





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

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

PRESENT

Shri Dev Kanta Barooah, B. A., LL.B., Speaker in the Chair, the seven Ministers, the two Deputy Ministers, and the sixty-one Members.

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**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**STARRED QUESTIONS**

(To which oral answers were given)

**Award of Foreign Stipends to persons belonging to Plains Tribal Communities**

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

\*21. Will the Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) Who were the persons belonging to the Plains Tribal Communities who had been awarded foreign stipends in various subjects in the year 1957 ?
- (b) Whether they have sailed abroad and have received the Scholarships money ?
- (c) If not, why not ?
- (d) Who is responsible for not receiving the said Scholarships ?

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

21. (a)—1. Shri Utpal Miri.  
2. Shri Purna Chandra Baro.  
3. Shri Nomal Chandra Pegu.  
(b)—Yes. Only Shri Utpal Miri.

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\*The question was replied by M. Moinul Haque Choudhury (Minister, Agriculture) in the absence of Shri K. P. Tripathi (Minister, Education).



(c)—The High Commission in U. K. is still trying to arrange their seats in suitable Institutions in U. K.

(d)—Does not arise.

**Shri MOHIDHAR PEGOO (Jorhat : Reserved for Schedule Tribes):** শ্রীউৎপল গিৰিক—চৰকাৰে যাবতীয় খৰচ পাতি দি পঠোৱা হৈছেনে ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture):** এইটো এটা নতুন প্রশ্ন, চাব।

**Shri MOHIDHAR PEGOO:** বাকী দুজনেও স্কলার্শ্বিপ লৈ সোনকালে পঢ়িবলৈ যাব পাৰিবনে ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** বাকী কেইজনৰ কাৰণে United Kingdom, ভাৰতীয় হাই কমিচনাৰে চিট বিচাৰিয়ে আছে। এতিয়াও চিটৰ arrangement কৰিব পৰা নাই।

**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLAI (Titabar):** চিট arrangement নোহোৱাকৈয়ে চাৰু Depute কৰা হৈছিল নেকি ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** Seat পাব বুলি Scholarship দিয়া হৈছিল। কিন্তু এতিয়াও পোয়া নাই।

**Shri SARBESWAR BARDOLOI:** তেওঁলোকে চিট পালে এই সুবিধা পাবনে ?

**Shri LALIT KUMAR DALEY (Moran : Reserved for Scheduled Tribes):** Sir, will Government arrange seats for them early ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** This Government has not got anything to do directly with regard to arrangement of seats, but it is for our High Commissioner in London to arrange them, and even after the arrangement of the seats certain preliminaries have got to be undergone by the students themselves. For example, in the case of Purna Chandra Boro, he has been asked by the University concerned to write an essay and if the essay is found up-to the mark then he will be admitted in that University. Otherwise some other arrangements shall have to be made for his admission in some other University.

**Shri KARKA CHANDRA DOLEY (North Lakhimpur: Reserved for Scheduled Tribes):** এই বিষয়ে চৰকাৰে হাই কমিচনাৰৰ লগত লেখালেখি কৰিছেনে ?



**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture):** হয়, কবিয়ৈ আঁছে।

**Shri KARKA CHANDRA DOLEY:** কিমান বাব লেখালেখি কৰিছে মই জানিব পাবোনে ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** ইয়াৰ কাৰণে নটিচ লাগে, চাব।

**Shri CHATRASING TERON (Mikir Hills-West: Reserved for Scheduled Tribes):** Is it a fact that the Government has prevented the students from arranging their own seats ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** I have no such information.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** What are the subjects which are intended to be studied ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** I want notice of this question.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** Sir, in which Universities these three students are to study for which this Government has granted scholarships ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** As far as Shri Utpal Miri is concerned it is in the Glasgow University. His passage and seat had been arranged. Shri Purna Chandra Boro wanted to study in Barmingham or Manchester University, but seat could not be arranged in those Universities. A second effort was made to arrange a seat in the London University. There also no seat could be arranged. Then the High Commissioner again wrote to the Manchester University to give him a seat, but the authorities of the University informed that the student concerned should write an essay on a subject specified by them and if the essay was found up to the mark then he would get a seat there. In the case of Shri Nomal Chandra Pegu, he did not specify any particular University for his study as far as I am aware.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** What are the subjects which these 3 students wanted to study ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** I want notice of this question.



**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** I hope the Minister concerned will supply these informations to the House.

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture):** All right, Sir, I will supply the information to the hon. Member.

### **Jail visitors of Dibrugarh District Jail**

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

\*22. Will the Minister-in-charge of Jails be pleased to give the names of the jail visitors of Dibrugarh District Jail ?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister-in-charge of Jail)** replied :

22.—Names of the Jail Visitors of Dibrugarh Jail are—

- (1) Sardar Wairam Singh.
- (2) Maulavi Haji Jalaluddin Ahmed.
- (3) Shri Debi Prasad Das.
- (4) Mrs. Ratna Baruah.

**Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR:** Sir, who appoints them and on what basis are they appointed ?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH:** They are appointed by the Government when their names are recommended by the Deputy Commissioner or the Subdivisional Officer, and the basis is usually that such public men are appointed as are likely to take interest in the welfare of the prisoners.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** Is it a fact that the Members of the Assembly of the District concerned are also *ex-officio* jail visitors ?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH:** I do not know.



# State Dispensaries in the Abor Hills (Murkongsellek) Transferred Area

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa)**  
asked:

\*23. Will the Minister-in-charge of Medical be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government are aware that there are two State Dispensaries one at Jonai and the other at Laimekari (Ramdhon) within Abor Hills (Murkongsellek) Transferred area?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that there is no doctor in these two Dispensaries since a long time?
- (c) How long there is no doctor in these two dispensaries and why?
- (d) Whether Government propose to post one qualified doctor with immediate effect to one of these two dispensaries with instructions to attend the other dispensary also?

**Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical)**  
replied:

23. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—For want of qualified doctors since 1956.

(d)—Yes. A doctor is already under orders of posting to Jonai Dispensary. He will attend the dispensary at Laimekari until a doctor is posted there.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA:** Sir, are Government aware that the public have been moving since a long time for posting a doctor there?

**Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA:** That may be a fact, Sir, but a doctor is being posted there now.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA:** What is the reason for non-availability of a doctor for this area?

**Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA:** The main reason is that we are short of doctors. Secondly, this area being a very backward and outlying area, generally doctors are not willing to go there.



**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) :** How Government will solve this problem of shortage of doctors ?

**Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) :** This difficulty will, I think, be gradually eased with the production of more medical graduates from our Medical College.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) :** Whether Government propose to have one of these two dispensaries of the Transferred area converted into a Primary Health Unit ?

**Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA :** That will be considered while we decide to open more Primary Health Units.

### **Committee of the Nowgong Civil Hospital**

**Maulavi NURUL ISLAM (Dhing)** asked :

\*24. Will the Minister-in-charge of Medical be pleased to state—

(a) When the Committee of the Nowgong Civil Hospital has been formed ?

(b) Whether since its formation any meeting of the Committee was convened ?

(c) If not, why not ?

**Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA :** replied :

24. (a)—In September, 1957.

(b)—No.

(c)—Due to pressure of work. A meeting will be held soon.

**Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding) :** Is there any instruction from the Government to the Convenor or the Secretary to have a meeting in a specific time ?

**Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA :** The meeting is going to be held very soon.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The question is whether any specific instruction has been sent to the Convenor or the Secretary to hold the meeting within a specific time ?



**Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical):** We have not given any such specific instruction but we have asked them to hold the meeting as early as possible.

**Maulavi MAHAMMAD IDRIS (Rupahihat):** Will the Hon'ble Minister give the names of the convenor and members of this meeting?

**Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA:** The Committee is constituted with the following:—

1. The Deputy Commissioner, Nowgong, Chairman.
2. The Civil Surgeon, Nowgong, Vice-Chairman.
3. The Assistant Surgeon I in-charge of the Hospital, Secretary of the Committee.

**Members:—**

4. The Chairman, Local Board, Nowgong.
5. The Chairman, Municipal Board, Nowgong.
6. The President, Mahila Samity, Nowgong.
7. The President, Bar Library, Nowgong.
8. Shri Mahendra Hazarika, M.L.A.
9. Shri Jaharmal Agarwala.
10. Shri Nurul Islam, M.L.A.
11. The Chairman, School Board, Nowgong.
12. Dr. Lalit Kumar Barooah.

**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla):** What are the functions of this Committee?

**Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA:** To sit from time to time and consider what improvement is needed to be made to the hospital, what improvement can be made to the diet, what other improvements can be made regarding the patients and so on and so forth.



**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla):** What is the period of life of the Dispensary Committee ?

**Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical):** It is generally for three years.

**Maulavi NURUL ISLAM:** Is the Hon'ble Minister satisfied with the explanation given that due to pressure of work the meeting could not be held ?

**Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA:** That is the information I have got. I quite realise that this meeting ought to have been held earlier.

**Maulavi MAHAMMAD IDRIS:** Was not Mr. Mahendra Hazarika a Deputy Minister when the Committee was last constituted in September, 1957 ?

**Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA:** I am not quite sure of that. We are going to have another gentleman in his place.

**Night duty by the doctors and medical aid to the patients in the Civil Hospitals**

**Maulavi NURUL ISLAM (Dhing) asked :**

\*25. Will the Minister-in-charge of Medical be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether there is any provision of night duty by doctor and compounder in the Civil Hospitals to receive and give medical aid to the patients in emergent cases, who happen to arrive at night ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that patients who arrive at night in the Civil Hospital do not get any medical facilities ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that medicines and other necessary things are to be supplied to the indoor patients free ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that in most cases the indoor patients are to purchase medicines and injections and even bandages, etc., from their own pockets and even in fatal cases the patients are to wait unattended till these things are supplied by them ?



**Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical)** replied :

25. (a)—Yes.

(b)—It is not a fact.

(c)—Yes, within the normally available stock.

(d)—No, in the general ward patients are given all sorts of medicines which are available in the hospital stock, free of cost.

†**Maulavi NURUL ISLAM (Dhing)**: Will the Hon'ble Minister make inquiry whether the complaints made by the public are really true or not ?

†**Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA** : If the hon. Member can bring a specific instance of these allegations then certainly I will look into the matter and see that things are set right.

†**Shri RAM NATH SARMA (Lumding)** : Is the Minister aware of the fact that the Medical Officer who remains in-charge of night duty remains in his quarters and not in the hospital ?

†**Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA** : I have not got that information officially but I have been told by the hon. Member who has put the Question (*Loud Laughter*).

†**Maulavi NURUL ISLAM** : Is it a fact that the outdoor patients also get medicines free ?

†**Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical)** : Yes.

†**Shri RAM NATH SARMA** : Is the Minister aware that the doctor in-charge of this particular hospital in Nowgong instructs the patients to purchase medicines and other things from outside ?



†**Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA** (Minister, Medical):  
I have no such information.

**Allotment of money for opening of dispensaries in the district of Nowgong**

**Maulavi NURUL ISLAM** (Dhing) asked :

†26. Will the Medical Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether any sum of money was allotted for opening of dispensaries in the District of Nowgong during 1955-56, 1956-57 and 1957-58?
- (b) If so, how many dispensaries were opened in the District of Nowgong during the same period and where ?

**Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA** (Minister, Medical) replied :

26. (a)—Yes, as per statement below—

1955-56—Rs.47,536 for two Public Health Dispensaries at Udari and Nij-Gerua.

1956-57—Rs.47,536 for two Public Health Dispensaries at Kahua-Ati and Baralimari. Rs.36,400 for a Dispensary at Meruagaon under Art. 275 of the Constitution.

1957-58—Rs.25,000 for Dispensary at Lumding.

(b)—None of the dispensaries sanctioned in 1955-56, 1956-57 and 1957-58 has yet been opened.

†**Maulavi NURUL ISLAM**: Whether Government has received any representation from the public of Moirabari for a dispensary ?

†**Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA** (Minister, Medical): I have no such information up till now.



**Gold deposited in the Dibrugarh Treasury**

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa)**  
asked :

\*27. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the heavy amount of gold which lately disappeared from Dibrugarh Treasury had since been detected ?
- (b) Whether the value of the gold has been deposited in any Treasury of this State ?
- (c) If not, whether Government propose to credit the amount to Government account ?
- (d) Who carried this gold to Calcutta and why ?
- (e) Why the box was sealed and kept in Dibrugarh Treasury creating impression that the gold was there ?
- (f) Whether officer responsible for sealing the empty box and keeping in Treasury is still in the service of this Government ?
- (g) Whether Government propose to furnish this House with a detailed report on the matter ?

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

27. (a)—The gold in question did not actually disappear but was sold by the Customs Authorities, Calcutta.

(b)—No.

(c)—The sale proceeds of the gold was deposited in the Customs House Treasury in Calcutta.

(d)—The gold was taken by the Customs authorities for disposal.

(e)—Could not be ascertained as the then Court Officer is dead.

(f)—He is dead.



(g)—A detailed report is furnished below—

The existence of a sealed tin suit case said to contain 982 tolas of gold in the Dibrugarh Treasury came to light only in course of inspection of the said Treasury by the Commissioner of Plains Division on 18th November, 1955.

The investigation conducted by the Superintendent of Police, Dibrugarh, revealed that on 27th June 1944, eight hundred and ninety-two (892) tolas of gold were seized from one Chien Koh Cheng, Mechanic, C. N. A. C. at Dinjan Air Field and the individual was arrested by the Police on duty in the Air Field.

From the Court Malkhana Register of Dibrugarh Court it appeared that a sealed tin suit case, said to contain 982 tolas of gold seized from Chien Koh Cheng at Dinjan Air Field was received at Dibrugarh Court on 28th June, 1944 and then sent to Dibrugarh Treasury. On the basis of this report the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur moved Government for orders for confiscation of the said gold and for its disposal by auction, as there was no claimant for the same. On receipt of Government orders the Deputy Commissioner opened the tin suit case but no gold was found.

On receipt of information from the Deputy Commissioner, a case was registered at Dibrugarh police station.

A C. I. D. Inspector was deputed from Shillong for investigation of the case.

During the investigation it was revealed from the records available in the Office of the Collector of Customs, Calcutta that 892 tolas of gold (not 982 tolas), seized from Chien Koh Cheng, was taken to Calcutta by the Customs on 14th July, 1944 and sold in auction on 23rd January, 1945 for Rs.64,948-12-0 and the amount was deposited in the Customs House Treasury in Calcutta on the same date.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** When was this man Chien Koh Cheng arrested, and when he was arrested was the tin suit case also seized by the Police?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):** He was arrester on 28th June, 1944 and was kept in custody for about two months when there was investigation. The suit case must have been seized at the time of the arrest of the person.



**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** This is a surmise ; my question is whether actually the suit case was seized along with the man when he was arrested ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):** It must have been ; his arrest and the seizure of the suit case must have been at the same time. Of course, here it is mentioned "seizure of gold", although the suit case has not been specifically mentioned.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):** With regard to answers to (e) and (f), may I know whether it is a fact that with the death of particular Government officer we are unable to avail of the information for his action taken in his official capacity ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA :** It may not be so in all cases, but in this particular case I would submit that this is a very old story. This incident took place as early as in the middle of 1944 and therefore, unless the officer, who conducted the preliminary investigation, is available a lot of information which are necessary for investigation cannot be collected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** A dead man tells no tales !

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Have the Government any information how this 892 tolas of gold, which was auctioned by the Customs Officer in Calcutta, could go from Assam to Calcutta ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA :** I have already replied that this gold was taken by the Customs Authorities to Calcutta.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** From where ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA:** From Dibrugarh.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** He must have been a foreigner.

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA :** Yes, Sir, he was a Chinese.



## Allotment of money under the Second Five Year Plan during 1957-58

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

\*28. Will the Minister-in-charge of Planning and Development be pleased to state—

- (a) What amount has been sanctioned for the year 1957-58 from the Second Five Year Plan (showing amounts in each Department) ?
- (b) What amount out of the above sanctioned amount has been spent (showing the amounts in each Department) up till now ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that most of the amounts sanctioned for 1957-58 has not been spent ?
- (d) If so, what is the reason ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture for Minister, Planning and Development):**

28. (a) & (b)—Amounts budgetted under each head of development in the State budget for 1957-58 and figures of expenditure reported to have been incurred by the Departments till 30th September 1957 indicated in the Statement laid on the Table.

### [Statement laid on the Table in reply to Starred Question 28(a)]

Heads and Sub-heads of Development		Outlay sanctioned for 1957-58	Expenditure incurred from 1st April 1947 to 30th September 1957
	(1)	(2) Rs.	(3) Rs.
1. Agriculture and Community Development—			
(1) Agriculture including minor irrigation schemes executed by Public Works Department (N.E.D).	.. ..	108·96	15·68
(2) Animal husbandry and Dairying .. ..	.. ..	23·39	0·32
(3) Forest including Soil Conservation .. ..	.. ..	18·30	4·00
(4) Fisheries .. ..	.. ..	6·80	0·66
(5) Community Development and N. E. S. .. ..	.. ..	113·04	29·87
(6) Co-operation and Warehousing .. ..	.. ..	28·00	3·97
(7) Panchayats .. ..	.. ..	48·55	0·36
Total—1 .. ..	.. ..	347·04	54·86

\*Speech not corrected.



## Heads and Sub-heads of Development

Outlay sanctioned for  
1957-58

Expenditure incurred  
from 1st  
April 1947  
to 30th September 1957

(1)	(2)	(3)
	Rs.	Rs.
<b>2. Irrigation and Power—</b>		
(1) Multi-purpose, Major and Medium Irrigation Projects.	16.00	5.47
(2) Power Projects—		
(a) Civil .. .. .	7.87	13.30
(b) Electrical .. .. .	50.45	14.44
Total—2 ..	74.32	33.21
<b>3. Industry and Mining—</b>		
(a) Large and Medium Industries—		
(1) Major Industries .. .. .	55.50	..
(b) Village and Small Scale Industries—		
(1) Other than Sericulture and Weaving (Cottage Industries).	35.20	1.50
(2) Sericulture and Weaving .. .. .	26.10	5.03
(3) Khadi and Village Industries .. .. .	8.13	4.03
Total—3 ..	124.93	10.56
<b>Transport and Communication—</b>		
(1) Roads and Bridges .. .. .	92.40	50.20
(2) Road Transport .. .. .	12.50	0.49
(3) Tourism .. .. .	2.50	0.05
Total—4 ..	107.40	50.74
<b>5. Social Services—</b>		
(a) Education—		
(1) Basic .. .. .	48.20	18.98
(2) General .. .. .	36.77	0.56
(3) Technical.. .. .	42.32	9.23
(4) University .. .. .	4.00	1.75
Total—5(a) ..	131.29	30.52



## Heads and Sub-heads of Development

Outlay sanctioned for  
1957-58Expenditure incurred  
from 1st  
April 1947  
to 30th Sep-  
tember 1957

(1)

(2)

(3)

## (b) Health—

Rs.

Rs.

(1) Medical .. .. 70.69 13.00

(2) Public Health .. .. 49.31 7.73

Total—5(b) .. 120.00 20.73

(c) Housing .. .. 27.40 4.34

Total—5(c) .. 27.40 4.34

(d) Labour and Labour Welfare .. .. 4.37 0.12

Total—5(d) .. 4.37 0.12

## (e) Welfare of Backward Classes—

(1) Hills Tribes .. .. 135.00 19.09

(2) Plains Tribals .. .. 30.00 9.26

(3) Scheduled Castes .. .. 5.00 .55

Total—5(e) .. 170.00 28.90

## (f) Social Welfare

.. .. 10.00 0.16

Total 5(f) .. 10.00 0.16

Total—5 .. 463.06 85.77

## 6. Miscellaneous—

(1) Re-organisation of Public Works Department .. 20.00 3.74

(2) Publicity .. .. 3.50 0.20

(3) Statistics .. .. 3.96 1.05

(4) Aid to Local Bodies .. .. 10.00 ..

(5) Town Planning .. .. 3.62 0.84

Total—6 .. 41.08 5.83

Grand Total .. 1157.83 240.97



(c) & (d)—Figures of expenditure after 30th September 1957 are not readily available.

The figures of expenditure mentioned above represent expenditure for the first 6 months of the year when the expenditure is generally slow, as during this period only preliminary measures are taken like obtaining financial sanctions, indenting for scarce materials like cement, C. I. sheets, iron rods, etc., acquisition of lands, recruitment of required personnel etc., etc.

It is during the winter season that the works gain momentum and the bulk of the expenditure is usually incurred in Assam.

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari)** : May I know what amount could not be spent?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture)** : I have already stated that figures can only be given for six months. The total of the sanctioned amount was Rs. 1157.83 lakhs and the amount spent, in the first six months was Rs. 240.97 lakhs.

#### *Re* : Nowgong Municipal Board

**Maulavi NURUL ISLAM (Dhing)** asked :

\*29. Will the Minister-in-charge of Local-Self Government be pleased to state—

(a) When the last election of members to the Nowgong Municipal Board was held ?

(b) Whether Government nomination of members to the said Board has been made ?

(c) If not, why not ?

(d) Whether the old Chairman of the Board is competent to hold auction sale of town bazars and pounds without the Board being regularly formed ?

(e) Whether it is a fact that under the L. S.-G. Act such Municipal bazars and pounds must be put to sale in auction by the middle of February ?



(f) If so, what action the Government has taken to put the above Municipal bazars and pounds for sale in auction ?

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

29. (a)—The last General Election of the Nowgong Municipal Board was held on 24th September, 1957.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—Chairman of the old Board continues to hold office till the date of election of the new Chairman of the Board after the general election *vide* Section 34(2) read with Section 26(3) of the Assam Municipal Act, 1956. As such he is competent to hold auction sale of the bazars and pounds.

(e)—The Municipal pounds and markets are sold by public auction in accordance with the Rules framed under the Assam Municipal Act and not under the Assam L.-S. G. Act as referred to in the question.

According to Rule 3 of the rules of Procedure for the sale of pounds and markets by Municipal Boards in Assam the sale by public auction of the pounds and markets is to be held, by giving one month's notice, not later than the 14th February in the financial year preceding that in which the lease is to take effect.

(f)—Municipal pounds and markets are settled by the Municipal Boards concerned and State Government do not come into the picture.

**Shri RAM NATH SARMA (Lumding)** : May know how many months do the Government take to nominate members ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister)** : In this particular case the nominations were made in the last week of January, 1958.

**Maulavi NURUL ISLAM (Dhing)** : Why there was such a delay ?



**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA :** Unfortunately this delay occurred and we are very sorry for this.

**Maulavi NURUL ISLAM:** Is it a fact that the sales of bazars and pounds have not already been held ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA :** I tried to get the information, but it is not readily available.

**Maulavi NURUL ISLAM:** If I say that these have not been held, am I correct ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) :** If the hon. Member has personal knowledge about it, I am prepared to accept his statement.

(Starred Question No.30 standing in the name of Shri Harinarayan Barua was not put and answered as the Questioner was absent)

**House building loan in Zamindari area of Goalpara**

**Maulvi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara) asked :**

\*31. Will the Minister-in-charge of Town and Country Planning be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that granting of house building loan in Zamindari area of Goalpara district has been kept in abeyance ?

(b) If so, why ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture, for Minister Town and Country Planning) replied :**

31. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.



## Joint Director of Cottage Industries, Assam

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

\*32. Will the Minister-in-charge of Cottage Industries be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Joint Director of Cottage Industries, Assam Shri A.D. Adhikari, (who also hold the charge of the Director), was deputed to Delhi during the last part of September 1957 to represent the Government of Assam in an All-India meeting of the Officers of the Cottage Industries Department ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the said Shri A. D. Adhikari, without the previous permission of the Assam Government, left direct from Delhi to Scotland to get himself married to an English lady ?
- (c) Whether it is not a breach of official discipline on the part of Shri A. D. Adhikari (a head of Department) to remain absent from duty without making over charge in a foreign country ?
- (d) If so, what action Government propose to take ?
- (e) How the said Shri Adhikari could arrange *Visas* and *Passport* without the previous knowledge of the State Government ?

