

**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 Thursday, the 3rd March, 1960.

PRESENT

Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury, B. L., Speaker, in the chair eight Ministers, four Deputy Ministers and seventy-two Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Regarding promotion of Shri Girindra Kumar Bhattacharya of Supply Department

Shri PHANI BORA (Nowgong) asked :

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

- (a) Whether one Shri Girindra Kumar Bhattacharya entered service in the Supply (Accounts Office by suppressing his educational qualification) ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that he is not even Matriculate ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the last Deputy Director of Supply (Accounts) recommended his promotion to the post of Accountant although none of his predecessors recommended the same ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that he took very active part since 1951 in finalising the accounts of defunct Agencies ?
- (e) Whether Government are aware that great discontent prevails in Supply Accounts Office due to his promotion ?

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

3. (a)—No.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The last Deputy Director, Supply Accounts recommended him for promotion in 1955. It is not a fact that none of his predecessors recommended him for promotion. In fact he got promotions in 1948 and 1951.

(d)—The question is not understood. He is dealing in defunct agency matters since 1951 and doing his part of the job as distributed by his superior Officers.

(e)—No.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Number of Forests Reserve of Sibsagar Subdivision

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri)
asked :

3. Will the Minister, Forests be pleased to state—

(a) The number and names of each Forests Reserve of Sibsagar Subdivision ?

(b) The total acreage of each Forests Reserve ?

(c) The Total acreage dereserved from each Forest Reserve in Sibsagar Subdivision since 1949 ?

(d) The total acres of low-lying portion of each Reserve ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Forests) replied :

3. (a)—There are altogether seven Reserve Forests in Sibsagar Subdivision, viz.—

1. Deroi Reserved Forests.
2. Geleki Reserved Forests.
3. Panidehing Reserved Forests.
4. Abhoypur Reserved Forests.

5. Sola Reserved Forests.
6. Sapekhati Reserved Forests.
7. Dili Reserved Forests.

(b)—Area of each Reserve Forests is as follows—

				Acres
1. Deroi Reserved Forests	...	...	...	11,940
2. Geleki Reserved Forests	...	...	...	14,640
3. Panidehing Reserved Forests	...	...	...	10,586.75
4. Abhoypur Reserved Forests	...	...	...	16,637
5. Sola Reserved Forest	...	...	...	1,688
6. Sapekhati Reserved Forests	...	...	...	1,840
7. Dili Reserved Forests	...	...	...	7,488.32

(c)—165.25 acres from Panidehing Reserve.

(d)—The total acreage of low-lying area in each Reserved Forest is as follows.—

				acres
1. Panidehing Reserve Forest	...	...	...	1,000
2. Deroi Reserve Forest	...	...	...	400
3. Sepekhati Reserve Forest	...	...	...	133
4. Abhoypur Reserve Forest	...	...	...	133
5. Geleki Reserve Forest	...	...	...	Nil
6. Sola Reserve Forest	...	...	...	Nil
7. Dili Reserve Forest	...	...	...	Nil

Assessment of Land Revenue in Mangaldai and Kharupatia

Md. MATLEBUDDIN (Dalgaon) asked:

4. Will the Revenue Minister be pleased to state—

(a) When the assessment of Land Revenue of Mangaldai and Kharupatia towns was made?

(b) On what basis these assessment were made?

(c) Whether there are any specific rules following which the assessments have been made?

(d) Whether it is a fact that the Land Revenue of Kharupatia is the highest in comparison with the other towns in the Mangaldai Subdivision?

(e) If so, why?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Revenue Minister) replied:

4. (a)—1. Mangaldai	...	...	...	1932
2. Kharupatia	...	...	...	1955

(b)—1. The last resettlement of Mangaldai town was made under the town settlement rules current at the time, on the basis of the annual value of the land in case of trade and residential site and on soil unit system for agricultural land, and (2) Resettlement of Kharupatia Town has been made in the year 1955 under the provisions of sections 14 to 21 of the Assam Land Revenue Reassessment Act, 1936 in Chapter III of the Act (Reassessment of town lands).

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—The letting and selling value of land on which the assessment is based is higher in Kharupatia than in the other towns of the Subdivision which were assessed in 1955. The towns which were assessed in 1930-32 (Pre-war period) cannot be compared with this town as during that period letting and selling values of the land of those towns were comparatively low.

Rat menace in villages of Upper Assam

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) asked :

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

(a) Whether Government is aware that rat menace is prevalent in almost every village of Upper Assam?

(b) What steps Government is taking to kill the rats?

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

5. (a) No.

(b) Poison for rat killing is stored with all the field staff of Agriculture Department.

Total area of Assam State

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH asked :

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

(a) The total area of Assam State at present ?

(b) The total paddy cultivable area ?

(c) The total paddy planted area ?

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

6. (a)—The total area after excluding N-E. F. A., and Naga Hills is 45,767 square miles.

(b)—Information not available as no survey has been made.

(c)—During 1958-59 about 43,36,200 acres were grown under different kinds of paddy.

Growing of Tapioca in Assam Soil

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS [North Salmara (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] asked :

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

(a) Whether Tapioca can be grown in Assam Soil successfully ?

(b) Whether any attempt has been made to grow this article of food in our State and if so, in which areas of the State this is grown ?

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

7. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes. At present it is grown in Goalpara, Kamrup, Darrang, United Mikir and North Cachar Hills, United Khasi and Jaintia Hills and Mizo Districts of the State.

Speaker's presentation of the Report of the Business Advisory Committee for the current session of the Assembly

Mr. SPEAKER: Under rule 230 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Assam Legislative Assembly, I beg to report to the House that the Business Advisory Committee held two sittings one on the 16th February, 1960 and the other on the 27th February, 1960.

At the first sitting of the Committee held on the 16th February, a rough outline of the Programme upto 1st April, 1960 was chalked out as notices of full business from all the Government Departments were not forthcoming then. A copy of that rough outline was already circulated to each hon. Member. In the meantime requests were received from some of the Muslim Members of the House that their Id-Ul-Fitr festival which depends on the rising of the moon being likely to fall on the 29th March, there should be a small adjournment of the Session, so that the Muslim Members may celebrate the function along with their family members at their respective homes. With this background, the Committee held its second sitting on the 27th February, 1960 when the full list of Government Business received from the Departments were placed before it.

The Committee after considering the full facts decided that after conclusion of the sitting of the House on the 26th March, 1960 when the Budget, the Appropriation and the Finance Bills would be passed, the Session should adjourn till the 1st April 1960. After resumption of the Session on the Second April, it may continue till the 11th April, 1960. A copy of the detailed Programme has been placed on each hon. Member's table which I need not recapitulate here as the full course of business for the current Session and the days allotted for transacting the different classes of business will be seen therefrom.

Debate on the Governor's Address

***Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh)** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this time the Governor's Address was rather dull and insipid. It is bound to be so because the Address itself left us where we were. The Address has failed to give us the prosperous, happy and United Assam. The Governor's Address is not just a ceremonial affair. Constitutionally

and conventionally the Governor's Address is a policy statement of the Government. In a parliamentary democratic form of Government the basic policy is chalked out by the major party. Now, here the Congress are running the administration by virtue of their having won the election. In their election manifesto they obtained the verdict of the people that they are going to develop the country in the best manner possible in accordance with their election manifesto—that is what Planning means. Now we are in the fag end of the Second Five Year Plan but up till now we have not even achieved what we expected from the first Plan. It shows that we have failed in both these Plans. If we have failed, what steps are going to be taken to make good the failures? The Governor's Address is completely silent about it. In my opinion, it is evident that our Government have refused to recognise the basic problems of the State. The basic problems of our State and for that matter, of every State in the country which is reeling under the yoke of backwardness and ignorance, is, firstly, land reforms, intensive and extensive land reforms. Second, development of transport and communications, and third, development of industries.

Now, what do we find in the Governor's Address? It did not mention anything about extensive land reforms measures. The basic idea of land reforms is to utilise lands to the maximum capacity possible for the entire benefit of the people. But what do we find in Assam? If one goes to all parts of Assam one will find vast areas of unused land, waste lands, unclassified forest reserves lying waste and unused. Up till now Government have not been able to make even the survey of what area of land can be brought under cultivation; what area of land can be made cultivable after reclamation. No survey has been made up till now and with the present Revenue Department it will take another 50 years to complete the survey itself. Unless we use the land properly to benefit the people, no advance in whatever form can be expected.

***Shri HARESWAR DAS (Revenue Minister):** For the information of the hon. Member I can say that a Committee in this connection has already been constituted and their report is likely to be presented shortly.

***Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh):** Now, Sir, so far as land measures which we have already been taken up, it is correct that we have passed some land laws, for example, Adhjar Protection and Regulation Act, but if we compare our land laws with those of other States we can say that our land laws are more progressive than most other States. But the sorry part of it is that in most cases these laws and regulations are not implemented. It is true the Adhjar Protection and Regulation Act is in the Statute Book but it is not implemented. Similarly we have passed a law for abolition of Zamindaries in 1951, but up till now land has not been given to the tillers. In most cases of Zamindari areas even the record of rights have not been completed.

***Shri HARESWAR DAS :** Again for the information of the hon. Member I may say that in the Zamindari areas no land was wasted by the Zamindars. All lands were settled.

***Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR :** But they have not been distributed. In some cases even the forest land has not been formally handed over to the Forest Department.

***Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue):** The question of distribution of waste land in the Zamindari areas does not arise at all as there is no waste land.

***Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh):** In Government records there may be no waste land, but if the Minister cares to visit the Zamindari areas he will surely find enough waste land in many areas.

***Shri HARESWAR DAS:** I am afraid the hon. Member has not got a clear idea about the Zamindari areas. The Zamindari areas comprise only 15 lakh acres. Even the entire Goalpara district is not Zamindari area; only two-thirds of the district is under Zamindari.

***Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR:** We find that even now land laws have not been implemented in all the Zamindari areas. From 1951-59, we found that in the district of Cachar the Zamindars were evicting the peasants. This process continued till 1959. Extensive land reform measures are essential. Unless we make the tillers of the soil owners of the land, the agriculturists, who form the major part of the population about 85 per cent will have no purchasing power in their hands and their economic condition cannot improve. Therefore, even if we establish industries, the industries will not get that fillip. Now, if land is given to the tillers, extensive land reform measures are undertaken and the entire land properly utilised, that will put in motion a cycle which will give more purchasing power in the hands of the vast majority of the people, namely the agriculturists, which will in turn give a fillip to the development of industries.

The second important item is the development of transport and communications. Assam is a frontier State and from that angle alone our transport system should be more developed. We have only an old meter gauge railway link with the rest of India. Formerly in the British days we had another link and that was our main artery the Brahmaputra. For political reasons after partition this vital link has been almost out of commission. Therefore, unless we develop our transport system, this part of the country cannot be developed and we can catch up with the other States. This question of development of transport loomed large before us when the people of Assam demanded a large oil refinery in Assam. That demand was sought to be resisted by raising the slogan of a product pipeline. Now, Sir, we know that the product pipeline is a luxury which can be afforded only by highly developed countries like America and some of the European countries. Here we have neither a product pipeline nor a developed transport and so we did not get a major refinery. We have got only a baby refinery which is a consolation prize in the competition between Barauni and Assam. So, unless we develop our transport system no industry is going to be established. As my friend Mr. Bhattacharyya said Assam can specialise only in two aspects, in agriculture, minerals and forest produce. We cannot specialise in major industries. So if Assam is to be built up we should develop our agriculture, minerals and forest products. For this also, development of transport is essential. The basic purpose of the First-Five Year Plan was extensive land reform measures, irrigation and development of transport, so that the basis of industrialisation can be laid. But during the period of First-Five Year Plan not a single mile of railway line was laid; the Public Works Department was carrying on with only regular routine, maintenance of roads and only some villages roads were constructed. The major period of the Second-Five Year Plan is also over, but we have not done much in that direction. Unless we make up this gap no industry is going to be developed. For example,

we have enormous forest resources. To take one aspect only tea chests Assam requires 35 lakh tea chests annually. We can produce about 50 lakhs tea chests, but we have actually produced only 21 lakhs. For the rest we export timber to Bengal. These tea chests are produced and re-exported to Assam. If we had a developed transport system we could not only produce the entire demand of our tea chests but could have also exported some to the other tea and coffee growing areas of the country. Then, Sir, here we have got enormous resources for paper pulp and paper. The Industries Division of the Planning Commission works out that the total requirement of paper at the end of the Third Five Year plan period will be to the tune of 7 lakh tons, for which the installed capacity of the mills should be nine lakh tons. At the conclusion of the Second Five Year Plan period the total production of paper in India will be to the tune of 3 lakh tons only. In Assam we have tremendous possibilities in that direction. But unless we develop our transport we will not be able to take advantage of our raw materials and resources. We have the raw materials, we have people who are prepared to work and learn and become technicals. The only difficulty standing in the way is our transport system. Unless Government recognises this fact and takes steps to improve the transport system our State cannot develop.

So far as communication is concerned, I may point out one fact here. The hon. Members from the Mizo Hills District were consistently voicing their apprehension of a Mautam famine visiting the Lushai Hills, the indication for which was the flowering of bamboos. The Government came out with a report from experts in Dehra Dun that bamboo flowering was a regular feature every 30 or 40 years and that there was no cause for apprehension on that score. But had that warning been heeded.

***M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply):** When was that statement made?

***Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh):** That was made in the Budget Session in 1957 and also in 1958.

***M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY :** That is not a fact.

***Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR :** The Hon'ble Minister may consult the Assembly proceedings, and he will find out.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : The proceedings are correct but the reproduction of the hon. Member is not correct.

***Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR :** They said that this was referred to Dehra Dun and the experts therefore said this was a common feature and there was no connection between flowering of bamboos and famine. Now, Government is possibly spending near about 3 crores of rupees for alleviating the distress in the Mizo Hills. Had only one crore been spent for development of communications in the Mizo Hills District, the crisis could have been averted to a great extent. Even after spending 3 crores of rupees suffering and starvation are still there among the Mizo people. We neglected this aspect, viz., the development of road transport. Then, Sir, unless we develop our communications we cannot link up the villages and hinterland with towns and suburbs. During the harvesting season, paddy sells

at four to five rupees in the hinterland whereas in the towns and suburbs the price is seven to eight rupees. So, unless we develop our communications we cannot give a fair price to the agriculturists for their produce in the hinterland. Unless this gap is made up whatever plan we may take will go to pieces. This is the only solid base on which industries can be built. Then another important factor is the cheap production of power. We have tremendous possibilities for cheap production of power in our State. Our State, I think, is the richest State so far as hydro potentialities are concerned. But we have not tapped them. We hear about the Kopili Valley Project, but up till now the investigation of that project has not been completed. If the Government of India gave a suggestion to the State Government to set up a Corporation for the purpose of investigation and if the suggestion has been taken up in right earnest, a Corporation would have been established and we can have definite programme for the Kopili Valley Project and if the Kopili Valley Project materialises we can electrify the whole of Assam including the rural areas. It is by supplying cheap electric power that we can develop our cottage industries. Unless we develop transport and communications and supply cheap electric to the village people the cottage industries cannot be developed. For example, we have sufficient stock of bamboos and our village people are experienced in bamboo and cane works. A certain American technician who came recently to Assam told that he was prepared to purchase 10 lakhs of bamboo hand bags. But I am afraid we cannot produce this quantity even in five years' time because the people have no machines, they have to do the work by hand. Unless electric energy is given to the villagers in order that they can work with machines, otherwise without this process this industry cannot be developed. There are certain vital measures, these are land reforms, development of cottage industries and production of cheap power and development of transport and communications. Unless these factors are taken up by Government we cannot have industries. By having one paper pulp industry here and one cement factory there we cannot solve our problem. The whole country's economy is dependent on different industries and unless we can have this economy, the State can never progress. In the whole of the Governor's we did not find any mention of this thing. Of course some bright features were there in his Address and one of them was the strong determination of the Government to carry on with State Trading on food-grains. As far as State Trading is concerned, I quite congratulate the Government on this project, but I do not think that the scheme is as easy as the Government thinks. They will get opposition from every quarter including their own ranks. The State Trading will be a failure unless they have courage and determination to carry out the scheme successfully. I can cite a few figures: According to the orthodox calculation in the district there is surplus in every district there has been a stock in the neighbourhood of about 30 lakhs maunds of paddy through the Co-operative Marketing Society and the Apex Marketing Society which went into operation have been able to purchase to the tune of 11 lakhs maunds. Where has the rest gone? The Minister Supply will please collect the information.

***M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply):** We have purchased up to 27th February, 1960 about 13,47,000 maunds of paddy. Therefore, I do not think that they have done bad if 30 thousand maunds is the total marketing surplus. Every bit of grain sold to the Co-operative Marketing Societies will be sold to the ordinary consumers in the town.

***Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh)** : So it is found that less than 50 per cent. Where has rest been gone ? Here we find that there is a huge stock which is in the hands of the merchants ; they will dictate the price because they will watch the situation when Government stock is exhausted. Is not a dangerous thing ? Therefore, this State Trading is not going to be on easy success the Government think. I am giving the Government a mild caution that in forming the Co-operative Marketing Societies and Apex Marketing Societies, the genuine services of the officers should be considered and no political bias should stand in the way. Therefore, Government should muster all strength to make the State Trading a success.

Now, Sir, for the implementation of all these programmes, *viz.*, land reforms, road transport and all that, two conditions are necessary. The first condition is that in this frontier State of ours, we should have peaceful and good neighbourly relations with other States. In the Governor's Address, it has been mentioned, and I am very glad, that a dispute between our country and China on the Chinese Border issue is going to be settled and it is expected that it will be solved peacefully by negotiations. We are very happy to learn that the Chinese Premier has accepted the invitation of our Prime Minister, and we believe that through negotiations this problem will be solved. It has also been mentioned in the address that the relation with Pakistan has improved. But no mention about the Naga situation has been made in the address although the hostility is going on which, I think, Government should give prior attention. Even after the transfer of the Naga land to the Centre we have still to maintain a large force for guarding the railway line and the entire border. Unless the cost of guarding is reduced, some of our nation building activities will come to a standstill. The entire burden of dealing with the Naga problem should be shifted to the Centre, even for guarding the railway line between the Naga land and Assam. Whatever it might be, two things are essential. One is a very efficient and upright administrative machinery. Can we call our administrative machinery efficient ? Certainly it is not. It has been discussed and admitted on all hands that wishes of the people. We cannot expect this administrative machinery to be responsive to the people unless it is carried on with fairness and impartiality. Can we say that we have done like that ? But what we find here, first of all the Government personnel should be kept satisfied in the matter of issuing an order for any grievance. Last year we find that Government orders were issued putting the Government employees under suspension. We must give the Government employees a moral standard and this standard should be prescribed for the officers. I am just giving a few instances. Take for instance, the case of the Director of Health Services. This officer had two extension after the expiry of his service. But after the two extensions he has been made a liaison officer and has become subsequently an expert for industrialisation. Again we find in Jamils Mauza, in Dibrugarh Subdivision in 1957 that Government have taken a decision to start a Primary Health Centre and for that purpose medical experts including the District Health Officers, the Civil Surgeon and one Professor of the Assam Medical College along with the Director of Health Services visited the area and selected a plot of land and requisitioned the same and the building was about to be started. But an objection was made by a Congress lady and two other followers and one of the followers was connected with opium smuggling. They made a representation to the Minister.

