





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

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The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong,  
at 10 A.M. on Tuesday, the 8th April, 1958.

**PRESENT**

Shri Dev Kanta Borooah, B.A., LL.B., Speaker in the Chair,  
the eight Ministers, the two Deputy Ministers and seventy five  
Members.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**STARRED QUESTIONS**

(To which oral answers were given)

(Starred Question No.145 standing in the name of Shri  
Radhika Ram Das was not put and answered as the Questioner  
was absent at that time).

**Pinewood Hotel, Shillong**

**Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh)** asked :

\*146. Will the Minister-in-charge of Finance be pleased to  
state—

- (a) When and at what price the Pinewood Hotel was  
purchased by Government ?
- (b) What total amount has been spent by Govern-  
ment since the purchase till 28th February, 1958  
in repairs and renewals ?
- (c) When was the hotel leased out to the present  
lessee ?
- (d) What are the principal terms and conditions on  
which lease was granted ?
- (e) Whether Government are getting regular payments  
from the lessee ?
- (f) If not, what are the total amounts outstanding  
till 31st March, 1958 ?
- (g) What is the share of the assets the lessee was  
supposed to have purchased from Government ?



- (h) Whether there are any distinguishing or identification marks on the furniture, upholstery fittings, etc., belonging to Government but allowed to be used by the lessee?
- (i) If not, what is the guarantee of those being replaced by inferior ones?
- (j) Whether any remission has been granted to the lessee?
- (k) If so, on what ground?
- (l) Whether it is a fact that one of the partners of the Limited Company which holds the lease was given a contract by the Public Works Department for repairs of the hotel?
- (m) Whether it is a fact that the execution of the contract was effected by drawing money from the hotel accounts?
- (n) Whether it is a fact that one of the Managers of the hotel was arrested by Police for embezzlement of money from the hotel account?
- (o) Whether Government propose to enquire into the affairs of the hotel?
- (p) If so, how?
- (q) Whether Government propose to have the accounts of the hotel audited?
- (r) Whether it is a fact that out of the accommodation available for about 90 persons, only 40 seats are in demand in the average?
- (s) If so, whether Government propose to take steps to give facilities to tourists and sojourners of the lower income groups for boarding and lodging in the Pinewood Hotel by adapting a part of the hotel for the purpose, so as to utilise the entire available accommodation for the purpose?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance)**  
replied :

146. (a)—The hotel was purchased by Government in January, 1952 at a price of Rs.4,75,000 only.

(b)—Rs.54,000 only.

(c)—In April, 1952.



(d)—The terms and conditions briefly were as follows—

- (i) That the lessee would pay a rent of Rs.4,166-10-0 per month.
- (ii) He would purchase some furniture and crockeries of the hotel at a price of Rs.90,000 payable in six half yearly instalments of Rs.15,000 each and sell back the same after expiry of the term of the lease at such price as may be assessed by the Executive Engineer.
- (iii) He would keep the furniture and crockeries of the hotel insured for a sum of Rs.1,20,000 for the first year and for a sum reduced by the amount of instalment paid for the articles purchased by him, from second year onwards.
- (iv) He would keep the buildings insured for Rs.4,75,000 and would be entitled to recover the premia from the monthly rent payable by him.
- (v) He would reserve 45 seats in the Hotel for accommodation of M. L. As during the sessions of the Legislature for a period of 50 days in a year.
- (vi) He would keep a security deposit of Rs.5,000.
- (vii) He would be allowed to effect petty repairs to the buildings not costing over Rs.50 for a single item subject to an annual limit of Rs.1,000 and to recover the actual expenses for such repairs from the rent payable for the last month of the year.
- (viii) He would pay the Municipal taxes for the building and the holding and charges for consumption of electricity and would maintain the gardens.
- (ix) That the lease would be for a term of 5 years, renewable for a further term at the option of the lessee provided that Government are satisfied that he has been able to perform and fulfil all the conditions and obligations imposed upon him and managed the hotel efficiently.



(e)—No.

(f)—Rupees 1,08,542.82 nP.

(g)—Rupees 90,000 being the price of some of the furniture and crockeries. This was later reduced to Rs.80,000.

(h)—No.

(i)—Government have taken up the matter and directed the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department to take up the verification of all assets.

(j)—Yes. The lease rent was reduced from Rs.50,000 per annum to Rs.45,000. In addition to this a yearly remission of Rs.5,000 in the lease rent was granted for the year 1952-53 and 1953-54 and the price of furniture and crockeries purchased by the lessee was reduced from Rs.90,000 to Rs.80,000.

(k)—The remissions were granted on the alleged ground that the lessee had to incur some loss for keeping reserved some seats in the hotel for the M. L. As during the sessions of the Legislature and that some of the furniture and crockeries were broken or damaged and needed replacements.

(l)—Yes. He tendered for the job and was allotted the work of repairs to the buildings.

(m)—Government have no information.

(n)—Yes. One S. Le Febvre, Manager of the Pine-Wood Hotel left the hotel without handing over the accounts, etc., while audit was going on. The Managing Director, Shri N. Choudhury, on the presumption that the Manager might have misappropriated some money and absconded, lodged an ejahar with the Shillong Police on 26th March 1954. Subsequently the Manager was arrested by the Calcutta Police at Dum Dum Airport. The matter was settled amicably between the parties themselves.

(o)—The matter is under consideration.

(p)—Does not arise.

(q)—Government is not competent to get the accounts of the hotel audited.

(r)—Government have no information.

(s)—Government have no information. The information is being collected and the matter would be examined on receipt of the same.



**Shri RAM NATH SARMA (Lumding):** Sir, in the answer it is said that one of the terms and conditions is that the lessee would reserve 45 seats in the Hotel for accommodation of M. L. As., etc., and again in (k) it is said that one of the conditions for remission of the lease rent is the "alleged ground that the lessee had to incur some loss for keeping reserved some seats in the Hotel for M. L. As., etc.," how can this be ?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance):** I am unable to furnish better reasons than what are stated in the reply, Sir.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):** Why Government do not take steps to take the lease rent from the lessee regularly since 1952 and allowed to keep an outstanding of over one lakh of rupees ?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH:** Sir, about ten days back Rs.20,000 was paid and previous to that Government issued strict letters of demand for payment of the lease rent, but the party on one pretext or another put off payment and when the Secretary, Public Works Department and Under-Secretary, Finance, wrote letters to the party again and again requesting payment of the rent, the party used to send on applications to Government and on that pretext they deferred payment.

**Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh):** Whether the lease for 1958-59 has been given to the same party ?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH:** Lease has not been given Sir, but certain conditions have been given, namely that, if the party pay Rs.20,000 before 31st March, 1958 and the balance to be paid between 30th June and 30th September, the question of renewing the lease or not would be considered.

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East):** Have the terms and conditions been fulfilled now ?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH:** The party have paid Rs.20,000, Sir.

**Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR:** Is it a fact that tenders have been invited by the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings) for management of the Hotel ?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH:** Yes, Sir.



**Srimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon):** In answer to (q) it is said that Government is not competent to get the accounts of the hotel audited. May I know from the Hon'ble Minister why Government is not competent enough to get the accounts audited?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance):** That is a private limited concern and unless and until there are very extraordinary circumstances Government cannot pry into a private concern's accounts.

**Shri RAHIMUDDIN AHMED (Jamunamukh):** বর্তমান 'লেটীৱ' আবেদনত মৌখিক ভৱগাদি কি নতুন সৰ্ত্তত হোটেলটো চলাবলৈ দিয়া হৈছে, আৰু যদি লীজৰ সময় পাৰ হৈ গল তেনে হলে তেওঁলোকে নতুন সৰ্ত্ত মানি লৈছেনে?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH:** আগৰ সৰ্ত্ত নতেই হোটেলটো চলি আছে যদিও লীজৰ সময় শেষ হৈ গৈছে। এই বিষয়ে চৰকাৰে নাটচ দিছে।

**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalia):** Whether Government examined the loss alleged to have been sustained by this concern before the remission was granted?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH:** Perhaps the Government did.

**Shri DWIJESH CHANDRA DEB SARMA (Digboi)** এইটো সঁচানে যে সকলো হিচাপ final কৰি চৰকাৰে কিমান টকা পাৰ লাগে তাক বিচাৰি লেটীৱে চৰকাৰক লিখিত আবেদন কৰিছিল কিন্তু এই সম্পৰ্কত চৰকাৰে বহুত দিনলৈ উত্তৰ দিয়া নাছিল আৰু যেতিয়া উত্তৰ দিছিল তেতিয়া বিভিন্ন সময়ত বিভিন্ন টকাৰ হিচাপ দিছিল?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH:** সদস্য মহোদয়ে যি বাতৰি দিছে সেইটো সম্পূৰ্ণ অসত্য।

**Shri CHATRA SING TERON [Mikir Hills—West (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]:** Whether Government examined the accounts before they came to the conclusion that actually the concern was running at a loss?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance):** Presumably when Government granted remission they did.



**Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi):** The Hon'ble Minister has stated before the House that it is not possible to go through the accounts as it is a private concern. May I know whether they have received an annual balance sheet of the company ?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance):** For that I would request for notice.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati):** The Minister said that 'presumably' Government was satisfied that there was loss. Whether Government acted on presumption or on satisfaction ?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH:** Government did not act on presumption, I am only replying on presumption.

**Shri CHATRA SING TERON [Mikir Hills—West (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]:** Whether that satisfaction was without going into the accounts ?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH:** কিনো কলে একো নুওনিলো।

**Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj):** Who are the tenderers for this current year 1958-59 and what are their terms, conditions and offers ?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH:** There is one co-operative who submitted a tender but I would require notice for their terms and conditions.

**Shri RAHIMUDDIN AHMED (Jamunamukh):** সময়োপার্বে হৈ গল আৰু আজিলৈকে কোনো নতুন বণ্ডৰস্ত হোৱা নাই তেনেহলে কিহৰ ওপৰত ভিত্তি কৰি লেচিয়ে মেদাৰ সকলক Concession বেটত খুৱাই আছে ?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH:** আগৰ সৰ্ত্ত মতেই হোটেলটো চলি আছে।

**Shri RAM NATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]:** Is it not the policy of the Government to give preference to the Co-operative Society ?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH:** That is the accepted policy, generally speaking by the Government of India as well as this State Government.



**Shri RAM NATH SARMA (Lumding):** In his first reply the Minister said 'perhaps' and in the second reply he said 'presumably'. I think, the whole figure is given in the file, and the Minister must have been posted with full reasons of granting the remission. Therefore I want to know what are the reasons and whether those reasons would be verified.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The hon. Member's question has developed into a speech (*Loud Laughter*). A question is to ask for information and not to develop into an argument. I would like to know what the hon. Member really wants to know.

**Shri RAM NATH SARMA :** Whether it was his presumption or...

**Mr. SPEAKER:** What the hon. Member wanted to know is whether the Hon'ble Minister spoke from presumption or from records on file.

**Shri RAM NATH SARMA :** Yes.

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH :** I had made the statement partly on knowledge and partly on belief (*Loud Laughter*).

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North):** Are Government aware that according to the condition of the lease 45 seats have to be kept in the Hotel for the M. L. As but during the last few years not more than 25 M.L.A.s on average reside in the Hotel ?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH :** For that I would require notice to scrutinise how many seats have been reserved and how many occupied.

(Starred Question No.147 standing in the name of Rev. J. J. M. Nichols Roy was not put and answered as the Questioner was absent).

### **Patients in Borbari Medical College**

**Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra)** asked :

\*148. Will the Minister-in-charge of Medical be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government are aware that public are facing great difficulties to find out their relations who are patients in the Borbari Medical College ?



- (b) If so, what steps Government propose to take to solve this problem ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that sometimes it takes hours together to find out patients in the Borbari Medical College ?
- (d) If so, whether Government, in order to obviate such difficulties, propose to establish an Enquiry Office in the Borbari Medical College ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue for Minister, Medical)** replied :

148. (a)—Yes, some persons find difficulties in tracing the patients they want to meet.

(b)—Establishment of an Enquiry Office, appointment of guides, putting up large Sign Boards, etc., are some of the measures that Government propose to consider.

(c)—Government have no information.

(d)—Hon'ble Member is referred to reply (b).

**Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra)** : ডিব্ৰুগড় মেডিকেল কলেজত কোনো Enquiry Office নথকাত বিশেষকৈ বাতি বা মাজবাতি, ডাক্তাৰ সকলক বিচাৰি নোপোৱাত চিকিৎসা কৰিবলৈ যোৱা বোঁগীৰ অসুবিধাৰ কথা চৰকাৰে জানেনে?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS** : অসুবিধা হব নিশ্চয়। এই অসুবিধা দূৰ কৰিবলৈ Enquire Office এটা খোলাহব।

**Shri RAMNATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]** : May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether taking into consideration the inconvenience which as being felt by the general public, steps proposed by the Government will be expedited?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS** : Yes, it will be immediately done.

**Supply of C. I. Sheets and Cement by the Gauhati Supply Office**

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari)** asked :

\*149. Will the Minister-in-charge of Supply be pleased to state—

- (a) The quantity of C. I. Sheets and cement received by the Gauhati Supply Office from June, 1957 to October, 1957 ?



- (b) What quantity of cement and C. I. Sheets out of the above quantity have been allotted to the Rural Panchayats ?
- (c) What quantity of cement and C. I. Sheets allotted to Panchayats could be lifted by the people ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that as the permits were not issued in time by the Supply Office, many people could not lift their quota in time and as a result these quotas were lapsed ?
- (e) What is the quantity of cement and C. I. Sheets which could not be lifted ?
- (f) What action Government proposes to take to remove these anomalies ?

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

149.(a)—2,263 bundles of C. I. Sheets and 31,020 bags of cement.

(b)—2,091 bundles of C. I. Sheets and 4,690 bags of cement.

(c)—1,517 bundles of C. I. Sheets and 3,927 bags of cement could be lifted by people against the permits issued out of the quotas allotted to Panchayats.

(d)—No quotas was lapsed.

(e)—574 bundles of C. I. Sheets and 763 bags of Cement.

(f)—Does not arise.

**Shri RADIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari)** : Is it not a fact that no extension of time was given to permit holders even by the Supply Department?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY** : The report is this that in justifiable cases extensions are being given.

**Shri RADIKA RAM DAS** : Is it not a fact that even the wholesalers refuse to give C. I. Sheets on the permits in many cases, and that these cases were represented to the Supply Office.



**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply)** : We have no such information.

**Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri)**  
May I know, Sir, whether at present there is any Advisory Committee for distribution of C. I. Sheets ?

**M. MOINUL HOQUE CHOUDHURI**: Yes, there are Advisory Committees, Sir.

### **Assam Homeopathic Medicine Act**

**Shri RAJENDRA NATH BARUA (Golaghat-East)** asked :

\*150. Will the Medical Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) On what date the Assam Homeopathic Medicine Act, 1955 came into force ?
- (b) Whether the necessary staff as recommended by the Board of Homeopathic Medicine in its meeting held on 5th September, 1956 has been sanctioned by Government ?
- (c) If not, why not ?
- (d) Whether any provision of funds has been sanctioned by Government as recommended by the Board in its meeting held on 5th September, 1956 to meet the incidental expenses of the Board ?
- (e) Whether a sum of Rs.500 only was sanctioned by Government in March 1957, but the sum was not drawn and placed at the disposal of the Board ?
- (f) Whether any rules under Section 24 of the Act have been framed by Government for carrying out the purposes of the Act ?
- (g) If not, why not ?
- (h) Whether it is a fact that the Board recommended registration of Homeopaths of Assam within 14th February, 1957 ?
- (i) If so, what is the cause of delay ?



**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue for Medical Minister)** replied:

150. (a)—On 1st October 1955.

(b)—No, except for the appointment of Registrar *cum*-Secretary.

(c)—Under Section 7 of the Assam Homeopathic Act, 1955 the appointment of staff is to be made by the Board with prior approval of Government.

(d)—Yes, Rs.500 in 1956-57 and Rs.500 in 1957-58.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—Yes, but not yet finalised.

(g)—Does not arise.

(h)—Government have no information.

(i)—Does not arise.

**Shri RAJENDRA NATH BARUA (Golaghat-East):** May I know from the Hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the typist-*cum*-clerk was appointed to help the Registrar by the Boards resolution No. 2, and if so, why this proposal was not accepted by Government?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS :** I do not find anything in the files like that.

**Shri RAJENDRA NATH BARUA :** Is it not a fact that the resolutions passed by the Board are sent to the Government?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS :** Yes, it was sent but now the main difficulty is that no rules have been framed as yet. So no action could be taken.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** What the hon. Member stated was whether resolutions of the Board are forwarded to the Government?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** There was only one resolution and that was forwarded to Government.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Resolution also included recommendations.



**Shri HARESWAR DAS :** (Minister, Revenue) :  
Of course, that was.

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari East) :** May I know, Sir, why the rules have not yet been framed?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS :** Yes, Sir, there has been some delay as the rules are being examined by the Director of Health Services.

**Shri RAJENDAR NATH BARUA (Golaghat East) :**  
May I know, Sir, the approximate time when the rules will be finalised ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS :** These are almost completed, and will be ready within a couple of months.

#### **License for catching elephants**

**Shri PROKRITISH CHANDRA BARUA (Gauripur)**  
asked :

\*151. Will the Minister-in-charge of Forests be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government is considering the revision of the terms of license for catching elephants so as to bring them in conformity with the changed circumstances ?
- (b) Whether there is any officer in the Forest Department in Assam with special knowledge about elephants ?
- (c) If not, whether Government propose to employ such an officer or train some one already in service of the Forest Department so that he may look after the captured elephants properly?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Forests)** replied :

151. (a)—No.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Does not arise.



**Shri RADHA CHARAN CHOUDHURY (Boko)** : What is the market value of elephant now and some ten years ago?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS, (Minister, Forests)** : I do not know exactly, I want notice of that question. But I can say this much that the market price of elephant is much lower now.

**Shri GAUHARI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati)** : দ্বিতীয় প্রশ্নটোৰ উত্তৰত কৈছে “হয়, আছে।” খুউব লৰা লৰিকে অলপ সময়ৰ ভিতৰতে হাতী পোৱা লীক মাৰি কিলাই সোন কালে বশ মনোৱাটোৱেই সেই Forest officer জনৰ শিক্ষা নেকি ?

**Mr. SPEAKER** : But how does this arise ? The question at (b) is, “Whether there is any officer in the Forest Department in Assam with special knowledge about elephants ?

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA** : তেখেতৰ special knowledge কি ?

**Mr. SPEAKER** : The reply to (b) is “Yes”. Now it is open to the hon. Member to ask what that special knowledge is. But irony is not admissible in such questions.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA** : মোৰ প্রশ্নৰ উত্তৰ পোৱা নাই।

**Shri HARESWAR DAS** : I am myself not an expert in this matter. But after a catch some special treatment is necessary to an elephant. Veterinary Surgeon is there, he gives this treatment and some officers are also trained. After an elephant is domesticated, no special treatment is necessary.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA** : ইয়াত কোৱা হৈছে যে এটা special treatment দিয়া হয়। সেই special treatment টো কি ?

**Mr. SPEAKER** : Will it not be convenient for the House if the hon. Member speaks in English?

**Shri GAURISHANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati)** : All right, Sir, I am speaking in English. What is the special treatment given to an elephant after being caught ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS** : That being the job of the person having special knowledge, I am not expected to know about it.

(laughte)



**Shri RAMNATH DAS** [**Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)**]: May I know the name of the Special Officer of the Forest Department ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS** (**Minister, Forests**): The name is not here in the file, but he is a Veterinary Surgeon.

**Shri RAMNATH DAS**: In view of the reply at (b), may I know, Sir, the nature of his special job ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS** : That Officer was appointed by my hon. Friend, the questioner. (*laughter.*)

**Shri RADHA CHARAN CHOUDHURY** (**Boko**): May I know Sir, whether in view of the fact that the price of elephant has gone down, Government consider the desirability of reducing the royalty ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS**: At present there is no such proposal.

**Shri RAMNATH DAS**: I am sorry, Sir, my question in relation to reply at (b) has not been clearly understood. Although the Hon'ble Minister has stated that the Special Officer was appointed at the time when I was the Minister-in-charge of the Department, my question is what particular job has been assigned to this Special Officer at present was not replied to.

**Shri HARESWAR DAS**: When a catch is made, his services are requisitioned.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA** (**Gauhati**): Where is that Officer, now ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS** : He moves about to places where there are catches.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA**: What is his usual headquarter station ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS**: That I cannot say off-hand.



## Rehabilitation of families afflicted by Naga raiders

**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar)** asked :

\*152. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) What relief Government propose to pay to the families afflicted by the Naga raiders in the plain areas adjacent to the Naga Hills ?
- (b) What may be the proportion of relief to the total losses of the individual family ?
- (c) Whether Government propose to finalise this within this year ?
- (d) Whether Government propose to decide this from the records available in the hands of Government without calling for fresh applications ?
- (e) Whether Government propose to form a small Committee to do this work expeditiously ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister)** replied :

152. (a)—It has been decided that relief and aid to rehabilitation are to be granted on the merit of each case.

(b)—No ratio has been fixed.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—Government would take action on the representations received from the victims of these raids.

(e)—Government have no contemplation of forming any Committee at present.

**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI:** Are Government aware that no adequate relief has been given to any of the families ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA:** Sir, I have got the list showing where relief has been given, but this being a long list, I cannot read it out to the House without your permission.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** You may place it on the table of the House.



**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) :** Then I shall place it † on the table of the House.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) :** Has the Government made any assessment about the actual loss sustained by the people ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA :** Generally immediately after the incidents, representations are made to the Deputy Commissioner who sends them to the Government for consideration and sanction.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** Whether the Government have got the total figure ? Have they made the actual assessment of the loss ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA :** The figures will be compiled, Sir. I have not got the figure now, Sir.

**Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BORBARUAH (Amguri) :** Is it a fact that some persons have been kidnapped by the Naga raiders ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA :** Yes, Sir.

**Shri RAM NATH DAS [(Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes))]** : May I know from the Hon. Chief Minister the total number of families who suffered due to such raids ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA :** That will have to be compiled because the incident occurred in different years.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) :** What will be the number of persons kidnapped and how many have since been restored ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA :** So far as I remember, 5 persons were kidnapped and out of them 2 persons came back. 3 persons have not been recovered as yet. They belong to the constituency of the hon. Member from Amguri.

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† For the list laid on the Library Table in reply to supplementary question of Starred Question No. 152 Please see Appendix "A"



**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) :** Why it is necessary that the people who have sustained the loss should make representations to the Government for the grant of relief? Government can take the initiative to make the relief available in such cases.

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) :** Whenever any incident takes place, an enquiry is taken up and relief is granted in deserving cases. That does not mean that the persons concerned must come up to the Government. They can make the representations to the local officers, and almost in all cases relief was given.

**Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi) :** Are Government aware of the names of some of the persons whose houses have been burnt and properties destroyed have not been recommended to the Government by the Deputy Commissioner?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA :** I do not have the exact information with me now, Sir. If the hon. Member let me know the name of the particular village and the persons so affected I shall furnish the necessary information.

**Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA :** Are Government aware that one Sri Bolu Handique of Kachamari was kidnapped and he still remains untraced?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA :** I want notice for this question, Sir.

**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI :** Out of the total loss of Rs. 6 lakhs sustained by the people, it appears that a sum of Rs. 17,000 was given as relief. Do Government consider this sufficient?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA :** So far we have decided to give relief and not compensation. We are therefore not considering it in terms of compensation.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) :** Do the Government accept the figure of Rs. 6 lakhs as the amount of loss sustained by the people, as stated by Mr. Bordoloi?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA :** No, Sir. It is difficult for me to accept the figure given by the hon. Member.



