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Proceedings of the Third 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 9 A.M. on Friday, the 7th March, 1958.

PRESENT

Shri Dev Kanta Borooah, B.A., LL.B., Speaker, in the Chair, the eight Ministers, the two Deputy Ministers and the sixty-three Members.

Oath of allegiance

Shri Bimala Prasad Chaliha (Chief Minister) took oath as an elected Member of the Assembly.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

(The Starred Question No. 15 standing in the name of Shri Hareswar Goswami was not put and answered as the questioner was absent.)

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) : Sir, may I submit that Starred Question No. 20 relating to Community Development Block will be replied by the Chief Parliamentary Secretary and similarly the Unstarred Question No. 79 will also be replied by him.

Mr. SPEAKER : Yes, it is perfectly all right.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara) : Sir, I am authorised by Mr. Goswami to put the Question on his behalf.

Mr. SPEAKER : You may put the Question after all the questions in to-day's list have been finished. ✓

Forecast made for the Crop growing areas in the District of Nowgong

Maulavi NURUL ISLAM (Dhing) asked :

*16. Will the Minister-in-charge of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state--

- (a) What is the forecast made for the crop growing areas in the district of Nowgong to grow paddy, jute, etc., this year ?
- (b) What measures are being taken by the Government for irrigating the fields in the district of Nowgong to relieve the anxieties of the cultivators ?

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

16. (a)--The following forecasts have been made for crop growing areas in the Nowgong District to grow paddy and jute, etc., this year--

(i) Sali crop	...	...	5,80,000 acres.
(ii) Ahu crop	...	...	1,20,403 „
(iii) Boro crop	...	...	19,448 „
(iv) Jute crop	...	...	1,00,000 „

(b)--To relieve the anxieties of cultivators--143 Nos. of power pumps have been issued to cultivators for Boro paddy cultivation. 42 nos. of Minor irrigation projects have been approved for execution in the Nowgong District.

Maulavi NURUL ISLAM (Dhing) : What steps Government will take for the cultivators to grow crops if there is shortage of rain ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Measures will have to be taken to supply water through our power pumps. Moreover, we have certain minor irrigation projects.

Maulavi NURUL ISLAM : Will the power pumps be sufficient in a district like Nowgong ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Of course, it is not possible to cover all the crop fields of Nowgong with power pumps alone in case of total failure of rain.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari) : How Government propose to irrigate the whole area of Nowgong in case of total failure of rain?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) : Only by major irrigation projects the whole area can possibly be irrigated and for that reason this Government has been trying its best to get the approval of the Government of India with regard to Kopili Project.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : Who prepares such a scheme ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : The Public Works Department (Embankment and Drainage), Revenue, Statistics and Agriculture Departments of this Government with the help of Central Power and Water Commission.

Shri MOHIKANTA DAS (Barchalla) : Will the power pumps be granted free or with any charge ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Sixty three power pumps for Ahu and Sali paddy which irrigated an area of 4,400 acres were given free and 143 power pumps for Boro cultivation were issued against the usual security of Rs.100 in each case. Whether payment will have to be made is to be determined on the merit of each.

Shri MOHIKANTA DAS : Who will determine in each case whether the cultivators will be required to pay for the same ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : By a joint enquiry by the Deputy Commissioner and the District Agriculture Officer concerned in case of a Sadar Subdivision and by the Subdivisional Officer and the Subdivisional Agricultural Officer in case of a Subdivision.

Maulavi NURUL ISLAM (Dhing) : Sir, in case of drought what steps Government will take for peeling and washing the jute crops ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Sir, I require notice of this question.

Shri MOHIKANTA DAS : The Minister has just stated that some power pumps are given against personal security

of Rs.100 in each case. May I know whether they will be allowed to be used free ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) : The matter whether the cultivators using them will be required to pay or not is determined according to their financial conditions ; that is to say, in some cases such pumps will be used free ; in some cases full payments will have to be made and in some other cases partial payments will have to be made according to the financial condition of the cultivators concerned. All these are determined by the Deputy Commissioner or the Subdivisional Officer and the District Agricultural Officer or the Subdivisional Agricultural Officer, as the case may be, after joint enquiry.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : May I know whether such pumps were issued for the Nowgong District alone or for some other Districts as well ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Pumps were issued for the Goalpara District also on the same terms and conditions. Pumps on payment are issued to all other districts, according to necessity.

Maulavi NURUL ISLAM (Dhing) : What measures Government is going to take in case of failure of crops and for want of water, and consequently famine sets in ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY : There is no chance of famine. Any way, the Government is going to build up a paddy store of 12 lakh maunds.

(Starred Question No.17 was not put as the Questioner Shri Hareswar Goswami was not present).

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara) : Sir, this Question No. 17 also I am authorised to put by Mr. Goswami.

Mr. SPEAKER : You may put it after all the questions in to-day's list are finished.

Jorhat Tribal Rest House

Shri HARINARAYAN BARUAH (Teok) asked :

*18. Will the Minister-in-charge of Tribal Affairs be pleased to state when the equipment grant will be made available to the Jorhat Tribal Rest House ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical for Minister, T. A. D.) replied :

18.—An amount of Rs.4,935 has already been sanctioned on 11th February 1958 for providing equipment and furniture for the Tribal Rest House at Jorhat. The Deputy Commissioner, Sibsagar has been asked to do the needful.

Brahmaputra Bund from Kaliabar to Dhing

Maulavi NURUL ISLAM (Dhing) asked :

*19. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (Embankment and Drainage) be pleased to state—

- (a) What was the result of enquiry and investigation made by the Public Works Department Minister during his visit to Nowgong on 18th November 1957 as regards the Brahmaputra Bund from Kaliabar to Dhing in respect of opening of the natural channels, such as, Leteri and other channels as demanded by the cultivators ?
- (b) Whether Government has ordered the openings of the said channels ?
- (c) If so, whether the order has been given effect to ?
- (d) If not, why not ?
- (e) If the reply to (b) above is in the negative, what were the reasons for not doing so ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Flood Control) replied :

19. (a)—It was decided to provide five openings on the Brahmaputra Dyke from Silghat to Dhing and one at the Ring Bund at mile 3/7 corresponding to 9/4 opening of the main bund after inspection of the site by the former Public Works Department Minister, M. L. As of the District and officials of the Department.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes ; the work is in progress.

(d)—Does not arise.

(e)—Does not arise.

Maulavi NURUL ISLAM (Dhing) : Whether the work of opening up the channels has begun?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Flood Control) : As I have said in answer to (c) the work is in progress.

Maulavi NURUL ISLAM : May we take it that the work is not yet finished?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : In progress means not yet finished.

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding) : Is it a fact that sites selected by the former Public Works Department Minister are not taken into account and different sites are selected now?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : I do not think it is correct. Rather the answer is "it was decided to provide five openings on the Brahmaputra Dyke.....after inspection of the site by the former P. W. D. Minister, M.L.As. of the district and officials of the Department".

Shri RAMNATH SARMA : Will Government please inquire whether actually those sites which were selected by the former P.W.D, Minister in consultation with the local M.L.As. have been taken into account and the work is now in progress in those very sites or in different sites?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : I shall inquire.

Maulavi NURUL ISLAM : Are Government aware that due to the closure of the natural channels the people of Dhing Mouza and nine other Mouzas could not grow their crop last year?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : It was not due to the closure of the channels alone but mostly because of the drought in the District.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj) : After what time openings are allowed in the Bund?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY : Generally a dyke is opened when the earthwork is settled.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) : Whether it is a matter of policy of the Government not to disturb the natural channels when erecting a Bund ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Flood Control) : Always engineers take into consideration the natural flow of water. It is not the policy of Government to stop them.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) : With regard to (c), when the order was given effect to ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Immediately after the inspection.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur) : Has the Government considered the desirability of providing some sluice gates in the Bunds and dykes ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : In some cases sluice gates will be erected and in other cases some other devices will be provided.

Murkongselek-Sadiya Multipurpose Community Development Block

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked :

*20. Will the Minister-in-charge of Community Projects be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the headquarters of Murkongselek-Sadiya Multipurpose Community Development Block has been proposed at Jonai in Murkongselek area and the Project Executive Officer was posted with headquarters at Jonai ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that instructions were issued to the district officials to inaugurate the project at Jonai on 2nd October 1957 ?
- (c) If so, why the main function of inauguration of the project was shifted to Na-Sadiya ?
- (d) Whether any non-official or public leader was consulted in doing so by certain officers of the district ?

- (e) Whether Government is aware that the people of Abor Hills transferred area became suspicion that the headquarters may not be in their area (*i.e.*, Jonai) although they were aware that Government had issued Gazette notification that the Project Executive Officer was posted with headquarters at Jonai ?
- (f) Whether Government propose to issue instructions to the district officers not to interfere with the Government decision of locating the headquarters of this Community Development Block at Jonai in Murkongselek area ?
- (g) Whether the Project Executive Officer has started his office at Jonai ?
- (h) Whether Government is aware that certain officers find it difficult to start work or to serve for the uplift of more backward places ?
- (i) Whether Government propose to withdraw such officers from the Rural Development Department or Community Projects ?

Shri A. THANGLURA (Chief Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

20. (a)—Yes, it was proposed but not finally selected.

(b)—There was no definite instruction to the effect that the Block should be inaugurated at Jonai only. Due to peculiar geographical situation of the Block, inauguration ceremony was held both at Jonai and Sadiya.

(c) & (d)—Does not arise in view of reply given in (b) above.

(e)—Government are not aware of any such suspicion by the people.

(f)—The question of selecting suitable site for the headquarters for the Block was scheduled to be discussed by the Project Advisory Committee in their meeting on 22nd February 1958. Government have no information as yet whether the question was discussed by that Committee. The recommendations of the Project Advisory Committee in the matter are now being awaited by Government.

(g)—He is now functioning from Dibrugarh, till the question of fixation of Headquarters of the Block is finally decided.

(h)—Government have no information.

(i)—Does not arise in view of (h) above.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : Are Government aware that the main function of inauguration of the project was celebrated at Na-Sadiya and a secondary function was celebrated at Jonai ?

Mr. A. THANGLURA (Chief Parliamentary Secretary) : The reply is already there : "Due to peculiar geographical situation of the Block, inauguration ceremony was held both at Jonai and Sadiya".

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : Whether Government know that the project was originally meant for Murkongselek and Sadiya was annexed later on but priority has been given to Sadiya by neglecting Murkongselek ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) : I do not know how the hon. Member is drawing that inference because it has been made quite clear that we are awaiting the recommendation of the Project Advisory Board. We do not want to neglect any area, and we want to see that the under-developed areas more particularly are developed.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : Whether it is a fact that there was a Gazette Notification to the effect that the Project Executive Officer's headquarters would be at Jonai ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : In posting officers their headquarters are fixed taking into consideration certain conveniences, but in deciding the headquarters of a Block or a Project the conveniences of the people of the whole area is taken into account and it is decided in consultation with the Advisory Board. In some cases there may not be sufficient land and in some cases there may be other inconveniences. Therefore it is our policy to consult the Advisory Board and to decide things on merit.

Shri LALIT KUMAR DALEY [Moran, (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Are Government aware that if the headquarters are shifted from Jonai to Na-Sadiya there will be a feeling of frustration amongst the Miris ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : Government are not aware of it, but I can assure the hon. Member that we shall not allow frustration to set in either in the Miris or any other community.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table.)

Safe and easy Crossing at Kamalabari-Neamatighat

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur) asked :

49. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department be pleased to state—

- (a) When can we expect a safe and easy crossing at Kamalabari-Neamatighat ?
- (b) Whether Government is aware that this way *via* Kamalabari-Neamatighat if properly maintained, is the only easiest way to come out from North Lakhimpur ?
- (c) Whether Government has arranged for crossing this ferry three or four times a day like the Jogighopa-Pancharatna ferry ?
- (d) Whether Government know that the toll of this ferry seems to be the highest in this State ?
- (e) If so, whether Government propose to reduce it to the level of the toll of other similar ferries across the Brahmaputra ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P.W.D.) replied :

49. (a)—It is presumed that the questioner refers to provision of new Steamers for this ferry. The position about new Steamers is as follows :—

It is mentioned that this has been under serious consideration of the Government for a pretty long time. Accordingly provision was made in the Second Five Year Plan for steamers for this ferry and Government tried their best to effect purchase, but owing to the difficulties in getting steamers manufactured within India and also for non-availability of Foreign Exchange, it has not been possible for the Government to make any headway in respect of arranging any steamer for the purpose.

(b)—Yes, this is the easiest way to come out from North Lakhimpur.

(c)—No, as it is not possible to run with Steamer due to length of the route. But Government have arranged recently an additional trip with a single boat fitted with engine to run daily, starting in the morning from Kamalabari to Kokilamukh/Neamati and in the afternoon returning from Kokilamukh/Neamati to Kamalabari.

(d)—No, the tolls of this ferry are not highest in the State.

(e)—Does not arise

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur) : Whether Government now decide to discontinue this ferry service and place an engine-fitted marboat?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P.W.D.) : This matter is under consideration.

Shri MOHIDHAR PEGOO [Jorhat (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই জানিব খুজিছো—যে ওপকৰা ইঞ্জিন নাওৰ ব্যৱস্থা একেজন ঘাটৰ লগতে বন্দ-বস্ত হৈছেনে-নাই—বেলেগ ঘাটৰ লগত বন্দ-বস্ত হৈছে?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : ঠিক ধৰিবপৰা নাই প্রশ্নটো পুনৰ কৰিবনে?

Shri MOHIDHAR PEGOO : মোৰ প্রশ্নটো হৈছে—কেৰী চাৰ্ভিচৰ বাহিৰেও যি ইঞ্জিনৰ নাও চলাবলৈ দিয়া হৈছে,—সেইটো কাক দিছে? একেজন ঘাটকে দিছেনে বেলেগ ঘাটক দিছে?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : বৰ্তমান একে জনেই আছে।

Shri MOHIDHAR PEGOO : তেনেহলে একজন মানুহেই চলাব—দূৰোধন?

Mr. SPEAKER : হয়, সেইটোৱেই অৰ্থ।

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) : With regard to answer to (d) may I know whether there is any ghat in Assam where tolls are higher than the Neamati ghat?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : Perhaps there are no ghats which have higher tolls than this but there are one or two other ghats which are of the same class as this.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA : It is said that the ferry toll of this ghat is not the highest in the State. May I know whether there is any ferry in this State whose toll is higher than this?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : I cannot say off-hand without scrutinising the list. It is a long list, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER : It can be placed on the library table.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : Yes, Sir, I shall place it on the library table.

Kamalabari-Salmara Road

Shri MOHIDHAR PEGOO (Jorhat—Reserved for Scheduled Tribes) asked :

50. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department be pleased to state—

(a) If any report as to the Short Notice Question No.2 asked by the Questioner on the 12th November, 1957, on the floor of the House has by now been received by Government ?

(b) If so, when it has been received ?

(c) Whether Government will be pleased to lay a copy of the report on the table of the House ?

(d) If not, why not ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P. W. D.) replied :

50. (a)—Yes. A copy of the report is placed on the Library table.

The following is the report referred to in the reply to the unstarred Question No.50(a):—

Copy of letter No.VI/5(a)/57/22765, dated 14th November, 1957 from the Executive Engineer, Jorhat Division to the Additional Secretary, (R&B) P.W.D., Assam.

Sub:—Assembly Question.

Reference :—Your No.CFD.488/57/18686 dated 9th November 1957.

REPLIES TO QUESTION PUT IN ASSEMBLY FOR
BREAKING OF KAMALABARI-SALMORA ROAD (the Short
Notice Question No.2 asked on the 12th November, 1957).

2. (a)—Yes.

(b) The opening was made at 10 P. M. (on 12th July, 1957) in consultation with the leading people of the locality including Project Executive Officer, and Tahsildar who sent message to inform the people of Southern area.

(c) No damage was done to any crops or animal as water through this outlet passed by the river Tooni which is between the villages and Majuli Road.

(d)&(e) Do not arise as no damage was caused.

(b)—The report was received on the 18th November, 1957.

(c)—In this connection please see reply to Question No.(a) above.

(d)—Does not arise.

Shri MOHIDHAR PEGOO [Jorhat (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : বিপটত থকা (খ) প্রশ্নোত্তৰ অনুসৰি যেতিয়া প্রজেক্ট অফিচাৰ আৰু তহচিলদাৰক আলিৰ দক্ষিণ ফালৰ মানুহবিলাকক খবৰ দিবলৈ দিয়া হৈছিল, সেই খবৰ বাইজে প্রকৃততে পাইছিলনে নাই সেই সম্বন্ধে চৰকাৰে কিবা জানেনে ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P.W.D.): কিছুমান বাইজে খবৰ পাইছিল আৰু কিছুমানে নেপাবও পাৰে।

Shri MOHIDHAR PEGOO : আগৰ প্রশ্নোত্তৰ (গ) অনুসৰি বান-বিদ্ধান্ত অঞ্চলত তদন্ত কৰোঁতে আহ, শালি আৰু বাও খেতি নষ্ট কৰোতাঁই প্রশ্ন কৰোতাঁই নিজে দেখি আহিছে। সেইটো চৰকাৰে বিশ্লেষণ কৰিবনে ?