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** The wearer knows where the shoe pinches.

***Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Nowgong):** After that they said that they were not going to have that plot of land. They suggested another plot of land which is an abandoned cremation ground. But up till now, no decision has been taken by Government on this issue. My suggestion is let the people themselves decide, let the plebiscite of the people decide it. I know in this case, there is a letter from the Ministry of Health to the Civil Surgeon to allot a plot of land in consultation with the Congress President. I am yet to know about this. Am I to accept the Congress President as an expert? Can I call this act as impartiality?

There can be no solution in between. If it is a matter of administrative machinery we find the defects in it. Can it be called an efficient administration? Take a recent instance. The Municipal Act gives power to Government to nominate members for appointment as Municipal Commissioners. There is provision in the Constitution that there should be representation from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. For Dibrugarh Municipality recently the nominations have been announced. One lady of backward classes was nominated and she stood from three different wards. But subsequently for fear of losing the security she withdrew. Whereas there are many Scheduled Caste people in the Dibrugarh Town. Another gentleman was also nominated to the Municipal Board with a view to give fillip to the man of their own group. The administration is politically divided. In this way how this administration can be efficient. It is bound to be corrupt. It is leaning from this group to that group. Whatever rules and laws are passed, we shall not be able to discharge the obligation to the people. Whatever plan we make our country will not progress. It will remain in a backward state. We must carry on the industrial development. We must lay the foundation of the basic industries. There is no research in our industries. Year after year our problem with regard to basic industry is cropping up.

Our Government has accepted the Rhino as the symbol of our State. The characteristic of the Rhino and that of the Assam Government is identical. The characteristics of the Rhinos are (1) when the Rhino charges at anything it rushes direct to the victims; it does not look to this side or that side. So is the case with our Government also. They do not care to take the wishes of the people into account and whatever they do they do it against the reaction of the people. Secondly the Rhino associates with the members of its own class or category and hates everything else. So is the case with our Government. They associate themselves with their own people in order to give help to their own members. And the third and most important characteristic is the skin of the Rhino which is so thick that nothing can penetrate. Here also, whatever argument, whatever reasons or whatever examples you put forward before the Government they will never be convinced. With these words Sir, I commend the amendment which has been moved by my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Now Mr. Choudhury.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Food and Agriculture, etc.): Mr. Speaker Sir, I am extremely grateful to the hon. Members for their taking great interest in State Trading. I quite agree with them that the State Trading is a difficult job. I personally feel that we have undertaken a very different and onerous job and there are occasions when I personally feel whether I am upto the task of piloting this great scheme. No doubt State Trading is a difficult job. So also the policy of bringing about the Socialistic Pattern of Society. For millions of years our people are accustomed to private trade and to the private capital. The existence of private capital in this country is almost as old as India is. We want to change the private capital, we want to bring about the Socialistic Pattern of Society. To bring about such a dynamic change through Democracy through persuasion, is no doubt a very difficult job. In other countries of the world, such experiments were made through dictatorship through iron curtain system. But in our country, we are trying to experiment this through peaceful means, through persuasion and in a democratic manner. In this country everybody is free to obstruct any experiment any change, however good it may be, if he is within his rights provided he does not infringe law and order. Therefore whenever we talk of changing our pattern of society or to revolutionize it we have to face lots of opposition. In these oppositions there are no restrictions. As such when we talk of changing to a system or other or talk of changing the private capital or taking to State Trading we get the opposition from various quarter. They create all sorts of obstructions. But I can tell my friends that the Congress and the Government are determined to bring about Socialistic Pattern of Society. In the Nagpur Session of the Congress we were called upon to implement the policy of State Trading. But the resolution on the Socialistic Pattern of Society was adopted earlier in the Avadi Session in Madras. Accordingly the Governments were called upon to take to State Trading. Assam is the first State in India which has taken up State Trading in its entirety. It is no doubt a very difficult task to implement this policy. It is difficult because we are inexperienced right from the administration down to the people. Because we donot know the intricacies of trade. Therefore, Sir, how this State Trading can be made successful should be discussed thoroughly.

What are the difficulties of State Trading? When you take to it, first of all, you have got to face the difficulties created by the interested persons viz., the traders. Naturally they oppose it because they are personally affected. But that is not all. All their employees, agents and middlemen whose interests are largely encroached upon along with the introduction of this venture, start opposing it. Not only this, even the rich cultivators do not welcome state trading. A rich cultivator does not sell his paddy at Rs.5 or so immediately after harvesting. He can hold his stock to be sold in lean months when the prices are high as high as Rs.12 or Rs.13. All such people are local people. Naturally the opposition created by them is great which often shakes the best and the bravest of the supporters of State trading. He thinks possibly what Congress or Government is doing is not to the interest of the country. But we must remember we have not taken to state trading for the benefit of these people but for giving protection to that small man in the village who is cheated, who is compelled to sell his paddy at Rs.5 per maund. The second difficulty is to find out the requisite finance which was not so easy a job at the initial stage. The whole amount has got to be found out from within the State. Our problem is not confined to the problem of finding out the price of

35 lakh maunds of paddy to be purchased through the Apex Marketing Society but three times of $3\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees because the Apex will have to purchase all the marketable surplus. So, it became a serious problem with the Government. The next difficulty is about organisation. The procurement is being made through Service Co-operatives and other Village Co-operative Societies including Credit Societies. No individual is appointed as agent except in the initial stage as a temporary measure till the formation of Service Co-operatives. These Village Co-operatives have to be given initial advances for enabling them to carry on purchases efficiently. Similarly, Marketing Societies have to be financed. The most of the Co-operatives were new. Their internal resources were negligible. They were completely dependent on the money to be arranged and supplied from State Co-operative Apex Bank the resources of which are naturally limited.

The Apex Marketing Societies and the Sub-Agent Village Co-operatives faced great difficulties in accepting the paddy which were not of the standard quality particularly in Mangaldoi and some other places where the cultivators were not used to sell paddy after cleaning the same. The Marketing Societies had to be compelled by circumstances to purchase sub-standard paddy in the village market to avoid resentment of the cultivators and traders. Again, Sir, none of us are traders ; so we have got to acquire some more experience before we can deal with such trade successfully. Such are the inexperienced people who started Co-operative Societies. These problems which we had to face at the initiative stage. But with the lapse of time we will gain experience. By doing this sort of work we shall learn how to overcome these difficulties.

Another difficulty we are facing, is the psychological resistance. There are people who do not like any change. They want life to be peaceful. Naturally when we try to bring about a new pattern of society they resist passively and often actively. This is one of the causes why even many middle class cultivators are luke warm about the whole thing.

We are living in a democratic State. Traders are free to oppose the State Trading policy of the Government. Many of them have entered the co-operatives and are trying to break it from inside. Some of them are propagating lawlessness and openly inciting the people to oppose State Trading. No Government can function properly if law and order situation is not maintained properly. Law and order cannot be maintained unless and until the people co-operate with the Government, because we are not living in a Dictatorial State. But it is unfortunate that in this effort of the Government to save them from the clutches of the selfish traders, some hon. Members of this House are not co-operating with Government and some of them have taken part in misguiding people not to co-operate with the Government in order to make the whole scheme unsuccessful. There is opposition from traders, there is opposition from the rich cultivators and there is opposition from some of the Members of the House belonging to opposition coming from Mangaldoi against the State Trading Policy.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): This is not.....
Mr. SPEAKER: I want to draw the attention of the hon. Member to Rule 275(II) of the Rules of Procedure. If he is doing the same in future he will have to make a statement according to the rules.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY: I should like to inform the hon. Minister that the Opposition has come from the Government officers also.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Food and Agriculture, etc.): I do not agree to this; they have no right to oppose. Sir, there were people who tried to create confusion. My Friend Shri Hira Lal Patwary, M. L. A., complained that some traders have entered the co-operatives and they are doing all sorts of mischiefs. This is possibly true about his own place Tangla. In the Tangla Co-operative Society in Mangaldai there are 3 Patwaries. Who are these Patwaries can only be explained by my Friend Shri Hiralal Patwari. Public meetings were organised by so called responsible people including Shri Patwary asking the people not to help the Government; in many places Government officers were insulted. In Harisinga, one Sub-Inspector of Supply was attacked by a mob led by a Mill owner. A Co-operative officer was assaulted in another place in Mangaldoi, Sir, to revert to Tangla Marketing Society, I have brought the original papers. There are three Patwaries. First Patwary is Shri Piarilal, S/O Pannalal Patwary, profession business (ব্যবসায়) the second is Shri Sankarlal, S/O Shri Bejraj Patwary, profession business (ব্যবসায়) and the third is Shri Krishnalal Patwary S/O Shri Bejraj. My friend Shri Hiralal Patwari comes from the same family with these Patwaries.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): I object

Mr. SPEAKER: As I have already requested you not to interrupt any member while speaking.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, we cannot prevent any traders joining a Co-operative Society. Co-operative movement is a peoples' movement, by the people, for the people. Government cannot go on interfering with the activities or the internal affairs of Co-operatives. As such when some traders join a Co-operative and create difficulties, as has been complained about Tangla, the only course open normally, is to remove them from the position of vantage by the members of that Co-operative itself.

A Co-operative can be free from the undesirable activities on the part of a few trader members of it only when large number of people join it. Then and there only it can function properly. We expect that Co-operatives which have been formed recently will behave well, will act well and up to the expectation when more people will join them then of all of us it will be possible to free the Co-operatives from the activities of such traders. But we cannot free them we cannot clear the agents in a day. We have no power in our hand by which we can do so immediately.

Sir, in the last year, in course of my speech, in this House when I referred to about the activities of one S. S. Patwari Company of Tangla my friend Shri Hiralal Patwari M. L. A., was angry. He said that he had no connection with it and he was not a trader. I will be very happy if he clarify before us who are the owners of that S. S. Patwari and Company and who are these Patwaries who are trying to capture the Tangla Marketing Society? Sir it is his complaint that the Co-operatives have become the organisations of the traders and Government are taking their help. At the same time, Sir, he himself is trying to capture the Tangla marketing Co-operative with his own family members and the owners of S. S. Patwary and Co. I have got the record to show his connection with S. S. Patwary and Co. My friend denied that he had any connection with it. But then Sir, Supply Secretary's note in this file in my

hand will show that he approached him on behalf of the S. S. Patwary and Co. which is a rice dealer of Mangaldai, sole supplier of rice to Mangaldai Tea Garden and requested the Supply Secretary to do certain things including handing over of the order to him. But now he comes and says here that he is not a trader but a great patriot. When a man suffers from contradictions his professions and his speeches are different, when a trader wants us to believe that he is a benefactor of common man he is bound to behave in this way. Therefore, his speeches are different than his profession. When he goes out of this House he is a trader but when he comes here he a great patriot posing to oppose private trade. He tries to mislead the people when he goes to Mangaldai, asking them not to help the State Trading.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): On a point of order, Sir. মাননীয় নতুন মহোদয়ে, যি কথা উল্লেখ কৰিছে তাৰ প্ৰমাণ দিব পাৰেনে ?

Mr. SPEAKER: Where is the point of order ?

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY: Sir, this is a personal and false attack. I have no concern with this S. S. Patwari and Co. and secondly Sir, I have never approached the Supply Secretary to hand over the paper of S. S. Patwari and Co. to me. Sir, this is a personal attack.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I would request the Hon'ble Minister also that it is better not to enter into any controversial thing which concerns outside the House.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Food and Agriculture, etc.): I am not referring to anything which occurred outside the House, Sir.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): I want to clarify the point. The point is that when any paper is read or referred to that paper should be on the table of the House so that it may be scrutinised as to whether the Minister is speaking the truth or speaking the untruth because unless and until the paper is available to the House that paper cannot be referred to.

My second point is that when a Member is alleged something and when a member stands up and disowns it, it is the custom of the House to accept the statement of the Member. Now here my friend Shri Patwari says that he has got no connection with this S. S. Patwari and Co. Therefore on the face of it that should be accepted by the Minister unless and until he can prove it by certain papers which may lay on the table of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: I also agree with that. Whenever certain papers are read, those papers should, in the beginning, be placed on the table of the Assembly, and also should be given to the Speaker so that I can also have some scrutiny into it. Then again, when a Member denies something or contradicts something, I think no Member, in the course of any debate, should refer it again.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Food and Agriculture, etc.): Sir, with regard to the Tangla Marketing Society, about which I have just referred to, I am placing the file with original papers on the table of the House. Now, so far as my friend's statement that he is not a partner of S. S. Patwari and Co., I have no other alternative but to accept it. But I am placing the original file showing his such connection first on the table of the House and then I am read in it Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Unless it is established by due enquiry, I think the report cannot be accepted.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Sir, the then Supply Secretary put up a note.....

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Even note cannot come to the House. You can use in Government offices but not in the Assembly. That is not a public document.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have already given my ruling on that point. If you want to utilise the note written by the Secretary to the Minister regarding this report then the hon. Member should be given the opportunity to explain his conduct whether these things are fact or not. You give him an opportunity to contradict it. I think the remarks made by the Secretary cannot be used here.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I do not dispute your ruling Sir. But I must respectfully point out when the hon. Member denied he had approached the Supply Secretary. I must also point out from record that such and such people approached the Supply Secretary for such and such thing.

Mr. SPEAKER: When he had denied that he had never been to the Supply Secretary and never asked the people not to co-operate, why you insinuate on it ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Sir, I do not insist on it. But I only want to say that he also approached me on behalf of that Company. My only intention is to point out the conduct of some people who behave in different manners in different places, so that public can appreciate the values of their speeches and the values of the banner headlines they sometime draw in the News Papers. It is necessary that such people should be assessed properly. Sir, I do not want to spend the useful time of this house on this point any further.

I was telling, Sir, in the beginning the Co-operatives had to face lots of difficulties in various matters; difficulties created by men, difficulties created by circumstances and difficulties created by inexperience. Top of it Sir, because there had not been organisations in all places, the Service co-operatives had to be formed in great hurry as we took to the policy of new. Some of them were not by that time strong enough. These Service Co-operatives were gathered the necessary experience. Some people created difficulties thinking that Government would abandon the policy of State Trading out of fear. They doubled their efforts but we did not abandon. We were ready to face the difficulties whatever might come on the way of State Trading.

We were determined to solve the problems resulting in Sir, I myself, my Deputy Minister, Co-operative, the Secretary of the Co-operation Department, Secretary, Supply, Joint Director of Supply and the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and other top officers of the Government visited different places all over Assam and tried to solve the problems that had arisen out of State Trading at the spot. As a result of this, Sir, various local problems were solved in very many places small problems of dislocations, problems of non-co-ordination were solved speedily.

Sir, I am just going to give an idea as to how much money has been placed at the disposal of the Co-operatives. To Assam Co-operative Apex Marketing Society we have given 85 lakhs of rupees of which 20 lakhs is a clear advance to the Apex Bank. In turn the said Society had allocated most of this amount to various local Societies of Nowgong, Gauhati, Nalbari, Tezour, Mongoldoi, North Lakhimpur Cachar, etc., so that the local Marketing Societies can work more efficiently through the village Co-operatives. In this connection I would like to point out before the House, Sir, that as many as nearly 1,500 Service Co-operative and other village societies are engaged in the work of State Trading. Over them about 77 primary Marketing Societies were working. After touring these areas it was found Sir, that the initial advance given to the Assam Apex Marketing Society, viz., the clear advance of 10 lakhs, should be increased. It has been increased to 20 lakhs of rupees now, I hope Sir there will not be much difficulty with regard to money after that. In each place local Committees have been formed with people connected with State Trading both of the Supply Department and of the Co-operatives to help solution of the day to day problems on the spot. They have been asked to take decision on the spot and not to refer matters to Government unnecessarily.

There have been certain difficulties about bags. As a result of the police of export taken by the Government of India prices of bags went up very much. Assam Apex Co-operative Marketing Society was finding great difficulty in getting the bags regularly. But this point has now been solved. These problems were there.

Sir, I do not minimise the difficulties because if we minimise the difficulties then possibly it will be very difficult to make a real success of the State Trading. I have already said, Sir, that we are going to change the mode of life of the people, the habits of the people and fact we are trying to revolutionise the whole society through peaceful means. Such a thing can be done by telling the people more of the advantages of State Trading than its difficulties. It is not by telling the difficulties to the people we can make the scheme a success. It requires a lot of psychological preparation on the part of the people and that psychological preparation can possibly be done by under-living the advantages of State Trading. All out efforts made by all of us can make State Trading a success. I am very happy that this House is one with us in our policy of State Trading. I would seek their full co-operation in this matter.

Two problems have been raised here and a lot of emphasis has been given to them. Some of the hon. Members think that the price of paddy fixed by the Government is much less than what it should be and again some of the hon. Members feel that there should not be any cut in the paddy in the beginning of the year. There are certain cuts in the price of

the paddy which should not be there. Some friends feel that we have given too much concession to the Millers in fixing the out-turn of rice from paddy. Sir, it is an established fact that price of paddy should be fixed at such a level as would assure a grower of economic price for his produce else his incentive to bring about a progressive and lasting improvement of his production will be entirely lost. With a view to fixing fair price of paddy for growers Government appointed in the year 1959, a Milling Enquiry Committee to examine and suggest to Government a reasonable price for growers a parity in prices of paddy and rice by fixing out-turn of paddy and a reasonable rate of milling charge to be paid to the millers.

The Committee consisted of 3 members. The Secretary, Agriculture, Shri Mohini Phukan, was the Chairman of the Committee, and the Director of Statistics, Shri Sarma and the Joint Director of Supply Shri K. Bhattacharjee were the Members of this Committee. Wide publication was given about the formation of this Committee. It was published in the *Assam Gazette*. It was circulated by the Director of Publicity in the form of a Press Note. It was published in the news papers also. The Committee issued a questionnaire and all these problems were referred to in the questionnaire. I understand, the questions were circulated to the hon. Members of this House and to a large number of public. The Committee received replies to the questions. Some of the hon. Members like Shri Tarun Sen Deka, now taking all sorts of objections did not care to reply to the questions. If he would have done so possibly it would have been much better. Anyway I do not find fault with him. He might not have taken it seriously or possibly he did not realise its importance. In any case I can tell him that nothing has been done arbitrarily.

