

and the fact that the patient is not a member of the American Medical Association, the American Medical Association is not responsible for the actions of the patient. The American Medical Association is a voluntary association of physicians and surgeons, and it is not responsible for the actions of any individual physician or surgeon who is not a member of the association.

### THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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**Proceedings of the Sixth Session of the Second Assam Legislative  
Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government  
of India Act, 1935, as adapted**

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 10 a. m., on  
Thursday, the 17th March, 1949.

**PRESENT**

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

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**

(To which Answers were laid on the table.)

**Supply of Electricity to the public of Tinsukia**

**Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN** asked :

7. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether any progress has been made towards supplying electricity to the public of Tinsukia ?

(b) If so, what is that ?

(c) If not, do Government propose to give licence to some other party to complete the work within a fixed time ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS** replied :

7. (a) & (b)—Yes. Government are informed that Srijut Sashi Prasad Borooah, one of the Directors of the Tinsukia Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, has placed orders for the necessary plants and machineries and is negotiating with a well-known Calcutta firm about the construction of the overhead lines. He has been asked to submit the particulars of the machineries ordered and also blue-prints of the distribution lines.

(c)—Does not arise.

**Bus Service from Jorhat-Teok to Jhanji**

**Srijut HARINARAYAN BARUA** asked :

8. (a) Are Government aware of the grievances of the local public that the existing number of bus service from Jorhat-Teok to Jhanji is very inadequate ?

(b) Do Government propose to increase the number of buses on that route ?



(c) Will Government be pleased to state when the Jorhat-Sibsagar Motor Service is going to be nationalised ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS** replied :

8. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Not at present, pending nationalisation of motor transport on this route.

(c)—Before October next.

### Compulsory Primary Education Scheme

**Professor P. M. SARWAN** asked :

9. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) What areas in Sibsaagar, Jorhat and Golaghat Subdivisions have been selected for the Compulsory Primary Education Scheme ?

(b) The reasons for giving such preference ?

(c) The number of Primary Schools in the above selected areas, Subdivision by Subdivision, along with those in Baruasali-Sapekhati Mauzas (Sibsagar Subdivision), Amguri-Kharikatia Mauza (Jorhat Subdivision) and Sarupathar Mauza (Golaghat Subdivision) ?

**Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary)** replied :

9.(a)—Areas selected are shown in the Gazette Notification No.EPS.71/48, dated 29th November 1948, a copy of which is placed in the library table.

(b)—These were selected by the respective School Boards who have taken into account, the administrative convenience, willingness of the area concerned to make contribution towards buildings and its readiness to pay the cess as soon as levied.

(c)—The number of additional Schools, for the purpose of compulsion in the selected areas of each of these Subdivisions is 50, which may vary slightly after final adjustment. The number of Schools in each Mauza cannot be supplied now as it will take a long time to collect the figures.

**Professor P. M. SARWAN:** Are not these School Boards dominated by Congressmen ?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** It is supplementary to which Question, please ?

**Professor P. M. SARWAN:** It is supplementary to 9 (b), Sir.



**Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary):** How that Question does arise ?

**Professor P. M. SARWAN:** It does arise, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** These Members were selected by the respective School Boards who have taken into account, the administrative convenience, willingness of the area concerned to make contribution towards buildings and its readiness to pay the cess as soon as levied.

The selection was made by the School Board. Am I correct ?

**Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary):** Yes, Sir.

**Professor P. M. SARWAN:** Sir, my Question is—are these School Boards dominated by Congressmen ?

**Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary):** The Members of the School Boards have partially been elected and partially nominated by the Government and no Congressmen nominated any person to the School Boards.

**Professor P. M. SARWAN:** Sir, my Question is whether the majority Members of these School Boards are from Congressmen ?

**Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary):** I do not know exactly, Sir.

**Professor P. M. SARWAN:** Are those selected areas in Sibsagar, Golaghat and Jorhat Subdivisions backward in respect of compulsory education ?

**Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary):** Sir, it is a question of opinion.

**Professor P. M. SARWAN:** Then, Sir, Government do not know which are the backward areas.

**Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary):** Sir, Government know which are the backward areas, but they have no comparative statement as to which are more backward.

**Professor P. M. SARWAN:** Sir, my Question is—are these areas backward or not ?

**Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary):** That might be so.

**Professor P. M. SARWAN:** Do backward people inhabit these areas ?

**Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary):** This is the repetition of the old Question, Sir.



DISCUSSION RE: THE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE EXPENDITURE ON THE ROAD FROM SHILLONG TO SILCHAR

**Professor P. M. SARWAN:** It is not repetition of the old Question. I know the people inhabiting these areas are backward.

**Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary):** I have already replied, that might be so.

**Professor P. M. SARWAN:** Are not the backward people, then, being neglected with regard to compulsory education?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The reply is that it might be so.

**Discussion re: the financial arrangements in connection with the expenditure on road from Shillong to Silchar**

**\*Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA:** On a point of information, Sir, may I know from the Hon'ble Premier what has been the financial arrangement in connection with expenditure on the road from Shillong to Silchar. This is a very important point, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** How does this question arise at this stage?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Sir, I suppose he means this in reference to the statement that I made day before yesterday. I could, for the information of the House, briefly state our negotiations in regard to the Shillong-Jowai-Haflong-Silchar Road. I had already made mention of that. I could briefly state, Sir, if you would permit me to add a supplementary statement to what I had stated the day before yesterday. Briefly the question of opening a road to Silchar arose soon after the Partition. You might very well know that the road from Dawki to Karimganj fell within the Dominion of Pakistan, and naturally the question of a road from Shillong to Silchar and then up to Tripura border arose. The point of view as to what should be the alignment of this new road was discussed here. My own view was that we should have just another road by the existing hills of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills up to the border of Karimganj. Late Sir Akbar Hydari consulted the local Military authorities about this road, and they were of the opinion that the road should not be near the border of Pakistan in the fear that it could not be used for strategic purpose. So under the advice of our Engineers and the Military authorities, the road, which actually in length becomes more by about hundred miles than the existing road, was surveyed and the proposal was put up to the Government of India. The Government of India did agree to it saying that we could go ahead and carry on the work. The question of allotment of cost would be determined later on. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel when he had come here was also personally apprised of the necessity of this road and accordingly this road was undertaken. The road, as may be known to hon. Members, has become jeepable and we actually propose to open the road by the 15th of April. The question, however, of allocation of cost was really a very controversial point between ourselves and the Government of India. Our point of view was that this road should not only be called strategic road but could also be called a National Highway, because it runs from one end of India to the other, namely up to the Tripura State. Secondly it should be considered as a strategic road. Now of course the departments which are the judge of the situation declared that this road could not be considered as a strategic road, but it might be a road of strategic

\*Speech not corrected.



importance. That makes a lot of difference. A strategic road is entirely the responsibility of the Defence Department, but a road of strategic importance may be a responsibility of anybody. Therefore they decided that forty per cent. should be borne by the Government of India and 60 per cent. by the Provincial Government. The Defence Ministry wanted to contribute 10 per cent. Of the remaining 30 per cent. loan only 13 per cent. was to be paid by the Transport Department of the Government and the balance 17 per cent. which falls to the Province out of 40 per cent. was to be paid from our own reserve fund lying with the Centre and accumulated during the war. Sir, we could not agree to it. Our argument was clear. The road must be considered as a strategic road as well as a National Highway. Ultimately the Development Commissioner and our Chief Engineer were sent to Delhi and the Government of India agreed that the percentage should be 50—50. To that also we did not agree. I should like to mention here that even the last Provincial Government did commit themselves to the construction of a road from here to Jowai and that was undertaken long before any question of building this National Highway or strategic road came into consideration. We pointed out that we would go up to Jowai and pay for the road up to it, but beyond that we would have no responsibility. Our point was that it was entirely needed for strategic purposes. If Government of India did not agree, we were going to abandon that road. In January when I went to Delhi, all these points were cleared up and they have now agreed that two-thirds would be borne by the Government of India and one-third by the Provincial Government.

There is one other point which needed clarification. Formerly, all the money that would have fallen on the Province was proposed to be debited from the Petrol Reserve Fund in hands of the Government of India, which has now been calculated to about 65 lakhs of rupees. Meantime a number of road projects allotted to this Fund were held up in the understanding that the money for the Shillong-Silchar Road could be deducted that way. It is a matter of gratification to us that on that point as to how this money actually should be paid is to be determined later on. And those schemes which were held up have been approved and have been allowed execution.

As regards one-third that falls to the Province it was argued on behalf of the Province that it would not be paid all at a time from the Provincial Petrol Fund. It was pointed out that the payment of the amount could be treated as loan which could be done possibly in course of 30 years by payment of small instalments of two lakhs or a little more every year. But that matter could not be decided by the Transport Ministry of the Government of India which held the conference. It is a matter which could be decided by the Finance Ministry of the Government of India. If it was possible, I think the Province stood to save 30 to 40 lakhs of rupees out of that transaction. If we carefully go into the question it will be seen that our commitments would come to about one-third of the total amount even if we had to spend on the constructions of the road up to Jowai. I personally feel, Sir, that this has not been bad bargain in this negotiation.

I should also add one or two words in order to demonstrate that the Government of India are not unsympathetic to us in respect of certain schemes such as social and adult education and Basic education. I should say that according to the definition of the Government of India, Basic education includes all primary education. This year they are distributing 90 lakhs of rupees for social education and 50 lakhs of rupees for Basic education. In respect of social education scheme that has been drawn up by them, there must be a 50 per cent. literacy in the age group



between 16 and 48. On the basis of the illiterate population of Assam, it has been worked out that we shall get rupees 3 lakhs 15 thousand provided that the Province also spend an equivalent amount. It was found that some province, particularly ours, had not made the same amount of allotment of 3 lakhs 15 thousand. After negotiation it was agreed in the Education Ministers' Conference that the Province could make up whatever the deficit in their subsequent Budget.

Now in regard to Basic Education as I said they are granting us 50 lakhs of rupees and on the basis of the distribution which they made in respect of adult and social education, we shall, I think, be entitled to rupees 1 lakh 60 thousand; but there the condition is that the province shall spend 70 per cent. for every 30 per cent. contributed. This year their contribution would be made for the training of teachers. The Hon'ble Education Minister of the Government of India is expecting to get more grant from the Finance Ministry and to distribute the increased amount to the Provinces in much larger figures than they are proposing to do now. It will be seen that if this be of a recurring nature it will come as a great relief in our drive of compulsory primary education. I think, Sir, I have made all the points clear regarding our relationship with the Centre in reference to the finances of the Province.

**Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** On a point of information, Sir. The Hon'ble Premier in his long speech did not give us an idea of our commitments. May I enquire what is the total cost of the road from Shillong to Tripura *via* Silchar and what is the cost of the portion from Shillong to Jowai?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** The cost upto Tripura border with a 16 feet road, as it stands today, has been calculated at two crores of rupees, may be a little more or a little less, and our expenditure upto Jowai till now has been in the neighbourhood of 30 lakhs. The whole work up to Jowai has not been completed and I suppose we shall require another 10 lakhs,—may be a little more, if the bridges are to be made in the proper manner.

I should also give out for the information of the House that an expert of the Government of India, Mr. Ayyar, is already here. He is going over our road in order, possibly, to calculate what will be the ultimate cost. He has also been asked to study the other alternative road about which I said I was in favour in the beginning of my speech. There has not up till now been any clear pronouncement, but it seems that the way in which the mind of the Government of India is working is to recognise it as a National Highway. But what that National Highway will be,—whether the old short route from Dawki or another road from Jowai upto Karimganj or Badarpur, or the road, that we have made, I do not know. I think that is the object of the present expert's enquiry.

**Statement made by the Hon'ble Speaker regarding time limit for General Discussion of the Budget.**

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I find from the list supplied to me by the hon. Leaders of Parties that out of 24 Members, who wanted to take part in the general discussion of the Budget, only 9 Members availed of the opportunity on the 15th, and we had to close half an hour before the allotted time. To-day is the last day for the hon. Members to speak, I propose to



allot the last hour for the hon. Leaders of the Parties. So the other hon. Members have got only 2 hours and 40 minutes at their disposal. I fear that all the hon. Members, whose names are in the list, will not be able to take part in the discussion if I allow 15 minutes for each hon. Member. They should therefore be prompt to rise in their seats, I shall not call any hon. Member by name today.

**Maulavi Saiyid MUMAMMED SAADULLA :** According to my notes, 11 hon. Members have already spoken.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Of them two were outside the list.

### Budget discussion

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY :** Mr. Speaker Sir, in a forceful way the Hon'ble Finance Minister presented the other day the financial fate of our province for the next year. He started his speech with a number of grievances. He spoke of a variety of difficulties which confronted him. He made a Herculean effort to convince the Members of the House that he had tried his level best to balance the Budget, but that he failed. He has now come with a tale of woes—with a deficit of 60 lakhs 58 thousand, which is to rise by another 10 lakhs. In these days of rampant inflation deficit Budgets are dangerous. A deficit Budget adds to the very inflation which the Government want to combat. One of the ways of facing inflation is by resorting to taxation, a thing very much hated by the average person for, among other reasons, the amount of service obtained by the tax-payers is not commensurate with the amount of tax paid. Further, a tax affects different classes of people differently. That does not mean that there should be no taxation or imposition of duties or that I am opposed to taxation. Sir, in order to make both ends meet the Government have introduced a number of taxation measures beginning with a tax on agricultural income and ending with a tax on the sale of goods. Not content with that, the Government have come forward with another measure—the Finance Bill. One thing which I was glad to hear is that the Government have admitted that they have practically exhausted the provincial field of taxation. Sir, in despair the Government have dropped some of the proposed Post-War schemes, and the Finance Minister has made an appeal to the Central Government for an increased allotment of our share of Jute duty. But the Provisional Constitution Order 1947 sets at rest, and that for an indefinite period, any possibility of a proportionate increase of our share of the net proceeds of the export duty on jute. This is nothing but autocracy pure and simple, which calls for the loudest protest, and in my opinion, any action short of rebellion. In these days, Sir, even rebellions might be justified, especially when the Centre unnecessarily interferes with the internal working of a province with provincial commercial enterprises which the Hon'ble Finance Minister had so carefully planned. The proposed Constitution is a Federation whose units are autonomous States, and as such, these should have the fullest autonomy in the sphere of their administration. But the first proviso to Article 266 is again a great obstacle in the way of our progress, so far as the economic and financial aspects of the province are concerned. It is a pity, Sir, that the Central Government should have thought it desirable to appropriate to themselves, and that *ex-parte*, 80 per cent. in place of 37½ per cent. of the export duty on jute and tea and reduce the divisible pool from 62½ per cent. to 20 per cent. This is rightly called "fiscal subordination to the Centre". This calls for an organised agitation on the part of the people of Assam, and in my opinion, the fight which our Government, especially the Hon'ble Finance Minister has fought is not quite satisfactory. I hope, the case of Assam will be presented to the Central Government



in a better and stronger way. But if at the back of the mind of the Hon'ble Finance Minister there is any idea of seceding from the Centre on account of this unnecessary interference, I will not agree with him and in fact no hon. Member will. This kind of action on the part of the Centre might well be called a legalised constitutional oppression.

Now, I should like to lay before the House the cases of those who are suffering and suffering much from certain difficulties owing to various causes. At the top of my list of grievances stands the unpardonable failure on the part of the Government to restore the Jorhat-Niamati Section of the Assam Railway in pursuance of the Resolution unanimously adopted by the House in the last Session of the Assembly and in view of the strong assurance that was given by a Member of the Cabinet against whom however disciplinary action was taken for the commendable act he did. Disciplinary action or no disciplinary action, I want the restoration of the Jorhat-Niamati train communication, in other words, I want that Government assurance be implemented. The buses which ply between Niamati and Jorhat are always overloaded with passengers who are arbitrarily charged. I would, now, request the hon. Members from Jorhat, Golaghat and Lakhimpur Districts and others who are sympathetic on this genuine cause, to join me in my energetic protest as regards the immediate restoration of this train service between Jorhat and Niamati.

Sir, as regards the overcrowding of passenger trains and lack of amenities in the lower classes, the less said, the better. It appears from the answers given by Mr. Ayyanger, the Railway Member to the questions and supplementaries put to him that he has never been to Assam and is not quite familiar with conditions of railways in my Province. He stated that trains run punctually nowadays. The lot of lower class passengers is really pitiable. It is a pity that the least amount of attention is paid to the amenities of lower class travellers from whom the highest amount of income is obtained. The train running from Farkating to Mariani *via* Jorhat is always late by one to two hours.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** It is a criticism of the Railway Budget ?

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Since there are railways in Assam, since our Government is there to provide travelling facilities to the people of the province and since we do not get comfort and convenience and other amenities in the lower classes, it is quite proper for us to bring such irregularities to the notice of this Government. If the Hon'ble Finance Minister wants to say that he has nothing to do with the convenience or inconvenience of the travelling public, then I have got nothing to say.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The Provincial Government has not the final say in this matter. It can only recommend to the Central Government.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** I want that it should recommend to the Central Government and nothing more than that. I have brought repeatedly to the notice of this Government the difficulties undergone by passengers in the train that plies between Farkating and Mariani. There is no earthly reason why the passenger train should run between Farkating and Mariani at midnight. Very few passengers if at all can avail themselves of this utility service. What reason is there to run this train at unearthly hours ? That is a serious loss to the State and we cannot keep our eyes closed to this state of affairs. That is a serious matter to which I want to invite the attention of the Hon'ble Minister, Mr. Medhi and it is for him to draw the attention of the Central Government to it.



**\*The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** There is an Advisory Board who is to bring such matters to the notice of the Central Government. The hon. Member should refer such matters to the Advisory Board.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Certainly the Board is there. But can I not draw the attention of the Government to the great inconvenience from which the travelling public have to suffer ?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Did the hon. Member bring these grievances to the notice of any Member of the Railway Advisory Board ?

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Yes. Hon. Member from Jorhat, Mr. Phookan, who is a Member of the Board, is well acquainted with the irregularities and difficulties I am referring to and he has been trying to get them rectified, but to no effect.

If the House, specially, the Hon'ble Finance Minister is not concerned with the grievances daily undergone by passengers, then I stop talking about them altogether.

Sir, the restriction of the operation of the Adhiar Act to a few Sub-divisions means a great injustice to the rayats in other places where the Act is unknown. I should like particularly to refer to one place where the Act is not enforced. It is Hajo wherefrom the Hon'ble Finance Minister comes.

**\*The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** When there is a complaint from other places, surely, it will be enforced there.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** I am speaking here about the voiceless millions.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. Member has got 3 minutes more.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** I am sorry, Sir, I will not be able to finish in 3 minutes as I have been interrupted by the Hon'ble Finance Minister, especially when I was trying to bring to the notice of Government the grievances of travelling public.

Sir, it is the duty of the Government to look to the betterment of the lot of the public, to their genuine grievances and I do not doubt the intention of the Government to do their duty to the people. I am glad that recently the Government have appointed a Re-organisation Committee in order to give relief to the low-salaried officers of the administration but for whom the running of the administration would have been impossible. The Committee have not yet met. I hope, however, Government will give every relief to their loyal but low paid servants who have been hit hardest by the enormous rise in the cost of living. I am glad, Government have admitted in course of the Budget statement that there is a very serious inflation in the country and that the cost of living has gone very high with the consequent hardships of the low paid officers. May I know from the Government who is responsible for this terrible inflation in the country ? The reply would be that the Government themselves. How do the Government want to fight or check this inflation ? Is it by giving more money to the hon. Members in the form of Conveyance Allowance and by classing necessities as luxuries ?

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\*Speech not corrected.



Sir, I cannot understand the reason why the sales tax is being levied on torch light or fountainpen as luxury goods. Do not Government realise that neither the villagers nor the urban population can do without torchlights, watches and fountainpens? Is it luxurious? What definition have the Government to offer as to what is or is not a luxury? What is the criterion to determine what is a luxury? The other day in the course of the replies given to a statement made by a certain hon. Member from the Opposition we came to understand from the Government that anything whose price is very high would be classed as a luxury. May I ask, Sir, is it luxurious to own a clock, or a watch or a fountainpen? I should like to ask particularly the Hon'ble Finance Minister whether when the Hon'ble Supply Minister in his wisdom thought it fit to decontrol rice and paddy in the Summer of 1948, as a result of which the prices of these shot up at once and when we had to purchase rice at the rate of one rupee a seer and sometimes more, these two commodities should be classed as luxurious simply because the prices were very high? Necessaries should not be classed as luxuries. Sometimes, what was once considered to be a luxury, may become a necessity afterwards as in the case of watches and fountainpens, etc. Hence I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Finance Minister to the fact that it is not wise to levy a tax on fountainpens, watches and clocks.

Sir, in view of the very short time at my disposal and in view of the fact that a number of speakers would like to take part in this discussion, I shall finish by referring to what we witnessed yesterday. A Conference of all Executive Engineers of Assam was called by the Hon'ble the Public Works Department Minister. Some of us went there at his kind invitation to hear from him what the Public Works Department of Assam has done. Unfortunately the depressing account given by the Public Works Department Minister yesterday and the explanation offered by the Leader of the House today have disheartened us beyond measure. The only thing with which we were satisfied was that he told us that everything possible was done by the staff of the Public Works Department. His grievance was that enough money was not forthcoming from the Centre. The Centre, he said, had agreed at the beginning that the Assam Government should take up these schemes, but when these schemes were started, orders were received from the Centre to stop them. We went to the Conference to hear that schemes have been taken up and implemented, but the reverse was the fact. During the last Budget Session of 1948, one proposal was made by some Members both of the Treasury Bench and this side that an Expert Committee should be appointed—an Expert Financial Committee consisting of a few members who have actual experience of finance—as early as possible in order to go in a delegation to the Hon'ble Finance Minister of the Central Government to acquaint him with the needs and requirements of Assam which is yet not industrialised. Nothing has happened to that proposal.

This brings me, Sir, to the question of industrialisation of the province. It was only recently that the Assam Government appointed an Industrial Adviser in the person of Mr. K. D. Guha. He was charged with the task of formulating a scheme as to how the province of Assam could be industrialised. After making surveys, he submitted a scheme, in the form of a Five Year Plan. I have made a thorough study of the report in which Mr. Guha has recommended the setting up of an Industrial Board, unfortunately no response had been given by the Government in this regard.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. Member has exceeded his time limit, in fact he had encroached 4 minutes more.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** I thank you, Sir, for giving me 4 more minutes.



**Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Budget that is presented to us reveals to a great measure that earnestness and zeal to do good to the lot of the common man as far as practicable. In the background of the world context what we find to-day? The last war has left the nations of the world weary, weak and indecisive as generally all wars do. Every country is now trying to raise production of food and essential commodities and thus rehabilitate the machineries of construction which were simply turned to machineries of destruction during years of war.

India's condition has been left not less worse. Her transport vehicles worn out, her roads damaged and parts of the country ruined. The balance of trade is unfavourable, our imports are more than exports. India has to spend about 100 crores for importing foodgrains. India has to recover economically.

In this background let us see what we have got in Assam and what our National Government is aiming at to make our country healthy and prosperous.

It cannot be denied, although critics say that Congress as a Government in Assam has failed, that our National Government has made much headway in the different branches of national prosperity. The tendency of the youths of the country has become more and more destructive, the people in general have not yet recovered from the stigma of slave mentality that is natural for a country which has been under foreign domination for centuries. The tendency to blame Government still persists without looking into the capability and what is humanly possible to bring the country in line with the prosperous countries of the world. We want everything supplied to us without our least efforts.

The main concern of the Government now is to arrest these fissiparous tendencies of the youth and the common man, nay the whole population of our country.