Mr. SPEAKER : It is a question not only of opinion but also of faith. [Laughter].

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : প্রশ্ন কৰোতাঁই যি দেখিছে উত্তৰ দিওঁতায়ে দেখিছে।

Rehabilitation of Destitute Women in Assam

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal) asked :

51. Will the Minister-in-charge of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state—

(a) What is the total number of destitute women in Assam including those who have been rehabilitated and who are awaiting rehabilitation ?

(b) What measures have been taken up for their permanent rehabilitation and relief ?

(c) Whether there is any training school and camp for their education ?

(d) If so, where and what sort of training is given to them ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Relief and Rehabilitation) replied:

51. (a)—There are 2,328 displaced destitute-women now living in the different Women's Ashrams in this State. 286 displaced destitute women who were in the Ashrams have been rehabilitated outside by grant of financial assistance.

(b)—Arrangements for training of the able-bodied destitute women of the Women's Ashrams are made in the vocational trades, *viz.*, weaving, dyeing and printing, tailoring, knitting, embroidery spinning in cotton and Eri, cane and bamboo works. They are also trained up as Dhais and nursing sisters and given a course of training as teachers in the basic and normal schools in suitable cases. For improved training in weaving, knitting and embroidery, four inmates of Women's Ashram of Silchar have been sent to a training school at Uday Villa, 24 Parganas, West Bengal. On completion of training the usual facilities given in Ashrams are extended to them on a graduated scale for a period of 3 years after which this assistance is withdrawn. For starting the respective trade outright non-recurring grant of a reasonable amount for the purchase of equipment and for procurement of raw-materials and a house building grant of Rs.500 are also granted to them. Those who wish to settle in urban areas may in addition to the house building grant, be granted a house building loan upto Rs.700.

(c) & (d)—Yes. Vocational training classes are attached to the Women's Ashrams for the trades as mentioned in the reply to the question (b) above. Necessary financial assistance for the school going children of the inmates are also granted. There are also Lower Primary Schools for minor children of the inmates attached to the Women's Ashrams at Nowgong, Gauhati and Rupshi. As regards women's Ashrams in Cachar the children of the inmates are availing of education facilities in the local schools. 25 boys who are sons/wards of destitute women in the different Ashrams are being educated in the Ramkrishna Mission High English School at Cherrapunji at Government cost.

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal) : অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, দুৰ্ভাগীয়া মহিলা সকলৰ বাবে আশ্রম আছে বুলি যে কৈছে, সেই আশ্রম ক'ত ক'ত আছে নাম জানিব পাৰোনে ?

Mr. SPEAKER : প্রশ্নতটো নাম সোধা নাই।

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Relief and Rehabilitation) : হয়, নাম কব পাৰো। শিলচৰ আৰু নগাঁৱত কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰৰ আশ্রম আছে ; আৰু কৰিমগঞ্জ আৰু কপচীত ৰাজ্য চৰকাৰৰ আশ্রম আছে। আটাই কেইটা একেলগ কৰি এতিয়া দুটা কৰা হ'ব। শিলচৰ আৰু নগাঁওত।

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA : এই আশ্রমবোৰ প্ৰায় মুনিহে চলোৱাৰ বাবে তাত কিছুমান গৌলমাল হোৱা কথাটো সঁচানে ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : হয় গৌলমাল কিছু হৈছে, কিন্তু তাক ওচোৱাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হৈছে।

Shri SARBESWAR BARDOLAI (Titabar) : সেই আশ্রম-বেকাৰী চৰকাৰী সাহায্য দিয়া হৈছেনে ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : হয়, চৰকাৰী সাহায্যতে চলি আছে।

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA : ডিব্ৰুগড়ত তেনেকুৱা আশ্রম আছেনে ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister) : নাই।

Motirchar Durahati Road in Dhubri Subdivision

Shri TAMIJUDDIN PRADHANI (Dhubri) asked :

52. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether any representation for the construction of Motirchar Durahati road *via* Dharmashala in Dhubri Subdivision, has lately been received ?
- (b) If so, what steps have been taken by Government for the construction of the aforesaid road ?
- (c) If not, whether Government will take necessary steps to construct the said road early ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister-in-charge, Public Works Department) replied :

52. (a)—No.

(b) ও (c)—Do not arise.

Shri TAMIJUDDIN PRADHANI (Dhubri) : Public representation পালে সেই বাস্তাটো বন্ধোৱাৰ বাবে চৰকাৰে বিবেচনা কৰিবনে ?

Mr. SPEAKER : It is a hypothetical question. However, the Hon'ble Minister, if he pleases may reply to it.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Finance Minister) : Public representation পালে চৰকাৰে নিশ্চয় বিবেচনা কৰিব ; কিন্তু তাৰ লগত আন কথাও জড়িত আছে। সেইবাবে সঠিককৈ কোৱা টান।

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara) : May I know what is the rate charged for Goalpara-Jogighopa ferry and also for Dhubri-Fakiraganj ferry ?

Mr. SPEAKER : How does it arise ? The question is about the construction of Motirchar-Durahati road in Dhubri subdivision.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : I am sorry, Sir.

Re : Tihu-Haribhanga Road, etc.

Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS [Patacharkuchi (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] asked :

53. (a) Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department be pleased to state whether the following roads will be completed in 1957-58 :—

1. Tihu-Haribhanga road ;
2. Tihu-Akhra road ;
3. Namati-Musalpur extension ;
4. Tihu-Barama Road ; and
5. Athiabari-Goalbil road ?

(b) If not, why not ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH [Minister, Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings Wing)] replied:

53. (a)—No.

(b)—There is a dispute regarding the alignment of the Tihu-Haribhanga Road. Necessary action is being taken to finalise the alignment and complete the work early.

As regards the other roads mentioned against item 2 to 5, they have been taken up under the Second Five-Year Plan and the Petrol Tax Programme. Works on these roads have already been taken in hand and are progressing according to the availability of funds year by year.

Bridge over the Tihu River

Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS [Patacharkuchi (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] asked:

54 Will the Public Works Department Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether a bridge will be constructed over the Tihu river in the Southern side of the Tihu Railway line?

(b) If not, why not?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister Public Works Department) replied:

54. (a)—There is no such proposal.

(b)—Does not arise.

Regarding Spurs on the East Bank of Jiabhorelli River

Shri KAMALA PRASAD AGARWALA (Tezpur) asked:

55. Will the Minister-in-charge of Embankment and Drainage be pleased to state—

(a) The numbers of spurs washed away on the east bank of Jiabhorelli River?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the posts of the spurs were not pitched to the desired depth?

- (c) Whether it is a fact that no staff is maintained near the spurs to look and work when emergency arises ?
- (d) What action and steps are proposed to be taken to protect the east bank of the river from severe erosion ?
- (e) Whether the Government is aware that unless immediate steps are taken to protect the east bank of Jiabhorelli the whole of Jamuguri with a population of twenty thousand will be endangered ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY [Minister, Public Works Department (Flood Control and Irrigation Wing)] replied :

55. (a) —Six.
- (b) —No, all the piles were driven to the designed depth.
- (c) —No.
- (d) —The damaged spurs are being repaired.
- (e) —These spurs were meant to protect the area between Silonipam and Marnakuri. Jamuguri area with a population of 20,000 covers a length of about 10-12 miles of Jiabhorelli river.

Erosion and formation of bank by a river is a continuous process. In this reach of the Jiabhorelli, active erosion at some specific places like Silonipam and Mornakuri has been going on. A pilot scheme of providing permeable timber spurs was taken up to arrest the erosion.

It is expected that these measures will afford reasonable protection though it cannot be ensured to permanently protect the entire bank without undertaking prohibitively costly measures throughout the entire length of this reach.

Deaths of Tribal people from T. B. and Leprosy at Barama Police Station

Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS [Patacharkuchi (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] asked :

56. Will the Minister-in-charge of Medical be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government is aware that under Barama Police Station Tribal people have lately died of T. B. and many more are suffering from T. B. and Leprosy ?

- (b) Whether Government propose to survey the number of T. B. cases in the areas mentioned above ?
- (c) Whether Government propose to render necessary help to the poor Tribal T. B. patients by offering them medical treatment and free bed in the T. B. Hospitals ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) replied :

56. (a)—Government have no information. An enquiry is being made.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes, as far as practicable. In fact, grant-in-aid is given to individual Tribal T. B. patients under Art. 75 (1) of the Constitution.

Villages badly affected by Kala-azar

Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS [Patacharuchi (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] asked :

57. Will the Minister-in-charge of Medical be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government is aware of the fact that there are some villages such as Jaripara, Bar-kharua, Hajira, Sripur, Dalbari, etc., which have been badly affected by *Kala-azar*?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that Government has not taken adequate measure for the prevention of *Kala-azar* in these areas ?
- (c) Whether Government propose to pay special attention and provide sufficient staff and stock of medicine to treat the affected people of those areas ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) replied :

57. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Government have taken adequate measures for the prevention of *Kala-azar* in these areas.

(c)—Special attention has been given by the Government and cases of *Kala-azar* are brought under treatment and control.

**Regarding Jajiabari-Allia Road which exists over
Jajiabari to Khatikuchi**

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East) asked :

Will the Minister for Public Works Department be pleased to state—

58. (a) Whether Jajiabari-Allia Road exists over Jajiabari to Khatikuchi only leaving two miles from Khatikuchi to Allia unexecuted ?
- (b) If so, what are the reasons for which the two miles of the road from Khatikuchi to Allia which passes through an area of predominantly occupied by Scheduled Tribe was not done at all.
- (c) Whether Government are aware that the portion from Jajiabari to Khatikuchi where some sands are deposited without providing culverts and permanent bridges as well as gravels is not fit for traffic throughout the year ?
- (d) If so, what utility of the road can serve to the people ?
- (e) Whether Government propose to improve and complete the road during current dry season ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P. W. D.) replied :

58. (a) & (b)—Out of a total length of $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles of road between Jajiabari to Allia, only a length of 4 miles 3 furlongs upto Khatikuchi, which could be done out of the estimated provision of Rs.45,000 for this work under Article 275 Plains Tribal Areas, as included in the Second Five Year Plan has only been taken up.

No fund for taking up the remaining length is available.

(c), (d) & (e)—Owing to shortage of funds no provision for gravelling the road could be made in the estimate. Provision for bitumen drum culverts and semi-permanent bridges have, however, been made and these will be taken up for construction as per annual plan in accordance with availability of funds and completed during the plan period.

Funds available for the roads are sufficient for the purpose of construction of a fair weather road only.

Splitting up of Gauhati School Board

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East) asked :

59. Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether as per assurance given by the Government during the last November Session of the Assembly to split up the most unwieldy Gauhati School Board immediately, reports have been collected from the Departmental Officers including Officers of the Basic Education Section with a view to split up the School Board ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that officers concerned of the Department have expressed opinion for starting school Board at Nalbari, the area under it being far away from Gauhati and it being a central place of the outlying area ?
- (c) Whether Government will take into consideration the facts that existence of a large number of institutions and a Sub-treasury at Nalbari has facilitated the immediate starting of a School Board there ?
- (d) If so, whether Government propose to fulfil the assurance given and to take preliminary measures to implement the assurance ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education) replied :

59. (a) —Yes.

(b) —No.

(c) & (d) —The matter is being examined.

Nomination of Plains Tribal Candidates for A. C. S. Class II

Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS (Patacharkuchi: Reserved for Scheduled Tribes) asked :

60. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) How many candidates were nominated from plains tribals for A. C. S. Class II in 1954-55 ?

- (b) How many of them were appointed ?
- (c) How many remains to be appointed and why they have not yet been appointed ?
- (d) The quotas of posts in the A. C. S. for plains tribal in 1955-56 and how many plains tribals candidates applied and how many of them were appointed ?
- (e) Whether the quotas of posts in the A. C. S. for plains tribals which were not filled up in that year will be filled up by the previous candidates who are not yet appointed ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied :

60. (a)—The Public Service Commission send a complete list of candidates appearing at the Examination, arranged in order of merit, from which appointments are made in order of merit having regard to reservations for Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes. The 1954-55 list for A. C. S. Class II contained names of 12 candidates from the Plains Tribal Community.

(b)—Three of the above candidates were candidates for A. C. S. Class I also and they were appointed to A. C. S. Class I as they qualified for appointment to A. C. S. Class I also. Among the rest, 5 were appointed to A. C. S. Class II.

(c)—The reserved quota for Plains Tribal in A. C. S. Class II in 1954-55 was 3.5. By carrying over the previous deficiency of 1.5 the total came to 5. As already 5 vacancies were filled up, the question of appointment of the remaining candidates does not arise.

(d)—Two. There were two candidates and both of them were appointed.

(e)—Does not arise as the full quota has been filled up.

Schemes for immediate relief to the distressed people in the border due to trade dead lock

Shri LARSINGH KHYRIEM (Jowai: Reserved for Scheduled Tribes) asked :

61. Will the Minister-in-charge of Tribal Areas Department be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government have formulated any scheme or schemes for the immediate relief of the border people who are in great distress due to trade dead-lock ?

(b) If so, whether the scheme has been implemented by now ?

(c) If not, whether Government propose to see that the scheme is implemented immediately ?

Shri WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Tribal Areas) replied :

61. (a)—Government have formulated various schemes, *viz.* issue of rehabilitation grants and loans, agricultural loans, Test relief schemes, subsidy for transport cost of agricultural produce and opening of fair price shops for issue of rice, etc. Government have constituted a committee consisting of officials and non-officials, for the purpose of recommending to Government both short-term and long-term measures for the solution of the difficulties and hardships of the people in the border areas so that they may not be dependent solely on trade with Pakistan.

(b)—Yes, many have been implemented and some are being implemented.

(c)—Does not arise.

Shri LARSINGH KHYRIEM [Jowai (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : What are those schemes which have been implemented ?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Tribal Areas) : A lot of road schemes, test relief schemes and other schemes have been implemented. The list of such schemes is very lengthy and I may place it on the library table.

Mr. SPEAKER : Yes, it may be placed on the table.

Construction of one R. C. Bridge over Nakhanda River at Patbausighat and Mandiaghat

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta) asked :

62. Will the Minister, Public Works Department be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government is contemplating to construct one R. C. Bridge over Nakhanda River at the Patbausighat between Barpeta Town and Patbausi Satra and another one over the same river at Mandiaghat which are important both from traffic and business point of view ?

(b) If so, whether the work will be started soon ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister-in-charge, Public Works Department) replied :

61. (a)—No.

(b)—A proposal for construction of a bridge across the Maranadi, near Barpeta is however included in the Second Five-Year-Plan and details are being finalised after which only the work can be taken up.

***Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta)** : With regard to (a), the answer is "No." May I know what are the difficulties that stand in the way of Government building this bridge ?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P. W. D.)** : The answer is there in (b) "A proposal for construction of a bridge across the Maranadi near Barpeta is however included in the Second Five-Year Plan and details are being finalised after which only the work can be taken up".

***Mr. SPEAKER** : His question was with regard to (a) He wanted to know what are the difficulties that stand in the way of Government building those two bridges.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : The question was "whether Government is contemplating to construct one R. C. Bridge over Nakhanda River at the Patbausighat between Barpeta Town and Patbausi Satra and another one over the same river at Mandiaghat which are important both from traffic and business point of view". The reply is in the negative.

Mr. SPEAKER : He wants to know the difficulties.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH** : The difficulty is that these are not included in the Plan. When certain roads and bridges are to be taken up, the projects are to be accepted first by the Assam Road Communications Board ; then they go to the State Development Committee and after their approval they go to the Government of India at the final stage. So, unless and until the projects have passed through all these three stages Government cannot take them up.

**Construction of a Bridge over Longai River at Dasgram
in Karimganj P. W. Division**

Shri ABDUL HAMID CHOUDHURY (Karimganj—South) asked :

63. Will the Minister-in-charge, Public Works Department be pleased to state —

- (a) What sum of money has been sanctioned to construct a bridge over Longai river at Dasgram in Karimganj, P. W. Division ?
- (b) Why the work has not been started yet ?
- (c) When will it be started ?
- (d) Whether Government is aware of the existence of graveyards, a Mosque of Idgah and Karuri Sunadari Lower Primary School which has recently been turned into a Basic School just at the Northern point of the proposed site for the bridge ?
- (e) Whether Government is aware of the feelings of the local people that if the bridge is constructed at the present site, it will encroach on these institutions and affect light and air ?
- (f) Whether Government is aware that the river bank at the Northern point of the site is subject to constant erosion which renders the venture unsafe ?
- (g) Whether Government lately received objections on above grounds from amongst others the Secretary, Karimganj District Congress Committee and the President of the Local Rural Panchayat suggesting to change the site and shift it eastward to a point in between the houses of Madhu Mia and Kirindra Ram Das of village Jatua ?
- (h) What steps have been taken in respect of these objections and suggestions ?
- (i) Whether the work on the bridge will start during this financial year according to the suggestions ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P.W.D. (Roads and Buildings Wing) replied :

63. (a)—A sum of Rs.1,00,000 has been provided in the Second Five Year Plan.