**Complaints against the Sub-Deputy Collector and the staff in charge of eviction and settlement in Siparia Professional Grazing Reserve**

**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla)** asked :

\*153. Will the Minister-in-charge of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government are aware that the Deputy Commissioner, Darrang visited Sootea (in Tezpur Subdivision) on 17th February, 1958 with a view to enquire into the complaints against the Sub-Deputy Collector and the staff in-charge of eviction and settlement in Siparia Professional Grazing Reserve now dereserved ?
- (b) Whether Government are aware that written allegations of bribery against the Sub-Deputy Collector and his staff were made to Deputy Commissioner by some public present in the enquiry ?
- (c) If the reply to question (b) is in the affirmative, whether Government have taken any step to transfer the Sub-Deputy Collector and his staff to create public confidence in the matter of allotment of land and enquire into the allegations ?
- (d) If not, whether Government will be pleased to hold an enquiry into the matter ?
- (e) Whether Government received public representation to stop further allotment until new staff is put in charge of eviction and settlement ?
- (f) If not, whether Government will be pleased to stop further allotment till new Land Record staff is put there ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue)** replied :

153. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Government received a representation on 12th March 1958, wherein such allegations are said to have been made before the Deputy Commissioner.

(c)—The Sub-Deputy Collector has been transferred and the Deputy Commissioner has been asked to relieve him immediately. The Deputy Commissioner has been instructed also to withdraw the Land Records staff deputed from Tezpur for the purpose. Government have also ordered the Deputy Commissioner, Darrang to have a judicial enquiry held into the allegations against the officer and the staff.



(d)—Does not arise in view of replies to (c).

(e)—Yes.

(f)—Deputy Commissioner has been directed to put the local Land Records staff in-charge of allotment of land in this and adjoining Professional Grazing Reserves.

**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla)** : At what stage the enquiry stands now, Sir ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue)** : The judicial enquiry will start now, Sir. The enquiry has not commenced as yet, as far as my information goes.

**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS** : Has the Sub-Deputy Collector been placed under suspension ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS** : Possibly the Sub-Deputy Collector has been placed under suspension, Sir.

**Shri CHATRA SINGH TERON [Mikir Hills-West (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]** : Before any action was taken may I know whether the bonafide of the allegation was taken into consideration ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS** : That will be a matter for the judicial enquiry to do so.

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog)** : What is the name of the Sub-Deputy Collector, Sir ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS** : The name is not here with me just now, Sir.

**Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj)** : Since Government are receiving so many complaints from almost all the Subdivisions, may I know whether Government have been able to reduce corruptions or things like that on the part of the land revenue staff ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS** : That is totally a different matter, Sir.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur)** : The name of the Sub Deputy Collector concerned is very relevant, Sir. Will the Minister-in-charge please supply the information tomorrow ?



**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) :** Yes, Sir.

**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) :** May I know whether any new staff has been placed there ?

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The reply is there ; it is stated in reply to (f) "Deputy Commissioner has been directed to put the local Land Records staff in-charge of allotment of land in this and adjoining Professional Grazing Reserves".

**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS :** Whether the Deputy Commissioner has actually done it ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS :** Yes, Sir.

#### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

#### Cattle Loan for Hailakandi Subdivision in 1957

**Shri GOURI SANKAR ROY (Katlicherra)** asked :

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

(a) The amount of cattle loan sanctioned for Hailakandi Subdivision in 1957 ?

(b) Whether this loan was distributed ?

(c) If so, the names and addresses of the allottees along with the amount distributed to each of them ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue)** replied :

498. (a)—Rupees 30,000.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—A list showing the names and addresses of the allottees along with the amount distributed to each of them is placed on the Library Table. (Please see Library Register Nos.11).



**Shri GOURI SHANKAR ROY (Katlicherra):** Cattle loan का distribution कौन करते हैं ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** It is the responsibility of the Deputy Commissioner or the Sub-Deputy Collector as the case may be.

**Shri GOURISHANKAR ROY:** इसके लिये कौन सी नीति और उपाय अवलम्बन किया जाता है ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** What is usually done is that the Sub-Deputy Collector is asked to prepare the list and some officers, say the Additional District Magistrate or some Extra Assistant Commissioners are empowered to distribute it.

**Quantity of Cement and C. I. sheets supplied in Hailakandi Subdivision**

**Shri GOURI SHANKAR ROY (Katlicherra)** asked :

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

(a) The names and addresses of persons along with the quantity of cement and C. I. sheets supplied to them from January to July, 1957 in Hailakandi Subdivision ?

(b) What was the total quantity of cement and C. I. sheets supplied in Hailakandi Subdivision during the above period ?

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

499. (a)—Two sets of statement separately for cement and C. I. sheets are placed on the Library Table. (Please see Library Register No.S12).

(b)—3,171 bags of Cement and 1,157 bundles of C. I. sheets.



**Appointment of Inspectors of Taxes in  
1956-57 and 1957-58**

**Shri KARKA CHANDRA DOLEY** [North Lakhimpur  
(Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] asked:

500. Will the Finance Minister be pleased to state :

- (a) How many Inspectors of Taxes were appointed in 1956-57 and 1957-58 ?
- (b) How many of them were appointed under Regulation 3 (e) of the Assam Public Service Commission (Limitation of Functions) Regulations, 1951 ?
- (c) Whether any candidates from Plains Tribal were appointed under the above Regulations ?
- (d) If so, what are their names ?
- (e) How many candidates from Plains Tribal applied and how many of them were appointed in 1956-57 and 1957-58 ?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH** (Minister, Finance)  
replied :

500 (a)—33 in 1956-57 and 14 in 1957-58.

(b)—None.

(c) & (d)—Do not arise.

(e)—During 1956-57 all the 33 appointments were made by promotion from the cadre of Sub-Inspector of Taxes and hence the question of applying for these appointments by Plains Tribal candidates does not arise.

During 1957-58, 11 Plains Tribal candidates applied and none of them could qualify for appointment.



**Eviction of tea garden labourers of Wilton Tea Estate****Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal)** asked :

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

- (a) Whether Government are aware that many tea garden labourers of Wilton Tea Estate were residing in that particular ground since the last 15 years where their paddy and other cultivations were in existence ?
- (b) Whether Government is aware that the District authority evicted those poor people and seized all of their cultivated crops and sold in auction ?
- (c) What was the reason of evicting those poor people ?
- (d) Whether Government have lately received any representation from Dibrugarh Circle Chah Mazdur Sangha and from the affected people in these respects ?
- (e) If so, what action has been taken on the representation ?
- (f) Whether Government propose to consider to resettle those people in their old respective places of that ground ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue)** replied :

501. (a)—Yes. Some labourers of Wilton Tea Estate had temporary occupation of about 72 bighas of land of Wilton grant for about a year before the land was requisitioned in 1952.

(b)—Encroachers numbering 27 were evicted and their crops sold in auction as they did not vacate the requisitioned land. The Tea Garden Authority also issued notice to the occupants to vacate the land earlier.

(c)—The Labourers did not vacate the requisitioned land which was requisitioned for providing land to the flood affected people. The Tea Garden Authority agreed to provide the evicted people with alternative land elsewhere within the Garden area.



(d)—Yes, a representation was received by the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur.

(e) & (f)—Out of the requisitioned area, 346 bighas were derequisitioned in 1953 and were returned to the Tea Garden for allotment to the labourers who were evicted.

**Shrimati LILY SENGUPTA (Lahowal):** ১৫ বছৰ কাল ধান আৰু অন্যান্য নানা ধৰণৰ খেতি কৰি থকা লোক সকলক temporary settler বুলি কেনেকৈ ধাৰ্য্য কৰা হ'ল?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue):** ১৫ বছৰ হলেও temporary settler হ'ব পাৰে।

**Shrimati LILY SENGUPTA:** Garden authority য়ে ষিডোখৰ মাটি দিব খুজিছিল সেই মাটিত চৰকাৰে flood affected মানুহক কিয় নবহুৱালে? আৰু তাত দখল কৰি থকা লোক সকলক অনাহকত কিয় উচ্ছেদ কৰিলে?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** Garden authority য়ে কিয় তাত বহিবলৈ নিদিলে সেই চোৱা তেওঁলোকৰ কথা, সেইটো গৱৰ্ণমেন্টৰ কথা নহয়, কাৰণ সেই ডোখৰ মাটি Garden authority ৰ হে।

**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar):** মানুহ খেদি মানুহ বহোৱাটো গৱৰ্ণমেন্টৰ নীতি নেকি?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** চৰকাৰে মানুহ বহাই, সেই মানুহক খেদা-নীতি চৰকাৰৰ নহয়। চৰকাৰে সদায় নিয়মানুবৰ্ত্তিতাৰ মাফেৰে কাম কৰে।

**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI:** এডোখৰ মাটিত ১৫ বছৰ কাল বহি থাকিলেও খেদিব লাগিব নেকি?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** চৰকাৰে প্ৰথমে চাব যে বহি থকা লোক-সকল কি নীতিত সেই মাটি দখল কৰি আছে। দেখা গৈছে কেতিয়াবা কেতিয়াবা তেওঁলোকে চৰকাৰী নীতি অমান্য কৰি বেদখল কৰি আছে। যেতিয়া মাটিহীন মানুহ বহাবলৈ সেই মাটিৰ দৰ্কাৰ হয় তেতিয়া বেদখলকাৰীক উচ্ছেদ কৰিবই লাগিব। ইয়াত চৰকাৰে নীতি বিৰোধী কাম কৰা নাই।

**Shri GOURI SHANKAR ROY (Katlicherra):** Sir, it is stated in reply (e) and (f) that out of the requisitioned areas, 346 bighas were requisitioned in 1953 and were returned to the Tea Garden authority for allotment to the labourers who were evicted. May we know whether the lands were distributed to the evicted labourers by the management of that Tea Garden?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS :** We have no information.



**Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh):** Is it the policy of the Government to follow different methods for distribution of land in different places ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS: (Minister, Revenue):** It may be so in some specific cases. Generally the same policy is adopted in all places.

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon):** Whether by this eviction some injustice was done to the labourers ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** That is a matter of opinion.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** My question is whether it came to the notice of Government that these tea garden labourers were residing in that land for the last 15 years ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** Government have no information that these people were in occupation of the particular land for the last 15 years.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** For how many years the Government knew these people to be residing in that particular land ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** It may be one to three years.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):** Whether the labourers who were given settlement in that land were tea garden labourers or *ex-tea* garden labourers ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** The labourers attached to the tea garden.

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: (Karimganj-North):** Whether these labourers were residing in that particular land for the last 15 years, we want to know from the Government specifically. We are not content with incorrect reply. The Hon'ble Minister always gives vague reply, therefore, he should state correctly for how many years these people were residing in that land ?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Whether the hon. Member has consulted the printed question—"Whether Government are aware that many tea garden labourers of Wilton Tea Estate were residing in that particular ground since the last 15 years where their paddy and other cultivations were in existence ?" The



reply given by the Government is "Yes. Some labourers of Wilton Tea Estate had temporary occupation of about 72 bighas of land of Wilton grant for about a year before the land was requisitioned in 1952".

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North):** The question is whether the labourers were in occupation of the land for the last 15 years? The reply given by the Minister is that it may be for two or three years.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** If the question was asked in a hypothetical way, the reply should also be of hypothetical nature.

**Shri RAMNATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]:** With regard to (e) and (f), may I ask whether the tea garden authority has settled the land in question to the evicted labourers?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue):** I have already replied that we have no knowledge.

**Shri RAMNATH DAS:** Will the Government enquire about this?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** That we will do.

**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar):** Will Government see that in future no tea garden labourers or *ex-tea* garden labourers will be evicted from requisitioned land?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** I am sorry, I cannot give such an assurance.

#### **Observation of Handloom Week at Barpeta Subdivision**

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog)** asked:

502. Will the Minister-in-charge of Sericulture and Weaving be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Handloom Week was observed at Barpeta Subdivision?

(b) Whether there was a printed programme for celebration of this week in different places in the State?



- (c) If so, which are those places ?
- (d) How much money was allotted for celebration of this Handloom Week in Barpeta Subdivision ?
- (e) Whether any money was allotted to Emporia other than those at Barpeta and Pathsala ?
- (f) Who distributed this amount ?
- (g) Whether Government are aware of the public feeling that there was some partiality in selecting places ?
- (h) Whether Government received any complaint on this score ?
- (i) Why such discrimination was made ?

**Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA** (Minister, Sericulture and Weaving) replied :

502. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No. But there was a general programme chalked out and sent to all Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers.

(c)—All over the State.

(d)—Rupees 300 as follows :—

Subdivisional Officer, Barpeta	...	Rs. 200
Barpeta Emporium	... ..	Rs. 50
Pathsala Emporium	... ..	Rs. 50

Besides printed booklets, etc., supplied from Head-quarter.

(e)—There is no other emporium in the Barpeta Sub-division, except those at Barpeta and Pathsala.

(f)—The Joint Director, Sericulture and Weaving, distributed the sum allotted by the All-India Handloom Board for celebration of the Fifth All-India Handloom Week.



(g)—No. As a matter of fact the Handloom Week was observed throughout the State according to programmes chalked out by the Local Committees in their respective Sub-divisions.

(h)—No.

(i)—Does not arise.

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog):** Why Handloom Week was not observed at Howli and Sorbhog though it was published in the programme of Barpeta?

**Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister, Sericulture and Weaving):** যিবিলাক ঠাইত আগাব Handloom আছে সেইবিলাকত হে কৰা হৈছে।

**Shri PRABHATNARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East):** It has been said that Rs. 50 was allotted for celebration of this Handloom Week to Pathsala Emporium. May I know whether it is an Emporium or a Marketing Centre?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Evidently there is a printing mistake.

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon):** সকলো Emporium ত সমানে টকা দিয়া হয় নেকি?

**Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA:** সকলো Emporium ত সমান ভাবে দিয়া নহয়।

**Murder of Upen Duwania of Hasak, an expert spy of the Excise Department in Tirap Transferred Area**

**Shri DWIJESH CHANDRA DEB SARMAH (Digboi)** asked:

503. Will the Minister-in-charge of Excise be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government is fully aware of the murder of Upen Duwania of Hasak in Tirap Transferred Area?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the said Upen Duwania was an expert and a faithful spy of the Excise Department?



- (c) If so, whether Government has sanctioned any compensatory allowance to his family ?
- (d) Whether Government have received any application from his wife requesting financial help ?
- (e) If so, what Government has done with that application ?
- (f) To keep the morale of the people of that locality strong and to encourage the remaining spies and workers of the Departments, whether Government propose to provide for a monthly allowance to his (Late Upen Duwania) helpless widow ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Excise)** replied :

503. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—An *ex-gratia* grant of Rs. 500 was sanctioned to the widow of the deceased.

(f)—The rules do not permit a monthly allowance in such cases.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):**  
Whether the murderer of Upen Duwania has been found ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** No, Sir.

#### **Petitions for Sericultural loans from Barpeta Subdivision**

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog)** asked :

504. Will the Minister-in-charge of Cottage Industries be pleased to state—

- (a) How many petitions are there for Sericultural loans from Barpeta Subdivision ?
- (b) What are the names of the applicants ?
- (c) When the petitions were submitted ?
- (d) Whether they will be issued loans ?
- (e) If so, when ?



**Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA** (Minister, Cottage Industries) replied :

504. (a)—Nil.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—Does not arise.

(e)—Does not arise.

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR** (Sorbhog) : Is it a fact that some petitions were lost ?

**Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA** : আগার তেনেকুরা কোনো নিকাৰণ নাই ।

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY** (Nalbari-East) : Whether Government entertain applications for loans for Sericultural purposes at all ?

**Mr. SPEAKER** : গভৰ্ণমেন্টে তেনেকুরা আবেদন গ্ৰহণ কৰিছে নেকি ?

**Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA** : ক'ৰা হোৱা নাই ।

**Shifting of the present Sub-Jail at Mangaldai to a suitable place.**

**Shri DANDI RAM DUTTA** (Mangaldai) : asked

505 Will the Minister-in-charge of Jails be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government had any proposal to shift the present Sub-Jail at Mangaldai to a suitable place ?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken ?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH** (Minister, Jails) replied :

505 (a)—The matter is under consideration. No final decision has been arrived at.

(b)—The financial implications are being worked out.



**Shri DANDIRAM DUTTA (Mangaldai) :** এই বোম্ব চুড়ান্ত সিদ্ধান্ত কেতিয়া হব ?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Jails) :** মঙ্গলদৈ Sub-Jailৰ বিষয়ে এটা চুড়ান্ত সিদ্ধান্তত উপনীত হবলৈ অলপ পলম লাগিব। ইয়াৰ কাৰণে ৬,৭৮,৭০০ টকাৰ আৱশ্যক হব। সোনকালে এই টকা বৰ্ত্তমান অৱস্থাত সংগ্ৰহ কৰিব যে পৰা হব সেইটোও সন্দেহজনক হৈ আছে।

### Post Mortem examination of dead bodies at Gauhati

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY (Nalbari-East)** asked :

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

- (a) Whether the Government are aware that the dead bodies from Nalbari and other outlying areas of the Subdivision beyond the Brahmaputra often get decomposed in transit when sent to Gauhati for *post mortem* examination making it impossible to come to a proper finding from such examination ?
- (b) The reason why the mortuary constructed by the Government at Nalbari Hospital has not been used for examination of such dead bodies ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the *post mortem* centre was not functioning for want of a Government Assistant Surgeon when Nalbari Dispensary was under the Local Board ?
- (d) If so, why has the *post mortem* centre at Nalbari is not functioning after the Nalbari Hospital has been taken up by the Government and a Government Assistant Surgeon, Grade I is in-charge of the hospital since December, 1956 and when a Magistrate with first class power is also posted there ?

- (e) Whether Government propose to utilise the *post mortem* centre immediately ?

**HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue for Minister, Medical)** replied :

506. (a)—Yes.

(b)—For want of a Government Doctor.

(c)—Yes.



(d)—A Government Doctor was posted to Nalbari Primary Health Unit in August 1957. Necessary steps have since been taken for the functioning of the *post mortem* shed at Nalbari.

(e)—Yes, as early as possible.

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY** (Nalbari-East): Whether the Primary Unit was started in August, 1957 or in August, 1956?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS** (Minister, Revenue for Minister, Medical): My information is August 1957.

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY**: Will the Hon'ble Minister enquire about it?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS**: Sir, I think it is August, 1957. However, I may enquire about it.

### Mangaldai Bridge on Mangaldai-Patharighat Road

**Shri DANDI RAM DUTTA** (Mangaldai) asked:

507. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department be pleased to state when the construction of the Mangaldai Bridge on Mangaldai-Patharighat road will be commenced?

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

507.—The construction work of the bridge will be commenced after finalisation of the design and the estimate, after collection of the necessary hydraulic data required for the purpose and also on allocation of necessary fund for the work by the Planning Commission.

**Shri DANDIRAM DUTTA**: Design আৰু Estimate বিলাক কেতিয়া তৈয়াৰ হ'ব বুলি আশা কৰিব পাৰি?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH**: অহা খৰালি কালতো ইয়াৰ চূড়ান্ত সিদ্ধান্ত হ'ব বুলি আশা কৰিব নোৱাৰি। কিয়নো সেইবিষয়ৰ কিছুমান Data খৰালিকালত সংগ্ৰহ কৰাৰ উপৰিও, বানপানী হৈ যোৱাৰ পিচত কি পৰিবৰ্তন ঘটে তাকো লক্ষ্য কৰা দৰকাৰ। এই Hydraulic Data বিলাক সংগ্ৰহ কৰাৰ আৰ্গতে Design আৰু Estimate তৈয়াৰ কৰা নিৰ্ধাৰক। যিহেতু দ্বিতীয় পৰিকল্পনাত ৩,০০,০০০ টকা ধৰা হৈছে। কিন্তু বাৰ্তীয়া Dataৰ অভাৱত সেই টকা পৰি আছে।

**Shri DANDIRAM DUTTA**: Data সংগ্ৰহ কৰিবলৈ কিমান সময় লাগিব?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH**: অতি কমেও দুবছৰ লাগিব।  
(laughter)



**Officers in the P.W.D. on Contract Basis****Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar)** asked :

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

- (a) What is the present strength of Executive Engineers, Assistant Engineers, Subdivisional Officers and Overseers under the Department ?
- (b) What is the number of each of the above cadres brought on contract basis from outside the State and what is the length of period contracted for ?
- (c) What is the difference of pay between officers brought on contract basis and the officers who are natives of Assam ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that though the Public Service Commission have nominated certain Subdivisional Officers of the State for promotion Government has not yet promoted them ?
- (e) Whether Government propose to give effect to the nomination made by the Assam Public Service Commission on their behalf ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY** [Minister, P.W.D. (Flood Control and Irrigation Wing)] replied :

508 (a)—Present strength in the Flood Control and Irrigation Wing—

Executive Engineers	...	...	...	14
Assistant Engineers	...	...	...	20
S. D. Os (S.E.S.)	...	...	...	23
Overseers	...	...	...	296
(Grade I	...	162		
Grade II	...	28		
Grade III	...	106)		



(b)— Length of period contracted for—

Executive Engineer 4.—Originally for 5 years,  
then extended for 1  
year and then 3 years.

Assistant Engineer 1.—Three years (*i. e.*, One  
year for each term).

S. D. Os 1.—Five years and then 1  
year and again 3 years.

Overseers 41.—Three years and then 2  
years.

(c)—

Contract  
Scale

Regular  
Scale

Executive Engineer	Rs. 600—50— 1,000.	Rs. 600—35— 810—(EB)— 45—900.
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Assistant Engineer	Rs. 300—25— 600.	Rs. 225—20— 425—(EB)— 25—600.
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S. D. Os.	.. Will draw own Grade pay plus charge allow- ance of Rs.50 p.m.	Ditto plus charge allowance of Rs.50 p.m.
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Overseers	... Rs. 200—10— 260—15— 350.	Rs. 125—7½— 155—9—245 —(EB)—10 —275.
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(d)—No. So far as the Flood Control and Irrigation  
Wing is concerned.

(e)—Does not arise.



**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar):** Why Government extend the terms of these contract services ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY [Minister, Public Works Department (Flood Control and Irrigation Wing)]:** Because of acute shortage of technical personnel ?

**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI:** Why then local applicants are not entertained and local candidates are not appointed ?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Government cannot reply that question. The hon. Member should put the question—whether it is a fact that the local candidates are not entertained?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** It is not a fact, Sir. There are no local candidates who were not entertained.

**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI:** Why the Government do not give them permanent jobs and bring them under the Assam scale of pay ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** This proposal is under consideration of Government.

**Public Works Department Road from Gobardhana to Chukrungbari**

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

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

(a) Whether a Public Works Department road will be constructed from Gobardhana to Chukrungbari ?

(b) If so, when ?

(c) Whether it has been surveyed ?

(d) If not, when the survey will be made ?

(e) Whether there is a necessity for such a road ?

(f) What will be the distance ?

(g) Are there public petitions for this road ?



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

509. (a), (b), (c) & (d)—The road is not included in any of the approved Schemes taken up for construction during the Second Five-Year Plan. This proposal will be placed before the next meeting of the Assam Road Communication Board for their consideration. Survey and construction of the road will be taken up as and when this is recommended by the Board and funds are available for the purpose.

(e)—Government have no specific information but are prepared to accept the Member's recommendation in this respect.

(f)—Length will be 10 miles approximately.

(g)—No.

**Public Works Department Road from Tangobari to Kahitoma**

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

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

(a) Whether a Public Works Department road will be constructed from Tangobari to Kohitoma *via* Kelpani Bazar in Barpeta Subdivision ?

(b) Whether it has been surveyed ?

(c) If not, whether it will be surveyed immediately ?

(d) Whether the road will be constructed ?

(e) What will be the total mileage ?

(f) Are there public petitions to that effect ?

(g) Is there any necessity for such a road ?