This Committee visited various parts of the State. They examined, I understand, about 100 witnesses during their enquiry. They made actual experiments at various places with paddy in the Mills to determine the out-turn of rice. They consulted many of our hon. Members and other public men as to what the outturn of rice to paddy would be and carried the experiments in their presence. Ultimately this Committee submitted its report. Government had accepted the recommendations of the Committee partially. The Committee recommended a milling charge of Re.1 for Arua rice and Rs.1.25 nP. for Ushna rice which the Government did not accept. Government fixed it at 0.87 nP.

The Committee visited important districts and subdivisions of the State in order to get first-hand knowledge of the various problems connected with the enquiry. In the course of these tours they met leading members of the public, members of the legislature, representatives of various associations, people representing cultivators and consumers' interest and rice milling industry, Government officials and other public bodies. In short, they interviewed a fairly representative cross section of population. In short, visited several rice mills of the State and supervised experimental milling operations and examined books and accounts of the rice manufacturing industries to ascertain milling costs and outturn of rice from different grades paddy. The guiding principle for the fixation of price of paddy was mainly stability and fair price for the producers and consumers. In doing it the Committee kept in mind all the factors like the cost of production, cost of the living, movement of prices in general and parity between the prices received and prices paid by the farmers.

Sir, a study of procurement prices of paddy in the post war period shows wide fluctuations from year to year varying from 6.50 nP. in 1945-46 to Rs.10.75 nP. in 1957-58. The movement of the index of parity between the prices received and prices paid by the farmers indicates that the terms of trade were definitely in favour of the farmers almost throughout the period since 1950. Even during the harvesting season of 1957-58 it was about 9 per cent above par. It was in the light of these and other considerations relating to the farm economy that the minimum price of paddy was initially fixed at Rs.9 per maund early in 1959. It is, however, interesting to note that since then the parity between prices received and prices paid has been maintained more or less at par and this prompted the continuance of more or less the same price level during 1959-60.

Sir, I have got a copy of the report of the index of the farmers with me for the period from January 1959 to December 1959. If it is liked, Sir, I can place it on the table so that it can form a part of my speech; if you like I can read it out also.

Mr. SPEAKER: Better you place it on my table.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply, etc.): Sir, I place on the table—

(STATEMENT PLACED ON THE TABLE BY M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY, MINISTER)
Parity index of the farmers
 (Base 1944—100)

Years and months	Price received by the farmer	Domestic expenditure by the farmers	Farm cultivation cost by the farmer	Prices paid by the farmer	Parity between prices received and prices paid by the farmer
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1959—January ..	131.4	146.2	135.1	142.5	92.2
February ..	137.2	149.9	135.7	145.0	94.6
March ..	141.7	150.2	146.2	145.4	97.5
April ..	149.5	151.1	137.8	146.6	102.0
May ..	149.2	154.0	137.6	148.4	100.5
June ..	148.4	157.2	137.8	150.5	98.6
July ..	153.5	159.3	136.6	151.8	101.1
August ..	152.6	159.9	138.5	152.5	100.1
September ..	154.0	161.4	137.2	153.0	100.6
October ..	154.3	160.3	138.6	152.8	101.0
November ..	149.5	156.3	138.2	150.1	99.6
December ..	146.4	153.0	137.7	147.7	99.1
Average ..	148.1	154.9	138.1	149.4	99.1

It would be seen from this that parity is in favour of the farmer. In fixing the price of paddy the Committee took into consideration the parity prices. It has been asserted here repeatedly that Government should take into consideration the cost of production in the Government farms in fixing the price of paddy. Sir, this was also taken into consideration. The cost of production in a large number of Government farms has been found to vary from Rs.10.00 to Rs.12.00 per maund. In the case of actual cultivator's farm it is bound to be much less because in Government farms the salaries of the officers, capital value of the property and every other thing are taken into account in calculating the cost of production. Then there is depreciation which is also taken into consideration in calculating the cost of production. No cultivator pays a salary of Rs.300.00 to Rs.800.00 per month for a farm manager but Government do pay it to the farm manager and other officers. So, Sir, the demand that the price of paddy of the cultivators should be equal to the cost of production is a wrong one. In a Government farm where officers have to be paid high salaries and depreciation of the property has to be accounted for naturally the cost of production will be high.

Sir, from experiment it has been seen that the actual cost of production of paddy of a cultivator comes to Rs.4.60 nP. per maund of Sali paddy; Rs.5.03 nP. in case of Ahu paddy. The cost of production in case of paddy produced in the I.T.A. fields is Rs.6.04 nP. per maund. Everybody knows that in the I.T.A. areas the labourers production per bigha is much less than in our village areas. They produce on average 4 to 5 maunds per bigha. The cost of production is not more than Rs.5 to Rs.6 in any case. That the cultivators are being paid a low sum is not correct. This question was discussed in the Food Advisory Council. We placed our whole scheme of procurement before the Food Advisory Council where the Leader of the Opposition Shri Hareswar Goswami was also present. Taking all the facts into consideration the Food Advisory Council recommended that the prices of paddy and rice should be what it had been last year. Even we then have given 4 annas more than the last year in Zone No. I and much more in other zones. The minimum price last year was only Rs.9 for all areas; we have given Rs. 9.25 for zone I, Rs. 9.50 zone II, and Rs.9.75 for zone III. It was felt that this would give a fair price to the growers.

Sir, the next question that has been projected in this House, is why there should be certain deductions, i.e., $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent in December, 5 per cent in January and $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent in February in respect of winter paddy and 7.5 per cent in June and 5 per cent in July with respect to Ahu paddy. There is nothing new in this; this has been in existence for a long time, long before the State Trading came into existence, possibly from the beginning of procurement. It is a known fact that paddy is full of moisture during the harvesting season or immediately thereafter. To purchase such paddy at full price will mean shortage in the godown later on due to shrinkage and Government will have to pay for water. That means a loss to the tax payers. If we pay Rs.9 in the month of December what shall we pay in the month of March? This was also agreed to by the Food Advisory Council in which all shades of opinion of this House were represented.

The next question that has been raised is about the outturn of rice. Grading of paddy is a pre-requisite for fixation of outturn of rice and unless

refraction in paddy coming into markets is standardised to the most practical limit variation in outturn of rice is inevitable. The Committee examined various samples of paddy and recommended that it should be free from impurities except to the extent I am just indicating :—

	Winter paddy	Ahu paddy
Dust, mud, sand, chaff and other similar matter.	2 per cent	5 per cent
Other grades of paddy ...	3.5 „	3.5 „

Government accepted the recommendation of the Committee. During the course of enquiry the Committee visited mills at Hojai, Gauhati, Titabar and Nahat and supervised milling operations of paddy to ascertain outturn of rice per maund of paddy conforming to the standard specification. The Committee recommended outturn of rice of standard specification, as follows, after fixing the degree of polish so that rice become popular :—

				Seers
Winter coarse rice Arua	...	...	..	25
Winter coarse rice Ushna	...	...	...	26
Winter fine rice Arua ...	...	...	...	24.5
Winter fine rice Ushna ...	..	...	...	25.5
Winter superfine rice Joha	...	...	...	23
Winter superfine rice Ushna	...	...	...	24
Ahu coarse rice Arua ...	...	..	...	22.5
Ahu coarse rice Ushna ...	...	...	..	23.5
Ahu superfine rice Arua..	...	...	...	21.5
Ahu superfine rice Ushna	...	...	...	22.5

Sir, that the Government has fixed the outturn at 22 seers as has been published in some newspapers and also stated by some of the responsible Members of this House including the Leader of the Opposition in course of their statements is not correct. It may be seen that the outturn of winter coarse rice (Arua) has been fixed at 25 seers per maund and in case of winter coarse rice (Ushna) it has been fixed at 26 seers per maund. It has been claimed by some hon. Members that the outturn of rice as fixed by the Committee is in theory but in practice it is different. According to them clean winter coarse paddy available in the State generally gives an outturn of 27—28 seers of rice per maund of paddy.

My friend Shri Deka has put it at 30 seers. Sir, I myself belong to a cultivator's family but I have never seen or heard of such an outturn. Even a maund of paddy in Dekki do not give 30 seers of rice (Shri Tarun Sen Deka—I said 28 to 30 seers).

Shri HIRALAL PATWARI (Panery): ধান কলত দিওঁতে হলাৰৰ (hauler) চাৰি টান কৰি দিলে এমোণ ধানৰ ১২৫ সেৰ চাউল পাৰ আৰু চাৰি টিলা কৰি দিলে ১২৭ সেৰ পাৰ। যোৰ লগত গলে মই মন্ত্ৰীক দেখুৱাব পাৰিম।

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Food and Agriculture, etc.) Even now he says upto 30 seers. But I say that by experiment in the presence of responsible leaders of the public, the Milling Enquiry Committee did not find it to be more than 26 seers in case of coarse ushna rice and 25 seers in case of winter coarse rice. By manipulating.....

Mr. SPEAKER: It is a matter of opinion. Shri Patwari should be included as a member in the Committee.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: The questionnaire was circulated to him for replies but we did not receive any reply or suggestions from him.

Sir, the Milling Enquiry Committee in fact, had to fix a polishing standard by actual milling in respect of each variety of paddy so that rice produced from it becomes acceptable to the consumers in general. According to the polishing standards so fixed they determined the outturn of each variety of paddy and fixed the specification of rice so produced by actual analysis done by experts. Now Sir, since there has been a lot of controversy over these matters and various people are thinking in different ways and some people are even thinking that Government has a soft heart for the millers, I have already passed orders for publishing the report of the Milling Enquiry Committee and it is now under printing. I shall place this report before the House if printed in time so that every hon. Member may have an opportunity to scrutinise it. I do not claim all wisdom for myself Sir. I was guided by this report in making my decisions. I would also like to have the nature advice of the hon. Members.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA মই মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ক জনাব খোজো যে Milling enquiry report টো ভুল তথ্যৰ ওপৰত ভিত্তি কৰি দিয়া হৈছে। সেই কাৰণে নতুন কমিটি কৰি তাৰ এটা সিদ্ধান্ত কৰিব লাগে।

Mr. SPEAKER সেই ৰিপোর্ট চপা কৰিছে আৰু সকলোকে দিয়া হ'ব। আৱশ্যক হলে সেই ৰিপোর্ট scrutinise কৰিবলৈ পৰামৰ্শ দিব পাৰি।

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY সেই কমিটিত মোক ৰাখিলে বৰ ভালপায়, (হাঁহি)

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: That will be taken into consideration in due course. Now Sir, let me discuss the milling charge. The position with regard to milling charge which a miller should reasonably expect by milling a maund of paddy was also examined by the Milling Enquiry Committee. The Committee consulted various people during

the enquiry and heard various shades of opinion, Millers' books and accounts were also examined with a view to ascertaining milling cost per maund of paddy. They also consulted the officers of the Agriculture Department and Statistics Department. It was found by the Committee that a mill could not run economically with a milling charge of 75 nP. per maund of paddy unless it could mill 80,000 maunds of paddy per year and khudi and bran were its property. An analysis of the data obtained through the census of manufacturing industries shows that in the year 1957 out of 76 rice mills covered by the census, 57 per cent of the mills handled less than 50,000 maunds of paddy a year. While fixing the milling charge the Committee also took into account interest on productive capital, depreciation of fixed capital, wages and salaries to staff, rent, tax, insurance, fuel, chemical and other materials including lubricants, etc, and found it to be Rs.1.21 nP per maund of paddy. After deducting the value of bran and khudi which was estimated at 34 nP per maund of paddy as quoted by the Manufacturing Industries net cost of milling per maund of paddy comes to 87 nP. The Committee, therefore, recommended Re.1.00 per maund of paddy, as milling charge which would leave a margin of net profit of 0.13 nP per maund of paddy for the miller. As bran and khudi were not controlled and mills generally charged for this more than 0.34 nP during the lean months Government assessed the price of bran and khudi at 0.47 nP on the average for one maund of paddy milled and allowed a milling charge of 0.87 nP per maund. That Sir, is the position and as I have already stated this report of the Milling Enquiry Committee will be placed before hon. Members and they will have an opportunity to look at it.

Sir, rightly grave concern has been expressed in this House about the condition in Mizo Hills. Sir, an assurance was given in this House by Government that every possible step would be taken to ameliorate the situation there. Campaigns for killing rat were taken by the Department and special staff was deputed. Plant Protection staff have been treating rat holes with cyanogas and baiting the infested areas with zinc phosphide. There is great difficulty in controlling rats in Mizo district as these rodents are found to come out of the thik jungles at night in groups to attack nearby crops and then retreat into these jungles when anybody approaches them. The geography of the land and the difficult terrain stand in the way to dealing successfully with these rats. Report show that up till now about 21,782 rats have been killed apart from the large number of rats killed by the people themselves. Due to the fact that there are so many hiding places, all the rats could not be destroyed. We have also taken steps to supply sufficient quantity of rice to the Mizo Hills. Sir, in 1958-59 only 1100 maunds of rice was supplied to the Mizo Hills. Comparad to this the House will be surprised to know that in 1959-60 up to 29th February 1960, 1,42,372 maunds of rice had been sent to Mizo Hills and transport subsidy upto 31st January 1960 came up to the tune of Rs.5,94,229. We are sending much more rice since then and the subsidy is amounting up. So, Sir, you will see that every possible step has been and will be taken to supply rice required for the Mizo Hills. Recently the Director of Agriculture toured the district and took a scheme to raise short duration crops in Mizo Hills like tapioca, kachu, etc.

Another problem that I would like to refer here Sir, is with regard to Embankment and Drainage Department. My friends have complained that ever-since construction of embankments the topography has changed in some areas with the result that they do not get water regularly for irrigation. Government have therefore, taken up the programme of providing sluice openings in the embankments at an estimated cost of Rs.10.02 lakhs during the current Plan for providing flood irrigation as far as it could be made available and the construction of first series of openings in the embankments had been taken up from the year 1958-59 on the basis of priority. With regard to breaches in the embankments my friends have complained particularly my friend Shri Prabhat Narayan Choudhury,—that repair works have not yet begun even. From the report of the Executive Engineer it seems there were three breaches so far as the Pagladia river was concerned. Up to date 60 per cent of the works have been completed. But Sir, I was told that progress was and is retarded considerably due to the local people obstructing the Department in various matter including giving possession of land. So far as Noona is concerned my report shows that about 50 per cent of the repair work has been completed. As regards closing of breaches in Cagra bund guide the report shows that the work is completed to the extent of 50 per cent. As regards the Barolia embankment the progress of closing four breaches is good. As regards Puthimari embankment the up to date data of progress is 80 per cent. As regards Banadi the progress is 20 per cent. Here also the progress is not satisfactory due to public obstructions. Regarding the Pohumara embankment the progress of work according to the report is satisfactory and the work of closing breaches is going to be completed. Regarding the Beki embankment the work according to report is practically completed although the general progress was retarded to some extent here also due to obstruction from the public. So from all these reports, it will appear that the apprehensions that the work cannot be completed before the next flood season is not correct. My friend Shri Prabhat Narayan Choudhury has raised a point that Government appointed a committee with Shri Bijoy Chandra Bhawgwati as Chairman regarding certain enquiries connected with Embankment and Drainage and that the report of the committee has not yet been published. It is correct we have received the report. In fact the report of the committee is under study of the Government and the report is proposed to be published soon, if possible within the Budget Session. At present the Government Press is very busy with Assembly works. However, we will try our best to get the report printed, during this Session of the Assembly, copies of which will be made available to the Members of the House.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West): Embankment and Drainage সম্বন্ধে সিদ্দিনা আলোচনা কৰোঁতে মই কৈছিলো যে যোগা দলং খনদি বাৰিষা পানী সোমাই ওচৰৰ গাঁৱবোৰ বুৰায় পেলায়। সেই কাৰণে তাত হয় sluice gate দিব লাগে নহয় আলি বান্ধি দিব লাগে।

নদলাজান অঞ্চলৰ মথাউৰি বহু দিনৰে পৰা আধা বন্ধা হৈ পৰি আছে। বাৰিষা মথাউৰি নবন্ধা অঞ্চলেদি পানী সোমাই বহু গাঁৱ প্লাবিত কৰে আৰু খেতি নষ্ট কৰে। সেই আধা কাম খিনিও পুৰা কৰিব লাগে।

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Food, Agriculture, etc.): Sir, there is a large number of incomplete embankments but in spite of all our efforts, due to shortage of fund at our disposal we have not been able to complete all. We have so far done about 1,600 miles of embankments. Our greatest difficulty is not being able to complete all the embankments is mainly due to lack of fund. The amount of money given to us during the Second Five Year Plan has already been over committed to the tune of about 66 lakh of rupees. So unless and until we can find more fund it is very difficult to take up new works. Very important works are being undertaken within our limited resources. However, the suggestions given by the hon. Member will be kept in view.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): Sir, I want to clear out one point. I have just now got figures with me.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon'bles Minister is now dealing with Embankment and Drainage, you should not disturb him.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, yesterday while the Deputy Speaker was in the Chair, my friend Shri Mathias Tudu raised certain questions about registration of Co-operative Farming Societies in Gosaigoan. He said that whenever the people had gone to the Revenue officer to get the Co-operative Farming Society registered, the people were asked to go to the Co-operative officer. When they go to the Co-operative officer they are asked to get settlement of land first from the Revenue officer and they are told that only after that the Co-operative Farming Society would be registered. For information of the hon. Members of the House, I must say that this is not the correct position. If the officer had said so, he must have committed a mistake. In fact there was no reason on the part of any officer to say so because a circular in this connection was issued by Government and brought to the notice of all officers concerned. On 21st January, 1959, Registrar of Co-operative Societies issued a circular detailing the procedure about formation and registration of Co-operative Farming Societies. Similarly the Revenue Department, on 3rd June, 1959, issued a similar circular to all the Revenue officers as to what would be the procedure in the matter of organisation and registration of such societies. Sir, in this connection, I would like to give some detailed information before the House. The position is like this. "..... settlement of compact block of 50 bighas or more of waste land should ordinarily be settled with Co-operative Farming Societies of actual landless cultivators. I am directed to say that whenever any such block of land is available for settlement the following procedure shall be followed.

