

Proceedings of the Eighth Session of the Assam Legislative
Assembly assembled after the Second General Election
under the Sovereign Democratic Republican
Constitution of India.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong
at 10 A.M. on Wednesday, the 16th March, 1960.

PRESENT

Shri Rajendra Nath Rarua, B. L., Deputy Speaker in the Chair
Eight Ministers, Four Deputy Ministers and Fifty-nine Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

**Regarding a huge quantity of paddy lying undisposed in the
Fakiragram Godown**

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) asked :

*29. Will the Minister-in-charge of Supply be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that a huge quantity of paddy which was procured last year is lying undisposed in the Fakiragram Godown because the millers and dealers have refused to purchase it ?
- (b) Whether this refusal is due to the said paddy being below standard or due to the designs of the millers and dealers to make the Government Procurement Policy unpopular or due to some other reason ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that Government is sustaining a loss due to the aforesaid situation ?
- (d) Whether Government proposed to punish the person or persons responsible for this loss ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply)
replied :

- 29 (a) A quantity of about 10,000 maunds of old paddy is lying at present in the Fakiragram godown as the Fakiragram rice and oil mills could not lift it due to temporary closure on account of labour trouble, also there was no demand of rice for distribution through fair price shops.

(b) No. It is due to the reasons given in (a) above.

(c) & (d) Does not arise.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati) : Sir, in view of the fact that about 10,000 mds. of old paddy are lying there unused and undemanded, do the government propose to divert these rice elsewhere i.e. to other districts ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY (Minister, Supply) : If need arises we may divert the paddy. But we are thinking to carry over a stock locally for difficult time. In case the paddy start deterioration we shall dispose of them.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj) : Who is the owner of the Fakiragram Godown building ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY : I do not know.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI : Are the government aware that the paddy first procured was subsequently exchanged with the bad paddy of the Fakiragram Rice Mills owner ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY : How can that arise I do not know. I have no information about such exchange as alleged.

Shri RAM NATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] Will the government make a thorough enquiry about it ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY : Yes I shall make an enquiry about this.

Regarding standard and specification for houses to be built in Tea Gardens of Assam

+Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) : asked :

*30. Will the Minister-in-charge of Labour be pleased to state—

- (a) How many new houses were built as per specification in Tea Gardens of Assam since 1952 and what is the number of families to be provided with such houses ?
- (b) Whether any approved specification was given from Government side ?
- (c) If the answer is affirmative, whether all the houses have been built in the same size or in different sizes with different facilities ?

+Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI put the question on behalf of the hon. Member.

- (d) Whether it is a fact that the provision for latrine and bath room is included in the specifications ?
- (e) Whether the specifications of houses on Khowang Tea Estate of Dibrugarh Subdivision was approved by the Government and if so, whether facilities of latrine and bath room will be provided in the new constructions ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour) replied :

30. (a)—The Assam Plantations Labour Rules framed under the Plantations Labour Act, 1951 were finalised in 1956 and the standard and specifications for houses to be built were laid down by Government in December 1956. Therefore, houses built according to specifications laid down by Government begins from 1957. Prior to 1957, houses were built conforming to the specifications approved by Government of India. The total number of such houses existing on 31st December 1956 is 39,308. The figures for the years 1957 and 1958 as far as available are given below—

	1957	1958
Number of new houses provided ...	9840	9817
Houses provided by adaptation of old houses	1617	6691
Total ...	11,457	16,508
Grand Total ...	27,965	

The number of families to be provided with houses is not immediately known, but as on 1958 the resident labour population totalled 10,14,283 and the average working labour force, 4,80,750 out of which 81,961 were non-resident. The figures for 1959 are being collected now.

(b) Yes. A copy of Government Notification No. GLR. 81/56/68, dated the 21st December 1956, wherein the minimum standard on specifications for housing accommodation for plantation workers has been laid down, is placed on the Library Table.

(c) The size of houses built conforms to the specifications. As regards facilities such as latrine, ventilation, compound drains, water supply arrangements, etc., some variation has been noticed here and there necessary instructions have been issued accordingly.

(d) Provision for latrine and bathing enclosure has been made, *vide* the aforesaid Notification.

(e) The specifications submitted by Management were approved. These included bathing enclosures and latrines.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : - May I know Sir, whether the Minister in charge came across complaints that some of the new houses in the Tea Gardens for labourers are of defective specification, and water gets in during the rainy days ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister Labour): Yes Sir,

Shri BISWANATH UPADHAYAYA (Patharkandi): May I know Sir, whether Govt. has received any representation to the effect that the present specification does not suit the labour families?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Well Sir, these are minimum specifications. Therefore, minimum squeeze people and maximum expands people.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): Is the Govt. aware that in tea gardens different specifications are laid down and houses are constructed even below specification?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: We are laying down only minimum specifications. If people want to go above minimum they are quite at liberty to do so. Some people, due to mistake, make incorrect specification, and then we catch them, of course when reports come to us.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): Sir may I ask whether the Labour Minister knows that these are too small for joint families?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Well Sir, the scope of making bigger houses is enormous, but it depends upon the available capital. Since capital is scarce, therefore, the difficulty of building bigger houses will continue for a long time.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI: Sir, there are so many semi-detached labour quarters in the tea gardens. Will the Minister in-charge see that the bigger families are placed in those semi-detached quarters?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: That is a thing to be negotiated between the Union and the Management in a particular garden.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: May I ask whether the Labour Minister knows that these small houses are leading to splitting up of joint families?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Yes Sir, to some extent. The proletarianisation itself leads to split up of labour families.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI: Will the Govt. please consider to increase the floor space of the labour quarters and also the height?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: The floor space was fixed as a result of discussion in a tripartite conference between the workers and management. There is a Standing Committee on the question of Housing and it is for that Housing Advisory Board to determine whether the specification should vary in the light of existing circumstances.

Production of Documentary film in Assamese for popularising the Co-operative Movement

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) asked:

* 31. Will the Minister-in-charge of Co-operation be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government propose to produce motion pictures in Assamese popularising the Co-operative Movement ?

(b) If so, what steps Government have taken, or propose to take in that direction ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Co-operation) replied :
31. (a) Yes.

(b) Government are examining the possibilities of producing a good documentary film.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) : Have the Government invited script for such film ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY : Sir, what happen is this. During the last Co-operative Week, a Drama was successfvy staged at Shillong by a non-official organisation under the caption "Ami Maukhe Utim". We are considering whether this Drama would besuitable for filming. The matter is under examination.

Shri BISWA NATH UPADHAYAYA (Pathankandi) : Whether the Government are aware that the central tax recently imposed on Film Industry will have adverse effect on the films of the State— if so what steps Government propose to take in the matter ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURI : I donot see how that can arise, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This question does not arise.

Shri SARBESWAR BARDOLOI (Titabor) : May I know from the Government, Sir, when that film would be produced ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY : It is really very difficult to promise anything at this stage since the matter is in its preliminary stage.

Sanctioning of flood damaged grants to educational institutions of Sibsagar and Golaghat Subdivisions

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi) asked :

* 32. Will the Minister-in-charge of Educrtion be pleased to state :

(a) Why flood damage grants to Schools, Colleges and other Public Institutions of Sibsagar and Golaghat have not been sanctioned by Government as yet ?

(b) Whether Government are aware that due to non-allotment of such grants, many Public Institutions of the above two Subdivisions are in a most deplorable condition ?

(c) Whether Government will be pleased to expedite sanction to save those buildings from ruin ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Education) replied :

32, (a) The extent of damage by floods and storm to institutions of Sibsagar and Golaghat Subdivisions had to be assessed together with a large number of institutions of different kinds similarly affected in many other parts of the State.

The delay is due to the above facts.

(b) Government are aware that many educational institutions have faced some difficulty due to their inability to effect necessary repairs for paucity of funds for which the question of allotting some storm and flood damaged grants have been specifically taken up.

(c) Sanction of grants to educational institutions in different part of the State is expected shortly, as necessary provision of funds has since been made for the purpose.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi): May I know from the government when this sanction will be distributed to the different institutions?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Dy. Minister, Education): I have already told this House yesterday that this fund will be distributed to the different institutions within this week.

Shri HARI NARAYAN BARUA (Teok):

উপাধক্ষ মহোদয়, যোৰহাটতো ধুমুহা-বতাহে বহু পৰিমাণৰ স্কুল ঘৰ ভঙাৰ কথা চৰকাৰে জানেনে?

Shri RAHIKARAM DAS: There may be some damages due to storm, etc. This question will also be taken up along with the other cases.

Regarding the prevailing unruly elements at Tihu Town

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) asked:

*33. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that some unruly elements are disturbing the public peace and tranquility at Tihu Town?

(b) Whether it is a fact that a resolution passed at the constituency Executive meeting of the Praja Socialist Party, Patancharkuchi constituency held on 3rd December 1959 regarding the prevailing unruly elements at Tihu Town was submitted to the Government.

(c) If so, what steps have been taken by Government to control these unruly elements?

(d) Whether it is a fact that the Officer-in-charge of the Tihu Police Out-post is not taking any steps against these disturbing elements ?

(e) If so, what steps have been taken against these miscreants ?

(f) Whether it is a fact that the miscreants are publicly threatening the life of the Secretary, Chairman and the M. L. A. of the Praja Socialist Party Patancharkuchi Constituency ?

(g). If so, what steps have been taken by Government to safeguard their lives and to control these miscreants ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied :

33. (a) No disturbance of public peace and tranquility was reported from Tihu Town.

(b) Yes, a resolution was received by Government and the matter was enquired into. The report of the enquiry reveals that there was actually no question of lawlessness and indiscipline by a section of anti-social and goonda elements, as alleged in the resolution and consequently, there was no sensation and helplessness being felt by the public. As a matter of fact, there was a fracas between some members of the two groups of public for some private reasons and this had no bearing on the general public.

(c) The position has been explained in reply to Question (b) above.

(d) It is not a fact.

(e) The police will certainly take appropriate steps if and when the complaints are lodged.

(f) Government have no information.

(g) Does not arise.

**Permission given by the Assistant Director of Supply,
Dhubri to Messrs. Fakiragram Rice and Oil Mills
to sell rice at Rs. 23 per maund**

Shri GAURISANAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) asked :

*34. Will the Minister-in-charge of Supply be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that while all Millers were ordered to sell the ordinary quality of rice at Rs. 17.60 nP. and Rs. 18.10 nP. up per maund under the Assam Rice and Paddy (Second) Price Control Order, 1958, the Assistant Director of Supply, Dhubri allowed M/s. Fakiragram Rice and Oil Mills to sell the same quality of rice at Rs 23.00 per maund ?

(6) What measures were taken by the Joint Director of Supply who enquired into the matter on agitation by other traders ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply) replied :

34. (a) No. The Assistant Director of Supply, Dhubri asked some millers of Fakiragram and Gossaigaon to deliver fine rice to the wholesalers at Dhubri at Rs. 23.50 nP. per maund inclusive of handling and transport costs. The price was however reduced to Rs. 23 per maund when it was found that the fine rice supplied by the Fakiragram mill was below standard specification. There was no statutory control over prices of fine or superfine rice at that time.

(6) No. measures were taken by the Joint Director of Supply as none were called for.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi) : Sir, may I know from the Government as to how the Assistant Director can fix the price at Rs. 23 per md. for fine rice which is not controlled rice ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY : Sir, in this connection I may read a report for information of the hon. Member. "An informal discussion was held in a meeting of the local Advisory Board, Dhubri, in which the D. C. Goalpara was also Present to devise ways and means to bring down the high prices of rice prevailing at Dhubri. The consensus of opinion was that the Fakiragram rice and oil mill, Fakiragram and Bajrong rice mill, Gossaigaon should be asked to deliver fine variety of rice at Rs. 23.50 nP. per md. to wholesalers at Dhubri, who would distribute rice at a nominal margin of 0.25 nP. per maund. The idea was that the sale of fine rice at Rs. 23.50 nP. per maund would have some effect on the price of coarse rice which shot upto Rs. 30 per md. and bring it down gradually." This was more or less an arrangement made with the mill at the instance of the Supply Advisory Board and the Assistant Director was asked to fix a price. He fixed Rs 23.50 nP. first, but when it was found that the quality was not upto the standard the price was reduced to Rs. 23 per maund.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj) : Does the Hon'ble Minister know that the Fakiragram rice mill owner is a notorious criminal in the State ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY : I don't know, Sir.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Places where paddy procurement has been taken up by Government

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked :

81. Will the Supply Minister be pleased to state—

(a) What are the places where paddy procurement has been taken up by the Government ?

(b) How many Marketing Co-operative Societies have been formed in those areas and what are they ?

(c) What are the dates of arranging funds and of supplying gunny bags to these respective Societies ?

(d) How many service co-operatives have been formed in these areas and how working funds have been arranged for them ?

(e) Whether the Minister-in-charge has visited the working of the service co-operatives in any of these areas ?

(f) Whether Government will be pleased to direct the service co-operatives to supply paddy directly in the Government Godowns and arrange for cash payment in the Godowns for the paddy supplied ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY (Minister, Supply) replied :

81. (a) 1. Kamrup District.

2. Darrang District.

3. Nowgong District.

4. United Mikir and North Cachar Hills District.

5. Cachar District.

6. Lakhimpur District.

7. Goalpara District.

8. Sibsagar District.

(b) 87. A Statement is placed on the Library table.

(c) As regard funds, a statement is placed on the Library table. Requisite number of gunnies were supplied to the Societies by the Apex Marketing towards the last week of December, 1959. Specific dates of supplying gunnies to the individual Society is not available with the Government.

(d) 1,745 Service Co-operatives have so far been organised in the following places—

1. Cachar	...	...	...	...	...	492
2. Nowgong	...	...	...	...	...	450
3. Kamrup	...	...	...	...	...	366
4. Darrang	...	...	...	...	...	266
5. North Lakhimpur	...	...	...	...	...	25

6. Mikir Hills 44

7. Sibsagar 102

Funds to the Service Co-operatives have been provided by the Primary Marketing Societies under whom the Service Co-operatives work.

(e) Yes. The Minister-in-charge has visited almost all the areas where Service Co-operatives are functioning for procurement of paddy except in the districts of Goalpara, Sibsagar and United Mikir Hills.

(f) No. As Service Co-operatives generally work at village level and handle small quantities of paddy it will be difficult for them to deliver paddy to Government godowns which are situated at a distant place. Cash payment to the Service Co-operatives at the Government godown premises is not feasible.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) : Are Government aware that in places where procurement of paddy has been taken up it has not been possible for Government to purchase the entire marketable surplus as a result of which the villagers are facing difficulty in not being able to sell their surplus elsewhere ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY (Minister, Supply) : That might have been the position in the beginning but now things are settling down and I don't think the position is as has been described by the hon. member.

Shri MAHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur) : The reply to (f) is "No. As Service Co-operatives generally work at village level and handle small quantities of paddy it will be difficult for them to deliver paddy to Government godowns, etc." May I know whether the marketing co-operatives, which were given 10 annas commission, could deliver directly to Government ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY : Yes, they are to deliver directly to Government godowns. That is the arrangement.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : With regard to (d), may I know whether there is any service co-operative in Dibrugarh ?

MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY : This question refers to the State Trading Areas and we are replying about those areas. If a separate question is put about Dibrugarh I shall be able to give the information.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara) : Is there any service co-operative in the Goalpara district which is included in the State Trading Area ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY : There should be some service co-operatives in the Goalpara District, but possibly up till now the Apex or the Marketing Co-operatives have not taken the help of any service co-operatives.

Shri DEVENDRA NATA HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): In reply to (a), we find that procurement has been extended to the district of Lakhimpur also. May I know what is the agency through which procurement is made and why no service co-operative has been formed?

M. MONIUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, supply): This is a mistake, Sir. It should be North Lakhimpur subdivision. The whole of the Lakhimpur district does not come within the State Trading Area. I am sorry for the mistake and the reply may be corrected to read "North Lakhimpur subdivision".

(After going through the question and reply again) Actually, Sir the question was about places where paddy procurement had been taken up by the Government and the reply has been given district-wise. There is no mistake. In fact procurement has been taken up in Goalpara and Lakhimpur District. But State trading is in operation only in the North Lakhimpur subdivision. But as it comes under the Lakhimpur district so this reply. Similarly, the Goalpara district has been mentioned as area of procurement though the scheme is in operation in the North Bank of the District only.

Shri MAHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur): If the marketing co-operatives can deliver paddy directly to Government godowns they can also take payment from Government directly. What's the use of going to the Apex Marketing Society, who without doing anything get a commission of 3 annas per maund?

M. MONIUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: That is not correct. The Apex Marketing Society takes the entire risk of the business. They advance money to the marketing societies by taking loan from the Apex Bank for which they pay interest. They procure bags and other necessary things for the marketing societies. They also supply them with the technical know-how. Therefore, they have got to be paid. Actually, Sir, they are not paid more than what they deserve.

Shri SARBESWAR BARDOLOI (Titabar): May I know in which part of the Sibsagar district procurement of paddy is made through the State trading agency? I am referring to reply (a)

M. MONIUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, the question was "What are the place where paddy procurement has been taken up by the Government. In the reply Sibsagar district has been shown as one of the districts where procurement has been taken up. There is no mention of State trading in this question. The next question deals with State trading. Therefore, my friend has misunderstood the answer.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Is it a fact that the contract for the supply of gunny bags has been given to only one party?

M. MONIUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, supply): I don't know, Sir. I have read a report in a Hindi newspaper that it has been given to one party. This is an internal affair of the Apex Marketing Society. But as far as I know they purchased from a large number of parties. They also resorted to local purchases at the time of difficulty. So, this may not be a correct news.