The Government has now brought into the field large schemes of Grow More Food, Rehabilitation of the village life in the economic line by creating a Rural Development Department. It is only the beginning. The Rural Panchayats are going to be set up whose main function would be to make our villages self-sufficient and self-governing. The establishments of the Self-Help Advisory Boards for encouraging the villages in self-help enterprises are indeed laudable. This has aroused the consciousness of the villagers and our people in general are realising gradually that no country can prosper if we do not set our hand and heart to manual labour. The drain in the shape of hard cash from our country to those who are not children of the soil is now gradually felt by our people. The sum allotted for such self-help enterprises should be increased.

The trial in the shape of Trading Co-operatives is an earnest desire of the Government to rule out middleman's profit, blackmarketing and corruption. It is for us now to build these organisations to make our country self-reliant and prosperous.

Turning to the Public Health Department, I wish more Rural Health Centres or Public Health Dispensaries would have been beneficial instead of provincialising five District Hospitals. The District Hospitals even now cater to the needs of the urban and a fringe of rural population, but more Public Health Dispensaries or Rural Health Centres with a few beds for indoor patients, with a nurse or a midwife attached and with a doctor would have easily caught the imagination of the rural population and would have been of immense help to them in health regeneration and as a matter of fact they would have learnt how to live hygienically in better and healthier surroundings.

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAM NATH DAS:** We have provincialised all such dispensaries, Sir, in the last year.



**Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA:** You have provided about 3 lakhs of rupees for provincialisation of these dispensaries, and instead of doing this the other measure I suggested would have been of great benefit to the villagers. When there is so much dearth of money in the Centre the heavy industries should be taken up both by the public and the Government on share basis—which would have given not only quick results, but would have brought out the capital in the hands of the Industrialists which is shy now for Government's nationalisation policy. We should have placed experts in sugar, textile, etc., in this Department of heavy industries and might have sent them to foreign countries to get out machineries quickly after proper examination. The progress of plantation of sugarcane in Noajan is not at all encouraging. During the last 3 years we have about 31 acres of plantation. There is no sugar technologist or an expert in the field of cultivation or machineries in this department. I think it is the policy of Government of India to constitute Directorate with experts.

Regarding construction of dams about which we heard from the speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister I want to make a few observations. The matter to my mind requires further scrutiny as we understand that the money spent will be charged to the projects if they materialise. Otherwise it will be deducted from Assam's share of development grant made by the Centre.

From the speech of His Excellency the late Governor of Assam we understand that 5 million K. W. of electricity will be generated at the Brahmaputra dam. We cannot have any necessity for that amount of power. Bombay will have less than 1 million K. W. when the 5 years development programme have been carried out and Bombay is a highly industrialised province. Then what is the necessity of having another dam at Manas? This Brahmaputra dam will not substantially control floods because the Brahmaputra alone does not flood the country. Kopili, Runganadi, Buridihing, Bhorali are also rivers which cause flood. In October 1946 when there was flood at Nowgong the Brahmaputra water was quite low and in spite of that there was flood, which means that Kopili was not in a condition to discharge its waters efficiently. The same may be the case with the other rivers. To my mind we should tackle the small rivers for flood prevention and generation of power from small hydroelectric schemes by constructing small and cheap dams. Therefore, we should, as I said, be very careful in spending the sum of Rs.50 lakhs for collecting the materials and data for working out the scheme and location of dams.

The Transport Department has to be thoroughly remodelled. We have now the Assam Motor Transport, Provincial Motor Transport and the State Transport. Too many offices seem to be crowded and I am of opinion that economy might be effected by constituting one State Transport Department under a very able engineer.

Sir, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not make mention of the Home Guard Organisation. This Home Guard Organisation came into being in the last month of 1947. Since they have completed their training. Their duty is over now and the Home Guards, excepting in the border areas, have gone into reserve, and their number will be about 2,000. We have received petitions from those who have gone to reserve praying that they want land in the country side for cultivation on co-operative and collective basis. I hope the Government will see that these Home Guards who have been sent to reserve might be profitably engaged by giving them land for co-operative and collective farming which will help in the scheme of Grow-More-Food organisation of the Government. From the reports of the Inspector General of Police, District Officers and the Political Officers we find that the Home Guards have done splendid work. We also hear that they have been given rewards in some cases by the Police Department for detecting serious offences which could not be detected by the personnel of the Police Department. In view of their honest and hard work I hope Government



will sympathetically consider the desirability of granting them free ration or other benefits as are given to the other temporary Government servants, while they remain in the Reserve Establishment for a period of 3 years.

I think I should make mention of the hot spring at Golaghat by the side of Golaghat-Dimapur Road at a distance of about 12 miles from Golaghat towns. This should be converted into a spa and the area consisting of several such hot springs should be geologically surveyed for extracting minerals such as sulphur, etc., which the water emits. This would be a paying proposition to the Government.

Lastly I draw the attention of the Government to the sad plight of the Ahatguri villagers who could not reap properly the last Aus crop and the pulses due to heavy floods and hail storm respectively. The people have sent petition to the Government and I hope they will sympathetically consider it and grant some remission or any other amelioration as the Government deem proper for their relief.

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, within one year of Montford Reforms our Provincial Revenues dwindled from Rs. 56,28,000 as opening balance to Rs. 12,56,000 next year. This very fact shows how the administrative heads swelled, hearts shrank, hands paralysed. After more than a quarter of a century of Reforms, the People's Budget today shows a deficit of 60 lakhs. We sympathise with the Hon'ble the Finance Minister when he bemoaned the fate of the Province and resented the unjust financial adjustment by the Centre. He has placed all the facts of the Budget very elaborately and in details. He has criticised the unjust treatment of the Centre in no uncertain terms. It may no longer be possible to turn the wheel of the Budget with accelerated speed in the old administrative rut. It will sink deeper and deeper into the financial mire. A new path shall have to be chalked out and a new direction taken. With more than 60 per cent. of the Revenue absorbed in running the Administrative machinery alone, what can be expected of nation-building projects? So, the paper schemes will be moth-eaten in the Secretariat pigeon-holes.

Beggars have no choice, we must realise today. We were expecting 8 crores from the Centre, but the fiat came at the last moment that 160 lakhs would fall to our lot, and that even after our much whining. The hand that robbed us of 75 crores within the last ten years by merely shaking the Pagoda tree to rear up which it never turned even a sod, is now unwilling to return even two annas out of a rupee when we are in dire needs. Had Shylock been living at this hour I believe he would not have grudged this much.

Independence would mean nothing to us, if in this formative period of all-round national growth we are still spoonfed and treated as invalid. The Government of India Act has already become a heap of scrap iron. No part of it should be used in the new Machinery which is likely to clog its smooth working and lessen its speed of revolutions. Our New Machinery should be entirely of a new type to produce things suited to our national life, and not tinkers to hold before the child to lull it into sleep. We expect the Constituent Assembly to evolve a plastic principle of raising revenue and its allocation to different provinces in ratio to their contributions in all shapes, but exceptions should be made wherever necessary for extra help to an undeveloped province or a province requiring special treatment for strategic reasons. The present Government at the Centre is of course not responsible for all the ills from which we have suffered so long at the hands of an Alien Power. But they cannot allow them to continue any more.

British Administration of Assam was all along an anomaly. The province was made subservient to Bengal Administration for some time. Bengal laws, regulations were introduced in many vital matters. Hundred and one tenures



were created from "Jhum" to Permanent Settlement. The province was never led to the road of Autonomy. We looked askance to Calcutta High Court for law and justice, to Calcutta University for our culture. To become engineers, doctors, lawyers we had to go out of the province for education. Even we had been forced to learn Bengali in our schools. Emasculation of national life was complete. So, to make the province worthy of the name of a State, full and ungrudging assistance of the Centre cannot be denied. Or, the Indian Union on federal basis will be meaningless.

When Assam was administered as a Chief Commissioner's province, the Administration was not so much top-heavy. When Bengal was partitioned, Assam was included in the newly formed Eastern Bengal and Assam Province under a Lieutenant Governor. When the partition was annulled, many top-ranking officers had to be provided and they were thrust upon Assam which again reverted to a Chief Commissioner's province. The Administration began to be top-heavy from that time. The last war was also responsible for creation of new Departments with a large number of new posts. Duplication was made in some of the Departments and posts created under exigencies have come to stay on permanent footing. To add to these difficulties, all-round enhancement of salaries was forced on the Government due to economic stress.

The main source of revenue of the province was land revenue and excise. Congress Government cannot with conscience give up prohibition campaign for the sake of revenue. The country is also not in a mood to tolerate this. There was no equitable levy of taxes on lands. From "Jhum" to Permanent Settlement there are even now innumerable classes of land tenures. But all are not equally levied. Tea lands are almost free. Nominal revenues are realised from them. But the Industry, besides lands under actual plantation, utilises one and a half lakh acres as *khet* land, seventy thousand acres as grazing, one lakh thirty thousand acres for fuel and timber, all fetching an enormous income, though the common man is hard hit for thatch, bamboo, fuel and his daily needs. People of flooded areas have gone mad in search of *khet* lands. Yet Tea Industry pays nearly three and half lakhs out of total land revenue of one crore twenty six lakhs. But tea now gives excise and export duty to the tune of ten crores and more to the Central Government. In 1921 the Hon'ble Finance Member said that with the industrial development of Assam there would be larger profits to be taxed. Now, oil, coal and tea pay the Centre not less than 15 crores or so. Are they not "larger profits" of which at least a definite share is our dues? Otherwise how these industries have contributed to the development of the Province?

Under the Reform Scheme no financial justice was done to Assam. Our then Government failed to assert themselves. The case of absolute bungling by the representatives of our then Government was clearly revealed to the hon. Members of this House by the Leader of the Opposition in his last Budget speech.

In 1925 Colonel Smiles moved an adjournment Motion to protest against the unfair treatment in the matter of remission of the Provincial contribution of this province as compared with Bengal. He said "I ask our Hon'ble Finance Member what reason or justification he can give us for this? Are the findings of the Meston Committee to be adhered to or are they to be ignored? Is the contribution of any particular province to be remitted without the other provinces being consulted? I asked, Sir, if there is a sort of Hailey-Blackett Code in force by which a province could get a remission of 20 lakhs because an ordinance is necessary or perhaps another 20 lakhs for a Criminal Amendment Act, perhaps a prize of 20 lakhs for wasteful and extravagant finance and the other 3 lakhs by minor acts of civil disobedience?" Again, "Some of our senior officials were attached to the old province of



Eastern Bengal and Assam. Some of them when they were there succeeded in wringing the most valuable concessions out of the Central Government. When these officers were attached to Assam the success has hardly been so great." Further, he said "I can remember the Hon'ble Leader of the House saying once 'I can put the Budget before you, but I cannot give you the brains or the application to understand it.' " Are we not justified in telling our Financial representatives to Delhi "We can send you to Delhi but we cannot give you the will or the courage to put our financial position there." He cited the instance of a capable station master in Ireland whose promotion was ignored for 20 years. A collision occurred in his station and immediately he was promoted.

Sir, even "if we lack in brains and application" we should have "will or the courage" to put our financial position before the Central Authorities. Under Devolution Rules "Bengal's contribution would have been something like 360 lakhs. Instead of that their contribution was limited to 63 lakhs, and even that they have been relieved of for the past three years." This was due to the influence of Sir John Kerr who was Finance Member with the Government of Bengal. Under the Reform Scheme every province was entitled to a moiety of income-tax within the province. 90 per cent. of tea gardens used to pay income-tax through Calcutta Agency. Thus a portion of our share was lost to us. It had to be brought to the notice of the Government. For this advantage Bengal got 37 per cent. of divisible pool. Though the Expert Committee now proposes to raise our share of income-tax from 50 to 60 per cent. which means an increase of some 10 to 18 lakhs as against loss of Jute Export Duty to the tune of 80 to 90 lakhs. Let the "Hindustan Standard" take note of this also.

Now the time for fruitless criticism is over. We must assert our rights. We must have economic independence to live our own life. We are linked with the Centre but cannot be fettered by them. The exploiting policy of the alien Government can never be now perpetuated by our National Government at the Centre. Our case is just and demands irresistible. Development of our Province to a full-fledged State means a mint of money. We want a definite share of our own resources which pay some 15 crores to the Centre under the existing arrangements. We cannot wait for another five years under the present financial stringency. The Government will be well-advised to take the public and the House into confidence in preparing a memorandum of our demands, if necessary, and arrange a deputation to wait upon the Drafting Committee and the Government at the Centre with facts and figures, reasons and cogency, convincing the authorities of past injustice and present indifference with a "will and courage" of a free people smarting under undeserved fetters.

Let Constituent Assembly Members be apprised of our financial situation and justice of our demands. Let them realise that the neglect of Assam—The Eastern-most Gate of India—means unsafe existence for the whole Union. There can be no weaker link in the whole Federal chain. In that case danger of snapping will always be there.

Our existing administrative machinery should be removed of some superfluous arts. Too many contrivances in a machine hamper easy running. Some of the Departments may without impairing efficiency be amalgamated. Most of the posts of deputies and additional may be abolished, and their services may ungrudgingly be realised from the next lower officer with a little more emoluments and status. Quality, not quantity, in any department is necessary. But quality must be assessed at its proper value. Anything top heavy easily tumbles.

To keep the services contented not only adequate emoluments be given but just claims to promotion be recognised. Nepotism should not be allowed to run the Department. If the Departmental Heads treat their subordinates



with equal justice and mercy and never allow any subordinate to be a special favourite, all hands will work well and absolute discipline will be maintained. If the office goes slack, the screw must be loose at the Head. In my honest opinion time is already changed for running an office with old bureaucratic methods. In place of red-tapism human elements should be introduced into the services. A complete reorganisation of services to suit the new order of things is, to my mind, absolutely necessary.

It is my profound conviction Gandhism will balance capitalism and Marxism of the world ultimately. India rooted in her past history, tradition and culture, her spiritual bearing in every transaction of life is now consciously or unconsciously gravitating towards Gandhian principle of life, though she has yet some leaning towards western method of life due to her servile imitations for last two centuries. India is out not only to live the Gandhian way of life but to revitalise the world with this spirit. She will be the moral influence of the world.

At this juncture we who pose ourselves to be servants of the people are only to remember the common man, seven lakhs villages to be converted into seven lakhs village republics, as of old, and as conceived by Mahatma in this Age. He wanted every village to be self-sufficient. For this reason he wanted Congress to be converted into an organisation of Seva Sangha.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** The hon. Member has got only two minutes more.

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN :** Sir, I was given time by Srijut Dandesar Hazarika and Srijut Chanoo Kheria in the Party meeting.

**\*Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN :** On a point of information, Sir, can the hon. Member read out his speech ?

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN :** Well you have all read speeches and during my time only this question has been raised. (*Great laughter.*)

It is time for us to look within ourselves and remember with all humility the blessed words of Bapuji. We have now to weigh the significance of every utterance made for some time past by saintly Rajendra Prasad, deep political thinker like well-balanced Kripalani and the Congress High Commander regards our individual behaviour in public life and private character.

People are behind the Congress Government. Their respect for the Government is profound. As such they also become mortified at any lapse of a Congressman in discharging his duties. I honestly feel we must be always on our guard in this respect.

Another danger is ahead of us. It is a fact the common man is yet to be placed in the centre of society. He is yet to feed and clothe himself properly. He is yet discontent. This has given a chance to those whose ideology is always to break the Government of the day and create a chaos for their infiltration. To my mind, it will be the duty of Congress Government, duty of every Congressman to work whole-heartedly and with a plan to remove the root cause of discontent of the common man and with this end in view take up first and foremost the village self-sufficiency work and not the programme only, as well as look after the real needs of the cultivator and the labour.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** I cannot allow any more time.

*\*Speech not corrected.*



**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN:** I could not finish my speech.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** You have taken 4 minutes more.

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN:** Sir, I was under the impression, as settled in the Party meeting, that I would be given time.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** No, I am sorry, I can't give you any more time.

**Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I take the privilege to speak a few words on the Budget placed before the House by the Hon'ble Finance Minister.

At the outset I thank the Hon'ble Finance Minister who has taken much endeavour to convince the Government of India for adequate Central grant to the undeveloped Province of Assam for the economic, commercial and strategic development of Assam,—the Eastern Front of the Indian Dominion.

This is the second Budget of Assam after we have achieved independence. A Budget indicates how the country is proceeding towards its development. The Budget placed before the House no doubt shows some future progress over the past.

I am glad that the Hon'ble Finance Minister has allotted more money in the Budget for education and particularly to the backward tribal communities, but I am sorry to point out that the Hon'ble Minister has forgotten that the immigrants—particularly the Muslim immigrants—are backward and they require sufficient educational facilities for bringing them in the line of literate and cultured citizens of Assam.

Before spending public money the Government should always bear in mind that in comparison with the expenditure the benefit reaching the public is greater. As the revenue receipts are small in Assam, we must cut the coat according to cloth. The money spent for the Publicity and Grow More Food Campaign are wastage of public money, as no substantive benefit to the public is being done. The radio sets supplied to the public are being used only for amusements, besides imparting any educational and informative benefit. Our society has not yet reached to that stage when Publicity will be of benefit to them.

I am sure Government cannot give an account of what increase has been made towards more production and what export of food has been made due to the Grow More Food Campaign. The days of propaganda and lectures have passed by. It is the time for substantial and practical work. The only Departments which require adequate money for the betterment of the citizens of Assam are Education, Communication and Health. The money budgeted for those Departments which do immense good to the public is quite inadequate. Sir, in an independent country, the people should get food to live and cloth to put on, which are the bare necessities of human life but the Government have failed to provide so much to the people.

In my last Budget speech, and also in the speeches of other hon. Members, we had complained of corruption and nepotism. We thought that our popular Government would chalk out some policy to mould the human materials to be fit to serve our independent country. But our crying was in wilderness! Our Government preach the principles of Mahatma Gandhi, but in practice do the reverse! I pray to God to guide our Government in the right line shown by the Father of the Nation.

Sir, provision has been made in the Budget for the relief of the political sufferers, who participated in the Congress struggle for attainment of independence in 1930-33 and 1942. I do not find any reason why the political sufferers of



1920-21 have been left out. When the Government have adopted the policy of giving relief to the political sufferers they must give relief to all the deserving persons and their families, who have suffered from the very inception of the political struggle. One thing I cannot but point out is that the Government should be very careful in selecting deserving persons. They should not encourage mischief-making by granting relief to those who had done mischief to the country by demolishing and setting fire to the public buildings and destroying telegraph lines and other communications.

Sir, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not ventilate the grievances of my locality. Though the Goalpara Subdivision is in a strategic position after the partition of India, our Government have not given up bastardly treatment towards it. The Subdivision is backward in respect of education, and communication. We were glad to learn that a Railway line would be passing through Goalpara, connecting Bongaigaon and the Garo Hills. But to our utter disappointment and regret, a new scheme of Railway line connecting Pandu with Darugiri *via* Dudnoi has received the priority of the Central Government. This scheme if translated into action would mean isolation of Goalpara and a part of the Garo Hills from the rest of India. The Garo Hills is just on the border of Goalpara and a part of the Hills is within the Subdivision of Goalpara, and business relations between the people of Goalpara and Garo Hills have been continuing from a long time past. Moreover from the strategic point of view a permanent and strong railway line should connect the rest of India and Assam. This will only be possible by building a strong and permanent Railway line joining Assam through Goalpara, as the line joining Bongaigaon to Amingaon is shaky and there is every possibility of its being washed out by the current of the rivers. Sir, there is much agitation amongst the people of Goalpara on this matter. I, therefore, request the Government to move the Centre to divert the Railway line from Siju to Bongaigaon through Goalpara *via* Dudnoi.

Further an undesirable situation has also been created by the dropping of the Paikan-Bajendoba-Tura road project. The Grit formula entitles Goalpara to get 84 miles road improvement. Not to speak of 84 miles, of the 5 roads undertaken in the Goalpara Subdivision, the two in the North Bank and two in the South Bank have got go-slow order while the remaining Paikan-Bajendoba road has been dropped altogether. The distance between Paikan to Bajendoba is about 14 miles, of which 12 miles fall within Goalpara and 2 miles within the Garo Hills. It connects Nibari, a very important trade centre with Goalpara. This is the only outlet for raw materials of that submontane area, mostly inhabited by the tribal people, to Goalpara the only accessible steamerghat. It is learnt that about 1½ lakhs of rupees were already spent and two-thirds of the work done, and about one lakh is needed for its completion. If it is abandoned at this stage the money already spent simply becomes wasted. There is great public agitation over the matter. I therefore urge upon the Government to continue the project and if the completion is not possible in one year, for financial difficulties, it may be spread over for two or three years, but the money spent should not be wasted for nothing.

Sir, last of all I want to bring to the notice of Government the Police atrocities in our Subdivision. Without any legal reason the public are being appointed Special Constables in the Subdivision of Goalpara. The situations or the circumstances are not such as the Police law demands that the people should be appointed Special Constables. The criminal cases might have increased but this is not the ground for which Special Constables may be appointed. The Police Act directs that if any unlawful assembly or a breach of peace takes place and the Government Police cannot protect the lives and properties of the citizens then and then only Special Constables can



be appointed. But no such situation has arisen. The village people, appointed as Special Constables have to go to the thana twice or thrice a week and remain there. They are mostly cultivators and their families sometimes go without food having no one else to take care of them. I request Government to look into the matter and see that in an independent country the liberties of every citizen, irrespective of his caste, or creed is not entailed and no injustice is done to any one.

Sir, with these words, I resume my seat.

**Maulavi ABDUL HALIM :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, our province is really in a difficult financial position. In expectation of a Post-War grant of Rs.8 crores many development projects were taken in hand. In several cases things were under way. We are now suddenly told that we could only get Rs.1 crore and 60 lakhs. As a consequence of this unforeseen contingency, some schemes have to be abandoned, others have to be postponed, and the few that have to be carried on will suffer delay as, presumably, they will have to be spread over a longer period than originally contemplated. Expectations that had been raised have now been blasted in several directions. There is nothing for it but to live on hopes, and hopes deferred make the heart sick.

Throughout the very lucid speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister there is an unmistakable note of optimism coupled with determination to surmount the difficulties of the situation into which the province has been plunged. We quite appreciate the vehemence with which he has put forward Assam's claim for a substantial share of the Central taxes on our products like jute, petrol and tea. If this claim is admitted, as I hope it will some time or other, Assam will have funds adequate to meet what the Finance Minister calls our "basic needs"; and with what we may be able to spare, supplemented by Post-War grants which should be available in abundance with the hoped for solution of the few inter-dominion problem still under negotiation,—we shall be in a position to go ahead with the well-conceived projects of developing the province as her importance as a frontier outpost for defence demands.

We are really grateful to the Hon'ble Premier and the Hon'ble Finance Minister for their incessant efforts towards convincing the Central Government of the justice of our demand. That the Centre has waived the 50 per cent. contribution and has agreed to give special weightage to Assam is, let us hope, an augury for a yet more generous recognition of our claims. I do hope, the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister of the Union will respond to our appeal, recognise our peculiar position, and release our rightful share in the Central taxes.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, our deficit is small, and it would have been better if additional taxation had been avoided. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has himself admitted at the outset of his speech that the people have already been burdened with many taxation measures. The feature is only redeemed by the fact that luxury goods have been taxed, although it is open to question if all the taxable things listed are luxury goods. I hope and trust, this measure of taxation is purely temporary and will be abolished the moment there is the least likelihood of the financial position improving.