**Shri MOHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister) :**

32.(a) হয় পঠিওৱা হৈছিল।

(b) শ্রী অধিকাৰীয়ে ছুটীৰ দৰ্খাস্ত পঠাইছিল, কিন্তু ছুটীৰ দৰ্খাস্ত মঞ্জুৰ হোৱাৰ পূৰ্বেই তেওঁ গুচি যোৱা হয়।

(c) Casual ছুটী ললে দায়িত্ব দি যোৱাৰ কোনো কথা নাই, কিন্তু ছুটি মঞ্জুৰ হোৱাৰ পূৰ্বেই গুচি যোৱাত সূজালা ভঙ্গকৰা হৈছে, হয়।

(d) ভবিষ্যতলৈ যাতে এনেকুৱা কাম নকৰে তাৰ কাৰণে তেওঁক সাৱধান কৰি দিয়া হৈছে।



- (e) Commonwealth দেশত Visa লোৱাৰ আৱশ্যক নাই। তেওঁ ১৯৫১ চনত ইংলণ্ডত শিক্ষালবলৈ যাওঁতে লোৱা পুৰণি Passport খনকে ১৯৫৬ চনত পুনৰ ১৯৬১ চনলৈকে চলাব পৰাকৈ renew কৰিলৈছিল। সেইকাৰণে U. K. লৈ যোৱাৰ পূৰ্বে Visa বা Passport লবলৈ বাজ্যিক চৰকাৰৰ পৰা অনুমতি লোৱা নাছিল।

\*32. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Shri Adhikari sent his leave application, but before it was sanctioned he had left.

(c)—In casual leave, no charge needs handing over. But leaving the country before receiving actual sanction of leave amounted to breach of discipline.

(d)—He has been warned to desist from such action in future.

(e)—*Visa* is not required for commonwealth countries. His original Passport was made in 1951 when he went to England for study. This was renewed again in 1956 making it valid till 1961. So he had not to take any permission from the Government for Passport or *Visa* prior to his departure to U. K.

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari) :** তেওঁক সাৱধান কৰি দিয়া হৈছে বুলি কোৱা হৈছে। সেইটোৱেই যথেষ্ট হৈছে বুলি ভাবিছেনে ?

**Shri MOHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister, Cottage Industries) :** তেওঁৰ কৈফিয়ৎ তলব কৰা হৈছিল। তেওঁ ইণ্ডিয়া গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ study schemeত studyৰ কাৰণে আমেৰিকালৈ যোৱাৰ কথা আছিল; তেওঁ nominationও পাইছিল। সেইটো আমি বন্ধ কৰিছো।

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) :** তেখেত উভতি আহিল নে কি ?

**Shri MOHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA :** হয়, উভতি আহিল।

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** সপক্ষিক।

(Laughter)

\*This is English Translation of Shri Mohendra Nath Hazarika's (Minister, Cottage Industries) reply in Assamese.



**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari) :** তেওঁ দিল্লীলৈ গৈ গৈছিল তাৰ কাৰণে T. A. পাইছিল নে নাই ?

**Shri MOHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister, Cottage Industries) :** দিল্লীলৈ যোৱা T.A. পাব।

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS :** তাৰ পিচত অহা T. A. পাইছে নে নাই ?

**Shri MOHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA :** এই বিষয়ে আগ জাননী দিবকাৰ।

**Shri RAM NATH SARMA (Lumding) :** তেওঁ বিয়া কৰাবলৈ যোৱাৰ কাৰণে শাস্তি দিব কৰি ধৰা হৈছিল নে কি ? (Laughter)

### Grant of "Nisfkheraj" lands to Satras in Dibrugarh Subdivision

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa)** asked :

\*33. Will the Minister-in-charge of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that there was a grant of about 2,424 bighas of land in 6 mauzas, viz., Moderkhat, Mancutta, Lahoal, Rohmorla, Chabua, Pulunga and Bogdung in the name of Mattak or Mayamora or Muyamoria "Satras" such as Dinjoy Moderkhat and Garpara in Dibrugarh Subdivision known as "Nisfkheraj" ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that these "Nisfkheraj" land was not transferable in ordinary course of transaction ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that most of these lands have been transferred to non-cultivator businessmen or Indian tea planters and the occupant cultivators were deprived of the same ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that individual "Satradhikars" were custodians of these lands only and they did not have the power to sell or dispose of these lands otherwise than the purpose for which these were granted ?
- (e) Whether Government propose to cancel mutation of these lands from the non-cultivators businessmen and revert either as "Nisfkheraj" to some of those "Satras" or to settle with the cultivators who were previously occupants ?



(f) Whether it is a fact that the benefit of "Nisfkheraj" in land revenue had been enjoying by these businessmen ?

(g) If so, whether Government propose to realise the difference of land revenue between "Nisfkheraj" and "Kheraj" land from these persons and take steps against the officials, if any, at whose fault these irregularities occurred ?

(h) What is the area of land still being occupied by those Satras as "Nisfkheraj" ?

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

33. (a)—Two thousand seven hundred and thirteen bighas, 3 kathas, 9 lessas of land were settled under Nisfkherai Pattas in Moderkhat, Mancutta, Lahoal, Rohmorla, Chabua, Pulunga and Bogdung mouzas with individual Satradhikars.

(b)—There is no bar to the transfer of Nisfkheraj land.

(c)—An area of 886 bighas, 1 katha, 16 lessas of Nisfkheraj land was sold to non-cultivator businessmen and Tea Planters.

(d)—The Satradhikars are lease holders having transferable interest in their lands.

(e)—Government cannot interfere in the matter of transfer or sale of Nisfkheraj land.

(f) & (g)—The question of re-assessment has since been taken up to enhance the revenue with retrospective effect. The question of any fault of officials will be examined.

(h)—An area of 771 bighas, 3 kathas, 16 lessas is under occupation of the Satradhikars, the remaining area is under occupation of cultivators.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):** Whether it is a fact that these Nisfkheraj lands were under occupation of cultivators at the time of transfer to non-cultivators and the Government could not preserve the right of the unfortunate tenants ?



**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue):** Government had to proceed according to law.

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari):** Whether these lands which were given to the tenants are lands on different terms ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue):** Government have no information.

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS:** What benefit will be given to those who cannot take advantage of the law court ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS :** Those who cannot take advantage of the law court they get no benefit.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) :** Whether it is a fact that the tenant occupying land from time immemorial, now have been evicted by those non-cultivators after transfer from Satradhikars.

**Shri HARESWAR DAS :** Here the Temporarily Settled District Act will apply if the tenants acquired any right of occupancy.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The Honorable Minister refers to law only. The question is whether the tenants have been evicted ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS :** But, Sir, this is altogether a different question.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Whether the tenants have been evicted and whether the Government has any information ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS :** If that be the question the reply is the same.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Whether the tenants have been evicted ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS :** If that be the question, the Government has no information.



**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):** With regard to (f) whether Nisf-kheraj land purchased by some other similar Satras will be allowed the same benefit of Nisf-kheraj land ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue):** If the Nisf-kheraj lands are not used for the same purpose for which they are given, the Government shall charge a regular land revenue.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA:** If some portion of the Nisf-kheraj land is purchased from the non-cultivators, whether the benefit of the Nisf-kheraj land will be given to the Satras or Satradhikars ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** Yes.

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari):** Whether this is Satra land ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** It belongs to the Satra.

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari):** Whether Satra lands are not transferable ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** These are transferable.

#### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

#### **Expenditure on Dibrugarh Revetment**

**Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal)** asked :

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

(a) The total expenditure incurred by Government for construction of revetment at Dibrugarh ?



(b) Whether it is a fact that out of the total expenditure a large amount has been mis-appropriated and mis-spent ?

(c) If the reply to (b) above be in the affirmative, what was the estimated amount mis-appropriated and mis-spent ?

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

84.(a)—Rs.12·84 lakhs.

(b)—No.

(c)—Does not arise.

**Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal)**: অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, ৫০০ bag cement-এর হিচাব যে মিলাব পরা নাছিল, সেই হিচাবটো মিলাব পাৰিলে নো ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY**: তেনেকুৱা কোনো information গভণ মেন্টৰ নাই।

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa)** : Whether it is a fact that Government money amounting to several lakhs of rupees had been washed away by the Brahmaputra ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY**: Only a portion of the revetment was washed away. Whether the amount is several lakhs of rupees or not it is not readily available.

**Regarding appointment of Shri M. I. Malik as Director of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry**

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

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

(a) When Shri M. I. Malik, the Director of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry was appointed ?

(b) Whether he is a retired person ?

(c) Whether he has been appointed on contract basis ?



- (d) If so, what are the terms and conditions of the contract ?
- (e) Was there any advertisement for the post of Director ?
- (f) If so, how many persons applied for the post ?
- (g) Whether Shri Malik was selected by the Government or by the Public Service Commission ?

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

85.(a)—On 13th August, 1957.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Shri Malik has been appointed on contract basis for 3 years and his services are terminable on three months' notice on either side. A copy of the agreement is placed on library table.

#### Agreement

Articles of agreement made this 21st day of the month of July 1957, between Shri Mahamed Ismail Malik, Retired Director of Veterinary Services, Government of Bihar of the first part and the Governor of Assam of the second part.

Whereas the Governor of Assam (hereinafter called the Governor) has engaged the party of the first part and party of the first part has agreed to serve the Governor (including his successors in office) in the Agriculture Department of the Government of Assam as Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department of Assam on the terms and conditions hereinafter contained.

Now these presents witness and the parties hereto respectively agree as follows :—

1. The party of the first part shall submit himself to the orders of the Governor and the officers and authorities under whom he may from time to time be placed by the Governor and shall, subject to the terms of this agreement, remain exclusively in the service for a period of not less than three years commencing from the date of his joining it.

2. The party of the first part shall devote his whole time to his duties and at all times obey the rules including the Government Servants Conduct Rules prescribed for the time being for the regulation of the branch of the public service to



which he may belong and shall, whenever required, proceed to any part of the State or outside the State and there perform such duties as may be assigned to him.

3. The party of the first part shall not, except in the case of accident or sickness certified by competent medical authority, absent himself from his duties without having first obtained permission from the Governor or his authorised officers.

4. The service of the party of the first part may be terminated as follows :—

(i) at the end of the third year by either party without notice,

(ii) at any time on 3 months' notice in writing given to him by the Governor, if in the opinion of the Governor which will be final the party of the first part, proves unsuitable for efficient performance of his duties during service under this agreement:

Provided always that the Governor may, in lieu of notice herein provided for, pay the party of the first part a sum equivalent to the pay for 3 months, and if the notice falls short of the stipulated period of 3 months a sum equivalent to the pay for the period by which the notice served falls of the stipulated period ;

(iii) by the Governor without previous notice if the Governor is satisfied on medical evidence, by the State Standing Medical Board, that the party of the first part is unfit and likely for a considerable period to continue unfit by reasons of ill-health for the discharge of his duties in the State, provided always that the decision of the Governor that the party of the first part is likely to continue unfit shall be conclusive and binding on the party of the first part ;



- (iv) by the Governor without any previous notice if the party of the first part shall be guilty of any insubordination, intemperance, or other misconduct or of any breach of any of the provisions of these presents or of any rules, pertaining to the branch of the public service to which he may belong ;
- (v) by 3 months' notice in writing given at any time during service under this agreement by the party of the first part to the party of the second part:

Provided always, if before the expiry of the period of three years from the date of his joining, the first party leaves the service of the second party without permission or without giving the latter three months' notice the first party shall be liable for breach of contract to pay the Second party a sum equivalent to 3 months' pay by way of liquidated damages it being the intention of the parties that such sum representing three months' pay shall be deemed to be the ascertained amount of damages sustained by such breach without any necessity to prove damages or the amount thereof.

And it is hereby expressly agreed and declared that this agreement shall be treated and considered as entered into under the orders of the Government of Assam for the performance by the first party of a public duty and act in which the public are interested within the meaning of Section 74 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872 (Act IX of 1872).

5. If the party of the first part be suspended from duty during investigation into any charge of misconduct as mentioned in clause (iv) of Section 4 hereof, he shall not be entitled to any pay during such period of suspension but shall be entitled to receive a subsistence allowance that should not exceed  $\frac{1}{4}$ th of pay.

6. The party of the first part shall draw pay at the rate of Rs.1,800 per mensem (Rupees one thousand and eight hundred) only, less pension including portion, if any, commuted and pension equivalent of death-cum-retirement gratuity as admissible to him for services under the Government of Bihar.



7. The party of the first part shall be granted Gazetted rank and enjoy all the privileges of officers holding gazetted status, subject to the provisions of this agreement.

8. The party of the first part shall, during his service under these presents be entitled to leave as admissible to temporary Government Servants under Revised Leave Rules, 1934. Any leave that may remain to the credit of the officer will lapse with the termination of his service.

9. The party of the first part shall be entitled to privileges as regards medical attendance as admissible to an officer of similar rank to the post he occupies.

10. If the party of the first part is required to travel in the interest of the public service he shall be entitled to travelling allowance on the scale provided for in the Assam Travelling Allowance Rules for the time being in force and applicable to officers of the first grade.

11. Notwithstanding anything hereinbefore contained, the pay and leave salary admissible under these presents shall be subject to any emergency out that may be ordered by the Governor for the same period and on the same terms as for other officers under the administrative control to the Governor.

12. In respect of any matter for which no provision has been made in this agreement the provisions of the Rules or Acts made or deemed to have been made under section 241 of the Government of India Act, 1935 or Article 309 of the Constitution as the case may be, regulating the recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to the public service and posts in connection with the affairs of the State of Assam, shall apply to the extent to which they are applicable to the service hereby provided for and, the decision of the Governor as to their applicability shall be final and binding on the party of the first part.

13. In witness whereof Shri Mahmmmed Ismail Malik, Retired Director of Veterinary Services, Government of Bihar, party of the first part and Secretary to the Government of



Assam, Agriculture Department acting for and on behalf of and by the order and direction of the Governor of Assam have hereunto set their hands.

In the presence of

1. Signed by the party of the first part.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Witness)

Sd./- M. I. MALIK,

1. Signature of the party of the first part.

21-7-1957.

2.

In the presence of

2. Signed by the Secretary to the Government of Assam in the Agriculture Department on behalf of the Governor.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Witness)

1.

Sd./- K. G. R. IYER,

- Signature of the party of the Second part.

2.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—15.

(g)—By the Public Service Commission.

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari):** Whether he was given the first preference by the Public Service Commission?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Veterinary):** Yes.

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS:** Whether any Assamese applicant having training in America was given preference by the Public Service Commission?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Veterinary):** No such person was given preference by the Public Service Commission.

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS:** Is it a fact that he was not selected by the Kashmir Government?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** We have no such information.

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS:** Will the Government be pleased to enquire about it?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** It is not necessary to enquire about it.



## Delimitation of District Council Constituencies of United Khasi and Jaintia Hills District

**Shri LARSING KHYRIEM** (Jowai: Reserved for Scheduled Tribes) asked :

86. Will the Minister-in-charge of Autonomous Districts be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the delimitation of the last District Council Constituencies of the District United Khasi and Jaintia Hills was published in proper time without any delay ?
- (b) What are the principles followed in constituting the constituencies ?
- (c) Whether the Government is aware that the District Council, United Khasi and Jaintia Hills, passed a resolution lately that the delimitation of constituencies should be based on reasons of contiguity, population and territorial limits ?
- (d) Whether these principles were followed by the party in power then ?
- (e) If Government is aware that the District Council have passed a resolution that the population of a constituency should not exceed 5,000 than that of any other constituency ?
- (f) If Government is aware that the population of Jowai constituency is about 1,000 more than that of the Rymbai constituency ?
- (g) What is the population of each constituency of the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills District ?
- (h) What actions have been taken on the protest of the Jaintia Durbar and the leaders of the Tribal Union ?

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

86. (a) to (h)—Under paragraph 2 (7) of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution, the matter concerns the District Council and as such Government do not come into the picture.



**Shri LARSINGH KHYRIEM (Jowai: Reserved for Scheduled Tribes):** Sir, in reply to all my questions the Government have said—"Under paragraph 2 (7) of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution, the matter concerns the District Council and as such Government do not come into the picture"—now, if the District Councils act contrary to the provision of the Sixth Schedule is it not the duty of the Government to interfere in the matter?

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Tribal Areas Department):** Yes Sir, if District Councils act contrary to the provision of the Sixth Schedule, Government will certainly interfere.

**Shri LARSINGH KHYRIEM:** Do Government know that the District Council of Khasi and Jaintia Hills acted contrary to the provision of the Sixth Schedule?

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA:** Sir, there was a proposal in the last District Council of Khasi and Jaintia Hills to pass certain rules concerning delimitation of constituencies in the district, but as that Rule was found defective, Government did not approve of it.

**Shri LARSINGH KHYRIEM:** Will Government make an enquiry in the matter?

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA:** As matters stand at present, there is no necessity for any enquiry.

### **Regarding Construction of Roads in Majigram Refugee Colony**

**Shri ABDUL HAMID CHOUDHURY (Karimganj-South)** asked:

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

(a) What sum of money was sanctioned for construction of roads in Majigram Refugee Colony?

(b) Who were granted contracts for such construction work?



- (c) Whether it is a fact that of late some contractors were arrested for drawing false bills for alleged construction of new roads in that colony ?
- (d) Who are those contractors ?
- (e) Who is the Supervising Officer who certified the construction ?
- (f) What action has been taken against the offenders and the Supervising Officer ?

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

87. (a)—Rupees 34,620.

(b)— (i) Shri B. K. Choudhury.

(ii) Shri Gurudas Deb.

(iii) Shri Haripada Das Gupta.

(iv) Shri Benode Lal Roy.

(c) & (d)—These four contractors were arrested under Section 420/I20B/409 I. P. C.

(e)—The then Overseer Shri H. K. Majumdar was the Supervising Officer and payments were made on completion certificates furnished by him and on bills drawn up by him.

(f)—The four contractors and the Supervising Officer, Shri H. K. Majumdar, the then Overseer were arrested and subsequently released on bail and the matter is still under Police investigation.

### Regarding Construction of Roads in Sonebeel Area of Ratabari Police Station

**Shri ABDUL HAMID CHOUDHURY** (Karimganj-South) asked :

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

- (a) What sum of money was spent for construction of roads in Sonebeel area of Ratabari Police Station ?



- (b) Who were the Contractors ?
- (c) Whether the roads constructed are still in existence ?
- (d) Whether Shri S. Kalita, the then Subdivisional Officer, Karimganj ever visited the locality to inquire into the condition of the roads ?
- (e) Whether he submitted any report on the enquiry ?
- (f) If so, what are the contents of the report ?
- (g) What action has been taken on the report ?

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

88. (a)—Rupees 1,08,856.25.

- (b)—
- (i) Shri P. N. Goswami.
  - (ii) Shri Matilal Dutta.
  - (iii) Shri Bidyut Dam.
  - (iv) Shri Harendra Roy.
  - (v) Shri Haralal Das.
  - (vi) Shri Subimal Nag.
  - (vii) Shri S. R. Dutta.
  - (viii) Shri Beharilal Das.
  - (ix) Shri Kumud Ranjan Goswami.
  - (x) Shri M. B. Deb Roy.
  - (xi) Shri Mon Mohan Bhattacharjee.

(c)—Roads constructed on the Sonebeel area have been damaged in places by cattle and successive floods since March, 1955.

(d)—Shri S. Kalita, the then Subdivisional Officer, Karimganj did not visit the Sonebeel area for enquiry into the condition of roads but he saw a portion of roads in course of his tour in that area in other connection.

(e)—No report was submitted by Shri S. Kalita on the condition of roads in the Sonebeel area.

(f)—In view of the reply to (e) above, the question does not arise.

(g) This question does not arise in view of the reply to (e) above.



**Charitable Dispensaries in Mangaldai Subdivision**

**Md. MATLEBUDDIN (Dalgaon)** asked :

89. Will the Medical Minister be pleased to state—

(a) How many charitable dispensaries are there in the Mangaldai Subdivision ?

(b) Whether Government have taken any step to increase the number of such dispensaries in Mangaldai Subdivision ?

(c) Whether Government is aware that the only dispensary at Dalgaon is quite inadequate to serve the purpose of the people of 10 to 18 miles on all quarters ?

(d) If so, whether Government propose to establish more dispensaries there ?

(e) Whether it is a fact that a hospital is going to be established at Kharupathia very soon ?

**Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical)** replied :

89. (a)—There are 15 Local Board Dispensaries, 5 Subsidised Dispensaries, 6 Public Health Dispensaries and 4 Primary Health Units in the Mangaldai Subdivision.

(b)—A Mobile dispensary with its headquarters at Mangaldai has been sanctioned under Article 275—Development Scheme this year. Every endeavour is being made to extend medical facilities to the masses as much as possible and Mangaldai Subdivision obviously falls within the purview of that extension programme.

(c)—Information is not readily available. An enquiry is being made in this regard. The attention of the hon. Member is however invited to the reply at (b) above.

(d)—Hon. Member's attention is invited to the reply at (b) above.

(e)—Yes, as early as possible.



**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery):** Is it not a fact that there is a Public Health Dispensary at Tangla ?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The answer to that question is obvious to the hon. Member. What is the purpose of asking it ?

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery):** Government decided to attach maternity ward to this Dispensary since 1955. I want to know whether that has been done ?

**Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA (Medical Minister):** Sir, there is sanction for Materinity Centre in the area, but the question of attaching a Maternity Ward to the dispensary is under consideration of Government.

### Government Vehicles for Settlement Officers

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

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

(a) Whether Government are aware that the Settlement Officers are required to tour very frequently in Muffusil areas and to supervise as many as fifteen offices of the Assistant Settlement Officers during settlement operation ?

(b) Whether the Settlement Officers of Kamrup and Sibsagar are entitled to Government vehicles ?

(c) If so, what is the reason for non-supply of vehicles to them during the last two years ?

(d) Whether Government propose to supply Government vehicles to the Settlement Officers as early as possible if necessary by withdrawing vehicles from offices having surplus ?

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

90. (a)—Yes, but the number of Assistant Settlement Officers' offices vary in different districts.

(b)—Yes.



(c)—It is not a fact that vehicles were not supplied to the two Settlement Officers for the last two years. Settlement Officer, Sibsagar was supplied with a vehicle in time. There was some delay in providing the same to Settlement Officer, Kamrup due to import restrictions. He was later supplied with a vehicle intended for the Naga Hills.

(d)—Yes, as far as practicable.

**Re: Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup**

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

91. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, the District Officers at Gauhati and the Inspecting Officers there are required to stay at headquarters all the time for receiving Ministers, Departmental Heads and other high officials and for seeing them off?
- (b) Whether Government are aware that the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, has been reduced to the status of an escorting officer to and from Borjhar and Jorabat, instead of being an Executive and Administrative Officer?
- (c) Whether Government are aware that sometimes the Deputy Commissioner is to cancel meetings of Committees for the above purpose without notice?
- (d) Whether Government are aware that the District Officers, and the Inspecting Officers at Gauhati are unable to visit Muffosil to perform their allotted duties there which has created a chaotic condition?
- (e) If so, whether Government propose to take immediate steps to remove the above difficulty to make the District Officers at Gauhati available to the public particularly in Muffosil and to post a Magistrate as Liaison Officer for the purpose and to relieve the District and the Inspecting Officers to perform sufficient numbers of tours in Muffosil?



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

91. (a)—No.

(b)—No.

(c)—No. If for any reason the Deputy Commissioner is not available to preside at meetings, the Additional District Magistrate presides. There have been no instances of any meeting being cancelled merely because the Deputy Commissioner had to be away.

(d)—It is not a fact ?

(e)—Does not arise in view of replies to the question above.

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog):** How many times the Deputy Commissioner went to Barpeta for inspection ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):** I want notice for this question, Sir. By looking from the tour diaries of District Officers it will be seen that they used to visit mufasil areas, but with regard to a particular place, as mentioned by my Friend from Sorbhog I want notice.

#### *Re. Tihu and Barama High Schools*

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

92. Will the Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state—

(a) The principle of selecting High Schools as Higher Secondary High Schools or as Multipurpose High Schools ?

(b) Whether Government Aided Tihu High School and Barama High School were included either in the scheme of Multipurpose High School or Higher Secondary High Schools ?

(c) If not, whether Government propose to enlist them in either of the two schemes during 1958-59 ?



- (d) Whether it is a fact that the recommendations of the Development Board are not getting approval by the Education Department generally?
- (e) If so, whether Government propose to constitute the Development Board for the purpose of Education?

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

92. (a)—The principles of selecting High Schools as Higher Secondary or Multipurpose High Schools are based on location, roll strength, staff, accommodation, etc. of the Schools.

(b)—No.

(c)—The matter is under consideration.

(d)—No.

(e)—Does not arise.

### **Bijoypore Mahila Samity**

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa)** asked :

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

(a) Whether it is a fact that the women folk of Bijoypore Village within Abor Hills Transferred area are taking initiative of weaving collectively?