Maulavi RAHIMUDDIN AHMED (Jamunamukh): মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে জানেন যে gunny bag-র Market price যত ১১০/- ত বিক্রী হয় সেই স্থলত Apex marketing society-য়ে ১৩০/- টকা Per bag 100/-ক charge করিছে।

M. MONIUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: মই নাজানো কাগজত দেখিছো তেওঁলোকে দাম বেছি লৈছে কলিকতাত দাম বঢ়াৰ কাৰণে বেচি দামত কিনিব লগা হৈছে।

Maulavi RAHIMUDDIN AHMED: Service Co-operative এ যিবিলাক ধান খৰিদ কৰি Marketing Society-ক দিছে for want of godown and wagon. Apex Marketing Society-য়ে payment কৰিব পৰা নাই এই কথাটো হয়নে, তাৰ দ্বাৰা growers এ suffer কৰে।

M. MONIUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: হব পাৰে ২১ ঠাইত Marketing Society-য়ে payment সময়ত দিব পৰা নাই সিদিনা State Trading সম্বন্ধে উত্তৰ দিওতে মই কৈছিলো কো-অপাৰেটিভৰ অনভিজ্ঞতাৰ কাৰণে বহুত দোষ ত্রুটি হব পাৰে। তাৰ কাৰণে যদি ভয় খাও তেনেহলে ব্যবসায় বাণ্ণ্য কৰণ কৰাৰ চিন্তা নকৰাই ভাল।

Areca nut nurseries in Barpeta Subdivision

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDER (Sorbhog): asked

82. Will the Minister-in-charge of Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) How many areca nut nurseries were sanctioned in 1958-59 in Barpeta Subdivision?

(b) Why they have not yet been paid?

(c) When will be paid?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) replied:

82. (a)—No Nursery was sanctioned during the year 1958-59 in the Barpeta Subdivision.

(b) & (c)—Do not arise.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog) : May I know whether any arecanut nursery has been sanctioned up till now in the Barpeta subdivision ?

M. MONIUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) : The question referred to 1958-59. No arecanut farm was sanctioned for the Barpeta Subdivision in that year.

**Grating of pensions to the Political Sufferers of Silchar
Subdivision during 1959-60.**

Shri TAJAMMUL ALI BARLASKAR (Udarband) asked :

83. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) How many political sufferers from Silchar Subdivision were granted pension during 1959-60 ?
- (b) Who are those persons and the amount of pension granted in each case ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied :

83. (a)—Four political sufferers of the Silchar Subdivision have been granted monthly pension during the year 1959-60 as detailed below :—

- (b)—1. Shri Benode Behari Choudhury, Tarapur, Silchar—Rs. 50.
2. Shri Nirode Kr. Gupta, Silchar—Rs. 50.
3. Shri Kripamoy Bhattacharjee, Udarband—Rs. 50.
4. Shrimati Saroj Bala Das, wife of late Mohima Das, Silchar—Rs. 50.

**Playing of traffic on Tinsukia-Rongagora Road
to Dibrugarh**

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal) asked :

84. Will the Minister, P. W. D. (R. & B.) be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government are aware that traffic on Tinsukia-Rongagora Road to Dibrugarh can not

ply due to road being eroded ?

(b) Whether division of the road has been completed?

(c) If so, whether traffic can run by that division road now ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, P. W. D. (R. & B.)]
replied :

84. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No.

(c)—No. However, traffic is running *via* Dholajan Tea Estate touching a portion of diversion road connected with a garden road through Nagaghuli Tea Estate as a temporary measure without dislocation.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : The reply to (b) is "No". May I know why the diversion road has not been completed ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, P. W. D. (R. & B.)] It involves land acquisition.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : Whether the Deputy Minister-in-charge knows that due to noncompletion of this diversion road the people of that area are experiencing difficulties and the bus services that are running by another route are charging high fares than before ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : So far as higher fares are concerned, I have no information. So far as the inconvenience to the passengers is concerned, I may state that at present the traffic is maintained *via* Dholajan T. E. touching a portion of diversion road connected with a garden road through Nagaghuli T. E. as a temporary measure without dislocation.

Shrimati KAMAL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon) : May I know whether any scheme has been undertaken for protection of this road from erosion ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : It is for Flood Control Department and we have taken up the matter with the Dptt.

**Number of Water Pumping and Ploughing machines
with the Department.**

Shri KHAGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) asked :

85. Will the Minister, Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) The area of land in acres under Boro paddy cultivation ?

(b) The total amount sanctioned for the whole State this year for such cultivation ?

(c) How many water pumping machines are in the hand of the Government ?

(d) How many are in use and giving service ?

(e) Whether it is a fact that some machines are not working regularly in the fields and consequently Boro plantation is suffering ?

(f) Whether Government has taken immediate steps to repair the machines and bring them under working order ?

(g) Whether it is a fact that Government has failed to supply pumping machines to all the applicants who wanted the same ?

(h) What steps Government has taken to meet the growing demands for pumping machines ?

86. Will the Minister, Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) The number of ploughing machines at present with the Department ?

(b) The rate of charge per bigha on ploughing ?

(c) What steps Government has taken to meet the growing demand for such ploughing machines or tractor ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) replied :

85. (a)—28,200 acres in 1959.

(b)—Rs. 7.4 lakhs Short Term Loan and Rs. 50,000 as Grant.

(c)—316 numbers.

(d)—194 numbers (excluding those kept in reserve as stand by).

(e)—Report of trouble and temporary break-down are received. Reports apprehending damage to Boro crops, due to temporary break-down of power pumps were also received from Sibsagar district.

(f)—Yes.

(g)—Yes, each and every one could not be supplied during the peak period.

(h)—Steps have been to purchase more power pumps.

86. (a)—There is no tractor specially earmarked for ploughing as the same tractor is used both for ploughing and harrowing. There are 23 such tractors..

(b)—Ploughing—Rs. 10 per bigha. Harrowing [single]—Rs. 4 per bigha, Harrowing [double]—Rs. 8 per bigha.

(c)—It was the intention of Government to purchase some tractors during the 2nd Plan but this could not materialise as the Planning Commission refused to give any grant for this purpose in view of the foreign exchange difficulties.

Shri NILMONEY BARTHAHAKUR (Dibrugarh) :

The total number of pumping machines is 316 and 194 are in hand. I want to know whether Govt propose to repair the remaining 122 pumps or have them replaced by servicable one.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) :

Some of them are unservicable for non availability of some of the parts in India, particularly due to the difficulties experienced as a result of non availability of foreign exchange. Some of the pumps will of course be utilised. But we are taking steps to purchase some new ones.

Raising of the price of paddy per maund

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhag) asked :

87. Will the Minister-in-charge of Supply be pleased to state—

[a] How many maunds of paddy have been produced by Government during 1959-60 ?

(b) Whether Government are aware that there are dissatisfaction amongst the growers for low price of paddy at which it is procured ?

(c) Whether the rate of price of paddy per maund will be raised ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply) replied :

87. (a) 19,27,984 maunds upto 5th March 1960.

(b) Government have no such information.

(c) No.

Shri GHANASYAM TALUKDAR : Will the Honourable Minister reply as to what is the district-wise figure ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOWDHURY : I have not got these figures at the moment.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I do not think it will be necessary at this moment.

Opening of a ferry in the Madhura river

Shri TAJAMMUL ALI BARLASKAR (Udarband) asked :

88. Will the Minister-in-charge of Rural Development be pleased to refer to his reply to the unstarred question No. 90 of the September, 1959 Session asked by the questioner on 22nd September, 1959 regarding opening of a ferry in the Madhura river and state—

(a) Whether any letter dated 22nd September, 1959 has been received by him from the Questioner informing the

number and date of the letter by which the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar submitted his proposal to the Government ?

(b) Whether any action has been taken by the Government to open the ferry in the Madhura river ?

(c) If not, whether Government propose to take steps to open the ferry immediately ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister, Rural Development) replied :

88. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes. The ferry has already been declared as public ferry, *vide* Government Notiocation No. RDD.274/59/20, dated 17th February, 1960.

(c)—Does not arise.

**Sitting arrangement in the ferry service between
Dibrugarh and Sissimukh**

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked :

89. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (Roads and Building) be pleased state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that there is only one up and one down trip in the ferry service between Dibrugarh and Sissimukh on North Bank ?

(b) Whether Government has lately received any complaint of overloading in this service ?

(c) What is the capacity of passengers in each trip of the ferry service ?

(d) Whether it is a fact that there is no arrangement of siting accommodation in this ferry service ?

(e) What is the sitting arrangement in this ferry service, that Government is proposing to introduce ?

(f) Whether any watch is maintained to check the overloading in this ferry service ?

(g) Whether Government propose to introduce the system of complaint books in this service?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, P. W. D. (R. & B.)] replied :

89. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No.

(c)—One hundred passengers.

(d)—There are benches and planked platform for sitting.

(e)—Fixed benches will be arranged.

(f)—Yes. It is frequently checked to ensure that the free board line is clearly above water.

(g)—A complaint book is maintained by the lessee of the ferry and this book is to be produced on demand by the traveller for recording any remarks.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):

ডিব্ৰুগড়-চিচিমুখ ফেৰী চাৰ্ভিচৰ বহা ব্যবস্থাৰ কথা উত্তৰ দিছে

“(d)—There are benches and planked platform for sitting.

(e)—Fixed benches will be arranged.”
এই ছটাৰ কোনটো শুদ্ধ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : There are benches and planked platform for the passengers and for sitting purposes fixed benches will be arranged.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur): Is it known to the Govt that about 6/7 hours are required for crossing this river and how can 100 passengers go without sitting arrangements?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : No, Sir. Out of 100 passengers who may be carried in the ferry in one trips, 50 passengers are usually accommodated on the benches and the remaining 25 passengers on the floor decking covered with

mattress or paulines* of a launch and the remaining 25 passengers are accommodated on additional boat fitted with outboard sea horse engine.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhôwa) : এই ডিব্ৰুগড় চিচিমুখ ফেৰী চাৰ্ভিচত উত্তৰ পৰীয়া যাত্ৰীয়ে যি অসুবিধা ভোগ কৰিছে— সেই অসুবিধাবোৰ অনুভৱ কৰিবৰ বাবে ডেপুটী মিনিষ্টাৰে নিজে সাধাৰণ যাত্ৰী হিচাপে ভ্ৰমণ কৰি চাবনে ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI (Deputy Minister, P. W. D. (R. & B.) : Surely I will go when occasion arises.

Shri RADHA KISHAN KHEMKA (Tinsukia) : ডিব্ৰুগড় চিচিমুখ ফেৰী চাৰ্ভিচত ভবিষ্যতে সৰু জাহাজ দিয়াৰ কথা চৰকাৰে চিন্তা কৰিছেনে ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : No.

Representation suggesting roads in Sibsagar Subdivision to be taken up under Article 275 Development Programme

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) : asked

90. Will the Minister, T.A.D. be pleased to state—

(a) Whether he has lately received any representation to improve the road taken from grant under Art. 276 of the Constitution in Sibsagar P.W.D. Subdivision ?

(b) If so, whether the same road was recommended ?

(c) Whether Government will be pleased to consider sanction of an *ad-hoc* grant to improve the said road ?

19. Will the Minister, T. A. D. be pleased to state—

(a) Whether he has lately received any representation from Shri G. N. Gogoi, District Magistrate the question of inclusion of some roads during Second Five Year Plan Period from grant under Art. 275 of the Constitution ?

(b) Whether these roads were recommended ?

(c) Whether any interim relief will be considered before the scheme is implemented ?

Shri W. A. SANGMA (Minister, T. A. D.) replied :

90 (a) The question is vague. It is not clear to which particular representation and road the hon. Member refers.

(b) & (c) Do not arise.

91. (a) Yes, a representation was received from Shri Durgeswar Saikia, M.L.A. and one Shri D. N. Gogoi sometime in September last suggesting as many as 12 roads in Sibsagar Subdivision to be taken up under Art. 275 Development Programmes. 4 of these roads are stated to be in Plains Tribal Areas and 8 are in areas predominantly inhabited by other backward classes.

(b) The representation has been sent to the Deputy Commissioner, Sibsagar to place it before the Subdivisional Development Board for specific recommendation on receipt of which it will be considered how far the proposed roads can be accommodated from out of Art. 275—Development grant. At present only roads falling in the Plains Tribal Areas are eligible for accommodation in the Art. 275 Development Programme.

(c) So far as the roads falling in the Plains Tribal Areas are concerned, pending a decision as to whether they can be taken over by the P. W. D., they can be improved on self-help basis for which each year allotment is made to the S. D. O. from out of Art. 275—grants, provided they are approved by the Subdivisional Development Board to be taken up as self-help projects.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : The reply of Unst Q No. 90(a) given by the Govt. is as vague. I want to point out, Sir, that it is quite clear.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Honourable Member may ask the Govt. whether the answer given by the Govt. is clear or not.

Capt. WILLIAM SON A. SANGMA : The question is vague as to which particular road the Honourable Member refers is not clear. The particular road should have been specified.

Shri RAMNATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] : How many roads under the Sibsagar Division have been taken up ?

Capt. WILLIAM SON A. SANGMA : That is a new question, Sir,

Shri RAMNATH DAS : The question is there. Whether the Minister has lately received any representation to improve the road taken from grant under Art. 276 of the Constitution in Sibsagar P W D Sub-Division. According to this there is only one road under Sibsagar S/Divn.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is not clear.

Capt. WILLIAM SON A. SANGMA : The question reads as follows whether he has lately received any representation to improve the road taken from grant under Art. 275. He has not mentioned any particular road. Hence it is not clear.

Shri RAMNATH DAS : How many representations he has received for this road ?

Capt. WILLIAM SON A. SANGMA : Which road ?

Shri RAMNATH DAS : May I know from the Honourable Minister how many roads under Sibsagar PWD division have been taken up under Article 275 ?

Capt. WILLIAM SON A. SANGMA : This is again a new question & it can not be answered now.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is not very clear. Because there is no mention of time, date of representation and when it was taken up. I think the Honourable Minister is right, because the question is vague.

Shri SARBESWAR BARDALOI (Titabar) : Will the Honourable Minister be pleased to answer which are the roads and what are the amounts as mentioned in Unst. No. 91 (c).

Capt. WILLIAM SON A. SANGMA : I shall read out the number of roads in the tribal area. They are—

1. Rajgarh Road from Sepon Suffroy P. W. D.
2. Mohkuti Road from Mohkuti out garden to Sepon Chunpura PWD Road.
3. Raidang Borpathar M. E. School Road.

4. Dhaiali from Akhoiputiaghat to Tengaponia Brhamaputra Dyke.

Shri SARBESWAR BARDALOI (Titabar) : What are the amounts ?

Capt. WILLIAM SON A. SANGMA : These are only suggestions & no amount has been stated.

**Proposal for a new rail line to Tarabari from Barpeta
Road Station via Barpeta Town**

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta) asked :

92. Will the Minister, Transport be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to be put by the Government of Assam to the Union Government for a new rail line to Tarabari from Barpeta Road station via Barpeta Town in the Third Five Year Plan ?

Capt. WILLIAM SON SANGMA (Minister, Transport) replied :

92. No. An investigation of the traffic potentialities indicated that the daily traffic offering for the proposed line would be approximately only one wagon a day.

Plying of Bus through Dalu T. E.

Shri TAJAMMUL ALI BARLASKAR (Udardand) asked :

93. Will the Minister-in-charge of Transport be pleased to refer to his reply to the unstarred question No. 247 of the December Session 1959 on 17th December 1959 regarding opening of bus service from Udarband to Dalu and state—

(a) Whether the management of Dalu T. E. has permitted to ply the bus upto Dalu ?

(b) If not, whether Government propose to take steps to compel the Dalu Garden authority to allow the bus service to ply upto Dalu immediately ?

Capt. WILLIAM SON A. SANGMA (Minister, Transport) : replied

93. (a) No.

(b) The matter is under consideration of Government.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi) : In reply to (b) it has been stated that the matter is under consideration of Government. May I know Sir, why Govt. is not acquiring the road ?

Capt. WILLIAM SON A. SANGMA (Minister Transport) : Whether it is desirable to take over the road or not is under consideration. I have replied that.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET

Mr. Dy. SPEAKER : Question hour is over. Now Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharya will speak.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, It was not for nothing that most of the Hon'ble members have not dealt with the budget figures and have concentrated in their observations on the local conditions that prevail in their respective constituencies. As a matter of fact, so far as our budget figures are concerned, they are misleading. Often times they do not go even to near approximation. If I refer only to last year because that was the year under the present Finance Minister, the matter will be cleared. Last year the grant originally voted was 49 crores and odd but finally it stood at 59 crores and odd. In the "charged" side the demand originally was 4 crores and 52 lakhs and finally it stood at 4 crores and 87 lakhs ; but on the "voted" side we find that the difference between the original budget and the final estimate is 10,36,56,404/- rupees. When the difference between the original estimate and the final estimate exceeds 10 crores of rupees, in a poor State like Assam, it must be said that our budgetting is in a very poor state indeed. Therefore, it is no good going in to the figures.

Moreover, as it appears, sometimes figures are given haphazardly and carelessly, and that also year after year. Only the other day there arose a question—a vital question—with regard to the second Medical College, and one of the Hon'ble members referred that, at page 185 of this Budget there is an entry of a sum of Rs. 4 lakhs and odd for the second Medical College at Gauhati. I referred to page 185 where it was shown that for the establishment of a second medical college at Gauhati 4 lakhs 27 thousand rupees have been ear-marked,

and the Minister said that this was a mistake while somehow crept in this year's budget. But Sir, on a reference to last year's budget, I find the very same thing. In the last year's budget at page 183 we find the entry, establishment of a second medical college at Gauhati, and at that time the amount shown was 2 lakhs 50 thousand rupees. When the present year's budget was prepared this thing was carefully or carelessly omitted. Now, this is only one instance as to how figures creep in into the Budget Book, and this also creates in certain quarters unnecessary hopes and again in some other quarters serious heart burning. I know our Medical Minister is a gallant man and he takes great pleasure in courtship. But if for 2 years we are to go on courting—only playing hide and seek game without deciding anything that may be a very good certificate about his gallantry, and that may be a poetic “ধৰি, ধৰি, ধৰি, ধৰিতে না পাৰি।” But unfortunately this game is at the cost of the people.