The local Co-operative Officers shall be informed about the availability of the land. He will then take the initiative for organisation and registration of the co-operative with landless cultivators in consultation with the Local Panchayat. As the normal procedure for enquiry to ascertain whether a person is landless or not takes a long time, declarations from the persons proposed to be included as members of the society should be taken individually. The declaration may be filed before the co-operative officer organising the society and need not be stamped. It should contain the details of all land held by the person either in his name or in the name of any other member of his family within or outside the district in order to enable the co-operative officer to determine whether the person is landless. A person who holds less than 8 bighas of patta land in his name or in the

name of any other member of his family within or outside the district may be considered landless for this purpose. The Co-operative Department has agreed that the bye-laws of the society shall contain a provision that if any of the statements made in the declaration be afterwards found to be false, the person making the affidavit shall be expelled from the society, his membership cancelled and his share-money, etc., forfeited.

After organising the society in the manner stated, the Co-operative officer will send a proposal to the Deputy Commissioner or Subdivisional officer or Settlement Officer as the case may be, with a list of members selected. The Deputy Commissioner/Sub-Divisional Officers/Settlement Officer will then settle the land with the society. In order to expedite delivery of possession to start cultivation without delay, copies of the proposal received from the Co-operative Officer along with list of members of the society with their addresses should be sent by Deputy Commissioner/Sub-Divisional Officer/Settlement Officer to all the members of the Land Settlement Advisory Committee by registered post with the intimation that if no objection from any of the members of the Land Settlement Advisory Committee is received within a fortnight, settlement would be given as proposed. In order to expedite the matter, the co-operative officer may send some cyclostyled copies of the proposal to the Deputy Commissioner/Sub-Divisional Officer/Settlement Officer for distribution to the members of the Land Settlement Advisory Committee. If any objection is received from any member, a meeting of the Land Settlement Advisory Committee shall be called immediately."

That is the procedure laid down in Circular No. RSS. 329/53/80, dated 3rd June 1959, issued by the Government of Assam in the Revenue Department. Sir, therefore if any Government officer would try to delay the matter, by such dilatory methods. I would request the hon. Members of this House to bring such cases to the notice of the Government for action because such action on part of the officers would be a clear violation of the circular issued by the Government.

Now Sir, I want to speak on another point. This is about the fertilizer. Sir, on the other day when I was absent in the House, *i. e.*, on 27th February 1960, my friend Shri Hiralal Patwari made certain defamatory statement touching myself. I have already brought this matter to your notice that his speech violate Rule 279 of the Assembly Rules and Procedure with the request that this portion of the speech should be expunged.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry this portion of the statement escaped my notice. Rule 279 (v) of the Assembly Rules lays down that a member while speaking shall not reflect upon the conduct of person in high authority unless the discussion is based on a substantive motion drawn in proper terms. In view of this rule I direct that that portion of the statement beginning with গনসংঘৰ বাবে বাজাই দিয়ক। be expunged.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARI (Panery): চাৰ, মই বুজা নাই
অসমীয়াৰে বুজাই দিয়ক ।

Mr. SPEAKER: যেতিয়া কোনো উচ্চ পদস্থ লোকৰ বিৰুদ্ধে কিবা অভিযোগ অনা হয় তেতিয়া মোচন বা প্রস্তাৱৰ জৰিয়তে আনিব লাগে। এনেকৈ গৱৰ্ণৰৰ ভাষণৰ সমালোচনা প্রসংগত অভিযোগ আনিব নোৱাৰে। সেইকাৰণে আপোনাৰ সেইঅংশটো কাটি দিব লাগে।

Shri HIRALAL PATWARI (Panery): চাব, মই অসমীয়াত কওঁ।— ৭ জানুৱাৰী তাৰিখে এখন মিটিং হয়, তাত মই সভাপতি আছিলো। সেই মিটিঙত মন্তৱদে কিমান সভাৰ সভাপতিয়ে মন্তব্য কৰে যে যেতিয়ালৈকে ধানৰ দাম বঢ়াই নিদিয়ৱে তেতিয়ালৈকে ধান বিক্ৰী নকৰিবা। কিন্তু মই সভাপতি হিচাবে ঘোষণা কৰিছিলো যে এই বক্তৃতাত তেখেতে নিজা মত পোষণ কৰিছে গতিকে ৰাইজে মন্ত্ৰী অহাৰ আগতে কোনো স্থিৰ সিদ্ধান্ত কৰিব নানাগে—মন্ত্ৰী আহি ৰাইজক বুজাই দিয়ক, আৰু টকা কম পোৱা জৰা ধান বিক্ৰী কৰা আদিৰ কি ব্যৱস্থা কৰে কৰক, তাৰ পাছত হে ৰাইজে সিদ্ধান্ত লব লাগে। মই অহা কালি মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰীলৈ টেলিগ্ৰাম দিম, সেই টেলিগ্ৰামৰ পিছত কি হয় বিবেচনা কৰি ৰাইজে সিদ্ধান্ত কৰিব।

Sir, I have gone through the papers. There are about 40 persons out of which there are only 3 Patwaris. There are also 3 Das. There are provision for A class, B class and C class members. It is known to the Chief Minister that I signed a telegram and sent to him. What is the harm if there are some members belonging to Patwaris if.....

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALAIH (Chief Minister): Sir, the excitement comes in this way. At Tangla a meeting was held under the Presidentship of Mr. Patwari. In that meeting they took a decision not to allow anybody to sell paddy at a rate lower than Rs. 10. In this way excitement came.

Mr. SPEAKER: The contention of Mr. Patwari is this. The Government has allowed C class traders. He has not found fault with the Government. He is not disputing this. He says that when rule is there what is the harm if there is any Patwari or Das in C class traders.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): It is up to the Co-operative Societies.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply etc.): Sir, the position is quite different. Those traders who deal with a Co-operative, say Supply bags they are treated as C class members, only after they enter into such trade with the Co-operatives, so that any dispute of the Co-operative with them can be decided by the Registrar in a summary manner under the Co-operative law. Here the position is different. Some traders sponsored the Co-operative in question.

Shrimati PADMA KUMARI GOHAIN (Moran): মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, বাজ্যপালৰ ভাষণ সমৰ্থন কৰি মাননীয়া চন্দই যিটো প্রস্তাৱ দাঙি ধৰিছে মই সেই প্রস্তাৱটো সমৰ্থন কৰিছো আৰু বিৰোধী দলৰ সংশোধনী প্রস্তাৱৰ বিৰোধীতা কৰিছো।

ৰাজ্যপালৰ ভাষণত দেশৰ উন্নয়নমূলক কথাবোৰ বাদ পৰিছে বুলি বিৰোধী দলে যিবোৰ সমালোচনা কৰিছে তাত মই আচৰিত হৈছো। দেশৰ উন্নয়নমূলক পৰিকল্পনাবোৰ কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰাত বিৰোধী দলে সদনৰ বাহিৰত বা সদনত বিৰোধীতা কৰা আমি দেখি আহিছো আৰু ৰাইজৰো দেখিছে। উন্নয়নমূলক পৰিকল্পনা এই দৰে সদনৰ ভিতৰে বাহিৰে বিৰোধীতা কৰা এটা নিয়মত পৰিণত হৈছে। আৰু এই নিয়ম প্ৰতিস্থিত কৰিছে। গাঁৱে-ভূঁয়ে ৰাইজে দেখি আহিছে উন্নয়ন পৰিকল্পনা বিলাক কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰাত বিৰোধী দলে সভা-সমিতি পাতি কেনেকৈ বাধা দিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰি আহিছে। সেই কাৰণে মই ভাবো আচৰিত হোৱাৰ কাৰণ নাই। তেওঁলোকে জয় চোল বজায় সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱ দিলেও ৰাইজে তেওঁলোকক বিশ্বাস নকৰে। তেওঁলোকে সদায় কয়। চৰকাৰে নতুন আঁচনি লোৱা নাই আৰু সেই কাৰণেই সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱ দিছে কিন্তু অসমৰ ৰাইজে তেওঁলোকক খবৰ ভালকৈ চিনি পায়। কেনেকৈ তেওঁলোকে চৰকাৰৰ কামত বেমেজালি ঘটায়। গতিকে যিমানহে ওজখিনী বজুতা নিদিয়ক তেওঁলোকে ৰাইজক ভুল পথে নিব নোৱাৰে। (শুনক, শুনক) তেওঁলোকে ভালকৈ জানে দেশক উন্নতি পথত আগবঢ়ায় নিবলৈ কোন দলে চেষ্টা কৰিছে আৰু কাম কৰিছে। সেই কাৰণে তেওঁলোকৰ জয়চোলৰ গুৰুত্ব আজি আৰু আৱশ্যক নাই। -

চীনে ভাৰত আক্ৰমণ কৰাৰ সময়ত এই আগন্তুক বিপদৰ পৰা দেশক বক্ষা কৰিবৰ কাৰণে স্বস্তিৰ মনেৰে কংগ্ৰেছে ৰাইজক সতৰ্ক কৰি দিছিল। কংগ্ৰেছ দলে চীনৰ আক্ৰমণ প্ৰতিবাদ জনাই বিধানসভাত প্ৰস্তাৱ দাঙি ধৰিছিল। কিন্তু আমাৰ কমিউনিষ্ট বন্ধুসকলে সেইসময়ত এইটো আক্ৰমণ নহয় বুলি এই সদনত বজুতা দিয়া কথা সকলোৰে মনত আছে চাওঁ। তেওঁলোকৰ যি সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱ তাতো কোনো উন্নয়নমূলক আঁচনি দাঙি ধৰা হোৱা নাই। তেওঁলোকে মাত্ৰ গতানুগতিক সমালোচনা কৰিছে। ইফালে কংগ্ৰেছে যে দেশখনৰ গুৰু ভাৰলৈ আগুৱাই নিবলৈ কাৰ্য্যকৰী পৰিকল্পনা হাতত লৈছে তাক বিশ্ববাসীয়ে স্বীকাৰ কৰিছে। আজি চৰকাৰৰ যিবোৰ পৰিকল্পনা সেইবোৰ কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰাত তেওঁলোকে সহযোগ কৰি দেশ নিৰ্মাণ কৰিবলৈ পৰামৰ্শ দাঙি ধৰে। বিৰোধী বন্ধু সকলে সমালোচনা কৰিছে যে কুটিৰ শিল্পৰ কোনো আঁচনি দাঙি ধৰা হোৱা নাই। মই কওঁ যে এই কুটিৰ শিল্পৰ পৰা অসমৰ অপৰিসীম লাভ হৈছে। আজি বাৰী দুখুনীয়ে তাত শিল্পৰ দ্বাৰা নিজৰ আৰু পৰিয়ালৰ ভৰণ পোষণ দিব পাৰিছে। এই শিল্পই ঘৰতে আবদ্ধ হৈ থকা মহিলা সকলক কাম দিছে যি কামৰ দ্বাৰা তেওঁলোকে দুবেলা-দুমুঠি যোগান ধৰিব পাৰিছে আৰু সমাজতো নিজৰ স্থান উচ্চ কৰিছে। এই কুটিৰ শিল্পৰ লগতে সমৰায় সমিতি স্থাপন কৰি মাত্ৰ সোনত গুৱাগা চৰাইছে। এই সমৰায়ৰ পৰাও গাঁৱলীয়া ৰাইজৰ যথেষ্ট উপকাৰ হৈছে। দুখীয়াই দুমুঠি খোৱাৰ দিহা হৈছে।

বিৰোধী দলে আজি পঞ্চায়ত আইনৰ সমালোচনা কৰিছে আৰু কৈছে যে বেমেজালিৰ সৃষ্টি হৈছে। পঞ্চায়ত আইনৰ মূল কথা গাঁৱৰ ৰাইজে নিজে শাসন চলাব। যেহেতু গাঁৱলীয়া মানুহৰ শাসনৰ অভিজ্ঞতা নাই সেইবাবে কিছু অস্থবিধা হোৱা স্বাভাৱিক। তেওঁলোকক শাসন কাৰ্য্যত সহায় কৰিবৰ বাবেই মনোনীত সদস্যৰ ব্যবস্থা কৰা হৈছে। সেইমনোনয়নত কাৰ নাম উঠিল আৰু কাৰ নুঠিল সেইবোৰত বিৰোধী দলে আপত্তি কৰিছে, আৰু ইয়াৰ স্থবিধা লৈয়ে ৰাইজিক বিপথে নিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিছে। মই শুনি আচৰিত হৈছো যে শ্ৰীযুত বৰঠাকুৰ ডাঙৰীয়াই ৰাজ্যপালৰ ভাষণত উল্লেখ কৰা শিল্পনীতি আৰু মাটিৰ নীতিৰ দ্বাৰা চৰকাৰে একো কৰিব পৰা নাই বুলি কৈছে। যদি সেয়ে হয় মই প্ৰশ্নকৰো কাৰ কাৰণে? নিশ্চয় এই বিৰোধী সকলৰ কাম সম্পাদন কাৰ্য্যত বাধা দিয়াৰ পৰাই হোৱা নাই। কোনো এটা উন্নয়ন মূলক কাম হাতত ললেই নানাভাবে বাধা দিয়াই তেওঁ লোকৰ কাম হৈ উঠিছে।

উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে কওঁ বোধকৰো। ইং ১৯৫৭ চনত ডিব্ৰুগড় জিলাৰ জামিৰা মৌজাৰ বায়ত সকলো লেখা লিখি কৰি এটা প্ৰাইমাৰী হেল্থ ইউনিট স্থাপনৰ সুযোগ পাইছিল কিন্তু তাত তেখেতে নিজৰ স্বাৰ্থৰ কাৰণে তেখেতৰ পাৰ্টীৰ মানুহৰ স্বাৰ্থৰকাৰণে দুই এজনৰ হতৰাই বাবে বাবে আপত্তি কৰি কামটো সম্পাদন কৰিব দিয়া নাই বাইজে বিচৰা ঠাইত ধৰ সাজিব নিদি মানুহ নথকা Public Works Department বাস্তৱ দাতিলৈ নিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিছে। তাৰ মূল উদ্দেশ্য এয়ে যে চৰকাৰৰ এই কাৰ্য্যৰ উদ্দেশ্য বাইজৰ ওচৰত পুনৰ নিজৰ জয় চোললৈ নষ্ট কৰা। চৰকাৰে এনেঠাইত বজাই কংগ্ৰেছ চৰকাৰৰ বিৰুদ্ধে জয়চোল বজাব পাৰিব। চৰকাৰে হেল্থ ইউনিট পাতিছে বাস্তৱ দাতিত যত, মানুহ নাই ইত্যাদি ইয়াৰ জন-সাধাৰনে এই হেল্থ ইউনিটটো বিচাৰিছিল এই কাৰণেই যে তাৰ পৰা বৰবাৰী বহুত দূৰত আৰু সেই কাৰণেই চৰকাৰে এই ইউনিটটো মঞ্জুৰ কৰিছিল মানুহৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে এই অঞ্চলৰ গাঁৱলীয়া বাইজে গাঁৱৰ ভিতৰত এই ইউনিট টো বিচাৰিছিল। কিন্তু তেখেতে Public Works Department ৰ বাস্তৱ দাতিলৈ আনিবলৈ বিচাৰিছে তেখেতৰ নিজৰ স্বাৰ্থ সিদ্ধিৰ কাৰণে। তাকে কৰিব নোৱাৰি গাত্ৰ দাহত আজি উক্ত মন্তব্য কৰিছে বুলি মই ভাবো। আৰু তেখেতে এগৰাকি লেডি কংগ্ৰেচী সদস্য চোৰাং বেপাৰীৰ লগত চৰকাৰৰ ওচৰত প্ৰতিবেদন দিছিল যে উক্ত হেল্থ ইউনিটটো সন্ধি কৈ চুকত দিবলৈ তেখেতৰ কথামতে কাম নহলেই যে প্ৰতিনিধি কৰা লোক বিলাক স্মাগলাৰ (অবাস্তিত লোক) হয় বুলি তেওঁ ধাৰণা কৰিলেও প্ৰকৃত কথা নহয়। নিজৰ কথা বাৰ্খিবলৈ যে অন্য মানুহক স্মাগলাৰ কোৱা উচিত নহয়। নোৱাৰিলেই যদি দেশৰ সকলো মানুহ অবাস্তিত আখ্যা পাব পাৰে মই এনেকুৱা কথা বুজি নাপাও। অবাস্তিত বুলি কোনো লোকক জানে— তেনে অবাস্তিত লোকৰ পৰা সদায়ে কংগ্ৰেচ আতৰত থাকে। সেই কাৰণেই মই ভাবো কোনো কংগ্ৰেচ কৰ্মী বা কংগ্ৰেচ প্ৰতিনিধিয়েই স্মাগলাৰৰ লগত সহযোগীতা কৰি কোনোঠাই স্মাগাননী কৰিবলৈ চৰকাৰক প্ৰতি বেদন দিয়া কথা মিচা। মাত্ৰ স্থানীয় লোকৰ লগতহে তেখেতৰ তেনে উক্তি ৰাজ্যপালৰ ভাষণৰ সহযোগ কৰি সেই সময়ৰ কংগ্ৰেছ সভাপতি স্বৰূপে মত প্ৰকাশ কৰিছিল—ঠাই সমন্ধে। লগত তীব্ৰ মন্তব্য কৰাটো তেখেতৰ এটা আক্ৰোশৰ হে পৰিচায়ক।

তাৰপিচত মিউনিচিপেলিটিৰ নতুন নিৰ্বাচন সম্পৰ্কত অৰ্থাৎ মনো নয়ন ক্ষেত্ৰত Backward Class, Scheduled Castes আৰু ট্ৰাইবেলৰ ভিতৰত দুজনক চৰকাৰে মনোনীত কৰে। ডিব্ৰুগড়ত এজন হৰিজন সংঘৰ বিশিষ্ট নেতাৰ বিনা প্ৰতিদ্বন্দিতাই নিৰ্বাচিত হৈছে বুলি চৰকাৰে জ্ঞাত হৈ এজন বেকৱাৰ্ড আৰু ট্ৰাইবেলৰ এজনক মনোনয়ন দিছে। মনোনয়ন ক্ষেত্ৰত চৰকাৰে দুজনৰ ঠাইত তিনিজন কেনেকৈ কৰিব? তেখেতে যে চিডুলকাষ্টৰ কাৰণে আত্মহাৰা হৈ চিডুল মানহক মনোনয়ন নিদিয়া কাৰণে মৰমত আত্মহাৰা হৈছে দৃষ্ট কৰিছে এইতো লক্ষ্য কৰিব লগিয়া আৰু তেখেতৰ তেনে মৰমৰ কাৰণে ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন নকৰি নোৱাৰিলো।