(b) Whether Government lately received any representation requesting for help for this Bijoypore Mohila Samity last year?

(c) Whether Government are aware that Government grant and guidance will be able to create a good production centre there?

(d) Whether Government proposed to help and guide this enterprise?



**Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister-in-charge of Cottage Industries)** replied :

93.(a)—This Department has no information.

(b)—No.

(c)—If we receive application with schemes, from public of the localities we may examine the same by deputing an officer for enquiry and will submit recommendation for grants to the authority concerned.

(d)—Yes, if it deserves.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: (Saikhowa)** গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টলৈ চিঠি বা দৰখাস্ত দিলে সেই বোৰ respective department লৈ পঠোৱা নহয় নেকি বা তাৰ উত্তৰ দিয়া হয়নে নহয় ?

**Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA:** হয়, department লৈ পঠোৱা হয় আৰু আৱশ্যক অনুযায়ী উত্তৰ নিশ্চয় দিয়া হয় ।

**Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal):** মহিলা সমিতি বিলাকে অনুষ্ঠানৰ বাবে গ্ৰাণ্ট আদি বিচাৰিলে পাবলৈ কিয় দেৱী হয় ?

**Shri MOHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA:** পাবলগীয়া গ্ৰাণ্ট পোৱাৰ দেৱী হোৱা নাই ।

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):** অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আপুনি অনুমতি দিলে মই এই বিষয়ে কব খোজোঁ । গ্ৰাণ্টৰ টকাৰ পৰিমাণ বাজেটত দিয়া থাকে । সেই টকাৰ পৰিমাণৰ ওপৰত গ্ৰাণ্ট দিয়া নিৰ্ভৰ কৰে । নিৰ্দিষ্ট আঁচনিৰ লগত খাপ খুৱাই বাজেটত এই টকাৰ পৰিমাণ ধাৰ্য কৰা হয় । গ্ৰাণ্টৰ বাবে যি বিলাক আবেদন পোৱা হয় সেই আবেদন বিলাক বহুত সময়তে এই আঁচনি বিলাকৰ লগত খাপ খোৱাকৈ নাহে । কেতিয়াবা একে খন আবেদনতে শিল্প, শিক্ষা সমাজ কাৰ্য আদি সকলো কথাৰ বাবে আহে । তেনে বিলাক কথাৰ পৰাও পলম হয় । গ্ৰাণ্ট বিলাক জিলা সমূহতো Development Fund ৰ পৰা দিয়া হয় আৰু অন্যান্য fund ৰ পৰাও দিয়া হয় । বিভিন্ন গ্ৰাণ্টৰ গুৰুী সমূহ একে কৰিব পাৰি নেকি, চৰকাৰে এই বিষয়ে চিন্তা কৰিছে । দৰখাস্ত বিলাক পোৱাৰ পিচত স্থানীয়, তদন্তৰ বাবে চৰকাৰৰ পক্ষৰ পৰা কৰ্মচাৰীয়ে তদন্তৰ report দিব লাগে । এই বিলাক কাম কেনেকৈ সোনকালে কৰিব পৰা যায় তাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবলৈ চৰকাৰে বিবেচনা কৰিছে ।



**Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal):** মহিলা সমিতিৰ পৰা চিঠি পঠিয়ালে সেই বিলাকৰ উত্তৰ দিয়া হয়নে বা department ৰ লগত যাতে দৰখাস্তৰ সামঞ্জস্য থাকে তাক বাবে কিবা গুৰুত্ব দিয়া হয়নে?

**Shri MOHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister, Cottage Industries):** দিয়া হয়, বিমান পৰা যায় উত্তৰো দিয়া হয়।

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** আমাৰ দেশত পুৰুষ আৰু মহিলাৰ সমান স্থান গতিকে মহিলা বুলি বিশেষ দৃষ্টি পোৱাৰ কাৰণ নাই।

### **Marginal Embankments on the Pagladiya and Nona**

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

94. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (Flood Control) be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether marginal embankments provided on Pagladiya and Nona rivers without examination of the sources and the hydrological data are on scientific basis ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that flood control measures so far taken by the Department in Nalbari area of Assam have proved total failure ?
- (c) What arrangement has been done to remove silt deposits of the rivers ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that no steps have yet been taken to avert worst floods in the Nalbari area particularly in Uparbarbhag Mauza in spite of repeated representations of the public ?
- (e) Whether Government are aware that two human lives were washed away in June, 1957 floods of Pagladiya and Nona from Kamarkuchi followed by death of another infant about the same place ?
- (f) Whether Government are aware of their responsibility which they owe to the people to protect their lives and properties in this respect ?



- (g) What is the amount of expenditure incurred in connection with provision of temporary repair of breaches of Pagladiya in June, 1957 floods ?
- (h) What quantity of bags and other materials were supplied for each of the breaches of Pagladiya and Nona and through what agency ?
- (i) Whether it is a fact that supply of bags and other materials and in certain cases works themselves were overestimated for payment to contractors in the breaches repaired ?
- (j) Whether the Department have received allegation from Bijlighat side in this respect ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY** [Minister-in-charge, Flood Control] replied :

94.(a)—Marginal embankments have been provided on Pagladiya and Nona after designing the embankments on proper technical and scientific basis by observing available hydrological data and other aspects of the problem.

(b)—No.

(c)—There exists no arrangements for the removal of silt-deposits from the river beds so far.

(d)—No. Embankments have been constructed along both banks of Pagladiya, Nona and Borolia for flood protection in Nalbari area. Raising and strengthening of Pagladiya embankments have all so been taken in hand this year. Sluices are being provided in the area near Dusutimukh (confluence of Pagladiya and Borilia) to minimise flood congestion in that area.

(e)—Two human lives were washed away by floods of Pagladiya due to breach in the embankment, but regarding the death of an infant Government has no information.

(f)—Human ingenuity has not yet been able to make embankments absolutely safe from breaches by high floods and to avoid loss of life and property resultant from such breaches.



(g)—Rs. 1,05,000 approximately.

(h)—The details of bags supplied by contractors for closing the breaches are as follows:—

	Nos.
(i) At Sandha Village—Pagladiya left bank ... ..	1,125
(ii) At Dhaniagog—Pagladiya left bank ... ..	6,000
(iii) At Kamarkuchi—Pagladiya right bank ... ..	3,560
(iv) At Barmurikono—Pagladiya right bank ... ..	6,000
(v) At Dhantola—Pagladiya right bank ... ..	3,000
(vi) At Katbatra—Pagladiya left bank ... ..	2,131
Total ... ..	21,816

(i)—No.

(j)—No.

**Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS (Rangia : Reserved for Scheduled Tribes):** May we know from the Minister-in-charge whether Government have received the Report of the Technical Committee with regard to embankment of Pagladiya river and if so, what were the recommendations?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Flood Control):** I want notice of that question, Sir.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I think that is a simple question.

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Flood Control):** Sir, the question was, what was the Report of the Technical Committee of the Government of India—that cannot be given off hand, Sir.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** At least you can give the general recommendations.

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** These are there already in reply to (b), Sir.



**Re: Town Police Staff in Nalbari Town and Nalbari Thana**

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

95. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Why the Town Police staff sanctioned at Nalbari town in the last Budget Session has not yet been posted ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the delay in posting of the staff is due to formal administrative approval ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware that there is difficulty of traffic control due to absence of the staff ?
- (d) Whether Government are aware that during Rash Puja festival at Nalbari lasting for a longer period than anywhere else in Assam, necessity of this staff was considered very urgent ?
- (e) Whether Government are aware of the inordinate delay in posting a small staff sanctioned during the last Budget Session of the Assembly ?
- (f) What steps Government propose to take to avoid such unusual delay in future ?
- (g) When the Town Police staff is expected to be posted at Nalbari ?

96. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) The strength of the Police staff at Nalbari Thana ?
- (b) Whether Daulasal Investigation Centre and Belsor outpost will continue to be controlled from Nalbari Thana ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware of insufficiency of accommodation at Nalbari Thana for the purpose of carrying its normal work ?
- (d) Whether the office of the Circle Inspector, Nalbari having jurisdiction over five thanas is located at Nalbari thana ?
- (e) Whether Government propose to reconstruct the thana building which has become very old to make it suitable for purpose of Thana and to accommodate the Circle Inspector's office ?
- (f) Whether Government propose to construct a judicial lock-up at Nalbari Thana for the undertrial at Nalbari Courts ?



- (g) Whether Government are aware of strong feelings of the people of Pachimbanbhag Mouza for its recent transfer from Nalbari thana situated at proximity with the thickly populated part of the Mouza to Rangia Thana which is at a greater distance from the thickly populated area of the Mouza ?
- (h) Whether Government have taken action to consider the grievances of the people of the Mouza for its retransfer to Nalbari Thana ?

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

95. (a)—Out of the sanctioned staff of one head constable and six constables, the head constable has already been posted at Nalbari. As regards the six constables, as recruitment of constables had to be temporarily suspended so as to absorb the constables released from Naga Hills, it has not yet been possible to post these six constables to Nalbari.

(b).—No.

(c)—Government have no such information. The traffic is being controlled by the present staff.

(d)—Quite likely ; but the police requirements for the occasion were duly met by the existing staff of Nalbari Police Station like previous years.

(e)—Some delay has happened due to the unavoidable circumstances explained in reply to (a) above.

(f)—Such delay is not likely to occur in future as in this instance special circumstances occurred.

(g)—Orders have already been issued by Inspector General of Police to post six constables at Nalbari.

96. (a)—Three Sub-Inspectors, six Assistant Sub-Inspectors, one Head constable and forty-two constables including the Town Police staff of one Head constable and six constables.

(b).—Yes.

(c) Due to the increase of staff accommodation has now proved insufficient.

(d).—Yes.

(e).—Yes, as soon as possible.

(f).—No. The present lock-up will do for the temporary Court. The construction of a Magistrate's lock-up will be taken up along with the construction of the Court building.



(g) & (h)—Government are aware that there is some feeling of people in the Pachimbanbhag Mouza that they should be with the Nalbari Thana. These matters were considered at the time of re-organisation of thanas when it was felt that this Mouza should be in Rangiya Police Station. In view of present feelings matters will be re-examined.

### **Murder and Dacoity Cases under the Gossaigaon Thana Area**

**Shri MATHIAS TUDU (Gossaigaon)** asked :

97. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) How many murder and dacoity cases were committed in the Gossaigaon Thana area in the district of Goalpara, during the year 1957?
- (b) How many cases have been successfully investigated?
- (c) What are the reasons for which investigation failed in other cases?

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

97. (a)—4 murder cases and 3 dacoity cases.  
 (b)—All the cases were successfully investigated.  
 (c)—Does not arise in view of reply to (b).

**Shri MATHIAS TUDU:** May I know who are the victims in those murder and dacoity cases?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):** If the hon. Member wants to know the names, I am afraid, I do not have the names with me now but I can give the number of cases only.

### **Electrification of Nazira Town**

**Shri TANKESWAR CHETIA (Nazira)** asked :

98. (a) Will the Minister in-charge of Electricity, etc., be pleased to state why the Nazira Town has not been electrified so far, although, the preliminaries had been done before the last General Election?

(b) Is it not a fact that the proposal to open the Power House at Nazira was favourably considered at first?

(c) What led to its subsequent shifting to Sibsagar?



(d) Is it not a fact that Government have promised a sub-power station at Nazira in case the main power house is located at Sibsagar ?

(e) Are Government aware of the representations made so far in regard to electricity at Nazira by the local public ?

(f) What actions have been taken by the Government to remove their grievances ?

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

98. (a)—Nazira Town could not be electrified so far as all preliminaries have not been completed. As soon as the main High Tension Line from Sibsagar Power Station to Nazira is complete, the scheme will be ready for switching on.

(b) & (c)—Originally the proposal was to construct a power station at Nazira itself. At Nazira the energy load, which is the main technical factor guiding the setting up of a power station, was found to be small, thereby rendering the Nazira scheme uneconomic. Hence the scheme for electrification of Nazira was amalgamated with that of Sibsagar to make the entire scheme more economical.

(d)—Yes. All work in connection with the sub-station at Nazira is complete.

(e) & (f)—Government are aware that the public of Nazira are very keen on getting the benefits of electricity. As already said in reply to (a) above, the town will be electrified as soon as the High Tension Line from Sibsagar is completed.

**Shri TANKESWAR CHETIA (Nazira):** What is the approximate time by which this scheme is expected to be completed ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** It is difficult to say, Sir. It all depends on the availability of materials, Technical personnel, etc.

**Shri RAM NATH DAS (Dergaon: Reserved for Scheduled Castes):** Will Government be pleased to state what is the progress of work regarding construction of the High tension line.

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** Sir, I confess I will not be able to say just now but I shall give the information to the hon. Member.



### **Subsidised Dispensary at Dongabari in Gobha Mauza**

**Shri DHIRSINGH DEURI** (Laharighat: Reserved for Scheduled Tribes) asked :

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that a Subsidised Dispensary is established at Dongabari village in Gobha Mauza in the district of Nowgong under the management of Mayang N. E. S. Block ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the said dispensary is in-charge of a compounder ?
- (c) When this dispensary was started and what is the number of patients who attended the dispensary during the period from the opening of the dispensary to 31st January, 1958 ?
- (d) How many people have been benefited from this dispensary ?
- (e) Whether Government propose to take over the said dispensary as it has served many illiterate persons in the area ?

**Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA** (Minister, Medical) replied :

99. (a)—Yes, it is a fact that one compounding centre is established in the Dongabari village in Gobha Mauza in Nowgong, managed by Mayang N. E. S. Block.

(b)—Yes, it is in-charge of a qualified and experienced compounder. Extension Officer (Medical) visits this centre twice weekly.

(c)—It was started on 11th July, 1957. 548 patients attended the dispensary from 11th July, 1957 to 31st January, 1958.

(d)—548 people have been benefited within 6 and half months (approximately).

(e)—Government will consider taking over the dispensary after the N. E. S. & C. D. stage is over, when it will be normalised.



**Moderkhat Sorboday Rural Panchayat**

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa)**  
asked :

100. Will the Minister-in-charge of Rural Development Department be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government is aware of allegations of irregular and improper expenditure of the fund of Moderkhat Sorboday Rural Panchayat in Dibrugarh Subdivision in 1955 for the period from February, 1953 to August, 1955 ?
- (b) Whether Government has received a three paged printed leaflet during September, 1955 or so in this connection alleging various type of allegations including improper and indecent behaviour of the local Development Officer ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that by letters No. DLDP.26/54/37, 26/54/38 and 26/54/39, dated 17th September 1955 the Development Officer, Dibrugarh, called for an explanation from the publishers and to show cause why they published the leaflet ?
- (d) Whether any enquiry was made on the allegations for improper expenditure of the Panchayat fund ?
- (e) Whether any enquiry was made on the allegations of improper and indecent behaviour of the Development Officer there ?

**Shri MOHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister-in-charge of Rural Development)** replied :

100. (a) & (b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes. The Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur asked Shri Bangshidhar Gogoi, President and Shri Maneswar Dutta, Office Assistant of the Moderkhat Sorboday Rural Panchayat to show cause for unauthorised publication of official informations.

(d) & (e)—Yes.



**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):** 'c' প্রশ্নৰ উত্তৰত কোৱা হৈছে শ্ৰী মনেশ্বৰ দত্ত অফিচ এচিষ্টেণ্ট। চৰকাৰে জানেনে—যে তেখেত আগতে পঞ্চায়তৰ প্ৰতিনিধি আছিল ?

**Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister, Rural Development):** হয়, প্ৰথমতে তেখেত পঞ্চায়তৰ প্ৰতিনিধি আছিল আৰু তাৰ পিচত সেই সদস্য পদ ইস্তফা দিয়ে আৰু পঞ্চায়তে ইস্তফা accept কৰাৰ পিচত তাৰ Office Assistant হয়।

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA:** যি জন Development Officer ৰ গাত চেকা পেলাই টকা অসং ব্যৱহাৰৰ অভিযোগ হল, সেই Development Officer কে বিচাৰ কৰিবলৈ দিছিলনে আৰু তেখেতে অভিযোগ কাৰীৰ এজনক গ্ৰেপ্তাৰ কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিলেনে ?

**Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA:** হয়, সেই কেচটো পুলিচত দিয়া হয়। যিহেতুকে কাগজ-পত্ৰ হিচাবৰ বচিদ আদি তাৰ প্ৰাপ্ত সভাপতিক চমজাই নিদি আটক কৰি ৰাখিছিল। অভিযোগ অনা বিষয়াকদি বিচাৰ কৰিবলৈ দিয়া হোৱা নাছিল।

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA:** যি অফিচাৰৰ ওপৰত এনে অভিযোগ অনা হৈছিল তেওঁকেই এই অভিযোগবিলাক তদন্ত কৰাৰ ভাৰ দিয়া হৈছিলনেকি ?

**Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA:** নাই হোৱা।

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA:** মোৰ প্ৰশ্নৰ (d) আৰু (e) ৰ উত্তৰত “হয়” বুলি কোৱা হৈছে। এতিয়া মোৰ প্ৰশ্ন হৈছে যে সেই অফিচাৰ কেইজনৰ ওপৰত অনা অভিযোগবিলাক চৰকাৰে তদন্ত কৰিবলৈ দিয়া হৈছেনে কি ?

**Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA:** শ্ৰী বংশীধৰ গগৈ আৰু শ্ৰী মনেশ্বৰ দত্তৰ কৈফিয়ৎ তন্নপ কৰা হৈছিল। অফিচৰ গোপনীয় কাগজ পত্ৰ প্ৰকাশ কৰাৰ কাৰণে। বৰ্তমান এই মামলা আদালতৰ বিচাৰাধীনত আছে।

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA:** যিজন সম্পাদকে টকাৰ অপব্যৱহাৰ কৰিছিল তেওঁক বৰখাস্ত কৰি পুনৰ কাম দিয়া হৈছেনেকি ?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** যি কেইজন মানুহে ইতিমধ্যে পঞ্চায়তৰ টকা অপব্যৱহাৰ কৰিছিল তেওঁলোকক বৰখাস্ত কৰাৰ পিচতো কাম দিয়া হৈছেনেকি ?

**Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA:** নাই হোৱা। যজন চেক্ৰেটাৰীৰ বিৰুদ্ধে অভিযোগ আছিল তেওঁক কামৰপৰা বৰখাস্ত কৰা হয়।



**Diversion of the North Trunk Road in North Lakhimpur Town from Sondiri Bridge to Northward**

**Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North-Lakhimpur)** asked :

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

(a) Whether Government has any scheme to divert the North Trunk Road from Sondiri Bridge in northern direction to enter the North Lakhimpur town as the existing one through the bazar area is too narrow and is not passable for a transport bus ?

(b) Whether Government will be pleased to examine the matter early as it vitally concerns the town people of North Lakhimpur ?

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

101. (a)—There is no such proposal.

(b)—It will be examined and put up before the next Assam Road Communication Board meeting for consideration.

**Shri MOHANANDA BORA :** Whether Government have received any report of proposal to divert the North Trunk Road from the beginning of the town of North Lakhimpur to the transport station ?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH :** No, Sir.

**Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North-Lakhimpur) :** Will Government be pleased to take immediate action on this matter ?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH :** Government cannot take immediate action on such matter, as this will have to be placed before the Road Communication Board.



**Construction of an overbridge at Chowkidingee**

**Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal)** asked :

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

- (a) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the inconvenience experienced by the residents of Dibrugarh due to the absence of an overbridge at the busy Chowkidingee Railway level crossing on the heart of the town ?
- (b) If so, whether Government propose to take steps for immediate construction of an overbridge at Chowkidingee ?

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

102. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The proposal will be examined in consultation with the Railway Authorities who are also concerned and submitted to Assam Road Communication Board for their consideration.

**Construction of Ring Wells under the supervision  
of the Project Authority of the Ramkrishnanagar  
in the Karimganj Subdivision**

**Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA (Patharkandi: Reserved  
for Scheduled Castes)** asked :

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

- (a) Where and how many ring wells were constructed under the supervision of the Project Authority of Ramkrishnanagar in Karimganj Subdivision ?
- (b) How many are operating well ?



**Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA (Minister-in-charge of Community Projects)** replied :

103. (a)—64 ring wells were constructed under the supervision of the Project Authority of the Ramkrishnanagar in the Karimganj Subdivision in the following places:—

(1) Sonairpar—1, (2) Channighat bazar—1, (3) Krishnanagar—1, (4) Nengterpar—1, (5) Ratabari—1, (6) Tangibari—1, (7) Culcharra—1, (8) Ulashnagar—1, (9) South Dorgarkona—1, (10) North Dorgarkona—1, (11) Sunai-cherra—1, (12) Bisnupur—1, (13) Fetipath—1, (14) Project Headquarters—2, (15) Poultry Farm—1, (16) Sunaicherra—1, (17) Netajinagar—1, (18) Dhalibeel—1, (19) South Balirbond—1, (20) North Balirbond—1, (21) Dhiar Dala—1, (22) Ichakouri—1, (23) Radhanagar—1, (24) Fruit Nursery—1, (25) Kalinagar—1, (26) Bazartillah—1, (27) Krishnanagar Circle—6,—1, (28) Kalinagar—1, (29) Bargoul—1, (30) Purbaharinagar—1, (31) Kalapani—1, (32) Beratock—1, (33) Anandapur—1, (34) Purbaharinagar—1, (35) Mahipur—1, (36) Uttarbaruala—1, (37) Gopikanagar—1, (38) Netajinagar Punji—1, (39) Lakhinagar—1, (40) Penchala—1, (41) Bazarghat—1, (42) Aolala—1, (43) Sonairpar—1, (44) Paldahar—1, (45) Fakugram—2, (46) Barbalia—1, (47) Nayatilla—1, (48) Pahartal—1, (49) Dorgarbond—1, (50) Rupagram—1, (51) South Netaninagar—2, (52) Lama Ratabari—1, (53) Mirjanpur—1, (54) Amerkhal—1, (55) Pachim Sunai—1, (56) Sarkargram—1, (57) Gandharajbari—1, (58) Krishnanagar—1, (59) Balirbond—1, (60) West Bethubari—1, (61) Dolu—1, (62) Kalibaribazar—1, (63) Nabingram—1, (64) Penchala—1.

(b)—All the wells are operating well except one at Krishnanagar Circle No. 6, which is abandoned by the Local people on account of a man committing suicide therein.

**Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA (Patharkandi: Reserved for Scheduled Castes):** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enquire whether these facts are correct ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : (Chief Minister)**  
I don't think any enquiry is necessary because this reply is based on reports received from the district and from responsible officers. If the hon. Member has anything against it, of course we will see to it.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** If the hon. Member will bring any complaint he has got to the Government, the Chief Minister would look into it.



### Conduct of Police Officers in Assam

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

104. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether he is aware of the public feeling that prior to Independence of the Country the conduct of most of the Police Officers of the State was considered to be not national in their outlook ?
- (b) Whether he is aware of the public feeling that the 'Courtesy Week' observed after Independence indicate that there was lack of courtesy among Police Officers previously ?
- (c) Whether after Independence the conduct of Police Officers of the State has been changed for the better ?
- (d) If so, what visible changes have been effected ?
- (e) Whether Government are aware that those Officers are now instrumental in furthering the objects in maintaining peace and order among the people ?
- (f) Whether Government consider that now public have full confidence and reliance on the Police Officers ?
- (g) Whether crimes among public are gradually decreasing or increasing with reasons for decrease or increase, as the case may be ?
- (h) Whether it is a fact that there is a general complaint that criminals now find better shelter with Police Officers than with any body else, particularly in gambling, etc. ?

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

104. (a)—May be so ; this is a matter of opinion.  
 (b)—Courtesy weeks are observed not because there is lack of courtesy but to bring the Police and public more closely together.



(c)—Yes.

(d)—Spirit of service has become more evident and expression of appreciation of service rendered by the police is received from members of the public.

(e)—Question not understood, but if the hon. Member means that Police Officers were instrumental in maintaining peace and order, then it is so.

(f)—Yes, there is increase in confidence.

(g)—Crimes do not appear to be increasing since the achievement of Independence in view of the figures of crimes recorded below—

Years						Total crimes reported
1946	..	..	..	..	..	20,666
1947	..	..	..	..	..	17,380
1948	..	..	..	..	..	17,917
1949	..	..	..	..	..	17,717
1950	..	..	..	..	..	19,007
1951	..	..	..	..	..	18,584
1952	..	..	..	..	..	18,004
1953	..	..	..	..	..	17,885
1954	..	..	..	..	..	16,790
1955	..	..	..	..	..	17,446
1956	..	..	..	..	..	17,665

(The increase was due to communal troubles in Goalpara District and violent R.C.P.I. activities).