So far as the people are concerned, they are left guessing and therefore our Hon'ble Members who are perhaps not as poetic as the Minister, have chosen to leave aside the figure-side altogether because it only indicates dreaming in a moonlit night. Therefore, we see the conditions not so much from the figure's point of view as from the people's point of view. But even from the people's point of view we cannot avoid figures because a budget is, after all, a book of figures. I do not propose to go into details but I want to refer only to a few items. On the receipt side as well as on the expenditure side we find that our receipts are rising and expenditures are also raising. I refer to page 4 of the multicolour book. Here it is shown that at present our receipt side stands at Rs. 42, 16,94,000/- and our expenditure side stands at Rs. 40,44,22,000/-. But in the Extraordinary Gazette No. 24 wherein Govt. invited people to subscribe to the loan it was stated that there had been a lot of improvement in our financial position in-as-much-as in 1950-51 our revenue receipt was 992.09 lakhs of rupees and our revenue expenditure was 927.65 lakhs of rupees. By 1960-61 our receipt has gone up to over 42 crores of rupees and our expenditure to 40 crores of rupees. Now wherefrom does this money come? Our receipt was gone up by about $3\frac{1}{2}$ times than that of 1950-51. This money comes directly and indirectly from the people. That is to say, our people have been taxed more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ times than they used to be taxed in 1950-51. Now, we are to see whether our people have been benefited in the equivalent proportion. No matter

that I pay 4 times the tax to-day, if the services I get from the Govt. also rise 4 times or more. It is from that point of view that we are to see the question and answer to the people. If it is a fact that the lot of the common people has become four times better than before then it is alright, but if it is not, then the Govt. stands self-condemned.

Now, what do the figures as supplied by the Government indicate? At the very outside I would like to say that I do not accept the figures supplied here as correct. Very often we find that the figures are incorrect and misleading. Even taking these figures, what do we find? We find that the State National income in 1955-56 stood at Rs. 262.1 crores and by 1958-59 it rose to only 267.9 crores of rupees. So there has been increase of only 6.8 crores as against the promised target of 65.3 crores. Govt. promised that the State National income would be increased by 25%. So as against the promised increase of 65 crores of rupees Govt. have been able to give only 6 crores of rupees to the people. Then again, Sir, this National income has not been given strata-wise. For example, what is the increase in the strata whose income is up to Rs. 100/- p. m. and what is the increase of the strata whose income is above Rs. 500/- p. m.? The strata-wise classification is not there and so the posture of National income always remains misleading. We have seen that after 12 years of independence the rich have become richer and the poor have become poorer and therefore, the question of National Income has lost much of its importance in our economic study. Even then we find that so far as the per capita income is concerned, we are lagging far behind the rest of India. In 1956-57 the All India per capita income was Rs. 294.3 and in Assam it was Rs. 275.5. In 1958-59 our per capita income has gone down to Rs. 272.4. Now, if we compare this figure with the figures of 1948, that is, just after the attainment of independence, we find that there is only a rise of 4.7 rupees. In 1948-59 our per capita income was Rs. 267.7 and by 1958 it has gone up to Rs. 272.4. That is to say, there is only an increase of Rs. 4.7.

Now, if we look at the price structure what do we find? The price structure is going up day by day. If there be no rise in the income and there is a fall in the price of daily necessity then, of course, people may say that they are better off. But the prices of all commodities have gone up

and by taking 1952-53 as the base year, that is equivalent to 100, we find that in April, 1959 the All India Index of whole-sale price stood at 111.5 and in September, 1959 it stood at 118. Taking the same year as base we find that in Assam in April, 1959 the figure stood at 121.4 as against All India figure of 111.5 and in September 1959, India 118, Assam 128.2, i.e. 10% higher than the rest of India. That is the position so far as the prices are concerned.

We also find that for the consumer price index when we look at the working classes, Government for reasons best known to them have taken 1944, the peak war year, as the base year. Taking even 1944 as the base, the working class cost of living index in Gauhati in September 1959 is 102, that is, there has been a rise. In Silchar it is 112, in Tinsukia it is 120 and for the rural population it is far worse. In the rural areas, this index has gone up to 163. So we find that this is the economic condition of our people whether it is the working class or whether it is the peasantry. To contrapose it we find that we have been taxed, as I have already said, in 1951-52, Rs. 7,97,64,000 and in 1960-61 it has gone up to Rs. 18,91,36,000. These are the figures given by the Government itself. Apart from what the Finance Minister himself has said, what is the position? I do not propose to go to details; I only summarise a few.

At page 14 of his speech the Finance Minister has admitted that our position is today one of great want. In common parlance it may be said that the people are crying, "মেই ভোখা হু" (I am hungry!). Hunger is the general picture according to the Finance Minister himself. Then at page 4 he has also admitted that the economic condition of the farmers is worse in 1959 than in 1958. So, instead of going for the better, we are going to the worse. With regard to the problem of unemployment, at page 5 he has said that the unemployment problem is growing and at the same time there has been a great shortage in respect of technically skilled and trained personnel. What a horrible condition! Then again he says, "In this State development is low, per capita income poor and the state of communication almost pathetic" (page 17 of his speech). Well, I should like to request the Hon'ble Members of this House, particularly the Member of the Cabinet to read the Budget speech of the Finance Minister. I refer particularly to para 11 of his speech. That will help them to understand the crux of the problem and do know

what is the demand of the people in the country. If we are to come out of the rot, there must be a Herculean effort, because the Finance Minister himself has said at page 13 "I have no hesitation in saying that our present embarrassment is the result of both underestimation of our needs and the illogicality in the pattern of development so far undertaken." So, if there has been under-estimation of the needs, let us for heaven's sake estimate it correctly—at least now; and if there has been illogicality all along in the past, let us now at least come to a certain logical conclusion. But what is the position even now? I need not go to elaborate it. The Hon'ble Members of this House from both sides have said that. Let me leave aside the Members of the Opposition whose role in a parliamentary democracy is to criticize and sometimes to criticize in sharp and trenchant terms. But what do the Members belonging to the Congress Party, the ruling party, say? Let us refer to what has been said by the Secretary of the Congress Parliamentary Party, Shri Pradhani; by a Member of the Congress Working Committee & Parliamentary Board Shri Nath; by the Congress Kisan leader Mr. Rohimuddin; by Congress-educationist Shri Chetia; by the representative from the backward areas of Lakhimpur Shri Debendra Nath Hazarika; by the representative of I.N.T.U.C. labour Shri Bordoloi. Every one of them has said that may be somewhere something good has happened; some fortunate few might have enjoyed the fruits of independence but so far as my area, my sector is concerned, everything is rotting and stinking that is the sum and substance of what each of them said. Of course they have congratulated the Finance Minister for his lengthy and illuminating speech and for the surplus shown in the Budget. One of the leading members of the Congress Party has gone so far as to say: if you do not finish this ugly affair here and now, if you do not change the gear and improve matters, then we shall take to "direct action"! That is what he said—of course he said that emotionally. I know he is not going to bad direct action but that shows the depth and height of his emotion because the people whom he represents are suffering in spite of all these big and tall talks. What is this tall talk about? What is the meaning of this surplus? That means that you have got more money than you can spend. Is that so? This has been the position not only this year. This surplus budget has been present in the last four years. In 1957-58 the surplus was about 91 lakhs; in the next year it was 3 crores 19 lakhs and now it is 1 crore 72 lakhs

and odds. So if this surplus is an index of prosperity, I would ask the Finance Minister: are we really prosperous? Have we been able to put aside some money for the rainy day if there has been a surplus, or is it that due to unexpected reasons we have not been able to spend the money? If I am to judge anything from the Hon'ble Minister's speech, there is

Water, water everywhere,
Not a drop to drink.

Everywhere people are wanting money for this and that; there is surplus, yet there is no money for the construction activities! If there has been really surplus for the last four years why there is not a single proposal for a new hospital in this budget? There are certain taking overs from Local Boards but I have not been able to find any new hospital being started.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) :

Hospital or Dispensary?

Shri GAURI SHANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) :

Hospital. There is no proposal for a single new hospital: I shall be only too glad if I be shown one. But I have not been able to find even a single hospital in this present budget.

Then it is also said that there is no money when there is a crying need. Here in Shillong there has been a lot of congestion and some important offices—those which ought to be near the people—ought to be transferred from Shillong to Gauhati or some other places. For this they say there is no money and yet there is a surplus budget. There is no money also for construction of proper embankments when in Rangiya, Nalbari, Cachar and many other places large areas are inundated due to floods. In these places there are no money even for important construction works. For example, the Engineering College at Jorhat had to remain at a standstill. It is understandable that for lack of materials like cement etc., some buildings cannot be constructed. But it is surprising indeed that many important works had to suffer for want of money and yet we have got a surplus Budget. The North Trunk Road which is the vital life-line of the North Bank people is in a deplorable condition, but that road could not be improved because there is no money. My friend Shri Goswami has said that the

present Budget is nothing but a jugglery of figures. I would go a step further and say that in some cases there is burglary of figures. Figures are put very surreptitiously with no intention of implementation. And moreover we find that while there has been a surplus, there is at the same time a huge debt. Had it been a private concern or a private individual he would have been in the meantime declared a bankrupt. Regarding this debt let me quote the figures. I am reading from the official Gazette of the Govt of Assam wherein it is stated, the Govt of Assam have a outstanding debt of Rs. 3,494 lakhs to the Central Govt up to 31.3.59. Besides the above, a loan of Rs. 8 crores has been obtained in the earlier part of the current financial year 1959-60 from the Life Insurance Corporation of India, an amount of Rs. 1,021 lakhs is outstanding against Co-operative and Warehousing loan obtained from the National Co-operative Development and Warehousing Board. Further, the total borrowings from the Reserve Bank of India for financing various co-operative development schemes as on 31.3.1959 stood as Rs. 35 lakhs. Now, against the outstanding stated here, the Reserve Bank of India hold to the extent of Rs. 1,64.19 lakhs as on 1st January 1959 on behalf of the State Govt. So, against the above stated loans there is with the Reserve Bank of India Rs. 1,64.19 lakhs. That is so far as the finances are concerned.

Now, we do not also find any valuation shown here : then the question comes, if we are to finance our developmental programmes and if we are really to alleviate the miseries of the people as has been said by many hon. members of this House, then it is natural that we shall have to find out resources. While I have criticised the Govt for not being able to spend, it is necessary at the same time to state that I am quite alive to the fact that there should be resources. At page 15 of his Budget speech the Finance Minister says as follows—and we have very carefully or rather I should say, very respectfully studied it, he says : “One of the key factors involved in the planning for the Third Five Year Plan period is the question of resources.” Now, with regard to this, I should like to say that we are really confronted with the question as to where from are we going to get money. So far as the Govt is concerned they seem to think in terms of getting money by imposing more indirect taxes on common man as they have done in the Central Budget this year by raising the land

revenue as it is talked about. As a matter of fact in the land settlement operations that are going on now actually there is also going on raising of land revenue although that has not been declared on the floor of this House. According to law there can be increase of revenue up to the extent of 25 per cent which has been raised to 40 per cent and to that extent the land revenue is being raised. Local rates have been increased also. It seems that the Govt want to finance the Plan by asking the peasants to bear the burden more and more. That is the trend that is generally going on in the State now. Contrary to that, I would suggest that money must be found from the richer quarters, from those who are in a position to pay before we approach the poor because the poor are already over-burdened with heavy taxes; what they need is relief and not taxation. In this connection it is important to break the conventional ways of finding money. On this point I would like to lay emphasis that taxation will not help much for the development of our economy and for expansion of our economy. What we need is profit-yielding public sector. Therefore, we must run the public sector much better, we must nationalise more profit-yielding industries in order to find money for the Third Five Year Plan. At the same time we should see that the industries which we are going to nationalise or in which we are to participate are run efficiently. As a matter of fact we find in the Gazette Extra-ordinary to which I have referred earlier it is shown that only in six undertakings the State has participated and their participation is also very limited—in the Apex Bank 17 lakhs in the Financial Corporation 51 lakh 70 thousand, in the Saw Mills 5 lakhs, in the the Land Mortgage Bank 9 lakhs, in the Sugar Mills 27 lakhs, in the Cement Factory 6.25 lakhs. At the same time we should remember that this loan of Rs. 2.76 crores is for certain developmental schemes like the Pulp Mill, Oil exploration etc. For the development of these industries this money would be spent. But as a matter of fact a greater part of this money still remains to be spent and only a very small portion of that money has been invested in industries. We have also found that out of this 276 lakhs which was raised in the Refinery Land investment, Naharkatia Natural Gas Plant, etc., only a total of 112.2 lakhs have been invested and even now 164 lakhs remains to be invested from that amount which was raised for the purpose of investment. My suggestion is that Govt should invest this money in some important industries and also we should see that apart from

industry being self-generating, we should also as far as practicable give relief to the low income group because the last straw on the camels back is already there.

We have also seen in the course of discussion on the floor of this House that due to certain mishandling of the situation, the attention of the hon. Members have been diverted from the closer study of the picture, the economic trend to certain other matters. I shall fail in my duty, if I don't place my views on those matters because these also are very important matters in our national life. One such question has been the question of language. I have given very careful attention to what the Chief Minister stated on the floor of this House and I have great respect for his sentiments. But I have failed to understand how a man of his calibre who is universally known as a man of sober intelligence could over-look certain stark realities. In this connection, let us look into the Constitution of India itself. Part XVII of the Constitution deals with the question of official language and there we have seen in Article 345, it has been stated "Subject to the provisions of Articles 346 and 347, the Legislature of a State may by law adopt any one or more of the languages in use in the State or Hindi as the language or languages to be used for all or any of the official purposes of that State: provided that until the Legislature of the State otherwise provides by law, the English language shall continue to be used for those official purposes within the State for which it was used immediately before the commencement of this Constitution."

Qs Bharti 16/3/60
Article 347 reads as follows "On a demand being made in that behalf, the President may, if he is satisfied that a substantial proportion of the population of a State desire the use of any language spoken by them to be recognised by that State, direct that such language shall also be officially recognised throughout that State or any part thereof for such purpose as he may specify". Sir, I am afraid, the Chief Minister has confused between Articles 345 and 347. Article 345 speaks of a recognised official language and article 347 speaks of an official regional language. This is a very important point for consideration. Under Article 345 the State Legislature has got power to enact a law for adopting one or more languages to be used in the State or Hindi as the language or languages to be used for all or any of the official purposes.

It is not necessary that for all official purposes that particular language should be adopted; it may be for some purpose and it may be done gradually. Article 347 gives guarantee to the minority. According to the Constitution of India, the present language is English and it was envisaged that English should be replaced in the whole of India by Hindi within as short a time as possible. Regarding the regional languages, the Constitution of India has given a list of as many as 14 regional languages and Assamese is one of those regional languages. Therefore, we have got to recognise Assamese language as an official language of the State and in that context the vast majority of the people of Assam also demand that out of the 14 recognised languages, Assamese should also be under the sun and should therefore, be made the official language of the State. The Chief Minister said that the demand should come from the minority to declare Assamese language as an official language. This attitude has not foundation at all. The minority will naturally be protected under Article 347 of the Constitution and we should also be alive about the rights of the minorities, about their legitimate demands and we should not do any injustice to any group or minority in the State. They may be given the unfettered guarantee in the use of their languages. If that was the purpose of the Chief Minister, then I have nothing to say. But if he says that there is a stumbling block so long as the demand does not come from the minority, I am afraid, that situation may not come at all. As a matter of fact, the Ex-Chief Minister, Shri Medhi as far back as 1950 accepted the policy that Assamese language should be the State language. I am referring to a circular of the Govt. No. HPT. 17/50 dated the 9th September, 1950, which runs as follows:—

Government of Assam

“Home Department..... Political Branch
N. HPT. 17/50 dated Shillong, the 9th September. 1950
From S. P. Desai, Esqr., I. C. S.
Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Assam.

- To
1. All deppts. of the Secretariat including PWD
 2. All Heads of departments
 3. Secretary to the Govt. of Assam for State Tribal Areas
 4. Adviser to His Excellency the Governor of Assam
- Subject:—State Language for Assam.

Sir,

I am directed to say that Govt. have given careful consideration to the emphatic and persistent demand from a large section of the Public for making Assamese the State language for Assam. They have already taken action to place Assamese on a special footing in the educational field. Any formal action under Article 345 will have to wait till the purposes for which it will be feasible to adopt Assamese as state language are ascertained and carefully examined. Till then the public demand can only be met by Executive action. Govt. therefore desire that all deppts. should stipulate and encourage the use of Assamese as if it were the state language, **without prejudice** to Bengali in Cachar and hill annuages in the Hill districts.

I am to request that action may be taken accordingly.

Training Centres in Hill Districts should be organised in order to afford facilities to Hills people and other for learning Assamese and also so that a while the demand for teacher in Assamese may be met locally in the hills districts for Education Department only.

Yours faithfully,

SD. B. C. Kapur

For Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Assam."

During the days of Medhi Government the policy was that Assamese language was to be practically given the status of official language within a few years and arrangement should be made that Bengali and hill languages should be given adequate protection, and guarantee to safe guard their interests. But now we find that with all these guarantees and protection given to the minorities under Article 347 of the Constitution, the demand of the vast majority to make Assamese language a State language is depending on the demand of the minority. In this connection I should like to make clear certain points raised by my friend Mr. Maham Singh. He has advanced some forceful arguments for the use of English. He should have no difficulty in appreciating the point as he is himself a lawyer. The scope of Article 345 of the constitution is very clear. Article 345 of the constitution empowers a State Government to adopt Hindi and any other language or languages to be used for all or any of the official purposes, but does not by any means lay down that after such adoption English would

cease to be official language or that the proceedings done through English in this House will be invalid. In order to bar the use of English as official language, the State legislature may pass an express legislation for that purpose. In this connection, I may refer to a case of Madhya Pradesh High Court. In Dayabhai Vs. Nutamlal reported in A. I. R. 1957 M. P. 1, it was decided that the adoption of the official language will be decided by the State legislature. I donot know what is the difficulty with the government to recognise Assamese as the official language. What is the harm if Assamese is recognised as official language except in the district of Cachar, Mizo district, K. & J. Hills and Garo Hills. That will be in keeping pace with the provision of the Contitution of India. In this connection, of course, I should say that say sufficient guarantee should be given to the linguistic minorities. To do this there may be a conference as suggested by my friend Shri Nilmoney Barthakur. The minority must be assured special & sufficient guarantee. I am not in favour of going out to capture the Headlines, nor can I submit to the Headlines. That cannot be position now. The legitimate claims of the minorities must be ensured.