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

510. (a), (b), (c), & (d)—The road is not included in any of the approved schemes taken up for construction during the Second Five-Year-Plan. This proposal will be placed before the next meeting of the Assam Road communication Board for their consideration. Survey and construction of the road will be taken up as and when this is recommended by the Board and funds are available for the purpose.

(e)—Length will be 14 miles approximately.

(f)—No.

(g)—Government have no specific information but are prepared to accept the Member's recommendation in this respect.

### **Pay and status of Fourth Grade employees**

**Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA** (Silchar-West) asked :

511. Will the Minister-in-charge of Finance be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government are aware that the pay and status of the Fourth Grade employees of the State Government have not been adequately considered by the Pay Committee ?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken ?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH** (Minister, Finance) replied :

511. (a)—The Pay Committee while recommending revised scale of pay for the Fourth Grade employees, took into consideration such relevant factors as living wage in consonance with the nature of duties, national income of the State, the gap between the highest and lowest pay of Government servants, etc., *vide* pages 4—5 of their Report and Government accepted the recommendation.

(b)—Does not arise.



**Mrs. JOYTNA CHANDA (Silchar-west):** Will Government consider the desirability of granting other facilities to these employees, *viz.*, free house, free education of their children, free medical aid, etc. ?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance):** The whole matter was gone into by the Pay Committee in 1956 in extenso. I would refer the hon. Member to the report of the Pay Committee at page 4, Chapter III, and also the first paragraph of page 5. This matter, as mentioned by the hon. Lady Member, needs closer examination.

### Vaccination in Subdivisions

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon)** asked :

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

- (a) Who conducts vaccination in the Subdivisions ?
- (b) Whether State Government have been requested by Jorhat Local Board to conduct these vaccinations ?
- (c) If so, what steps Government propose to take ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue for Minister, Medical)** replied :

512. (a)—Rural Health Inspectors, Health Assistants and Vaccinators.

(b)—No.

(c)—Deos not arise.

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMAR BARUA:** What are the academical qualifications of these Rural Health Inspectors, Health Assistants and Vaccinators ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** For that I shall require notice, Sir.

**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla):** Is the vaccinating staff temporary or permanent ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** Some are temporary and some permanent.

**Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj):** May I know whether these employees are Government employees or employees of local bodies ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** There are both kinds.



**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar):** What are the reasons for keeping the vaccinators as casual employees for long years ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue for Minister, Medical):** Because there may not be work for them throughout the whole year. Their services are needed only during the epidemic season.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):** Is it a fact that the vaccinators are generally employed from October to March, i. e., for six months of the year only ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** Yes, Sir, that is the season.

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari):** May I know whether any training is given to the vaccinators ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** Yes, Sir.

### **Retrenchment of Public Works Department Mohorriars, Gangmen and other employees**

**Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari:West)** asked :

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that hundreds of Public Works Department Mohorriars, Gangmen and other employees are retrenched during the recent period from both Wings of Public Works Department ?
- (b) If so, what is the exact number of employees so retrenched during the year 1957 and 1958 ?  
(Answer to be given in district-wise).
- (c) If so, whether Government has given them work elsewhere for their maintenance ?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH [Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings Wing)]** replied :

513.(a) & (b)—Only 57 (fifty-seven) Road Mohorriars, 268 (two hundred and sixty-eight) Labourers including Gangmen, and 1 (one) Handyman were retrenched during the year 1957 and 1958 on completion of the specified works on which they were employed. A statement showing such employees in district-wise is given below :—



STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBERS OF MOHORRIS, GANGMEN, LABOURERS OF PUBLIC WORKS  
DEPARTMENT RETRENCHED AND AGAIN RE-APPOINTED DURING THE YEAR 1957-58

Serial No.	Name of District	Year	Mohorri	Gangmen	Labourers	Number of retrenched employees again re-appointed	Remarks
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1	Khasi and Jaintia Hills District	1957 ..	Nil	..	Nil ..	3 labourers ....	1 (one) left the Department of his own accord and two discharged due to completion of work. ..
		1958 ..	Nil	..	Nil ..	..	..
2	Mikir and North Cachar Hills District.	1957 } 1958 }	Nil	..	Nil ..	Nil ..	....
3	Cachar District	..	..	Nil	..	Nil ..	Does not arise .. ....
		1957 ..	Nil	..	Nil	..	Does not arise ..
		1958 ..	Nil	..	Nil	..	Discharged due to damage of truck. Since engaged on Muster Roll.
4	Darrang District	..	..	Nil	..	1 Labourer ..	4 Mohorris .. ....
		1957 ..	4	Nil	..	1 Labourer ..	4 Mohorris ..
		1958 ..	Nil	..	Nil	..	Does not arise .. ....



Serial No.	Name of District	Year	Mohorri	Gangmen	Labourers	Number of retrenched employees again re-appointed	Remarks
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
5	Mizo District	..	1957 ..	10	11	12 Labourers 2 Mohorri ..	Discharged due to completion of emergency work of water supply in Mizo District.
		1958 ..	Nil	..	Nil	.. 2 Labourers .....	..
6	North Lakhimpur District	..	1957 ..	7	..	Nil .. 6 Mohorri ..	....
		1958 ..	Nil	..	Nil	.. Does not arise	Discharged owing to completion of work.
7	Garo Hills District	..	1957 ..	6	15	.. 48 Labourers 15 Gangmen	
		1958 ..	Nil	..	Nil	.. Does not arise	
8	Sibsagar District	..	1957 ..	Nil	5	1 labourer	*These Mohorri, labourers and gangmen are discharged due to completion of work and again re-appointed when new works are taken in hand.
		1958 ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	*

\*These Mohorri, labourers and gangmen are discharged due to completion of work and again re-appointed when new works are taken in hand.



Serial No.	Name of District	Year	Mohorriis	Gangmen	Labourers	Number of retrenched employees again re-appointed	Remarks
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
9	Kamrup District ..	1957	Nil	Nil	14	2 labourer	
		1958	20	Nil	5	5 Mohorriis	
10	Nowgong District ..	1957	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	
		1958	Nil	Nil	Nil	1 labourer	
11	Goalpara District ..	1957	10	111	Nil	2 Mohorriis and 96 Gangmen	
		1958	Nil	39	1	34 Gangmen	



(c)—Yes. Among the above retrenched employees, 19 (nineteen) Road Mohorriars, 145 (one hundred and forty-five) Gangmen, 5 (five) labourers and 1 (one) Handyman have since been re-appointed during the year 1957 and 1958, and others will be taken in if and when new works are taken in hand, and there is need for their services.

### SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

#### Violation of Cease-fire Agreement by Pakistan forces

**Shri BISWANATH UPADHYAYA (Patharkandi)** asked :

2. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether he has received any response from Dacca to the protest made by him in connection with the recent violations of the cease-fire agreement ?
- (b) Whether Government have given instructions to our troops not to be provoked by these violations of the said agreement ?
- (c) Whether he will be pleased to take adequate measures with a view to remove the panic created in the area ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister)** replied :

2. (a)—Yes. The Government of East Pakistan have however alleged that it is our forces who had violated the cease-fire agreement.

(b)—Yes. Our forces have been instructed that they should implicitly honour the cease-fire agreement but due to the unprovoked and incessant firing by the Pak forces, our forces have been compelled to reply in self-defence at times.

(c)—Yes, our Commissioner will be meeting his counterpart at Karimganj at 10 O' Clock to-day to bring about an effective cease-fire. Besides this such other measures as removing our civilian personnel to less vulnerable area particularly in Bhanga are being taken.



**\*Shri BISWANATH UPADHYAYA (Patharkandi) :** Will the Hon'ble Chief Minister please give the number of casualties caused by the recent firing by Pakistani troops ?

**\*Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):** From the reports we have received, on the 26th March one Ranibala Das was injured ; on the 29th, at Niz Jalalpur one Satyendra Nath was killed ; on the 3rd April, one Indian woman was injured in the Leverpath area ; on the 6th, a bullet hit a State Transport bus about 10 miles from Karimganj and one worker of the Bhanga saw mill was injured. This is the information we have received.

**\*Shri BISWANATH UPADHYAYA:** Whether Government will consider giving financial help to the families of these persons ?

**\*Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA:** Yes, Sir.

**\*Shri BISWANATH UPADHYAYA:** May I know whether the injured persons are given medical treatment ?

**\*Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA:** Yes, Sir.

**\*Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** Have Government demanded compensation from the Pakistan Government for the persons who were killed and injured ?

**\*Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA:** Yes, Sir.

**\*Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** On how many occasions firing has been resorted to since the Chief Minister made his last statement in this House ?

**\*Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA:** Actually there has been continuous firing since I made my last statement. There has been firing almost every day and the firing was extended to the Khasi and Jaintia Hills border also.

**\*Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** May I know whether the firing that took place on the 6th last was by machine gun ?

**\*Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA:** Yes, Sir. I informed the House in course of my earlier statement also that they had been using L. M. G.



**\*Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North):** Was there any firing yesterday also ?

**\*Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):** Yes, Sir, there was heavy firing yesterday, not only during the day but at night also.

**\*Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS:** What is the condition of our Madanpur border ? Is firing continuing there ?

**\*Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA:** Yesterday's firing was confined to the Bhanga area mostly.

**\*Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** Can it not be termed "aggression" in international terminology ?

**\*Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA:** That is a matter of opinion, but that the firing has been going on is a fact. In matters like this whatever we do or say must be always in consultation with the Government of India.

**\*Shri LARSING KHYRIEM [Jowai (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]:** Has the attention of the Chief Minister been drawn to the news published yesterday in Naton Assamiya that there was firing in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills ?

**\*Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA:** I have already said that it is a fact.

**\*Shri LARSING KHYRIEM:** Have there been any casualties ?

**\*Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA:** No, Sir, there has been none.

**\*Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** May I know whether in the protest that has been lodged with the East Pakistan Government our Government has stated that this continuous firing and breach of cease fire agreement amounts to aggression ?

**\*Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):** The terminology may not be exactly what the hon. Member has said, but we have sent strong protests on each of these occasions.



**\*Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla):** Will the Government be pleased to strengthen the border security force so that Pakistani agents cannot cross the border and create trouble in Cachar or in any part of Assam?

**\*Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):** We have taken all necessary measures.

**\*Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North):** During the last 10 years after independence did such firings take place in the Assam border before?

**\*Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA:** Firings did take place but this time it is continuing for a pretty long time.

**\*Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS:** Were there any casualties?

**\*Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA:** Yes, there were casualties also.

**\*Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** Will the Government convey to the Central Government that the people of Assam treat this as aggression and the Central Government make representation to the Pakistan Government accordingly?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):** Aggression cannot be only for the people of Assam. If there is an aggression it will be an aggression against India.

**\*Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi):** Are the Government aware that as a result of continuous firing in the Bhanga Bazar area people are living there in great difficulty and panic and if so, what relief measures have been rendered to them by the Government?

**\*Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA:** It is not a question of giving relief measures, but as a matter of fact Government has been taking steps to remove the people to safer places.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The question hour is over.

Now, we take up Demands for grants.



## Demands for grants GRANT No.2

### (7.—Land Revenue)

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue):** Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.1,38,01,000 (Rupees one crore, thirty-eight lakhs and one thousand), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1959 for the administration of the head "7.—Land Revenue".

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The motion moved is "That a sum of Rs.1,38,01,000 (Rupees one crore, thirty-eight lakhs and one thousand), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1959 for the administration of the head—"7.—Land Revenue".

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog):** I beg to move Cut Motion Nos.1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 21, 22 and 23, all standing in my name.

That the provision of Rs.9,72,965 under Grant No.2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, Minor head—Charges of Administration—A.—General Establishment (total), at page 6 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,38,01,000, do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(Failure of the Government to abolish corruptions in Revenue Department).

That the provision of Rs.11,13,000 under Grant No.2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, Minor head—D—charges on Account of Revenue Collections (total), at page 10 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100 *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,38,01,000, do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(Failure of the Government to decrease the land revenue of Barpeta Road Town, Kamrup).

That the total provision of Rs.1,38,01,000 under Grant No.2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, at page 3 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,38,01,000 do stand reduced by Rs.100.



(To criticise the Government for not demarcating properly the boundary of the flood affected area at the Sorbhog Beel area for not opening syphons at the old railway line between Sorbhog and Beki river and for not paying compensation including the whole area comprising Six villages).

That the total provision of Rs.1,38,01,000 under Grant No.2, Major, head—7.—Land Revenue, at page 3 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,38,01,000 to stand reduced by Rs.100.

(Failure of the Government to demarcate properly the boundary of the flood affected area or Kayashthagaon, Puthimari railway line between Sorbhog and Beki in 1956 and pay compensation).

That the total provision of Rs.1,38,01,000 under Grant No.2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, at page 3 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,38,01,000, do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(Failure of the Government for not providing lands at the Barbala P. G. R., Barpeta Subdivision to people who lost their lands at the Sorbhog Aerodrome in 1942).

That the provision of Rs.32,82,200 under Grant No.2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, Minor head F.—Survey, Settlement and Record Operations, Sub-head (b)—Settlements Operations (parties) (total), at page 14 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,38,01,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To criticisms the Settlement of officers in failing in their duties to supervise settlement operations in circles properly).

That the provision of Rs.3,51,100 under Grant No.2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, Minor head, charges of Administration, Sub-head A—General Establishment, Detailed head pay of officers, at page 6 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,38,01,000, do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To criticisms the Government for utter negligence of the Deputy Commissioners to supervise revenue matters in Sub-divisions and circles).



That the total provision of Rs.1,38,01,000 under Grant No.2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, at page 3 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,38,01,000, do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To criticise the Director of Land Records for his utter negligence of duties).

**Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta):** I beg to move Cut Motion No. 2 standing in my name:

That the provision of Rs.3,51,100 under Grant No.2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, Minor head—Charges of Administration, A—General Establishment—Sub-head 1. Pay of officers, Detailed head Sub-Deputy Collectors, at page 6 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,38,01,000, do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To criticise the Government to stop corruptions of the Sub-Deputy Collectors).

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** I beg to move Cut Motion Nos.4,5, and 15 standing in my name:

That the total provision of Rs.1,38,01,000 under Grant No.2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, at page 3 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,38,01,000 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To criticise the Government for large-scale eviction of tillers from their holdings).

That the total provision of Rs. 1,38,01,000 under grant No. 2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue at page 3 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 100.

(To criticise the Government for the suffering of peasants under the “annual Patta and a ‘Touzi-Bahira’ system.)

That the total provision of Rs.1,38,01,000 under Grant No. 2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, at page 3 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,38,01,000, do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To criticise the Land policy of the Government).

**Shri PAKHIRAI DEKA [Panery (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]:** I beg to move Cut Motion Nos.9,11, and 19 standing in my name:

That the total provision of Rs.1,38,01,000 under Grant No. 2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, at page 3 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,38,01,000, do stand reduced by Rs.100.



(To raise a discussion regarding the opening of the Sub-Deputy Collector Circle Office at the middle place like Tangla and important place of several Tribal mouzas where many pending cases are still hanging undisposed and place where all sort of communication and other facilities are available).

That the total provision of Rs.1,38,01,000 under Grant No. 2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, at page 3 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,38,01,000, do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To raise a discussion regarding the Tribal belt and Block in the Mangaldai Subdivision).

That the total provision of Rs.1,38,01,000 under Grant No.2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, at page 3 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,38,01,000, do stand reduced by Re.1.

- (1. To criticise the grant regarding tribal blocks, etc.
2. To criticise the Government policy regarding Nishfikheraj land.
3. To criticise the Government policy regarding Tea Estate Land acquisition).

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARI (Panery):** I beg to move Cut Motion No. 10 standing in my name:

That the total provision of Rs.1,38,01,000 under Grant No.2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, at page 3 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,38,01,000, do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

(To raise a discussion regarding the opening of the Sub-Deputy Collector Circle Office at the middle and important place of several Tribal Mouza where many pending cases are still hanging undisposed, also the place where all sort of communication and other facilities are available).

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** I beg to move Cut Motion Nos.12 and 18 standing in my name:

That the total provision of Rs.1,38,01,000 under Grant No.2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, at page 3 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,38,01,000, do stand reduced by Rs.100.



(To criticise the policy of the Government in evicting the people from lands on which they have been cultivating for more than 5 years).

That the total provision of Rs.1,38,01,000 under Grant No.2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, at page 3 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,38,01,000, do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(To raise a discussion about land reforms in the State).

**Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] :** I beg to move Cut Motion Nos.13 and 20 standing in my name:

That the total provision of Rs. 1,38,01,000 under Grant No.2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, at page 3 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,38,01,000, do stand reduced by Re.1.

- (1. To criticise the grant under the head.
2. To discuss about the Land Acquisition policy of the Government.
3. To discuss about the failure of the Government regarding eviction of tenants and abolition of intermediaries.)

That the total provision of Rs. 1,38,01,000 under Grant No.2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, at page 3 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,38,01,000, do stand reduced by Re.1.

- (1. To criticise the Land Acquisition policy of the Government.
2. To criticise the Government policy regarding the failure of abolition of intermediaries in Karimganj Sub-division.
3. To raise discussion about non-implementation of existing land reform measures for which the very purposes are going to be frustrated).

**Shri PROKRITISH CHANDRA BARUA (Gauripur) :**  
I beg to move Cut Motion No. 16 standing in my name :

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That the total provision of Rs. 1,38,01,000 under Grant No.2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, at page 3 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,38,01,000, do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To raise the discussion regarding the land policy and machinery).

**Shri BISHWANATH UPADHAYAYA (Patharkandi) :**  
I beg to move Cut Motion No.17 standing in my name:

That the total provision of Rs. 1,38,01,000 under Grant No. 2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, at page 3 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,38,01,000, do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To raise a discussion regarding the policy of land settlement and reclamation).

**Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) :**  
I beg to move Cut Motion No.24 standing in my name:

That the total provision of Rs.1,38,01,000 under Grant No.2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, at page 3 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,38,01,000, do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To raise a general discussion).

**Mr. SPEAKER:** All the Cut Motions are moved as above.

**\*Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the Cut Motions moved from this side of the House and in support of these motions, I want to say that during the last 10 years, we can say, we have not made any remarkable achievement, either in the industrial sphere or in the agricultural sphere. In the industrial sphere our record is nil and in the agricultural sphere we have not been able to impress upon the people the utility of the land reforms in our State nor have we been able to satisfy with other measures taken by the Government in this sphere.



Sir, the other day, the Minister-in-charge said that we have in our State about 20 lakhs of landless people. If this figure is correct, it is a stupendous problem but merely saying that 20 lakhs of landless people are there in our State is not enough. Here is a stupendous problem and if we have not been able to do anything for these people it cannot be taken as the policy of the Government which has Socialistic objective. If we compare the available land in India and in China for cultivation, we will find that our problem is lesser than the problem of China. In China as the Report of our Deputation to China shows that 50 per cent. of the agricultural tenants are to cultivate in hilly ranges, slopes of the hills and other difficult areas and of the rest of the 50 per cent, two third, have got potential arable land. Whereas 11 per cent of land is under proper cultivation in China as compared to 35 per cent. in India. Here the total area is 272 million acres under cultivation whereas in our country it is 302 million acres. So the problem that concerns the people of China is more colossal and yet a determined attempt has been made to solve the agrarian problem. These two countries compared so far as their economics are concerned where also a fiscal agrarian economy particularly as of this State is concerned, therefore, we have to lay stress on the agrarian problem and this agrarian problem can be solved if we pursue a correct land policy. My submission is this that up till now we have not taken up seriously the land problem of our State and therefore even during these last ten years not even 10,000 families have been rehabilitated. We have seen that some land from tea gardens have been requisitioned here and there but there also the process to be taken in requisition has not been properly taken. As for instance, the land which is requisitioned if there is jungle this should be cleared, if there is a high land then attempts should be made for arranging the land in such a way that high altitude crops can be taken up there. These things have not been done. Here, in our State we have not progressed much in land distribution policy. During these years we have passed several legislations but these legislations have not given the benefit to the cultivators which were meant to be derived from them. In these things the Government is half-hearted and they are not giving effect of the legislation to their logical ends and cultivators are not encouraged by them.

Sir, unless we also pursue a conscious policy of industrialisation and in this sphere we have to do enough, we will fail miserably in our employment problem. We feel, we have not



made any earnest attempt to solve this problem. Land is not elastic. It cannot be expanded. Now, I will lay emphasis on two points. So far as grazing reserves are concerned, how far it is economic to have them in the manner we are having them is to be taken into consideration seriously. I am of definite opinion that we cannot improve our cattle population in the manner in which we are keeping grazing reserves for them. If we have to improve the condition of our cattle and shift ourselves to stall feeding in that case we have to settle lands in the grazing reserves to people who will grow grass and fodder for cattle. Unless, we utilise the grazing reserves for definite purpose of having improved type of cultivation for fodder, grass and other crops for consumption of cattle and can give definite idea to our cultivators for cultivations of these for cattle food, it is no use to keep the grazing reserve as they are kept now under jungle, they are neither of any use to our cattle population nor to our human population. So it is a question which involves a definite policy and Government have to make this policy clear whether Government will keep these grazing reserves in the proper sense of the term "grazing reserve" is used and if it is so, whether in these grazing reserves some people will be given settlement so that they grow improved varieties of grass, fodder and other cattle food crops, so that these reserves can be used for useful and fruitful purposes.

Then, so far as settlement of land is concerned, we very often find that those who are not real agricultural people or cultivators have got settlement of land, when a country is faced with the problem of paucity of land. So, Sir, settlement of land should only be done with actual cultivators. We have received many instances that even in reclaimed areas, particularly in the four reclaimed areas where Government have spent a huge sum of money, the actual cultivators have not been given any land but preference has been given to some other people, as a result of that preference actual cultivators do not get land. Sir, my point is that when there is shortage of land in our State we cannot afford the luxury of giving land to the non-agriculturists, that is, those who are not actual cultivators.

So far as land reclamation is concerned also we have to evolve a conscious policy of reclamation. For this purpose we have to make proper survey of the land. If we do not make a proper survey of the land, the soil, climatic conditions etc., then reclamation will have no meaning. Sir, reclamation of



land is also under the Revenue Department because we have to increase the quantity of available cultivable land, but here also we find that this matter has been left solely to the Agriculture Department and the Land Revenue Department takes no interest. We wish that the Land Revenue Department should take keener interest in this matter of land reclamation so that we can increase the quantity of our cultivable land in the State.

Now, coming to distribution itself. Here also we have seen in certain areas eviction operations are going on. Now, in carrying on these eviction operations Government is not at all influenced by a sense of equity. We have seen that people who have been occupying land for 10 or 15 years also being evicted. Government did not take care to see at the beginning how these people could occupy land for 10 or 15 years, but after they have laboured hard and spent considerable amount of money in labour for clearing jungles and after they have made lot of improvement to the land then all of a sudden Government wakes up—just like our rhino—and say “Oh ! my land has been occupied” and hastily take up the process of eviction. This is also a wrong policy. Government should decide that whoever may be in possession of land and occupying it for a long time whether legally or illegally, Government should regularise that kind of occupation and should not evict the people and this create new problems for the State.

