

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong,
at 10 a. m. on Tuesday, the 11th March, 1958.

P R E S E N T

Shri Dev Kanta Borooah B. A., LL. B., Speaker in the
Chair, the nine Ministers, the two Deputy Ministers and
the seventyone Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given).

Dibrugarh School Board

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked:

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

- (a) Whether Government are aware of the public feeling that less attention is given by Dibrugarh School Board for Education in more backward areas in the Subdivision ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the non-recurring grants sanctioned by Dibrugarh School Board are not equitably distributed in all parts of the Sub-division in last few years ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that Government have a proposal to re-constitute the Dibrugarh School Board ?

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

40. (a)—No. Government are not aware of such a feeling.

(b)—No complaint has been received. Grants are distributed by School Boards according to need of Schools, subject to limitation of funds.

(c)—No.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is aware that the Questioner wrote several letters to the Education Ministry in the year 1957 pointing out this anomaly ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : I do not know personally, but I shall cause an enquiry into the matter.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: May I know whether my letter dated the 9th January, 1958 drawing the attention of the Education Minister was received by Government.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : I shall enquire into it.

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal) : লাহোৱাল সনষ্টিৰ এখন স্কুলেও কিয় Grantৰ টকা পোৱা নাই ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : আমি স্কুলবোৰক টকা দি দিও অৰু স্কুলবোৰে টকা distribute কৰে। লাহোৱালত কিমান টকা দিছে বা কিয় দিয়া নাই সেইটো স্কুলবোৰত পোৱা যাব। সেই খবৰ আমাৰ ইয়াত নাই।

Shri RAM NATH DAS (Dergaon) : Reserved for Scheduled Castes: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enquire into this and let the House know ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Government will enquire into the matter, but whether it will be possible to let the House know during this session, that I cannot assure at the moment.

Shri RAM NATH DAS (Dergaon Reserved for Scheduled Castes): Sir, this session will continue for long.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): Yes, Sir, we will try, but it depends on the co-operation coming from the Dibrugarh School Board.

Shri MOHIKANTA DAS (Barchalla): Are not Government responsible for that expenditure ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Dibrugarh School Board is primarily responsible for the expenditure subject, of course, to the general control of the Government.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): May I know whether it is a fact that a huge amount of money has been embazzled by the Dibrugarh School Board ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I have no information.

Shri RANENDRA MOHON DAS (Karimganj-North): In reply to (b), Sir, it has been stated that Government are not aware of such a feeling. Now, will the Government be pleased to make an enquiry into the matter ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: The question is vague, Sir, and as such, without any specific mention of the area and the particular people having such feeling, the matter cannot be enquired into.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): May I know whether the Minister is aware that in the Budget Session of 1957, the then Education Minister placed on the library table of this House a list of distribution of non-recurring grants of 1956-57 ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I have no knowledge about it, Sir.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Laharighat): In reply to the question put by Shri Barthakur the Minister-in-charge has replied that Government has no information. Do Government mean to say that although prosecution was launched against certain persons of the Dibrugarh School Board, Government have no information ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I said, "I have no information."

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): The question was whether there was embazzlement of a huge sum of money in the Dibrugarh School Board. But the matter referred to by the hon. Member, Shri Bora, relates to an old case in which officers of the Education Department were involved. Against this charge of misappropriation, cases have been instituted, Sir.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North): May I know, Sir, what was the reply to question No.(c) ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : (Minister, Agriculture): The question is, "Whether it is a fact that Government have a proposal to re-constitute the Dibrugarh School Board ? The reply is, "No."

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: May I know, Sir, even when serious complaints are brought against the School Board, Government do not propose to reconstitute it according to law ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: The question is hypothetical, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: No, not quite so. The question is whether Government is in a position to reconstitute the School Board if there be any serious allegations.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Government can, Sir.

Shri RAM NATH DAS (Dergaon:Reserved for Scheduled Castes): May I know, Sir, why the Chairman of that School has not yet been appointed ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: That is a new question, Sir.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): May I know whether it is a fact that out of about Rs.55,000 that year, i.e., in 1956-57 about Rs.8,000 was given in areas covered by two Assembly Constituencies and the rest of about Rs.9,000 was given to areas covered by 4 Assembly Constituencies, and that not a Naya Paise was given to areas covered by 4 other Assembly Constituencies.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : The matter will be enquired into.

Leper Dispensary at Umden-Nongtluh

U JOR MANIK SIEM (Nongpoh: Reserved for scheduled Tribes) asked:

*41. (a) Will the Minister-in-charge, Medical Department, be pleased to state whether the Government have abandoned the proposal for establishing a Leper Dispensary at Umden-Nongtluh, as previously promised to the local people?

(b) If so, what are the reasons for such abandonment?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) replied:

41. (a)—No. A more comprehensive scheme has been taken up for opening of a full-fledged dispensary at Umden under Art. 275(I) which, when established, will also treat leprosy cases.

(b)—Does not arise.

U JOR MANIK SIEM: May I know whether actual construction was started about two years ago?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: I have no information about that, but I may inform the hon. Member that plan and estimate of the dispensary building had to be revised and hence there was some delay but the contract has been already distributed.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question whether construction of the building started two years ago. Your reply should be about that.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: That was not started, Sir.

U JOR MANIK SIEM: May I know whether the Minister promised to start construction of the buildings two years ago to the local people?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: I have no exact information of any such promise. But so far as I am concerned, I did not make any such promise.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Tribal, Areas Department) : Promise was made to establish a Leper Dispensary at Umden-Nongtluh, but as the original scheme was not a comprehensive one, a revised comprehensive scheme was called for from the Director of Health Services which is now received and the work will be started soon.

Posting of Doctors for Bhoilymbong and Diengiei Dispensaries

U JOR MANIK SIEM (Nongpoh Reserved for Scheduled Tribes) asked :

*42. Will the Minister-in-charge of Medical Department be pleased to state—

(a) Whether doctors or compounders have been posted to Bhoilymbong and Diengiei dispensaries ?

(b) If not, why not ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) replied :

42. (a) & (b)—One Assistant Surgeon, Grade I, has already been posted to Diengiei Dispensary.

One Assistant Surgeon, Grade I, is under orders of posting to Bhoilymbong Dispensary.

Compounders have been appointed by the Civil Surgeon, United Khasi-Jaintia Hills, both for Diengiei and Bhoilymbong dispensaries in the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills. But they are under training now at Shillong Civil Hospital. They will be posted to the dispensaries concerned after completion of their training.

U JOR MANIK SIEM : May I know, Sir, why no doctor has been posted to Diengiei as yet ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : There may be some delay in joining, but we have already ordered the doctor to proceed immediately and join there.

Shri KARKA CHANDRA DOLEY (North Lakhimpur : Reserved for Scheduled Tribes) : সেই ডিচ্ পানচে বী দুটাইল ডাক্তর পঠাইছিলনে কপ্পাউনদার পঠাইছিল আক কেতিয়া পঠাইছিল ।

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) : I cannot give the exact date at this moment.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Storm-damaged Schools in Assam

Shri TAMIZUDDIN PRODHANI (Dhubri) asked :

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

- (a) How many schools in the State of Assam were damaged by storm in the year 1957 ?
- (b) What is the amount sanctioned for the reconstruction and repairing of those schools ?
- (c) What are the names and number of such schools in the Goalpara district ?
- (d) What amount has been sanctioned for Dhubri Subdivision ?

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

145. (a)—3,116 so far reported.
 (b)—So far Rs.13,63,308.
 (c)—A list containing the names and numbers of schools is placed on the Library Table.

[Statement laid on the Table in reply to Unstarred Question 145 (c)].

GOALPARA SUBDIVISION

Name of Schools	Amount sanctioned Rs.
1. J. N. Memorial H. E. Agia	300
2. Birjhora Government Aided High English	375
3. Dhudhnai High English	300
4. Baitamari High School	750
5. Rongjuli High School	750
6. Nishangram High School	1,875
7. J. N. Memorial Girls' High School	1403.25 N.P.
Middle English School	
1. Derek Middle English	750
2. Chakapara Middle English	375
3. North Boitamari Middle English	375
4. Dhupdhara Middle English	1,875
5. Dudhnoi Middle English	1,125
6. Amjonga Government Aided Middle English	375
7. Krishnai Government Aided Middle English	112.50 N. P.
8. Dirma Jakhali Government Aided Middle English	750
9. Dalgoma Government Aided Middle English	225
10. Bahati Government Aided Middle English	375
11. Salpara Santipur Government Middle English	300

Statement laid on the Table in reply to Unstarred Question 145(c)]

GOALPARA SUBDIVISION—*contd.*

Middle English School

Name of Schools

Amount sanctioned

	Rs.
12. Dhanubhanga Government Aided Middle English ...	225
13. Similitola Government Aided Middle English ..	313·12 N. P.
14. Marrangiri Government Aided Middle English ...	225
15. Bakaitari Government Aided Middle English ...	262·50 N. P.
16. Fetengapara Government Aided Middle English ...	187·50 N. P.
17. Padupara Bijoypur Middle English Madrassa ...	375
18. Rangapani Government Aided Middle English ...	375
19. Srijangram Government Aided Middle English ...	300
20. Birjhora Girls' Aided Middle English ...	131·25 N. P.

Middle Vernacular Schools

1. Manikpur Middle Vernacular ...	225
2. Bajitpara Government Middle Vernacular ...	225
3. Srijangram Pakhiriguri Government Middle Vernacular.	337·50 N. P.
4. Kerkhabari Ratanpur Middle Vernacular ..	637·50 N. P.
5. Pahidal Government Middle Vernacular ..	187·50 N. P.
6. Gjiagir Middle Vernacular ...	75
7. Tiplai Middle Vernacular ..	562·50 N. P.

Lower Primary Schools

1. Tengabari Lower Primary ...	450
2. Baguan Government Lower Primary ...	450
3. Baladmari Tilapara Lower Primary ...	450
4. Chotohatighopa Lower Primary ...	375
5. Kootpara Lower Primary ..	337·50 N. P.
6. Hatimura Lower Primary ...	1087·50 N. P.
7. Kachudola Lower Primary ...	337·50 N. P.
8. Borghola Lower Primary ...	750
9. Bhulaura Lower Primary ...	300
10. Dalek Lower Primary ..	300
11. Jarikundi Lower Primary ...	300
12. Majuri Garopara Lower Primary ...	300
13. Simlabari Lower Primary ..	562·50 N. P.
14. Suarkona Lower Primary ...	225
15. Jamadarbhita Lower Primary ...	225
16. Kalsabhanga Lower Primary ...	225
1. Dahikata Lower Primary ...	225
2. Sahbangan Baladari ...	225
3. Monakesha Nepali Khuti ...	300
4. Ujan Mornai Lower Primary ...	75
5. Balashari Lower Primary ...	187·50 N. P.
6. Muralijhar Lower Primary ...	187·50 N. P.
7. Awhateli Lower Primary ...	187·50 N. P.
8. Amguri Lower Primary ...	187·50 N. P.
9. Khadarjan Lower Primary ..	375
10. Dosimpara Lower Primary ...	300
11. Panditpara Lower Primary ...	187·50 N. P.
12. Balachara Lower Primary ...	187·50 N. P.
13. Damas Lower Primary ...	187·50 N. P.

[Statement laid on the Table in reply to Unstarred Question 145(c)].

GOALPARA SUBDIVISION—contd.

Lower Primary School

Name of Schools	Amount sanctioned Rs.
14. Bareichala Lower Primary	337.50 N. P.
15. Huramara No.II	225
16. Bechimari Lower Primary	131.25 N. P.
17. Haripur Bowalimari	300
18. Simlaguri Basic Lower Primary	131.25 N. P.
19. Sitalmari Bongaon Lower Primary	131.25 N. P.
20. Kakeijana Lower Primary	75
21. Pakhiriguri Basic	225
22. Tapartary Lower Primary	225
23. Barzana Lower Primary	187.50 N. P.
24. Rangapani Basic Lower Primary	337.50 N. P.
25. Japea Lower Primary	337
26. Mothurakhela Lower Primary	225
27. Harirchar Lower Primary	300
28. Tapgaon Lower Primary	300
29. Nararbhita Lower Primary	225
30. Kumrakata Lower Primary	187.50 N. P.
31. Singimari Lower Primary	187.50 N. P.
32. Ghoramara Lower Primary	150
33. North Numberpara B. Lower Primary	112.50 N. P.
34. Birpara Sajnahata	262.50 N. P.
35. Dewanpara Lower Primary	187.50 N. P.
36. Upertola G. Lower Primary	225
37. Oudubi Lower Primary	56.25 N. P.
38. Mornaipara Lower Primary	56.25 N. P.
39. Tilapara Lower Primary	187.50 N. P.
40. Dewangaon Lower Primary	37.50 N. P.
41. Pahartoli Lower Primary	112.50 N. P.
42. Senakhuli Lower Primary	150
43. Nidhanuram Lower Primary	187.50 N. P.
44. Pancharatan Lower Primary	375
45. Saldhowa Lower Primary	187.50 N. P.
46. Rakhalkhilla Lower Primary	187.50 N. P.
47. Khagarpur Lower Primary	112.50 N. P.
48. Jurigaon Lower Primary	300
49. Simulbari Lower Primary	300
50. Dhumergat Lower Primary	262.50 N. P.
51. Narayanpara Lower Primary	225
52. Borjhora Lower Primary	225
53. Raghunandanpur Lower Primary	187.50 N. P.
54. Rakhaldubi Lower Primary	300
55. Karkashi Lower Primary	225

(d)—So far Rs.20,727.37 Np.

Shri TAMIJUDDIN PRODHANI : Is it not a fact that the demand from the Dhubri Subdivision was greater than what was actually sanctioned by the Government ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : In every case the demand was greater than what the Government could afford to give.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) : Is it not a fact that the money sanctioned has not been received by the School Boards ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) : It has reached.

Shri RADHIKARAM DAS (Palashbari) : Whether the whole amount has been sent to the School Boards or the half ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Payments are being made in two instalments.

Shri RADHIKARAM DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] : When the other instalment will be paid, whether in 1957-58 or 1958-59 ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : That depends on the production of completion certificates.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : Is it a fact that sanctions so far as the Lower Primary Schools are concerned have not been given ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : My information is that it has already been done.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) : If the completion certificate will not be produced by the School Board, what will happen ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : They will not get the second instalment.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI : Then how the C. I. sheets and cement will be purchased if the money is not received in time ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance) : May I just intervene ? It is not completion certificate, it is utilization certificate of the amount of the first half and the information of the hon. Member is not correct.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : Is it a fact that the list of Lower Primary Schools of the Dibrugarh Subdivision damaged by storm is missing in the Government Secretariat ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) : It is not missing, might be misplaced.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj) : Is it a fact that the amount sanctioned has not reached the School Board ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : I have already answered it has.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) : Is it a fact that most of the Schools affected by storm have not received any Naya Paise up till now ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : It has reached the district ; whether it has reached the Schools concerned, I have no information.

Shri RAMNATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] : Will the Hon'ble Minister please make an enquiry about this ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Certainly, I shall be too pleased to inquire.

Mr. SPEAKER : If it is the desire of the House that an enquiry should be made, the Hon'ble Minister will be only too pleased to do so.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : When the amount was disbursed ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : I have not got that information with me now.

Shri LILAKANTA BARAH (Kaliabor) : Is it a fact that no amount has been sanctioned for any school under the Nowgong School Board ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : That is not a fact. For Nowgong Circle Rs.48,150 has been sanctioned for 57 schools and for Morigaon Circle Rs.19,087 for 87 schools.

Shri LALIT KUMAR DALEY [Moran (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Will the Minister be pleased to inform the House what was the amount sanctioned for Dibrugarh Subdivision ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) : Lakhimpur District—Dibrugarh—Rs.36,860·25 N. P. for 59 schools, North Lakhimpur Rs.1,15,500 for 112 schools.

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding) : Whether the little amount sanctioned for Nowgong School Board under this scheme has been sent to the School Board or not ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) : I have already replied that it has been sent to the district.

Mr. SPEAKER : Whether the money has been sent to the Nowgong School Board ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Government sends the money to the D. I. of Schools.

Shri RAMNATH SARMA : Whether the money sent from Government is being spent or not ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : I have no information.

Shri RAMNATH SARMA : Is it not the duty of the Government to see whether the money sent by them is being spent or not for the purpose for which it was sent ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Certainly, it is the duty of the Government, but it takes time to get such information.

Craft Instructors in Class 'C' Multipurpose Schools

Shri TANKESWAR CHETIA (Nazira) asked :

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

- (a) The reason for not sanctioning grants for salaries of Craft Instructors appointed in the Multipurpose 'C' class Schools ?

(b) What is the reason for this unusual delay when the subjects had been introduced some two years back ?