Now Sir, there is another point about which I shall speak only a few words. This is with regard to the enlargement of the power of the Sixth Schedule district. Here involves a very substantial question. It should be thoroughly examined if there be any necessity for the enlargment of such power for the District Councils. This question is interlinked with the question of shifting the present Capital to Gauhati. There may be some necessity for amendmens of the constitution. But we must see that if this revision is wanted as a ladder for the creation of a separate Hills State, then the question of shifting of the Capital elsewhere may be decided. I for one, am not in favour of shifting the Capital from Shillong to any other place. Because it will not be feasible, desirable and economic. But so far as some departments are concerned, I think, in all fairness, this departments should be decentralised. Some of these offices should shifted to the plains districts. It is not necessary that all offices should be shifted to Gauhati along. Some of these offices may be shifted either to Nowgong or to Jorhat. We have heard that the office of the Commissioner of Plains Division will be shifted to Gauhati. It is good that the government has decided to shift this office to

Gauhati. Even the old Bunglow of this Office is still there. If the government desires, a big there started Bunglow may be constructed within this area.

Sir, another point has been broadly discussed in this House. This is with regard to employment of our people. This is very delicate question. I, for one, always advocate for the industrilization of our State. Unless our state is industrially advanced, the prospect off employment will be very meagure. Unless there is 100% employment, it cannot be said that our country is industrially advanced. We should aim at providing employments to our local people. When we plan to establish an industry and send proposals for foreign exchange for machinery etc., we should also simultaneously plan for human material and also the scheme for training personnel for the proposed industry. Sir, I donot want to take much time of this House. I should like to say that the Finance Minister appears to be particularly pledged to robust optimism and I hope the hon. Members particularly his colleagues would give their attention to para 11 of his speech.

Thank yor Sir.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Industries etc.) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am very much thankful to the members particularly the opposition for having discussed in details the present budget proposals. There have been some destructive criticisms and some constructive too. Particularly I would mention the name Mr. Nilmoney Barthakur who was made one of the constructive speeches in this Session. I am also thankful to Mr. Bhattacheryya for having made a speech which minus some criticisms constitutes a constructive speech. I am also surprised to find that the leader of Opposition has not made his speech in his usual form i.e., in his usual constructive way. I am glade that the relation between the government and the opposition here is one constructive. But in the West Bengal what we find is not like us. Here I am very sorry to point out the attitude of Shri Tarun Sen Deka.

I am extremely surprised to find the attitude to Shri Tarunsen Deka. He has criticised the Govt. in a way which is extremely destructive. I quite agree with the fact that ours is a democracy. Democracy means what you agree here you try to carry out. That is the basis of democracy. This is mistaken notion that sheer criticism is democratic opposi-

tion. Shri Deka has published a booklet criticising the Govt on Panchayat Act. This the in which Shri Deka criticises the Govt.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : Sir, on a point information I wish to mention here that our party has already banned the circulation of this booklet.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY (Minister, Industries etc.) : I am thankful. I am also thankful to the House that this year we have got less opposition from the Leader of Opposition than last year. Last year, several speeches were made in this House which created a cloud against industrialisation. This year the whole situation has changed. I do not want to convince the honourable Members of this fact but what I mean to say is that last year's discussion in this House did a great damage to the industrial climate of the country. Many who have come forward to start industries here in Assam withdrew in the face of adverse climate created by the speeches of the Opposition.

We have in Assam much less unemployment than that of West Bengal and Kerala. But with the increase of population and education it is increasing. Even today in Assam we have hundreds of High Schools without graduates and Intermediate teachers. People who fail in the Matriculation examination but are unlikely to go to cultivation generally comprise the bulk of our educated unemployment. There is no doubt that this type of people become artisans in other States. Obviously, to reduce unemployment, there must be development of industries. Govt. are quite alive to the problem. There is another aspect of unemployment. I am just going to give an instance. After passing the training course in Jute Technology at Dundee in U. K. a youngman recently returned to Shillong. He has got one employment. Now, he is asking for a Superintendent's post, which is a clerical job. Now, it must be realised how the money spent in technical education becomes wasted, if industrialisation does not take place simultaneously. The cost of technical education is many times more than that of general line. Therefore, once we make it clear that Assam is going to be industrialised we must remove all bottlenecks in its path. The Govt. industrial policy was outlined in 1955 and we still want to follow it. It invites industrialists to Assam and study the industrial potentialities with the promise that land

will be made available, power will be made available, roads will be constructed to the place of industry and if necessary financial assistance will be given within our limited means. Now, what we want most is the technical personnel which is lacking in our State. If we want to go ahead with our industrial development we must have technical personnel. Money is a great asset no doubt, but what is not realised is that technician is also a resource, but we want more technicians than ordinary graduates. Sir, I like to give an example here. During 1947 I was in..... a district in Germany. Germany was destroyed during the war and in ten years it was completely rebuilt. How could it be done so quickly? It was called the German miracle. It was possible because the German technicians know how. So technicians is a resource. Yes, it is a resource. For the development of the country the greatest resource is not money by technicians. But in this blessed Assam Sir, I find there is a great opposition to technical people coming from outside. Even thousands of people come from Mymensing but nobody objects. When 40 thousand people come from Sylhet and work as contractors nobody object. But if 10% technicians come from outside then there is great opposition. I have travelled many countries of the world but I have not found any opposition against technical people from outside because the number of technical people, we are reported, is very few everywhere; and every technical person is a great resource. He adds to the resources of the country, adds to the production machine, and therefore, there is no objection. But in our State an objection has been raised in the past with regard to technicians. Sir, when Shri Dhebarji came here he told us, "Do you know I finished my Plan?" He was the Chief Minister of Saurashtra. He said, "I asked for the first Plan Rs. 40 crores but govt. gave only 20 crores. I got a promise from the Planning Commission that if we succeed in performing more than our part of the Plan then the unspent balance of other States will be diverted to our state." With that promise he came back to Saurashtra and the first thing he did was to appoint the required number of technicians and Engineers in different parts of the state because you know Gujaratis are traders and not technicians, and so approached the technicians all over the country, and the result was Sir, he finished his first Plan in the first year, the second Plan in second year and then the Planning Commission kept its promise and in 5 five years he succeeded in spending 40 crores. We also got a Plan of

40 crores in the first Plan. We got only 21 crores and we could spent only 17 crores because we did mistake in not recruiting technical personnel from outside as our technical personnel took a selfish view. They demanded that their line of promotion must be kept clear and therefore there was opposition to technical persons being appointed from outside. When technical personnel were available in India we did not appoint. But now they are not available. Everywhere they are required and so they are not available now. Therefore I say that we made initial mistake in not having recruited technical personnel for the development of our State. Now we are in difficulty. I hope this opposition regarding bring of technical personnel from outside would be withdrawn if you really want industrial development. There cannot be industrial development without bringing technical personnel from outside. I fully agree with Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya that as soon as we plan for industrial development we must make provision for training our boys for employment in the Industries. But both must come side by side. We must plan technical employment and at the same time plan for development of industries. Now if there is some uncretainly created then difficulty would arise.

Now Sir, sofar as the training of Engineers in Engineering college and schools is concerned it is an easy matter. It may be done easily. But the difficulty arises in training up artisans because in artisans we do not train the mind so much as the fingers. Fingers are to be trained because he has to produce things, and this can be done mostly in industrial establishments. All over the world the training of artisans takes place partly in schools but mostly in industrial establishments. Therefore it pre-supposes the existence of industrial establishments. Therefore it should be realised and unless we realise this we would be befooling ourselves. We should realise that the starting of industrial establishments does not follow but precedes the technical education of artisans. Therefore, as soon as we make a decision that we are going to industrialise we will have to promote industrial establishments and in the beginning we are to start with the technical man power wherever available and the first man would have to be recruited. Now there is a great misconception as to how technical personnel are to be brought from outside. Looking to the figures from 1950 to 1955 i.e. within 9/10 years, you will find that the number of technical employments has risen from about 60

thousand to about 67 thousand. Total number of increase is about 6,000 and odd. Now Sir this is a very dark picture. In any State you will see the manufacturing industry has increased potentially. So this 6000 increase in this State is disgraceful. The figure of employment in the tea gardens is also declining. The employment potentiality which has increased is only in the Govt. jobs. 27,000 jobs have been created by Govt. and it is this where we are expending. But naturally the expansion of Govt. jobs is limited, because Govt. itself depends on profits of other industries. If industrial profits are not there what would happen? Shri Bhattacharyya quoted a figure that 34 crores is shown as loan of Government. True, the Govt. had to take loans because the number of industrial establishments on the profits of which the Govt. runs is very few. Therefore, Sir, it is not a fact that a very large number of industrial employment has been created. Yes, the unskilled labourers which should have been here have been brought from outside. Now Sir we are trying to change our policy in this regard and with that end in view we have brought in the Shramik Bahini Bill. The idea is that groups would be organised in this State so that the necessity for depending for manual labour from outside may disappear. No State and no country depends on manual labour imported from outside excepting in Assam. In order to change this we have done that. Therefore, Sir, I have no doubt that once we take this view of developing industries we will certainly take up this question of training. We are taking steps particularly in the Third Plan to provide 9 crores of rupees for technical education. We have one Engineering College. Now we are going to have another. We are also going to have two Engineering Schools and about 4/5 more industrial training Institutes. I wish that every district should be equipped with technical institute and that is the way in which we are planning for the Third Plan. I have no doubt that once this picture is complete all the non-matriculate fellows will be able to get training in those institutions and they will go to the industries concerned and get themselves apprenticed and become artisans and get in to production. Now what are the industrial policy we are aiming at? Shri Deke said that we have no industrial policy. Sir the very first day we took over this what did we do? We immediately started thinking about industrial planning. The first thing we did we held a Conference in which industrialists from all over the State were initiated. Industrial Council was

set up which has been drawing up the blue-print, economic survey of the State was taken and it is about to submit its report. We have taken up with the Govt. of India which has stopped giving licence further and we have re-opened that question. At the beginning the total allocation of steel to Assam was only 184 tons. Now we have increased it by 10 times. We have taken steps to train up our youngmen for industrial jobs. We have even provided about 4 scholarship for engineering subjects to be trained abroad have been taken up with a view to industrial development of the State.

Very recently we had an industrial exhibition and in the light of that we took up the matter with the Railways so that they may place some orders for manufacturing in Assam. At present they are not. We have taken up this matter with the Managing Agency Houses of Calcutta and tea gardens and asked them to place their orders to manufacturers in Assam and they also agreed to consider this. So, you will see the whole policy in on the one hand to promote young boys to get technical education and on the other hand to promote industries and finally to promote marketting. We have already taken steps to set up a Marketing Corporation for Assam. Things may be marketted only in Assam and outside India. So the whole problem we are taking in a comprehensive grasp. Now you may say where is your industry? Industries take time to grow. It is not a thing to be cooked to day and taken to-morrow. It takes time. It is the co-ordination of all the resources available for the purpose of reduction at a perticular time. It needs also finding of market. It needs also creating a mind for investment. So far we have not been able produce very good result in this respect. But I have already circulated the boocket which will show what industries have started production within the last 3 years. From that it will be seen Sir, that a very large number, about 30/40 Industries have also come into production. 30/40 industries have already been planned and we will go in for production in course of this year. As a matter of fact this year many people were extremely surprised and asked me that they did not know that so many things are manufactured in Assam. They were surprised. Therefore, we are trying now plan for the bigger industries. Unfortunately due to the fact that many of the bamboos having died..... factory which was to start has not come to production. Shri Bhatta-cearyya asked as to what we have done with the 30 lakhs of rupees provided for participation in the share capital and that the amount has not been spent as yet. But Sir, the Company found that the bamboos were dying and so there delay in execution of the contract and they are not calling for shares. Unless they call for shares, we cannot subscribe to shares. Therefore, we are hald back.

Now we have already planned the industrial development of the State. You will see Sir that 2/3 Paper Pulp Mills are going to be started in Assam. One Rayon Mill in Assam will also be started for which we are negotiating to finalise this. Apart from these there are 5 or 6 small paper mills for which licenses have been issued.

So far as the gas is concerned, we have taken up the matter with the Govt. of India and they have agreed that the fertiliser should come under the public sector. Sir, that is not realised that we have succeeded in forcing the Planning Commission to provide in the Second Plan what was actually provided in the Third Plan. The Umium-Barapani project was not in the Second Plan and we forced the Planning Commission to put it in the Second Plan. The Naharkatya Electricity Project was not in the Second Plan and we requested the Govt. of India to put it in the Second Plan and they have agreed. We have taken up the construction right now, and the project report is already ready. The electricity to be produced there will cover a large part of our state and it may lead to industrial production. I agree with Shri Barthakur that two things are necessary for industrial development. The first is transport and the second is power. In the Second Plan the total power available was 13000 k.w. and we took up the matter with the Govt. of India and they have agreed to give us 8,000 k.w. We have taken up two big projects—one costing about 8 crores of rupees at Barapani and the other costing about 6.3 crores of rupees in Naharkatya in Second Plan. Obviously these have been done only because of the existing industrial policy. Now, Sir, so far as the transport is concerned, the first thing we did in 1957 immediately after the present Ministry came into existence is that we moved the Railway Ministry for the construction of a bridge over Brahmaputra and that bridge is now nearing completion. Ten crores of rupees have been provided for that and another three crores of rupees were given for stabilisation of the railways. Besides this we have also taken up waterways. The Govt. of India informed that they have sanctioned five lakhs of rupees to the Steamer Company so that they may acquire more dredger and thirty lakhs of rupees have been given to the Company for acquiring additional fleets so that the transport capacity might be increased. So, Sir, not only the Railways have been improved but also the waterways.

Now, with regard to Air service we have already moved for the expansion of the Ganhati runway so that big planes might land. We are also trying for connecting Shillong by air. So, Sir, you will see that so as the transport is concerned we have broken the bottle-neck so that we can develop our State. So far as the power is concerned, we have also broken the bottle-neck so that our State might be industrially developed during the third Five-Year Plan. Unless power comes in we cannot make large scale industrial development and it is for this reason that we have started two projects one at Umium and the other at Naharkatya. Sir, we think that we had suffered a lot for these bottle-necks. We have also suffered due to partition of the country which created a bottle-neck. But now for the policy which we

have followed and the steps which we have taken these difficulties have been removed to some extent. Thanks to the Govt. of India for their co-operation in the matter and for their spending crores of rupees at our instance. So, Sir, much has been done for the industrial development of our State. Now, so far as the small-scale industries are concerned, they are to depend on certain big industries, viz: steel.

One major industry which has gone in is the Sugar. I hope that in the Third Plan there will be 2 or 3 more sugar mills in the co-operative sector.

So far as the utilisation of gas is concerned, we are taking up to produce fertiliser in our State. I have no doubt that there will be surplus of gas a part of which will be distributed for domestic consumption and a part of it is going to be processed for other industries. We have also taken up with the Govt. of India for setting up a synthetic rubber plant which is now under consideration of the Govt. Now, all these are tied up with lack of resource. From 1950 to 1957 the total capital formation in our state in company's sector is only 3 crores of rupees. I may tell you, Sir, that in the last year only in West Bengal 377 new companies were floated whereas looking at Assam we find that even in the last five years 377 companies were not floated. Some people compare our State with West Bengal. How can our State be compared with West Bengal in the matter of capital formation? The West Bengal did not invite the people but even then 377 companies were floated during the last year, whereas in our State no company was started. So, Sir, our difficulty should be realised.

Beggars cannot be choosers. We are a sort of beggars. Unless we can develop a system of capital formation we shall never be free in this matter. One suggestion has been made by Shri Goswami. He has suggested: Let us nationalise industry. If it were so easy, it would have been done long ago. The other day I read a paper in which I found that the Labour Party has decided to revise the charter; the charter was about the argument on nationalisation of industry. But they have given up this argument. The other day Dr. Roy said that out of 13 commercial concerns run by the Government most of them are making losses. You have seen, Sir, in our budget also only Rs. 47 lakhs have been profits out of the commercial concerns' transactions which the Government of Assam is carrying on. Therefore to expect that the budgetary position can improve by taking over or nationalizing industrial concern is wrong. Whether you nationalize or not that is a social problem and from that aspect you will decide whether you will nationalize a particular industry or not. Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao asked this question in the Planning Committee of

the Congress and nobody was convinced. I have no doubt Sir, that the argument of Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao is completely wrong so far as raising the State's resources for immediate purposes are concerned. May be you can make profits after 10 to 15 years therefrom. For that purpose nationalization is not the remedy. We have scanty resources. But the scope of industrial development in our country is enormous—most expansive in the world today. It is almost romantic in character so far as industrial development is concerned. Not only our resources, but all the resources which can be given by America, which can be given by Russia, Germany and other countries are disappearing. There is something very wrong in this anticipation. What is expected of the Government? It is expected that everybody's home will be constructed by the Government, even the food to be cooked by the Government and the people will have nothing to do except to sit and sulk? I must say that it is a very wrong way of looking at things. But if it is expected that Government will provide the basic facilities, amenities, basic conditions to work, capacity of development and increased production—then I must say that that is the scope of the Government. That means what Government does is only corollary to what can be done by the people so that there might be development in all spheres. It is a two way job. If it is regarded as one, no development can take place. I would request the Hon'ble Members to let the people know what is the duty of the Government and what is the duty of the people. Unless they make it clear to the people, there can be no progress.

I was looking at the figures. I was extremely surprised at the figures of paddy produced during the last ten years; the increase in the production of paddy is only about 1 maund per acre. Looking at the figures of pulses, non-cereals and other crops also I find that there is no increase. Now the population is increasing and so are the prices of foodstuff and other commodities. We are faced with a dilemma today. Unless the whole Government and the people combine to carry the message of hard labour and variegation of production to the people, we will not be able to save ourselves. I like the suggestion of Shri Borthakur that there should be multipurpose utilisation of land. That means not merely cultivation of paddy but all lands should be utilized for whatever it is fit for. Then only we can save our growing population which is increasing at the rate of 1.2 to 2.2, if I remember correctly.