তাৰপিচত সমবায় আৰু শিল্প ক্ষেত্ৰত আজি আমাৰ দেশ কিমান আগ বাঢ়িছে সেই অঙ্কটো তেখেতে উলিয়াই চালেই বুজিব পাৰিব। তাৰপিচত প্ৰাথমিক শিক্ষাৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত নতুন পৰিকল্পনাৰ অন্তৰ্গত বাধ্যতা মূলক ভাবে প্ৰাথমিক শিক্ষা পূৰ্বতন কৰোৱাৰ পাৰিলে হাজাৰ হাজাৰ দৰিদ্ৰ কৃষক বনুৱাৰ লৰা-ছোৱালীয়ে সহজে শিক্ষা লাভ কৰিব পাৰিব আৰু তাৰ কাৰণে হাজাৰ হাজাৰ কৃষকবনুৱা বাইজে আমাৰ চৰকাৰক ধন্যবাদ দিব। যিসকল কৃষক বনুৱাৰ লৰা-ছোৱালীয়ে আজিলৈ শিক্ষাৰ জিলিঙনি পোৱা নাই, সেই-সকলে নতুন পৰিকল্পনাৰ জৰিয়তে ব্যবস্থা কৰাৰ শিক্ষাৰ পোহৰ পাব পাৰিব। চৰকাৰে প্ৰাথমিক শিক্ষাৰ ব্যবস্থাত ইমান দিনৰ অবহেলিত পিচপৰি থকা কৃষকৰ লৰা-ছোৱালীয়ে

আজিৰ স্বাধীন দেশৰ প্ৰকৃত নাগৰিক হবলৈ আগবাঢ়ি আহিব পাৰিব। আমি দেখিছো, আমাৰ অসমতো বেছিংস্থানক লোকেই পিচপৰা সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ নিৰক্ষৰ লোক। এই হাজাৰ হাজাৰ নিৰক্ষৰ পিচপৰা লোকৰ লৰা ছোৱালীবোৰে যেতিয়া চৰকাৰৰ আঁচনিৰ জৰিয়তে উপকৃত হৈ আহিছে তেতিয়া তেওঁলোকে চৰকাৰক ধন্যবাদ জনাইছে আৰু জনাবও।

চৰকাৰৰ পৰিকল্পনা বিলাক সম্পূৰ্ণকৈ কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰি পিচপৰা সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ উন্নতি কৰি নতুন সমাজ এখনৰ গঢ় দিব বুলি আশা ৰাখি মই আমাৰ বন্ধু শ্ৰীযুতী জোৎস্না চন্দৰ ৰাজ্যপালক ধন্যবাদ জনাই দাঙি ধৰা প্ৰস্তাবটো সমখন কৰি বিৰোধী প্ৰস্তাব বিৰোধীতা জনাইছো।

শেষত ৰাজ্যপালৰ চমুকৈ সকলো উল্লেখ কৰি দিয়া অপূৰ্ব ভাষণৰ শ্লাগ লৈ বক্তৃতাৰ সামবনি মাৰিলো

Shri HIRALAL PATWARI (Panery): With the permission of the House, Sir, I like to place the reply of our Chief Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER: Put it on the table.

Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I read the speech of the Governor of Assam very very carefully which reflects the policy and programme of this Government. But I am sorry to say that I have not been able to support the motion of thanks moved by Mrs. Chanda and have to oppose it most reluctantly. He referred to Indo-China issue very carefully and I think he has purposely concealed the detail measures taken by the Government to resist any further aggression by China. He may conceal from us the military secrets, but he should have given the people of Assam some broad idea of the defence of this country of ours, as to the communication facilities and production of more food to support the extra population necessary for the defence of this country. The people of Assam will like to know about these two subjects which are really a vital matter for the defence of our mother land which has been a subject of aggression by the Chinese Government.

The expression of shock and be wilderness will not do, for, the behaviour of so friendly a nation for whom India is working hard in the United Nations Organisation. The Government should have known it for which indication was given before and should have been prepared for it. No civilised Government have been able to support the action of China Government. Even Russia found it difficult to support it. The Chinese Government did not hesitate to use filthy and insulting language to our Prime Minister. We have seen their suggestion of buffer State, we have also seen their method of following Panch Sheela. Is it the ways of Panch Sheela to occupy other territory surreptitiously and then come for peaceful solution? If it is not 420, I mean cheating and deceiving other Nations, then I do not know what is meant by cheating and deceiving? Even then our Communist people do not find fault with China. They find fault with Mr. Kripalini and other P. S. P. members. Mr. Bora, our new friend who is jubilant over his success in the recent bye-election did not hesitate to say that Mr. Kripalini and his party has vested interest. He has not explained what that vested interest is. Yes, Mr. Kripalini and his party has vested interest and that vested interest is not inviting Chou-En-Lai to occupy India and become a puppet

in the hand of Chou-En-Lai, just like Panchan Lama. Example of Mirjafar and Jaichand is there. But that vested interest is to make free the territory that has been illegally and in most uncivilised way occupied by our friend Mr. Bora's international comrade, Mr. Chou-En-Lai, the Chinese Premier.

It is needless to say much at the moment. We have seen our Communist friends playing the part in our freedom struggle. During the last Great War they changed over-night the capitalist war of Britain and America into people's war. We know, Sir, that our Communist friends are His Master's voice of Russia and China. The fact has been well-established and the people of India know well how to reply to it which has been abundantly proved in the last Kerala Election.

I am sorry, Sir, I have gone beyond the main subject. Our Prime Minister has invited Chou-En-Lai. The Prime Minister has not expressed in clear terms that he has invited Chinese Premier to discuss and settle the border issue. I think he can not do that because that will go against the stand that we took in Kashmir. In Kashmir issue we took a stand that unless Pakistan vacates the occupied territory there can be no talk of plebiscite in Kashmir. Similarly, we have passed a resolution and the whole of India has expressed the view that unless China vacates the Indian territory occupied by them there can be no resumption of talk regarding Indo-China border issue. I read the resolution: "This Assembly views with grave concern the unprovoked Chinese aggression on Indian soil and consequent deterioration in Indo-Chinese relations and puts on record its deep sense of resentment at the aggressive action on the part of the Chinese. The Assembly approves of the just and firm stand of the Prime Minister of India in the face of grave provocation, and lends its full support to the decision that the occupation of Indian territory, and in particular of Longju in Assam should be vacated before negotiations with the Chinese Government can be resumed". That is the stand we have taken. Invitation to Chou-En-Lai by our Prime Minister has not been clear to many people and it is really a dilemma to many and at this moment majority of our people cannot welcome the Chinese Premier and it is a fact that the Indian people will be divided in this matter. I hope our Prime Minister will not surely discuss border issue. It is upto the Prime Minister of China whether he agrees to vacate the Indian territory and talk of minor adjustments. He wanted to come to India to meet our Prime Minister, and our Prime Minister has invited him to come. Let him say what he has got to say. Our stand is there and I really think that our Prime Minister will not move an inch from the stand he took.

Sir, at the moment a bottle-neck has been created, as a result of which the communication in our mother land, I mean Assam, has become very difficult. Is it wise to depend upon only one Railway line for our communication with other parts of India? That Railway line is not also safe from Bongaigaon to Amingaon which is liable to be breached at any moment during the rainy season. A railway line from Bongaigaon via Jogighopa and Goalpara upto Pandu should have been immediately taken up, extending it upto Bagmara in Garo Hills. The railway line from Golakganj through Pakistan should have been restored and another line through Coochbehar which is proposed to construct should have found a place as a hint that

every effort is being made to facilitate quick transport. It is not too late even now. I hope our Government will take up the matter with the Centre immediately. Joghopa-Goalpara Ferry should be brought if possible by requisitioning from the I. G. N. and R. S. N. Company, because that is the only safe and easy road link with Assam and the rest of India.

Sir, then I like to come to Panchayat matter. Our Governor has rightly said in page 12 of his Address that the ideal of Democratic decentralisation has been translated into a perfect Act. This is true. But the Act or law which we are going to implement through our village has not been done according to the Act. Sir, I will mention here the promise that has been given by the Minister at the time of passing of the Ordinance for this Panchayat Act. Sir, it is really a matter of great regret that the method of nomination has given rise to a feeling that our Government do not like to have the people's voice, rather do not like to democratise this Panchayat. I have tried to find out the name of any member of this House from the Opposition as President to the Anchalik Panchayat. I have not seen that.

I have seen, Sir, many of the Congress members have been made President of the Anchalik Panchayats. I do not know why they have left out the members of the Opposition for the Anchalik Panchayat Presidentship. I mentioned during the last Session of this House that there was no necessity of abolishing immediately these local bodies and Rural Panchayats without making any alternative arrangement and without even passing the Act in the legislature. They were working well and without making any alternative arrangement they abolished all these local bodies.

And now, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has promised that he will be able to finish this Panchayat election under the new Act within the month of March (The Speaker: April, I think). But I have seen that many of the Units have not as yet been formed and I do not see how it can be finished with these two months. I am sure, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister will not be able to finish the elections within two months. He shall have to take more time. We know that. But what I really feel is that he should not have gone so hastily. He should not have abolished the local bodies. Now we find that the local bodies are not in a position to spend anything. There are certain things which are under nobody's care. The money that has been given to the Primary and Anchalik Panchayats will not be utilised within 31st of March and major portions of it will have to be surrendered. So, this has been a very hasty action on the part of the Government. The people are really suffering. Anyway I hope the Government will be pleased to hold the elections of the Primary and Anchalik Panchayats without further delay and give real power in the hands of our people.

Sir, with these words I would like to resume my seat.

Shri MAHAM SINGH [Cherrrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Mr. [Speaker, Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting the motion that has already been moved by the mover thanking the Governor for his illuminating address.

My friend in the Opposition has just now said, as far as I understand him that we are not finding fault with China. This is not true. The Governor on the first part of his address has already drawn the attention of the House and regretted the aggressive activities of China and this House also drew the attention to the special responsibilities of the people of Assam.

The Governor has also drawn attention to the violent acts of the hostile Nagas and to our relations with Pakistan. Assam, situated as it is, bounded almost on all sides by foreign countries is more vulnerable than other parts of India. The people of Assam I hope will be able to face all eventualities, and shall not fail in their duty towards their country.

Now under the present conditions, I quite agree with some of the hon'ble Members who said that the improvement of communication of this State is very important and I believe we should give more stress on this. Assam's communication, as it is at present, is in a very bad condition and we may be cut off from the rest of India in case of any danger from outside. So I would like to draw the attention of this House that the communication of the State should be improved. It is also essential that the communication be improved for raising the standard of the people and for industrialization of Assam.

So far as industries are concerned, we are lagging far behind any other State of India. In new industries opened in this part of the country, it is also the wish of all of us that local people should be employed.

Mr. SPEAKER: How long will you take, Mr. Singh ?

Shri MAHAM SINGH [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: I will require some time, Sir.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 2 p.m.

AFTER LUNCH

Shri MAHAM SINGH: I was just now saying Sir, that it is the wish of every one of us that local people, I mean indigenous people of Assam should be employed in the industries that are being established in Assam. But when we go to the practical side of things we find that there are difficulties. That is, we find that many indigenous people of Assam have not got expert knowledge and experience to be employed in these industries. Now, of the few industries that will be opened in Assam also we do not find sufficient people from our own State who can run these industries only because they do not have expert knowledge. In this connection, I want to say that these will not be the only industries that will be opened. Sir, Assam is rich in natural resources and in other respects and many industries can be started in future by the efforts of all of us. So, with a view to enable us to employ our own people, I want to make one suggestion and that is, that the Government should open special courses in the University for giving training to our people in technical and other scientific matters in order to qualify them, so that in future when new industries will be opened we will not find that we are lacking in personnel who can manage these industries.

Sir, there is another point. I find some of my hon. friends in this House during the course of this Session laid great stress on the removal of the capital from Shillong to Gauhati. As you know Sir, the capital has been placed here for a number of years and I can say that because we have

got the capital here in Shillong it has brought real benefit to the people of this district but none the less to other tribal also. This has indeed helped us, I mean the Khasi people and other tribals of the Autonomous Districts. Now, the policy of the Government is also to promote the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and raise their standard of living to the level of the people in other areas of the State. In this connection I want to say that removal of the capital from Shillong to Gauhati will be a great blow to tribals. Further, removal of the capital from Shillong to Gauhati will not help very much in advancement of the economic position of the State as a whole. So far as Gauhati is concerned it is at present very congested and apart from that, Gauhati has also got the best departments of the Government, that is, the High Court, the University, the Engineering College and other Colleges, and the Railway Headquarters. Only a few offices of the Heads of Departments are located in Shillong. Besides the distance from Gauhati to Shillong is only 63 miles by road. I do not understand, however, why uptill now the Gauhati-Shillong Road has not been made a double-way. It is very inconvenient that we have these timing in going to and coming from Gauhati. So I would suggest that this Road should be converted into a double-way and that this work should also be speeded up. Again Sir, for many months past we have been hearing that there will be an air strip to connect Shillong with other parts of India and Assam. But up till now we have not been able to have an airstrip in Shillong. I hope the Government will take necessary steps to provide an airstrip here in Shillong.

Another point Sir, that has been raised by many hon. Members is regarding Assamese to be a State language of Assam. In this connection also I want to say that at least for the present it will be a great blow to the tribal people if Assamese is made a State language of Assam because most of the tribal people do not know Assamese and this is particularly true so far as the Mizos, the Khasis, the Garos and other hill tribes are concerned. In order to introduce this language as the State language in Assam it is better in the first instance to popularise this language amongst these people. Up till now nothing much has been done in this direction. I do not know what will happen in future but it may be said here that at a time when these people will have sufficiently learn the language then it will not be a hardship to the tribals if Assamese is introduced as a State language. Now Sir, from the Governor's Address we find that we have many problems. He has in the first instance stated about the trouble with the neighbouring foreign States, from the Naga tribes and then again the famine in the Mizo Hills and many other problems. In view of all this I think it will not be wise on the part of our Government to create further problems—problems which can be avoided at present. If we want to shift the capital from Shillong to Gauhati, that will create a problem. If on top of that we want to introduce Assamese as a State language that will be another problem. Of course in the future I do not know what shape things will take but surely these can be avoided at present. So I am of the opinion that the Government should not create more problems.

Now, there is another thing that the Governor has referred to in his Address and that is about Prohibition that has been introduced in two districts, that is Kamrup and Nowgong.

Personally I am very glad that prohibition has been introduced in some of the districts in the plains and I hope it will be extended to other districts as well. But I regret the present policy of the Government with regard to the hill district in this connection. I hope Government will follow the same policy, ultimately of controlling the manufacture and sale of liquor with a view of introducing prohibition in the hill districts also. In this connection I wish to say that previously we had some control over excise in this district by means of notifications, and regulation passed by the Government. But at present there is no law whatsoever which is applicable in excise matters in some areas of Khasi and Jaintia Hills. There is at present an anomaly. We find that in the Jowai Subdivision the Excise Act applies. In some of the normal areas of the Khasi Hills, viz., areas which were previously British areas, the Excise Act has been made applicable, but in other areas, viz., the Siems' areas, the Excise Act has been not extended. This is very much regretted. The Excise Act should be made applicable throughout the whole district. Of all the evils that have ruined our people, drinking is the worst. Liquor has ruined many homes.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Excise) : But the District Council opposed extension of the Act.

Shri MAHAM SINGH : [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] The District Council did not oppose extension of the Act. As a matter of fact, they have agreed to the extension of the Act, but there is some difference between the Government and the District Council with regard to the allocation of revenue. The District Council wants the revenue should be given to them and the Government wants that the whole revenue should come to them. But even if the District Council opposes extension of the Act, there is no reason whatsoever for not extending it, because, as I have said, this has ruined many families and in some villages almost every house is a still. The morality of the people is completely shattered. Whatever may be the difference between the District Council and the Government, they may be resolved later, but it is the duty of the Government to protect the moral character of the people. I would, therefore, submit that the Excise Act should be immediately applied to all the areas of the Khasi Hills. I would also submit that if we consider some measures to be good for the people, we should not hesitate to introduce them even if the District Council opposes it.

In this connection, I may add that distilled liquor was unknown to our people till the British came. It was the British who first introduced distilled liquor. They taught our people how to distill liquor and this has brought about the greatest ruin. So, I hope Government will extend the Act as early as possible.

There is also another Act which should be extended to all areas of this district and that is the Gambling Act. The Gambling Act has been made applicable to certain areas only ; in other areas it is not applicable. I submit that the Gambling Act should also be introduced throughout the whole district, for Gambling equally is a great evil.

Then, Sir, I would further submit that the majority of motor accidents are mainly due to the drunkenness of the drivers. It may be said that 90 per cent of the motor accidents are caused due to the drunkenness of the drivers. In the beginning of this Session this House condoled the death

of one of our friends Mr. Hemanta Gupta who died as a result of a motor accident. It was indeed very tragic. The reason for the accident was because the driver of the vehicle was drunk. Had he not been drunk the accident would not have taken place at all. We find in the Shillong-Gauhati Road also drivers, particularly the truck drivers, driving their vehicles at reckless speed. This is mostly due to the fact many of them are drunk while driving the vehicles. I would request Government to take strict action against the drivers who are found drunk while on duty.

Then there is another problem which the Government have not been able to solve adequately even after so many years. It is regarding the border areas of this district. The border areas have suffered very badly after the partition of India and the main reason is that they cannot get any market for their products. The Governor in his address has said that gratuitous relief, agricultural loans, test relief and other measures have been taken for the amelioration of the condition of the people of the border areas. But this same manner of help was given to these people for all these 12 years. I feel that the problem has not been tackled in the light manner. At least the problems should have been thoroughly studied, and a Committee should be set up in order to find out real ways and means to give permanent relief to these people.

Gratuitous relief extended for a number of years has caused a great deal for moral degradation to the people of these areas. We have always been speaking of gratuitous relief but I feel that other means should be employed or found out for the permanent solution of the difficulties of the border people and I think markets should be found out for the products of these poor people. I also want to inform the House that although roads have been constructed in the border areas very few have been completed, and upto now only two roads have become jeepable. The majority of the roads have not been completed and I think the progress of work is very slow. Therefore, I would request that atleast to solve the border problems to some extent some special attention should be paid. The loss suffered by the border people for not being able to sell their products is very heavy. Before partition the value of goods of the border areas exported to Sylhet now East Pakistan was approximately 3 crores of rupees annually. It is therefore necessary to tackle the problems of the border people in a right manner in order to overcome their difficulties. With these few observations, Sir, I beg to resume my seat.

Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical etc.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will briefly touch the few points raised by some hon. members so far the Medical department is concerned. My Friend Dr. Sri Hari Das strongly advocated the cause of those unregistered doctors who were employed by the local boards and suggested that these doctors should be exempted from going for refresher course and examination. This we cannot accept. There is acute dearth of qualified doctors in the State but inspite of that we cannot allow these unregistered doctors. In this matter, to be absorbed in the cadre are to be guided by the rules prescribed by the Indian Medical Council. The Indian Medical Council is very strict in this matter. I think the hon. Members will agree with me that these unregistered doctors should not be allowed to be registered without passing the examination. It is a fact that when the local board dispensaries are taken over by Government it was found that many of the doctors appointed by the local board dispensaries were not registered doctors. Therefore, without having themselves

registered, it became very difficult on the part of the Government to retain and absorb these unregistered doctor in the cadre. So under the rules prescribed by the Indian Medical Council, these unregistered doctors have to undergo a refresher course for a short period of threemonths and appear in an examination. At present there is acute dearth of qualified doctors but even then these unregistered doctors should have the registrable qualifications required under the rules of the Indian Medical Council.

Dr. SRI HARI DAS (Barpeta) : On point of clarification Sir, I do not object that the unregistered doctors should undergo training in refresher course, but I want that they should not be asked to pass any examination but that they should be registered as soon as they finish the refresher course. Even the doctors who have just passed from the college, if they are asked to pass again the examination, they will fail.....

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : (Minister, Medical) Without passing any test how can we absorb the unregistered doctor? Any how, Sir, we have in the meantime decided to retain these unregistered doctors till we can have qualified doctors. Then Sir, another point has been raised by my Friend Dr. Ghanashyam Das. He wanted to know the position regarding the establishment of the second Medical College in the State. My Friend himself was a member of the Experts Committee and the Committee went round the different places and have submitted their recommendations and these recommendations are now under scrutiny of the Government and I may inform the hon. Member that the decision is going to be taken as early as possible. To-day my friend Shri Nilmoney Borthakur made certain reference regarding selection of a site for the primary Health Centre. Shrimati Padma Kumari Gohain had already replied but I may inform my friend that it was not done at the instance of the then Congress President but that was done on the representation of the local public.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) : Will the hon. Minister please state if his Ministry of Health sent a note to the Civil Surgeon to select the site in consultation with the District Congress President ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : I see no harm in consulting the District Congress President as she also represents a section of the people but as I said before it is not a fact that it was done at the instance of the then Congress President.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance etc.)** Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the last few days the hon. Members have the opportunity of discussing the Address give by the Governor. The question of Panchayats, nomination of members to these self governing bodies and they like have given so much prominence that I shall be failing in my duty if I do not take note of the impressions which have been created in the minds of the hon. Members. One hon. Member went to the extent of saying that what we have given by the one hand that is by enacting the Panchayat Bill, we have taken away by the other hand that is by constituting the *Ad-hoc* Advisory Committee and by giving nominations to these self governing bodies. Sir, I am sorry I do not agree with that line of argument and I think that this kind of argument cannot help any one. Hon. Member are aware that there had been no necessity on our part to decentralise power and politics and

give self governing institutions to the Panchayats but there was nothing to prevent us from bringing this Act and having enacted the same as early as we wanted. On the other hand, the hon. Members must realise that under provision of the Act which has now come into force the power has actually gone to the Primay Panchayats.

It is these Panchayats which have been put as executing authorities for the various developmental programmes which will be done in those areas. By making *Ad-hoc* provision, the Government desires that the people should not be denied this benefit till the elections are held. I do not know how the blame can now be laid on the doers for the simple reason. What has been made in the *Ad-hoc* provision for the Primary Panchayats which were in existence is known to the hon. Members. I think, so far as that part of law is concerned there is no fault with the Government. So far as the Presidents of the Gaon Panchayat and the Gaon Sabhas are concerned, these have been actually functioning as the executing authorities for the developmental activities of the village. So I do not see any reason as to how the hon. Member can accuse the Government that the Government has given power to the people in one hand and is taking away by the other hand. Secondly, so far as the constitution of the Anchalik Panchayat is concerned there is no laws by which the Government have nominated the members till the elections are held.

***Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara):** Probably all members were nominated from the Congress Party.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance, etc.):** If my hon. Friend have patience he will know under what circumstances these have been constituted. Now Sir, may I tell the hon. Member that so far as I am concerned and so far as the Government is concerned, we did not like this system of nomination. Because we cannot please everybody by nomination. The person who is nominated will be pleased and persons who are not nominated will be totally displeased. I have received so many grievances and complaints for this nomination. I am definite that even my friend Mr. Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya shall not be able to satisfy every section if he had occupied my position by this nomination. Now, therefore, I entirely agree that it is not possible to please each and every section by nominating members and Presidents to these Bodies.

***Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri):** What right the Government has to make these *Ad-hoc* provision? Why no direct election?

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** So far as these nominations are concerned, may I inform the hon. Member that I have received a lurch of letters and telegrams from different parts of the State for giving them nomination to the different Bodies. Since it was difficult for me to please every section of the people, by nominating their names, I requested the leader of the Opposition Shri Hareswar Goswami to send me a list of persons whom he liked me to consider for nomination to these Bodies. I may inform Mr. Jahanuddin that Shri Goswami sent the names of certain persons for Chaigaon Anchalik Panchyat, Boko, Bongaon, Rampur and Rani. I think I have received thirty or forty suggestions, but I could not accept them in toto.

***Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara):** May I know from the Minister whether suggestions were made by the leader of the Opposition for the whole State of Assam?

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance, etc.):** We are working on a party basis. Hon. Member is also aware that I asked certain names for the Select Committee and the leader of the Opposition supplied me with the names. Instead of approaching each and every member, I asked for four or five names from the leader of the Opposition. Secondly, I think there was nothing to prevent the hon. Member in sending his suggestions, if any, if he considered suitable for this purpose.

***Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery):** On a point of clarification Sir, we three M. L. As., from Mangaldoi submitted a joint petition for this purpose. But we were not selected as the members of any Bodies. So far I know all M. L. As. are nominated as *ex-officio* members. May I know why we were not selected?

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** I think Mr. Patwary has no ground to complain. Because *Ex-Minister* Shri Matlibuddin and Shri Pakhirai Deka have been nominated as the Presidents of the Anchalik Panchayat, Mangaldoi. I am sorry I could not include the name of Shri Patwary.

***Shri HIRALAL PATWARY:** আইনত M. L. A. সভাপতি হোৱাৰ পৰা বাধা দিছে, সেইটো কেনেকৈ সমর্থনযুক্ত হব পাৰে।

Mr. SPEAKER: M. L. A. ৰ election ৰ যোগেদি আহিব পাৰে তাত কোনো বাধা নাই।

***Shri HIRALAL PATWARY:** মোক President কাৰ দিলেও নই গৃহণ কৰিব নোৱাৰিলো হেতেন যিহেতু আইনে মোক President হবলৈ ব কৰিছে। Subdivisional Officer ক মহকুমা পৰিষদৰ President হবৰ কাৰণে Provision কৰিছে কিন্তু M.L.A. ৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত পতিবন্ধক উঠাই দিয়া হোৱা নাই

***Shri GAURISHANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** Sir, the point is that when an M. L. A. comes as an M. L. A., then he is not entitled to be office bearer. But if he comes as an ordinary member, then of course there is no bar for him to be *ex-officio* member. The contention of Mr. Patwary is that there is not a single exception where there is no single M. L. A., as a member of the Anchalik Panchayat. Even the hon. Speaker is also a member of the Anchalik Panchayat. But why this exception is made in respect of Shri Patwary is his point.

*Speech not corrected.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance, etc.):** That is entirely an erroneous contention, because no where an M.L.A. has been made a member of *Ad-hoc* Committee, as *ex-officio* member. I am surprised that Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya has raised this objection.

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** No, no. I have only explained it to my friend Shri Hiralal Patwary.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** I am glad that my friend Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya has said that he is elucidating on behalf of Shri Patwary. He has by implicit understanding accepted my views. A member of his own party is the President of the Anchalik Panchayat.

Now, Sir, it is wrong for the hon. Member to say that by making nomination to the bodies we have only given consideration to members of the Congress Party. But actually we have no idea of excluding any people. Everywhere the party in power has to be considered. But our heart is big, we are magnanimous. In these nominations we have taken members from the Communist Party, the Proja Socialist Party and there are also independent members. One member of the P. S. P. is the Vice-President. Under the circumstances, it is very unfair for the members to say that we have confined these nominations only to Congress members.

(Voice:—What about Barpeta Subdivision, Sir?)

I am sorry I could not take the hon. Member as one of the Presidents.

***Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery):** One point for clarification regarding Mangaldai. The hon. Minister has asked 3 men to be nominated as Vice-President. Shri Pakhirai Deka (8), Matlebuiddin Ahmed (8) and Dandiram Dutta (6).

Shri Dandiram Dutta has been nominated has Vice-President.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Yes. Now my Friend wanted to know why the *Ad-hoc* Committees have been constituted and the purpose was that actually the work of development which was at stand still in these areas should be done, with these bodies. If the hon. Member was aware I took special pains to tour all the Subdivisions to get together the members of the Gram Panchayat and Anchalik Panchayat and the officers to see how they could start their work there. They will realise how serious they are about giving these facilities to these bodies for the purpose of developing those areas and I want that the money provided for these areas should be surrendered and not wasted. It is only for this purpose that these *Ad-hoc* Committees have been constituted, so that we may do some work during the few months or few days which are left within the present financial year.

Shri TARUNSEN DEKA (Nalbary-West) : পশ্চিম নলবাৰী আঞ্চলিক পঞ্চায়তৰ যিজন মনোনীত সভাপতি, তেখেতক সভাপতি পাতিব নোলাশে বুলি বাইজৰ পৰা টেলিগ্রাম দিয়া হৈছিল আৰু ময়ো দিছিলো কাৰণ তেখেতক সেই অঞ্চলৰ মানুহে ভাল নেপায়। এই দৰে আপত্তি কৰা স্বত্বেও কিয় তেখেতক সভাপতি পতা হল ?

পূব নলবাৰী আঞ্চলিক পঞ্চায়তৰ সভাপতিজন Rural Panchayat নিৰ্বাচনেত পৰাজয় হোৱা মানুহ আৰু তেখেতকো সভাপতি পতাত বাইজে আপত্তি কৰিছিল। চৰকাৰ যদি বাইজৰ ওপৰত বিশ্বাস আছে তেনেহলে এইদৰে আপত্তি থকা মানুহবোৰক কিয় সভাপতি পাতিছে ?

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance, etc.):** That is alright. I have got your point. While there were telegrams and letters in his favour, it was decided to accept this.

The discrimination rests with me. When I got these telegrams and letters from the localities supporting one or opposing some other person, it is for me to decide who should be accepted and who should not be. Anyhow it is wrong for the hon. Members to say that these nominations were confined within the Congress Party alone. I am very sorry that A., B., C., could not be made President and therefore he should come and express a grievance that the Government want to give power by one hand and take it away by the other. This apparently is not correct. If that would have been the case, we would not have made a Communist President. We would not have taken so many members recommended by the leader of Opposition as members of the Anchalik Panchayat in Kamrup. My friend Shri Bhattacharyya said that if I asked him to give his suggestion, he would have done so.

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** As a matter of fact, I did not know that these lists have been given. I am not complaining. What I am saying is this, if the leader of the P. S. P. who have 7 followers in this house why could not the leader of the Communist party who has got 5 followers in this house, be consulted ?

***Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery):** My point has not been made clear. How many Members have been nominated ?

Mr. SPEAKER: He says none.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** This is a repetition for me. I thought the entire opposition group was functioning under the leader of the Opposition.

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** We are a distinct group. We do not know what the hon. Speaker would like to say in this regard.

Mr. SPEAKER: I want to take a decision in this connection as soon as Shri Hareswar Goswami, the Leader of Opposition will come.

* **Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance, etc.):** Till we know the new situation my hon. Friend cannot blame me. If I know the situation then certainly I shall consult the leaders of the various parties.

Now Mr. Barbaruah enquired as to why these Committees were constituted. I have said, these committees were constituted because the election will take some time and we thought it necessary that the money which is meant for the purpose of developing these villages could be given to the Gaon Sabha panchayats and Anchalik Panchayats for the purpose of developing during the financial year. That was the main reason and the hon. Members may have noticed from the Gazette—I think last week's Gazette—that members of Gaon Sabha have been constituted and that shows how serious and sincere we are in trying to expedite actions in all these areas, and I can tell you this much that I am working on the basis that as soon as possible in any particular area we shall begin election, it will be our effort to complete the elections as early as possible. We shall certainly start election from the month of April and expedited the whole thing as soon as we can, and I hope during these 3 or 4 months I think Heaven cannot fall if A is the president and B becomes the member. Ultimately the work is to be done by Gaon Panchayats and there we have not disturbed the existing units where members have been elected through the process of election, and if that is so, I do not know why such objections are being raised.

***Sri KHAGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri):** On point of order Sir. What all-embracing programmes and schemes are there covering the Anchalik Panchayats which forced the Government to constitute the *Ad-hoc* Anohalik Panchayats. By retaining these Rural Panchayats Government could have done what it has sought to be done now. From the proceedings of the Report of the Anchalik Panchayats we have seen that only few amounts have been provided for the development of certain village or area, or certain tank or pond.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED** I am afraid my friend has not realised the importance and significance of the provisions of the act itself. The day when I convened a meeting at Sibsagar I expected that my friend would be present there and take part in the proceedings, but he was absent; and if he had been there he would have realised the importance and significance of the work which is to be done by the Anchalik Panchayats and the Gaon Panchayats. I am sorry that when these meetings are held the members concerned either do not take interest or absent themselves. Mr. Barbaruah was absent on the particular day and now he comes and complains what is to be done, what has been done or what could be done and so on and so forth. I am sorry about it.

Now secondly some allegations have been made that we have nominated cattle lifters—we have nominated some very undesirable elements. My friend Shri Barbaruah has not given us the name—he has not the courage to give us the name of the person who is a cattle lifter.

***Shri KHAGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH:** Government did not ask his name. His name is Betharam Baruah.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance, etc.):** My information is that this is entirely incorrect. Shri Betharam Barua is a man who is well respected, and a person who does plenty of developmental works and is respected by the people, and so the allegation is incorrect.

***Shri KHAGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri):** But he is a "Garu Chor".

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** I think my hon. friend should call him "Garu Chor" outside and see the consequence. He should not have the protection of the House. However, so far our information goes he is a good worker. Secondly, will you produce a certified copy of the judgment that he was convicted for cattle lifting?

***Shri KHAGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH:** May I know whether Government is ready to pay me the cost for getting the certified copy?

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** When you make an allegation you should substantiate it. I think it was Shri Phani Bora who mentioned the name. May I tell him that Government have no such information, and he is the President of the Rural Panchayat. He was nominated because he was the *Ex-President* of the Rural Panchayat and as long a person remains a President of the Rural Panchayat he is to be there, and his name was included not because of any other reason but because he was the President of the Rural Panchayat, and I am not aware of any fact whether this particular allegation was found correct or that he was removed from the Rural Presidentship. May I tell him that he was one of the men who was very much respected in his locality?

Shri PHANI BORA (Nowgong): That is why the allegation was made against him. As he was the President of the Rural Panchayat so the allegation was not enquired into, and more so because the Development Officer of Silchar was also related to that very President.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Since this matter has been suggested, may I tell him that this gentleman had donated land for the use of the panchayats and this is the property of the panchayats. I don't know how my friends say that he has spent the money for his own use. He has donated land for the use of the panchayats which is becoming the property of the panchayats. Take this as information from me.

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** Is there any deed of gift?

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** It is the panchayat's property. May I tell that this gentleman when he was stabbed during the communal disturbance in Silchar, and he could know very easily the name of the assailant who stabbed him but he did not disclose the name of the person and he also did not like the case to be started.

***Shri KHAGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri):** Is it not a fact that the said gentleman was implicated in a rioting case during the League period?

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance, etc.):** He was stabbed only about 2 or 3 years ago. When he was stabbed I went to see him. He was in a very bad condition. He could have told the name of the assailant but instead of he said, "I am prepared to die for my own country. Let this matter be stopped amicably and in amity".

My friend may say all these thing now. But when there is such a frenzy and if we keep our heads on our shoulders then what would happen. Some objections have been raised to our method of nomination in the Municipalities. My friend Shri Nilmoney Borthakur went to the extent of saying about the nomination of the scheduled caste. I do not know what he meant by that. If the hon. Member is prepared to see that only two nominations can be given, one either to a scheduled caste, or a scheduled tribe or a backward community and if two nominations are to be given either to a scheduled caste or scheduled tribe the other has to be eliminated. In this particular case we gave the nomination to a member of the backward community not only because she belongs to the Ahum community but also she is a leading woman representative in that area. I think it is really discouraging to find that in this body women are not coming by way of election. If that is so, it should be the principle of Government to see that women are nominated when they do not find a place through election. So, if a woman is given the nomination to such a body I do not know how my friend can have any objection in nominating such a person who represents a community.

Our stand is correct and we are proud of the fact that it has been possible for us to nominate a woman member to the Municipality at Dibrugarh. So far as the other member is concerned, my information is that the tribal member lives in Dibrugarh town. Now, so far as the position at Gauhati is concerned, I was absent when Shri Bhattacharjee referred to it. But I may inform the hon. Member that the election is due before the end of April and as the hon. Member is aware that the voters' list has to be prepared by the District Magistrate, that is to say, by the District Commissioner, Kamrup. This list can only be prepared on the basis of materials or facts available in the Municipal Board office. One of the essential qualifications is that all the residents over 21 years ago, who are assessed, can be the voters. Then there are other qualifications like graduation etc., and for that purpose we have no other material except the Assessment Register, on the basis of which the voters' list can be prepared. Now, in 1956 the Gauhati Municipality area was extended and that extended area has been formed into three wards, viz., ward Nos; 12, 13 and 14. Now, so far as the election is concerned, we have to go according to the Assessment Register which is maintained by the Municipalities and by including the names which are contained in that Register neither the District Commissioner nor the Government can say that the assessment has been made properly. The only thing we are concerned about is that the names should be in the Assessment Register and whatever names are found in the Register are included in the voters' list. As I already said, the voters' list is prepared from the Assessment Register. I received representations from the Communist Party as also from several persons at Gauhati that the

names of persons who are entitled to vote have not been included in the voters' list. Last time when I was at Gauhati I discussed the matter with the Deputy Commissioner and I asked him about it. He said that the list was prepared in accordance with the Register maintained in the Municipal Office. In any case, if people feel that their names have been omitted, let them file claims and I will see that their names are included, provided they can satisfy me that they are residents and they possess the necessary qualifications to be voters. Recently I heard that there were about 5,000 persons claiming for inclusion in the electoral rolls. That is a fairly big number and I do not know how many of them have been accepted and how many have been rejected. I am waiting for a report from the Deputy Commissioner. It is certainly true that there is some discontent and agitation with regard to this matter in the town of Gauhati. I am faced with a situation in which one section of the people do not like the election to be postponed and there is another section of the people who are anxious that the election in the Gauhati Municipality should be postponed. I do not know what will be the better solution of all these problems when there is such an acute position and when there is a sharp division in the town of Gauhati. But I am prepared to discuss the matter with the hon. Member from Gauhati and the Members who live at Gauhati and see how this difficulty can be solved. If the hon. Members advise me that in the interest of Municipal administration the election should be postponed and some other method should be devised for the purpose of having better electoral rolls, well I have the power to extend the life of the Municipality upto one or two years. But I do not like to take the responsibility of extending the life of the Municipality beyond April, 1960 unless the hon. Members think it absolutely necessary to do so. So, I will convene a meeting of the hon. Members living at Gauhati and I shall invite the Chairman of the Gauhati Municipality and the Deputy Commissioner and we shall see how a solution can be found out. I suppose, that will meet the wishes of the hon. Member.

