

P.C. Deane.
21/12/59

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, the 9th April, 1958.

PRESENT

Shri Dev Kanta Barooah, B. A. LL.B., Speaker in the Chair, the Nine Ministers the Two Deputy Ministers and Seventy-six Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Borsilajhar Mouza in Mangaldai Subdivision

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

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Borsilajhar Mouza has been divided into two parts in Mangaldai Subdivision ?
- (b) If so, whether the Mouzas are run by the same Mouzadar ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that there is genuine Tribal candidate for the Mouza ?
- (d) If so, whether Government propose to settle the Mouza with the Tribal candidate ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

154. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes. The old Mouzadar has been allowed to run the Mouzas temporarily.

(c) & (d)—There is a tribal candidate, whose case will be considered along with others.

Shri CHATRA SING TERON [Mikir Hills—West- (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: How long it is, Sir, since the Mauza has been divided ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): A little over a year ago, Sir.

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS [Rangiya (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Has the appointment of the Mauzadar been finalised or when he will be appointed ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: Not finally as yet appointed, but he will be appointed soon.

Shri MAHADEV DAS [Barpeta (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]: মৌজাদার নিযুক্ত করার সময়ত Scheduled Castes বা Scheduled Tribes কারণে কিবা বিশেষ বিবেচনা করার নিয়ম আছেনে ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: তেনে কোনো নিয়ম নাই। কিন্তু Scheduled Castes বা Scheduled Tribes র তেনে কোনো Candidate থাকিলে বিবেচনা করা হয়।

Shri MOHIKANTA DAS (Barchalla): Is the Mauza predominantly inhabited by Tribals ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : I require notice of that question, Sir.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj): Is there any limit in area or demand of Revenue for a Mauza ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: There is no fixed rule for fixing a demand of revenue but both the demand and the area are taken into consideration for the sake of convenience of administration.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): বর্তমান মৌজাদার ওপৰত বাইজব যে কোনো আস্থা নাই চৰকাৰে জানেনে ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: সম্পূর্ণ আস্থা আছে বুলি চৰকাৰে জানে। (হাঁহি)।

(Starred Question No.155 standing in the name of Rev. J.J.M. Nichols-Roy was not put and answered as the Questioner was absent.

Sittings of the A. R. C. Board during the year 1957-58

†**Shri MOHANANDA BORA** asked :

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

- (a) How many sittings of the A. R. C. Board were held during the year 1957-58 ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that no sitting was held during the year mentioned above ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware that many urgent works are pending for approval of this Board ?

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

156. (a)—No sittings were held during the year 1957-58.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—No urgent works are pending for approval of the Board. Sittings of the Board are arranged with a view to examine different proposals for construction of Roads and Bridges received from the public, to select them in order of priority and importance, and to recommend them to Government for their consideration only when funds for the purpose are forthcoming either from the State's resources or from the Government of India. At present, there is no such indication regarding availability of funds for taking up any new schemes ; hence, no meeting of the Board has been called for or is proposed to be called for in the near future.

Shri SARBESWAR BARDOLOI (Titabar): May I know whether the Board is not sitting for want of fund or for want of proposal ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: Since there is no likelihood of availability of fund the Board is not being called.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): Why a meeting the Board was not held even to explain all these difficulties ?
(Laughter).

Rehabilitation loans to families of Palashbari Circle affected by erosion in 1957-58

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS asked (Palashbari):

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

- (a) How many families of the Palashbari Circle are affected by erosion in the year 1957-58 ?

*The Question was put by Shri Sarbeswar Bardoloi on authorisation in the absence of the Questioner.

- (b) Whether it is a fact that these families are rendered homeless and landless by the erosion ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, has recommended to Government some months ago for granting these families gratuitous shifting grants and rehabilitation loans ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that no such sanction has yet been made by Government ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that for want of such help the people are put to great inconveniences and difficulties ?
- (f) Whether Government will be pleased to take immediate steps to remove the distress of the people ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

157. (a)—Ninety-three families.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—A proposal was received from the Deputy Commissioner for rehabilitation loans only.

(d), (e) & (f)—The proposal is under consideration of Government and report has been called for from Deputy Commissioner if alternative lands have been arranged where these people can shift. The loan will be sanctioned as soon as Deputy Commissioner's report is received.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari): Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner recommended some 8 months ago for granting these families gratuitous shifting grants and rehabilitation loans at Rs.50 and Rs.250 per family respectively ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: That is not correct, Sir. The Deputy Commissioner only asked for rehabilitation loan.

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS [Rangiya (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: When were these families eroded, Sir ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: Evidently at the time of the flood last year, Sir.

Clash between Hindu refugees and immigrant Muslims in Moinbari village, Police Station Tarabari, District Kamrup on account of settlement of lands

†**Shri TARUN SEN DEKA** (Nalbari-East) asked :

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

- (a) Whether Government are aware that there was a clash between a group of refugee Hindus and immigrant Muslims in village Moinbari, under police station Tarabari in the district of Kamrup regarding settlement of some lands lately ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that one person is missing as a result of the said clash ?
- (c) If the reply to question (a) is in affirmative, what are the causes that led to the alleged clash ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that due to the wrong policy pursued by some officers, the alleged incident took place ?
- (e) If so, who are the officers, and what is the wrong policy pursued by them ?
- (f) Whether Government propose to take any step ?
- (g) If not, why not ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

158. (a)—Yes, the clash was over occupation of land.

(b)—Yes, one person is reported to be missing as result of the clash.

(c)—The alleged clash is reported to have taken place as a result of forcible occupation of land belonging to one group of people by the other.

(d)—Reports received from the local officers do not indicate that the incident was due to the wrong policy pursued by any officer.

(e)—Does not arise.

(f) & (g)—Two criminal cases have already been instituted over the incident and these will be disposed of according to law

*Shri Gopesh Namasudra put the Question in the absence of Shri Tarun Sen Deka by authorisation.

Quantity of Iron rods, Corrugated Iron Sheets and Cement allotted to North Lakhimpur

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur) asked :

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

- (a) Whether any quantity of iron rods out of 430 tons procured by Government has been allotted to North Lakhimpur, where no iron material is available for the last two years ?
- (b) If so, what is the quantity allowed and through whom it will be distributed ?
- (c) If not, why not ?

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

159. (a)—No direct allotment of rods procured on Government account could be made to North Lakhimpur.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Only 80 tons of indigenous iron rods available at controlled price could be recently procured on Government account. No quantity less than one wagonload (20 tons) can be allotted to any particular destination. This is why these 80 tons were sub-allotted only to 4 important District headquarters. 350 tons of imported iron rods were also procured on Government account at the world price as fixed by the Iron and Steel Controller. As the landed cost of these rods will be very high at North Lakhimpur owing to heavy transport charges involved no allotment of imported iron rods was made to North Lakhimpur.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) : May I know how North-Lakhimpur will manage without iron rods ? Will the Government arrange iron rods for North-Lakhimpur ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply) : I may add to my reply already given that arrangement has been made and instruction has been issued to the Deputy Commissioner, Darrang for reserving 200 tons of iron rod for North-Lakhimpur Subdivision and we have also directed the Subdivisional Officer, North-Lakhimpur to issue permits to deserving persons to lift iron rod from Tezpur according to the stock available there.

*Shri Sarbeswar Bordoloi put the question on authorisation in the absence of the Questioner.

†**Shri MAHANANDA BORA (North-Lakhimpur)** asked:

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

- (a) What is the total quantity of C. I. Sheets allotted to North Lakhimpur Subdivision during the year 1957?
- (b) Whether Government are aware that this quantity is quite inadequate to meet the demands of the place?
- (c) Whether Government will try to increase the quota?

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

160. (a)—120 tons. Besides there were quotas available directly to Government Departments for development works out of their total allocations.

(b)—Yes. But that is the case with all other areas.

(c)—The Government of India have again and again been pressed to increase the periodical allocation of C. I. Sheets to Assam. As the total quantity available in the whole country is far short of the demand the periodical quotas allotted to this State are too meagre to meet the full requirements of Assam.

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

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

- (a) Whether Government are aware that for want of a dealer in C. I. Sheets and cement at North Lakhimpur, people are experiencing much hardship in taking out their quota and that for two or three bags of cement a man has to come to town twice or thrice wasting his time?
- (b) Whether Government will appoint a dealer for distribution of these controlled commodities?

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

161. (a)—A dealer in C. I. Sheets and cement has already been appointed by Government.

(b)—Does not arise.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): Will Government appoint some agents so that they can take Corrugated Iron Sheets to North Lakhimpur?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: The first gentleman appointed for the purpose having resigned then a

*Shri Sarbeswar Bordoloi put the question on authorisation in the absence of the Questioner.

local gentleman named Shri Debendra Kakati was appointed. My attention has been drawn to the fact that he has also not lifted the quota and as such alternative should be found out.

Shri SARBESWAR BARDOLOI (Titabar): Will the Government then arrange movement of Corugated Iron Sheets to North-Lakhimpur by themselves?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply): That is a difficult job but the Government will examine this.

Surrender of an unspent amount by the Director of Publicity

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) asked :

*162. Will the Minister-in-charge of Information and Publicity be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Director of Publicity is going to surrender a huge amount to Government with the closing of the current financial year for not being able to spend the same?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the said amount was shown in the Budget of last year for Song and Publicity Wing of the Department?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that for want of plan and schemes and for the lack of initiative in the Directorate the Department could not spend the amount?
- (d) If so, whether Government propose to take proper steps against the officers concerned who failed to detail out a plan in accordance with the adopted policy of Government?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister-in-charge of Information and Publicity) replied :

162. (a)—(i) Total amount surrendered is Rs.2,11,369. Of this, rupees one lakh represents the amount diverted to the general Education Budget, Rs.28,500 represents provision for Mass B. C. G. Publicity Scheme which was withdrawn from 1st March 1957, and Rs.40,000 represents provision under "Article 275". Of the remaining Rs.42,869, major portion represents pay and allowances of District Publicity Officers and staff due to late appointment, and a portion represents reduction of the Anti-untouchability grants.

(ii) If the amount surrendered during 1956-57 for non-implementation of song and drama scheme is meant, then the total amount is Rs.10,000.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—No.

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

†**Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh)**: May I know whether the amount for publicity of songs is intended to give subsidies to the composers of songs or to compositions other than songs?

†**CAPT. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Publicity and Information)**: Yes. The proposal was sent to the Government of India suggesting the names of the writers compiling dramas, but unfortunately that cannot be done as yet.

Number of registered Contractors at Sibsagar Embankment and Drainage Division

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) asked :

*163. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (Flood Control) be pleased to state what is the number of registered contractors at Sibsagar Embankment and Drainage and Roads and Building Division and the number of 1st Class, 2nd Class and 3rd Class contractors, indigenous and outsiders, Class by Class?

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

163. As regards registration of contractors in Sibsagar Embankment and Drainage Division, the number is as follows—

Indigenous contractors		Outsiders	Total
Class I—Nil	...	5 Nos.	5 Nos.
Class II—15 Nos.	...	16 Nos.	31 Nos.
Class III—74 Nos.	...	41 Nos.	115 Nos.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) : মন্ত্রীহোদয়ে প্রশ্নোত্তরত কৈছে যে Indigenous Contractors ৭৪ জন আৰু Outsiders ৪১ জন আছে। ইয়াৰ ভিতৰত Indigenous Contractor কেইজন 1st Class হিচাবে Registered হৈছে জনাবনে?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY [Minister, P. W. D. (Flood Control and Irrigation)]: এইটো প্রশ্নোত্তরত কোৱাই হৈছে।

Shri MAHADEB DAS [Barpeta (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]: Contractor সকলে নাম ৰেজিষ্টাৰ কৰোঁতে যি ফি দিব লাগে, Scheduled Caste আৰু Scheduled Tribe ৰ কাৰণে তাৰ কিবা concession আছেনে?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Concession দিয়া হয়।

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra): Registered Contractor গোটাই বিলাকে Contract পাব নেকি ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Flood Control, etc.): কোনো Assurance গভণমেন্টে দিব নোৱাৰে।

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): May I know whether at the time of selection of contractors, preferential consideration is given to local contractors ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Certainly, local people are given more consideration than others.

Maulavi RAHIMUDDIN AHMED (Jamunamukh): Contractor বিলাক যে registered কৰা হয়, কিবা base কৰি কৰা হয় নেকি ?

Mr. SPEAKER: This question was replied in some details before.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj): May I know whether some concessions are given to other backward classes ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Concessions are made only for Tribal and Scheduled Castes members.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS: Not for other backward classes ?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. The answer is very simple. The Hon. Minister has stated that preference is given to Tribal and Scheduled Castes communities. So, naturally, others are excluded.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA: Register কৰাৰ কাৰণে যে ৫০০০ বা ২৫০০ টকা সোমাই থাকে তাৰ কাৰণে সেই লোকসকলৰ hardship নহয় নে ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: সেইটোৱেই procedure যেতিয়া সেইবিধয়ে চৰকাৰ কৰাৰ একো উপায় নাই।

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): 'লোকেল' নানে কি বুজায় ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I would just refer the hon. Member to the ordinary meaning in the Chamber's Dictionary.

Mr. SPEAKER : Local means indigenous.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): এই Contractor registration কৰা কথাটোৱে নতুন মানুহ ঠিকাদাৰ হবলৈ বন্ধ কৰা কথা বুজোৱা নাই নে ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Flood Control, etc.): বন্ধ কৰা নাই। কোনো নতুন মানুহ registered হবলৈ বিচাৰিলে সেইটো বিবেচনা কৰা হয়।

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI : যদি ঠিকাদাৰকহে বেজিষ্টাৰ কৰে তেনে হলে ঠিকাদাৰৰ কাম নকৰা মানুহক কেনেকৈ register কৰিব ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: That question was, I think, answered.

Mr. SPEAKER : I also think that question was answered in this House.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answer were laid on the table)

Representative of the Plains Tribals in the present Cabinet

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

514. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether there is any representative of the Plains Tribals in the present Cabinet ?

(b) If so, who is he and what is his function so far the upliftment of the Plains Tribal people is concerned ?

(c) Since when he is a Minister of the Government of Assam ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied:

514. (a)—Yes.

(b)—**Shri Rupnath Brahma**. He is the Minister-in-charge of the Departments of Medical and Public Health, Printing and Stationery, Registration and Stamps. As the responsibility is joint every Minister has a say in all matters besides the portfolios specifically allotted to them. **Shri Brahma** being a Plains Tribal himself takes special interest in all matters concerning the upliftment of the Plains Tribals.

(c)—He has been a Minister of the Government of Assam since 19th September, 1938 with occasional interruptions.

***Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi)**: In reply to (c) it has been said that he has been a Minister of the Government of Assam since 19th September, 1938, with occasional interruptions. May I know when he was occasionally interrupted and why?

***Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister)**: From 19th September, 1938 till 16th November 1939 he was a Minister, then he was again appointed as a Minister from 9th January, 1940 till 25th December, 1941 and again from 22nd August, 1942 till 10th February, 1946. Then he became a Minister again on 16th February, 1946 and is continuing as such.

***Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa)**: It seems that the Hon'ble Minister will complete 25 years after a few years. Whether pension will be given to him? (*Laughter*).

***Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA**: There is no provision of pension for Ministers.

Mr. SPEAKER: On the completion of the 25th year he will celebrate his silver jubilee (*Laughter*).

***Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical and Public Health)**: I have not yet completed 20 years.

***Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS [Rangiya (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]**: If he is a representative of the Plains Tribals in the Cabinet, why is he not given the portfolio of Plains Tribals development?

***Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA**: There is only T. A. D. portfolio and no separate portfolio for Plains Tribals.

***Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North) :**
Is it a fact that he is very popular and liked by all?

***Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) :**
That is true.

Housing Scheme

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

515. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that Rs.14,000 were distributed amongst 70 persons in the Karimganj Sub-division at the rate of Rs.200 each under housing scheme as a grant-in-aid during the 1st part of 1957?
- (b) If so, on what basis these were granted to the individuals?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that Shri Ramesh Chandra Das Choudhury, the then Congress M. L. A., received the same grant?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that Rs.200 each were granted to—
 - (i) Sri Surja Kanta Das and Shri Nishi Kanta Das, who happen to be brothers in the same family;
 - (ii) Shri Harendra Das and his father being the member of the joint family and whether all persons of (i) and (ii) are rich men of the locality and lessee of Shonebeel and big fishery?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that some of the selected persons did not accept the grant money due to public agitation on reasons of mal-distribution?
- (f) Whether the Chief Minister will furnish a list of the receivers of the said grant with their respective addresses?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister)
replied :

515. (a)—Yes. Rupees 14,000 was sanctioned towards the end of 1956-57 for Karimganj Subdivision to be distributed as grants-in-aid to the deserving Scheduled Castes persons for

constructing new houses or improving the existing ones. Seventy persons received the grants-in-aid at the rate of Rs.200 each on condition that each beneficiary should contribute an equal amount in cash or in supply of material or labour.

(b)—Grants-in-aid was given by the Subdivisional Officer to each individual after due consideration of the recommendations given by the local Scheduled Caste M. L. A., or M. P., the Chairman, Local Board, the Secretary of Assam Scheduled Castes Organisation, the President, District Congress Committee or the Secretary, District Congress Committee.

(c)—Yes.

(d) (i)—Yes, both Shri Surja Kanta Das and Shri Nishi Kanta Das were given a grant of Rs.200 each, but the two brothers live separately.

(ii)—Shri Harendra Das and his father live in a joint family, but Shri Harendra Das was not given the grants-in-aid. His father Shri Magan Chandra Das alone was given the grant of Rs.200.

Shri Surja Kanta Das, Shri Nishi Kanta Das, Shri Harendra Das and Shri Magan Chandra Das are all middle class persons.

It is a fact that Shri Harendra Das with two other persons are joint lessees of Shonebeel fishery for the year 1363 B. S.

(e)—None refused the grant on the ground of public agitation or mal-distribution.

(f)—The list is placed on the Library Table. (Please see Library Register No. S.14).

***Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]:** In regard to (c), whether the then Congress M.L.A. Shri R. C. Das Choudhury is also deserving as he himself is an adviser for selecting persons for this grant?

***Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):** As a matter of fact after examination I don't see that these particular cases which have been referred to by the hon. Member were very happy selections.

***Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA:** In answer to (e) it is said that none refused the grant on the ground of public agitation or mal-distribution. May I know from the Government whether at first Shri Anil Chandra Das, B.Sc. and Shri Harendra Chandra Das who were also granted the same aid but did not take the grant?

***Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA:** I have no information.

Amount allotted as gratuitous relief and seed loans to flood-affected people in Assam during 1957

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-west) asked :

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

- (a) What is the total amount allotted in the year 1957 as gratuitous relief and seed loan to the flood-affected people in Assam (information to be supplied Sub-Deputy Collector Circlewise)?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that seed loan was given very late to the affected people, the result of which was that they could not purchase paddy seed in time?
- (c) Whether Government is aware that due to intense drought, Sali crop has failed this year in the Districts of Kamrup, Nowgong, Darrang and Goalpara, and the flood-affected people are unable to pay up Government loans and land revenue?
- (d) Whether in view of the economic hardship of the peasants, Government has decided not to realise the Government loan (such as seed loan), and land revenue from the drought and flood-affected areas?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

516. (a)—It is not possible to furnish Circlewise information. However, a statement showing the amounts sanctioned Subdivision-wise, is placed on the Library Table.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE AMOUNTS OF GRATUITOUS RELIEF AND SEED LOAN SANCTIONED FOR DIFFERENT SUB-DIVISIONS ONLY IN CONNECTION WITH THE FLOOD AND EROSION OF 1957-58.

Subdivisions			Gratuitous Relief	Seed Loan	Remarks
			Rs. nP.	Rs.	
Dibrugarh	...	...	1,17,491.25	8,750	
North Lakhimpur	..	..	55,562.50	15,020	

Subdivisions				Gratuitous Relief	Seed Loan	Remarks
				Rs. nP	Rs.	
Jorhat	...	...	..	13,660-00	38,500	
Sibsagar	...	...	...	14,050-00	16,500	
Golaghat	...	...	...	14,500-00	5,000	
Tezpur	...	...	...	8,800-00	...	
Mangaldai	...	..	..	2,000-00	...	
Nowgong	...	...	...	10,600-00	...	
Gauhati	..	...	...	36,700-00	53,000	
Barpeta	...	...	...	3,000-00	20,000	
Dhubri	..	...	...	31,162-14	...	
Goalpara	...	..	...	26,700-00	12,000	
Kokrajhar	...	..	...	4,900-00	10,000	
Silchar	...	...	..	700-00	...	
Karimganj	...	...	...	122-81	10,000	
Hailakandi	...	...	..	...	...
Public Works Department (For Relief boats in Cachar District.)				27,500-00	...	
Total				3,67,448-70	1,88,770	

(b)—Government have no such information.

(c)—Yes, except in Darrang.

(d)—It is neither possible nor desirable to adopt a general policy for overall remission of seed loan and land revenue in the drought and flood-affected areas. But sufficient time is always given to the people who are unable to pay and in deserving cases Government always sympathetically consider such remissions on receipt of specific proposals from the Local Officers.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY (Nalbari-East): In answer to (b) it is stated that Government have no such information. May I know why Government has not called for information about the delay?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): When actually these loans were distributed I cannot say at the moment. But if the hon. Member wants I can give him the details later on.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think, the more reasonable answer would have been that the information is being collected.

Shri RADHIKARAM DAS (Palashbari): In view of the drought in Kamrup, Nowgong and Goalpara districts, will Government be pleased to defer the realisation of seed loans from the people for the current year?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: That cannot be made a general policy but if any particular case of hardship is brought to the notice of Government, that will be considered.

Shri LILA KANTA BORA (Kaliabar): Is it a fact that some Mouzadars of Nowgong district, particularly the Mouzadar of Uttarkhola are resorting to coercive measures in realising land revenue?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: About that particular Mouza we have no information, but when some public representation is received we stop adoption of coercive measures.