(c) What will be the pay-scale of these Instructors ?

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

146. (a)—Grants for salaries of Craft Instructors already sanctioned.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—The existing pay-scale is Rs.75—2½—100—(E.B.)—4—120 per mensem. Fixation of revised pay-scale is under consideration of Government.

Shri TANKESWAR CHETIA (Nazira): Whether the sanctioning order of granting salaries has been issued ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): It has been issued.

Shri TANKESWAR CHETIA: Has it been included in the amount sanctioned for giving an increased pay scale to the teachers or separate orders have been issued ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I refer to answer (c)—The existing pay-scale is Rs.75—120. Fixation of revised pay-scale is under consideration of Government.

Government Grant to Missionary Schools

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal) asked :

147. Will the Education Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether any grant is being allowed to Missionary Schools, *viz.*, St. Edmund, St. Anthony, Loreto Convent, Little Flower, etc. ?

(b) If so, what amount is being granted to those schools ?

(c) Whether Government are aware that the school and boarding fees of those schools are exorbitantly high for which public in general cannot afford to have their children educated in those schools ?

(d) Whether Government propose to adopt such measures so as to standardise the fees of those schools as those of other schools of Gauhati University, for enabling public in general to have their children educated in those schools?

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

147. (a)—Yes, to all the schools named except to the Little Flower School.

(b)—St. Edmund's Collegiate School Rs.10,000 annually.

St. Anthony's Collegiate School Rs.7,680 annually.

Loreto Convent Rs.4,800 annually.

(c)—The school-fees and the boarding-fees are charged at the following rates—

St. Edmund's—Kindergarten to Rs.20 per mensem.
Standard I.

Standard II to IX Rs.25 per mensem.

Boarding charge ... Rs.110 per mensem.

St. Anthony's—Class IV Rs.2 per mensem.

Class V Rs.2.50 n. p.

Class VI Rs.3.

Class VII Rs.3.50 n. p.

Class VIII Rs.4.

Class IX Rs.4.50 n. p.

Class X Rs.5.

Board incharge ... Rs.25 per mensem.

Loreto Convent—Kindergarten ... Rs.25 per mensem.
 Standard I to IX ... Rs.30 per mensem.
 Boarding charge ... Rs.158 per mensem.

(d)—St. Edmund's and Loreto Convent prepare students for Cambridge examination, and maintains a high standard involving higher cost. Government do not intend to interfere with the matter.

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal): এই স্কুলবিলাকত যি গান্ট দিয়া হয় সেই গান্টৰ জৰিয়তে আমাৰ যিবিলাক অনাথ লৰাছোৱালী আছে সেইবিলাকে যাতে ঠিকমতে শিক্ষা পাব পাৰে তালৈ লক্ষ বখা চৰকাৰৰ কৰ্ত্তব্য হয়নে নহয় ? তাত তেনে কোনো ব্যৱস্থা আছে নে ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): তাত তেনে আলাদা কোনো ব্যৱস্থা নাই। বাকী বেচৰকাৰী স্কুলত যি পৰিদৰ্শণৰ ব্যৱস্থা আছে এই বিলাক স্কুলৰ কাৰণে সেইটোৱেই আছে।

Shri MAHIDHAR PEGOO [Jorhat (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: স্বাধীনতা লাভ কৰাৰ পিচত এই স্কুল বিলাকৰ প্ৰতি এনেকুৱা অনুগ্ৰহ দেখুওৱাৰ কাৰণ কি ?

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj): May I know, Sir, whether the same privilege is extended to the Missionary schools in other districts of the plains ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Yes, if and when schools are found suitable.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari): Do the Government give similar grants to the St. Edmunds' College, St. Anthony College and the Loreto Convent at Shillong ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Yes, and besides them there are other Missionary institutions where Government give similar grants.

Shri CHATRASING TERON [Mikir Hills—West (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Has Government any control over the curriculum of those institution ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Yes, except so far as Cambridge University courses are concerned. Otherwise the Government Control is same as in any other aided institution.

Mangaldai Arts College

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

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

- (a) Whether an amount of Rs. 20,000 was ever given from Article 275(1) grant to Mangaldai Arts College?
- (b) If so, in which year?
- (c) What is the strength of the Tribal students in that college?
- (d) Whether any financial help has been rendered to that college from the general grants?
- (e) If not, why not?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that Government has not yet considered to give any aid to the college from the general grants?

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

148. (a)—Yes.

(b)—During 1955-56 a sum of Rs. 10,000 and 1956-57 a sum of Rs. 10,000.

(c)—Nil in 1955-56 and 1957-58.

(d)—No grant has been sanctioned from the general budget.

(e)—For paucity of funds for the purpose.

(f)—The matter is under consideration.

Shri PAKHIRAI DEKA: টাইবেল লৰা নথকা স্বতেও টাইবেল grant কিয় দিয়া হৈছিল?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: গৰণ মেণ্টৰ পলিচি আছিল কোনো স্কুল টাইবেল এবিয়াত পৰিলেই তাত টাইবেল লৰা থাকক বা নাথাকক টাইবেল এবিয়াৰ স্কুলক grant দিব লাগে।

Shri CHATRASING TERON [Mikir Hills—West (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Sir, is it the general policy of the Government to allot money from the Grant sanctioned under Article 275(1) for the benefit of the tribal students ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): Money from that Grant is generally given to the institutions established in the tribal areas.

Shri CHATRASING TERON: I want to know whether money under Article 275(1) is given to benefit the tribal students ?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is an obvious fact and that is enjoined by the Constitution. Therefore, I do not think any reply is necessary from anybody.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): It may be that at a particular time there may not be any tribal students in an institution established in a tribal locality, but if there be an institution in a particular subdivision where there is a sufficient number of tribal population there is every possibility of tribal boys coming to that institution. In Mangaldai subdivision this is the only college which is in existence. Therefore, it is quite natural that tribal boys of this subdivision will come for study there, though at the present moment there may not be any tribal students.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari): Is it a fact that in all the subdivisions of the State there is sufficient number of tribal people ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): I cannot say that definitely, but in large number of our subdivisions there is large number of tribal population.

Shri PAKHIRAI DEKA [Panery (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: মঙ্গলদৈ ট্রাইবেল এৰিয়া নহয় অখচ ট্রাইবেল এৰিয়া বুলি কিয় কৰা হৈছে ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): ট্রাইবেল এৰিয়া বুলি ভৈয়াত কোনো ঠাই নাই। মাননীয় সদস্য ডাক্তাৰীয়াই যদি ট্রাইবেল বুলিব কথা কৈছে তেন্তে সেইটো বেলেগ কথা। কিন্তু মঙ্গলদৈ মহকুমাত বহুতো ট্রাইবেল মানুহ আছে।

Bhagisagi-Dasgram Public Works Department Road

Shri ABDUL HAMID CHOUDHURY (Karimganj-South) asked:

149. Will the Minister of Public Works Department be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government have received demands for construction of a Public Works Department Road bifurcating from Karimganj-Patharkandi Public Works Department road along Bhagisagi Local Board Road and leading to Dasgram along Karnamadhu, Maijgram and Shajpur to be named Bhagisagi-Dasgram Public Works Department Road?
- (b) What decision Government have taken on the demand?
- (c) What were the suggestions contained in the demand as regards availability of funds in the current year's budget to undertake to project?
- (d) Whether Government propose to start work according to the suggestions?

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

149. (a)—Yes, one only from the President Latu Maijgram-Mahishashan Rural Panchayat.

(b)—The Project being a new one and not included either under the Second Five Year Plan or under any other approved schemes, outside the Plan, it has been decided to place the proposal before the Assam Roads Communication Board when it meets next to consider new proposals.

(c)—There are no suggestions in the aforesaid letter with regard to availability of funds in current year's budget.

(d)—Does not arise.

Silchar-Chingkorie and Joynagar-Buribail Road

Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West) asked :

150. Will the Minister of Public Works Department be pleased to state whether Government proposes to take up (I) Silchar-Chingkorie Road and (II) Joynagar-Buribail Road for improvement as there has been long-standing public demand for them ?

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

150. No. The proposals are not included under the Second Five Year Plan or under any other approved Schemes outside the Plan.

However, these will be placed before the next meeting of Assam Roads Communication Board for their consideration and work could be taken up if and when these are recommended by them and funds are available for the purpose.

Re: Substantive post of officiating Director of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari) asked :

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

(a) What is the substantive post of Shri H. K. Nag Choudhury ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that after the suspension of Shri G. K. Mehra, Director of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry, Shri Nag Choudhury was allowed to officiate as Director of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry ?

(c) When Shri Nag Choudhury was appointed as Deputy Director of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry ?

(d) Whether he has been confirmed in that post and if so, when ?

(e) Whether it is a fact that by superseding many senior officers of the Animal Husbandry Department Shri Nag Choudhury was allowed to officiate as Director ?

(f) If so, who are those officers and why they were so superseded ?

(g) Whether it is a fact that even now during the absence of the Director, Shri Nag Choudhury is allowed to officiate as Director ?

(h) Whether Government will be pleased to see that senior officers are not superseded by him, without sufficient cause ?

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

151.(a)—District Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Officer (Vety.).

(b)—No.

(c)—15th December, 1952.

(d)—No.

(e)—No.

(f)—Does not arise.

(g)—No.

(h)—Does not arise.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari): Sir, who officiated as Director in the absence of Shri Mehra ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Nobody officiated but Shri Nag Choudhury was holding the charge in addition to his own duties as he was the Deputy Director attached to the headquarters.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: With regard to (c) will the Minister be pleased to say whether there was any officer senior to Mr. Nag Choudhury ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Might be, but it is not a question of promotion.

**Damage by storm to Kalticherra Veterinary Dispensary
in Hailakandi Subdivision**

Shri GOURI SHANKAR ROY (Katlicherra) asked :

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

- (a) Whether he is aware of the damage caused by storm to the Veterinary dispensary building at Kalticherra in Hailakandi Subdivision ?
- (b) If so, what action has been taken to reconstruct or repair the buildings of the said dispensary ?

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

152. (a)—Yes.

(b)—A sum of Rs.12,289 has been provided by supplementary demand in the current session for reconstruction of the buildings of the Veterinary dispensary at Kalticherra.

Operation of the Local Self-Government Act

Shri TAJAMMUL ALI BARLASKAR (Udarband) asked :

153. Will the Chief-Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government has issued recently a notification withdrawing the operation of the Local Self-Government Act from those areas where the Rural Panchayats have been functioning ?

(b) If so, who will maintain the existing Dispensaries, Veterinary Institutions, Roads, Vaccinators, etc., so long established and maintained by the Local Boards ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister)
replied :

153. (a)—Yes, to the extent, the provision of the Local Self-Government Act is repugnant to the provisions of the Assam Rural Panchayat Act.

(b)—The existing institutions belonging to the Local Boards will continue to be maintained by Local Boards and those belonging to Panchayats by the Rural Panchayats.

New pay scale to Local Board employees

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

154. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Local Board employees are getting the benefit of the new pay scale which the other Departments all over the State are enjoying ?

(b) If not, why not ?

(c) Whether their cases will be considered or not ?

(d) If so, whether they will get that benefit from the current year ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister)
replied :

154. (a)—No.

(b)—The Pay Committee (1956) did not recommend revision of pay scales of the employees of the Local Bodies *vide* extract from their Report reproduced below :—

“The Committee have been asked to recommend model scales of pay for essential non-Government services, such as the employees of Local Bodies and teachers in recognised educational institution. The materials collected during the enquiry regarding the scale of pay in the Local Bodies are not sufficient to recommend any revision.”

(c)—There is no proposal under consideration of Government regarding revision of the pay scales of the employees of the Local Bodies.

(d)—Does not arise.

Mr. SPEAKER : We have now finished the Questions. Let us come to Short Notice Question.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Recent rise in price of Sugar in Assam

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara) asked :

1. Will the Minister of Supply be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government are aware that price of sugar has gone up recently in Gauhati and other places of Assam ?

(b) If so, what steps are taken by the Government to stop recurrence of such abrupt rise of essential commodities in the State ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that occasionally the prices of essential commodities, such as, sugar, kerosene, etc., go up at the sweet will of the mercantile community ?

(d) Whether Government will be pleased to enlighten the House as to the permanent steps taken on this behalf ?

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

1. (a)—Yes, from the middle of February 1958.

(b)—Government have been taking all possible steps to facilitate movement of all essential commodities from production centres to Assam destinations by allotting wagons to *bona fide* importers and also by arranging *ad-hoc* specials whenever necessary. The Railway authorities are also doing their best to improve the Railway communication so that the transport bottle-neck can be removed as far as practicable. Schemes have also been taken up to have local production of essential foodstuffs which are now wholly imported from outside.

(c)—Government have no such information.

(d)—Steps taken have been enumerated in reply to (b) above.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : Do the Government consider the feasibility of setting up subdivisional consumers' co-operatives in order to check the rising price of essential commodities ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Government will consider this.

Shri MOHIKANTA DAS (Barchalla): What is the price of sugar at Shillong ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply): It is reported to be between Rs. 1-1-0 to Rs. 1-8-0 and at Gauhati just now it is Rs. 1-1-0.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): Why suddenly sugar has been stopped coming to Assam ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: There was operational restriction of the Railway from 20th January to 19th February last.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Did Government receive notice from the Railway regarding this dislocation ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: They gave us a notice at first stating that this dislocation would be for a short period only. Later on they went on extending the period.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Did the Government make any provision for this unexpected dislocation ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: We sent telegrams to our Trade Adviser and to the Railway on almost every alternate day to make arrangement for transport of our goods for this period.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari): What is the stock position of sugar in the State ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Upto 3rd March 185 wagons of sugar were on way to Assam. Apart from this 43 and 50 wagons of sugar left Katihar on 3rd and 4th March respectively. 35 wagons left Alipur Duar on 7th March for Assam. Besides, 80 wagons of sugar left Sonapur for Assam. On 8th and 9th March 70 wagons weighing about 2,100 Mounds of sugar had reached Gauhati. Apart from this there may be stock with merchants and other sources.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara) : Will the Government make some special arrangement with the Railway for the transport of these essential commodities whenever there is a possibility of breach in communication ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply) : Government have always been doing it. In fact, our Trade Adviser has been doing his very best but because of the limited capacity of the Rail Link we have been suffering in this way.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : Is it a fact that just before this railway crisis some merchants were allotted wagons by the Trade Adviser in Calcutta, but they surrendered their wagons and did not carry sugar ?

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

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Will the Government please enquire ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Yes, Sir.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : In reply to (c), Government stated that they have got no information. My question is whether Government propose to keep track with the trend of prices of the everyday necessities of the people ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : We shall, but our main difficulty is this that sugar is not a controlled commodity.

Mr. SPEAKER : Not sugar alone, but he referred to essential commodities in general.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Yes, certainly, Sir.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi) : Is it a fact that returns of stock position of sugar and other essential commodities are sent to Government every month from the districts ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Yes, Sir, as far as available.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj—North): It is stated by Government that there was dislocation in railway communication and that information was sent to the Government by the railway authorities. After knowing that, did Government take any steps to stop export of sugar from Gauhati to North Bengal?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY (Minister, Supply): Sugar not being a controlled commodity, Government had no hand in stopping export.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati): Did Government examine whether they could do something under the Essential Commodities Act?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: The provisions of that Act do not apply to sugar as it is not a controlled commodity.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Government could have at least stopped allotment of wagons to those parties.

Mr. SPEAKER: We have had enough discussion on the subject.

We shall now resume discussion on the Governor's address. Mr. Ahmed will speak now.

Debate on Governor's address

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, after a lapse of more or less thirteen years, I have this opportunity, once again, to participate in the deliberations of this House. I welcome this opportunity, and regard it as a great privilege and honour. I further consider it fortunate that my first speech, after a lapse of thirteen years, should synchronise with the discussion of a subject which is of vital interest not only to the Members of this House but also to the country outside. Sir, for the last few days, I have been listening with rapt attention to the various comments and criticisms made by the hon. Members on the Governor's Address and I can say, without hesitation, that the dignity and the spirit of co-operation with which the hon. Members have approached the question have lightened my task of replying to their criticisms. It is true that some of the hon. Members, in their exuberance to bring to the notice of the Government the grievances of the people, have sometime, said some unfortunate things but we are nonetheless prepared to listen to all criticisms and try to meet such charges as are levelled against the Government.