(b) & (c)—As this is a major work, collection of data and other details is necessary which takes a considerable time. This will be taken up when these collection of data are completed and the design is finalised.

(d) to (f)—On representation being received from the local public, the Chief Engineer along with Executive Engineer visited the site in December, 1957 last and in consultation with them and also local leaders selected the site finally avoiding graveyard, Idgah and School and the local public and leaders agreed with him.

(h) & (g)—Only one has been received lately from the President, Latu Majgram Mandal Congress Committee but Government consider the site selected by Chief Engineer as the most suitable. The matter was explained to him and he agreed to the site selected by the Chief Engineer.

(i)—Please refer to reply to (b) and (c) above.

Realisation of tolls at very high rate by the lessee of the Dhubri-Fakirganj Ferry Ghat.

Shri TAMIJUDDIN PRADHANI (Dhubri) : asked.

64. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government are aware that the lessee of the Dhubri-Fakirganj Ferry Ghat, realise tolls from the travelling public at very high rate ?

(b) Whether Government are aware that the tolls realised from the passengers from Dhubri Ghat are comparatively higher than the other Ghats in the Brahmaputra river such as Jogighopa, Amingaon, Silghat, etc. ?

(c) If so, whether Government propose to reduce such high rate ?

(d) Whether the Minister-in-charge is aware that the usual current of the river Brahmaputra between Dhubri and Fakirganj becomes very serious and dangerous in rainy season and that the public feels unsafe ?

(e) If so, whether there is any arrangement for permanent ferry in the Ghat ?

(f) If not, whether Government propose to place one permanent ferry steamer in the Ghat for public safety ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P. W. D.) replied :

64. (a)—No such complaints have come to the notice of Government.

(b)—No. They compare reasonably with other similar ferries across the Brahmaputra.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—Government are aware that the current in the Brahmaputra during flood season becomes strong between Dhubri and Fakirganj, as also at other ferry crossings on the Brahmaputra.

(e)—There is already a Public Works Department Engined mar-boat ferry at the place.

(f)—There is no proposal at the moment. This will be considered when funds for purchase of Steamers and also vessels could be arranged for the purpose.

***Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara):** Do the Government know that the rate charged by Dhubri-Fakirganj ferry is eight annas and that by Goalpara-Jogighopa ferry is only four annas ?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P.W.D.):** I have already placed a statement, showing the tolls charged by the different ferries, on the Library table, and without looking into it I cannot reply to this question off-hand.

***Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara):** Why is this discrepancy ?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P.W.D.):** Perhaps due to the distances the ferry services have to ply and there may be other reasons too.

***Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED :** What are the distances between Jogighopa and Goalpara and also between Dhubri and Fakirganj ?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH:** That can be ascertained from the list placed on the table.

Construction of Veterinary Dispensary Building at Rani

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari) : asked :

65. Will the Minister in-charge of Veterinary be pleased to state—

- (a) When a Veterinary Dispensary was sanctioned at Rani.
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the local Member of the Legislative Assembly was asked to select the site of the above dispensary and the Gauhati Local Board has been asked to execute the work of the construction of the building ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the local Member of the Legislative Assembly selected the site and informed the authorities in January 1957 ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that the Deputy Director of Veterinary obstructed execution of the said work ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that the Deputy Director has started a party friction at Rani ?
- (f) Whether Government propose to enquire into the action of the Deputy Director, Veterinary ?
- (g) Whether Government propose to take up the construction work of the said dispensary building immediately ?

*Speech not corrected.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister in-charge, Veterinary) replied :

65. (a)—In 1955-56.

(b)—The Gauhati Local Board was asked to provide land as free gift or secure as such from private owners through the Local M. L. As. The Veterinary dispensary was to be constructed by the Local Board taking the expert advice of the Public Works Department as usual.

(c)—The local M.L.A., informed Government on 21st May 1957 and on 30th August 1957 that he selected a site for the purpose of a Veterinary Dispensary at Rani in January 1957.

(d) & (e)—Government have no information but on local enquiry the Deputy Director (Veterinary) selected a separate site secured as free gift as the original site was found isolated and contiguous to thick jungle and not secured. The site selected by the Deputy Director has been duly approved by Government on its merits on 30th October, 1957.

(f)—Any further enquiry will only delay the matter causing inconvenience to the public.

(g)—The Chairman, Local Board, Gauhati, has been asked to take up construction of the dispensary.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari): Regarding 65(b). The question is—whether it is a fact that the local Member of the Legislative Assembly was asked to select the site of the above dispensary and the Gauhati Local Board has been asked to execute the work of the construction of the building ?

The reply is—(b) The Gauhati Local Board was asked to provide land as free gift or secure as such from private owners through the Local M.L.As. The Veterinary dispensary was to be constructed by the Local Board taking the expert advice of the Public Works Department as usual.

(c) The Question is—Whether it is a fact that the local Members of the Legislative Assembly selected the site and informed the authorities in January 1957 ?

(c) The reply is—The local M.L.A., informed Government on 21st May 1957 and on 30th August 1957 that he selected a site for the purpose of a Veterinary Dispensary at Rani in January 1957.

(d) The question is—Whether it is a fact that the Deputy Director of Veterinary obstructed execution of the said work ?

(e) The question is—Whether it is a fact that the Deputy Director has started a party faction at Rani ?

The replies are—(d) & (e)—Government have no information but on local enquiry the Deputy Director (Veterinary) selected a separate site secured as free gift as the original site was found isolated and contiguous to thick jungle and not secured. The site selected by the Deputy Director has been duly approved by Government on its merit on 30th October, 1957.

May I know who authorised the Deputy Director of the Veterinary Department to finally select the site ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOWDHURY (Minister, Veterinary): When Government wants to take the help of the agency of the local M.L.As. then the Government has divested of its right to make a final selection of the site provided that the local agencies are suitably represented.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari): May I know who authorised the Deputy Director to select the site ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: He is authorised by the Government to look after the selection of the site.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: Is it a fact that the building for the dispensary could not be completed up till now ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I understand that the Local Board has already taken up the work in hand.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: Is it fact that the site selected for the purpose is in a Patta-land of some other people ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: No Patta land has been encroached for the purpose.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : Will the Government be pleased to enquire into the matter ?

Md. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY Certainly, the Government will look into the matter,

Shri MOHIKANTA DAS (Barchalla): May I know from the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge why the Veterinary Department selected a separate site when the Government considered that the local M.L.As. were asked to select a site for the dispensary ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: (Minister, Veterinary): The then Minister of Veterinary considered that the local opinion in the matter should be ascertained. But that does not mean that the Department has no say in the matter.

Jonai Ramdhon Road in Abor Hills Transferred Area

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked :

66. Will the Minister of P. W. D. (Roads and Buildings) be pleased to state—

- (a) What was the amount sanctioned last year for Jonai Ramdhon road in Abor Hills Transferred area ?
- (b) Whether work covering the entire amount was done last year ?
- (c) Whether earthwork of this road has been completed ?
- (d) What proportion of the proposed road is yet to be completed ?
- (e) Whether Government propose to complete the construction of this road during this year ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH [Minister, P. W. D. (Roads and Buildings Wing)] replied :

66. (a)—Rs.30,000 from Petrol Tax Fund out of earmarked amount of Rs. 1,98,000 for first section (3.5 miles) and Rs. 15,000 from Article 275 Plan for Section II (5 miles) out of the earmarked amount of Rs. 2,80,000.

(b)—Yes, works were done, value of which was more than the amounts allotted for the year.

(c)—Earthwork on first section has been completed and earthwork on second section is nearing completion.

(d)—The Hon'ble Member perhaps means completion of the remaining length of 5.5 miles out of 14 miles as only 8.5 miles have been taken up for improvement. For the balance of 5.5 miles the proposal will be placed before the meeting of Assam Road Communication Board when it meets next.

(e)—Work on the length taken up, *i. e.*, 8.5 miles is expected to be completed in all respects by March 1959.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : Whether Government know that certain ditches in Jonai Ramdhon Road in Abor Hills Transferred Area of last year renewed and measurements taken again this year ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P.W.D.): We have no information. I take the suggestion from the hon'ble member. We will look into the matter.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: Whether Government propose to take drastic steps against the Public Works Department staff if such anomalies occurred ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: Government will surely consider the measure suggested by the hon. Member.

Scarcity of fuel in Nalbari Area

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY (Narbari East) asked :

67. Will the Minister-in-charge of Forests be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government are aware of the extreme scarcity for fuel in the Nalbari areas and the surrounding ?

(b) Whether Government are aware of the necessity of a fuel reserve for benefit of Nalbari area as well of Dhamdhama area and Barama area ?

(c) If so, what steps Government propose to take for constitution of a fuel reserve for the areas mentioned above ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Forests) replied :

67. (a)—Yes.

(b) —Yes.

(c)—It is proposed to constitute a fuel reserve with an area of 3,000 bighas of Subankhata Bhogpara P. G. R. of Madhya Baska Mauza in Tihu Circle which is not suitable for grazing but suitable for a fuel reserve and the survey of the boundary of proposed reserve is already in progress.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDER (Sorbhog): May I know from the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Forests when the fuel reserve will be constituted ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: No definite date has been fixed as yet.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDER: Is it a fact that the proposed land for the fuel reserve has been encroached by the encroachers ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: May be. But the encroachers will be cleared.

Permanent Bridge at Goalbil-ghat on Barama-Dhamdhama-Tamulpuri Road

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY (Nalbari-East) asked :

68. Will the Minister-in-charge of P. W. D. (Roads and Buildings) be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government are aware of the necessity of providing a permanent bridge at Goalbil-ghat on Barama-Dhamdhama-Tamulpuri Road ?

(b) Whether Government are aware that the backward Baska area, particularly Madhya Baska Mauza, remains severed during rainy season for want of a permanent bridge as mentioned above, causing heavy economic loss to the poor cultivators ?

- (c) Whether Government are aware that the above mentioned road is the only road which has connected the five Baska Mauzas of Kamrup District, through which agricultural and forest products of North Kamrup use to flow to the markets and imported goods from Nalbari, Barama and Dhamdhama are to be distributed in the Baska and Daranga area ?
- (d) Whether Government propose to take immediate steps to provide a permanent bridge at Goalbilghat on Barama-Dhamdhama-Tamulpuri Road to alleviate the sufferings of the people of Baska Mauzas ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH [Minister, P.W.D. (Roads and Buildings Wing)] replied :

68.(a), (b), (c) & (d)—The member is referred to the reply given to question No.83 asked by Shri Baikuntha Nath Das, M.L.A. in 1957, Budget Session of the Assembly.

No decision of the Government of India to the State Government's proposal for financing this bridge construction project under Grants-in-aid programme has yet been received.

The work will be taken up as soon as this is approved by India and funds are provided for the purpose.

At the moment one single boat ferry is maintained at the place.

No complaint about inconvenience or economic loss caused for want of a bridge at the place has been received by Government.

Exercise of franchise by the tea garden labourers

Shrimati LILY SENGUPTA (Lohowal) asked :

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

- (a) Why most of the tea garden authorities did not allow leave to the labourers for casting their votes at the time of last General Election, in spite of Government circular ?

(b) Whether Government propose to enquire into the matter immediately and take necessary action against those authorities for ignoring the Government circular ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour) replied :

69. (a) & (b)—Government have no information. If the hon. Member can cite any specific case, then Government will be in a position to initiate an enquiry into the matter.

Shrimati LILY SENGUPTA (Lahowal): এনেকুৱা ঘটনা বিলাক প্ৰায়ে হৈ থাকে বুলি গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে জানেনে ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour): ঘনুক ঘানাক শুনা যায় সঠিককৈ জনা নাই।

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, Order, the Question is why most of the tea gardens did not allow the labourers to cast their votes.

Shri K. P. TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour): This Question was already replied.

Mr. SPEAKER: In that case that Question should not have been put.

Shrimati LILY SENGUPTA: যোৱা Election ত বাগানৰ শ্ৰমিক মহিলা সকলে কিয় ভোট দিব নোৱাৰিলে ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: ভোট দিব নোৱাৰাৰ বহুত কাৰণ হ'ব পাৰে।

Shrimati LILY SENGUPTA: মই ইয়াকেহে শুনিব খুজিছো যে, বাগান কৰ্তৃপক্ষই কিয় ছুটি দিয়া নাছিল আৰু মই মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ৰ পৰা পৰিস্কাৰ জানিব খুজিছো যে, যোৱা Winter Session ত কোনো মহিলা সদস্যই কোনো কোনো বাগানত management ন বাগানৰ মহিলা সকলক ভোট নিবলৈ নিদিয়াৰ কাৰণ সম্বন্ধে প্ৰশ্ন কৰা নাছিল নে ? চৰকাৰে ইয়াৰ কিবা ব্যবস্থা লৈছেনে ?

Sri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : এইটো কথা সঠিক নহয়। প্ৰত্যেক বাগানেই মহিলাক ভোট দিবলৈ নিদিয়া টো নহয় ; কোনো কোনো বাগানত হ'ব পাৰে। যদি এনেকুৱা হৈছে সেইটো খবৰ ভাল দৰে জানি কোন কোন বাগানত হৈছিল সেইটো জনালে চৰকাৰে অনুসন্ধান কৰিব পাৰে।

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): Whether Government know that Government circular was received late in certain tea gardens in Saikhowaghat area.

Shri MOHIKANTA DAS (Barchalla): Is there no rule or law that the tea garden labourers should be allowed to cast their votes ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister): There is no law. Therefore we can only request the garden authorities.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur): Sir, if the Honourable Minister wants to know I can give facts that in the last general election the authorities of Anandabag and Silonibari tea gardens did not allow the labourers to cast their votes in the Parliamentary by-election which our present Chief Minister, Shri B. P. Chaliha contested at that time.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, Order. I am afraid that the honourable Member will be giving information only instead of asking supplementary Questions.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA: Whether Government know that the tea garden labourers of Anandabag Tea Estate were not allowed to cast their votes in the Parliamentary by-election ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: I regret for that. I will make an enquiry about it. According to the present procedure ITA authorities and other Tea Planters concerned are requested to allow the tea garden labourers to cast their votes. I will make an enquiry into this matter.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara): Will the Government make rules relating to this matter ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: I don't think this is a matter for the State Government.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: Whether the State Government will refer the matter to the Government of India ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: We will refer the matter to the Government of India.

Dyke along Saikhowa Area

Shrimati LILY SENGUPTA (Lahowal) asked:

70. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government is aware that the present Dyke along Saikhowa area is being affected due to the blockade of Saikhowa Nullah and Bisoni Ghuli?

(b) If so, what action has been taken to avoid this?

(c) If not, whether Government propose to take measures to divert the current of those two Nullahs for giving protection to public living outside the present Dyke?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY [Minister-in-charge, Public Works Department (Flood Control)] replied:

70. (a)—No. Saikhowa Nullah and Bisoni Ghuli are situated outside the embankment.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c) Government have no such proposal.

Shrimati LILY SENGUPTA : চৌখোৱা নানা আৰু বিচনী ঘুলি বাহিৰত থকাৰ কাৰণে মঠাৱৰী চৌ খতিগ্ৰস্ত হোৱা নাইনে?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: In between the Mathaori and the river.

Shrimati LILY SENGUPTA : যদি হৈখুৱানানাব যোগে মঠাৱৰী ক্ষতি হোৱানাই তেন্তে মঠাৱৰী চৌ কৰ পানীয়ে ক্ষতিগ্ৰস্ত কৰিছে সেই চৌ জানিব পাৰোনে?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ পানীয়ে নষ্ট কৰিছে।

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): May I know from the Minister in charge whether he received any representation or wire from the public of Saikhowa expressing public opinion from last year's experience that the flood-water may come to the area from the river?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): Sir, it is a new Question. I was notice of that.

Reserved coupes for Backward Class Communities

Shri MATHIAS TADU (Gossaigaon) asked :

71. Will the Minister-in-charge of Forests be pleased to state—

(a) Whether there are some reserved coupes for the Backward Class Communities in the State ?

(b) If so, how many such coupes have been allotted to the persons belonging to the Backward Classes Community during the last five years ?

(c) Who are the persons to whom allotment of such coupes has been made ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Forests) replied :

71. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Does not arise.

***Shri MATHIAS TADU :** May I know from the Minister in charge whether there are any special privileges for the backward class communities in the Forest Department ?

***Shri HARESWAR DAS :** At present there are no special privileges reserved for backward class communities but there are privileges reserved for scheduled tribes.

***Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj):** Is it a fact that no commission is allowed to the backward-class communities ?

***Shri HARESWAR DAS:** This is allowed to the scheduled tribes only.

***Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):** May we know Sir, whether the report of the Backward Class Commission has yet been taken into consideration by the State Government ?