Shri DANDI RAM DATTA (Mangaldai): মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে জানেন যে দৰং জিলাৰ ভিতৰত মঙ্গলদৈ মহকুমাত খৰাং বতৰৰ কাৰণে খেতি হোৱা নাই আৰু বৰ্ত্তমানে শতকৰা ৩০ ঘৰ মানুহৰ খাবলৈ নাই?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: কিমান মানুহে খাবলৈ পোৱা নাই সেইটো নাজানোঁ, কিন্তু খেতি নোহোৱাৰ খবৰ পাওঁ।

Shri DANDI RAM DATTA: দৰং মানে তেজপুৰ আৰু মঙ্গলদৈ উভয়কে বুজাইছে নে কি?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: দৰং মানে কেৱল মঙ্গলদৈ নহয়। তাৰ ভিতৰত তেজপুৰো আছে।

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): দৰং জিলাত যে শিলা-বৃষ্টি হৈ মৌজায় মৌজায় ধানৰ খেতি নষ্ট হোৱাত মানুহে খাজনা আৰু ঋণ আদায় কৰিব পৰা নাই সেইকথা মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে জানেনে?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): ঠায়ে ঠায়ে cyclone হৈছে হয় কিন্তু তেজপুৰৰ বহুতো ঠাইত খেতি হৈছে।

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari): Is it a fact that in Kamrup district distress warrants have been issued for realisation of seed loans ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : That may be in some cases. If people can pay but wilfully stop payment, then we have to take some measures against them.

Jalah N. E. S. Block

Dr. SHRIHARI DAS (Barpeta) asked :

517. Will the Minister-in-charge, Community Project be pleased to state—

- (a) How many villages have been visited by the Project Officer, Jalah N. E. S. Block, Kamrup during 1957 ?
- (b) How many villages are there in the Block and what are their names ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the Project Officer is not at all concerned with the general public ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that he roams about in the Project car for nothing ?
- (e) Whether there was any representation against the works done by A. P. O. ?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that he does not behave well with the general public ?
- (g) Whether Government propose to enquire into the matter ?
- (h) What is the total Budget provisions of the project under different sub-heads in 1957 ?
- (i) How much money has been allotted and spent in different Mouzas ?
- (j) How many health units are there in the Projects ?
- (k) Whether there is any health unit in Bijni Mouza ?

Mr. A. THANGLURA (Parliamentary Secretary)
replied :

517. (a)—95 villages.

(b)—156 ; a list of these villages is placed on the Library Table. (Please see Library Register No. S. 15.)

(c) & (d)—This is not a fact.

(e)—No such representation appears to have been received.

(f)—Government have received no such complaints.

(g)—If specific instances are brought to the notice of Government, these will certainly be enquired into.

(h)—Total Budget provision of the Block for 1957-58 under different sub-heads is shown below :—

I. Block Headquarters	Rs. 63,100
II. Animal Husbandry and Agricultural Extension.	26,200
III. Irrigation	24,000
IV. Reclamation	2,000
V. Health and Rural Sanitation ...	27,100
VI. Education	12,060
VII. Social Education	8,500
VIII. Communications	50,000
IX. Rural Arts, Crafts and Industries ..	9,680
X. Housing for project staff, etc, ...	10,000
B—Loans and Advances	10,000
Total	<u>2,42,640</u>

(i)—No allotment of funds in a Block is made on Mouza basis nor any money is spent on that basis. The following expenditure was however, incurred in the Block under different items during the 1957-58 (upto February, 1958) :—

	Rs.	Np.
I. Block Headquarters	57,694	95
II. Animal Husbandry and Agricultural Extension.	28,448	18
III. Irrigation	Nil.	
IV. Reclamation	Nil.	
V. Health and Rural Sanitation	5,594	57
VI. Education	4,070	56
VII. Social Education	3,732	75
VIII. Communications	12,729	26
IX. Rural Arts, Crafts and Industries.	876	62
X. Housing	7,171	37
B—Loans and Advances	6,700	00

(j)—Two Units.

(k)—Yes.

Dr. SHRIHARI DAS (Barpeta): In answer to (h) it is stated that under Irrigation Rs 24,000 has been allotted, but the expenditure under this head is nil. Has there been no work of irrigation ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Community Project): That is not a fact, Sir. So far irrigation is concerned, work for expenditure of Rs.10,000 or more is done by the Embankment Department. But for what reason this was not taken up by the Embankment Department, I shall find out and furnish that information afterwards.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog): How many Health Units are there ?

Mr. A. THANGLURA (Chief Parliamentary Secretary): There are nine centres, two Health Units, one Maternity Centre and the rest are sub-centres.

Gratuitous relief to the distressed people affected by flood of rivers Sessa, Durpang, Dikrong, Gabhoru, Singara, etc., in North Lakhimpur Subdivision

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur)
asked :

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

(a) What steps Government is taking to help the distressed people affected by the sudden and devastating flood of the rivers Sessa, Durpang, Dikrong, Gabhoru, Singara, etc., in North Lakhimpur Subdivision ?

(b) Whether Government has received any information of the heavy damages caused by these rivers in the last rainy season ?

(c) Whether Government has any information that these rivers have rendered hundreds of families landless as well as homeless ?

(d) Whether Government has taken any scheme to train these wild rivers which are gradually eating up a very prosperous and heavy paddy producing area ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

518. (a)—Necessary steps were taken to render relief to the deserving affected persons by issuing gratuitous relief, paddy at subsidised price, agricultural seed loan, rehabilitation loan and grant and through test relief works.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Yes, embankments have been constructed on the following rivers.

(i) *Dikrong river (left bank)* :—

From Harmati Tea Garden to Dahgaria Length
18 miles.

(ii) *Singara river (both banks)* :—

Right bank—From Doolahat to Kolkhoa Doloni.

Left bank—From Silonibari to Borsala.

Total length 10 miles.

Widening of the portion of the National Highway within Jorhat Municipality

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon)
asked :

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

(a) Whether there was any decision to widen the portion of the National Highway within Jorhat Municipality ?

(b) If so, what action has been taken to implement the said decision ?

(c) Whether Government has been requested by the Jorhat Local Board to take over the Gareahabi road between Cinnamara Sadar Office and Lichubari in Jorhat Subdivision, which connects the Gara-ali and the Noali which are P.W.D. Roads ?

(d) If so, what action has been taken ?

(e) What is the distance of the said portion of the road ?

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

519. (a) & (b)—There is a proposal for widening of the portion of the National Highway within Jorhat Municipality for which an estimate is under preparation.

(c)—No such proposal was received by this office from the Jorhat Local Board.

(d)—Does not arise.

(e)—4,585 r.ft.

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon): Whether Government is aware that the said road has become a parking place of public carriers, lorries and cars ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P. W. D.): Yes, that is a nuisance.

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA: May I know when the estimate will come into the light and the matter will materialise ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: Since this is a National Highway it will take some time because after the estimates are drawn they will be sent to the Central Government for their approval, both technical and financial.

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA: With regard to (c) may I know whether Government consider that this road should be taken up by the Public Works Department ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: This and many other roads are important and need to be taken up by the Public Works Department.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Polashbari): Is it under the contemplation of Government to widen the roads which pass through the Municipal areas ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : As regards the national highways passing through highly populated municipal areas the Central Government have a general policy of by-passing the towns, for example, for Gauhati I suppose there is one such proposal. For Nowgong also I think there was of proposal. This policy will be adopted according to the needs of the localities. In certain Municipal areas, the road is proposed to be widened and in other cases it is proposed to by pass.

Extension of the Kharmuza Fakirganj Embankment upto Mankachar

Maulavi KOBAD HUSSAIN AHMED (Mankachar)
asked :

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

(a) Whether the Kharmuza-Fakirganj Embankment will be extended up to Mankachar within the next financial year ?

(b) If not, why not ?

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

520. (a)—No.

(b)—There was provision for extension of the Khar-muza-Fakirganj Embankment up to Mankachar in the original Flood Control Programme of the Second Five Year Plan. But in view of the pruning down of the ceiling of the Plan from Rs.8 crores to Rs.7 crores and also due to its relatively lower priority the portion from South Salmara to Mankachar of the project could not find a place in the Revised Programme (now awaiting State Flood Control Board's approval.)

Shri KOBAD HUSSAIN AHMED (Mankachar) : May I know whether the proposal has been abandoned ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Not abandoned, Sir. As I have said in the answer it is awaiting State Flood Control Board's approval.

Shri KOBAD HUSSAIN AHMED : Is there any proposal for the extension of this embankment in the near future, Sir ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY : Sir, so far as the Fakiragram-South Salamara portion is concerned it is under the active consideration of the Department. But with regard to the rest, it depends on the availability of funds and also on the attitude of the State Flood Control Board.

Shri TAMIZUDDIN PRODHANI (Dhubri) : মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে জানে যে এই খবরমুজা ফকিরগঞ্জ মঠারবীচো বেরকা কালি ব ওচরত যোরা বছর বানপানীর সময়ত গর্বাখহনীয়াই প্রায় ৩/৪ মাইল ভাঙি লৈ গৈছে আৰু ২/৩ শ ঘৰ মান মানুহৰ ঘৰ বাৰী খেতি বাতি নষ্ট কৰিছে ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY : নই এতিয়া কিমান ঘৰ ভাঙি লৈ গৈছে ইত্যাদি detail কৰ নোৱাৰো কিন্তু flood ৰ কাৰণে যে মঠারবীচো ভাঙিছিল, সেইকথা গৰণমেন্টে জানে।

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj) : I want to know whether the Government took up the repair works last year under the test relief scheme, but the work could not be completed due to the negligence of the officers ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Repair work was taken up. But I cannot say whether it was due to the negligence of the officers. I will enquire about it.

Barpeta Civil Hospital

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta) asked :

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the buildings of Barpeta Civil Hospital are not taken up yet by the Public Works Department ?
- (b) If so, why ?
- (c) Who is responsible for not repairing and reconstructing the buildings after the Government has taken over the Hospital ?
- (d) Whether Government propose to instal a big tube-well with a power pump inside the compound as the old one very often goes out of order ?

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

521. (a)—Yes, the Main Hospital building and the Maternity Ward will soon be taken over into books of the Public Works Department after bringing them upto the Public Works Department Standard at an estimated cost of Rs.20,650. This estimate has been sanctioned and works are nearing completion. The buildings will be taken on to books of the Public Works Department from April, 1958.

(b)—Because the buildings were not upto the Public Works Department Standard and under the Rules, they cannot be taken over to the books of the Public Works Department, before being brought to the Standard.

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

(d)—Yes, provisions for a 5 Feet Dia. Ring Well, a Power Pump with over-head reservoir and distribution system have been made in the new estimate, amounting to Rs.1,47,100 for improvement to the other buildings, providing further amenities to the main Hospital and Wards and construction of some additional buildings for the Hospital. This estimate is receiving consideration of the Government.

Neamati-Kamalabari Ferry Service

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) asked :

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

- (a) What is the average daily collection of the Neamati-Kamalabari ferry service ?
- (b) What is the rate per man in different classes ?
- (c) What is the rate per car crossing the Brahmaputra in this Ghat ?
- (d) Why the rate of car crossing is so high in this Ghat ?
- (e) Whether Government propose to reduce the freight of car crossing ?

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

522. (a)—The average daily gross collection is Rs.134 (approximately), as reported by lessee.

(b)—The rate of toll per adult person in upper class is Re.0-12-0 and in Lower class is Re.0-8-0.

(c)—The rate per car in this ferry is Rs.15 rather high compared to Gauhati-North-Gauhati Ferry.

(d)—The rate of car in this ghat is not high compared to other ferries except in Gauhati-North-Gauhati ferry. This is in conformity with the rates of other ferries compared to distances to be crossed in each steam ferry over the river Brahmaputra.

(e)—There is no such proposal at present.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) : At what amount the Ghat was auctioned, Sir ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P. W. D.): So far as I remember at Rs.750 per annum.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI : Is it not a fact that the whole amount is to be realised within 6 days ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : It is obviously so.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI : What are the other Ghats which have conformity with the Niamatighat in respect of Crossing of motor cars ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : Jogighopa-Goalpara and Gauhati-North Gauhati.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI : What is the breadth of the river ghat between Pancharatna and Jogighopa and also that of between Niamati and Kamalabari ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : With regard to the latter, during the rains, I think it widens upto $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles to 3 miles.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi): May I know on what basis the fare for car for the ferry is fixed ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : Certain considerations are taken into account at the time of fixing the rate. Of course there is not much consistency in this matter at present. *(laughter)*.

Re : Procedure followed in filling up the vacancies of Executive Engineers

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) asked :

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

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Public Works Department sent some senior Subdivisional Officers, S.E.S. for selection for some vacancies of Executive Engineers and Additional Executive Engineers ?

(b) What was the result ?

- (c) Whether it is a fact that P. S. C. have selected some names and the Secretary, Public Works Department, also put up some names to the Government for promotion ?
- (d) If so, what decision has been taken by Government ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that recommendations were again sent back to P. S. C. for reconsideration and were received back by the Department ?
- (f) Why the vacancies have not been filled up up-till now ?
- (g) Whether Government propose to fill up these vacancies by promotions ?

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

- (a) Whether there is a fixed quota of vacancies to be filled up by promotion ?
- (b) If so, what is the quota ?
- (c) What is the present quota for promotion to Executive Engineers' rank from the (S. E. S.,) Subdivisional Officer's rank ?
- (d) Whether it is a usual course of procedure to obtain recommendations from the P.S.C. before promotion ?
- (e) If so, why this procedure is not followed in all cases particularly in cases of Assistant Engineers and temporary Engineers ?
- (f) If not, why in time of promotion these names are sent to P. S. C. for recommendations ?
- (g) Why several posts are still lying vacant in Mechanical Department inspite of the assurances given to make the Public Works Department staff permanent ?
- (h) Whether Government propose to fill up the vacancies of Assistant Mechanical Engineers and Mechanical Subdivisional Officers by promoting some experienced temporary Mechanical Overseers by outsiders ?

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

523. (a), (b), (c), (d) & (e)—These relate to confidential matters and it will not be in public interest to reveal these information at this state.

(f) & (g)—At the moment Executive Engineer, Bharelli Bridge Construction Division, holds charge of Tezpur Division, in addition to his duties.

Only two posts of Additional Executive Engineers—one at Aijal and one at Gauhati (since transferred to Diphu) are vacant. The vacancies at Tezpur and Aijal will be filled up when the works of Bharelli Bridge and Aijal-Lungleh Road are sanctioned by the Government of India. One officer has already been posted at Diphu.

524. (a) & (b)—All vacancies in A.E.S. I are filled up by promotion from Class II. Temporary vacancies of Executive Engineers are filled up also by promoting Selected Officers from S. E. S., when sufficient numbers of experienced A. E. S. II Officers are not forthcoming.

(c)—There is no such quota but S. E. S. Officers get a chance of promotion to Class II and also in temporary vacancies as mentioned in reply to (a) and (b) above.

(d), (e), & (f)—Yes, in case of S. E. S. Officer only under Rule 4 (a), of P. S. C. Regulations.

In case of promotion from A. E. S. Officers it is not necessary to refer to P. S. C. as they are within the same service group.

(g)—Posts in Mechanical Branch have been advertised by P. S. C. and these will be filled up on their recommendations as a result of interview.

No assurance to make all staff permanent has been given. Their case is however under consideration and a decision is expected to be reached shortly.

(h)—This question is not clear—at least the portion 'by outsider'. No Mechanical Overseers from outside have been appointed in that Section of Public Works Department (R. & B.). With regard to filling up the vacancies of Mechanical Assistant Engineers and Mechanical Subdivisional Officers, the cases of Mechanical Overseers will be given due consideration.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) : As regards answer (g) is it not a fact that the Government gave assurance that the Public Works Department workers when they would complete five years of service will be made permanent ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, : P. W. D.) Government have given the assurance that those workers who have served more than five years would be absorbed in the Department provided there are vacancies.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI : Why Government is taking unusually long time to settle up the question of their permanent retention in the services ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : In democracy when the Government is to carry on by persuasion then there may be some delay.

Mr. SPEAKER : Is it necessary to persuade people to promote them ? (*laughter*)

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : Sir, it affects the public exchequer. They are workcharged people engaged for a particular job or work. After the work is completed they are liable to be discharged. So it requires thorough examination ; all the pros and cons are to be taken into consideration.

Labour-cum-Conciliation Officer of Lakhimpur District

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal) asked :

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

- (a) The total number of industrial disputes reported to the Labour-cum-Conciliation Officer of Lakhimpur District in 1956 and 1957 ?
- (b) How many of them were taken up for settlement in conciliation proceedings ?
- (c) How many disputes were settled at the conciliation stage and how many were referred to the Industrial Tribunal or Labour Court during the said period ?
- (d) The average time taken for disposing of a dispute in conciliation stage ?

- (e) Whether Government are aware of the hardship caused to labour for inordinate delay taken in disposing of a dispute by the Labour Officer and Labour Inspectors ?
- (f) How many disputes were pending before the Labour Officer, Lakhimpur and the two Inspectors under him on the 30th September, 1957 ?
- (g) Whether Government propose to increase the number of officers of the Department ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour) replied :

525. (a)—3,509 cases.

(b)—201 cases.

(c)—172 cases settled at the conciliation state and 29 cases referred for adjudication.

(d)—Maximum 14 days.

(e)—There is no inordinate delay in disposing of disputes by Labour Officers and Inspectors. The disputes are disposed of as early as possible depending on the nature and circumstances of the case and in any case a report has to be submitted under Section 12(b) of the Industrial Disputes Act, within 14 days.

(f)—Number of disputes pending before the Labour Officer 10 and Labour Inspector 37 on 30th September, 1957.

(g)—The matter is under the consideration of Government.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) : Sir, it is stated that 3,509 cases were reported to the Labour-cum-Conciliation Officer and 201 cases only were taken up for settlement by the Conciliation Officer. Is this not a very meagre figure ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour) : It is true, at any rate all the disputes are to be reported to the Conciliation Officer for settlement and the Conciliation Officer will make an attempt to come to some

sort of settlement but if the Conciliation Officer fails to settle these disputes, then the cases will come to the Government and therefore, it takes time to settle the disputes ; that is why, out of 3,509, cases 201 cases were taken up for settlement.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): Is it not a fact that thousands of cases are still lying in the Labour Office ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour): The reply is there in (f). Number of disputes pending before the Labour Officer-10 and Labour Inspector-37 on 30th September, 1957.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI: In answer to (d) it is stated maximum 14 days. Is this maintained by the Labour Officer ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: This is according to law. The dispute has to be submitted under section 12(b) of the Industrial Disputes Act. Under that section the dispute has to be kept for 14 days.

Shri GAURISHANKAR ROY (Katlicherra): श्रम विरोध की मीमांस जल्द करने के लिये वर्तमान की पद्धति में परिवर्तन करके दूसरा कोई सहज साध्य और सक्रिय उपाय अवलम्बन करने के बारे में सरकार चिन्ता कर रही है या नहीं ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : जी हां, इस सम्बन्ध में श्रमिक और मालिकों के प्रतिनिधि सरकार के साथ मिलकर बहुत दिनों से विचार विमर्श करते आये हैं । किन्तु यह मामला इतना जटिल है कि जल्द कोई सक्रिय उपाय या रास्ता निकालना सम्भव नहीं हो सका है । किन्तु इस बारेमें सरकार सक्रिय रूप से चिन्ता कर रही है ।

Shri HIRALAL PATWARI (Panery): इसके लिये कितने दिन लगगी ?

Deroi Reserve Forest of Sibsagar and Dibrugarh Subdivisions

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri)
asked :

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

- What is the total area of Deroi Reserve of Sibsagar and Dibrugarh Subdivisions (reply to be given separately on Subdivisional basis) ?
- What is the area dereserved out of this Reserve in Sibsagar Subdivision during the last few years ?
- What is the area given settlement so far ?

(d) How many families have been given settlement ?

(e) Whether these families are all erosion-affected ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Forests) replied :

526. (a)—The total area of Deroi Reserve Forest is 19 sq. miles and the entire Reserve Forest falls within Sibsagar Sub-division.

(b)—Nil.

(c)—6,600 bighas have been settled with Forest Villagers.

(d)—360 families of Forest Villagers.

(e)—Yes. Most of them.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) : What is the difference between the forest villagers and other villagers ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : These are in the rules. I may refer the rule to the hon. Member. It is the Assam Forest Manual Rules volume I, pages 63 to 67.

Mr. SPEAKER : Is the Hon. Minister sure that these volumes are available ? Will you please place them on the Table of the House ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : I can do it tomorrow, Sir.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi) : What is the area of land settled with each family ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : 6 to 12 bighas.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH : Are Government aware that in the forest villages there is scarcity of water for which the people are suffering very much for want of drinking water ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : That may be in some places.

Arimara-Simoluguri-Rangati Public Works Department Road

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

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

(a) Whether the proposed Arimara-Simoluguri-Rangati Public Works Department Road was recommended by the North Lakhimpur Sub-divisional Development Board to be taken up in the Second Five Year Plan?

(b) Whether it a fact that tenders were called for the construction of the said Road?

(c) If so, why construction has been stopped?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH [Minister, P. W. D. (R. & B. Wing)] replied:

527. (a)—Yes and accordingly it was included under Article 275 of the Constitution—Plain Tribal Areas—Second Five-Year Plan.

(b)—Yes; tenders for earthwork were called for by the Executive Engineer in anticipation of receipt of formal sanction to the project.

(c)—This road project, which is included under Article 275—Plain Tribal Areas and the length of which exceeds 10 miles, requires technical approval and financial sanction of the Government of India, before it can be taken up for execution. The survey estimate for the project has already been sent to the Government of India and we are awaiting their approval. After receipt of this, detailed estimate for the project will be prepared after necessary survey and Government of India's technical approval and financial sanction will be obtained for taking up the work.

Shri DANDI RAM DUTTA (Mangaldai) : গভৰ্ণমেন্টৰ 'চেংচন' (Sanction) নোহোৱাকৈ 'টেণ্ডাৰ' 'কল' কৰাটো অন্যায় নহয়নে?

Mr. SPEAKER : The hon. Member is saying about calling of tenders without sanction by the Government.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P. W. D.) : Sometime this has to be done in order to expedite matters in anticipation of sanction by Central Government.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East) : What were the circumstances under which these things are done ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : Circumstances vary in different cases.

Status of Inspector of Taxes

Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West) asked :

528. Will the Finance Minister be pleased to state whether Government propose to raise the Inspector of Taxes to the Gazetted status ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance) replied :

528.—No.

Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA : Whether Government will consider to treat the Inspectors of Taxes as Gazetted Officers when the Inspectors of Supplies and others are given the Gazetted status ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : Sir, in 1956 the Sub-procedure is continuing; if any change is made now, the services will deteriorate.

Students in the Assam Medical College and the Assam Ayurvedic College

Shri TAMIJUDDIN PRODHANI (Dhubri) asked :

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

- (a) The total number of students admitted during the last five years to (i) Assam Medical College
- (ii) Assam Ayurvedic College ?

- (b) The number of such admissions from Goalpara district in the above institutions during the last five years ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) replied :

529, (a)—(i) Assam Medical College	...	...	383
(ii) Ayurvedic College	...	...	43
(b)—Assam Medical College	...	...	13
Ayurvedic College	...	...	Nil.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj) : Whether there is a limited number of seats ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : So far as Assam Medical College is concerned we have increased the seats from 75 to 100 and as far as Assam Ayurvedic College is concerned the limit fixed has not yet been reached.

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS [North Salmara (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] : May I know the reason as to why there was no candidate for the Ayurvedic College from the district of Goalpara for the last five years ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : It may be that there was no candidate or any application for admission from that district.

Tihu State Veterinary Dispensaries

Shri SURENDRA NATH DAS (Patacharkuchi) asked :

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

- When the Tihu State Veterinary Dispensaries was taken over by the Department ?
- Whether Government are aware that for the last two years there is no doctor in the dispensary ?
- Whether Government are aware of the Cattle epidemic in Tihu areas that still exists in some villages ?
- If so, why no doctor has yet been posted there ?
- When a doctor will be posted there ?

(f) Whether Government propose to send one immediately ?

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

530. (a)—In the latter part of 1953.

(b)—It is learnt that only from April, 1957, the dispensary is without a Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, as the Veterinary Assistant Surgeon in-charge had to go on long Medical leave.

(c)—Yes. One hundred heads of cattle were affected in Tihu Circle.

(d)—The Veterinary Assistant Surgeons in-charge of Patacharkuchi and Nalbari dispensaries attended the epidemic areas. It has not been possible to post a Veterinary Assistant Surgeon at Tihu Veterinary Dispensary for dearth of Veterinary graduates.

(e)—As soon as Veterinary graduates are available.

(f)—Attempts will be made to post one qualified Veterinary Assistant Surgeon as early as possible.

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS [Rangiya (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : May I ask whether at the time of taking over the Tihu State Dispensary by the Department, the question of appointing a doctor was taken into consideration ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : A doctor was appointed but ultimately the doctor went on leave.

Shri RAMNATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] : May I know whether Government appoint doctors on the basis of the constitution of dispensaries ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Doctors are appointed on necessity for the State as a whole.

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] : How many veterinary dispensaries in Assam are now running without doctors ?

Mr. SPEAKER : I don't think this question is in order and I think this matter has already been discussed before.

Relief Grants and Loans to the flood-affected people of Nalbari Circle

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East) asked :

531. Will the Minister-in-charge of Revenue and Relief be pleased to state—

(a) The amount of gratuitous relief, test relief, seed loans and cattle loans issued to the flood affected people of Nalbari Circle, Mauzawise, in June, 1957 floods after the Minister gave an account of damages of Nalbari Circle in reply to a Question of Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya asked during the Budget Session, 1957 ?

(b) What gratuitous relief and rehabilitation loans were sanctioned to the distressed families who were in genuine need including 43 flood-eroded families of the area with particular reference to the families at Kamarkuchi where two human lives were washed away by a cut on a weak point of marginal embankment of Pagladiya river followed by death of another infant ?

(c) How many time since then the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup visited the entire 20 mouzas with about 600 villages affected by floods which included the particular area mentioned above ?

(d) Whether it is a fact that the amount required for flood relief measure by the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, was not sanctioned by the Government ?

(e) Whether it is the present procedure that the estimate of requirement of relief measures submitted by the Sub-Deputy Collectors are reduced by the office of the Deputy Commissioner which is further reduced by the Secretariat which is again cut down by the Finance Department bringing the amount of sanction to one-tenth of original demand ?

(f) If so, whether the Government have no reliance on the Departmental Officers ?

- (g) Whether it is a fact that order for flood remission of land revenue of Nalbari Circle, particularly of Khata and Uparbarbhag Mauzas for 1362 B. S. and 1363 B. S. did not receive sanction from Government till January, 1958 when the Revenue for 1364 B. S. has become due for collection, resulting in all coercive measures and harassment on Raiyats ?
- (h) Who are the officers responsible for the anomalous conditions as above ?
- (i) Whether Government have received proposal from the Land Settlement Advisory Board for dereservation of Angarkata and Kachukala P. G. R.s of Tamulpur Circle in Kamrup ?
- (j) If so, when Government are going to accommodate the actually needy people in these reserves ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :
531. (a)—The following amounts were sanctioned mouza-wise :—

(i) *Gratuitous Relief—*
Uparbarbhag Mouza

...	Rice 420 mds.
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Khata Mauza	Chira 40 mds
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...	Rice 80 mds
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(ii) *Seed loan—*
Uparbarbhag Mouza

...	Rs.
				16,420

Khata	4,540
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Bahjani	5,745
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Batahghilla	1,995
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Natun Dehar	1,140
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Pakowa	1,800
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Dharmapur	2,620
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Khetri Dharmapur	710
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Uttar Barkhetri	30
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Total	35,000
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(iii) <i>Test Relief</i> —				Rs.
Pachim Banabhog Mouza	220
Batahghilla	„	800
Bahjani	„	500
Pakhowa	„	...	...	975
Uparbarbhag	„	...	...	800
Dharmapur	„	...	...	865
Total				4,160

No Cattle loan was sanctioned.

(b)—No further gratuitous relief or rehabilitation loan, in general, were sanctioned except what has been stated against (a). But distress loan amounting to Rs.3,350 was sanctioned for issue to the deserving people including the persons of Kamarkuchi village and a sum of Rs.300 as gratuity has been sanctioned for one Shri Parasuram Kalita whose two children were washed away.

(c)—Twice.

(d)—It is not a fact.

(e)—Government have no information whether requirements of relief measures submitted by Sub-Deputy Collector are reduced by the Deputy Commissioner. Demands of the Deputy Commissioner are duly considered. But sometimes the amounts proposed have to be reduced in consideration of the fund position and the demands from other Districts.

(f)—Does not arise.

(g)—Proposal for remission of land revenue of Uparbarbhag, Batahghilla and Bahjani Mauzas for 1362 B. S. was received from the local officers in September, 1957 and the same was sanctioned in December, 1957. No further proposal for remission for any other Mouzas or for any other years was received by Government.

As regards adoption of coercive measures, Government have no information.

(h)—Does not arise.

(i)—No specific proposal for dereservation has been received. But the Land Settlement Advisory Committee by a resolution on 10th October, 1957 asked the Assistant Settlement Officer to report if any land in these P. G. Rs. could be made available for flood affected people.

(j)—It is not possible to give any time limit. But any proposal for dereservation that may be received from the Deputy Commissioner will be duly considered.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East) : Sir, the questions are very long but I would like to know from the Government whether the amount sanctioned is sufficient in consideration of the damage done by the flood ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : Yes.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY : Do not Government consider necessary to issue cattle loans to the affected people ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : There was no demand, Sir.

Assam Agricultural College Farm

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon) asked :

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

(a) Whether it is a fact that according to the suggestions of the University Inspection Committee the Farm of the Assam Agricultural College should be of 200 acres ?

(b) If so, whether the present farm is of the required area ?

(c) If not, whether there is any proposal for increasing the area of the College ?

(d) Whether it is a fact that for want of administrative approval some buildings of the Agricultural College could not be constructed uptill now which were sanctioned under the expansion scheme ?

(e) Whether it is a fact that the money for the said buildings will be spent from the Government of India's fund ?

(f) Who is responsible for this delay ?

(g) What will happen and who will be held responsible, if Central Government withdraw the amount for not being able to spend the same in time ?

(h) When the buildings will be constructed ?

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

532. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No.

(c)—Yes, there is a proposal for increasing the area of the College.

(d)—No. It is not a fact. The construction of the buildings has been taken up according to a phased programme and during 1957-58 administrative approval to the constructional works to the tune of Rs. 1,80,785 has been accorded.

(e)—Yes. 75 per cent as grant from Government of India and 25 per cent as loan.

(f) & (g)—Do not arise.

(h)—Construction of the remaining buildings will be started when the approval of the plan and estimates thereof are received from Government of India.

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon) : May I know whether the Assam Government has moved the Central Government to have the plan and estimate sanctioned at an early date ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Approval to a part of the scheme was given on 18th October, 1957. With regard to the rest, the Government of India sent back the scheme to us for revision and it was sent to the Director's office.

We have now received back the revised estimate which is under scrutiny by the Department. And the revised scheme will be sent as soon as the scrutiny is over.

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon): With regard to (c), may I know when the proposal will be materialised ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURI (Minister, Agriculture): It is in the hands of the Government and we are moving the respective Departments, for acquisition and also handing over of the land to the College.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) : What is the area of land to be acquired under the proposal ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : It will be nearabout 400 bighas or so.

Public Works Department Road from Amguri to Howli

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog) asked :

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

(a) Whether Government are aware of the terrible condition of the Public Works Department Road from Amguri to Howli ?

(b) If so, why Government have not improved the road ?

(c) Whether Government propose to improve the said road ?

(d) If so, when ?

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

533. (a)—The condition of the road is good except a portion of the Benki approach which has become dusty due to new earthwork. The condition will be much improved after a shower of rain when gravelling of the road can be done.

(b) & (c)—The road is already a gravelled one and there is neither proposal nor funds for its further improvement.

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

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog) : Is it a fact that a portion of the road was washed away by the Benki river last year ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P. W. D.) : I will require notice to answer this question, Sir.

Public Works Department Road within Barpeta Road

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR asked :

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

(a) Whether Government is aware of the terrible conditions of the side berms of the Public Works Department roads within Barpeta road ?

(b) Whether Government are aware of the fact that those roads are full of mud during the rainy season ?

(c) If so, whether they will be improved before the next rainy season ?

(d) Whether Government promised to improve it before the next rainy season ?

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

534. (a) & (b)—The Roads are blacktopped ones. Only the side berms get muddy during rains due to heavy Cart traffic.

(c) & (d)—The sides berms are proposed to be improved by gravelling before the next rains.

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta) : With regard to (c) & (d), the answer is "the side berms are proposed to be improved by gravelling before the next rains". Is it not a fact that the work has not been done as yet ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P. W. D.) :
“Next rains” generally mean June and July ; efforts will be made to complete the work before that.

Settlement of Sarkari land near the Laluk-Bongalmora Road

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur) asked :

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

- (a) Whether Government has any information regarding settlement of some land used for religious purposes such as ‘Puja Khola’ by the people of Laluk to some individuals defying the protest of the local people ?
- (b) Whether Government has any information that almost all these allottees are Government employees working in connection with revenue matters ?
- (c) Whether Government is prepared to institute an impartial enquiry by non-officials to find the truth of these settlement which are made periodic along with settlement ?
- (d) Whether Government has any information that in that very place the people are trying hard for the last six or seven years for a plot of land to be reserved for cremation ground ?
- (e) Whether Government is aware that the people are asked to pay a big amount to the Forest Department to get a plot for crematorium ?
- (f) Whether Government will hold an enquiry to all these anomalies through an independent agency ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Revenue Minister) replied :

535. (a)—Yes. An area of 2B 2K OL of sarkari land near the Laluk-Bongalmora Road was settled with four persons in 1952, but at the time of settlement no part of the land was found to be used as ‘Puja Khola’ nor the settlement was objected to by the public.

(b)—Only two of the allottees are of Subdivisional Officer’s establishment but at the time of settlement they were not serving in Revenue Branch.

(c)—They applied for conversion of the land into periodic in 1956 but on the objection raised by the people of the locality, conversion was stopped. The question of impartial enquiry does not arise.

(d)—An area of 4 bighas of land has already been reserved for cremation ground in 1955.

(e)—Yes. A section of the people prefer the cremation ground to be located on the plot already allotted for the Forest Guards' quarters. As the quarters have already been constructed and will have to be dismantled and removed they have been asked to bear the cost of the same.

(f)—Does not arise.

Industrial Research Institute of Cottage Industries at Jorhat

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon) asked :

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

(a) Whether there is any decision to start an Industrial Research Institute of Cottage Industries at Jorhat with Central Government Grant ?

(b) If so, what is the present position ?

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

536. (a)—There is no such proposal.

(b)—Does not arise.

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA : May I know whether it is a fact that there was a discussion with Prof. Thacker, Secretary to the Government of India in the Planning Department and Technical Education Department, to start a regional research institute to be sponsored by the Government of India when Prof. Thacker came to Assam in the month of February or March last ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) : Yes, Sir, when Prof. Thacker came to Shillong we had some discussion about it.

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA : What was the result of the discussion ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):

The Government of India have decided to establish a Regional Research Laboratory in Assam. So far as the site is concerned, it has not been finally decided and the whole thing is under consideration now.

Digboi Police Station

Shri DWIJESH CHANDRA DEV SARMAH (Digboi)

asked :

537. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government are aware of the fact that there are no quarters for all the staff of the Digboi Police Station in the Dibrugarh Subdivision ?
- (b) Whether Government are aware that for want of accommodation some constables of the said Police Station are to live in rented houses which are quite distant from the Police Station ?
- (c) If so, whether Government propose to take necessary steps to accommodate all the staff of the Digboi Police Station ?
- (d) Whether Government are aware of the difficulties to be faced while searching for rented house ?
- (e) Whether Government are aware that some of the Police quarters of the Digboi Police Station are in dilapidated condition and lying unused ?
- (f) If so, why repairing works have not been done ?
- (g) Whether Government propose to take necessary step to have these quarters repaired before the quarters totally collapse ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister)
replied :

537. (a)—There are departmental quarters for the entire staff of the Digboi Police Station.

(b)—Government have no such information. No house has been hired for accommodation of police staff of the Digboi Police Station.

(c)—This does not arise in view of the above reply. But proposal for construction of quarters for the married constables is under consideration.

(d)—There may be difficulty in getting rented house.

(e)—Some of the departmental police quarters are in a bad state of repairs.

(f)—Repairs could not be undertaken for want of funds.

(g)—Steps are being taken to have the buildings repaired soon.

Shri DWIJESH CHANDRA DEV SARMAH (Digboi) : ডিগবৈ থানাত পুলিচৰ মুঠ সংখ্যা কিমান আৰু তেওঁলোকৰ কোৱাৰ্টাৰৰ সংখ্যা কিমান ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) : I don't think I can reply to this question now. I require notice for it, Sir.

Shri DWIJESH CHANDRA DEV SARMAH: কিমান কোৱাৰ্টাৰ মেৰামত নোহোৱাকৈ পৰি আছে ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : One constables' barrack and two latrines require repairs and they are going to be undertaken now.

Shri DWIJESH CHANDRA DEV SARMA : যিবিলাক কোৱাৰ্টাৰ মেৰামত নোহোৱাকৈ আছে সেই বোৰত মানহ আছেনে ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : Perhaps these are not being used.

Quarters for C. I. D. Officers

Shri DWIJESH CHANDRA DEV SARMAH asked :

538. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the C.I.D. officers of Assam are provided with Government quarters ?

(b) Whether the work of the C.I.D. officers are of a confidential nature and most important ?

- (c) If so, whether they should be free from all sorts of interference, obligation and anxieties ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied.

538. (a)—C.I.D. officers are either provided with Government quarters or given house rent allowance in lieu of Government quarters.

(b)—Yes, in most cases it is confidential and important.

(c)—Yes, as far as practicable.

Shri DWIJESH CHANDRA DEV SARMA (Digboi): C.I.D. অফিচাৰবোৰক চৰকাৰে যি ভাৰা দিয়ে সেই ভাৰাত সকলো ঠাইতে যৰ পোৱা যায়নে ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : সকলো ঠাইতে সেই ভাৰাত পোৱা নেযাব পাৰে কিয়নো আজিকালি যৰ ভাৰা বহুত বাঢ়িছে।

Veterinary Field Assistants in the district of Nowgong

Shri DHIRSINGH DEURI [Laherighat (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] asked :

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

(a) How many Veterinary Field Assistants are there in the district of Nowgong ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that there are some discrepancies in payment of annual increment from year to year ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that there are some 20 Veterinary Field Assistants who are not getting any annual increment from 1st April, 1948 to 30th September, 1954 ?

(d) Whether Government received any representation to the effect ?

(e) Whether it is a fact that there were some field Assistants in-charge of Veterinary dispensaries during the year 1957 ?

(f) If so, whether additional emoluments have been granted to them ?

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

539. (a)—There are two Supervisor Field Assistants and forty-one Veterinary Field Assistants in the district of Nowgong.

(b)—There were no discrepancies.

(c)—The increments have since been sanctioned and the bills have been sent to the Accountant General, Assam for pre-audit.

(d)—The Veterinary Department have not received any representation.

(e)—For dearth of Veterinary Graduates in the State Supervisor Field Assistants were in-charge of eight Veterinary dispensaries in the district of Nowgong.

(f)—No.

Shri LILA KANTA BORA (Kaliabar) : In view of the answer to (c), may I know what are the reasons for this delay ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : The increments of the Veterinary Field Assistants had to be drawn in the office of the Director of Veterinary ; all the Veterinary Field Assistants could not be given increments in time because certain mistakes occurred in the office.

Suspension of Gazetted Officers of the Forest Department

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj) asked :

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

(a) How many Gazetted Officers in the Forest Department have been kept under suspension in the State at present ?

(a) Who are they and how long they have been kept under suspension ?

(c) How long it will take to dispose of their cases ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Forests) replied :

540. (a)—Two only.

(b)—Sarvashri M. S. Islam, Deputy Conservator of Forests and M. N. Pait, Deputy Conservator of Forests since 24th July and 12th August, 1957 respectively.

(c)—It is difficult to indicate the time, but the matter will be expedited.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj): May I know whether these officers have been allowed any subsistence allowance for the period of suspension ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: Yes, Sir, they get it under the rules.

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS [Rangiya (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : On what grounds were these officers suspended ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : On grounds of corruption.

Shri CHATRA SING TERON [Mikir Hills—West (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : May I know whether the delay in the disposal of the cases is considered to be some sort of punishment ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: No, Sir, there is bound to be delay because the Constitution has laid down certain procedure in regard to these matters. Twice they are to be given opportunity to show cause, then the case goes to the Public Service Commission and after the Public Service Commission approves of the punishment then only the case can be disposed of. Then it may be that evidence has to be recorded ; so there is bound to be some delay.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): At what stage proceedings are pending now ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : The officers have been asked to show cause ; now evidence will be recorded.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Whether it is the first "show-cause" or the second "show-cause" ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Forests): The first.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Why should such delay take place ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : After the first show cause evidence is taken ; after the second show cause no evidence is taken and the final stage does not take much time.

Creation of a new Thana at Tamarhat

Shri MATHIAS TUDU (Gossaigaon) asked :

541. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government propose to create a new Thana at Tamarhat ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that a plot of land has been acquired for constructing a building for new Thana ?

(c) What is the area of the plot ?

(d) What are the Mouzas that will fall under the jurisdiction of this new Thana ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied :

541. (a)—No.

(b)—No. A plot of land has been acquired for construction of buildings for the existing out-post.

(c)—6B, 4K, 9L.

(d)—Does not arise in view of reply to (a).

***Shri MATHIAS TUDU :** May I know whether the construction work of the building for the existing outpost has been started ?

***Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):**
Land has been acquired, but I don't think construction has started yet.

***Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj):**
Are Government aware that this outpost has not been able to control crime in the area ?

***Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA:** Sir. if the hon. Member means by that, that it should be a regular Thana, the Department does not think that a Thana should be put up now. For the time being it is only the outpost that is proposed to be constructed on the land. But sufficient area has been taken so that, if necessary, it can be converted into a Thana.

Tinsukia Sub-Deputy Collector's Circle

Shri MOLIA TATI (Doom Dooma) asked :

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

- (a) Whether Government would furnish the area under Tinsukia Sub-Deputy Collector's Circle ?
- (b) The distance from Sunpura the last boundary of the Tinsukia Circle to Doom Dooma ?
- (c) The distance between Doom Dooma and Margherita ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that the public of Doom Dooma area and Sadiya Transferred area find it difficult to go to Tinsukia in connection with revenue matters ?
- (e) Whether Government realises that there is a necessity for a separate Sub-Deputy Collector's Circle at Doom Dooma ?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur suggested for a separate Circle at Doom Dooma during the last few years ?

(g) Whether Government propose to create a separate Circle at Doom Dooma ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

542.(a)—2122.22 Sq. miles including the transferred area of Abor and Mishmi Hills.

(b)—About 34 miles.

(c)—35 miles *via* Trunk Road but 32 miles *via* Hansara.

(d)—Nobody has represented to Government about it.

(e)—It is the policy of Government gradually to split up the more unwieldy Circles in the interest of better Land Revenue administration as well as for public convenience.

(f)—Yes. Government received a proposal during August, 1957.

(g)—The matter is under examination.

Shri MOLIA TATI (Doom Dooma): চৰকাৰে কৈছে যে চৰকাৰে পৰীক্ষা কৰি চাইছে। মই জানিব পাবোনে যে কিমান দিনৰ ভিতৰত বিভক্ত কৰা হব ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : কিমান দিনত হ'ব সেইটো কোৱা টান কাৰণ এটা নিৰ্দিষ্ট সময়ৰ ভিতৰত Circle divide নহ'বও পাৰে।

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): In reply to (d) it is stated—“Nobody has represented to Government about it”. May I know whether the Minister-in-charge knows that Doom Dooma and Sadiya Transferred Areas are undeveloped areas and people there could not understand their own difficulties ? (*Laughter*).

Shri HARESWAR DAS: That is a question of opinion.