Increase is due to R.C.P.I. rising.

(Including dacoities committed by Naga Gangsters).

(h)—No. It is not a fact.

### Construction of Chargola-Fakua P.W.D. Road

**Shri Abdul HAMID CHOUDHURY** (Karimganj South) asked :

105. Will the Minister-in-charge of P.W.D., be pleased to state—

(a) When the construction of Chargola-Fakua P.W.D. Road was undertaken ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that no work has yet been done on the road beyond Kaliganj ?

(c) If so, why ?

(d) When that work will be started ?



**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister-in-charge, P. W. D.)** replied :

105. (a)—(d)—The Project consists of two parts:—

(1) Chargola to Kaliganj.

(2) Kaliganj to Fakua.

1. Chargola to Kaliganj was taken up in 1951-52 and has been completed at a cost of Rs.1,72,000 and opened to traffic.

2. Kaliganj towards Fakua—3 miles of this road has been approved for construction under Petrol Tax Programme, at a cost of Rs. 94,000 in February, 1957. Owing to some dispute about the alignment no work could be taken up so long. These are reported to have been settled and the detailed estimate has just been prepared and submitted by Executive Engineer for sanction.

The work will be taken up after the estimate is scrutinised and sanctioned by the Superintending Engineer.

**Proposal for Construction of a Bridge over the river Beki**

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

106. Will the Minister-in-charge of P. W. D. be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government propose to construct a bridge over the river Beki ?

(b) If so, when ?

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

106. (a) & (b)—This is not included in any scheme at present.

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



### Bridge on the Barak River at Silchar

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

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

- (a) Whether the proposed bridge on the Barak River at Silchar will contain raised foot-paths for pedestrian traffic ?
- (b) If not, whether Government will see that this is done in the greater interest of the public ?

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

107. (a)—No. The total width of roadway provided is 24 feet, that is two lanes of traffic.

(b)—The provision of the two lanes is considered sufficient for the needs of traffic.

† **Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA**: Will Government consider construction of foot-paths along the two lines of traffic ?

† **Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH** After finalisation of the design and everything it is difficult to consider that aspect of the matter, otherwise it will alter the design and if the design is altered, it will surely take much heavier expenditure. I can inform the hon. Member that the width of the road will be according to the Nowgong bridge lying between the other side of the town and the National High Way. It is expected, no inconvenience will be caused as in the case of Nowgong bridge.

### Post Graduate Class in Tea in the Assam Agricultural College

**Srimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA** (Katani Gaon) asked :

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Indian Tea Board has offered Rupees five lakhs to the Government of Assam to open Post Graduate Class in Tea in the Assam Agricultural College, Jorhat ?



(b) If so, what is the present position of the Scheme and when it will be materialised ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister-in-charge of Agriculture)** replied :

108. (a)—Yes. A Scheme at a total estimated cost of Rs.5,48,351.25 n. p. has been approved by the Tea Board with certain conditions.

(b)—The Scheme is under examination of Government and will be materialised as soon as a final decision is arrived at.

† **Shri BISWADEB SARMA (Balipara)** : When the scheme was received from the Tea Board ?

† **M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY** : About a year back.

† **Shri BISWADEB SARMA** : Why did it take such a long time to finalise this matter ?

† **M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY** : Because certain terms and conditions are there in the scheme and these have got to be considered by the Government for which we have to be in correspondence with the Tea Board, therefore, it takes sometime.

† **Shri BISWADEB SARMA** : When the scheme is expected to be completed ?

† **M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY** : We are still in correspondence with the Tea Board for certain other things to be finalised. I hope we shall be able to complete the matter soon.

† **Shri RAM NATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]** : May I know from the Hon'ble Minister, what are the conditions which have been approved by the Tea Board ?

† **M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture)** : I think in the interest of the scheme itself, this cannot be discussed in the House.

† **Shri RAMNATH DAS** : Are these things confidential Sir ?

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† Speech not corrected.



† **M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY** (Minister, Agriculture) : Till now we are considering the matter as confidential.

† **Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI** (Kamalpur) : Whether Government is proposing to introduce tea subject in the University or not ?

† **Mr. SPEAKER** : That is the matter for the University to decide.

### Co-operative Society for Storing Fertilizers, etc.

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

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that a Co-operative Society has been given the sole agency for the State for handling, storing and selling chemical fertilizers allotted to Assam from the Central Pool ?
- (b) Whether any tenders were invited for this Agency ?
- (c) If so, what were the quotations and who were the tenderers ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that a rich merchant is the major share-holder of the Co-operative Society referred to in (a) above ?

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

109. (a)—No.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Information is furnished below :—

Name and address of tenderers		Rate quoted Rs.
1. M/S Assam Manure and Tools Suppliers, Shillong.		27 per ton.
2. M/S Compound Fertilisers, Limited, Calcutta.		20 „
3. M/S Beria Brothers, Dibrugarh	...	20 „
4. Rallies India, Calcutta	... ..	Actual out of pocket expenses plus a commission of Rs.15 per ton.



Name and address of tenderers	Rate quoted
5. M/S Assam Co-operative Apex Marketing Society, Ltd., Gauhati.	Rs. 30 per ton.
6. Brahmaputra Fertilisers and Distributors, Shillong.	Rupees 25.50 for over 4,000 tons, and 27.50 for less than 4,000 tons for each.
7. R. B. Rameswar Lal Saharia, Dibrugarh... (d)—Government have no information.	24 per ton.

**Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh):** With regard to question No.109, may I know to whom the agency has been given ?

**Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Co-operative):** The Assam Co-operative Apex Marketing Society, Ltd., Gauhati, and the Assam Manure and Tools Suppliers, Shillong.

**Public Works Department Inspection Bungalow at Sorbhog**

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog):** asked :  
110. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (R.&B) be pleased to state—

(a) Whether a Public Works Department Inspection Bungalow will be constructed at Sorbhog ?

(b) If so, when ?

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

110. (a)—No. There is no such proposal at present.

(b)—Does not arise.

**Assam Trunk Road in between Rajmai and Demow Charali**

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

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

(a) Whether Government is aware that the local authorities spent a huge sum in laying branches of trees or small trees at the damaged portions of the Assam Trunk Road in between Rajmai and Demow Charali for the convenience of passing trucks, etc. ?



- (b) If so, what was the amount spent for this purpose ?
- (c) Whether the above laying of trees proved successful in passing of trucks ?
- (d) If not, why public money was wasted in such fashion ?

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

111. (a) & (b)—Rupees 9,500 approximately was spent for laying branches of trees, etc., to facilitate vehicular traffic.

(c)—Yes, it was successful but when the road was submerged this became ineffective.

(d)—Does not arise.

### **Khoirabari Sankar Mission**

**Shri PAKHIRAI DEKA (Panery: Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)**: asked :

112. Will the Minister-in-charge of Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) Whether any grant has been given to Sankar Mission, Khoirabari and Borengajuli from the Development Fund ?

(b) If so, what is the amount ?

**Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister-in-charge of Rural Development)** replied :

112. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Khoirabari Sankar Mission—

Rupees 1,150 in 1951-52.

Rupees 1,560 in 1954-55

Rupees 40 in 1955-56

Borengajuli—

Rupees 40 in 1955-56.



**Bridge over the Brahmaputra at Pandu**

**Shri KHAGENDRA NATH NATH (Goalpara):** asked :

113. Will the Minister for Transport be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Government have any information about the finalisation of the Central Government proposal for the construction of a bridge over the Brahmaputra at Pandu in Assam ?

(b) If the answer to question No. (a) above is in the affirmative, whether the Government have placed a proposal to the Central Government for extension of the Railway line from Bongai-gaon to Gauhati *via* Goalpara with ferry-crossing arrangement from Jogighopa to Pancharatna ?

(c) If not, whether Government propose to place such a proposal to the Centre ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister and Minister, Transport)** replied :

113. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The State Government have repeatedly pressed the Ministry of Railways for construction of a railway line to Garo Hills, which will pass within 20 miles of the ferry point at Goalpara. The question of providing a railway ferry between Goalpara and Jogighopa and connecting the latter with Bongaigaon by rail can be taken up when construction of this line has proceeded apace.

(c)—Does not arise in view of reply to (b) above.



**Re: Exemption from Betterment Fee and Mooring Tax  
Dibrugarh**

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):**

asked :

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

(a) Whether it is a fact that the villagers of Niz-Man-kata, Bairagimath, Tepon, Hatimura, Gharbandi Chuk, Dhekeri, Siring and Mankata Japara Villages of Mankata Mauza submitted representation to the Government praying for exclusion of these villages from the operation of the Assam Betterment Fee and Mooring Tax, Dibrugarh ?

(b) Whether Government is aware that the inhabitants of these villages are almost all cultivators ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that Government have not realised extra taxes from the cultivators in other parts of the State when they are protected from natural calamities by raising bunds or embankment ?

(d) Whether it is a fact that the villages in question were free from flood trouble ?

(e) Whether Government propose to exempt these villages in Mancotta Mouza from the operation of Betterment Fee and Mooring Tax ?

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

114. (a)—Yes, representation was received on 10th January, 1958.

(b)—Government have no information.

(c)—The Assam Embankment and Drainage Act, 1953 provides for realisation of betterment cess from lands benefited by embankments and survey for assessment of cess is in progress in several areas.

(d)—Deputy Commissioner has been asked to report on this and other points raised in the representation.

(e)—This will be considered on receipt of Deputy Commissioner's report.



**Resentment for Betterment Tax Act at Dibrugarh**

**Srimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lohowal)** asked :

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

- (a) Whether Government is aware of the widespread resentment created amongst the people of Dibrugarh as a result of enactment of Betterment Tax Act ?
- (b) If so, what steps Government propose to take to realise the tax from a person owning a property of rupees twenty thousand but with no standing recurring income ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware of the untold hardship that will cause to the people in matters of such realisation ?
- (d) How do Government propose to mitigate this hardship of the people in this respect ?
- (e) Whether Government propose to rescind or amend the Act ?

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

115. (a)—Yes.

(b)—It is a hypothetical question. Government propose to realise the tax according to law.

(c)—Government are not aware of any untold hardship to the people.

(d)—Government will try to minimise the levy as far as possible.

(e)—There is no such proposal.



## Acquisition of land for construction of embankments on the Puthimari

**Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur)** asked :

116. Will the Revenue Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the Pattadars whose lands have been acquired by the Government for constructing embankments on the river Puthimari have been exempted from paying the land revenue for the area of land they have been dispossessed of for the above purpose ?
- (b) Whether the amount realised from such persons for such lands will be refunded ?

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

116. (a)—Not yet.

(b)—This question is being examined.

### Court Buildings of Dhubri Court

**Shri TAMIJUDDIN PRADHANI (Dhubri)** asked :

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

- (a) Whether he is aware that the Court buildings of Dhubri Courts are insufficient for accommodation and are too old ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that some officers and Extra Assistant Commissioner hold offices in verandahs of the Dhubri Court ?
- (c) If so, whether Government will extend the Court buildings for proper accommodation ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that there is a long standing proposal to extend the Court buildings at Dhubri Court ?
- (e) If so, whether the proposal has been materialised ?
- (f) If not, whether Government will take steps in this direction immediately ?



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

117. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The matter is under consideration.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Recently a fresh proposal has been received from Deputy Commissioner for construction of a two storied Court building at Dhubri, which is under consideration.

(f)—Government propose to take steps in this direction.

### Debate on the Governor's Address

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The question hour is over. Now let us have discussion on the Address by the Governor.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):**  
Mr. Speaker, Sir, just at this moment, while it will be as presumptuous on the part of the supporters of the Government to claim success as on the part of its opponents to assert total failure, it will be, I think understandable, if the former claim that there have been certain initial steps taken or are being taken by the Government for the purpose of implementing the principles of the Second Five-Year Plan and at the same time it will also be equally understandable if its opponents assert that the steps taken or being taken are far from adequate or are not in the interest of the people of the country. I quite see, Sir, it is too early to give a final judgment about the success or failure of the Government for the fulfilment of the terms and conditions that were placed before the electorate in the last General Election because not even half of that period is over. But I think, Sir, it will not be out of place to say that we can study the trend and from that trend we can see and say whether the Government has or has not taken the right track or whether the beginning



has been good enough. Sir, within the limited time at my disposal it will not be possible on my part to traverse the whole area of Governmental activities that has been mentioned or not mentioned in the Governor's Address. I shall therefore confine myself to one aspect, which in my humble opinion is the central theme of everything, that is the question of national unity and national reconstruction. The Government in all its activities should in my opinion be guided by three basic principles. Firstly, it is necessary for the country to mobilise all its resources, material and moral in the development of a modern industrial-cum-agrarian economy making it possible for the people to live a prosperous and cultured life. Secondly, while striving to secure the objective of building up a prosperous economy for the whole nation, it is also necessary to recast the mode of distribution of the wealth that is produced in the country, that the basic masses who produce the wealth get a greater share than they are getting to-day. Thirdly, the above two objectives, one of production and the other of distribution cannot be attained unless and until there is a basic transformation in the existing administrative system, for, as we all know, the present administrative system handed down to us from the erstwhile British rulers and their Indian allies, has become quite out of date and has proved inefficient in the matter of properly mobilising and utilising the resources that are there in our country and their attitude towards the people who produce the wealth is one of unjust and oppressive nature. Basing on this machinery, there cannot be a proper adjustment of the productive and distributive forces in the country. The above three ideas, as I have stated, are the natural concomitants of the national goal which has been accepted by all sections of our people, at least verbally. That goal is the establishment of a Socialist society. The Government that be will be judged on the basis of whether its activities conform or go contrary to these basic ideas. To quote the words of our Prime Minister, Shri Nehru, who while surveying the world trend while summing up the discussion at the Pragjyotishpur Session of the Indian National Congress said—"Socialism has been accepted as the goal of the Nation and any force that will try to stop this march will be tackled very stubbornly and it will be resisted. The Congress is firmly wedded to the Socialist goal and if any one tries to weaken or resist this goal then we will meet this challenge with firm hand". Sir, I wish the Government of Assam remember this exhortation of the Prime Minister and act upto the behest that has been placed by the people and the party which have sent them here.



This leads to certain questions. The most important question to-day before us is the problem of planning. In spite of many-fold difficulties before the Government, the problems of planning can be tackled in a satisfactory way provided the Government and the people of the country adopt a realistic and constructive approach towards the question of planning. This approach consists in :

(1) The realisation that in the present context of increasing difficulties for the entire national plan, not only for our State but for the whole of India, it will not be possible on the part of the State Government to have big schemes like the Damodar Valley Project or Bhakra Nangal Project involving crores of rupees but that it is still possible to have a series of small schemes prepared and executed all over the State, for example, petty and minor irrigation each of them benefiting not thousands of acres but at least hundreds or even crores of acres ; not big factories employing hundreds or thousands of labourers but small scale and cottage industries employing a dozen or even less, etc., etc.

(2) Secondly, we should make the people realise that it will not be possible to secure big loans and grants from the Government by way of subvention or by way of contribution but that it will be possible to get smaller amounts to supplement what we can ourselves mobilise the small amounts thus available, it will be possible not only to augment our total income but it will help us to supplement what we can utilise from the resources that are laying unutilised among our own people.

(3) Thirdly, we should be determined to see that the above possibilities are utilised to the utmost by the removing the inertia of the people, *i.e.* the tendency to look up to the Government for everything. We saw, for example, in our boyhood days, in preparing a village road or clearing a village tank, people took the initiative themselves and would not care as to whether Government would give them any help or not. But now-a-days from the Panchayats and the Development Boards we see that that initiative instead of growing appears to be daily decreasing. Village roads or tanks are not constructed or repaired unless and until some help comes from Government. At the same time same hard knocks must be given on the inexcusable delays and red-tapism on the part of the Government machinery which looks upon the voluntary efforts of the people not from the point of view of sympathy and co-operation but only



from the point of view of the rules of business. In this way they want all the initiative of the public to be confined to the wooden frame of official rules of business as if these rules are the unalterable last word and as if the requirements of development should be subordinated to these rules. There should be some hard knock against this sort of attitude on the part of the machinery itself.

Then we come to the next problem, the problem of utilising the entire people for reconstructions of our country. We on this side of the House consider it to be of decisive importance because we feel that the success of the Second Five-Year Plan, as also any subsequent Five-Year Plans, depends not on the efforts of a few administrators or technical experts but on the total efforts on the part of the entire nation from the top to the bottom. We are firmly of the opinion that the success of the Plan depends on utilising the entire people. This task which is to be carried out through the co-ordination of the official activity of the Government with the non-official activity of the ruling and the opposition parties as well as innumerable other non-official organisations and individuals who may or may not be directly connected with any political body. When there will be such an all round effort, then only we shall be able to see a way out as to how this national mobilisation for national reconstruction is possible and is made effective.

Now, in doing that we shall have to consider the question of mobilisation. Let us, therefore, now come to the second guiding idea referred to by me at the beginning of my speech, the necessity for a greater share of wealth to the basic masses providing it in the form of lowering of prices of the necessities of life, in the form of giving increased wages and salaries to the workers and the employees, in the form of bonus, in the form of large scale land reforms etc. etc. As on the question of planning, so too on this question the main point to be considered is whether efforts are being made to enable the working class, the peasantry and other sections of the working people to more effectively carry on their struggle for the improvement of their living and working conditions and through such struggles to realise their immediate and ultimate objectives.

Now, on the question of the working peoples struggle, necessarily comes the attitude of the Police and as a matter of that, the entire administrative machinery. Now, we have been seeing that the Police up till now play in such struggles a role which is not at all helpful to the peasantry and the working



class. The biggest obstacle which the trade unions, the Kisan Sabhas and other mass organizations of the working people have been facing is that the Government have been using the Police in order to suppress and curb their legitimate activities. A break with this practice on the part of the Government in the use of the Police force is therefore of utmost importance. The slightest tension in the industrial or agrarian field should not be considered a sufficient cause to invoke the provisions of Section 107 or Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code. The Police should be used for suppressing crimes like theft, robbery, murder, dacoity etc. and of course, also to prevent the breach of the peace at the time of agrarian and industrial unrest but they should be used only on that point when there is real and not imaginary threat to public peace. Up till now we have been seeing that the Police force has been used with weight towards landlords and capitalists. We, therefore, find that these landlords and capitalists find themselves in positions of strength and protection as compared with the positions of the workers and peasants. It should be made known to the Police that so far as agrarian and industrial disputes are concerned, their solution is primarily of the Labour and such other Departments, and so far as the Police is concerned, their duty is to maintain the law and order in the country. They should not be made hand-mates to the landlords or the capitalists in order to brow-beat or intimidate the legitimate struggles of the working people.

Now, this necessarily brings us to the question of capital labour relation. This question is very important when we consider the problem of national reconstruction because unless and until we can instil in the vast mass of our working people the feeling, the idea that it is their Government, that it is their plan, that it is they who are to build the country a national plan cannot be a success. We realise that the question of capital labour relation is not merely one of adopting a new democratic policy. With regard to the relation between our administration and the working people, it is necessary to work on a long term basis with the support of the vast masses without strained relation between the capitalists and the workers and also between the landlords and the peasants. It may be pointed out in this connection that the Planning Commission and the Land Reform Committee under the instruction of the Planning Commission have collected data to show that, while the Committee was considering the question of further expanding the scope of land reform and



benefit to the peasants, thousands of peasants were evicted from their lands throughout the country including a portion of our State. I must submit, Sir, that this is a very sorry state of affairs. The other day the Finance Minister very eloquently referred to the Report of the Balaxant Rai Mehta Committee. We also find a summary of this Report in the All India Congress Committee's Economic Review of February, 1958. With regard to the observations of that Committee, some of the main criticisms against the working of the Community Development work are—Firstly, it was purely an official show in which non-official element had very little to do. Secondly, the output of work done so far was not commensurate with the amount of money spent on it and the time taken. Thirdly, in many cases funds were not put in the right direction by the officers who were in charge and in most cases such officers did not possess the requisite qualifications for carrying out the special nature of work entrusted to them, or in other words, recruitment was done in a haphazard manner.

I do not propose to burden the hon. Members of this House with long quotations. What I want to submit in this connection is that the question of relatively greater or smaller benefit accruing to and the difficulties faced by different categories or the people connected with land is of the greatest importance when we compare their relation. It is however, one thing to take the recommendations of the Planning Commission or its Land Reform Panel and it is quite a different thing to take all the relevant factors into account to make such provisions in the legislation as will be beneficial to the vast mass of people who are directly or indirectly dependent on land. As we all know, not only the interest of such well defined categories as the land-owner and the landless labourer is to be reconciled, but there are innumerable categories of people who have a variety of rights and interests on a particular plot of land and they are also to be taken into consideration at the end. The varied rights and interests of those innumerable categories of the people in particular plots of land should also be looked into and they should also be integrated in the striving for success of the Plan. Let me therefore make it clear that a comprehensive land reform Bill alone will not be a panacea of all evils in so far as our country-side is concerned. This will only be a beginning in our struggle for the final solution of the land problem. As a matter of fact, everybody is agreed that even the most radical measures of land reform such as the confiscation of landlord's land without compensation and the distribution of



such land or in the alternative nationalisation of all land would not of itself solve the question of land unless it is followed up by more comprehensive and systematic methods and technique of utilisation and management of land. It is this latter, that is, the question of land utilisation and land management, is today being sought to be taken up in China through the formation of agricultural co-operatives. It is again this that is sought to be taken up by Binovaji through his Gramdan movement. The Planning Commission too has made certain proposals in this regard which neither fully accept China's solution nor Binovaji's solution. We in our State shall have to study all these things. Keeping in our mind the efforts at the solution in China, also Binovaji's suggestions and also the recommendations of the Planning Commission and taking an objective and realistic view of our own situation in the State, we shall have to do things and to do them quickly.

From the summary of discussions in the Pragjyotishpur Congress Session itself and from the experience of different State Governments, it appears that it is possible for our Government also to be prompt enough to do things within a year. Let us hope that at least the promise made in the Congress Session at Pragjyotishpur will be fulfilled. I read with interest the observations made by one of our Ministers in that Congress Session. He assured the Pragjyotishpur Session of the Congress that our Government was up and doing in doing it. He further said, in spite of various difficulties in the way of implementation of the reforms, we are on the road to realise rationalisation of land so far as removal of intermediaries is concerned. During the transitional stage, the tenant should be protected".

There has been given a promise in the All India Congress Session that the tenant should be protected and will be protected. I hope we shall not have any more the replies that we are getting every day from the Revenue Minister that according to the law if the tenants become dispossessed from their holdings, we are helpless. The poorer people and poor cultivators cannot get justice in the law court because justice has become too costly for them. We are pledged to socialism and our Prime Minister said that any obstacle that would come in the way of our efforts towards socialism would be ruthlessly defeated. So, I should like in all humility to ask whether all these difficulties of law's delay and costliness and all these technicalities, will be tolerated or whether they would be defeated. Unless and until these difficulties are removed, we cannot solve the problem of land utilisation and



management, because, as I have already said, we have to find out whether all the different alternatives—China's, Vinoba Bhave's, Planning Commission's—or which of the different alternatives will help us in solving our problem; or will any of them in their present form solve our problem; or shall we have to find new solutions? These are questions to which it is difficult to give an off hand answer. We can only point out that the proper utilisation and management of land is at least as difficult and complicated a problem as the initial working out of land reform legislations themselves. Now, however difficult and complicated the solution of this problem may be, the Government must boldly face it and so far as we, on this said of the House, are concerned, we pledge our whole-hearted support to all good efforts of the Government if they really make earnest efforts to solve this basic problem of all problems in our State.