I am really glad that nearly the entire available provision of recurring grants has been allotted to the Education Department for expansion of education and improvement of the pay and prospects of the teachers of Aided High Schools. I hope, this has been done without prejudicing the urgent schemes of other nation-building departments. While I admit, the teachers of Aided High Schools had a very urgent claim upon financial relief, and while I am glad that



Government have been able to mitigate their sufferings to a certain extent, I am constrained to observe that the teachers of schools of the middle grade, who are still less paid and are consequently more hard hit by the mounting prices of the necessaries of daily life, have been left to sink or swim, or at best to shift for themselves. I do hope their case will receive consideration at the next opportunity.

The provincialisation of a certain number of educational institutions has been included in this year's new schemes. There is one School—the Kakopathar Middle English School—to which I drew the special attention of the Hon'ble Education Minister in my speech in the last year's budget session. The school has remained where it was. I would repeat my request today. The school is located in the remotest corner of the Lakhimpur district and it serves an area inhabited by a most backward population. Pending provincialisation, a liberal grant should be given immediately so that it may not die a natural death.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should like once more to press the case of Dibrugarh College so that it may receive the earnest attention of Government. The establishment of the Medical College at Dibrugarh has raised the importance of this College considerably; for, it may naturally be expected that the prospective students of the Medical College will seek for appropriate subjects of study in this College. I request that the earliest step be taken to increase the grant-in-aid substantially to enable the College to offer instruction in Science subjects, particularly Biology.

I cannot refrain from referring to two urgent needs of the town of Dibrugarh in the sphere of education. The High School building, compared most ignominiously with Government High School buildings of even Sub-divisional towns like Golaghat, Mangaldai and Goalpara. The buildings bears the marks of hoary antiquity and, I fear, the Department will never think of a new building until time, or the violence of Nature, does not pull the present buildings down. If money is spent on a new commodious, building worthy of the town of Dibrugarh, it will be money well spent. Attached to the School is a Hindu Hostel which is wrongly so called; for it is only a number of thatched huts huddled together in a most unsuitable area. The Hostel should be rebuilt, and on a new site. The other need is the conveyance arrangements of the Government Girls' High School which have to be improved so as to facilitate a more comfortable and a more punctual conveyance.

I would have been very happy if the budget provided for the extension of the Jails building of Dibrugarh. With the increase in the number of prisoners there is much over-crowding, and this can only be relieved by providing additional accommodation. I hope, this question will be taken up by the authorities concerned.

I am sorry to have to border on the parochial in referring to one more public grievance of Dibrugarh. The shifting of the Steamer Ghat to Maijan has brought a new menace to the town. The problem of the erosion of the river has been but half-heartedly tackled so far. The constant plying of steamers up the river and by the town is bound to help the erosion. I would request the Government to obtain the opinion of experts and to take suitable action to allay the genuine fear of the inhabitants.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, one more point and I conclude. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has revealed that the Salary Bill of the province absorbs nearly



68 per cent. of the total revenue receipt, and he advises Government servants to pursue organised economy in the expenditures they incur. I doubt if this course will save much money. I feel, there is room elsewhere for curtailing expenditure. Many of the posts recently created do not justify their creation. These may be ruthlessly cut down. There are again many posts that can easily be amalgamated as they were done in war time, without detriment to the efficiency of the services. This, I venture to submit, is a surer way to economy.

**Srijut DALBIR SINGH LOHAR:** মাননীয় সভাপতি ডাক্তাৰীয়া, ১৯৪৯-৫০ চনৰ 'বাজেট' দাখি ধৰি মাননীয় অর্থ-মন্ত্ৰী শ্ৰীযুত বিষ্ণুৰাম মেধি ডাক্তাৰীয়াই যি তথ্যপূৰ্ণ বক্তৃতা দিলে তাৰ বাবে মই তেখেতক অভিনন্দন জনাইছো।

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** মাননীয় সদস্যই অলপ লাহে লাহে কব। নহলে আমাৰ stenographer এ ইমান খবকৈ লিখা টান হব।

**Srijut DALBIR SINGH LOHAR:** এটা অর্থনৈতিক সঙ্কটৰ অৱস্থাত এই বছৰৰ 'বাজেট' খন তেখেতে প্ৰণয়ন কৰিব লগা হৈছে। তাৰ মাজতো জাতি গঠনৰ কাৰণে প্ৰয়োজনীয় কাম বিলাক বাদ নিদিয়াটক তেখেতে আমাৰ আগত এই 'বাজেট' দাখি ধৰিব পৰাটো সচাকৈয়ে এটা কৃতিত্বৰ কাম। স্বাধীন ভাৱতৰ এটা যোগ্য সমাপ্তি হিচাবে আমাৰ এই সুন্দৰ প্ৰদেশখন আৰু সুন্দৰ কৰি গঢ়ি তুলিবলৈ যি বিলাক আহিলা পাতি আৰু কাৰিকৰৰ প্ৰয়োজন তাৰ প্ৰতি অসম চৰকাৰে পোন প্ৰথমতেই মনোযোগ দিয়াটো সচাকৈয়ে সমৰোপযোগী হৈছে। এই উদ্দেশ্যে বিশ্ব-বিদ্যালয়, মেডিকেল কলেজ আদি কৰি যি কেইটা অনুষ্ঠান প্ৰতিষ্ঠা কৰা হৈছে এখন প্ৰদেশ হিচাবে টিকি থাকিবলৈ ইয়াৰ প্ৰয়োজনীয়তা কোনেও অস্বীকাৰ কৰিব নোৱাৰে। এই অনুষ্ঠান বিলাকৰ বাবে যি খৰচ লাগে, 'বাজেট'ৰ যি অৱস্থাতেই নহওক, তাৰ দায়িত্ব আমি লবই লাগিব। মই সন্তোষ পাইছো যে অর্থ মন্ত্ৰী ডাক্তাৰীয়াই আৰ্থিক সঙ্কটৰ সন্মুখীন হৈও এই খৰচ কমোৱা নাই।

'বাজেট'ত বিশেষকৈ মন কৰিব লগীয়া কথা এয়ে যে পিচ পৰা সম্প্ৰদায় আৰু লোক সকলৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে যিমান দূৰ সম্ভৱ কাৰ্য্যকৰী সহায়ৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হৈছে। পিচ পৰা সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰী সকলৰ শিক্ষাৰ কাৰণে বৃত্তি দিবলৈ কিছু টকা 'বাজেট'ত সুকীয়াকৈ ধৰা দেখি আমি বৰ আনন্দ পাইছো। এই প্ৰসঙ্গত মই কেৱল ইয়াকেহে কব খোজোঁ যে, পিচ পৰা সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ ভিতৰত কোন কেইটা সম্প্ৰদায় লোৱা হব সেই বিষয়ে যেন মাননীয় শিক্ষামন্ত্ৰী ডাক্তাৰীয়াই বিবেচনা কৰি চায়। আন আন 'ট্ৰাইবেল' আৰু 'তপশীল' ভুক্ত সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ দৰেই বা তাতোকৈ বেচিকৈ পিচ পৰা অৱস্থাত আছে অসমৰ গুখালী আৰু বনুৱা সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ লোক সকল। এওঁ লোকৰ প্ৰতি বিশেষ মনোযোগ দিয়া মই উচিত বুলি ভাবোঁ। অসমত চিৰস্থায়ী হিচাবে বসতি কৰা আৰু অসমকে নিজৰ ঘৰ বুলি পুৰুষানুক্ৰমে যি সকলে গ্ৰহণ কৰিছে, সেই গুখালী আৰু বাগিচাৰ পৰা ওলাই আহি গাওঁ পাতি বসতি কৰা বনুৱা শ্ৰেণীৰ লোক সকলক শিক্ষা-দীক্ষাই এটা উন্নত অৱস্থালৈ আনিব পাৰিলে অসমৰ জাতীয় জীৱন যে শক্তিশালী হব সেই বিষয়ে কাৰো সন্দেহ থাকিব নোৱাৰে। ইয়াৰ লগতে মই ইয়াকো কব খোজোঁ যে চাহ বাগিচাত কাম কৰা বনুৱা সকলৰ শিক্ষাৰ দায়িত্ব চৰকাৰে নিজে গ্ৰহণ কৰিবলৈ যি ইচ্ছা প্ৰকাশ কৰিছে তাক যেন সোনকালে কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰা হয়। বহুতো বাগিচাত এতিয়াও স্কুল খোলা হোৱা নাই। যি বিলাকত স্কুল আছে, তাতো নিয়ম মতে পঢ়া শুনা হৈছে বুলি কব নোৱাৰি। মই, শিক্ষা বিভাগক এই নিবেদন কৰিব খোজোঁ যে, এই স্কুল বিলাক চৰকাৰৰ পক্ষৰ পৰা পৰিদৰ্শন কৰাৰ যেন যথোপযুক্ত ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হয়। চৰকাৰে বাগিচাৰ শিক্ষাৰ দায়িত্ব লবলৈ যি খিনি সময় লাগিব সেই খিনি সময়ৰ ভিতৰতে যাতে বাগিচাৰ বনুৱাৰ



লৰাছোৱালীৰ শিক্ষাৰ সুবিধাৰ পৰা বঞ্চিত হব লগা নহয় তাৰ কাৰণে চাহ মালিক সকলেই যাতে অবিলম্বে সকলো বাগিচাতে স্কুল খোলে তালৈ যেন চৰকাৰে চকু দিয়ে। বনুৱাৰ প্ৰতিনিধি হিচাবে মই ইয়াকো কব খোজো যে তেওঁলোকৰ সামাজিক, অৰ্থনৈতিক আৰু নৈতিক উন্নতিৰ কাৰণেও শিক্ষামূলক আৰু আদৰ্শমূলক কাম কৰিবলৈ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা উচিত। এই উদ্দেশ্যে বাগিচা বিলাকত 'ৱেলফেয়াৰ অফিচাৰ' নিযুক্ত কৰা আৱশ্যক। বুঢ়া কালত বনুৱা সকলৰ ভৰণ-পোষণৰ কাৰণে Insurance Scheme যিমান সোনকালে পৰা যায় হাতত লবলৈ চৰকাৰে যেন চেষ্টা কৰে। প্ৰতি ঠাইতে 'ৱাৰ্ক কমিটি' বিলাক গঠন কৰা কামো সোনকালে কৰিব লাগে। এতিয়ালৈকে যদি বাগিচাৰ শিক্ষাৰ কিবা সুবিধা হৈছে, সি কেৱল 'প্ৰাইমেৰী' শিক্ষাৰ ৰূপতে আৱদ্ধ আছে। মোৰ বোধেৰে প্ৰত্যেক বাগিচাত নহলেও অঞ্চলে অঞ্চলে কেইবাখনো বাগিচাৰ মাজত মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষাৰ কাৰণে মিডিল ভাৰনেকুলাৰ, মিডিল ইংলিশ বা হাইস্কুলৰ সুবিধা থাকিব লাগে। কাৰণ চাহ বাগিচাৰ কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ লৰাছোৱালীৰ শিক্ষাৰ যে কিমান অসুবিধা হয় তাক নকলেও হব।

বাগিচাত এনেয়ে পৰি থকা মাটিবিলাক বনুৱা সকলৰ মাজত ভগাই দি আৰু বাগিচাৰ মালিক সকলেও কিছু অৰ্থ সাহায্য দি তেওঁলোকৰ ভৰণ-পোষণৰ বাবে যাতে বেচি পৰিমাণে ধান, সবিয়হ, আলু, কঁহিয়াৰ আৰু শাক-পাচলি আদিৰ খেতি কৰি খাদ্য সঙ্কটৰ পৰা যাতে ৰক্ষা পাব পাৰে তাৰ বাবেও চৰকাৰে লক্ষ্য কৰা উচিত। এই বিষয়ে চৰকাৰে বাগিচাৰ মালিক সকলৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিব বুলি বিশেষকৈ মই মাননীয় খাদ্যমন্ত্ৰী ও বনুৱা মন্ত্ৰীক টানি অনুৰোধ জনাওঁ।

মাননীয় সদস্য চাৰোৱান চাহাবে সিদিনা জাতীয় 'ট্ৰেড ইউনিয়ন'ৰ কৰ্মী সকলক কেৱল বাগিচাত কাম কৰিবলৈ দিয়া হৈছে বুলি যি অভিযোগ কৰিছিল, তাৰ উত্তৰত মই কব খোজো যে তেখেতৰ কথাৰ কোনো ভিত্তি নাই। জাতীয় 'ট্ৰেড ইউনিয়ন'ৰ কৰ্মী সকলে, চাহ বাগিচাৰ বনুৱা সকলৰ প্ৰাণত যদি সোমাব পাৰিছে, তেনেহলে সি কেৱল তেওঁলোকে বনুৱাৰ মঙ্গলৰ অৰ্থে আন্তৰিকতাৰে কৰা কামৰ গুণতহে। অসমত জাতীয় 'ট্ৰেড ইউনিয়ন' কংগ্ৰেছে অলপ দিনৰ ভিতৰতে যি শক্তিশালী বনুৱা সম্বন্ধ গঢ়ি তুলিছে, সি ক্ষমতা প্ৰাপ্ত দহই এজন লোকৰ পৰিপোষণত কেতিয়াও সম্ভৱপৰ হব নোৱাৰে। এটা উচ্চ আদৰ্শলৈ লক্ষ্য ৰাখি কোনো ৰাজনৈতিক বিশৃঙ্খলাৰ ভিতৰত নোসোমোৱাকৈ ৰাষ্ট্ৰ পিতা মহাত্মা গান্ধীয়ে দেখুৱাই যোৱা অহিংসা আৰু সত্যৰ পথেদি বনুৱাৰ প্ৰকৃত মঙ্গলৰ কাৰণে কাম কৰিছে বুলিয়েই জাতীয় 'ট্ৰেড ইউনিয়ন' কংগ্ৰেছে কৃতকাৰ্যতা লাভ কৰিব পাৰিছে।

সভাপতি ডাক্তৰীয়া, মই নিবেদন কৰিব খোজোঁ যে আমাৰ স্কুল বিলাকৰ পাঠ্য পুথিৰ সম্পৰ্কে বিশেষকৈ মন দিব লগা হৈছে। মই নকলেও হব যে, আগৰ পাঠ্য পুথি বিলাক বৰ্ত্তমানৰ পৰিস্থিতিত নতুন অৱস্থাৰ লগত খাপ নাখায়। তাৰোপৰি পাঠ্যপুথি বিলাক সময়মতে ৰাছি দিব নোৱাৰাত আৰু বহুত পাঠ্যপুথি ছপা কৰি উলিয়াব নোৱাৰাত ছাত্ৰ ছাত্ৰী সকলৰ যি অসুবিধাৰ সৃষ্টি হৈছে তালৈ মই সম্প্ৰতি মাননীয় শিক্ষা মন্ত্ৰী ডাক্তৰীয়াৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰোঁ। আশা কৰোঁ এই জৰুৰী প্ৰশ্নটোৱে যি গুৰুত্ব পাব লাগে, পাঠ্য পুথি কমিটিৰ বা আন যাবেই নহওক অৱহেলা বা অমনোযোগীতাত সেই গুৰুত্ব নোপোৱাকৈ যেন নাথাকে।

মোৰ নিবেদনাত খেতিয়ক সকলৰ কাৰণে বৰ্ত্তমানে সকলোতকৈ বেচি প্ৰয়োজন হৈছে Irrigation আৰু Embankment ৰ কাম। মই আশা কৰোঁ যে গভৰ্ণমেণ্ট এই বিষয়ে বিশেষ চকু দিব। Public Works Department ৰ Irrigation শাখা আৰু কৃষিবিভাগৰ Irrigation শাখা খাদ্যবিভাগৰ লগত সংযোগ কৰি দিলে বেচি ভাল হব যেন পাওঁ। কিয়নো অধিক শস্য উৎপাদনৰ লগত Irrigation ৰ ঘনিষ্ঠ সম্পৰ্ক। গতিকে মই এই বিষয়টোৰ সম্বন্ধে বিবেচনা কৰি চাবলৈ চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ জনালোঁ।

মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, অধ্যাপক চাৰোৱান চাহাবে এই পৰিষদ ভাঙ্গি দি সাধাৰণ



নিৰ্বাচনৰ সন্মুখীন হবলৈ আহ্বান কৰিছে। মই কওঁ যে সাধাৰণ নিৰ্বাচনৰ কাৰণে তেখেত অধৈৰ্য্য হবৰ কোনো কাৰণ নাই। সাধাৰণ নিৰ্বাচনৰ পৰীক্ষাৰ সন্মুখীন হোৱাৰ সুযোগ সময়মতে নিশ্চয় পাব। তেখেতে কৈছে যে, যোৱা নিৰ্বাচনত কংগ্ৰেছ দলে স্বাধীনতাৰ প্ৰশ্নতহে জয় লাভ কৰিছিল। আন বিষয়ে নিৰ্বাচক মঙলীৰ ৰায় পোৱা নাছিল। কিন্তু তেখেতে এইটো পাহৰা উচিত নহয় যে, কংগ্ৰেছ দলে সিবাৰ নিৰ্বাচনত যিটো মুখ্য প্ৰশ্ন কৰি লৈছিল সেই স্বাধীনতাৰ প্ৰশ্নত আজি সম্পূৰ্ণ কৃতকাৰ্য্যতা লাভ কৰিছে। যিটো দলে দেশৰ সৰ্বপ্ৰধান সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিব পাৰিছে আৰু দেশক পৰাধীনতাৰ নাগ-পাশৰ পৰা উদ্ধাৰ কৰি স্বাধীন কৰিব পাৰিছে সেইটো দলে যে তাৰ পিচত উদ্ভৱ হোৱা অন্যান্য সমস্যাও সমাধান কৰিব পাৰিব সেই বিষয়ে দেশবাসী নিশ্চিত। অৱশ্যন্তাৰী কাৰণত যুদ্ধোত্তৰ পৃথিৱীত আৰু ভাৰতবৰ্ষত যিবিলাক দুৰ্যোগে দেখা দিছে তাৰে সুযোগ সুবিধালৈ বিভেদকাৰী শক্তি সমূহে দেশত যি বিশৃঙ্খলাৰ সৃষ্টি কৰিব খুজিছে সেই ষড়যন্ত্ৰও সৰ্বসাধাৰণ ৰাইজৰ চকুৰ আগত ধৰা পৰিছে। মই আশা কৰোঁ যে এনে অৱস্থাত চাৰোৱান চাহাবে যেন এইদৰে প্ৰচাৰ কাৰ্য্য নচলায়, যিহেতু কাৰ্য্যতঃ কেৱল বিভেদকাৰী শক্তি সমূহক এনে প্ৰচাৰ কাৰ্য্যই সুযোগ দিব পাৰে। চাৰোৱান চাহাব আৰু দুই এজন বিৰোধী দলৰ সদস্যই নতুন নতুন 'টেক্স' লগোৱা হৈছে বুলি কংগ্ৰেছ চৰকাৰক দোষ দিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিছে; কিন্তু প্ৰকৃত অৱস্থাৰ লগত তেখেত সকলৰ এই কথাৰ সম্পৰ্ক নাই। দৰাচলতে সাধাৰণ ৰাইজৰ ওপৰত কেনো নতুন কৰ-কাটল লগোৱা হোৱা নাই। যি সকলে কৰ দিব পাৰে, সেই সকলৰ পৰা কৰলৈ সাধাৰণ ৰাইজৰ উন্নতিৰ কামত খৰচ কৰাটো সকলো প্ৰগতিশীল চৰকাৰৰে কৰ্তব্য। (শুনক, শুনক)। যি সকলে এনে ধৰণৰ কৰ লগোৱাৰ বিৰোধীতা কৰে, তেওঁলোকে হয় মুখত দুখীয়াৰ নাম ললেও ধনী শ্ৰেণীৰ পৃষ্ঠ পোষকতা কৰি সেই কথা কয় বা আগন্তুক নিৰ্বাচনলৈ চকু ৰাখি যুক্তি বা তথ্যৰ লগত সম্পৰ্ক নাথাকিলেও নিৰ্বাচনৰ প্ৰচাৰ হিচাবে সেই কথা কয়। (Hear, Hear).

চৰকাৰে কেইমাহ মানৰ আগতে এটা দেশৰক্ষী বাহিনী গঠন কৰিছিল। কিছুদিন কাম কৰাৰ পাচত এতিয়া সেই বাহিনী 'বিজাৰ্ড'ত থাকিবলৈ আদেশ দিয়া হৈছে। নিৰপেক্ষ লোক মাত্ৰেই স্বীকাৰ কৰিব যে, দেশৰক্ষী বাহিনীয়ে আভ্যন্তৰীণ শান্তিৰক্ষা কৰাত আৰু বিশেষকৈ চোৰাং কানিৰ বেপাৰী ধৰাত বিশেষ তৎপৰতা দেখুৱাইছিল। কিছুমান ক্ষেত্ৰত তেওঁলোকে নিজৰ জীৱন বিপন্ন কৰিও কাম কৰিছিল। সেই কেইমাহৰ ভিতৰত দেশৰক্ষী বাহিনীয়ে যেনেকৈ কাম কৰিছিল তাৰ পৰা সকলোৰে আশা হৈছিল যে আসামত চোৰাং কানিৰ বেপাৰ সোনকালে নিৰ্মূল হব। অৰ্থৰ অনাটনৰ কাৰণেই বোধহয় চৰকাৰে এই বাহিনীৰ কাম বন্ধ কৰিব লগাত পৰিছে। কিন্তু মোৰ বিশ্বাস যে, এনে এটা বাহিনীক কামত ৰখাটো এই সময়ত প্ৰয়োজন আছিল। মোৰ নিজৰ ধাৰণা যে এনে এটা বাহিনী আমাৰ সদায় প্ৰয়োজন হব। জাতি গঠনৰ কাৰ্য্যতো সকলো প্ৰকাৰে তেওঁলোকে সহায় কৰিব পাৰিব। গতিকে এই বাহিনীৰ কাম বন্ধ নকৰি ইয়াৰ সংখ্যা বঢ়োৱা আৰু সদায় কামত ৰখা উচিত। ইয়াৰ লগতে মই দেশৰক্ষী বাহিনী 'বিজাৰ্ড'লৈ যাওঁতে তেওঁলোকৰ যিবিলাক অসুবিধা হোৱা দেখি আহিছোঁ তাৰ কথা চৰকাৰে বিবেচনা কৰা উচিত। 'বিজাৰ্ড'ত থকা অৰ্থ এয়ে যে তেওঁলোকে নিজৰ কোনো ব্যৱসায় কৰিব নোৱাৰে। কিয়নো যিকোনো মুহূৰ্ত্ততে চৰকাৰে তেওঁলোকক মাতিব পাৰে। এনে এটা অনিশ্চয়তাৰ মাজত নিগাজি ভাবে কোনো ব্যৱসায় কোনেও কৰিব নোৱাৰে। দেশৰক্ষী বাহিনীৰ লোকসকলে বিজাৰ্ডত থাকি স্থায়ীভাবে কোনো ব্যৱসায়ত ধৰিব পৰা নাই। ইয়াৰ ফলত তেওঁলোকৰ যে বিশেষ আৰ্থিক ক্ষতি হৈছে তাক নকলেও হব। চৰকাৰে যদি এই বাহিনীৰ লোকসকলক সদায় কামত ৰাখিব নোৱাৰে তেনেহলে 'বিজাৰ্ড'ত থকা সময়ত তেওঁলোকে যাতে এটা উপাৰ্জন কৰি পৰিয়ালৰ ভৰণ পোষণ কৰিব পাৰে তাৰ কাৰণেও সুবিধা দিব লাগে।