Now Government is in a dilemma. What steps have been taken to stabilise prices? The first step which has been taken to stabilise prices is State Trading. The purposes of State Trading are mainly for stabilising the prices. But this is not the means by which we can create prosperity in a static production market. Now I give you a picture of the Static production market.

In the first and second Five Year Plans we had a rural plan unlike the rest of India where the Second Plan was an industrial one. In our case both the Plans were rural yet the agricultural production in the countryside has not increased because people have not taken to scientific agricultural methods. Now we have taken State Trading only for stabilising prices but it is a risk. But as soon as we take to State Trading what happens? The credit structure of the rural sector is destroyed. Now a credit sector has to be created. It was expected that the service co-operatives will come up. They will raise their own capital and they will have their own deposits. But this has not come. Now in Assam nearly Rs. 16 crores are required for the rural credit for maintaining the flow of production. This has not taken into account the purchase of land. If we take this then it comes to Rs. 90 crores, that is the extent of rural credit, Sir, in the country today. This State Trading has to replace this. This is not an easy job. You cannot expect Government of Assam to start with Rs. 16 to 40 crores for the service co-operatives. Therefore it is very necessary for the Opposition and ourselves to combine to promote these service co-operatives and give them share capital. What Government can do is to ask the Reserve Bank of India to raise the share capital. In Japan 50% is deposit capital. It is only by this way will have to fill up the gap. Otherwise we will create a situation which it will be difficult to handle. I have no doubt that this aspect is not sufficiently realised by the people. I do not speak of ordinary people in the countryside but even in many Government departments this is not fully realised. Otherwise they would have moved heaven and earth asking for the development of service co-operatives. Sir, I was saying that we must not create wrong hopes. We must come to the conclusions. We must be able to increase production of food in this country otherwise the situation will be very dangerous. In the third Plan we are expected to raise 110 million tons of food in India as against the present which is about 80 million tons. Now this expectation is very great whereas the expectation in Assam has been very modest, not to say insignificant. Therefore, our State in the agricultural sphere must find out some other way whereby the existing potential for production might be increased. Some people say that we shall have to go in for rationing. If it is necessary we will do it. But right now it is not necessary to think in terms of rationing. The idea should not be that prosperity problem can be created by scarcity economy but scarcity problem can only be solved by increased production. Now Sir, if it is true that we should not go in for mixed economy, that we should not go in for large scale nationalisation, if our resources are not going to come from increased investment out of profits from nationalised concerns in the near future, than to raise this hope in the people that funding the 3rd Five Year Plan will come out of no taxation it is very unwise and it will be very wrong. Therefore, I would request

my friends in the Opposition not to create this atmosphere in the country that funding of a big plan can be had without further taxation. As a matter of fact I am told more than 13 crores has been fixed from taxation for the 3rd Five Year Plan. Some research scholars have found that about 2.7% has been the effect on the cost of consumption of taxes in the rural sector. Now, within the last six or seven years the effect is 2.7% on the rural sector; what is in the middle class sector? The impact on the middle sector has been of the order of 3.6%. From this it will be seen that obviously it is the middle class who are hard hit and not the rural classes. Therefore, to say that the rural section shall not be taxed for funding the 3rd Five Year Plan, it would be completely wrong. We should see that if taxes are to be imposed, then the rural sector also should take a proper share in it. Then only we can meet the situation. Now, it is said that the richer class only should be taxed, but everybody knows it for a fact that scope of further taxation on the richer class is no more in the country. Therefore I say Sir, that a time has come for us to realise that we must have capital formation from the poor people. After all how can socialistic structure can be created only by capital formation not merely from the rich but also from the poor. Sir, I am told that 80% of the income of the Russian Govt. come from turnover tax which is shared by the common people. We should also have this possibility of raising our resources from the common man. At the same time we have possibility to pay something back to the common man. That does this annual budgetting mean? Is it taking away the money and eat it. No, after all some money taken from the poor, it goes back to the poor. If 27 thousand People are appointed in 3 or 4 year's time, who will benefit thereby? It is the rural people somebody's brother, or sister or son and in that way the burden of unemployment is taken over from the villages. So this annual budgetting should be understood in that light. Therefore, in developing the economy of the State we should understand that what is taken by the Govt. is a method whereby prosperity is created. If there are people who are more energetic, more enterprising they are naturally those who would be thinking in the industrial development. The German Chancellor came and said, 'you want to develop industries, where are your surplus? How can you develop industries where are your surplus economy in the country? You should increase your agricultural production in order to industrialise your country. We are no agricultural country, we have no agricultural surplus and so we have industrialisation either.' Unless we increase our agricultural surplus how can we develop our country? By loan and borrowed money from abroad? Now we are depending on charity of others. It must be realised that surplus can be created only by extending economy. It can not be created by weakening economy. Therefore, if the Budget goes on increasing from year to year then we must know that we are following a correct method whereby prosperity can be expected. I agree that in such economy inflationary tendency arises and to that extent the purchasing power of the people also declines, but it is an inevitable sacrifice which has to be made in order that the country can be developed. This is happening all over the world in the same fashion. Rural economy is not the creation of the Assam Govt. or of the Govt. of India. So for getting more resources in the economy including agricultural resources, taxation is a method that will create resources. This fact is supported

by history of economics also. So if we expect to expand our economy, we must agree also to suffer because out of suffering a greater India may be born. If we fail to suffer then a greater India will not be born. In this point of view I would request my friends opposite to try not to create a false hope in the minds of the people by saying that there will be no taxation in the rural sector.

In this connection I would like to inform the House that for the purpose of finding ways and means for resources a sub-committee called Resources Committee was appointed but unfortunately it got bogged up because there were two sittings but no member attended to give suggestions as to the ways and means for finding resources.

Now Sir, the two suggestions offered by hon. members are nationalisation of industries and nationalisation of goods traffic. Now, so far as nationalisation of goods traffic, it is very risky. I will give an example. The cost of goods transport from Shillong to Gauhati is Rs. 1.25 np. per maund whereas the cost of such goods traffic from Calcutta to Gauhati is Rs. 5 per maund. The risk lies in the fact that by increasing the cost of goods traffic we are likely to increase the cost of living. My friend has consulted the figures and said that the cost of living in Assam is one of the highest in India. Therefore, I say to nationalise goods traffic is a risky proposition. We have nationalised only the passenger traffic because we want to give more amenities to the passengers. For instance, our buses plying between Shillong and Gauhati they do not deliver goods at the residence of the businessman whereas private busses do and thus saved the responsibility of transport cost etc. Any this way suggestion for nationalisation of the goods traffic is not acceptable. The other suggestion also about nationalisation of industries seems to me to be not a sound one in the present state of things. Therefore, I would suggest my friends opposite to apply their minds to find out what are the resources that may be tapped for the Third Five Year Plan. The Third Plan depends entirely upon the resources so unless we can so the resources how can we take up our plans. We can so higher expenditure or less expenditure but that won't go to help anything, therefore, we have to limit our plans according to resources available. We should take into consideration every thing when we are going to have big plans. For instance Dr. Roy stated yesterday that they are going to have $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 times more plans than the second plan period and so they have got to find out resources. Now if we want to double or treble our plans and is such plans would cost to say 190 crores of rupees, therefore, we have to find out resources, but how can we expect to take up such plans when we are not able to get the resources. So the location of the resources is the main headache of this Assembly. I am thankful to the hon. members of the Opposition for having given some suggestions how to create resources. So far the technical question of the Kopili River Project is concerned, Shri Nilmani Barthakur has raised some point but

I may inform him that it is not a question of setting one against another. You can't stop any project. Although the Koppili Valley Project was started in 1958 and the work is still not completed for certain technical difficulties or otherwise, yet you cannot stop from taking up some other projects, for that reason, therefore, we have taken another plan immediately and took up the Umiyam project. Preliminary steps have already been taken up, contracts have been distributed and the work has also been already started. As far as Kopili Valley project is concerned we will start the work. As a matter of fact, we cannot expect that Assam can be industrialised simply by increasing the power energy say to 75,000 kilowatts. However, there are good signs that Assam can be fully industrialised within the course of a few years. The Naharkatia project will be able to produce power energy to about 50,000 kilowatts. But I do not agree that the cost of power energy will come down simply by being able to produce power energy here and there, if we say so, we will be misleading the fact because the cost of power energy will not come down so much as we wanted to be unless and until our projects are fully completed. About the figures, I may say that the figures that we have may be very very misleading, so the figures that we have got may not be correct. For example, in the meantime, there will be financial decision will have to be taken in connection with the Dam site itself in the Kopili Valley project and this will have to be done because we want to increase power energy.....

Shri NILMANI BARTHAUR (Dibrugarh) : If it is the purpose of the Government just to tap the energy simply of such projects. What is the difficulty in going ahead with the first stage keeping the second and third stages to be completed later on?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI Minister, Industries : I may inform the House that the project report even for the first stage is not ready, some have not been able upto now to provide funds but I may inform the hon. members of this House that this project report will be ready within the course of this year. Unless provision of fund is made in the Third Plan, there is no underrate competition between the different stages. I fully agree with the hon. members of this House that in a democratic country we must develop our electrical power and what can be completed to-day cannot wait for tomorrow, because development of power is this basic need for the development of our entire country. Even agriculture cannot develop without

power energy. I was having a discussion yesterday in this regard with the Director of Agriculture. I do not agree to the figures which have been quoted by my friend that the cost of energy will be cheaper in the Kopili Valley project than that of the Umiam project. This will depend on what particular point it will be shaped.....

Shri NILMANI BARTHAHUR (Dibrugarh) : Will the Hon. Minister clarify how the cost will be lower or higher in the Kopili Valley Project?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI Minister, Industries : There are four stages in the Kopili Valley project. Even if the first or second stages are completed the cost will not come down it is only when all the stages are completed that the cost is expected to come down when we shall be able to calculate and determine the cost of production and no distinction is there between the first and the second stages and until the whole project is completed we cannot expect to build up our industrial developments.

Now as far as the Naharkatia Gas energy scheme is concerned, I cannot exactly follow, but I am told that the project report which has since been submitted is that by firing gas in the turbine production of energy can be achieved and the other stage is that by firing the turbine energy is created. The project report which has been submitted is of two stages and this report has been submitted by the persons who are well known about production of energy in India. This project report is now before us and as soon as it is accepted or modified it will go through. We are told that if we can wait for one or two years we can get a better report but I am against it, I want the immediate execution of the first report so that we can get energy a year and the State may also derive a revenue of about a crore of rupees so by spending only a few lakhs of rupees we cannot lose a crore of rupees. For the dynamic development of our country we should go all out for the execution of the first report, therefore, we should not put any spanner against the C.P.W.C. For instance, the Umiam project was to be completed in five years' time, now we have asked the Electricity Board to take up construction work and complete it in three years. No body believes that it could be done in three years and I have no doubt that the Electricity Board will be able to complete it in three years if we get the necessary assistance from outside. If we get the assistance

and co-operation of the C. P. W. C. together with the State Govt. officials naturally the project can be completed in three years. If there is any spanner in the way, naturally it will cause delay and every delay means a crore of rupees. Therefore, we are fighting with our backs to the wall and this is what I mean to carry out and I may inform the hon. members of this House, specially the members of the Opposition that if they do not permit us to make some mistake and if they do not encourage us to go ahead then development of our State will retard.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Some other Hon. members also want to speak. I ask the Finance Minister whether he would spare some of his time.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance) : A number of points have been raised by my friends on both sides of the House, I shall require atleast two hours to clarify the matters raised. If the Hon. members do not want clarification of all the points raised I shall be happy because it will lesser my task.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You should adjust yourselves.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture, etc. : Sir, the House may be extended for sometime, because the Revenue Minister also will make a speech. I think Mr. Sangma will also want to make a speech.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) : Sir, I will not require more than 20 or 25 minutes.

Capt. W. A. SANGMA (Minister, Transport etc.) : I shall not speak. Let the Finance Minister cover me also.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : I shall require two hours, Sir, because I shall have to clarify some points raised in this House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I think some other hon. members will also speak and in that case more time will be necessary. Therefore the House will be extended. Now the House stands adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT.

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

AFTER LUNCH

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will briefly reply to the salient points raised by some of honourable members which relate to Medical and Public Health Departments. Today, my friend Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharjee was very jubilant at the start of his speech. It is known to the honourable members how gallant he is in criticising the Govt. some times with poetic expression. I am sorry I am not as gallant and poetic as my friend Shri Bhattacharjee is. Sir, so far as the activities of the Medical and Public Health Departments are concerned, I think the honourable members will agree with me that inspite of dearth of qualified doctors and other Health anciliar, these departments have made a definite progress both on curative and preventive sides. Sir, we have been able to make definite and tangible progress so far the malaria and other diseases are concerned. In our State submountain areas are endemic areas so far as malaria is concerned. From the figures as we have taken from different dispensaries, it definitely shows that the incidence of malaria, as a result of the preventive measures taken by us with the central assistance, has definitely gone down. So also the incidence of Kalazar which used to take a heavy toll of lives in our state has been brought under control. Now there are many other health problems and if I go on dealing with different problems in details it will take much of the time of the house, so I do not like to discuss them further. Sir, a complaint has been made by my friend Dr. Srihari Das who is a man of medical profession, that after the amalgamation of the Medical and Public Health Department the work is not going on satisfactorily. Sir, I may inform the hon. member that we have found that the working is better now and there has been more effective co-operation and co-ordination in the two Departments. Of Course, there might be some individual grievances both on the Medical and Public Health Departments. In the new set up of things these difficulties are bound to be there and we will try to remove them gradually. Shri Bhattacharjee has made some reference to the budget provision made in the year 1959-60 as also in our next years budget, with regard to the starting of the second Medical College. There was a discussion in the last budget session when I made it clear to the hon. members that we made the provision in the budget with the idea of starting pre clinical classes at Gauhati, and for that reason the amount was provided in the budget for the year 1959-60, as also in the current budget. I am sorry Sir, the work at Gauhati could not be started. My friend Shri Bhattacharjee tried to create an impression in this house that we have been unnecessarily delaying the question of establishing the second Medical College in Assam. That is not correct, Sir. We are not less anxious than Mr. Bhattacharjee in this matter. I may inform the hon. member that very recently we have got recommendation of the Expert Committee. The Expert Committee was unanimous in their recommendation. After careful consideration the Expert Committee recommended that there

should be two more Medical Colleges in this State and we have accepted the recommendation. So, Sir, according to the recommendation of the Committee there will be two Medical Colleges ultimately with 100 seats. One will be situated at Gauhati and the other at Silchar. This is of course subject to the approval of the Planning Commission. Now the question of fund is there for which we are taking up the matter with the Planning Commission.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARJEE (Gauhati) : If the Planning Commission gives money for one Medical College, where will it be situated ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) : This is of course subject to the approval and the agreement of the Planning Commission. Then Sir, Shri Bhattacharjee also made a complaint that in the next year's budget there is no provision for new Hospitals. That is a fact, Sir. As you know, Sir, that we have got a number of Civil Hospitals both in the District as well as in the Subdivisional headquarters, which remain to be expanded properly. We have taken a definite programme for expansion of these Civil Hospitals. As the Hon'ble Members know we are going to shift the Jorhat and Shillong Civil Hospitals and a huge amount has been provided for this purpose. We are also trying to improve and equip other hospitals with modern equipments and facilities. Therefore, before the existing hospitals are expanded and developed it will not be desirable to take up new hospitals. Of course, we have a mind to increase the number of hospitals gradually.

My friend Dr. Srihari Das raised a question of selling spurious drugs. In this matter also, Sir, we have strengthened the staff. Formerly there was only one Drug Inspector but now we have appointed two Inspectors and one Asstt. Drug Controller and we are expecting to have another Drug Inspector very soon. This shows what steps we are taking to tackle the problem. The quackery is there, as stated by Dr. Das, but if there be full co operation from the Hon'ble Members and the General public we expect to drive away the quackery from our State in course of time.

There is also complaint about adulteration of food. On this also we have made a definite progress. The Health personnel in different places are collecting samples and they are being tested in the public Health Laboratory here at Shillong. From the figures it is seen that adulteration is also gradually coming down as a result of the steps taken by us.

My friend Shri Sarbeswar Bardoloi raised the question of State Employees' Insurance Scheme. With a view to extend maternity and other medical facilities to our employees in different places we have already opened 5 dispensaries, at Gauhati, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Makum and Dhubri, and these dispensaries have been provided with doctors, compounders and other necessary equipments. Government have sanctioned an additional expenditure to the tune of Rs. 28,000

for the purpose of purchasing medicines, etc. These dispensaries are being run in rented houses now and we have taken steps to construct our own houses soon. Two mobile dispensary vans are also maintained for giving medical facilities to the labourers coming under the State Insurance Scheme. This shows, Sir, that we have already taken definite steps in this regard.

My friend Shri Malia Tanti made some reference to the replies to the question put by my friend, Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika regarding extending maternity centres to the rural areas, particularly the Hapjan area. Mr. Tanti contended that the Hapjan area was not covered by any N.E.S. block. If that be so, I have no reason to disbelieve my friend. This area also will be covered in course of time. When that area is covered by an N.E.S. block there will be a primary health unit within the block and from that primary health unit some maternity centres will be opened within the area.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : (Saikhowa) On a point of information, Sir. Is it not a fact that maternity centres have not been opened in all the areas covered by N.E.S. blocks ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) : I have already stated in reply to a question that I shall look into it.

Then, Sir, there have been demands from some quarters for more dispensaries in their respective constituencies ; particularly, our lady member Shrimati Barthakur wanted a dispensary in Simanabasti in Nowgong. There are so many demands from different parts of our State that it has not been possible to sanction all the dispensaries at a time to cover all the areas. Some areas have already been covered and we are trying our level best to cover all the uncovered areas as quickly as possible.

Now, there was a suggestion from my friend Shri Tarun Sen Deka that subsidised dispensaries also should be taken over by Government. Only recently we have taken over local board dispensaries. Subsequently we got a further list of more local board dispensaries. We have decided to take over these local board dispensaries also, which were not included in the first list. Of course, we could not make any provision in the next year's budget ; even then we are examining whether by adjustment of the annual plan we can have some amount for new dispensaries.