Now, Sir, if we analyse the speeches which have been made on the floor of this House we come to the conclusion that all criticisms can be classified under separate heads. It has been stated by some of the hon. Members that there is some dissatisfaction regarding the manner in which we have approached the "border problem". Some of the other hon. Members have laid emphasis on such items as necessity of unity and reconstruction; others have found fault with the planning and some have found fault with the working of the community projects. Some of the hon. Members have made reference to the Umtru projects. There has also been references to the rising prices, to the decrease in production of rice and other articles. Sir, it will be my duty to meet some of the aforesaid criticisms which have been made by the hon. Members in this House. It may not be possible for me to traverse at length with facts and figures in respect to all the criticisms which have been made regarding decrease in production and supply of food-stuffs, but I am sure that the Minister-in-charge of Food and Agriculture will be able to place all the facts and figures before the hon. Members and satisfy them that so far as it is possible within the capacity of the Government everything is being done and no stone will be left unturned to see that the grievances of the public in this construction are redressed. Before I approach the various questions which have been posed before this House by the hon. Members. I should like to make a general observation with regard to some of the aspects about which reference has been made by Rev. Nichols-Roy and my hon. Friend, Mr. Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya. Rev. Nichols-Roy in the course of his speech said—and we are very glad to hear—that he is wedded to the principle and policy of the All-India Congress Organisation and he wanted to know whether this Government would endorse and pursue that policy and would continue to work on the principle enunciated by the great Congress organisation. Mr. Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya was also pleased to tell us that he and his party would be prepared to give their co-operation in respect of all schemes and works which will bring about all-round improvement and development. Sir, these are very good things to hear from the hon. Members who sit on the Opposition benches. I take this opportunity to state it—and I think in this approach I shall be supported by the Leader of the House and my other colleagues—that so far as we are concerned we shall undertake and try to solve all our difficulties in co-operation with

all and with only one idea, *i.e.*, to serve the people. We may have different ideologies, we may have different means to attain our objectives, but I submit that once we have been elected by our people and once we have the honour of serving our people in our capacity as Ministers or Members it should be our duty to see to the difficulties confronting our people and to see how those difficulties can be removed. In solving those difficulties we shall call for and take the support and co-operation not only of the members of the House to whatever party they may belong but also such co-operation and help as they may be forthcoming from outside this House. I think, a very good beginning in our State has been made when we have got assurance from the hon. Members opposite that so far as the question of development of our State is concerned they will give up their differences and they will offer their full co-operation to Government. This gesture will surely help the great task that lies ahead of us.

Sir, I wish to declare and assure the hon. Members that whatever difficulties we may have to confront in our development programme we shall do so in close consultation and co-operation of all the Members. Sir, it is with this spirit that I approach the criticisms which have been levelled by some of the hon. Members when they were discussing the Governor's address. I am particularly obliged to my Friend, Mr. Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya, who indeed has set a very high standard of debate. In the course of his speech he has dealt, what I may describe, as long-term programme and short-term programme. I can say on behalf of the Government that all the suggestions which have been placed by him, both with regard to long-term programme and short-term programme will be given due consideration. I can also say, in this connection that I do not consider that wisdom is the monopoly of those who adorn the Treasury Benches or of only those Members who belong to the Congress Party. Sir, we look upon ourselves as individuals who are likely to commit mistakes, when we commit mistakes we shall not hesitate to own the mistakes and take the advice of the House to rectify the mistakes. I hope that such advice and help as we may seek shall be forthcoming not only from the Members of the Government Party but also from the Members of the Oppositions.

Sir, it has really given me a great pleasure to hear from Mr. Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya that for the Members of the Opposition to say that the Government have failed in all respects will not be a correct approach. At the same time, he has also said that it would be wrong to claim on behalf of the Government that whatever they do lead to perfection and nothing more be done. I entirely agree with that for the Government to proceed on such presumption will be wrong. I think, no such claim was ever made and will be made by any one of us that whatever we do is perfect and nothing need be done. Of course, it may be true that while we accept one ideology, we may not approve of schemes of work under another ideology. Take for instance, we may not adopt all that is being done in Russia, or in another Communist country. I had the honour of visiting the great Soviet Republic about two years ago. My six weeks' stay in that country was not long enough to know, to see everything and to say that whatever I saw enabled me to give a correct impression of that great country. I can, however, claim to say that in those few weeks' stay I had the opportunity of learning first-hand that the Government and people were still faced with difficult problems and how they were dealt with. I wish to point out that mere acceptance and adherence to a particular ideology does not take us any far. It is not correct to pretend that acceptance of Communism will convert hell into paradise. Notwithstanding the acceptance of Communism and of tackling the difficult questions of production under Communist ideology the Soviet Republic has been facing difficulties in their country for the last 40 years, and during this period of 40 years I was pleased to hear from their leaders that in spite of their effort they were not able to deal effectively with the questions of production. Sir, I also had the privileges and honour of visiting one of the great democracies, the United States of America, only a few months ago. There I was surprised to find that people had more of everything than what they actually needed. Seeing the abundance of consumer goods available to people, naturally, I asked myself, how is it that while we read in text books that the Communist or Socialist way of life only can consume abundant supply of more things to the people the things necessary for the life of people are more and easily available in Capitalist America than in Russia?

Sir, the answer is this. That today what we see in Russia or in the United States is not the outcome and result of the faith and belief in one ideology of the other but of

developing according to facts and circumstance of each countries. Realistic rather than ideological approach is more necessary. I do not decry the indeology of Communism or what is taking place in Russia and China and I do not for a moment praise what is happening in America. But I only want my Friends to realise one thing, and that is that we should not allow ourselves to be victims of mere slogans but we should try to take from those countries only such things as are helpful in our environment and circumstances. What I want to point out to the hon. Members is this that America with plenty of natural resources, with a vast territory at their disposal and a limited population to cater for, with highly industrialised and technically developed country cannot be an ideal example for us in respect of all matters, notwithstanding the claims made by the American people that their democratic form of Government is the best form of Government and that this capitalist system of society is the best system under which they can provide things for their own people. Sir, I have not had the privilege of going to China but I can claim to have some knowledge about China through books. My impression is and I think that impression will be shared by many of my friends here that if any country has any similarity to the problem of our country, it is the Great Chinese Republic because there, like us, the Government and the people have to face a gigantic task of providing organisation for an increasing population. In Soviet Russia also the Government are not faced with the great task of providing for increased pupulation, similarly in America the Government are also not faced with the task of providing for a population which is increasing. On the other hand my impression is that today in that country there is room, food and occupation not for only American people but for outsiders also. So, when we have to look to our problems we have to consider in what essential manner our problem differ from those in other countries. Realisation of this important fact can help us in solving our difficulties.

Sir, we are told that our greatest need today is national reconstruction and for the purpose of national reconstruction as my Friend, Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya, has rightly said that the first thing which is most necessary is unity among all sections of the people living in our State. Sir, with your permission, I should like to add that together with unity there is one other thing which is necessary for our national reconstruction. It is that we should have atmosphere of peace throughout our State. Since unity and peace are the most essential conditions or pre-requisite to development it should be the duty of each and everyone of us

to see that this unity and peace are established and should be continued in our State. It is for this reason that I wish to say on behalf of the Government that so far as we are concerned, as long as we have the opportunity of serving the people, as Members of the Government we have no religion, as Members of the Government we shall not be wedded to one section, such a group to the detriment of the others. It will be our business to try to understand and solve the difficulties whether the grievances of the people are brought to our notice by members of the Government Party or by members of the oppositerparty. To that task we shall dedicate ourselves and I hope in this task and approach we shall have the full co-operation of my Friends opposite including the Leader of the Opposition. I have yet to hear him. I should like to repeat to my other Friend, the Father of the House, I mean Rev. Nichols-Roy, who represented the tribal people in this House that so far as this Government is concerned we recognise that our tribal people have a distinct culture, a distinct tradition and a different way of life. We respect this distinctive feature and it will be our duty to see that our tribal friends are allowed to work hand in hand with us without any interference so far as their traditions, their customs and their way of life are concerned. But I should like, Sir, to emphasize at the same time that Assam, as I see is not only inhabited by tribal people but also inhabited by those people who are living in the plains also. It may be said that the tribal people have a different culture, and the plains people have different culture, I for one am not prepared to accept that there is no unity and virtue in that diversity. I am prepared to say that Assamese culture has been derived and is sustained by the Hills and plains people together. I cannot agree with those people who claim that one type of culture is superior to another type of culture. Sir, actually the misgivings and mis-apprehensions which are entertained by our tribal brethren are the result and outcome of the behaviours of those who feel and believe that the people coming from the plains are superior and therefore they want to impose their culture on the tribal people. But may I submit before this House that today when we approach the tribal people we approach them not with any claim of superiority, we approach them as equals and as brethren. We approach them not with the idea of imposing any particular culture but to work and develop such culture of which all can be proud of. They are equal, and that they should not think themselves as something distinct from the rest of Assam. They have also their own contribution to make to this wonderful State of Assam. They should come with us as brethren

and equal in sharing the responsibility equally in undertaking the task of making this State a prosperous one. If we mix and work together with this feeling of equality and unity I have no doubt whatsoever that once again in this great State of Assam, both the people living in the hills and the plains will live like brothers and sisters without any mutual suspicion and thus be able each other in the task of rebuilding Assam and making it prosperous.

It has been further rightly stressed that in order to succeed in our development programme we have to mobilise and utilise all the people who inhabit this State. It is true as Mr. Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya was pleased to say, that 70 per cent, of our population are purely agriculturists. I may without contradiction say that, that percentage of agriculturists population will be in the vicinity of 85 per cent. If to-day we ignore this aspect, if we ignore to take such schemes as will ameliorate the condition of our agriculturists in the State we cannot claim to say that we have laid a solid foundation for the improvement of our State. Therefore, it is necessary that whatever programmes, whatever schemes we have to take, we cannot ignore to give their benefit to the people living in the villages and particularly in backward areas. We had listened to constructive criticisms about the Community Projects and the National Extension Schemes. The other day we had the honour and privilege of a visit from a Minister of the Union Government—Mr. Dey. He was pleased enough to go round and visit many of the areas where Community Project and National Extension Schemes are functioning. We had the benefit of his inspection and observation in respect of what he actually saw in our State. To day I would not like to take the times of the hon. Members to narrate the details of discussion we had with him, but it will be sufficient to acquaint the hon. Members of the fact, that the Union Minister was not satisfied with the functioning of these Community Projects and National Extension Schemes. One defect which was pointed out was that these Community Projects or the National Extension Schemes have hitherto been functioning as a separate department with no proper co-ordination with the other departments of the Government. It will now be for us to see that whatever work is done in the Community Projects or the National Extension Scheme, will be done in close collaboration and co-operation with the other relevant departments of the Government. It will be the policy of the Government in future to see that the works in the Community Projects or the National Extension Schemes are done not only in close co-operation but also under

the strict supervision and contact of one departmental head. I believe, Sir, if the work is done in this manner many of the criticisms which have been levelled today will be met and the hon. Members will find within a very short time that the things have improved. As has been made clear by the Leader of the House that so far as the works under Community Projects and other Development Projects are concerned, not only the officials have to perform their duty but the non-officials also have to play their part for the successful implementation of the various programmes and schemes. Therefore, I appeal to both the hon. Members of the Government party and of the Opposition that in the task which we have undertaken they should give their full co-operation. This co-operation should not be extended with the idea of purely desirous benefit for a particular constituency wherefrom the hon. Member comes, but with the idea of helping such works all over and particularly in areas which are very backward. I think, Sir, it should be the concern not only of the Government but also of the hon. Members that in such backward areas, where the people are in urgent need of medical facilities, communication facilities, etc., we should try to take benefit of these schemes and programmes and working in this spirit, I hope we shall be able to produce better results. Sir, Congress in pursuing its objective as Mr. Gaurisankar Bhattacharjee has rightly said is wedded to the principle of socialism. Sir, I reiterate to-day that whatever has been decided as regards our objective by the Indian National Congress and what has been said in this connection by the Prime Minister, we shall not budge an inch from that. To-day whatever our difference may be, we are committed to the objective of bringing about social welfare State through the process of socialism. Sir, Mr. Bhattacharjee may have different ideas about the means how we work for socialism but we follow certain principles and methods by which we intend to approach that goal. We cannot achieve that goal simply by making speeches here or or by passing a resolution but by actively proceeding with the work of reconstruction area wise. Only in this way we can convert areas in social welfare purpose. It is impossible to attain complete socialism in a short time. Even the great Russian Soviet Republic which is wedded to the objective of socialism after a period of nearly 40 years, as we have from the statements of their own leaders have not yet attained that stage of socialism which they have in view. So if we falter here and there it should not be assumed, and my Friend Shri Nilmoney Borthakur, should not think that we have given up our task or totally failed in our objective. Sir, while it was

pleasing to hear the constructive criticisms from Mr. Gaurisan-
kar Bhattacharyya, I was for a moment distressed to hear
unwarranted remarks from Mr. Nilmoney Borthakur when he
described in a melo-dramatic form the exit of Mr. Medhi from
the Chief Ministership and the entry of Mr. Chaliha as the
Chief Minister. I am really sorry to hear from him that he had
an idea that as soon as Mr. Medhi left and Mr. Chaliha came
to the Gaddi, Ram Rajya would be ushered in. I am sure
none of us has claimed that with the exit of Mr. Medhi and the
entry of Mr. Chaliha Ram Rajya has been ushered in. Sir, it
cannot be said that the task we have set to, can be completed
in a few months or a few years. It was therefore very unkind
for him to say that we are in the same leaky boat as we were
before. I am sure, Sir, Mr. Borthakur himself must have on
second thought disapproved of his remarks afterwards, because it
is not possible for any one to make a change within a period of
3 or 4 months. I beseech my Friend to disabuse that wrong
idea from his mind. We do not claim that with our objective
and the ideology we shall be able to usher within a few months
or years Ram Rajya within our State or all our difficult
problems will be solved. Our experience is in countries where
all from services to the field workers are wedded to one
ideology, to one objective, as for instances in Russia even there,
after 40 years they have not been able to bring about state of
perfection. Sir, we have heard a good deal of criticism with
regard to the method and manner in which we are approaching
our problem of production. I think, my Friend will bear me
out that even in Russia to-day, where the services are claimed
to be more efficient, and where all work under one ideology,
they have not been able to cope with this problem of produc-
tion. We found that inspite of collective farming and State
farming, the production in that country also has not reached
the expectation of those who prepare the scheme. The produc-
tion in that country is far below the normal requirement of the
people. Therefore when with more efficient services, with not
so many ideologies, and different parties as in India, it has
not been possible for a country like Russia to solve this gigantic
problem, I think, Sir it will be more foolish, on our part
to claim that in a period of 3 or 4 years we shall do remove all
the grievances of the people whom we have come here to serve.
Sir, Mr. Bhattacharyya has in his very interesting speech
recognised and admitted our difficulties. These difficulties
and problems are such for which the solution cannot be found
in one day. I also endorse what he has said. That we
should not regard these difficulties which exist in other parts
of the world as an excuse for not doing anything. Sir, I say

with all sincerity, with all humility that we shall make a beginning and we shall approach our difficulties and problems with determination and with one idea of making improvement of the condition of our country. I do not claim that we shall convert this hell into a paradise in a day. That will be foolish to make such a claim on our part, or on the part of anyone else.

Sir, now coming to the charge of inefficiency in the administration, it is true that to-day we have in our service some officers who had their training under an alien Government, but I believe, Sir, these people have also changed to some extent. Formerly our Government servants were required to serve two masters ; their imperialist master and also to some extent their own people. But to-day at least that difficulty is removed and they have not to serve any imperialist master, but only their own country and their own people. It is true to-day I cannot claim that they are as efficient as we should like them to be, but I think this inefficiency is more due to the fact that we have not entrusted them with responsibilities and have not allowed them to function in a responsible way. It may be that there are some inefficient officers but we have to admit that we have taken away the initiative from among our officers and that all the powers have been concentrated in the Secretariat with the result that our officers in the field have been left with no responsibility, no initiative in the discharge of their function. I may assure the hon. Members that we propose to approach the task of recognising this defect. It will be our effort to mobilise and utilise the officers in the services of the people and with that idea in our mind we shall try to remove such defects as exist. We shall consider the question of giving them more facilities, more responsibilities so that they may be left to take more initiative with regard to the responsibilities entrusted to them. This is the manner in which we have to approach our task. In this effort we would request the hon. Members of the House to give us their co-operation. Here I wish to make a request to the hon. Members of this House which is that after we have given that responsibility, initiative to the officers we should not interfere with their day to day administrative work. We may guide them so far as the policies are concerned. If they go wrong in the matter of enunciated policies, such deviation be brought to their notice or to the notice of the Government for interference or for correction. But in respect of matters, such as when a particular officer is to be transferred or a clerk or a Chaprasi is to be appointed—in such matters, I beseech the hon. Members not to approach the Government and our officers and leave

them to discharge their own responsibility and duty without any interference. Only when officers commit error on the matter of implementing such policy as laid down by Government it is necessary to pull them up. If the hon. Members feel that officers are doing something in contravention of the policy or of law, they may please approach us, and we shall surely look into the charges. It must be recognised that in India we have officers not professing one ideology but having freedom to subscribe to different points of view unlike Russia or China. To attain our objective we have to take the people with us by persuasion, we have to approach the people with the spirit of non-violence, without any threat, without any coercion. Therefore we cannot take into service only those people who are pledged to the Congress policy and of the Congress programme. That is our way of doing things. Communistic countries only appoint such officers who subscribe to Communistic ideology. But so far as our country is concerned it is neither possible nor is it desirable to make appointment on that principle. That is why we have thrown open the door of service to all irrespective of the fact whether a person belongs to the Congress Party or any other party. It is therefore possible that some of our Government officers not having faith in our way of life may commit mistakes. It will be our duty to confuse in them the spirit of service. We recognise that every Government officer, whatever position he may hold, should work and devote himself with service of the people, we realise that unless and until the work is done with that spirit, it will not be possible for the officers to make their contribution to the administration. It is also necessary for all of us to see that the Government officers are not utilised for the purpose of one party or other. I can assure my Friend that we shall impress on our officers not to meddle in party politics but to serve the people through execution of the policy enunciated by the Government and by this Legislature. With the co-operation of the hon. Members of this House, in this effort, I have no doubt whatsoever that we shall be able to lead our country on its march of progress and also we shall be able to lay the foundation for an improved and better service from our officers.