Calling attention under Assembly Rule 54 regarding cyclone damages in certain parts of Golaghat Sub-division and Nowgong district

Shri RAJENDRA NATH BARUA (Golaghat—East) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to call attention of the Government to a matter of urgent public importance, *viz.*, the severe cyclone that passed over Ghilladhary Mauza in Golaghat and Kaliabor

and neighbouring areas of Nowgong causing serious damage to homestead and rendering many people homeless. Sir, in this connection I have received a telegram from the Vice-President of the District Congress Committee, Golaghat which states.—

“Cyclone over Ghilladhary Mauza caused severe damage third April stop some partially some entirely some rendered homeless stop rupees twenty thousand gratuitous relief needed.”

Sir, this cyclone passed over both Golaghat and Nowgong causing damages, in some parts. We will be glad to know from the Hon'ble Minister the details of any report received by him regarding the extent of damages caused and what steps the Government have taken to give relief to the affected people ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): Sir, the full facts are not with me at present. But here are some of the facts which I put before the House. The Subdivisional Officer, Golaghat sent a wire on 5th April last to Government that a “cyclone badly affected some villages in Ghilladhary Mouza, some villagers were rendered homeless and some partially. Rs.10 thousand gratuitous relief solicited. Detailed report follows”. This detailed report has not yet come. We have sent a wire to submit it early and with a view to give immediate relief to the affected people we have sanctioned Rs.3 thousand. About Kaliabor there was no report from the local officer. We sent a wire to him to submit his report early. For this area a sum of Rs.2 thousand has been sanctioned for immediate distribution as gratuitous relief. When these reports will be received I shall be in a position to supply the full facts.

**Chief Minister's Statement regarding agreement
reached between Commissioners of
Assam and East Pakistan**

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):
Mr. Speaker Sir, under Assembly Rule 55 with your permission I would like to read a statement. In course of my reply to the Short Notice Question of Shri Biswanath Upadhaya

2508 CHIEF MINISTER'S STATEMENT REGARDING [9TH APRIL,
 AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN THE
 COMMISSIONERS OF ASSAM AND
 EAST PAKISTAN

in the House yesterday. I indicated that the Commissioners of Assam and East Pakistan were to meet at 10 A.M. at Karimganj to bring about effective cease fire agreement. I am happy to inform the House that the mentioned meeting did take place and the following agreement was arrived at:—

1. Both sides agree that while not going into the merits of the case, which is an inter-Governmental matter, there should nevertheless be an effective cease fire on both sides. The cease fire to take effect from 5.30 A.M. Indian Standard Time of 9th April 1958.

2. It was agreed that if information had not reached to all border outposts as a consequence of which some intermittent firing may result and one side fired, the other would not retaliate but the Deputy Commissioner concerned would take up with his opposite number to bring about an effective cease fire.

3. It was agreed to destroy bunkers which have recently been set up and to fill in trenches recently dug. The above to be effective from 5.30 A.M. Indian Standard Time on 10th April 1958 in regard to destruction of bunkers and trenches to be filled up by 11th April 1958 at 5.30 A.M. Indian Standard Time.

4. All reinforcement on either side since 1st January, 1958, as well as automatic weapons, including automatic weapons normally held as part of the equipment of the border outposts to be withdrawn by 5.30 P.M. Indian Standard Time on the 11th April 1958. The automatic weapons forming part of the normal equipment of the border outpost may be restored by 10th May 1959, i.e., one month after.

5. The Superintendents of Police of both the countries will hold joint inspection on both sides of the border in order to see that the bunkers have been destroyed and trenches filled in. These joint inspections will start from 12th April 1958 and continue till 19th April 1958.

According to the report received from the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar over the 'phone this morning, although the firing continued till 4 o'clock this morning, i.e., 9th April 1958, it has stopped from 5.30 A.M. The Deputy Commissioner has received reports from all parts except two.

Regarding reports of firing at Pyain in the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills border, the Deputy Commissioner, United Khasi and Jaintia Hills reports that firing is continuing this morning also. He has however contacted the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet and cease fire has been agreed upon with effect from 15.00 hours today.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

Grant Nos.46 and 47

(63.-B—I.—Community Development Projects, National Extension Service, etc.)

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Community Projects): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.25,40,000 (Rupees twenty-five lakhs and forty thousand), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1959 for the administration of the head "63.-B.--I.—Community Development Projects, National Extension Service, etc."

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion moved is that a sum of Rs.25,40,000 (Rupees twenty-five lakhs and forty thousand), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1959 for the administration of the head "63.-B.—I.—Community Development Projects, National Extension Service, etc."

I may inform the House that on the 5th April Grant No. 46 was simply moved. Discussion on both the Grants may take place together.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Sir, I beg to move the following cut motions standing in my name:

That the total provision of Rs.1,17,94,300 under Grant No.46 Major head—63-B.—Community Development Projects, National Extension Service and Local Development works, at page 533 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,17,94,300, do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To discuss about the progress and problems of the Community Development Projects.)

That the total provision of Rs.25,40,000 under Grant No.47, Major head 63-B.—I.—Community Development Projects, National Extension Service and Local Development Works, at page 581 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.25,40,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To discuss about the desirability and possibility of more popular initiative and participation in the Community Development Projects, National Extension Service and Local Development Works.)

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] : Sir, I beg to move my cut motion as follows:

That the total provision of Rs.1,17,94,300 under Grant No.46, Major head—63-B.—Community Development Projects, National Extension Service and Local Development Works, at page 533 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,17,94,300, do stand reduced by Re.1.

1. To discuss about the Government policy of allocation of New Block Area.

2. To discuss the failure of the project authorities to create enthusiasm in the village people about extension works.

3. To discuss the misuse of the money in different Blocks.

4. To raise a discussion about the unnecessary tour and camping of the projects staff.)

Shri HIRALAL PATWARI (Panery): Sir, I beg to move my cut motion:

That the total provision of Rs.1,17,94,300 under Grant No.46, Major head—63-B.—Community Development Projects, National Extension Service and Local Development Works, at page 533 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,17,94,300, do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To raise a discussion on the activities of the Projects.)

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): Sir, I beg to move my cut motions:

That the total provision of Rs.1,17,94,300 under Grant No.46, Major head—63-B.—Community Development Projects, National Extension Service and Local Development Works, at page 533 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,17,94,300, do stand reduced by Re.1.
(To raise a general discussion.)

That the total provision of Rs.25,40,000 under Grant No.47, Major head—63-B.—I.—Community Development Projects, National Extension Service and Local Development Works, at page 581 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.25,40,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To raise the general discussion.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Now I will call on Shri Prabhat Narayan Choudhury to move his cut motion. But I must inform the hon. Members of the House that they will get only 10 minutes to speak.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the Cut motion standing in my name:

That the total provision of Rs.1,17,94,300 under Grant No.46, Major head—63-B.—Community Development Projects, National Extension Service and Local Development Works, at page 533 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,17,94,300, do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To criticise the Government for failure to implement Community Development and National Extension Service properly and systemetically.)

Mr. SPEAKER: All the cut motions are moved above.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY: Sir, in moving my cut motion on Community Projects I want to speak a few words that we should judge how far we have reached the objectives which we propose to achieve within the stipulated period. Of the total proposal of 160 Blocks to cover the whole State, up to date there are altogether 62 Blocks which we have got during these six years from 1952 to 1958 and there remain 98 more Blocks to be implemented during the period up till 31st March 1961. Sir, we have heard from Honble Minister to-day that sanction has been received for starting 6 blocks this year. If the progress of starting the blocks be like

this. how can we expect to fulfil the remaining 98 blocks during the next three years? Sir, it is a question to be seen. Government are committed to cover the whole State, but if this is left unfulfilled what would be the state of affairs in the remaining areas where these Community Development Blocks will not be introduced? Now the objective of these Community Development blocks is to bring about all round development of the rural people by stimulating local initiative and local leadership. The first thing is that the areas have to be surveyed properly based on the needs of the people and the resources available. Programme has to be chalked out to be executed by the people assisted by the advice and guidance of technical personnel of the Government. Here again there are four stages, which according to the Planning Commission, recommendations are to be taken up at pre-extension stage for implementing these projects and for creating conditions for starting the Community Projects. The next is the extension stage, and the other stage, during which basic National Extension Service pattern of staff. Then the next is the intensive development stage for running the Community Development Blocks by providing additional works with additional working funds from the Government funds to be done within three years. Last of all, the post-extension stage during which the basic staff will be continued and the funds will come from the various Development Departments. I do not know how far we have succeeded in the pre-extension measures. We have seen that certain shadow Blocks have been created, but practically no pre-extension measures have been taken. How far we have been successful in these Blocks it is very doubtful. After all, these Blocks shall have to be normalised and given over to the Administrative Departments for their administration. According to the Government report voluntary labour has succeeded in construction of over 3,900 miles of roads and an improvement of 3,500 miles of existing roads and about 3,311 bridges and culverts. But we shall have to be disappointed as a result that these works have not been properly done though shown so for the shake of the report. Considering the actual achievement, I think, the result will be disappointing. Again, according to the report, the work done in the field of production is of a very substantial magnitude. Over 1,15,800 acres of land have been reclaimed by the people which means production of substantial quantity of additional foodgrains in the State. 2,208 minor irrigation projects are reported to have been completed bringing the total number to 14,9,600 acres of land under irrigation. There is no report at all as to how much these

projects have benefited the people in production of additional foodgrains, assuming that there is additional production of foodgrains where these reclamation works have been done. According to the First Five Year Plan, the country had to be self-sufficient in production in food requirements. But even after the end the second year of the Second Five Year Plan, this target has not been achieved. In the Community Projects, the main official is the Project Executive Officer who is assisted by the Extension Officers of the Development and Nation Building Departments and the village level workers called the Gram Sevaks. But, Sir, who are the Project Executive Officers in our State? Those persons who have got backing are appointed as Project Executive Officers irrespective of their past social services. This being the position, these officers become more executive officers than officers who are required to bring about contact with the people and for whose work the people are benefited.

As far as I know, Sir, some of the officers have no contact with the people. There is no proper co-ordination and I can cite such instances. In Rangiya Community Development Block, the period of the service of certain Extension Officer ended in quarrel with the Project Executive Officer who considered himself to be the master of all departments. In the case of Gobardhana N. E. S. Block also the demeanour of the Project Executive Officer presents a sad comentary while going to bring about co-operation or partnership between the Government and the people, the officers lack co-ordination in their work. How is it possible to expect to achieve the result in such a state of affairs? On the contrary, this sets a very bad example to the subordinate officers. Government should be very cautious so that the right type of people are appointed as Project Executive Officers, Extension Officers, and more particularly, the Project Executive Officers. These officers must have antecedents of carrying out social activities before their appointment if the Community Projects are to succeed. Now it is proposed to cover the whole State by the Community Projects and N. E. S. Blocks. It must be admitted that nothing succeeds like success. So in the gradual progress, it would have been wise to select those places where the people are responsive and where the people have got enthusiasm to work in preference to those where the atmosphere is yet to be created. But the selections so far made are in consideration of things rather than these. I want to point out, particularly, in North Kamrup, the entire area covering Pathsala-Tihu and Nalbari where the peoples enthusiasm is already there. In the entire area of Pathsala

to the boundary of Rangiya, no project is proposed to be started. According to the report, the results achieved are just measured in terms of expenditure incurred. The report says that so much of the amount has been spent during such and such period. As I have said, that does not concern us. It is necessary to make an assessment of the physical targets stage by stage in the matter of food production, the achievement of construction of roads and bridges and measures of water supply, education of children, prevention and treatment of diseases. This is not only necessary in respect of Community Development but it is also necessary in other Departments of Government. My suggestion is that there should be attached to every Department including Community Development Department a Financial Adviser to give advice on financial matters, and there should be an Assessment Branch attached to each Department to judge the physical target in comparison with the expenditure incurred. This is all, Sir, I have to say. I therefore, commend the motion for the acceptance of the House.

***Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have already discussed these things in the Estimates Committee. We want to discuss under these heads all those schemes, viz., Community Development projects, Extension Service Blocks and the Community Development Blocks. The aim of starting these Community Blocks and Extension schemes is to transform the entire rural life of the country—the social and economic life of the population which constitute about 71 per cent of the total population. But this was not to be done in a very haphazard way. We can summarise that the essence of democratic planning is the planning in the new context, we find this expression in the Extension Blocks and Community Development Blocks and therefore, the central objective was given high priority in the First Five-Year Plan. But we have seen that the main purpose of having the Community Development Projects was to introduce a multiplying factor in the psychology of the rural population and also in their creative ability and productive ability. So, the whole Plan should be judged from that angle—how far is our attitude to agriculture and how far is the attitude of the community to agriculture. The main purpose as has been formulated by the planners is this. It is useful for a discussion.

The First Five Year Plan has stated thus. "When the different departments of the Government approach the villager, each from the aspects of its own work, the effect on the villagers is apt to be confusing and no permanent impression is created.

The peasant's life is not cut into segments in the way the Government's activities are apt to be ; the approach to the villagers has, therefore, to be a co-ordinated one and has to comprehend his whole life. Such an approach has to be made, not through a multiplicity of departmental officials, but through an agent common at least to the principal departments engaged in rural work.

There has to be a dominant purpose round which the enthusiasm of the people can be aroused and sustained, a purpose which can draw forth from the people and those who assist them on behalf of the Government the will to work as well as a sense of urgency. The aim should be to create in the rural population a burning desire for a higher standard of living—a will to live better'.

The problem is sought to be solved on the basis of self-help and co-operation of the people. Now, the main principle of achieving the objective is to create enthusiasm and a spirit of co-operation among the people. This is not a new thing. Because our people undertake to do out of their own voluntary will, out of their own initiative and free will many such things, such as a village school, a village road and so on. They first construct the school, or the road and afterwards they approach the Education department or the Public Works Department as the case may be either for some recurring help to the School or for taking up of the road by the Public Works Department. But in these Community Development Centres and Extension Blocks initiative of the people is sought to be curbed wherever even there is any. The whole idea of these Community Development Centres and the Extension Blocks is to foster in the minds of the people a spirit of voluntary work, a spirit of service among them to provide for their needs by themselves. Government should only come in for their assistance where and when they cannot provide it by themselves, such as technical assistance, advice of expert technicians, and costly technical materials which the village people can provide by themselves. That is the basic idea. But if we look to the functioning of these Blocks and Centres as it is to-day we find the whole show is run by the Government officers. From all these we find the process of evolution is entirely wrong. I for one cannot agree with this. Some new method of approach, a new perspective is to be placed before them. Where there is already a Panchayat or a Local Board ordinarily some money is already there even from before. At the commencement of the scheme the money was collected by the people and spent for certain community purposes.

Now we find here in our State that we have about 50 Extension Blocks. The schemes here has been divided to section. About a sum of Rs. 7½ lakh of rupees has been spent for these Extension Blocks. Then about Rs. 3 lakhs have been spent for short-term loans for the Community Development Blocks. Over and above this, a sum of Rs. 15 lakhs of rupees has been estimated for all these to be spent in three years. Now it has been decided by the Conference of the Development Commissioners that the Extension Service Blocks will be converted into Community Development Blocks. We find that the greatest emphasis is laid on agricultural. Such an emphasis in a predominantly agricultural country is only quite natural. But one great defect of the scheme is that along with it non-agricultural activities of the people also should have been taken into consideration to make it an integrated whole—a complete scheme in all respect. But unfortunately that has not been done. Sir, this reminds me of an answer given by some students coming from villages. When these young students were asked about the functions of the Extension Block and Community Development Officers, they replied that function of these officers is to live in new and costly buildings: That is the idea of village students about Community Development Officers. In the Community Development Projects or Extension Block areas the initiative is supposed to come from the people in such matters as construction of a bridge or making of a road. But actually what we find there? People do not take any initiative. Sir, these Community Projects and Extension Service Blocks are introducing a new factor in the rural life of the people. They are expected to be conscious of their needs and requirements. But up till now, if we make a survey of the activities of these blocks, we will find that we failed to inculcate in their heart any sense of new responsibilities or new ideas. Each of the rural areas has some tradition of their own, customs and ideals as distinct from the towns. These village communities should be developed according to their own ideals and aspiration—according to their special requirements. In Assam some amount of success has been achieved in some of the Blocks in Cachar district as well in the Risu Belpara. Risu Belpara has been considered as one of the best blocks in the whole of India. If this is the sample of the best block well, then I do not claim to know the condition of the worst block. Any way, Sir, in my opinion in these blocks also success has not been so much due to implementation of the scheme properly by our officers. But the success is due to a sense of comparatively better awareness of their needs and their responsibilities. But we must admit that we have not yet been able to inculcate a spirit of co-operation, of self-help and dignity of labour among the people in all

these project areas. Project Advisory Boards were set up with a view to foster in the people a sense of the value of co-operative work. But unfortunately we find that these Boards are very much official ridden. Of course, there are some representatives of the people. The Deputy Commissioner or the Sub-Divisional Officer is Chairman of these Boards and the Project Executive Officer is the *Ex-officio* Secretary. They monopolise the discussion of the Boards' meetings and the other public representatives in the Boards have very little voice. The result is that the initiative is entirely taken away from the people. Therefore the decisions of these Board do not reflect the opinion of the rural people. Greater participation of the people, of the actual representative of the people in the deliberations of these Boards is to be first ensured if we really want them to serve the purpose for which they are meant. With a view to ensure maximum public co-operation these Boards should be reconstituted where only the people will deliberate and the officials will be there to give concrete shape to the decisions of these Boards. Even after four years of the working of these Projects and Blocks we find the people becoming more and more reliant on the Government. We have not been able to encourage the people to be self-reliant, inculcate in them a spirit of co-operation with a view to enable them to rise equal to the responsibilities sought to be imposed on them.

In some case we find co-ordination is mechanically built up. For example, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department has introduced a new thing in our villages—artificial insemination. Well, it may be successful. But we have to look to the tradition and customs of the people.

In those areas where people do not accept it, it must not be forcibly introduced there. Similarly with regard to piggery, we find in many tribal areas no such things have been opened, but you will find one piggery in a Manipuri area. So the conception of the whole programme is mechanically done without any relation to people's actual needs in a particular area. For this purpose there should be an Evolution Committee and there should be a Research Section in every State for evaluating and changing the schemes in the light of the examination of the various schemes. Now it is a conglomeration of several principles. Some ideas are borrowed from China and Russia, Extension from America, Co-operation from England and Denmark, and applied here without taking into account the habit of our rural life—the people's mode of living, their difficulties, their

tradition and cultural background. That is why it is not working well. So my suggestion is that immediately a Research Section should be opened where these factors should be properly studied and on the basis of this study the whole thing should be planned and executed. On the success of our schemes depends the success of the democratic planning. If it does not succeed it will set a very bad example on our democratic administration, through which we expect to achieve good result. So I request the Government to reconsider the whole question of replanning and implementation of the principles of the schemes in our context, taking into account the peculiarities of our rural areas, their own way of life, before we want to introduce the Japanese method of cultivation. Fertiliser, cashew-nut cultivation, piggery and all that. In this respect, at present we are lacking. Of course it may be very easy for the Minister-in-charge to say in reply that we have constructed so many miles of Katcha roads, so many buildings, so many dispensaries and so on and so forth. It is very easy to quote these figures. (The Bell rang). But these figures by themselves do not speak anything. Of course even through these various programmes something has been done, but we must change the totality of the whole thing, to bring about a change in the rural economy, change in the psychological outlook and conception of the rural population. Therefore from that angle it has failed altogether.

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

***Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla)** Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Friend, Sri Prabhat Narayan Chaudhury, has mentioned about the principle of appointment of the Project Executive Officers. Sir, so far as the Project Executive Officers' appointment is concerned, it was done by a Committee before but since the last year, appointment are being made by the Public Service Commission. Now, Sir, the scheme of Community Project was first introduced in 1952 in the month of October. Since then we have now National Extension Service Blocks. First we had the Community Projects and they have now been developed into National Extension Service Blocks numbering about 62 in our State, and it is hoped that the whole of our State will be covered in course of a few years, so that no village will be left outside the operation of the National Extension Service Blocks. Besides the major projects in India such as the River Valley Projects Hydro-electric Projects, and other schemes, these National Extension Service Blocks and Panchayats are schemes

with which the interests of the people are vitally linked up. Without the whole hearted association and co-operation of the people these schemes will fail. Now the question is whether we have been able to secure the whole hearted support and co-operation of the people? Sir, the enthusiasm of the people was noticed in abundance in 1952. We found that the people were very enthusiastic at the beginning. But when the normalisation took place, we noticed the people's enthusiasm was diminishing. We find that the roads which were constructed by the people under the auspices of the Community Project or National Extension Service Blocks are not now being looked after properly. According to the terms of normalisation, the respective Departments are required to look after the work falling under its jurisdiction. If the Local Boards or the Public Works Department do not take over these roads, they will remain without repair. People are not taking any interest to keep these roads in proper order. They are not interested in their up-keep. This is a very pertinent question. It should engage serious consideration of all. Through the initiative of the rural people at the beginning we constructed many pit latrines, compost pits, irrigation channels, but when these projects were normalised, these enthusiasm went away. It may be that funds are not now available. The people's enthusiasm should not be dependent on the availability of funds from the Government. The main intention of this project is to create people's enthusiasm for their own interest.

We should also see that this enthusiasm, this spirit of participation endures for all times to come; whether there is project or not, we must be able to maintain that spirit all through. If people's enthusiasm is connected with money then we must admit that we have failed to achieve our goal. Then in that case there must be something wrong in our policy. Therefore, this must seriously engage our attention. We must seriously think how we can maintain this enthusiasm through all times to come. Roads were constructed, schools were established, wells were dug, plenty of seeds were distributed and such other things were done and we spent lakhs of rupees on the different items. The charts and diagrams were displayed showing our achievements and targets. Every year more and more money is being spent. No doubt, these things are alright but there is another way of looking at the progress. What is the impact of our plans on the villagers? Have they become conscious of their problems and responsibilities? Are they co-operative and enthusiastic about the work that is being done for them? This calls for an

examination about the social and psychological aspect of planning. Therefore, I say this is the most fundamental thing on which the whole planning has been founded. Now, Sir, the question is whether we have been able to bring about that psychological change in the minds of the people, rather whether we have been able to make the people community minded, whether we have been able to infuse the community feelings in them? If we have succeeded in achieving this, then I can boldly say that our activities have been fruitful. We must therefore, analyse these things and come to a finding. This feeling can be created only if we can give the villagers higher income and more jobs. We should in this respect assess whether we have been able to do this.