Then Sir, I have another point to refer to the Government that is, conversion of annual Patta lands into periodic Pattas. Sir, we have seen that these periodic Pattas are more in vogue in immigrant areas where immigrant people are occupying land. In these areas certain Sub-Deputy Collectors, Mandals or Kanungoes are appointed who have made tons of money during these few years. It is necessary for Government to see what possession or property these people possess and they will find out how these people have exploited the people. Now that Government have decided on the policy of converting annual Patta lands into periodic Pattas, these people have become more hungry and they immediately and actually overnight convert these annual Patta lands into periodic transferring the land from the name of one person to another. In these matters the people have to pay premium not only to the Government but also to the Sub-Deputy Collector, Mandal or Kanungoes. This is not only illegal gratification and corruption but also deserving people are left out. It is therefore, necessary that in those areas where Government have decided to convert annual Patta lands into periodic, stricter



supervision and vigilance should be exercised by appointing a Committee consisting of the Sub-Deputy Collector, the Deputy Commissioner or Additional District Magistrate to go into all such cases and see whether there has been any change in the Pattas. In this way only corruption can be checked to a great extent and these Sub-Deputy Collector, Mandals and Kanungoes who exploit the poor people and who have become like hungry wolves can be tackled effectively. So it is necessary for Government to exercise stricter measures in this regard. Lastly Sir, I will speak about land revenue. Land revenue at one time was the main source of income of our State Government. Any inelastic concern cannot remain the source of income for the State in the developing days. Therefore we cannot rely mostly on land revenue. On the other hand we have seen, Sir, that in land revenue also there are evasions. Now, so far as these evaders are concerned there has been, as I have said, a lot of evasion not at the cost of the cultivators but at the cost of the exchequer because the cultivators pay to the Mandals but the Mandals do not show the account in their receipts. Therefore, it is necessary to do away with this "toubahi" system so that Government may not lose revenue. Sir, in the tea gardens also we have seen that the revenue charged is very low. On this point I also spoke during the discussion on the Budget, that if in a tea garden which can produce 60 maunds of tea or 25 maunds of tea and another which produces only 6 maunds of tea wrong to assess the land revenue by comparing the land revenue neighbouring areas, but land revenue should be graduated according to the yield of the crop and thereby Government will get enough money.

Sir, I do not want to take much time of the House, but I would also like to refer to the policy of land reform. In this matter of land reform we have certain legislations and in this I want that in our State Agriculture will have to play an important role for all round satisfaction in these matters; therefore land reform measures should be improved.

With these observations I hope my Cut Motion will be accepted by the Government.

**Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BORBARUAH (Amguri):**

Sir, while framing the Second Five Year Plan the planning authorities maintained that the rural structure based on peasant ownership can meet the requirements of food and raw materials of a growing national economy only if land is used with care.



the advantages of co-operative work and organisation are fully realised. Sir, I think we have two sides of the picture here and no one will have two opinions on this. One side is land distribution and the other is production. Land can be distributed to the peasants and production should be made on co-operative basis—that is the indication that has been given by the planning authority. Now, Sir, let us see how our peasants are suffering. The data on acreage supplied by the Agricultural Labour Enquiry of 1957 reveals that the percentage of the population having land for cultivation is a very small one, 5 per cent., a small number of the population get more than 33-1/3rd per cent of land and 66 per cent get less than 15 per cent.

Now according to the findings of this Enquiry Committee 19 per cent of people have no land. Moreover, the other day the Hon. Revenue Minister has declared here on the floor of this House that 20 lakhs of our people have no land. This shows that our Government is not wise in distributing land in the manner they are doing at present. It is an obvious fact, Sir, that Assam is over populated. Here in Assam we have 350 houses per square mile, or even more than that in some places. But in other States, this is not so. NEFA has been taken away, Naga Hills have been brought under a separate unit, some 27 square miles have been given to Bhutan—in this way Assam is contracted. Now the available land in Assam for settlement of surplus population is much lesser than her requirement. That is why I suggest that our Government should convince the the Central Government not to send any more displaced persons for settlement in Assam. Because the Revenue Minister has stated that there are about 15 lakhs of displaced persons in our State. My submission is that first our aim should be to settle whatever available land is here to settle with the idigenous people of the State first, and the Central Government should be asked to devise means for settlement of the floating displaced persons. Here in Assam we have certain amount of lands still in the various Reserved areas, in the Village Reserves, in the Forest Reserves and so on. Government have opened some areas of lands for settlement of landless people. But due to the whims and caprices of our Government officers real landless people are not getting lands. For instance, in the Sibsagar Subdivision some 12 hundred bighas of lands have been thrown open in 1953 but till to-day only six hundred acres of land have been settled as yet with landless people. This shows Government is not taking action in the interest of the needy people and



are leaving everything to their officers. This State of things should be immediately brought to an end. Moreover, Sir, under certain Grants also we have some lands under the tea gardens. But these tea garden authorities are settling these lands with tea garden labourers and Government have not been able to stop this. In one instance, in the Saraideau Tea Garden land was requisitioned by the Government but the tea garden authority filed an appeal to the High Court. The decision of the High Court was in favour of the Government but the tea garden authority preferred an appeal to the Supreme Court where it is still lying. I am simply astonished to find how these foreign companies can dare filing a case against our Government. Sir, is this independence ?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Labour-Minister).**—They do so under the law of the land.

**Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri):** Any way, you are bowing down to the vested interests. You are only making the law such as to afford protection to the vested interests.

With regard to the point I was speaking of—that of giving lands to tea garden labourers by the various tea estates, I want to ask the Government this question. Whether these tea garden authorities are bringing these tea labourers for cultivation of tea or for cultivation of paddy ? Government should seriously ponder over this.

Another thing that I want to refer to is this : Here our Government have passed certain pieces of legislation called the Ceiling Act, Adhiar Act and so on and so forth. In my opinion this Ceiling Act is full of defects and loopholes. Take for instance Debuttar, Brahmattar and Nisfi Kheraj lands have been left out of the purview of the Ceiling Act. Moreover, ceiling fixed at 130 bighas of land as the minimum holding of a person is too high. If 130 bighas of land is given away to each of the land owners, very little amount of land will be left for distribution amongst the landless people, among the real agricultural labourers and the poor peasants. Again we see that at a time when the Act was not put under operation, some big land owners including some of our Ministers, sold away their extra lands at fabulous prices. In the month of February last one of the Ministers was selling land at the fabulous price of over Rs. 94 thousand.—I do not like to mention his name here—and several other Ministers also did likewise. This shows how the enactment is full of loopholes.



**Mr. SPEAKER :** Order, order. I made it clear time and again that when any hon. Member desires to make any allegation, the proper course of action is to bring these allegations to the notice of the Speaker first giving necessary details of any such allegations when these will be forwarded to Government for verifications and reply irrespective of the fact whether the allegations are made either in respect of any Minister or any Government officer. I therefore hold that the hon. Member will not be in order to make any allegation against any body even if the hon. Member does not make any mention of the name of the person. This is the practice followed in the House of Commons and in the Lok Sabha, and I propose to follow this practice here also.

**Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) :** I submit to your ruling, Sir.

My point is that our land reforms should be speedily enforced and the surplus land available in the hands of the Government be distributed without any delay. These Grazing lands, Reserved lands, Free Simple lands and other surplus lands should be distributed immediately. When we desire to establish a Co-operative or a Socialistic pattern of Society it is our first and foremost duty to distribute land through the various co-operative societies.

In the last Budget Session our Co-operative Minister declared here that under a co-operative society, a man can get 150 bighas of land because the Ceiling Act does give him such scope. My humble opinion is that in the co-operatives rich people should not be given any land. Co-operatives should be formed with purely landless peasants, and the middle class peasants should be induced to join the co-operatives. By giving technical assistance, monetary help etc. to these co-operative societies and by affording facilities to market the goods produced in these co-operatives, can only the Government be able to induce the middle class peasants to join the co-operatives. Now, Sir, it is, indeed, a very good sign that everywhere in Assam people are demanding lands through these co-operatives. In the month of March last 12 thousand applications were submitted to the S. D. O., Sibsagar demanding lands. Day before yesterday and yesterday a big deputation of peasants from Sibsagar met our Chief Minister and Revenue Minister respectively for a similar purpose. This is a good sign. If land is distributed through co-operatives, through collective farming, etc., that will solve the problem of



the peasants and the problem of food and raw materials. Collective Farms should be started in places where Government wants to open up new areas of lands for cultivation. Co-operative Farming is possible in the villages. In Co-operative Farms there will be no division of land; the partners will get the share of the output according to the amount of labour put in by the respective person. (A voice: which one you prefer—Collective Farming or Co-opretive Farming)? I prefer Collective Farming.

Another thing I want to refer is with regard to the question of present system of collecting land revenue, Sir. The present system is medieval, in that the revenue is not collected on the basis of the net produce of the land, but it is collected on the basis of the amount of land a person possesses. The land revenue should be assessed and collected on the basis of the net profit one derives from the produces of his land, after deducting all the costs involved in producing the crops and calculating the expense in maintainance of the family etc. If there is profit then the tax should be levied. So the present system should be abolished and the other methods as suggested by me above should be introduced. If the Government remain callous of the people's demand, frustration which is rampant now is bound to occur in a violent nature and there will be revolution. At present the people have no faith in the present Government.

Now, Sir, there is food shortage in our country. Government goes to Centre and the Centre to Burma, China and other places. This state of affairs should not be allowed to continue. Government should throw open immediately as much land as possible and settle it with the landless cultivators who will grow more food to meet the country's growing need. That is why I bring forward all these suggestions in this House and I hope Government will accept them. That is why I have moved this Cut Motion to draw the attention of the Government. If the Government remain callous, people will not allow this Government to remain in power. When people find there is so much inefficiency, corruptions, favouratism in the present Government, people will rise in revolt. When the people are hungry and panic stricken, when the political thinkers seem unequal to their own tasks, when the inner affairs of the country are tangled into knot, then there is a chance or a call for a revolution.

With these words, Sir, I resume my seat. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak here.



**Kumar PROKRITISH CHANDRA BARUA (Gauripur):**

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই গোৱালপাৰাৰ Land Systemৰ সম্বন্ধে দুই চাৰি আঘাৰ কথা কম বুলি ঠিয় হৈছে। বৰ্ত্তমাণে, Goalpara Land Tenancy Act মতে এই জিলাৰ ভূমি সংক্ৰান্ত ব্যাপাৰ চলি আহিছে। এতিয়া চৰকাৰৰ নতুন আইন মতে এই ব্যাপাৰত সঠিক Structure টোৱেই বদলি হৈ যাব। Land Reformৰ changeৰ লগে লগে সমাজতো বহু পৰিবৰ্ত্তণে দেখা দিব। আগতে যিবিলাক মানুহৰ মাটি নাছিল সেই বিলাক মানুহে সৰু সুৰা কিবা বেপাৰ বানিজ্য কৰি আছিল আৰু সেইবিলাকৰ অবস্থাৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে কোনো ব্যৱস্থা হাতত লোৱা নাই। মাটি থাকিলেও ভূমিনীতি হঠাতে বদলি হৈ যোৱাই নতুন অৱস্থাত মানুহে কিকৰিব ভাবি পোৱা নাই। ভূমিনীতি বদলিৰ লগে লগে সামাজিক পৰিবৰ্ত্তণ আহি পৰিছে। আগতে এহেজাৰ বিষা থকা মাটি গাঁৱিয়ে নিজৰ ১৫০ বিষাৰ বেচিহ বাখিব নোৱাৰিব। আগেয়ে এই মাটি সম্পত্তি নিজৰ ভিতৰতে ব্যৱস্থা কৰি লব পাৰিছিল কিন্তু নতুন আইন মতে এতিয়া এই কাম চৰকাৰী কৰ্মচাৰীৰ দ্বাৰা হব। আগতে নিজৰ ভিতৰতে কৰিলোৱা কাম এতিয়া চৰকাৰী কৰ্মচাৰী দ্বাৰাই হব আৰু এইটো কিমান দূৰ ভাল হব কব পৰা নাই। এতিয়া চৰকাৰে ওপৰকিত মাটি অধিগ্ৰহণ কৰিব আৰু ভূমিহীন মানুহৰ মাজত ভগাই দিব। এই নীতিৰ ওপৰত ভিত্তিকৰি চৰকাৰে কাম কৰিবলৈ উলাইছে যদিও এই আচনিত চৰকাৰ কিমান দূৰ কৃতকাৰ্য্য হব পাৰিব, মই নাজানো। বিশেষকৈ চৰ মাটিত যিবিলাক মানুহ বাসকৰে, সেই মানুহ বিলাকৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে কি ব্যৱস্থা হাতত লব? কাৰণ চৰ মাটিত সাধাৰণতে নলা, বা বালি থাকে আৰু এই বালিমাটি বিলাক বাৰিষা হলেই গৰা খহনীয়াই উঠাই লৈ যায় আৰু তাত বাসকৰা মানুহ বিলাক ভূমিহীন হৈ পৰে। তাৰোপৰি নদীৰ course বদলি হৈ এই মাটি বিলাক বাসৰ অনুপযোগী কৰি তোলে। সেই কাৰণে এই চৰত বাসকৰা মানুহবিলাকৰ কাৰণে বেচি মাটি বাখিব লাগে। এনেয়ে হলেও চৰত বাসকৰা মানুহ বিলাক চৰৰ ওপৰত ২/৩ বছৰত কৈ বেচি দিন ভোগ কৰি থাকিব নোৱাৰে। মোৰ সমষ্টিৰ কথাই মই কওঁ—মোৰ সমষ্টি হল দক্ষিণ শালমৰা—ইয়াৰ ১০ নং প্ৰান্তত ৮/১০ হেজাৰ বিষা মাটি আছে আৰু ইয়াৰ একেটা বাৰিষাই অনিষ্ট কৰি—তাত বাসকৰা মানুহ বিলাকক ভূমিহীন কৰি তুলিছে। সেই কাৰণে মই চৰকাৰক জনাও যে চৰত বাসকৰা মানুহৰ কাৰণে যেন সকলো সময়তে বিপদৰ সময়ত পাব পৰাকৈ মাটি বিজৰ্ভ ৰাখে। চৰৰ মানুহক যদি 'হাইলেণ্ড' দিয়া হয় তেন্তে তাত তেওঁলোক থাকিব নোৱাৰে। সেইদৰে 'হাইলেণ্ড'ত বাসকৰা মানুহক চৰ মাটি দিলেও নহব—কাৰণ তেওঁলোকও চৰত থাকিব নোৱাৰে।

মোৰ সমষ্টিৰ মানুহবোৰ প্ৰায়ে চৰ মাটিত বাস কৰে। সেই চৰ মাটিৰ কোনো ঠিকনা নাই, নদীয়ে খহাই লৈ যাব পাৰে। মাটি খহাই নিয়াৰ পিচত মানুহ বোৰ ভূমিহীন হৈ নিৰাশ্ৰয় হয়। সেই বিপদৰ সময়ত মানুহবোৰক মাটি দিবৰ কাৰণে জোৰি এতিয়া Land Ceiling Act হোৱাৰ কাৰণে সেই মানুহবোৰক ১৫০ বিষাৰ ওপৰত মাটি এতিয়া খাচ হৈ যাব। গতিকে সেই মানুহবোৰৰ উপাৰ্জন কমি যাব আৰু পাকিস্তানৰ সীমাত হোৱা বাবে কোনো কাৰবাৰ নচলা হৈছে। সেই কাৰণে সেই মানুহবোৰক চৰকাৰে ঋণ দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে যাতে তেওঁলোকে আন কোনো ব্যৱসায় কৰিব পাৰে।

ৰাজহ বিভাগৰ যিবিলাক বিষয়া আছে যেনে মণ্ডলৰ পৰা আৰম্ভ কৰি ওপৰলৈকে, তেওঁলোকৰ ওচৰত মাটি বিচাৰি গলে মাত্ৰ হতাশ হব লাগে। মণ্ডলক যদি সন্তোষ কৰিব পাৰে তেনেহলে অলপ আশা থাকে—কথাতেই কয় 'থামস্য মন্তল বজা'। এনেকুৱা তল শ্ৰেণীৰ বিষয়াৰ ওপৰত এই ভাব দিয়া বাবেই অস্ববিধাৰ সৃষ্টি হৈছে। মাটি সমস্যা ডাঙৰ সমস্যা। গতিকে এই সমস্যা সমাধানৰ বাবে চৰকাৰে বিশেষ ব্যৱস্থা হাতত লব লাগে।



**Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Cut Motions moved by my friends in the Opposition but I would like to make a few observations regarding land reforms and other allied matters. Sir, the condition of the agricultural labourers in our State is very deplorable. It has been stated by the Revenue Minister that there are about 20 lakhs of landless people in our State; so these 20 lakhs of people are practically agricultural labourers, either they take lands on Adhiar basis from the land-owners or landlords, or they cultivate land for their land-lords on monthly payment of cash or in kind. I would like to draw the attention of the Government to Section 43 of the Constitution of India reading as follows:—

“The State shall endeavour to secure, by suitable legislation or economic organisation or in any other way, to all workers, agricultural, industrial or otherwise, work, a living wage, conditions or work ensuring a decent standard of life and full enjoyment of leisure and social and cultural opportunities and, in particular, the State shall endeavour to promote cottage industries on an individual or co-operative basis in rural areas”.

Sir, I do not know whether it is the policy of the Government to introduce such legislation, but up till now no such legislation has been introduced by our State Government in order to give relief to the agricultural labourers. I hope Government will kindly examine the condition of these agricultural labourers and do something for their economic upliftment.

Now, Sir, I come to the immediate necessity of land reform. No doubt our State Government have taken some measures and some legislation also in this regard but I want to inform the House that due to heavy pressure of works more Revenue Officers are necessary for implementation of the land reform policy of the Government. Now, Sir, there are about 10 to 12 Mouzas in each Sub-Deputy Collector's circle and with only one or two Sub-Deputy Collectors it is quite inadequate to look after the present needs of the people and with their multifarious duties these officers can hardly find time to do justice to the people. Therefore, I would suggest that Government should examine this matter to see that more circles can be established and with more officers to look to the needs of the people. In this connection, Sir, I request the Revenue Minister to examine and see whether a circle can be established at Sarupathar which is at a distance of about 30 miles from Golaghat for the convenience of the people.



Now, Sir, I would also like to mention in this connection regarding the condition of the Mouzadars. The Mauzadars are respectable men in our society and due to the poverty of the people they are in a very difficult position to collect revenue every year and, therefore, these Mouzadars have to pay from their own pockets by borrowing money either from their friends or *mahajans* to the extent of Rs.5,000 to Rs.10,000 annually. The commission at present given to them is really very poor indeed and is quite inadequate for their maintenance. I would like to inform the House that there is a difference between new Mouzadars and Mouzadars who were during the time of the British regime. These old Mouzadars used to get commission of the tea garden revenue also but probably sometime in 1943-44, I do not exactly remember the year, a circular was issued by the Revenue Department to the effect that the new Mouzadars will not be entitled to get any commission of revenue that is collected from the tea gardens. Sir, I do not know why this difference has been made in a society although we are now living in a socialistic pattern of society.

So, I would like to request the Government to see to this also in order that these new Mauzadars may get some benefit from the revenue collected from the tea gardens. Another thing I would like to say is that under the present circular issued by the Government the Mouzadars are required to give cash security at 1/4 of the revenue to be collected, as I have already stated that these Mouzadars are poor, it is difficult on their part to give the cash security. So I request the Government to examine this question, which they have probably represented and to see if they can be exonerated from paying cash security.

Regarding collection of revenue, Sir, it has become very difficult on the part of the Mouzadars to collect revenue due to the poverty of the people. That is why either they should be given adequate commission or this system of Mouzadars should be abolished, as has been suggested by the Study Team of Community Development Projects and National Extension Service under the leadership of Shri Balwantrao Mehta. That Committee in section 2 of its report says, "as far as possible of revenue" because they want democratic decentralisation of power. It is their desire that collection of revenue should be entrusted to Panchayats. So, I hope Government will kindly examine the question whether collection of revenue can be entrusted to the Panchayats.



Then, Sir, I agree with the hon. Leader of the Opposition regarding assessment of land revenue of tea garden lands. Land revenue should be assessed according to the production or yield of the land. In a locality the cultivator is paying Rs.10 to Rs.12 as revenue for one acre of paddy land, which yields, say, 20 maunds of paddy, whereas in the same locality in a tea garden the tea that is produced in an acre comes to 20 to 22 maunds. So, the revenue assessed for the tea garden land and the paddy land should be examined by Government and, if necessary, they should enhance the revenue on tea garden land in those localities where the yield of tea is really high.

Then, Sir, regarding the policy at present adopted by Government with regard to Village Grazing Reserves and Professional Grazing Reserves, I suggest Government to kindly examine whether the present policy of maintaining Village Grazing Reserves and Professional Grazing Reserves should not be changed as otherwise there will be no Village Grazing Reserves and Professional Grazing Reserves because there is deliberate encroachments by landless people. With these few words, I oppose the Cut Motions of my Friends opposite. Thank you, Sir.

**\*Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the land policy of the Government has been criticised both in the course of discussions on the Governor's Address and the Budget proposal. Our land policy is amorphous. The land reclamation and land settlement parts have been fully discussed. So far as settlement of waste lands and reserves is concerned, Government have not got any definite policy. I can cite some instances. Take the instance of Malvibari Professional Grazing Reserve in the Dimaria mouza; it is one of the biggest reserves comprising 10,000 bighas. Some people encroached it from 1947 or 1948 and then it was decided that half of it about 5,000 bighas, should be opened. But there was no demarcation line and the people squatted wherever they liked and all the high lands were practically occupied. Squatting continued for three years and then another plot of 2,500 bighas had to be opened. This time also there was no demarcation; as a result, when the professional graziers saw that everybody could come and occupy land where they liked they also started occupying high land and practically all the high land was occupied leaving only marshy land which is neither fit for cultivation nor for grazing. This has led to the liquidation of the whole grazing reserve.

\*Speech not corrected.



Then there was another big reserve named Chianpupara in Chaygaon Mouza comprising 8,000 bighas. This was under the annual Patta of tribal people. Government had no definite policy and ultimately by the end of 1950-51, the tribal people were evicted with the help of Muslim immigrants. After about two years the Muslim immigrants were evicted with the help of the tribal people. This process ultimately led in only Matabbars and Dewanis being there and only very few tribal people, not more than 10 per cent, have been settled there.

Then, Sir, in the Dibrugarh Subdivision, in the Jokai forest reserve, Government decided that by no means the landless people should be allowed to squat in that reserve. But by the end of the year they decided to open a part of it and about 35 families from Moran Mouza were settled there. One fine morning, however, Government discovered that they had done an injustice to the scheduled castes people and 20 families of scheduled castes were brought to Jokai from the Tiloi reserve. The result has been that the scheduled castes and the non-scheduled castes are fighting there. This is the policy Government are pursuing.

Now, Sir, if the land policy of the Government has been amorphous, the fishery policy of the Government has been a liquid policy; or rather, they are guided by no policy at all. Government has got only one cardinal principle in the settlement of fisheries and that is to derive maximum revenue. This has led to two factors; firstly, there has been a monopolisation of these fisheries by a small group of people who have also got huts, bazars, liquor shops, etc. This small group is controlling all the fisheries. In the Dibrugarh Subdivision all the big fisheries are controlled by one family alone. As a result the bid is going very high. For instance, the Dibrugarh fishery was settled from 1946 to 1949 at a bid of Rs.1,325 per annum. In 1949, it was settled at Rs.2,000 per annum; in 1952, it went up to Rs.32,000 per annum, i. e., by almost 32 times. Therefore, it is no wonder that the price of fish in Dibrugarh market has gone up to Rs.4-8-0 per seer. One family is monopolising all the fisheries, the bid is going high and the price of fish is consequently going up. On the other side, Sir, this policy is leading to the decline and deterioration of these fisheries because the monopolist's only object is to derive the maximum profit. The fisheries are exploited to the full and no improvement is made. In the terms and conditions of the lease also, there is no condition for improvement of the fishery, no condition about the price of fish and, therefore, the monopolists



are selling fish at whatever price they like. They are taking the fullest advantage of this policy and unless this policy is changed the fisheries will be ruined in another 10 years. Therefore, I would like to throw a suggestion to the Government that their fishery policy should be revised. In order to derive maximum revenue Government have put the emphasis on disposal of fisheries by the system of auction. This system should be discontinued and tender system should be introduced in its place, so that Government may have time to study different tenders. And price of fish should also be fixed. Fish may be classified into three categories and the maximum price of each category should be fixed. This will bring down the price of fish to an optimum level, to a normal and stabilised level.

Secondly, there should be one condition of settlement that the lessees will have to improve the fishery. Spawns of certain specific varieties should be grown and it should be seen that water is kept properly clean. These conditions should be there in the lease.

