

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

The Assembly met in the assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 A.M. on Thursday, the 13th March, 1958.

PRESENT

Shri Dev Kanta Borooah, B.A., LL.B., Speaker in the Chair, the eight Ministers, the Two Deputy Ministers and Seventy-one Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Re: Gauhati Civil Hospital

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) asked :

*43. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Health be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government feel that Gauhati being the biggest town in Assam, and centre of many important public institutions, the Gauhati Civil Hospital should be a full-fledged one with modern and up-to-date equipments and sufficient stocks of medicine ?
- (b) Whether Government are aware that there is no instruments for preparation of oxygen and operation of tonsil for which the poor people are to suffer a lot ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware that the patients are to suffer a great deal for scanty and irregular supply of water for the said hospital ?
- (d) Whether there is any proposal to reduce the present rate charged for X-Ray ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical)
replied :

43. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—No.

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta): Is it a fact that there is no Emergency Ward in the Hospital ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical): I am not sure of that Sir, but generally we have such Emergency Wards in the hospitals.

Dr. SRIHARI DAS: Will the Minister call for a report, whether there is an Emergency Ward in the Gauhati Hospital ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: Yes, Sir.

Dr. SRIHARI DAS: Is it not a fact that oxygen cylinders are very often not available in the hospital ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: My information is that we have got sufficient stock of oxygen but we have not got any instrument for preparing the oxygen.

Shri MAHIKANTA DAS (Barchalla): From how long Government have been entertaining the idea of making the Gauhati Civil Hospital a full-fledged one ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: For the last two years.

Shri BHUBAN PRADHANI (Golakganj): What is the number of beds at present ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: I can not give the exact number, but previously it was less than 100 beds, now it has been increased to about 150 beds.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari): Will Government consider to take up a scheme as early as possible to make Gauhati Civil Hospital full-fledged hospital ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) : Government have got a definite scheme to bring up the standard of that hospital for which an amount of rupees ten lakhs has been provided for the purpose. As a matter of fact we have made certain improvements to the existing arrangements.

Shri MAHIKANTA DAS: How long Government will take to execute these things ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: Construction work will be done by the Public Works Department but due to shortage of personnel and materials the progress of the work is being held up.

Shri RAJENDRANATH BARUA (Golaghat-East) : What is the rate of X-Ray fee charged at the Gauhati Civil Hospital ? Whether the fee is uniform all over the State ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: We have got a standard rate and as far as my information goes, we have a standard rate for all the Hospitals in Assam.

Shri RAJENDRANATH BARUA: Is it not a fact that the Gauhati Civil Hospital is charging more rate than other hospitals ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA. I am unable to give that information. But so far as I know we have got a uniform prescribed rate in almost all the hospitals ?

Shri RAJENDRANATH BARUA: What is the rate at Gauhati ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: The prescribed rate is Rs.7 per plate.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari) : The Hon. Minister has said that there are more than 150 beds in the hospital—whether most of the cases are surgical cases ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: I have no information, but it may be so, Sir.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: Whether any doctor has been placed at the disposal of the Gauhati Civil Hospital ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical): We had one doctor, but unfortunately he has been released for some reasons ; we are going to appoint another doctor in his place.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari): When was the doctor released ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: It is more than a month now.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West): Will the Minister see that the inconvenience in regard to water supply in the hospital be removed early ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: For water arrangement in the hospital we have got a scheme for which Government have provided a sum of Rs.9,000 for the purpose.

Shri KARKA CHANDRA DOLEY (North Lakhimpur, Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): গুৱাহাটী হাসপাতালত যিমান bed আছে তাৰ ভিতৰত পুৰুষৰ নিমিত্তে কিমান আৰু তিব্বতীৰ নিমিত্তে কিমান আছে ?

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the number of beds for the male and female wards respectively ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: I have no information in this regard. If the hon. Member wants, I may supply the information to him.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: When did the Hon. Minister pay his last visit to the hospital ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: I paid a visit to that hospital only on Sunday last during the session of this Assembly.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Construction of the Kamalpur Sub-Deputy Collector's Office

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked :
155. Will the Revenue Minister be pleased to state—

(a) What report has been received from the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, which had been called for as stated by the Minister on 12th November, 1957 in the Assembly in reply to unstarred question No.68 regarding the construction of the Kamalpur Sub-Deputy Collector's Office, quarters and Mandals' barrack which require immediate reconstruction ?

- (b) When the Government propose to start the work ?
- (c) Why the Settlement Office of the Kamalpur Circle has not yet been shifted from Gauhati though the Revenue Department of the Government of Assam assured the re-shifting of it to Kamalpur by letter No.RSR.40/55/180, dated 24th August 1957 ?
- (d) What steps have been taken by the Government to reconstruct the Sub-Deputy Collector's Office, Sub-Deputy Collector's quarter and Mandals' barrack at Kamalpur ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

155. (a)—Deputy Commissioner reports that the plans and estimates of the Projects have not yet been received from the Executive Engineer, North Kamrup Division who has been reminded to expedite the matter.

(b)—The question of starting the work will be decided after the proposal is examined on receipt from the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup.

(c)—The Settlement Office of the Kamalpur Circle has already been shifted from Gauhati to Kamalpur on 14th February 1958 after completion of repair works of the existing buildings.

(d)—This has been indicated in reply to question (a).

Tours undertaken by the Ministers and Deputy Ministers of the adjoining Ministry

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

156. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state —

- (a) The number of days each of the Ministers and Deputy Ministers of the last Ministry were on tour since they assumed office ?
- (b) The amount of travelling allowance drawn by each of them ?
- (c) The amount of expenditure on petrol borne by the Government for the tours of each of the Ministers and Deputy Ministers of the outgoing Ministry ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied :

156. (a) & (b)—A statement is laid on the Library Table.

Statement showing the number of days each of the Ministers and Deputy Ministers of the last Ministry were on tour and the amount of travelling allowance drawn by each of them in reply to Unstarred Question No. 156 (a) & (b)

Name of Ministries				No. of days were on tour	Amount of travelling allowances drawn	Remarks
					Rs. Np.	
1. Shri B. R. Medhi	..	..	..	105	6,658-00	Shri K. P. Tripathy drew an Advance Travelling Allowance of Rs.28,000 for his journey to Europe. This amount has not been shown in the Statement due to non-receipt of his Final Bill for adjustment.
2. Shri D. Sarmah	..	..	..	102	8,448-00	
3. Shri S. N. Sarmah	..	..	..	111	9,842-00	
4. Shri K. P. Tripathy	..	..	..	147	12,929-00	
5. Shri M. R. Bora	..	..	..	72	3,390-00	
6. Shri R. N. Brahma	..	..	..	94	5,450-00	
7. Shri Hareswar Das	..	..	..	76	3,870-00	
8. Shri M. H. Choudhury	..	..	..	81	10,140-00	
9. Shri Chatra Singh Teron	..	..	..	94	5,115-00	
DEPUTY MINISTERS						
1. Shri P. Chetia	..	..	..	60	3,036-00	
2. Shri M. K. Das	..	..	..	111	1,930-00	
3. Shri M. N. Hazarika	..	..	..	96	1,385-00	
4. Shri G. N. Gogoi	..	..	..	84	1,299-00	
5. Shri Ghanashyam Das	..	..	..	83	1,628-00	
6. Shri Indreswar Khound	..	..	..	63	1,097-00	
7. Srimati U. Barthakur	..	..	..	96	1,206-00	
8. Shri K. Sema	..	..	..	83	2,110-00	

(c)—The cost of petrol is borne by the Ministers themselves out of the conveyance allowance of Rs.200 paid to each of them in accordance with the provisions of the Assam Ministers' (Salaries and Allowances) Act, 1948.

The expenditure incurred by Government on petrol for the tours of the Deputy Ministers is as below :—

			Rs. N.P.
1.	Shri M. K. Das ..	...	2,890.00
2.	Shri Ghanashyam Das	...	2,049.00
3.	Shri P. Chetia ..	...	2,377.00
4.	Shri K. Sema ..	...	2,545.00
5.	Shri M. N. Hazarika	...	3,868.00
6.	Shri I. Khound ..	...	2,125.00
7.	Shri G. Gogoi ..	...	2,459.00
8.	Srimati U. Barthakur	...	2,695.00

***Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS (Patacharkuchi: Reserved for Scheduled Tribes):** Will it be convenient to place the statement on the table of each hon. Member at the time of taking up the question?

Mr. SPEAKER: The usual practice is to place the statement on the table of the House some time half an hour before the question hour starts. The Hon. Member could have consulted me on this point.

***Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS:** But it is very difficult for all Members to see it at a time.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not know. It is always placed on the table of the House and some time it is placed half an hour before. That is the practice everywhere.

***Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS:** May I request to distribute one copy each to the hon. Members?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a question of procedure which could be taken up earlier, but in this matter the hon. Member could have come half an hour earlier and consulted me.

*Speech not corrected.

**Quarters and other amenities to the Ministers
and Deputy Ministers of the outgoing Ministry**

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

157. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) How much is paid as house rent for the accommodation of each of the Ministers and Deputy Ministers?
- (b) Whether such amount is in conformity with the budgetary sanction?
- (c) If not, why not?
- (d) What is the amount spent for furnishing the house of each of the Ministers and Deputy Ministers?
- (e) How many orderlies are sanctioned for each of the Ministers and Deputy Ministers?
- (f) Whether in view of the austerity measure Government propose to reduce the number of orderlies to Ministers and Deputy Ministers?
- (g) Whether in view of the austerity drive Government have effected economy in the expenditure on account of liveries given to the orderlies of Ministers and Deputy Ministers?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister)
replied :

157. (a)—House rent paid for accommodation of:—

		Rs.
(i)	Shri M. H. Choudhury, ... Minister, Agriculture, etc.	450 per mensem.
(ii)	Smt. U. Barthakur, ... Deputy Minister.	435 per mensem.
(iii)	Shri K. Sema, Deputy ... Minister.	250 per mensem.
(iv)	Shri M. N. Hazarika, ... then Deputy Minister.	200 per mensem,
(v)	Shri G. Das, Deputy ... Minister.	270 per mensem.

Other Ministers and Deputy Ministers are furnished with free Government quarters or paid house-rent allowance in accordance with provisions of the Assam Ministers' (Salaries and Allowances) Act, 1948.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—A statement is placed on the Library Table.

[Statement laid on the Table in reply to unstarred Question 157(d)]

Ministers			For Residence	For Office attached to Residence
			Rs.	Rs.
1.	Shri S. N. Sarma ..	Good Wood Bungalow ..	10,200	1,000
2.	Shri R. N. Brahma ..	Islington Bungalow ..	12,400	1,000
3.	Shri K. P. Tripathi ..	Grabtree Cottage ..	12,800	1,000
4.	Shri D. Sarma ..	Beauchamp House ..	9,000	1,300
5.	Shri B. R. Medhi ..	Rockside Bungalow ..	14,200	4,565
6.	Shri M. Bora ..	Brightwell Bungalow ..	13,600	1,000
7.	Shri M. H. Choudhury ..	Cryptomoria Bungalow (Hired house).	10,500	1,300
8.	Shri C. S. Teron ..	Dacca Cottage ..	4,500	1,000
Deputy Ministers				
1.	Shri M. K. Das ..	Miramar Bungalow ..	6,000	500
2.	Shri P. Chetia ..	Minister Cottage at Stony Land	7,000	500
3.	Shri G. Gogoi ..	....	312	500
4.	Shri I. Khound ..	....	312	500
5.	Shri Ghanashyam Das ..	House of Shri P. C. Barua (Hired).	..	500
6.	Shri M. N. Hazarika ..	House of Shri N. Borsaikia (Hired).	=	500
7.	Shrimati U. Barthakur ..	"Bhuyan House" (Hired) ..	429	500
8.	Shri K. Seima ..	House of Shri Shron Singh (Hired).	497	Nil

- (e) Minister—1 Jamadar and 3 Peons.
Deputy Minister—3 Peons.
- (f) The matter will be examined.
- (g) As far as practicable economy has already been effected by introducing new pattern of liveries. The price of two sets of new pattern of liveries (Winter and Summer) is Rs. 54 against Rs. 74 of the old pattern.

**Re: the Director and other Officers of the
Cottage Industries Department, Assam**

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari) asked :

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

- (a) The names, academic and technical qualifications of the present Joint Director, Deputy Directors and other officers of the Cottage Industries Department?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that most of these personnel possess no technical qualifications and some of them were recruited from amongst office assistants?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the present Joint Director is only an Electrical and Mechanical Engineering and the Officer brought from Madras to work as Director of Cottage Industries, Assam was sent away just to give a lift to the present Joint Director?
- (d) For how long the post of Director, Cottage Industries is lying vacant?
- (e) Will the Minister-in-charge place all the relevant papers in connection with the resignation of the Madras Director of Industries before the House?
- (f) Whether the present Secretary of the Cottage Industries, Assam who was Director before the appointment of the said Madras Officer played any part in keeping the post of Director vacant?

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

158. (a)—A statement is placed on the Library Table. (Please see Library Register No. S 2.)

(b)—No; it is not a fact. As will be seen from the list placed on the table most of the officers have technical qualifications. Recently 12 posts of Superintendents of Cottage Industries have been filled up on the recommen-

dations of Assam Public Service Commission as their main function is to enquire into the loan petitions and watch the utilisation of loans they, except one, do not possess any technical qualification. The Deputy Director (Accounts) does not possess any engineering qualification, but he has Diploma of A. M. C. I. A. in London which is a technical qualification in accounts. Knowledge in marketing is also now treated as technical qualification by the Reserve Bank of India and Government of India and we are following the same principle.

Only three of the officers mentioned in the list have been recruited from office assistants for their special knowledge and experience.

(c)—The qualification of the Joint Director, Shri Adhikari is already laid on the table. There was no Director of Industries brought from Madras but one Shri Ganapati Iyer who was a retired officer of Mysore Government, was brought and re-employed on contract basis. It is not a fact that the said Director was sent away to give a lift to the Joint Director. In fact Shri Iyer was not sent away ; but he resigned on his own accord. It may be mentioned that Shri Iyer was not a technical person but a retired I. A. S. Officer.

(d)—Since 4th July, 1957 when Shri Iyer made over.

(e)—The relevant papers in connection with resignation of Shri Ganapati Iyer, are placed on the Library Table.

[Paper laid on the Table in reply to unstarred question 158(e)]

Copy of letter dated 5th January, 1957, from Shri E. V. Ganapati Iyer, Director of Cottage Industries, to the Secretary, Cottage Industries, Assam.

I regret to say that under the existing conditions and arrangements it is not possible for me to carry on in service in Assam.

As required under the terms of my contract appointment, I hereby give notice of six months from 10th January, 1957 for relinquishment of my appointment on 10th July, 1957 and prior to that date I shall avail of such earned leave on full pay as may be at my credit as on or about 10th June, 1957. I request that needful arrangements may kindly be made by the Government of Assam for my relief on or about 10th June, 1957.