Sir, we find people's enthusiasm is gradually diminishing, therefore, we must find out the cause of it. I think absence of effective leadership is one of the major obstacles towards progress. The villagers can do a great deal for improving their lot if only they could have leaders who can bring improvement to their villages. Therefore, in the absence of such leaderships, the people will simply look to the Government for everything and this is against the spirit of community development. Therefore, I would request Government to increase the number of Village Leaders' Camps so that we may be in touch with every one in the village and that every village should have their own leaders so that the people can be apprised of the various problems to discuss among themselves and solve them and this will surely help the entire State. Another thing, Sir, is the democratisation of the Block Advisory Committees as suggested by Balawanta Mehta's Committee. So far as the Present Block Advisory Committee is concerned, it is true that the public representatives are there as, as there are members from Local Boards, Legislature, Co-operatives, etc. There are officials and non-officials, but I would suggest that this committee should be a body of elected persons of the locality so that the members may feel that they have their responsibilities to discharge and at the same time they will take greater interest in creating enthusiasm in the minds of the people which is prerequisite to people's participation in their activities. Therefore, Sir, I say that there should be gradual decentralisation of power and adequate power should be given to the democratised Block Advisory Committees and this is one of the most important things. Another point, Sir, is demonstration and publicity. The people within the Block should be associated with the activities of the project which should be actually demonstrated and explained to the people. For this purpose holding of Kisan melas

be most essential where important agricultural and other activities should be demonstrated. In addition to the above, the Project Officers should seek the co-operation of the members of the Panchayats, M. L. As, members of the Local Boards, Presidents of Co-operatives, etc., and for this purpose the meetings of Project Advisory Committees should be more frequently held to advise the Government how they can make the schemes popular among the people. Now regarding the question of efficiency, Sir, there is delay in sanctioning the different schemes. This should be avoided as far as possible. Another thing I want to impress on the Government is to give more powers to the Deputy Commissioners because for every small matter Project Officer has to come up to Shillong. I am sure Government will consider this aspect of the matter also. Sir, these are some of my suggestions which I may be permitted to submit for the consideration of the Government with a view to create such enthusiasm in the minds of the people as will induce for all times to come. With these few words, Sir, I support the Motion moved by the Minister for Community Projects.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I regret for my inability to support the cut motion moved by my learned Friend Shri Borthakur, in the Opposition. But with regard to certain suggestions I fully agree with him and also with my Friend, Shri Das, that the real enthusiasm which is necessary for the people is not there. I don't say that this enthusiasm is not found everywhere but in some projects which I had the privilege of visiting, the main grievances of the people are that they are not in the know actually what the Community Projects and Extension Service are going to do. The people do not feel that it is their own affair and they should co-operate with it for the all-round development of the community. Some of the officers of these projects also do not mix with the people very frequently; as a result the people feel that these officers are a class by themselves. It has been stressed also in the report of the study team of the Community Development and national extension service that "it must not be crammed by too much control by Government or Government agencies. It must have the power to make mistakes and to learn by making mistakes. But it must also receive guidance which will help it to avoid making mistakes. In the ultimate analysis it must be a means for expression of the local people's will in regard to local development". So, the whole idea of community projects is that initiative should come from the people. Now, whenever any project is established, it is not done in consultation with the leading people of the villages or the leading

people of a particular subdivision or district. As a result what happens? Some of the projects were inaugurated on the 2nd October, 1957, but up till now it is really surprising that no practical work has been started and we find that in some places even the Advisory Committee has not yet been formed. Only recently I find one or two committees have been formed about a fortnight back. So, I suggest that before an area is going to be taken under National Extension Service, a committee should be formed in each subdivision to advise the Government regarding what area is to be taken in the N. E. S. (Shri Ramnath Sarma:—The Development Committee is there). Yes, the Subdivisional Development Committee is there, but I don't think any suggestion has come from that committee, at least in my district. So, Sir, the blocks which were inaugurated on 2nd October last, *i.e.*, six or seven months ago, when people see that no work has been done they become disappointed. I suggest that whenever a block is taken by Government, they should make earnest endeavours to start the work as early as possible so that the people might feel that our Government are really doing something for their upliftment.

Then, Sir, in this connection I would like to mention that that the area which is covered by N. E. S. or Community Development Block appears to be very large. The area should be reduced as far as possible, because in a large area it is not possible for the officers to move about from village to village and from house to house in order to give advice to the people. So, the work of these projects cannot be carried out as speedily as it should be. There are other matters also which have already been pointed out by my Friend, Mr. Das.

Then, Sir, regarding delay in sanctions, the other day also I mentioned on the floor of the House that in a certain development block there are poor peons who have not received their pay for one year because there was no financial sanction. Government should, therefore, try to expedite sanctions so that works may be done smoothly in those areas. In this connection, Sir, I would like to point out here that in the report on the study team it has been mentioned "a serious cause of dislocation of work and consequent wastage is the cause of delay in the issue of financial sanctions". I would like to draw the attention of the Government to this. Secondly, Sir, there is another line in the report: "We have to bear in mind that community development is not achieved by mere increase of the number of blocks. The increase in number

should be accompanied by efficient work and this is conditioned by various factor. which have to be explained to the people". That is why I submit, Sir, that the area should not be too large and unmanageable; it should be reduced to a smaller size so that we can get better work.

Before I conclude, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge to the duties allotted to the Gram Sevaks. These Gram Sevaks are the real workers in Community Projects and N. E. S. Blocks. Unfortunately, however, they are saddled with so many works that it is not possible or practicable for a human being to discharge all these responsibilities properly.

Mr. SPEAKER: They seem to be the nearest approach to supermen in this country !

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi): That is why, Sir, more Gram Sevaks should be appointed and the area allotted to each should be reduced so that efficient work can be done by them.

With these few words, I support the motion moved by the Hon'ble Minister. Thank you, Sir.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN AHMED (Minister, Community Projects): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcome the criticisms which have been levelled in the course of discussion on demands for the Community Development and National Extension Service works. I do so for three reasons.

In the first place, the interest which has been evinced and the concern which has been shown by the hon. Members both regarding the failure or success of these projects have clearly indicated the importance which the hon. Members attach to these works. Sir, this is as it should be. The only thing which I should like to say in this connection is that the importance attached and the interest taken in respect of these matters should not only be confined to the four walls of this House, but also taken outside. I have no doubt that if in these works we have similar interest and co-operation as I have been able to notice from criticisms which have been made, we shall be able to make a great headway.

Secondly, I welcome the criticisms because these have given me a clear picture of the views of the hon. Members they have given me a clear idea of the particular sphere in

which the Department has not been working properly and they have given me a clear idea of the manner in which the programme need modification according to our particular needs and circumstances. We shall keep these criticisms in mind and we shall try to utilise all the valuable suggestions given by the hon. Friends. In this connections I may particularly mention that very valuable contributions have been made by my Friends, Shri Nilmoney Barthakur and Shri Mohikanta Das. I am really obliged to them for the thoughts they have given to these problems and the manner in which they have expressed their views.

Thirdly, I welcome the criticisms because they gave me the opportunity in the short space of time which is at my disposal to place before the hon. Members, on behalf of Government what action we propose to take in future. As has already been informed by the Chief Minister and also by me in the course of discussion on the Governor's address that we had the opportunity of discussing these matters at some length with the Union Minister, Mr. S. K. Dey, when he came to Assam. He was pleased to discuss these projects from all points of view after he had personally inspected some of our Blocks in Assam. I shall place before the House some of the valuable suggestions which he has given to us after his return to Delhi and also the information as to the extent we have been able to accept those suggestions. That will provide relief and assurance to the House that we are actually taking steps in these matters and we do mean that these programmes should become successful.

Sir, perhaps, the hon. Members are aware that after the visit of the Union Minister from Delhi, and the discussion with us Shri Dey has sent a team of experts to Assam. This team of experts has been touring in our State for the last few days and some of them are now at Shillong. The team of experts from the Ministry of Community Development consists of the Secretary, Joint Secretary of the department and experts in charge of Agriculture Animal Husbandry, Cottage Industries, Women's Programmes, Social Education, Medical and Public Health, and Khadi and Village Industries, etc. Sir, I am sure that these hon. Friends who have come from Delhi after they have visited some of our centres and discussed various problems with our officers will be able to give us further necessary information and advice.

Sir, in order to comprehend our task we have first of all to understand the basic purpose of the Community Development and the National Extension Service programmes. Sir, a clear conception of this basic purpose has been given in the Planning Commission's Report. The Report has described these Community Development and National Extension Service programmes as the method through which the Five Year Plans will be made successful, a method through which transformation of the social and economic life of the villages will be brought about. If so, what is this method? The method is nothing more than a process of development of an area through people's own democratic effort. If this fact is borne in mind, I shall very humbly submit that so far as Government is concerned the contribution or the part to be played by the Government is not so important as the part which is to be played by the non-officials including political parties in our State and our country. So far as the Government is concerned, the Government, in order to make the programme successful, can only help with technical guidance, and assistance, with supplies and credit. I must point out that so far as implementation of the programme in order to attain our objectives are concerned it must be implemented through the efforts of the non-officials and non-official organisations. In this connection, I may be pardoned if I emphasise that so far as non-officials are concerned and so far as our political parties are concerned they have not attached the deserving importance to this work. Now if our purpose is that economic condition of a community living in a village has to be improved, that has to be attempted not by the imposition of will from the Government, but through a process of thinking, planning collaboration, work and co-operation of the people living in that area. My fear is that we have not utilised these basic principles in the proper manner. Take for instance, the Subdivisional Development Committees or Project Advisory Committees—my complaint is that these Subdivisional Development and Project Advisory Committees have not been functioning in the proper manner. They do not give their serious thought to the problem of work before them. Why, what is the reason? The reason is this, that these Committees are comprised of nominated persons like Members of the Legislature, Members of Local Boards and in some places influential public men and so on and so forth. I consider that so far these Committees are concerned, if we are to achieve our objective, the present procedure of appointment is not the proper method of setting up these Committees. The proper approach will be that in the areas where these Committees are to function the people belonging to the locality themselves should elect suitable persons to these

Committees. At present so far as self-governing institutions are concerned, apart from the Legislature, in many places we have only the Local Boards and the Municipalities. I am afraid these Local Board Boards and Municipalities have also not been able to give as much thought to these matters as they ought to have done. Therefore, we consider it necessary that in place of the Local Boards, we must bring into existence such organisations and such bodies as will reflect the views of the people of the locality as to the manner in which they want to improve their areas. For that purpose Government is coming forward with a Bill to set up Union Panchayats and other subordinate Panchayats which will replace the Local Boards. But before that Act comes into existence and before these bodies are set up, non-officials belonging to different political parties have also a very important part to play and that part is that they should from now on train our people and educate them with regard to the programme which we have in hand. If leaders of the different political parties in our country start to explain and educate the people in all these things from now on, I have no doubt in my mind whatsoever that people living in the villages through education and training will be able to send to these Bodies such representatives as will be able to deliver the goods. I can tell you, Sir, that so far as I am concerned and the present Government is concerned, we have no intention whatsoever to centralise power in these matters at Shillong; we want to decentralise all the activities to the lowest level. When this is proposed to be done, the people in the villages as well as these representatives should also be made to realise their responsibilities. Therefore, I submit Sir, that if we are to proceed on proper lines and if we intend to achieve our objectives, there is no other way but to proceed through the elected representatives of the people living in the villages and to provide necessary training to those representatives who will come to man these elected bodies.

Sir, so far as our work hitherto accomplished by these projects is concerned, I own that it has not reached our expectation. In some places it is really very bad. Sir, when I am prepared to own in this manner our failures, I think my Friends who have given us such valuable suggestions and also others should be prepared to own their fault. I own that there has not been proper co-ordination and co-operation so far as our officers and departments are concerned. Till now it has been considered by our officers in the Community Project and National Extension Service Schemes that they are something like a separate Department, that they have no duty to discuss matters of their concern

with members of other departments. In the same way officers of other departments have more or less treated this department as entirely different, as something in respect of which they have no responsibility and duty to perform. So, it is this lack of co-ordination that notwithstanding a wonderful start given at the beginning of this programme, we cannot say that we have made the necessary progress. Therefore, while there has been failure on the part of Governmental machinery or on the part of those who were entrusted with the work of these projects, there has not been a full realisation of significance and importance of the schemes and co-operation on the part of non-officials and political organisations. They also have a very important part to play and a duty to perform so far the success of these programmes are concerned.

Sir, as I have said, the duty of Government is to provide technical personnel and provide other things such as to give credit wherever there is such a demand. But what is the use of providing all these things if the people are not prepared to avail themselves of these opportunities and utilise the opportunities afforded to them? For that purpose a psychology has to be brought about and the people have to be told that what is intended to be done through these programmes it is done for their own benefit.

Sir, in this connection, I may also be pardoned if I say that so far as the question of contribution by village people of the locality is concerned, the contribution is also not obtained on proper and equitable basis. I have not had the privilege of looking very carefully and examining the works in these projects—I shall do so as soon as the Assembly Session is over. But from what general observation I have been able to make, I find that in some areas some of the rich people, I mean those people who can afford to make contributions in cash or kind, try to make their contributions by giving something in cash or kind while others who depend for their livelihood on their daily wages, contribute by labour. I submit, Sir, that in order to bring about a complete success of these programmes it must be insisted upon that all contributions and sacrifice which they involve must be equal and equitable. I personally feel that there is nothing bad, for a person, who has money to contribute by labour. To contribute by work along with his other fellow-villagers, who have no money, will ensure greater success of these programmes. For this also a propaganda has to be done by us so that the village people may co-operate

with each other to bring about the success of programme which entirely depends on the co-operative efforts of all the people in the areas. This psychological change has to be inculcated in the minds of the people. Now, Sir, I am sorry, I have 10 minutes more. I shall, therefore, during this time place before the hon. Members the suggestions we have secured from the Union Ministry—and the extent to which we have accepted them. The acceptance of some suggestions are in respect of some of those aspects regarding which criticism have been levelled by my Friends. Sir, in the opinion of the Union Minister, the appointment of a full-time Development Commissioner and Planning Secretary is essential. Till now, it has been the practice that the Chief Secretary of the Government was also the Development Commissioner with the result that the Chief Secretary had little time to spare to this work. Therefore, the Union Minister has thought it necessary to recommend that this arrangement should be terminated and the work of community development should be intrusted to a Development Commissioner who will be able to give his time to this work. We have already decided to accept this suggestion. A full-time Development Commissioner-cum-Planning Secretary, as recommended has been appointed. I may inform the hon. House that Shri A. N. Kidwai, one of our senior officers and a capable officer, who is also a confirmed Commissioner of Divisions, has been appointed as Development Commissioner. He will take up this work as soon as Shri S. K. Datta, the permanent Chief Secretary, returns from leave by the end of this month. The second suggestion is that regular meetings of the State Development Board and the State Development Committee should be held. Sir, in this connection, I may also inform the House that formerly only a few members of the Cabinet constituted a State Development Board. But now we have decided that all the Members of the Cabinet will be Members of the State Development Board and there will be frequent meetings, at least once a month, between the State Development Board and the State Development Committee. This will enable us to know what is actually happening, whether we are making progress and whether any defective working calls for notification. Mr. Dey has also given a very good suggestion that the Department budget should be broken departmentwise and Blockwise. After giving our careful consideration to this suggestion we have accepted this proposal. Mr. Dey has also suggested the setting up of Planning Cells in Animal Husbandry, Co-operative, Minor Irrigation in the Development and National Extension Service Departments which will be responsible for looking after the programme in the National Extension Service

and Community Development Blocks. This proposal will be responsible for looking after the programme both in the National Extension Service and Community Development Blocks. The suggestion has been accepted. In fact there is already a Planning Cell in each Development Department but this will be expanded for the purpose envisaged by the Central Minister. For the present, wherever the staff of the Planning Department is inadequate, the Department will examine and come up with a proposal for an increase, if necessary. The Central Minister has also advised to set up staff cell in these Departments and that suggestion is also being accepted. He has also advised us to appoint a Director of Training in the Department of Agriculture for supervision of Training Centres and for looking after them. The proposal to abolish the post of Deputy Director in the Community Department has been accepted. It is accepted that the training should be severely practical and that the syllabus should be re-orientated and this should be given due consideration. Mr. Dey has also advised us to have a statistical cell. We have decided to set up a statistical cell. The staff dealing with administrative intelligence in the Development Department will be immediately transferred to the Director of Statistics.

Now, Sir, another important suggestion which has been given to us and which has been also discussed in the course of criticism by the hon. Members is regarding the delegation of financial powers to Block Development Officers. This is a matter about which we are giving serious consideration, we have referred this suggestion to Finance. I personally feel that there should be no difficulty for the Finance Department in accepting proposal to delegate such powers. I do feel that such delegation is necessary, and through this delegation we will be able to carry the work of the Development and N.E.S. schemes more speedily and more effectively. Sir, I would have liked to reply to other suggestions made by different Members. But I have only two minutes more.

Mr. SPEAKER : You can have a few minutes more.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Community Projects) : So far as Mr. Prabhat Narayan Choudhury's observation is concerned, he was very critical that though large mileage of roads was constructed, that have not been properly constructed. What he says is to a great extent true. This is because we were in a hurry to do the work of construction of roads without realising or making provision as to what would happen to these roads after construction.

The only way to keep these roads in good condition is that some arrangement has to be made for taking these roads within the proper Administrative Department. This is a matter about which we shall have to give our consideration and see that the roads are kept in good condition. So far as the increase of production is concerned, I cannot give the exact figures but the establishment of these projects has resulted in some increase. To what extent the production has increased, we have no figures. But for the hon. Member to assume that because we are not self-sufficient and because we have to look for food elsewhere and therefore, the projects have not resulted in production, is not the correct way. Our self-sufficiency depends on many other factors besides the increase of production in these areas.

Adjournment

Mr. SPEAKER : It is now 12-30. The House stands adjourned till 2 p. m. and the Hon'ble Minister will resume his reply in the afternoon sitting.

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

After lunch

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Community Projects): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was referring to the speech made by the Shri Prabhat Narayan Choudhury. One of the points raised by him was that so far only 62 Blocks have been opened and therefore he expressed the doubt whether by the end of the Second Five-Year Plan we shall be able to complete the programme. Sir, for the information of the hon. Member I may say that the target of the total number of Blocks to be opened by the end of the Second Five-Year Plan is 160 and for the period of the Second Five-Year Plan only is 125. But now the Naga Hills District has formed a separate Unit, this target is likely to be reduced by 8 or 10 blocks. I may inform the hon. Members of the House that the work is not to be completed by the end of the Second Five-Year Plan but is to be continued till after three years after the Second Five-Year Plan. Therefore a phased programme has been drawn up and it is expected that we shall be able to complete the work within that period.

So far as the criticism made by my Friend, Shri Nilmoney Barthakur is concerned, he has stressed that emphasis should be laid on agriculture. I entirely agree with him that as bulk of our population live in villages and on agriculture, the problem

has to be faced from that point of view, we shall keep his suggestion in view and see that it is given preference and importance in our programme.

Then Shri Barthakur also complained that in all the District and Subdivisional Advisory Committees, it is the Deputy Commissioner and Subdivisional Officer who monopolises the discussions. It may be or may not be so. But one thing should be borne in mind why should the members of Development Boards allow the Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers to monopolise the discussions? I think it is for the Members of the District and Subdivisional Committees to see that their view points are fully expressed and accepted. I am afraid, if the members do not attend and play their part properly, the Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers will naturally get the opportunity to monopolise the discussions. My own information is that some of the members do not attend meetings of these Development Boards and that those who go there, do so unprepared and do not make any contribution when the schemes of work are placed before them. I should like the members to take active and effective part in all these discussions and I want that the initiative in these matters should come from the members and not from the officials. We shall issue instructions to the officers concerned that due weight should be given to the opinions expressed by the non-officials.

Shri Barthakur was also pleased to give a suggestion with regard to research. I may inform the hon. Member that it is a good suggestion and was also mooted at the Development Commissioners' Conference. The Ministry of Community Development has informed us that such an institution is being set up for the purpose of research.

My Friend, Shri Mohikanta Das, has complained about appointment of officers. Sir, I must confess that the first few appointments which were made by the Selection Board were not satisfactory but now all these appointments will be made by the Public Service Commission. In the past some persons, who were not very well qualified, were appointed by Selection Board, but when we have to go by the opinion of the Public Service Commission now, we need have no apprehension in this regard. One thing, however, must be realised, that for 30 posts there were about eight hundred applications, and if out of these eight hundred applications, the Public Service Commission is not able to pick up such persons as we need for our purpose, that speaks surely of the material we have in Assam

rather than of the method of selection. The same hon. Member has given another suggestion to the effect that we should take steps for starting village leaders training camps. I may inform the Members that steps are being taken, and recently our Chief Minister inspected one of such camps. Government will see that more of these camps are opened up where village leaders can be trained up.

I am also much obliged to him for giving the suggestion that the programmes of the Project Advisory Committees should be revitalised. In this connection I may inform the hon. Member that Government have already set up a Consultative Committee. In fact this Committee had already held one informal discussion and is again going to meet towards the end of this month. All these matters will be placed and the Members of the Committee including Shri Das will get opportunities to give us their valuable suggestions. We shall then be able to hear from him as from other members of the Committee as to how the Project Advisory Committees can be revitalised.

Shri CHATRASING TERON [Mikir Hills West (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Is it at State level or at the District level ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Community Projects): The Advisory Committees which has been constituted consists of members of the Legislature both from the Government Benches as well as Members of the Opposition parties.

Now, so far as the criticism of my Friend, Mr. Hazarika, is concerned, I have no hesitation in admitting the charge levelled by him against some blocks which were inaugurated on the second of October, 1957. It is true that work there is very slow. I do not know who is to be blamed. I am told there had been some delay on account of the fact that there was some dispute regarding the place where the block is to be established. Any way, I shall keep his observation in view and I shall see that the work is speeded up in that area. But it is not correct for him to say that decisions are taken without consulting the Subdivisional Development Committees. We always give consideration to the opinion expressed by members of the Subdivisional Committees regarding the establishment of the Blocks and I can tell the hon. Member that so far as I am concerned I shall guide the policy and leave these matters of details to be worked out by the Subdivisional Development Committees. Government will not impose a place

where a particular Block is to be established, it is only for the members of the Committee to take such decisions and I hope they use discretion in this matter in a manner as they community of a the nation as a whole may benefit. He has also expressed his opinion that the area of these Blocks is large and should be reduced. I think, the area of the Blocks is not large and it can easily be managed. What actually should be done is that more local subordinate officers should be appointed in those Blocks in order to carry out the work efficiently. That matter is under our consideration and we are going to accept the suggestion that more such officers are appointed so that they may look after the work more efficiently.