Thirdly, there should be a gap in fishing a certain pond or Beel. If one fishery is engaged for fishing for 5 years there should be a gap of two years so that in this period fish can grow and develop.

Fourthly, preference should be given to co-operatives formed by genuine and professional fishermen in settling the fisheries. But it has become a fashion now-a-days to open such co-operatives with some monopolists behind. Such co-operatives should not be encouraged. Co-operative formed by genuine, professional and people of fishing community should be given not only settlement but should be given certain concession of say, 7½ or 10 per cent.

Fifthly, it is seen that the present modes of fishing is primitive. The implements used are also primitive in nature. It is to be seen that our fishery Mahalders bring expert fishermen from out side the State. For the purpose of catching fish in the improved and modern methods boys from the fishermen community should be given training and improved implements for catching fish should be introduced. Unless these are done fisheries will remain undeveloped and uneconomic.

In addition to these, Government should undertake survey of possible places lying waste, for converting into fisheries. There are vast areas of marshy land which could with little



trouble and expenditure can be converted into fisheries. Fish is a very important commodity almost next to rice, both in the hills and plains. Therefore, it should receive special attention of the Government.

With these words, I support the Cut Motion moved by my Friends.

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak on my Cut Motions, which I have already moved.

Sir, the Revenue Department is one of the most important Departments and most of the people of our country are connected with this Department because every cultivator possesses a piece of land and for this he has to visit Revenue Office from time to time and we have seen that in going to Revenue Office they have to offer bribe to have the smallest thing done. There is no check in this although there are high ranking officers but it is evident that they do not take care to stop this corruption.

Let us deal with the Director of Land Records. He sits in Shillong. He does not generally go out of Shillong. In order that he can give his full attention for inspection of the offices, having a check on the subordinates and checking the daily increasing system of bribery, the headquarters of this Director should be either transferred to Gauhati or some other place in the plains. He should be asked to work hard and supervise the work of the different offices under him. If he is found neglecting his duty then Government should take disciplinary actions against him. If it is found that the Director cannot supervise the work of his subordinates then this post should be abolished and the duties of the Director should be divided among the other officers of the department.

Coming to the Deputy Commissioner, we have seen that these Deputy Commissioners also do not work properly and well. We have seen that these Deputy Commissioners like to spend their time mostly in the headquarters without caring to go to Mofassil areas. For example, the Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup has time to inspect properly the offices of the Subdivisional Officers. The Circle Offices are supposed to be inspected by him but it is seen that the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup had not the occasion to inspect one single Circle Office for years now. If the Deputy Commissioners neglect their duties in this way, I think, Government should take strong action against them and they should be made to work hard.



Then, I come to the question of settlement. In each district there is a Settlement Officer but unfortunately they are not working properly and efficiently. In Kamrup, settlement operation is going on in several places but the Settlement Officer does not visit these places of settlement operation. Last time when I visited his office at Gauhati, I could not meet him and learn that he had gone to North Lakhimpur. I do not know whether he had been there on official business or private business. The Settlement Officers should not be allowed to neglect their duties. They should be made to work hard, to supervise their subordinate offices, to visit the field of operation and stop corruption of the subordinates, otherwise, the post of Settlement Officer does not carry any meaning. We have seen that in settlement operations there is lot of corruption. Whenever there is a dispute, the Revenue Officer or the Sub-Deputy Collector, Kanangoes or Mandals bring in quarrels with regard to demarcation of land, demarcation of boundary and mutation. You will see that many villages have been surveyed superficially and in some cases, I can give instances, there is practically no settlement, there is no record and map for these settlements. These Settlement Officers, not only of Kamrup, but other districts should be made to work hard and the nepotism, favouritism, red-tapism and corruption should be done away with. I have sent many representations of the public to the Revenue Minister and the Revenue Secretary giving definite allegations against certain officers but without any result. This is the present state of affairs. Let me give an instance. There is one Bogidhara Professional Grazing Reserve in Goalpara District and an order was passed by the Revenue Minister about a year back by which he directed the Sub-deputy Collector, Sidli Circle to demarcate boundaries, but one year elapsed he has not done anything as he will not move if some money is not offered to him. I narrated this fact to the Revenue Secretary. He sent some telegrams and reminders, but nothing has been done as yet. This is a very bad thing.

Sir, with regard to harassment, I want to give a concrete case. One gentleman from Bijni Mouza went to the Circle office, Patacharkuchi to get a copy of the petition—he went there for 14 times and after that, he got a copy of the petition. Can you imagine that, Sir, he had to travel more than 20 miles for 14 times and spent a lot of money, time and energy just to get a copy of a petition? Again, it has been said many a time in this House also about Mandals and Kanungoes that their posts are not transferable. For the removal of corruption from



amongst these people I think the posts of Mandals and Kanungoes should be made transferable. As you know, Sir, these Mandals and Kanungoes remain in one place throughout their life or to be exact, for the whole of their term of 25 years. They know every nook and corner of the place and they know how to harass people and from whom they can get bribe. So I suggest that their tenure of office should be made for three years at one place and after these three years they should be transferred to some other place.

Again, Sir, we have seen that by taking bribes the Sub-Deputy Collector, Mandals and Kanungoes give new Pattas. They change the annual Pattas to periodic Pattas, and once these Pattas are made periodic it is difficult for Government to cancel them. Therefore I say that stricter measures should be taken by Government so that there may not be corruption amongst their staff and discontent amongst the people. In 1942 the people of Amguri and Sapana had to be evacuated for the construction of the aerodrome and they were assured to be given land at Barbola P. G. R. but now it is more than 16 years that they have not been given land with the result that they have become landless. Why is it so? Because they are poor people and they cannot give bribe to the Mandals and Kanungoes concerned. If they can give bribe I am sure they could have got land long since. This is another instance of corruption of these officials. So Government should take serious view of this matter and take strong steps against these corrupt officials. Another thing is that the high officials like the Settlement Officer, Revenue Secretary, Director of Land Records and Deputy Commissioners should be made to tour to all the Revenue Offices to know every nook and corner of Assam and know the people so that corruption can be checked.

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

**Shri LILA KANTA BORA (Kaliabar):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I take my stand to oppose the Cut Motion moved by my Friends in the opposite. Sir, Shri Borbaruah has said that the reserves and the P.G. Rs, which have been encroached upon by encroachers should be settled with them. I am sorry, Sir, I cannot support this contention of my Friend on some grounds. I think Shri Barbaruah had advocated this because some of his Friends belonging to his party have been advocating to many people to encroach upon these reserves and as a matter of fact many reserves have been encroached upon under their advocacy. Sir, there are three main reasons why I cannot support his



contention. Firstly, if we allow these reserves to be settled with the encroachers then there are many persons amongst the encroachers who have sufficient land who in spite of having sufficient land are encroaching upon grazing lands and other reserves. Secondly, certain reserves which are encroached upon now are badly needed for grazing of the cattle population. Thirdly, Sir, if we allow these encroached upon reserves to be settled with the encroachers, I am sure, Sir, tomorrow all the reserves available in Assam will be encroached upon by such people. So these reserves should not be settled with the encroachers. Now what it should be done is that the encroachers must be evicted and those reserves which can be settled should be settled with landless people after proper enquiry by the authorities concerned.

Now, Sir, wedded as we are to a policy of establishing a socialistic pattern of society, I think co-operatives and collective firms should be encouraged but here also there are certain difficulties. We find now-a-days that number of people are forming co-operative societies and after getting settlement of land they later on quarrel amongst themselves and want the land to be settled individually. This difficulty should be averted. In case Government decide to settle land with such co-operatives or collective firms there should be strict supervision. The people so settled with land should be given sufficient loan and other technical advice because we find that such people who are really landless are very poor and have no capital and they are also lacking in technical know-how, so they should be helped in these respects.

Again Sir, another point is that in these matters of land settlement we are always guided by the Land Records staff as to who is landless and who is not. We also often have complaints from the people that the Land Records staff always recommend people who have already got sufficient land. In this regard I speak from personal experience regarding settlement of a reserve. One reserve of about 4,000 bighas in Nowgong district was thrown open for settlement. A Committee was appointed by Government to make necessary settlement. We entrusted the list to be prepared by the Land Records staff and in the meantime we came to learn that a big collection of money was made. Some of the Land Records staff concerned and they recommended land to be settled with persons having sufficient land already. We naturally rejected that report of the Land Record staff and a sub-committee out of that small committee was formed which went to the various places wherefrom most of the



applicants hail. We not only sent for the applicants but also leading members of the people from the areas concerned were requested to help us in this matter. We told the people that they blame the Land Records staff because they recommend people having sufficient lands. So, we came before them to guide us in this matter. As a matter of fact, when settlement was given by this method no complaint was received from the people. So, Sir, my submission is that Government should not always be guided by their Land Records staff, because we all know that there are many corrupt officers, Sub-Deputy Collectors Kanungoes, Mandals, etc., in the Land Records staff whose conduct in matters concerning distribution or settlement, of land is always open to question. So, it would not be wise to leave the entire matter to their tender mercies. If the Government take measures of this nature, then I am sure, we shall be successful in this very complicated and yet vital matter of settling land with the landless peasants of our State.

**Shri BISWANATH UPADHAYAYA (Patharkandi):** माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय ! Land Revenue की मांगपर सदनके सामने जो प्रस्ताव पेश किये गये हैं तथा इस पर मैंने जो कर्तन प्रस्ताव पेश किया है उसके बारेमें मैं दो-चार बातें बोलना चाहता हूँ। कुछ दिन पहले हमारे माननीय राजस्वमंत्री महोदयने हमें बताया था कि इस प्रदेशमें २० लाख आदमी भूमिहीन हैं। अगर यह सही है तो मेरा कहना है कि यहाँ बाहर से काम करने के लिये क्यों हजारों आदमी आते हैं? यहाँ के सारे काम, जैसे कि ठेके वगैरह करने के लिये बाहर से क्यों इतने आदमी आते हैं? यहाँ के सारे काम इस प्रदेश के ही आदमी क्यों नहीं करते हैं। बाहर के आदमी यह काम क्यों करें? इस से मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि मंत्री महोदय का यह आंकड़ा ठीक नहीं है। वास्तव में भूमिहीन आदमी को काम करना चाहिये, उन्हें काम पर आना चाहिये। फिर हमने देखा है और हमारे अर्थ मंत्री महोदय ने अपने बजट भाषण के सिलसिले में कहा था कि हमारे प्रदेश में खाद्यान्न की कमी है और इस कमी को पूरा करने के लिये हर साल हमें ३० हजार टन खाद्यान्न बाहर से मगाना पड़ता है। क्या हम इस कमी को पूरा नहीं कर सकते। मैं समझता हूँ कि हमारे यहाँ जितनी जमीन बेकार पड़ी हुई है उस अगर काममें लाया जाय तो हमारा खाद्यान्न पूरा हो सकता है। चाय बगान में ऐसी काफी जमीन पड़ी हुई है। उस दिन हमारे प्राकृतन मंत्री जनाब मतलिव मजुमदार साहब ने फरमाया था कि चाय बगानोंमें जमीन नहीं है। जो जमीन है उसपर श्रमिकों के आवास-स्थान, बगानों के मैनेजर तथा अन्य कर्म-चारियों के मकानात और कारखाने वगैरह हैं। उनका कहना था कि दर असल चाय बगानों में पतित भूमि नहीं है। लेकिन मैं यह बात नहीं मान सकता। हमारे चाय बगानोंमें अब भी काफी जमीन बेकार पड़ी हुई है। जहाँतक मेरा निजी अनुभव है, उसके अनुसार मैं दावेके साथ कह सकता हूँ कि हमारे प्रदेश में १० लाख एकड़ जमीन करीब ६ लाख एकड़ जमीनमें चाय नहीं हैं। यह जमीन बेकार पड़ी हुई है क्या ये सारी जमीनें, अर्थात् ६ लाख एकड़ जमीन चाय बगान के श्रमिकों के निवास स्थान के कारखाने और अन्य मकानात से आवाद है? मैं नहीं समझता कि इन मकानात के लिये जमीन काम में लायी जाय तो हमारे प्रदेश का खाद्यान्न आसानी से दूर हो सकता है। एक लाख एकड़ जमीन में हम खेती करें तो कम-से-कम ५० हजार टन खाद्यान्न हमारे



प्रदेश में ही उत्पन्न हो सकता है। इस सिलसिले में अपने निजी अनुभव को भी मैं सदन की सेवामें रखना चाहता हूँ। करीब ५ साल पहले, अर्थात् सन् १९५३ में हमने चाय बगानों में co-operative तौरपर धान की खेती करने के लिये चेष्टा की थी। हमने एक यूरोपीय सज्जन को अपनी संस्था का अध्यक्ष चुना था। और इस से पहले पहल यूरोपीय चाय बगानों के मालिकों पर भी काफ़ी प्रभाव पड़ा था। उन्होंने भी co-operative के नामपर सहयोग देना शुरू किया था। किन्तु बाद को यह नहीं रहा। उन्होंने न सोचा कि आज अगर co-operative तौरपर ये धान की खेती करेंगे तो कल चाय की खेती करने के लिये तैयार होंगे। इस तरह की भावना के कारण चाय बगानों के मालिकों ने उन यूरोपीय अध्यक्ष महोदयको यहाँ रखनेमें ही अपना कल्याण समझा। इसलिये उन्हें मजबूर होकर भारत छोड़ना पड़ा। इस co-operative की बात है कि सरकार की ओर से हमें कोई भी सहयोग नहीं मिला। इस तरह हमें अपना विचार ही छोड़ देना पड़ा।

कुछ भी हो, यह बात सही है कि चाय बगानों में काफ़ी जमीन बेकार पड़ी हुई है। जब इस पर कोई पूछताछ होती है कहा जाता है कि इस जमीनपर Replantation होनेवाला है। किन्तु हम हमेशा से यही सुनाते आये हैं। हमने देखा है कि पिछले १०।१५ साल के अन्दर कहीं भी Replantation नहीं हुआ है। क्या यह जुल्म नहीं है? हमारे प्रदेश के लोग भूखी मर रहे हैं। प्रदेश में खाद्यान्न का भीषण हाहाकार है। उसपर भी जमीन का काममें न लाना, जमीन का उचित बंटवारा न होना घोर अन्याय है। इससे बढ़कर अन्याय और क्या हो सकता है? मैं समझता हूँ कि चाय बगानोंकी पड़ी हुई सारी जमीन सरकारको अपने कब्जेमें ले लेनी चाहिये और उसपर खेती करने की व्यवस्था करनी चाहिये। जमीन का उचित बंटवारा होना चाहिये।

मेरी ही Constituency में मैंने यह देखा है कि Refugee भाइयों को ऐसी जमीन दी जा रही है जहाँ कोई भी खेती संभव नहीं है। इस तरह हमने देखा है कि हमारी सरकार की भूमि नीति गलत है। उसमें परिवर्तन करना अत्यन्त आवश्यक है। उदास्तु भाइयों को बसाने के लिये टीली जमीन दी जा रही है, टीली जमीनपर रहने का घर बन सकता है, किन्तु खेती के लिये ऐसी जमीन उपयुक्त नहीं है, अगर उदास्तु भाइयों को खेती के लायक जमीन दे तो एक ओर उनकी समस्या का समाधान होगा और हमारे खाद्य समस्या के समाधान में भी बहुत बड़ी सहायता प्राप्त होगी।

इसके अलावा सरकार के राजस्व विभाग में बड़ी घांघलीबाजी चलती है। यह विभाग corruption से भरा पड़ा है। उपर से नीचे तक यहाँ घांघलीबाजी (corruption) चलती है। उदाहरण के तौर पर मैं Vidyannagar Tea Estate की बात आपके सामने लाना चाहता हूँ। इस चाय बगान की जमीन भूमिहीन लोगों में बाँटने का सिद्धान्त किया गया था, किन्तु बड़ा अफसोस है कि वहाँका नायब घांघलीबाजी करता है। यह घूस ले लेकर अपने ही रिश्तेदारों को वहाँ की जमीन दे रहा है।

### Adjournment

(The House was then adjourned for lunch till 2 P.M.)

### After lunch

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):**  
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by the Hon'ble Minister for Revenue. Sir, although some of the hon. Members in this House charged the Government for slackness I cannot agree with them because I believe that Govern-



ment is trying to solve the land problem with all sincerity. Of course there is certain delay, and the laws which have been enacted in the State have not been properly understood by the cultivators. As the cultivators being backward and conservative, Sir, they are unable to avail of the protection provided and opportunities offered in these laws. Sir, (Shri Nilmoney Barthakur—But these laws have been properly understood by the landlords) because the landlords being intelligent person and being in a position to understand these laws, they have got also persons behind them—they have got the intelligentsia behind their back. But the ignorant cultivators cannot have such backing from the intelligentsia because the cultivators cannot afford these intelligentsia with money whereas the landlords can. Sir, some of the hon. Members in this House charged against the Mondals (*Voices*: You are also charging them). They have referred that the Mondals generally are the roots of all “kondols.” I do not know how far the charges against the Mondals are true, because the Sub-Deputy Collectors are there to supervise the work of the Mondals. In my district Sir, the works of wealthy persons are generally attended to by the Sub-Deputy Collectors while the work in the interest of the poor cultivators is left with the Mondals, and these Mondals are also not in a position to apply their discretion because their action is always to suit the mentality of the superiors. Sometimes they suggest something which cannot be digested by the Sub-Deputy Collectors. The poor Mondals have been charged. I believe that the Sub-Deputy Collectors also should not escape from their responsibilities. The Sub-Deputy Collectors are better qualified persons with better discretionary powers, and as such, they should take up these works. Sir, I would like to bring certain instances before the House about requisition of tea garden lands. There were some proposals three or five years back regarding requisition of lands, but these proposals have not yet materialised. As for example, during the question hour, I discussed about acquisition of tea garden lands belonging to Tangana Tea Estate. There was a proposal three years ago for acquiring lands in this Tea Estate, but the poor cultivators could not get land as yet. Similarly, Sir, some land in Phukanbari Tea Estate in Kheremia Mouza was requisitioned probably in the year 1952-53 but the cultivators could not avail of the land as yet. Sir, some of the cultivators have already occupied the lands in Phukanbari grant and have been in possession of these lands by the order of the Sub-Deputy Collector, but the landlords, *viz.*, the tea planters who are the owners of these lands did not allow the poor cultivators to remain there. Sometimes, Sir, when some proposals come for



requisition of tea garden lands, generally the tea garden proprietors stood in the way of acquiring the lands. For example in Grant No.5 of Bokeal Tea Estate, there was a proposal in 1950 for acquiring the lands. Practically that land was under the occupation of some of the cultivators. When the proposal came for acquisition, the tea garden manager pointed out to some other land which was not suitable for cultivation and that land was requisitioned and as a result those cultivators who were already in Grant No.5 had been evicted. Similarly, Sir, when any proposal came, I could not understand why there was such delay, why such a long time was allowed to dispose of the cases.

Sir, I suggest that when there is any proposal for requisition of tea garden lands, that proposal should be disposed of as quickly as possible. Sir, I would like to bring another matter to the notice of the House regarding compensation to cultivators of Gharbandi Mouza and Kherimia Mouza. The cultivators there were oppressed by the Assam Oil Co., staff and the Secretary, Revenue, Government of Assam *vide* letter No.RM.68/55/88, dated 26th June 1956 asked the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur to arrange the Company to pay adequate compensation. But I could not understand, Sir, why this case is lingering so long. The damage was done in 1955 by the Assam Oil Company staff in surveying oil reserves in the year 1955 and the compensation has not yet been paid upto 1958. If no compensation is to be paid then there should be a reply that there is no compensation but the helpless cultivators have been waiting for justice for such a long time. Sir, I would like to bring another matter before the House regarding certain plots of land at Panitola, Dag Nos.53, 32 and 31. The vesting power on these plots was granted to the Dibrugarh Local Board *vide* Government letter No.RSS.54/1 (Bell Rang) dated 26th March, 1954. The Local Board started a bazar and the Local Board approached the Government for requisition of Dag No.89 belonging to a tea planter and mill-owner, but that land was not requisitioned. In course of time we found that the mill-owner built a house on that portion of the land and also got order for settlement of a portion of the Local Board land for extension of his building. That mill-owner could arrange to get a portion of the Local Board land while the request and resolutions of the Board remained neglected by the Government. Similarly I can point out many instances where there are anomalies in our district with regard to revenue staff. Recently I received a letter.....

**Mr. SPEAKER :** I am afraid the hon. Member's time is up.



**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):** In the Assam Land Revenue Manual, Chapter II, rule 6, I find that certain protections were given to certain classes of cultivators in my district, particularly in Tinsukia and Dibrugarh Circles, but due to awful backwardness of these people they could not avail of those protections. These protections were given to these people of my district perhaps in 1920 or 1921 before the contemplation of any tribal belt or backward belt in Assam. But when the tribal belt or backward belt was made in other parts of the State, that part of the State about which I was speaking was not brought under consideration and the indigenous cultivators are losing land gradually and now they are on the verge of being landless. Now their lands are gradually transferred to the commercial section of the population. So I hope that the Government will give a serious thinking to protect the indigenous cultivators of Dibrugarh Subdivision. Sir, perhaps it would not be difficult for Government to declare that area as backward belt to protect the interest of the indigenous cultivators. If you take a survey of that area during the last 50 years you will have a full picture. You will find that 100 years before the entire land in Dibrugarh Subdivision was belonged to this class of cultivators and now 75 per cent of that land has gone from them. If no protective measure is given to that section of the population, I fear that the conditions of those cultivators will be just like the conditions of the indigenous people of South Africa where most of the property belong to non-indigenous population. Nay, we can better compare them with the aborigines of Australia. Although I believe that democratic India will not allow that economic interest of one section of people should be swallowed by another section, yet it is daily happening. So I bring this matter to the notice of the Government with the hope that they will give a serious thinking on this question. Wish these words I support the Demand moved by the Revenue Minister.

**Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]:** মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমার নিজের এবং আমাদের বিরোধীদল থেকে যে ছাটাই প্রস্তাব সমূহ উপস্থাপিত করা হয়েছে আমি সেগুলি সমর্থন করছি।

মাননীয় রাজ্যপালের ভাষনের উপর যে বিতর্ক হয়েছে এবং বাজেটের যে সাধারণ আলোচনা হয়েছে এতে কি সরকারী দলের কি বিরোধীদলের সকল সদস্যই ভূমি সংস্কার নীতির সমালোচনা করেছেন? ভূমি সংস্কার যাতে আসামে শীঘ্রপ্রবর্তিত হয় তার উপর জোর দিয়েছেন। এতে একটা জিনিষ পরিষ্কার হয় যে সরকারের কৃষি সম্পর্ক বা Agrarian Relation সম্বন্ধে যে নীতি তার আশু পরিবর্তন প্রয়োজন।



অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, এটা নতুন জিনিষ নয়। প্রথম পঞ্চবার্ষিক পরিকল্পনায় এসম্পর্কে যে সুস্পষ্ট নির্দেশ আছে, আমাদের আসামে তা পূরণ করা হয়নি। দ্বিতীয় পঞ্চবার্ষিক পরিকল্পনায় Land Reform সম্পর্কে যে সুপারিশ বা Recommendation আছে তাতে একটা নির্দেশ পরিকার ভাবে দেওয়া হয়েছে।

“মধ্যস্থত ভোগীদের বিলোপ সাধন”—

তারপর কয়েকটা ধাপের মধ্য দিয়ে অগ্রসর হয়ে আমাদের কৃষি ব্যবস্থাকে নিয়ে যেতে হবে সমবায় প্রথায চাষ এবং উৎপাদনে। সমবায় প্রথা যদি আমাদের কৃষি উৎপাদনকে পৌঁছানো না যায় তবে উন্নত ধরনের কোন কৌশল বা ব্যবস্থা আজ কৃষিতে প্রয়োগ সম্ভবপর নয়। তাই পরিকল্পনার রচয়িতারা কতকগুলি সুস্পষ্ট নির্দেশ দিয়েছিলেন। তাঁরা আকাশ থেকে একটা ফরমান দেয়নি। বাস্তব অবস্থার সঙ্গে সঙ্গ রেখেই এই পরিকল্পনা করেছিলেন। তারা জানতেন—আমাদের দেশের প্রতিক্রিয়াশীল জমিদার শ্রেণীর কথা। তাঁরা জানতেন আমাদের দেশে হাইকোর্ট বলে একটা জিনিষ আছে, তাঁরা জানতেন সুপ্রীম কোর্ট বলে একটা জিনিষ আছে। জমিদার শ্রেণী তার সহায়তা নিতে পারে। তাঁরা জানতেন আমাদের মণ্ডল আর সাব-ডেপুটিদের কথা এবং এই মেশীনারি নিয়েই তাঁরা রাজ্য সরকারের সঙ্গে নিশ্চয়ই পরামর্শ করে পরিকল্পনা রচনা করেছেন। তবে আজ পর্যন্ত, প্রথম পরিপ্লন্যের সুপারিশ কার্যকরী হবে না কেন?