সভাপতি মহোদয়, আজি কেইবা মাহৰ আগৰে পৰা অসমৰ কেইবাখনো জিলাত কেৰাচিন তেলৰ অভাৱত মানুহ অন্ধকাৰত থাকিব লগা হৈছে। অসমৰ ডিগবইত যিটো বস্ত্ৰ উৎপন্ন হৈছে



সেই বস্তুটোৰ অভাৱ, অসমত হোৱাটো বৰ দুখৰ কথা। কাৰ দোষত কেনেকৈ এই বস্তুটো পোৱাত ইমান অসুবিধা আৰু বেমেজালি হব লাগিছে, চৰকাৰে তাৰ এটা ভাল তদন্ত কৰা উচিত। ‘অইল কোম্পানীৰ’ ‘এজেক্টি’ বা কোনো কৰ্মচাৰীৰ দোষত নিশ্চয় এই বেমেজালি বাঢ়িছে। কোন পক্ষ কিমান দায়ী, এইটো তদন্ত কৰি উলিয়াব লাগে। আৰু জ্বালাধাৰণৰ নিত্য প্ৰয়োজনীয় এই কেবাচিন তেলৰ অভাৱ ঘটাই, তেওঁলোকে যি দোষ কৰিছে তাৰ কাৰণে গুৰুতৰ শাস্তি বিধান কৰিব লাগে। মই এই বিষয়টোলৈও চৰকাৰৰ চোকা দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিলোঁ।

আৰু এটা দৰ্কাৰী কথাটো চৰকাৰৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰোঁ যে, এই প্ৰদেশৰে অনেক উঠি অহা ডেকাই চৰকাৰৰ খৰচতেই হওক বা নিজৰ খৰচতেই হওক প্ৰদেশৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে বিদেশৰ নানান ঠাইলৈ গৈ শিক্ষা লাভকৰি, উপযুক্ত স্থান আৰু বানচ নোপোৱাৰ বাবে নিৰাশ হৈ বহি আছে। তেখেত সকলক চৰকাৰে যোগ্যতা অনুসাবে ‘ইঞ্জিনিয়াৰিং’ কলেজ ‘মেডিকেল কলেজ’ আদিত নিয়োগ কৰি জাতি গঠনৰ কামত সহায় কৰিবলৈ যেন সুযোগ দিয়ে।

মাননীয় সভাপতি ডাক্তৰীয়া, এমাবি অতি আৱশ্যকীয় কথাটো চৰকাৰৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰি, মই মোৰ বক্তব্যৰ সামৰণি মাৰিবৰ ইচ্ছা কৰিছোঁ। চৰকাৰে নিৰ্য্যাতিত ৰাজনৈতিক কৰ্মী সকলক যি সহায় কৰিছে আৰু কৰিবলৈ আগ বাঢ়িছে তাৰ বাবে চৰকাৰক নশলাগি নোৱাৰোঁ। চৰকাৰে যি ৩০ বিঘা মাটি দিবলৈ বা লগলাগি কোম্পানী হিচাবে কৰিলে ততোধিক মাটি দিবলৈ যি আঁচনি কৰিছে তাৰ পৰা নিৰ্য্যাতিত কৰ্মী সকলক কিমান সহায় হব মই ভাবি পোৱা নাই। যদি চৰকাৰে লগতে এহাল হালোৱা গৰু, এজনী খিৰতী গাই আৰু কৃষি-ঋণ অলপ দি অন্ততঃ এবছৰ বা দুবছৰৰ বাবে সহায় কৰিব পাৰে, তেন্তে নিৰ্য্যাতিত কৰ্মীসকলক সঁচাকৈয়ে সহায় কৰা হব। নহলে ৩০ বিঘা মাটি লৈ অবধ্যত বোদন কৰাৰ দৰেহে অনেক নিৰ্য্যাতিত কৰ্মীৰ দশা হব।

বৰ্ত্তমান কাপোৰ, চেনি, কাগজ আদিৰ যি ডাক্তৰ ডাক্তৰ ‘ইন্দ্ৰাণ্টি’ বিলাক কৰিবলৈ লৈছে সেইবিলাক এই প্ৰদেশৰে স্থায়ী কোম্পানী বিলাকক কিছু সাহায্য দি আন প্ৰদেশৰ কোম্পানী বিলাকে যাতে সুবিধা নাপায় তাৰ বাবেও চৰকাৰে যেন চোকা দৃষ্টি ৰাখে।

সামৰণিত মোৰ অন্তৰ খুলি

জাতীয় চৰকাৰৰ শলাগ লওঁ ;

অতি তুচ্চ বনুৱা সদস্যই

হাতযোৰ কৰি পুনৰাই কওঁ।

চন্দ্ৰ-সূৰ্য্যই যিদৰে সমানে

ধনী দুখীয়াৰ নকৰি বিচাৰ ;

তাপ-পোহৰেৰে হৰষিত কৰি

বিভূৰ প্ৰেম কৰিছে প্ৰচাৰ।

সেই ধৰণেই বাপুজীৰ এই

তেজেষে গঢ়া নৱ ভাৰতৰ—

অতি চেনেহৰ অসম দেশত—‘ট্ৰাইবেল’ ‘চিডিউল’

বনুৱা, গুখা, মটক মৰাণেও—

সমানে পাওক অধিকাৰ—এই প্ৰদেশৰ।

মজদুৰ, কিষাণ-ৰাজ কায়েম হওক—

“জয়হিন্দ”।



**Moulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is clear from the Budget that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has attempted to present a balanced Budget this year, but he had to present it as a deficit one banking upon a good grant from the Centre.

Sir, this year's Budget is a fair indication of the worsening of the administrative affairs in our province.

The Congress ideal of Kishan-Mazdoor Raj has banished and instead of Ramraj something contrary to this is playing its part in the shape of so many taxations and ordinances. Freedom of speech and movement has been threatened to. There is now widening the gulf between Government and the people.

Sir, throughout the whole period of Independence Movement, the promises which the Congress was giving to the people are not fulfilled by its successors after attainment of independence. But on the contrary the blame which the Congress was throwing upon the British are not yet removed.

The Congress Government is repeating their pledge of service to the common men who are now ill-fed, ill-clothed, hopeless of future and burdened with taxes. Corruption has become the fashion of the day. All talks of nationalisation of industries now are the things of the past.

Sir, there is no doubt about it that High Court, University and Agricultural College are the necessities of the province, but provision for sufficient food and cloth for the people is the foremost duty of the Government. God knows when the Charka of Rural Development Scheme will begin to revolve.

Sir, the ghost of nationalisation is seen in the Textile Department, and the common people are now facing uncommon hardships thereby.

Sir, I now wish to say something about the grievances of my constituency, a big portion of which is victimised by flood every year. There were suggestions to check the flood in Karimganj of which, my information is that, a sluice gate is going to be fixed on Kachua river this year. I hope the Government will also take up the other suggestion too.

Sir, the eastern side of Shonebeel area under Ratabari Police Station is victimised by wild elephants as a result of which about one hundred *hals* of paddy land in circle No.3 of Ratabari have become fallow. We have been pressing to the Government authorities for the last three years to save crops there. But no useful help was given to them. I appeal to the Government, that they may see their way to hold a Kheda or Mela Shikar on this particular place this year.

Sir, in this connection I may mention one thing more that in Karimganj some places are so situated where the reign of wild elephants, boars and monkeys has been going on; and without guns, the cultivators cannot save their crops from those wild beasts. Sir, I regret to inform that the local Government, it seems to me, is bent upon seizing the guns on some plea or other. I have been informed that one Ahmed Ali of Ratabari had to surrender his gun only because some of his villagers happened to be accused of a criminal case.

Sir, if the Government is really unwilling to allow guns to the people, it may please arrange some other means so that the people may save their crops timely.

Sir, the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has said that the social and economic condition of the entire undeveloped area must be raised to the level of the rest of the Indian Union; and to this end in view they have evolved the Rural Development Department through which it is hoped to change the entire basis of our economy. But I regret, Sir, to express that in practice we see activities contrary to that policy. As for instance, let me put up the case of the area on the eastern side of Shonebeel in Karimganj which has no road connection at all. I have been moving for the last three years that Bhangu-Adorkuna road to be extended straight southward to link it with the Anipur-Ma-



nacherra road about 10 miles beyond Adorkuna. Sir, another road project Deodhar-Hailakandi was taken up by the Government which is in comparison with my proposal is less important because the latter is to run west to east from a place about 5 miles from Adorkuna towards south and also about 5 miles from Anipur-Manacherra road towards north. So I request the Government that they may kindly consider my suggestion to extend the Bhanga-Adorkuna road upto Anapur-Manacherra road near about Kalinagar without which an area of about 10 miles from Adorkuna to Anipur-Manacherra road north to south will remain unserved.

Again, Sir, Ratabari is admittedly the most backward area in education. But we see that while introducing compulsory primary education the authority concerned excluded that area, which is against the very policy of the Government.

Sir, in Ratabari three high schools are now established in different places at Dullabcherra, Anipur and Ramkrishnanagar by which an ever felt grievance is going to be redressed. Sir, to spread education there, I request the Government that they, when approached, may kindly help those institutions with adequate grants.

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

### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 1 P.M.

### After lunch

**Srijut BIDYAPATI SINGHA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the very beginning, I heartily congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for his heroic, strenuous and tremendous efforts in preparing and presenting the Budget which is a real picture of the state of affairs in Assam at present. Unfortunately the Budget is a deficit one requiring a substantial grant from the Centre and our Hon'ble Finance Minister has made a very strong case for having the same to meet the minimum necessities of the province. It is proverbially said that the Indian Budget is a gambling in rainfall. Similarly our Budget is also becoming a gambling in Centre's probable grant. On the merit of our case, I earnestly wish that the Central Government will realise our predicament and extend a helping hand.

Though I have no quarrel with the figures, taking all possibilities into account I feel that the deficit in this year's Budget (*i. e.*, 1949-50) in any circumstance will not be less than one crore of rupees. The only redeeming feature in the gloomy horizon is the tightening of the Sales-tax, Agricultural Income-tax, successful carrying out of the productive Post-War Reconstruction schemes, efficient working of the State Transport and State Trading. In 1948-49 the financial position of the Government was unenviable in as much as the stipulated minimum in the bank balance could not be maintained sometimes making the financial position of the Government a precarious existence.

Sir, to come to the various heads of expenditure, under the head 'Land Revenue', the provision of full strength of officers is very welcome in view of the urgency for re-settlement work. Under 'Administration of Justice', there should have been a provision for a District Judge Court at Silchar as has already been referred to by my hon. Friend, Maulavi Makabbir Ali Majumdar, in his budget speech. It is a genuine pleasure to me to see that the Home Guard Organisation has been curtailed to the minimum doubtful strength and necessity to the saving of a good amount in the depleted exchequer.

Under 'Medical', the provision of better pay and more medicine for subsi-



dised doctors and dispensaries, travelling dispensaries in the hills is a nice feature. The southern part of Katlicherra Thana inhabited by thousands of tribal people requires urgently either a travelling or a subsidised dispensary. My information from the Budget is that under Prohibition drive medical treatment for opium addicts had to be made. I am afraid unless extra arrangement be furnished at the launching of full scale Prohibition drive at the cost of the saner and sober persons, the opium addicts may snatch away the priority of consideration in the matter of treatment.

Sir, I have nothing but unstinted praise for the gigantic efforts of the Government in the educational sphere. The all-out efforts of the Government to improve the lot of teachers of all ranks and to introduce province wise compulsory primary education should yield better efficiency in our teachers. Regarding the recruitment of National Cadet Corps, I am a bit surprised about how the teachers of Cachar were given neither the information nor the chance. For the primary stage of education, I request the Government to introduce languages having scripts to enable the children to learn in their respective mother tongues as far as practicable from this year.

Under the new schemes of Embankment and Drainage, I urge upon the Government to include the opening of the silted mouth of river Dhaleswari and Kaptanpur Banraj flood prevention project as they have earned the gratitude of people by taking up Kaliganj flood control measures.

Sir, to speak bluntly, the colossal waste of money in the Public Works Department beggars description. Before my very eyes, I find that eighty thousand rupees have been spent on Sonai-Silchar Road for throwing some earth and repairing a small culvert. A thorough enquiry in the affairs of Public Works Department, Supply and Textile is extremely needed.

Sir, there is one uniqueness in our Budget in comparison to those of other provinces in the fact that our Government had no occasion to spend a single pice for the refugees numbering 34,713 in November 1948 in Old Cachar according to the report of the Congress Rehabilitation Committee and it is a mystery why a large number of resident non-indigenous non-refugees have been deprived of franchise.

Sir, I urge upon the Government to resettle the unfortunate evictees of Lamsakhal, Bhalukmari, Lanka and Khingkhing of Nowgong District who originally migrated from Cachar and who are *bonafied* natives of Assam. I also invoke the compassionate feelings in the Government to enact the Non-agricultural Urban Areas Tenancy Act or to promulgate an ordinance to save the urban tenants of Silchar and Hailakandi from wanton ejection, erratic increment of house-rent and extortion of exorbitant *salamis* by the designing landlords.

Sir, to-day it cannot be repudiated that in the discharge of official duties, and in public activities rampant corruption has crept in. Scarcity of essential necessities available only in the shadow market is the rule of the day. The notorious Belcher case of England should have been an eye opener to the corrupt officials and blackmarketers. But in our province the notorious case of Surma Valley Food Grains Syndicate has been allowed to sleep by this time and it is known to all that enormous smuggling and profiteering are going on at present in the border areas of Karimganj without any effective check from the Government.

The common man whom the Government is pledged to serve is wondering about what Independence has brought in its wake. I would suggest to the Government to arrange for judges on circuit to make summary trials of cases of corruption. Unfortunately, human efforts fall far short of the ideal. So even if Kishan-Majdoor Raj or Ramrajya may not be achieved just now, let a tolerable Raj be the look out of the Government so that with



the gradual successful carrying out of rural development and industrial schemes, Assam may attain her kudos in future. With an iron hand, i. e., Ramdanda the Government should stamp out corruption, so that the undesirable elements spoken of by the Hon'ble Finance Minister may not prey upon the simple belief of the common man to bring in an avalanche in the affairs of the country.

With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

**Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI:** মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহোদয়ে তথ্যপূৰ্ণ অভিভাষণৰে ১৯৪৯-১৯৫০ চনৰ আয়ব্যয়ৰ হিচাপ এই পৰিষদত দাখিল ধৰাত তেখেতক অভিনন্দন জনাইছোঁ। দেশ বৰ্তমান নানা দুৰ্যোগ, নানা বিপদৰ মাজেদি চলিব লাগিছে, এনে অৱস্থাত তেখেতে সমতা ৰক্ষা কৰি যি বাজেট উত্থাপন কৰিছে তাৰ বাবে তেখেত নিশ্চয় শলাগৰ পাত্ৰ; কেৱল পৰিষদৰ সভাৰ পৰাই যে তেখেতে সমৰ্থন পাব লাগে এনে নহয়, শিক্ষিত অশিক্ষিত, ধনী দখীয়া সকলোৰে পৰা তেখেতে সম্পূৰ্ণ সমৰ্থণ আৰু সহযোগ পাব বুলিয়েই মোৰ দৃঢ় বিশ্বাস।

আয়ব্যয়ৰ হিচাব মই ভালকৈ মনযোগেৰে পৰীক্ষা কৰিব নোৱাৰিলোঁ। সেই কাৰণে মই সেই বিষয়ে একো কবলৈ ইচ্ছা নকৰোঁ। মাত্ৰ প্ৰত্যেক বিভাগৰ যি দুই এটা আঁসোৱাহ বুলি মোৰ চকুত পৰিছে তাকেহে ব্যক্ত কৰিম।

বৰ্তমান চৰকাৰে অতি কম সময়ৰ ভিতৰতে যি বিলাক ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ কাম হাতত লৈ সমাধা কৰিছে—যেনে হাইকোৰ্ট, ইউনিভাৰ্ছিটি, ইঞ্জিনিয়াৰিং কলেজ, ভেটেনেৰী কলেজ, মেডিকেল কলেজ ইত্যাদি ইত্যাদি তাৰ বাবে মই চৰকাৰৰ এটি সামান্য অংশীদাৰ বুলি ভাবি গৌৰৱ অনুভৱ কৰোঁ। নানা বস্তুবাহানিৰ অভাৱত, বিশেষকৈ আমদানিৰ যাতায়তৰ অসুবিধাত বহুতো কাম সম্পূৰ্ণ হোৱাত পলম হৈছে; সেইবাবে চৰকাৰক দোমোৰোপ কৰাটো কেতিয়াও উচিত নহব। চৰকাৰ বিৰোধী অনেক দলে আজি ক্ষমতাৰ লোভত চৰকাৰৰ বিৰোধী ধ্বনি কৰি ৰাইজৰ মাজত বিহ চালিবলৈ যত্ন কৰিছে। তাৰ প্ৰমাণ স্বৰূপে দেশৰ নানা ঠাইত অশান্তিৰ চিন পৰিলক্ষিত হৈছে। চৰকাৰে অতি দৃঢ়তাৰে সেইবিলাক দমন কৰাত কৃতকাৰ্য হৈছে যদিও আগতে সাৱধানৰে ৰাইজৰ অভাৱ অভিযোগ বিলাক সমাধান কৰিবলৈ দৃঢ়তাৰে আগবঢ়া হলে বিৰোধী দলে আজি চৰকাৰৰ বিৰুদ্ধে কবলৈ সুবিধা নাপালে হেতেন।

আজি ৰাইজৰ অভাৱ কি? ভাত কাপোৰৰ অভাৱ—প্ৰকৃত খেতিয়কৰ মাটিৰ অভাৱ। ৰাইজৰ এই কেইটা অভাৱ পূৰণ কৰাত চৰকাৰী চাকৰিয়াল সকলৰ গাফিলীয়েই বোলক নাইবা অদৰদৰ্শিতাই বোলক বহুত সময়ত পৰিলক্ষিত হৈছে আৰু চৰকাৰেও ভূমিহীন খেতিয়কক মাটি দিয়াত বৰ চিন্তাতেতেলা হিচাপে খোজ লৈছে। মই মাননীয় ৰাজহমন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ক অনুৰোধ কৰোঁ যাতে ভূমিহীন খেতিয়ক সকলে সোনকালে উপযুক্ত পৰিমাণে মাটি পায় তাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰে।

বিতৰণ বিভাগৰ বেমেজালি কাহানিকৈ গুচিব মই ভাবি নাপাওঁ। আজিও কেবাচিন তেলৰ অভাৱত বহুতো গাঁৱলীয়াই অন্ধকাৰত থাকিব লগা হৈছে (গুনক গুনক)। আপোনা-সকলে বিশ্বাস নকৰিব, মাজে সময়ে ময়ো কেইবাদিনো অন্ধকাৰত থাকিব লগাত পৰিছিলোঁ। মোৰ সমষ্টিত এতিয়াও কেবাচিন তেলৰ অভাৱ গুচা নাই। জিলাৰ বিভাগীয় কৰ্তাসকলক সুধি একো ফল পোৱা নাযায়। চিনপাত, বিলাতী মাটি বিতৰণৰ বেমেজালিৰ কথা কৈ শেষ কৰিব নোৱাৰি। মই অৱশ্যে ডিব্ৰুগড় চৰ্ভিভিজনৰ কথা কৈছোঁ। গাঁৱলীয়া ৰাইজে ভঁৰালৰ কাৰণেও চিনপাত পোৱা দুকহ হৈ পৰিছে; অথচ টাউনৰ একে ঘৰতে বাপেক, মাক আৰু পুতেকৰ নামত চিনৰ “পাৰমিট” পায় (গুনক গুনক)। এই বিষয়ে মই বিতৰণ বিভাগৰ মাননীয় মন্ত্ৰীৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিলোঁ।

গৰকাপ্তানি বিভাগ: এই বিভাগৰ কাম অতি চিলা হৈছে। শিলৰ আলিত শিলৰ পৰিবৰ্ত্তে গাঁত বিলাকত মাটি দি পুৰুৱা হৈছে। মই আজি দুই এমাহৰ আগতে আসামৰ ইমুৰৰ পৰা সিমুৰলৈ প্ৰায় আটাইবিলাক গৰকাপ্তানী আলিৰ ওপৰেদি গৈছিলোঁ। তাত



দেখিলো যে বৰষুণ দিয়াত মাটিবিলাক উটাই লৈ গৈছে। যুদ্ধৰ সময়ত যিদৰে কাম কৰা হৈছিল এতিয়াও ঠিক সেইদৰেই চলিব লাগিছে—অলপো কম বেচি হোৱা নাই।

Embankment and Drainage বিভাগৰো কাম বিশেষ হোৱা নাই বুলিয়েই কব পাৰি। এইবোৰ বিষয়ে সুধিলে কোৱা হয় যে ইঞ্জিনিয়াৰৰ অভাৱ। কিন্তু দুখেৰে সৈতে জনাব লগীয়া হৈছে যে শুল্কনিবলৈ পাইছে। এই বিভাগৰ এজন Executive Engineerক অলপতে আন বিভাগলৈ নিবলৈ ধৰিছে। ই কেনে ধৰনৰ ব্যৱস্থা মই বুজিব নোৱাৰিলো।

Appointment আৰু প্ৰমোচন দিয়াত বহুতো ক্ষেত্ৰত অবিচাৰ হোৱা বুলি শুল্কনিবলৈ পোৱা গৈছে। তলতীয়া কৰ্মচাৰীক প্ৰমোচন দি ওপৰত বহুৱাই দিয়াত বহুতো কৰ্মচাৰীৰ মন ভাগি গৈছে আৰু লগে লগে কামতো গাফিলী কৰা দেখা গৈছে (শুল্ক শুল্ক)। বিশেষকৈ পুলিচ বিভাগত এই কথা বেচিকৈ শুনা যায়। কেইবাজনো পুলিচ ইনস্পেক্টৰে প্ৰমোচন পাই পাই S. P. হৈছে; কিন্তু এতিয়াও বোলে তেওঁলোক ইনস্পেক্টৰ গ্ৰেডতে আছে। গতিকে একে গ্ৰেডৰে ইনস্পেক্টৰ সকলৰ পৰা কাম লোৱাত হেনো তেওঁলোকে দিগদাৰ পাইছে বা তেওঁলোকৰ হুকুম পালন কৰাত ইনস্পেক্টৰ সকলে অলপ গাফিলী কৰিছে।

নিয়োগ বিভাগে যি কোনো কামতে নিয়োগ কৰাৰ সময়ত সকলো জিলাৰ আৰু সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ প্ৰতি সমান দৃষ্টিভঙ্গীৰে চোৱা নাই—বিশেষকৈ লক্ষীমপুৰ জিলাৰ প্ৰতি একেবাৰে অবহেলা কৰা হৈছে বুলি আমাৰ অনুমান হৈছে (শুল্ক, শুল্ক)। বিশেষকৈ যেতিয়া কোনো কামৰ কাৰণে advertise কৰা হয় তেতিয়া কোনো কোনো সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ—যেনে 'ট্ৰাইবেল' 'চিডিউল' আদি সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ উপযুক্ত candidate নাই বুলি Caste Hindu কে সেইবিলাক কামত নিয়োগ কৰা হয় আৰু বাকী আন বিলাক সম্প্ৰদায়ক সেই সুবিধা দিয়া নহয়। মই মাননীয় প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ অনুৰোধ কৰোঁ যাতে যিবিলাক সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ উপযুক্ত candidate নাপায় সেই বিলাকৰ ঠাই অকল Caste হিন্দুৰে পূৰণ নকৰি আনবিলাক সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ পৰাও পূৰণ কৰে।