Now, Sir, so far as the question of Tribal Areas is concerned, I may take my Friends from the Tribal Areas into confidence and tell them that the welfare of the tribal people is our greatest concern. We are fully conscious of the sufferings and distress of the people in the tribal areas. We know that they have become victims to difficulties arising from

the unfortunate partition of our country. We realise to what extent they have been subjected to difficulties and deprivations particularly in those areas which are very adjacent to Pakistan. We are conscious of their difficulties. We are taking such steps as far as possible for solving these difficulties and problems. They will have to be solved taking steps on long-term and short-term basis. Long term programme must include, the improvement of communication from one part of the area to the other, setting up industries on co-operative basis so that the affected people may be able to engage themselves and earn their living. By short-term programmes, we shall open as many fair-price shops as possible. As a matter of fact quite a good number of fair-price shops have already been opened and some more are being opened shortly with a view to give effective help to the poor people. In places where scarcity is more acute, where it is impossible for people to purchase rice as has been stated by my Hon. friend, Rev. Nichols-Roy, we shall see in what other form some more help can be given to them. In fact, I have already asked my colleague, Captain Sangma, that as soon as he is released from the duties of this House, he should undertake an extensive tour in these areas and after ascertaining the nature of real and urgent requirements, he should consult us so that it may be possible for us to devise ways and means by joint consultation as to how best we can help those distressed people. I have no doubt that if we proceed on this line many of the difficulties now faced by our tribal brethren will be removed. I may also assure my Friend, Rev. Roy, that whatever suggestions he has placed before the House, and he has particularly spoken about a scheme, they will be given due consideration together with other suggestions. I hope that with this promised co-operation we shall be able to face with determination the task ahead of us.

There are a few more things about which I should like to make a reference before I conclude. My Friend, Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya, has made an allegation that our Police is being utilised for the purpose of helping the landlords against the peasants, for the purpose of helping the tea garden managements against the labourers and so on. I shall be glad to take necessary action if my hon. Friend will be pleased to give me or the Chief Minister any instance where the Police have been utilised in the manner alleged. I may assure the House, Sir, that so far as we are concerned, it will be our duty to see that Police is not dragged for settlement of labour disputes. They should be left to be dealt with by the Labour Department, by the officers

of the Labour Department and such persons who have been appointed for the purpose of bringing about reconciliation between the labour and the capital, the help of Police is to be called only when there is any violence or breach of the peace.

Sir, Mr. Bhattacharyya will also agree with me that when we are at the helm of affairs or of the administration we cannot allow our country to go to chaos and we cannot allow disturbance of peace in any area. We shall instruct police to interfere only when there is real apprehension of breach of peace and not to interfere with the legitimate activities of any organisation in any area. For the purpose of conciliation between employer and employee we have appointed Labour Officers. It is the duty of those Labour Officers to see that there is no tension. Whenever there is any complaint against the management the good officers of those officers will be utilised for restoration of peace between the management and the labour.

Mr. Bhattacharyya also referred to reform, utilisation and management of land I may frankly say that to-day I also myself not satisfied with the state of affairs so far as land is settled in our State. Perhaps our State is not the only State where there is this dissatisfaction. Perhaps in other States the same situation prevails. I have myself seen that many of our poor cultivators have been deprived of holdings due to erosion of river. I make no secret when I say that in our State there is a vast number of cultivators who remain unutilised because they have no land to cultivate. This is a problem which we have to face. We have been in office only for a short time and so I request the hon. Members to give us some time to devise plan for solving this problem. After the Assembly Session is over we shall give our thought to this matter, if necessary, we shall seek the co-operation of the Members of this House and shall consider their suggestion of providing land to those who have no land. That is the way we can properly tackle with this matter. We shall take the Members of the House into confidence before adopting a policy which will be helpful in that direction.

So far as the management of the land is concerned I admit that this is a very difficult problem. To-day we have before us some basis on which the Planning Commission has proceeded. We have also before us what has been recommended by our respected leader Vinobhaji. We also have some idea, of what Chinese people in their country are trying to do to solve this

problem-of the management of land. We also have some knowledge how the collective farms in great Soviet Republic are functioning. All these experiences are before us. I am not to say to-day which is good and which is bad. We are to decide how these plans and experiences can be applied to our State. Experiment tried elsewhere cannot be ignored. What is good in another country we are prepared to take provided it is likely to yield us the benefit. Even Mr. Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya has not been able to say in this Assembly what kind of management will be suitable. This is a difficult problem which we shall have to decide having in view what is experience of those places and what are the particular conditions pertaining in our areas. We shall have to adopt such measures as are suitable to our environment and to our circumstances.

I have tried to meet some of the criticisms which the hon. Members were pleased to make. I have not to-day dealt with concrete instances because I consider that this is not the proper place to do so. The hon. Members will have the opportunity of ventilating or bringing their grievances before the House when the Budget Demands come for discussion. I have simply made my observations on behalf of the Government with regard to the general aspect and with regard to the general criticism which has been levelled against the Governor's address. I would not like to leave this impression that we do not like criticism. In fact it is the duty of the Members of the House to make criticism and whenever we go wrong to guide us and help us with their suggestions. But at the same time I request the hon. Members that in this task of Governing the State they should not look upon us as something different. We may belong to the Treasury Benches but I consider that non-the-less responsibility and task of Governance is of the Members of the House including those who sit opposite to us we all have to share this responsibility. We shall look forward with interest how closely they co-operate with us in this great task before us.

Thank you, Sir. (*Cheers*).

***Sbri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really very thankful to Mr. Ahmed for his long and eloquent speech which is full of promises and efforts. Mr. Ahmed has given us a picture of a future. It was not possible for me to look into the past. The fact is there, and we cannot go to the future without the past and the present. I am thankful to him for seeking our co-operation and I can without hesitation

offer that co-operation to him in the development of this strategic State of ours. But in the matter of co-operation it is not for us to give in general matters but we also expect from the Government that even in initiating a policy and in the matter of implementing a policy such co-operation will be sought from us and his assurance will hold good.

I am glad, Sir, that Mr. Ahmed has in a way helped me in making my observations on the Government. I expected what Mr. Ahmed said would be the words that would come from the lips of the Chief Minister. So, now I am in a better position to know about the policy of the Government and regarding the *modus operandi* that will be formulated for carrying out the various policies. Sir, I will only tell Mr. Ahmed that when we cite instances of countries beyond our borders, it is not with the intention of shouting slogans that we do not. We are after all human beings and we are enamoured of achievements in other countries and we want to learn from them also. Therefore it will be wrong to say in that vaunted way that slogans should be given up and, if I may say so, Sir, this banning of slogans has itself become a slogan to-day.

Sir, I have read carefully the Governor's Address. It is not a formal piece of Address; it has a sanctity in that it incorporates the policy of the Government and its achievements during the past year. Moreover, Sir, when a motion for thanking the Governor for his brilliant Address is brought in this House, it becomes all the more important because it is in a way a vote of confidence on Government's policies. So, Sir, we have to analyse these policies, scrutinise them carefully and see how far they are compatible and consistent with the ideal we have set before us. Sir, when I went through the Governor's Address again, I found that certain developments had been under-estimated; I found also that certain matters which should have received the highest priority in our State had not been even mentioned in the Governor's Address. I refer, Sir, to major industries. The Governor's Address gave us no idea at all what steps Government have been taking in the matter of building up major industries in our State. Sir, I realise the difficulties of the present Government, the Chaliha Government. This is a Government which has come to the saddle only a few months before. But, Sir, the people outside are not at all interested who comes in and who goes out. They know the Congress is in power; whether it is X of the Congress or Y of the Congress does not concern them. So, a continuity is there and if we forget the continuity and if we say that the past which ended with Mr. Medhi was a bad chapter, we should forget it and come

no new things, I think we shall be creating a smoke-screen and the people will not tolerate it. We have a right to enter into all these things because Government after all is a continuous thing and this Government when it speaks about things of the past year they are responsible also to a certain extent about these things. This I have to say because in a matter the other day during the question hour when the question regarding disappearance of gold from the Dibrugarh treasury was discussed in this House, the Leader of the House said that it was a matter of 1954.

Shri BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) :

May I correct the hon. Leader of the Opposition, Sir ? I said this was a matter of 1944.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) :** Yes, Sir, 1944. But when the Leader of the House thought it fit to reply to it, we also expected that along with it he would also take certain responsibility in making an investigation.

Sir, the year that is just going to elapse was a year of indecision, suspense and inaction and to a certain extent was a year of excitement, the excitement furnished by the movement for the location of the oil refinery in Assam as well as for holding the Congress Session in Pragjyotishpur. Sir, it was a year of indecision. Although the Congress were returned to power by an overwhelming majority, it took two months to elect the leader of the Congress Party and to saddle him with the responsibility of the Chief Minister. After that it took again three months for the Chief Minister to decide whether he would remain or come out and after that even to-day we find the same indecision in the formation of the Government. Sir, I am not interested in who becomes a Minister and who does not, but I am thinking about the consequences of this indecision, the consequences of this suspense and I find that because of this indecision the administration has become worse to-day. For this indecision development programmes have not been put through and because of this indecision to-day nobody knows what will happen tomorrow. Sir, this Government with a decisive majority behind its back has been made inactive because of this indecision. I will deal with this failure on the part of Government when I discuss matters point by point. I will not speak about national reconstruction or unity in the abstract sense or the *modus operandi* in a promising way but I will speak concretely about matters that concern us and the people outside. Sir, we know that a sum of about 11 crores of rupees was allotted for

spending during the second year of the Second Five Year Plan, but in reply to a question we were told that only about four crores have been spent up till now. This is a matter of serious consequence. We know also that only recently 39 lakhs of rupees have been sanctioned by the Agriculture Department for distribution to the agriculturists before 31st March. How will that be done? We know also that in the Public Works Department and the Education Department lakhs of rupees are still to be spent and I do not know if this will be spent or squandered. Why is this? If we go to the root of this, we find that the indecision of last year is the main cause of it and I say that if the Government still cannot become decisive, if they still cannot take decisions, these things will be repeated this year also.

Sir, our State is a problem State. We have the problem of the hills, we have the problem of the border areas as well as those States which border us; then we have the problems of an undeveloped State, the problem of transport, and so on. All these problems are there, but, Sir, what I have found that the approach of the Government to these problems is not what it should be. The approach is never socialistic and very often and to a large extent it is a crude capitalistic form. It is not naked to the eye but admits capitalism of leaving things loose and of following a line of least responsibility. It is like the Mota marriage found in Muslim law, which is a thing done for convenience and cannot be the approach to these problems. We are wedded to socialism and in solving its problem. We have to see whether we are faithful to our ideologies and to what extent we have been able to implement our socialistic ideologies.

Sir, my Friend, Mr. Ahmed, said that even in 40 years in Russia socialism is not perfect. But they have at least founded the basis of socialism, the basis which is consistent with the ideologies in such a manner that people know what they are going to have. But here if we have followed Mr. Ahmed's speech properly we know something of China, something of America and something of Russia, thus we may make Khichuri of things. Here we have to learn from experience of other countries, we have to decide our mind and we have to measure every policy on the basis of our ideology of socialism. If we once make our mind to the ideology of socialism, we should not take so much time for implementation of our programme, but what we mean in our land policy, industrial policy or labour policy, we do not find a tinge of socialism in them.

Sir, in our State the integration is a very major problem. We have agreed to the slicing of a portion of our territory, I mean, the Naga Land. I was glad, the other day when Shri Ramnath Sarma referred to North-East Frontier Agency, and made observations of how we should integrate ourselves with the people of North East Frontier Agency. As a matter of fact in the Constitution North East Frontier Agency is part and parcel of Assam, it is just like the appearance of the North Pole Star in the South Pole. What Mr. Sarma said that we are interested in bringing down barriers and bringing down lines, but here we have allowed the Central Government to build a wall between the North East Frontier Agency and Assam. It is not a question of a few journalists going there and seeing things in a hurry but it is a question of mixing of the people there with the people of Assam. It is a question of understanding much better each other, but we have found how far this policy has been carried out and what is the reaction of the State Government to this and we find that the State Government's reaction is like that of a dead man.

Then, Sir, regarding the Naga Land, we have seen during these months after the Centre took it over in the month of November, probably, the situation has eased and this should be a lesson for us and we have to have more thinking about it. So long the Naga Land was with us these activities were going on and the fissiparous tendency was on the increase and why is it that with the taking over by the Central Government that tendency has eased down? Was it not therefore a fact that we committed certain mistakes and we pursued some wrong policies in the Naga Land? We have with our experience there should see that in the Autonomous Hills Districts we do not commit the same mistakes. We should feel the sentiments of the people in the Autonomous Hills Districts and we should curve out a correct policy so that we do not commit the same mistakes. Sir, in the Governor's Address it is stated that there is a better understanding between the Autonomous Hills Districts and the Plains Districts of Assam. I only welcome it and I hope it will continue but so far as the demand for a Hill State is concerned, I do not know what is the reaction of the Government. But I will tell the Government that we should be careful in implementing our policies in the Hills so that we may not commit any mistake that we committed in the Naga Land.

So far as Hills are concerned the remarks of Mr. Sangma about a year back need to be considered. What Mr. Sangma said that mere taking one or two Ministers from the Hills

would not solve the problems but it was the improvement of understanding into their day to day life, it was the question of raising their standard of living, it was of giving them a correct prescription for the correct disease. I hope, Mr. Sangma who is now in the helm of affairs of Tribal people, will be able to deal with these problems properly and will avoid any fissiparous tendencies and we shall be able to progress ahead.

Sir, before I go into the question of the Plan, the Second Five Year Plan, I would like to say something about our administrative structure. As Mr. Ahmed has rightly said that the centre of gravity so far as the administration is concerned seems to be found in the Secretariat Department. Our administrators in the districts have lost all initiative. They are not given any responsibility and they are more or less carriers of orders from the Secretariat Departments. In this connection, I need only refer to the speech of Mr. Radhika Ram Das yesterday in this House when he said that when Minister's orders were passed they were not carried out by the administrators. These are matters to be taken seriously and in these matters there should be no room to leave the matters to complacence. Today we find that one Secretary is saddled with the responsibility of three or four departments. He is to go to more than one Minister for carrying out the policies of the Government and this has resulted in delay in execution of matters. Secretaries have to send their orders for clarification of Government policy to Directors—where there are Directors—and Directors again to Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers and so on; all these unnecessarily take time and result in delay in execution of work. Sir, this matter has to be very minutely looked into, whether the present system should be kept as it is or we should have one Secretary responsible for one department or at most for not more than two departments. We have to rationalise the work in different departments because there are some departments where there is less work and some departments where there is so much of work that things cannot be done properly. Therefore, Sir, we should rationalise work not only in the Secretariat level, but also in the district level and also in the subdivisional level. Otherwise whatever plans we may have those plans will not be carried out and will not be executed. To-day, to speak frankly, we have to see properly about the actual ideology we profess, in this what is most important is execution and therein lies the test whether we are truthful to our ideology or it is only our make belief. Therefore, Sir, for quick execution of our programme we must rely upon the permanent Civil

Service. But unfortunately, Sir, when there is indecision the Secretary also seems to take keen interest as to who should be the Chief Minister of the State. Yes, as citizen he has every right in doing so but if thereby the administration suffers then surely he should be held responsible. So we have to build up our Civil Service who are not only responsible for execution of the policy and programme of this Congress Government but who may have to execute the policy and programme of another Government tomorrow. So the most important task at the moment is to build up that permanent Civil Service which will be entirely responsible for execution of Government policy and programme.