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, জমিদারী প্রথা উচ্ছেদের নামে আমাদের সরকার কিভাবে অগ্রসর হচ্ছেন আমি তার একটা দৃষ্টান্ত দেই। বিগত বাজেট অধিবেশন থেকে আজ পর্যন্ত প্রত্যেক অধিবেশনে বিভিন্ন ভাবে জমি সমস্যা সম্পর্কে আলোচনা হয়েছে এবং প্রত্যেক বারই আমাদের মাননীয় রাজস্ব মন্ত্রী মহোদয় একটা যুক্তি দেখান যে করিমগঞ্জ মহকুমায় জমিদার এত বেশী যে সরকার আজ পর্যন্ত চেষ্টা করে সকলের নামই সংগ্রহ করতে পারছেন না। তিন বৎসরের চেষ্টায় নাকি কয়েক হাজার নাম সংগ্রহ হয়েছে। তালিকা তৈরীর এখনো অনেক বাকী।

আমাদের দেশে সাধারণ মৎসজীবী যারা তারা ছোট ডোবা বা গর্ত সিঁচে মাছ ধরে। সিঁচবার কিছু পূর্বের তারা ৫১০ মিনিট লক্ষ্য করে, জলে মাছের ‘ঘাই’ দেখা যায় কি না। যদি নাছ পাবার সম্ভাবনা থাকে তবে সেই ডোবা সিঁচতে নামে। কিন্তু আমাদের সরকারের সেই জ্ঞান টুকু পর্যন্ত নেই।

আমাদের মাননীয় মন্ত্রী কি জানেন না যে সেই সমস্ত জমিদারের লিষ্ট সংগ্রহ করে কোনো লাভ হবেনা কারণ তারা সরকারী তালিকায় জমিদার বলে না উঠলেও নিজে জমিহীন কেহ বা দিন মজুর। মন্ত্রী মহোদয় কি জানেন না যে করিমগঞ্জ মহকুমার অধিক জায়গা জুড়ে মাত্র ৪টি জমিদারী আছে এবং সেই চারটা জমিদারী দখলে আনলে প্রকৃত পক্ষে করিমগঞ্জ মহকুমার জমিদারী উচ্ছেদ হয়ে যায়। তিনি প্রায়ই বলেন জমিদারদের অংশীদার এত বেশী করিমগঞ্জ মহকুমায় এবং আমরা তারই লিষ্ট সংগ্রহ করছি। তিনি কি জানেন না যে নেওয়ান মাণিক চাঁদ ষ্টেটে এ ঝামেলা নেই। তিনি কি জানেন না আমাদের ভূত পূর্ব মন্ত্রী শ্রী বৈদ্য নাথ মুখার্জীর খাজাঞ্চীবাড়ী ষ্টেটের কথা এবং শ্রীকামিনী সেনের জমিদারীর কথা সেখানে শরীকের ঝামেলা নেই বা খুব কম। সবই জানেন এবং জেনেও এই দেরী করছেন আর জমিদার শ্রেণীকে টকা লুটবার সুযোগ দিচ্ছেন। তিনি সে দিন বিধান সভায় বলেছেন আসামে ২০ লক্ষ লোক ভূমিহীন আছে। আমি বুঝতে পারিনা আসামে জনসংখ্যার একচতুর্থাংশ মানুষের যদি কোনো ভিত্তি না থাকে তবে একটা দেশের অর্থনীতি কি ভাবে চলতে পারে? কাজেই মনে হয় ঐ সমস্ত হিসাব শুধু মনগড়া হিসাব, তৈরী করা হিসাব। তবে যাই হউক মাননীয় মন্ত্রীকে নমস্কার যে তিনি বহুদিন পর একটা চিত্র আমাদের সামনে তুলে ধরেছেন। কিন্তু



আমি কি প্রশ্ন করতে পারি, Sir, যে এই সমস্ত মানুষের জমি দেওয়া বা পুনর্বাসনের অন্য কোন ব্যবস্থা করা কি সরকারের দায়িত্ব নয়? তিনি আর একটা হিসাব দিয়ে বলেছেন আসামে জমি নাই। কিন্তু এটা কি সত্য নয় যে জমিদারী প্রথা উচ্ছেদের এই বিলম্বের সুযোগ নিয়ে করিমগঞ্জের জমিদার শ্রেণী হাজার হাজার বিঘা পতিত জমি উচ্চ সেলামী আদায় করে অকৃষকদের কাছে বন্দোবস্ত দিয়েছে আর প্রকৃত যারা জমির মালিক হবার অধিকারী সেই কৃষক শ্রেণী আজ আর্থিক প্রধায় সে জমি চাষ করেছে বা দিন মজুরী খাটিছে সেই জমিতে।

এই জমিদার শ্রেণী তাই করে নাই শুধু। টাকার লোভে তারা একই জমি দুই তিন বার করে বন্দোবস্ত দিয়েছে—ফলে জমি দিয়ে সংঘর্ষ অনবরত লেগেই আছে। করিমগঞ্জের ফৌজদারী মামলার অন্ততঃ বারো আনাই জমি সম্পর্কিত। অথচ কৃষক যদি পাঁচভাগা দাবী করে তবে সে উচ্ছেদ হয়। যদি জমির দখলের জন্য সে অগ্রসর হয় তবে সরকার সমস্ত আইন নিয়ে যাবেন জমিদারদের রক্ষা করতে। সোন বিলে বৈদ্যনাথ বাবুর জমিদারীতে সরকার ১৪৪ ধারা জারী করেছেন। ১০৭ ধারায় ১৭ জনকে গ্রেপ্তার করেছেন। তাঁদের মধ্যে আছেন শিক্ষিত লোক, B. A. পাস, মেট্রিক পাস প্রভৃতি শ্রীরাখাল দাস নামে একজন Graduate লোককে ১০৭ ধারা, চুরি, ডাকাতি, মারামারি প্রভৃতি বিভিন্ন মামলা দিয়ে অনবরত হয়রাণ করাচ্ছে জমিদার সরকারের সহযোগীতায়।

হাসানপুর ষ্টেটের শ্রীআব্দুল হক চৌধুরী ২৯ পরিবারকে উচ্ছেদ করেছেন। তিনি এভাবে উচ্ছেদ করে সমস্ত জমি বিক্রী করে দিচ্ছেন। অথচ এই সমস্ত জমিতে পুরুষানুক্রমে কৃষকেরা চাষাবাদ করে আসছে।

আজ করিমগঞ্জের মানুষ এ প্রথার অবসান চায়। নিজ স্বার্থে শুধু নয়, কৃষক শ্রমী বর্গের জমির মালিকানা যদি সে পায় তবে প্রচুর ফল ফলিয়ে তারা ভরে দিতে পারে এই রাজ্যের খাদ্য ভাণ্ডার। আজ কার জন্য খাটবে যেখানে তার জোত স্বত্বের স্থায়ীত্ব নেই যেখানে উচ্ছেদ অবধারিত, যেখানে সে নিজে জমির মালিক নয়?

জমিদারী প্রথা অবসান করে বাড়তি জমি কৃষককে বিলি করে দিতে সরকার পারেন নি। দুই একটা ক্ষেত্রে চা-বাগানের জমি requisition করা হয়ে ছিল। ১৯৫৩ সালে যে সমস্ত জমি requisition করে সরকার প্রিমিয়াম নিয়ে কৃষকদের কাছে বন্দোবস্ত দিয়েছেন আজ পর্যন্ত সে জমির দখল সমাজিয়ে দেওয়া হয়নি। একদিকে জমি থেকে বে-আইনি বলে কৃষকদের উচ্ছেদ করছেন আবার অন্যদিকে সরকার বলেন যে জমি দিলে কৃষকেরা যেতে চায় না। এটা কি পরস্পর বিরোধী নয়? আমি জানি সরকার ভাল জমি requisition করেন না করেন শুধু টিলা জমি-বাগানের মালিকদের তুট্ট করার জন্য। করিমগঞ্জ মহকুমার লংগাই ভেলী চা-বাগানের জমি requisition তার একটা দৃষ্টান্ত। অথচ ঐ বাগানে সমস্ত জমি ছিল।

চা-বাগান ছাড়াও বহু জমি আছে যেখানে আজ চাষাবাদ চলতে পারে এবং কৃষকেরা সে জমির জন্য অনবরত চেষ্টা করে আছে। আমি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে অনুরোধ করি আমার সঙ্গে তিনি তাঁর সমস্ত expert নিয়ে চলুন। তিনি বলেছেন ওখানে ফরেষ্ট করতে হবে আমরা অনুরোধ করব না। কিন্তু আমি জানি ফরেষ্টের অনুপযোগী সে সব জমি।

মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, কাছাড়ের চা-বাগান আজ বন্ধ হবার পথে, কাছাড়ের নদীপথ আজ বন্ধ হবার পথে চলছে। উদ্বাস্ত পুনর্বাসনের বেশী দায়িত্ব কাছাড়কেই নিতে হবে জানি। জমিহীন উদ্বাস্ত, স্থানীয় কৃষক এবং ছাটাই মজুর মিলে আজ এক বিরাত



সমস্যা কাছাড়ের অর্থনীতিকে গ্রাস করবার জন্য অগ্রসর হয়ে আসছে। আমি অনুরোধ করি, আমি দাবী জনাই যে সরকার জমি বিলির দায়িত্ব নিয়ে অগ্রসর হয়ে না আসলে কাছাড়ের অর্থনীতি বিপর্যস্ত হয়ে যাবে। তার প্রথম ধান হিসাবে জমিদারী পুথার উচ্ছেদ এবং জমি requisition আরম্ভ করতে হবে। এই বলে আমি বিরোধী দলের সমস্ত ছাটাই প্রস্তাব সমর্থন করছি।

**\*Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery):** Sir, ভূমি সমস্যার বিষয়ে বহুত আলোচনা আমি ইয়াত শুনিছো আৰু আমাৰ পক্ষৰ আৰু বিপক্ষৰ বহুত সদস্যই এই বিষয়ে আলোচনা কৰিছে। মোৰ বিশ্বাস, আমাৰ ৰাজহমন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই নিজে ভূমি সমস্যা সম্বন্ধে আটাইতকৈ বেচিকৈ জানে। আমাৰ মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে যেতিয়া এই কথা জনানে যে আজি ভূমি সমস্যাটোৱে এটা বিশেষ ৰূপ ধাৰণ কৰিছে আৰু তাত এটা জটিলতাৰ সৃষ্টি হৈছে, সেই কাৰণে মই বিশেষ কথা নটকৈ মাত্ৰ কেইটামান কথা কেনে ধৰণেৰে সমাধান হব পাৰে সেই বিষয়েহে কব খোজোঁ।

পোন প্ৰথমে মণ্ডলৰ বিষয়ে কওঁ। এই বিষয়েও যথেষ্ট আলোচনা হৈছে আৰু আমাৰ মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়েও এই বিষয়ে জানে। আজি সচাঁকৈয়ে মণ্ডল বিলাকে জনসাধাৰণৰ একো উপকাৰ সাধন কৰিব পৰা নাই। তথাপি তেওঁলোকক কেনেকৈ জনসাধাৰণৰ কামত লগাব পাৰি সেই বিষয়ে আলোচনা কৰিব লাগিব। পোন প্ৰথমে যেতিয়া Sub-Deputy Collector ব চাকৌল খোলা হয়, তেতিয়া যদি ঠিক ঠাইত খোলা হয় তেতিয়া হলে মণ্ডল বিলাকৰ বহুত action ব পৰা জনসাধাৰণে বেহাই পাব। বহুতো Sub-Deputy Collector চাকৌল এনেকুৱা ঠাইত খোলা হয় যে তাৰ পৰা জনসাধাৰণে কোনো উপদেশ নাপায়। গতিকে তাত তেনেকুৱা ধৰণৰ শাসন চলি থাকে। সেই কাৰণে মই suggestion দিব খজিছো যে জনসাধাৰণৰ লগত আলোচনা কৰি এনেকুৱা ঠাইত চাকৌল বিলাক পাতিব লাগে যাতে দেশৰ জনসাধাৰণৰ উপকাৰ হব পাৰে।

(A voice—টংলাত Sub-Deputy Collector ব চাকৌল খুলিব লাগে)। টংলাত চবকাৰে চাকৌল খুলিব বন্দৰস্ত কৰিছেই সেই কাৰণে সেইকথা কোৱাৰ প্ৰয়োজন বোধ নকৰো। কিন্তু তেনেকুৱা উদাহৰণ দাঙি ধৰিবলৈ সদস্য সকলক অনুরোধ জনালোঁ।

আমাৰ বৰ্ত্তমান চবকাৰৰ যিটো ঘোষিত নীতি অৰ্থাৎ কংগ্ৰেচৰ ঘোষিত নীতিৰ ১০ দফাত নম্বাৰ ৮ৰে কোৱা হৈছে—

“কिसानों द्वारा दिये जानेवाले लगानोंमें बहुत काफी कटौती और जिन किसानों के पास गैर फायदेमंद आराजियाँ ही ; लगान न देने क छूट, जवतक जरूरी समझा जाय इस तरह लगानमें कमी होने के कारण छोटे जमीन्दारों को भी जहाँ जरूरी समझा जाय, सहायता दी जाय ;

গতিকে মই কব খোজো যে যি স্থলত কংগ্ৰেছ চবকাৰৰ ভূমিনীতি অনুযায়ী খেতিয়কক সকলো ফালৰ পৰা সহায় দিয়া, সেই নীতি অনুযায়ীয়েই খেতিয়কক ১০ বিঘা মাটিলৈকে খাজনা মাফ দিব লাগে। আৰু চবকাৰে ভূমিনীতি যিটো বৰ্ত্তমানে চলাই আছে তাৰদ্বাৰা দেখা যায় যে ১৯৪৯ চনত খাজনা তোলা হৈছিল ১.৭১ কোটি টকা আৰু ১৯৫৭ চনত তোলা হৈছিল ২.৪১ কোটি টকা। আনপিনেদিটি Expendi-



ture ব ক্ষেত্ৰত ১৯৪৯ চনত ৩৬ লাখ টকা আৰু এতিয়া চৰকাৰে খৰচ কৰিছে ১০৩৮ কোটি টকা। ইয়াত দেখা যায় যে ৬ গুণ মান খাজানা বৃদ্ধি হৈছে। বাজেটত চৰকাৰে টকা দিছে অহা বছৰত কাম কৰিবৰ কাৰণে, কিন্তু সেই টকাৰে ঘোষিত নীতি মতে কাম হবনে নহয় সেইটো চাবলগীয়া কথা। মই মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ক জনাও যে যাতে স্পষ্টভাৱে ঘোষিত নীতি মতে কাম হয়। কৃষকক ১০ বিঘা মাটিৰ খাজানা মাফ দিব বুলি কংগ্ৰেছ চৰকাৰে ঘোষণা কৰিছে কাৰ্য্যতো তাৰ মৰ্যাদা যাতে ৰখা হয়।

দ্বিতীয় কথা হল যে একচনা মাটি ম্যাদি কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা চৰকাৰে কৰিব লাগে। তাকে নকৰিলে চৰকাৰে খেতিয়কক যিবোৰ relief দিবলৈ বিচাৰিছে সেইবোৰ কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰিব নোৱাৰিব কাৰণ একচনা মাটিৰ পত্ৰৰ ওপৰত কোনো কৃষি-ঋণ ইত্যাদি দিয়া নহয়। সেই কাৰণে কৃষকক উপকাৰ কৰিবৰ ইচ্ছা থাকিলে চৰকাৰে অতি সোনকালে একচনা মাটিবিলাক ম্যাদি কৰিব লাগে।

তৃতীয় কথাটো হল যিবিলাক মাটিত মানুহ ৫ বছৰ কাম কৰি আছে আৰু যি মাটিত তেওঁলোকে ৫ বছৰ ধৰি খেতি-পথাৰ কৰি আছে তেওঁলোকক সেই মাটিৰ মালিক বুলি চৰকাৰে recognise কৰিব লাগে।

আৰু এটা কথা সদনত দাঙি ধৰিব খোজোঁ। এইটো সদনত আলোচনা কৰিব লগীয়া কথা। এইটো হৈছে মাটিৰ মালিকানা স্বত্ব সদনে কোন নীতিৰ ওপৰত ভিত্তি কৰিব, সেইটো সদনে স্থিৰ কৰি থোৱা উচিত। আচৰ্য্য ভাবেই কয় যে মাটিৰ মালিকানা স্বত্ব হ'ব লাগে গাঁও; কিন্তু চৰকাৰৰ নীতি হল মাটিৰ মালিক ব্যক্তি। গতিকে ব্যক্তি স্বত্ব নে সমূহ স্বত্ব কোনটো সদনে গ্ৰহণ কৰিব সেইটো স্থিৰ কৰি গাঁৱৰ খেতিয়কৰ মাজত প্ৰচাৰ কৰি জনাই দিব লাগে, কাৰণ কোনটো নীতি চৰকাৰে ল'ব সেই বিষয়ে গাঁওলীয়া ৰাইজ এতিয়াও দোমোজাত পৰি আছে। যি হওক মোৰ বহুত কথা কবলগীয়া আছিল কিন্তু বাৰে বাৰে ঘণ্টা বাজি থকাৰ কাৰণে সামৰণি মাৰিবলগীয়া হল, গতিকে টংলা চাবডিভিজন Sub-Diputy Circle খুলি দিয়াৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰ তথা মন্ত্ৰীমহোদয়ক ধন্যবাদ দি সামৰিলোঁ।

### Shri SURENDRA NATH DAS (Patacharkuchi) :

মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, বাজহ মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই যিটো প্ৰস্তাব আনিছে তাক সমৰ্থন জনাইছো আৰু বিৰোধী সদস্য সকলে যিবিলাক কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাব আনিছে মই বিৰোধীতা কৰিছো। চৰকাৰৰ মাটি নীতি অনুযায়ী মাটিহীন লোক সকলক মাটি দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে বিশেষকৈ ট্ৰাইবেল বেলেট খুলি দিছে যাতে ট্ৰাইবেল আৰু মাটিহীন মানুহে মাটি পাব মানুহ বেআইনী হিচাবে মাটি দখল কৰি বহি আছে। ট্ৰাইবেল বেলেটত বেদখলকাৰী উদ্দেশ্য আছিল, মাটিহীন জনজাতি লোকসকলৰ নিমিত্তে মাটিৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা। জনজাতি মানহক ভবিষ্যতে Settlement দিয়াৰ সুযোগ থাকিব। কিন্তু চৰকাৰৰ যিটো পৰা ১৯৫৪ চনলৈকে চিহ্ন চাৰ্কোলাৰ ফলবতীহোৱা নাই। মই জানো যে ১৯৫১ চনৰ ঘৰ ট্ৰাইবেল মানুহ বহি আছিল, তেওঁলোকক চৰকাৰে উচ্ছেদ কৰি দিছে তেওঁলোকে তেওঁলোকৰ খেতি-পথাৰ এৰি থৈ উঠি আহিব লগীয়া হল। কিন্তু তাত



এতিয়া প্ৰায় ৪০০ ঘৰ মান বহিবাগত পঁমুৱা মানুহ বেদখলকৰি বহি আছে। চৰকাৰক বাবে বাবে জনোৱা স্বত্বেও সেই বিলাক মানুহক উচ্ছেদ কৰা নাই। সেইকাৰণে আমাৰ সকলো মাটিহীন জনজাতি লোকসকলৰ মনত এটা আশঙ্কাই দেখা দিছে— তেওঁলোকৰ আশঙ্কা হৈছে যে জনজাতি মাটিহীন লোক সকলৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে হয়তো কোনো ব্যৱস্থা কৰা নাই। কিন্তু চৰকাৰৰ উদ্দেশ্য আছিল যে জনজাতি সকলৰ শতকৰা ৯০ জনেই খেতিয়ক আৰু প্ৰায় মাটিহীন সেইকাৰণে তেওঁলোকৰ টাইবেল বেলটত মাটি দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে যাতে তেওঁলোকৰ অৰ্থনৈতিক উন্নতিৰ এটা বাট ওলাব পাৰে আৰু জনজাতি লোক সকলৰ নানা সমস্যাৰ ভিতৰত কিছু সমস্যা যাতে সমাধান হয়।

ইয়াৰ লগতে মই Land Reclamation Scheme সম্বন্ধে কওঁ যে ভূমি সংস্কাৰ কৰি টাইবেল বেলট বা ব্লকত চৰকাৰে মানুহক মাটি দিয়া নীতি গ্ৰহণ কৰি ভূমিহীন মানুহক ভূমি বিতৰণ কৰি মাটি সমস্যা সমাধান কৰাত আগবাঢ়িছে। এই আঁচনি মতে ভূমি সংস্কাৰ কৰি ভূমিহীন খেতিয়কক ১৮।২০ বিঘাকৈ মাটি দি এই সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিবৰ কাৰণে লোৱা ব্যৱস্থা চৰকাৰৰ কাৰণে প্ৰশংসনীয়। মোৰ সমষ্টিত সোৱনখাটা অঞ্চলত এই আঁচনি মতে প্ৰায় ছয় হাজাৰ বিঘা মাটিত ৩০০ টা পৰিয়ালক সংস্থাপন কৰা হৈছে। অকল মাটি দিলেই আমাৰ দুখীয়া মানুহবিলাকে এই পৰিয়াল বিলাক চলিব পাৰিছেনে নাই তালৈ চকু দিলে ভাল হয়। কাৰণ মাটি পালেই দুখীয়া খেতিয়ক সকলৰ অধিক শস্য উৎপাদন কৰিব পৰা ক্ষমতা নাই। কাৰণ মাটি পাইছে যদিও তাত পানী নাই। পানী যোগানৰ ব্যৱস্থা, চৰকাৰে দং নলা আদি কৰি দিলেহে দুখীয়া খেতিয়ক সকলে খেতি কৰিব পাৰিব। নহলে প্ৰকৃতিৰ ওপৰত নিৰ্ভৰ কৰি হাত সাবতি বহি থাকিব লাগিব। এনে কাৰণে আমাৰ অধিক শস্য উৎপাদনত অলপো সহায় নহব। ইয়াৰ লগতে চৰকাৰে ভাল সচ লাগিব। ইয়াৰ উপৰিও যিবিলাকক সেই ঠাইত বসবাস কৰিবলৈ দিয়া হৈছে সিবিলাকৰ কাৰণে ঔষধালয় পাতি নিদিলে বেমাৰ আজাৰৰ পৰা হাত সাববি নোৱাৰি সেই ঠাই খনৰ মূল উদ্দেশ্য সফল হব। এই প্ৰসঙ্গতে মই আৰু এটা কথাটো চৰকাৰৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰো যে Land Reclamation আঁচনি মতে বসবাস কৰিবলৈ দিয়া পৰিয়ালে বিলাকক যেহেতু ওপৰত উল্লেখ কৰা সুযোগ সুবিধা বিলাক দিব পৰা নাই সেই কাৰণে তেওঁবিলাকৰ পৰা, শত কৰা ৫০ ভাগ কমাই দি, মাত্ৰ ২০ টকাহে লোৱা উচিত হব।

ইয়াৰ পিচত মই কব খুজিছো যে টাইবেল বেলট বা অন্যান্য জংঘলী বিভাগৰ যি বিলাক মাটি খেতিৰ উপযোগী বুলি বিবেচনা কৰা হয় সেই মাটি বিলাক ভূমিহীন মানুহক বিতৰণ কৰি দিব লাগে আৰু তাত যিবিলাক বেদখলকাৰী লোক বে-আইনী ভাবে ভোগ দখল কৰি আছে তেওঁবিলাকক অতি শীঘ্ৰে অপচৰণ কৰি দিব লাগে। এই দৰে চৰকাৰে ব্যৱস্থা হাতত ললে ভূমিহীনৰ ভূমি সমস্যা সমাধান আৰু আনফালে, অধিক শস্য উৎপাদন হব বুলি আশা কৰা যায়।

ইয়াকে কৈ মই মোৰ কবলগীয়া সামৰিলো।

(সময়ৰ সফ্টেট ধৰণি)

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the hon. Members for the valuable



suggestions they have made and, in particular, the hon. Leader of the Opposition for his very sober tone and constructive, approach. From the speeches delivered on this subject from the beginning of this Session up till now, two general points have been made out and I shall deal with them first. These two points have done more harm than good. One is the sweeping remark that the entire Revenue staff is corrupt. Now, Sir, as law provides for security of tenure, so law provides for security of service. It is difficult for a person to get a Government job but once he gets it is difficult to drive him out. There are rules and procedures by which Government have to proceed. If particular instances of corruption against particular officers are brought to our notice we take action, but these general remarks neither help the Government nor do any good to anybody. Rather it does harm in this way: when the entire Mandal staff or Kanungoe staff or the S. D. C. staff is characterised as corrupt, the good people amongst them — as there are good men and bad men everywhere—will think that “since I am a Mandal or a Kanungoe or a S.D.C. I am under the stigma and so what is the use of my remaining good? Everybody knows me and thinks I am a corrupt man.” This demoralises these officers and it becomes difficult for Government to restore their morale. So, my submission is this: if any particular instance comes to the notice of any hon. Member, give it to us and we will take steps. To-day there was a question on this point; a responsible Member of this House brought a particular matter to my notice and immediately I took steps. That helps us very much, but general remarks do not help us in any way, as we cannot take any steps on such remarks, and the only effect is demoralisation of the officers.