Copy forwarded to :—

1. The Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam.
 2. The Private Secretary to Chief Minister, Assam for Chief Minister's information.
 3. The Minister for Cottage Industries, Assam.
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Copy of letter No.IE.69/55/101 dated 26th February 1957 from the Secretary to the Government of Assam, Cottage Industries, Assam to the Director of Cottage Industries, Assam.

SUBJECT:—Six months notice for relinquishing from service under Assam Government.

Reference :—Your letter dated 5th January 1957.

In inviting a reference to your letter of resignation quoted above I am directed to say that six month's notice has probably been given according to the terms of the proposed contract. But the contract deed has not yet been executed and as such it does not seem necessary to give six month's time. It is not known therefore whether you want to be relieved earlier but for the proposed term in the contract. Government would desire to know whether you would like to be relieved earlier.

Copy of letter dated 28th February 1957 from Shri E. V. Ganapati Iyer, to the Secretary to the Government of Assam. Cottage Industries Department, Assam.

SUBJECT :—Notice of relinquishment of service.

I am writting this with reference to your letter No. IE./59/55/101, dated 26th February 1957 which I received only today on my return from tour. As I am bound by the Government order of my contract appointment which embodies the terms of service offered to and accepted by me I have given the notice of six months as required thereunder without prejudice to the execution of the formal agreement. I do not desire to be relieved earlier or to relinquish the appointment except in accordance with the agreed upon terms of my appointment order. In this connection, I may mentioned that the Finance

Department has not authorised the issue of my pay slip since January, 1957 and has in fact intimated in letter No.FEC(II) Dy.234 dated 26th February 1957 that my contract should be executed before 31st March 1957. In my Memo. dated 25th January 1957 to you I have requested that a copy of the final draft agreement as approved by the Government may be furnished to me early for execution and the same may please be expedited. I therefore requested that as already intimated I may be allowed to relinquish my appointment from 10th July, 1957 and I may be arranged to be relieved on or about 10th June, 1957 for availing myself of such earned leave as I would be entitled to.

Copy of letter dated 10th June, 1957 from Shri E.V. Ganapati Iyer to the Secretary to the Government of Assam, Rural Development Department, Shillong.

SUBJECT:—Notice of relinquishment of service.

I invite your reference to correspondence regarding the above-mentioned subject ending with my letter No. Nil, dated 28th May 1957 addressed to the Minister for Planning and Development. I have not yet received any reply or advice from Government as to the sanction of one month's earned leave on full pay and to whom I should hand over charge for proceeding on leave on relinquishment of service in Assam.

I request you therefore to kindly obtain the very early order of Government sanctioning the grant of one month's earned leave from 23rd June 1957 inclusive of the Sundays on 23rd June 1957 and 21st July 1957, or payment of one month's salary in lieu of the leave and permitting me to hand over charge of office on 22nd June 1957, as I would require about a week's time at least to dispose of any important pending matters before handing over charge and I have also to make arrangements for my return journey and other things well in time. I request that any delay in the issue of the necessary orders of Government should not affect my availing of the benefit of one month's earned leave within the contract terms of service. I may state that I would conveniently hand over charge to the Joint Director of Cottage Industry in the case of the Cottage Industry Department and the Joint Director of Sericulture and Weaving in the case of Sericulture and Weaving Department.

Copy of letter No. RDI.93/57/17, dated 19th June 1957 from the Secretary to the Government of Assam, Rural Development Department, to the Director of Cottage Industries Department, Assam, Shillong.

SUBJECT:—Relinquishment of Service.

Reference :—Your D.O. letter dated 10th June, 1957.

With reference to your letter mentioned above I am directed to say that you may relinquish your office on 22nd June 1957 (fore-noon) and hand over charge of the Cottage Industries Department to the Joint Director of Cottage Industries and of Sericulture and Weaving Department to the Joint Director of Sericulture and Weaving.

The Question of your leave is under consideration of the Government and a separate communication will follow in this respect.

Copy to the Joint Director of Sericulture and Weaving, Cottage Industries, Assam. They should hold themselves in readiness to receive charge as soon as it is handed over.

Copy of letter No, Nil, dated 28th June 1957 from Shri E.V. Ganapati Iyer, to the Minister for Industries and Planning, Shillong.

I thank you for the interview with you on 4th May, 1957 and am extremely grateful to you for your very kind suggestion that I should reconsider the notice already given by me and continue in service in Assam and that any necessary re-adjustments and other arrangements conducive to the interests of work could be made for the future. It was agreed that I might take some time to think over the matter and give my reply.

After the discussions at today's meeting, presided over by you at which both myself and the Secretary, Rural Development Department (Shri K. C. Barua) were present, you again kindly asked me to reconsider the matter and give my consent to continue.

Motivated as I was and am solely by a desire to serve my country to the best of my ability with the knowledge and

experience I have gained, regardless of terms and conditions of my remuneration, I have felt myself obliged to give the deepest consideration to the matter in the light of your wish.

As was clarified at the meeting, without proper integration of work in the Department, with too much interference by the Secretary in departmental work and administration, with too little scope for initiative and taking on responsibility and discharge of work by me with too little access to the Minister for discussing departmental problems and too much delay in the provision of even minimum necessary staff and establishment and sanction of departmental proposals, it has been a period of frustration for me in the department hitherto. When I agreed to accept service in Assam, I had made it clear that the arrangements and conditions of my service in Assam should in consonance with general practice appropriate to the position and status in Government Service I had previously held.

Unless therefore, the head of an integrated department of Industry and Sericulture and Weaving is also made *ex-officio* Secretary to Government of the Department as is the case with most other heads of Departments in Assam, I feel that under existing circumstances and conditions my continuance in service will be neither satisfactory to me nor fruitful. I may also mention that the non-provision of a suitable Government quarters for my residence or in its absence by the requisitioning by Government of a suitable private building for the propose subject to paying of rent at 10 per cent of my pay as per general rules has been a very great difficulty to me. I had hoped that such an essential amenity would have been made available to me.

In the long interval which has elapsed since my giving notice to Government of my desire to relinquish service, till the date of your kind interview I had no word from Government of their intentions and I have necessarily had to make certain commitments and arrangements regarding my future plans of work.

I request that my position may kindly be appreciated under the circumstances and that early orders of Government passed on my request for relinquishment of servich in June, 1957.

Copy of letter dated 20th June, 1957 from the Director of Cottage Industries, Assam Shillong, to the Secretary to the Government of Assam, Rural Development Department, Assam, Shillong.

SUBJECT: Relinquishment of Service.

With reference to your letter No. RDI. 93/57/17, dated 19th June, 1957 which was received by me at 4-30 P. M. on 19th June, 1957, stating that I may relinquish office on 22nd June 1957 and that the question of leave is under consideration of Government separately, I write to state that it may not be correct and in accordance with the terms of my contract service, to relinquish my office until a formal Government order notifying the acceptance of notice for relinquishment of service and the date from which after expiry of the prescribed minimum period of 6 months notice, the acceptance will be operative and the grant of the earned leave with effect from the date of relief is issued and also advised to the Audit Department. Without the authority of such a notification both with regard to the availment of the leave and the acceptance of my notice for relinquishment of service, there may be difficulties in audit regarding the passing of my pay bills etc. Besides, my intention is to avail of the earned leave when I hand over charge preparatory to the relinquishment of service from the fixed date but this would not be possible unless prior Government orders sanctioning the leave are issued and intimated to the Audit Department.

As you know my pay slip has not yet been received from the Accountant General since March, 1957 as you have not yet communicated the necessary sanctions to him. It will be difficult for me to meet the travel and leave expenses, etc., unless I obtain payment of these pay bills due for some months.

There are also some urgent items of work such as dealing with the loan cases sanctioned by the Loan Board at its last meeting, Development Commissioner's letter regarding the development Scheme programme for 1957-58, some urgent audit references relating to the appropriation accounts etc. and these will require one week's time about for attention as already intimated by me.

Under these circumstances, I propose to hand over charge soon after the orders of Government sanctioning my leave preparatory to relinquishment of service and authorisations to the Accountant General, Assam for my pay slip are received. In this connection I may state that as per accounts rules my last pay bill up to the date on which relinquishment from service becomes operative will be paid only after pre-audit by the

Accountant General, Assam and this cannot be done until the above mentioned Government notification and orders have issued. I therefore request that the issue of the necessary sanctioning orders of Government may kindly be expedited and intimated to me for needful action.

Copy to the above is forwarded to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam, Shillong for information and kind necessary instructions to expedite the matter.

(f)---No. In fact the present Secretary who was also the Director took active part to bring Shri Ganapati Iyer. Also he has been taking all steps to fill up the post immediately after Shri Iyer left.

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon): With regard to (d), may I know from the Government whether the post was advertised just after it fell vacant?

Shri MOHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister, Cottage Industries): হয় কৰা হৈছিল।

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA: যিটো চাকৰী খালি হৈছিল সেইটোৰ বাবে advertise কৰা হৈছিল নে যদি হৈছিল তেন্তে কিমান দৰখাস্ত পোৱা হৈছিল?

Shri MOHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: এই বিভাগৰ বহুত Post পোৱা হৈছিল, এতিয়া কোনটো Post ৰ কথা কৈছে? মাদ্ৰাজৰ পৰা অনা Director জনে বিজাইন দিয়াৰ পিছত সেই ঠাইত এতিয়াও মানুহ লোৱা হোৱা নাই, বিশেষকৈ Technical Personnel ৰ অভাৱত। এই বিষয়ে Technical Personnel বিছাৰি বোম্বাই, মাদ্ৰাজ আৰু কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰলৈ লিখা হৈছিল কিন্তু বৃহৎ শিল্পৰ কাৰণে এজন পোৱা গৈছে কিন্তু কুটিৰ শিল্পৰ কাৰণে পোৱা হোৱা নাই।

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minister has said that it was advertised through the Public Service Commission and now it is through the Public Service Commission that they have written to the Governments of Bombay and Madras. Now the question is whether the post is going to be filled by the Public Service Commission or by Government?

Shri MOHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: Public Service Commission ৰ জৰিয়তে কৰা হৈছিল। কিন্তু মানুহ নোপোৱাত ওপৰতকৈ অহা চৰকাৰ সমূহলৈ গৱণমেণ্টে লিখিছে।

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister), If the hon. Member means the Director of Major Industries the officer who has been recommended by the

Government of India, his name is under consideration and most probably this appointment will be on contract basis. If it is on contract basis the appointment will be made by the Cabinet and the case may not go to the Assam Public Service Commission.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari): Our question was with regard to Cottage Industries.

Mr. SPEAKER: Question 158 relates to the Director of Cottage Industries.

Shri MOHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister Cottage Industries): Director ৰ কাৰণে ইতিমধ্যে কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰলৈ লেখা হৈছিল।

Mr. SPEAKER: মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে প্ৰশ্নটোৰ উত্তৰত কৈছিল, Public Service Commission ৰ জৰিয়তে কৰা হৈছে বুলি সেইটো কাম Public Service Commission এ কৰিব নে চৰকাৰে কৰিব ?

Shri MOHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: Public Service commission এ কৰিব।

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari): ইয়াত Public Service Commission ৰ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে influence কৰিব নেকি ?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, Order, the question is disallowed.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): I seek your protection against such an unwarranted remark.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have not permitted that question.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Whether the Public Service Commission will recommend or will appoint ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: Public Service Commission এ recommend কৰিব আৰু গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে নিয়োগ কৰিব।

Mr. SPEAKER: That procedure is well-known.

Splitting of the Gauhati Subdivisional School Board

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked: 159. Will the Education Minister be pleased to state what steps have been taken to split the Gauhati Subdivisional School Board into three units as was assured in the November Session of the Assembly ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY (Minister, Education) replied :

159.—The matter is being examined for splitting the Gaubati School Board.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Has it not yet been decided to split the School Board as assured ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY: The matter is under consideration.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY (Nalbari-East): The reply is not clear. What does the Minister mean by saying that the matter is under consideration ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY: The splitting of a School Board is partly an educational, partly an administrative and partly a financial question. All these three aspects have to be co-ordinated and decided.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari): Four months have already passed since the House was told that the splitting up would be taken early and how long it would take ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY: Four months may have passed when the assurance was given. Since then the matter has been taken up and all these three questions are being processed and you know processing takes time.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY: At what stage the matter is resting now ?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is still in processing.

Number of High Schools converted into Higher Secondary Schools

Shri SURENDRA NATH DAS (Patacharkuchi) asked :

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

- (a) What is the number of High Schools which have been converted to the Higher Secondary School up till now in the State ?
- (b) Whether there is any special consideration for High Schools of tribal areas, to be converted to Higher Secondary Schools ?
- (c) What is the number of the High Schools which are being taken up as Higher Secondary or Multipurpose High Schools ?

(d) Whether it is a fact that Barama Government Aided High Schools was selected by the District Development Board for conversion to Higher Secondary School during Second Five Year Plan ?

(e) When it will be taken up ?

(f) Whether it will be taken up within this Second Five Year Plan ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY (Minister, Education) replied :

160. (a)—Nine.

(b)—Selection of schools for conversion to Higher Secondary Schools is considered mainly on the suitability in regard to roll strength, staff, accommodation facilities, etc., of the school concerned.

(c)—The total number of schools taken up and proposed to be taken during the First and Second Five Year Plan period is 30 (thirty) Multi-purpose schools and 39 (thirty-nine) Higher Secondary schools.

(d)—Yes.

(e) & (f)—The matter is still under examination.

Shri SURENDRANATH DAS (Patacharkuchi): Secondary School হবলৈ হলে কিমান সংখ্যক ছাত্র হব লাগিব ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY: তেনেকুৱা কোনা ধৰা বন্ধা নিয়ম নাই।

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : Whether there is any such school out of nine in the district of Lakhimpur ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY: This question was answered on the floor of this House more than ten days back and the list has been, I think, placed on the table of the House or if necessary it can be placed.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golokganj): With regard to (b), whether there is any special consideration for tribal areas ? In his reply the Minister has mentioned about general consideration.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY: These schools are selected on the basis of general consideration for the simple reason that the arrangements necessary are expected to be optimum and not minimum.

Shri LALIT KUMAR DOLEY [Moran : Reserved for Scheduled Tribes]: May I know the names of those nine schools and the subdivision in which they are located ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY:

List of Higher Secondary Schools.

1. Government High School, North Lakhimpur,
2. Government High School, Golaghat,

3. Government High School, Nowgong,
4. Government High School, Mangaldoi,
5. Government High School, Barpeta,
6. Government High School, Dhubri,
7. Government High School, Silchar,
8. Government Aided K. R. High School, Hajo,
9. Patacharkuchi Vidyapith.

Srimati JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West): How many Secondary Schools have been taken up and how many are being taken up, Sir? I want to know the names of those schools which have already been taken up.

Sri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY (Minister, Education): I have already mentioned the names of the Higher Secondary Schools. The list of Multi-purpose High Schools is as below:

1. Dibrugarh Government Girls' High School.
2. Sibsagar Government High School.
3. Jorhat Government High School.
4. Goalpara Government High School.
5. Kohima Government High School.
6. Jowai Government High School.
7. Aijal Government High School.
8. Tura Government High School.
9. Dawson Aided High School.
10. Morigaon Aided School.
11. Charali Government Aided High School.
12. Tezpur Girls High School.
13. T. C. Girls' High School.
14. Lala Aided High School.
15. Bajali Aided High School.