Mr. SPEAKER : That is a separate Question—this relates only to Forest Department.

Re: Ayurvedic and Allopathic Dispensaries and Primary Health Units

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur)
asked :

72. Will the Medical Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) How many Ayurvedic Dispensaries have been opened within the financial year 1957-58 and what are they ?
- (b) How many Ayurvedic Dispensaries are proposed to be opened within the next financial year ?
- (c) How many Allopathic Dispensaries have been opened within this year and how many of them are proposed to be opened in the coming year?
- (d) How many dispensaries have been converted into Primary Health Unit Centres within this year and how many of them have been proposed to be converted within the coming year ?
- (e) Whether the Kamalpur Dispensary will be converted into a Primary Health Unit Centre during the coming year ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) replied :

72. (a)—Six Ayurvedic Subsidised Dispensaries have been opened during the financial year 1957-58 *viz.*, at (1) Chesri, (2) Chandpur, (3) Palarpar, (4) Monacherra in the district of Cachar, (5) Haflong in the District of North Cachar and Mikir Hills and (6) Bargong in the District of Darrang.

(b)—Twelve under Second Five-Year Plan and three under Normal Schemes.

(c)—Six Subsidised Dispensaries and three regular Dispensaries.

Dispensaries to be opened next year—Nine Static and eight Travelling Dispensaries.

(d)—Ten in the coming year no dispensaries are proposed to be converted to Primary Health Unit.

(e)—Does not arise.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur): Sir, in reply to my question (b) the answer is "Twelve under the Second Five-Year Plan and three under the Normal Schemes"—may I know whether these 12 also are within this financial year?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical): The reply is already there Sir, 12 under the Second Five-Year Plan and three under Normal Schemes.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Question is very simple but the reply is wider than the Question; that opens a floodgate to irrelevant Question.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: Sir, I am not quite sure of the exact number. I shall give the exact number to the hon. Member later.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): Sir, this question will depend on the budget provision also as to how many dispensaries or health units can be opened.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari): Is it not the policy of Government to encourage subsidised dispensaries in the State?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: Now we have decided not to sanction any more subsidised dispensaries Sir, because we have found that these subsidised dispensaries do not function properly. We have instead decided to open State dispensaries.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Whether it is not a fact that such dispensaries are still being maintained?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: They are being mentained, but they will not be encouraged any further.

Licentiate Doctors in Assam

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI asked :

73. Will the Medical Minister be pleased to state—

(a) What is the number of Licentiate Doctors serving in the Medical Department of the State?

- (b) How many of the licentiate doctors have resigned from Government Service during the last five years ?
- (c) How many of the superannuated licentiate doctors have been re-employed in service during the last five years ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) replied :

73. (a)—Two hundred and ninety.

(b)—Thirteen.

(c)—Thirty-eight.

Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West): May I know Sir, whether there is any proposal to raise the status of those licentiate doctors to Class I after re-unification considering their experience ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : The door is open to them, decided to promote double Sir. We have the former number from Class II to Class I.

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta): What are the reasons that so many doctors resigned ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: There are various reasons, Sir. It may be due to the scale of pay which may not be attractive to them. Another reason is that our doctors generally do not like to go to outlying areas due to many difficulties like communication, etc.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are going to introduce the same scale of pay to all Licentiate doctors as recommended by the Pay Committee ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: This matter was given due consideration by the Pay Committee Sir, and their recommendations have been taken into due consideration.

Dr. SRIHARI DAS: May we know whether Government propose to grant special allowances to doctors willing to serve in outlying areas ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : Yes, we are considering to make provision for special allowances for doctors in outlying backward areas.

Inclusion of Kamalpur Circle in the National Water Supply and Sanitation Scheme

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur): asked

74. Will the Medical Minister be pleased to include the Kamalpur Circle in the National Water Supply and Sanitation Scheme and provide adequate funds for the purpose ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical): replied :

74.—A Scheme under National Water Supply and Sanitation Schemes has been sanctioned for Hajo-Rangia and Tamulpur Areas during the First Five Year Plan. Kamalpur Mouza was not included in that Scheme. Subsequently, at the request of the hon. Member 90 (ninety) numbers of Tube-Wells were diverted to Kamalpur Mouza. The Scheme is more or less completed and as such no further funds can be diverted to that area.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur): Sir, in answer to this question the Minister said—".....90 numbers of tube wells were diverted to Kamalpur Mouza"—may I know whether there is any such Kamalpur Mouza in this locality ? (*laughter*).

Mr. SPEAKER: I think this is a printing mistake. We need not go into it.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Will Government consider to extend the National Water Supply and Sanitation Scheme to Kamalpur Circle ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical): The reply is already there, Sir. The scheme is more or less completed and as such no further funds can be diverted to that area now.

Sub-jail at Barpeta Town

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta) asked :

75. Will the Minister-in-charge of Jails be pleased to state—
- (a) When will the Government take up construction work of Sub-jail at Barpeta Town as was promised by the Minister-in-charge of Jails on the floor of the Assembly in the last winter session ?
 - (b) Whether Government propose to take immediate steps to expedite the work ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Jails) replied :

75. (a)—The Scheme is under consideration of the Government and Government propose to take up the construction work in the next financial year, *i.e.* 1958-59.

(b)—Does not arise.

Lumding-Diphu and Dimapur-Doboka Roads

Shri SAI SAI TARANG [Mikir Hills—East : (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] asked :

76. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department be pleased to state—

(a) The total mileage of roads within Diphu Town which Government have included in the present scheme ?

(b) The reason why such roads have not been taken up by Government as yet ?

(c) When will the construction work of Lumding-Diphu Road start ?

(d) What is the progress of work in the road from Dimapur to Doboka ?

(e) What is the amount sanctioned for this road and the amount spent so far ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Public Works Department) replied :

76. (a) & (b)—Six miles of roads in Diphu town were taken over from the District Council for improvement.

(c)—Construction work will be started as soon as the survey work is completed and the estimate is sanctioned by the Government of India. The survey estimate has already been submitted to the Government of India and is awaiting sanction.

(d)—The road is almost completed except a few minor items of work and the same has already been opened to traffic.

(e)—The total amount sanctioned for the entire road is Rs. 30,28,600 and the total expenditure to end of January 1958 stands at Rs. 26,95,623.

Shri SAI SAI TERANG [Mikir Hills—East (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : মই জানিব খোজে যে এই বছৰ ভিতৰত দিকু-লামডিং বাস্তা তৈয়াৰ কৰা হব নে ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P.W.D.) : The reply is there Sir, it says. "Construction work will be started as soon as survey work is completed and....."

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, Order. So far as unstarred questions are concerned they need not be read out because the replies are printed and placed on the hon. Members' tables ; if that is done it will only take the time of the House. So the best thing is for the Minister to reply only to supplementaries verbally.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : Yes Sir, but the reply is embedded here. Any way, ভাৰত গৱেষণামণ্ডলৰ পৰা অনুমতি নাপালে আমি এই কামত আগবাঢ়িব নোৱাৰো।

Shri CHATRASING TERON (Mikir Hills—West (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)) : As regards question (b) Sir, it seems that the Question has not been replied at all. The Question is "Why such roads have not been taken up by Government as yet ?" Now, may I know what are the reasons for which work has not yet been taken up in Diphu town?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : Sir, Government feels the need of taking over as many roads as possible, but then there are limitations of money, tools and plants. These are the reasons why this road could not be taken up in this area as also elsewhere.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : When the estimate was submitted to the Government of India ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P. W. D.) : I don't have the exact date with me but it was submitted some-time back.

Shri CHATRASING TERON : Is it a fact that Government of Assam propose to adopt a policy for providing fund from the State fund to carry out the survey work for the roads in the Hills ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : The whole matter is taken in hand in consultation with the Government of India as the bulk of the money comes from the Government of India.

Shri CHATRASING TERON [Mikir Hills (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Whether Government propose to adopt a policy to sanction necessary amount from the State fund for the surveying of proposed roads in the Hills in anticipation of Central Government sanction?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Public Works Department) : No. It is not practicable.

Shri CHATRASING TERON : Whether Government is aware that because of the delay in survey works, construction of roads in Mikir Hills is moving at a snail's speed?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : The State Government want that road constructions should proceed as speedily as possible both in the hills as well as in the plains but unfortunately, the State Government is handicapped in various ways, and pending sanction from the Government of India we are not in a position to take up any road project in which Government of India provide funds wholly or partly.

Settlement of Fisheries in the District of Nowgong

Shri DHIRSING DEURI (Laharighat : Reserved for Scheduled Tribes) asked :

77. Will the Minister-in-charge of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) What is the number of fisheries settled in the district of Nowgong during the year 1957-58?
- (b) Whether any of these fisheries was settled with any Tribal people?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the Tribal people who gave bid in auction were stopped by the Deputy Commissioner, Nowgong, from bidding as they were not holders of periodic Pattas?
- (d) If so, what measures Government propose to take in matters of settlement of fisheries with any people who have sufficient lands under annual pattas and whose annual Pattas were not converted to periodic Pattas?
- (e) Whether Government propose to give any special consideration to the Tribal people in matters of settlement of fisheries like that of the Scheduled Castes community?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister-in-charge of Revenue) replied :

77. (a)—Twenty-nine fisheries.

(b)—Yes, two fisheries were settled jointly with Tribal and non-Tribal people.

(c)—According to Government instructions the Deputy Commissioner refused the bids of persons, both Tribals and non-Tribals, who had not sufficient funds or landed properties (periodic lands) to pay Government dues and run the fisheries. This was necessary to stop *benami* bids.

(d)—Annual lands are not saleable and hence these cannot be accepted as security. There is no bar however to settlement of fisheries with persons having no periodic lands if they can offer adequate security in cash.

(e)—Yes, Government propose to give preference to Tribal people in the matter of settlement of fisheries situated in predominantly Tribal Areas with a rebate of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Shri LALIT KUMAR DALEY (Moran, Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): In answer to question (d) It is said that annual lands are not saleable and hence these cannot be accepted as security. In view of this—are Government aware that this stands in the way of getting benefit by the scheduled caste community?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : Cash security may be given or any other property. In this connection I may say that the scheduled tribes get some sort of rebate and therefore, other people take the opportunity of giving very high bid through them but when it is found that the fishery is not a paying proposition, these people disappear, the scheduled tribes lessee makes default, his annual lands cannot be sold and no Government can afford to lose the revenue. Government therefore insist on adequate security to prevent this sort of *benami* transaction.

Shri LALIT KUMAR DALEY: Will it not defeat the Government policy that after certain rebate is given to the tribal people, they are at the sametime required to pay the whole amount of *kist* money?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: Rebate of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent is given to the scheduled tribes out of the total revenue but the *kist* money should be paid in full according to the rules and to this effect there is no separate rule for the scheduled tribes.

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS (Rangiya: Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): I want to know why no consideration is given to the scheduled caste in general areas in case of fisheries, specially the fisheries situated by the side of the Brahmaputra?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): In matters of fisheries concession was used to be given to the scheduled caste people who are by profession fishermen, but on the representation of some tribal people, in predominantly tribal areas, this concession has been excluded to the latter.

Shri LALIT KUMAR DALEY (Moran : Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): When the question of 7½ per cent has been given to the people then why the Government are asking the people to pay the whole *kist* money at a time because this will not benefit the tribal people at all and why this question of *Benami* transaction arises at all in case of tribal people only when the rebatement was given later and not before?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : Rebate is given but it is found that certain transactions are *Benami* transactions. When a man can give security in land or in cash, this question does not arise at all.

Construction of a road joining Patbausighat and Barpeta-Baghbar Road

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta) asked :

78. Will the Minister-in-charge, Public Works Department be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government has taken any step to construct the road to the south of the proposed town adjoining to southern part of Barpeta town, joining the Patbausighat and Barpeta-Baghbar road for which a representation was given to the Public Works Department Minister, during his last visit to Barpeta?

(b) If so, when the work will be taken up?

(c) If not, why not?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister-in-charge, Public Works Department) replied :

78. (a), (b) & (c)—This road project was not selected for inclusion under either the Second Five Year Plan programme or any other approved scheme by the State Development Board and by the Assam Road Communication Board.

The proposal will be put up before the next meeting of the Assam Road Communications Board for their consideration, and work will be taken up as and when the scheme is approved and funds are available for this purpose.

N. E. S. Blocks and Community Projects in the District of Nowgong

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding) asked:

79. Will the Minister-in-charge of Community Projects be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of N. E. S. Blocks and Community Projects allotted to and functioning in the District of Nowgong till the end of 1957 ?
- (b) Whether Government propose to open more N.E.S. Block or Community Project in Nowgong in 1958 ?
- (c) If so, whether the places have been selected and on what principle ?
- (d) What are the names of the places and their headquarters ?
- (e) What are the functions of Advisory Board formed for each N. E. S. Block and Community Project ?
- (f) Whether Advisory Board are to be consulted before incurring expenditure for executing different works in N. E. S. Blocks and Community Projects ?
- (g) What is the total allotment of grant sanctioned for Kopili N. E. S. Blocks so far in the district of Nowgong ?
- (h) What sums are allotted in the following head :—
 - (i) Loan,
 - (ii) Headquarters buildings,
 - (iii) Establishment,
 - and
 - (iv) Other works ?
- (i) What is the total expenditure incurred till the end of 1957 in heads, Establishment and Works ?
- (j) Whether the above named allotment of grant in question (h) above are to be expended in a year or to be expended covering the whole period of three years ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Community Projects) replied :

79. (a)—Four.

(b)—It will depend upon the number of Blocks allotted by the Government of India to Assam in 1958 and also on the decision of the State Government, after assessing the needs of all districts of the State as a whole.

(c) & (d)—Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(e)—The functions of the Project Advisory Committee of a Block, are chiefly to advise in the planning and implementation of the Community Development Programme in the area.

(f)—No, as soon as the scheme for such work is approved by the Project Advisory Committee and sanctioned by Government, it is not necessary for the Block Development Officer to consult the Advisory Committee before incurring any expenditure for execution of works. They are fully kept informed and duly consulted before the schemes are framed and sanctioned by Government.

(g)—Rupees four lakhs for expenditure on departmental plans and Rs. 3 lakhs for short-term loans through Co-operative set-up.

(h)—(i) Loan—Rs.3 lakhs (Loan through Co-operatives).

(ii) Headquarters buildings—Rs.80,000.

(iii) Establishment—Rs.1,00,000.

(w) Other Works—Rs.2,20,000.

(i)—Establishment—Rs.67,744.

Works—Rs.1,40,758

(j)—The allotments are to be spent over three years.

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding): The total allotment for Establishment is Rs. one lakh, out of which the expenditure is Rs.67,744 and the balance is Rs.32,256. Whether Government propose to give more grant in this Head or not or they want to curtail the expenditure in the Establishment for the remaining period because 2/3rd of the expenditure has already been incurred in one year, whether more allotment will be given for the next two years, the entire expenditure, i.e., whether the sum of one lakh is to be spent in three years?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) : That has to be looked into. It is not possible to give the details now.

Mr. SPEAKER : Whether the Central Government contemplate to cut down the cost of Establishment—that is the question ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : We have no such proposal at the moment but we are examining the whole thing. A few days before the Central Minister for Community Projects visited our State. We have had discussion with him in this regard. It is necessary that we should have some clear decision on the subject. It is difficult at the moment for us to reply.

Police Station at Sarupathar in Golaghat Subdivision

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi) asked :

80. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether a new Police Station has been opened at Sarupathar in Golaghat Subdivision ?
- (b) If so, what is the strength of officers and constables sanctioned for the same ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware that the existing Police staff sanctioned for Sarupathar is quite inadequate compared to their work ?
- (d) If so, whether Government propose to increase the number ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that there is no Government quarters for office or for the officers of the Police Stations and as such the officers and the constables have been put to great hardship ?
- (f) If so, whether Government propose to get the quarters constructed early ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied :

80. (a)—No. A beat post has opened at Sarupathar.

(b)—The beat post has one Assistant Sub-Inspector and five constables.

(c) & (d)—Government are aware that the existing Police staff at Sarupathar needs strengthening and so have under consideration a proposal for opening an outpost there with a staff of one Sub-Inspector, one Assistant Sub-Inspector and eight Constables.

(e)—A house has been hired for accommodating the beat post and its staff. The house is quite commodious to meet the requirements.

(f)—Not at present.

Scheme for supplying water to Diphu Town

Shri SAI SAI TERANG (Mikir Hills—East : Reserved for Scheduled Tribes) asked :

81. Will the Minister of Tribal Areas Department be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Government have prepared a scheme for supplying water to Diphu Town ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that work of the above scheme has not been taken in hand as yet ?

(c) If so, when the work will be taken up and when it is expected to be completed ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical for Minister, T. A. D.) replied :

81.(a)—Yes. A rough scheme amounting to Rs.6.10 lakhs has been prepared.

(b)—Yes. The actual execution of the work has not been taken up.