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati):** I am not contesting what the hon. Minister has said, nor did I criticise the Government for any misdeeds of the Municipality. What I submit is that as early as on 22nd August, 1956 the Government of Assam had notified that the Gauhati Municipality area was extended and according to the notification three new wards were created. Now, my point is that when the Government had extended the area of the Municipality as early as on 22nd August, 1956, the assessment should have been made in that extended areas. But up till now the Gauhati Municipality authorities have not made any assessment in that area. In the whole of ward No.12 there are about 100 voters. In the whole of ward No.13 where my house is also situated not a single family has been assessed, although there are some names in the voters' list. In ward No.14 also no assessment has been made. So, my submission is that while the Government take a policy and which is so very old and when there is Deputy Commissioner to look after the Municipality and the Municipality does not implement the policy of the Government and does things which are apparently and clearly illegal, is it not the duty of the Government to intervene and see that in a growing town like Gauhati the work of Municipality is run properly and not haphazardly as is being done in the Gauhati Municipality?

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance):** As I have explained this area was extended in 1956 and so far his question is concerned it is within the jurisdiction of the Municipality's powers and we have assumed that this has been so and everything was in order. When the Deputy Commissioner asked for the list of these assesseees in that particular area he was not so much concerned to find out whether the assessment was in order but to get a list of the prepared voters' list. My friend will agree with me that we have given self-government to those bodies and we should interfere as little as possible in these matters. We were under the assumption that everything has gone all right. Now when the question has been raised that the assessment has not been proper, I think the hon. Member will advise these people to raise the matter elsewhere. These things were properly assessed and so far as preparation of the electoral rolls are concerned, they can proceed on the basis of the existing assessment list of the Municipalities. If my hon. friend thinks that the list has been prepared without the authority as laid down under the Act. I am prepared to discuss this matter with him and see how this difficulty can be overcome. After that discussion it becomes necessary to postpone the election, necessary action will have to be taken

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** All right. I accept this.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** I hope, Sir, I have clarified this position with regard to all these matters. The hon. Member will be satisfied that we have been moved in these matters not with any ill motive but with the purpose of giving real power to the people as we intended at the time of introducing the legislation. Now my friend Shri Barbaruah is anxious as to.....

***Shri KHAGENDRA NATH BORBARUAH (Amguri):** What will be the life of the existing *Ad-hoc* Committees, I mean, how long these *Ad-hoc* Committees will function?

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** My friend will please look into the Gazette. There were some criticisms about this.

Mr. SPEAKER: You are taking Chief Minister's time.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** With your permission, I may be given a little more time. I think the hon. Member will remember that I never gave the assurance that the voting will be by ballot. Apart from the financial point of view there are other difficulties, practical difficulties in this matter. In the villages our people are still illiterate. It will be necessary for us to take to some simple system. Now, in every village there are 3 to 4 candidates standing for the membership. There will be 44 candidates for the membership of the Gaon Panchayats. It will be impossible for us to print 44 symbols.

It is for these reasons the Government thought that for the present let the old system be continued and next time when it is possible for us to provide education to our people, we might switch on the system of voting by ballot. We are anxious to have the elections as early as possible. For this reason some of the rules are going to be amended in order to help us to expedite the elections. I hope the rules will be finalized in course of this month to hold the election much earlier than would have been possible otherwise. We have taken steps and I can assure that with your co-operation it will be possible for us to start the election in April and finish it in May.

***Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery):** My point has not been clear. মতলিব চাহারে চটা ভোট পাইছিল। পাখিৰাই ডেকা ডাঙৰীয়াইও চটা ভোট পাইছিল। কিন্তু চটা ভোট পোৱা ডেকা ডাঙৰীয়াক কিয় নিয়োগ কৰা নহল ?

Mr. SPEAKER: ভোটৰ সংখ্যা দিয়া নাই মাত্ৰ এজন candidates হৈ পঠিয়াইছিল।

***Shri KHAGENDRA NATH BORBARUAH (Amguri):** In the course of his speech the hon. Minister has made some allegations against me. In a certain meeting I could not be present. I want to know if the hon. Minister is always able to keep his appointments? Can he attend public meeting whenever invited.

Mr. SPEAKER: নোৱাৰে।

***Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):** No it is not always possible for us. That was not an allegation. He was not there. Perhaps he was at Nowgong (*Laughter*).

***Shri KHAGENDRA NATH BORBARUAH:** Every man has got his programme however tiny it might be.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your kind permission I would like to participate in this important debate. In doing so, it is my first duty to extend our thanks to all those hon. Members who have participated in this debate, for their criticisms and their suggestions. Through their criticisms they have drawn our attention to matters of importance and have also afforded us an opportunity to explain our views and position on various matters. Occasional pin-pricks given here and there by some of the hon. Members if not have done anything have broken the monotony of the debate and have made the debate enjoyable. Perhaps all of them deserve thanks.

It will be my endeavour, Sir, to discuss all the matters which have been raised by the hon. Members and express my views. If I fail to discuss all, more particularly the details, it is not because I do not attach importance to these but because of limitation of time.

Some of the hon. Members have referred to omissions of certain subjects in the Governor's address. I would submit, Sir, that such omissions are not because the Governor has not attached importance to those subjects. The Government policies and views in respect of the many of the subjects which have not found place in the Governor's address are too well-known to the hon. Members through earlier debates and otherwise and it would have meant only repetition of the same things, and the Governor has made it quite clear in opening his address that he has left some matters for placing before the House by the Minister, Finance, obviously meaning the Budget Speech. I can appreciate the hon. Members' anxiety to hear about new things and new plans. But I would remind the hon. Members that for a country and a State which has undertaken a planned development, its programmes must be kept confined to the four walls of the plan. If the

plan is ignored then we say good bye to the plan, and the hon. Members would agree that it would neither be desirable nor would it lead us to progress. India has accepted the planned development on the basis of her experience of the first few years of her Independence.

When some of the hon. Members criticise that a clear picture is wanting I feel somewhat surprised because the clear picture for the whole country is there in the Second Five Year Plan almost on all subjects. I need, therefore, hardly mention about the need of relating almost all our activities to the plan. I am very glad that all hon. Members who have participated in this debate have welcomed the improved relationships with our neighbouring country, Pakistan. I join with them and hope that this improvement would continue for the best interest of both the countries.

Extension of invitation to the Chinese Prime Minister by our Prime Minister for a talk in Delhi is consistent to the policy of peace our country is pursuing. I am glad that the Prime Minister of China has accepted the invitation. Let us hope that the discussions would be fruitful and the territories occupied by China would be vacated. The disappointment which China has brought to us by their aggression naturally has created a very poor opinion about the country. Let us hope that good sense will prevail even at this stage and they would vacate our territories.

Some of the hon. Members have given their suggestions for intergradation of the different administrative units N. E. F. A., Manipur, Tripura, N. H. T. A. with Assam. I have hardly anything to disagree with this suggestion. As a matter of fact, I expressed similar views myself sometime back. Hon. Members however would appreciate that for implementation of this suggestion conditions have to be created through various ways. It cannot be done in a blurt way. What I mean is that the people living in these different territories will also have to appreciate the need of this integration for common good.

Our Governor made some observations with regard to some improvement in the matter of major crimes in our State in 1959. I am glad that a large number of the hon. Members have given credit to the Police for this improvement. I am however, surprised that a few of the hon. Members are very anxious to see that no credit goes to the Police for this. To them I would only say "do not give any credit to the Police, give the credit to the Village Defence Parties. If you do not give this credit to the Village Defence Parties, give the credit to the people. If you do not give the credit to the people, take the credit to you but you have to admit that so far as major crimes are concerned, 1959 is a better year than 1958".

Some of the hon. Members have raised the question of State language and absence of any mention about it in the Governor's address. The Governor has not mentioned about it in his address because the Government have not taken a decision on the subject yet. I would, however, mention that Government have not under-estimated its importance or the request that has been made by the Assam Sahitya Sabha and other institutions for declaration of Asamese as the State language. Perhaps there are two important reasons which warrant enactment on a State language. The first is to make the official communications easily understandable to the common man, and the second is to break the barrier of language which

now separates the diverse population of Assam. I highly appreciate the zeal and enthusiasm with which the demand for declaration of Assamese as the State language has been made, more particularly, by the Assamese-speaking section of our population. Government would prefer to wait till they get the same demand from the non-Assamese speaking population for declaration of Assamese as a State language. Government feel that this question should be judged more from the point of view of appreciation and acceptance than from the point of view of majority or minority. If this issue is decided only on the basis of majority or minority, Government is afraid that its object would be defeated.

Suggestions have also been made by some of the hon. Members for shifting of the capital from Shillong to Gauhati. I would submit that Government have no such proposal but Government have felt the need of dispersal of some of the offices and establishment of new offices on zonal basis. Under that scheme, may be that a large number of offices will have to be shifted to Gauhati. It is the intention of the Government to develop Gauhati to a firstclass city and Government hope that it would be possible to find funds in the Third Five Year Plan for the purpose.

I highly appreciate the first part of the speech of the hon. Member from Gauhati, Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya, in which he discussed the important problems of the State. I, however, feel that he could have contributed greatly and it would have been for the good of the State if he had confined the latter part of his speech also to similar important matters and left the criticisms relating to some details to someone-else of his Party. As a matter of fact, the latter part of his speech is misfit to the earlier part of his speech, which I appreciate very much. I would submit Sir, I have hardly anything to differ with what he has said in the earlier part of his speech.

With regard to land reforms, I feel, Sir, its progress would be very much dependent on our ability to make the common man conscious of the right which this legislature has given to them through various legislations. The House would agree with me that in the matter of land reforms legislation we have done quite well. It is the implementation part where the snags have to be removed. Besides other things the greatest snag is the ignorance of the people of the right which the various land reforms acts have given them, and also to lack of organisation. I hope, Sir, this deficiency to a great extent could be removed by organisation of the Field Management Committees and proper running of the same. Both for improvement of agricultural production and for land reforms I would seek the co-operation of the hon. Members to make the Field Management Committee Movement a success.

Taking advantage of the ignorance and weak economic power of the tenants I know of efforts on part of the vested interests to get the tenants involved in criminal cases and thus defeat the object of various land reform measures. To counteract this we are considering to issue a circular to all concerned with the approval of the High Court.

Fixing of my deadline for completing the implementation of the land reform measures will not stand for obvious reasons. I am however one with the hon. Member that implementation should be speeded up, and I count upon the support of the Field Management Committees and the Panchayats for the same.

I can assure the hon. Members that the problem of unemployment is receiving our serious attention and from our side we are taking every possible measures to resolve the same. The hon. Members would appreciate that ultimate solution of this problem would be in industrialisation. Along with it comes the question of improvement of communication, power generation and like things. Hon. Members would please appreciate that we are taking all possible measures for the same.

Along with industrialisation also comes the question of the employment of the people of the State to the maximum possible extent in the industries. The hon. Members are aware of the Government Resolution on Employment and the organisation that is being set up. I claim, Sir, that in all these matters we are taking positive steps which are bound to produce results.

I know of some arm-chair critics who endeavour to rule out all our efforts by saying that these are all eye-wash. They are incapable of giving any better suggestion. I feel, Sir, instead of wasting any time with these we shall make a better use of our time for furthering our object. God save Assam from these types of critics.

The Minister for Industries and I have, in the meantime met industrialists and agency-house representatives with regard to employment of the people of the State to the maximum possible extent. I am glad to inform the House that their response is satisfactory.

With regard to employment of the people of our State in the Central Government Departments, I may inform the House that I have taken up these matters with the Prime Minister and other Central Ministers concerned. I have found them quite sympathetic and they are doing all that within their power to help us.

Along with all these arrangements, requests and appeals, comes the question of training of our people so that they may be useful for the industries and other lines. We are endeavouring to create more facilities for technical education. Although we would like to expand more and more in this direction dearth of teachers for these institutions is standing as a great obstacle. This dearth is all over India but dearth in Assam is more. We are also endeavouring to organise apprenticeship training in various industries.

We would intensify all our efforts in this direction.

My colleague, the Minister for Co-operation has intervened in this debate and placed before the House what we have to say about State Trading. I would, therefore, not take the time of this House by speaking on that subject. I must however express my satisfaction for the support this House has given for State Trading. Whatever defect exists in it today should go and the State Trading must be made a success for the good of the country.

Sir, there are criticism about the nomination to the Anchalik Panchayat, municipal election and also nominations to the Municipal Boards. I hope, my colleague, the Minister for L. S. G. Community Project's statement in this House has clarified the Government position. Similarly, my other colleagues who have participated in this debate have clarified the

position with regard to the various matters raised in connection with matter relating to their departments. Therefore, I do not take the time of this august House by repeating what has been said already. I would however mention that improvement of railways in this zone has received attention of railway Board and in the meantime, if a proper assessment is made, we will have to admit that certain improvement has been effected. I would also like to mention that actual expansion railway line has been taken in hand. Let me not go to the details for reason of security.

Some of the hon. Members have criticised the absence any observation in the Governor's address with regard to Education. I need hardly satisfy hon. Members with the enormous expansion which has taken place in the matter of education. Without going into more details the very fact that our Education Budget has gone up about 9 time more that it was 10 to 12 years ago shows the expansion that has been made in the field of education. Along with its expansion naturally large number of problems are facing this department and these problems would have to be solved, whether it is in basic education or in technical education or in the multi-purpose schools. The hon. Member will have occasion to discuss these matters in more details at the time of Budget discussion and also in the Demands for Grants. I would, therefore, not take the time of this august House by going into the details of this subject, except quoting some figures.

	1946-47		1958-59 as on 31st March 1959	1959-60
1. Education Budget including Supplementary.	74,00,000		5,17,00,000	5,65,00,000
2. No. of Primary Schools including Junior Basic.	9,884	Plains	12,446	..
		Hills	2,494	..
		Total	<u>14,940</u>	
3. No. of M. E., M. V. including Senior Basic.	511	Plains	1,571	..
		Hills	214	..
		Total	<u>1,785</u>	
4. No. of Aided H. E. School.	187		380	..
5. No. of Aided Colleges.	14		24	..

With regard to development of roads, I want to submit that our achievement since the independence has not been mean. I substantiate my statement by mentioning the following figures.

Our road mileage, before the First Five Year Plan was taken up, was 2,655 miles and by the end of the Second Five Year Plan our road mileage under the P. W. D. will increase to 8,000 miles.

I however appreciate that much more improvement is yet necessary and there are areas like the Mizo Hills where the progress of development of communication has been slow. Unfortunately, that district has certain very peculiar problems unlike many other hill districts. For example, although it is a hill district, cannot get stone for surfacing the roads in that district. Even for the Silchar-Aijal Road stones have to be brought from Jatinga. I, therefore, submit to the hon. Members of this House that it is the problems of this nature which have retarded the progress for the development of communication in this district. I however hope that this situation would not remain very long and we have to overcome all obstacles and improve the communication in that district.

The situation in the Naga Hills has been mentioned in this debate. I have only to repeat our good wishes to the people of the Naga Hills and we look forward for the day when peace would prevail and the people there like the people of the rest the county will think and act more in constructive lines than otherwise.

There were certain criticisms with regard to the administration in the North East Frontier Agency. I referred some of these criticisms to the N.-E.F.A. Administration, and I seek, Sir, your permission to read out the information which I received from the N.-E.F.A. Administration. But before I do so I would however inform this august House that this administration has been maintaining very friendly co-ordination with the administration of Assam and I hope whatever may be the problems existing these problems will no more be there and this House will have no opportunity of raising any more criticism against the N.E.F.A. Administration. Misbehaviour by an odd officer, here and there, I feel, Sir, should not find place in the deliberation of this august House. Now I read out the note which I have received from the N.E.F.A. Administration.

"I have just received your UO at 6 P. M. We are trying, as far as possible, to make our appointments from people in Assam. It is only in the case of special posts particularly where special technical qualifications are required and where personnel are not available locally, that recruitment is made from outside. In such cases recruitment is generally through a Special Selection Board presided over by a Member of the Assam Public Service Commission.

"The Political Officer, Tezu, who is from Assam has been posted there for well over 2½ years. If any incident took place (of which I cannot get information at such short notice) it must have been very long ago. Speaking from memory again most of the Assistant Political Officers are being recruited from amongst people of Assam. Although the results of the recent Special Selection Board for appointment to the Indian Frontier Administrative Service do not appear to have been officially notified, I understand that about one-third of the Officers recommended for appointment to this, our top administrative service corresponding to the I.A.S. is from Assam."

Sir, the note continues "It is completely incorrect to state that the Assamese people are practically denied any opportunity to take part in the Administration and that outsiders are as a rule brought in the recruitment."

To the contrary other things being equal recruitment policy is always in favour of personnel from Assam region. In so far as Indian Frontier Administrative Service is concerned the statistics below speak for themselves. We have reason to believe that Assamese representation in the Indian Frontier Administration Service may well be even greater than that in the Assam cadre of the I.C.S. or I. A. S. cadre itself.

	Total Number of Posts	No. of posts held by officers from Assam area	No. of posts held by officers outside Assam	Percentage of As- samese representa- tion
1. IFAS GRADE—				
1	29	9	2	31 per cent
2. IFAS GRADE—				
11	15	10	5	66 do.