The other matter is about the encroachers. It has been urged particularly by opposition Members that anybody who is in occupation of land should be given settlement. Somebody says if a man is in occupation for 10 years, give him settlement; some say, as the hon. Leader of the Opposition said, if he is in occupation for five years, give him settlement. Sir, this has got a very bad effect on the administration as a whole. Now, there are reserves, waste lands and forest reserves; people encroach into them and from our experience we know all the encroachers are not landless people. There are people with considerable amount of land outside the reserve and there are also people who are themselves poor but some big men have put them there. The difficulty is we have got to examine each case on merit. Some of my



Friends said that if a man encroached on a reserve and continued to remain there for some time we are to keep him there. If this principle is once accepted, there will be no law and order with regard to the settlement of land; everything will come to a vanishing point. But it is a hopeful sign that some of the hon. Members opposed that principle. The opinion in the House is divided on this point. My Friend, Shri Barbaruah said that all reserves forest or anything, should be thrown open. My Friend, Shri Lila Bora said, "No, that will create immense difficulties for the State, if any reserve is to be thrown open let it be thrown open in a planned manner and settled on co-operative basis." Sir, this principle we accept and this is our policy now. There may be pockets of 10 bighas here or 20 bighas there, they will be settled with individual cultivators, but when a sizeable area of land is available it is our policy to settle that land with co-operative farming societies formed by cultivators themselves. We have got this experience that some people having considerable amount of land also form co-operative societies. In one instance, particularly, I asked the local officer to enquire and submit a report as to how much land each member of that particular society possessed. It transpired that some had 12,000, 13,000 or 15,000 bighas and they along with some landless people formed a co-operative society. Then I made an enquiry and learnt that they were intermediaries, and as the enforcement of the State Zamindari Acquisition Act was impending they were giving their own land to co-operative societies in order to avoid acquisition. Thus there may be Benamdars in the co-operatives, so the Government is to be careful. When a co-operative farming society is formed, full investigation is made by the Government. We shall settle land on co-operative basis with actual cultivators, the tillers of the soil. That is the policy of the Government and I hope, hon. Members will help the Government in this regard and see that co-operative farming societies are formed by genuine, landless and needy cultivators. That is the principle and that it is the instruction of the Second Five Year Plan also. In the Second Five Year Plan due to paucity of land it is the instruction to State Governments that to step up production, co-operative farming societies should be encouraged which may lead to intensive cultivation and greater production. That is our policy. The other day I gave the position of land in our State, but my Friend, Shri Namasudra, said that I had, thought very late, invented figures some how. I have not invented figures. These figures are there in the 1951 Census. I got these figures for ready reference of the House.



My Friend, Sri Prokritish Barua, spoke about Goalpara. In 1951 Census, in Goalpara district alone there were 2,22,000 landless people including agricultural labourers.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) :** Including perhaps children, women and old persons.

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) :** It may be. After all I did not prepare the census figures. May be the child in 1951 is an adult now and may be many persons died in the meantime and many born since. In the next census it may not be the same. But for the sake of discussion generally it is taken as correct. In 1951 that is the position of landless people in Goalpara. Now, for the acquisition of Zamindary as Shri Prokritish Barua said that some lands should be reserved for the *ex-Zamindars*. In 1951, 2,22,000 people were landless, add to it many other persons who lost their lands due to erosion by the Brahmaputra. So, it is not possible to reserve land for future expansion, except those portions which fall in Tribal belts. To rehabilitate the *ex-proprietors* it is our policy to give them some concessions. We can give them settlement of fisheries, hats, etc., to augment their income. They are our people. Due to an All-India policy their properties have been acquired by Government and in this state of affairs, it is also our duty to rehabilitate them. Regarding Goalpara Zamindars, I know that their liability will out weigh their compensation. It is the policy of the Government to help these people by giving them some sort of help in their avocation, business, etc.

Then, my Friend, the Leader of the Opposition, raised another point that the reclamation of land should be done by the Revenue Department and not by the Agriculture Department. I do not understand the difference. Both are Government Departments. Ultimately, the settlement of the land goes to the Revenue Department.

The other point raised by the hon. Leader of the Opposition is that the grazing reserves should be abolished. Personally I also think in that line but we have inherited a certain system. This is not our creation and a system which is in vogue for many years in a society, it becomes intimately mixed up with the economy of the society, and cannot be disturbed all on a sudden. If it is done, the entire system will be disturbed. Our people graze their cattle in these



reserves. I agree that this leads to the deterioration of the cattle population. But today as we stand we cannot abolish these reserves all on a sudden. We have already thrown open about 3 or 4 lakh bighas of these reserves and when gradually people will be used to it then gradually other reserves also may have to be opened. There is a scheme of the Veterinary Department. They are taking some of these grazing reserves for growing improved type of fodder; they keep the reserves for 3 years, cultivate fodder and then return them to the people for grazing. This process may eliminate the idea of keeping big grazing reserves. Already the Veterinary Department has taken some grazing reserves for the purpose.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition raised another point that legislations have not been made for benefiting the cultivators, although these were meant for them. I want to say that it is a truth, it is a regrettable truth that measures conferring rights on people who are not conscious of their self-interest benefit them little. So non-official organisations are necessary to make them conscious of their self-interest. As the Constitution stands we cannot do without legislation. Government will have to do legislation, there are some functions which Government will fulfil, but there is another side and that is the co-operation of the people. Both combined leads to the successful implementation of these land reforms measures. For the benefit of these people the legislations have been enacted but if they do not co-operate, if they do not take the benefits how can they profit by them? Non-official organisations should be formed to make our people conscious of their rights and until our people can be made conscious of them, legislations alone will not be able to improve their position.

The other point raised by my Friend, Mr. Goswami, is about settlement of certain lands which are not properly brought under cultivation. If he means by this about the requisitioned lands then partly he is correct. We requisition tea land, if the land is cultivable, people go there and occupy it. But if the land is high, our people are used to wet cultivation, wet cultivation is not possible, they do not go there; so we had to derequisition some of these lands. Wherever land is available we try to take it. But from our experience we find that it is difficult to persuade people to change the system of cultivation. If the system of cultivation could be changed, if people would grow



crops suitable to these lands, then possibly all surplus tea lands could be taken. Possibly there are still some surplus lands available in these grants. Now, the procedure in matters of requisition is this: when any instance is brought to the notice of the local officer, he calls a meeting of the Land Settlement Advisory Board, the Manager of the tea estate concerned is also called. This Board hears everything, they examine the maps and other things and after hearing all concerned they decide as to whether the land should be requisitioned or not. If it is decided to requisition, the local officer does it. He need not come to Government. He has got full powers of requisition and derequisition.

**Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] :** Is it not a fact that under the Kalimpong Tea Company about 7,000 bighas of land were requisitioned and then it was subsequently derequisitioned and only a small portion of the land was requisitioned again?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) :** About that particular instance I cannot say off-hand, Sir. The matter will have to be examined, but I can assure my Friend that if land has been derequisitioned wrongly or through the manipulation of some officer, if this is brought to my notice, I shall look into it.

Now Sir, regarding this matter of conversion of annual Patta lands into periodic. It is the policy of Government to convert annual Patta lands into periodic. The difficulty is this: as the law stands at present, for conversion annual lands are to be grown with permanent crop. Construction of houses, growing an orchard or growing of paddy are all taken as sufficient compliance. Then these lands have to be surveyed and mapped. In that case only it can be converted into periodic. There is difficulty to allow conversion in non-cadastral areas. There being no fixed boundary marks there will be frequent quarrels as in the case of Zamindary areas. In these Zamindary lands there are no boundaries. A rough block survey is made, one plot can be put here or a quarter mile away. There are frequent title suits in all the courts wherever these Zamindary system prevails. To prevent such suits provision is here; it is a statutory provision. Then the owner has to pay premium at the rate of Rs.5 per bigha. The owner can pay this in two instalments. If all this is done, the land is converted. Some feel that this imposition of premium has retarded this conversion to some extent.



**Shri RAHIMUDDIN AHMED (Jamunamukh):** মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে এইটো অলপ বুজাই কবনে যে একচনীয় পটাদাৰ সকলৰ পৰা আগতে এবাৰ premium লৈছে। পিচত সেই গাটি periodic কৰিবলৈ আকৌ কিয় premium দিব লাগে ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue):** Once a man pays the premium he gets settlement of land. But if some irregularity has been committed somewhere and if it is brought to the notice of Government, that irregularity will be removed.

**Shri RAHIMUDDIN AHMED:** মই এইটো কৈছো, যে বন্দোবস্ত আছিল যিবিলাক মানুহক একচনীয় গাটিৰ পটাদিছে তেওঁ-লোকৰ পৰা আগতে বিঘাত ২ টকাকৈ premium লৈছে। সেইমতে নতুন জৰিপ কৰি সেই মানুহৰ মাজত ভাগ কৰি বিনা premium এ গাটি দিব লাগে ? কিন্তু তাকে নকৰি আকৌ periodic পটাদি দিবলৈ বিঘাত ৫ টকাকৈ দিব লাগে বুলি জনাইছে।

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** তেখেতে Colonisation area ৰ কথা কৈছে নে Developmental Rate Area ৰ কথা কৈছে ? Under rural colonisation a rate of Rs. 5 has to be paid per bigha and under the Developmental Rate scheme the rate is Rs. 2 but this latter does not confer occupancy rights. Possibly this matter may be with regard to land under development rate scheme where a rate of Rs. 2 was realised. For conversion of this land Rs. 5 per bigha will have to be paid. However, if details are given, I shall make an enquiry.

Now, it has been said by some of my Friends that the entire system of assessment should be changed. It is not possible now. The present system is also scientific. It is assessed on the productivity of the land and it can be revised every 15 years. If the productivity of the land decreases, the rent will decrease, and if the productivity of the land increases, then the rent also increases according to a slab. That is also a scientific system. The point raised by my Friend Shri Patwary that revenue below 10 bighas should be totally remitted and the other point raised by Shri Borbaruah that on crop only it should be assessed, that is not the policy of Government and no State has done it. Now my Friend, Shri Borbaruah, raised another point about the Ceiling Act. This Ceiling Act does not cover the Lakheraj or Nisfi Kheraj lands. For that we have got a Bill, the Hindu Religious Endowments Bill, which will be referred to a Select Committee in this Session.



Another point that was raised by my Friend, Shri Borbaruah, was that many people are selling lands with a view to avoid the Ceiling Act. That point had been raised on the floor of this House several times before and I gave reply on each occasion. Only thing that I would like to say is this: there is no bar to selling of lands and by selling lands no body avoids the provisions of the Ceiling Act.

My Friend, Shri Talkuder, has raised certain specific irregularities, So also my Friend, Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika, spoke about certain irregularities in his constituency. These irregularities will be examined and suitable steps will be taken to set them right, if details are supplied.

Shri Borthakur raised the point about settlement of fisheries. Another point raised by him is that there is no policy at all for settlement of land. Well, Sir, that is a very sweeping remark, and if that is his opinion, he is entitled to hold it and I need not give any reply. So far settlement of fisheries is concerned, it is a fact that every year bid is going higher and higher. Our policy in regard to fisheries is this. Fisheries, as far as practicable, should be placed in the hands of actual fishermen. Our fishermen are very poor. If they form co-operative societies we give them preference. It appears in open bid, these fishermen are not able to compete. So we have provided for settlement of fisheries by tender system. Our rules in regard to this matter are already there. Gaudually this system will have to be introduced.

Shri Surendra Nath Das has raised the point about Tribal Belts. I thank him for raising this point. In certain belts some irregularities have been committed. I shall only be too glad to enquire about it and take suitable steps if my hon. Friend only gives me details. Our policy is to give adequate protection to the Tribal people. It is for their future expansion that we have created these Belts and Blocks. There are about 5,871 sq. miles of land under the various Tribal Belts and Blocks. Now if any instance comes to our notice that some people, not entitled to settlement, are encroaching into these Blocks and Belts, we shall take steps to evict such encroachers. Now my Friend, Shri Goswami, and some others said that encroachers in occupation for five years or more should be given settlement. If this is accepted, these Tribal Belts will vanish. Now, if we allow the encroachers to remain there, the Tribal Belts and Blocks will



disappear in course of a few months. Our present instruction is not to allow any encroachment anywhere within these Belts and Blocks. Some of my Friends stated that Government are allowing communal considerations to play in the matter of eviction, displaced people are only evicted and so on. This is not so. Displaced persons or indigenous people whoever they may be, if they encroach into Tribal Belts, are evicted. No encroachment within the Tribal Belts or Blocks is allowed. I have issued strict order that no stay order against encroachment would be issued, and the encroached land should be immediately cleared; it is immaterial whether the encroacher is an indigenous person or a displaced person. Those people who have acquired certain right within these Blocks or Belts before passing of the Act in 1947, they, of course cannot be evicted. We shall allow no new people to enter into the belts. So I assure my Friend that if any instance of encroachment comes to his notice, he will please inform Government; immediate steps will be taken. That is the policy of the Government.

These were the points raised by the hon. Members, Sir.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Do the hon. Movers of the Cut Motion propose to withdraw their Cut Motions?

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** Sir, except Cut Motion No. 15, we beg leave of the House to withdraw the rest.

(All the Cut Motions except Cut Motion No.15 were withdrawn by leave of the House).

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The question is: "That the total provision of Rs.1,38,01,000 under Grant No. 2, Major head 7.— Land Revenue, at page 3 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 1,38,01,000, do stand reduced by Re.1."



## THE ASSEMBLY DIVIDED

## Ayes—11

- |                                    |                                     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Shri Bishwanath Upadhyaya.      | 7. Shri Mathias Tudu.               |
| 2. Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya. | 8. Md. Matlebuddin.                 |
| 3. Shri Ghanashyam Talukder.       | 9. Shri Nilmoney Borthakur.         |
| 4. Shri Gopesh Namasudra.          | 10. Shri Prabhatnarayan Chaudhury.  |
| 5. Shri Hiralal Patwary.           | 11. Kumar Prokritish Chandra Barua. |
| 6. Shri Khagendra Nath Barbaruah.  |                                     |

## Noes—55

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|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Shri Bimala Prasad Chaliha.     | 17. Shri Bhuban Chandra Pradhani.  |
| 2. Shri Siddhi Nath Sarmah.        | 18. Shri Biswadev Sarma.           |
| 3. Shri Debeswar Sarmah.           | 19. Shri Dandeswar Hazarika.       |
| 4. Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi.  | 20. Shri Dandi Ram Dutta.          |
| 5. Shri Hareswar Das.              | 21. Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika.   |
| 6. M. Moinul Haque Choudhury.      | 22. Shri Durgeswar Saikia.         |
| 7. Shri C atrasing Terang.         | 23. Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.     |
| 8. Shri Purnanda Chetia.           | 24. Shri Gouri Shankar Roy.        |
| 9. Shri Mohi Kanta Das.            | 25. Shri Hamdhan Mohan Haplangbar. |
| 10. Shri Girindra Nath Gogoi.      | 26. Shri Harinarayan Barua.        |
| 11. Mrs. Usha Barthakur.           | 27. Rev. J. J. M. Nichos Roy.      |
| 12. Dr. Ghanashyam Das.            | 28. Shri Joga Kanta Barua.         |
| 13. Shri Indreswar Khaund.         | 29. Mrs. Jyotsna Chanda.           |
| 14. Mr. A. Thanglura.              | 30. Shri Kamala Prasad Agarwala.   |
| 15. Maulavi Abdul Matlib Majumdar. | 31. Shrimati Komol Kumari Barua.   |
| 16. Shri Baikuntha Nath Das.       |                                    |



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|--|----------------------------------|
| 32. Swami Krishnananda Brahma-<br>chari. | 44. Shri Rahimuddin Ahmed.       |
| 33. Shri Larsingh Khyriem.               | 45. Rajendra Nath Barua.         |
| 34. Shri Lila Kanta Borah.               | 46. Shri Ram Nath Das.           |
| 35. Shrimati Lily Sen Gupta.             | 47. Shri Ramnath Sarma.          |
| 36. Shri Mahadev Das.                    | 48. Dr. Ram Prosad Chaubey.      |
| 37. Shri Manik Chandra Das.              | 49. Shri Sai Sai Terang.         |
| 38. Shri Molia Tati.                     | 50. Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami.  |
| 39. Shri Narendra Nath Sarma.            | 51. Shri Sarbeswar Bordolai.     |
| 40. Shri Omeo Kumar Das.                 | 52. Shri Surendra Nath Das.      |
| 41. Shrimati Padma Kumari<br>Gohain.     | 53. Shri Tajammul Ali Barlaskar. |
| 42. Shri Radha Charan Chou-<br>dhury.    | 54. Shri Tamijuddin Prodhani.    |
| 43. Shri Radhika Ram Das.                | 55. Capt. Williamson A. Sangma.  |

The Motion was negatived.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The question is that a sum of Rs.1,38,01,000 (Rupees one crore, thirty-eight lakhs and one thousand) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1959 for the administration of the head "7.—Land Revenue".

(The question was adopted).

Before we take up the next item, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Members that while making allotment of time, the Business Advisory Committee did not take into account the time that will be taken up by division. May I, therefore, suggest that for a proper discussion of the next item, we might sit a little beyond 4 O'clock. What is the view of Government?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):** Yes. I agree to the suggestion.



(After a pause)

### GRANT No. 3

#### (8.—State Excise Duties)

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Excise):** On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs.18,85,500 (Rupees eighteen lakhs, eighty-five thousand and five hundred) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1959, for the administration of the head "8.—State Excise Duties".

**Mr, SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that a sum of Rs.18,85,500 (Rupees eighteen lakhs, eighty five thousand and five hundred) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1959, for the administration of the head "8.—State Excise Duties".

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery):** Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.18,85,500 under Grant No.3, Major head—8.—State Excise Duties, at page 18 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.18,85,500, do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To raise an objection for settling any country liquor shop in the heart of different Local Board Markets which are considered to be public places ignoring the public demand.)

**Shri PHAKIRAI DEKA [Panery (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]:** Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 18,85,500 under Grant No.3, Major head—8.—State Excise Duties, at page 18 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.18,85,500 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To raise an objection for settling of any country liquor shop in the heart of different Local Markets which are considered to be public places ignoring the public demand.)



**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDER (Sorbhog) :** Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.98,600 under Grant No.3 Major head—8.—State Excise Duties, Minor head—A.—Superintendence (total), at page 19 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.18,85,500, do stand reduced by Re.1.

(Failure of the excise personnel to discharge their duties properly.)

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) :** Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.18,85,500 under Grant No.3, Major head—8.—State Excise Duties, at page 18 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.18,85,500, do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To criticise the excise policy of the Government.)

**Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) :** Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.18,85,500 under Grant No.3 Major head—8.—State Excise Duties, at page 18 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.18,85,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To criticise the policy of the Government.)

**Shri BISWANATH UPADHYAYA (Patharkandi) :** Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.18,85,500 under Grant No.3 Major head—8.—State Excise Duties, at page 18 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant o, Rs.18,85,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To raise a discussion regarding the liquor prohibition policy and the machinery.)

**Shri PHAKHIRAI DEKA [Penery (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] :** Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.18,85,500, under Grant No.3, Major head—8.—State Excise Duties, at page 18 of the Budget, be



reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.18,85,500, do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To raise a discussion regarding the prohibition policy and machinery.)

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery):** Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.18,85,500, under Grant No.3, Major head—8.—State Excise Duties, at page 18 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.18,85,500, do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To raise a discussion regarding the prohibition policy and machinery.)

**Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri):** Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.18,85,500 under Grant No.3, Major head—8.—State Excise Duties, at page 18 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.18,85,500, do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To raise a general discussion.)

**Shri MATHIAS TUDU (Gossaigaon):** Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.18,85,500 under Grant No.3, Major head—8.—State Excise Duties, at page 18 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.18,85,500, do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To raise a general discussion.)

**Mr. SPEAKER:** All the Cut Motions are moved as above.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in support of the Cut Motions moved by myself and other Friends in this side of the House, I beg to draw the attention of the House to the very salutary provision of India, viz., Article 47, Part IV of the Constitution of India, where prohibition has been made one of the Directive Principles, to guide the policy of the State. It was



stated in this Article that intoxicating drink and drugs which are injurious to the health should be prohibited by law. It is no doubt true that so far as opium is concerned, it is a prohibited matter in our State and so far as liquor and Ganja are concerned our State profess to limit and curtail their consumption as far as practicable. As a matter of fact, the fight of the people of Assam against these harmful materials, constituted a part of the freedom struggle itself. Hundreds and thousands of our young boys and girls had courted imprisonment by offering picketting or Satyagraha in front of the opium shops, liquor shops or the Ganja shops in their teen ages. As for myself, when I was only 13 years of age, I had to go to jail because I was picketting in front of a Ganja shop. In that fight the entire nation participated. Even as early as the renaissance of the Assamese nationhood, our great architect of the Assamese literature, Late Shri Hem Chandra Barua said, “কেপা কানি বিহব শেষ, কানিয়াই খালে অসম দেশ” and as a matter of fact a hatred towards opium and those who dealt in opium and also who were addicted to opium was widespread in our country. In 1938-39, when the Congress came to power, though for a very short period, under the leadership of the Congress and under the leadership of the Government itself there was a campaign in Sibsagar and Dibrugarh Subdivisions against the habit of opium taking and at that time Government and non-Government agencies worked hand in hand in order to eradicate this evil. But after 10 years of independence what picture do we see? In spite of the fact that opium is legally non-existent in this State, so far as illegal consumption of opium is concerned, I think it will be admitted by all that in Dibrugarh Subdivision and as a matter of that in the entire Lakhimpur district, the opium business has increased rather than decreased. The smugglers have become so very powerful that they boast to the extent that they can make or unmake Government. Even very important State dignitaries pay them respects by visiting them when they go round in their tours. In Dibrugarh during the war years, even before independence, one notorious smuggler against whom there was of course no definite proof, was externed from the State, but after independence, that man came back. Not only that. He has been favoured with Mohals—some timber Mohals and so through all these Mohals he has been able to spread his tentacles throughout the length and breadth of the Dibrugarh Subdivision. Through these net-works opium is being smuggled to far and distant corners of the State. These Khans and Khanis have become very big people and far from being removed from this State they are getting patronage of the Government itself.