(c)—The survey work and trial borings for the preparation of the detailed scheme have since been completed and the detailed scheme will be ready by end of February, 1958. Execution of the scheme will be taken up as soon as the estimates are sanctioned by the Government of India and is likely to be completed by the end of the next financial year.

Land Mortgage Banks in Assam

Shri JOGA KANTA BARUA (Jaipur) asked :

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

(a) When the Land Mortgage Bank in Assam was started ?

- (b) What is its total cost up to the end of 1957 including the pay of the top officers to Grade IV incumbents and other incidental expenses including hire of office, etc., since the time of its starting?
- (c) What amount has been advanced to the public through this bank up to the end of 1957?
- (d) Is there any scheme to expand its business?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister-in-charge of Co-operatives) replied :

82(a)—One Primary Land Mortgage Bank in Kamrup was started in 1926 and one Primary Land Mortgage Bank in Nowgong was started in 1929. The Central Land Mortgage Bank was registered on 2nd September 1955.

(b)—If the Honourable Member means the Central Land Mortgage Bank, the following expenditures were incurred up to the end of 1957 (*i. e.*, upto 31st December 1957).

					Rs. N.P.
(i)	Pay and D. A. of Officers (M/D., L. V. O. and L. A.)				12,953·84
(u)	Pay and D. A. of other staff including Grade IV incumbents.				12,019·70
(iii)	T. A. including T. A. to the non-officials members of the Board of Directors and Administrative Council.				4,445·20
(iv)	Stationery	...	..	...	711·25
(v)	Postage	...	...	...	583·17
(vi)	House rent	...	...	...	625·00
(vii)	Miscellaneous ..	...	..	...	463·00
Total Rs.					31,801·16

(c)—If the Honourable Member means the Central Land Mortgage Bank, a total loan of Rs.5,47,500 was sanctioned up to 31st December 1957.

(d)—If the Honourable Member means the Central Land Mortgage Bank, there is an approved scheme for expansion of the activities of the Bank by issuing further loans to the Agriculturists. The targets for the issue of long term loans during the Second Five-Year Plan is given below :—

1957-58	...	..	..	..	10.5 lakhs.
1958-59	...	..	...	...	6.55 lakhs
1959-60	...	...	...	...	17.20 lakhs.
1960-61	...	...	...	...	18.92 lakhs.

Except in the case of Gauhati and Nowgong where old Primary Land Mortgage Banks are rehabilitated the Central Land Mortgage Bank has been functioning in the Subdivisions through a section of the Central Banks. As soon as the business in any such section is sufficient to call for a separate Primary Land Mortgage Bank, the same will be established.

Shri JOGA KANTA BARUA (Jaipur): Is it a fact that only the Central Land Mortgage Bank issues loans?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Co-operatives): Where there is no branch of the Central Land Mortgage Bank, the Central Bank issues the loans, Sir.

Services of the Medical Department to the 63rd Congress Session

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Raipur) asked :

83. Will the Minister-in-charge of Medical be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Medical Department paid any rent for land and case at Pragjyotispur for housing its Department in connection with the last Congress Session ?

(b) If so, what was the rent ?

(c) How much this Department spent for giving its services to the Congress ?

(d) How many Doctors, Civil Surgeons, Assistant Surgeons, Nurses, Medical College Student's Services were requisitioned for the purpose ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Medical Minister)
replied :

83. (a)—Yes.

(b)—A sum of Rs.575 was paid as rent.

(c)—About an expenditure of Rs.57,673 was incurred in this connection. The details of expenditure are given below :

DETAILS OF EXPENDITURE AS SHOWN AGAINST
QUESTION No. (C)

			Rs.
1. 60 bedded Hospital	...	...	2,605
2. 5 Casualty Stations	...	...	2,000
3. Kitchen at the Base Hospital	...	...	600
4. Central Medical Department	...	...	2,360
5. Disinfectant	...	...	8,070
6. 400 urinals	...	...	4,000
7. 150 Bore hole latrines	...	...	3,750
8. Hospital urinals	...	...	800
9. Construction of accommodation, etc., of Medical Staff.	...	...	6,433
10. Hospital utensils of crockeries	...	...	100
11. Telephone and Electrification	...	...	1,000
12. 25 Tube Wells.	...	...	6,300
13. Exhibition	...	...	5,500
14. Approach Road to Base Hospital	...	...	2,000
15. Travelling Allowance and Dearness Allowance of P. R. C. A. Students from Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh.	...	...	4,355
16. Petrol of Ambulance Vans and Jeeps	...	...	3,500
17. Contingencies	...	...	4,300
Total ...			57,673

(d)—The services of the following personnel were requisitioned for the purpose:—

(1) Director of Health Services, Assam, (2) Deputy Director of Health Services (PH.), Assam, (3) Special Officers, office of the Director of Health Services, Assam, (4) Assistant Director of Public Health, Gauhati, (5) District Medical Officer of Health, Gauhati, (6) Anti-Plague Officer, (7) Provincial T. B. Officer, (8) Professor of Social and Preventive Medicines from Assam Medical College, (9) Assistant Professor of Medicine and Surgery (2 in person) from Assam Medical College, (10) Health Officer, Chabua, (11) Demonstrator (4 in person) from Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh, (12) Subdivisional Medical Officer (1 in person), (13) Assistant Surgeon I (5 in person), (14) Assistant Surgeon II (1 in person), (15) Public Health Education Officer, (16) Assistant Public Health Education Officer, (17) P. R. C. A. Students from Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh, (20 in person), (18) Matron (1 in person), (19) Sister (1 in person), (20) Nurses (17 in person), (21) Civil Surgeons (5 in person), (22) State Malaria Officer (1 in person).

Procedure laid down by the Speaker in fixing time-limit for speeches in connection with debate on Governor's Address

Mr. SPEAKER: The question hour is over. Let us go to the next item of the agenda.

Now according to Rule 18, the Speaker may, if he thinks fit, prescribe a time-limit for speeches after taking the sense of the House. I have calculated that there will, in these four days, be twelve hours available for discussion on the Governor's address. Out of it, the Government will require two hours for reply; the Chief Minister and perhaps one or two other Ministers may also speak. That leaves us with ten hours. Then the Mover of the motion will get half an hour. Therefore I think we have to fix a time-limit. Of course that too will depend upon the circumstances obtaining every day. I would like to be guided whether I should fix a time-limit or not. I have an idea that a very large number of Members will like to participate in the debate. May I suggest that the mover will get half an hour and other members will get about 15 minutes each. I shall make some concession in the cases of the Leaders of the Parties, who may get half an hour each. I should like to know whether the House agrees to my proposal.

(The Speaker sensed the wishes of the House and it was agreed to).

Shri LALIT KUMAR DALEY [Moran (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : May I know in what order the Speakers will speak, Sir ?

Mr. SPEAKER : First the Mover and the Seconder of the Motion will speak, then amendment will be moved and after that any other Members may participate. They will give me their names and I shall call their names if and when they catch my eyes.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunjee (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : I think the discretion should be given to the Speaker, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER : That discretion of the Speaker is not only invested by rules but by other conventions of the House.

Debate on the Governor's Address

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move 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 24th February, 1958.

Sir, I moved this Motion on the 28th of February 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 24th February, 1958.

I commend my Motion to be accepted by the House and, Sir, in this connection I beg to say a few words in support of my Motion.

We are all thankful to the Governor for the illuminating address which gives us a representation of the actual state of affairs of the State in the present political and economical background. The Governor was pleased to refer to some of the important problems and events with which the State is confronted. This State of Assam has some problems peculiar to it unlike other States of the Indian Union. The geographical situation and the ethnological composition of the inhabitants of the State have created some peculiar problems which require understanding and special treatment. The Governor in his address has drawn the attention of this House to these problems.

The Governor has rightly mentioned that the year 1957 was one of the most difficult and eventful period in the economic and political history of the State. In this year we had achievements and misfortunes. The acute shortage of food, increased price of necessary commodities and consumer goods, storm, flood, drought, etc. created havoc in certain areas, the exclusion of Naga Hills district from the administrative set up of the State, the instability and unreliability of the Assam Link line with its poor traffic capacity has been causing the bottleneck in transport facilities, relief and rehabilitation of the displaced persons are some of such problems facing the State. The Government of India have decided to locate the first refinery to process the new oil finds of the State within the State. The decision to construct a bridge on the Brahmaputra at Pandu-Amingaon and the creation of the new Railway Zone with headquarters at Pandu are also achievements of the State.

The All-India economic trends have their natural effects in all constituent States and particularly in Assam. The country has adopted Five Year Plans for the progressive development of its economy. The First Five Year Plan emphasised intensive food production so that the country can attain self-sufficiency in food. There was initial success and the country was in a very comfortable situation so far as food was concerned in the middle of that plan period. But marked deterioration of food situation was felt towards the close of the plan. The 2nd Five Year Plan seeks to remove structural deficiencies in economy and to raise productivity and employment. So it emphasises industrial development having employment potentialities. But there has been much difficulties in the implementation of the 2nd Five Year Plan as the First Five Year Plan could not attain the desired and scheduled results of self-sufficiency in food and agricultural improvement. Shortage of foreign exchange has created great difficulties in the implementation of the 2nd Plan. For industrial development the country requires capital goods and plants to be imported from abroad. The resources in way of foreign exchange at the disposal of the Central Government is not adequate in proportion to the requirements to go ahead with the schedule of the plan projects. Shortage of food has created the difficulties of much great magnitude. The paucity of foreign exchange does not permit the Government of India to import food from abroad as much as the country needs. So we must fall back upon our own internal resources.

The Governor has discussed the problems arising out of the acute shortage of food in this State and has also mentioned the

steps taken by the Government to turn the corner. Scarcity of rice has become an all-India problem. It is a matter of grave misfortune that almost all the paddy growing states of the country have been subjected to vicissitudes of drought and flood and consequent failure of crops. Last year the Central Government supplied a substantial amount of rice to this State and we could tide over the food shortage situation to some extent. This year as the States which we could procure rice are themselves becoming deficit areas, there is very little chance of getting supplies from the Central Government to our total requirements. So the Governor has rightly drawn the attention of this House to this acute problem and has stated that the food situation will require closer attention for this year also. There has been widespread crop failure in Assam. Flood and drought have created havoc in the State and the areas which gained the reputation as the granaries of Assam because of the high yielding capacity of the soil, have become absolutely unproductive and are lying barren for unprecedented drought. In some areas harvestable crops have been washed away by early floods and subsequent crops also failed for want of rain in proper season. Again in some other areas ripe harvestable Sali paddy has been completely damaged by severe hailstorms and the grains have been totally thrashed out of the stems. Due to these unforeseen and uncontrollable circumstances there has been failure of crops and the State is facing grave danger from food shortage.

The Government is fully alive to these problems and steps have been taken to minimise the difficulties. The Central Government have been persuaded to allot 16,000 tons of rice for the first half of the year and this amount of rice has already been obtained. The Government have also begun local procurement of paddy to create a buffer stock for emergency. Steps have been taken for intensive Ahu cultivation in the areas suited for it. Quick return of the investments is the need of the time and for this purpose the Government have sanctioned a sum of 39 lakhs of rupees to be distributed to the cultivators for purchase of better seed, manures and fertilisers. Bodo cultivation has also been encouraged in the areas suitable for it. Wheat and wheat products have also been obtained in greater quantities from the Central Government for the State.

The Government of India are in great difficulties because of the acute shortage of foreign exchange. To go ahead with the projects of the 2nd Five Year Plan capital goods and plants are to be imported from abroad. The resources at the

disposal of the Government of India is not enough even for that purpose. It is known to all of us how the Finance Ministry of the Government of India has been negotiating with the foreign countries for aid to finance the Plan. So the Central Government is not in a position to import greater quantities of food to meet the food shortage situation. Again without food the people cannot work to make the plan success. Thus the country has been faced with a dilemma. Resources are not adequate to import both food and capital goods from abroad and without import of food the present food shortage situation cannot be tided over as internal resources are scanty and inadequate. Without food and capital goods the plan cannot succeed. Both the alternatives are equally unpleasant and unavoidable. The Planning Commission has boldly faced the dilemma and has recommended to escape between the horns of the dilemma and has recognised the necessity of flexible planning. The States have been allowed to re-arrange the priorities with closer reference to local conditions and requirements. Our Government have also shifted emphasis to food production projects according to suggestions. Assam today possesses a large number of non-producer consumers and in normal times when there was free flow of commodities in normal trade channels the scarcity of food and other necessary materials was not felt so much.

Government have also taken long term measures for increasing food production. Dykes, embankments, drainage and irrigation projects have been undertaken as flood control measures approximately 1,300 miles of embankments have already been constructed and further projects are also being contemplated. These flood control measures have not been an unmixed blessings for the State. There has been adverse effects of these embankments and more harm has been caused rather than good to the localities. We learn by trial and error and to re-examine the projects already undertaken Government have constituted a committee to study the consequences and to suggest remedial measures. Test relief works have been now directed to productive projects.

The Governor in his address has been pleased to mention that to check inflatory and competitive prices of rice Government have introduced Fair Price shops to cater to the needs of the areas where rice has become relatively scarce. The purpose of Fair Price shops is to keep the price down and to stabilise it. Government have not introduced complete rationing of rice through Fair Price shops and Government have no such undertakings. Wherever the vigilance committees entrusted to supervise the distribution of the Fair Price shops have taken interest the Fair Price shops in such areas have functioned well. Due to

inadequate supply of essential commodities and consumer goods the trend of price has always high in this State and Government have done as far as possible to have a check on the rise of prices.

The decision of the Central Government to locate the First Refinery to process the new oil finds of the State outside Assam, caused great dissatisfaction and resentment all over the State. This Assembly which was in Session at that time passed a resolution to revise the reported decision and to locate the refinery within the State to remove the imbalance of industrial economy of the State. A deputation of the Assam Government and of the Assam Congress Organisation had been to Delhi and represented the cause of Assam with force and logic. The Government of India ultimately appreciated the just and legitimate demands of the people of the State which is industrially backward and decided to locate the First Refinery within the State of Assam.

The decision to construct the bridge on the Brahmaputra at Pandu—Amingaon is another victory of popular demand of the State and this Government and the Congress Organisation also have been pressing to the Government of India for a long time. The creation of the new Railway Zone in Assam with headquarters at Pandu is also another achievement of the State for which also there has been long felt need as the traffic capacity of the Link line is meagre in proportion to the requirements of the State. It is now hoped that the authorities of the new zone will give more attention to the local demands and the aspirations of the people will be realised.

The separation of the Naga Hills District from the administrative set up of the State is another event. This measure was adopted by the Government of India in conformity with the wishes of the people of the Nagaland and by this measure the long drawn agitation, unrest and acts of violence have sought to be removed. If this political and administrative adjustment satisfies the political and economic aspirations of the Nagas we cannot but have sufferance and good will. We are naturally sorry for the administrative separation of the Nagas and no administrative and political adjustment can sever the natural bonds that existed from time immemorial. Let us hope that with the lapse of time these old relations will revive with better understanding and co-operation. We cannot but have good will for the trial they have undertaken.

The Governor in his address has also mentioned about the border incidents both near Pakistan and Naga Hills. The security forces have done their best to check the reoccurrence of such incidents and Government have taken effective steps for their control.

This Government have also undertaken the electrification schemes of small towns and improved villages. The Umtru Hydro Electric Project has already come to operation and has supplied electricity to Gauhati and its neighbourhood.

The Governor has also mentioned in his address about the re-organisation of the administrative machinery of the Government. Government is fully conscious about the necessity of bringing a change in the administrative machinery of the State. It is the general complaint that there is something basically wrong with the administrative machinery of the Government. To bring about efficiency, speed and effectiveness of administration Government have been examining the various recommendations of several expert committees available for the purpose. The malady has almost been diagnosed and curatives have been experimented upon. Re-organisation of the Secretariat, Organisation and Methods Division, training of the accountants, Secretariat practice training class are some of the steps taken by the Government in that direction.

The Government have taken steps for the expansion of the Co-operative Movement. Rural Credit Societies, Co-operative Marketing Societies, Co-operative farming, etc., have been organised and for managing the co-operative organisation in scientific lines Co-operative Training Schemes have been introduced.

Government are fully alive to the distressed conditions of the people of the areas bordering Pakistan and Government have taken measures for their relief. The sudden stoppage of the border markets by Pakistan has further aggravated the miseries of these people who have already been subjected to great hardships for disruption of normal economy due to Partition. Government have sanctioned short term and long term loans and also test relief works in these areas. Relief measures to Khasi coal industry have been taken by the Government and steps have been taken to reduce the transportation cost.

Rehabilitation of displaced persons is another persisting problem and Government have already settled 40,000 acres of land with the refugees. As sufficient land is not available more emphasis now has been given to industrial projects in the rehabilitation schemes by the Government.

This Government have been performing all these welfare and productive activities with very limited resources at their disposal. We learn by trial and error and Government also have been marching ahead being enriched by the experiences of the past.