সাহায্য প্ৰাপ্ত স্কুলবিলাকত সাহায্য দিয়া বিষয়তো লক্ষীমপুৰ জিলাৰ প্ৰতি সমান চকুৰে চোৱা নাই যেন অনুমান হয়। এই বিলাক বিষয়ত মই মাননীয় প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিলো।

Pay Committee ৰ ৰিপোৰ্টত কেইটামান আসোঁৱাহ দেখা গৈছে—বিশেষকৈ জেল বিভাগৰ কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ প্ৰতি একেবাৰে অন্যায় কৰা যেন অনুমান হয়। এই বিভাগত প্ৰমোচনৰ কোনো সুবিধা নাই বা এই বিভাগৰ পৰা আন বিভাগলৈ বদলি হোৱাৰো কোনো সুবিধা নাই। এওঁবিলাকৰ প্ৰমোচন এটা সীমাৰ ভিতৰত আবদ্ধ—Assistant Jailor ৰ পৰা Jailor ইমানেই; সিও মাত্ৰ সাতখন জিলাত সাত জন Jailor। এই বিভাগত ২২২৩ বছৰ চাকৰী কৰিও আজিলৈকে কেইবাজনো Assistant Jailor হৈয়ে আছে। আন বিভাগত ইমান দিনে চাকৰী কৰা কোনো কৰ্মচাৰী কেতিয়াও সেই একে ঠাইতে থকা নাই। গতিকে এই বিভাগৰ প্ৰতি চৰকাৰে বিশেষ ভাবে চকুদি বৰ্ত্তমান যি scale বান্ধি দিছে তাক পৰিবৰ্ত্তন কৰিবলৈ মই অনুৰোধ কৰিলো।

কানি নিৰাৱনী সম্পৰ্কে বিশেষকৈ ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ কথাকে মই কম। কানিৰ প্ৰচলন ডিব্ৰুগড়তে আটাইতকৈ বেচি। এই বিভাগৰ চাকৰিয়াল সকলৰ অৱহেলা, অবিবেচনা, অদূৰ-দৰ্শিতা আৰু দেশৰ প্ৰতি কৰ্তব্যজ্ঞানৰ অভাৱতেই আজি এই কানি নিৰাৱনী অভিযানৰ কাম ভাল বকমে হোৱা নাইবুলি মোৰ দৃঢ়বিশ্বাস—বিশেষকৈ ডিব্ৰুগড়ত। বে-চৰকাৰী যি সকল লোকক এই কামত চৰকাৰে নিয়োগ কৰিছে সেই সকলৰ ওপৰত কিমান বিলাক কামৰ ভাৰ আছে সেইটো চাই চিন্তি নিয়োগ কৰা হলে বেচি ভাল হলহেতেন। ডিব্ৰুগড়ত প্ৰকৃত কৰ্মী বহুতো থকা স্বত্বেও দুজন মান মানুহৰ ওপৰতে বহুতো কামৰ ভাৰ দিয়াতো কেতিয়াও ভাল হোৱা নাই আৰু তাৰ পৰা কেতিয়াও সুফল পোৱা নাযাব। বেছৰকাৰী কেইজন মানৰ ওপৰত ৰাইজৰ যথেষ্ট সন্দেহ আছে আৰু সেইবাবে ৰাইজে সহযোগ কৰিবলৈ টান পায়। গতিকে এই বিষয়ে মই বিভাগীয় মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিলো।



Anti Corruption বিভাগ খোলাৰ পৰা আজিলৈকে এই বিভাগে দু নীতি নিৰাৰণ কৰাত যে কিবা সফলতা লাভ কৰিছে তাত মোৰ সন্দেহ হৈছে। এই বিভাগৰ পৰা চৰকাৰৰ কিবা লাভ হৈছে বুলিও মই বিশ্বাস কৰিব পৰা নাই। সকলোৰে চকুত জল্ জল্ পট্ পট্ কৈ ওলাই থকা কাম বোৰো—যেনে কিছু মান চাকৰিয়াল মিৰিলাকৰ মাহিলী দৰমহা ২০০—৩০০ টকা মাত্ৰ সেই সকল চাকৰিয়ালে কেনেকৈ এখন মটৰ গাড়ীলৈ ড্ৰাইভাৰ আৰু পেট্ৰলৰ খৰচ দি, ছোৱালীৰ গানৰ শিক্ষক, লৰাৰ প্ৰাইভেট শিক্ষক আৰু বাহানি বাধি টাউনত ৫০।৬০ টকা ঘৰ ভাৰা দি চলিব পাৰে এই বিলাক কথা এই বিভাগৰ চকুত নপৰাটো আচৰিত কথা হৈ পৰিছে (শুনক, শুনক)।

যোৱা চেপ্তেম্বৰ অধিবেশনত ভাৰতীয় বাগান বিলাকে I.T.A. ৰ নিৰ্দেশমতে যেনেকৈ চলিব লাগে আৰু মজদুৰ আৰু কৰ্মচাৰী সকলক যি সুবিধা দিব লাগে সেইবিলাক দিবৰ নিমিত্তে মই প্ৰশ্ন কৰাত মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই সেই বিষয়টো হাতত লব বুলি আশ্বাস দিছিল। কিন্তু আজিলৈকে বহুত ভাৰতীয় বাগানৰ মালিক সকলে শ্ৰমিক আৰু কৰ্মচাৰী সকলক সেই-বিলাক সুবিধা দিয়া নাই। আশাকৰোঁ মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই এই বিষয়ে সোনকালে তদন্ত কৰি যাতে কৰ্মচাৰী আৰু শ্ৰমিক সকলে সকলোৰকমৰ সুবিধা পায় তাৰ নিমিত্তে চকু দিব।

Political Sufferer বিলাকৰ সম্বন্ধে কংগ্ৰেছ গৰণ মেণ্টে আজি তিনি বছৰৰ মূৰতহে ভবা দেখি মনতে অলপ দুখ পাইছোঁ। যি বিলাকে দেশৰ স্বাধীনতাৰ কাৰণে নিজৰ জীৱন পণ কৰিও আগবাঢ়িছিল আৰু যাৰ কাৰণে দেশে স্বাধীনতা আৰ্জ্জ্বন কৰিবলৈ সক্ষম হৈছিল সেই বিলাকৰ সম্বন্ধে আজিলৈকে একো ব্যৱস্থা হোৱা নাই। যি সকল কৰ্মচাৰীয়ে দেশৰ বিৰোধিতা কৰি সেই কৰ্মী সকলৰ ওপৰত অত্যাচাৰ কৰিছিল সেইবিলাক কৰ্মচাৰীৰ প্ৰমোচন কেতিয়াবাই হল, কিন্তু Political sufferer বিলাকৰ কথা আজিহে ভাবিব লগা হোৱাটো নিতান্ত দুখৰ কথা হৈছে। কিন্তু আজিও সেই কমিটি বহা নাই, সোনকালে বহিব বুলিহে শুনিছোঁ। Political sufferer বিলাকে যাতে বিশেষ সুবিধা পায় সেই কাৰণে গৰণ মেণ্টৰ বিশেষকৈ প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰি মই মোৰ বক্তৃতাৰ সামৰনি মাৰিলোঁ।

**Srijut KARKA CHANDRA DALAY MIRI:** মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, অৰ্থ-মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে নিজেই ঘোষণা কৰিছে যে এইবাৰৰ বাজেট খন ঘাঁটিপৰা, কিন্তু মোৰ বোধেৰে এইবাৰৰ বাজেটখন ঘাঁটিপৰাত আমাৰ আচৰিত হবৰ কোনো কাৰণ নাই। আমাৰ দেশৰ যি অভাৱ অভিযোগ, সেই অভাৱ অভিযোগ দূৰকৰি দেশৰ স্বাধীন উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে বৰ্তমান কংগ্ৰেছ চৰকাৰে যিবোৰ আঁচনি হাতত লৈছে, সেইবোৰলৈ লক্ষ কৰিলে বাজেট খন ঘাঁটি পৰাত আমাৰ অৰ্থ মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ক দোষাৰোপ কৰিবৰ কোনো কাৰণ নেদেখোঁ। আমাৰ ভিতৰত বহুতে ভাবিব পাৰে যে আয় চাইহে ব্যয় কৰিব লাগে। কিন্তু কথাটো সত্য হলেও কেতিয়াবা দেশৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে আৰু ৰাইজৰ দুখ-দুৰ্গতি দূৰ কৰিবৰ কাৰণে আয়তকৈ ব্যয় অনিচ্ছাস্বত্বেও বেচি কৰিবলৈ বাধ্য হবলগাত পৰে। এনে অৱস্থাত সেই অধিক ব্যয় খিনি কি উপায়েৰে ৰাইজৰ কোনো অনিষ্ট নোহোৱাকৈ উলিয়াব পাৰি তাৰহে ব্যৱস্থা কৰাটো আমাৰ সকলোৰে কৰ্তব্য।

ট্ৰাইবেল আৰু 'চিডিউল্ড' সকলৰ শিক্ষাৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে এইবাৰৰ বাজেটত কিছু টকা আছুতীয়াকৈ ধৰা হৈছে। আজি ইমান দিনে ট্ৰাইবেল মেম্বৰ আৰু ট্ৰাইবেল অনুষ্ঠান বিলাকে তেওঁবিলাকৰ শিক্ষাৰ উন্নতিৰ সম্বন্ধে চৰকাৰৰ ওচৰত যিবোৰ দাবি কৰি আহিছে, সেইবোৰৰ আংশিক পূৰণৰ হকে হলেও, এইবাৰৰ বাজেটত আছুতীয়াকৈ ধৰা টকা দেখিবলৈ পাই সুখী হৈছোঁ আৰু তাৰ বাবে অৰ্থ মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াক ধন্যবাদ জনাইছোঁ। কিন্তু এইখিনিতে আমাৰ শিক্ষাৰ ওবিয়াল সকলক মনত পেলাও আৰু তেওঁলোকক অনুৰোধ কৰোঁ যেন এইটকা ট্ৰাইবেল আৰু 'চিডিউল্ড' সকলৰ কাৰণেহে খৰচ কৰে, ইয়াৰ উপৰিও যাতে সকলো মহকুমা বা জিলাত সমানে সুবিধা পায় তালৈকো দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিলোঁ।

বাধ্যতামূলক শিক্ষা সম্বন্ধে আমি আশা কৰিছিলোঁ। যে শিক্ষাৰ পোহৰ নোপোৱা আৰু পিচপৰা ট্ৰাইবেল অঞ্চলত প্ৰথমে ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব, কিন্তু কাৰ্য্যত: তাৰ বিপৰীতহে হল। যি বিলাক



ঠাইত মটৰগাড়ী চলে আৰু শিক্ষাৰ মোল বুজি অৰ্থাৎ য'ত বাধ্যতামূলক শিক্ষাৰ ব্যৱস্থা নকৰিলেও লৰা-ছোৱালীক স্কুলত পঢ়াইছে বা পঢ়াব, তেনেকৈ ঠাইতহে বাধ্যতামূলক শিক্ষাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হৈছে। আশা কৰোঁ অহাবাৰলৈ এই নীতি পৰিবৰ্ত্তন কৰি শিক্ষাৰ মোল নুবুজা অঞ্চলবোৰত বাধ্যতামূলক শিক্ষাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব।

টাইবেল সকলৰ কিছুমানে শিক্ষাৰ মোল বুজাত ছাত্ৰ সংখ্যা বঢ়িবাৰ বাঢ়িবলৈ ধৰিছে। কিন্তু ওচৰত হাইস্কুল নথকাৰ কাৰণে নগৰৰ গৰণমেন্ট হাইস্কুলবোৰতহে ভৰ্তি হ'ব লগা হয়। কিন্তু সেই বিলাক স্কুলত ভৰ্তি হ'ব নোৱাৰি বহুতেই হতাশ হৈ যবলৈ উভতি আহিব লগাত পৰে আৰু কিছুমানে নিকপায় হৈ পুৰাইতে হাইস্কুলতে নাম লগাবলৈ বাধ্য হয়। তাৰ ফলত শিক্ষাৰ বহুত বেমেজালি ঘটে। গতিকে গৰণমেন্ট হাইস্কুলৰ পুৰ্য্যক শ্ৰেণীতে অন্ততঃ দহোটাটকৈ 'চিট' টাইবেল ছাত্ৰৰ কাৰণে reserve কৰি ৰাখিবলৈ শিক্ষা বিভাগৰ গুৰিয়াল সকলৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিলে।

Tribal বা Backward belt আইন পাছ কৰিবৰ আজি প্ৰায় দুবছৰৰ ওপৰ হ'ল কিন্তু আজিলৈকে তাক কাৰ্য্যত পৰিণত কৰা দেখিবলৈ পোৱা নাই। এতিয়াও কাগজতহে পৰি আছে। যিসকল ৰায়তৰ পুৰুষতে মাটি নাই আৰু যিসকল ৰায়ত ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ আৰু সোৱনশিৰী নৈৰ বানপানীত পীড়িত হৈ এমুঠি ভাতৰ কাৰণে হাহাকাৰ কৰি ফুৰিছে, সেই সকলৰ কাৰণে কোনো ব্যৱস্থা আজিলৈকে কৰা হোৱা নাই। তেওঁবিলাকে হাতত দা-কুঠাৰ লৈ মাটি বিচাৰি ঘূৰি ফুৰিছে আৰু স্থানীয় অফিচাৰ সকললৈ দৰখাস্তও কৰিছে; কিন্তু কোনো বকমেই সহায় সহানুভূতি পোৱা নাই। কিছুমান অঞ্চলত, বিশেষকৈ উত্তৰ-লক্ষীমপুৰ মহকুমাত বৰ্ত্তমান এক শ্ৰেণীৰ লোক আছে, যিসকলে হাজাৰ হাজাৰ বিঘা মাটিৰ, বিনা পট্টা আৰু বিনা খাজনাত গিৰীহত হৈ চোৰাং হিসাবে মাটিৰ বেপাৰ কৰিছে। মই আশা কৰোঁ যেন ৰাজহ মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে অতি সোনকালে ইয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবৰ কাৰণে স্থানীয় অফিচাৰ সকললৈ নিৰ্দেশ দিয়ে। অসম চৰকাৰে ভালকৈ জানে যে, অন্ততঃ শতকৰা ৬০ জন টাইবেল লোকেই মাটি হীন। তেওঁলোকৰ গৰহ ভাগেই জমিদাৰ, তালুকদাৰ আৰু দেবোত্তৰ বা ব্ৰহ্মোত্তৰ মাটিৰ গিৰিহত সকলৰ তলত থাকিহে মাটি খাই আছে। আশা কৰোঁ অতি সোনকালে অসম চৰকাৰে তেওঁবিলাককো মাটি দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰি তেওঁলোকৰ আৰ্থিক উন্নতি কৰিব।

যোৱাবাৰ খোৱা পানীৰ ব্যৱস্থাৰ কাৰণে পুৰ্য্যক মহকুমাত একোটাটকৈ কমিটি গঠন কৰা হৈছিল আৰু পুখুৰী, নাদ আদিৰ কাৰণে এই কমিটি বোৰক যথেষ্ট টকাও দিয়া হৈছিল, কিন্তু টাইবেল গাঁও বিলাকত, বিশেষকৈ মিৰি গাঁৱত খোৱা পানীৰ ব্যৱস্থাৰ কাৰণে কোনো পুখুৰী, নাদ আদি দিয়া হোৱা নাই। এই বিষয়ে বিশেষ ৰূপে বিবেচনা কৰি ইয়াৰ এটা সুব্যৱস্থা কৰিবলৈ স্বাস্থ্য বিভাগৰ মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ক অনুৰোধ কৰিলো।

টাইবেল গাঁও বোৰত কুষ্ঠ ৰোগে বেয়া বকমে দেখা দিছে। এই বিষয়ে কেইবা বাৰো স্বাস্থ্য বিভাগৰ মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ক জনোৱাও হৈছে। কিন্তু তথাপি আজি পৰ্য্যন্ত চিকিৎসাৰ কোনো ব্যৱস্থা নকৰা দেখি আচৰিত হৈছোঁ। আশা কৰোঁ অতি সোনকালে ইয়াৰো এটা সুব্যৱস্থা কৰিব।

উত্তৰলক্ষীমপুৰ আৰু মাজুলীত Post-war Reconstruction scheme ত ধৰা ৰাস্তাবোৰৰ কাম এতিয়ালৈকে আৰম্ভ নকৰা দেখি আচৰিত হৈছোঁ। আমাৰ গৰকাপ্তানি বিভাগৰ মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে উক্ত অঞ্চলৰ অত্যাৱশ্যকীয় কামবোৰ একেবাৰে পেলাই থোৱাটো অতি অশোভনীয় আৰু অন্যায্য হৈছে। আশা কৰোঁ অনতিপলমে ইয়াৰ যথোচিত ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব।

বৰদলনী মৌজাত সোৱনশিৰী নৈয়ে প্ৰায় এমাইল জুৰি পাৰ ভাঙ্গি বৰদলনী আৰু গোঁহাই মৌজাৰ ৰায়তক জুৰুলা কৰিছে, যোৱাবাৰ বানপানীৰ উপদ্রবত ধানখেতিও সমূলি কৰিব নোৱাৰিলে, উক্ত মৌজাৰ ৰায়তসকলে ভবিষ্যত দুৰ্ভিক্ষৰ পৰা হাত সাৰিবৰ কাৰণে এমাইল জুৰি সোৱনশিৰীৰ পাৰত গঠাউৰী বান্ধিবৰ কাৰণে অনেক বাৰ আবেদন নিবেদন কৰা হৈছিল। কিন্তু তাৰ কোনো ব্যৱস্থা কৰ্ত্তৃপক্ষই আজিলৈকে নকৰিলে। আশা কৰোঁ অতি সোনকালে ইয়াৰ সুব্যৱস্থা কৰি উক্ত ৰায়ত সকলক দুৰ্ভিক্ষৰ হাতৰ পৰা ৰক্ষা কৰিব।



**\*Mr. MANIRAM MARAK:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has done what he could for the good of all with a small amount at his disposal. It is humanly impossible to balance the Budget with all the schemes and works that are being taken until and unless Central Government help us.

I congratulate the Finance Minister for his best effort.

Sir, I beg to speak a few words before the hon. Members of this House by way of Budget criticism and for immediate action by Government.

#### *Communication*

Communication in the Garo Hills is well-known to everybody for its impassability during the rainy season which is again approaching near but even the Medhipara-Tura Road is not nearing completion. The proposed border roads have not yet been touched and even the work of Tura-Dalu and Baghmara Road which has been placed under the Public Works Department has not been started. During the rainy season the present border roads are useless for any wheeled carriages and completely cut-off from the head quarters.

There have been frequent disturbances on the borders and the normal life of the people is effected in one way or the other but no relief can be rushed on due to bad communication. The essential food-stuffs and rations for Government servants are taken from Tura, but under the present conditions of the road the goods can be carried by coolies with great hardship and at high prices. So the Government is earnestly urged to improve the situations immediately.

Sir, on 1st March 1949 about 15 Pakistan armed soldiers visited the border villages of Nilwagir and Dasanggiri and neighbouring Garo Hills district hunting for the Hojangs suspected to be Communists from Pakistan who are taking shelter for fear of harassment and shooting of the soldiers. Thus 2 Hojangs were seriously wounded.

Another incident occurred near Dambukapal—a village about ten miles east from Baghmara. One Gaglok Sangma of Rongara village in the Garo Hills while returning late from Dambuk Hat was met by 4 Pakistan armed soldiers and was asked to lead them to the places where the suspected Communists were hiding. He denied the knowledge of the whereabouts of the Communists and refused to lead them on. There was most probably a quarrel and a scuffle and the Garo fled and took shelter in a nearby house belonging to one Ningmai Medhik. The soldiers pursued him and even forcibly entered into the house and there was again a scuffle. Whereupon one soldier who was standing outside fired two shots the first hit one of the soldiers, who was seriously wounded and the second hit Gaglok Sangma on the rib, who rushed out from the house and fled to the jungle but fell down at a distance of 224 cubits from the house and died. The wounded soldier and the dead body were taken away by the soldiers and nothing more is known of them. The Deputy Commissioner, the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Garo Hills, and myself tried to drive off the Communists from the Garo Hills. Most of them left the places then but returned secretly afterwards. The present Deputy Superintendent of Police is still trying to clear them off. It is very much probable that such border incidents are bound to occur at times endangering life, properties, peace and order of the villagers. The Government is earnestly requested to take adequate precautions and immediate improvement of communication, especially the Dalu-Baghmara Road and opening of the Baghmara-Moheskola Road, to rush on

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\*Speech not corrected.



help and protection to the people for the above and other reasons. Making of Dalu-Baghmara Road permanent is essentially urgent and the Government is urged to take immediate action to that effect.

#### *The Rural Development and Co-operative Societies*

Sir, Garo Hills require a well-planned scheme for Rural Development which should be in accordance with the temperament and prevailing conditions of people. An intense propaganda to educate the people and to help them to realise the nature of self-help leading to self-sufficiency is urgently required. So intensive travelling of the officers in the interior of the district is essential for the success of the scheme. Starting of the co-operative trading societies at various centres is not going on satisfactorily. For the success of the scheme and improvement of the conditions of the rural population, appointment of two Development Officers and two or three Garo Co-operative Inspectors, who are more or less acquainted with the nature of the rural conditions and who can undertake strenuous journeys on foot in the hills, is essential.

#### *Exchange office on the border*

Sir, that the people living on the borders of Pakistan have been suffering in their business transaction and other official or non-official works owing to the necessity of dealing with both the Indian and Pakistan currency notes. I as a plains Mouzadar have been experiencing difficulties in collection of the land revenues from the cultivators. When they present the Pakistan notes for payment of their dues, if I refuse to accept the Pakistan notes from the villagers, how can they pay up the dues to the Government? I therefore beg to draw the immediate attention of the Government and earnestly urge upon them to make some arrangement to facilitate the payment of the revenues and the exchange of notes or coins in the business transactions which have to essentially made with Pakistan on the borders. I have represented the matters to the Government last year and also the matter referred to the Hon'ble Finance and Revenue Minister on his visit to Baghmara, but no action has yet been taken by the Government.

#### *Irregularities of Postal Department*

Sir, now-a-days the Postal Department is awfully irregular. If Government asks me to attend a meeting the notice is received after the meeting is over. In last year I was asked twice to attend the party meeting held in Shillong, but notices were received when the dates of the meetings were over. There is no telegraph line even to Tura; the work on the construction of the line is rather slow. So, the people of the Garo Hills are still isolated and are in difficulties. The Government introduced one wireless installation, but it was meant for Government only and not for the public. Even at the time of emergency or urgency the public are left helpless and no facility has been given to utilise it as the permission required depends on the will of the Deputy Commissioner. Perhaps no immediate permission to meet the urgency has been granted to anybody of the public. I therefore earnestly request the Government to construct the telegraph lines to Baghmara and give the public facilities to use the wireless at Tura.

#### *Institutions*

Sir, Government promised to open one Weaving Institution in the Garo Hills and even the site had been selected two years back, but no action has yet been taken. I therefore earnestly request the Government to start the Institution immediately within this year.