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding): You mean more Gram Sevaks ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Community Projects): Yes, more Gram Sevaks will be appointed in those Blocks.

So far as the complaint of delay made by Mr. Hazarika is concerned, we have already taken action on the complaints regarding delay. We shall see that all the Departments look after their work efficiently and properly.

It is not possible within this short space to refer to all the suggestions which have been given by my hon. Friends and I have tried to deal with as many of them as possible. Most of these suggestions have also been covered by my general observations. If any of them has been omitted in my reply, I can assure the hon. Members that I shall consider them after going through the proceedings and shall also ask our officers to look into all those criticisms and suggestions very carefully.

With these words I request the hon. Members who have moved these cut motions to withdraw their motions.

(All the cut motions were by withdrawn leave of the House).

Mr. SPEAKER: Now the question is that a sum of Rs.1,17,94,300 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the

year ending 31st March, 1959, for the administration of the head—"63.-B.—Community Development Projects, National Extension Service, etc".

(The Motion was adopted).

The question is that a sum of Rs.25,40,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1959 for the administration of the head—"63.-B.—I.—Community Development Projects, National Extension Service, etc.".

(The Motion was adopted).

Grant No.28

("47.—Miscellaneous Departments").

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour): On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs.11,79,600 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1959 for the administration of the head—"47.—Miscellaneous Departments".

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved is that a sum of Rs.11,79,600 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1959 for the administration of the head—"47.—Miscellaneous Departments".

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.5,25,640, under Grant No.28, Major head—"47.—Miscellaneous Departments, Minor head—B.—Labour (total), at page 442 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1. i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.11,79,600, do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To criticise the policy and functions of the Labour Department).

That the provision of Rs.1,13,700 under Grant No.28, Major head—47.—Miscellaneous Departments, Minor head—A.—Inspectorate of Factories (total), at page 439 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.11,79,600, do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To criticise the ineffectiveness of the Inspectorate of Factories).

Mr. SPEAKER: All the cut motion are moved as above.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Sir, with the progress of time and the progress of the Second Five-Year Plan, the Department of Labour is playing and is bound to play an increasingly important role in our national life and it is now high time that this Department of Labour is made a district Department instead of being tagged to that conglomeration known as "Miscellaneous Departments".

Mr. SPEAKER: I am glad that the hon. Member has brought this to my notice. They should have mentioned the names of the Ministries concerned. My Secretary has taken note of it.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Very much obliged.

This added importance to this Department of Labour is not only in the interest of the working class but in the interest of the country as a whole. The working population in the country is increasing and will increase and their active and willing participation in the development of the national projects will determine whether we shall be able to realise the core of our plan, whether we shall be able to realise the physical targets of the plan. You can drag a horse to water but you cannot make it drink. You can by very harsh code of discipline keep the workers hard-pressed but you cannot make them give their best. That is, until and unless they feel that they have got an ideal for which they are fighting, they have got an aim which they must reach and they have got a future which they must build, you cannot get the best out of them. That enthusiasm may come to the workers only when true socialism at least in principle becomes appreciable to them from the actions that they see all around. In this connection I must say that so far as our Labour Department is concerned, up till now the view has been as though discipline is only one way traffic, as though it is only the working class who are to strictly adhere to the discipline and as though the employers are free to do whatever they like, to run the industry as they please, to close it down whenever they are so disposed. Now in the development of the country, when discipline is to be enforced, the Government, particularly the Labour Department, should see that not only the working class, but also the industrialists, the employers also adhere to discipline and that there is no harassment or illegal or unjust dismissal either of

the worker or that due to the fault of a particular worker of other innocent members of his family do not suffer. In this respect the State as an employer has a role to play. The State itself should set example to other employers because there lies the old proverb—"Example is better than precept". If the workers working in the State concerns are not properly treated then the other industrialists will also feel that they must also follow suit. We also see that the position of the workers in the State enterprises is far from what it should be. Now, it is a pleasant thing to see that our Labour Minister is one who is a veteran Trade Unionist, not only of repute in India but also with an international reputation and we hope and believe that under his stewardship this Department of Labour in our State will set an example for the whole of India, particularly as he was the General Secretary of the Plantation Workers, we hope and believe that he will be able to set a new standard of life for the Plantation workers and these workers being one of the most down-trodden sections of the Indian working classes will not only be grateful to the Minister but other sections of the Indian working class also will be able to take a lesson from that. I beg to request the Minister to see that the recommendations of the 8th Session of the Industrial Committee for Plantation be fully implemented in Assam. I hope that Assam will be the first State to implement them in toto. I also hope that the recommendations that were given in the 4th Session of the Regional Committee of the International Labour Organisation are also implemented here in Assam. I think, I shall not be quite out of place if I quote a few lines from what Sri V. K. R. Menon, Director of the International Labour Organisation Branch in India said in this connection. He said—"Without industrial peace, economic advance is not possible in India at the present juncture" and also he said—"the labour-management relation is admittedly an important subject to all countries and is also one of the specific items of the agenda of the 4th Asian Regional Conference which is concluded only in November last". He also urged that there must be sufficient democratisation in the management of the industries and the workers should be allowed to play their rightful role in these industrial matters. I hope, Sir, that our Government will bear this in mind and will move in that direction. Sir, so far as the working class in our country is concerned only a small part of it is organised whether they belong to the A. I. T. U. C., I. N. T. U. C. or the Hind Mazdoor Sangha or whatever that may be. The position is that the vast masses of our working class are still unorganised. There is a great field

for all these Central Organisations to go and mobilise the workers for not only getting them acquainted with their economic rights but also to enthuse them to play their role in building the nation, that is to say, for playing their citizenship and political rights. The Government I hope will see that so far as the Labour Department is concerned, it does not in any way show any special favour or disfavour to any of these four main Central Trade Union Organisations. As a matter of fact, I do not see any reason why there should be any effort on the part of any of these Organisations to pull the other down. There is a vast unorganised field. Any organisation can go and organise the unorganised workers and that will be a contribution to the cause of the nation, to the good of the working class. Let there be a healthy competition among the different central organisations for better work and let Government encourage that competition wherever possible. Let Government not show any particular favour or disfavour to any particular organisation, because so far as Trade Unionism is concerned, if the Government do not instil that spirit it will not grow in our country. It should not be used as a political adjunct of a particular political party. If we try to do so, then Trade Unionism will not grow in our country in a healthy line. Sir, without going into the details I can say with all humility and yet with firmness that we have watched and found that during the last four or five years Government have developed a bias towards a particular Organisation and antipathy towards others, and this has polluted to a very great extent the healthy atmosphere of Trade Unionism. This has retarded the growth of healthy trade unionism in our State. At the time of granting registration to a new Union, we see the same thing. It may be that there are certain provisions in the law in the Trade Union Act which require to be amended and the Labour Department is quite free to send their recommendations to Government of India for such amendments. But so long as the Act is not amended, the provisions that are in the Trade Union Act should be observed by the Labour Department without any partiality, without bringing any weight or hindrance in the formation of Trade Unions. For example, I do not see why if there is a provision particularly when a number of workers if want to organise into a Union and if the requisite number is there, why should the Labour Department hesitate to register that Union, if it does not come through a particular central organisation or if on enquiry made by them it is found that it does not belong or is not backed by a particular Trade Union Organisation. I have got it

from my own personal knowledge that a particular Union is formed more with the backing or favour of a particular central organisation and in case of others there is a great deal of delay and hindrance created by the Labour Department of our Government. We also find that there is unnecessary demand of calling for an entire membership list, not only the membership list even their signatures are wanted. Sir, when only seven persons can apply for membership I don't understand why the Labour Department should insist on the full list of members before the union is granted the registration ; after all, when the union is registered the members may apply for membership if they so like to join that union. In this connection, I would like to say that there is a great deal of obstruction on the part of the employers in the matter of forming unions. I know of many such cases, when there was a demand from the workers to form a union, the employers will try to put some obstruction on their way and in some cases the employers try to form their own unions so that they may be able to keep such unions in their pockets. In this way, Sir, there is a great deal of delay for the real union in getting registration. Then, Sir, regarding settlement of cases, we have seen when the Labour Officers who are also Conciliation Officers failed to bring about any settlement and when the workers want that it should be referred to a Tribunal or Labour Court then the Labour officers often would not send the cases for adjudication. In this connection I can refer the case of the Jorhat Tea Company where the workers after the conciliation proceedings had failed wanted the Labour Officer to send it to the Tribunal ; but so far as our Labour officers are concerned, in our State they are not in the know of the existing condition of our country. It is said that Kalidas came out as a great scholar after a dip in the Saraswati Kunda, so also our Labour officers after having had some "training" in the United Kingdom and other foreign places come back with profound "wisdom" no matter whether they are in the know of the existing condition of our country or not. These people with the experience that they get in foreign places, want to transplant the same thing to Indian condition. In this connection, Sir, as an example I would like to say that there is a provision for maternity benefit and therefore, in the pre-natal stage the woman is required to be examined by a doctor and to get a certificate of the doctor. This is quite common and natural in England and other foreign countries. The mother should think for her own interest and also for the interest of the baby in the womb ; so she should have periodical examination by the doctor. But here in our country so far

as Mundas and other people working in the tea gardens are concerned, these women think that it is their duty to be modest and to suffer rather than to go to the doctor to have themselves examined in the prenatal stage. But the Labour officers insist a medical certificate even in the prenatal state. Therefore, I say, that our Labour Officers have certain understanding about Indian condition. Instead of advising the Government to adapt the law suitable to Indian condition he would go the other way of giving or pronouncing his statement in a different way not suitable to Indian condition. All these things are there and sometimes it so happens that it was very difficult to predict whether it was 6 or 7 or 4 months time. Therefore, I say there should be some amount of leniency on the part of our Labour Officers so far as our poor Indian women are concerned. If our Labour Officer or Labour Inspector could have had some sort of objective regarding the condition of our country, they could have advised our Government to adapt such laws as are suitable to Indian condition. Then another thing Sir. We see that these Labour Officers are sometimes compelled by circumstances to use the vehicles of the employers. For example, these Labour officers have got vast areas to travel, but they have no vehicle of their own and the position in our country is such that up till now we have not been able to develop it up to the social standard so in some places there is no bus or vehicle available. As far as there are State buses they can take the opportunity of using them when available ; but in this connection I would like to say that as our Ministers and Deputy Ministers would not like to board the State bus considering it to be beneath their dignity, so the Labour officers also are prone to avoid them because they feel it below their dignity to board a common bus. Now these Labour officers have got a long way to go and no vehicle is provided to them. Therefore they become compelled to use the vehicles of the employers directly or indirectly. When our officers are using the vehicles of the employers there must be some sort of obligation towards the cause of the employers and naturally these Labour Officers are imputed with that motive and in the circumstances the amount which they have to work make them more friends of the employers than the friends of the labourers. These officers will naturally be more responsive for the employers than the labourers. If the Government cannot provide vehicles to these officers, let them not be blamed for showing some sort of obligation to the employers but let it be admitted that whatever justice is expected of them to be done to the labourers is definitely not done. Another thing we see in the different conciliation proceedings is that

circumstances compel workers to come to the Labour Department more and more but as it appears, the Labour Department or I may say that the Labour Commissioner or his office is not showing very sympathetic attitude towards the workers because when they go to have any conciliation or any negotiation the authorities of the department behave in unsympathetic and bureaucratic manner. This is perhaps due to a class consciousness. The Labour Department officers belong not to the working class, but to the exploiting class. But whatever may be the class distinction, the workers generally feel that the Babus or the Sahibs have come and the very presence of the Labour officers does not give any confidence to the workers that these people have come to do justice for the workers. They feel that they have come to safeguard the interest of the employers. Sir, these officers are regarded by the workers as Hakims or Baraloks and that is attributed to this class distinction and this can be removed. After all in a democratic country, in a socialistic pattern of society, capitalistic bias of the Labour Department should go. After all, so far as the Labour Department is concerned, definitely it is their duty to see primarily to the legitimate interests of the labourers. In spite of the fact that Government is expected to be impartial as between labour and capital so far as this particular Department is concerned, it is expected to consider with sympathy and with love the problems of labour, their aspirations and their demands.

Just at this moment, Sir, there are certain demands to which I would like to draw the attention of the Labour Department and to request them to see how far these demands are justified and how far they can be realised with the help of the Government. I for one feel that unless and until these demands are met, the working class will not feel enthused to play their rightful role in the development of the society. One of such demands is the proper fixation of wages of the workers through wage boards. At present there is no such machinery whereby the different sections of the workers employed in different types of activities are assured of a wage which is commensurate with the norm of work to which he has to adhere. In this connection I should also submit that there should be revision and re-fixation of the minimum wages on the basis of the need norms accepted by the fifteenth Indian Labour Conference. I need not elaborate this because so far as I remember our Labour Minister was perhaps one of the members of that conference. He knows that there was a norm fixed in that conference and our Government should at least re-fix and revise the minimum wage on the basis of the recommendations of that conference.

Now, Sir, there is another demand of the workers that in view of the rise in prices and the rising cost of living index, there should be at least a 25 per cent increase in their wages and there should also be a minimum granted bonus for the workers. Of course, at the present moment it may not be possible for the employers to give a sufficiently big bonus, but at any rate at least $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent bonus can be assured to the workers. Government should see to that.

Then, Sir, there is also another thing to which I should like to draw the attention of the Labour Department. There was some kind of correspondence in the newspapers and also some kind of agitation, particularly in Jorhat with regard to the question of national savings certificates. I am glad that the different trade union centres in Assam have all agreed that they should persuade the workers to purchase national savings certificates with a part of their bonus. I think that this sort of capital formation by the workers, in the interest of the State, should be done by persuasion and propaganda and never by any kind of intimidation or pressure. I am of course glad to see that this time Government in this matter did move in a manner which is better than in previous years. There should also be a comprehensive and integrated social security scheme covering all possible contingencies. Here for certain contingencies we have got a social security scheme, but the Labour Department should see that it is made comprehensive and all possible contingencies are brought within its scope. There should also be some kind of improvement and that improvement should be immediate—with regard to the Employees' State Insurance Scheme. There should also be rigid adherence by the employers to the particular provisions agreed upon at the 15th Indian Labour Conference. We have seen that in some of our Assam Tea Garden's the management give a threat of closure as soon as the workers agitate for getting their rightful demands fulfilled. Government should see that this kind of intimidation or threat may not be there on the part of the employers. After all, the workers must be given the amenities which have been decided upon by the joint conference of the employers, employees and the Government. There should also be a statutory provision against the managements for *mala fide* closure; such closures are very often here and there. In this case discipline does not come into play; discipline comes only in the case of the workers. There should also be proper implementation of labour legislations, awards and agreements and, if necessary, for this purpose our Government should move the Union Government to suitably amend the Constitution so

that the workers may not be deprived of their just rights by the intervention of courts. I feel that unless and until there is some amendment of the Constitution itself this may not be possible. Of course, this is a matter which is not strictly within the purview of this Government, but the Government can move the Union Government for making suitable amendment of the Constitution, if necessary. Particularly in Assam, where we have got several lakhs of plantation workers and some of their very legitimate rights are threatened as a result of the latest award of the Supreme Court, there should also be some amendment and revision of the standing orders because after the amendment of the Labour Relations Bill this sort of amendment has become necessary. Some of the standing orders were made before amendment of the Act. Now, in view of the amendment, the previous standing orders have become out of date and at the time of making amendment of these standing orders, the unions or the representatives of the workers should be consulted because at the initial stage, *i.e.*, at the time of making these standing orders in many places proper representation of the workers was not there though there is a provision in the Act for representation of Labour also in the matter of preparation of the standing orders.

Lastly, Sir, I should like to impress upon the Labour Department to see that so far as disputes between the labour and capital are concerned, the Police should not immediately rush in because, after all, the tradition in our country of the use of the police force up till now is not a very healthy one. When there is a dispute and some police force stands by, the people generally do not consider them as very welcome guests. The people feel that when the Police have come they must have come on behalf of the employers, even if the Police be quite impartial. Apart from that, Sir, the Police have got many other duties to perform and they should not come whenever there is an industrial dispute, so long as there is no breach of peace or imminent danger of breach of peace. In these matters of employers and employees dispute, the Police force should not be brought in. I can give instances galore where there has been use of Police force, and even use of the executive force, in the very district of Darrang from which the Labour Minister comes. There have been many cases where the Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of Police have unduly interfered with the trade union activities of some trade unions. They have unduly invoked section 107 or 141 of the Criminal Procedure Code. I would request the Government to see that these things are stopped.

Then, so far as the specific subjects which are concerned in my Cut Motions, I do not like to go into details of these because the time at my disposal is limited. But one thing I should like to submit is that there is from the Government side one Inspectorate of Factories. Can the Minister assure this to the House that so far as the rules and regulations of the factories are concerned, that is to say those factories where 12 or more workers are engaged have been registered or not or whether they are in perview of rules and regulations or not? I can say that many of these factories have evaded these. They employ in fact more than 15, 16 or 17 persons but from their muster rolls it will be seen that they only employ less than 12 persons. In such places the condition in which the workers are labouring are against the rules and regulations of the Factories Act. What our Inspectors of Factories are doing when our workers are working under inhuman conditions? I know of instances of Gauhati personally but I do not like to give details for want of time.

At the time of conciliation proceedings and also in the matter of Industrial courts a long time is taken for disposal of disputes and cases. The employer has got sufficient money and he can afford to go for costly and long standing cases, they can engage costly Barristers or Lawyers but these Barristers or Lawyers generally will not take a single case without money. How can the ordinary labourer afford to contest such costly litigations? So, Government should see ways and means that the number of these litigations are lessened and how best these disputes can be settled through table talks, a tripartite body or conciliations. Now, conciliation proceedings are hopeless. If the employers are good enough to agree to what the Labour Officers say then there is conciliation or reconciliation but if the employers refuse to agree with the Labour Officers or workers then the case is hopeless, in which case, the employers can go to law courts and run costly suits but the labourer cannot. Government should see to all these things and let us hope that a renowned labour leader as our Minister is, under his stewardship our working class will get a fair deal.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, if we look at labour as evidence from the budget itself that we put labour in the group of miscellaneous subjects.....

Mr. SPEAKER : The hon. Member need not refer to this as in future it will be done properly.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** I don't mean Cut Motions but so far as budget itself is concerned labour has been shown under miscellaneous groups and we know what importance we give in a meeting to miscellaneous subjects. But that has been the case. I hope, for the first time at least under Mr. Tripathy's Ministership labour will have its rightful place in the budget in future and this subject will not be jumbled up with miscellaneous subjects.

Then, Sir, I will take up where Mr. Bhattacharyya has left, namely, Inspector of Factories. I find from the Report of 1955-56 that there are 1021 factories in our State registered and out of these in that particular year 539 inspections were held and only 499 factories were actually inspected, 25 of which were inspected twice and 6 of which were inspected thrice. In those factories the number of people engaged are 73,313. The number is quite big and of these, I find from the Report that accidents in the factories in the relevant year numbered 1158 and man-days lost was 15,487 and out of the accidents 5 were fatal. Unfortunately, the Report gives us only detail of the 5 deaths and that of these accidents 201 cases were serious but did not discuss why they were serious and where these fatal accidents took place. I have given these figures only to show the magnitude of our happening in the factories which have been registered but there are many which engage more than 12 labourers but in their muster rolls they show less than that number but actually they engage more the excess number they show casual workers. Although there are many such factories violating the regulations but they do not catch the eye of the Inspectors of Factories. Till recently the Electrical Adviser was also the Chief Inspector of Factories and I do not know how much time he actually got to these factories and how many of them he could inspect. I am subject to correction that another man has been made the Chief Inspector of Factories and there is one Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories and 5 Inspectors of Factories under him and I can say here that many owners of these factories are very very unscrupulous and they have given good-bye to all laws of factories and if we really want to do good to those men working in the factories whose energy is taken to the maximum in the work, it is necessary to strengthen the inspectorate staff. One inspection in a year is meaningless. We know that more than fifty factories are not even ever inspected

at all in a year. Therefore, it is necessary that these factories should be inspected three or four times in a year, and that the laws relating to factories are scrupulously respected. Therefore, Sir, my first submission here will be that, if we really want to build up a socialism, the basis is contented labour and contented agriculturists. If we really go to scrutinise the lot of the labourers we will find that they are not being benefited by the existing legislation. So, as I said before, it is very easy to pass laws, but very difficult to implement them. So the first task of this department should be to see that the laws framed up till now are scrupulously given effect to and properly implemented. Any body who violates these laws should be taken to task. Sir, I was trying to find out in the report whether there has been any case of punishment for violation of these laws, I do not find anything regarding violation, as if everything here is good and there is nothing to worry on that score. There was not a single case of punishment really. Sir, I know these facts personally by knowing the labour in different factories. I have also the privilege of going round many factories at Gauhati. I find the conditions there are simply appalling. Sanitary condition in certain factories is such that any decent and civilised man would shudder to go near—or even Mr. Tripathy himself would not dare to go there. In certain other factories again there is no provision at all for sanitation, even no provision for ventilation. Also in certain cases the open space on the bank of the Brahmaputra is open for the labourers to ease themselves. This, Sir, is the condition. Why is it so? Because there is no place in the factories themselves for the men to use.

Again, I have seen a paragraph about canteens and restaurants. It may be in some 5 big factories there are canteens but in most of the factories in our State these elementary provisions of modern standard are lacking. Therefore, my submission to the Hon'ble Minister who has travelled far and wide and who has experienced all these things, that there is urgent necessity that the existing factories should be brought to the standard and if any employer is not capable of maintaining its standard and if on that account he suffers loss, it is better that he should rather close down the factory than allow it to be run in an appalling condition.