The Governor in his address has drawn the attention of the House to some salient features of the State. These are only illustrative and not exhaustive. The Governor's address is not a comprehensive account of the past activities nor it is a programme of future undertakings. The Article 176(1) of the Constitution mentions the purpose of the special address of the Governor at the commencement of the 1st Session. The purpose of such address by the Governor is only to inform the Legislature of the causes of its summons. So it does not behove to be critical about the address of the Governor because it has not mentioned this thing or that matter.

The country has adopted the Five Year Plans for its progressive economic development. The First Plan is over and we are now in the process of implementing the 2nd Plan. The States as integral constituents of the Indian Union have been implementing the planned projects according to the directions of the Planning Commission. The break over of the different phases of the plan are before us and the Government have been carrying on their functions accordingly. Subjects that have not been mentioned in the address are not neglected or left over and our Government is not a newly organised Government. It has been functioning and functioning with all their departments. The Governor has appealed to all sections of this House for unity and co-operation for making the Plan a success and that is the most sacred duty of us.

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

Shri RAM NATH SARMA (Lumding) : মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মাননীয় ৰাজ্যপাল ডাঙৰীয়াই সিদিনা এই সদনত যি ভাষণ দাঙি ধৰিলে তাৰ বাবে তেখেতক ধন্যবাদ জনাও আৰু তেখেতৰ ভাষণৰ ওপৰত শ্ৰীযুত গোস্বামী দেৱে যিটো প্ৰস্তাৱ দাঙি ধৰিছে তাত মই সমৰ্থন জনাও।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, ৰাজ্যপাল ডাঙৰীয়াই তেখেতৰ ভাষণত, আমাৰ চৰকাৰে যোৱা বছৰ যি নীতিত শাসন কাৰ্য্য চলাই কাৰ্য্য সফলতা অৰ্জন কৰিছে তাৰ কথা উল্লেখ কৰিছে। তেখেতৰ প্ৰাঞ্জল ভাষাত, ভৱিষ্যতে আমাৰ ইয়াত যিবিলাক গঠন মূলক কাম হ'ব তাকো আভাস দিছে। গতিকে তেখেতৰ নিপুন ভাষণত মই মোৰ সমৰ্থন জনাই শলাগ লৈছো।

ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ৰ ভাষণত আমি দেখিছোঁ যে যোৱা বছৰত যিটো কাম আৰম্ভ হ'ব লাগে বুলি আশা কৰা হৈছিল প্ৰকৃত পক্ষে সেইটো আৰম্ভ হৈছে বুলিব

লাগিব। অসমবাসীয়ে দীৰ্ঘদিন বাবং আশাকৰি থকা বুদ্ধগুৰুৰ ওপৰত দলং সজোৱাৰ শেষ সিদ্ধান্ত, অসমত তেল শোধনাগাৰ স্থাপন আদিৰ চূড়ান্ত সিদ্ধান্ত আৰু বিভিন্ন ধৰণৰ অন্যান্য গিয়ানুষ্ঠান সমূহ গঠনৰ বিৰাট কল্পনা বাস্তৱত পৰিণত হোৱাৰ উজ্জল আশাৰ বেখা অঙ্কিত হৈছে।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, তেখেতৰ ভাষণৰ ২২ দফাত, আমাৰ চৰকাৰে Political Sufferer সকলক সহানুভূতি সূচক চকুৰে চোৱাৰ কথা আৰু তেওঁলোকৰ পুনৰসংস্থাপন অধিক ব্যৱস্থা হাতত লবলৈ কৰা পৰিকল্পনাৰ কথা উল্লেখ কৰিছে। সেই বাবে তেখেতক কৃতজ্ঞতা জনাও। এই সম্পৰ্কে মই এটা কথা ক'ব খোজো যে যি সকল লোকৰ সহিষ্ণুতা আৰু ত্যাগৰ বলত আজি আমাৰ দেশে বিদেশী শাসনৰ পৰা মুক্তি লভ কৰি স্বাধীনতা আহিল সেই সকলৰ কাৰ্য্যৰ শলাগ আৰু কাৰ্য্য পৰিগণিত কৰি তেওঁলোকৰ প্ৰতি সহানুভূতি আৰু তেওঁলোকৰ ঠান ঠান হৈ যাব খোজা অৱস্থাৰ প্ৰতি লক্ষ্য ৰাখি পুনৰ সংস্থাপনৰ ব্যৱস্থা লবলৈ হাতত লোৱাতো চৰকাৰৰ পক্ষে কম উদাৰতাৰ পৰিচায়ক নহয়। ইয়াৰ লগতে আন এটা ডাঙৰ কথা মোৰ মনলৈ আহিছে সেইটো হৈছে আমাৰ অসমীয়া জাতিটোৰ উন্নতি আৰু তাৰ Stability। জাতিৰ প্ৰগতিৰ মান নিৰ্ভৰ কৰে সেই জাতিৰ ভাষা আৰু সাহিত্যৰ উন্নতিৰ ওপৰত। সেই কাৰণে আমাৰ এই অসমীয়া ভাষাৰ উন্নতি কৰে জাতীয় জন পিয় চৰকাৰে কিছু কাম হাতত লব বুলি মই আশা কৰো। কাৰণ, সাহিত্য ক্ষেত্ৰত আনি আশানুকূপ আগ বাঢ়িব পৰা নাই। আজিৰ পৰা কিছু বেছি ৫০০ বছৰৰ আগতে মহাপুৰুষ শব্দৰ মাধ্যমে অসমীয়া সাহিত্যলৈ যি গীতি-হৃদ অৱদান দি গৈছে তাতেই আমি আজি ক্ষান্ত হৈ তাৰ চাৰি সীমা লঙ্ঘন কৰিব পৰা নাই। ইয়াৰ পুৰান অন্তৰায় হ'ল অসমীয়া সাহিত্যিক সকলৰ আৰ্থিক অৱস্থা শোক লগা। আনফালে সাহিত্যিক সকলে যি চৰ্চা কৰে তাৰ কাৰণে পঢ়ুৱৈ সমাজে যথেষ্ট নহয়। একালে পঢ়ুৱৈ সমাজৰ নাটনি আৰু আনফালে সাহিত্যিক সকলৰ আৰ্থিক দুৰৱস্থা এই দুয়োটা কাৰণেই আমাৰ অসমীয়া সাহিত্যৰ বিকাশ সাধন হ'ব পৰা নাই। মোৰ বিবেচনা মতে অসমীয়া ভাষা আৰু সাহিত্যৰ পৰিসৰ বৃদ্ধিৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰ পৰা কৰ্তব্য হিচাবে কৰিব লগীয়া বহুতো আছে। ইয়াৰ ভিতৰত আমাৰ সাহিত্যিক সমাজৰ যি কেই জন শীৰ্ষস্থানীয় সাহিত্যিক লোক আছে তেওঁলোকক সাহিত্য চৰ্চাৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে লাগতীয়াল অনুযায়ী অৰ্থ সাহায্য দিয়া একান্ত কৰ্তব্য। অৰ্থৰ অভাৱত পৰি তেওঁলোকৰ পক্ষে সাহিত্যৰ বিকাশ সাধন কৰাটো অত্যন্ত দুৰূহ হৈ পৰিছে। এনে আৰ্থিক অসচ্ছলতাৰ মাজত পৰি স্ব-সাহিত্যিক শ্ৰীযুত বঙ্ককান্ত বৰকাকতী, বন্ধুনাথ চৌধুৰীৰ নিচিনা মানুহো এই ক্ষেত্ৰত পিচ পৰি ৰ'ব লগা হৈছে। এওঁলোকৰ নিচিনা সাহিত্যসেৱী মানুহক অৰ্থ সহায় দি চৰকাৰে উদগনি দিয়া একান্ত কৰ্তব্য বুলি মই বিবেচনা কৰো। চৰকাৰৰ এই উদগনি নহলে সাহিত্যিক সকলে সাহিত্যৰ পৰিসৰ বৃদ্ধি কৰিব নোৱাৰে, তাৰ ফলত অসমীয়া সাহিত্য স্থিতিবস্থাত বৈ যাব আৰু জাতিটোৰ প্ৰগতিত বাধা পৰিব। গতিকে Political Sufferer সকলক যি দৰে চৰকাৰে সহানুভূতি চকুৰে চাইছে ঠিক তেনেকৈ আমাৰ সাহিত্যসেৱী সকলকো সমান ব্যৱহাৰ কৰা উচিত হ'ব। আজি আমাৰ সমাজত সাহিত্যৰ আদৰ নোহোৱা হৈ পৰাৰ চিন হিচাবে ক'ব পাৰি যে আজি কালিও আমাৰ ইয়াৰ যেই কোনো অনুষ্ঠানতেই উপহাৰ হিচাবে ল'ব ছোৱালীক অন্যান্য দেশৰ দৰে ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ লিখকৰ কিতাপ পত্ৰ নিদি তাৰ ঠাইত কাপপোট বা অন্যান্য ধৰণৰ মনোহাৰী বস্তু দিয়া হয়। ই অকল পৰিতাপৰেই কথা নহয় জাতিটোৰ অধঃপতনৰো চিন। এইবিষয়ে মই আমাৰ বিধান সভাৰ অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়ৰো দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিছো কাৰণ তেখেতো এজন। অসমীয়া জাতিৰ কৃতি সন্তান আৰু তেখেত যেতিয়া এই বিধান সভাৰ অধ্যক্ষ নিৰ্বাচিত হৈছিল—তেতিয়া বিৰোধীদলৰ সদস্য শ্ৰীযুত গোবীন্দৰ তট্টাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াই—তেখেতক সাহিত্যিক হিচাবে.....

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order. Any reference to the Speaker or his supposed qualities of head and heart is out of place in this discussion.

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding): গতিকে মই আশা কৰো যেন আমাৰ চৰকাৰে এই বিষয়ে বিশেষ ভাবে লক্ষ্য ৰাখে।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, ৰাজ্যপাল ডাঙৰীয়াৰ ভাষণৰ ৫ আৰু ৯ নং পাৰা গ্ৰাফত নগা পাহাৰৰ পৰিস্থিতিৰ কথা উল্লেখ কৰি কৈছে যে—As you are aware, the new Central Administration for the Naga Hills—Tuensang area was ushered in from the 1st December, 1957. I hope the Naga brethren will continue to receive the good wishes and co-operation of people of Assam from whom they stand at present separated so far as administration goes. এই প্ৰসঙ্গত মোৰ এটা কথা মনলৈ আহিছে—যে “North-East Frontier Agency” ও আজি অসমৰ পৰা বাহিৰত আৰু ইয়াৰ প্ৰশাসনীয় ব্যৱস্থাও—ৰাজ্যিক চৰকাৰ অধীনত নাই। অৰ্থচ নেফা (North-East Frontier Agency) আৰু অসমৰ কোনো নৌলিক পাৰ্থক্য নাই। নেফা অধিবাসী, আবৰ, মিৰি, মিচিমি সকল অসমীয়া মানুহ তেওঁলোক অসমীয়া মানুহৰ তাই-ককাই বংশপৰিয়াল। আজি-কালিৰ কুটীলা গতিত পৰি, তেওঁবিলাকক কৃতিম ভাবে আন অসমীয়া বুলি পৰিগণিত কৰাৰ চেষ্টা হৈছে আৰু অসমৰ বুকুৰ পৰা তেওঁবিলাকক ফালি নি নেফা নামত কেন্দ্ৰীয় শাসন ব্যৱস্থাৰ তলত ৰখা হৈছে। কেন্দ্ৰীয় শাসন তন্ত্ৰত—নেফা শাসনৰ অধীনত অসমীয়া কৰ্মচাৰীৰ স্থান নাই। শিক্ষা সংস্কৃতি ফালৰ পৰাও—নেফাবাসী সকলক অসমীয়া শিক্ষা সংস্কৃতিৰ পৰা আতৰাই নিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰা হৈছে; অৰ্থচ—অতীজৰে পৰা এই বিলাক মানুহৰ মনৰ ভাৱৰ আদান-প্ৰদান—অহাযোৱা নীতি-নিয়ম আৰু সৰু সূৰা হলেও তেওঁলোকৰ ব্যৱসায়—অসমীয়া মানুহৰ লগত চলি আহিছে। এনেস্থলত এওঁলোকৰ লগত অসমীয়া মানুহৰ আগৰ সুভাৱ কেনেকৈ ৰক্ষা হৈ থাকিব বুজা নাযায়। কিন্তু অন্যফালে—ঠিক তেনেকৈয়ে, যি ভাবে অসমীয়া মানুহৰ ওপৰত বাধাৰ বোজা বৃদ্ধি হৈ আহিছে—ঠিক সেই সমান অনুপাতে অসমৰ বাহিৰৰ লোক সকলক—এই অঞ্চলত চলাফিৰা কৰাত সুবিধা দিছে। অসমৰ Press Reporter সকলতকৈ, ভাৰতৰ অন্যঠাইৰ Press Reporter ক এই অঞ্চলত পৰিলম্বনৰ কাৰণে বেচি সুবিধা দিয়া হৈছে। এই ক্ষেত্ৰত আপোনালোকে শুনি আচৰিত হব যে আসামৰ journalists বা অসমৰ বাতৰি কাকতৰ সংবাদক সকলক এই সংৰক্ষিত নামাকৰণ দিয়া অঞ্চলত, পৰিলম্বণৰ কোনো সুবিধা দিয়া নহয় বা অনেক ক্ষেত্ৰত বাধাহে দিয়া হয়, কিন্তু দিল্লী বা বোম্বাইৰ সংবাদক সকলক মাতি আনি ইয়াত অকলশৰীয়া ভাবে পৰিলম্বনৰ সুবিধা দিয়া হয়—আৰু নেফা শাসন তন্ত্ৰৰ অভিকচিমতে তেওঁলোকৰ পৰা সংবাদ বাহিৰ কৰোৱা হয় আৰু বিভিন্ন নামত বাহিৰৰ বাতৰি কাকত বোৰত সেইদৰে article বোৰ প্ৰকাশ কৰা হয়।

ই বৰ পৰিতাপৰ কথা। এই অঞ্চলৰ শাসন ভাৰপ্ৰাপ্ত কৰ্মচাৰী পলিটিকেল অফিচাৰ বিলাকৰ ভিতৰত অসমীয়া মানুহ নাই বুলিলেই হয়। তাৰ ৫১৬ জন পলিটিকেল অফিচাৰৰ ভিতৰত এজলো অসমীয়া অফিচাৰ নাই আৰু ১৩১৪ জন এচিষ্টেণ্ট পলিটিকেল অফিচাৰৰ ভিতৰত মাত্ৰ ২১৩ জন মান অসমীয়া। যি গৰাকী অসমীয়া এডুকেচন অফিচাৰ তাত আছিল, সেই মহিলা গৰাকীয়ে যোগ্যতাৰে সৈতে ইমান দিন কাম কৰি থকাৰ পিচত, তেওক সেই ঠাইৰ পৰা আহিবলৈ বাধ্য কৰা হৈছে। কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰৰ এনে

এটা স্বতন্ত্ৰ নীতি অসমক একগোট কৰাৰ পৰিপন্থী হ'ব নোৱাৰে। এনে এটা সুকীয়া শাসনগোট তৈয়াৰ কৰাৰ পৰা NEFA আৰু অসমৰ ভৈয়ামবাসী সকলৰ মাজৰ আগৰ সূত্ৰৰ ভাব আতৰি গৈছে আৰু অন্যফালে এটা সুস্থ-সবল বুজাপৰাৰ ভাৱ গঢ়ি উঠাত যোৰ প্ৰতিবন্ধক হৈছে। গুৰিৰে পৰা এনে ধৰণৰ দৃষ্টিভঙ্গিৰ মাজেৰে এটা সুকীয়া শাসন পদ্ধতি গঢ়ি উঠাৰ ফলতেই আৰু নেকা প্ৰশাসনত থকা কৰ্মচাৰী সকলে ধাৰাবাহিক ৰূপে ভৈয়ামৰ লোক সকলৰ প্ৰতি এটা বিতৃষ্ণিৰ ভাবধাৰা সৰলমন্তীয়া পাহাৰী ভাই সকলৰ মনত বন্ধনুল ভাবে স্ফুৰাই দিয়াৰ প্ৰচেষ্টা চলোৱাৰ কাৰণেই আজি আমাৰ নগা ভাই সকলৰ এটা দলে আমাৰ লগত এটা ভিনু ভাব পোষণ কৰি ভাৰতীয় শাসনৰো বাহিৰ উলোৱাৰ ভাব পোষণ কৰিছে। কাৰণ ভৈয়াম বুলিলে কেবল আসাম ভেলিকে নুবুজাই। বেঙ্গল, মধ্যপ্ৰদেশ, উত্তৰ প্ৰদেশ সকলোবোৰেই ভৈয়াম। গতিকে ভৈয়ামৰ মানুহ যদি বেয়া এই সকলোবোৰ ঠাইৰে তথা ভাৰতৰে মানুহ বেয়া; গতিকে তেওঁলোকে ভাৰতৰ এই বেয়া মানুহবোৰৰ লগত নেখাকি এটা নিজস্ব সুকীয়া প্ৰশাসনৰ চিন্তা কৰিছে। গতিকে এই অদূৰদৰ্শী নেকাৰ কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ কাৰ্য্যকলাপে অকল অসমবাসীকে অন্যায় কৰা নাই, তেওঁলোকৰ কাৰ্য্যই ভাৰতৰো অমঙ্গল সূচনা কৰিছে। মাননীয় ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ৰ ভাষণত নগা ভাই সকল অসমৰ ভিতৰতে থকাৰ যি এটা আশা কৰিছে, সি অতি বাঞ্ছনীয়; ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয় অসমৰ সকলোবিলাক আঞ্চলিক শাসনৰ শীৰ্ষস্থান অধিকাৰ কৰি আছে গতিকে তেখেতে তেখেতৰ আশা ফলবতী কৰিবৰ কাৰণে নেকাৰ কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ ভাবধাৰা আৰু দৃষ্টিভঙ্গি যাতে ভাৰতৰ বৃহত্তৰ স্বাৰ্থৰ কাৰণে শুদ্ধ ভাবে পৰিচালিত হয় তালৈ বিশেষভাবে দৃষ্টি ৰাখিব বুলি আশা কৰো আৰু তেখেতে সদায় লক্ষ্য কৰা উচিত যাতে অসমীয়া জাতিতোক টুকুৰা টুকুৰ কৰি ভাঙি নেপেলাই ইয়াক এক গোট কৰি এটা সবল জাতিত পূৰণ গঢ়ি তুলি অসমক তথা ভাৰতক শক্তিশালী কৰি তোলাৰ বাবে এটা অবস্থা আৰু আবহাৱৰ সৃষ্টি হয়।