Now, as we know, it is not the core of our Second Five Year Plan. It is however the basis of our Plan—nay of our present society. At least 80 per cent of our people live in the countryside directly dependent on land and unless and until we can make a solution of this problem there will be no strong basis for our superstructure, the industrial development of our country. You cannot build a strong and beautiful superstructure even with the best of technicians and resources unless and until you have got a strong and solid base. Therefore, while we are making plans and are making efforts to concentrate on the production of steel, coal or minerals as the basis for further industrial development, we must remember that our agrarian base must first of all be made sound and strong, and that is why so far as the First Five-Year Plan was concerned, it was primarily meant to improve the agrarian base of our society. But examining it in retrospect to-day, what do we find? Without being in any way unfair to the Government, do we not see that our targets for the First Five-Year Plan, so far as Assam at least is concerned, have not been half-reached? We might have enacted a few legislations, but have these legislations really become effective? We can no doubt send to the A. I. C. C. Office or to the Planning Commission a copy of our Ceiling Act, but whether the Ceiling Act has been a help or a hindrance to the actual cultivators is yet to be seen. We have also enacted the Adhiars Protection Act and some other legislations but we have to see whether the Adhiars have really been benefited from this legislation. It is not enough to pass a few good



legislations What is more important is that these legislations should be implemented and fully implemented and that too in the interests not of a few landholders or a section of the rising rich peasants or kulaks, but in the interest of the basic masses of the peasantry. Therefore, even appreciating the difficulties of the Government in finding ways and means to finance the plans, one cannot escape noticing that there has been a failure to utilise the huge man-power in our State because of our non-implementation of the promises that we have been giving so often. We, therefore, see that while for certain constructive efforts there is paucity of man-power, a huge number of our people are sitting idle. There has been a huge wastage of human energy. Unless and until we can harness this colossal man-power in our country for the reconstruction of our country, we shall always have to look to the nations outside for help either in the form of gift or in the form of loan and we shall have to go on being grateful to them for ever. We are no doubt grateful for whatever friendly help we have got from whatever quarters. Our Rev. Roy need not be apprehensive. I am as much grateful to the people and the Government of America for giving whatever friendly help they have given us as perhaps Rev. Roy is, though his personal connections with America may be much sweeter than mine ! *Laughter* But that is a different thing altogether. We are all grateful to all our friends, whatever may be their political ideology, for whatever help they have given us. But the point is, shall we always have to remain content with this sort of help or shall we strive ourselves to stand on our own legs ? That is the moot question and, therefore, I feel that our man-power, which is second only to China's, instead of being a liability is a great asset if we can properly harness this vast man-power. Capital formation also will then be quick and we shall be able to march forward in the path of industrial-cum-agrarian development of our country. For this what is most essential is a much closer link between the Government and people. Our position is like that of Herodotus of Greek Mythology. As Herodotus used to get all his strength and energy from his Mother Earth, and no sooner was he cut off from that source of energy, the milk from his mother's breast, than there came Hercules and killed him. Similarly, the Herculean difficulties that are before us will stifle us if we act like Herodotus and get cut off from our mother. In our case the mother is the people and, therefore, in spite of the fact, that perhaps I am repeating, I beg to stress that what the Government need to-day is a closer and more living touch



with the basic masses of the people. This is more important even than a very finished and efficient administrative machinery. Thereby I am not even by an inch lowering the importance of an effective administrative machinery although that machinery is of course necessary. But we must remember that in a country which is pledged to socialism, no good purpose will be served by that wooden framed bureaucratic machinery which was designed to exploit the people when the country was groaning under imperialist colonial regime. Everybody will perhaps agree with me that our administrative machinery is nothing but a legacy of the old Colonial Rule. In spite of our best efforts and different commitments we have not been able to adjust it according to the requirement of a democratic type of Government. We find ourselves in a greater difficulty today even for elementary things like food. It is said that the great Chinese Philosopher, Confucius, when he was asked as to how people could be made virtuous, had replied "make rice and pulses as abundant and free as air and water." So, Sir, we will find that the people in general do not want anything more than this secret of virtue, *viz.*, food. Unless the Government can cater to the most primary need of the people, namely, food, people will not feel enthused by these plans and projects. Their lot must be made better. When we say this, some one may think that we are too materialistic, and may say that "a man does not live by bread alone." But we shall have to remind some one that "he does not live without it too." So, food must be provided for the people.

So far as our State is concerned, true figures relating to production of food are not available and the figures that are supplied are not accurate. We find that the prices of all essential commodities have gone sky-rocketing and the prices of food grains in particular have reached unprecedented heights. The price of rice, wheat and millets in the whole sale market which in September 1955 stood at 509, 409 and 114 respectively went up to 568, 528 and 266 in July, 1956 and they went up to 696, 593 and 276 in July, 1957. In our own State at the time of de-control of sugar, the market price was annas 12 per seer. Now in Shillong it is sold at Rs. 1.12-0 per seer. Railway authorities say that 140 per cent of sugar came to Gauhati by railway this year in comparison with the previous years, and the Government says that there is no fear and there is no necessity of any apprehension. But people have to pay. Nobody therefore takes the Government statements seriously. While food production was actually going



down, taking into consideration the growth of population in our State after 1953 the spokesman of the Government went on claiming on the floor of this House that our food production was increasing, and as a matter of fact, some export was made outside the State. It was even said on the floor of the House that we would be able to earn foreign exchange by our increased production of food. Such a rosy picture was given to us. But by 1956-57 there came a crash and to-day every body admits that the position is not only far from satisfactory, but is rather acute. All these claims of the Government have been proved to be false and that false claim seems to be designed to lull the people into complacency and as if to justify the giving of a free run to the hoarders and the profiteers. We also know that large scale deficit financing which was not in any way matched by corresponding increase in production was the practice of this Government as our previous Budgets will show. This inevitably augmented the capacity of the Banks to lend money to the hoarders and profiteers and Government did not take any effective measures to prevent it. On the other hand, Government itself had been giving loans to the millers-cum-hoarders so as to enable them to corner people's food and to sell it at sky-rocketting rates of price when the people were most hard pressed for want of food supplies.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The time of the hon. Member is almost over, and I request him to be as brief as possible. I give him another 3 minutes' time.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** I thank you, Sir, for giving me the time.

We have seen that the Government, the Reserve Bank of India and the Scheduled Banks actively helped the speculators and the hoarders by giving liberal loans and advances to them. I think, it would not be out of place to mention here that the total advances of all Scheduled Banks which stood at Rs.626,08,00,000 in 1956-57 rose to Rs.7,44,63,00,000 by the end of June, 1957. Advances against rice stocks rose to Rs.22,79,00,000 by the end of March, 1957. I submit that our Government can and should place its protest against this rate of increased advance before the Union Government so that the Union Government may take a firmer decision in the matter. We also find that the black-marketers are having a 'Ram Rajya' in our State. The prices of essential commodities have gone very high. So it is only meet and



proper that the Government maintain the grain market and build up adequate food grains stocks. In spite of the recommendations of the Food Grains Enquiry Commission, Government have not been able to do anything. As a result of this, grain market has been completely in the hands of the speculators and numerous hoarders. Now, therefore, we call upon the Government to take the following immediate steps:—

(1) Procure stocks of foodgrains lying with big traders, millers and landlords to meet the situation ; (2) Set up cheap-grain-shops, one for every 500 families and supply them with adequate stocks to be sold at prices within the reach of the common masses ; (3) Form populer Food Committees in all areas and at all levels to work in co-operation with the Government for running the cheap-grain shops ; (4) Start relief and development work in scarcity areas and give gratuitous relief to the needy and destitute ; (5) Suspend collection of taxes and rents and grant liberal remission of taxes and rents and moratorium on debts in scarcity areas ; (6) Grant Taccavi loans liberally to deserving peasants and see that it comes in time without delay, and lastly ; (7) I beg to submit, Sir, that so far as this State is concerned, it should press the Union Government to give more help in the form of subsidised rice because our people are not accustomed to taking Atta. My suggestion to the Government is therefore, to put more pressure for getting more subsidised rice for the State of Assam from the Centre. If these measures are taken immediately they can at least for the time being help in overcoming our immediate hardship. I do know that this is not the last thing in solving our problem. For the solution of the immediate food problem certain immediate steps shall have to be taken. (i) Firstly, fix the minimum price of foodgrain so that our peasants are ensured to get the minimum price for his produce taken into consideration the prevailing prices of other essential commodities so that we may take things from the peasants at the rate he would get or that he may not have to pay more than what he should. (ii) Secondly, fix also maximum price of foodgrains for the customers which should not be more than 50 per cent above the minimum price. (iii) Government must procure foodgrains in order to build up adequate Government stock. As I have always been saying Sir, if our food problem is to be solved, certain steps shall have to be taken here and now and with firmness. Firstly, at the time of harvest there should be compulsory procurement from the richer section of the peasants ; secondly, there should be no compulsory procurement from the poorer section ; thirdly, Government should buy all food-grains from peasants at the time of harvest, fourthly, there should be no hoarding of stocks



with hoarders and lastly, there should be instituted strict control over any contravention against these. If these steps are taken immediately then the position so far as procurement of foodgrains is concerned can somehow be tackled. But, Sir, that is not the last thing in solution of our food problem. Real and lasting solution of food problem can only be achieved through greater production of food. There must be earnest effort for producing more food, there must be grow-more food-campaign and that grow more food campaign necessitates firstly, that there must be full scale agrarian reform. The agriculturist must get land, he must get implements, seeds, etc., he must get adequate amenities of life so that he can give his energy for production of food. *Secondly*, there should be an atmosphere in the country wherein the peasant may get enthused for more production of food. *Thirdly*, there should be also irrigation, reclamation, requisition and acquisition of land from tea estates and other areas where there are lands lying fallow and if necessary Government reserves must also be opened for the purpose of grow more food. Thank you, Sir.

**Shri LALIT KUMAR DALEY (Moran: Reserved for Scheduled Tribes):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to the Right Hon'ble Member from Gauhati.....

**Mr. SPEAKER:** There is no Right hon. Member here.

**Shri LALIT KUMAR DALEY:** Thank you, Sir. As I have said, I am thankful to the hon. Member from Gauhati for his informative speech, though I cannot agree that his amendment motion be accepted by the House. I am sure that the hon. Mover of the Resolution while giving expression of thanks to the Governor for his Address has sufficiently justified his motion of thanks and I find that what the hon. Member from Gauhati said is simply an elastic expansion of the Governor's Address. In fact all the materials covered in his speech are also covered by the Governor's Address, Sir, it is after all a difficult task for me to be a critic of pure reason on the Governor's Address although it has been the right and privilege of this august House to raise interesting debate on the subject. In a parliamentary democracy like ours we have placed the Governor to be above party politics, or to be more precise, he is a non-party man.



**Mr. SPEAKER:** The Governor's speech is a policy statement of the Governments. He has got to give the speech. In other words, he has nothing more to do except delivery of the speech. So the hon. Member is at liberty to discuss the speech in any way he likes without impinging any motive on the prestige of the Governor.

**Shri LALIT KUMAR DALEY (Moran: Reserved for Scheduled Tribes):** Thank you, Sir. Sir, I have also very carefully gone through the amendment motions of hon. Members of opposite Benches—there are as many as 12 amendment motions. I feel, Sir, that these amendment motions if they have got to be included in the Governor's Address, then the Address would be voluminous like the Ramayana or the Mahabharata. In that case the Address could not be accepted by this august House. I have already said that the amendments that have been brought before the House are more or less covered by the Governor's Address and if they had taken care to go through the Address deeply and seriously tried to find out the materials therein, they would not have considered it necessary to move their amendments. Anyway, I feel, Sir, that one vital problem of ours has not been that something was not included in the Governor's Address or something was left out. But the basic problem that is, what schemes we have undertaken and are undertaking from time to time we must try to see that those schemes are properly and perfectly implemented. So in the last we may find the best solution out of it and at the sametime, we may take a source of inspiration to whatever extent we have been able to achieve out of the plans. The hon. Member of Gauhati has rightly expressed the necessity of national unity and that is particularly so as the country is going at present under the planning period. We must be conscious for the development of our country. We should also to a certain extent forego the taste of democracy. In all fairness I say that upon national unity and popularity depend the successful implementation of our plans. If we merely criticise the plans and schemes taken up by the Government, development works in our country will to a great extent be hindered and the progress of the work itself will be slow. I therefore, if we want to develop our country which is as vital as the food to the nation, we must co-operate with the Government and unite ourselves, because as I say it is only upon national unity that we may build up and develop our country. Sir, in our country, particularly rural areas, if I am correct, I may say that about 78 per cent of our population live in rural areas, they are in primitive and agrarian economy, so it is our duty to see that our rural population are educated and made to become efficient. It is high time that we should think



more of our rural population so that the schemes may be implemented successfully otherwise in view of the inefficiency of our people, the national inefficiency of our people at the present time, speedy solution of our problems and speedy implementation of the plans undertaken by the Government may be hampered and we shall not be able to achieve the target.

Therefore, for our ambitious plans for the development of our country, we must be conscious to safe-guard this inspiration so that along with our achievements we may be getting more and more inspiration from our people.

Sir, parliamentary democracy is still an infant in our country, we have got to guard this aspect of the matter so that in time to come we may have great advocates of our parliamentary democracy. Our people are still in inefficient stage, it will be inefficiency in the sense that we have not been able to make our people efficient, therefore, I say that we must make our people to realise and exert in themselves and to inspire in them that efficiency so that the people may realise that they are the vital element of the nation. If we fail to do this, we are neglecting the vital responsibility to the nation. Sir, with certain apology to the House I may say that at present our people generally depend more and more on Government's help and encouragement, that is a great danger that our people may become idle in future, we should therefore, try to make the people understand that this is their own country, to stand on their own feet, we should try to inspire in the minds of the people about the development works as has been rightly emphasised by the Governor in his Speech. If we can enthuse every cultivator the spirit of developmental activities of the Government and secure his co-operation, surely our rural population may be made efficient to undertake development works in our country.

Then, Sir, I come to another important point, administrative machinery. This is a very vital subject and the Governor has rightly emphasised this point in his speech where he has particularly made mention about the training of certain personnel to bring about more efficiency in the administration so that disposal of business is more prompt and efficient and the Governor has also rightly said that reforms and re-organisation and strengthening of the administrative machinery are necessary. Sir, after the achievement of independence what we demand is minimum justice, but at present that minimum justice is denied to the people, but I say if that minimum justice is assured to the



people, the face of the country will surely be changed and therefore, developmental activities in our country will be increased. All that the common people want is clean and smooth administration and that much of justice may be assured to the people. Now, I believe the Mover of the Motion has covered all the items in the Governor's Speech.

I am now coming to the question of Embankment and Drainage Department. I would like to say that unscrutinised and hapazard construction of dams and embankments throughout the State has been to some extent responsible for floods, droughts, changes in the course of rivers, drying up of the fisheries and all that. There the Government has rightly considered it necessary to examine all the embankment and drainage projects so that there should be planning and execution of the embankment and drainage projects and at the same time the question of construction of culverts and other means of outlet and inlet may be considered, so that the fertility of the soil as a result of complete blockade of the river water which carries silt is not stopped. Sir, as an exception to this decision of the Government I will refer to the problem of my constituency so far as the embankment and drainage projects are concerned. I may be excused for speaking about my constituency, because I find some hon. Members have said that we should not be constituency-mined. Sir, the geographical situation of my constituency is very peculiar and a very critical situation has arisen in my constituency. Sir, half of my constituency is within the mighty rivers Brahmaputra and Subansiri within the North bank in the Lakhimpur district. Again half of it falls under the North Lakhimpur and half under the Dibrugarh Sub-division. This area is repeatedly devastated by floods, the communication system in the area is extremely bad. You will be surprised that there is no motor traffic there. For all these things it is the most neglected area in the State of Assam. The communication system is still in the primitive position. We have to go to Dibrugarh and North Lakhimpur for our day to-day business. Because of these communication difficulties, people living in this area are lagging far behind. Moreover there is one difficulty in the summer season. Both the rivers become very turbulent and there occurs boat disaster. The people of the constituency represented to the Government repeatedly for redress of their grievances. Now while the construction of the embankments should entail previous thorough examination, as suggested by me above, I want to request the Government to make an exception in the case of my constituency where some projects have been undertaken but not yet



completed. Government should see that they are completed; otherwise the devastation will be caused by the onrush of the water through these incomplete portions of the embankments. It should not be left at the mercy of the nature, otherwise the destruction of the area due to floods will be greater. There are other rivers like Jiadhal.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The hon. Member can profitably discuss these things when the Demand for the Embankment and Drainage is moved. I am not disturbing the hon. Member, but I am only suggesting to him what will be the right course. I am only helping him to follow the right track (*laughter*).

**Shri LALIT KUMAR DALEY (Moran: Reserved for Scheduled Tribes):** Yes, Sir. I hope the hon. Members of this House will kindly excuse me for asking for this exception in case of my constituency.

Now coming to the point of hills affairs, the Governor has rightly emphasised the need of a solution of the hills problem which is still a burning problem of Assam. As for myself by personal contacts and discussions with some Members of the Hills, I have an idea that there are still some problems which need speedy solution. I feel that the hills-areas have been created by God and the resources that are within these hills areas, if properly exploited, will bring a solution not only of the hill areas but for the plains people also. I have visited all these areas, although it has not been possible for me to make a complete survey, and I think the main problem of the hill areas and the people is the problem of food production which cannot be made self-sufficient by the present means of cultivation with the cultivable lands available there. Most of the hill areas are deficit areas. The amount of food production and other production like fruit *viz*; oranges, pineapples which are grown in the hills do not get easy market owing to transport bottleneck. It has been said that owing to the creation of Pakistan, the border trade of the hills people has been greatly hampered. Taking all the production in consideration it cannot make the hills people self-sufficient in the matter of food. So it is natural that we should take to other means of production; we should try to exploit the mineral and other resources of the hills. Sir, I have heard, I do not know how far it is true, that there was a proposal for a project for generation of electricity etc., by the name of Barapani Project in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills district, but in view of the opposition of some people of the area for fear of their land being taken away for



the construction of the dam etc, the project could not be executed. We all know electricity plays an important part in the matter of industrialisation of a country. The people of the district could have been benefited by this electricity. Sir, we are living in a dynamic age and we should think in terms of dynamism. So the fear of my friends if they have so opposed the scheme is unfounded. If the Barapani Project could have been successfully implemented, the majority of the hills area could have been converted into the most industrial area by the help of electricity. I hope my brethren in the hills will kindly realise this important fact and take advantage of this project. Ultimately the solution of the hills problem lies in proper utilisation of the natural resources of the hills areas.

So, I ask my Friends coming from the hills to think over the matter. We cannot be self-sufficient by saying that a particular area is backward or the people in a particular area are starving or semi-starved and that their necessities should be provided by Government. Well, in a welfare State Government is duty-bound to look after the uplift of the people. It is their moral duty. But how far may this state of affairs be allowed to continue? We, ourselves, will have to try to bring about self-sufficiency of those areas, and in that matter, I invite the serious attention of my Friends coming from the hills to look into the matter and help Government with constructive suggestions which may go to solve the problems. I think the real problem at the moment is food and communication, and therefore, we must help Government by our self-efforts to solve these problems. At the same time, Government should also examine the problems of those areas by sending their experts and technicians with a view to see what things can be done to solve these problems, and that is why I invite my Friends in the hills to give their suggestions by proper implementation of which we can solve their problems.

Now I had so many things to say, but my time is very limited.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Actually the Hon. Member has exceeded twice the time allotted for him.

**Shri LALIT KUMAR DALEY** (Moran : Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): And, therefore, Sir, one word more and I will finish. I am really thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to take part in the debate of the Governor's Address. I am also thankful to the mover of resolution for affording us an opportunity to speak. And I



hope the hon. Members from the opposite side will be kind enough to withdraw their amendments and accept the motion of thanks.

With these words, Sir, I conclude.

\***Shri JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara)**: Mr. Speaker, Sir, His Excellency the Governor of Assam has failed to give this House any permanent solution of the food problem. You know, Sir, India and more so, Assam, is an agricultural country. It is naturally expected that it ought to be self-sufficient in food and other agricultural produce. I like to stress that Assam should not only be self-sufficient but she ought to be a surplus State regarding food and other agricultural produce. But, Sir, it is really a matter of great regret that instead of being surplus it is not even self-sufficient. It has now become a deficit area regarding food and other agricultural produce. Why it is so, what is the reason for it? On several previous occasions, year after year, the Government have been giving us to understand that the causes of the failure of crops are drought, insufficiency of rains, untimely rains, floods etc. etc. Shall the country go like this? What are the remedies for these causes? Government have constructed embankments to control flood-waters. But they have so far not been able to stop flood water coming to these areas which are covered by embankments. Government are thinking of providing sluice gates on the embankments. But I would like to say that it will be dangerous to have sluice gates where the depth of water on both sides of the embankment is 12' to 15'. I, therefore, would like to suggest that instead of providing sluice gates it will be better to have *cyphoon* system for letting out or letting in water through these embankments. Because that will not harm the embankments and there will not be any danger because of the difference of the water level on both sides of the embankments, from the pressure of water currents from either of the side in which the water level is higher. Sir, Assam is a place where drought cannot adversely affect the supply of water. That there are so many tributaries and so many small rivulets on both sides of the Brahmaputra that the supply of water to agricultural fields is no problem at all, and it should not be. Even in the months of "Falgoon", and "Chaitra" agricultural fields of Assam can be kept over-flooded by water if a proper and thorough investigation for supplying water through properly controlled irrigation channels can be arranged. By constructing dams on the mouths of these tributaries and by distributing the waters of these tributaries through properly controlled irrigation channels we can supply water to our paddy



and other agricultural fields. This will also help protection of the railway line that run along the sides of the Himalayan range, I mean, the railway line from Bongaigaon to Amingaon which have been and are being destroyed by the rush of water. Because the diffusion of the flow of water of these tributaries like Aie, Manas and Pagladia etc., will reduce the intensity of the rush of water by a system of properly controlled irrigation channels. Sir, this requires co-operation of the Railways, Embankment and Drainage Department and the Department of Agriculture. I feel far-sightedness in this matter is also lacking. There are a number of irrigation channels constructed by our Tribal people who are specially fond of them. But these channels being mostly unscientific in their construction, they do more harm than serve the purpose for which they are constructed. So they must have the expert and technical advice in this matter of properly trained experts.

### Adjournment.

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

### After lunch.

**\*Shri JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara):** While I was speaking about *cyphoon* exchange system some of my hon. Friends could not understand it. I think Government as well as any student of science are able to understand what is *cyphoon* exchange system and so I need not explain it in details.

Now, Sir, I am speaking about construction of irrigation channels by the tribal people from time immemorial and they are using it for their paddy cultivation. They construct irrigation channels but they do not know how to control and maintain them. They do not know how to control the flow of water and as such such channels generally are causing menace sometimes by becoming deeper and deeper and thus ultimately becoming some sort of streams and rivers. For example, the Tarrong river in the Goalpara District which flows through the constituency of the hon'ble Minister, Shri Rupnath Brahma, because there was no control system this Tarrong channel or dong has ultimately become a river called Tarrong river.

**\*Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA:** There was no dong called Tarrong dong. It is always a river and a channel has been constructed to take water from this river.



**\*Shri JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara):** It may be so, but some rivers originated from some such channels. If there is co-operation and co-ordination between departments like Agriculture, Drainage and Embankment, Railway, etc., there can be made arrangement for supply of sufficient water in every part of Assam for our paddy cultivation and there cannot be any shortage of water in the whole State of Assam.

Sir, the Governor has nowhere mentioned in his Address how to tone up our administration. I think our Ministry or Government should be up and doing and be very strict with the executive. It is a well-known fact that due to slackness and favouritism on the part of the senior officers that to-day there are corruption, nepotism, etc., that are going on freely. I need not go into details as to what the Government should do to make it a better administration. Not to speak of the Government officials, even non-officials like big businessmen, are doing whatever they like. To support this I may give the instance as to how the price of rice and at present the price of sugar in Assam has gone up so high. A statement appears stating that as sugar is not a controlled commodity the Government is unable to take any action in the matter. If it is so, then I may call it a weak Government and this shows that the Government is in the hands of the big businessmen. If it were a strong Government then things would have been quite different. Pandit Nehru, our Prime Minister, mentioned before the Independence of India and during the time of Bengal famine in 1943 that if he ever came into power he would hang the black-marketers, profiteers, etc. It is sufficiently proved now that the Government cannot come out of the clutches of the business magnets. Nevertheless, Sir, I would like to impress upon the Government that they should be very very careful about this and should not hesitate to take strong action against the black-marketers, profiteers, etc. Otherwise things will take a very serious turn.

Now, Sir, I would like to come to the question of oil refinery. The Governor in his Address has not been able to throw any new light about this. It is true that it is the declaration of the Centre that there will be an oil refinery in Assam but what kind of refinery it will be and whether there will also be another oil refinery at Barouni also we have no information. The rumour is that there will be another refinery at Barouni and if so we do not understand why Government is going to

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\*Speech not corrected



start it there during this difficult time of foreign exchange and when the Second Five-Year Plan could not be implemented fully in the State. It is difficult to know whether the Centre is sincere in their declaration about the establishment of an oil refinery in Assam. We also could not get any idea from the Governor's speech about the capacity and size of the refinery that is going to be established in Assam. We are anxious to know whether all the crude oil will be taken to Barouni or not when the refinery will be there. Our people are now absolutely in darkness about this. But I want to emphasise that the people of Assam would not tolerate if a single drop of crude oil is tried to be taken away from Assam to Barouni. Government should be very very careful in this matter. Government should announce to the people of Assam that no crude oil will be allowed to go out of Assam.