There are two other names I do not know whether they are included in the list. The total number is 15. With regard to the rest, they will be selected in due course.

Compensation for acquisition of land for construction of embankment on the Puthimari

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamrup)
asked :

161. Will the Revenue Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) What report has been received from the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, who was asked to enquire into the allegations of irregularity anomaly, corruption, bribery, etc., in connection with

the fixation of compensation for damages of land and properties for lands acquired for the construction of the embankment on the river Puthimari by Revenue Department's letters No.RLR.181/56/87 and No.RLR.181/56/98 of June 1957 ?

- (b) What report has been submitted by the Sub-Deputy Collector, Kamalpur, who made preliminary enquiry into the matter locally on 17th August 1957.
- (c) Whether the allegations were borne out by fact ?
- (d) Whether Government is aware of the great resentment of the public of that locality as expressed by public meetings and petitions to the Government for not redressing their grievances and for not properly enquiring into their allegations ?
- (e) Whether Government propose to enquire into the matter ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

161. (a)—Deputy Commissioner reported that Public Works Department took over possession of the lands amicably with the consent of the owners and began construction of the embankment in 1954. Public Works Department requested Deputy Commissioner for legal possession in 1955 but it could not be given without acquisition. So Deputy Commissioner started acquisition proceedings in 1956 under the Assam Acquisition of Land for Flood Control and Prevention of Erosion Act 1955. Compensation for land and houses was assessed under Section 6 (1) of the above Act, but that for trees was done under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, on certain certificates issued by Public Works Department as the trees were no longer there then. This assessment partly under the Assam Acquisition of Land for Flood Control and Prevention of Erosion Act, 1955 and partly under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 was irregular. So steps are being taken to regularise the assessment under the Assam Acquisition of Land for Flood Control and Prevention of Erosion Act only.

The allegations of corruption and bribery were reported to be baseless.

(b)—Sub-Deputy Collector reported that it was difficult to ascertain the claims of compensation made by different persons as there was no concrete proof then except the evidence given

by the villagers themselves or other villager. But the difficulty is being overcome now by assessing the compensation under section 6(1) of the Assam Acquisition of Land for Flood Control and Prevention of Erosion Act under which the owner of the land is entitled the compensation for the land inclusive of crops and trees at the rate of 20 times the land revenue. No separate compensation for standing crops and trees is admissible under this Act. For houses on the land the owner is paid a sum equivalent to the sale proceeds of the materials of the same *plus* 15 per cent if he does not remove the materials. If he removes them he gets 20 per cent of the value of the materials.

(c)—Except the irregularity pointed out at (a) above the allegations were not borne out by facts.

(d)—Government had received petitions to this effect.

(e)—Enquiries have already been made with results stated above. On receipt of another petition on 25th February 1958 challenging the entire acquisition proceedings under the Assam Acquisition of Land for Flood Control and Prevention of Erosion Act, 1955 for lands taken over by the Public Works Department in 1955 a further enquiry is being made and the whole question will be reconsidered on receipt of Deputy Commissioner's report.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur): How could the provision of this Act of Assam Acquisition of Land for Flood Control and Prevention of Erosion Act, 1955 could be extended to the land of which possession was taken in the year 1954?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): That was not regular, Sir. The application of the Act is not regular.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Will the Government please order the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup to assess compensation of land, houses, trees, etc., which were damaged in connection with the construction of the embankment in 1954, so that it may be assessed according to the provision of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: Government cannot pass any such orders on the Deputy Commissioner, Sir. As I have said already, the Act was passed in 1955, so the application of the Act is irregular. Now it is for the Deputy Commissioner to start fresh proceedings.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI: It is stated in the reply that the allegation of corruption and bribery against the officers were baseless. May I know whether any enquiry was made?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): Yes, Sir, The Deputy Commissioner made the enquiry, and this is the report.

Sri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur): Will the Government have a judicial enquiry?

Sri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): If definite facts against any particular officer are supplied we may consider that point.

Sri LALIT KUMAR DOLEY [Moran Reserved for Scheduled Tribes]: This rate of twenty of times the land revenue as compensation is not sufficient, Sir, as there may be persons whose loss may be greater.

Sri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): This is a question of amending the Act, Sir. As the question stands nothing more can be done.

Final Part II Examination in the Assam Engineering Institute

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari) asked:

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

- (a) How many students appeared in final Part II Examination from the Assam Engineering Institute in the year, 1957?
- (b) How many of these students came out successful in the said examination?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that some students got plucked in one subject in one group for failing to secure only few marks?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that these students are not allowed to appear in the compartmental examination?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that one student who got plucked in two subjects in two groups securing low marks has been promoted to 3rd year class and allowed to appear only in those two subjects?
- (f) Will Government be pleased to state why this discrimination is made?
- (g) Whether it is a fact that there is great resentment amongst the students due to this discrimination?
- (h) Will Government after making a thorough enquiry be pleased to allow those students, who got plucked in one subject, to appear in that subject only?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education) replied :

162. (a)—77.

(b)—54.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—The particular student who was ill during the examination. In view of his brilliant result in the past examinations, Examination Committee was pleased to make it a special case.

(g)—Representation was received but the Examination Committee could not consider as these were not found genuine.

(h)—No, the State Council for Technical Education is the proper authority to take a decision in these matters. Government do not propose to interfere with their decision in this matter.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palasbari): With regard to the reply (f) in Question 162, may I know what were those examinations ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: This student, Nakul Chandra Das was a very good student. He stood Third in order of merit in the first annual examination in the year 1956. His result in the terminal examination in the 2nd year was also very good.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): Does the result of one year hold good for all the subsequent years, Sir ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Not necessarily, Sir.

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon): Will the Minister-in-charge of Education negotiate with the State Medical Council to give such concession to the Medical students ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : We cannot interfere with the work of the University, Sir. In such matters they are the authority.

Paper Mill at Lamsakhang

Shri SAI SAI TERANG [Mikir Hills-East (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] asked:

163. Will the Minister-in-charge of Major Industries be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the site for the proposed Paper Mill at Lamsakhang has been fixed ?

(b) If so, whether it is within the Mikir Hills or in Nowgong District ?

(c) If the latter, what is the reason for not locating it in the Mikir Hills district from which raw materials are to be procured ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Major Industries) replied :

163.(a)—No.

(b)—In view of reply to (a) above, this does not arise.

(c)—Does not arise.

Shri SAI SAI TERANG [Mikir Hills-East (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: নই নাননীয় নদী মহোদয়ৰ পৰা জানিব খুজিছো এই কাগজৰ কাৰখানাটো খুলিবলৈ ক'ত ঠিক কৰা হৈছে ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: ঠাই ঠিক নাই হোৱা ।

Shri SAI SAI TERANG: যদি নাই হোৱা, তেন্তে এই কাগজৰ কাৰখানাটো লামাচাংত নপাতি মিকিৰ পাহাৰ অথবা উত্তৰ কাছাৰৰ কোনো ঠাইত খুলিবলৈ চৰকাৰে ঠিক কৰিবনে ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Major Industries): কাগজৰ কাৰখানাটো ক'ত খোলা হব সেই বিষয়ে যি কোম্পানীক কাম দিয়া হব তেওঁলোকে ঠিক কৰি লব, চৰকাৰে নকৰে ।

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): Is it a Paper Mill or Paper Pulp Mill, Sir ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Paper Mill, Sir.

Shri CHATRASING TERON [Mikir-Hills-West (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Is it not a fact that it was contemplated to locate the mill on the opposite side of the Lamsakhang Railway Station ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Major Industries): The decision is not made by the Government of Assam, Sir. It is made by the Company ; it is in the private sector.

Shri CHATRASING TERON: Is it not a fact that the experts who enquired into the question of location of the mill considered the site between the river Dhing and the Railway Station as suitable ? Is it not a fact that an additional expenditure of rupees one lakh is necessary to open a loop line on the back side of the Lamsakhang Railway Station, which has been taken as a plea to locate it in a different place ?

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member may do well if he does not use the word 'plea'. He may use the word 'reason' in place of it.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: I have no information, Sir.

Shri TAMIJUDDIN PRADHANI (Dhubri) asked :

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

- (a) Whether there is proper arrangement for X-ray in Dhubri Civil Hospital ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the present condition of the X-ray of Dhubri Hospital is not to the Medical Standard for want of an X-ray expert ?
- (c) If so, whether Government propose to remove these difficulties by appointing an expert and efficient Medical Officer ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) replied :

164. (a)—Yes.

(b)—For want of a qualified Radiographer the work is temporarily managed by an X-ray Technician ?

(c)—A qualified Radiographer will be appointed soon.

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta) : In reply to question 164(a) it has been said 'Yes'. Now I want to know what is meant by 'proper arrangements' ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : This X-Ray plant has been installed. It may be that for want of a qualified man that particular plant is not working for the present there.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj) : What is the special qualification required to operate the X-Ray plant, Sir ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : The minimum qualification is Matriculation and then he is to take a training for this work.

Assistant Settlement Officer, Barnagar Circle

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sarbhog) asked :

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

- (a) Whether Shri Seraful Hussain, Sub-Deputy Collector, Bornagar Circle was transferred to Dhubri for miscellaneous work and Shri Omiya Das was given the powers of Assistant Settlement Officer for Bornagar Circle ?
- (b) Whether the order was published in the *Assam Gazette* ?
- (c) If so, why the order was cancelled ?

- (d) Whether there is any special reason for cancelling the said order ?
 (e) Whether Government have received public complaints against Shri Seraful Hussain ?
 (f) If so, when he will be transferred from the Bornagar Circle ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Revenue Minister) replied :

165. (a)—Yes.
 (b)—Yes.
 (c) & (d)—In the interest of re-settlement operation the order was cancelled.
 (e) —Yes.
 (f)—Does not arise as there are representations for his retention also.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sarbhog): May I know whether Shri Seraful Hussain will be transferred again to Bornagar Circle ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : In future he may be transferred.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR : Why this transfer was made after the issue of the Gazette notification.

Shri HARESWAR DAS : He was doing the work very nicely there.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY (Nalbari-East): Is it the policy of the Government to transfer officers on representations ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: That is one of the factors, Sir.

Control of Cement, C. I. Sheets and Iron Rods

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta) asked:

166. Will the Minister-in-charge of supply be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the control on cement, C. I. Sheet and Iron Rods are going to be lifted soon ?
 (b) If so, when ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education for Minister, Supply) replied :

166. (a)—Government have no such information.

(b)—Does not arise.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Sir, here the question is "Whether it is a fact that the control of on Cement, C.I. Sheet and Iron Rods are going to be lifted soon" and the answer given is "Government have no such information". If so, then who has got the information ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : It is the Central Government to make a decision. So, what they are going to decide in this respect this Government have no information.

Shri RAMNATH SARMAH (Lumding) : Is it a fact, Sir, that the Bengal Government is going to lift the control order ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : I have seen it in the newspaper.

Industrial Quota of Cement

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta) asked:

167. Will the Minister-in-charge of supply be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the industrial quota of cement (small scale industry) is supplied direct by the Sub-divisional Officer to the applicants concern ?

(b) Whether the Supply Advisory Board has any thing to do in the distribution of cements by way of suggestion and enquiring into the merits and demerits of each individual case ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education for Minister, Supply) replied :

167. (a)—The local officers have been instructed to reserve 10 per cent from each consignment of cement for distribution to small scale industries on the recommendations of the Industries Department.

(b)—The Supply Advisory Board may give general and constructive suggestions. But recommendations of the Industries Department will be essential, as the Department are taking all possible steps for promoting small scale industries.

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta) : Sir, in the allocation of this 10 per cent of cement I want to know whether this is done in consultation with the Supply Advisory Board or at the discretion of the officers concerned ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister) : This is a quota for small scale industries and is distributed on the recommendation of the Supply Advisory Board.

Re : Amalgamation of the Public Health Department with the Medical Department and teaching staff in the Assam Medical College

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) asked :

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

- (a) How many interchanges have taken place in the Department of Health Services after the amalgamation of the Medical and the Public Health Departments ?
- (b) Whether the amalgamation has been effected on the basis of recommendations of the Bhore Committee ?
- (c) If so, whether Government is prepared to appoint the qualified and experienced members of the former Public Health Department as District Officers ?
- (d) How many Assistant Surgeons Grade II have been promoted to Grade I (i) on the medical side ; (ii) on the Public Health side till 31st January 1958 ?
- (e) How many Sub-Assistant Surgeons after their graduation were promoted to Assistant Surgeon Grade I have been placed as (i) Subdivisional Medical Officers ; and (ii) in rural areas ?

- (f) On what basis the Subdivisional Medical Officers mentioned in (e) above are made ?
- (g) Whether Government propose to appoint the Professors and Assistant Professors of the Assam Medical College on a permanent basis ?
- (h) Whether the present arrangement in the college is leading to an improvement of the standard of teaching and the efficiency in the treatment of patients ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Medical Minister)
replied :

168. (a)—With the amalgamation of Medical and Public Health Departments all officers of both the Departments were brought to one cadre, *i. e.*, each class of officers forming one combined cadre. So the question of interchange of personnel does not arise.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes. District Medical Officers will be appointed from amongst the members of the combined cadre of Assistant Surgeons, Grade I, taking into consideration their relative merit and seniority.

(d) (i)—Seven Assistant Surgeons II, from Medical side, (ii) Two Assistant Surgeons II from Public Health side.

After amalgamation the quota is being doubled for promotion.

(e)—Eighteen. On graduation an Assistant Surgeon, Grade II is appointed and not promoted as Assistant Surgeon I. Promotion of an Assistant Surgeon II as Assistant Surgeon Grade I, is made on the recommendation of the Assam Public Service Commission and that too against the quota of reserved posts in the cadre of Assistant Surgeon Grade I.

(i) Under the amalgamated set up, no one exclusively holds Medical charge of a Subdivision. In Sadar Subdivision an Assistant Surgeon, Grade I, holds charge of the Civil Hospital, while in a Subdivision he is treated as Subdivisional Medical and Health Officer in addition to being in-charge of the Civil Hospital there.

(ii) Seventeen.

(f)—On merit and seniority.

(g)—Yes. Proposal for making the College permanent is under consideration of Government and as soon as a final decision is taken in this regard, Professors and Assistant Professors other than those appointed on contract basis will be made permanent provided other conditions are fulfilled.

