who cannot otherwise build a good house, through the Co-operative Building Societies by giving loans to its members. In this connection I should like to draw the attention of the Government that the lands acquired

by the Government in Akhalia and other adjoining places of the Sylhet Town which are not going to be derequisitioned be handed over to one such society to be formed at Sylhet in consultation with the two local national organisations, namely, the Congress and the Muslim League and houses be built thereon under such a Scheme (*Hear, hear*).

Sir, these are the few observations and suggestions that I could make here for the consideration of the House. The subject is so vast, comprehensive and important that one may speak on the subject for hours together.

Sir, I would be failing in my duty, if I do not say a word about the miserable plight of the officers who have been placed in charge of such an important Branch of the Government. Unless the officers are properly paid, it is futile to expect active and sincere service from them. The Co-operative Inspectors are the most neglected officers in the Government. Their status is not even equal to the status of an Inspector of Supply, a Department which has been brought into existence due to the war. Sir, in my opinion, and I hope, I am voicing the opinion of all the hon. Members of this House that the post of all Inspectors in different branches of the Government such as Supply, Co-operative Societies, etc., should be of one grade and that is of Second Grade Gazetted Officer.

With these words, Sir, I support the Motion moved by Maulavi Abdul Latif.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: Sir, as regards the suggestion made by the previous speaker regarding derequisition of lands, I am to point out that the lands were not acquired, but these lands were taken for war purposes. These lands shall have to be returned to the former owners after the war purposes have been served. These lands cannot be given to anybody for any schemes.

It is very important to have Co-operative Societies and it has become more important after the previous House passed the Money-lenders' Bill. The Money-lenders' Bill provided the only machinery for financing agriculture. By reducing the rate of interest we have made the money-lenders rather shy. Many of the money-lenders find it more profitable to deposit their money in banks rather than advance to cultivators. So cultivators are finding great difficulty in finding money for agricultural purposes. This has added importance to the Co-operative Department. It has been found that honest villagers generally fight shy of coming into joint liability. Generally clever men in the villages come forward and induce simple villagers to join in a Co-operative Society and cheat them afterwards. To check such frauds there should be some propaganda and the people should be educated in the spirit of Co-operative Movement. Unless this is done, I am afraid, the Movement will not take solid root in the soil.

Sir, as regards Milk Societies and other societies, they may be allowed to continue on co-operative basis provided the people are willing to come forward to give their services for the efficient working of the institution. As a Minister in-charge of this Department, I started Milk Societies, but self-sacrificing persons were not always forthcoming and in many cases these societies had to be liquidated. I hope, the future activities of the Government shall be to combat these things and proceed in right line. Unless the good intention of having Co-operative Societies is given publicity over the whole length and breadth of Assam, I do not see how Co-operative movement can succeed and the lot of villagers can be improved. Villagers are labouring under the disadvantage of very high rate of interest no doubt.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOL-ROY: Sir I thank the hon. Members for all the suggestion that they have given. We shall examine them very carefully and shall try to implement as much as we can. It is a known fact that the Co-operative Societies in Assam are not running very well. Many of them are a failure and some of them cannot realise the money given out. One of the causes is the Money Lenders' Act which has affected greatly the progress

of these Co-operative Societies. It will be our interest to try and see that these Co-operative Societies are put on a better footing. Whether we shall be able to do so or not it will depend on the economic condition of the country and a depression which is coming and, I am afraid, that these societies will have more hard times. We shall do all we can in order to put them on a proper footing.

I hope, with this assurance the hon. Member will gladly withdraw his Motion.

Maulavi Md. ABDUL LATIF: On the assurance of the Hon'ble Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

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

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,39,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1947 for the administration of the head '42.—Co-operation."

The question was adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: We have finished Demands for Grants. The next item is the election to the Public Accounts Committee. Hon. Members will be furnished with ballot papers for this purpose presently. Before that I have to announce the result of election to the various sections of the Development Board and I shall make a statement with regard to the Watch and Ward staff.

Announcement of the result of Election to the various sections of the Development Board

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I will now announce that the following members have been elected to the various sections of the Development Board.