**\*Mr. SPEAKER:** Order, Order. Is the hon. Member reading his speech or consulting his notes? (*A voice:* Consulting his notes).

**\*Shri JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara):** Government should proclaim that no crude oil will be carried out of Assam without being refined in her refinery. I may tell the House that Assam will not allow others to benefit at her cost, people of Assam will not tolerate such a situation and if the Government of Assam be weak and submit to the Central Government in this regard, the people of Assam know how to deal with such a situation.

Then, Sir, I would like to mention about the Brahmaputra Bridge which is going to be constructed or rather the work of which is going to be started very soon. I don't know whether there was any fresh survey after the survey carried out before. In the last Survey Report it was said that a bridge between Amingaon and Pandu would be an engineering folly. I don't know, Sir, whether Government is going to spend money without knowing the consequence if the bridge is going to be a successful one when the engineers themselves have declared that there cannot be a bridge at Amingaon-Pandu. So, Sir, I would request the Government, before spending any money on this project, to have the opinion of the expert and try to work upon their advice. With these few words I resume my seat.

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*\*Speech not corrected*



**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the Motion of thanks moved by my Friend, Mr. Goswami. In this connection I would like to make a few observations before this august House.

At the very outset we must remember that ours is a problem State. We have many hill areas inhabited by varieties of people and this is a great problem before us. Though under the Constitution special provision has been made and both the Centre and the State are trying their best to ameliorate the conditions of the hills people still when we go to the interior, when we move from village to village, we find that the people are still backward economically and educationally. So we have an uphill task before us and this is a special responsibility to make endeavours for the amelioration of the conditions of people in the hills, specially those who live in the border. Honourable Rev. Roy has described their conditions before this House. The border people are somewhat like refugees in their own homes and their miseries know no bounds. The Government with the poor resources at their disposal are trying their best to give them relief as indicated by the Governor in his Address, but much remains to be done. Communication has to be improved and extended so that the produce of the border people may reach markets which will have to be opened. If necessary, our Government should take steps for the rehabilitation of the border people as we have done in the case of the refugees so that these brothers and sisters of ours who are living in the border can live a normal life like other citizens of the State.

Next the Governor has referred to the Naga people. Though Naga Hills is separated from us for administrative purposes yet we consider those people inhabiting the Naga Hills as our own kith and kin brothers and sisters.

They may be separated from us administratively but we should so act, so behave that these Naga people and people of other parts of the State may feel that they are members of the same family. For this our Government as well as other non-official organisations should make endeavour to maintain that affinity which used to exist between the people of Assam and the Naga people in the past. I associate in this connection with the feelings expressed by Mr. Ram Nath Sarma, so far as the affairs of N.-E. F. A. are concerned. We want an integrated Assam although administratively N.-E. F. A. is



separate from us. We want that the people in these areas, *i.e.*, Mishmis, Dofflas, Abors etc., may feel that they are like our brothers and sisters and have free access to our places for free trade and free social contract which used to exist in the past. It is really painful as has been described by my Friend, Mr. Sarma, that there has been of late a tendency on the part of the officers working in those areas to separate these people from the rest of the people of Assam. That separatist tendency should be nipped in the bud and Government should take measures so that such state of affairs may not continue.

The next problem that is facing the State is the plains tribal people. The plains tribal people and the backward classes predominantly inhabit the State of Assam. Under the Constitution, the State Government and the Central Government are doing their best to ameliorate the conditions of the plains tribal people and the backward classes. As regards the backward classes, though they do not enjoy the special privileges allowed under the Constitution, still our Government are showing special considerations towards them by giving them stipends and other advantages. There are also some people like the plains Mikirs and plains Garos who are in a state of backwardness. Though their case is not covered under Article 275 still I hope the Government would make special consideration for them. The same should apply also to such people as Mundas and other labour population of Assam who are groping in darkness. They are socially and economically still backward. Therefore I appeal to our Government to adopt special measures for ameliorating the backwardness prevalent among these people.

Now, Sir, there are refugees in the State to which the Governor has made a reference. This Government and the Centre are doing their best to rehabilitate the refugees, but the task is a stupendous one. We can vilify the Government, we can vilify anybody, but the task is a stupendous one. Our efforts are there for their rehabilitation but much more work has got to be done. In this regard I must sound a word of caution. The refugees' case should be taken as a case of humanity; no one should treat the refugees as play-dolls in politics, lest their case may be injured. Their case should be taken from a humanitarian point of view.

Besides this problem, Sir, the main difficulty of our State the transport bottleneck, which is always cited by the



Government of India when the question of industrialisation comes before them. The most primary thing which needs special consideration of the Central Government and also of this Government is stabilisation and improvement of the railway line, which has been a stumbling block in the way of industrialisation of this State. I am glad to see from Governor's Address that steps have been taken for the stabilisation of the Rail Link and also there has been a proposal for opening a double line. If this is done, I hope industrialisation of this State, without which it will ever remain backward, will be speeded up. Sir, our State is inhabited by different kinds of people who are in different grades of civilisation. We are surrounded by foreign States. Therefore, it is necessary that this strategic State of ours should be made as strong as possible; this should be made the Eastern bulwork of defence. For this purpose it is the special responsibility of the Central Government to see that this State is developed from all points of view. Though we are thankful to the India Government for giving us the oil refinery, we are also thankful to them for opening a new Railway Zone in Assam and also for steps taken for the construction of the Brahmaputra bridge. Still many more things have got to be done in the field of industry. Though we have got paper pulp, we have no paper mill though we have cotton, we have no cotton mill we have got jute but no jute mill. There are other resources which, if exploited, will convert our State into a fully-developed industrial State.

Sir, the resources of our Government are very meagre and unless special attention is given by the India Government, those things to which I referred earlier cannot come to pass. We hear of so many river valley projects in other States but no river valley project has seen the light of day in our State. We have only the Umtru Project and about to start one sugar mill. These are the only Industrial projects we have up till now. Through sheer neglect in the British days, for generations this State has remained industrially backward, the most backward State in the whole of India. Therefore, we should make emphatic demand on the Central Government to give special attention to us and I hope they will extend all financial assistance to us.

Besides these, Sir, we have other important problems before us. We have the problem of landlessness. If you move, Sir, through any district you will find hundreds of landless



people moving from place to place in search of land. They are squatting here and there and occupying regions from where they are being evicted. Being thus evicted they come to the streets, and with their baggages they have to remain in the street for days and months together like refugees. We have got to rehabilitate the Majuli people. They are moving like beggars from place to place, from forest to forest, from reserve to reserve being ousted like forest animals. We have not been able to do anything for them. We have not also been able to rehabilitate the people whose lands were eroded by Subansiri; we have not been able to rehabilitate fully those whose lands were eroded by the Bharali river. For want of land this problem has assumed serious proportions. As a result, we see that in every district grazing reserves have been forcibly occupied and encroached upon. It has become a tremendous task for the Deputy Commissioner to evict these people. It has created a serious situation for any Deputy Commissioner to cope with. In the absence of any alternative provision the evicted people are been forced to reoccupy the reserves. In this way, the process is going on. This is a very grave problem which is causing headache to our Government as to how this problem can be solved. Out of this, Sir, arises the food problem. We have to feed the landless people. If a census is taken, their number will go to lakhs; we have to feed them as they have no earnings. They have no land for cultivation by which they could contribute to the income of the State. This is a very serious problem. We have given land to landless peasants, but we have not given any plough bullock to them. How will they plough the land? This sort of inconsistency should go. If we give land to the landless people we must also provide them with all facilities so that they can plough the land. What is happening in Amjuli, Sir? Lakhs of rupees were spent for reclamation of the area with a view to rehabilitate the tribal people of Mangaldai there, but the efforts of the last three years have not succeeded in providing them water. I don't understand why without making provision for water, this reclamation scheme was adopted. For lack of water the people are gradually coming back to their original villages. When we do anything for cultivators, we should see that all facilities are given to the cultivators so that they can properly enjoy the benefit under any project that has been initiated for them. These are matters which should receive our serious consideration. Sir, the food position has become very acute during the last three years. We have not been able to produce enough food and it is high time for the members to devise ways and means to meet the situation. What are the causes for the reduction



in the food production ? Why a State which was surplus before and which used to supply other States with rice and paddy is now suffering, as a deficit State, from want of foodgrains. This very vital issue is to be considered on the basis of the agricultural production. Agricultural development should first come before industrialisation. It should be given top-priority. Therefore, we must pay serious attention to Agriculture. It is unfortunate that a State which was surplus in respect of foodgrains is now going to depend on the Government of India, and Government of India has to spoon feed this State every year. So we must devise ways and means by which we can increase food production in our State. Government in the Agriculture Department has started various schemes for growing more food, but still we are facing food deficit every year.

Recently, the Government of India had given a loan of Rs.39 lakhs with a view to augment food production of the State Government. Out of this grant a portion has been given to each district. Now, Sir, is it possible to spend the whole amount of Rs.39 lakhs within 31st March, 1958 ? I think it will be wrong to think that amount could be spent within this short space of time, *viz.*, by 31st March next. In this connection, the Deputy Commissioner of our district called us recently to discuss this matter and told us that the amount allotted to each district must be spent in kind, in manure and seeds which, to my mind, will not be possible within this short space of time. In this connection, I would like to quote the circular which had been issued by Government to the Deputy Commissioners and the Sub-divisional Officers to the effect that tillers' meetings will have to be organised field-wise and they are to be educated about agricultural development. Then Government hope to formulate suitable schemes in due course. Then Sir, the officers of the Agricultural Department will have to call a meeting of tillers in every field for education of tillers and distribution of seeds, manure, etc. Sir, I calculated in my own sub-division that there are more than one thousand fields and accordingly there must be more than one thousand meetings of the tillers. Sir, it is impossible to hold more than one thousand meetings of the tillers in our sub-division before 31st March, with the personnel at the disposal of the District Agriculture Officer.

In the circular it has also been mentioned that in this respect the Members of the Assembly, Members of the Local Boards and prominent public men and women should be associated with a view to help the Agriculture Department in



the production of foodgrains. How could the Members of Legislative Assembly who are here now help the Government by going from house to house to make propaganda for growing more food to the tillers in every field? To my mind, these measures should have been taken earlier so that the Members of Legislative Assembly, could have contributed.

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture):** Sir, my hon. Friend is making a mistake between two things. The organisation of the Members of Legislative Assembly and others has got no connection with the amount of Rs.39 lakhs.

**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla):** No, Sir.

*(Laughter).*

I have calculated in my own sub-division that there are more than one thousand fields and they will have to be visited before 31st March, 1958.

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** Sir, it has got no connection with 31st March. Rupees 39 lakhs will be distributed within 31st March. It is another thing. Government have been looking into the matter. There should be propaganda for taking measures and in that connection Government want to take the help of the Members of Legislative Assembly also.

**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS:** But, Sir, in the circular it has been mentioned that the amount will have to be spent within 31st March and the people will not be given money but, manure and seeds and so on.

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** To some extent.

**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS:** To all extent. How could it be possible for one District Agriculture Officer, two or three Sub-Inspectors to cover the entire sub-division of Tezpur within 31st March?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** All the Community Project Officers organised by my hon. Friend will also be utilised for the purpose.



**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla):** Even if all these people work day and night they will not be able to spend the amount within 31st March. We have so long not been able to develop agriculture on modern lines and we have not been able to increase the food production. Therefore, I may be permitted to suggest as follows. If Government want to increase food production they will have to give a pair of bullocks to each cultivator first and then manure and seeds.

(Laughter).

Then there must be some summary procedure to see that the cultivators get these loans to purchase without difficulty bullocks, otherwise, কাল ফাটোতেই মাহৰ বতৰ যাব।

Then there should be propaganda throughout the whole sub-division.

In a nutshell I would like to suggest to Government the following measures for increasing food production.

(i) to give cattle loan to the cultivators for purchasing of bullocks ;

(ii) there should be a propaganda week, and the Members of Legislative Assembly, should be given the week's leave to join observance of the week and meet the people and explain to them the seriousness of the food problem and urgency of food production.

জিলাবিলাকত এতিয়ালৈকে মিটিং হোৱাই নাই। সেই দেখি কৈছো যে এই সদনৰ মেম্বাৰ সকলে.....

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I hope the hon. Member will continue in English.

**Shri MOHIKANTA DAS:** সকলো ভাব কুটাই তুলিব নোৱাৰাৰ কাৰণেহে অসমীয়াতে কৈছোঁ। (Laughter).

So, Sir, my suggestion is that let the Deputy Commissioner contact the Local Board Members as also the Development Committee Members and others and ask for their services and request them to go from village to village for purpose of propaganda.



Let there be no excuse that there is no godown here, no implement there and so on.

Then, Sir, another thing is with regard to manure. Now, our practice is that manure is given without examination of the soil. When the land is manured without examination of the soil it naturally produces leaves only and no grain (*laughter*). In China the people are manure-minded but here we are afraid of manure. Why is it so? The reason is that the soil is not examined before manure is applied. [Now, Sir, our people right from the Director of Agriculture down to the Agricultural Demonstrators.....]

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I am sorry to interrupt the hon. Member, but I want to point out to him that these things can well be discussed during discussion on the Budget when demand for Agriculture comes up.

**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla):** Yes, Sir. I quite see that. But the difficulty is that discussion on the Budget will come up in April while this amount is to be spent before 31st March. That is why I cannot wait Sir.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** How long will the hon. Member take?

**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS:** Only five minutes, Sir. If you please I will finish. As I have said, Sir, our officers from the Director of Agriculture right down to the Agricultural Demonstrators and other Heads of Departments should be mobilised for this purpose before 31st March so that all cultivable lands whether falling within the reserve or out side should be opened up for temporary cultivation of foodgrains..... (*cries of "yes", "yes" from the Opposition*).

Now, Sir, If I may suggest, from 11th to 23rd April there will be a recess of the Assembly, Government can utilise this period for propaganda as desired by some of my Friends. Let us all go to the villages. Let us start a Grow-More-Food Week and give us all facilities to make this Grow-More-Food Week a success. At the same time pumps should be given to the poor people in drought either free or with minimum charges areas.....

(The bell rings).

Sir, I do not know whether I have been able to give vent to my feelings in this connection and whether I have fully



been able to express myself. There may be some sort of shortcomings in my speech but I beg to state that whatever suggestion I have given here may be considered by the Government and if they find them acceptable, they may be pleased to accept them and if not, they may be discarded. In Sanskrit it is said—

‘‘সাবং ততোগ্রাহ্যং অপাঙ্গা কন্তু’’ ।

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):**

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by hon. Member from Kamalpur and to oppose all the amendments to this motion. The hon. Member from Gauhati has rightly pointed out in his speech that we are to mobilise all our available resources to make our plan a success. He also pointed out that there should be equal distribution and that producers should get their due share. He also did not omit to mention that there should be some sort of administrative change. To me, Sir, it appears that all these are covered in the Governor's Address. It is the policy of the Government so far as I believe, that we are to mobilise all our resources to make our Plan a success so that our country will not lag behind. It is also the policy of the Government that due share should go to the tillers of the soil, the producers. Sir, regarding the change in the administrative machinery, that also was mentioned in the Governor's Address—of course it may take some time to have some tangible results. Sir, in this connection I like to refer to certain remarks made by the oldest Member of this House, hon. Rev. Nichols-Roy. He stated in his speech that real action is needed, no tears of sympathy will help the people in the border areas, Sir, although I agree with him that real sympathy is needed but I feel it is unfair to say that our Government is showing only lip sympathy to these people. I believe our Government is out to solve all problems with all sincerity. Sir, it is a fact that there are some difficulties among our border people, but I believe attention of Government had already been drawn to their problem. Hon. Member also mentioned about the feeling of Congressmen and non-Congressmen. Sir, so far as I believe our Government do not possess such feelings. There may be some such feelings amongst some field workers during and after the election that so and so is a Congressman and so and so is not, or that so and so belongs to this or that Party. But so far as our Government is concerned, there is no such discrimination. For the success of our Plan Government never discriminate whether a man belongs to this Political Party or



that Party. So, Sir, I do not agree with him that there is any discrimination between Congressmen and non-Congressmen in the Hills. I do not believe that non-Congressmen do not get chance or that Congressmen only get chance in all matters where Government is connected. In fact it is my personal experience that our Government officers used to pay more attention generally to non-Congress leaders than they do to Congress leaders.

*12.7.72*  
Sir, hon. Rev. Nichols-Roy also mentioned that the Khasi people are docile people. I quite agree with him. But I must also say that all indigeneous people of Assam are docile people. If I may be permitted to cite an instance, I may refer to the original people of my district the district of Lakhimpur. With pressure of modern world they are now pushed back to the interior villages and jungles. If I compare them with the Khasi people I find, Sir, that there the indigeneous people are going more to the interior places than coming forward to the modern world. So, Sir, I cannot agree with him that only our Khasi brethren are finding difficulty in the modern world set up. Sir, Rev. Nichols-Roy also mentioned about Umtru Project. It is no doubt a fact that the people of Kamrup district are getting more benefit from this project ; but the natural condition is such that power can be easily generated to Gauhati and other places. So, Sir, I think there cannot be any dispute about this project. Sir, in this House mention has been made of North-East Frontier Agency and its policy. In this connection I like to enlighten the House about our relationship with the North-East Frontier Agency people. You know, Sir, that Kundil in Mishmi district is about 60 miles from Sadiya and king Bhismaka, is well known all over India. The Mishmis in North-East Frontier Agency claimed their descendant from king Bhismaka, so also the royal family of Motok kingdom and also the Chutias and others claimed their descendants from king Bhismaka. The Abors in North-East Frontier Agency and the Miris of the Brahmaputra Valley belongs to the same stock. The dialect is also almost similar. Similarly the Khamtis and Sinpho in N-EFA and the Ahoms of Assam claim that they belong to same Tai race. In this way, Sir, you will find that most of the people of Upper Assam claimed that they belong to the same stock with the people of North East Frontier Agency. Therefore, if there is any artificial barrier between the people of Assam and the North-East Frontier Agency region that will certainly hamper the growth of our people. No doubt some protection is necessary but you cannot support



that the North-East Frontier Agency should be isolated forever. Sir, you will actually find that almost all the original people of Upper Assam have no difference with the hills people in the North-East Frontier Agency regions. Similarly, Sir, in Darrang district, I believe, although I have no first hand information, perhaps the Aka and the Dafla have the same blood relationship with the plains people of Darrang district. If we analyse, we will find that not only Assamese is the *lingua-franca* of the North-East Frontier Agency people but we have direct food relation with them. Sir, if the present policy of the Government can be relaxed to some extent then we can have more intercourse and perhaps, in the course of time we shall be in a position to build a mighty Assam which is our hearth and home. When I speak of Assam, I don't speak for Assamese speaking people only but I speak in the interest of all people living in Assam and who consider Assam as their hearth and home. Sir, only if the present policy of the Government is modified sufficiently, I believe the misunderstandings and other grievances will finally vanish away. There should not be room for mis-representation of facts outside Assam. I hope Government would look into this matter urgently. Sir, in this connection, I would like to mention about the report of the Backward Classes Commission. The report is perhaps by now in the hands of the Government. If due consideration is made our problems in the plains will be solved and that will surely give impetus to our hills brethren also to feel that Government is actually to protect the weaker section of the people. Backward people should get facilities to come up to the standard of other advanced people. Sir, I would also like to refer to the rehabilitation of the flood and earthquake affected people in Upper Assam, specially in the district of Lakhimpur. A large number of people were uprooted by the great earthquake of 1950, and also by the subsequent floods and erosions. Sir, you will find that a good number still remains to be rehabilitated. I hope if sincere efforts were made by our local officers it would not had been difficult to rehabilitate these unfortunate people. I hope Government will give due attention to this problem. In this regard, I would also like to make a reference towards our land policy. It is quite clear that the Government policy is to give land to the tillers of the soil. The question hour reveals that the existing rules and regulations, are standing in the way of implementation of our present land policy.

Therefore I feel that the rules and regulations of Revenue Department should be amended to give land to the local cultivators, whose hearth and home is Assam.



In order that those who till the soil can get benefit from our land policy, I believe certain laws or rules should be amended or framed. I think Government will see to this and make the necessary amendment so that the real cultivators will not be deprived of the benefit.

Sir, I don't like to make a long speech and take away the precious time of the House, but I would like to make a mention about our schemes. The mental make up of scheme makers are not of same level of our mass people. In many cases we find that the schemes are very lofty and ideal, but it is difficult on part of the mass people to understand them. Therefore, I hope Government will give sufficient attention to local conditions which generally, in Assam we find diversity in different districts. I would therefore, like to draw the attention of the Government in this regard.

Sir, one of the hon. Members of this House suggested that from 11th to 23rd April, 1958, there would be a Grow-More-(Food)] Campaign Week—I cannot agree with him in this regard because during that period there will be Bohag Bihu in which young boys and girls will continue dancing and singing for happiness and to get more vitality to produce more in next season of cultivation.

**Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, much has been said regarding food. Food is a great problem. I would like now to divert the subject matter from Food to Medical. Medical is also a great problem. Sir, most of our people cannot have even two square meals a day, because their buying capacity is very poor, they are ill-nourished and ill-fed and therefore, the vitality of the people is very low and, therefore, there is the chance of infection, we must fight it out. To fight it the first pre-requisite is balanced food. People must have nourishing food so that people do not fall an easy victim to infectious diseases. Then, if we look to the question of medicine there also the price of the medicine has gone up very high. The general standard of health of the people has gone down and except a very few people in our country are not healthy. The food people generally take lacks in vitamin, iron calcium, etc. These things are not to be tackled either by the people or by the Government. Then our people because of their ignorance do not observe all the rules pertaining to proper maintenance of health; they may take contaminated food and get infectious diseases. Sometimes epidemic breaks out and people die or suffer. So Government should



find out devices so that instructions may be given to the people as to how to maintain their health by observing cleanliness and taking balanced diet, etc. Sometimes what we find is that Government rush with doctors and other equipment and medicine to the epidemic areas when the epidemic has broken out. This involves huge cost. Instead of this if Government take preventive steps before-hand, the cost will be less and at the same time people will not suffer so much. As regards the preventive side we find Government have many schemes, e.g., there is the Malaria Control Programme, there is prevention and check of leprosy, there is spreading of D. D. T. so on and so forth. Unless they are properly implemented in time it is of little use to the people. Now, can we say that as a result of these schemes the diseases are decreasing? Take for instance the question of incidence of mosquito in Gauhati. Can the Government say that the incidence of mosquito has diminished there as a result of the anti-Malarial Schemes undertaken by the Government? There are other instances and I need not go into the details here. It is known almost to all.

Another point is survey. The other day I also stressed about this point during the question hour. Survey is most important so far as the question of prevention of diseases is concerned.

Then there are other things viz X-ray plants, chest clinics etc. Up till now we find that the essential parts of plants are not supplied. If these things are going on how can we expect better medical facilities in spite of spending so much money.

Then we should not also ignore the curative side too. Considering the condition of the people who are mostly poor, they must get free treatment, free medicine, but what do we find when these people go to any hospital, take for instance our biggest Hospital, I mean the Dibrugarh Medical College, can you say that all the poor people can get admission there? Those who can afford to pay get the admission, others have to rot in the hotels in the expectation of getting admission when a bed in the hospital will be available. This also aggravates the spread of diseases by the stay of these patients in the hostels etc. So these things should not be overlooked.

Then Government cannot expect to serve the people by simply opening certain dispensaries and putting some doctors there unless there is sufficient stock of medicine and instrument



We have so many anomalies in the administration of medical department in our State. Every Member is acquainted with such anomalies, which is happening everywhere in our State.

Lastly, there is the political consideration. In the matter of opening up a new dispensary we find Government move according to the dictation of certain big bosses of the Congress Party. Sometimes we find a dispensary situated in the central place of an area is shifted to a remote corner of that particular place according to the wishes of some big people of the Political party and the result is that the poor people cannot go to such remote place to get any medical benefit. These anomalies are there and unless these things are removed and as the people in our State are very poor we cannot say that medical facilities to these poor people have been given.

With these words, Sir, I commend my motion for the acceptantce of the House.

**Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the motion moved by my Friend, Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami. I want to speak a few words in this connection. Our Governor in his Speech has ably described the various problems of our State and the different plans and schemes to solve these problems.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The hon. Member should speak a little loudly because the microphone here in this House does everything except amplyfying your voice.

**Shri MOHANANDA BORA:** The Governor has rightly pointed out that during the last year we had been successful in coming to an effective solution of three problems, *i.e.*, the refinery problem, the establishment of a separate railway zone, a decision to construct a bridge over the Brahmaputra. These were the three vital problems that were agitating the minds of our people from some considerable time past, and it is our good fortune that we are now near the threshold of their effective solutions.

Regarding the flood control and irrigation system in the State the Governor has been pleased to make a reference to one point. He has stated that during the last year there was little damage done by floods in our State. This was due to construction of embankments and introduction of an effective system of irrigation in different parts of our State. While saying this, he is not oblivious of the fact that in some other places



these embankments have not been as successful as they ought to have been in effectively solving the problem of recurrent floods that have been visiting upon our country repeatedly for so many years. From my personal experience, Sir, I find that in those places on the northern side of the Brahmaputra where the rainfall is heavy, there the embankments are found to be successful and floods do not create much damage. Speaking about my own subdivision, North Lakhimpur, Sir, I can say that there the embankments have been working very well. But in those places where the rain-fall is much less, there the embankments have not been working as they are expected to do. Because usually the water and silt brought by the rivers cannot cross over these embankments, and that is why in such places with lesser rainfall the embankments failed to work up to expectations, but on the contrary adversely effected the places making them dry. In such places sluice gate and openings, are the remedies.

As regards the food situation, Sir, during last year we were very much perturbed by the acute food situation that prevailed in the State. This year also although we are not entirely free from our misapprehensions, we are glad to be able to know that our Government has been taking effective steps well ahead of time to meet any emergency that may arise in the country as a result of scarcity of food. We are glad to observe that they are making suitable arrangements in different places to build up adequate reserve of food-stuff by setting in motion their procurement machinery well in time. This shows how conscious is our Government to meet the food situation in our country.

Sir, regarding the Second Five-Year Plan, the Governor has rightly stated that we are in some difficulty regarding implementation of the Plan. So far as the production side of the Plan is concerned, I feel, Sir, it does not seem to be as satisfactory as it ought to be. The measures taken by the Agricultural Department for production of food are not adequate. Because in the different fields of its activities, we have observed its performances with a little too much of apprehension. I say this, Sir, because we have seen that had this Department been not at all there, food production in our country would not have at all suffered, it would have been all the same. This apprehension may be true or may not be so. But this apprehension is there in the minds of many of us, such a feeling in the minds of the people does not do any credit to the department concerned.



Regarding NEFA and the Naga Hills, as many of my previous speakers have dwelt upon the subjects fairly elaborately. I do not propose to go over them once again.

Regarding the administrative machinery of our State, Sir, in my opinion, it is top-heavy and its efficiency is far from our expectation till now. Because in certain departments we have seen departmentalism seems to reign supreme over any consideration of public good. Sir, now is the high time for the Government to set its machinery on the gear for production of more food. Even though it is the recognized policy of the Government, example is not rare to show how the Department of Revenue tries to create difficulties in certain venture of food production by the Agricultural Department. In the last year Sir, the Agricultural Department of our Government contemplated to start certain farms. But full one year has elapsed, the Revenue Department has not yet been able to make available the required plot of land. This is an example how departmentalism become succesful in thwarting the very good purpose of the Government

Then regarding the Community Projects and the N. E. S. Blocks, they are quite considerable in number in our State, we are sorry to observe that the benefit from these projects does not commensurate with the expectations of the country. Sir, I had the occasion to see certain such N.E.S. Blocks in certain other States and I am sorry to observe that in comparision with these Blocks, our N.E.S. Blocks and Community projects stand much below the par.

Regarding the Hydal Project at Umtru, we all know, Sir, that in respect of utilisation of electric powers, our State is far behind the other sister States. Our Umtru Hydro-Electric Project is much smaller, and yet it is the only one such project we have in our State. It caters to the needs only to a limited number of people of our State. In other States, we have seen ourselves, how even the small villages are kept beautifully electrified. I, therefore, think that our Government should try to harness and train up a number of rivers in our State with a view to produce hydro-electric powers. Fortunately our State is full af rivers, and if this bounty of nature can be utilised for the benefit of our poor people, our Government will be doing a duty which they will gratefully remember.

Regarding the Industrial Policy of our Government I have some doubts. It seems our Government is professing one thing and in the same breath they are doing something quite contrary



to their profession. They want big industries, they also want cottage industries and small-scale industries also to thrive and grow at one and the same time. In this connection I would like to say one thing. A wolf and a lamb cannot be caged in the same cage. When we encourage rice mill we cannot encourage hand pounding. What I want to emphasise is that while we want to encourage the hand pounding industry and our original Dheki system we should not at the same time encourage rice mill, because where there is a rice mill the hand pounding industry or Dheki system cannot thrive. Now-a-days the Central Government has discouraged giving license to start new rice mill. But in place of rice mill another menace has sprung up and that is called rice hauler. If one such rice hauler happens to be started in one village then all the hand-pounding industry and Dheki will disappear from that village within a month or two. We should introduce big industries in such places and in such matters where they cannot affect the cottage industries or small scale industries and in that way only we can industrialise our country.

Regarding other matters referred to in the Governor's Address I have nothing more to say. But I want to say one thing and it is regarding the closure of uneconomic and mis-managed tea gardens. Along with this I want to bring to the notice of the House that after the Chagla Commission's Report some Mundhra-owned tea gardens in Assam are also facing the same situation and the labourers and other workers of those uneconomic gardens are about to face a problem of unemployment. I, therefore, draw the attention of the Government to see so that those workers are not driven into wilderness.

Regarding the political sufferers I am happy to note that the Government has now intended to give more relief to the political sufferers of our State. I think there are many political sufferers who are not in the limelight and who are not known to authorities. They also deserve help from the Government.

There is another important subject which did not find place in the Governor's Address and this is about land problem of our State. The Revenue Department which deals with this land problem of our State is not working satisfactorily. This land problem is also another vital problem which is connected with food production in our State. In some places of our State the land problem is between the landlords and the tenants and in some other places it is between the officers and the cultivators. In Upper Assam Districts the Sub-Deputy Collectors and



the Mandals are the main authorities as far as this problem is concerned. In the temporarily settled areas where only annual patta is given, the poor cultivators are exploited by those officers to a very great extent and thus they are harassed like anything. I think Government will take proper steps to correct this practice.

Now I come to the question of settlement of land. In many places of our State we have seen that grazing and forest reserves are forcibly occupied by many people specially by those who have more land and their disposal and who are rich. In those areas 'the might is right' and those who have no power or money do not get any land in the reserves. The powerful and rich people ordinarily influence the officers and Mandals and thus take possession of land. There is Government order for eviction of people from grazing and forest reserves. But is eviction effected at all? For the last 12 or 13 years I have seen eviction is going on year by year, but that is all for show. Because officers go there for eviction with elephants and through elephants some houses are demolished. But that demolition is not true. Only some thatch from the roof is removed and then they come back to report that eviction has been effected. Afterwards those roofs of the houses are repaired in no time and thus the people remain there for long years.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** This matter can be discussed in details when the Demand comes before the House.

**Shri MOHANANDA BOEA (North Lakhimpur):** Very well, Sir. Another matter I want to refer to is about the policy of the Government regarding tribal and backward areas. In our State there are many backward, tribal and Scheduled people. The present policy of the Government concerning these people is not very effective. The present policy in this regard is rather creating some vested interests in those people and is unable to raise the ordinary mass people to a standard to which we want them to be raised. Regarding the tribal and backward people we have seen that in our State there will be very few people excepting them. Of the 92 lakhs people of Assam, about 40 to 50 lakhs will be the backward, the tribal and schedule castes people. Some of them are so backward and so neglected that they do not know what benefit Government is conferring on them. I want to cite one example. The whole area lying east of Bharali and north of the Brahmaputra is inhabited by almost 60 per cent. of backward and tribal people. The population of the whole area is more



or less 7 lakhs and of these 7 lakhs about 4 or 5 lakhs are tribal, scheduled caste, and other back-ward people. These people have been left backward from during the Ahom rule. Even now this area has been left so backward that the people are not getting the benefit which they should have got. This I say in order to ventilate the grievances of the people regarding Government policy. (The bell rang).

With these few words I support the motion.

**Shri KARKA CHANDRA DOLEY** moved by my Friend from Kamalpur [North Lakhimpur (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মাননীয় ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ৰ অভিভাষণৰ ওপৰত সমালোচনা পুস্কৃত মোৰ মনৰ ভাব প্ৰকাশ কৰিবলৈ সন্মিলন পোৱাৰ বাবে মই জয় জয়তে ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ক ধন্যবাদ জনাইছো।

ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ে অভিভাষণত, চৰকাৰৰ নীতি সম্পৰ্কে, আলোচনা কৰিছে, তাৰ বাবে আমি আনন্দ পাইছো। কিন্তু সেই নীতি বিলাক কাৰ্য্যত ফলৱতী হৈছে নে নাই তাৰ কোনো উল্লেখ তেখেতে কৰা নাই, আমি দেখাত চৰকাৰৰ নীতি কাৰ্য্যত ফলৱতী হোৱা নাই। বিশেষ কৈ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ প্ৰশাসনীয় যন্ত্ৰত, কেৰোণ থকা দেখা গৈছে। এই কেৰোণ যদি এই দৰে চলি থাকে তেনেহলে অসম ৰাজ্য বা অসমীয়া জাতি বেছি দিন টিকি থকাৰ আশা নাই। এইবিলাক কেৰোণ আঁতৰাবৰ বিশেষ চেষ্টা চৰকাৰে কৰা দেখা নাই। ব্ৰিটিছ শাসনত যেনে দৰে চলি আছিল এতিয়াও ঠিক সেই দৰেই চলি আছে। বৰ্ত্তমানে শাসনৰ সুবিধাৰ কাৰণে নানা বকমৰ ডিপাৰ্টমেণ্ট কৰিছে সেই হিচাবে বহুত অফিচাৰ বাঢ়ি গৈছে যেনে Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Secretary, Assistant Secretary ইত্যাদি, কিন্তু তাৰ দ্বাৰা শাসনৰ কিবা সুবিধা হৈছে বুলি কব নোৱাৰো। এই সম্পৰ্কে ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ে একো উল্লেখ কৰা নাই। ট্ৰাইবেল সম্বন্ধে বা অনসূচিত জাতি সম্পৰ্কে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে যিবিলাক নীতি অবলম্বন কৰিছে দেখাত সেইবোৰ ভালৈই হৈছে, কিন্তু এই আচনিবিলাক কাগজে পত্ৰ হৈ আছে কাৰ্য্যত একো দেখা নাই। ট্ৰাইবেলৰ মাটি নীতি কাৰাবাৰ ইত্যাদি সম্পৰ্কে যিবোৰ চৰকাৰী চাৰকলাৰ ওলায় সেইবোৰ ভৈয়াম নাপায় গৈ উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে ট্ৰাইবেল ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰীৰ বাবে freestudent ship দিয়াৰ কথা আছে কিন্তু কাৰ্য্যত তেওঁলোকে সম্পূৰ্ণ পোৱা দেখা নাই। মাটি সম্বন্ধে ট্ৰাইবেল আৰু ব্লক কৰিছে কিন্তু ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰা ট্ৰাইবেলে মাটি পোৱা দেখা নাই। অন্য ট্ৰাইবেলবিলাকেহে তাত মাটি বেচি সুবিধা পাইছে। এই কথা বাবে বাবে চৰকাৰক জনোৱা স্বত্বেও চৰকাৰে ইয়াৰ কোনো প্ৰতিকাৰ কৰা নাই। ট্ৰাইবেলৰ মাটি সম্পৰ্কে ৰাজ্যপালৰ ভাষণত একো উল্লেখ নাই।

২য়তে চৰকাৰী চাকৰীয়াসকলৰ কিছুমানে চাকৰীৰ পৰা অৱসৰ পোৱাৰ পিছত পেঞ্চন পোৱা নাই। তিনি চাৰি বছৰ এনেকি অৱসৰ প্ৰাপ্ত চাকৰীয়াসকল মৰি যোৱা পৰ্য্যন্ত পেঞ্চন নোপোৱাৰ দৃষ্টান্ত আছে। ওপৰৰ চাকৰীয়াসকল আনকি মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়সকলে তেওঁলোকৰ দৰমহা ঠিক পাইলা তাৰিখেই পায় কিন্তু পণ্ডিত আদি যিবিলাক সৰু সৰু চাকৰীয়াসকল আছে তেওঁলোকে সময় মতে দৰমহা নাপায়।

আৰকাৰী বিভাগত ওপৰৰ পৰা আৰম্ভ কৰি একেবাৰে তলৰ বিষয়া বিলাকলৈকে প্ৰত্যেকে প্ৰত্যেকৰ মদৰ মহলদাৰৰ লগত মাহেকীয়া টকা পইচাৰ বন্দৱস্ত আছে। আৰু মহলদাৰ বিলাকে টকা পইচা ঘূচ দিব নোৱাৰিলে তেওঁলোকৰ মহল ৰক্ষা কঠিন হয়। পানী



মিহলোয়া মদ বিক্রী হোৱাৰ ওৰিত আৱকাৰী বিভাগেই জড়িত আছে। এই বিলাকৰ এটা উচিত ব্যৱস্থা নহলে চৰকাৰ ভালদৰে চলি থাকিব পাৰিব বুলি আশা কৰিব নোৱাৰি।

পুনৰসংস্থাপন সম্পৰ্কে মই এই কথাই উল্লেখ কৰিব খোজে। যে ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ আৰু সোৱণশীৰি নদীৰ বানপানীয়ে যি সকল লোকক বছৰি ঘৰ ভাঙি আৰু খেতিৰ মাটি নষ্ট কৰি ভিখাৰী কৰিছে সেই লোক সকলৰ পুনৰ সংস্থাপনৰ ব্যৱস্থাৰ কথা ৰাজ্যপালৰ ভাষণত কোনো ইঙ্গিত পোৱা নগল অথচ এই মানুহবিলাক মাটিৰ কাৰণে আজিও হাঁহাঁকাৰ কৰি ফুৰিছে। গোটেই অসমীয়া জাতিটোৱেই কৃষিজীৱি—কৃষিৰ কাৰণে এওঁলোকৰ মাটিয়েই প্ৰধান সমস্যা। আজিৰ এই খাদ্য অনাটনৰ দিনত চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰ পৰা অধিক শস্য উৎপাদন অভিযান আৰু নানা অভিযান কাৰগজে পত্ৰে চলিছে আৰু ইয়াৰ নামত লাখে লাখে টকা খৰচ হব ধৰিছে। এই কথা ৰাজ্যপালৰ ভাষণত উল্লেখ কৰা হৈছে। টকা অকল খৰচ কৰিলেই নহব—ভূমিহীন খেতিয়ক সকলক খেতি কৰিবলৈ খেতিৰ উপযোগী মাটি বিতৰণ কৰিব লাগিব। মোৰ পূৰ্ববৰ্তী বক্তা শ্ৰীযুত মহীকান্ত দাস ডাঙৰীয়াই কোৱাৰ দৰে প্ৰথমে খেতিয়কক খেতিৰ কাৰণে গৰুহাল আৰু মাটি উৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰি দিব লাগিব। আশা কৰো চৰকাৰে এই অতি প্ৰয়োজনীয় ব্যৱস্থাটো অতি সোনকালে হাততলৈ কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰিব।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, ৰাজ্যপালৰ ভাষণত Hill Tribes-ৰ কাৰণে বিশেষকৈ Autonomous District বিলাকৰ কাৰণে Advisory Council গঠন কৰা কথাটো উল্লেখ কৰা পাই বৰ ভাল পাইছো। কিন্তু 'প্লেইনচ' ট্ৰাইবেল সকলৰ কাৰণে তেনে ব্যৱস্থা নকৰাটো দুখৰ কথা। অভাব অভিযোগ Hills Tribal সকলৰ যেনেকৈ আছে Plains Tribal সকলৰো তেনেকৈ আছে। এই ক্ষেত্ৰত মোৰ এনে অনুমান হয় যেন ৰাজ্যপাল ডাঙৰীয়াই ভৈয়ামৰ জনজাতীয় লোক সকলতকৈ পৰ্বতৰ জনজাতীয় লোক সকলক বেছি প্ৰাধান্য দিছে আৰু এনেও ধাৰণা হয় যেন তেখেতে ভৈয়ামবাসী জনজাতীয় লোক সকলৰ অভাব অভিযোগবিলাক তেওঁবিলাকৰ সভ্যতা আৰু কৃষ্টি কৰ্মৰ পৰা উপলব্ধি কৰিব পৰা নাই। এই বিষয়ে বিশেষ ব্যৱস্থা অবলম্বন কৰিবলৈ মই চৰকাৰৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিলো। আৰু ইয়াৰ লগতে অতি সোনকালে ভৈয়ামৰ জনজাতীয় সকলৰ কাৰণে এখন Advisory Council গঠন কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব।

ইয়াৰ পাঁচত আন এটা ৰাজ্যপালৰ ভাষণত কোৱা কথাৰ পুতি চৰকাৰৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰি কওঁ যে গৰু-মহৰ স্বাস্থ্যৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে লাখে লাখে টকা মঞ্জুৰ কৰা হৈছে যদিও কেৱল এই মঞ্জুৰীৰ ওপৰত আমাৰ কাম নহব। কাৰ্য্যক্ষেত্ৰত এই টকা কেনেকৈ সদভাৱে খটুৱাব পাৰি তাৰো স্পষ্ট দিহা পৰামৰ্শ নিৰ্ণয় কৰা দৰকাৰ। চৰকাৰে লাখ লাখ টকা এই ক্ষেত্ৰত মঞ্জুৰী দিছে যদিও আমাৰ গৰু-মহ বিলাক বছৰি হাজাৰে হাজাৰে মৰিব লাগিছে আৰু তাৰ ফলত খেতিয়ক সকলে নান্দল ওপৰত উঠাই খব লগাত পৰিছে। এইটো ভাল হোৱা নাই আৰু ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰাই আমাৰ খেতিয়ক সকলৰ অৱস্থা শোচনীয় কৰি তুলিব। সেই কাৰণে মই চৰকাৰক এই বিষয়ে লক্ষ্য কৰিবলৈ টানি অনুৰোধ কৰিলো আৰু আশা কৰো খেতিয়ক সকলৰ এই সমস্যা সমাধান যেন চৰকাৰে অতি শীঘ্ৰে কৰে। ইয়াকে কৈ মই মোৰ বক্তব্য সানবিলোঁ।

**Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA (Patharakandi, Reserved for Scheduled Castes):** মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, শ্ৰীযুত শৱৎ চন্দ্ৰ গোস্বামী মহাশয় ৰাজ্যপালৰ বক্তৃতাত যে ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপক প্ৰস্তাৱ উত্থাপন কৰেছেন তাৰ সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱ আমি গতকল্য উত্থাপন কৰেছি। সেই সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱৰ সমৰ্থনে আমি আমাৰ বক্তব্য বলছি।

মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, দেশবিভাগেৰ অনিবাৰ্য্য কাৰণে আমাৰ ৰাজ্য অনেক উদ্বাস্তৰ আগমন হৈয়েছে। এই উদ্বাস্তদেৱ মध्ये আছেন কৃষিজীৱী সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ লোক, আছেন মৎস্যজীৱী সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ লোক, আছেন ছোট ছোট কাৰিগৰ, আছেন



ব্যবসায়ী এবং অন্যান্য বুদ্ধিজীবী। সরকার তাদের পুনর্বাসনের দায়িত্ব স্বীকার করে নিয়েছেন। কিন্তু বৃত্তি হিসাবে একটা স্ত্রী পরিকল্পনা নিয়ে পুনর্বাসন কার্যে হস্তক্ষেপ না করায় আজও সমস্যা হিসাবে রয়ে গিয়েছে। প্রতিবৎসর আমরা সরকারী টাকা খরচের একটা হিসাব পাই, এবারও রাজ্যপালের বক্তৃতায় আমরা টাকার অঙ্ক দেখছি কত পরিবারের মধ্যে কত পরিবার পুনর্বাসন হয়েছে তার হিসাব মাননীয় রাজ্যপাল দিতে পারেন নি। অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, সরকার যে ভাবে পুনর্বাসন চালিয়ে যাচ্ছেন আমি তার দু'একটা উদাহরণ দিচ্ছি।

প্রথমতঃ, জমি রিকইজিশন করে সরকার কতকগুলি কলোনী তৈরী করেছেন। করিমগঞ্জ মহকুমায় দুহালিয়া কলোনী সেইরকম একটা কলোনী। প্রায় একহাজার পরিবারকে দশ বিঘা করে জমি দেওয়া হবে এই আশ্বাস দিয়ে তাদের কলোনীতে নিয়ে বসানো হয়েছিল। পরিবার প্রতি তিন বিঘা বা তারও কম জমি তাদের দেওয়া হয়েছে এবং তাও আবার চাষের সম্পূর্ণ অযোগ্য টিলা ছাড়া আর কিছু নয়।

সরকার তাদের জমি দিতে পারেন নি। কিন্তু জমি দেখাতে পারলে কৃষি লোন দেওয়া হবে এই আশ্বাস দেওয়ায় অনেক বাজে দলিল নিয়ে ভিড় করেছেন উদ্বাস্তুরা সরকারী অফিসে। যে ক্ষেত্রে টাকা মঞ্জুর হয়েছে সেই টাকাও ৫০৬০ টাকা হিসাবে কিস্তিতে দেওয়া হয়েছে এবং সেই সব টাকা সরকারী দুর্নীতি পরায়ন কর্মচারী এবং টাউটরা মিলে লুট করে নিয়েছে। কাজেই পরিস্কার বুঝা যায় সমস্যার সমাধান হয়নি। ঠিক একই অবস্থা সরকারী কলোনী মাইজগ্রামে এবং পাঁচগ্রাম, ভেটাইরচন্দ প্রভৃতি সরকারী কলোনীতে হয়েছে।

দ্বিতীয়ত, আর এক ধরনের কলোনী আছে যাহা উদ্বাস্তুরা নিজেরা জমি সংগ্রহ করে কলোনী তৈরী করছে এবং সরকার সেছসব কলোনী স্বীকার করে নিয়েছেন। এই সমস্ত কলোনী গড়ে উঠেছে করিমগঞ্জ মহকুমার জমিদারী এলাকা গুলিতে বিশেষ করে সোন বিলে। দেশ বিভাগের পূর্বে এই সমস্ত জমি স্থানীয় লোক সামান্য খাজনা দিলে হেমন্ত কালে গো-চারণ ভূমি হিসাবে ব্যবহার করতো। উদ্বাস্তুরা বুরো ধান চাষের জন্য সেই সমস্ত জমি বন্দোবস্ত নিয়েছেন। জমি বন্দোবস্ত নেওয়া, কলোনী তৈরী করা, সরকারী ধানের জন্য তদ্বির করা প্রভৃতি কাজের জন্য এক শ্রেণীর টাউট স্বভাবতই সৃষ্টি হয়েছে। এই সমস্ত টাউট এবং সরকারী কর্মচারী এবং জমিদারের লোক সবাই মিলে বিপুল আশ্রয় প্রার্থীদের লুট করবার একটা চক্রা জাল সৃষ্টি করছিল। তার জঘন্যতম প্রমাণ পাওয়া যায় যে জমিদারদের নজরের টাকা উদ্বাস্তুদের লোনের টাকা হতে উদ্বাস্তু অফিসে কেটে রেখে বাকী টাকা উদ্বাস্তুদের লোন দেওয়া হয়েছে। কেন? উদ্বাস্তু অফিস কি জমিদারী সেরেস্তা? এটাকা কোথায় দিয়েছে আমরা সকলে অনুমান করতে পারি। শুধু জমি নয়, বেশীর ভাগ ক্ষেত্রে দেখা যায় টিলা জমি বন্দোবস্ত দেওয়া হয়েছে উদ্বাস্তুকে 'এবং তার পরে নীচের সমতল জমিটুক বন্দোবস্ত দেওয়া হয়েছে স্থানীয় লোককে ফলে স্থানীয় এবং উদ্বাস্তুদের মধ্যে অনবরত সংঘর্ষ লেগে আছে। এই জমি বন্দোবস্ত নীতিকে সমালোচনা করার কারণ এই অঞ্চলের সব ঠাইতে বড় জমিদারী কুমার সেট যেখানে দুর্নীতির পরিমাণ সর্বোচ্চ অথচ তাহার পরিচালনার ভার সরকারের হাতে।