Shri Khogendra Nath Nath raised the question of dispensaries which we have taken over from the Zamindars of Goalpara. The Goalpara Zamindars used to maintain some dispensaries, but they were only in name ; they were run in wretched houses. We have taken them over and have provided necessary staff and medicines. The question of improvement and reconstruction of the buildings is there. For that, if my friend Mr. Nath had cared to look into the Budget, he would have found that we have made a provision

of rupees two lakhs for reconstruction of the dispensary buildings which have been taken over from the Zamindars.

I think, Sir, these are the main points which were raised by the hon. members. Regarding subsidised dispensaries, we shall see whether we can take them over in course of time.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari West): মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, এই লোকেলবর্ড ডিচপেনচেৰী বিলাক State এ লোৱাৰ পিচত তাৰ ডাক্তৰ সকলক আগৰ 'স্কেলৰ' ঠাইত নতুন দৰ্শহাৰ স্কেল দিয়াৰ কথা আছিল। কিন্তু এতিয়া পুনৰ ছকুম হৈছে যে তেওঁলোকে আগতে লোকেলবর্ডৰ যি 'স্কেল' পাইছিল সেইটোহে পাব; চৰকাৰৰ নতুন স্কেলটো নহয়। ইয়াৰ ফলত ডাক্তৰ সকলৰ দৰ্শহাৰ অসামঞ্জস্যতা আৰু অন্ববিধাৰ সৃষ্টি হৈছে বুলিহে এই কথা স্বৰিছে।

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Medical Minister): I don't think that is the position. The position is this: we have decided to give our scales to the local board doctors. But some time ago it was pointed out to me that some doctors of the local board dispensaries were getting more before the dispensaries were taken over than what they are getting now. I shall look into this matter and see what can be done.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): Is the Minister aware that there are some dispensaries without doctors? For instance, the Charing dispensary is going without a doctor for years together. A doctor was posted there but he left after a few months and since then no other doctor has been posted there.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: This case has already been brought to my notice. Charing is a thickly populated area and a full-fledged regular dispensary is needed there. But we cannot do it all on a sudden. When we decide to take over all other subsidised dispensaries we shall certainly take the case of Charing in consideration.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He says there is no doctor.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: The responsibility is not ours. Regarding the subsidised dispensaries, the people of locality are to provide buildings for dispensary, doctor's quarters, etc. They have also to find out doctors. There are some State dispensaries also where we have not been able to provide doctors due to acute dearth of doctors. But, Sir, this acute dearth will be removed in course of the next two or three years. We are getting more doctors now than before.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur): In certain dispensaries there is a stock of medicine but there is no doctor or compounder. Only a Chowkidar is there. Will the Minister

be pleased to post at least some experienced compounders there if no doctors are available ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : (Minister, Medical) We cannot leave dispensaries in the hands of compounders. They can only distribute stock mixture. But if any specific instance is brought to my notice I shall see whether we can provide a compounder there.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) : There are quarters for doctors and other staff at Charing, but there is no doctor.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : My friend Shri Mahammad Idris wanted that there should be more dispensaries in his constituency in Nowgong. He particularly mentioned about providing a midwife at Hatipukuri. I shall see what can be done.

* **Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA** (Chief Minister) : মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, সদনত বাজেটৰ বিতৰ্ক প্ৰসঙ্গত যিবিলাক প্ৰশ্ন উত্থাপিত হৈছে সেই সকলো-বিলাক প্ৰশ্নকেই আমাৰ বিত্তমন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে তেখেতৰ উত্তৰ দিওতে যিমানদূৰ সম্ভৱ সেই-বিলাক দিব। মই মাত্ৰ কেইআৰাৰ মান কথা কবলৈ আপোনাৰ অহুমতি বিচাৰিছো। এই কাৰণেই যে, মাননীয় সদন্ত হুগৰাকী মানে যি দুই চাৰিটা কথা মোৰ বিষয়ে উল্লেখ কৰিছে আৰু তাৰ বিষয়েই হুআৰাৰ মান কম।

আমাৰ মাননীয় বিৰোধীদলৰ দলপতিয়ে তেখেতৰ বাজেট বক্তৃতাৰ সমালোচনা প্ৰসঙ্গত ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা লৈ কেইটামান কথা উল্লেখ কৰিছে মইও সিদিনা ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা সম্পৰ্কত এই সদনতে কৈছিলো যে অসমত বসবাস কৰা যিবিলাক মানুহ আছে সেই সকলো বিলাক মানুহৰ ভিতৰত মিলা-প্ৰীতিৰ মাজত সিদ্ধান্ত লোৱাৰ কথা। তাৰে সুবিধা লৈ বিৰোধী দলৰ মানুহে বহুত বেচি কথা কৈছে। কেইজনমান মেম্বাৰে কৈছে মই বোলে দেখিও দেখা নাই। আৰু কৈছে তেখেতে অস্টিচ চৰাইৰ নিচিনা কাম কৰিছে। মাৰোৱাৰী, হিন্দুস্থানী সমাজে অসমীয়া ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা হিচাবে লব খুজিছে বুলি কৈছে—এই কথাটোৰ বাবেই কেনেকৈ অসমীয়া ভাষা ৰাজ্যিক কৰিব লাগে বুলি দাবী কৰিছে? ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰা প্ৰমাণ হয় যে তেখেত সকলে যি কৈছে সেইটো এটা সম্পূৰ্ণ সপোনৰ কথা নহয়। এইটো সম্ভৱপৰ হব পাৰে। আজি আমি যদি অসমীয়াক ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা বুলি ঘোষণা কৰিব লগিয়া হয়, তেন্তে এইটো বুজায় যে অসম চৰকাৰে এখন আইন কৰি দিব লাগিব আৰু সেই আইনত কোৱা হব কোন ফালৰ পৰা কি কি বিষয়ত কি ভাষা অসম চৰকাৰৰ অফিচ বিলাকৰ কাম চলাব—এইবোৰ কথা আইনত প্ৰকাশ থাকিব লাগিব। কিন্তু মই কও যে আমাৰ সকলো বাইজৰ চেষ্টা হব লাগিব অসমত এটা ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা কৰিব নে জিলাই জিলাই বেলেগ বেলেগ ভাষা কৰিব যদি জিলাই জিলাই বেলেগ ভাষা কৰাৰ কথা ভাবে তেন্তে ৰাজ্যিক ভাষাৰ মূল উদ্দেশ্য বহুত পৰিমাণে নাইকিয়া হব। কিন্তু মোৰ বিশ্বাস তেনে কৰিবলৈ আমি কোনেও চেষ্টা নকৰিম। গতিকে মই আশা কৰিছো ৰাইজেই এই বিষয়ে কি কৰা উচিত হব তাৰ এটা সিদ্ধান্ত দিব। এটা ভাষাই কৰিব নে Multi lingual

কবিতা লাগে সেই অসমৰ সকলো বাইজে সিদ্ধান্ত কৰি দিব। আশা কৰো বাইজে এটা বাজ্যিক ভাষা হোৱাকৈ বান্ধা কৰে। তাৰ পাচত মাননীয় বিবোধীদলৰ দলপতিয়ে আমাৰ মাজত বহুতো কান unusual হোৱা দেখিছে। তেখেতে কৈছে যে মন্ত্ৰী বদলি হয় portfolio বদলি হয়। এইটো কোনো আচৰিত কথা নহয়। গণতন্ত্ৰত এইবোৰ হৈ থাকে। মন্ত্ৰী পৰিবৰ্তন হোৱা portfolio পৰিবৰ্তন হোৱা স্বাভাৱিক কথা। মাননীয় গুৱাহাটীৰ সদস্য ডাঙৰীয়াৰ আজি বক্তৃতাৰ সময়ত মই গোটেই খিনি সময় থাকিব নোৱাৰাৰ কাৰণে দুখ পাইছো। তেখেতে মোক “তলে পুতল” বুলি আখ্যা দিছে—শাসন ক্ষেত্ৰৰ কিছুমান কথাত তলে পুতল নহ’লে চলে বুলি কলে সঁচা কথা কোৱা নহ’ব। তেখেতে উল্লেখ কৰিছে ১৯৫০ চনৰ এখন চৰকাৰী circular ৰ কথা। সেই circular ত বাজ্যিক ভাষা সম্বন্ধে Executive order হ’ব লাগে বুলি উল্লেখ কৰিছে। ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰা তেখেতে বুজাব খোজে যে চৰকাৰে এখন আইন কৰিব লাগে সেই আইন নকৰিলে। কিন্তু মাজা-মাজি এটা কিবা কৰাও সম্ভৱ নহয়—সেই কাৰণে ৫০ চনত বি circular দিয়া হৈছিল তাৰ কল কাৰ্য্যকৰী নহ’ল। গতিকে মই ভাবো এইবোৰ বিতৰ্ক প্ৰসঙ্গত কোৱা কথাহে নাত।

এইবাৰ বাজেট বিতৰ্ক প্ৰসঙ্গত এটা কথা মই বৰ ভাল পাইছো। সেইটো হৈছে আমাৰ সদস্যৰ সকলো সদস্যই দেশৰ ভৱিষ্যৎ বিষয়ে চিন্তা কৰি নানা গঠন মূলক সমালোচনা কৰি চৰকাৰক সহযোগীতা কৰিছে। কোনো দলীয় মনোভাব এইবাৰৰ সমালোচনাত নাই। সেই কাৰণে মই আশা কৰো যে এই সমালোচনাবোৰৰ দ্বাৰা চৰকাৰৰ ভালেখিনি উপকাৰ হ’ব। সেই কাৰণে যিসকল সদস্যই সমালোচনাত ভাগ লৈছিল সেই মাননীয় সদস্য কেইজনক মোৰ ধন্যবাদ জনাইছো।

* **Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance)** : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I appreciate and admire the patience, the enduring effort and enthusiasm with which the Hon’ble Members of this House listen to my long Budget speech. They have spent nearly six days in giving suggestions, and offering criticism and I hope that during the 1½ hour when I shall inflict another speech on them, they will give me the same indulgence and will listen to my reply with the same amount of patience. In the course of the six days no less than 52 Members participated in the discussion on the Budget. Except for a brief period when I had to go out for unavoidable reasons, I was present here all along and listen to all the advices, suggestions and criticisms which were made by the Hon’ble Members. I must endorse the observations made by my colleague Sri Tripathy and the Chief Minister that we are grateful for the frank manner in which the discussion has proceeded during the Budget Session. It is true that sometime due to excitement even some of the Hon’ble Members of my own party exceeded the limit and offered Satyagraha—and various other things and my friends called me all kinds of names. But I am sure that these observations were made not with any ill motive and so I also take them in the same spirit. Now, before reply to the various criticisms and deal with the suggestions made by the Hon’ble Members, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon’ble Members to one or two point on the Budget. As the Hon’ble Members are aware that I had started by placing before the Hon’ble

Speech not corrected.

Members the economic trend throughout the country and then I proceeded to examine their impact on the economy of our State. I think no one will deny me the frankness with which I placed the whole material before the House and also the conclusion I drew on the basis of the material. Since independence we are proceeding to develop our country on the basis of Plans and our achievements, if at all, have been very negligible. The cost of living is rising in the whole country and it is more so in our State. Though our per capita income has increased, it is nothing compared to the All India per capita income and the per capita income in other countries. I considered the various difficulties and after discussing the matter came to the conclusion that this low income is due to several reasons. One of the reasons is that the programme which we undertook during these Plan periods were not for the development of our State but for the purpose of helping more or less rudimentary social welfare. The Hon'ble Members will surely agree with me that if all the money that we have at our disposal, either out of our own resources or out of grants, is spent on a scheme which is not of productive nature, we cannot make a headway and our per capita income cannot be increased and we cannot develop our State. So, unless and until we change our way of thinking and the way of action and unless and until we are prepared to sacrifice our present for the future, we will not be able to improve our State. If we do not spend our resources for productive purposes now then, a time may come when it may not be possible for us to provide money for social activities and social programme. Therefore, it is not only for me and the Hon'ble Members of the Govt. but also each and everyone of us to realise that and we have to change our way of thinking and the mode of our activities. In the Third Plan we should take such programme as will make our State prosperous. So the outlook of all of us should be changed and we should all try to bring about a change in the outlook of the general public and in this way we will be able to remove our difficulties and solves many of our problems with which we are confronted now. Some of the Hon'ble Members have said that I took more space than it was necessary in my budget speech. But I think that it is a matter of vital importance and as such it is necessary for the Hon'ble Members as also the people outside to know how the mind of the Govt. is working, and I expected that whatever I said will receive consideration of the Hon'ble Members and I shall have the advantage of receiving many suggestions from them. I am obliged and grateful to some of the Hon'ble Members who have given thought to these matters and the sum total of the discussions which we have had during the last few days gives me an impression that our thinking is not in the wrong directions and has the whole-hearted support of the entire House. There were of course criticisms that the speech was very long. I admit that it was very long. I plead guilty to this charge but I thought it was better on our part to be elaborate than not to give the necessary information indicating that is going on in our minds. Even though some members complained that my speech was very long, I heard complaints that I had not mentioned some of the subjects. Our lady Members of the House made a complaint that in my budget speech no reference or mention was

made about the programmes to be undertaken by the Government for the amelioration of the conditions of the female classes in our State. My friend Shri Horeswae Goswami complained that I need not have made reference to the Second Medical College; that I did not examine the impact of the various embankment schemes, irrigation schemes on our economy and similarly there were complaints that some other subjects were not mentioned. Hon'ble Members will realize that as far as it was possible I did my best to cover all the activities of the Government and that too at the risk of being called a person who indulges in long speeches and long writing and long statements.

Now after giving this survey, I turn to another criticism which has been made by friends who sit in the Opposition Benches—that is about the Budget being a surplus one. Some Members have gone to the extent of saying that what is the use of producing a surplus budget when the country requires development, when there are so many needs which have to be met. What is the use of keeping money in your pockets and not spend it for the improvement of the conditions of the people in our State? I was really amused to hear this argument. This kind of argument betrays the fact that either my observations have not been gone through or that the budget provisions have not been understood. It will be seen that though the budget has been shown as a surplus one, it is not actually so. I think my Hon'ble friends who have gone through the figures will agree with me on this point. Take for instance, we have shown a surplus of about 1 crore of rupees. At the same time I have made it clear in my budget speech that last year we took a loan from the public to the extent of 2 crores 70 lakhs. Now this loan which we have taken has to be shown in our cash balances. This loan was taken for the development of a particular industry but has not been utilized for any other purposes and I can assure this House that this loan which I have taken and for which this House has given me support will be solely spent for the purpose of making industrial development in the State. It has not been possible for us to spend the entire amount during this year. It may not be possible to spend the whole amount during this next year also. This has been merged with the cash balances and that accounts for the surplus. If we had not taken this loan of Rs. 2 crores and 70 lakhs from the public, the budget would have been a deficit one. I make no secret of this fact that if I find it possible to spend this amount and a further loan is necessary for the purpose of having some industry in our State, I shall not hesitate for a moment for going to the market again for a public loan. For this we will have to wait till this amount which we have taken is fully utilized. Therefore the argument of the Hon'ble Members that the people are suffering and at the same time I am preparing a surplus budget has no legs to stand upon. They will find that actually it is not a surplus budget; the amount of the loan is there.

Secondly, I want to issue a warning to the Hon'ble Members that it is not all right to produce a deficit budget. There is a limit also so far as the deficit budgets are concerned. If we produce deficit

budgets which is beyond our capacity to retrieve, I think it will not be a wise policy for the State. In fact the Santana Committee when examining the resources of the State made a very wise comment that it was not prudent on the part of the State in the interests of the planned development of the country to come out every year with a deficit budget; that such deficit budgets are likely to retard the progress of development in the State and throughout the country. That was the advice given to us by the Committee. I think that was a very sound advice and that advice we kept in mind. While I agree that when we have money at our disposal, it should be fully utilized for the purpose of necessary expenditure in development works.

So far as Assam is concerned, Sir, I think the Hon'ble Members will agree with me that it will be an act of prudence on our part to keep some money in our hands every year for the simple reason that every year in our State we have this phenomenon recurring floods. This year and the next year to come, I mean in the next financial year, we shall have to face with a difficult task of finding necessary amount of money for helping our brothers and sister in the Mizo Hills. I can say Sir, that so far as the problem there is concerned, we are spending money like water and I do not know when this is going to end. With all these arrangements where six planes are working daily to take the necessary food supply, we are told that the distress continues and in some places it has increased. This is the task which we have to face and for which money has to be found from all possible sources. Now, this was a general observation made regarding the Budget.