১৯২৯ চনতেই, শ্ৰীজৱহৰলালজীয়ে কৈছিল যে NEFA অসমৰ অবিচ্ছেদ্য অংশ, গতিকে NEFA শাসন অসমৰ লগত চামিল কৰি ভাৰতৰ এখন শক্তিশালী ৰাজ্য হিচাবে পৰিগণিত হ'ব লাগে। এনে এটা কাৰ্য্যই সমগ্ৰ ভাৰতৰ নিৰাপত্তা ৰক্ষা কৰিব। তেখেত প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী হোৱাৰ পিচতো চিলঙৰ Garrison Field ত সেই একে কথাৰেই পুনৰুক্তি কৰি কৈছিল যে NEFA ৰ শাসন পদ্ধতি এনেভাবে পৰিচালিত হ'ব লাগে যাতে অদূৰ ভবিষ্যতত সেই অঞ্চল অসমৰ লগত চামিল হয়। এতিয়া দেখা গৈছে যে বৰ্তমানৰ শাসন পদ্ধতি এনেভাবে চলিছে যে Integration হওক চাৰি disintegration ৰ ফালেহে বেচিকৈ অগ্ৰসৰ হোৱাৰ উপক্ৰম হৈছে। এতিয়াই সময় থাকোঁতে এই বিষয়টোত মনোনিবেশ কৰিব লগীয়া হৈছে। মহলে হয়তো সকলো চিন্তাই অথলে যাব। যাতে যৎপৰোনাস্তি চেষ্টা কৰিব লাগে। এই অঞ্চল বিলাকৰ কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ অসমৰ বুৰঞ্জী সম্পৰ্কেও যথেষ্ট অভিজ্ঞতা থকা দৰ্কাৰ। আমি জানো যে বুৰঞ্জীৰ সদায় পুনৰাভিনয় হয়। অতীজৰ বুৰঞ্জী আওকান কৰি এটা নতুন আবহাৱৰ সৃষ্টি কৰা টান। কিন্তু NEFA ত এই ধৰনৰেই চেষ্টা এটা চলিছে। উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে মই ক'ব পাৰো যে যোৱা বছৰ এদিনাখন NEFA ৰ তেজুত এজন উচ্চপদস্থ কৰ্মচাৰীৰ সন্মানাৰ্থে এজন গোমোচা এখান ভিঙিত মেৰিয়াই যেতিয়া অসমীয়াতে ভাও দিবলৈ ওলাল, তেতিয়া ওপৰৰ ওপৰত শাস্তিমূলক ব্যৱস্থা লোৱাৰ দিহা হৈছিল। অৱশ্যে সন্মানিত অতিথি জনৰ বাধাত মাননীয় সদস্য সকলে নিশ্চয় উপলব্ধি কৰিব পাৰিছে। এনে এটা কাৰ্য্য পদ্ধতিয়ে ভৈয়ামবাসী আৰু সেই উত্তৰ-পূব সীমান্তবাসী সকলৰ মাজত থকা বুৰঞ্জীমূলক ঐতিহ্যক ক্ষুণ্ণ কৰাৰ এটা প্ৰয়াস নহয় নে? আজি ইমান বছৰে আঁতৰি থকাতো যি সংহতি কৃষ্টি কোনো ক্ষতিকুন হোৱা নাই তাক আজিৰ NEFA প্ৰশাসনে বলেৰে নোহোৱা কৰিব

খোজা প্ৰশাসনটো নিতান্ত গৰ্হিত। এনে কুঅভিসন্ধিৰে প্ৰশাসন চলোৱা বোৰ অন্যায়। আজি যদি তাৰ প্ৰশাসন কৰ্ত্তা সকলে ভৈয়ামবাগী সকলৰ প্ৰতি এটা বেয়াভাৱ পোষণ কৰিবলৈ সেই সবল অসমীয়া পৰ্বতীয়া ভাই সকলক সদায় উদগণি দি থাকে তেন্তে এই কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ জৰিয়তে কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰে কেনেকৈ ভাবিব পাৰে যে অসমৰ বিভিন্ন অঞ্চল সমূহ একগোট হব? এইটো একত্ৰিত কৰাৰ পৰিবৰ্ত্তে চিৰদিনলৈ পৃথক কৰাৰ হে এটা বহু চাৰ্লিছে কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰৰ নীতি হল সবল পাহাৰী ভাই সকলৰ সুকীয়া নিজৰ সংস্কৃতি আৰু সভ্যতা ৰক্ষা কৰা। কিন্তু কাৰ্য্যক্ষেত্ৰত আমি কি দেখিছোঁ? এই NEFA অঞ্চলত থকা কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ চিন্তাধাৰা হল কেনেকৈনো এই লোক সকলৰ আৰু ভৈয়াম বাগী সকলৰ মাজত এটা পাৰ্থক্যৰ মনো ভাৱ আনি ইয়াৰ কৃষ্টি ধ্বংস কৰা। আমাৰ ভৈয়াম বাগীসকলৰ পাহাৰৰ ভাইসকলৰ প্ৰতি থকা সৌহাৰ্দ্য পূৰ্ণ চিন্তাধাৰা কোনোপধ্যে তাত প্ৰচাৰ হব নিদিয়ে। অতীজৰে পৰা চলি অহা কৃষ্টি, সভ্যতা আনকি ভাষা পাহৰি গৈ এটা নতুন সভ্যতাৰ মাজেৰে আগ বঢ়াবলৈ জোৰেৰে ঠেলি দিছে। মোৰ বোধেৰে সেই কৰ্মচাৰী সকলে আমাৰ পাহাৰী ভাই সকলৰ ভাষা, সভ্যতা আৰু সংস্কৃতিৰ সংৰক্ষণৰ পৰিবৰ্ত্তে 'নেফা' বিবেদ কাৰি নীতিৰেহে সংৰক্ষণ কৰিবলৈ চাইছে। এনে নীতিয়ে পাহাৰী ভাই সকলৰ পূৰ্বৰ সংস্কৃতি ধ্বংস কৰিবলৈ যোৱা নাই নে?

সেই কাৰণে মই আজি আমাৰ চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰোঁ বাবে ৰাজ্যিক চৰকাৰে এই বিষয়টোৰ গুৰুত্ব কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰৰ ওচৰত পেচ কৰে আৰু এই নীতি অচিৰে পৰিবৰ্ত্তন কৰি এটা সুস্থ নীতিৰ জৰিয়তে ভৈয়ামৰ অসমীয়া আৰু পাহাৰী ভাই সকলৰ মাজত থকা ঐতিহ্য আৰু সংস্কৃতিৰ সংৰক্ষণ কৰি কেন্দ্ৰৰ নীতি অটুট ৰাখে।

(ভনোত সময় শেষ হোৱাৰ ইঙ্গিত হয়)

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member should have planned his speech beforehand. The time allotted to each member is only 15 minutes except the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the House.

Shri RAM NATH SARMA (Lumding): Sir, I must conclude my speech in time. I want to speak a few words about the food situation.

মোক মাত্ৰ দুগিনিট সময় দিব লাগে।

আমাৰ খাদ্য সম্পৰ্কে আমাৰ ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ে ভাষণত যিখিনি উনুকিয়াই গৈছে সেইখিনি ভাল কথাই উনুকিয়াইছে।

আমাৰ প্ৰথম পৰিকল্পনাত 65 million tons আৰু দ্বিতীয় পৰিকল্পনাত 81 million tons productionৰ target আছিল। সেইদৰে মৰাপাট 4 million bales প্ৰথম পৰিকল্পনাৰ আৰু 5.5 million bales দ্বিতীয় পৰিকল্পনাৰ target আছিল অৰ্থাৎ ক্ৰমে ২৪.৭ আৰু ৫৮ বৃদ্ধিৰ পৰিকল্পনা আছিল কিন্তু প্ৰাকৃতিক আৰু অন্যান্য নানা কাৰণত খাদ্য উৎপাদন বেচি কৰাত বাধা পৰিছে সেইটো আমি উপলব্ধি কৰিছোঁ।

আমাৰ খাদ্য উৎপাদন দেশত বৃদ্ধিত কৰিবলৈহলে অন্ততঃ ৫টা কথাটো আমি বিশেষ লক্ষ্য ৰাখি আগবাঢ়িব লাগিব। সেই কেইটা হৈছে :—

1. Irrigation facilities.
2. Reclamation and better land use.
3. Fertilizers and wider use of manure.
4. Improved seeds.
5. New and better method of cultivation.

এই কথা কেইটালৈ লক্ষ্য ৰাখি খাদ্য উৎপাদনত আগবাঢ়ি নগলে আমাৰ দেশক কেতিয়াও আমি Self sufficient কৰি তুলিব নোৱাৰিম।

এই বৈজ্ঞানিক যুগত বৈজ্ঞানিক উপায়েৰে আগ না বাঢ়িলে আমি কোনো দিনেই Target ত উপনীত হ'ব নোৱাৰিম। কিন্তু দেখা যায় আমি এই নিয়ম অবমাননা কৰিছো। উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে মই ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ Bund ৰ কথা কওঁ। এই বান্ধ সুচিন্তিত ভাবে বান্ধা হোৱা নাই। কোনো বেমাৰত আঁঠুৰ চিকিৎসাৰ সহায় লোৱাৰ নিচিনাকৈ আমাৰ খাদ্য উৎপাদনৰ ক্ষেত্ৰতো আঁঠুৰ ব্যৱস্থাহে অবলম্বন কৰা হৈছে। পানী ওলোৱা সোমোৱাৰ দিহা নকৰাকৈ বিৰাট ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ পলশ খেতিৰ পথাৰলৈ আহিবৰ দিহা নোৱাৰি ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰত বান্ধ বান্ধি গোটেই পানী পলশ আৰু মাছ বান্ধ কৰাটো কোনো Scientific পদ্ধতি অবলম্বন কৰা হোৱা নাই। It proved our the bankruptcy of the scientific way of the Agriculture Department কাৰণ কোনো বৈজ্ঞানিক বা গবেষণামূলক পদ্ধতিৰে শস্য উৎপাদন কৰাৰ চেষ্টা চলা নাই।

উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে মই আমাৰ নগাঁৱৰ মৰাপাট উৎপাদনৰ কথা কওঁ। তাত শস্য উৎপাদনৰ পদ্ধতি উন্নতি হওক চাৰি অবনতহে হৈছে। আগতে নগাঁওত মৰাপাটৰ খেতি প্ৰচুৰ পৰিমাণে হৈছিল। কিয়নো ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ পানী যেতিয়া পথাৰত সোমাইছিল তাৰ লগতে এটা Silt মাটিৰ ওপৰত পৰিছিল আৰু সেয়ে মৰাপাট উৎপাদনৰ প্ৰাচুৰ্য্যক সহায় কৰিছিল। quality উন্নত আছিল আৰু quantity ও যথেষ্ট পৰিমাণে হৈছিল। এই এক সুবিধাকে পূৰ্বতেও ভোগ কৰি আহিছে; কিন্তু ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ পাৰত বান্ধ দিয়াৰ পিচত যেতিয়া পানী আৰু পলশ সোমোৱা একেবাৰে বন্ধ হল তেতিয়া সেই silt টো নপৰা হ'ল। আৰু মৰাপাটৰ উৎপাদনো হ্ৰাস হৈ আহিল। আমাৰ এটা সাধাৰণ হিচাব আছে যে কোনো এডোখৰ মাটিত মৰাপাটৰ গছ ভাগ যিমান হাত দীঘল হয় সেই মাটিত বিঘা প্ৰতি সিমান মোণ মৰাপাট হয়। যদি দেখা যায় যে সেই মাটিত এডাল মৰাপাট ৮ হাত দীঘল হয় তেন্তে ধৰিব লাগিব যে সেই মাটিত ৮ মোণ মৰাপাট হ'ব। কিন্তু ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ পাৰত বান্ধ দিয়াৰ পিচত সেই হিচাবে কোনো ঠাইত মৰাপাট হোৱা নাই। আৰু quality ৰ হ্ৰাস হৈছে। গতিকে চীন দেশৰ নিচিনা এই ক্ৰেশ্বৰীক সম্পদটোৰ অভাৱত (Brahmaputra silt) তেওঁলোকে আমাৰ দৰে মৰাপাটৰ খেতি উন্নতি কৰিব পৰা নাই। গতিকে মই কওঁ যে বৰ্ত্তমানে প্ৰগতিশীল যুগত সকলো কথাই বৈজ্ঞানিক প্ৰণালীৰে কৰিব লাগে। নহলে আমি লাভবান হোৱাৰ পৰিবৰ্ত্তে ক্ষতিগ্ৰস্ত হৈ হোৱাৰ বেচি সম্ভাৱনা। আমাৰ খাদ্য উৎপাদন আৰু আন শস্যৰ বৃদ্ধি কৰিব লাগিলে ওপৰত কৈ অহা ৫ টা উপায় অবলম্বন কৰাটো অপৰিহাৰ্য্য। তাৰ লগে লগে সকলো কাম গবেষণামূলক ভাবে কৰা দৰ্কাৰ। এনে ভাবে আগ না বাঢ়িলে আমি target ত উপনীত হ'ম চাৰি আমাৰ বাইজক আৰু ৰাজ্যক ক্ষতিগ্ৰস্ত হৈ কৰা হ'ব।

সেইকাৰণে চৰকাৰে যি কাম হাতত ল'ব তাক Plan কৰি কৰিব লাগে। আজি আমাৰ দেশত man-power যিমান আছে সেই man-power যদি বৰ্থোচিত ৰূপে কামত খটোৱা নহয় তেনেহলে দেশৰ অৰ্থনৈতিক অৱস্থাৰ কোনো বৰম উন্নতি হোৱাৰ আশা নাই। সেই man-power আমি উচিত কামত নগোৱাৰ দিহা কৰিব লাগে।

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : Sir, may I make a suggestion? I think all the amendments may be moved first and then speeches can be made afterwards because that will be given better tune to the debate also.

Mr. SPEAKER : I am grateful to the hon. Member from Rampur. In fact I was about to suggest the same thing because in that case the debate will be more interesting. All hon. movers of these amendments may move them at a time and then I will call on hon. Members to make their observations in accordance with a plan instead of asking them in a haphazard manner.

Now, since the amendments have already been placed on the table of hon. Members, I think it will do if the movers will only mention the number of their amendments. Yes, Mr. Bhattacharyya :

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move my amendment No.1.

"That at the end of the Motion relating to the Governor's Address moved by Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami, the following be added—

But the Assembly regrets that the Governor's Address does not indicate a line of National Reconstruction in a popular way in the interest of the basic masses of the people".

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA (Patharkandi : Reserved for Scheduled castes) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move Amendment No.2.

"That at the end of the Motion relating to the Governor's address moved by Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami, the following be added—

But regrets that the address does not contain clear cut policy towards (1) Refugee—Rehabilitation and (2) Development work towards backward Scheduled caste people".

(Amendment No.3 standing in the name of Shri Birendra Kumar Das was not moved as the Member was absent).

(Amendment No.4 standing in the name of Shri Tarun Sen Deka was not moved as the Member was absent)

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir. I beg to move my Amendment No.5.

"That at the end of the Motion relating to Governor's Address moved by Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami, the following be added—

But regrets that:—

- (a) the Governor's address fails to take into account the gravity of the food situation and has totally failed to indicate a bold policy for providing food to our people at a price within their reach ;
- (b) the Governor's address does not envisage a phased but rapid industrial development of our underdeveloped State without which solid foundation for the allround development of this easternmost region cannot be laid".