তৃতীয়ত কোন কোন বাড়তি বাজার এলাকাকে Urban এলাকা বলে ঘোষণা করা হয়েছে, উদ্বাস্তুরা যাতে Urban Loan প্রভৃতি পেয়ে নিজেরা প্রতিষ্ঠিত হতে পারে এঠাই ছিল বোধ হয় সরকারের উদ্দেশ্য এবং ইহা যে মহৎ এই সম্বন্ধে কোন সন্দেহ নেই। কিন্তু এই সমস্ত Urban এলাকা, বেশীর ভাগ ক্ষেত্রে পড়েছে জমিদারী অঞ্চল গুলিতে, যেখানে জমিদারেরা ৫ বা ১০ বৎসরের ম্যাদে জমি বন্দোবস্ত দেন। সরকারী আইন রয়েছে ২০ বৎসরের বন্দোবস্ত দেখাতে না পারলে Urban Loan দেওয়া হবে না। কাজেই সরকারের এই পরিকল্পনাও কার্যত ব্যর্থ হয়ে গেছে। আইনের এই মার প্যাঁস থেকে সরকার উদার মনোভাব নিয়ে অগ্রসর হলে উদ্বাস্তুদের সাহায্য করতে পারতেন।



চতুর্থ : উদ্বাস্ত পুনর্বাসনের প্রথম দিনেই কতকগুলি পরিবারকে কাছাড় জেলার চাবাগনের মালিকদের হাতে পুনর্বাসনের জন্য মপে দেন। চা বাগান অঞ্চলে কৃষির উপযোগী অনেক জমি পড়ে আছে কিন্তু বাগান কর্তৃপক্ষ উদ্বাস্তদের সে সমস্ত জমি না দিয়ে গভীর জঙ্গলের মধ্যে ছেড়ে দিয়েছেন। কিন্তু সব চেয়ে পরিতাপের বিষয় যে কোথায় কিভাবে এদের পুনর্বাসন হ'ল, সরকার আজ পর্যন্ত ঝোঁজ করে দেখেন নাই। সরকারী কলোনী, সরকারী স্বীকৃত অন্যান্য কলোনী, গ্রামাঞ্চলের, Urban এলাকা I. T. A. র পুনর্বাসন Scheme সর্বাঙ্গ উদ্বাস্ত পুনর্বাসন আজ পুনর্বাসন না হয়ে উদ্বাস্ত শোষণ এবং পুনর্নির্বাসন হয়ে দাঁড়িয়েছে।

এইভাবে যখন সরকারী পরিকল্পনা ব্যর্থ হয়ে গেছে তখন খুব জোরে প্রচার চলেছে, Central Tractor Organisation এর মারফত উদ্বাস্তদের জন্য কাছাড় জেলায় জমি পুনরুদ্ধার পরিকল্পনা।

মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমার নিবর্বাচন চক্রে ভেটাইরবন্দে প্রথম কাজ আরম্ভ হয়েছে। আমি এখনই বলে দিতে পারি এই পরিকল্পনা ব্যর্থ হতে বাধ্য। এই সমস্ত ভারী যন্ত্রপাতি দিয়ে টিলার মাথা কেটে Table land তৈরী হচ্ছে। জানিনা সেখানে কবে কি ধরণের ফসল ফলবে।

মাননীয় রাজস্ব মন্ত্রী এবং কৃষি মন্ত্রী যখন কাছাড় সহরে গিয়েছিলেন আমি দাগ নম্বর সহ প্রায় ১৫ হাজার বিঘা জমির একটা হিসাব দিয়েছিলাম। ট্রেक्टर দিয়ে আবাদ করলে ঐ জমিতে এ বৎসরই আউশ ফসল ফলানো সম্ভব। কিন্তু সে পরিকল্পনা তাঁরা পরীক্ষা করে দেখেন নি। ভেটাইরবন্দে যেখানে কাজ চলছে তার সংলগ্ন প্রায় ৬ হাজার বিঘা সমতল জমি রিকুইজিশন করা হয়েছিল। জানিনা কোন কারসাজিতে সে সমস্ত জমি আবার বাগান কর্তৃপক্ষকে ফিরিয়ে দেওয়া হয়েছে। চা বাগানের মালিকদের তোষন করা আর জমি রিকুইজিশন করা এক সঙ্গে চলতে পারেন না।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় উদ্বাস্ত পুনর্বাসন সমস্যাকে মানবিক দিক থেকে বিচার কর। সরকারের উচিত ছিল। দেশ বিভাগের ফলে বাস্তব্যত এই সব ছিন্নমূল মানুষকে তাদের আত্মশক্তিতে প্রতিষ্ঠা করা, আত্ম বিশ্বাস জাগিয়ে তোলা সরকারের প্রথম কর্তব্য ছিল। কিন্তু সরকারী বিভেদ নীতি উদ্বাস্তদের মনে হতাশাই জাগিয়ে তুলেছে। আমরা দেখতে পাই উদ্বাস্ত ছেলে পরীক্ষায় প্রথম হলোও সে বৃত্তি পায়না। যোগ্যতার পরীক্ষায় পাস করলেও চাকুরী তার জোটেনা কারণ সে Nativity, Domicile, Eligibility প্রভৃতি সার্টিফিকেট সে দাখিল করতে পারবেনা। কেন? কার সার্থে এই সব বৈষম্য? যেখানে ভারতের সংবিধান মতে নাগরিক অধিকার দেওয়া হয়েছে সেখানে এই বৈষম্য শুধু নীতি বিরুদ্ধ নয় অন্যায় ও।

পূর্ব বঙ্গ থেকে আগত উদ্বাস্তদের সমস্যার সমাধান সরকার করতে পারেন নি। তদুপরি আজ সরকারী নীতির ভুল ফ্রটির জন্য এদেশেও একদল স্থানীয় উদ্বাস্ত সৃষ্টি করা হয়েছে। সিংনা নদীর Embankment তৈরীর জন্য প্রায় এক হাজার পরিবার আজ বৃষ্টিতে নদীতে যখন বন্যা নামে আমি নিজে দেখেছি তাদের দুঃদশার চিত্র। মাননীয় রাজস্ব মন্ত্রী, কাছাড়ের ডেপুটি কমিশনার এবং করিমগঞ্জের মহকুমাধিপতি সবাই দেখে যেন তাদের অবস্থা। কিন্তু আজ পর্যন্ত এসমস্ত মানুষকে রক্ষা করার কোন পরিকল্পনা দিকে পড়ে যায় ধানের ভাডার, ভেসে যায় পাকা ধানের জামানো স্তুপ, চতুর্দিকে পড়ে হাহাকার—সে এক হৃদয় বিদারক দৃশ্য। সে দৃশ্য দেখেন না শুধু আমাদের মন্ত্রী বা সরকারী কর্মচারীর কারণ তারা চোখে রক্তীন চশমা দিয়ে চলেন।



মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, পশ্চাদপদ তপশীলী সম্প্রদায়ের উন্নতির কথা রাজ্যপালের বক্তৃতায় নাই। ব্রিটিশ সম্রাজ্যবাদীরা তাদের Divide and Rule policy দ্বারা চেষ্টা করতেন ভারতের জাতির আন্দোলন থেকে এই সব সম্প্রদায়কে বিচিছিন্ন করে রাখতে। আমাদের সংবিধানে Scheduled Caste দের বিশেষ রক্ষা কবচের ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে দশ বৎসরের জন্য। কয় জন মন্ত্রী, উপ মন্ত্রী, বা এম, এল, এ, হবেন এটা নিশ্চয়ই উদ্দেশ্য নয় যদিও তার প্রয়োজন আছে। বিশেষ সুবিধা পেয়ে বৃহত্তর জাতি গঠনের এই সমস্ত পশ্চাদপদ সম্প্রদায় অগ্রসর হয়ে আসবে; আমার মতে রক্ষা কবচের এটাই উদ্দেশ্য। আমাদের রাজ্যে Scheduled Caste এর সমস্যা অস্পষ্ট তার সমস্যা নয় শিক্ষা এবং অর্থনৈতিক ক্ষেত্রে পশ্চাদপদতার সমস্যা। বহু বিলম্ব হলেও এদিকে সরকারের দৃষ্টি পড়েছে। মাধ্যমিক স্তরে Scheduled Caste ছাত্রদের বেতন সরকার মাপ করে দিয়েছেন। কিন্তু এই বেতনে টাকা সরকার থেকে এত দেরীতে পাওয়া যায় স্কুল কর্তৃপক্ষ তার উপর নির্ভর করে চলতে পারেন না ১৯৫৬-৫৭ সালের টাকা এখনও দেওয়া হয় নি। এমন দৃষ্টান্তও আছে। কাজেই স্কুল কর্তৃপক্ষ বাধ্য হয়ে ছাত্রদের বেতন দিবার নির্দেশ দিয়েছেন। এত ভাল একটা পরিকল্পনা আজ সরকারী অপব্যবস্থায় ব্যর্থ হতে চলেছে।

গৃহ নির্মাণের জন্য প্রতি বৎসর কিছু টাকা সাহায্য দেওয়া হয়, কিন্তু কোন পরিকল্পনা না থাকায় এই টাকা ও খাজে খরচ হয়। করিমগঞ্জ মহকুমার গত বৎসরের ১৪ হাজার টাকার হিসাব নিলে এই অপব্যয়ের কথা ধরা পড়বে। আমার ধারণা সারা আসাম জুড়ে একই অবস্থা। এবৎসর Advisory Board এ এই সিদ্ধান্ত হয়েছিল যে বেশীর ভাগ টাকা খরচ হবে ছাত্রাবাস নির্মাণের জন্য। আর প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগ বশতঃ যারা ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হয়েছে তাদের কিছু সাহায্য করা হবে। কিন্তু দেখা যায় এই সিদ্ধান্ত মত সরকারের নির্দেশ অন্ততঃ পক্ষে আমার করিমগঞ্জ মহকুমায় যায় নি। যেখানকার ভারপ্রাপ্ত কর্মচারী চালাও ভাবে দরখাস্ত আহবান করেছেন ফলে দেখা যায় প্রায় দুই হাজারের উপর দরখাস্ত জমা হল। জানিনা কার নির্দেশে মহকুমাস্থিপতি একই গামের একই পরিবারের লোক নিয়ে একটা Advisory Board গঠন করলেন। এই বোর্ডের কয়েকজন মেম্বারকে নিয়ে সরকারী কর্মচারী তদন্ত ও করে ফেললেন কয়েকটি দরখাস্ত। তার পর সরকারের ৫৭ হাজার টাকা ভিক্ষার মত দিবার একটা ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে। এই টাকা বিলির ব্যাপারে এবং বোর্ড গঠনের ব্যাপারে সরকার দলীয় নীতিকেই পন্থা দিয়েছেন। আঞ্চলিক ও সম্প্রদায় ভিত্তিতে লোক নিয়ে এবং অনান্য জনহিতকর প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রতিনিধি নিয়ে উপদেষ্টা কমিটি গঠন করে পরিকল্পনা মত টাকা খরচ করলে এই টাকা দিয়েও Scheduled Caste দের একটা ভাল কাজ হত কিন্তু সরকার সেদিকে দৃষ্টি দেন না।

আসামে নূতন মন্ত্রাসভা সংগঠিত হয়েছে। আমরা আশা করেছিলাম রাজ্যপালের বক্তৃতায় একটা নূতন নীতি, নূতন পথের ইঙ্গিত পাব। কিন্তু দেখেছি সেই নীতি, সেই কাজ, সেই পরিষদ,

নূতন বোতলে দেখি।

পুরাতন মদ ॥



**Half an hour discussion under Assembly Rule 49 on matter arising out of Unstarred Question No.24 asked by Shri Kamala Prasad Agarwala on 1st March, 1958 on Boat Accident on Zia-Bhoroli River on 7th October, 1957.**

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Now, we will have half an hour discussion on the notice given by Shri Biswadev Sarma on matters arising out of answers to Unstarred Question No.24. Before we start discussion on this subject I would like to read out relevant Rule for the benefit of hon. Members. Rule 49(5) says—

“There shall be no formal motion before the House nor voting. The member who has given notice may make a short statement and the Minister concerned shall reply shortly. Any member who has previously intimated to the Speaker may be permitted to ask a question for the purpose of elucidating any matter of fact :

Provided that if the member who has given notice is absent the other member who has supported the notice may, with the permission of the Speaker, initiate the discussion”.

Now, Mr. Sarma may speak for 15 minutes and the Hon'ble Minister will take another 15 minutes to reply. Or, better still, if Mr. Sarma can finish his statement in 10 minutes, the Minister concerned will reply in 10 minutes and 5 minutes may be allotted for elucidating more clarification and 5 minutes for reply thereof. But no Member other than the sponsor of this notice will be allowed to speak and none but he is entitled to ask for further clarification of facts under this Rule.

**Shri BISWADEB SARMA (Balipara):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I make my observation I would like to point out how the Department gave answer to question regard the Jia Bhoroli Boat Disaster on question No. (19 (c). The question was “How many passengers were on boat the marboat at the time of the disaster ?” The reply given by the Government was that the number of passengers were between 60 to 70 approximately. But from the findings of the judicial enquiry the marboat carried about 100 passengers. Therefore, the reply given by Government was incorrect. Then again, Sir, the reply given by the Government to (d) of the same Unstarred Question was, “No.” But the findings of the judicial enquiry was that the accident took place because of the fixing of landing stage too near the spurs, and that was one of the causes of the accident. Here also the reply given by Govrenment was not correct. At



page 4 of the Judicial Enquiry, it is reported that if the engine would not have failed there would be the least chance of accident. Again to question (e) of the same Unstarred Question, as to whether it was a fact that there was unprecedented high current and water level was highest on the day of the accident, the answer given by Government was, "No". But the reply given by Government to (a) of the same Unstarred Question was that "Bordekarai which meets Jiabhorali upstream of the place of accident was in high floods and the current became furious where the accident took place." So, Sir, the reply given by Government to question (e) was contradictory to the reply given to question (a). Then Sir, in reply to the question of Shri Hareswar Goswami as to whether any compensation has been paid to the families of the victims of that boat disaster, the reply given was "No compensation has been paid to the families of those persons who were either dead or who underwent injury but the matter is under correspondence with the Government and the local officials and we hope to be able to complete within say another six weeks or so and it is hoped that Government will be able to place a statement on the table of the House before the end of the Session." Sir, in this connection, I would like to inform the House that the accident took place on 7th October, 1957 and to-day is 8th March, 1958. Sir, after such a long time if Government cannot finalise the matter it is really very strange, specially when 25 persons lost their lives and Government cannot make up their mind to pay compensation to the families of the victims, it is really very regrettable. Again, Sir, at page 10 of the Assembly proceedings of 1st March, 1958 to a question put by the Speaker, as to what was the specific capacity of this particular boat? The reply given was: "I do not find it in the record." But, Sir, in judicial enquiry noted at page 1 the following sentences is there, "The capacity of the sunk boat for carrying load was over 6 (six) tons." That would have been the reply instead of replying that the capacity of the boat was not found in the record. Again Sir, to a question by Shri Mahikanta Das as to whether any life saving device has been provided after the accident? The reply was given was, "Yes."

But when I said that I did not find any such life saving device on the Ghat when I crossed that river on the 21st February, the reply given was that the Government accepted the observation and that an enquiry into the matter would be caused. Sir, it has become very difficult to fix the responsibility, whether the negligence rests on the lessee or the Government, but



the findings of the judicial enquiry at page 4, item 6 is that failure of engine is the responsibility of the Public Works Department, and in item 7 of the report it is said, "Construction of the spurs is the responsibility of the Embankment and Drainage branch of the Public Works Department and in item 8 of the report it is said that "If the engine would not have failed or if there were no spurs, there would be the least chance of the accident." So, Sir, I say that both these departments are responsible for this unfortunate accident. Again, Sir, in item 11 of the report it is said, It is was an error of judgment on the part of unlicensed boatmen engaged by the lessee" It is not understood how the lessee could engage unlicensed boatmen, the Public Works Department ought to have seen all these things. It seems, Sir, that the whole thing has been neglected and, therefore, I request the Government to take a serious view of this as because for this negligence 25 persons lost their lives. Sir, there was a similar accident at Gauhati. Government will do well if this matter is taken into serious consideration, because lives of our people are more previous than the whims of our officers. There is something wrong some where which should be remedied as early as possible. Even in a matter of this magnitude Government is not serious. Sir, I do not care what will happen there in future. I would therefore strongly urge upon the Government to take serious view of this matter.

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P.W.D.):** Sir, the hon. Member has pointed out certain defects in our replies. I will try to meet them, but before going into the details, I may express our regret on the part of our Government for this unfortunate accident. The fault may be of any body but the fact is that a large number of persons lost their lives in this disaster, for which we can now only express our regret and I can assure the House that our senior officers of the departments have also expressed their profound regret for those who lost their lives in this disaster. During the last 29 years of service, the Chief Engineer and other officers had never come across such an unfortunate accident and they are all very sorry for it. Sir, it has been pointed by the Senior Magistrate in-charge of the judicial enquiry that if the engine would not have failed and if there were no spurs, this accident would not have occurred. I submit, Sir, that even without failure of engine and without spurs being somewhere on the bank of a river, we hear of boats being drowned and drowned fatally. In this particular case I may say that the marboats of the same type are being used in other Ghats also, and the finding of the judicial enquiry also was



that there was no defect in the construction, but the engine failed and the evidence before the Magistrate was that the failure of the engine was due to splashing and entry of water from waves below. It is a fact that there was no proper device for checking the water to enter into certain parts of the engine.

I submit, Sir, the boatmen or the passengers even did not, by any imagination, foresee this. One point the hon. Member sought to make is about the position of the Ghat. There also I committed a slight error. In my reply I said that the Ghat was between spur Nos. 1 and 2.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** As regards velocity, the Hon'ble Minister may refer to his replies to the Unstarred Question of the 1st March in this connection. In the reply he said, 'No'.

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister P.W.D.):** The current was there, Sir, I admit, but I am not too sure whether this reply was drafted before we got the report of the Judicial Enquiry and the figures of the Central Public Works Department was available. As a matter of fact, Sir, I got the report of Judicial Enquiry on that very day. I also admit that I committed a slight error in replying to the question of Sri Agarwala, when I acquiesced, perhaps, that the Ghat was between spur Nos. 1 and 2. I am just reading a portion of the report here which says. "The ferry boats due to be anchored at the Ghat (landing stage) only 68 feet up current of spur No. 1. When the engine failed, the boat could not be controlled. It dashed against the nose of spur No. 2".

**Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara):** The Minister said that the Ghat was not between Spur Nos. 1 and 2. I can challenge the Government on that point.

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH :** With your leave I may read the connected portion of the report, Sir, which says, "The boat being drifted by the strong current at enormous velocity of about 15 feet per second dashed with full load of passengers and a motor car on her against spur No. 2 only 660 feet below spur No. 1 at a distance of about 68 feet from the bank and 32 feet inside the outer nose of spur No. 2 and sank" The sketch map which given the line of the route as well as the spurs clearly indicates that the landing Ghat on that date was 68 feet upstream of spur No. 1 and the distance between spur No. 1 and 2 was 660' and the boat found dashing against spur 2.



Now, in respect of the matter of compensation, Sir, after the Judicial Enquiry Report was received the Public Works Department communicated to the Chief Secretary and the Chief Secretary has communicated to the Deputy Commissioner to ascertain the position the compensation and the matter is receiving urgent attention of the Government.

Again, my Friend has found fault with me for saying that the exact tonnage of the boat is not known. The white mark is there on the boat. It is said, the capacity is over 6 tons. I think, Sir, if I was wrong, I was wrong to try to be a little precise, Sir, over 6 tons may mean anything.

**Shri BISWADEB SARMA (Balipara):** The reply was that there is no record to show what was the carrying capacity.

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P. W. D.):** It did not clearly show the carrying capacity of the boat. I think it is over 6 tons ; and this may mean anything. I was trying to be precise by pointing out the white mark say that if the white mark is sub-merged it could be understood that the boat has been overloaded. On that date it was there or not I do not know. It is very difficult for me to say ; unfortunately I went to that side about 4 years back.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I have never crossed that river in my life (*laughter*).

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH:** Now, with regard to the question of provision of safety devices, I may inform the House that the Government are trying to have such equipment so that we may avoid such disaster in future. I may add that not only these land motor vehicle engines occasionally fail, but other engines also fail, even the best of engines may fail occasionally, even a new car in peak condition may go out of order its hydraulic brake or engine may fail we can only regret for it. As the land motor vehicle engines are not very suitable we have already ordered for 9 marine engines to substitute land motor vehicle engines. We are arranging to build suitable mar boats to fit these engines which will be of 50 to 90 horse power capacity.



Moreover with a view to fit these engines these mar boats are going to be built under specifications different from present ones. As a matter of fact, Sir, the specifications have been finalised and the construction of the mar-boats has just begun.

The propelling units of these Diesel Engines are being assembled at Gauhati. The other day I committed a small error which I must confess here when I stated that there were two life buoys in the Jia Bharali Mar Boat, I confused Jia Bharali Marboat with Bhahmaputra Ferry.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The question was whether there was any life buoys in the Jia Bharali Mar boat.

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister P. W.D.) :** I said presumably there were two life buoys. But now on enquiry I gathered that excepting the Brahmaputra Ferry, no life-buoys are provided in other ferry mar-boats. These, are being rushed to Jia Bharali.

**Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara) :** Yesterday or to-day ?

**Shri DEVESWAR SARMAH :** Perhaps a few days before.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The question was whether life saving device has been provided after the accident. The reply was, "Yes, Sir". Then he went on to say that recently when he was crossing that river on the 21st February, he did not find any such thing. Then the reply was, "I accept this suggestion, Sir, I shall cause an enquiry to be made."

**Shri DEVESWAR SARMAH :** Yes, Sir, that was what I meant. These were being procured and rushed to Jia Bharali. I cannot give the actual date on which this has been done, but as I said, this must have been done a few days ago.

Arrangements have been made to fit out-board motors with the existing mar-boats as stand-by for use in case of any engine failure in the mid-stream. At any rate, in case of any



such eventuality, these out-board motors will be able to propel the boats to the Ghat, to a place of safety. Meanwhile, we have set up a small technical committee of three persons consisting of the Chief Engineer, a Marine Engineer, Mr. Banerjee who is the Chief Ship Surveyor and Mr. Bazaz and employee of the Assam Government, who is also an engineer. They will not only advise what action is necessary to avert such engine troubles in future but they will also be able to examine the whole position affecting these mar-boats. Government will implement the direction or instructions or advice that they can give us in this matter. Because without some expert body examining the whole position, it is quite difficult on the part of the Government to take any further action on the matter.

And lastly, Sir, when splashing of water is unavoidable and we cannot replace all these engines for some time and it is also difficult to get marine engines and life buoys and as these equipment are not readily available at the present moment, we are putting a piece of plain-sheet just under the engine, so that splashing of water may not occur. These are all the steps and safety devices that Government have been so far able to take and if any hon. Member would be pleased to give any further suggestions calculating to ensure further safety of these mar-boats, we will only be too glad to accept their suggestions for consideration.

**Shri BISWADEV SARMAH (Balipara):** May I know, Sir, what steps Government propose to take on the finding of the Judicial Enquiry Report? Because in the report it has been stated that unlicensed boatmen and the failure of the Public Works Department to keep the engine in perfect order were the two causes responsible for the disaster. Do Government propose to construct the spurs to ensure protection against flood?

**Shri DEVESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P. W. D.):** Regarding the failure, the Government can keep the engines in good condition. More than that it is not possible to take any other precautionary measures. As regards the spurs if the people suffer due to any erosion or floods, I think it will be the duty of the Government to construct these spurs.

Coming to the question of the unlicensed boat-men, so far as I know, boat-men have not to have any license usually. Only the engine drivers have got to take license.



**Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara)** : I mean the engine driver.

**Shri DABESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P. W. D.)** : Steps are being taken to see that no unlicensed driver ever undertake driving of any boat engines.

(At this stage Shri Mohananda Bora rose to speak.)

**Mr. SPEAKER** : Hon. Member is not entitled to take part in the debate as he has not given any previous notice.

### Adjournment

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

Shillong.  
the 19th December,  
1958.

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