I am glad that Mr. Ahmed has said that we should not speak about transfers, promotions and such other things, but to be consistent with this ideal it is also necessary that Ministers should not concern themselves with the task of the Deputy Commissioners or Subdivisional Officers in the matter of appointment of Chowkidars, Mandals, etc. (*Hear, hear*) Now Sir, the Cabinet of Ministers is to lay down the policy and to guide the Secretaries in the execution of that policy but what do we find? Ministers as is often the case, instead of guiding the Secretaries in the execution of the Government policies and programmes mostly concern themselves with such petty things like promotion of Chowkidars, appointment of Mandals, peons, etc., when this is so I say, Sir, that we are not going for a socialistic pattern of society.

Sir, the Governor in his Address has said that the First Five Year Plan is a successful one. I don't know how far it was successful in other States but here we expected a lot from the First Five Year Plan. We spent to the tune of Rs.22 crores in our State and all that we can show to the people is some small projects only like the Umtru Hydro Electric Project. I shall have occasion to refer to this Umtru Hydro Electric Project but before that, Sir, I will say that our First Five Year Plan was a very simple plan and it was not commensurate with the needs of the State. Yet we said that we have big achievements, that we have solved our food problem, that we shall not have to import food-stuffs from outside, but only six months after that Plan we have to admit that we were wrong in our calculation. Now, so far as the Second Plan is concerned the Governor said that we should be happy because we have been able to achieve our financial target. I say, Sir, that that is not the case. As a matter of fact we are far behind our target. We find that for 1956-57 we spent 10 crores 33 lakhs of rupees, for 1957-58 we

were to spend Rs.11.1 crores in the State sector alone but what we were told in this House? We were told that up till now we have been able to spend only Rs.4 crores and for 1958-59 the target appears to be Rs 10.7 crores—this brings the total to Rs.32 crores, as against that our Plan target is Rs.69 crores; that shows that in two years we shall have that spend 37 crores of rupees. This is really a very serious thing, Sir, and I want the Ministers to seriously think over it. When ledge have not been able to spend 32 crores of rupees in three years, shall we be able to spend Rs. 37 crores in two years? Sir, if we have not the ways and means to spend the money in time we should try to find out the ways and means how to spend it. We shall have to find out what are our draw-backs. It is said that essential materials are not available, technical knowledge is not available for proper execution of the First Plan and now in the Second Plan we are still deficient in the matter of technical personnel. It really requires serious thinking, Sir. We must do something seriously. So, Sir, it is not the financial target that we are concerned with but we are actually concerned with the physical target. It is not only arithmetical figures that will go to the people, to the cultivators and the peasantry around us, but it is the physical things that we have done; they must realise that in their day to day life, in their everyday life, so that they can say 'yes, because of the Five Year Plan we have got all these good things, because of the Five Year Plan we have got such nice cultivation, because of the Five Year Plan our sons and daughters have got employment and so on.

Unless these things are done, Sir, it is no use saying that we have achieved our financial target, that we have produced 22 per cent more, that our agricultural produce have gone up when on the other hand the people have not the essential commodities of life at more reasonable prices. So, Sir, in the Governor's Address we find only complacency—what I want the House to take note of is that we should not have this complacency, we should not be complacent. We have yet a big figure of 37 crores of rupees to spend in two years. If within these two years we do not spend this amount we shall not reach our financial target far less our physical target and other amenities which our common people today desire or aspire after. Sir, in his Address the Governor has greatly emphasised on the price structure in our State. The price structure has gone up in Assam. It is not only the all India phenomenon or the working of the all India plan which is responsible for this rise in price but there are

other factors inside the State which are also responsible for this rise in price. It may not be possible to cope with the all India factor but it is not impossible on part of the Government to tackle the rise in price which is generating in our State to give a fillip to this rise in price.

Sir, I want to refer to agricultural production, the transport bottle-neck and also other problems alike. To-day as far as agricultural production is concerned, we were told that we were self-sufficient in food. This year in the Governor's Address we find that there is a hope to raise the agricultural production by 22 per cent. It is difficult to know what is the basis. During the whole Second Plan Period we want to raise our agricultural production by 22 per cent, on the other hand we don't know what is the actual production because of the defective agricultural statistics. The Land Revenue Department issued different statistics; so we find that we are in between two horns, we are in dilemma. We should know what are the actual agricultural statistics, what is the actual production and what is the physical target of this production. Then, Sir, so far the price structure is concerned, it is also because of the transport bottle-neck things are not available. Just now Mr. Moinul Haque Choudhury said that the rise in the price of sugar was due to the dislocation in the railway. When we have to pay so much for all our essential commodities, when we have to import almost every thing, even when mustard oil is necessary to be imported, and therefore, when all the things we need have to be imported, it is necessary to consider about our transport system. The strengthening of the railway line itself will not improve our transport system very much, we have to see and maintain our rivers also properly. We have seen that every year bridges are washed away, these things therefore have to be carefully looked after so that there may be constant transport system in our State, I mean River Transport in our State. At present the river transport in our State is being done by the R. S. N. and I. G. N. Company. Very recently they closed down their river transport system in Bihar. They are now closing down the Dibrugarh ghat, Palasbari ghat and elsewhere. They have also raised their freights up to 200 per cent and even then they feel that they cannot carry on the river transport business. Sir, although river transport system is considered to be very essential service, I find that we have left the whole thing to the whims of the European company and because of this they are at liberty to close down their services

wherever they like without reason. I am not concerned so much with railways but if we close down our essential service, the river transport system, we shall be put in great difficulties, because the bulk of our supplies comes by that way. So I say that the river transport system should be nationalised and the State should take it over. Otherwise if the R. S. N. and I. G. N. Company at their own pleasure close down the whole river transport system and we will be faced with a terrible problem. Therefore, I say that the river transport system should be nationalised and should be taken over by the Government so that we can keep these things going on in the Brahmaputra because vast proportion of the imports are carried by the river transport system. For example, if we send a parcel from Allahabad to Gauhati by train it will take about a month's time to reach its destination ; so it will be a terrible situation if the river transport system will be closed down. I, therefore, urge upon the Government whether by itself or in co-operation with the Central Government the river transport system can be nationalised and taken over by the Government. We are spending money enough to keep the channels running. Therefore, it is our duty, it is our right to see that these vessels operate regularly and should not be closed down at the whims of the European company ; but in all earnestness I would urge upon the Government in co-operation with the Central Government to nationalise and take over the river transport system so that the rise in prices may be checked.

Mr. Lava who presided over the Labour Tribunal said that the cost of living in Assam is the highest in India and Shri B. R. Medhi also said that the cost of living is highest here in Assam. We have to impose on the people various taxes, over and above that there are invisible taxes in the shape of high prices, and therefore, our people are fed up, are disappointed when they find that things are better in other States, but in our State things are not improving at all. In this connection I have to refer to the lot of employees, Government servants and other employees who are earning only about Rs.250 per month. Some of them have to hire a house for Rs.100, they have to spend for their childrens' education, they have to make both ends meet. Some of the people were given settlement of lands, but I say that instead of giving land settlement, Government should have thought of housing scheme and the rent should be realised by Government. Here in Shillong we find that lands are allotted to the people and even loans were given to them to construct their houses and some of the houses are rented to the Government at an exorbitant rent of Rs.400 or Rs.500 although the lands and loans were given by the Government. I can cite several instances.

This is something like this : Government have given them the land and the loan with which to construct the house and at the same time Government hire it at an exorbitant rate—much more than the market rate. If the House want me to give instances, I can give many.....

Mr. SPEAKER : The hon. Member can do it on other occasions.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) :** What I am pointing out in this House is that this housing problem which is an acute problem in the urban areas where it is almost impossible to get a house at a reasonable rent, has not found a place in the Governor's Address. The situation is further aggravated when the Government compete with the private individual in giving rent which raises the market rate of rent abnormally and the private individual suffer greatly. The Urban Areas Rent Control is a dead letter now. My submission is that the people feel the pinch of rising prices. Whereas the rate should have been normally 10 per cent. of the income, one has to pay 30 to 40 per cent of his income on house rent. Therefore this problem should have found an important place in the Governor's Address. Unfortunately no mention of it has been made there.

Sir, I will not speak about the land policy or of the agricultural policy now, because my Friends dealt with it. I will get time to express our opinion on the land settlement policy. Here again we have an Act, The Fixation of Ceiling in Land Holding. Government have fixed the ceiling, against the protest from this side of the House, at 150 bighas. That has not even been given effect to ; it has only come into operation. Now the landlords who have surplus lands are selling their lands merrily at high prices. They are not selling to the tenants, and why should the tenants buy it at an exorbitant price ? Now this Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holding Act, the Tenancy Act, the Urban Areas Tenancy Act—all these are mere ornaments in our library ; they are not meant to be given effect to ; I am glad Mr. Ahmed has said that he felt that the land settlement policy should be made better. Now when the question of management of lands comes, my submission is that the first task in this connection should be to see that whatever Act we have passed they are not to be meant to be kept in libraries. They should be implemented speedily. We should devise suitable machinery so that each of these Acts give benefit to the tillers of the soil.

Sir, coming to the problem of Industries, our State is industrially very backward. It requires no reiteration here. Unfortunately in the Governor's Address, we find just only a line in paragraph 15 which says—"Along with its efforts to establish Major Industries and generation of power it is the intention of my Government to concentrate its efforts for the development of small scale industries". We do not know what are the major industries that is within the programme of the Government. We were told that sugar will be produced in the month of January and distributed to the people of Assam in the same month. Sir, it is the month of March now; we have not got the sugar. Then about the cement factory, we were told that Czechoslovakian and Polish experts came and examined schemes, but we do not see the beginning of the industry. We were told about the jute mill. One Montu Choudhury (Girin Chaudhury) was given the permit. Now we hear Shri S. P. Jain has been given the permit and that too to bring an old machinery. We have not seen even that machinery—not even a brick has gone up. Similarly in the case of a Paper Pulp Factory, we were told that there are enough resources and ample scope to build a paper pulp industry. To-day we find that there is pulp but no machinery to use it. So there is nothing in the programme to give us any hope. This is the 2nd year of the 2nd Five-Year Plan, and although these industries were thought of in the year 1946, even to-day we have not been able to produce anything though we had conceived long ago (*laughter*). Sir, a chapter on the programme of Umtru Hydro-Electric Project was written which said that this project has been a boon to the people of Assam. We find the Umtru Project can supply 7500 Kwt. of power. But in place of 3 machines we find only one machine is working. Even then what is the rate? It is 45 Naya Paise per unit whereas before the Umtru Project and its supply was available we used to pay annas 8 and now it is annas 7 per unit, and both for light and fan we are paying the same rate. No effort has been made to make the Umtru power available to the common people for Cottage Industry purposes. There is also no attempt to bring down the rates. Yet we were told that it was blessing of the 1st Five-Year Plan! My submission therefore is that these things will have to go.

Now speaking about the riverine areas which has been mentioned by my Friend, here I want to speak about the training of rivers. Here also I do not like to speak much now. All that I want to say is that the achievement as well as the policies annunciated in the Governor's Address have not encouraged us.

Sir, we know that good people have come to the Government now, but it is not only the good people that can make the administration better. Let us know how the common people feel about it. Good people may lay down good programme but that will not help us unless they are implemented with speed, unless the problems are tackled speedily. In this matter they should not think that they belong to a different class. They should remember that they belong to the common people, they are only the servants of the people. They should seek the co-operation of the common people. They should have their confidence. I am glad that Mr. Ahmed has said that they have not the monopoly of wisdom and that he has asked for our co-operation. I hope he will act on it. He will see that whenever it is necessary to change the policy in the light of circumstances it will not stand on the prestige of the Government to do so. After all we all belong to the State and in the interest of the development of the State I can tell the Government—I can assure Mr. Chaliha and Mr. Ahmed that we are here to co-operate with the Government in so far as Government will lead us to progress, prosperity and peace.

Adjournment

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

After lunch

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture, etc.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am extremely grateful to the hon. Members of the House for the high standard of debate they have maintained over the address of the Governor. I am particularly grateful to Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya for his able speech in which he has drawn the particular attention of the House and also of the Government to a very important point, *i.e.*, the association of public opinion with the formulation and execution of the plan and policy of Government. In fact, the main theme of the Second Five-Year Plan had been the promotion of a rapid and balanced economic development consistent with the idea of social justice. And for carrying out this objective the active co-operation of the people was essential at every stage. In fact, it was the intention not only of the Central Government but also of this State Government to associate public opinion in this vital matter. It was in pursuance to these objectives that this Government at the time of formulating the different schemes

for inclusion in the Second Five-Year Plan formed the State Planning Advisory Board with some members of the Cabinet and representatives from different spheres of public life including some hon. Members of this House. Similarly, Sir, at the District and Subdivisional levels Development Boards were also formed with officials and members of the public with a view to associate popular opinion with the formulation and actual execution of the Plan and review of the progress and problems of day to-day administration of the same. In the Community Development and National Extension Service Blocks as well, Sir, in the same manner Government have formed the Block Advisory Committees in which the popular opinion has been successfully associated by representation of the public. Of late, Government have been considering very seriously the report of the Balvant Ray Mehta Committee, and the intention of the Government is to bring about a more democratic decentralisation which has been advocated by aforesaid Committee. Sir, I need not repeat the assurances given this morning on the Floor of the House by the previous speaker on behalf of the Government. But I can only add this much that in this respect everything possible will be done on behalf of the Government to associate public opinion as much as possible in the task of national reconstruction.

Sir, with regard to the question of unemployment, not only an amendment had been tabled on the Floor of this House but certain observations were also made by some of the hon. Members. I may tell for the information of the House, Sir, that in 1955 a survey was carried out by the Statistical Department of the Government, and it was found that the total urban unemployment in the State was only 5 per cent. as compared to 10 per cent which is the all India figure. But at the same time it may be pointed out, Sir, that in this State there is no unemployment problem so far as technical personnels are concerned. On the other hand, we have been labouring under dearth of technical personnels for employment in technical jobs. Moreover, it has been found that a good deal of unemployment is of a fractional nature, i.e., of persons waiting for jobs for a period of 3 to 6 months, which is inherent in a changing economy. Therefore, the problem really, so far as urban unemployment is concerned, is not unemployment of any great magnitude but maladjustment between available opportunities and available materials and is also attributable to the limited scope and diversification of employment opportunities and to the continuance of a purely

formal education unrelated to the need of employment market. Development of the technical institutions will meet the situation greatly. So far as the subject of rural economy is concerned, the problem is much bigger and it will be surprising to know that in Assam an average agriculturist gets employment for 158 days in a year. As much as 43 per cent of the people have no employment in slack season and only 39 per cent of the families can contribute one member from each of the families in slack season to earn. Therefore, this question is to be considered very seriously. Our cultivators generally do not take to multiple and intensive cultivation. If they would have done that, if they would have taken to multiple cultivation and utilised the land properly, possibly there would have been no such situation; a situation of having unemployment involving 57 per cent of our rural population during the slack season. Therefore, Sir, I beg to say that such being the case, the problem of rural unemployment of such a magnitude cannot be solved only by Governmental efforts. Public opinion and co-operation are necessary to solve this problem effectively. In fact, I have been repeatedly asking for public co-operation in this respect and recently myself and the Chief Minister have issued an appeal to the public seeking the help and co-operation of the public for increased food production. Unless and until we can induce our cultivators to take to multiple cultivation, unless and until we can induce our cultivators to grow as many varieties of crops as possible in a single plot of land, the question of rural unemployment will remain unsolved for days to come. These are things which neither an Agricultural Demonstrator nor an Officer of the Agricultural Department alone can do. It is the urge of the people themselves and their yearning to improve their economic condition, that can alone solve the problem.

Sir, the time at my disposal being very short, I am just at the moment referring only to the bare outlines of the problems with a view to meet the criticisms which have been made on the floor of the House and I do not propose to go into them at any great length.