*Medical*

Sir, Government knows that there are very few dispensaries in the Garo Hills and they are all on the border. Not a single dispensary is found in the interior; there is no travelling doctors in the Garo Hills, so the people of the interior are dying without getting medical help. The Rural Health Inspectors cannot render any effective help. There are only three Rural Health Inspectors in the whole of the Garo Hills and moreover they are concentrated in one place at Tura. If cholera or some other epidemic breaks out at villages at distances of 80 or 100 miles from Tura like Siju, Moreshkhola and Rongreng, where there is no dispensary and doctors, what will happen? The Lashkars or headmen of the villages will inform the Deputy Commissioner by post which takes to reach at least one month and the Deputy Commissioner forwards it with order to Civil Surgeon which takes at least about a week. After getting Deputy Commissioner's information the Civil Surgeon will depute the Rural Health Inspector to visit the affected places. Two or three days after getting the order of the Civil Surgeon the Rural Health Inspector will proceed and take not less than 2 weeks to reach the spot. So, it will take not less than 2 months for any relief. Meanwhile the epidemic ceases and many people already die. I therefore beg to suggest the Government not to keep Rural Health Inspectors accumulating in one place, but open stations, one in the southern constituency and another in the northern constituency and appoint more Rural Health Inspectors. Moreover, I beg to add that there is only one Civil Hospital in the Garo Hills at Tura. This should immediately be improved. I had a glance and found that there are only 12 seats for keeping the patients, which is quite inadequate. Some patients are lying in the ground, as the patients are coming like anything. I therefore earnestly request the Government to increase some 8 more seats at least immediately.

*Tura Government High School*

Sir, the Tura Government High School has been running without the Headmaster since August 1948. I therefore urge the Government to see to the matter and appoint as Headmaster either the present Assistant Headmaster permanently or select senior-most teacher from amongst the Garos. The extension of the school building and construction of Girls' and Boys' Hostels have not yet been undertaken, though the Government has sanctioned the required money. For want of hostels we have to send our sons and daughters for education to other places which involve unbearable expenses. I therefore urge the Government kindly to take immediate action.

Sir, the Tura Government High School is a mixed one and, as such, various alternative subjects have to be introduced in the school. Also it is the only one Government High School and the Garo boys and girls from the district and the neighbouring districts seek admission every year and sections in Classes III, IV, V and VII have to be opened. I understand that the present staff has already been overburdened, having much more periods (32 and 33 periods in 5½ days) than those in other High Schools. And also Sewing and Domestic Science are introduced for the Girls for High and Middle School classes and at present there is only one Lady Teacher to look after them. It is also waste of time, energy and money to employ the B. T. trained teacher for sewing and other game activities of girls. So, I urgently request the Government to sanction one additional post in Class III and one post in the Assam Lower School Service and particularly the appointment of a second Lady teacher is essential.

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



**Srijut HARINARAYAN BARUA :** মাননীয় সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, মাননীয় অর্থ মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে এই পৰিষদত যি বাজেট উপস্থাপিত কৰিছে সেই বাজেট গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ ৰাজহৰ পৰিমাণলৈ চাই যে নিখুত হৈছে তাত কোনো সন্দেহ নাই। গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে আজি যি অর্থ অনাটনৰ সন্মুখীন হবলগীয়া হৈছে, সেই অর্থ অনাটনৰ সন্মুখীন হৈয়ো আমাৰ জাতি গঠনৰ নিমিত্তে যিবিলাক আৱশ্যকীয় পৰিকল্পনা আছে সেই পৰিকল্পনা বিলাকলৈ অকনো অৱহেলা কৰা নাই। এনেকুৱা আধিক অনাটনৰ মাজতো আমাৰ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্ট কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ অভাৱ দূৰ কৰিবৰ কাৰণে যি চেষ্টা কৰিছে সেই চেষ্টা অতি প্ৰশংসনীয়। যদিও ই এই অর্থ অনাটনৰ সময়ত কৰ্মচাৰী সকলোকে বিশেষ সহায় কৰিব নোৱাৰে তথাপি এই কথা অন্তঃকৰণেৰে সৈতে স্বীকাৰ কৰিব লাগিব যে তেওঁলোকৰ অভাৱ অনাটনৰ কাৰণে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ যথেষ্ট সহানুভূতি আছে। আমাৰ প্ৰদেশত প্ৰাইমাৰী স্কুলৰ শিক্ষক সকলৰ অভাৱ অনাটনৰ কাৰণে আজি কিছুকালৰে পৰা যি এটা অভিযোগ আৰু আন্দোলন চলি আহিছিল সেই অভিযোগো কিছুদূৰ পূৰণ কৰিবৰ কাৰণে এই গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে চেষ্টা কৰিছে আৰু সেই কাৰণে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টক নিশ্চয় ধন্যবাদ দিব লাগিব। যদিও এই সহায়ৰ দ্বাৰা প্ৰাইমাৰী শিক্ষক সকলৰ বা সাহায্য প্ৰাপ্ত স্কুলৰ শিক্ষক সকলৰ অনাটন সম্পূৰ্ণৰূপে দূৰ নহব। আজি আমি দেশত যি অভাৱ অনাটন দেখিছো আৰু আমাৰ দেশৰ জনসাধাৰণ বিশেষকৈ দুখীয়া খেতিয়ক আৰু বনুৱা সকল যেনে ভাবে অভাৱ গ্ৰস্ত হৈছে সেই অভাৱ অনাটন সম্পূৰ্ণৰূপে দূৰ কৰিবৰ ক্ষমতা এই গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ আছে নে নাই সেইটো বিবেচনা কৰিবলগীয়া কথা। যি প্ৰদেশৰ চৰকাৰী ৰাজহৰ শতকৰা ৬০ ভাগ কৰ্মচাৰী সকলক দিব লাগে সেই প্ৰদেশৰ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে দুখীয়া জনসাধাৰণৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে কি কাম কৰিব পাৰে? যেতিয়ালৈকে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ ৰাজহৰ পৰিমাণ বেছি নহব তেতিয়ালৈকে আমাৰ দেশৰ জনসাধাৰণৰ বিশেষকৈ দুখীয়া খেতিয়ক আৰু বনুৱাৰ দুখ সম্পূৰ্ণৰূপে দূৰ হোৱা অসম্ভৱ। আমি আজি এই অভাৱ অনাটনৰ কথাতেই বিশেষ জোৰ দিছো।

দেশত খাদ্য আৰু বস্ত্ৰৰ অভাৱে এটা ভীষণ ৰূপ ধাৰণ কৰিছে আৰু তাৰ বাবে অনেকে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টক দোষী কৰিছে। এই অভাৱ অনাটন এই গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ কাৰ্য্যৰ দ্বাৰা হৈছে নে নাই ই আগৰে পৰা চলি অহা এটা কথা সেইটো বিশেষ ভাবে বিবেচনা কৰিবলগীয়া বিষয়। আমাৰ এই অভাৱ অনাটনৰ মাজত আজি সমস্ত ভাৰতবৰ্ষ পৰিছে আৰু সমস্ত পৃথিৱীয়েই পৰিছে। মাননীয় সভ্য শ্ৰীযুত ভাগৱতী দেৱে তেখেতৰ বক্তৃতা প্ৰসঙ্গত এই অভাৱ অনাটনৰ বিষয়ে যথেষ্ট বৰকমে কৈ গৈছে। যোৱা মহা যুদ্ধই আমাক এই ভীষণ সঙ্কটৰ মাজত পেলাই থৈ গৈছে আৰু এই সঙ্কটৰ মাজৰ পৰা উদ্ধাৰ পাবলৈ হলে কেৱল গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ চেষ্টাৰ দ্বাৰাই নহব—ইয়াত জনসাধাৰণ আৰু দায়িত্বশীল নাগৰীক সকলৰো চেষ্টাৰ প্ৰয়োজন হব। আজি যি অনাটন আমি আমাৰ প্ৰদেশত দেখা পাইছোঁ আৰু যি অনাটনৰ সন্মুখীন আমি হবলগীয়া হৈছোঁ, সেই অনাটন ভাৰতবৰ্ষৰ অন্যান্য প্ৰদেশতকৈ আমাৰ প্ৰদেশত বেচি। কাৰণ আমাৰ প্ৰদেশতেই যোৱা মহা যুদ্ধ চলাবৰ কাৰণে বৃটিছ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে যুদ্ধৰ প্ৰধান ঘাঁটি পাতি লৈছিল আৰু এই যুদ্ধৰ ঘাঁটি পতাৰ কাৰণেই দেশৰ যিবিলাক আৱশ্যকীয় সম্পদ সেই সম্পদ বিলাক ধ্বংস কৰি থৈ গল। আজি সেই আৱশ্যকীয় সম্পদ বিলাক পূৰণ কৰিবৰ কাৰণে উপযুক্ত উৎপাদন নোহোৱাত এই সঙ্কট উপস্থিত হৈছে। এনে অৱস্থাত আজি আমি যি সকলৰ কথা আৰু সমলোচনা শুনো সেই সকলে বিশেষকৈ corruption ৰ বিষয়ে কয়। Corruption যে আছে এই কথা অস্বীকাৰ কৰিব নোৱাৰি। সেই corruption কোনে দি থৈ গৈছে? সেই corruption যোৱা মহা যুদ্ধই দি গৈছে। যোৱা মহা যুদ্ধই মানুহৰ মানসিক প্ৰবৃত্তি এনেভাবে নষ্ট কৰি গল যে সেই মানসিক প্ৰবৃত্তি কেতিয়া ঘূৰাই আনিব পৰা হব তাক কোৱা টান। গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ চেষ্টাত কিছুদূৰ সম্ভৱ হব পাৰে, কিন্তু বেচিকৈ জনসাধাৰণৰ হে চেষ্টাৰ প্ৰয়োজন হব এই মানসিক প্ৰবৃত্তি ঘূৰাবৰ কাৰণে। আজি এই অভাৱৰ কথা কওঁতে আমাৰ মাননীয় সদস্য চাৰোৱান চাহাবে বিশেষকৈ জোৰ দিছে যে যিহেতু গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে দুখীয়া প্ৰজা আৰু মজদুৰৰ অভাৱ অনাটন দূৰ কৰিব পৰা নাই সেই হেতু এই পৰিষদ ভঙ্গ কৰি দি নতুন নিৰ্বাচন পতা উচিত। নতুন নিৰ্বাচন পাতিবৰ কাৰণে আইন তৈয়াৰ হব লাগিছে আৰু সেই আইন তৈয়াৰ কৰা লোক আমাৰ এই পৰিষদতো আছে। যেতিয়া আইন তৈয়াৰ হব তেতিয়া নিৰ্বাচন আহিব। কিন্তু যিটো প্ৰধান কথালৈ



তেখেতে আন্দুলিয়াই নিবৰ্চনৰ ওপৰত জোৰ দিছে সেইটো হৈছে এয়ে যে এই গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে দুখীয়া খেতিয়ক আৰু মজদুৰৰ অভাৱ অনাটন দূৰ কৰিবপৰা নাই, সেই কাৰণে নতুন নিবৰ্চন লাগে। আজি গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে যেনেকুৱা আৰ্থিক অৱস্থা তেনে অৱস্থাত এই গৱৰ্ণমেন্টৰ ঠাইত আন এটা গৱৰ্ণমেন্ট যদি কাইলৈ প্ৰতিষ্ঠিত হয় তেনেহলে সেই গৱৰ্ণমেন্টৰ বৰ্ত্তমান যি ৰাজহ আছে সেই ৰাজহেৰে এই দেশৰ অভাৱ অভিযোগ বিলাক দূৰ কৰিব পাৰিব নে? আজি কোৱা হৈছে যে গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে দুখীয়া জনসাধাৰণৰ অভাৱ দূৰ কৰিব পৰা নাই—গৱৰ্ণমেন্টক দোষী কৰিছে। কিন্তু এই গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে এনেকুৱা কিছুমান জাতি গঠনৰ পৰিকল্পনা হাতত লৈছে যি পৰিকল্পনাৰ দ্বাৰা এই দেশৰ দেশবাসীৰ মঙ্গল সাধন হ'ব পাৰে—উন্নতি সাধন হ'ব পাৰে। অন্ততঃ সেই পৰিকল্পনা বিলাকৰ নিমিত্তে এই গৱৰ্ণমেন্টক পুৰস্কাৰ কৰা উচিত। কিন্তু আমাৰ বিৰোধী দলৰ মাননীয় সভ্যসকলৰ মুখৰ পৰা তেনে এটা শব্দও শুনিবলৈ নাপালো। অৱশ্যে বিৰোধীদলৰ নেতা মাননীয় চৈয়দ মহম্মদ চাদুল্লা চাহাবৰ বক্তৃতা এতিয়াও শুনিবলৈ বাকী আছে। আজি এই গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে যিবিলাক জাতি গঠনৰ পৰিকল্পনা হাতত লৈছে সেই পৰিকল্পনাবিলাক যদি ভাৰতৰ অন্যান্য প্ৰদেশৰ লগত বিজাই চায়, তেনেহলে দেখা পাব যে এই গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে ইমান আৰ্থিক সফলতাৰ সন্মুখীন হৈও সাহসেৰে জাতি গঠনৰ কামত আগবাঢ়িছে (*hear, hear*)—আজি গোটেই ভাৰতবৰ্ষৰ ভিতৰত এনেকুৱা অনাটনৰ দিনতো সৰ্বপ্ৰথমে বাধ্যতামূলক প্ৰাথমিক শিক্ষা প্ৰবৰ্ত্তন কৰিছে আৰু এই প্ৰাথমিক শিক্ষা ক্ষেত্ৰত আমাৰ দেশত এটা নতুন যুগৰ সূচনা কৰিছে। এই গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে দেশত প্ৰাথমিক শিক্ষা বৃদ্ধিৰ কাৰণে ৰাজহেত যিমান টকা ধৰিছে, এই প্ৰদেশৰ আগৰ কোনো গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে যিমান টকা ধৰা নাছিল। তেন্তে এই গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে কি কাম কৰা নাই বা কৰিবলৈ বিচৰা নাই যি কামৰ দ্বাৰা দুখীয়া জনসাধাৰণৰ উপকাৰ হ'ব পাৰে? আজি ইমান আৰ্থিক সফলতাৰ সন্মুখীন হৈও এই গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে আমাৰ প্ৰদেশত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, মেডিকেল কলেজ, ইঞ্জিনিয়াৰিং স্কুল, আয়ুৰ্বেদীক কলেজ, ভেটেরী-নেৰী কলেজ, এগ্ৰিকালচাৰেল কলেজ, গাঁও উন্নয়ন বিভাগ আদি ইমানবিলাক অনুষ্ঠান স্থাপন কৰিছে। ইয়াতকৈ আৰু কি বিশেষ কাম এই গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে হাতত ল'ব পাৰে?

*A voice*:—ভাত কাপোৰ লাগে।

ভাত কাপোৰৰ ব্যৱস্থা আপুনি নিজেই কৰিব পাৰে। আপুনি যদি মানুহক সুতা কাটি কাপোৰ বৈ ল'বৰ কাৰণে আৰু নানা বকমে সবহ শস্য উৎপাদনৰ কাৰণে উপদেশ দিয়ে তেনেহলে ভাত কাপোৰৰ সমস্যা সমাধান হ'ব পাৰে (*hear, hear.*)। আপুনি কেতিয়াবা গাঁৱলৈ গৈ গাঁৱলীয়া মানুহক কাপোৰ বৈ ল'ব লাগে বুলি উপদেশ দিছিল নে? আজি এই অনাটন আমি নিজেই দূৰ কৰিব পাৰোঁ। যদিহে আমি অশিক্ষিত জনসাধাৰণক তেনেকুৱা ভাল উপদেশ দিওঁ।

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER**: মাননীয় সদস্যৰ মুঠেই একমিনিট হে বাকী আছে।

**Srijut HARINARAYAN BARUA**: সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, মোক আৰু অলপ সময় দিলে ভাল পাওঁ, কাৰণ মোৰ বহুত কথা ক'ব লগীয়া আছে।

বক্তৃতা প্ৰসঙ্গত মাননীয় চাহাবৰান চাহাবে কৈছে যে তেখেত দুখীয়াৰ প্ৰতিনিধি। আমিহে কাৰ প্ৰতিনিধিত্ব কৰিছোঁ? (*laughter*) আমি দেশৰ কোটি কোটি গৰীব লোকৰ প্ৰতিনিধিত্ব নকৰি লক্ষপতি সকলৰ প্ৰতিনিধিত্ব কৰিছোঁহি নে? দুখীয়াৰ আৰু বনুৱাৰ প্ৰতিনিধিত্ব কাৰো একচেটিয়া সম্পত্তি নহয় (*hear, hear.*)। মই এই কথা কোৱাৰ উদ্দেশ্য এয়ে যে আমাৰ এই প্ৰদেশখনৰ প্ৰজাসাধাৰণৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে আমি যদি সকলোৱেই চিন্তা কৰো আৰু সেয়ে যদি আমাৰ উদ্দেশ্য হয়, তেনেহলে এই গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে জাতি গঠনৰ নিমিত্তে যি বিলাক আঁচনি হাতত লৈছে সেই আঁচনি বিলাকত আমি সম্পূৰ্ণ ৰূপে সহযোগ কৰা উচিত। এই গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে এতিয়া Co-operative movement বা সমবায় আন্দোলনৰ যি আঁচনি হাতত লৈছে মোৰ বিশ্বাস, এই আঁচনিৰ দ্বাৰা দুখীয়া জনসাধাৰণ



মহৎ উপকাৰ সাধিত হব আৰু অৰ্থনৈতিক ক্ষেত্ৰত তেওঁলোকক বহুত পৰিমাণে সহায় কৰিব পৰা যাব। এই আঁচনি কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰি তোলাত যদি আমাৰ মাননীয় চাহাবৱান চাহাবৰ দৰে সদস্যসকলৰ সহানুভূতি আৰু সহায় পোৱা হয় তেনেহলে এই আঁচনি সম্পূৰ্ণৰূপে কৃতকাৰ্য্য হৈ উঠিব আৰু তেখেতে দেখিবলৈ পাব যে ইয়াৰ পৰা আমাৰ দুখীয়া খেতিয়ক আৰু বনুৱাৰ অভাৱ বহুত পৰিমাণে দূৰ হৈছে; আৰু তেওঁলোকৰ অৱস্থাৰ উন্নতি হৈছে। কিন্তু কাৰ্য্য ক্ষেত্ৰত আমি বহুত সময়, শুনিবলৈ পাইছোঁ যে কিছুমান দায়িত্বশীল লোকে পুজাসাধাৰণৰ মাজত এই সমবায় আন্দোলনৰ বিপক্ষে পুচাৰ কাৰ্য্য চলাইছে আৰু তেখেত সকলে পুজাসাধাৰণক আন্দোলনত যোগ নিদিবলৈ উপদেশ দি ফুৰিছে আৰু অংশীদাৰ সকলক অংশৰ টকা নিদিবলৈ উপদেশ দিছে। *A Voice*—সেই সকল কোন? যিসকলে তেনে উপদেশ দিছে সেই সকলে বুজিছে। নাম নকলেও হব। *A Voice*—নাম কলে ভাল আছিল।

যদি দেশৰ আৰু দুখীয়া পুজাৰ মঙ্গলেই আমাৰ উদ্দেশ্য হয় তেনেহলে আমি আশাকৰোঁ। তেখেত সকলে এনেকুৱা কাৰ্য্যৰ কেতিয়াও বিৰোধিতা নকৰিব আৰু তেখেত সকলে এই কাৰ্য্যত সহযোগীতা কৰিব।

**Prof. P. M. SARWAN:** That is an insinuation, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:**—No, I don't think it is an insinuation.

**Srijut HARINARAYAN BARUA:** ইয়াৰ ভিতৰত আৰু এটা বিষয়ত আমি গৱণমেন্টক ধন্যবাদ দিব লাগে—সেইটো হৈছে, পলম হলেও ৰাজনৈতিক নিৰ্য্যাতিত লোক সকলক গৱণমেন্টে সাহায্য দিবৰ কাৰণে আগ বাঢ়িছে। গৱণমেন্টৰ আৰ্থিক অৱস্থালৈ চাই এই সাহায্য অতি সামান্য হলেও ই যে নিৰ্য্যাতিত সকলক কিছুদূৰ সহায় কৰিব তাত সন্দেহ নাই। আমাৰ বিৰোধী দলৰ মাননীয় সদস্য সকলেও গৱণমেন্টৰ এই কাৰ্য্যত সহানুভূতি আৰু সমৰ্থন দেখুৱাইছে। কিন্তু এটা কথা ইয়াতে বুজিব পৰা নগল। সেইটো হৈছে—মাননীয় সদস্য মৌঃ আবুল কাছেম চাহাবে মুছলিম লীগৰ লোক সকলকো *Political Sufferer* হিচাপে ধৰিবলৈ কৈছে। *A Voice*—এতিয়া মুছলিম লীগ নাই নহয়। এতিয়া নহলেও বোধকৰো আগৰ কথাকে কৈছে। তথাপি মুছলিম লীগৰ লোকসকল কি হিচাপে *Political Sufferer* হল আমি বুজিব পৰা নাই। কাৰণ ১৯৪২ চনৰ আন্দোলনত যেতিয়া আমাৰ হাজাৰ হাজাৰ কৰ্মী জেললৈ গৈছিল, ফাঁচিত আৰু গুলিত মৰিছিল তেতিয়া বোধকৰো সেই সকল লোকে আমাৰ মানুহ বিলাকক জুলুম কৰাত তেতিয়াৰ গৱণমেন্টক সহায় হে কৰিছিল।

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** মাননীয় সদস্যই তেখেতৰ বক্তৃতা সামৰিব লাগে।

**Sri jut HARINARAYAN BARUA:** মোক আৰু অলপ সময় দিলে ভাল হয়।

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** আৰু সময় দিব পৰা নাযাব।



**Srijut HARINARAYAN BARUA :** মোৰ সমষ্টিৰ কথা অলপ কবলগীয়া আছে। সেই কাৰণে মোক অলপ সময় দিলে ভাল হয়।

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** বাক, এক মিনিট সময় দিলোঁ।

**Srijut HARINARAYAN BARUA :** সেই সময়ত তেখেত সকলে আন্দোলন কৰিছিল.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** আপুনি পাতনিহে মেলিছে—সামৰনি মাৰক।

**Srijut HARINARAYAN BARUA :** মই সামৰনিহে মাৰিছোঁ।

সেই সময়ত তেখেত সকলে আন্দোলন কৰিছিল পাকিস্থান পাবৰ কাৰণে আৰু তেখেত সকল জেললৈ গৈছিল পাকিস্থান পাবৰ কাৰণে। এটা সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ কিছু লোকৰ মতলৈ তেখেত সকলে এই আন্দোলন চলাইছিল। দেশৰ সমস্ত জাতিৰ উদ্ধাৰৰ কাৰণে তেখেত সকলে এই কাৰ্য্য কৰা নাছিল। *A voice*—তেখেত সকল জেললৈ কেতিয়া গৈছিল? সেই কাৰণে তেখেত সকলক Political sufferer ব list ত ধৰিব পৰা নহয়।

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Order, order, আপুনি বহক।

**Srijut HARINARAYAN BARUA :** মোৰ সমষ্টিৰ অলপ কথা কবলৈ সময় দিয়ক।

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Order, order. There was a suggestion from some hon. Members that the House should sit after 3 p.m. in order to enable some more hon. Members to participate in the discussion of the Budget, as there will be no sufficient time tomorrow as we have got only 2 hours and we have three Bills to consider *plus* the Hon'ble Finance Minister's reply to the various criticisms of the Budget. Is it the sense of the House that we should sit after 3 p.m.?

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR :** Sir, a few hon. Members cared to speak on the 15th and we lost a good deal of valuable time that day. In view of that we do not like to sit after 3 p.m. to-day.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Mr. Morley may now speak.