(h)—Yes. There is no reason to think that the present arrangement is not leading to improvement of the standard of teaching as will be evident from the number of students qualified during past years as detailed below :—

May, 1952	...	...	...	12	}	35
December, 1952	...	...	...	23		
April, 1953	...	...	...	19	}	50
December, 1953	...	...	...	31		
April, 1954	...	...	...	35	}	65
December, 1954	...	...	...	30		
April, 1955	...	...	...	29	}	61
December, 1955	...	...	...	32		
April, 1956	...	...	...	38	}	69
December, 1956	...	...	...	31		
May, 1957	...	...	...	32	}	73
December, 1957	...	...	...	41		

In recent years better qualified and experienced Surgeons and Physicians have been appointed and there is every reason to think that this arrangement is leading to an improvement of the standard of efficiency in the matter of treatment of patients.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) : Sir, in answer to Question (d) it has been stated that "After amalgamation the quota is being doubled for promotion". Does this double quota relate to both Medical and Public Health ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) : Yes, it relates to both Medical and Public Health.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR : From the answer it is apparent that there were more promotions from the ex-Medical side than from the ex-Public Health side. Will Government consider the desirability of giving promotion without discrimination and without giving undue weightage ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : I am prepared to accept the suggestions of the hon. Member and I will see that no injustice is done.

Transportation of crude oil and refined petroleum by the proposed oil refinery in Assam

Shri KAMALA PRASAD AGARWALA (Tezpur) asked:

169. Will the Minister-in-charge of Major Industries be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is the intention of the Rupee Company recently formed to examine the technical and economic aspects of river transportation of crude and refined petroleum and corresponding aspect with regard to the proposed pipeline ?
- (b) Whether Government feels that this is a matter solely for the Rupee Company and intends to move the Rupee Company through the Central Government in order to bring about this comparison study ?
- (c) What were the findings of the recent delegation to the U. S. A. for the countries with respect to the comparison economy of pipelines and transportation of petroleum by barges ?
- (d) Whether Government considers that transportation of petroleum by river within Assam is indeed cheaper and technically feasible ?

- (e) If so, what steps Government propose to take in order to bring about this mode of transportation instead of pipelines ?

- (f) Whether Government are aware that the development of modern transportation methods would ensure bringing down prices of food-stuffs and commodities within the State in addition to providing cheap transport for further industrialisation within the State ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister-in-charge of Major Industries) replied :

169. (a)—From available information it appears that the Company will make necessary transport arrangements for transport of crude oil to the Refinery. Government of India have informed the State Government that Inland Water Transport will not be considered. The question regarding transport of refined products is still under examination of Government of India.

(b)—The State Government have already drawn the attention of the Government of India to the points raised in question (a). Oil is a Central subject and it is for the Government of India to take necessary decision.

(c)—The Delegation made some preliminary studies and contacted experts. Further studies with the help of experts are necessary to come to a definite finding on the comparative merits of these two systems of transport.

(d)—With further detailed studies, comparative merit of the two systems of transport has to be established.

(e)—Please refer in reply to question No. 169 (b).

(f)—Cheap and efficient transport system helps in balancing the supply and demand position of a commodity and therefore, has a direct bearing on the cost structure of food-stuffs and other commodities. In the ultimate analysis it is the supply position which dictates the ruling price of a commodity. Cheap and efficient transport, however, greatly helps in developing industries.

Shri KAMALA PRASAD AGARWALA (Tezpur): Regarding (c), Sir, what is the result of the study of the Delegation ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: The results of the study of the Delegation have been prepared and a preliminary report of the same is being made, but further studies are necessary in regard to the two systems of transport.

Shri BISWADEB SARMAH (Balipara): May I know about the two methods of transport ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Major Industries): I have no direct information. The experts who have been entrusted with the task of preparing the project report are still going on collecting data and I understand that the report may be submitted by the end of this month.

Shri KAMALA PRASAD AGARWALA (Tezpur): Is it a fact, Sir, that the price of a commodity in Assam is higher than that of other States?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Transport bottleneck has been the cause of increased cost of a commodity in Assam particularly when we bring things from outside by railway. But ordinarily transport cost of some commodities is small. Generally it is the demand position that dictates the ruling price of a commodity—more than the transport cost.

Communication between Abor Hills (Murkongsellek) Transferred Area and the rest of Assam

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked:

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

- (a) Whether Government are aware that communication is difficult between Abor Hills (Murkongsellek) Transferred area and the rest of Assam?
- (b) Whether the Government propose to improve the road and water communication between Tinsukia and Jonai *via* Laikaghat?
- (c) If so, whether the Government have finalised plans for this purpose and technical and administrative approval given?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that this communication needs improvement in the interest of Forest Department as well besides the public there?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that water communication by digging a canal between Guizan and Laikaghat for the purpose of plying motor boats is possible there and that this arrangement will be cheaper than a motorable gravelled road?

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

170. (a)—Yes.

(b) & (c)—There is already a road from Tinsukia to Laikaghat. The portion from Tinsukia to Guijan is a gravelled one and the rest up to Laikaghat is a fair weather road which cannot be improved beyond fair weather standard due to the area being annually inundated by floods of the Brahmaputra. A Public Works Department Ferry has been provided between Laikaghat and Murkongsellek for crossing the Brahmaputra. There is a proposal to construct Murkongsellek-Jonai Road which will be placed before the next A.R.C.B. meeting for consideration and will be taken if and when it is recommended by the Board and approved by the Government and funds placed for the purpose.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—The proposal has not been examined which will, however, be sent to Embankment and Drainage Department for examination.

***Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) :** Is it a fact that the fair weather road between Guijan and Laikaghat is about 15 miles only ?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH :** Perhaps so.

***Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA :** Sir, is it realised that for want of communication during the rainy season the entire area is cut off from the rest of India ?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH :** The difficulty is there, but efforts are being made to have better communication there. It is almost beyond the means or resources of the State Government to do so.

***Shri CHATRASING TERON [Mikir Hills-West (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] :** Is there any scheme under contemplation to open better communication there with an all-weather road ?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH :** There is no such proposal at present, but the matter is being examined by the Embankment and Drainage Department to see how far it is feasible.

*Speech not corrected.

***Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):**
Is it a fact that there is a provision of bearing about half the expenditure by the Central Government in case of a road linking N.E.F.A. with the rest of India ?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P. W. D.):**
There are various projects for which the Central Government pays from 90 per cent to 50 per cent of the cost. This project in question is being examined and will be submitted to the Central Government for their acceptance. The case of this project is somewhat different.

Black-topping of the Air-field Road from North Lakhimpur to Kabuli River

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur) asked :
171. Will the Minister, Public Works Department be pleased to state—

- (a) When the black-topping of the air-field road from North Lakhimpur and the Kamalabari road from North Lakhimpur to Kabuli River will begin ?
- (b) Whether Government is aware that these are the two main routes to come to and go out of North Lakhimpur ?
- (c) If so, whether Government propose to improve these two roads immediately ?

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

171. (a)—There is no such proposal at present for black-topping these road sections. These proposals will be placed before the next A. R. C. B. meeting for their consideration.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Works will be taken up if and when these are recommended by the Board and approved by the Government and funds are made available for the purpose.

Lecturers in the Engineering Institute, Gauhati

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari) asked :
172. Will the Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) How many lecturers are there in the Engineering Institute, Gauhati ?

- (b) What are the names of these lecturers and what are their Technical qualification ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that some Overseers are appointed as lecturers ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that these lecturers cannot give proper education to the students ?
- (e) Whether Government is aware that the students are suffering for want of duly qualified lecturers ?
- (f) Will Government be pleased to make a thorough enquiry and see that only qualified persons are appointed as lecturer ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education) replied :

172. (a)—Sixteen.

(b)—

Name of the staff	Educational qualification	Technical qualification
Shri C. N. Chakravarty, Lecturer in Civil Engineering.	..	Passed Upper Subordinate Examination of the Overseer Examination Board, Bengal in 1942.
Shri Toseswar Sarma, Lecturer in Civil Engineering.	..	Passed Upper Subordinate Examination of the Overseer Examination Board, Bengal in 1946 in the 1st Division. Passed Section A. and B. of A.M.I.E. (India), Examination.
Shri A. K. Sil, Lecturer in Civil Engineering.	...	Passed Upper Subordinate Examination of the Overseer Examination Board, Bengal 1927.
Shri B. C. Desai, Lecturer in Civil Engineering.	..	Passed B. E. (Civil) in 1944.
Shri T. D. Sarma, Lecturer in Civil Engineering.	...	Passed Diploma Examination in C.E. in 1947.
Shri A. K. Barbhuyan, Lecturer in Civil Engineering.	...	Passed Overseer Final Part III, Examination in 1952.
Shri G. N. Khataniar, Lecturer in Electrical Engineering.	...	Passed B. E. Examination in 1950.

Name of the staff	Educational qualification	Technical qualification
Shri U. N. Patowari, Lecturer in Mechanical Engineering.	...	Passed M. E. and E. E. Course of 3rd year in 1940.
Shri Z. H. Choudhury, Lecturer in Mathematics.	Passed M.Sc. in Mathematics in 1955 in 1st Class and stood 1st.	..
Shri Purna Sarma, Lecturer in Physics.	Passed M.Sc. in Physics in 1954 standing 6th in Class II specialised in Wireless.	...
Shri B. Chaliha, Lecturer in Science Chemistry.	Passed B. Sc. with Hon. in Chemistry, M.Sc. (Tech.) in Applied Chemistry carried out research on the problem utilisation of Indian Bententis in the refining of Oil.	...
Shri T. N. Barua, Lecturer in Language.	Second Class M. A. in Economic special paper "Labour Administration" in 1953, B. Com. with special subject "Advanced Accountancy and Auditing."	...
Shri S. K. Phookan, Lecturer in Career, etc.	...	...
Shri C. Mahanta, Lecturer in humanities.	Second Class M.Com.	...
Shri D. Saikia, Lecturer in Mathematics.	Second Class M.Sc. in Mathematics.	...
Shri D. K. Dey, Lecturer in Mechanical Engineering.	B.E. (Mech.)	...

(c)—Yes.

(d)—No complaint against the Lecturer received so far in this respect.

(e)—Yes. Due to the dearth of suitable qualified staff.

(f)—In view of the proposed revision of pay scale, it is expected that suitable qualified staff will be available in near future.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari): With regard to (b), Sir, may I know whether the examination of the Assam Engineering Institute is equal to the Upper Subordinate or Overseer course examination?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education): I have no information. I can give him the information later if he likes.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: Sir, in answer to the "Whether it is a fact that some Overseers are appointed as Lecturers" it is said "Yes". Are they considered qualified to become professors?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: The problem has arisen because the salary scale which was prescribed for the professors was low and so qualified engineers were not willing to come to serve as professors. Now, Government is considering to revise that salary scale when we will get qualified professors.

Shri NILMONEY BARTHAHAKUR (Dibrugarh): Sir, with regard to (b) why the Lecturer in language was required to possess B. Com. degree with special subject "Advanced Accountancy and Auditing"?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: It must be necessary; otherwise it would not be provided for.

Mr. SPEAKER: His point is that the gentleman is a Lecturer in Language but his qualifications are shown as M.A. in Economic, B. Com. with Advanced Accountancy and Auditing.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): These are special papers. His basic qualification is M.A. in Economic. "Labour Administration", and "Advanced Accountancy and Auditing" were special papers.

Mr. SPEAKER: But the subject taught is language.

**Building Materials for Construction of Lokapriya
Gopinath Bardoloi Memorial T. B. Hospital at
Gauhati.**

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) asked :

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

- (a) Whether Government has allotted cement, C. I. Sheets or other building materials at controlled price for construction of Lokapriya Gopinath Bardoloi Memorial T. B. Hospital at Gauhati ?
- (b) If so, what is the quantity of each items of materials allotted up-till now ?
- (c) Whether Government is aware of a rumour that huge amount of building materials supplied by the Government at controlled price are either misappropriated or blackmarketed ?
- (d) If so, what steps are taken by Government in the matter?
- (e) Whether Government is aware that the local contractors of the said Hospital buildings filed a petition alleging that they are not getting above mentioned allotted materials for the Hospital buildings at controlled price and are compelled to purchase the same at higher rates ?
- (f) If so, what steps are taken by Government in this respect ?
- (g) Whether the newly elected Secretary of the Managing Committee of the said Hospital has made complaints against the outgoing Secretary regarding misappropriation and malutilisation of the Hospital materials supplied by the Government at controlled price ?
- (h) If so, what are the steps taken ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY (Minister, Education, for Minister, Supply) replied :

173. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Controlled building materials were issued from time to time during the period 1954-1958. Permits for following quantities were issued from the office of the Director of Consumer Goods:

C. I. Sheets	...	...	209 bundles.
Iron Rod	...	...	188 maunds.
Cement	...	...	2,795 bags.

But accurate figures are not available at present with regard to quantities issued by Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, as some relevant records of the Deputy Commissioner's Supply Office for this period are now with the police, who seized those records in connection with certain other cases.

(c) & (d)—Government received an anonymous petition containing such allegations. It was sent to the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, for enquiry. He caused an enquiry. But in the absence of complete records, showing actual quantities issued, no definite conclusion could be arrived at. Further enquiries are being made.

(e)—No.

(f)—Does not arise.

(g)—No.

(h)—Does not arise.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West): With regard to (b), it is stated that some relevant papers of the Deputy Commissioner's Supply Office were sized by the Police. May I know whether these were seized before receipt of the anonymous petition, as replied in (c) and (d), or afterwards?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY (Minister, Education): I will require notice of this question.

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding): It is stated in reply to (c) and (d) that in the absence of complete records no definite conclusion could be arrived at. The issue register is with Government' why the register is not made available to the enquiring officer, the Deputy Commissioner?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: There were two issue registers, one with the Deputy Commissioner and the other at the hospital. I do not know what the hon. Member is referring to, but I may inform him that this matter is still under the active consideration of Government.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West): Why these figures are not brought from the Police with whom the records are lying?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education): We have instructed that the enquiring officer may contact the Police and obtain information.

Shri LALIT KUMAR DOLEY (Moran—Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): In reply to (c) and (d), it has been stated "in the absence of complete records, showing actual quantities issued, no definite conclusion could be arrived at". May I know why there were no complete records? Does not the absence of complete records sufficiently justify the charge of malpractices there?

Shri KAMAKHA PRASAD TRIPATHI: I admit that there were, and we are enquiring into the matter further.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA: May I know, whether further enquiries will be made on the anonymous petition submitted?

Mr. SPEAKER: He said that further enquiries are being made. We have finished the questions. There is a Bill in the name of Shri Sarveswar Bardoloi.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair and the Deputy Speaker occupied it).

THE ASSAM TEA PLANTATIONS PROVIDENT FUND SCHEME (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1958.

Shri SARBESWAR BARDOLOI (Titabar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I endeavour to produce a non-official Bill for the amendment of the Assam Tea Plantations Provident Fund Scheme Act, 1955. Sir, I am not a lawyer and not properly educated in English, but my responsibilities towards the working classes and my responsibilities as a member of this House compels me to place this Amendment before the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member should first move the motion and then speak on it.

Shri SARBESWAR BARDOLOI: Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Tea Plantations Provident Fund Scheme (Amendment) Bill, 1958, be taken into consideration.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved is that the Assam Tea Plantations Provident Fund Scheme (Amendment) Bill, 1958, be taken into consideration.

Shri SARBESWAR BARDOLOI (Titabar): I have brought this Bill for the purpose of bringing certain workmen, who were left out, from within the purview of the Assam Tea Plantations Provident Fund Scheme Act. Sir, this Bill is meant to include those workers, the clerical staff, the Basti labourers and the medical staff within its purview. Sir, the parent Act was enacted in 1955, by which workers residing in tea gardens were covered ; but those workers who were not residing in the tea gardens, viz., the Basti labourers were excluded ; so also the clerical staff and the medical staff. By my Bill I want to cover all of them.