Then, Sir, my next point is about these Employment Exchanges. We have been told often on the floor of this House that our figures of educated unemployment is not that it should create any apprehension in our minds. But we know Sir, from our day to day life how big this problem of urban unemployment is.

We ask people to go to these Employment Exchanges and register themselves, but what happens when they do so? Sir, I have two things to say about these Exchanges—first is that Government as one of the employers very rarely take recourse to these Employment Exchanges. Take for instance the State Transport, or Government Press or other concerns of Government, Government rarely take the help of these Exchanges in filling up vacancies in these departments. Why is that so? Because they always want to bring their own men by the back door. I say that Government has no right to insist on private employers or industries to take the help of these Exchanges if Government itself does not take the aid of these Exchanges. These Exchanges are always side-tracked by the Government. Therefore, we find that people instead of going to these Exchanges, go to Mr. Tripathy himself or to some other Ministers.

Now, the second point about these Exchanges is that the officers themselves are not above board. I have seen myself how registration is being maintained. If a particular category of worker is wanted the man at the top of the list is seldom called. They manipulated things in such a way that the last man would get the job and they always have a ready reply for that. They will say, "well, we informed him, but he does not come". Therefore Sir, these Employment Exchanges which form a strong foundation for a better labour and employer relationship and for better employment possibilities have not been run properly. Therefore, I want that we should devote our best attention to them. Then the third thing is that we have seen that when it is a case of private enterprise we want to be strong—we are not strong enough but we want to show that we are strong. But when it is a case of a State concern, we just forget everything. We think that since it is our own flesh and bone why should we worry ourselves? In this connection I want to cite an instance. Take the case of the State Transport drivers. Now, in the morning trip these drivers are asked to go up to Shillong at 7 o'clock and then again at 12 o'clock they are asked to go down to Gauhati and at 4 p.m. again they are asked to go up to Shillong. In such a road is it human to engage a man in this manner? Had it been a private concern perhaps steps would have been taken. But in this case because it is a Government concern we are not worried at all. These things happen in front of our nose and yet we do not care a jot. So far as working overtime is concerned the State is the greatest culprit in that overtime rates are not paid promptly—I have reports that these things are not properly paid. But so far as deductions of wages is concerned according

to the Payment of Wages Act, in the State Transport as well as in other Government concerns these deductions are made in such a way that they are even against the provisions of the Payment of Wages Act. Because the State is involved and because the workers themselves are insecure, because they think that if they put up any clamour, their position will not be secure. Therefore, they do not raise any hue and cry. What I want to draw the attention of the House is that before we go to regularise or to take action on other people, we have to look to ourselves also. We have to be very strict in the State concerns that they not only respect the spirit of the law but also the letters of the law. Only then, those who remain in glass houses should not throw stone at others, and this is the reason why very often we find there is a clamour. Now, Sir, these grievances are there in other concerns also, and the Labour Minister agreed to take up these cases. After all in the Government concerns we have made rules regarding Trade Unions. But it is very difficult to convince the employer. In these concerns, it is necessary that Government out of its own accord should come out and show that they really want to improve the condition of the labourers. Thirdly, regarding these minimum wages I will not speak much. But we find in the rice and oil mills, nothing has been done. When the minimum wages are fixed, perhaps, at that time, the Pay Committee fixed the pay scales of the various categories of employees in our State, but since then nothing has been done. In the meantime, prices have gone up, the living conditions have become hard. Yet there is no attempt to revise the minimum wages. There is a grievance of the workers that if these things continue there is no hope for them. Although they are told that half of the Dearness Allowance will be merged with the basic wage, yet nothing has been done in that direction. All of us expected that prices will be stabilised, but the prices have not shown signs of stabilisation. It is for the Labour Department, not as one Miscellaneous Department but as a Department independently, to consider these matters and bring about an atmosphere that will lead to industrial peace. My Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, spoke about the nature of our Labour Department staff. I do not want to speak much about it. It is true that Labour Inspectors whether appointed by the garden Managers as Labour Officers or appointed by Government as Labour Officers hardly feel that they are to safeguard the interest of the labour rather they safeguard the interest of the Government. It is time to study the psychology of these officers, but what is most contemptible is the eagerness of our District officers, Deputy Commissioners, Sub-divisional Officers to immediately rush police wherever

there is a strike. They will not do so in the case of a lock-up. But in the case of a strike, of course strike brings about a disharmony in the industrial peace, police are rushed immediately. I know many cases where by intimidating the labourers by putting police, by showing them threats, there is always an attempt to cow down the labourers. That is not good, Sir.

Lastly, I will speak about the problem of retrenchment. Usually there is a close down of factories not only in the rice and oil mills but in other industries also due to circumstances beyond the control of the employers. At the moment, the I.G.N. and R.S.N. Steamer Companies are retrenching labourers in spite of the assurances given by the Labour Minister as well as the Chief Minister that they will look to the interest of the labour. Whether it is the I.G.N., the R.S.N. or the European tea planters, we have to be very strict. We should also see that an industry which has been for years must not be allowed to close down on the whims of the employers, and before they do so they should show convincing reasons for such closing down. Unless they can show that the man power has been distributed evenly, unless there is rationalisation of manpower, they have no right to close down and retrench people. I hope the Minister-in charge will look into the matter and I am sure that it is time that we convince people that labour cannot be ignored forever. The labour must be given their due share in building the socialist pattern of society in our state.

Shri GAURI SHANKAR ROY (Katlicherra):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry I cannot support the cut motion (Shri Hareswar Goswami : But you support the argument) moved by my Friend, Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya. Though I agree with some of the important points raised by him, yet, I feel that the present Government, specially the present Ministry, are very anxious about the labour problems and are taking active steps to improve the position. Sir, the difficulties are there—the problems are there—and these difficulties and problems must find a solution. Sir, there are various categories of workers in our country. I shall speak a few words about the Industry and its workers. In our State there are about 12 lakhs of labour population having 5 lakhs of working force. But, Sir, what is the condition of these labourers ? After the Independence, the Trade Union Movement in our State is agitating to find out the real cause responsible for the deterioration of tea gardens and also the labour conditions, and for that agitation, Sir, you know, the Plantation Enquiry Commission was appointed by the Government of India and the report submitted by them really proved the workers' stand. Sir, the tea industry in our country earns, roughly, about Rs.148 crores of rupees annually.

It exports about five hundred million pounds of tea in about 27 countries employing about 12 lakhs of workers. Sir, more attention should be given to these tea labourers. The tea industry has been deteriorating day by day, year by year. The tea industry which was due to replant in 1910 about 15 lakhs 12 thousand acres has replanted about 2 lakh 28 thousand thousand acres only. Sir, you can well imagine from this the condition of the tea industry. What an ominous spectacle it holds out to us, to the future generations of our country? Since after independence the foreign capitalists have begun transferring their capital to East Africa, by selling the tea gardens to the businessman. The Report of the Reserve Bank gives us the information that this industry had invested about 51 crores of capital. The British interest have not only exported out of the country the initial investment of Rs.51 crores but another sum of nearly Rs.51 crores which should have been invested for the rehabilitation of the Industry.

Shri GAURI SHANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati): That is the net profit.

Shri GAURI SHANKAR ROY (Katlicherra): Yes, that is the net profit. After having earned such a huge profit, what they are going to do for the improvement of this industry in India? They are selling the tea gardens at fantastic prices and thus they are going to earn still more profits from these gardens and transferring the money to East Africa and elsewhere to create a rival base there as was done in India in the third decade of the 18th century when the same international capital lost its grip over China.

Now, let us see what are the other reasons of this deterioration of our tea industry. It is lack of proper investment and top-heavy expenditure in the administration of the industry. Then comes the question of market. Tea market is practically monopolised by foreign capitalists. It is only the foreign capitalists who are controlling the market creating situations in raising the price, or lowering it. Sir, in 1949 there was alleged crisis in the tea industry. It was of a local type which only affected the tea gardens in Cachar district. Another general crisis was created in the tea industry in 1952. This crisis was a man made one. Because we find from the bulletin issued by the Reserve Bank of India in July 1952 that the share holders earned high margin of profits by sale of tea. Sir, this general slump of 1952 was due to dumping of inferior quality of tea in to the market with a view to give bad name to Indian tea. I

therefore, suggest that Government should think over this top-heavy expenditure in the industry and that the present market position controlled by the foreign capitalists from production to marketing. Sir, replanting fund should be created to improve the existing deplorable condition in the tea industry, and to build up a reserve for the development of the industries in our country.

Hon. Members must have noticed how some tea gardens have closed down due to mismanagement and so I suggest Sir, that Government should take over such gardens. I hope some step has been taken in this regard. If such a reserve is built up, we will be able to utilise the money thus saved to keep these gardens open.

Apart from these, we have several other problems facing the tea industry now. For example, we have, now, the problem of surplus tea labourers. Our Labour Department should try its level best to find out ways and means to improve the conditions of these surplus tea labourers and also for their employment. Growing unemployment is fast assuming a dimension which calls for serious consideration. With a view to solve this problem, a number of small and midium size industries should be immediately introduced, in such surplus labour areas.

Another very important thing to which I want to draw the attention of the Government is this: as you know, Sir, these tea labourers when employed in the tea gardens are provided with house to live in, a small patch of land also in certain cases to cultivate so long as they remain under employment. But as soon as they are out of it, their conditions beggers description. They have neither a patch of land to pitch their house, nor even a house to put their heads under. This is, indeed, a most deplorable state of affairs. Therefore, I call upon the Government to consider the question of providing some shelter for these unfortunate people. They must be given some land so that may construct house to live and cultivate after retirement. Then, Sir, the Tenancy Act is not applicable to tea garden land. I therefore request Government to consider the question of extending the operation of the Tenancy Act to tea gardens also. Sir, at this critical juncture of our country which requires foreign exchange and also employment, I hope Government will take all possible steps to improve the condition of the tea labourers and also of the industry. The closure of the gardens is anti-social activity in making Second Five-Year Plan successful with best utilisation

of human and material resources. With these few words and suggestions I oppose the cut motions on the ground that our present Government is very anxious towards the problems of the the industry and its labour.

Dr. RAM PRASAD CHAUBEY (Lakhipur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by the Minister-in-charge of Labour, and to oppose the cut motion moved by my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya.

Sir, I am not going to repeat what has particularly been said by my Friend, Sri G. S. Roy, who spoke before me I want to touch only a few points. I would like to draw the attention of the Government only about a very burning problem and the problem arising out of the retrenchment of labourers. Sir, everybody knows that in 1952 just after that so called crisis, about 10,000 tea garden labourers were retrenched in the district of Cachar, and with their dependents the number will come to about 25,000 or so. These labourers were brought in this State about 4 generations back and since then they have never known what was their original State and wherefrom they were brought. Now, if all on a sudden, they were retrenched they could not understand where they could stand. Then we tried to send them to Assam Valley tea gardens to work there, but there were such conditions viz: one should have such and such numbers of dependents of such and such ages that we could not send all of them. But somehow or other we were able to send about 5,000 labourers there. But 5,000 retrenched labourers with their dependents numbering about 20,000 remained there in the district of Cachar. As there is a policy of the Government to requisition the surplus tea garden lands and distribute the same among the tea garden labourers, indigenous landless people, refugees and ex-tea garden labourers, but up till now those retrenched labourers have not been rehabilitated at all. Even the land that was occupied by them have been requisitioned and distributed to others and there are lots of litigations still going on. There have been several cases of breach of peace in this connection also. At present the labourers living in a particular place of the State are somehow or other acquainted with their counterpart working in other parts of the State and they have become conscious of their rights and they are also exchanging their ideas with each other. In course of their discussion they are often found to express their grave concern over the question of retrenchment. They often pose the question: if there is retrenchment tomorrow, what will happen to them?

We are also confronted with such questions from the labourers whenever we visit and meet the labourers in course of our organisational work. They ask us—“What are you doing ; what is the Congress Government doing for these retrenched labourers?”. Of course from the side of Indian National Trade Union Congress we give the reply that we have filed cases to the Tribunal and that we are awaiting the result of the cases. They say in turn—“Well, it is with regard to the question of grant of compensation, what we are mostly concerned is with regard to the question of rehabilitation of the retrenched labourers ; after getting the compensation we must rehabilitate ourselves on the earth, we cannot rehabilitate in the sky”. Sir, we cannot give any satisfactory answer to them. Sir, taking advantage of this distressed condition of these retrenched labourers, some people with subversive motives are out to create troubles among these retrenched labourers. They are doing something which is known to everybody and my Friend, Sri Bhattacharyya, accused that some Government officers in the Labour Department were siding with the Indian National Trade Union Congress. But if I may say so, my information is rather to the contrary to what Mr. Bhattacharyya has said. My information is that in some cases some high officials other than the Labour Officers are doing something which is very reprehensible. We have got complaints from some quarters that some high officials of the Labour Department are siding with these subversive elements. Of course we never give any heed to such complaints. We try to meet such complaints by saying—“All right we are watching the situation, if we are satisfied that it is true, we shall decide our course of action”. Sir this is a serious thing and I would request the Government to see that the retrenched labourers are settled without any more delay and any such activities as alleged by the people should be checked. Sir, I am one with my Friend, Sri Bhattacharyya, who said that our present Minister of Labour, Mr. Tripathi, is not only a veteran Trade Union Leader of India but of the whole world. He is well acquainted with the International Labour Organisation and we expect that things will be put right without any more delay by him.

With these words, Sir, I support the motion moved by the Minister and oppose the cut motion moved by my Friend, Sri Bhattacharyya.

Shri MOLIA TATI (Doom Dooma): অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই এই দাবী সম্পর্কে দুঃখবান কবলৈ ঠিয় দিছো। আমাৰ চৰকাৰে বনুৱা সমাজৰ উন্নয়নৰ কাৰণে যি কাম হাতত লৈছে, তাৰ কাৰণে মই বনুৱা সকলৰ ফালৰ পৰা চৰকাৰক কৃতজ্ঞতা জ্ঞাপন কৰিছো।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, বনুৱা সকলৰ সামাজিক অবস্থাৰ কথা সদনৰ সকলো সদস্যই জানে। বনুৱা সকলৰ সামাজিক অৱস্থা যদি নিম্নস্তৰৰ পৰা উন্নত অবস্থালৈ আনিব পৰা নহয় তেনেহলে আমি দেশৰ উন্নতি হৈছে বুলি কেতিয়াও কব নোৱাৰো। চৰকাৰে বনুৱা সমাজৰ উন্নতিৰ বেচৰকাৰী অনুষ্ঠান যেনে হিন্দু মজদুৰ সঙ্ঘ, কস্তুৰবা গান্ধী মেমোৰিয়েল আদি অনুষ্ঠান সমূহক আৰ্থিক সাহায্য দি সমাজ সেৱাৰ কাৰণে চেষ্টা কৰিছে কিন্তু বাজেটত যিটকা ধৰা হৈছে সি অতি সামান্য। তাৰোপৰি এই অনুষ্ঠানবোৰে অৰ্থৰ অভাৱত যিবোৰ কেন্দ্ৰ খুলিছে বনুৱাৰ সংখ্যালৈ চাই সিও বৰ কম। আমাৰ ডুমডুমা অঞ্চলত প্ৰায় ৪৬ খন বাগিছাৰ ভিতৰত মাত্ৰ দৈমুখীয়া বাগিছাত এনেকুৱা এটা কেন্দ্ৰ আছে। সেইটোও বাগিছাৰ ভিতৰত নহয়, বাগিছাৰ পৰা প্ৰায় এমাইলমান আঁতৰত। কিন্তু এই কেন্দ্ৰটোৱেও বিশেষ একো কাম কৰিব পৰা নাই। গতিকে মই চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰো যে চৰকাৰে মজদুৰ সমাজৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে এনেকুৱা কেন্দ্ৰ বেচিকৈ খুলিব লাগে আৰু সেইবোৰ বাগিছাৰ ভিতৰত হ'ব লাগে।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, বনুৱা সমাজৰ কথা কওঁতে আৰু এটা কথা কব খুজিছো। সেইটো হৈছে যে আজি বনুৱা সকলৰ আৰ্থিক অৱস্থা আশা কৰা মতে নহলেও আগত কৈ বহুগুণে ভাল হৈছে। কিন্তু তেওঁলোক অশিক্ষিত হোৱা বাবে টকা পয়ছা মিতব্যয়িতাবে খৰচ কৰিব জনা নাই। যদিও আইনৰ দ্বাৰা চাহ বাগিছাত স্কুলৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হৈছে তথাপি কাৰ্য্যত অৱহেলা, পৰিদৰ্শন নোহোৱা আৰু অভিভাৱক সকলৰ অগুতাব কাৰণত মুঠেই শিক্ষা হোৱা নাই। সেইবাবে এই স্কুলবোৰ চৰকাৰী পৰ্যায়লৈ আনি শিক্ষাৰ সুব্যৱস্থা কৰি দিবৰ বাবে মই চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ জনালো।

চৰকাৰৰ আইন মতে বনুৱাৰ থকা ঘৰবোৰ কিমান দূৰ হৈছে সেই বিষয়ে চৰকাৰে দৃষ্টি ৰাখিছেনে নাই মই কব নোৱাৰো। মই ডুমডুমাৰ পৰা আহোতে গোটেই অসম নপৰে যদিও বহুত বাগিছাৰ মাজেদি আহিছো, সেই বাগিছাৰ ঘৰবোৰ আইন মতে হৈছে বুলি মনে নধৰে। সেইবোৰ ঘৰত শিক্ষিত মানুহৰ গৰু-গাই আদিও থাকিব নোৱাৰে।

মই চুক্তিটিং বাগিছাৰ মজদুৰ থকা ঘৰ এটাৰ নমুনাৰ ফটো এখন লগত লৈ আহিছো। আমাৰ বনুৱা মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয় যেতিয়া ডুমডুমালৈ গৈছিল তেতিয়া মজদুৰ সকলৰ ভাগ্যই বেয়া আছিল নেকি কব নোৱাৰো, সেই নক্সা মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ক দেখুওৱা নহল। গধূল হল। এই ঘৰ মানুহৰ বাসযোগ্য হয় নে নহয় চৰকাৰে বিবেচনা কৰি চাব। চুক্তিটিঙৰ নমুনাৰ ঘৰটো ১২ ফুট দীঘল ৭।৭ ফুট ওখ আৰু পথালি ৮ ফুট। আজি কালিৰ Crepesoleৰ জোতা পিন্ধি সেই ঘৰত সোমালে ঘৰৰ চাল মূৰত লাগে।

আজি মজদুৰে নিজৰ অভাৱ অভিযোগৰ কথা বুজিলেও প্ৰকাশ কৰিব নেজানে আৰু কৰ্ত্তৃপক্ষক জনাবলৈ অক্ষম বা দানী কৰি ল'ব পৰা নাই। এই ক্ষমতা তেওঁলোকৰ নহলেও এটা মানৱতাৰ পক্ষৰ পৰা সকলোৰে কৰ্ত্তব্য আছে, চৰকাৰৰ ওপৰতো সেই কৰ্ত্তব্যৰ চাপ কম নহয়। তেওঁলোকে বিল্ডিং বা পকী ঘৰ বিচৰা নাই। সেই ঘৰ মাটিৰেই হওক কিন্তু মানুহ থকাৰ যোগ্য হলেই যথেষ্ট। গতিকে মই তেওঁলোকৰ হকে চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰো যাতে চৰকাৰে এইবিষয়ে বিশেষ জোৰ দিয়ে।

আন আন সম্প্রদায়ৰ লোকসকলৰ লগত সমান শাৰীত থকাৰ কাৰণে মজদুৰ সকলে কিমান সুবিধা পাইছে সেই সকলো বৰ্ত্তমানৰ মাননীয় বনুৱা মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে নিজেই জানে। তেখেতে এই মজদুৰ সকলৰ মাজতে ঘূৰিছে। I. N. T. U. C. হোৱাৰে পৰা তেখেত আছে যেতিয়া তেখেতে সকলো জানে। গতিকে এই অস্ত্ৰ মজদুৰ সকলৰ অভাৱ অভিযোগ বিলাক দূৰ কৰিবলৈ তেখেতে অকপটে যত্ন কৰিব বলি মোৰ দৃঢ় বিশ্বাস।

মহোদয়, যদিও অপ্রাসঙ্গিক হয় মোক মাক কৰিব মই এটা কথা উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে কব খোজো। বাম লক্ষ্যলৈ গৈ বাৰণৰ লগত যুদ্ধ কৰি বাৰণক মাৰিব নোৱাৰিলে। কিন্তু বান্দৰ হনুমানে বামুণৰ বেষণে মন্দোদৰীৰ পৰা চলেবে মৃত্যু বান আনি বামক দিয়াতহে বামে বাবল ম মাৰিবলৈ সক্ষম হৈছিল। হনুমানক বান্দৰ বুলি বাদ দিলে সেই ডাঙৰ কাম নহলহেতেন। মজদুৰ সকলো যেনিবা বান্দৰ, তেওলোকৰ আন শক্তিনহলেও সংখ্যা শক্তি আছে, কৰ্মশক্তি আছে। তেওলোকক সেই শক্তি অনুসাবে চৰকাৰে সুবিধা দিব লাগে। মজদুৰৰ কিমান যোগ্য লৰা এনেয়ে বহি আছে। কোনো অফিচত কাম খালি হলে মজদুৰৰ লবাই সেই কাম নাপায়। পায়, বাবুৰ লবাই। Provident Fund Schemeৰ কাৰণে মহাবীৰ দৰ্কাৰ হল মজদুৰৰ লবাক নিদি বাবুৰ লবাকহে দিলে। এনেধৰণৰ তাবতন্যবিলাক দূৰ কৰিব লাগে। তাকে কৰিবলৈ মজদুৰৰ সামাজিক উন্নয়নৰ দৰ্কাৰ। Cultural showৰ কাৰণে ৭০ হেজাৰ টকা মঞ্জুৰ কৰিছে। কিন্তু তাত show দেখুৱাবৰ কাৰণে মজদুৰৰ লৰা এটাও নাই গতিকে এই টকাৰ পৰা মজদুৰৰ কি আৰ্থিক উন্নতি হব? মজদুৰক Cinema দেখুৱাবৰ কাৰণে ১ লাখ টকাৰ আচনি কৰিছে। তাৰ পৰাই বা মজদুৰ কেইটাৰ উন্নতি হব? মাজমূলত মজদুৰৰ শিক্ষাই নাই। এইবিলাক বিষয়ে চৰকাৰে সকলো জানে। বিশেষকৈ আমাৰ মাননীয় মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয় আৰু সদস্য সকলে এইটো ভালদৰে জানে। এইবিষয়ে মই বিশেষ নকও। মই কও যে কাৰ্গজে কলমে বা গেজেটত লিখি যিবিলাক মজদুৰৰ উন্নয়নৰ আচনি লৈছে সেইবিলাক লিখাতেই আবদ্ধ নাৱাৰি কাৰ্য্যত পৰিণত কৰিবলৈ মই চৰকাৰক তথা মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ক অনুৰোধ কৰি মোৰ বক্তব্যৰ সামৰনি মাৰিলো।

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour):** Sir, I hope the House will pardon my voice. I am thankful to the House for having given very constructive and helpful criticisms of the Department concerned. I am myself not fully satisfied with the way in which we have functioned not merely in the past but even in the last year also for which the responsibility is mine. I have no doubt that various forces more powerful than any individual like myself would be overcome in due course. Therefore, in spite of the best measures, it has not been possible to redress all the things which we have had to redress. Not that I say we try to redress or even if we try to redress, it has not often been possible to do so, because the forces are beyond our control but I say that at the sametime the most important thing is the gradual growing understanding of the problem of the workers and what is far

more important is the gradual conversion of the activities with regard to the work between different Trade Union Centres of the country. The four important Trade Union Centres in the country in the beginning were at loggerheads, often they do not see eye to eye. There was perpetual mistrust and suspicion, there was a standing fight and every effort made by one group was regarded as taking away the suzerainty of other groups. I am happy to note, Sir, that this atmosphere is gradually clearing. I may refer to the press statement of the Chief Minister of Kerala the other day when he arrived at Dum Dum. The statement which he gave, I remember, Sir, in many ways compares with one of the fundamental bye-laws of the I. N. T. U. C., viz., that strikes should be the last weapon. Now, the I. N. T. U. C. was based on the idea that strike should be the last weapon and at that time there was a great mistrust of the I. N. T. U. C. It was felt that the right to strike was being taken away and, therefore, all the other organisations misunderstood it and opposed it. Now gradually a great realisation is dawning that in a planned economy for the development of the country, continuous production is the key-note to progress and cutting down production artificially is regress and that regress is justified only when all other avenues have been explored and found wanting. So, I was saying, Sir, that there has been a gradual convergence of the different organisations of the country with regard to the solution of labour problems. To-day, the House has noted the speech of Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya, how conciliatory it has been in tone and how helpful in suggestions and I have no doubt that it will be borne in mind and I have a feeling that not merely in this House but outside all over the country and even in the Centre there is growing an atmosphere of co-operation between the different organisations which will be good for the country.