**Mr. C W. MORLEY :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has given an informative and encouraging review of administrative progress in the province during the past year, we offer our warm congratulations to him on his very able and lucid explanation of the financial proposals contained in the Budget. We are particularly glad to find on this occasion that defects in the presentation of the financial estimates to this House, to which we have had occasion to refer in the past, have disappeared, and the Budget statements contain, with just a few minor exceptions, all the information for analysis and consideration by Members of this House.

For the Government of Assam and for all Governments in India the past year has been one of difficulty and anxiety. In such circumstances it is inevitable that many who entertained high hopes of a brave new world should have experienced some measure of disappointment, but we believe that the Ministry



have a solid record of achievement to their credit, which is not impaired by failures or partial successes in certain directions. Problems of Partition have exerted perhaps the maximum pressure on Assam, and with its geographical isolation from the rest of India, its tenuous lines of communication through a province of Pakistan, the burden placed on the Government was particularly onerous. It has required statesmanship of a high order to deal with the numerous questions affecting the relations with the neighbouring Dominion without creating diplomatic tension, or relinquishing essential rights or claims. We are happy to note that in recent months there has been a marked improvement in Inter-Dominion relations, and trust that harmony and cordiality will continue to prevail in ever increasing measure. When we consider the disorder and anarchy which has overtaken so many countries in Eastern Asia and the presence of subversive elements within India, we can recognise the immense value of an administration which can preserve life and property, and the Provincial Government have undoubtedly proved themselves capable and determined custodians of law and order. Crime has been kept successfully under control and this has been achieved with services depleted of experienced officers. We cannot commend too highly the energetic campaign which the Government has waged against opium addiction and it is certain that results of permanent value will be secured.

Within the limits imposed by restricted finances Government have made good progress in nation-building activities and we are encouraged by the success achieved in education, in rural uplift, mechanised agriculture and co-operative farming, though in regard to some of the schemes we were formerly frankly sceptical.

On the economic side, however, the position in Assam and also in the rest of India gives no ground for complacency. As this has an intimate connection with finance, it will be convenient at this stage to examine on broad lines the financial statements before us. The first important fact is that the new Budget will be the third successive deficit Budget. As the Hon'ble Finance Minister has explained in his Budget speech, this is not a new feature of Provincial finance; 17 Budgets in 27 years have shown deficits. In the year 1948-49 the deficit amounted to 27 lakhs, while in the coming year the deficit is estimated at 60 lakhs, but for reasons which I will explain later, the real deficit must be far higher.

As far as Assam's own resources are concerned, it can no longer sustain its present standard of expenditure on the sources of taxation at present available and it should be noted that in the list of new schemes published with the Budget, out of new expenditure of 62 lakhs, no less than 50 lakhs represents expenditure on schemes of a recurring character. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has himself made much the same point in his speech on the cost of Government servants but we regard wages as merely one of the many permanent and inescapable commitments which Government has to face.

We have the greatest sympathy for the Hon'ble Finance Minister for we recognise that he has a most unenviable task and he has demonstrated beyond possibility of doubt the injustice which successive financial settlements have imposed on the Province. The revenue sources assigned to the Provinces generally are extremely inelastic while the Centre retains with a tight and jealous hand firm control of the large and expanding sources of revenue, such as Customs, Central Excise and Income Tax. The Finance Department is subjected to pressure to produce funds for the nation-building services to spend and in such



circumstances it is difficult for any Finance Minister to keep strictly to the path of financial virtue

As I mentioned earlier, the Budget for 1949-50 is based on a nominal revenue deficit of Rs.60 lakhs. This is secured by taking the subvention for Post-War development at 2,30 lakhs. Last year we had occasion to question the wisdom of including the sum of 778 lakhs; this has been justified by the event, as the Central Government declined to give more than 1,60 lakhs. The disadvantage of including hypothetical amounts in the Budget is that the expenditure side is inflated, and later on schemes have to be abandoned, and Government, and not the Legislature, have the opportunity of deciding which schemes should go forward. The Hon'ble Prime Minister has explained the great personal efforts which he had made in Delhi to secure greater Post-war grants, and we appreciate the valuable service he has rendered in securing an allotment of 1,60 lakhs for the current year, and for the next year. We can, however, see little justification for budgeting on expectations of greater liberality from the Central Government, even though additional financial relief is urgently needed and even though the Central Government have agreed to reconsideration if the Central finances improve.

The Assam Government have found themselves unable to adhere to the anti-inflationary financial policy recommended by the Central Government. One of the most important measures was the avoidance of deficit Budgets by the Governments in India. Assam has suffered more severely than other Provinces from the rise in prices, as in the case of commodities imported into the Province transport difficulties have added to the cost or created artificial scarcities. It is no less important that there should be an avoidance of overspending by Government here, and whenever possible expenditure should be concentrated on productive schemes. The opinion of a leading Indian Economic Journal is worth reproducing:—

“The extension on non-productive Government Services and the vast expenditure on administration is seriously out of proportion to the country's net earning and spending capacity. If saving is to be effected under present conditions and the group of larger incomes is not to be increased, corporate or Government saving must be effected on an extensive scale. Our taxable capacity being severely limited, this implies that Government should now reduce its expenditure everywhere to a minimum without injuring investment projects, which will advance the standard of life of our people..... This in itself implies a retreat from current prodigal finance, which in the last three years has emptied our Treasuries and has brought the Nation to the verge of a financial crisis”.

Drastic economy in Government expenditure is, therefore, likely to be the most valuable short term measure in combating inflation. We would suggest for the careful consideration of Government, the establishment of a Retrenchment Committee to examine Government expenditure; to see how far economy can be effected, while leaving funds available as far as possible for productive expenditure. Limitless sums can be spent on public health, medical relief, rural uplift and education, but unless the productive capacity of the Province can be increased, no permanent improvement in the lot of the common man can be sustained.

It is recognised that in India in general and in Assam in particular, there is a serious lack of balance between the numbers employed in agriculture and in industry, therefore increasing industrialization will be necessary if standards of life are to be raised. While in the past twenty years, industrial expansion in other parts of India has been steady, there has been no corresponding increase in industrialization in Assam. I am not attempting to lay any responsibility for this at the door of the present Ministry or to blame any one, but if the causes for this industrial stagnation of the Province are appreciated, it will be easier to find



out the remedies. A purely temporary cause, which held up the war time expansion of industry in Assam, was its proximity to the war front, but even if this had not existed, it is doubtful whether any sensational progress would have been made. In 1929 out of 1,455,000 factory workers in India, Assam had 46,000, about 3 per cent. and in 1945 out of 2,643,000 workers, the number in the Province was only 58,000, only 2 per cent. that is a decline of  $33\frac{1}{3}$  per cent. in 20 years. In the last few years, progress in industrialization has gone ahead in Bombay, Madras and Calcutta. By 1945 Madras and Bombay had doubled their factory population, while in Bengal it had increased by more than 40 per cent. We frequently hear statements of the potential industrial resources of Assam, but these have not in the past attracted industry, which for the most part, prefers sites close to the big markets, for the finished products, sites which are in areas with an existing supply of skilled labour, and sites adequately served by transport systems. To attract private industry to Assam will be a big task, but unless it is tackled and tackled soon, Assam will lag behind the rest of India. The multi-purpose projects, for the Manas River and the Dihing, are steps in this direction, but they are making slow progress compared with the Damodar River and the Huakin Dam schemes. In this connection, I notice that there has been no mention of the Barak River scheme for Cachar. I trust that this has not been abandoned or relegated to a pigeon hole in a Secretariat office, as control over the Barak river cannot be indefinitely postponed. I am told that the level of the Barak river in Silchar has risen substantially, and that the town of Silchar and much of the surrounding district is now liable to severe flooding, which will entail heavy loss to the people of that district, and heavy expenditure by Government on relief. Hydro-electric schemes and rural electrification may serve to attract and develop private industry, but much more can be done. A technique has been worked out in dealing with the development areas in parts of the United Kingdom, and we would strongly urge Government to consider the examination of the whole problem without delay.

The Budget deficit of Rs.61 lakhs does not admittedly include Rs.10 lakhs on account of the cost of revision of the pay of Government servants, as mentioned by the Hon'ble Finance Minister, nor is any provision made for the cost of the Assam Access Road.

The income from the Professions Tax is disappointing, since it is levied on all forms of employment and the level of income for exemption is not unduly high—Rs.3,500 a year. The tax, moreover, is payable by persons who carry on a trade as well as by employees, and it is surprising to find that receipts are equivalent to only 3,000 assesseees at the full rate. Since the salaried employees of Government are included, and those employed in organised industry and in these classes there is presumably little evasion of tax, it suggests that many employed in professions, in Agriculture, and in the smaller businesses, are escaping assessment. The cost of collecting this relatively small amount is high, unless therefore Government can take steps to see that evasion is checked, it is inequitable for Government to continue to collect the tax, from those so situated, that they cannot escape payment. We also view with some concern the increasing revenue from Excise. In 1947-48 this amounted to 82 lakhs, and the revised has been estimated at 70 lakhs, though in all probability this is an under-estimate. The main increase is under Country Spirit, which suggests that drinking is on the increase. We are not in favour of prohibition, but we regard the increase in liquor consumption as undesirable, and



suggest that measures for reducing consumption should receive the consideration of Government. Closure of liquor shops on industrial payment days, has been tried elsewhere and we believe that this has been successful.

We view with the gravest concern the proposal to increase the rates of Agricultural Income Tax, at a time when the Tea Industry is confronted with economic difficulties due to rising costs and falling prices for tea. Those hon. Members, who have followed the fortunes of the Calcutta Tea Market, must have been shocked at the precipitate fall in the price of tea. Latest market reports received in Assam show that the price of B. P. was Re.1-3-0 a lb.,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  annas a lb., less than a year ago, and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  annas a lb. less than the price in the middle of January. The latest press reports indicate that prices are still on the down grade. A year ago increases in wages were sanctioned for the labour on tea gardens. Heavy expenditure has to be incurred on housing of labour, on improvement of medical facilities, and on welfare, and transport which coupled with the high price of all materials have forced production costs to a dangerous level. The Tea Industry is ground between the upper and nether millstones of Central and Provincial taxation. It is not the fault of the Industry that over six crores goes to the Central Government from taxation on tea leaving aside income tax and corporation tax. Almost two decades ago in a Census Report of Assam it was stated as follows:—

“...The Tea Industry is so vitally connected with the economic life of Upper Assam, Cachar and a considerable part of Sylhet that its prosperity is a matter of the utmost concern to the Province. Tea is the true economic barometer of Assam”.

What was true then remains true to-day. A depression in the Tea Industry will have lasting effects on the people of Assam, and on the finances of the Province.

Apart from those employed by the Industry, there are thousands in employment in the province, whose livelihood depends on a prosperous Tea Industry. Already in the last year there were signs of a crisis developing in Cachar; many large gardens—Silcoorie, Tilkah, Binnakandy, Singalla, Ruttonpore, Borakai and Kuttal made heavy losses, and these have been or are being compelled to consider the reduction of their labour forces. This year, with higher costs of production, lower selling prices, and the taxation now contemplated, the most serious calamity in the Tea industry since 1931 is impending. In this calamity Indian capital will be as heavily involved, if not more so, than foreign capital. I am not exaggerating, when I state that 50 per cent. of the Gardens in Cachar will be ruined; and in the Assam Valley many gardens will be facing insolvency. Many eminent leader in India have deplored the stagnation which had overtaken industry in India, and emphasis has been laid on the need for encouraging production, and the establishment of new enterprises. Opportunities have been given to the Tea Industry, to expand its acreage under the International Tea Control Agreement, but many gardens, struggling under the heavy load of taxation and high production costs, cannot be blamed if they decline at the present time to invest fresh capital in new planting. Today Governments, either Central or Provincial, take far more in taxation from the Industry than is left in profit, and we consider that any additional taxation will have very serious consequences for the Industry and the Province.



No industrial enterprise carries on for long when there is no prospect of profit, and in view of the disaster which closure of tea gardens would bring upon the Province, we would earnestly request Government to postpone for the time being the new increase of taxation.

Turning to the expenditure side of the Budget, there has been a marked decrease in the cost of the Police Force, which stands out in striking contrast, to the substantial increase on other services. Part of the savings, which total 46 lakhs, compared with the Revised Budget, is due to the disbandment of the Home Guards, with effect from the 1st January, 1949. We view the passing of the Home Guard with regret, but recognise that in the present financial situation Government was left with no other alternative. The District Executive Force is reduced by 49 lakhs on the original Budget estimate, and 34 lakhs on the revised. This is attributed to reduction in the temporary Force and to reorganisation of the Armed and Unarmed branches of the Police Force. We should like to be assured that the technical experts of the Police Department are satisfied that with the reduced forces at the disposal of Government the Police can be expected to cope with any foreseeable emergency. It must be remembered that the times are a little out of joint, that there are agents engaged in subversive activity, and that the price to be paid by Government and by the common man for disorder is enormous. Are Government satisfied that in the event of a breakdown of communications, information can be obtained from all the scattered areas of the Province, and effective reinforcements promptly moved into the threatened zones? We note that the provision is being made in the Criminal Investigation Department Head for a Wireless Department which is in our view essential, but is the amount provided sufficient for the Province's need?

While on the subject of Police, I am compelled to draw attention to the very nominal provision which is made for the Anti-Corruption Branch. The total provision is Rs.60,000. The Head of the Branch is an officer on Rs.500 a month, and the cost of the rest of the establishment is only Rs.19,571. A sum of Rs.2,000 is provided for Secret Service, and Rs.200 for rewards to outsiders. I would be most reluctant to make any reflection on this gallant little band fighting for purity in the Administration, but our impression is that they have not been able to touch even the fringe of the problem and we would be grateful for a statement of their achievements; it is a matter of great public importance. On the extent of corruption in the Province it is difficult to hazard a guess, but there is an impression prevalent that it is by no means negligible. We remember that in a debate last year, the Hon'ble Prime Minister blamed the public for corruption, and while we would agree that there can be no corruption if the public refuse to connive at it. The public are often placed at a great disadvantage in getting even their legitimate rights when Government employees are demanding bribes. The resolution of the public must be reinforced if the war against corruption is to be waged with success. A capable, responsible and experienced officer of a rank not below that of a Deputy Inspector General of Police should be appointed with an adequate Headquarters staff and in each district there should be an Anti-Corruption Officer with a suitable staff able to investigate promptly all complaints. We would, however, like to see a start made with a Budget provision of Rs.10 lakhs which could be increased, if necessary. A successful drive against corruption would, we are confident, be welcomed by the public at large. The multiplicity of controls, the ineffective methods of office routine, present golden opportunities to corrupt staff and we were pleased to find, that Government had decided to establish a Special Committee to examine means of improving the organisation of Government Departments and their methods of discharging their duties. Our initial pleasure has been damped by the failure to summon the Committee, and possibly one of the first tasks of this Committee will be to examine the causes for this apparent Secretariat lethargy. Even



without waiting for the report of this Committee, we would earnestly ask Government to examine whether it is not desirable to make permanent arrangements for the inspection and supervision of District offices and to increase immediately the supervisory staff of the Police Department to ensure high standards of efficiency. For the first time in a number of years Government failed to make more than a modest profit on its grain purchase operations. In the revised, the profit was one lakh against 33 lakhs in 1947-48. We view with extreme disfavour the provision of a profit of Rs.34 lakhs for 1949-50 as we consider that Government should conduct their operations on a no profit no loss basis. We realise that it is difficult to work on such a basis, because there are uncertainties in trade, and provisions should be made against unforeseen contingencies. This, however, is not an insuperable obstacle no great ingenuity is needed to work out a system which would allow of price reductions, once a modest reserve fund had been built up. Price increases might possibly be necessary to meet a particular emergency. It is, however, wrong that food should be taxed in this matter, and the utilisation of surplus funds to effect price reductions would materially assist the anti-inflationary drive.

✓The failure of the Government rice procurement scheme last May and June was a bitter disappointment to the vast number of consumers in the province. We would attach no special blame to the Hon'ble Supply Minister who has throughout discharged his duties conscientiously and diligently, nor do we regard the Departmental Heads as in any way culpable; we believe that the collapse was due to defective economic strategy and failure of Government to use at the right moment the very extensive powers which they possess. The Congress Party possesses great influence in the rural areas; if the members of the Party had used their influence to the full and persuaded the cultivators to sell their grain to Government, much economic distress would have been averted. The system of grain procurement established by Industry was able to procure adequate amounts and to bring down prices at the most unfavourable season of the year proving that the shortage was man-made, and not real. Lower prices for grain are essential if any progress is to be made in the fight against inflation; it should also be the aim of Government to secure not merely adequate stocks for the Province, but supplies, as in former years, for the less fortunate provinces, and to assist India's economy by reducing the 4 million ton dependence on imported foodstuffs.

Even with the assistance of expert financial advice, it is difficult to find out the true position of the Motor Transport Schemes. There is a profit and loss statement prepared in connection with the Appropriation Accounts, but this is not available, until long after the close of the year to which the accounts relate. Some scattered items of information are given in the Budget and in the Memorandum, but these are insufficient to show whether the enterprise is working on a sound basis. Now, Government are expanding their activities on these routes, and in due course there will be the major industrial schemes. It is important that a better system of presenting the accounts of commercial undertakings should be devised; and we are confident that the Finance Secretary and the Comptroller will be able to manage this. We assume that the figures given on page 282 of the Estimates show merely the excess of receipts over expenditure and do not take into account Capital charges such as interest and depreciation. In the case of the new State Transport Organisation, receipts are included in XLVI, expenditure under M.57—Miscellaneous, and the Capital Expenditure under 82B. We are sure that Government will recognise that these figures are quite insufficient for any financial scrutiny.

The published accounts are also uninformative in regard to major industries, Major Head 72. Rs.18 lakhs is shown as a lump entry against Heads B—G; no attempt has been made to separate the expenditure under the different heads in



the Revised. In the Budget also there are many large sums—Rs.15 lakhs for Textile machinery; Rs.23.82 lakhs for purchase of Sugar machinery ; Rs.36 lakhs for Paper machinery; Rs.77 lakhs for Government participation in Plywood, Cement, Leather and Leather goods. We were told a year ago that accurate budgeting was not possible since suppliers did not quote firm prices and quotations were liable to be changed, if prices of raw materials and labour were raised. This explanation is a good explanation for variations, but does not explain why detailed estimates are not supplied. Detailed estimates must have been prepared. We note with some regret that the Scheme for Co-operative Housing and Building Societies has been abandoned for the coming year. There is an acute shortage of housing in the Province, particularly in the towns, and if only limited sums could be provided for this purpose, building might be encouraged and the present trend of deterioration in housing conditions reversed.

We consider that the statements of expenditure under the new Capital Head 82-B are not sufficiently informative. Let us take section IV,—Pandua-Gauhati-Shillong Service—, there is a provision of Rs 2.36 lakhs for vehicles and 1.33 lakhs for buildings. Compare the absence of details with the details given in the list of new schemes; for example, under 36.—Scientific Departments, a sum of Rs.16,430 is to be spent on the Provincial Museum. It is subdivided under five different heads and reasons for each item of expenditure are furnished.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister had referred in the course of his speech to the surrender of waste lands on tea gardens. While in general we have no objection in principle to the surrender of waste land not required for tea, or purposes connected with the cultivation of tea, we trust that the Industry will, at a convenient opportunity, be allowed to discuss with Government their requirements, and that in determining present needs due weight will be given to provision for expansion of plantations. With the present crushing burden of taxation, there is little enough inducement to expand, but the Tea Industry is an invaluable asset to Assam and to India and it is inconceivable that those in authority will allow the Industry to decline or even to remain static. In the past year tea to the value of Rs. 44 crores was exported from India and with this foreign exchange food grains and other essential goods have been purchased. As an earner of foreign exchange tea was second only to jute manufacturers. Many other countries are anxious to develop tea and are prepared to give generous facilities ; it would be unfortunate for India if a short-sighted policy prevented the expansion of tea acreage, when world consumption of tea warranted such expansion.

As regards the alleged protection of destructive wild animals in lands held by tea gardens, we are, in Shakespeare's words, "more sinned against than sinning". We hope, at a later stage during this Session, to return to this subject more fully and will not take up more time now.

Budgets to-day are so much larger, and the sphere of Governmental activities has widened to such an extent that it is impossible to deal with more than the items which we regard as of paramount importance, and we appreciate the patience and the courtesy which hon. Members have shown. On the broad fundamental principles of administration we have no differences with Government and we acknowledge the assistance which Government has so freely given to Industry during the difficult trading conditions in the past year. We are not among those who, in the words of Edmund Burke, "complained of the age they live in, murmur at the present possessors of power, lament the past or conceive extravagant hopes for the future". We entertain a sober optimism that the constructive proposals we have advanced will assist Government to reshape their Budget and administrative policies to meet the special needs of the Province at the present time.



**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Mr. Morley has exceeded his time by five minutes. The hon. Leader of the Opposition may speak now.

**Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** I hope the Hon'ble Speaker will give some indulgence to me as I will be able to shed some light on our Budget and our future finances.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if I am unable to throw any bouquet to our Finance Minister I hope the House will not take it in a sinister light. If I do not congratulate him it is for the simple reason that I find such glaring mal-administration of finances that as a lover of the province of Assam I cannot give him any credit. If I am very caustic or harsh in my criticism I hope both my hon. Friend, the Finance Minister, as well as those who support him in the Treasury Benches will be charitable enough not to impute any motives and suspect my *bona fides*. It is the love of the country, rather than any antipathy to the Hon'ble Mr. Medhi, that actuates me to speak in the vein in which I will be doing.

In the Budget Estimates, as well as in the speech of the Hon'ble Minister, the deficit for the coming year is shown as 60 lakhs. I will convince the House that this is a travesty of truth. As a matter of fact, my researches into the figures of the Budget Estimates have revealed that the deficit is, or will be, in the neighbourhood of two crores of rupees. Let me place the figures; as I have not got much time to explain I will just give the headlines and my Friends will be able to fill in the letter press. The admitted deficit, according to the Government estimates, is 60 lakhs, but as has already been pointed out by many hon. Members, that the Government had absolutely no business or justification to assume that they will get a grant from the Government of India of a sum of 2 crores 30 lakhs as against what they have proposed, i.e., 1 crore 60 lakhs; in other words there is an over-estimation in the credit side of the sum of Rs. 70 lakhs. I have it on the authority of the highest in the land that the Hon'ble Finance Minister of the Dominion of India had categorically told the Assam authorities that they could not expect a pie more than Rs 1 crore and 60 lakhs towards their share of Post-war development scheme next year. Under the circumstances, it is criminal to show 70 lakhs excess in the revenue side when we have nothing but lip-sympathy to back it.