Sir, this Plantation Provident Fund Scheme Act of 1955, is a highly beneficial measure for the welfare of the working classes. It is covering 4,45,000 workers all over the State. At the present time this is the only welfare Act in the whole of East Asia. This has been a very good piece of legislation of the Government of Assam ; no category of workers should be excluded from its scope. Therefore, by my Bill I have sought to include them. About the clerical staff, the Government and the Labour Unions desire that when most of the tea gardens have introduced their own schemes of provident fund for their staff and others are going to do so, the clerical staff should be brought within the purview of the scheme. Up til now they have been excluded. So is the case with medical staff and the Basti labourers. It is, therefore, the duty of this House to bring in an amending legislation so that they may be covered by the scheme. If this is done, then according to my calculation about 1,500 clerical staff, including medical staff, will be benefited and about 30,000 tea garden labourers residing outside the tea gardens will also benefited. There are so many tea gardens where the labourers come from the Bastis. They are not covered. Now we have seen a tendency to come to tea garden works from the Bastis which is a good sign but it is in practice for a long time that some labourers are staying in the tea gardens and some staying in Bastis of the labourers coming from Basti and working in the garden and I have seen from my own experience that about 700 to 800 Mikir labourers are working in the gardens, e.g., Hatikhola, Methoni and Numbarnadi Tea Estates, their number is slowly increasing. They will also be benefited if they are included in this scheme. If the clerical staff and the Basti labourers are included, which will come to about 30,000 persons, I think, Rs.12,00,000 will be accumulated and this will benefit the tea garden workers to a very great extent. At present the

accumulation under this scheme is about Rs.5,32,91,863 and to this approximately another Rs.12,00,000 will be added.

Sir, I have included another amendment, that is, about recovery. Regarding recovery of the money in the main Act we have seen that the recovery portion is not perfect. There is a Court case against the Brahmaputra Tea Company previously owned by Mr. Haridas Mundhra. This Company has not deposited more than Rs.2,00,000 of the Provident Fund and even the deduction from the wages of the labourers to this Fund have not been deposited. What is the machinery for recovery? There is a Court case. We had to make some arrangements for recovery and that private arrangements had to be made. So, the Act should provide scope for recovery along with punishment with fine and imprisonment for failure of depositing the money recovered.

Sir, another amendment, I have included is to activate the primary committees. The primary committees under this Act were created in 1958, at the time of the introduction of the scheme but the primary committees are not active, they are not functioning, there is no sittings and no records, so the enthusiasm at the time of creating these committees has been diminishing. If we cannot keep the enthusiasm than the situation may be altered; so to keep the enthusiasm going and workers are made responsible for the Act and the fund the primary committees should be activated. Therefore, I suggest here that at least there should be one sitting after every two months of these committees and there should be proper record of the proceedings.

Another thing, I would speak about is Pass-Books. Now, labourers are not aware of their total accumulation. There were some statements of accounts sent to the Unions and managements which were not properly circulated and it was not possible for the Unions to circulate. Besides these, their statements of accounts were not sent to all the gardens. The accumulation should be known by the subscribers; if it is not known by them there may be misunderstanding. Actually there is already some amount of misunderstanding prevailing even now. There are some propaganda that they do not know where the money is kept and what is the total amount of money accumulated at the end of a year to each worker. So, there should be Pass-Books by which they should know their

own account of that year and the total amount accumulated upto that year. Of course, it is not also possible to give accumulation figures to about $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of labours monthly. So I suggest that accumulation should be known to them at least once a year. If it is known to them at least once a year then they will know not only of a particular year but accumulation up till that year. So, this Provident Fund Amendment Bill is necessiated for all practical purposes. There is no reason why certain sections of the workers in the tea industry should be left out. It is also a fact that now we are aiming at a Socialistic pattern of Society and also a Welfare State. A Welfare State and a socialistic pattern of society should see that formation of capital by the same methods. Sir, I have stated that an amount of Rs.5,32,91,863 have been accumulated in this fund up til now. This in the State of Assam is an wonderfull achievement. To this amount if another Rs.12,00,000 or so is added it will be a big figure and from year to year it will increase. From this, not only the State but the labourers will be greatly benefited.

Sir, the situation which we have witnessed, specially in Upper Assam, is that when labourers become old and infirm there is nothing left to them to live on and they have to go from village to village begging to eke out a living. Now this is a provision against begging. This will protect the old and infirm from starvation and from many calamities. So this measure is a necessity.

Another necessity is that of measures for anti-propaganda in the tea gardens against this Act. In 1955 it may be remembered that there was propaganda in several tea garden against this Act but fortunately they were subsided but still there is under-current going on. So, the system of pass book or introduction of pass book, the inclusion of other labourers who are not covered and inclusion of clerical staff is very important.

So, I bring in this amending Bill with a view to include all these points—namely, recoveries, introduction of pass-books etc. And I hope this Bill will be accepted by this House and a great thing will thereby be done towards the workers.

With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Mr. DEPUYY SPEAKER: Motion moved that the Assam Tea Plantations Provident Fund Scheme (Amendment) Bill, 1958 be taken into consideration

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I, quite appreciate the move for which this Assam Tea Plantations Provident Fund Scheme (Amendment) Bill, 1958, was moved by my friend, Shri Sarveswar Bordoloi. But we also find that another Bill of a similar nature has been introduced by the Government. I do not understand this. When notice for introduction of the Bill of Shri Bardoloi was given, Government could have informed him that they were also contemplating of bringing in such a measure. Or even at the introduction stage of the Bill Government could have taken the House into confidence and stated that they were proposing to introduce a Bill of a similar nature. That would have saved a lot of the time of the House, and would have relieved the Members of the tedium of discussing, the same issues twice. But if the intention is one of giving Mr. Bardoloi a chance of playing to the gallery, that is a different matter.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It may be that Mr. Bardoloi had already given notice of his Bill before Government could have time to prepare their Bill. Now, what has the Minister got to say?

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY (Minister, Labour):** Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, when Mr. Bardoloi introduced his Bill we were also thinking of introducing a similar Bill, but as you know Sir, this is a concurrent subject and as such we have to get the concurrence of the Government of India before actually introducing the measure. Now the Bill has been drafted and we naturally sent it to the Government of India for their concurrence, but unfortunately that concurrence did not arrive till the other day. As a matter of fact we were not sure whether we would be able to introduce the Bill in this session, but luckily the Government of India's concurrence did come and so we have now introduced the Bill. That is the reason Sir, why we did not take the House into confidence before we actually know whether the Government of India will give their concurrence or not, but it is certainly not with a view to give Mr. Bordoloi a chance of playing to the gallery, that we did not take the House into confidence earlier.

Now, coming to the Bill itself, I am glad that Mr. Bardoloi has focussed our attention to this question; the points he has raised are important. As a matter of fact all these points are also included in the Government Bill, and as Mr. Bardoloi himself admitted that he is not lawyer, therefore, his drafting

**Speech not corrected.*

may not likely be as accurate as the Government draft. That is so, Sir. In matters of law Government takes pains to see carefully so that there may not be any confusion later with regard to terminology, etc. Therefore, I feel that it would be wise on the part of Mr. Bordoloi to withdraw his Bill because the Bill which has been introduced by the Government is more comprehensive, better drafted and vetted by the Legal Remembrancer as well as by the Government of India, it will serve his purpose better. All the points he mentioned, for instance inclusion of clerical and medical staff, these things are there in the Government Bill. As also other points where he used the words busy labourers or workers, these are included in the Government Bill but in more technical terms. Then with regard to recoveries, we have also included that in this Government Bill.

Then with regard to other points raised by my friend like pass-books and other such things, I think these are matters to be laid down by rules rather than by Act. Relevant rules will be made in this regard. I understand also that there is a Trust Board which manages this Fund. Now, this Trust Board considered that if the information is communicated to every labourer in the Basti the cost involved is prohibitive, tremendous amount of money would be spent for giving the information and so they thought it wise that instead of spending the money in that way, it would be better to retain it and give it as dividend later on when the labourer retires. This is the position, Sir, and in view of what I have said I would request Shri Bardoloi to withdraw his Bill so that the Government Bill may be passed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Bardoloi, do you agree to withdraw your Bill ?

***Shri SARVESWAR BARDOLOI (Titabar):** Sir, I have attentively listened to what the Minister-in-charge has said and I have also got a copy of the Government Bill. Since there is enough time for putting amendments, I am prepared to withdraw my Bill. I entirely agree that the Government Bill is more comprehensive and I will have more scope for placing amendments. I am very glad that most of the points raised by me are included in the Government Bill, so I think, it would be better to allow the Government Bill to be passed by this House. So I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

(The motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn).

**Speech not corrected.*

Motion to consider the critical situation created by the sharp rise in prices and short supply of foodgrains in the State

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that, this Assembly do now take into consideration the critical situation created by the sharp rise in prices, and short supply of food grains in the State. Sir, there has been a sharp rise in prices of practically all articles of daily use during the last two months. Of course this rise is not a phenomenon peculiar to our State alone. We find that there is a rise in prices of essential commodities in the whole of India. But in our State this rise is of a peculiar nature. If we compare the price of sugar which was ruling in January and February with the corresponding period of the previous three years we will find that the price of sugar has been going up steadily, and in certain areas during the months of February and March, it has gone up beyond our imagination. In Shillong sugar was selling at Rs.1-15 per seer, at Gauhati and Dibrugarh the price was between Rs.1-10 to Rs.1-12 per seer and in some other places the price of sugar became almost prohibitive. In a country whose economy is based mainly on agriculture the price of agricultural produces generally comes down just after the harvesting season. But here in Assam just after harvest the fall in the price of agricultural products was not as sharp as was expected. In spite of this we find that the condition of the peasantry has not improved at all, rather they are more impoverished. This is mainly due to the high cost of production and rise in the general level of prices which hit the peasantry hardest. If we compare the parity of prices received by the farmers with the prices paid by them, we will find from the Government figures that in 1950 it was 108 per cent. by taking 1944 as the base year. In 1951 it was 116 per cent. and then it gradually came down to 97 per cent in 1954. We have no figures for 1955-56, thanks to the efficiency of the Agricultural Department. But in the early part of 1957 it came down to 95·7 per cent. Sir, in 1954 it was 97 per cent. ; in the first half of 1957 it came down to 95·7 per cent. and seven months after, it came down to 95 per cent. That shows our farmers are getting less but spending more for production due to the general rise in prices and this is a general phenomenon in our State. Further, Sir, in our State there was short fall in agricultural production and this couple with the transport difficulties are the main contributory factors which effected a sharp rise in the prices of

all foodstuffs. If we take all the factors into account we will find that this unusual rise in the cost of foodstuffs in our State as also the general short falls in the production of food grains are due mainly to failure of the Government to take adequate and necessary measures for increasing agricultural productions curbing the anti-social activities of the speculators in foodstuff, checking inflation and such other measures. Sir, we are told that the First 5 Year Plan was successful and that we became self-sufficient in food, but now the Government of India have admitted that a huge a quantity of foodgrains has to be imported every year. The Government are shy to admit that inflation is there, but inflationary tendencies have expressed themselves at present, and this is a general phenomenon throughout the country. The other factor is that Government are reluctant to import foodgrains due to shortage of foreign exchange. Then again Sir, the inability on the part of Government to deal sufficiently with that section of the commercial community who for their inordinate greed speculate in foodgrains and other foodstuff set all the plans of the Supply Department at naught. If we analyse all these things, we will find that this rise in prices is due mainly to the defective policy and defective planning of the Government and therefore, Government should be held responsible for this rise in the price of important commodities. Take for instance, the question of increasing agricultural products by taking such measures, as irrigation, intensive cultivation, planned scientific farming, etc. Our Government are quite innocent of such schemes. But even in the midst of wide-spread drought in the whole of West Bengal, the agricultural production in the district of Birbhum in West Bengal which usually yielded 30 mds. per acre has increased to 43 maunds per acre. This is mainly due to to better irrigation facilities.

But here in Assam the short fall in the production of food grains is due to faulty planning of the Government. We have not become self-sufficient in food and this fact has also been admitted by some of the members of the ruling party. But, if we ignore this important question of food, our Second Five Year Plan will fall into pieces. The Government have been warned several times by the Planning Commission, and the Economists who advised the Planning Commission that inflation will be a regular phenomenon if the plan does not work out according to the specifications laid down, but no attention was paid to that. The Planning Commission has stated,—“There is always a certain lag between the creation of

new incomes and the increase in available supplies on which they can be spent. Yet a development programme cannot be abandoned or scaled down at the first appearance of difficulties or bottlenecks. A measure of risk has to be taken. This means that there must be corresponding preparedness to adopt physical controls and allocations as necessary, and these controls and allocations, as experience has shown, cannot work unless they form a fairly integrated system. Nor can they successfully function without a psychological preparedness on the part of the people, and for this, necessary climate of opinion and understanding has to be created". (Page 39 of the Report). It is therefore, quite clear that the Government have failed to create a condition of psychological preparedness in the minds of the people because of their defective planning. Now, Sir, I want to quote a portion from the Memorandum of the Panel of Economists, Planning Commission, para 11—"Undertaking of deficit financing may itself change the situation unless counteracted by a rapid pace of development or by international conditions. We feel it necessary to suggest, therefore, that the strictest watch on the situation and if any indication of inflationary pressure develops it must be met and suitable action taken to keep it under check."

Now, Sir, we find that the inflationary trend was expected even by the Planning Commission. The panel of experts in the planning commission warned against it, but no action appears to have been taken either by the Government of India or by our State Government. Neither our Government offered any suggestion in this respect and as such no measure whatsoever was taken to meet this situation.

Regarding import of foodstuff we find that the Government are reluctant to import food-grains from outside. It is said that there is a shortage of foreign exchange, and that our reserve of foreign exchange cannot be utilised to import food-grains, but it should be utilised to import capital goods. Sir, even though we may agree in principle to give priority to get capital goods, the fact remains that unless we make the country self-sufficient in food, unless we give food to the people, who will work for building up these projects for which the capital goods are required? The primary duty of the Government is to supply enough food to the people. Here the Government of India or our State Government have shown their reluctance, indifference and ineffectiveness. Sir, it was also recommended by Shri V. K. Rao of the Delhi School of Economics that the speculators were taking advantage of the fluctuating situation of prices and that these speculators

would never help maintain stability of the market price and therefore he recommended that proper measure should be taken against this section of the mercantile community. But it appears that no steps have been taken in this direction. If we take a particular item of commodity, for example, sugar, we all know that there is a surplus stock of sugar to the tune of 11 lakh tons in India and the production is going on increasing. Still there is short supply; perhaps you remember that the members of the Indian Sugar Mills Association sought the permission of the Government of India to export sugar. This permission was given. But the international price of sugar was lower than the internal price and therefore the traders demanded a subsidy from the Government which was, of course, refused.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education): About sugar, Sir, there was a full dress debate in the House the other day. So it would be better if the hon. Member confines his speech to food situation only.