Sir, in course of the debate it has been said that the Agriculture Department is not up to the mark. It has been said that seeds are not available in time and that Agriculture Officers are not found to give service to people. That although Government had given repeated assurances to augment the food production, self-sufficiency in production is not in sight as yet and so on and so forth. Sir, ever since taking over this

portfolio by me I have never given any rosy picture about the working of the Department or the position of food, although I have been doing my best to augment the food production and to do away with the defects of the Department as mentioned by my hon. Friends though with and within obvious limitations. Sir, from the point of view of organisation, the Department has never been so strong as to meet as the requirements of the time and to fulfil the responsibility that has been put upon it. In fact this Department in the past was very much neglected with the result that to-day we find it is not in a position to undertake the responsibilities which it has been now called upon to do so. But I assure my Friends that attention of the Government has been drawn to this aspect. We are trying our very best to strengthen the Department. Sir, there was a time when no officer was responsible for any job. We have now fixed target of work load for each Agricultural Demonstrator and Village Level worker. To-day we have been trying to allocate responsibilities to our officers from top to bottom according to his suitability and ability and now each officer of the Agriculture Department is expected to do his part of the job. Suitable arrangements are being made to follow up and see whether a certain officer is doing his part of the job properly or not. I am sure, given the time and opportunity some tangible improvement is sure to follow in a short space of time.

Now, with regard to the Veterinary Department it has been said that this Department has not been able to discharge the functions, it has been entrusted with, successfully and efficiently. In this connection I would like to say what is the position in the State to-day. We have been running this Department with extreme shortage of personnels. There is a large number of vacancies to-day in that Department even up to the level of Deputy Directors which we have failed to fill up. We have not been able to find out proper men for many posts of this Department and it is running virtually with half the staff of what is required at present. For years together we did not have a technically qualified Director or a qualified Principal. We thought that our College would be able to give us the requisite number of personnels, but unfortunately, in spite of the fact that we have reduced the minimum educational qualifications from I. Sc. to Matriculation, we are getting only 3rd Division matriculates. Moreover, Sir, it will be surprising to the House when I disclose that the Assam Veterinary College do not have the sufficient number of students to fill up all the seats. Whatever students we get, 95 per cent of them are 3rd Division

matriculates. What can we expect from such students who, having no elementary knowledge of science, spend most part of the period fixed for the course in learning science and then find themselves in difficulties to cope with the situation and to compete with boys of other States appearing in the examination which is of an all India uniform standard? So, the output of this institution is too meagre. Now, Government is seriously considering, in order to run this Department, to recruit people from outside. In this connection possibly we will get advice from the hon. Members in the course of the debate when the budget would be discussed.

Sir, it has been said in the course of the debate here that the agricultural production in the State is not up to the mark. I am just now giving the figures to show our position. Our production was in 1950-51, 14 lakhs and odd tons ; in 1951-52, 15.09 lakhs tons ; in 1952-53, 15.51 lakh tons ; in 1953-54, 16.54 lakh tons ; in 1954-55, 16.92 lakh tons ; in 1955-56, 16.66 lakh tons ; and in 1956-57, it is 17.07 lakh tons. It would be seen from the figures just now given that ever since 1951-52 up to date our production has been stepping up steadily, but the House may be interested to know that even to-day in spite of steady rise in production we have not been able to achieve the figure of production, i. e., 17.41 lakh tons that we had in the year 1949-50. This explains the position of the State. After the earthquake of 1950 our production went down very much and we have not been able to repair even to-day the loss caused in that year due to the earthquake. It is true that we are progressing so far as production is concerned, but simultaneously our rate of consumption is also expanding owing to the increase of population, both due to increased birth rate and for people coming from outside for employment and the rise in the standard of living. Rise in the standard of living necessitates increased consumption. It has been suggested that the economy of the State should be improved. But this I think cannot be done without having sufficient and stable agricultural production. Any way, Sir, the whole effort of the Government is being directed in that line. The Government is doing its utmost to remove the connected difficulties so as to enable food production to reach its maximum target. But in this connection I want to repeat what I had repeatedly said that unless and until the requisite help and co-operation come from every quarter, unless and until public sympathy and co-operation is available to the maximum it will not be possible to achieve our objective, because after all agricultural production is not something that can be done mechanically or can be achieved simply by passing

orders or by spending money only. We are to deal with human metal. As I have already said that it is not unknown to the hon. Members that a large number of cultivators in Assam do not go for their second crop. If we can form a strong public opinion, if we can form a favourable atmosphere then possibly our cultivators will be hardworking. Leave aside the question of improved cultivation, if we can alone induce our cultivators to raise double crop from their fields our problem is bound to be solved at least for the time being. So, Sir, in this connection I would request the hon. Members to co-operate with the Government. If they go round their constituencies and try to form a public opinion and induce the cultivators to go for double cropping, possibly our problem will be solved to a great extent.

Sir, enough has been said on the floor of this House about the food situation. In this connection Mr. Bhattacharyya said that we should not depend on the Government alone. But on the other hand I was surprised to hear the speech of Rev. Nichols-Roy. He dealt with the problem of the people of the border area and related their grievances. We have all the sympathy for those border people. In fact, Government have been giving subsidy to those people in many a direction. Government has been helping them by arranging subsidised transport in exporting their produce. Government is also giving them subsidised food. But Rev. Roy wants more. He says subsidised transport won't do. They must be helped to carry their fruits from grove to the place of transport. If we give them test relief work that won't be sufficient. We must maintain their family members too. His intention is that all the family members of those people should also be maintained by the Government. In the course of his speech he said that in order to improve their agriculture "you must give them seeds free". Government should be prepared to help them not only by finding work for them but also by giving them seeds free for their agriculture. But that is not all. Government should also give money with which they are to feed themselves and their family members at the time of cultivation. All these sound a bit awkward. These are not at all reasonable propositions. I would like to give some more facts for the information of the hon. Members of the House with regard to what is being done by the Government for those people. In order that their produce can get a good market, construction of a net work of roads connecting the important Bazars in the border areas with Shillong has been started by Government and by this time some have already been made jeepable. A transport

subsidy to the extent of Rs.17,450 has been sanctioned by the Government to facilitate marketing. A sum of Rs.4,49,220 has been granted to the border people during the current year as agricultural loan. Besides, a sum of Rs.1,61,768 has been sanctioned by the Government for immediate relief to the border people. Another sum of Rs.1,79,000 has been granted to them for improved seeds and agricultural appliances during the current year. A general economic survey has also been undertaken by the Tribal Areas Department to assess the actual economic and other conditions of the border people of the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills District. A committee consisting of officials and non-officials has been appointed by Government for this purpose which will submit its report on or before 30th April, 1958. Moreover, some rehabilitation schemes for rehabilitating the deserving border people in Bhoi areas are also in progress.

Now, Sir, coming to the question of food, in 1954 the Government of India decontrolled food-grains throughout the country. But during the year 1956 the position of food became acute and then the Government of India made an allotment of 20,000 tons of rice for Assam which was distributed through fair-price shops in the same year. In the year 1957 another allotment of 38,000 tons of rice was received from the Central Government in addition to 7000 tons for Naga Hills. As soon as the position of food-grains became acute Government promulgated an order to ban export of rice without permit. To regulate distribution and movement of rice and paddy Assam Food-grains (Movement and Distribution) Control Order, 1956, was promulgated. The fair price shops rose to 1234 during lean months of 1957 and even today 858 fair price shops are functioning in the State. This year, *i. e.* 1958, the Government of India have been pleased to allot 16,000 tons of rice for the State for the first six months of the year besides the monthly allocation of 3,000 tons of Atta. Formerly, Sir, the Government, of India compelled us to purchase Atta at the rate of Rs.14 per maund from the Government depot in Calcutta. This Government protested against it because due to the addition of cost of transport the price of Atta used to go up very much. The Government of India has now agreed to sell Atta at the pool price of Rs.14 inside the State. The result is that at present the price of Atta has been reduced very much; it is being sold between six and half annas to the public. But, Sir, Government considers that in spite of all this it would be

necessary for Government to have a stock of their own. Unless and until Government have got a stock of their own, it may not be possible for them to tackle the food situation properly. With that intention the Assam Foodgrains Control Order, 1958 was promulgated by which inter-district trade has been banned and the dealers handling rice or paddy above 10 mds. are required to have licenses. I need not go into these details as the time at my disposal is very short.

Now, Sir, it has been criticised on the Floor of the House that the Government started the procurement very late. I admit this, but at the same time I must point out that the blame for the same does not lie with us. This Government intimated their desire to procure food-grains to the Central Government in time, but because the Central Government was considering the Asoke Mehta Committee's Report, they did not give sanction to this Government to start with procurement and about price notification resulting in some amount of delay. But I can assure the House that inspite of the delay we will be able to fulfil our target of procuring 10 lakhs maunds of paddy. I can possibly disclose that our procurement on 1st March, 1958 stood at 5,40,000 mds. of paddy. Therefore, there is no reason to apprehend that we will not be able to procure the amount which we have fixed as our target.

Now, Sir, yesterday one of my hon. Friends was complaining that due to the launching of procurement he apprehends that we were reverting back to the old difficulties. My Friend, Shri Nilmoney Barthakur, thinks that we should go for complete control ; we should take away all the grains out of the cultivators and the merchants. Another Friend in this House while speaking on the subject said that even the present policy of the Government would be too harsh. Sir, the Asoke Mehta Committee went into these matters and the solution given by them is this ; that the Government should not disturb the normal market and the normal trade channels but at the same time, Government should have some sort of control. Their view is that the solution lies somewhere in between complete control and complete decontrol. This view has been accepted by all the State Governments and our Government is also following the same policy as is being followed all over India. We have not disturbed the normal trade channel, but at the same time, we want to have a buffer stock of ours, through which and the stock we shall get from the Government of India, we will be able to control the market. In fact, today I can say that inspite of the drought in Nowgong, Goalpara and various other

parts of the State, the prices of foodgrains are not higher than what they had been at the corresponding period last year. A complaint was made yesterday about Mangaldai. I can inform the House that the system of zonal division for procurement and in respect of different prices is the result of accumulated experience and had worked quite well. We have formed the whole State into three zones. During the period of control the north bank stations of Mangaldai subdivision upto Rowtabagan were tagged to the Gauhati area in order to facilitate normal movement of rice and paddy from that area. It has also been placed again under the Controller of Supply, Gauhati for the purpose of procurement and movement. Therefore, when it is complained on the Floor of the House, as has been done yesterday, that Mangaldai has been placed in a separate area it is not a correct representation of the situation,

Sir, my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya and also Mr. Barthakur, have given certain suggestions to this House with regard to the tackling of the food situation. Our Friends seem to think that famine conditions should be declared in scarcity areas. I can assure my Friends that there is no famine anywhere in the State and Government shall not allow any famine to develop anywhere. Sir, the second suggestion that has been given is this: we should at least procure one lakh tons of food-grains. I have already enunciated the policy of the Government in this behalf. If we are to procure one lakh tons of foodgrains this will completely disturb the market. This is too ambitious a proposition and if we do that we shall act against the recommendations of the Asoke Mehta Committee. Another thing that has been suggested is this that the collection of land revenue, debts, etc., should be suspended. I can tell the House that in the last seven years an amount of Rs.12,22,215 of land revenue and Rs.1,36,454 of local rates had been remitted. I do not know where my Friends want to lead the Government. Possibly no Government can go on with a policy of giving remission to the people in such a way. The next suggestion that has been given is this: this Government should take over all the stock of the millers and big traders. Under the Act we have got that power, and if at any time Government find any difficult situation, Government will certainly use that power to have all the excess stocks from the millers and traders. But as I have already stated that it is not our desire to disturb the normal trade channel so far as it is feasible and practicable. Sir, another suggestion has been given by them is this that for every 500 families of this State one cheap grain shop should be opened. What a colossal proposal? I do not know

whether they considered the implications of such a proposal. It is not the policy of any Government to have cheap grain shops merely for the purpose of supplying rice to every body. Cheap grain shops are meant to help the people wherever necessary and also to keep down the market price. I can assure my Friends that this Government will go on opening cheap grain shops whenever necessary. In fact, I have already given the figures of cheap grain shops in the State. Another suggestion that has been given is this: We should give sufficient gratuitous relief to the people. Sir, in the last four years the sum of gratuitous relief given to the people of Assam amounts to Rs.37,78,692. I would request my Friends opposite to consider what the finances of this Government are and how far they can go on to give such relief. It has also been said that adequate financial aid should be given to the tillers. This has been the policy of the Government. For the last four years we have given agricultural loans amounting to Rs.67,67,000 to the cultivators of Assam. Apart from this there are many other loan facilities including those offered by the Co-operative Department. In this connection I would like to say that in the current year also some more money amounting to Rs.37 lakhs has been made available to the cultivators. It has been very seriously criticised as to why the money had been given so late. The reason is this : this was not our money. We received it from the Government of India, and when we got it we distributed it without making much delay. If we had not distributed it, possibly the criticism in this House would have been "See, here is a worthless Government. Although they got money from the Government of India, they did not distribute it". But when we have taken the money and are distributing it, my Friends come forward and say in this House, "Why are you distributing it within such a short time?" Sir, we got the money and we are distributing it.

If all cannot be distributed, I am sure, a greater part of the same will be distributed and that will help the agriculturists to go for better production.

My Friend, Mr. Mohikanta Das, suggested that Government should give at least a pair of cattle to each agriculturist family. The number of agriculturist families in Assam will be about 25 lakhs and if we give say Rs.500 for each pair of cattle to each family then the financial implication will be to the tune of 125 crores of rupees. I do not think, Mr. Das meant that seriously.

Sir, I have been trying to show to this House that whatever is possible within the financial resources of this Government are being done. This Government never avoided to give help to the people. As far as possible help has been given to the people. In fact, loans have been many and in abundance in the State. Possibly time has come for the Government to look seriously whether the loans have been properly utilised by the people receiving them.

As I have no time at my disposal, I am sorry, I shall not be able to reply to all the points raised in connection with the problems created by Bunds and dykes constructed by the Embankment and Drainage Department. I should like to inform the House that a Committee under the Presidentship of Shri Bijoy Chandra Bhagawati, M. P. has been appointed to look into this question. In this Committee suitable technical personnels of this State and of the Government of India have been included. I hope, the Committee will suggest measures to remove whatever difficulties they would find during the enquiry.

In this connection, I would like to give a reply to the point raised by Shri Radhika Ram Das. He was complaining that Government had done nothing to protect the town of Palasbari from erosion. When erosion took a serious turn in Palasbari it was duly examined by our experts and the experts of the Central Government. They came to the conclusion that it was not worth the cost and labour to protect it, as was done in the case of Dibrugarh, as the probable cost of construction of a revetment would be over rupees one crore. Therefore, the Government in consultation with the Central Government and the engineers of the Central Water and Power Commission came to a decision that no revetment or anything of the sort would be constructed in Palasbari but the town which had already been eaten up by the river very much would be abandoned and instead a new township would be constructed elsewhere. But my Friends, the lawyer-Members of this House, know that some cases against acquisition of land for this new township were instituted in the High Court which have been causing the delay in construction of the said new township. It is easy to criticise. I am told, some of these friends are lawyers in those cases.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): But so far as these High Court cases are concerned, I am not a lawyer. What I want to know when this decision for having a new township was agreed upon ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture, etc.): The final decision to abandon the Palasbari town had been arrived at a meeting of the Central Flood Control Board on 22nd August 1957. Then it was finally decided to construct a new township at a cost of Rs.12,85,000.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): It would be better if we abandon the whole of Assam and go to the Himalayas. (*Laughter*).

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: It is really very surprising. When the Government came with a proposal for having the revetment at Dibrugarh some of the very Hon. Members who are now criticizing the Government for not constructing a revetment at Palasbari at a cost of rupees one crore, protested and said that many a Dibrugarh town could have been built with the money spent for the revetment.

Mr. SPEAKER: He did not mean that. It was simply an interjection.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: We expect from the important members of the Opposition responsible statement.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): So far as the revetment of Dibrugarh town is concerned, I have been a member in this House for the last 6 years but from this side of the House nobody said that the money for Dibrugarh would be wasted. So far Palasbari is concerned we said and we suggested for a new township.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Revenue Minister): Sir, from the Opposition side Mr. Umaruddin said like that. (*Laughter*).

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Must be after he crossed the floor.