Then, again, the hon. Members will find that the opening balance for the next year as shown is a colossal figure of 4 crores, 40 lakhs and odd, but my Hon'ble Friend, the Finance Minister, has been good enough to admit that this includes a sum of Rs 2 crores 50 lakhs, the sum that they are going to borrow from the Imperial Bank at 3 per cent. interest to help the Co-operative Apex Bank to start their trading in cloth and yarn that will be imported into the province. If you deduct that  $2\frac{1}{2}$  crores from your opening balance, it reveals that the opening balance stands at the figure of 1 crore 90 lakhs. If we compare this sum with the opening balance of the current year's Budget of 2 crores 33 lakhs and 46 thousand, it is apparent to every one that the Hon'ble Finance Minister had to dip his fingers into our reserve and withdraw from it a sum of 42 lakhs and 47 thousand rupees. If we add this 42 lakhs with the total deficit of 1 crore 30 lakhs, the deficit mounts up to 1 crore 72 lakhs and odd, as I have already shown. But there are additional figures which should have been in the Budget Estimates of therein. The Hon'ble Minister has admitted in his speech that for the next year probably Rs. 10 lakhs more will be needed to implement the recommendation of Pay Commission. He has also been good enough to admit that in this estimate no sum whatsoever has been shown on the debit side of Assam's share in the Assam



Access Road expenditure. I am sure that Assam's share cannot be less than 25 lakhs of rupees of the huge expenditure that has been carried on that road. If we take into account that 10 lakhs for the Pay Commission's recommendation and this probable debit of Rs.25 lakhs, it may be more, then, to our debit balance another Rs.30 lakhs have to be added. I am not taking into consideration the smaller sums which, normally should have been added to this huge total, e.g., the Hon'ble Minister's proposal to take a loan of Rs.2 crores in Treasury bills -- a short term loan on small interest, for such bills are for three or six months repayable within the year. Therefore, I have not taken that into account at all. So, from these figures hon. Members will be perfectly justified in dreading that the actual deficit of the province at the end of the year will be to the tune of over Rs.2 crores. Hon. Members will be staggered to hear that when our revenue income is only 5½ crores we are to suffer a deficit of over 2 crores in the working of a year. The finances of the province must be rushing headlong towards insolvency and nothing more, unless we take measures to stop this huge drain on the resources of the Province.

Well, when this is the position, what will a prudent house-keeper do, or what a reasonable Finance Minister should do? Under the circumstances of the provincial finances one should be chary of spending one little *kourie* beyond the most essential expenditure that the State cannot avoid. One should be mean like the person who waves his hand in the air to dry rather than wear out his towel by wiping his hand on it. Like him, our Hon'ble Minister should see that money is not drained out in unproductive enterprises. I can quote numerous sums which could have been saved in the Budget by means of reducing avoidable expenditure. I will just give a few examples to my hon. Friends. Under the head 'Excise' they will find that a provision has been made of a sum of Rs.2 lakhs 80 thousand extra for the un-official organisation of Opium Prohibition. I have got reference of every page, both of the Memorandum and the Budget Estimates, and the speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister. I refuse to interlard my speech by quoting them, but if any Hon'ble Member challenges my statements and figures, then I will give the page references.

Now, as has been said by many hon. Members that Assam suffers not merely from opium habit, there is the country-liquor, mention of which has been made just now by the Leader of the European Group, who said that consumption of country-liquor is on the increase. The Budget shows increased revenue from other exciseable heads but I cannot understand why no attempt has been made to reduce the consumption of country-liquor, why not add one half lakh more for prohibition on this account rather than increase the provision for un-official Opium Prohibition Organisation. This has burdened the poor resources of the province.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister with an uncommendable enthusiasm has mentioned that he has already frittered away the resources of the Province to the tune of rupees two lakhs ninety-four thousand in rewarding his fellow "patriots" of 1942, those so-called political sufferers. Sufferers indeed! Fight-are the actual facts? I had to rub my eyes in surprise when I heard the same Hon'ble Finance Minister while introducing the Assam Maintenance of Public Order (Amendment) Bill only the other day, decrying sabotage, decrying wanting this House to strengthen the hands of his Government to suppress the so-called illegal and unpatriotic activities or destructive activities of a certain group. Yet on the very first day of his introducing the Budget he eulogised the activities of those 1942 "patriots". Every one knows that those brave soldiers of freedom fought with the dry inflammable thatches of our village primary schools. They burnt



some two hundred of them and a few private houses including my own humble self's tea garden bungalow. They fought not with the soldiers of the then bureaucratic Government but with the innocent passengers of railway trains killing them by their acts of sabotage. Yet these kinds of unpatriotic activities of those soldiers of disorder and sabotage had a sum of only 3 lakhs given to them in recognition of their nefarious deed.

Sir, if you want to run the administration in a peaceful, ordered and law abiding way, you ought to have powers, you ought to suppress every kind of illegal activities. My Government did the same in 1942. Let my hon. Friend, the Hon'ble Finance Minister, stand in the shoes of the Home Minister of those days when he would have found such lawlessness and such challenge to an ordered Government ..... (*A voice from the Treasury Bench interrupted*) ..... I refuse to be side tracked, I have got no time otherwise I would give a smashing reply to my hon. Friend, the interrupter ..... (*The Hon'ble Sri Omco Kumar Das—Do it, do it, ..... (Disturbances).*)

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Order, Order.

**Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Wait, I can reply to Hon'ble Mr. Omco Das.

Sir, there are many reasons to consider before those gentlemen (?) can be described as political sufferers. Those who suffered by the activities of those people in the reverse way can also be called political sufferers. Some of these innocent householders whose houses were burnt and who have suffered loss, were compensated by my Government. But in my own case—when those forces of disorder burnt the bungalow with all medical stores for the garden labour force—I put in a petition in 1944 to be reimbursed the small sum of ten thousand rupees. I have not heard anything about my petition up till now. I could have then and there ordered the Finance Minister to pay me the money, but I took the usual course of sending my petition to the Police of Jorhat to be inquired into. I heard from the then Chief Secretary, Sir Harold Dennehy, that the Police had sent a report but it was mislaid in the Secretariat and that reference had to be made again to the Police, but since then, I have not heard anything more. I will resubmit my petition to the Hon'ble the Finance Minister as one of the "political sufferers" of those days.

I have already mentioned that the Assam Government is going to borrow a sum of 2½ crores of rupees from the Imperial Bank on 3 per cent. interest to help the Assam Co-operative Apex Bank set up under the scheme for purchase and distribution of cloth and yarn. The interest of this borrowed sum represents a sum of 3 lakhs. I enquire, Sir, whether it is wise to saddle the resources of the province with this additional burden of 3 lakhs annually till the Apex Bank could repay this money. I doubt whether the Bank will be able in their ten years to return the Capital interest. I doubt even if they will be able to raise sufficient capital to run its own business without Government's help. Why do you stop the previous arrangements? We had the Co-operative Society with its branches in every subdivision who used to indent cloth at their own cost and distribute it through Subdivisional Co-operative Society. This is playing with public money and should have been avoided.

Then, Sir, one of my hon. Friends on this side quoted the oft-repeated proverb—"example is better than precept". When the finances of the province have come down to such a low ebb, the Hon'ble Ministers, the rulers of the Province, ought to have shown a way to economy. As against this expectation what do we find? They have spent a sum of 2 lakhs and 67 thousand in the purchase of one or two aeroplanes—the number is not clear from the docu-



ment that is in the current year's revised estimates and in the next year's Budget we find that on maintenance charges of the aeroplane a sum of Rs.2,91,250 or very nearly three lakhs is going to be spent by the Provincial Government. Now, Sir, what was the necessity for buying aeroplane for the Government of Assam? We know that we have got no place to keep her in Assam. Miss Aeroplane had to live at Dum Dum in West Bengal (*laughter*). I call this a sheer waste of public money. There are commercial lines running throughout Assam as well as other parts of India. Assam Government either for the Ministers or for the Governor, should not have gone into expenditure of more than 5 lakhs for this luxury. I hope the Hon'ble Finance Minister should also term this as luxury as he has termed torch-lights, watches, fountain-pen as luxury goods. (*Voices: Hear. hear.*) As if this is not sufficient, somebody broached an idea that the Hon'ble Prime Minister ought to have a Secretariat of his own. Normally speaking, the Hon'ble Prime Minister, being the captain of the team of the Ministers of Assam, ought to sit together under the same roof and in the same building so that his junior partners might quickly get instruction from and consultation with him. No, he must have his own Secretariat at a distance of about half a mile from the general Secretariat. He must have a new building and a new Secretariat staff. This is all vagaries, I should say, and this is costing the Province a sum of rupees 72,200. This new expenditure, according to a note found in the Budget Memorandum, has not either increased the efficiency in the Administration or in any way reduced the cost of the main Secretariat.

We heard, Sir, about the Home Guard. Only in last September, the House voted a sum of 19 lakhs for creating this body, the Home Guards and now only six months have elapsed when the necessity of the Home Guards is not felt and as a result they have been sent into reserve, that is, they had to be kept in cold storage. One of the hon. Members in the Treasury Bench has just now remarked that these Home Guards like the '*Dhubi Ka kutta, Na Ghar Ka, Na Ghat ka*'. Because they are Home Guards and are under military discipline, though in reserve cannot get salary like military personnel, they must remain in their own houses and get ready to be called at any time for any emergency. The next year the expenditure for Home Guards has been shown at 3 lakhs 63 thousand. It is a big drop from the 19 lakhs. If there is no necessity for these Home Guards and the bulk can be kept in reserve why not save the Province of this 3 lakhs of rupees also by disbanding the whole lot.

Then, there is a very big item of expenditure in the General Administration. It is about election charges for 1949-50. The sum allotted is rupees 9 lakhs 96 thousand, very nearly 10 lakhs. Everyone knows that no election is going to be held in 1949-50. The Constitution itself has not been passed. From Delhi various papers are issuing long articles to show why election would not come before 1952 though my hon. Friend, Prof. Sarwan, insists that election should be held now in 1949 (*laughter*). So, Sir, there is absolutely no reason to tie up a sum of very nearly 10 lakhs of rupees in the Budget.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER** It is going to be 3 P. M. now. How long the Hon'ble the Leader of the Opposition would like to take after this?

**Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** I will take another half an hour, Sir, and I do not like to shorten my speech because I am speaking all this in the best interest of the Province itself.

Now, Sir, in my opinion there has been another kind of waste of tax-payers' money in the Publicity Department who issues 2 magnificent (?) papers called



'Assam Information' and 'Assam Batari'. I do not know whether any hon. Member read either of them. But when I get them I try to read what they print, but I find such blurred photos of beautiful faces of my Hon'ble Friend, the Publicity Minister and the Hon'ble Prime Minister that I throw them down in disgust (*laughter*). Even their mothers would hardly be able to recognise them from these photo blocks (*Big laughter*). I wish to emphasize that these two papers are fulfilling no useful purpose and they should be entirely stopped. These two news papers cost, according to the Budget 52,000 rupees.

Then there is a provision for National Cadet Corps of rupees 2 lakhs 52 thousand. This National Cadet Corps will take up the place of a militia. Well, you can have only one, either the National Cadet Corps or the Home Guards. As you are sending the Home Guards into reserve, you can have the National Cadet Corps. But why restrict it to educational institutions only? At present this movement is left to the students. If you want to take the Cadet Corps as the second line of your defence have it by all means as Assam is a frontier province. I think at present this expenditure and in the circumstances this expenditure is a waste.

I, now come to the Agriculture Department. I find that the expenditure in this Department has gone from 10 lakhs 93 thousand to 43 lakhs 25 thousand. Then on buildings the expenditure has gone from 12 lakhs 59 thousand to 88 lakhs 99 thousand. Then for communication the sum has gone from 15 lakhs to 68 lakhs 57 thousand. I think every hon. Member knows that all this money is coming out from the Central Grant for Post-War Development Schemes. These grants are not going to be given for ever. At present it is limited to only 5 years. We may have every kind of expenditure from this sum. But what will be the position after the 5 years? Every farsighted Finance Minister must look ahead. He cannot but realise that after the Central Grant will cease, it will be difficult for the Assam exchequer to provide even the maintenance charges for these new commitments. But now provision has been made for the future, no care taken for building up an enormous reserve from which the Province could hope to meet the maintenance charges for these new buildings and for agricultural improvement. There is absolutely no foresight shown for this.

Therefore my submission to this august House, Sir, is that one should be very circumspect and unproductive ambitious schemes should be dropped for the present. There is a communication from the Centre that they cannot help finances of the provinces very long and therefore we should curtail all these schemes to its barest minimum.

Then I come to loans to the Co-operative Societies, another item of expenditure of 55 lakhs. Well, this is very good, but times are abnormal. Let us try the Apex Bank and see the effects of these co-operative trading societies before involving the Province to another expenditure of 55 lakhs to put the co-operative credit societies on stable footing.

In my opinion all these items that I have detailed before the House are avoidable expenditure and should be avoided religiously at the present moment when our finances are so disquietingly low.

Then, Sir, the legitimate question to ask under these circumstances is that Assam, if she is to exist as a useful partner in the Federation of India, must stand on her own legs and not depend upon the doles which vary from time to time in accordance with the whims or with the financial position



of the Centre itself. The Hon'ble Finance Minister wants to remove a little of the deficit by two means—(1) increase in the sales tax on so-called luxuries (2) increase in the agricultural income-tax. Most of the hon. Members have spoken about the sales tax. Therefore I won't say anything about that. As regards the repercussion of these measures on the Tea Industry, Mr. Morley, Leader of the European Group, has elaborately explained. But with your permission, I will add a little more. Now that the Zamindari system is going to be abolished, the entire incidence of agricultural income tax will fall upon the tea industry. The plight of the tea industry has been well described by my hon. Friend, Mr. Morley. But I would place before the House just one little extract from the speech of the Chairman of the Indian Tea Association which he delivered in Calcutta at a meeting of the Association on the 11th March, 1949.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Cannot the hon. Leader of the Opposition avoid quotation? He can just give the substance.

**Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** The substance is this that last year the tea industry agreed with the Government of India in a tripartite conference of Labour, Industry and Government Official to give an additional dearness allowance and concession rates for foodstuff, but the cost has become so prohibitive that most of the tea gardens are showing loss and the very goose that is laying golden egg will be killed. One little item will show to what extent the income of the tea garden is being affected. According to the conditions in vogue from the past 5 years, the labour force is given paddy at the concession rate of Rs.3 per maund. In previous years it did not fall so heavily upon the industry because paddy was available in the market at Rs.6 per maund. Now the price of paddy in Upper Assam has gone up to Rs.15—16 per maund. Therefore on each maund of paddy issued to the labour force the authorities of these estates are suffering a loss of Rs.13 per maund. So this has become so heavy in raising the cost of production that there is no income left to the industry. In view of what has been already said by the Leader of the European Group, it is extremely necessary to see whether we should put this additional burden on the tea industry, when prices of tea are on the downward grade.

The next way is to improve the finances either by direct or indirect taxation. I wonder whether any hon. Members of this House have critically analysed the incidence of direct taxation. I will give only one example of direct taxation, the land revenue that the present proprietors pay to the Government. Well, even now practically the entire district of Goalpara and part of Sylhet that is in Assam with a population of about 10 lakhs pay no land revenue to the Government, because they are tenants of Zamindars. There is no land revenue in the Hills and the Frontier Tracts. There is no land revenue in the Khasi Hills, there is no land revenue in the Naga Hills and none in the Frontier Tracts. There is no land revenue in the Lushai Hills. That means another 10 lakhs population living in these places is exempt from paying any land revenue to the Government. Then another 10 lakhs of people operate in the tea gardens. They are only wage earners, they pay no land revenue to the Government. So out of a total of 70 lakhs population of the province 30 lakhs do not pay a single pie in the shape of land revenue to the Government. The entire incidence falls upon the poor inhabitants of the 5 districts—4 in the Assam Valley and Cachar. My hon. Friend, the Finance Minister, mentioned that the people of Assam have almost reached the saturation point as regards taxation. I agree with him, but I go one step further. If we analyse about the direct taxation we find that almost 50 per cent. of



the population goes scot-free whereas the other 50 per cent. has to endure the extra burden of direct taxation. If we put all the indirect taxation like sales-tax, however, you may say that you are not going to touch the poor man's pocket, you cannot but impinge heavily upon them. Take for example the new imposition by the Central Government of 3 annas excise duty on petrol. The price of petrol in Shillong has gone up by 3 annas. The bus owners cannot bear it from their own pockets, they must transfer this additional cost to the passengers. And who are the passengers of these buses? The poorer section of the people.

Realising this, I think, Assam Government is trying to increase their provincial income by nationalisation schemes. They have started partial nationalisation of transport and they propose to take measures under Government management or under Government auspices, to start industries in textile, sugar, paper and some other things. But I want to sound a note of warning to the hon. Members of the House for they are the ultimate repository of the fate of not merely the tax-payers but the general population of Assam. The Ministers are of their own choice, they are their executives. Now I will show by facts and figures that by nationalisation of transport not only there will be no income but, I think, Assam is going to lose.

Due to the nationalisation of transport on the three lines, *i. e.*, Shillong-Gauhati, Gauhati-Nowgong and Nowgong-Jorhat, the receipt from the Motor Vehicles Act has decreased by Rs.1,70,000 and from the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act we have lost a sum of Rs.2,50,000 or in other words we are poorer by over Rs. 4 lakhs

From page 47 of the Memorandum the receipts from the operation of these three lines are shown at Rs.42,29,000 whereas the cost of operation is shown at Rs.33,18,000; in other words the income over expenditure is estimated at over eight lakhs of rupees but as I have shown from the Budget figures the Government is losing according to their own estimate Rs.4,20,000 from the proceeds of the Motor Vehicles Act and Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, and therefore the net income according to these figures is the sum of four lakhs of rupees. Is this really "net" income? We do not know what has been the capital cost and I cannot get those figures anywhere in the estimates presented. The cost of capital expenditure on further rolling stock that will be required next year is shown at Rs.4,62,000.

**\*The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Sir, may I know how these figures have been obtained? Are these figures worked out by the Leader of the Opposition himself? Our information so far received is that I suppose, I should not express it just now, it is a very promising concern that we are undertaking.

**Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Sir, I started by saying that I have got every fact and figure from the Government papers. As the Hon'ble Premier is not aware of the figures in the Budget I will place before him as well as before the hon. Members of this House.

At page 47 of the Memorandum, probably receipts and expenditure on this State enterprise are shown and that the capital outlay for next year is shown at page 279 of the Estimate. I hope these references will satisfy the Hon'ble Premier as to the truth of my assertion. Sir, even if capital expenditure on the projects had been known, one cannot get a true picture of the operation of such State enterprise. As has already been stated by the Leader of the European



Group, for vastly commercial undertaking one must have a balance sheet prepared by actuaries, for you must know what is the depreciation, whether there is any renovation fund and what is the interest charges on capital expenditure or things of that sort. All these informations must be before the hon. Members of this House before they can declare that these are profit giving concerns. I have got this from figures that are found in the Government papers that their own expectation is an income of Rs 4,60,000 and that they admitted that they have lost an income of Rs.4,20,000, and therefore, the net profit is merely to the tune of Rs.42,000, not taking into account the interest of the capital outlay.

**\*Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEB:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the surplus expected by the Government is Rs 9,11,000 and not Rs. 4 lakhs.

**Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** In any way, I have given the reference of the figures. Then, Sir, hon. Members will be able to find out the figures for themselves whether we can increase the wealth of the province by opening out the vast waste land that are available for fresh cultivation. My statement will be challenged by the Hon'ble Revenue Minister for he stated that according to their statistical survey it is apparent that there is no land available. Well, I have been at this matter from 1924. I submitted a Memorandum of the Government of Assam before the Linlithgow Commission. After considering everything, the Linlithgow Commission in 1929 concluded that Assam had 18 million acres of land which could be brought under the plough. If it is challenged as an exaggeration then let us take over 50 per cent. of it for our calculation, namely 9 million acres. I have got statistics. It will be available to the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister in his Department in the Secretariat that till 1945 we have settled only 11 lakh bighas of land with new settlers. Of that only 5 lakh bighas of land went to the immigrants and 6 lakh bighas of land were settled with the indigenous population. We have this source. But are you utilising it? This land is available only as has been complained on the floor of this House, to the Assam Valley people. Even long old settlers, Hindus and Muslims of the district of Cachar, have been evicted. One hon. Member has requested to send them back to their home district of Cachar and that they shall be rehabilitated in the waste lands available there. I have been receiving frantic appeals from an organisation namely the Hailakandi Refugees' Association that some 30,000 refugees from East Pakistan have been taking shelter in Cachar. They have not yet been looked into by the Assam Government. I am very glad, before I opened my mouth to find that hon. Srijut Bidyapati Singh had mentioned about it and said, "If you are to send them back into their own district there would be no solution of the refugee problem". These are wonderful cultivators. They have made Hojai the granary, not only of the district of Nowgong, but also of the entire Assam Valley. Yet, they have been thrown out of their holdings.

Sir, it is a very gloomy picture which is before us. I want to place one suggestion before you all for your earnest attention and serious consideration. We can despise the tea industry dominated by foreign capital and we can try to trouble the tea industry, may be unintentionally, in various ways, but I think a very small expedient will add vastly to the province's annual income.

It is to request the Tea Industry to see that all Assam tea gardens pay their income-tax on profits in the province itself and not in Calcutta or in London. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has quoted from the Financial Exeprt Committee's recommendations, which were laid before the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly. Their recommendation is to increase the divisible pool

\*Speech not corrected.



from the proceeds of income-tax from 50 per cent. as at present, to 60 per cent. and that 60 per cent. is proposed to be divided on the following heads:—

25 per cent. on the basis of population ;

30 per cent. on the basis of collection ; and

5 per cent. to be retained by the Centre, so that they may be able to give additional help to the needy provinces.

If the present system remains, as 30 per cent. will be divided according to collection, West Bengal will get the advantage and not Assam. It should be the endeavour of every Member of this House to be at one and request the Tea Industry and say that if they want to help the Province, let the Companies issue an addit to their Managers that there is no necessity for the Managing Houses in Calcutta and London to pay income-tax there. There are treasuries here and income-tax should be paid here.

Sir, I have been a caustic critic of the Hon'ble Finance Minister, but according to the Sanskrit adage “বদ্বরেণ সৰাপরেণ”, I would like to congratulate him and give him credit for the bold stand that he has evinced on paper as regards the iniquitous exaction from the province of Assam by the Centre through various excise duties. I have been a fighter against the Centre since 1932 and I welcome the Hon'ble Finance Minister to my rank, as he wants to be a fighter. I want that not merely the Government but the entire public of Assam should take such an attitude as to compel the Government of India to disgorge either the whole or even a percentage of what they take from us. It is then and then only that our lip heroics may be converted into fruit-bearing endeavour.

Thank you, Sir, for giving me this indulgence. Although I had very many other matters to speak on I must close my speech, as we have over-stepped our usual closing time. I will just utter one word more and that is with regard to the vehement interjections from the Hon'ble Minister, Srijut Omeo Kumar Das, at certain statements of mine. If he had not opened his mouth I would have spared him. Now in self-defence I have got to retaliate. Not only in my time, but also in the time of the present Government, every endeavour had been made to see that the daily necessities of life, i.e., foodstuffs and cloth, are made available in Assam in sufficient quantities. The Department was literally run by a coalition of all talents. We had till recently a Sylheti Hindu as the Secretary of the Department, an upcountry Muslim as the Director and the Under-Secretary was an Assamese Muslim. The Department was bungled by the then Minister, Srijut Omeo Kumar Das, to such an extent that if I am to credit the papers, he had to go on a hunger-strike when he found that he could not feed the mouths of Shillong. And he admits that either the Assamese or the all-talent executive is no good. If we are to be saved we must be saved by Sylhetis, and Pakistani Sylhetis. All these officers now holding the posts of Secretary, Director and Under-Secretary are friends of mine. I have got no complaint whatsoever against them but I think the entire House should resent this move of the Hon'ble Minister that the entire Department has been left to the Sylhetis, and every one of them hails from Pakistan. This is an admission that we Assamese are no good ; we could not run Supply Department properly and that the Directorate or the Secretariat of all talents failed, the Pakistani Hindus should come to our aid and save us from the shortages in all necessary articles of food and clothing.

### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 1-30 P.M. on Friday, the 18th March, 1949.

SHILLONG :  
The 17th May, 1949.

R. N. BARUA,  
Secretary. Legislative Assembly, Assam.