Shri NILMONEY BROTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): I am mentioning it just to illustrate the point and to show how the speculators are thriving. In spite of this our ruling authorities are not doing anything. It is understood, Sir, between the 1st of January 1958 and the 20th of February, 1958, 171 wagons of sugar have been received in Gauhati as against 137 wagons of sugar received in the corresponding period of the previous year. Such was the case with Karimganj, Tinsukia and Dibrugarh where greater quantities of sugar were received. Now the point is,—why then this scarcity of sugar? It must be due to the activities of a section of traders—the speculators. They wanted to create an artificial scarcity by taking advantage of the transport and wagon difficulties.

Now this is also correct in respect of other foodstuff. We hold the Government entirely responsible for that. They have given a long rope to this class of people to pull, and they are pulling it alright. For example, the decision to maintain a buffer stock of 10 lakhs maunds of paddy, in the State was taken as early as November 1957. But two months later, that is, on the 29th January, 1958, the maximum price of rice and paddy was fixed by a notification in the official gazette. Thus there was a delay in starting the

actual procurement and the result was that the speculators took advantage of this delay and made substantial purchases at comparatively lower prices. When the price was low the traders made purchases and hoarded it. Now if one examines the price list one will find that the maximum price of winter rice was fixed at Rs. 18.4 per md., and maximum price of winter paddy was fixed at Rs. 10.5 per md. Now we find a disparity in the price of winter paddy and rice. If the price of paddy is fixed at Rs. 10.5 per md., the price of rice from that paddy should not have been fixed at a price higher than that of Rs. 15.4 per md. Moreover no retail price was fixed and thus we gave a long rope to the hoarders. They sold their hoarded stock at higher retail prices and simply because of this disparity they made an extra profit of Rs. 3 per maund. This is a conclusive proof to show that the Government are entirely responsible for this state of affairs. But it is not enough to lay the blame on the Government alone. A solution of the problem must be found because the food problem is not the problem of a particular party. We should neither think that this problem is a temporary one, it is a chronic problem of our country. Unless and until adequate measures are adopted to produce more food this crisis will remain permanent. We should take two types of measures, one short term and the other long term. Under the long term measure should come the basic problem of food production and distribution. It is essential that the economic condition and the mode of production of those who produce food grains must be enquired into and improved. We find here in this State all the arable lands are not yet brought completely under the plough. For example in the Sisi Mauza there are about 12,000 acres of very fertile land available for cultivation. For want of proper drainage that land is unarable. If a small drain or a canal could be dug to drain out the water to the streamlet Tangani a very good quantity of food crops could have been grown. The land is so fertile that it would not require any artificial manure or anything of that kind. For the next seven years to come it would have been one of the best lands for cultivation. Roughly estimated that area would have given us food-grain to the tune of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs maunds. Our Embankment and Drainage Department and the Agriculture Department only prepare paper schemes. Proper survey has not been undertaken to find out such lands. We find that all the measures that have been taken by the Government are simply meant for the decoration of our libraries. They are of no real value. The Adhiar Protection Act and the Ceiling on Land-holdings Act

are in our Statute Book, but the peasantry did not get any benefit from all these. It is only the middlemen who got the benefit. Large scale eviction is continuing unabated on one side, while transfer of land in order to evade the operation of the Ceiling on Land-holdings Act, went on surreptitiously on the other. These two processes together accentuated the problem of landlessness. Where the peasantry got evicted the lands were kept vacant for a period. There was an attempt to get rid of the right of occupancy of the old tenants. Therefore, the Government must bring in a comprehensive land reform legislation so as to give land to the real tillers in order to bring the entire arable land under the plough and if possible to bring the non-arable land under the modern scientific method of cultivation. The Government of course have taken certain reclamation schemes at Kaki, Subankhata, Philobari, etc. But if we examine these reclamation schemes, we find that a huge sum of money is being wasted as some of the areas are full of sand and pebbles while others are arid lands and are not fit for the existing pattern of cultivation. Though the Government have been spending lakhs of rupees on them, it has not become possible to cultivate those lands. The failure of the Subankhata Scheme has earned notoriety for the Agriculture Department. The money spent on this reclamation scheme could have been given to the needy agriculturist to purchase plough cattle during the cultivating season and thus our production would have increased to some extent.

After land the most important point is irrigation. The natural drought visits us intermitently as in other States and as a result there is picture of famine at places. To fight drought comprehensive measures should be taken, of which the most important one is irrigation. If we have irrigation facilities we may have no difficulty for cultivation. For irrigation we do not need big projects like Vakra-Nangal, Damodar Valley, etc. We have rivers like the Brahmaputra, Subansiri, Dehing, Beki, Kapili and many others. We should have only irrigation canals from those rivers, which do not dry up during the winter. If necessary, in certain areas water can be stored up to make irrigation effective. Through afforestation also we can overcome drought to some extent. Our Forest Department is not alive to the situation. I find that there is no co-ordination between the Agriculture and Forest Departments.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education): Does the hon. Member suggest that only canal system would be sufficient and not reservoirs ?

Shri NILMONEY BARTHAHAKUR (Dibrugarh): Canals are to be made particularly from those rivers which do not dry up during the winter and where the level is almost the same as of the canal, and where the level of the rivers varies there should be reservoirs at places from which water can be taken through irrigation system. In some cases we find that the level varies from 6 feet to 8 feet. So, if canals are of proper dimension and if there can be sufficient number of reservoirs of water then to some extent the situation can be met in order to fight the drought.

We have ruthlessly destroyed our forests. In plantation of forests Government look to only one aspect of the thing, that is, to get commercially profitable timber, and so they plant particularly those trees which bring money. The reserved forests should be well distributed throughout the State and if necessary some quick growing species of trees should be planted so that the humidity can be maintained and thus drought may be successfully fought. After taking such methods of irrigation, taking up more land reclamation schemes and giving land to the real tillers we can expect to step up our food production to some extent.

The other most important aspect is intensive cultivation, that is, increasing the yield per acre. In our State the yield per acre is very low, I think, the lowest in the world. So, it is necessary to take all possible steps to increase our yield per acre, by which alone, we can increase our food production. To achieve this, we should in the first place popularise the use of improved varieties of seeds which give a greater yield and such varieties should be made available to our peasantry. But at present the Agriculture Department have not confined their attention to the urgent duty of distributing improved variety of seeds in all the areas. Whatever they are doing so far, in this respect is practically serving no lasting purpose. Therefore, intensive measures should be taken to produce high yielding varieties, and such varieties which do not give better yield should be eliminated. Our Agriculture Department have been popularising among the peasantry the use of chemical fertilizers. It is perhaps not known to them that chemical fertilizers ultimately do more harm than good to the soil. So, it is better not to use chemical fertilizer unless it is used judiciously, as it ultimately

destroys the soil. Natural organic manures or any other better kind of fertilizer should be introduced which give double or treble yield. We do not find that peasantry have been given practical demonstration about the efficacy of the Japanese method of cultivation which gives better yield with lesser cost. This should be widely done. I think this Japanese method has been demonstrated and practised only in the areas covered by community and other Development blocks. So, the Department will do better if the Japanese method is popularised throughout the whole State and I have no doubt that if this method is properly demonstrated and explained then all the peasants would accept it.

Another difficulty which our peasantry has to face is the difficulty of communication. Unless facilities for communication are extended to those areas which grow foodgrains the general price level cannot be lowered. The transport difficulty is a major factor which is responsible for high price in food grains. In some cases the cost of transport of foodgrains is equivalent to its price per maund. Some times it so happens that foodgrains are to be carried by boat for some distance and then again by truck or bullock cart for some distance and thus the cost of transport mounts high and therefore the price level of foodgrains does not tend to come down, and as a result the consumers are to suffer. So, unless communication specially in those areas where foodgrains are grown is improved we cannot expect the price to come down.

Another point to which I want to draw serious attention of the Government is that Government should encourage formation of producers' co-operatives. After the harvest the peasantry is forced to sell a part of their produce at a low price in market and thus the peasantry stands to lose very much. So, if producers' co-operative societies are encouraged by the Government and all possible help given to them the peasants may help themselves during the planting seasons when they have to borrow money at a great stake from the "Mahajans" and may sell their produce at a price profitable to them as well as to consumers.

Therefore, Sir, if genuine co-operative marketing societies are organised by Government on the one hand and if the peasants themselves form producers' co-operative on the other, they can advance money to the needy cultivators and the produce can be sold to the Government or to agents appointed or approved by the Government at a price so that a uniform price may be maintained throughout the year.

Now, Sir, for all these it is necessary that the Agriculture Department should be overhauled. I think the ancilliary departments should be tagged with it. This is the practice with the Government of India and also with the United Nations Organisation. The Government of India, have a separate Ministry for Food and Agriculture. Therefore, Sir, all the allied departments should be tagged to our Ministry of Agriculture. For instance, the Veterinary Department is very much dependent on the Agriculture Department and *vice versa*. Our Veterinary surgeon lay greater and greater emphasis on the treatment of the disease of dogs and horses. Except a few tea garden managers nobody is interested in the treatment of dogs and horses. So, the main function of the Veterinary Department should be to improve the breed of our cattle, particularly plough cattle, to carry on research work on the diseases which are predominant among our plough cattle. For instance, our cattle generally suffer from hump-sore, foot-sore, rinder pest, etc.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think these things can be discussed at the time the Veterinary budget comes up for discussion.

Shri NILMONEY BARTHAHAKUR (Dibrugarh): But Sir, these are related to food production and that is why I am referring to them.

Therefore, Sir, there should be liaison between the Veterinary Department and the Agriculture Department. For lack of such co-ordination, we have found how our schemes are being implemented. For example, let us take the Grow-More-Food Campaign. What has been the net result of this scheme? This scheme has been a failure in actual practice. It has not been a Grow-More-Food Campaign, it has become a grow-more-files and grow-more-officers campaign. We have got more files and more and more officers, but no food! Unless we tackle this problem on a war footing it won't be possible for us even to fulfil the core of the Second Plan. If all the measures I have enumerated are taken then we can to a certain extent fight the ever-growing crisis of foodgrains. For a short-term relief, whatever foodgrains we have, must be distributed properly. For that purpose I still maintain that cheap grain stores should be set up in every area.

Now, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture flared up when we suggested that the number of cheap grain shops should be increased. He maintained that Government had enough cheap grain shops and that they were not meant to distribute all the foodgrains that we need, but to maintain a level of prices at

which the common people could buy. Sir, we never suggested that through the cheap grain shops we should introduce complete rationing in the country. We maintained that the objects of these shops were two—firstly, to help the people, who are facing starvation and who cannot buy at the market price. Unless some arrangement is made by Government so that they can buy their foodgrains at prices which are within their reach, starvation will follow. The second purpose is that because some amount of foodgrains will be supplied through the cheap grain shops it will have a tendency to force market prices down. For these purposes, we suggested that cheap grain stores should be distributed evenly; for about every five to six hundred families there should be one cheap grain shop and along with it for scarcity areas Government should maintain a stock, which can be utilised if famine conditions appear there. Sir, the Minister of Agriculture has said that enough relief has been given to the people, enough of agricultural loan has been issued and there is no scope for further improvement. I do not hold that view. I do not think that the agricultural loan that has been distributed to the peasantry is compatible with the requirements. I feel that more money should be given to the needy peasants, so that food production can be augmented. In those areas which were visited by drought or where foodcrops were destroyed by flood, relief should be given in the form of remission of land revenue and distribution of gratuitous relief. If these measures are taken in right earnest I think we shall be able to fight this problem to a certain extent. We will of course with our best efforts solve only a part of the problem because the complete solution of this problem is linked up with other problems like industrialisation, mechanised cultivation, reclamation of land, terrace cultivation, etc. Unless greater land is brought under the plough the problem of food supply will always remain. It is not a peculiar problem of our country; every country has this problem. But if we move on the lines I have suggested, we can to some extent make good the shortage of foodgrains and may, consequently, maintain a minimum level of prices. To maintain prices at a uniform level, it is necessary that the directives given by the Panel of Economists should be taken note of by Government. Measures should also be taken to check inflationary pressure; and for this purpose it is necessary that extravagant expenditure by Government should be curtailed. That is also the suggestion of the Planning Commission and the Panel of Economists who advised the Planning Commission. We find architectural extravagance occupying the stage in some of the Governmental Plannings. Brick, stones and cement do not

make a nation. Grandeur and show whether architectural or otherwise must needs be curtailed. A great amount of foreign exchange is provided to the private sector for production of consumer goods. Investments guided only by the profit incentives cannot lead to a balanced development. This, therefore, should be curtailed and we should save some foreign exchange on this account. Unless all these measures are taken in a co-ordinated way it will not be possible for us to force down prices. Only the aggregate effect of these measures may lead us to the solution of the problem—the problem of food and of the rising spiral of prices. Therefore, I hope Government will take all the suggestions into consideration, realising the gravity of the situation. The Government do not appear to have given this problem the importance that it deserves, in as much as in the Governor's Address the food crisis was sought to be glossed over. Unless we lay a greater emphasis on this problem, I believe all our schemes, plans, reforms, industrialisation, and all the rest will fall to pieces. Food is the primary necessity of human beings. Therefore, before we go in to build the super-structures to which we are committed, I think greater emphasis should be laid on food production and proper distribution of foodgrains.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved: "This Assembly do now take into consideration the critical situation created by the sharp rise in prices and short supply of food-grains in the State".

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to Mr. Barthakur for giving this opportunity to the Members of this House to express their opinion about the critical situation which has developed due to rise of prices of foodgrains. I would have liked that Government should have brought forward such a motion before the House, so that we could get a picture of the whole situation, and realised the extent of the problem, the measures that have been taken so far, and offer suggestions.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education): The whole Government budget will be intended for this purpose.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS: Now, the difficulty is that we have to proceed with the discussion without knowing what measures have been taken by the Government and what are their difficulties so that we could have given our suggestions. However, Sir, as circumstanced, we are to deal with things which have been raised by this motion moved by Mr. Barthakur.

Sir, it is a fact which cannot be denied that there is sharp rise in prices of foodgrains ; prices of rice, sugar, dal, atta, flour, and prices of other essential commodities have risen since a long time. We are asked by the people why they have to sell paddy at a fixed price, *viz.*, Rs.10-4-0 when Government cannot fix a price on other essential commodities of food. We are at a loss to reply. If we say that there are legal difficulties they will not listen to us. We cannot but admit that prices of essential commodities are soaring high and the price level is such that it has gone beyond the reach of common man. They will not listen to any argument advanced by us such as that it is an all India policy that we cannot impose a fixed price on other commodities.