Agricultural Section.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|---------------|
| 1. Raja Ajit Narayan Dev of Sidli | ... | ... | Assam Valley. |
| 2. Mr. E. W. B. Kenny | ... | ... | Ditto. |
| 3. Maulana Ibrahim Ali | ... | ... | Surma Valley. |
| 4. Babu Jagat Bandhu Sircar | ... | ... | Ditto. |

Probably hon. Members will remember that the arrangement was that there should be two Members from each valley.

Industrial Section

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|---------------|
| 1. Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan | ... | ... | Assam Valley. |
| 2. Srijut Bimalaprasad Chaliha | ... | ... | Ditto. |
| 3. Babu Purnendu Kishore Sen Gupta | ... | ... | Surma Valley. |
| 4. Shri Abala Kanta Gupta | ... | ... | Ditto. |

Co-operative Section.

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|---------------|
| 1. Srijut Gaurikanta Talukdar | ... | ... | Assam Valley. |
| 2. Srijut Rajendranath Barua | ... | ... | Ditto. |
| 3. Prof. Nibarhan Chandra Laskar | ... | ... | Surma Valley. |
| 4. Maulavi Nasiruddin Ahmed | ... | ... | Ditto. |

Statement *re*: Watch and Ward Staff

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Hon. Members are probably aware that in accordance with the recommendations of the Privileges Committee of the last Assembly it was agreed that a Watch and Ward Officer with 10 Assistants should be employed to ensure regulated movements of visitors in the inner precincts of the Assembly building. A Supplementary Demand for entertaining the staff was voted by the then Assembly in December, 1941 and the staff was actually sanctioned by Government in October, 1942. The rather thin attendance of visitors in the galleries during the sessions held in 1943-45 did not warrant the entertainment of

this Watch and Ward Staff on any occasion in those years. In view of the new Assembly which has come into being now it was anticipated that the public would take keener interest in the proceedings of the House. Steps were therefore taken in good time before the current session to appoint the Watch and Ward Officer and his 10 Assistants this time but unfortunately the full strength of the staff was not available on account of dearth of suitable candidates although the Inspector General of Police recommended one retired Police Officer for the post of the Watch and Ward Officer. There were only 4 candidates for the posts of the Watch and Ward Assistants of which 2 were matriculates and the other 2 under-matrics. Only one of the former type of candidates turned up for duty. The salary sanctioned by Government for the Watch and Ward Assistants is only Rs.30 per month and the duration of their services is confined to the sessions of the Assembly only. In my opinion the pay sanctioned for these people is too small. The rate of their pay was fixed at a time when the economic condition of the people was not as acute as it is to-day. In my opinion unless the pay of these posts is raised to at least Rs.50 per month it would be very difficult to get suitable candidates for sometime to come.

Members would agree that it is highly desirable that the inner precincts of the building should be placed in charge of a Watch and Ward Staff of the House instead of the Police as is the case with the Central and some other Provincial Assemblies. The Watch and Ward Officer need not necessarily be a retired Police Officer. We may take in a person whether an outsider or a retired officer of any Department, who would be found suitable by me in every way for the job on the pay sanctioned. With regard to the Watch and Ward Assistants I would approach the Finance Department immediately after the current session is over with proposals to increase the salaries to a reasonable amount in consideration of the economic condition prevailing in these days and the very short period for which their services would be required, to enable me to recruit the full strength of the staff from the next session of the Assembly. The staff will have to be recruited a few days before each Session to enable them to pick up the work. In view of the temporary nature of these posts the scheme may not be wholly successful, but I want to give it a trial. I hope Government will co-operate with me in this matter.

Election to the Public Accounts Committee

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Now the ballot papers for election to the Public Accounts Committee will be distributed.

(While the bell was ringing)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: For the information of new hon. Members I may say that they should not put their signatures on the ballot papers. Those bearing signatures will be rejected in counting.

(Ballot paper was distributed and election held.)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think the result will be declared on the 2nd April as it will take some time to count the votes.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 a.m. on Saturday, the 30th March, 1946.

SHILLONG:
The 24th May, 1946.

A. K. BARUA,
Secretary Assam Legislative Assembly.

A. G. P. (L.A.) No. 17—118—27-5-1946.

ASB