Mr. SPEAKER: I find hardly any necessity to discuss this point. So far as the abandonment of the Palasbari Town is concerned there was no difference of opinion and in labelling on this point, I am forced to use an unparliamentary language, *i.e.*, taking the time of the House.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: So a scheme costing Rs.12,85,000 was taken. When Government went to acquire the land as many as six cases were instituted before the Honorable High Court of Assam and stay orders were passed

resulting in forced inaction on the part of the Revenue Department and the Embankment and Drainage Department to proceed in the matter. For this Government should not be blamed. But, I assure the House that as soon as the case would be finished the work of construction of the township will be taken up.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari): No stay order was passed on the Embankment and Drainage Department by the High Court.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture, etc.): Stay orders are passed against the Government and not on a Department. Can a township be constructed when stay orders have been passed on the Government?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: These cases were instituted in the High Court for 500 bighas of land but the 600 bighas is remaining in which the township can be partly constructed.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: We will issue instructions to the respective Departments to examine whether the township can be constructed in part.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: I would request the Minister to visit the site.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, it has been said in course of the debate in this House that it was promised that the Assam Sugar Mill would go into production in January this year. I do not remember to have made such a pronouncement myself but certainly in one or two of my statements, I stated that it would start production in March, but I confess that it would not be possible. The House will sympathise us in this venture. Packages coming from Czechoslovakia are heavy and thus cannot be taken delivery easily in the midstream at Pandu and Amingaon. When they are lying in Calcutta, special notices have got to be issued to the Steamer Company requesting them to make special arrangements for cranes and other unloading devices. Then the booking facilities are extremely limited and because of the size and other difficulties many things could not be moved by Railway. It is difficult to form in an idea about the difficulties of developing an already undeveloped area. So we have failed to keep the scheduled time but for no fault of ours. But, I can assure the House that it would be not long before we can go into production. My sincere hope is that it will be in course of 1958.

It has been pointed out to the House in the course of the debate that no arrangement to grow sugar cane has been made by the Government. I must tell my friends that they are mistaken in appreciating the difference between a private sugar mill and a co-operative sugar mill. If for sugarcane a co-operative sugar mill is not to depend on the general cultivators of the area, particularly if they can themselves form a co-operative, then there is no meaning in having a co-operative sugar mill. In other words, if the sugar mill starts a zamindari, have its own sugarcane cultivation, have its own machinery, then it, although named as a co-operative sugar mill it loses its co-operative character considerably. Therefore Sir, it is our desire to organise co-operatives of the sugarcane cultivation by the growers of the locality ; these local growers should give us the sugarcane for the mill. In fact, Sir, I can tell the House that there are more than 20 thousand bighas of existing sugarcane cultivation in that area. Apart from this due to our efforts the cultivators have already increased their sugarcane cultivations and they have promised supplies from 5,500 bighas this year. Because of the fact that the profit from gur is low due to the high cost of production the people will find it more profitable to sell their sugarcane to the mill. So far we have been able to convince the people that there would be no difficulty on that score. In order to uphold the co-operative principle we do not like the mill to have big fields of cultivation of its own. We may have only small cultivations. However I can assure the House that there won't be much difficulties in this matter.

Sir, my Friend, Mr. Jahanuddin, in the course of his speech apprehended that the Refinery that would be going to be built in Assam would be only a toy Refinery. I don't know from where my Friend got that idea.

Mr. SPEAKER : He actually said 'Baby Refinery'.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture, etc.): Yes, Sir, it may be so, but I can assure my Friend that so far as we on this side of the House are concerned we are trying our level best in this matter so as to see that we get a refinery worth the name. Sir, this side of the House never failed in their effort to uphold the popular demand of Assam with regard to having the location of refinery in Assam. We promised to the House a refinery in Assam and we have secured it. Now we say, we expect it to be a refinery as desired by the people of Assam in spite of all these criticisms, and we shall try for it, whatever may be the cost.

Sir, certain aspersions were cast by my Friend, the Leader of the Opposition, about major industries. He knows full well what are the difficulties with regard to major industries. Almost all major industries so far as Assam is concerned were left to the private sector ; that was so because of our financial difficulties. Now there is lack of requisite finance ; foreign exchange difficulties have compelled the country to go slow in these matters. But I can assure my Friend that this Government is doing all that is possible to help the growth of such industries as indicated earlier in the House. This is all I have got to say, Sir.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset I thank the hon. Members of this House for the various criticisms they have made in this House in the course of their debate on the Governor's Address. I am also grateful to them for the suggestions they have given to this side of the House and I can tell the hon. Members that we have profitted much from these criticisms and suggestion. Hon'ble Members on the other side of the House have drawn the attention of Government to some very important matters such as industrialisation of Assam, the transport problem, relief and rehabilitation problem, administrative problem and so on. By these criticisms they have demonstrated how keen they are for the improvement of the administrations and also to ameliorate the economic condition of our State. A lot of details also were discussed, but I don't think, Sir, it will be possible for me to go into all these details. So I propose to confine myself only to some of the most important matters which were raised in course of these discussions.

Let us first discuss Naga Hills. When the Naga Hills Administration was separated from Assam we were naturally very sorry. I find also from the speeches of my predecessor how the Government felt about the disturbances that were going on in the Naga Hills. So we felt that after all these political boundaries or administrative boundaries are not as important as the peace and prosperity of the people. Therefore when the Kohima Convention felt that a separate Administrative Unit for Naga Hills will bring peace and good to the Naga people, and satisfy them, we thought that it would be wrong on our part to stand in the way. That is why we rightly agreed. Now, I do not return branding me, and my colleagues as good people and my predecessor and his colleagues as not as good as we are for this or that reason. So far as responsibility is concerned for anything whether good or bad of the outgoing Cabinet I do'nt want to shirk my responsibility. I do not believe that it is the persons who are so much responsible

but it is the circumstances and conditions which prevailed at a particular moments. Therefore, Sir, I do not want to shirk my responsibilities for any of the things that took place during the regime of the outgoing Cabinet. But I am not prepared to lament over the separation of the Naga Hills administration from Assam because I am one who believe that not only Naga Hills but also N.E.F.A. and other areas nearabout must come under our administration one day and I would consider such a day to be a happy day for the people of all these areas. Sir, why I hold this hope is because in a welfare State the demands on the Government is big and multifarious. It is neither economically nor otherwise possible to meet these demands if the units of administration be small.

All that we wish now is that may peace return to the Naga Hills and that armed activities and violent attitude on the part of the some of the Naga people be a thing of the past. Let us see our Naga brothers and sisters happy and prosperous and I am sure, that is what we all desire. I thought it to be my duty to draw the attention of the Governor to the various criticisms that have been on the floor of this House in the course of the debates in connection with the North East Frontier Agency Administration. Unfortunately, the Governor is not here. He is at Gauhati. I had telephonic talk with him and he has advised his Adviser to send me materials with regard to these criticisms. On examination of the materials supplied by the Adviser, I find that a large number of criticisms made in this House were not warranted. So far as Assamese language is concerned, I have to say that Assamese language is a compulsory language in the North East Frontier Agency region. With regard to services and appointments also the position is not so bad as was stated by some of the hon. Members in this House. I find that the number of Political Officers there now is 8, out of which 3 are from Assam. This represents a percentage of 37.5. The number of Assistant Political Officers-Class I, is 13 out of which 9 are from Assam. The percentage is 69.2. Assistant Political Officer Class II—16, out of which 12 are from Assam. The percentage is 75. Welfare Officer—one and he is from Assam. Base Superintendents—47 out of which 30 are from Assam. The percentage is 63.8. Transport Superintendents—7 and all the 7 officers are from Assam, so the percentage in this case is cent per cent. Area Superintendents (non gazetted)—28 out of which 22 are from Assam. The percentage is, 78.5.

I have information about the Education Officer also and after going through the materials I find that we cannot lay blame on the North East Frontier Agency Administration, not even for other matters like Bhawana being stopped or that somebody with Gamcha was not allowed to enter the institution or to appear with Gamcha, I have gone through the papers, relating to these matters and I must say that I failed to find sufficient reasons for bitter criticisms as made by the hon. Members in the House. If the materials could have been made available, to the hon. Members they would have found that a lot of the criticisms would not have come. Sir, I want to co-operate fully with the North East Frontier Agency Administration, and I also want to co-operate with the Naga Hills Administration so that all our problems are successfully resolved. I find that most of the problems are common to us. We have no conflict of interest. Therefore, the greater is the co-operation between these administrations greater will be the good for the people.

Now, Sir, regarding Major Industries, I don't want to say much in this regard ; there are reasons for most of the criticisms that have been levelled by the Leader of the Opposition in respect of Major Industries. As a matter of fact I am not happy about the progress we have made so far, but at the sametime, we must find out the reasons for which the progress of the major industries is not fast in our State. It is true that our progress in the field of major industries is hampered due to transport bottle-neck but it is also true that there is lack of enterprise on the part of the people of Assam in addition to other reasons which is holding up development of major industries in Assam. Therefore, let us do all that is possible from the Government side for the development of major industries, and at the same time let there be co-operation to build up enterprises, so that we can industrialise our State as early as possible. If you expect the Government alone to industrialise the State it may not be possible to do so at least at the present time. The Government may be expected to fully shoulder this responsibility on future date. There was a time when there were difficulties of finance, for Industries. To meet this difficulty the Assam Finance Corporation was set up but the people do not come forward to take financial help from that Corporation. Therefore, I feel that lack of enterprise in our people is no way less responsible for this slow progress. I am grateful to the Leader of the Opposition for raising this question in the House which has given me an opportunity to express my mind.

Now, Sir, I am coming to the question of employment. I have looked into the statistics on this question. According to our

estimat we have to find full time jobs for 2,70,000 people by 1960/61 in Assam, and if the Second Plan goes through successfully, there will be additional employment of about 1,90,000 by 1960/61. Let us see what the statistics disclose about the percentage of self-supporting people, earning dependent, non-earning dependents, etc. According to 1921 statistics the percentage of self-supporting people was 46.14 per cent and non-earning dependents were 53.86 per cent. From 1931 statistics we find that the percentage of self-supporting people was 33.5 per cent., earning dependent was 11.7 per cent and non-earning dependent was 54.8 per cent. According to the statistics of 1951 the percentage of self-supporting people was 28.89 per cent., earning dependents were 14.24 per cent and non-earning dependents were 56.87 per cent. Sir, it will be clear from the statistics that gradually the number on non-earning dependents has been increasing. This trend is not peculiar to Assam, but it is so throughout India.

The problem of unemployment is one of great dimension and in order to tackle this problem it will be necessary to make a determined effort not only from the side of the Government but by everybody in this country. This is a great problem. It can be tackled through agriculture, through industries (big and small). The Planning Commission while formulating the Second Five Year Plan discussed this question for months together. Experts in the Commission took it into due consideration the condition prevailing in the country and formulated the plan. I have read out what we expect to achieve in the field of employment in Assam. Even to achieve that we shall have to make determined efforts. We want to make a determined effort. I hope, Sir, the hon. Members will give their co-operation to tackle this demon of unemployment and also continue to guide us in every possible way.

Sir, the natural calamities, like floods, at one time created a panic in the minds of the people of Assam and at that time Governmental organisation to tackle the problems arising out of natural calamities was too weak. Experts were not there, plans were not there, statistics were not there and as a matter of fact nothing was there to tackle these problems. Now with the determined efforts and with the co-operation of the Government of India something has been done in the meantime. I am happy to tell the House that now a complete plan for flood control for the State as a whole has been prepared. In no other States such a comprehensive plan has been prepared. For this we must give the credit that is due to our Officers although we have since noticed some adverse effects from

embankments in some areas. In agriculture the embankments have given protection from floods. We are constituting a committee to examine and suggest ways to overcome the adverse effects on agriculture from embankments. In the meantime our Department has begun this work. Instructions have already been issued to take up corrective measures in those areas where survey has been completed.

Now, I will speak a few words about electricity about which the hon. Leader of the Opposition has mentioned. He said that the rate of electricity in Assam is very high. Sir, we are also very anxious to make electricity as cheap as possible. Sir, the rates we are charging now are based on the recommendation of a Tariff Committee which determined the rates. In determining these rates the Committee endeavoured to maintain uniformity of rates for all suppliers from Governmental electricity undertakings. With your permission, Sir, I can read out some relevant portion of the recommendation. I do not want to read out the whole thing. If you would permit, Sir, these papers can be laid on the table of the House so that the hon. Members may go through. The rate fixed by the Committee is ; for light and fans, gross 45 Naya Paise, net 40 n. p. ; for heating, cooking, pumping etc., gross 25 n. p. net 20 n. p.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : What is the difference between "gross" and "net", Sir ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) : "Net" means the rate which comes after the rebate has been given.

Sir, for domestic and other industrial purposes the Tariff Committee fixed the rate at a lower rate. The schedule of rate is here which I need not read out. But with your permission it can be laid on the table of the House for the hon. Members.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : On a point of information, Sir, may I know what is the actual cost of production of Umtru Hydro-electric power per unit ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : Sir, I am not ready with that information at the moment. If the hon. Member wants it I can supply that information to him to-morrow or the next day.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North):

Sir, the tariff which has been fixed for the benefit of the public utility concerns such as Municipality, etc., appears to be higher than what it was before nationalisation.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):

Well it may be true, but at the same time the hon. Member may remember that those Companies which supplied at a cheaper rate had to wind up their business.

Now, Sir, with regard to the food situation and agriculture, my colleague the Minister for Agriculture and Supply has given a detailed statement before the House. He has dealt with almost all the points raised in course of the debate. But I would submit that the matter like food would need time and constant vigilance. In spite of our best efforts there may be some omissions and commissions either in the district level or here. We would be very grateful if the hon. Member kindly draw our attention to these, if any. As a matter of fact what I want to suggest is that although the responsibility for providing food to the people is the responsibility of the Government, let us all assume this responsibility. I would request for full co-operation from the hon. Members in this respect.

The question of the rising price of sugar was discussed on the floor of the House. It only shows how badly we have been let down by certain section of the people at the time of difficulty. I am very much annoyed over it, and I can assure the hon. Members of the House that this state of things cannot be allowed to continue for any length of time. It is indeed very undesirable on the part of these people to hold up stock and sell sugar at such high prices. Had there been no sugar in the country, that would have been excusable. But why should price soar so high while there is stock of sugar in the country? That only amounts to taking undue advantage of the people. It is pure and simple exploitation of the society which we cannot allow to continue. At the same time, Sir, it is not a very easy matter to make alternative arrangements in a country where the people have not become used to co-operatives. It is, however, fortunate for us to have a number of co-operative organisation functioning still in our midst. These co-operative organisations will be allowed to continue. It is hoped in course of time they will attain such measure of success that they will be able to prevent exploitation of society by undesirably elements. But how to tide over the difficulties during the transition period is what is the most difficult problem. The period of transition is a difficult one. It is most unfortunate that to-day we are at

the mercy of some people whom we cannot trust. If we trust them, they let us down. But this cannot be a permanent feature. By proving themselves unworthy of the trust and confidence reposed on them, these people are only digging their own grave. This behaviour deserves condemnation, I am sure, not only by this Government but by the entire House and those in outside also. I assure the House that Government will never hesitate to take whatever measure that may be necessary to bring these anti-social elements to book.

Then, Sir, border problems were discussed by some of the hon. Member. It is very unfortunate that quite a large number of our own brothers and sisters living on the Pakistan border have been undergoing a sustained strain on their economy for all these years. We have been trying to do our best in this respect, and we hope the Committee which we have formed will be able to give us some helpful recommendations by which we shall be able to relieve the distress of the brothers and sisters in the border areas. Our Friend, Rev. Roy, laid stress during the course of his discussion on the Governor's address on the abolition of the monopoly on the Gauhati-Shillong Road. As a matter of fact, it will not be quite correct to say that we have a monopoly now on this Road. Because we have been allowing the coal trucks to carry coal to Gauhati. Over and above this, very recently we have taken certain decision with a view to utilise of these empty coal trucks on their return journey from Gauhati to Shillong. Let us see how this measure works. Some amount of thinking in this respect has become necessary. Since our trade with Pakistan is now closed, we want to divert the trade of Khasi and Jaintia Hills to Gauhati and Cachar. It may not be possible for the State Transport to take that amount of business risk which will be necessary to divert the trade. However, for developing trade with the border areas, we propose to consider further as to how best we can proceed with the matter of transport, whether some more trucks will have to be permitted to ply on or whether the State Transport should handle it. This matter, therefore, needs some further consideration. We do not propose to abolish the so called monopoly on the Gauhati-Shillong Road.

I very much welcome the speech of the hon. Member from Gauhati who dealt with a very important point regarding land reforms in our State. I agree with the hon. Member that in order to achieve our objectives land reform measure should be comprehensive and it should include the questions of utilisation

and management of land also. Any way, Sir, my Friend's suggestion is a very helpful one, and I assure the hon. Member that we will consider his suggestion with all the attention it deserves. Because merely tackling the question of distribution of land from one man to another will lead us no where, and that alone does not help us to solve the problem. This is a very complicated problem and in my opinion, if we want a real solution of this, we will have to consider the question from the point of view of utilisation and management also along with the question of distribution.

Another suggestion that has been made is about small-scale industries. That suggestion also I think came from the same hon. Member. It is true that we must find out some practical way of doing things. If it takes two years to get the machinery from America or any other foreign country to start a big industry, some small schemes and some small industries during this period may produce something for the country which can be started with such imported machinery. Therefore this also appears to be a very helpful suggestion.