Sir, our Food Minister said yesterday during discussion of the Governor's Address that wagon loads of sugar were coming and the Government have been doing this and that, but the fact remains that the price of sugar is not coming down. Of course, it may have come down a little at Gauhati or at Shillong, but it has not come down in rural areas, where the price of sugar is soaring high. I want to know what steps the Government have taken to bring down the price of sugar (*A voice—Exactly*) ? So I want that Government must make sugar available at a price which can be within easy reach of the common man in the villages. If we cannot do that then we must admit that we have failed to tackle the problem properly. No amount of arguments about difficulties, legal or otherwise will convince the people. They say such arguments will not soothe their burning stomachs. They say they want foodstuff, Atta, Maida, Sugar, Suji, etc., at a price which is not beyond their means.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education) : Atta is selling at Rs. 16 per maund.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) : Now, how can we convince our villagers. In the villages hundreds of men are starving or half-starving and if we simply rely on figures of food production for the last year or year before last and do not try to find out causes of rises in prices that will not give them satisfaction.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : It is unfair here to say about starvation when there is not a single instance of starvation death in the State.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : He is speaking of starvation and not starvation death.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): On the last occasion, in reply to the Governor's Address the Food Minister gave out figures that our production is gradually on the increase from year to year, but, Sir, if we go to the villages what do we find there? In some villages for 3 months of the year, about 80 per cent of the cultivators live on their production and for the rest of the year they have to take to other avocations to eke out a living. Is it the result of growing more food every year?

Sir, if we compare the figures of previous years they will show that food production is on the increase. Relying on these if we say that there is no food scarcity it would be contrary to facts because we know that there is food scarcity in the villages. Thus these figures belie our expectations that the food production is on the increase. The villagers want food, Atta, Maida, rice, sugar, etc., and not figures. We should go and see and appreciate actual conditions in the villages and we should see under what difficulties they are in. These figures given by the Departments should be accepted with a grain of salt and not with enthusiasm that we are self-sufficient in food production. The hungry faces belie these figures. So, it seems there is some wrong somewhere in our policy. Government is giving figures, but the people are starving.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj—North): You should say—when Rome was burning Nero was fiddling.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS: No, I should say, while people are starving we are figuring. (*Laughter*).

Sir, the Chief Minister said yesterday that he was surprised that the prices are going up so high. He is a very sincere person; so he was surprised. He is perhaps not aware of the technique of the rise and fall in prices of essential commodities. Sir, prices of things of today will rise tomorrow by telephonic communication with Calcutta and Bombay the previous evening. In this way, Sir, prices rise. If by an emergent ordinance, all telephonic communications of these black-marketers with Calcutta and Bombay and other cities are cut off, then, Sir, prices would not have risen so quickly as is done now. So Sir, prices rise at the whims of the black-marketers. It is not always due to short supply that prices rise, but due to machinations of the black-marketers. Our Leader the other day in reply to the debates on Governor's Address expressed determination to root out black-marketing and deal with corruption

ruthlessly—this is very good. Panditji, our Prime Minister, also is reported to have said that all the black-marketers should be hanged. Our leaders have appealed to them to feel that they are citizens of India and they have also a duty to others. But, Sir, they are not citizens of India, they do not owe allegiance to India but they owe allegiance to their own association, *viz.*—the World Federation of Black-marketers—(*loud laughter*). They form a class by themselves. They know no kindness, no mercy, they have no feelings for the common man, they don't care the Government. No amount of appeal will soften their hearts. The more you appeal to soften their hearts, the more furious they become. It is said in the Sastras.—

“উপদেশাহি লাভাকানং, প্রকোপায় ন শাস্তয়ে ; as if পরঃ পানং ভুক্তকানং
কেবলং বিষ বর্জনম্ ।”

(*Laughter*)

So, Sir, ruthless measures should be taken to deal with these blood suckers. We should not plead helplessness. We should devise ways and means to suppress these black-marketers. So, Sir, we should be strong enough to deal with these people. Ruthless measures should be taken not only to suppress them but to exterminate them altogether. We should entertain no soft corner for them. no cosy chair for them, no friendship with them. In our treatment with them we should be very much firm. Besides all that I have said, Sir, I would like to suggest the following—(1) Smuggling beyond the border should be made impossible by strengthening our border security forces, (2) Government should examine how to control the prices of essential commodities, (3) stringent measures should be taken to punish the black-marketers as was done in war time, (4) list of black-marketers should be prepared and made hung up in most conspicuous places if possible so that the people may know who are the black-marketers, the blood suckers in our country so that the people may guard themselves against them, (5) Government should see whether supply of essential food supply can be made through co-operatives, (6) Government should take all measures for growing not only paddy but for growing all varieties of foodgrains, such as Dal, Gram, etc., which are in short supply in our State. Our Agricultural Department is following agricultural activities without any serious thought whether all kinds of Dals can be grown in Assam giving the impressions that production of Dal in our State is not possible and so Bihar

Dals must feed us for all times to come. In this particular aspect of the matter, Sir, I may be permitted to say that our Agriculture Department is a colossal failure (Hear, hear). So Government should take immediate steps to grow not only paddy alone but also all other foodgrains. (7) All vigilance should be kept in the border so that the people from Pakistan may not come here without visa and thus complicate more the already complicated food position in our State, (8) All appropriate and timely measures should be taken so that all foodgrains may be in continuous flow, (9) Quite a good number of cheap-grain and Fair Price Shops should be opened to remove the difficulties to which our friends, Mr. Borthakur and others have referred for example, that the cheap grain shops and Fair Price Shops do not have the requisite quantity of foodstuffs for the use of the people. If we do not take all these steps and are bold enough to fight out black-marketers and punish them severely, then, Sir, the situation may go out of our control and will envelope all of us—both Government and others and we will all be doomed.

I hope Government will give due consideration to all the suggestions I have made and I can assure them that we the Members of this House will co-operate with Government for any stringent measures Government will take to do away with black-marketing.

Thank you, Sir.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj—North):

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak a few words about the food situation and gradual rise in prices of essential commodities in our State. Sir, we have discussed this subject last year on the floor of this House. Now the food situation has not turned bad overnight, the prices of almost all commodities did not go up overnight save and except sugar at the present time. It is gratifying to note that it has caught the eyes of some hon. Members of this House today. I have to put forward certain suggestions both short term and long term and we hope Government will give due consideration to these suggestions. Sir, we attended a meeting for procurement last time at Gauhati, and there we discussed whether procurement should be made or not. In the discussions I pointed out by facts and figures that if the Government statistics given from time to time and also by authoritative sources which we got

on the floor of this House are correct, we cannot say that the food situation is bad. According to these figures there was a surplus of foodgrain in our State and if these figures were correct there cannot be any shortage of food. But fact remains that there is now shortage of food and there was also that shortage of food in the past. Sir, Assam was never surplus in food, we had that shortage prior to last war and the deficit was met by the flow of Rangoon rice which was consumed by 1/3rd of the population of the tea gardens. Even before the war rice used to come from outside, and therefore, taking that into consideration, we cannot say that we are surplus in food. Sir, in the matter of raising more food in the country we have been spending too much money, we have taken up various schemes, but still we are now not surplus in food, we are not yet self-sufficient, from the figures only that are available in respect of agricultural products, we cannot say that we are surplus in food. The Government should therefore try to procure food and keep sufficient stock to meet emergency. Sir, we have the Grow-More-Food Campaign, big and small irrigation schemes, etc., but still we are not surplus in food. Therefore there must be some loopholes or defects in the schemes which should be examined properly. Unless this is done our position in another five or ten years to come will remain the same, we shall never be self-sufficient in food. We must therefore, try to see that by irrigation scheme or by the use of proper fertilizers the yield per acre must be increased. In Japan and other countries they have increased their yields by five times more than that we have here in our State. Some steps in this direction should be taken to increase our yield per acre and unless this is done, we shall not be surplus in food. But I am sorry to say that the tillers of the soil have not been given any training in the matter of raising their agricultural production, therefore, Government should take steps in this direction also. Government should not only try to bring all the available fallow land under cultivation but proper steps should also be taken and main efforts should be concerted to increase the yield per acre of land either by fertilisers or mechanical methods, etc., as is being done in other countries.

Secondly, Sir, the other day the Food Minister said and he has rightly said that fair price shops were meant only to stabilise the prices, we understand that, but Government should see that wherever there is scarcity of food in any pocket, fair price shops should be established immediately and simultaneously proper arrangement for supply of food stuffs should

be there so that stabilisation of prices may be effected. But in this connection I may say that from our past experiences, we have seen that these fair price shops are in name only, proper quantities of foodstuffs are not given for consumption of poor people of that area. Only the fair price shops with a sign board and a lessee won't do, we should see that adequate supply of foodstuffs should be given so that the price of foodstuff in the nearby market may be stabilised and this is mainly the responsibility of the Agricultural Department to see that there should be a long term measure in the matter of stabilising the price of commodities. One of my Friend over there spoke about the Veterinary Department but the Deputy Speaker objected to it on the ground that it does not fall within the scope of the discussion on the food problem.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This subject will be discussed in detail later on.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North):
If we cannot have buffaloes how our people can be expected to till there lands. It is seen that distribution of cattle loans was so very rigid that our common people did not get any benefit at all out of the cattle loans. It is seen that cattle loans as also the agricultural loans were distributed at a time when there was no necessity, so Government while spending money should see that at the time of distributing loans steps be taken that the loans given may be utilised properly and timely by the loanees and loan should be in the hands of the cultivators in time. Regarding the rise in the price of food and other daily necessities of life, I may say that it is moving in a vicious circle. The other day these points were discussed with Mr. Tripathi, who is probably replying this question—"Rise in the price of food" and he said that these prices cannot come down as it was before the war because there is a dead line for which the rise in the price of food cannot come down. So only way to meet the difficulty is to raise the standard of living and increase the earnings of the people. Sir, 80 per cent of our population depend on agriculture in rural areas. Unemployment problem is not so acute in our State but under-employment is so acute that unless this problem is solved we cannot raise the standard of our people. Therefore, if we want to raise the standard of living of our people, the question of under-employment should be solved all at once.

Sir, the progress of our major industries is not very happy and I think the position will remain the same for another two or three years more; therefore, we should at present give more attention to the small scale industries, cottage industries, etc. I am not happy with regard to small scale and cottage industries also so far expenditure on this score is concerned. We know that in other States more protection has been given to these industries. For example, the Madras Government render a great help to the weavers and markets are found for their produce. The Madras woven cloths are much better and also cheaper than ours in Assam. As far as weaving is concerned, we are not inferior to any State. But these are days of competition among the State, therefore, our Government should also help our weavers, give them facilities by way of finding markets for their products and cheap electrical energy. The people who are supplied with electrical energy by the Damodar Valley Project pay only 0-2-0 or so per unit so also the same case applies to the other States but here in our State our people have to pay per unit 0-6-0 or 0-8-0 or more, so unless you can supply cheap electrical energy to our people you cannot expect them to improve their products and compete with the other States in India. Therefore, there must be protection from the side of the Government in the matter of supplying cheap electrical energy to our people who are doing their cottage industries, etc. Now regarding rise in the price of daily necessities, we have seen that in Calcutta and other places, people can purchase a certain thing for Re. 1 but here in Assam for the same article we have to pay Rs. 1-4-0 and this high price here is due mainly to bad communication. As a matter of fact we have to depend for all our daily necessities and food from other States. Nearly all our daily necessities of life are to be purchased and imported from outside the State and we find that every commodity in other States is lesser in price but our people here have to pay a much higher price for the same article. Our people here also pay the same taxes so far the Central Government taxes and other State taxes are concerned as the people of other States. This is not socialism. We could not stabilise the price of commodities, we cannot, therefore, say that we are going towards socialism. For instance, take the case of Cachar where we pay 0-4-0 more in price for a commodity in comparison to other places. So far Cachar is concerned, we pay more because of bad communication. Here in Cachar because of the bad communication we are depending on this circuitous Link Line. There also we have the Hills section which remains vulnerable during

rains. As regards the river communication there also we have to depend on steamer services which runs through Pakistan. For about 80 per cent of our foodstuff from Calcutta and other places, which come by steamer we are to depend on the whims and good wishes of the Pakistan Government. Sir, there is another matter which is not found in any other place of Assam. The river through which these steamers ply from Calcutta to Karimganj and Silchar and carries foodstuff become shallow during the winter and they carry about 20 times less than what is the normal volume of traffic during the rainy season. Naturally during the six months of winter prices of daily necessities go up very high, not to speak of sugar which is at present selling at Rs.1-4-0 or Rs.1-8-0 per seer in some parts of Assam and which is selling at Rs.2 per seer in Karimganj. So if we calculate in this way we find what a big amount is being drained away from the district of Cachar by way of excess payment which can be termed as indirect taxes. Let me explain, the population of the district of Cachar is 11 lakhs. Let us divide it into families and if we take 5 to 7 persons per family, we get about 2 lakhs families and if we pay one rupee more for the purchase of our daily necessities in a week then it will come to about Rs.2 lakhs in a week and what will be the drainage per year, Sir? Roughly speaking we are paying more than a crore of rupees as excess prices which is being drained away from our district per year. When we compare it with our opposite number in Bengal and Bihar or any other parts of the country, our position is very bad indeed. If we do not do something early, if we do not improve our position soon, even control of prices of foodstuff will not help us. People will have to pay 3 or 4 times more because most of our foodstuff and other daily necessities of life are being imported from outside. There are two ways to solve the problem. One—we should improve the communication. Here agains so far as the I. G. R. N. R. S. N. Companies are concerned they are playing their steamers from Calcutta to Gauhati and to Karimganj and Silchar. These Companies must be nationalised. We must not depend on the whims of these two Companies. Sir, sometimes back the Loco Commission made an enquiry and they came to the conclusion that the freight charged by these Companies is very high. They said it was abnormal. Sometimes it was raised to 20 per cent. First we should nationalise these services so that it can give better

services. We cannot depend only on the circuitous Link Line. Secondly, the other day while discussing the question of sugar supply, if I remember aright one or two years back there had been some trouble like this. At that time we blamed our Trade Adviser and his Office in the matter of wagon allotment which we considered to be the reason for that trouble. The other day Mr. Choudhury, our Food Minister, said that sugar was not a controlled commodity and so no action could be taken. Sir, we all know a big quantity of sugar was exported from this State to North Bengal. So far as the legal side is concerned it may be right. We may not stop it, but we could have stopped such export indirectly, I mean by controlling the allotment of wagons which carried away this huge quantity of sugar from this State, giving rise to scarcity here. We all know in time of emergency, Government cannot procure one wagon, but some private parties can procure even 10 wagons. How is that possible? This must be found out. I must emphasise that if there was sincerity of purpose, this export of sugar from Gauhati to North Bengal could have been stopped, and we would not have been faced with this problem of sugar scarcity.