Recently, there has been further recruitment to the IFAS the results of which are still fully to be declared.

Out of candidates from the N.E.F.A. 5 or 71 per cent so far declared successful are Assamese. We understand that in so far as even the total selection on all India basis is concerned in the new recruitment the percentage of Assamese is likely to be between 30-50 per cent.

In so far as the Educational cadre is concerned similar position obtains as will be from the Figures below.

Although the Director of Education is from outside Assam his Assistant Director is permanently domicile in Assam Sir, the notes continue.

	Total number of posts	No. of posts held by offi- cers from the Assam area	No. of posts held by offi- cials from the Assam area	Percentage of Assamese re- presentation
1. Principal and Lecturers Buniadi Siksha Bhawan.	4	2	2	50 per cent
2. Inspectors of School	7	5	2	71 do.
3. Headmasters of High School	3	1	2	33.3 do.
4. Other Graduate Teachers	55	16	39	29 do.
5. Matriculate Teachers	201	164	37	81 do.
6. Under-matric Teacher	101	100	1	99 do.

There is lesser proportion of Assamese representation in the cadre of Graduate Teachers. Here, although every attempt has been made to fill the posts with candidates from Assam there is a dearth of such qualified candidates as compared with the rest of the country. For the proper development of education in N.E.F.A. the Administration requires B.T. or M.E.D. as a qualification for such Graduate Teachers with preference for teachers qualified in Mathematics and Science.

Even here, however, where suitable Assamese volunteers are available this insistence of M. Ed and B.Ts is usually waived but in such cases there must naturally be some other kind of basic ability to compensate.

The Administration will at all times welcome volunteers from Assam amongst Arts Graduates who possesses the qualifications of M.A. or B. T. or from Science Graduates who are willing to accept the posts of Graduate Teachers inside the N.E.F.A. Response to earlier Advertisements from Assamese candidates has been most discouraging.

The hon. Member from Nowgong has referred to our eviction policy. He has quoted the Prime Minister also. I must submit, Sir, that these quotations are out of context and cannot be applicable to our policy. The matter which the hon. Member has in his mind just at the moment is about the eviction in the Mikir Hills. I take this opportunity of explaining to this House the exact position with regard to this eviction in the Mikir Hills.

In this connection it is necessary to give a brief background of the land problem in the Borbil area of the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills District. This area largely formed part of the Nomati Mauza of Nowgong District before the constitution of the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills District in 1951. The area was non-cadastral and non-surveyed and various classes of people had started coming there, clearing the land and setting down. Almost all these various elements were encroachers because they had not taken any previous permission of the authorities. On the setting up of the District Council for the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills District in 1952 the two Mikir M.L.As. represented to the Chief Minister that for some years past outsiders had been entering the Hills and were not only occupying lands in some of the plains Mauzas of the district but also tending to encroach upon the land under the actual occupation of the Mikirs. They requested the Chief Minister to take steps to stop the entry of the outsiders into the district. In order, however, to discharge what they considered their moral duty the Mikir Hills District Council agreed to consider the cases of the displaced persons who had come into the Borbil area before the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills District was actually constituted for this purpose a survey was conducted and a census made by calling people to assemble at Doboka. It was found that there were 565 persons with registration certificates as proof of their displaced status. The Autonomous District Council felt that provision in a compact block for these 565 families at the rate of 6 bighas per family should be made there. According they allotted an area comprising of 3390 bighas. A scheme costing Rs.3 lakhs for the settlement of these 565 families was also approved but none of these families took advantage of the facilities because they had rehabilitated themselves with their own effort.

Both with a view to providing the Mikirs with land for wet cultivation and also to provide for the settlement of the 565 families in a planned manner and also to know the magnitude of the problem a further census of the displaced persons in the area was taken in 1956. This census revealed that there were 1774 families claiming displaced status of whom 1024 families could be accepted as such. This meant that there were approximately 750 families composed of elements other than displaced persons. In point of fact both the numbers of displaced families as well others were far in excess of the number enumerated. At the same time the District Council was considerably perturbed and agitated at the continuous influx of both displaced persons and others and requested the State Government all help to evict the encroachers. In order, however, that the largest possible number of displaced families might be accommodated it was decided to settle 741 families in the Mikir Hills by reducing the area of allotment from 6 to 5 bighas and including amongst them 79 non-agricultural displaced families by allotting them 1 bigha of land each.

This allotment was, however, considered insufficient as an economic holding by the Government of India and the allotment recommended was at least 8 bighas per family. According to this 400 agricultural families and 50 non-agricultural families could be accommodated in the 3390 bighas which the District Council had earlier agreed to make available after considerable persuasion. The Government immediately took up the question of rehabilitating as many displaced families as possible outside the district in the circumstances. Various schemes of settlement of 285 families in the Barapani, Coolie Cossie, Jorabari, Titajuli areas of the Nowgong District and in the Letekujan Grant of the Golaghat Subdivision were formulated and received the approval of the Government of India. Besides this, the Forest Department and P.W.D. were told to take on as labourers as many displaced persons as would be prepared to work on forest roads or roads made by the P.W.D. It will be seen from what has been stated that the Government has been extremely solicitous about providing alternative facilities for displaced persons while at the same time sympathising with the position of the authorities in the Autonomous United Mikir and North Cachar Hills District. The problem appears to have become even more complicated because of the continuous influx into the District as the current eviction operation seem to indicate. It is now being said that there would be approximately 1800 families claiming displaced status and approximately another 1200 families of various other groups and categories. It has also been found that even when some evictions are made and carried out not only do the same parties re-encroach in the area but are reinforced by a further influx. This state of affairs in Sixth Scheduled area is one which the Government cannot view with any degree of equanimity. It is regretted that despite the utmost sympathy and various attempts by the Relief Rehabilitation Department and Tribal Areas Department, the position appears to be that one of the encroachers is prepared to leave, and in fact, as stated earlier, more and more encroachments continue to take place. This attitude has also led to jeopardising the cases of the original 565 families and out of them 450 families to be selected as well as 285 families for whom arrangements can be made outside the District. The displaced families also apparently refuse to identify the non-displaced families which makes the position even more difficult. The State Government have full sympathy what the displaced persons but emphasis that in an

Autonomous Hill District, the control over land and the availability of flat land is of the gravest concern to the District Council. Government also must give protection to the Mikir people and make available to them flat land for cultivation. In the circumstances, it is hoped that instead of placing obstacles in the way of a planned settlement of those displaced families who are entitled to settlement in the Mikir Hills, it would be advisable for all persons and parties co-operative in this matter. We will have to, despite difficulties, continue to extend help to the District Council. While the police will not themselves evict persons or break down any houses they will have to remain there to see that law and order is maintained and the lawful and legal eviction operations being carried out by the District Council are brought to a successful conclusion.

It appears to me that taking advantage of the backwardness of the Mikir people there is an organised attempt to encroach upon the land of the Mikir Hills to the detriment of the Mikir people. This is a position which the Government cannot allow and therefore whenever any request to counteract this organised encroachment is received by the Government the Government shall have to give due support to the Mikir Hills District Council with police force.

The hon. Member has also referred to the visit of I. G. P. to Karimganj. I have communicated the proceedings to the I. G. P. and in fairness to him and also for the information of this august House I would now read out the information which I have received from I. G. P.

"During his tour of inspections of Cachar District by the end of December 1959, I. G. P. according to his usual practice, met representatives of public opinion of all shades irrespective of party affiliation at the Circuit House at Karimganj to discuss various problems of security and law and order and to ascertain from them the successes or failures of police Administration in that area.

"He never attended any Congress Workers' meeting at Karimganj nor was there any discussion, as such, about the Nowgong bye election.

"During discussion on various subjects in the Karimganj Circuit House, I. G. P. was asked several questions which he answered and some of them relevant to the speech of Shri Phani Bora in the Assembly are mentioned below :

(i) Corruption—I. G. P. told the gentlemen present that since the A. C. Branch had been reorganised a considerable progress was made in the detection of cases in various branches of Administration but he emphasised that this was a Herculean task and unless the public at large, especially the intelligentsia came forward to actively help the authorities concerned, progress was bound to be slow. In this connection he warned those present that India was passing through a very crucial phase and unless corruption and dishonesty in the society at large and the administration in particular were drastically curbed, the country would go down as in I. G. P.'s view this was the gravest internal danger that the nation was facing today.

He also stressed that the people of India must learn from the lessons of recent history and profit by them. He referred to the emergence of authoritarian regimes in China and Pakistan and explained how widespread

prevalence of corruption and dishonesty spelled the doom of their predecessors. He then said that if democracy in India was to be saved a supreme national effort must be made by all concerned to eliminate corruption wherever it existed.

“(2) Chinese Communist threat to India—After dealing with the Pakistan border situation which was progressively improving, I. G. P. mentioned that the gravest problem of defence and security had appeared along the northern boundary of India, especially affecting Assam. He told those present that in India's long history this northern frontier never posed any problem of defence or security and it was the first time that the country was facing it. This was a most formidable fact of history and geography whose full implications must be realised and appreciated by the people. In this context, he mentioned that Assam was particularly menaced because not only nearly forty thousand square miles of her territory was being claimed by China but Chinese Communist troops had committed aggression at Longju in Assam which they did not vacate yet. The Chinese Communists were pursuing a progressively intransigent policy against India and it was not clear what was going to happen in the near future. In this connection he, incidentally, mentioned that Peking Radio had taken prompt advantage of the results of the last Nowgong bye-election and in its comments had implied that the results of the Nowgong bye-election had provided indirect endorsement of their present policy vis-a-vis India—thereby suggesting that this policy was not wrong.

“There was no other reference to the Nowgong bye-election nor any “political” discussion in that connection”.

In the circumstances I cannot but express my great surprise when some of the hon. Members on the other side of the House say that Government have no appreciation of the basic problem of the State. I am sorry, Sir, I cannot accept this statement because it is really after appreciating the basic problems of the State we have been endeavouring to improve the position of the State, to industrialise the State, to find employment for the people of the State, to expand the education and all other matters. If in spite of that they go on telling us or charging us like this we are helpless.

The hon. Member from Nowgong mentioned that we have not been able to inspire enthusiasms in the people. Sir, I have travelled far and wide within our State in the course of 2 years of my office. I did so before also. If I have to tell him about my experience then I will say that each and every man in the State is full of enthusiasm and want to march ahead except perhaps a few who are frustrated and pessimist. I am very sorry, Sir, I cannot help the frustrated and pessimist people.

Sir, the Government fully appreciate the need of gearing up the Governmental machinery to cope with the demand for establishment of a socialistic welfare State. We have been exerting fully to gear up the machinery but this is a matter where it would be wrong to expect very quick results. I hope, I will have occasion to explain in details some of the measures we have adopted for improvement of the Governmental machinery.

Sir, I have intentionally not gone into details to some of the matters which have been raised like settlement of fisheries. I, however, understand that delay in settlement of some of the fisheries mentioned by the hon. Member of Gauhati was due to certain orders of the Court.

I am glad that all the hon. Members have expressed sympathy for our brothers and sisters in Mizo Hills who are now facing a serious food scarcity. From Government side we are doing our best to meet the situation and we would continue to do so to the best of our ability. I have also issued an appeal to the people of the country to come forward with help. I am glad to inform the House that the Prime Minister has contributed a sum of Rs. 20,000 from his relief fund. I would appeal to the people again through this august House for liberal contribution to this fund. The situation in Mizo Hills District would need constant vigilance till the month of October next at least, i.e., till the next crop is harvested. I would be failing in my duty if I do not express my thanks to the Government of India for all the co-operation we are getting from them to meet the situation. I also assure our Mizo brothers and sisters that this Government and the people of the State will not fail them in rendering all possible help.

Sir, if I may submit from whatever little experience I have gained as a humble worker of the Great Congress Organisation since 1930 and in this office I would venture to say that the future of Assam is bright, safe and prosperous provide we do not neglect two very important matters, namely :

(1) We must be able to form an united community of all the people living in Assam and this would be possible only through mutual respect and appreciation between all sections of the people, and

(2) We have to give much greater attention for economic progress and development both in the agricultural and industrial spheres.

If this responsibility is entirely left to the Government our progress naturally would be slow. Therefore, let the responsibility be shared by the Government and the people equally.

I would appeal to all the Members of the House for their full co-operation in these two important matters.

Let us proceed with optimism and not with pessimism and with a determination to overcome all difficulties and make Assam great and prosperous so that she might occupy the proper place in our great country—Mother India.

JAI HIND

This morning I made certain observations about the meeting at Tangla relating to State Trading, and my observation was based on the letters received from Shri Raineswar Sharma. Hon'ble Member Shri Patwari told me that he has been sorry for my observations. I accept his statement that some body wanted to move a resolution for the fix of Rs.10 for selling paddy to the Co-operative. What I stated this morning was based on this letter. If you desire I may place this letter on the table of the house.

Mr. SPEAKER Now, there are 3 amendments. I hope some of them are withdrawn after hearing the Ministers. The first amendment is from Shri Khagendranath Barbaruah.

Shri KHAGENDRANATH BARBARUAH (Aimguri): I am not withdrawing it.

Mr. SPEAKER: The second amendment is by Maulavi Tajuddin Ahmed.

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari): I am not withdrawing.

Mr. SPEAKER: The third amendment is from Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati): I am also not withdrawing it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Then I put the amendments one by one.

AMENDMENT 1. The question is that at the end of the motion moved by Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda, M. L. A., the following be added.

"But it is regrettable that there is no proper appreciation in his address.

(1) that in constituting the Adhoc Committees and areas of Anchalik Panchayats, great injustice has been done to the local people and their opinion has not been taken ;

(2) that the State Government has not moved the appropriate quarter for providing amenities and facilities to the passengers in the trains and for extension of railway line to the areas not touched by the existing lines ;

(3) That the Government has failed to maintain parity of prices between consumers' goods and agricultural products ;

(4) that his Government has not taken any specific step to move the Central Government for integration of N.E.F.A., N. H. T. A., Manipur, Tripura, etc. ; and

(5) about the growing unemployment problem in the State and its urgent need for immediate solution".

(The question was negatived).

Mr. SPEAKER: Now the second amendment moved by Maulavi Tajuddin Ahmed.

The question is that at the end of the motion moved by Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda, M.L.A., the following be added.

"But the Assembly regrets that the address of the Governor does not indicate a clear policy of the Government ;

(1) to give real power at the hands of the basic masses through Panchayat Raj ;

(2) to root out corruption, nepotism, red-tapism and wastage of public money in all stages of administration ;

(3) to effectively check the growing unemployment problem in the State ;

(4) to complete the necessary land reform measures and rehabilitation of the river eroded and displaced people ;

(5) to create a firm foundation for a self-generating and egalitarian economy in the State ;

(6) to stop further taxation upon the poor people of the State ; and

(7) to salvage the basic education in the State from the present deplorable condition".

HOUSE DIVIDED

Ayes—10

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Shri Phani Bora. | 6. Shri Khogendra Nath Barbaruah |
| 2. Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya. | 7. Shri Nilmoney Borthakur. |
| 3. Shri Ghanashyam Talukdar. | 8. Dr. Srihari Das. |
| 4. Shri Hiralal Patwary. | 9. Maulavi Tajuddin Ahmed. |
| 5. Maulavi Jahan Uddin Ahmed. | 10. Shri Tarun Sen Deka. |

Toes—50

- 1 Shri Bimala Prasad Chaliha.
- 2 Capt. Williamson A. Sangma.
- 3 Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.
- 4 Shri Rup Nath Brahma.
- 5 Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi.
- 6 Shri Hareswar Das.
- 7 M. Moinul Haque Choudhury.
- 8 Shri Mahendra Nath Hazarika.
- 9 Shri Biswadev Sarma.
- 10 Shri Takhika Ram Das.
- 11 Shri Larsingh Khyriem.
- 12 Shri Girindra Nath Gogoi.
- 13 Shri A. Thanglura.
- 14 Pu. Lalmawia.
15. Shri Sai Sai Terang.
- 16 Maulavi Abdul Matlib Mazumder
17. Shri Bhuban Chandra Pradhani.
18. Shri Bishnu Lal Upadhyaya.
19. Shri C. Chunga.
20. Shri Dandeswar Hazarika.
21. Shri Dhirsingh Deuri
22. Shri Durgeswar Saikia.
23. Shri Dwijesh Chandra Deb Sarma.
24. Dr. Ghanashyam Das.
25. Shri Gouri Shankar Roy.
26. Shri Harinayayan Baruah.
27. Shri Indreswar Khaund.
28. Shri Maham Singh.
29. Shri Joga Kanta Barua
30. Mrs. Jyotsna Chanda.
31. Shrimati Lily Sen Gupta
32. Mahadev Das
33. Mody K. Marak.
34. Mohidhar Pegoo
35. Mohi Kanta Das.
36. Molia Tati
37. Narendra Nath Sarma
38. Shri Omeo Kumar Das
39. Shrimati Padma Kumari Gohain.
40. Shri Purnanda Chetia.
41. Shri Radha Kishan Khemka.
42. Shri Ram Nath Das.
43. Shri Ramnath Sarm.
44. Dr. Dr. Ram Prasad Chaubye.
45. Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami.
46. Shri Sarbeswar Bordoloi.
47. Shri Siddhi Nath Sarma.
48. Shri Tamijuddin Prodhani.
49. Shri Tankeswar Chetia.
50. Mrs. Usha Barthakur.

(The question was negatived).

Mr. SPEAKER: Now amendment No. 3 I put the question: The question is that at the end of the motion of Thanks moved by Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda, M. L. A., following be added:—

“But the Assembly regrets that in the Address of the Governor there is no clear enunciation of a policy of the Government.

(1) to take up and complete the urgent land reform measures within a specified period of time ;

(2) to quicken the pace of industrial development in the State ;

(3) to improve the transport system in the State ;

(4) to rehabilitate the displaced persons ;

(5) to solve the growing unemployment problem in the State ;

(6) to cleanse and gear up the Administrative machinery in conformity with the ideal of a Welfare State ;

(7) to enlarge and adjust educational facilities and arrangements to cope with the growing needs of the people in spheres-social, economic and cultural ; and

(8) to create a firm foundation for the growth and development of an united community of people in Assam on the basis of a self-generating and socialistic economy.”

(The question was negatived)

Mr. SPEAKER: I now put the main resolution :

“That the Members of the Assam Legislative Assembly assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the Governor for the address which he has been pleased to deliver to this House assembled on 26th February, 1960.”

(The Motion was put as a question adopted)

ADJOURNMENT

The Assembly was then adjourned till 9 A. M. on Friday, the 4th March, 1960.

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