My friends, Shri Hareswar Goswami and Shri Gourisankar Bhattacharyya made serious observation with regard to another matter which I shall place now before the hon. members. They stated that the receipts in the Budget were not properly worked out and while Shri Hareswar Goswami called it a jugglery of figures, Shri Bhattacharya called it burglary of figures. In support of their contention they went on to say that why at the time of presentation of the Budget when some surplus or deficit was shown but it turned out to be surplus even after getting supplementary demands of 3 and 4 crores in the course of a year. Referring to the current year's Budget they stated that some surplus was indicated at the time the Budget was presented and even after getting supplementary demand to the tune of 10 crores, the current year's Budget would remain a surplus one. Shri Gourisankar Bhattacharyya also in the course of the discussion on the Supplementary Demand which was presented during this session referred to this aspect of the matter and criticised that the Demands were brought in an unusual or extra-ordinary manner and that they needed serious consideration of this House. In the course of my reply to Shri Bhattacharyya I made general observations to dispel the misconception he had over this matter. Since the matters have been repeatedly and specifically raised I feel it my duty to deal at length with these criticisms in order to remove the misconception that exists about this matter in the minds of then. members. Now, if hon. members will look to the Supplementary Demand

of Rs. 10 crores 1 lakh and 6,086 during the three sessions of the current financial year and analyse the various items, they will find that the impact of the Supplementary Demand of Expenditure does not fall entirely on the normal resources of the State. Out of this entire amount Rs. 4 crores 9 lakhs and 28,002 is spent on such items as opening of State Trading— State Trading alone comes to Rs. 2 crores 70 lakhs and 79,332; Stock Suspense Account, Fertiliser distribution etc. in respect of which there is no financial implication as the entire expenditure on this account will be recovered subsequently. The expenditure of Rs. 89 lakhs 50,350 is spent entirely on liabilities. Sir, the provision for natural calamities normally exists in the Budget but the actual dimension of these calamities can only be assessed after the occurrence. I am sure hon. members cannot expect me to anticipate this and to provide the entire amount in the Budget. The expenditure incurred in connection with the devastating floods in North Kamrup, Cachar and part of Darrang and Golaghat cannot be anticipated at the time of presenting the Budget. The Govt. anticipated that half of this expenditure will be reimbursed by the Central Govt according to existing assistance pattern. Then there is an amount of Rs. 48 lakhs, 14,242 which was taken by Supplementary Demand for border security. Hon. members will appreciate that expenditure on border security cannot be correctly estimated when the Budget was presented as much depends on the situation that may arise during the year. This expenditure that is spent by us will also ultimately be reimbursed by the Govt of India. Another amount of Rs. 26,21,200 was spent on behalf of the Govt. of India for border relief scheme. This border relief scheme will be financed by the Govt. of India. We learnt about this scheme only in December/January last and the amount could not be provided in the budget. There is another big amount of Rs. 66,17,950 which is for adjustment under different heads within the plan finance. Of this the big item of expenditure of nearly Rs. 39,85,580 is under the head 'Education'. I may inform the hon. members, that if in a developing economy deviation from the schemes intended to be carried out during the year is not allowed the purpose of development itself will be defeated as there will be large scale of surrender when for one reason or another the scheme originally intended could not be implemented. For this season schemes other than those provided in the budget are allowed to be taken in the course of the year and if the adjustment is made within the plan it means no additional financial implication as corresponding savings are anticipated of made elsewhere. Another amount of Rs. 3,06,218 is for deposit works, Rs. 1,25,85,332 for schemes entirely sponsored by the Central Govt. Rs. 16 lakhs for Tibetan refugees, Rs. 3 lakhs for expenditure against funds constituted and Rs. 42,20,000 for expenditure out of public loans raised. For this expenditure there is no additional implication except assistance in the form of loan which are liability of the future. It will be appreciated that these provisions could not be made in the budget. There is another item of Rs. 36,41,245 for schemes under article 275 and no additional implications are involved as these schemes are also financed by the Govt of India. Excluding these amounts referred to previously it will appear that the State's normal resources may be immediately affected by

about Rs. 1,34,21,329 and by about Rs. 31,71,000 which represents. It will be seen that of the amount the big item of expenditure under Education (Rs. 26,88,570) Police (Rs. 21,88,006) General Administration (Rs. 15,67,129, Loans and Advances Rs. 14,07,979 and Roads Transport Rs. 13,78,00 and so forth and so on.

Now, hon. members will please remember that in the Budget which I presented for 1959-60 I showed a surplus of 74 lakhs of rupees. Now, in the revised figures I am showing a surplus of 94 lakhs of rupees, that is to say, there is only a difference of 20 lakhs of rupees. Hon. members will realise that on the receipt side of the Budget I have shown the revenue receipt of Rs. 33 crores. There is an increase of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees, those are not due to increase but due to some receipts from the Government of India for which there was negotiation with the Government of India and the Government anticipate that the expenditure will be a liability. These things will be taken into consideration. Hon. members will find that there is a provision of about 20 lakhs of rupees in the budget. If all these accounts are taken together it will be seen that the only legitimate amount will be to the tune of 74 lakhs of rupees during the year and on that score there was a balance of 94 lakhs of rupees. The Hon. members will find that there is not much difference between the figures and there is no burglary or otherwise. All the items of demands have been elaborated in the explanatory note of each demand and reasons of inadequacy and why not foreseen have also been given therein. For instance I refer to page 4, item 8 of page 11, note against item k-18 of page 28, page 29, note against item 1 and 2 on page 31, page 34, page 37 last line of page 43, page 51 etc of the list of supplementary demands for grant and supplementary appropriation for 1959-60 introduced in this House during the session. The Finance Department is scrutinising each item of these demands and interpret them on the specific statements by the department that the additional expenditure could not be covered by saving and reappropriation within the existing grant. Any one who has gone through the supplementary demands carefully and with understanding will find at once the reason why in spite of such supplementary demands gap has not been seriously effected owing to substantial amount of supplementary demands taken out during the year and why the expenditure could not be foreseen and provided in the Budget. The Hon. members accused the Finance Department for delay, for causing bottleneck and holding it responsible for supplementary demands. I hope the clarification made by me will remove the misconception that these demands are not due to any bottleneck or fault of Finance department. It will not also be out of place to point out here for the information of the Hon. members how a decision in the latter part of the year causes supplementary demands in two successive years. If a decision is arrived at say, in the month of January which is implemented in the very financial year supplementary demand is necessary to be taken in the next session, that is, in the Budget Session of the Assembly. And as by that time the Budget estimate for the next financial year is finalised supplementary demand becomes also necessary for the next financial year. I feel, a bit of study and appreciation of the facts would have saved Hon. members from making unmerited criticism. I have no hesitation in saying that my Hon. friend, Shri Goswami's criticism has betrayed that either he has no time to read the papers and statements or that he does not understand the A,B,C of budget.

tary procedure to be entitled to admission even in KG class not to speak of the assumption of the rôle by him of a school teacher examining the essay written by a school boy.....

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA** (Gaubati) But we should see that it is a bad essay.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED** (Minister, Finance) Whatever it is. I will show that it might be a good or bad essay, but I am sorry to say that my friend does not understand the A, B, C, of the budgetary procedure.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI** (Rampur) We are here to hear from the Minister what he will say.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED** : Now, Sir, I hope I took pain to clarify all these matters.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI** (Rampur) The matter is not yet clarified. Either I have a bad brain or the Minister has not the neck of catching what I said. I said that after granting all these expenditures also by way of supplementary demands, even then we find the surplus. We are not concerned with the receipt side, we are not concerned whether the expenditure is correct or incorrect. My point is, where from you get the money. The Government had shown a huge expenditure. That point has not been clarified. The receipt side comes to about two crores of rupees, even at this moment the interest of 10 crores.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED** I do not know, how a person who is not prepared to learn can be taught. Out of these 10 crores of rupees, except the amount of one crore and 34 lakhs of rupees and another amount of 34 lakhs of rupees will have no impact on our budget because the amount we would have incurred on behalf of the Central Government will be liable to reimbursement. We have incurred an additional expenditure to the extent of one crore and 60 lakhs of rupees which is the counter balance on account of the fact that we took loan last year, the receipts come from the other side. Except the loan, the figures are shown here and the receipts are there. There is no other receipt except these two receipts. My friend will do well if he cares to read my speech.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI** I have read your speech very thoroughly.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance)** In page 8 of my budget speech I have mentioned that the increase in revenue is mainly due to increase of Rs. 36.29 lakhs under the principal heads of revenue, under 'Miscellaneous' owing to repayment of Rs. 90 lakhs from the contingency fund and grant in aid of about Rs. 115 lakhs from the Government of India on account of border relief and road construction programmed. So I hope I donot keep these receipts as secret.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur)** I donot mean that these were kept secret. All that I said was that I did not understand them.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED :** Sir, I may inform the hon. members that we have received a further sum of rupees one crore and 60 lakhs, otherwise the budget would have been a deficit one.

Now, Sir, I would also like to deal with one of the observations which was made by my friend Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacheryya during the discussion on the supplementary demands.

He said "I donot understand how in a matter which has already been passed by this House and on which government has already taken a decision the question of fresh financial sanction arises. To cite only one instance, it was decided that there would be one Chief Conservator of Forests and under him there would be three senior conservators in three regions, viz. one at Shillong, one at Gauhati and one at Jorhat. Now several months have passed since the Government took this decision and we understand all papers with regard to this matter have been blocked in the Finance Department. It seems that the Finance Department is becoming bigger than the total government."

Now may I ask Mr. Bhattacheryya from which source he got these informations.

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) :** I am not prepared to disclose the source.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED :** Then I am sorry, Sir, a responsible person like Bhattacheryya should not have made such statement without verifying the truth.

*Speech not corrected.

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati)**: I am not prepared to disclose the source of information. But I definitely know that the government has taken a decision as per recommendation of the Estimates Committee.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance)**: I do not know how the hon. member can say that certain bottleneck have been created by the Finance Department without first verifying actual position. I can assure the hon. member that so far as the decisions of the government is concerned the Finance Department has not flouted any of the recommendations. I can tell the House that the Estimates Committee has not recommended anything like that. I can read the recommendation of the Estimates Committee which is as follows. "The Chief Conservator of forests should be relieved of the responsibilities of supervising the territorial divisions. He should be mainly responsible for overall administration and control of non territorial division. The other two conservators of Forests should be designated as the Regional Conservators of Forests and should be placed in charge of the supervision and control of the territorial divisions with necessary powers." So Sir, there will be only three Conservator of Forests including the Chief Conservator.

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA** : One Conservator will be at Shillong and two will be in the plains viz one at Gauhati and the other at Jorhat. So one plus two makes three.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED** : So my I point out that there would be only two Conservator of Forests under the Chief Conservator of Forests and not three as pointed out by my friend Shri Bhattacheryya. May I therefore inform the hon. Member that the government has accepted the recommendation and the two Senior Conservator of Forests are already functioning there since a long time. There is no proposal pending in the Finance Department against the decision of the Government. I have a great respect for the hon. Member for his views and observations, but I am sorry to point out that he had made this criticism without verifying the real position. He ought not to have made this criticism without getting into the real facts and I hope the hon. member will take into task the person responsible for giving this wrong information.

*Speech not corrected.

Sir, coming to the industry, I may say that Mr. Hareswar Goswami has made a very helpful suggestion. My friend Shri Tripathi has broadly dealt with it and I donot like to say anything more in industrialization of our State. It is really amazing to find the helpful attitude of the leader of Opposition. Last year he said that agriculture was the main industry in our state and the industry will not be Last year Mr. Goswami said that the Agriculture was the main industry in our state and.....

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur)** : This has been taken out of context.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance)** : Whether this is out of context or not, this has a far reaching effect. I am glad that within a year this has come to our views. The speech of the leader of the opposition had created a mischief outside and it gave a serious set back in so far as the development of the industries in our state is concerned.

My friend said that the expenditure on education was 18% and it has gone down to 15%. I am sure he took the figure from the speech of the then Finance Minister Shri Bora. He compared with the total expenditure from the consolidated fund and so I say my friend does not even know the A, B, C of the Budget.

***Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharya (Gauhati)** :— Sir, may I suggest that when these comparisons are given one uniform pattern should be followed. Some times it is said percentage of revenue, some times it is said percentage of consolidated fund and some times it is said percentage of expenditure. It creates lot of difficulties for common people. Therefore if a uniform pattern is followed it will be much easier for us because it is very difficult for common representatives of common people to understand all these subttle things. Mr. Goswami may understand but there are so many others who do not know all the niceties. For proper appreciation of these figures of percentage it will be helpful if the Govt. follows one uniform pattern.

***Sri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED** : My friendis perhaps more experienced than myself regarding legislature and he will agree with me that when I say comparison of the figures I had a definite purpose. I was comparing the

figures with the expenditure incurred in the States like West Bengal, Orissa and Bihar and the figures of those States were only consolidated figures. Therefore I worked down the percentage on that basis. Therefore I had a purpose in mentioning these things. But when these words are mentioned I think the Hon'ble member knows the difference between the revenue receipts, capital receipts and capital expenditure and so on.

Now I was just referring that this 18% is considered on consolidated basis. It comes to 11% if comparison is made with figures which I have given. I mentioned here that in this calculation of comparison the expenditure was P. W. D. (Buildings) and the Education deptt. has not been included. Expenditure on P.W.D. (Building) and the estimate for Education stood at Rs. 198,4900 in 1952-53 as against 3,22,340 for 1960-61 on percentage basis. This shows that Education Deptt. has been properly looked as revenue goes up. Let us forget the percentage. But in that particular year we spent under all heads Rs. 1,90,00000 of rupees in 1957-58. In the next year the expenditure will be 7,22,32,400 and if the Hon'ble members will be pleased to see that progressively every year the expenditure is increasing on secondary education, primary education and sometimes on college education also. I do not wish to trouble the Hon'ble members with these figures.

Now my Hon'ble friend has also criticised that this is not a poor man's Budget. One thing which I would ask the Hon'ble members to realise is the fact that since we went for expenditure under plan all our resources are committed. Whatever amount we have to provide for development we have to pull our resources in the plan and together with such grant we get from Govt. of India. Those two amounts are taken together and spent for the purpose of development. Now I will ask the Hon'ble members just to remember the figures which I have placed before this House during last year's Budget session and there I had stated at page 8 of my last year's Budget speech that in 1956-57 the State spent 3.5 crores and centre gave 5.7 crores. In 1957-58 the State spent 4 crores and centre spent 6.1 crore. In 1958-59 the State spent 6.2 crores and centre spent 4.5 crores. In the budget we are discussing expenditure as Rs. 14.5 crores—our share remained the same as we contributed last year 5.5 crores. While this year the

central Govt. has committed to give us a share of about 9 crores.

Now together with this expenditure we also take into consideration the amount which we have raised through public loan, i.e., an amount of 2 crores and 25 lakhs which has not been much in this planned expenditure. The Hon'ble members will realise that we have the amount in the vicinity of about $17\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees for the purpose of development in our State, on various items, and those items have been included in the Budget, and there is no justification for the Hon'ble members to complain or to criticise that the State Govt. did not find money for the purpose of making improvement in the State. In addition to this, we have also, as the Hon'ble members may have seen, provided for new schemes another amount of over 53 lakhs of rupees. So, it will mean that in addition to our committed expenditure during the next year we shall be spending in the vicinity of about 18 crores of rupees which we have provided; and how that amount is to be spent has also been provided in the Budget and indication has been given towards the end of my speech. If the Hon'ble members will look at Appendix E they will see how that amount is to be spent. Now take for instance, in Agricultural production we are going to spend out of this 70 lakhs of rupees and on agricultural education 30 lakhs of rupees. That is to say, on agriculture about 1 crore of rupees will be spent. Now on Animal Husbandry about 28 lakhs of rupees will be spent. On Panchayat there is big amount in the budget and on Community Development also there is a big amount which will also help towards the development of our rural areas.

Then under Education there is an amount of about 1 crore 95 lakhs of rupees more is to be spent out of which 36 lakhs will be spent on technical education alone. Similarly on Health there is 1 crore and 10 lakhs of rupees have been provided. On Social welfare and welfare of backward classes 2 crores of rupees have been provided. In this way the Hon'ble members will find that ample activities have been taken which will help our people in the rural areas, it will help in the improvement of education, health and other essential services of the State, and if the Hon'ble members had cared to look at these figures they would have found no justification in criticising that this year's budget does not make any provision for the improvement in the condition of the people.

On the other hand, as I have stated before, that to day our activities are circumscribed on account of the fact that we can only incur expenditure as provided in the plans. But though we are not required to pay as much as 5 crores of rupees because we have already spent our share, our contribution, towards the plan expenditure; but we went out of our way to commit an expenditure of nearly 1 crore of rupees in order to get larger share from the Central Govt. for the purpose of spending in the State during the next year. So, I think the Hon'ble members will please reconsider their views in this matter and will find that there is ample scope for carrying on our activities further as provided under the plans.

Now with regard to education, a number of complaints were made that we are not doing enough for the technical education. As I have said in my Budget speech also and I think it is time for us to realise that we should go as much as possible for us for providing facilities for technical education for our boys in the State, and having regard to this fact we have taken some steps, and I hope they will bear fruits in 2/3 years' time, if not, in 4 years' time. Now I would just like to place some figures before the Hon'ble members just to show what was our position at the beginning of the 2nd Plan period. At the beginning of the Second Plan period there were no facilities for Degree and Diploma courses in our State. Only 96 civil, 10 mechanical and 10 for electricity were provided under our schools here. But these seats now have been increased to 105, 20 and 20 respectively. For training of civil engineering and overseer a college was established at Gauhati with 30 seats. Gradually on demand seats have to be raised to 80 within a very few years. Now from the account we find that under the second plan period, in the Assam Engineering College there is a provision for Degree Course for 120 seats, 60 for civil engineering, 30 mechanical and 30 for electrical engineering. For the Jorhat Engineering College which is to be started, there is also provision for 120 seats. Then for Diploma courses also under the Prince of Wales Institute there is provision for 180 seats—120 for civil engineering, 30 for mechanical engineering and 30 for electrical engineering. Assam Engineering Institute, Gauhati has also got provision for 180 seats out of which 120 for civil engineering, 30 for mechanical engineering and 30 for electrical engineering. Silchar Polytechnic Institute, which is going to be started in July next year—there is also provision for 180

seats out of which 120 for civil engineering, 30 for mechanical and 30 for electrical. Nowgong Polytechnic which is to be started soon there will be provision for 180 seats out of which 120 for civil engineering, 30 for mechanical and 30 for electrical engineering. Now similarly arrangements have been made for craftsman courses in the Industrial Training Institute at Jorhat and at Srikona and there is provision for expansion of Prince of Wales Inst. Provision will also have to be made for these facilities at the Assam Engineering Institute and the Industrial Training Institute at Tezpur, Industrial Training Institute at Nowgong, Gauhati and Bongaigaon. So, I hope that the efforts which we are now making and the expenditure which we are now incurring in these activities will bear fruit in the next few years and it is our programme not only to pursue these activities but also to intensify it so that we may be able to get trained personnel not as Engineers only but also in the lower category for our requirements in the Third and Fourth Five Year Plans. Now, there was some criticism made about the Education Department also. My friend Shri Goswami said something about the Conduct Rules of the Aided High School teachers and that the teachers were not willing to accept the increased salaries under those conditions. We consider that in order to get the full benefit of the very big amount spent on Aided schools and to give security of service and other possible amenities by way of uniform leave rule etc., it is desirable that the aided Secondary school teachers are governed by rules similar to those applicable to Govt. Secondary Schools teachers. So far as the transfer of Govt. Aided school teachers is concerned, one need not get unduly apprehensive. Such transfer will be sometimes necessary in the interests of improvement of Education so that there is a balanced distribution as far as practicable of the available specialised teachers among the Secondary Schools of the State. It may be pointed out that the scheme of transfer will benefit the teachers themselves in as much as the pay drawn by the teachers will be protected if he chooses to move to a school near his home. At present, a teacher if he wants to go to some other school has to resign his post and get re-employed at the minimum pay in the other school. So this transfer will be helpful both for the purpose of administration as well as in the interest of the teachers themselves.