(Amendment No.6 standing in the name of Shri Jahanuddin Ahmed was not moved as the Member was absent).

Shri TAZUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move my Amendment No.7.

"That at the end of the Motion relating to the Governor's Address moved by Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami, the following be added—

But regrets that the Governor's Address does not contain a clear cut policy of the Government—

- (a) to remove the corruption in the State Government machinery ;
- (b) to settle lands to the landless and river eroded people ;
- (c) to give education to the people of the backward areas ;
- (d) to make the real and lasting solution of the food problem of the State ;
- (e) to safeguard the interest of the minority communities and backward communities of the State ;
- (f) to give medical facilities in the Backward and char areas of the State ; and
- (g) to give relief to the fire victims of the State."

(Amendment No.8 standing in the name of Shri Khogendra Nath Barbaruah was not moved as the Member was absent).

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move my Amendment No.9.

"That at the end of the Motion relating to the Governor's address moved by Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami, the following be added:—

But regrets that the address does not say about the educational policy of the Assam Government".

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move my Amendment No.10.

"That at the end of the Motion relating to the Governor's address moved by Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami, the following, be added—

But regrets that the address does not say about Medical policy of Assam Government".

Shri HIRALAL PATWARI (Panery) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move my Amendment No.11.

"That at the end of the Motion relating to the Governor's address moved by Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami, the following be added—

- (a) But this Assembly regrets that the address of the Governor does not indicate how the desirability of integrating in Assam State the various contiguous areas within the geographical limits of Assam;
- (b) the address has not given any light regarding the prohibition of liquor in the State;
- (c) the address has not given clear indication of solving the problem of unemployment of the State; and
- (d) the address has not given clear indication to solve various problems of Assam, like, production of milk, production of cattlefood, improvement of grazing, education, protection of health, stopping advertisement by mike of bidi, etc., increased number of theft and dacoity cases in the State, improvement of irrigation, reduce the price of food stuff, C.I. Sheet and many other problems".

Shri PAKHIRAI DEKA [Panery (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move my Amendment No.12.

"That at the end of the Motion relating to the Governor's address moved by Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami, the following be added—

But this Assembly regrets that the address fails to give clear indication regarding the Tribal Block and distribution of Tribal Grants".

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Sir, may I speak first?

Mr. SPEAKER: I don't know whether I will give the mover of the amendment first priority.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): If the hon. Member wants to speak first we have no objection Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER : As Father of the House he should get first preference (*Laughter*).

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak first as I am very anxious to speak now. I also thank Mr. Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya for giving me preference to speak first. I feel, Sir, I should speak first on a matter which is very very important in my mind. I am very glad indeed for the attitude which the Governor's Address had shown to different communities in this State. First I want to point out to the Government the importance of dealing with the border areas very quickly. I am glad that the Governor has mentioned certain matters regarding the action which the Government proposed to take regarding these border areas. Here in the speech it is written like this—"My Government are fully aware of the situation and are taking action for speedy supply of essential food-stuffs at subsidised prices through fair price shops....." Now, Sir, in this connection I want to point out that these fair price shops in the border areas are not able to cope with the situation. Many people have not been able even to pay for the fair price rice from these fair price shops for want of money. A man has to earn money first if he wants to buy rice. Often if he wants to buy one seer of rice he can only pay for one powa at the time because there is no money. Sir, at the present moment the border people in areas adjoining Pakistan in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills are in a very very bad condition. So I request Government to take serious and speedy action to help those areas. People are coming to me from the villages and reported that oranges are dropping to the ground. Government of course have agreed to subsidise transport of these oranges but carrying of these oranges from the orange groves to the place from where transport can be arranged is in itself very expensive and the price of oranges cannot meet that because the price of the orange is very low. So many of these

oranges, as a matter of fact, lakhs and lakhs of them are dropping to the ground. This is, indeed, a very serious affair. The Deputy Commissioner was petitioned by the people to help them financially. They say, "What can we do now when oranges are dropping to the ground and this is the only source of our livelihood?" People are in great distress. So I would request Government to take immediate steps without any delay to appoint officers to go to these villages and find out how many lakhs of oranges are dropping to the ground. This is a very serious matter. I am really thankful to the Government, Sir, for giving these fair price shops but when there is no money and people cannot buy rice for want of money, there should be financial help given to people. Many people had sent petitions to the Deputy Commissioner to give them free rice because they have no money to buy. Starvation is facing everyone there now. This, Sir, is the condition of the people of Khasi and Jaintia Hills in the border areas. In this connection I can mention one village, *viz.*, Phlangwanbroi in the Malaisohmat Syiemship. The people of this village have sent petitions to the Deputy Commissioner to give them free rice because they have no money to buy it. May I suggest Sir, that this area should be treated as famine-stricken area and rush help to that area without delay. If Government go through the usual process of sending the matter to the Commissioner and from the Commissioner to the Deputy Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner will depute his Sub-Deputy Collector to go and make investigation, the people will be in greater distress. So, Sir, this is very serious.

Government have also given subsidised transport for carriage of other produce like betel-leaves, tez-patta and other such things produced in the border areas. I thank Government for this good gesture to the people. I am very grateful for this attitude, but this subsidised transport even does not help the people very much; at the present time, only tez-patta and betel-leaves could be transported, but as far as oranges are concerned, time has past, oranges are dropping. The affected people petitioned to the Deputy Commissioner to move Government to give them financial aids quickly and I want to impress upon Government that the time factor is very important.

Now, Sir, the Government have already appointed a committee, I am thankful to the Government for this. I hope that committee will sit and find out the condition of the border people immediately and there should be no delay whatsoever. Time is very very important, the people are

starving for want of rice. I hope the committee will submit the report to the Government immediately so that the people who are now in a starving stage may be saved. Now I would like to make a few more observations on the speech of the Governor. I will deal only with a few other points which I consider very very important for immediate consideration by the Government.

Now there are schemes which have been sent to the Government. I myself, with the support of the Khasi M. L. As. sent a scheme to the Government of Assam about a year ago and as it has taken some time for the Government of Assam to consider it, I sent a copy of the scheme to the Government of India also. It has been too long delayed. I hope the Government will take necessary steps about this. Sir, I am very hopeful for the attitude of the Chief Minister and other Ministers towards our border people, we are thankful to them, but action is much better than words of sympathy. We are used to words of sympathy but those words of sympathy are meaningless without action.....

Capt. Williamson A. SANGMA (Minister, Tribal Areas) : May I know the schemes referred to by the hon. Member, but whether the same refer to the solution of the border areas ?

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : The scheme which I sent to the Government is a scheme for the solution of the problem of the border areas and I was assured by the present Chief Minister that the scheme would receive due consideration by the committee that is being appointed by the Government. But I request that the committee should meet immediately and take quick action. Action is better than words of sympathy that we may have in the whole world.

Then, Sir, there is also a question of the poor people in the border areas who have already left their hearths and homes and come to the Bhoi areas. I call them refugees Bhoi area to get some lands to cultivate. They also need to be helped immediately. I am thankful to the Government for having started some test relief works, but test relief works, say for roads worth Rs.5,000 would pay the people working for three or four days Rs.10 or Rs.15 and this small income would certainly be spent by the people for their food. But these test relief works are simply and purely temporary, the people are working for a few days and as soon as the work is finished the people get some money and spend the same in buying their food. Our

people are simple and industrious, very few people understands the nature of our Khasi people, they are not used to procession, they are not used to any kind of agitation as is existing in the plains areas, our people always want to stand on their own feet. I have great hopes that the present Government will do whatever they can to ameliorate the condition of the border people who are really suffering. In this connection I would like to inform the House that some people who come from the interior areas to get their rations for the fair price shops in their villages, I regret to say, could not often meet the officers concerned, even the officer-in-charge for the border people could not often be available for the fact that the particular officer has been shouldered with various other duties and therefore, he could not pay proper attention to the border people. Some other persons from the interior who come to get the money for test relief works have to wait for 3 or 4 days to get even the money which has been given by the Government for test relief works and ultimately sometimes they have had to go back without any money. This is one of the sins of the administration, specially in the lower ranks—delay, delay, delay !!! I request the Government with all my heart to see that these things are not simply passed over but action should be taken immediately. The officer appointed for attending the people of the border area in the Deputy Commissioner's office should be made free from other duties.

Now, Sir, there is another point which I want to mention and that is regarding seeds. My point is that seeds should be supplied to the cultivators of the border area freely. At the same time Government should give some money with which they can feed themselves and the other members of the family at the time of cultivation. If the man goes to work for test relief projects to earn money to feed himself and his family how can he find time to do cultivation? That is a matter which should be considered by the Government seriously. During cultivation time they must be taken care of. That was one of the proposals in the scheme which I sent to the Government about a year ago. At that time I felt—(I may be wrong if it is not a fact)—there was much rivalry of the Congress men against non-Congress men. The feelings against people who did not belong to the Congress Party was very strong. I hope that is not the position now. Sir, there are many people who support the Congress principles as have been advanced by the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. I believe in those good Congress principle with all my heart, but the Congress should not entertain this evil principle to be against the people

who are not Congress men. I believe Government will not take that attitude. During the time I was a Minister I never adopted such attitude. I tried to help anybody whatever his Political Party might be, who came to me for help. I did not make any discrimination on that ground and I think nobody should make any such discrimination. Once you are transferred to the position of responsibility you are the father of everybody. That is the principle given by the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, who asked us to treat even our enemy with love.

Then, Sir, I want to point out another matter. Here in the course of the Governor's address, paragraph 17th, it is stated so far as the autonomous districts are concerned, it has been a matter of satisfaction that there has been increased understanding and as a result of it better co-operation is forthcoming. Well, Sir, everyone will give his co-operation provided actions show that the Government really mean business and have real sympathy for the people. Government have the power to move the machinery of the Government and I for one will give my co-operation and support, if Government mean business and have the real sympathy towards the people.

Again, the Governor has said under the same paragraph—“My Government proposes to set up an Advisory Council for the autonomous districts to consider their special problems and to advise Government thereon”. I doubt very much whether this Advisory Council's advice will be accepted. It depends upon what kind of people constitute it and what kind of discussion will take place there and if they will be translated into action. I hope the decision taken therein will be put into action without delay.

Then under paragraph 14th the Governor has referred to the Umtru Hydro Electric Project. I want to stress one point about this. Very well this Umtru Hydro Electric Project has been opened and its power is being used by the people of Kamrup. The power is not very much but any way it is serving the people there. We here in the district of Khasi and Jaintia Hills where the source of this project is situated, feel that there must be something done also for this district. I just make a proposal. There is only one industry here in the district of Khasi and Jaintia Hills which needs electricity just now and that is the Canning Factory in Burnihat. It belongs to a Company which has over two thousand shareholders, most of whom are cultivators living in the border of this district adjoining

Pakistan. The factory is employing many of these people. I think it is only right for the Government to supply power to this factory and give subsidy to it. I believe Government will consider helping the border people in the way I have suggested above through this Canning Factory which is of the nature of a Cottage Industry.

Then there is another point, Sir, which I want to bring out here and that is about the coal trucks which come empty from Gauhati. The Governor has referred to that in paragraph 20. He has said, "The wastage in empty running of the coal trucks from Gauhati to Shillong is proposed to be substantially reduced by giving them a part of the goods traffic of the State Transport. This measure, it is expected, besides the prevention of waste, will reduce the transport cost of Khasi coal". Sir, I am thankful for this, but at the same time I must point this fact out that this proposal of the Government to give loads to empty trucks to carry goods from Gauhati though good, yet it will help only to some extent some people—namely the coal miners and the coal consumers and not the people in general of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. Sir, previously there were about twenty gateways on the border of Khasi and Jaintia Hills adjoining Pakistan through which goods used to come in and go out. But now there is only one road, Shillong-Gauhati Road, and the State Transport is charging one rupee and four anna per maund for transport of goods from Gauhati to Shillong. So, Sir, this affects the whole district of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. I, therefore, call upon the Government to give their serious thought to this matter. I request them to abolish this monopoly of State Transport to carry goods from Gauhati to Shillong so that there may be free traffic of goods to all the people. This will reduce the freight from Gauhati to Shillong by competition among carriers and the freight will go down to about half, and this will relieve the people of this district as the prices of foodstuffs and other necessary things will be reduced in this district. I request Government to consider this point. I am not blaming the Government, Sir, the conditions are different now from what they were before. I would not have asked the Government to take this measure, to abolish this monopoly, had the conditions been just the same as they were during the pre-partition days or even a few months ago. Now we have only one gateway for the whole Khasi and Jaintia Hills. All the border markets and gateways adjoining Pakistan have practically been closed. Now if this monopoly is abolished, there will be free inflow of goods and there will be competition and the prices of consumer goods will go down. For the

capital town of Shillong I am not much concerned, but I say so in respect of the whole district.

Then another matter, Sir, to which I want to draw the attention of Government is regarding the Community Project and N. E. S. Blocks which are referred to at paragraph 13 of the Governor's Address. We are very glad that these Community Projects and N. E. S. Blocks have been brought into being. But what I lay stress on is about the way they are functioning so that they may be more useful to the people. Now much of the money which is spent on these N. E. S. Blocks seems to have been spent for construction of costly buildings, on experimental farms and so on. I have observed a lot of money being spent on these experimental things which do not bring immediate benefit to the people. I have seen some money being spent for maintenance and up-keep of a number of white big pigs at Umsning in the Bhoy area. Our people cannot utilise these big pigs, they do not buy them, do not know how to take care of them. This seems to be waste of money on unprofitable undertakings. Then again experiment on ginger research. This type of experiments will take too long a time to be of any benefit to our poor people. Then again those people who are experimenting on it are themselves quite new recruits having no past experience.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I draw attention of the hon. Member to the fact that in Governor's Address, all these details need not be gone into but the discussions should confine themselves only to broad policy matters. These matters may be discussed in details during the debate on the Budget or voting on demands, etc.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Very well, Sir, I do not propose to dwell on these points at any more length.

The next thing that I want to say is about the economic condition of the country. The Governor has made his observation regarding this point in the 3rd paragraph of his Address, like this:

"First of all there is a shortfall of visible resources to finance the Second Five-Year Plan and secondly an acute shortage of foreign exchange needed mostly for the import of food and capital goods from abroad. Lastly, there has been some inflationary pressure reflected particularly in increased prices of foodstuffs. This situation has highlighted the difficulties which an underdeveloped economy has to face in the shape of current shortages and sacrifices when it embarks on a plan of development and industrialisation involving long term capital investment. Instead of being a damper on our spirit and activities

these difficulties should be a spur. The country generally has shaken off any sense of complacency which might have been generated after the success of the First Plan and responded bravely to overcome whatever difficulties may face us in the fulfilment of the Second Five-Year Plan. A magnificent effort has been made to mobilise internal resources and reduce our reliance on foreign imports. The stringent fiscal and other measures adopted have halted the rise in prices. Many friendly countries have come forward with noble and generous offers to help us so far as foreign payments are concerned. Although we are far from solving all the difficulties the stability of the economy and credit at home and abroad have been preserved. It seems that the corner has been turned and we can look forward to the future with confidence and hope”.

I am glad that many friendly countries have come forward with noble and generous offers of help to tide over our difficulty in foreign payments. Sir, the United States of America is one of them. We have read in the newspaper only the other day that from this country, I mean America, our Government of India is getting 225 million dollars. One dollar is equivalent to Rs. 4-8-0, the total amount comes to 11.12 (one thousand one hundred and twelve) crores and 50 (fifty) lakhs rupees, which America is offering as a loan to the Government of India and that too on very easy and concessional terms. For the first five years the Government of India will not have to pay back any capital amount and the rate of interest is about $5\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. The term is for 15 years. So, Sir, there are some democratic countries which help our democratic country, and we are very grateful for this. We, therefore, should not speak lightly of a sister democratic country which help another sister democratic country in her needs. And I believe my Friend, Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya, himself although he has a different political ideology, will be or at least should be thankful for this help which has come from America, a democratic country. Her only purpose in rendering this assistance is to bring freedom to the individual and economically backward country from the shackles of economic bondage and help humanity in its free and full growth. The purpose of this help is not the imposition of any political domination of the Russian type of.....

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):
Democracy !

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Cherrapunji, Reserved for Scheduled Tribes) : No, but the Russian type of totalitarian regime which enslaves the mentality of a man, but for the purpose of raising the economic conditions of the people of the backward regions, for the upliftment of the

individuals. That is what these democratic countries are doing. But unfortunately, it is not so in the case of Russia. I am, therefore, glad that America has come to our assistance in the hour of our needs and I therefore, feel that no body should speak slightingly of this help, we should rather be grateful for it.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : I would have been also grateful to my father-in-law for the dowry. (*Laughter*).

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Cherrapunji, Reserved for Scheduled Tribes) : No, no, nothing of the sort.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Saturday, the 8th March, 1958.

SHILLONG:
The 11th December 1958.

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

A. G. P. (L. A.) No. 273/58--225--16-12-1958.