Then, Sir, the question of utilisation of man power,—this is a matter about which there cannot be two opinions. As a matter of fact, Sir, some measure of success has been achieved in our various self-help schemes and the developmental schemes. But for this purpose, I think still greater effort is needed, and I hope that will also be forthcoming from our people in an abundant measure.

With regard to administrative reforms, Sir, what I believe is that tall talks about over-all change of our administrative machinery, over-all change of our educational system—do not have much practical value. For example, if we go in for an over-all change of our existing educational system, we will have to do it with the materials that are available. What will happen to the large number of our teachers who will be thrown out of employment as a result of this over-all change if we do not mean to utilise them for the over-all change? And in order to bring that change in there, time will be necessary, and therefore, the result will be gradual. Therefore, Sir, this is not a practical proposition. We have decided, therefore, to make gradual changes. As was accused by some hon. Members. I admit that we have taken the path of least resistance because we have found this to be ultimately to be practical and fruitful. Therefore in the matter of administrative reforms, we have made a beginning. I do not want to take much time of the House by giving all the details but, to say briefly, we have made the beginning in the line of the suggestion

that has been given by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition towards the concluding part of his speech. Rationalisation of work in the Secretariat, strengthening of the Secretariat organisation and also deligation of powers—these are things about which we have made some advance. In the meantime some powers of our officials have already been delegated to and our Secretariat Committee has been already working on it for further improvement. We will now be proceeding with it as speedily as possible.

Apart from these, there are various suggestions from some other hon. Members of which this Government is already conscious. These suggestions are borne in mind and will be followed up. It is a shame for the Government, it is a shame for the country and our society and for everybody that there is still corruption in our society and in the administration. Sir, so far as I am concerned, I do not believe that corruption can be eradicated by only shouting too much about it. Therefore, our policy will be one of silent firm action against corruption. I can assure the House that so far as corruption in administration is concerned, we will be ruthless about it. We shall not tolerate any corruption in administration and so we shall have to root out corruption from the administration—why from the administration alone but from our society as well. Therefore I am prepared for taking firm action.

My Friend Shri Karka Daley from North Lakhimpur referred to the distress of the people who were eroded by the river Brahmaputra, the Subansiri and some other rivers. This) is a matter which actually needs serious thinking on the part of everybody because it is the practice of those Miri brothers and sisters to live always by the side of the rivers, and when the rivers Brahmaputra, Subansiri and others became turbulent miseries fell on those people. After the 1950 earthquake I visited those areas and I myself saw the skeletons of hundreds of men and women. Since then the distress is continuing. In the North Lakhimpur subdivision the villagers living by the side of the Boginadi were steeped in the same distress. Now, how best those people can be settled permanently is a matter which needs very careful thinking. As a matter of fact I propose to discuss this question in a conference that is going to be held on the 6th April with the representatives of our Miri friends. I fully appreciate the distress of those people and therefore I shall be only too glad to do something for them.

Shrimati Komol Kumari Barua pointed out about the necessity of spreading woman education in the State. We have no dispute in this respect and we will try to do as much as possible for the furtherance of this object.

Mr. Larsing Khyriem yesterday referred to Indo-Pakistan boundary survey. I have looked into the case and found that there is difference in the views of the people on the border and the survey party. The views of the people are that the boundary should be the limit where the possession of our people ends; but the views of the survey party are that according to the agreement we have to take the boundary according to the pillar and boundary fixed on the 15th of August, 1947. This is not the first time that a complaint has come. This complaint came before and my predecessor got the whole thing examined by the survey people. My Friend did not seem to be kind to our officers when he said that our survey party was more favourably disposed to the other country than to India. That cannot be. However, I can assure the hon. Member that we shall see that no part of our territory goes to another country.

The same hon'ble Friend from Jowai subdivision suggested about irrigating certain areas in the Jowai subdivision and in this connection he gave me some informations regarding certain areas. I am getting this question examined and I shall see how far it is feasible to arrange for irrigation in those areas.

Now, I come to the question of refugee rehabilitation. This problem needs serious attention of everybody, not only in the interest of the refugees but in the interest of the society as a whole. I feel that if we allow this problem to continue very long then it will go to do great harm to our society politically, economically and morally. Therefore it is very necessary that we find out ways to rehabilitate them. This is a big problem and unless we can find a solution, the distress of the people will remain forever and, on the other hand, the progress of our society as a whole will be very much retarded. I may inform the hon. Members of the House that since my assumption of office I have been thinking about this question time and again and wherever I find that there is some possibility of doing something better I shall give effect to it. On the whole I like to assure the hon. Members that this Government wants to give its best support for the solution of this problem so that the distress of the people may end as soon as possible.

Yesterday we all heard the speech of Shri Radhika Ram Das. I had the privilege of visiting his constituency and I am satisfied that there are sufficient reasons which he gave expression in the House for having the annoyance. It may be that most of the criticisms which he made relate to the period of my predecessor, but in any case I would like to assure the hon. Member that I want that all those grievances of the people are removed and if my Friend kindly lends his co-operation I shall see how best we can tackle this problem. He mentioned about the difficulty of the people in regard to keeping land as security for the loan. I have enquired into the matter and instructions have been issued to the effect that no land need be kept as security for loan for those people. But, Sir, I have great apprehension about the speedy construction of the township. It is in the hands of the authority over which we have no control. There are so many cases pending in the High Court and I do not know when the cases will end. I am also not sure that after the disposal of these cases by the High Court these will not go to the Supreme Court again. Under the circumstances I am feeling a little confused as to what should be done in this respect. We are actually very anxious to build up the township. The money is there, the plans and estimates are ready, but the whole thing is held up on account of the injunction given by the Hon'ble High Court.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari): What about the protective measures for the protection of Palashbari town and the neighbouring villages ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): Sir, recently we had a meeting of the State Flood Control Board in which the experts from the Government of India were present. We discussed this question of protective measures for the Palashbari town, but up till now the experts have not recommended any protective measures. But I know that not only the hon. Member but also the public of Palashbari are very keen about it and, therefore, I am thinking of making a request to the Flood Control Board again to reconsider the question and see whether there is any possibility of undertaking any protective measures.

Now, Sir, I would like to say a few words regarding our tribal friends, both in the hills and in the plains. The hon. Member from Dibrugarh was not very kind to us in his criticism in this respect. He almost wanted to say that the Governor's speech was nothing but a speech of a propagandist. The hon. Member of course failed to find out even a single word in that speech which was untrue. If it is propaganda it is a propaganda of facts. Therefore, I do not think that he was justified in making such an unkind remark about the speech. I can quite appreciate his disappointment over the tribal M. L. As. co-operating with us. Yet I believe there should not be any disappointment over this matter. After all, what is our object? The object is building up the country and bringing unity. Therefore, if some friends who disagreed with us before on certain matters have subsequently found reasons to co-operate with us, there should not be any disappointment about it in any quarters. I believe that unity, progress and development should dominate all other consideration. Therefore, Sir, I am glad that it has been possible for us to join hands with our Members from the hills and work together. I am quite sure that the various apprehensions which they had in their mind and in the mind of the people of the hills will be removed by working together and this will contribute to the good of the country.

Sir, hon. Member, Shri Karka Chandra Doley, referred to the lack of mention in the Governor's Address about the Advisory Board for the Plains Tribal. But I can assure the hon. Member that a Plains Tribal Advisory Board will be constituted. The Governor's Address being a broad outline of Government's policies and in view of the limited time it was not possible to make any mention about it.

Now, Sir, some cases of disobedience of Government orders by officers have been referred to by some hon. Members. We shall look into this matter and I can assure the House that no such disobedience will be tolerated by Government. If any officer is really guilty of disobedience action will be taken against him.

The hon. Member from Gauhati referred to the bank advance against foodgrains. This is a matter which is not within our control. It is in the hands of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance. I am not quite sure

to what extent the control that was proposed to be exercised over the finances with a view to avoid hoarding and profiteering in foodgrains has been violated, but if it has been violated much stricter control is called for because the Reserve Bank of India Act was amended with this particular end in view, so that there could not be hoarding of foodgrains. As I said, Sir, if violation be a fact certainly it calls for attention of the Government and from our side we would like to pass on the suggestion of the hon. Member to the proper quarters for consideration.

Now, Sir, with regard to the refinery, there has been a controversy whether it should be big or small. From Government side, we would like this refinery to become as big as possible. But I should like to make it quite clear to the hon. House that we would like to leave this matter more in the hands of company with which the Government is participating to determine its capacity. I cannot appreciate the assertions like our refinery must be big. We shall not allow a single drop of crude oil to pass out of Assam. But as I said, Sir, we would like this refinery in Assam to be as big as possible.

Now, Sir, I have a word of appreciation for the lady Member, Shrimati Lily Sengupta, for placing before the House the problems that are being faced by the plantation labour in Assam. She has very rightly drawn the attention of this House to certain things which may mean very little for us but are of great importance to workers, just like, scarcity of fuel. It is true that with deforestation going on, as population is increasing and plantation is increasing, this problem like various other problems which she mentioned are assuming importance. I shall see our Labour Department looks into this problems and see how best these could be tackled.

Hon. Member from Panery drew the attention of the Government to a news item published in the newspaper regarding the appointment of a Mistress in a Lower Primary School in Jamuguri in the Tezpure Sadar Sub-division. I have obtained this information and with your permission I will place it before the House. The information runs like this—

The matter related to the temporary appointment of a substitute mistress to replace another incumbent who has gone on one month's leave for her marriage. The Lower Primary School is the Jamuguri Girls' Lower Primary School at Jamuguri. The Sub-Inspector of School who looks after this School is at Char-Ali and he works from there.

What seems to have happened is that the Sub-Inspector of Schools at Char-Ali gave the appointment to a Girl Middle Vernacular passed candidate. Her name was Laliteswari. The public came with a representation to the Chairman and the Chairman without knowing about the Sub-Inspector's selection, gave the appointment to another woman. The Chairman says the case of this woman a widow, was very deserving. Her husband, a School Board teacher died in harness from snake-bite and hence the widow, a Middle Vernacular passed lady, was appointed by him in consideration for her qualification and the husband who died in harness.

Unfortunately, however, the Deputy Inspector also gave appointment to another girl not being aware of the Chairman's appointment. (*Laughter*).

But the widow appointed by the Chairman has ultimately joined in the temporary vacant post on or about 24th February, 1958.

The whole thing appeared to have been due to apparent lack of co-ordination.

In any case, this lack of co-ordination was bad. I am thankful to the hon. Member for drawing the attention of the Government to this matter and we will see how this co-ordination can be effected.

I want to end my speech with these few lines and again I thank the hon. Members for their useful criticisms and we can say that we have profited from these criticisms.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj North): Sir, I am sorry, I could not take part in the discussion as I came late and thereby I could not speak anything about Cachar district. But the Chief Minister has recently come back from Cachar district, particularly his constituency, I think, he will speak a few words on urgent matters there.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chief Minister replied to the observations made by the hon. Members in course of their speeches, therefore, it is not possible now to ask him to speak about a particular district.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): In the speech I made I did not refer anything on the basis of district or constituency. I have avoided in all cases to

mention name of district and therefore I did not mention about Cachar district but I feel that what I said is applicable to Cachar district as well as of other districts. Concentration of refugees is the highest in the district of Cachar. We shall have to give special attention to the district of Cachar for this reason, if not for any other reason.

Mr. SPEAKER : Now, we have before us the amendments moved by some hon. Members.

I will put one by one—

Will Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya withdraw his amendment ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : No, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER : Then I put the question—the question is that at the end of the Motion relating to the Governor's Address moved by Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami, the following be added—

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

(The Motion was negatived)

(2) Shri Gopesh Namasudra in whose name the second amendment stood withdrew, the same by leave of the House.

(3) The amendment in the name of Shri Nilmoney Borthakur was withdrawn by leave of the House.

(4) The amendment in the name of Shri Ghanashyam Talukdar was withdrawn by leave of the House.

(5) The amendment in the name of Dr. Srihari Das was withdrawn by leave of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will Shri Hiralal Patwari withdraw his amendment?

Shri HIRALAL PATWARI (Panery): No, Sir. I do not withdraw my amendment.

(6) The amendment of Shri Hiralal Patwari was then put by the Chair as a question before the House and it was negatived.

(7) The amendment in the name of Shri Pakhirai Deka was withdrawn by leave of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: So all the amendments are either lost or withdrawn.

Now, I put the original Motion as a question—

The question is that the Members of the Assam Legislative Assembly assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the Governor for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to this House assembled on 24th February, 1958.

(The question was adopted.)

**Half an hour Discussion on then Unstarred Question
No.23 asked by Shrimati Lili Sengupta**

Mr. SPEAKER: Now, we have got half an hour's discussion regarding some questions to be raised by Shri Radhika Ram Das.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to unstarred question No.23 put by Mrs. Lily Sengupta on 28th February, 1958, regarding Excise matters and constitution of the Excise Tribunal certain questions were also put by me but the reply given by the hon. Minister was not quite satisfactory.

I put certain questions that although the declared policy of the Government is prohibition, certain deviations have been made by the Commissioner of Excise who is the executive head of this Department. Sir, even in Rule 106 of the Excise Manual the Members of the Advisory Board should be such that they have a tendency for prohibition and temperance. Besides that, on the floor of this House several times statements have been made that prohibition is the policy of Government and as a result total prohibition has been introduced in Kamrup district. But, Sir, with regard to certain

remarks of the Commissioner of Excise it appears that prohibition is not the policy of Government and that enhancement of revenue is the policy of Government. I only want to point out certain decisions of the Excise appeals decided by the Commissioner of Excise. Sir, first in Excise Appeal regarding Tinsukia Country Spirit Shop for the year 1956-57, the Excise Commissioner as appellate authority ordered for resettlement of this shop because there was decrease in sale of liquor. Then again, Sir, in Excise Appeal of Lohowal Country Spirit and Ganja shop for the year 1957-58—that is, for the current year, the Commissioner ordered—"In view of this elimination and in view of the fact that the respondents do not appear suitable, in view of the big loss of Government revenue during the management of Respondent No.1 last year there appears to be no alternative for me to order for resettlement of this shop". Then with regard to Barsaikia Country Spirit Shop for 1957-58, that was also resettled due to fall in revenue. He said—"I am therefore of the opinion that the fall in revenue is due to shop malpractices and complacency on the part of the established lessees and therefore this shop should be resettled after advertisement". Besides that, Sir, in Bihia-chetia case where there was an appeal even after the appeal was withdrawn by the parties, the Commissioner of Excise ordered for resettlement of the shop because there was reduction of sale. From all these, Sir, I want to know definitely from the Government whether prohibition is the policy of the Government or enhancement of revenue. Now the Commissioner of Excise who is the executive head gave direction to all Excise officers that in case of persons who cannot increase the sale of liquor settlement should not be made with them. So, as I have said I want to know definitely what is the policy of Government—whether prohibition or enhancement of revenue. For this purpose, Sir, I bring in this half hour discussion before the House for consideration.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Excise): Sir, if any party is aggrieved with the decision of the Excise Commissioner then he is to move the higher appellate authority because the Commissioner of Excise here acts as a statutory appellate authority. He has been created an appellate authority by a statute, Government cannot give any executive order on him. As regards the policy of Government, Sir, the policy of Government is gradual prohibition in the entire State. Pursuant to that policy prohibition has been introduced first in Barpeta

and subsequently in North Kamrup and then in the whole of Kamrup district. There was some proposal to extend this prohibition but then Government decided not to extend it just now but some other measures have been taken for making propaganda and for making the people conscious of the importance of prohibition and also for making some preliminaries in this connection. At present there is no proposal to extend prohibition.....

Mr. SPEAKER: But the question is I think simpler than that. The question is whether this order that settlement of a particular shop should be set aside on the ground that there was reduction in the sale of liquor—whether this order is in conformity with the policy of Government in this regard.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Excise): Sir, I have already replied the other day that increase or reduction in sale of liquor is not a necessary qualification of a lessee. But it may be that according to the findings of the Excise Commissioner some lessee sells adulterated liquor and that is why revenue falls. But as I have said, reduction in sale or increased sale is no qualification for settlement of these liquor shops.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari) : Sir, regarding the Lahowal Country Spirit shop some remarks were made in the order passed by the Commissioner of Excise, Assam. "This aspect of the matter cannot be viewed as a serious matter by the Head of the Department which has to earn revenue for Government".....

So, Sir, I find that the Commissioner of Excise has passed the order both in the capacity of an appellate authority and as the Head of that Department. Therefore, as the Head of the Department, the Commissioner is carrying on the policy which is going against the declared policy of the Government.

Shri HARESWAR DAS : Sir, the matter is simple. If the officer should act against the declared policy of the Government and if that is brought to my notice I will take action. Now it has been brought to my notice that the Excise Commissioner passed certain order in certain