Now so far as the pay scale of the college teachers are concerned, they have not only been given scale of pay recom.

mended by the University Grants Commission but also other additional benefits which are not in the University Grants Commission scheme. The additional benefits are—(i) an allowance to the Vice-Principal, (ii) Charge allowance to the Heads of Department having two or more members in the staff provided they are not in the senior lecturer's scale and (iii) dearness allowance at the Govt. rate. For D.A. there was no recommendation, by the University Grants Commission. The sanction will be issued as soon as the colleges accept in principle the revised conditions of grants-in-aid including the Conduct Rules.

My friend Shri Hazarika has made a complaint about the lack of education in Dibrugarh Subdivision. This kind of complaint has also been received from other Subdivisions also. Efforts will be made on behalf of Government to see that educational development is uniform throughout the State. With this end in view special attention has been paid to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes by way of reserved stipends and special grant-in-aid scheme. The Dibrugarh Subdivision is going to be split up into two for educational purposes by appointing a second D.I. for the eastern part with Tinsukia as headquarters. So far as the Primary education is concerned it is expected that with the introduction of compulsory primary education on a State-wide basis, there will be absolutely uniform development in the entire State. In the field of Secondary Education with the introduction of the deficit system of grants-in-aid and reservation of 40% of the fee income to the school funds, public initiative and enterprise will be better supported by the State Govt. and as a consequence education will improve and expand. In the field of collegiate education, the Dibrugarh College has received adequate financial support from the State Govt. Here I may inform the Hon'ble Members that recently we have taken a decision to place the D.F.O.'s bungalow in Dibrugarh at the disposal of the Girls' College in Dibrugarh. As soon as we can build a house for the D.F.O. we will give the land and building to the Girls' College by way of grant without charging the price from the educational institution.

Shri Hazarika also referred to the modification of the circular issued by the D.P.I. The circular relates to Conduct Rules and Transfer of non-Govt. school teachers. As pointed out by me above, these conditions are necessary for improvement of Secondary Education.

He also stated that social education organisers are not equipped with ideas and should be trained. The Social education organisers are trained under a scheme of the Community Project Department. The work of the social education organisers is rather difficult as they are to deal with a variety of problems for which no set solution or a set programme of work exists. Constant guidance and supervision is necessary. With this object in view, 7 District Social Education Officers have been appointed and they are being trained in National Fundamental Education Centres in New Delhi in batches. A new Education programme takes time to build up a tradition and as time goes on, the Social Education programme will increase in efficiency and effectiveness.

***Shri DEVENDRANATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa)** : I referred to Inspector of Social Education. They are generally recruited from D.I. and S.I. of Schools.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance)** : Now, Sir, Shri Sarbeswar Bordoloi referred to the Tea Garden Schools and made a complaint that the schools have not been taken up as yet. The Inspecting Officers have been asked to introduce the departmental curriculum, text books and rules in Tea gardens schools. They have also been asked to inspect these schools. Particulars of pay and allowances of the teachers of these schools have been collected and examined. The question of school Board's taking over these schools is under examination and it is expected that it will be possible to take over the schools under the Board next year.

He also referred to a separate scales for Intermediate teachers. A separate scale for the Intermediate passed teachers of 15 years or more standing has been sanctioned by the Govt. The scale is Rs.100/- to Rs.250/- as against Rs.75/- to Rs.175/- for others.

He also mentioned about different scales of pay for Graduate and M.A., B.T, Head Masters. Since the duties and responsibilities of the Head Masters are the same, it is not advisable to make this distinction.

Mrs. Chanda said that the Basic School Teachers have not got the revised pay scales. Some of the posts were omitted by the Pay Committee. The Basic School teachers' posts were in this category. The Finance Deptt. has since extended

the benefit of the revised scales to these teachers and the new scales have accordingly been sanctioned for them.

Then she complained that there was no syllabus for multi-purpose schools and the teachers are not getting Government scales of pay. The syllabus for the subjects introduced in the multi-purpose schools was prepared by experts drawn from the University, the colleges and the Secondary schools. The syllabus has been printed and is available to schools. The question of giving the teachers of aided higher Secondary and Multi-purpose schools the same pay and allowances as their counter-parts in Government schools has been referred to Government for a specific order. This matter is under consideration.

Then she referred to introduction of Bengali in the Post Graduate course. This is entirely a matter for the Gauhati University to decide.

Then she said about amalgamation of Senior training. Amalgamation of Senior training with normal course is under examination.

Shri Barua referred to schools maintained by the Zamin-dari Estates. I think they have been given Grants-in-Aid for the maintenance on deficit system by the Education Department from this year. Some non-recurring grants are also being given. I hope that whatever grievance is felt that will be removed after they are treated on the same lines as Secondary Schools with the rest of the State.

Shri P. N. Choudhury raised the question about the difference between the M. V. and M. E. schools. The M. V. schools have a distinct tradition. The standard of teaching the mother tongue and arithmetic is higher in these schools. Map drawing and hand-work also form distinctive features. Craft is now being gradually introduced. The M. V. schools are very useful for producing teachers of L. P. Schools. The distinctive character of these schools should not be disturbed.

Then he raised the question of appointment of regional Joint D. P. I. The creation of another stage in the administrative ladder will not mean better efficiency but is likely to cause administrative delay and I am sorry, therefore, we cannot accept his suggestion at this stage.

Then he referred to flood damage grants to schools. These grants are being gradually sanctioned. Now in this connection there is nothing with the Education Department. My friend, I do not know whether he is present here, made a very sweeping remark that certain Minister complained to him that the Finance Department stood in the way of giving the necessary sanction. When he was questioned, he named the ex-P. W. D. and Education Minister. I am really surprised that such a statement ought to have been made by an Hon'ble Member in the absence of the ex-P. W. D. and Education Minister. I have no hesitation in saying that neither he nor any colleague of mine will go and tell people that a particular matter cannot be undertaken because the Finance is standing on the way. There is no question of finance standing on the way. It is the question of joint responsibility and I am sure this statement could not have been made by my friend Shri Debeswar Sarma and it was not proper on the part of Shri Prabhat Narayan Choudhury to make this statement in his absence which Shri Sarma could not contradict. I am very sorry that a responsible member should come and try to make this statement in this House.

Now, my friend Shri K. Nath has complained about the unequal distribution of grants to schools and colleges. Grants have been sanctioned on the basis of applications and needs. As far as practicable, the sub-divisions-wise allotment for Secondary schools is based on population. So far as the colleges are concerned, grants were distributed either for building on the basis of plans and estimates and on the college authorities agreeing to bear two-third of the expenditure and for development of Science teaching. Goalpara College did not apply for any in time. The application for building grant was received late. Even then the college will receive grants under Article 275 and as well as from out of general provisions.

He also stated about schools in the Zamindari areas that they have not been converted into Government schools. These schools have been given grants-in-aid under deficit system. The pay scales now being given are better than what used to be given to teachers by the Estates.

Shri M. Sarma complained that M. E. schools in backward places are not getting grants. The minimum conditions laid down have to be fulfilled. Schools situated in backward

areas are given preference provided minimum requirements in enrolment and teaching staff are fulfilled.

My friend Shri Tarun Sen Deka said something about L. P. Teachers Test Examination. The teachers' test examination is a selection test. The object is to select the best teachers available. As such, it is only natural that no long waiting list is maintained and selection is made afresh from time to time according to need. I have also a list of the schools and colleges which have been given grants. If the Hon'ble Members want that I should place it on the table, I can do it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes, you please do it.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance) :** Now there are many other matters which have been very effectively dealt with by my friend Shri Tripathy, particularly in regard to electricity, labour and industries.

My friend Shri Brahma dealt matters concerning his department. I have myself dealt at length with matters relating to education as raised by the Hon'ble members. I have also dealt with the general observations and criticisms made by Hon'ble Members in course of the Budget discussions. The only thing I want to say is that my reply is not exhaustive. It may be that many other matters have been omitted by me but I shall carefully go through all their speeches and if any action is necessary and called for, I shall see that action is taken. Before I come to the concluding portion, I will just hurriedly go through my notes so that any important point which has been raised may be replied to.

Yes, there is another important matter. I am obliged to the Chief Minister for reminding me about it. Some of the Hon'ble Members referred to the extension of the Panchayat Act to forest Villages and Tea Garden areas. This matter is under the consideration of the Government and we have already had some very useful discussion with the departments concerned. I feel that after the decision is taken on this matter we shall come forward before this House for amending the Act so that necessary facilities may be provided to the forest villagers. Of course, this is my personal view. I just want to give hon. members an inkling as to how our mind is working. Now Sir, there are two kinds of villages. Those which are on the border of the forest and there are others which are in the midst of the forest. What we feel is this. Those villages which are on the border of the forest should be taken over from the forest administration and should be given advantage of all facilities which are provided under the Panchayat Act. So far as the villages which are in the midst of the forest are concerned, I think hon. members will agree with me that we cannot be oblivious of the fact that we have to protect our forests interest by safeguarding them. For this

we shall have to come forward with some modified schemes whereby so far as the work for the development of these villages is concerned, some amount may be placed at the disposal of the villagers to be spent at their discretion through Panchayat system. But at the same time some sort of restrictions may be placed in their way so that the villagers will not deal with the forest produce as they like.

So far as the tea gardens areas are concerned, this is a question which is very difficult to decide. As you know Sir, the essential ingredient of the Panchayat Act is that it should extend over the area over which we have jurisdiction. Our difficulties with these tea garden areas is that they are privately owned and so it will be difficult for us to extend this Act to those areas unless and until there is co-operation and willingness on the part of the tea planters themselves. I propose to hold a conference of the tea interest to find out to what extent they can accommodate us for the purpose of extending the provision of this Panchayat act in the tea gardens. But so far as the ex-tea garden labourers are concerned who are living outside the tea estates, they will have full advantage of the Panchayat Act like any other population in the village area. I hope that by the time the House meets next we shall be able to place concrete proposals in order to overcome these difficulties which have been expressed by many of our hon. friends here on behalf of the forest labourers and the tea garden labourers.

My friend Shri Horinarayan Barooah mentioned something about self-help grant and said that this self-help grant has been stopped. I can tell him that that is not so. For next year the provision is Rs. 3,47,000. This amount was included for the First Plan period to foster sanitation, water supply etc in the rural areas. These schemes have been included in the 2nd Five Year Plan. So it is difficult to keep the tempo except on the Plan level from the non-Plan resources of the State. It needs mention that sanction for sanitation and water supply has been taken up in the 2nd Five Year Plan. Then he also mentioned about cottage industries saying that they should get more allocation. Provision for cottage industries next year is Rs. 93.13 lakhs against this year expenditure of Rs. 76 lakhs so that there is a distinct increase in the next year's provision by about 20% of expenditure from the consolidated fund. Now, some hon members have complained about the delay and it is said that the Finance Dept is to be blamed for that delay. I may inform hon. members that so far the Finance Dept is concerned, last year's budget was communicated to all departments soon after the Budget was passed. As I pointed out in my last year's Budget speech, we have modified a number of the rules in which a number of powers have been delegated to various officers and Financial Advisers have been appointed in several departments in order to enable them to go on with the expenditure. In addition to this we have recently discussed this matter over and it is under the consideration of the Govt to give even further delegation of powers not only to the

Heads of Departments here in Shillong but also in district level too so that work may not be hampered. I hope that with these modifications whatever grievance if at all exist will also be removed.

My friend Shri Torun Sen Dekka mentioned that while we spent so much money for providing relief to the famine stricken people in the Mizo Hills we have done nothing for the people living in the border of Mizo Hills i.e. in Hailakandi and other border areas of Cachar. He also wanted to raise a discussion of this question by an adjournment motion. I may inform him that as long ago as 19th February last we have sanctioned Rs. 10 lakhs for the relief of these people in Hailakandi and we have instructed the Deputy Commissioner and Subdivisional Officer concerned to give us details and when the details are available whatever help is necessary it will be given to them.

Sir, I am sorry that while I have taken practically the whole time of the House in dealing with the criticisms on the expenditure side, I did not give much attention to the receipt side. I am grateful to a few hon. members of this house particularly to Shri Sarat Goswami, Shri Borthakur, Shri Bhattacharyya and others that their valuable suggestions which they have given in this House. Our 3rd Year Plan will depend entirely on how we are able to improve our position so far as the resources of the State are concerned, I agree with these hon. members that having regard to all facts and circumstances, there is very little scope for further taxation in our State.

Therefore, we shall have to find some other means of implementing our resources. My friend Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami has given two or three very valuable suggestions. I may take him into confidence and in some of his suggestions my mind has been working in that direction. It is a question of West Bengal Government as far as tea is concerned and that our tea is not only the cheap means of providing prosperity and happiness to our people but also it helps in earning such a huge export income through export and that this matter should be properly looked after. During the last two years along with India other countries are also coming in this field and so unless and until we are able to maintain the quality of our tea and control our expenditure, the time may come, when it may be possible, perhaps we may lose our markets and when we lose our markets, we may lose our foreign exchange also and so the country will suffer. Therefore, it is necessary for us to see that we should make efforts to endeavour and improve the quality of our tea by taking all kinds of schemes at the same time we should be careful to see that no additional burden is put on these industries. So with this end in view, we feel that there is no moral justification for the West Bengal Government to impose the Entry Tax on tea which goes to market for the purpose of auction and not for consumption. In this context we have also to discuss and understand the difficulty of the West Bengal Government but at the same time we have also our own problem and difficulty but we have always been disappointed in that direction, therefore, I had to approach the Central Government and I may inform the House that our approach is likely to bring dividend

so much so that the Central Government is proposing to put additional excise duty on tea and that is the only intention of taking away the West Bengal Government entry tax and whatever amount may be realised by this may be given to Assam and West Bengal Government may be given only its own share. I hope this decision will soon be implemented and so this will help us to get much more than we are getting at the present time. Hon. members of the House may know that many of the tea gardens in our State have got railways siding and those gardens which are near the railway siding do not pay any other tax and so this additional excise duty on tea will bring those tea gardens almost within the purview of tax and we shall get more income by this method. Similarly many of the tea gardens having transaction with England and other countries by the imposition of additional excise duty on tea will have also to pay that duty in Calcutta; therefore, the Government of West Bengal also will get some more income. These are the matters which are engaging our attention and the question of realising some tax from crude oil for the purpose of processing is also receiving our attention. Hon. members will see that within a few days, I shall be moving a Bill which will give the power to realise tax from crude oil for the purpose of processing. Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami's suggestion of increasing the resources by having the auction sale in the State is also very good one that will help us in many ways but there are preliminary difficulties which have to be overcome. We are in negotiation in this matter also and when we shall be able to finalise all this thing, we shall have to start the auction sale in our own State. Similarly suggestions given by Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharjee and Shri Nilmani Barthakur that we should depend more on resources and on the income of nationalised industries we shall keep in mind. Sir, I should have taken more time in dealing with the deliberations on this point but we shall have future occasion to deal with this matter. Just now I wish to say that I am very thankful to the hon. members for giving their thoughts and suggestions to me which will be considered and which I appreciate very much.

Now Sir, in conclusion I want to put to Hon. members of the House, particularly to those opposite to us, that at present we are passing through a very critical period of our existence. In spite of our differences in ideology in the pattern of steps to be taken and in the manner of implementation of the programme undertaken we cannot be oblivious to the two-fold objectives security of the country and prosperity, we have set before us. Attainment of these objectives necessarily calls for patriotism and the realisation that we have yet to go a long way and in this journey of ours we have to overcome many a difficulties and problems which cannot be solved in isolation. As a State we have our problems, the Central Government and other States too have their problems. Sometimes these problems are not the same, sometime the remedy is contradictory and our interests conflict with interest of the Centre or other States if we look at things from one angle. It is therefore necessary to look at the problems as the problems of common interest of the whole country and to seek their solution in a wider field. This approach I have

no doubt, will pay dividend as I am sure it will then be difficult for the Central Government not to lend their support and help us. Hon. members will not mind my advising them, if I have a claim to advise them that, at this critical period of our history, we should not brush aside the objective we have set before us and indulge in unmerited criticism of exploitation of religions, cultural, sectional sentiment for the sake of individuals or to advance a party's interest-activities which tend to weaken not only the government but the State. I say this with all my earnestness and experience of the past. While we may talk of our difficulties and problems and the way to solve them we should not talk in terms of rich, poor, rural interest, urban interest, Hindu interest, Muslim interest, tribal interest, caste interest, hill and plain interest and so on and so forth. If we all agree to take interest in wider problems and try to solve our difficulties within the context of these wider problems, there is no doubt that we can carry the people and the country with us in solving our problems.

It will not be out of place to reproduce here how President Eisenhower during his visit to India concluded his address before a vast gathering on 13th December in Delhi. This is what he said: "Here will be almost half a billion free man and women well-embarked on economic expansion, the productivity of your farmers will have increased immensely. Their standard of living will rise. You will be turning out textiles, metals and manufacturing goods to help meet multiplied demands of world ever growing in its economic appetite. You will be building houses and schools and hospitals and places of worship, centres of creation and culture on a scale possibly never before dreamt of even here and you will be doing this without abandoning your freedom in favour of forced regimentation. All that I can say is God bless you, Mr. President. That is our desire too and we expect this dream to be realised." President Eisenhower has read into our future. May I say that this is the dream we all cherish. We shall make it a reality when we make up our mind and sit to work in all earnestness. The question before us is—shall we do it?

JAI HIND

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A. M. on Thursday, the 17th March, 1960.

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