Now, Sir, having come to this I want to point out the cardinal aspect of Indian Labour. The cardinal aspect is that we have learnt through Trade Union movement our rights but we have not yet fully learnt the liabilities and the responsibilities which rights entail. One of the most important functions of rights is duties. The greatest duty of Labour is (1) to produce honestly and efficiently and (2) to produce the best quality which he can. It is in these two tests that our Labour has been found wanting. In these two tests, Sir, we have found that we cannot stand competition with Labour in other countries of the world, Japan, Britain, Germany and elsewhere. So, I take this opportunity, when I find this growing mutual confidence, to plead and let us all put our hearts

and shoulders together so that we may create in our country an atmosphere which really restores Labour to its parentage, viz., the best fruits of his enterprise; that is, he works hard and produces the maximum and of the best quality. If this is done, we will have one point from which to start our experiment. If there is one single point which is fixed, it is possible to extend the circumference greater and greater, I mean the rights, advantages and welfares which are available and are likely to be available within the scope of production. It is a wrong idea to think that labour welfare or any welfare for the matter of that arises out of nothing. All that arises out of the productive capacity and for this reason it is of highest good to advocate increase of production and of the best quality and of the highest evil to advocate the contrary and I have no doubt that in the changed circumstances our country would be able to obtain that which is good and march ahead.

Now, Sir, an aspersion was sought to be cast—it was not exactly an aspersion, it was rather a feeling expressed that perhaps the Labour Ministry was not completely fair in dealing with different organisations. Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya said that perhaps the Ministry might be a little more partial towards one organisation. Shri Choubey said that it is happening to the contrary; the Ministry is now functioning more against the organisation to which the Labour Minister belongs. Now, there are charges and counter-charges and it is difficult in such circumstances to clear oneself fully. But I can assure the House and the hon. Members that it would be my rightful endeavour to see that the provisions of law are applied and carried out without fear or favour. If there is a particular instance in which at one time we may be found wanting, I would request the hon. Members to draw my attention to the same. Some time ago, Shri Dange wrote a letter to me requesting me to look into a certain registration which had not been made. I have looked into the matter and registration has been granted. So far as individual cases are concerned, there will always be the possibility of a lapse or even an error of judgment. But I hope the hon. Members would not consider that *mala fide*; they would give us the benefit of doubt and at the most consider it an error of judgment.

Now, Sir, I find that in the last year we did take some steps so that the workers might feel that the Ministry was really thinking of removing injustices. The Cabinet took important decisions like making permanent workers in Transport

and Public Works Departments who had been temporary for decades and this has been done in the teeth of advice to the contrary from the Department. We have taken the risk and we have done it not with the idea that we were doing some favour to anybody, but we thought it just and right that people should not be made to live impermanently in a permanent way that is attached to permanent workers and conversely, people should not be made to live temporary in works which are themselves temporary, but the chances of these works continuing are permanent. So, Sir we have taken these important steps and I hope it will be realised that our Ministry has been trying to go ahead in spite of great limitations. For instance, Sir, to increase the number of workers who get provident fund benefits, recently a legislation was passed. It will be appreciated, Sir, that an award has been amended and as a result workers have suffered. We have brought in law when there was no alternative left so that Government may get powers and that amendment might be within the powers of Government and the benefits which the workers are entitled to under the award might get the same. The law enjoins that the award intended should be made available to the workers. It has been said that there should be comprehensive social security measures. I do not know whether comprehensive social security measures will be possible in our country, particularly because we have got a large percentage of unemployed and equally a large percentage of underemployment in the country. The conditions in the country are such that we cannot extend the benefit till our employment is improved and this can only be applied to working forces but how this can be applied? There are two opinions regarding this, one says so far as working forces are concerned, there may be unemployment insurances but to have that unemployment insurance the contributions might be very small. It will be small because the wages are small. In America where unemployment is there, condition vary from two months to nearly a year in different places. Now, the recession is there and there they extend, the tenure of employment benefit. So in our country it has been found possible to extend the theory but whether it will be possible to apply the same to working forces is a question to be discussed. So far as Health Insurance is concerned it will be remembered that the Government of India has introduced Health Insurance Schemes. Assam was excluded so long from this. We have taken steps and the Government of India have agreed and thus we have decided to introduce this in four places, viz., Dhubri, Gauhati, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia. There are difficulties in this because for having such

a scheme at least 1,000 workers are required. So far as our working forces are concerned in Assam the number is lesser than 1,000 in almost all cases in a factory, of course, excluding the tea gardens. The tea labours do not come under this scheme as the managements have got some other schemes for the benefit of the workers. But whether these managements will agree to handover to the Government of India in this respect or not, I do not know. My personal opinion is that there are certain vested interests who would not like to handover the same to Government. Here I am saying about schools in tea gardens. These are managed by the tea garden managers or proprietors, who are not really fit for the purpose. The tea garden authorities have understood that they cannot manage the schools properly but yet they do not agree to handover the schools to the Government for management. On this question doubts will gradually disappear. Last month we discussed this question in a meeting and ultimately it was agreed with the employers that the Education Department should be instructed to draw up a scheme by which the management can be handed over to the Government for these schools and I think, it has already been submitted to the Tea Board and if it is approved, these schools will run under some regulations.

Now, so far as the closer questions are concerned, it is a very difficult problem because Government of Assam have no power to take over the management of tea gardens. The Government of India have the Industries Regulation Act, which apply to factories, but the same has not as yet been extended to tea gardens factories and plantations, but the matter is under close examination of both the State Government and the Central Government. We are thinking that some sort of regulatory powers are necessary so that unnecessary closures might be avoided. We have recently brought the British Industrial Act, 1957 where the same sort of power is given to the Minister of Industries and if a firm declares its closure, the Minister has got the right to take over the management of the firm. We have examples of these in United Kingdom to regulate firms and factories. We have also under consideration these things and I think, shortly some decision would be taken in these matters.

Sir, so far as retrenchment are concerned, it is a great headache on the Labour Department. Mr. Chaubey was telling the House that many people retrenched in 1952 in Cachar have not as yet been re-employed. It is really a sorry chapter. Of course, some people have been employed in the Assam Valley. Mr. Roy also rightly emphasised the peculiarity and unreliability of proletarian labour. I think, when a labour

becomes proletarian, he loses his home if he is retrenched and he becomes vagrant until he gets employment elsewhere. In the States where plantations do not exist workers live in factories for a specific period under some contract and when the period expires they move from the factories but in case of the plantation labour of Assam it is quite peculiar, when he is retrenched he becomes a man who has no shelter to get into and becomes a helpless creature. I think, this problem should be considered in a right way so that a solution might be found which might be beneficial to the workers and it might as well help to solve the other problems of the State.

So far factory workers are concerned, from the figures which have been quoted and which are also with me that the number of inspections carried out is too insignificant and with so few inspections it is very correct to say that no real check can be maintained on the running of factories; therefore, the preventive legal devices under the law are not available to the workers. Therefore, it is very necessary that more frequent inspections may be had. But this cannot be done Sir, without expanding the Department and the Department can be expanded only if the people think that the Department is an important Department, an honourable department and a Department which helps the society. I admit Sir, and I think I am one with the hon. Members in the Opposition on this question, that so far the Labour Department is concerned it was not regarded as a Department but it was tagged to Miscellaneous Department, because of the capitalist bias of society which obtained then. Since then things have changed and even the Congress has adopted the idea of a socialistic pattern of society. But you will appreciate Sir, that the momentum of status-quo is very great and therefore, it takes a little time to change. I have no doubt that our Government would make efforts so that in the next year's budget the Labour Department's provisions might be shown separately and I have no doubt that our Cabinet would consider how far the provision under factories can be increased so that sufficient number of Inspectors might be there and sufficient inspections might be taken up.

Now Sir so far as Wage Board in our State is concerned, this question was considered by a panel of the Planning Commission as you will remember Sir, and the Planning Commission came to the conclusion that sometime during the Second Five Year Plan, Wage Boards should be set up to determine Wages. There is a difference between minimum wages and the wage Board. In the Wage Board there has been recently a decision

of the Supreme Court which has created a great deal of difficulties. The Supreme Court said that the paying capacity of the industry must be taken into consideration and because it was not taken properly into consideration with regard to generalised Wage Board, therefore the case was set aside. Therefore, Sir, Wage Boards have to be set up but they will have to be set up in the light of the new pronouncement. So the whole thing is being considered at the Central as well as State levels.

Now, so far as plantation are concerned, my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, was suggesting that Wage Boards should be set up. Our difficulty is that recently the Madras Government have entered into agreement with the employers whereby they have up to 1961 a wage agreement. In view of this the Central Government said that it would not be advisable to reopen the question and they have suggestion and they have suggested Regional Wage Boards. Now the Central Government think that it would be introducing a difficult situation if we agree to a Regional Wage Board. So this matter has not yet been decided. I think it is going to be discussed in another conference in the Centre. So far as Wage Boards in other industries are concerned, the Government of India are now setting them up gradually. So far as revision of minimum wages is concerned about which Shri Goswami raised a question, the minimum wages are being revised, but that will take a little time. Now, in this matter we generally follow the practice that if there is a demand from the workers and that demand is considered by the employer and if there is no settlement over the matter, then only the Government comes into the picture. So far as the question of other industries apart from plantation are concerned, such demand has not been placed before us for consideration. I hope, therefore, it would be for the workers and the employers in the initial stage to settle the matter.

Now Sir, my Friends ask that the Labour Department should be regarded by the workers as their own. I think we are functioning slightly differently because the Labour Department is functioning as a neutral Department. That is the set-up under which this Department has been functioning. The Labour Department is supposed to have the confidence both of the labour as well as the employer. Therefore, the Labour Department does not take any initiative in a way which will create misunderstanding either in the labour or employer's mind. I think it would be advantageous to maintain

the present set-up because labour also desire result from this Department which can only be produced by a neutral agency. Therefore, while Labour Department as well as the Government sympathise with the workers, so far structural arrangement is concerned, it would be advantageous, as I have said, to maintain that tradition both in the interest of the workers as well as the interest of the employer.

Sir, so far as the question of police is concerned, I myself had on several occasions to clash with Government on this point when I was not a Minister. Now I find that the situation has greatly improved during the last few years. There was a time when at every conceived suspicion Managers used to send for the police and the Deputy Commissioners concerned used to comply with the Managers, request in the fear that something untoward might happen. But that situation has greatly diminished now. I think there is a great deal of attempt to assess the real emergency. Unless there is allegation of threatened violence, the police are not sent for. But the difficulty is that if there is an allegation that violence is threatened and if the police do not go and if really something happens, then the police would be blamed. This problem has not been able to solve. But as I said, things have improved now a great deal. Now managers are more and more careful. I think at the managerial level also a personnel has been appointed in most gardens for this purpose so that they can look to these things in a better way and, therefore, they are more careful about sending requisition for police or not. Sir, during the last few years there had been threats of violence in certain gardens and our Government last year took extraordinary step of setting up a Committee to enquire into the causes of lawlessness in tea plantations. That Committee was under the able chairmanship of our ex-Labour Minister, Shri Omeo Kumar Das, and as soon as the report of this Enquiry Committee is received, Government intends to take effective steps so that the right cause of such rude violence may be detected and removed.

Now, Sir, I was saying that it has become the habit of the different Trade Unions to have a difference with the employers but they are now gradually giving up their differences on the question of violence. But on the question of go-slow, that approachment has been completed. The I.N.T.U.C. Sir, as far as I know, advocate that go-slow is the tactics of the workers and they have been completely against go-slow. So as far as other Trade Unions centres are concerned, they have not considered that it is proper for them to give up their legitimate strike. Once the workers are habituated to indulge in lawlessness, they do not regain their former

favour and this resulted in something permanently and this is the loss not only to the workers but it is also loss to the nation. Therefore, I would request the hon. Members who are interested in Trade Union movement to see whether all the Union Centres in the country can be made to finally adopt a policy not to take an opposite view against go-slow. Recently there was a go-slow strike in Bihar in some tea gardens. I think the leadership is controlled by the Communist or the Socialist party. I do not know with which idea such instances should recur. Our policy should be maximum work from workers within the time allowed, the maximum returns to the employer. If possible, there should be mutual adjustment between the parties and if not possible, then through Government conciliation machinery or judicial machinery so that we can build up production. Where production is built up then our efforts should be to give the maximum to the workers. Sir, in the United States, I was told that for the last 60 years, the increase has been up to 4 or 5 per cent per capita. Corresponding to the increase in production wages also increase. So in the ultimate analysis, it is the interest of the workers to increase their productivity and this would be supported by the people who are interested in Trade Union Movement.

Sir, so far as the suggestions made by hon. Members are concerned, I think, I have tried to meet them in the best way possible. I have requested them to give a little of their confidence so that we may function in a better atmosphere because 'trust begets trust'. So far as the profits earned by the employers for which Mr. Gaurisankar Roy spoke, the matter is known to us. But, Sir, the difficulty is how to prevent it. So far as registration of Trade Unions is concerned, if 7 persons combine and make an application we cannot afford to refuse registration; if we do not.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I think three of them is enough.

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour):** Yes, Sir, that is true. Therefore, till that law is enforced, we are handicapped. This law was framed in 1946. The law states that the right to form a Trade Union was a very valuable right. We have given thought to a suggestion whether there should be strong Trade Unions industry-wise which should form a bulwork in the interest of the country. Our country must go in the same way. I think we have come to a stage when we shall have to register all the Trade Unions. Legally we cannot do so, but by the Trade Unions themselves.

If there is a big Union and if there are units, then every unit can be easily controlled by a big unit. I think this is a difference in time which will be realised and the requirements of the present time will be realised. During the time of Shri Jagjivan Ram, Union Labour Minister, the Bill was actually drafted to prevent multiplicity of Union. But that Bill has not been passed. I have no doubt that the Trade Unions will think deeply and come forward with a solution. The Minister for Labour will not take any further step; it is no longer a relic, it is in their hands. Therefore, they should try to find out what is the possible solution of the problems. After all even in England all these ideological differences existed according to the different ideological groups. In our country also we would find very difficult to find out a solution. The Government of India would be able to send the legislation if the Trade Union gather, more momentum. So far as maternity benefit and other things are concerned in which Mr. Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya has spoken as an example, that our Labour Officers brought strange ideas to the people. Sometimes the Labour Officers may be good and sometimes not. So far as maternity benefit is concerned it is necessary that the cases should be gone through—how and when and what method to be adopted. That is a point on which there may be differences. We would be only too glad to re-examine the question. So far as the Labour Officers are concerned, I am of the same mind. I do not believe that Labour Inspectors can function properly in the vehicles provided by the employers. We have been able so long to provide vehicles to the Inspectors. Now a very important question was raised about 25 per cent increase in wages. Well, Sir, this question has been under fire for the last one year and nothing has come about. The only thing which came about is the result of the discussion between the Wage Board and the Panel of the Planning Commission to set up Wage Boards. We are going forward to set up the Wage Boards. So far as the guarantee for bonus for $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent is concerned, it is again a question of negotiation. Sir, I am taking too much time. It is a question of negotiation between the workers and the employers and it has been voluntarily agreed. I think this year there will be another discussion to revise the wages and it is quite open to the workers to request the employers to have a revision of their wages. In Madras and I think also to some extent in Travancore there is a provision for granting bonus to the workers. I am very glad that there has been unanimous agreement between the different trade organisations with regard to purchase of National Savings Certificates, but

Shri Bhattacharyya expressed his opinion that the last agreement on this subject was not quite proper. I also think that there are some loopholes. It was I, who negotiated the last agreement in the Centre and it will be remembered that the Committee was constituted by the Government of India and in all discussions the member of the Socialist Party, members of Hind Mojdoor as well as members of the Communist Party were present and all the decisions we took, were taken jointly. I may tell the House that so far as protections are concerned there has not been much difference between the different trade unions and the Central Government.

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** There was nothing at the State level.

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour):** Since it was a Central agreement it was binding on the Provincial Unit of that Central Organisation. When the proposal came, it came, at such a stage that a State level discussion could not take place. Therefore, this time it was thought proper to have a discussion at the State level and I am glad to say that there has been an agreement possible. But unfortunately Mr. Sarwan who was one of the signatories later resiled from the agreement, partly or wholly, I do not know, because he said he only signed voluntarily. A signature is always voluntary although people have a right to go out of any agreement.

So far as implementation of awards, laws and other things are concerned, it has been suggested by Shri Bhattacharyya that we must take steps for amending the Constitution. This matter of amending the Constitution has been discussed and considered off and on for the last ten years and I remember when I was in the Parliament we had a large amount of discussion on this subject, and we have been able to convince the society which is much bigger than the labour society about the necessity of this amendment. But the country still thinks that to exercise authority over the High Court would not be proper. How, when and to what extent such an amendment can be brought is yet a highly controversial matter. Many think that such an amendment of the Constitution is not desirable until a solution acceptable to a large number of the society is evolved.

So far as trade dispute is concerned, the latest amendment of the Industrial Dispute Act has been made with that view. We have provided that every Labour Officer after consultation

with the leaders of the Union must report back to the Government within fourteen days. The Government consider that if there is no agreement the matter has to be referred to the Court. So far as ordinary matters are concerned these have to be relegated to the Court and so far as other substantial things are concerned these have to be relegated to the Tribunal, but unfortunately the result has not been as good as we would have desired. I hope that as time advances and with experience this matter will go ahead.

So far as the question of maternity benefit and other concessions are concerned, under the Plantation Labour Act particularly, we have not been able to implement most of them. So far as housing is concerned, Shri Malia Tati put a pertinent question. We are ourselves not satisfied with the present position. The height of the house has been a matter of constant controversy. I still hope that the industry in its own interest would re-consider the matter because they are building these houses not for one or two days but for 20 or 30 years. So if the house is built too low that may be still lower for the people coming after 10 or 15 years. So the expenditure would be only a waste in that case. I hope the employers would re-consider this question.

So far as the question of materials is concerned, the difficulty has been that the managements have taken loans from the Government of India. There has been added difficulty. It is only in the last few months that an agreement has been arrived at which has been acceptable to the Bank. Until that agreement was acceptable it was not feasible for the tea gardens to take loans. So far as the question of cements is concerned they will be given free because now the position of cement has improved.

So far as the question of tea garden canteens is concerned, our society is still labouring under a wrong conception. It thinks that these are measures which are given to labourers. As a matter of fact, people all over the world think that this advantage has gone as double the benefit to the labourers. I went to Cairo where I had been told that they did not know what a canteen was, but later they introduced such canteens in their country. There I was told that in the beginning 20 per cent people were found suffering from anaemia, but after two years of the opening of the canteens it was discovered that only two per cent were suffering from anaemia. So as a result of

the experience the world over, I think, the Assam employees would also realise the importance of canteens and they will find that these measures are not only intended for the benefit of the labourers but they are meant to increase efficiency of all concerned.

I think I have replied to almost all the suggestions made by the hon. Members. If any points have been left uncovered I think, our Departments will consider the same. I don't want to take any more time of the House. I hope the hon. Members who have moved the Cut Motions would kindly re-consider the matters and if they think it wise they would withdraw their cut motions.

Mr. SPEAKER: Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw the cut motions?

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Now, I put the original demand.

The question is that a sum of Rs.11,79,600 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1959 for the administration of the head—"47.—Miscellaneous Departments."

(The Motion was adopted.)

Adjournment

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

SHILLONG:

The 22nd August, 1959.

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