Even the High Court in connection with a case observed that it would be in the interest of the State if these people were brought under the Preventive Detention Act and if they were removed from within the State boundary. But the Government do not propose to do anything. They are ruling supreme in the Dibrugarh Subdivision and in other backward areas of the State. Particularly Miris, Mikirs and other tribal people who are very poor have been addicted more and more to opium, in spite of prohibition in our State. I wonder where is the Government machinery? Where is that enthusiasm which was noticed in 1938-39? Where are those patriotic youngmen—whatever political party they may belong to—who fought so stubbornly and valiantly in 1938-39 in the interior parts of Sibsagar and Dibrugarh Subdivisions? Why are they not fighting now? Therefore I emphasise that it is not only far from satisfactory, it is a growing menace in our State. The law is there, but it is being broken by these smugglers with so much of boldness and with so much of impunity. Similar is the case of liquor also. We find that although in one district it has been prohibited, in the name of giving some concessions to some tribal customs, there have been kept a limit of 2½ srs. of Pachwai. Now if bribes are offered, then 10 or 15 srs. may become 2½ srs. If bribes are not offered, this 2½ srs. may be converted into 15 or 20 srs. If you keep any lacuna in the rules, then the human ingenuity is such and our social morality is in such a state that people will somehow or other get an opportunity of evading the law.

I do not understand why this exemption should not be immediately put an end to. For example, in Kamrup, I have seen that in the name of giving oblation to Kamakhya evil things are allowed to be perpetrated there and not only that a huge amount of money has been drawn from the fund allotted under Article 275 for the purpose of construction of a road to the top of the Kamakhya Hill but I am sorry to say that the road is now being utilised for *tamasha* and instead of giving respect to Kamakhya, there are now night clubs and all these things there. If we go to stop that, we are told that we will be touching the religious susceptibility of the people and if we are to eradicate this liquor habit altogether that will also be touching the religious custom. In this connection I may say that there was an enactment against the Sati system. At that time there was a similar hue and cry from a section of the people because Sati according to them forms a part and parcel



of the Hindu religion, Hindu nation. But for the betterment of the society, this Sati system had to be abolished and to that effect the Act was passed and enforced accordingly. Similarly at the time when child marriage system was in vogue the Sarda Act was passed, some people shouted.

অষ্টবর্ষে ভবেৎ গৌরী ।  
নরমে সা তু বোহিণী ॥

But the system of giving in marriage girls at the age of 8 or 9 years was stopped and in spite of the quotation from Shastras the Sarda Act was passed. I say therefore, for the good of the country as a whole, so far as the statutory provision in the Constitution is concerned, we should take it in right earnest and by doing that we should look at the matter from the moral point of view, we should not look at the matter from the immediate point of view of economy but we should look from our social point of view. In spite of whatever loss there may be in the State in the form of losing some amount of revenue, the ultimate gain to the nation, to the society will be much greater than the loss that we may sustain just now. We have seen that opium, Ganja and all these things not only economically ruin the poor people, but they are at the sametime destroying their vitality. Unless and until we can make the people healthy and improve their vitality, the nation cannot be a healthy one. In order to meet the deficit in revenue other sources of income may be found out; there are possible ways and means to increase our revenue income and up till now on the floor of this House we have suggested how the revenue of the State can be increased, we have also shown how can there be savings from the other spheres and how reduction can also be made in the expenditure under the different items. If we can do this, then certainly the moral tone will be improved within a few years and thereby the society or the nation will rise. In this connection I may say that some hon. Members said that prohibition is failing every where and that it is bound to fail here in Assam also. For example, they give example of America. Sir, I am not one with them that although prohibition has failed in America, it is bound to fail in India, in our country, because our faiths and our souls are quite different from that of America. Sir, we are not in favour of liquor and all these things, we want total prohibition of the same. In order to do that Government should not only utilise their own machinery but they should also take the help of other machineries that exist in the country, for example, the non-official machinery, the Congress,



the Proja Socialist Party, the Communist and whatever political organisation may be. The State Government should take a lead in this matter. In this connection, I may suggest that the Publicity Department of the Government instead of running with the Ministers with cameras be sent to those areas where addiction is rampant. Let the Publicity Department entrench in such places for three or four months, let them educate the people with their propaganda, etc. and at the sametime let them take the help and co-operation of the voluntary organisations. Let them show to the people that the Publicity Department is meant not only for big people but for still bigger people that is the nation. If we can do that, then this department will also be able to prove worthy of itself. Through all such activities, sooner or later all these evil things can be eradicated and Government should take a bold step in this matter in order to help the people immediately.

As far as liquor shops are concerned, we welcome the sealed bottle system because we have seen that these lessees of liquor Mahals are as corrupt as rich and every hon. Member of this House knows that they can manage to bring the most flourishing advocates from the High Court for getting the liquor shops. In the loose supply they could add profuse water with some methylated spirit and other drugs just to make the people intoxicated and also by doing so they are getting more money. Let Government take note of all these things and let Government understand something as to how things are going on in this matter. Therefore, this must be stopped ruthlessly and for this purpose Government should take it as a directive principle, and let us see that the directive principles of the Constitution are followed in our State so that our society, our nation should be healthy and prosperous.

**Shri MATHIAS TUDU (Gossaigoan):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in support of the Cut Motions of my Friends, I want to speak a few words. Sir, we have heard from our Friend that in the Constitution it is laid down in Article 47 that "The State shall regard the raising of the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties and, in particular, the State shall endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption except for medicinal purposes of intoxicating drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health".

Sir, my Friend has also said that in Assam this evil habit of drinking is so rampant among the different tribes and thereby the health and vitality of the people are being ruined by such



drinkings. The Central Government is also trying to do away with this evil habit of drinking and as such scheme and programme and also the directive steps are being worked out by the Central Government. We find that the Central Government established a Prohibition Enquiry Committee, which recommended to the State Governments certain fundamental principles. These are (i) discontinuance of advertisements and other inducements for the use of alcoholic drinks ; (ii) stoppage of drinks in public premises and at public receptions ; (iii) setting up of committees to draw up phased programmes with the objective of (a) reducing progressively the number of liquor shops in the rural and the urban areas ; (b) gradually increasing the number of closed days during the week of liquor shops ; (c) reducing the supplies of liquor shops ; (d) progressively reducing the strength of liquor produced in distilleries of India ; (e) closing of shops in or near specified industrial and development project areas ; (f) removal of shops to places away from the main streets and living quarters in towns and villages ; (iv) taking of active steps to encourage and promote the production of cheap and health-giving soft drinks ; (v) assistance to private agencies in the organisation of recreation centres ; and lastly, (vi) prohibition to be made a major item of the constructive work in the National Extension Service and Community Development works and rural welfare extension projects. These policies are to be carried out by the State Government. But when we look into the activities of this Department in our State, we find that in most of these programmes and policies they have failed. I would like to give a few instances only. There is an instruction for closing of shops in or near any specified industrial and development project area. But we find that not only in industrial areas but even near the schools there are liquor shops. Projects have been made to shift them to places far away from industrial areas and schools, but nothing has been done. Then, Sir, there is an instruction for removal of shops from the main streets, but I know in my constituency at Kochugaon there is one liquor shop which is just near the public road and also in between residences. Protests have been made but no action has been taken yet. In this way we find so many anomalies in the policy of the State Government. The Government have also failed in its policy of introducing prohibition.

Now, Sir, I would like to give one suggestion which may bring good results. Sir, this task of prohibition is very hard ; it is a matter of psychology because I think those who are addicted to liquor do so for various reasons. For instance, frustration may lead a man to take to liquor ; suppose a man has got



a shock, his ambition or desire has not been fulfilled, this frustration makes him to take recourse to this evil habit so that he may get consolation. May be there are other reasons too. Say for instance, in our society taking of liquor is customary; it is also a part of religious practice amongst the non-Christian Santhals. So, before we take any action, I think, it is necessary to set up a Prohibition Research Committee so that they can scientifically study the problem and find out the main reasons why people take to drinks and suggest possible remedies. If the root cause is found out, it will be easy to suggest remedies.

With these few words, I support the Cut Motions moved by my Friends.

**Shri INDRESWAR KHAUND (Bogdung):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a few observations on this demand. Sir, the Excise Department is a very important department and it has become more important recently because it has an effect on the well-being of the people and the health of a section of the society. On the successful running of this department the future of a large section of our people depends. So, Sir, the importance of this department has greatly increased. I do not say that Government is not conscious about the importance of this department; they are alive to this problem and have made a beginning by introducing prohibition in our State. A start has already been made in the district of Kamrup, but what is the next step that Government will take in this direction is not known to us. As a matter of fact, it is the policy of Government gradually to bring the whole State under prohibition and we are all happy about it. But to do so we have to make the field ready, but we have not seen any efforts being made towards that end. We find that more and more people are taking to this habit. The greater the number of people taking to this habit, the harder will it be for Government to launch their prohibition campaign in our State in order to bring the whole State gradually under prohibition.

Sir, legally liquor is not allowed to be sold at all places; only recognised shops can sell liquor. But in certain places like Dibrugarh, what we have seen is that liquor is sold in tea stall, in private houses and by ordinary traders also freely. In Tinsukia town also there are tea stalls, private houses where liquor is freely sold and we are told that a section of the student community is taking to this vice. I think this is a very bad sign not only for Tinsukia but also for other places in Assam. So, we have to appoint extra staff in the district level and must be more



vigilant so that liquor shops cannot sell liquor to tea shops private traders, etc. Now-a-days, there is no check and as there is no effective steps from the department and as anyone can purchase as much liquor as he likes from the shops the state of affairs is daily deteriorating from bad to worse. This liquor is available in innumerable places of the districts other than the shops. Supply has become easier and people are taking more and more to this pernicious habit. The evidence of this habit growing in younger sections of our people is very bad ; so before it can spread further, the Excise Department at district level should be made more vigilant and they should check liquor shops regularly so that lessees cannot sell liquor more than the quantity fixed by law. Not only the lessees are free to sell any quantity they like but they are also free to mix any quantity of water to the liquor as they like for making high profit ; thus the consumers, who are generally poor, are cheated. It has got also an effect on economy and also a moral effect on the people. Because by allowing to sell illegally, purchase illegally and drink illegally we are bringing moral degradation to a large number of people. This should be checked immediately.

Then, regarding opium prohibition, I think, I shall speak about Lakhimpur district, particularly Dibrugarh subdivision, where smuggling is widespread. In this district the number of opium addicts is increasing day by day. I think, Government may not know this because district officers do not like to tell the truth about it. I know of an instance. When Rev. Nichols-Roy, the then Minister of Excise went to Dibrugarh in 1954 or 1955, I had a discussion with him regarding opium prohibition and there was a discussion also with the officials of the Excise Department. Most of the Excise Inspectors hesitatingly said that there was no increase in the number of opium-eaters. But two young officers had the courage to admit that there was increase in the number of opium addicts. Within one month of that discussion those two officers were transferred from place to place when only they realised that that was their punishment for telling the truth. So district officers do not like to tell the truth to the higher authorities. The Excise Commissioner in his turn also does not like to give out the truth to the Minister. So truth always remains with in the officers. Sir, our officers should feel that those people are their own people and that they are serving their own people. Unless, we can enthuse this feeling in our officers, we will not be able to progress in this regard. They should feel that they are there not to earn money but to serve their own people.



If one visits certain villages of Dibrugarh he will be sad to find that once prosperous those villages are now in the midst of miseries. You will see that these villages are now in poverty. If we cannot check this opium smuggling and opium eating habit, I do not know what will happen to the people of these villages. So I would suggest that our officers should be made to feel for their own people and serve them with that end in view.

I do not say that there is no checking. Of course, there is some checking here and there, but the number is small. The opium comes from Kachin, opium comes by rail, air, waterways, road, etc. We have seen that Kachin opium is more cheaper than other opiums. This has an effect on the price of other opiums also because of the economic laws of demand and supply apply to this commodity also. The few detections which were made were because the smugglers are envious of each other and as soon as he sees that some of his customers are being won over by some other smuggler, he gives information to the Excise staff and the Excise staff go there and detect culprits. So, in this way some detections are being made, but what actually happens later on? As soon as a smuggler is arrested, his relatives, associates and friends would move heaven to earth to secure his release on bail. In a recent case I have heard that the accused somehow got himself falsely declared as suffering from T.B. in order to get released on bail and as soon as he came out he influenced some witnesses. These smugglers are all very influential and monied men. We have to deal with shrewd business men, swindlers and some monied gentlemen. They can do what ever they like. So it is not an easy job to bring these people to book. Therefore, Government should devise some measures and put them into action with all earnestness and sincerity.

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Excise):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the idea expressed by my hon. Friends are nothing new to the Government. Government also hold the same view about the evil of liquor and opium. There are no two opinions on this. Only we are anxious to know how to give effect to prohibition. To that we have been offered no suggestions. This evil is not only confined to any particular place, but is in vogue throughout the State. The magnitude of the problem is such that it is not easy of solution. Very influential people here are in combination with very influential people outside Assam. These people smuggle opium and sell it through ordinary persons. If some of these persons are detected and put into prison, the family expenses of those poor people are borne by the big smugglers. So it does not affect the trade and the



traffic is carried on through other persons. Conviction of 2 or 5 such person does not affect the illicit trade. So we want suggestions from our hon. Friends how best we can tackle the problem and give effect to our declared policy.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** Through Publicity Department and non-official organizations.

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Excise):** We have got that but that is not sufficient. It is true that public opinion should be aroused and that is the main thing. Unless the entire public can be aroused to cope with this evil, a few officers of Government will never be able to give any satisfactory result.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):** On a point of information, Sir. Law should be enacted in such a way so that all suspected smugglers can be entrapped and put in jail.

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** With regard to opium, even now only on medical certificate some permits are issued and for all other purposes use of opium is stopped in our State. These permits are issued on the recommendation of the Civil Surgeon but consumption even on medical certificate has been reduced year after year and the number of addicts has also been reduced. There are some centres for treatment of the opium addicts in Dibrugarh. From March 1959 opium will be stopped completely. That is the policy of the Government of India. Thereafter no opium permits will be issued.

With regard to liquor, the policy of the Government is to introduce total prohibition gradually throughout the State. In three stages the entire Kamrup district has been covered. When the Prohibition Act is enforced in any place it is the desire of Government to see that the Act is faithfully implemented. Passing of an Act is one thing and giving effect to it is another thing. Unless the Act is properly implemented, it does not serve the purpose. The main trouble is with regard to implementation. People are there to violate law with more vigour. We have enforced this law in one district and seek co-operation of all to make it successful. There were some can- teens and those have now been abolished. As an experimental measure in Goalpara subdivision sale of liquor above 30 U. P. has been prohibited. But there is one difficulty in introduction of total prohibition. When this is being done within



our territory the Bhutan Government have located liquor shops near the border. There are now about seven such liquor shops. The vendors are all Nepalese and they live just on the side of Bhutan but carry on their business on our side. That is the first difficulty. Then again there is the difficulty with autonomous districts. In the autonomous districts non-distilled liquor is a subject of the District Council and Government cannot make any law prohibiting either consumption or preparation of non-distilled liquor in these areas. So Pachwai and such other things will continue in the autonomous district as it will continue by the Bhutan border. This means that liquor shops will continue both on south and on north. So it will be very difficult to implement the Liquor Prohibition Act in these areas.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) :** Has Government no influence over the District Council ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Excise) :** About prohibition of distilled liquor correspondence is going on with the District Council. The proposal was once sent to them but they refused to give consent. But the matter has again been taken up by my colleague Sri Sangma and is under consideration. That is about distilled liquor. But with regard to non-distilled liquor paragraph 12 (a) of the Sixth Schedule definitely lays down that no Act of the State Legislature on this subject shall apply to autonomous districts.

About the rice beer, formerly 4 seers were allowed, but now it has been reduced to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  seers. The District Council has got some point in favour of this rice beer. An expert came, examined this rice beer and submitted a report to the effect that it has got valuable food value and as the food of the tribal people is not well balanced and nutritious, this should be allowed to them.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** Is it not a fact that this  $2\frac{1}{2}$  seers is allowed also in prohibited areas ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS :** Possibly Act not, Sir.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** Sir, if bribe is given, this  $2\frac{1}{2}$  seers is allowed, but if bribe is not given than it is not given. In the plains tribal areas this is true, the Minister can take it from me.



**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Excise):** All right, Sir, I agree 2½ seers are allowed. Now, regarding enforcement of this prohibition in Dibrugarh, Sibsagar and North-Lakhimpur we have 4 sections of Police. Then there is a Prohibition Committee with an Hony. Prohibition Commissioner and a number of other members. This is constituted just to mobilise public opinion. This 4 sections of police are to deal with prohibition of liquor, opium smuggling and such other things.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** So far this matter is concerned has the Publicity Department of the Government ever issued a single pamphlet about this opium evil in North-Lakhimpur area?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** Reward has been offered to people to write dramas and "bhounas" to show the evil of this opium and some of them have written such dramas and have been awarded prizes, Rs.500 each and there is a proposal to make films of those dramas, which will be shown in the locality.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** These dramas and "bhounas" have been shown here in Shillong, but not in the prohibited areas.

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** Well, Sir, there is proposal to make up films from these "bhounas" for showing in those prohibited areas and elsewhere and not only here in Shillong. Anyway, Sir, we appreciate the magnitude of this problem and as most of my Friends in the opposite also appreciate it, I would request them to give us suggestions how to overcome this evil.

**Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]:** If the policy of Government is not to encourage consumption of these evil drugs, how is it that a new Ganja shop has recently been opened in Kamari-bari village within Patharkandi Police Station.

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** I am not aware of that, Sir, but I shall make an enquiry if any new Ganja shop has been opened as stated by my Friend.

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery) :** অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই  
অলপ Clarification বিচারিছো।



**Mr. SPEAKER :** সদস্য ডাঙৰীয়াই মন্ত্ৰীমহোদয়ৰ পৰা কিবা এটা Clarification বিচাৰিছে।

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery):** মঙ্গলদৈ লোকেলবোৰ্ডৰ অধীনত মাজবজাৰত থকা মদৰ দোকান অতবোৰাৰ কি ব্যৱস্থা চৰকাৰে হাতত লৈছে? এই বিষয়ে মই আগেতেও বিভাগীয় মন্ত্ৰী শ্ৰীচন্দ্ৰ চিং টেৰণৰ লগত আলোচনা কৰিছিলো। এতিয়াও এই বিষয়ে দিহা কৰাৰ কাম চৰকাৰে হাতত লোৱা দেখা নাই। এই কাৰণে তাৰ মানুহবিলাক অধৈৰ্য্য হৈ পৰিছে। মন্ত্ৰীমহোদয়ে এই বিষয়ে কি কৰিব—জনাবনে?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Excise):** এই সম্বন্ধে চৰকাৰে তদন্ত কৰি জানিব পাৰিছে যে, মঙ্গলদৈ লোকেলবোৰ্ডৰ মাজ বজাৰত তেনে কোনো মদৰ দোকান নাই। আগৰ নগৰখন সৰু আছিল আৰু এতিয়া ডাঙৰ হৈছে কাৰণে এই কথা উঠিছে। যদি আমি এই বিষয়ে আপত্তি পাওঁ তেনেহলে আতৰাবলৈ কাম হাতত লোৱা হ'ব। পাচে এটা অস্থবিধা এই ক্ষেত্ৰত যে—কিছুমানে আপত্তি কৰিবেও আন কিছুমানে Support কৰে।

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa)**  
Regarding the new shop near a school at Panitola, has any step been taken to remove it?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS :** That matter was discussed on the floor of this House in the shape of a Question. Steps are being taken to remove the shop, but when these things are being taken up on the side of Government people came forward with protests and such things so that the process of removal is retarded.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):**  
Sir, is this system of sealing bottles going to be introduced throughout the State?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS :** It will be introduced first in Dibrugarh from 1st October next. It cannot be introduced everywhere all at once because houses need to be constructed, some machineries are to be fitted in warehouses. But if found successful, Government will introduce it throughout the State.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Are the hon. Members willing to withdraw the Cut Motions? (A Voice : from the Opposition Bench—Yes, Sir).



(The Cut Motions were withdrawn by leave of the House).

I now put the motion.

The question is that a sum of Rs.18,85,500 be granted to the Minister-in-charges to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1959, for the administration of the head "8-State Excise Duties".—

(The motion was adopted.)

### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Wednesday, the 9th April, 1958.

Shillong.

The 13th August, 1958.

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



## APPENDIX

**Statement Regarding Total Number of Families  
Affected by the Naga Raids, etc.**

(1) Total number of families affected by the Naga raids district-wise:—

Sibsagar	...	...	...	...	...	158
{ Mikir Hills	...	...	...	...	...	518
{ North Cachar Hills	...	...	...	...	...	1,088

(2) Amount of relief given:—

*Sibsagar—*

(i) Cash gratuitous relief	Rs. 26,351·81 np.
(ii) Rehabilitation loan ...	5,400·00 np.
(iii) Relief rice ... ..	90 maunds valued at about Rs.1,800·00 at Rs.20 including trans- port cost per maund.
(iv) Blankets ... ..	2,082.

*Mikir Hills—*

Food stuffs worth Rs.2,870 have been distributed amongst 170 refugee families at Diphu camps in 1957 and an amount of Rs.35,700 was distributed to 357 Mikir and Kachari refugee families as cash gratuitous relief in 1956 and 1957.

*North Cachar Hills—*

A sum of Rs.6,100 was distributed to 61 families as gratuitous relief in 1957.

(3) Number of persons kidnapped, with names, and what has been given to their families:—

*Sibsagar—*

Number of people kidnapped	...	...	...	12
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*Names*

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Shri Notodhar Gogoi of Lalimchiga          | } | Were let off.   |
| 2. „ Dhela Gogoi of Lalimchiga                |   |   |
| 3. „ Lakheswar Kowar of Kowargaon             |   |   |
| 4. „ Moloka Kowar of Kowargaon                |   |   |
| 5. „ Maliram Gogoi of Buragaon                | } | Nearest relatives given Rs.1,500 each as gratuitous relief. |
| 6. „ Powali Gogoi of Japisajia                |   |   |
| 7. „ Kokai Gogoi of Jaradharagaon             |   |   |
| 8. „ Chandreswar Gogoi of Lalimchiga          |   |   |
| 9. „ Babulal Malpoharia of Seleng Tea Estate. |   |   |
| 10. „ Junas Mura of Seleng Tea Estate         | } |   |
| 11. „ Boloram Handique of Golaghat            |   |   |
| 12. „ Sukhalal Roy of Seleng Tea Estate.      |   | No relief was given as he had no dependants.                |

*Mikir Hills—*

Number of persons kidnapped ... .. 1

The kidnapped person was a minor boy and not an earning member, hence no relief was given.

*North Cachar Hills—* ... .. Nil.