With these few words, Sir, I should say that Government should see that the price come down and the standard of living of the people in Assam goes up and these sorts of bungling here and there are stopped. There is a gang of traders who should be always kept under check, these anti-social persons should be wiped out from the society ruthlessly. I hope these defects will be removed in no distant time.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West): উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, প্রথম পঞ্চবার্ষিকী পরিকল্পনা শেষ হোৱাৰ পিচত চৰকাৰৰ পক্ষৰ পৰা কোৱা হৈছিল যে তাত ২,৩০,০০০ টন অধিক খাদ্য উৎপাদন কৰাৰ লক্ষ্য আছিল। আঁচনি শেষ কৰাৰ পিচত চৰকাৰৰ কৃতকাৰ্যতা ইমান দূৰ বাঢ়ি গৈছিল যে উল্লেখিত লক্ষ্যৰ ঠাইত যে ৪,৩৫,৭৪০ ওপৰঞ্চি খাদ্য উৎপাদন হৈছিল, অর্থাৎ লক্ষ্যত কৈও ২,০৫,৭৪০ টন অধিক উৎপাদন কৰা হ'ল।

কিন্তু দ্বিতীয় পঞ্চবার্ষিকী পরিকল্পনা আৰম্ভ হোৱাৰ লগে লগে আকৌ ঘোষণা কৰা হ'ল যে এইবাৰ চৰকাৰৰ ফালৰ পৰা এই দ্বিতীয় পঞ্চবার্ষিকী আঁচনিত আগৰ ওপৰঞ্চি খাদ্য উৎপাদনৰ উপৰিও শতকৰা ১১ ভাগ বেচি খাদ্য উৎপাদন কৰা হ'ব। তাৰ পিচত Planning Commission ৰ উপদেশক্ৰমে ঘোষিত শতকৰা ১১ ভাগৰ ঠাইত শতকৰা ২৮ ভাগ খাদ্য উৎপাদন কৰাৰ আঁচনি হেনো লোৱা হ'ল।

Adjournment

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

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) : ওপৰকি

খাদ্য শস্য উৎপাদন সম্বন্ধে চৰকাৰে আনন্দ প্ৰকাশ কৰিয়েই এৰা নাই, বৰং লগতে কৈছে যে আমাৰ ৰাজ্যত খাদ্যৰ যি অনাটন আছিল সেই অনাটন দূৰ হৈছে আৰু ৰাজ্যৰ খাদ্য ৰাহি হৈছে আৰু আন ৰাজ্যলৈকো পঠাব পৰা হৈছে। কিন্তু সেই দ্বিতীয় পাঁচ বছৰীয়া পৰিকল্পনাৰ প্ৰথম বছৰ আৰম্ভ হ'ল তেতিয়াৰে পৰা আমি দেখিবলৈ পাইছো যে খাদ্যৰ অনাটনে আমাক চাৰিওফালে আগুৰি ধৰিছে। যোৱা বছৰ জুন-জুলাই মাহত অত্যন্ত খাদ্য সঙ্কটে দেখা দিছিল আৰু এইদৰে আমাৰ প্ৰদেশৰ বিভিন্ন ঠাইৰ পৰা অহা খবৰ বিলাকৰ পৰা জানিব পৰা যায় যে খাদ্যৰ অনাটন আমাৰ দুৱাৰ দলিত থিয় হৈ আছে। সিদিনা অলপতে খবৰ কাগজত ওলাইছে যে নগাঁও আৰু গোৱালপাৰা জিলাত খাদ্য অনাটনে দেখা দিছে। গোৱালপাৰা জিলাৰ কংগ্ৰেছৰ কেইজনমান গন্যমান্য সদস্যই ৰাড্‌হৰা সভাপতি খাদ্য সম্বন্ধে আলোচনা কৰিছে আৰু সেই সম্বন্ধে ব্যৱস্থা ল'বৰ বাবে চৰকাৰৰ ওচৰত আবেদন জনাইছে। সিদিনা খবৰ কাগজত দেখিলোঁ যে নগাঁও জিলাত খাদ্যৰ অভাৱে মূৰ তুলি থিয় দিছে আৰু জিলা কংগ্ৰেছৰ সভাপতি শ্ৰীযুত লীলা বৰাই চৰকাৰলৈ আবেদন জনাইছে যে খাদ্য সঙ্কট দূৰ কৰাৰ এটা ব্যৱস্থা গ্ৰহণ কৰক। ঠিক সেই দৰে ভিন্ ভিন্ ঠাইৰ পৰা বাতৰি আহিছে। দৰং আৰু কামৰূপ এই দুখন জিলাতো খাদ্যৰ অভাৱ দেখা গৈছে। পাহাৰী জিলাবিলাকত যি খাদ্য সঙ্কট বহুদিনৰ পৰা চলি আছে, সেই অৱস্থাৰতো কোনো উন্নতি হোৱাই নাই, বৰং পাহাৰী জিলাৰ পৰা অহা ভিন্ ভিন্ খবৰ আৰু মাননীয় সদস্য সকলৰ লগত আলোচনা কৰি যি বুজিব পাৰিছো তাৰ পৰা জনা গৈছে যে পাহাৰী অঞ্চলৰ খাদ্যৰ অৱস্থাও অসন্তোষজনক। প্ৰথম পাঁচবছৰীয়া আঁচনিত খাদ্য ওপৰকি হোৱাৰ পাঁচত হঠাৎ দ্বিতীয় পাঁচবছৰীয়া আঁচনিত ভৰি দিয়াৰ লগে লগে ইয়াৰ পৰিমাণ কেনেকৈ নামি গ'ল সেইটো ভাবিব লগা কথা। যোৱা ৯ জানুৱাৰী তাৰিখে আমাৰ যোগান মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই শ্বিলঙত বাতৰি কাকতৰ সংবাদদাতা সকলৰ আগত যেতিয়া বিবৃতি দিয়ে তেতিয়া তেখেতে কৈছিল যে এই বছৰত ধানৰ উৎপাদন প্ৰায় ৭০ হাজাৰ টন কম হৈছে আৰু এই ৭০ হাজাৰ টনৰ অভাৱ দূৰ কৰাৰ বাবে ২০ হাজাৰ টন কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰে যোগাৰ বুলি প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতি দিছে আৰু বাকী যিখিনি অভাৱ হয় তাৰ কাৰণে তেখেতে কৈছে যে শঙ্কাৰ কোনো কাৰণ নাই; কিন্তু আমাৰ খোৱাৰ অভাৱ বদলাব লাগে অৰ্থাৎ আমি ভাতৰ ঠাইত আটা খাব লাগে। যোগান মন্ত্ৰী বিভাগৰ মহোদয়ে অকল ৯ জানুৱাৰীত বিবৃতি দিয়েই এৰা নাই, ৰাছাৰ জিলাৰ পৰাও তেখেতে সিদিনা বিবৃতি দিছে যে বৰ্তমান দেশত ধানৰ উৎপাদন কম হৈছে আৰু তাৰ পৰা বক্ষা পাবলৈ হ'লে আমাৰ জনসাধাৰণে আটা খাব লাগে। অৰ্থাৎ দ্বিতীয় পাঁচবছৰীয়া পৰিকল্পনা আৰম্ভ হোৱাৰ লগে লগে যে ধানৰ উৎপাদন কম হৈছে সেইটো চৰকাৰৰ বিবৃতিৰ পৰা অত্যন্ত স্পষ্ট হৈ পৰিছে। অৱশ্যে এইটো ঠিক যে পৰিসংখ্যা বিভাগে যি বিলাক চৰকাৰী হিচাপ যোগাৰ কৰে এই বিলাকৰ ভিতৰত প্ৰকৃত হিচাপ কমেই থাকে। বহুত সময়ত তেওঁ বিলাকে হিচাপৰ ভুল সংখ্যা তুলি ধৰে আৰু চৰকাৰেও সেই ভুল সংখ্যা বিলাকেই প্ৰকাশ কৰে। কিন্তু প্ৰকৃত পক্ষে বিভিন্ন জিলাৰ ভিন্ ভিন্ অঞ্চলৰ খাদ্যৰ অৱস্থা লক্ষ্য কৰিলে অনুমান হয় যে অতি কম পক্ষেও এইদৰে আমাৰ ১০ লাখ টন ধান কম হৈছে। যদিও আমাৰ যোগান বিভাগৰ মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই কৈছে যে ৭০ হাজাৰ টন কম হ'ব পাৰে, কিন্তু বিভিন্ন অঞ্চলত যি পৰিমাণে ধানৰ খেতি হোৱা নাই তাৰ পৰা এইটো সহজে অনুমান কৰিব পৰা যায় যে আমাৰ প্ৰদেশত এইদৰে অন্ততঃ ১০ লাখ টনৰ ওপৰ ধান কম হৈছে। গতিকে আমি বুজি নাপাও যে প্ৰথম পাঁচ বছৰীয়া আঁচনিক চৰকাৰে আমাৰ দেশৰ খাদ্যৰ অৱস্থা স্বয়ংসম্পূৰ্ণ হোৱা বুলি কোৱা স্বত্বেও কেনেকৈ দ্বিতীয়

পাঁচবছৰীয়া পৰিকল্পনা আৰম্ভ হোৱাৰ লগে লগে খাদ্যৰ অনাটন হ'ল। উত্তৰত ক'ব পাৰে যে এইবাৰ বানপানী হৈছিল বা এইবাৰ খৰ হৈছে, সেই কাৰণে ধানৰ উৎপাদন কিছু পৰিমাণে কম হ'ল। এই কথা আসি স্বীকাৰ নকৰো। যোৱা পাঁচ বছৰত চৰকাৰৰ বিভিন্ন শিতানত যিবোৰ খৰচ হৈছে সেই খৰচৰ ফলতেই ইমানখিনি খাদ্য শস্য উৎপাদন হৈছে বুলি চৰকাৰে ক'ব পাৰে। চৰকাৰে কৈছে যে minor irrigation ত তেওঁবিলাকে খৰছ কৰিছে ১৪০ লাখ টকা আৰু ক্ষুদ্ৰ জল সিঞ্চনত খৰছ কৰিছে ১০৩ লাখ ৬০ হাজাৰ টকা। অৰ্থাৎ irrigation ক্ষুদ্ৰ জল সিঞ্চন আদিত এই ধৰণেৰে যিমান টকা খৰছ হৈছে তাৰ পৰা এইটো ধৰি ল'ব নোৱাৰিলে যে এই বিলাক টকা অস্থায়ীভাৱে খৰছ কৰা হৈছিল যাৰ ফলত ২য় পাঁচবছৰীয়া আঁচনিৰ ভিতৰত তাৰ পৰা কোনো সুফল পাব নোৱাৰিলে? অৰ্থাৎ এই বিলাক টকা স্থায়ীভাৱে খৰছ কৰা হ'লে দ্বিতীয় পাঁচবছৰীয়া পৰিকল্পনাৰ ভিতৰত ভিন্ ভিন্ কামত নিশ্চয় উপকাৰ হ'লহেতেন। কিন্তু আমি দেখিছোঁ যে প্ৰথম পাঁচবছৰীয়া পৰিকল্পনাৰ পাচত যেতিয়া বানপানী আৰু খৰ আহিল তেতিয়া আমাৰ পথাৰত খেতি নাই।

আনকালে আৰু এটা কথা ক'ব লাগিব যে প্ৰথম পাঁচবছৰীয়া আঁচনিৰ কামৰ বাবে চৰকাৰে যি কৃতিত্ব লবলৈ বিচাৰিছে, আমাৰ বোধেৰে চৰকাৰে কৃতিত্ব লোৱাৰ জোখাৰে একো কাম কৰা নাই। কাৰণ সেই কেই বছৰৰ ভিতৰত প্ৰাকৃতিক অৱস্থা আমাৰ কৃষক সকলৰ অনুকূলে আছিল। অৰ্থাৎ পানী আৰু খৰ সম্বন্ধে যদিও সম্পূৰ্ণৰূপে ভাল অৱস্থা নাছিল তথাপি বৰ্তমান বছৰতকৈ ভাল অৱস্থা আছিল যাৰ ফলত খেতি অলপ ভাল হৈছিল। প্ৰথম পাঁচবছৰীয়া আঁচনিৰ ভিতৰত প্ৰাকৃতিক অৱস্থা কৃষকৰ অনুকূলে থকাৰ ফলত খেতিয়ক সকলে খেতি কৰিব পাৰিছিল। তাত চৰকাৰৰ কৃতিত্ব নাই। কিন্তু পৰিসংখ্যা বিভাগে চৰকাৰৰ আঁচনিৰ কৃতিত্বৰ ফলত হোৱা বুলি যিবোৰ সংখ্যা গোটাই উলিয়াইছে, মোৰ বোধেৰে সেইবোৰ অত্যন্ত ভুল। এনে ধৰণৰ ভুল অন্ধৰ ফলত আমাৰ ভবিষ্যত আঁচনি ভুল পথে যোৱাৰ অত্যন্ত সম্ভাৱনা আছে আৰু ৰাইজৰো ভ্ৰান্তি বাঢ়ি যোৱাৰ সম্ভাৱনা আছে।

আৰু এটা কথা ক'ব খোজোঁ—আমাৰ ৰাজ্যৰ খাদ্য অনাটনৰ মূল কাৰণৰ ভিতৰত আমাৰ চৰকাৰৰ চিলিং এক্ট। এই এক্ট হ'ব বুলি ঘোষণা কৰাৰ লগে লগে বহুত ঠাইৰ মাটিৰ মালিকে পূৰণি ৰায়তক উঠাই দি নতুন ৰায়ত বহুৱালে দুয়োদল ৰায়তৰ মাজত কাজীয়াহল ফলত ভাল খেতি হোৱা মাটিও এনেয়ে পৰি থাকিল। তাৰ উপৰিও বহুত ঠাইত কোন খেতিয়কে খেতি কৰিব আৰু কোন খেতিয়কে সেই মাটি পাব, ইয়াক লৈ এটা সঙ্কটপূৰ্ণ অৱস্থা সৃষ্টি কৰিছে যাৰ ফলত বহুত ঠাইত খেতি নষ্ট হৈ গৈছে। বহুত ঠাইত খেতিয়কক বে-আইনী কৰি উচ্ছেদ কৰা হৈছে। চৰকাৰী মাটিৰ পৰাও বহু ক্ষেত্ৰত খেতিয়কক উচ্ছেদ কৰা হৈছে। গোৱালপাৰা জিলাত পশ্চিম ফৰেষ্ট ডিভিজনত ১৫০ ঘৰ আৰু পূব ফৰেষ্ট ডিভিজনত ৫০ ঘৰ ভূমিহীন খেতিয়কক উচ্ছেদ কৰা হৈছে। কামৰূপৰো বহুত ঠাইত সেই ধৰণৰ উচ্ছেদ হৈছে। বিজাৰ্ভৰ জঙ্গল ভাঙি, খেতিবাতি কৰি থকা খেতিয়কৰ ঘৰ বাৰীত হাতী লগাই ভাঙি দিয়াৰ চৰকাৰে নিৰ্গম ব্যৱহাৰ কৰিছে। আনকি সিদিনা অলপতে এই সদন বহি থকাৰ ভিতৰত বতাহছিল। মৌজাৰ বৰকুৰা গাওঁত জমিদাৰ স্থানীয় পুলিচৰ সাহায্যত প্ৰায় ৩৫ ঘৰ খেতিয়কক উচ্ছেদ কৰিছে। তাৰ ফলতো আমাৰ খাদ্য উৎপাদন হ্ৰাস হৈ গৈছে। আমাৰ চৰকাৰৰ কৰ্তব্য আছিল এনেকুৱা উচ্ছেদৰ বিৰুদ্ধে প্ৰয়োজন অনুসৰি ordinance জাৰি কৰা আৰু এই ধৰণৰ উচ্ছেদ বদ কৰা। এই ধৰণৰ উচ্ছেদ কাৰ্য্যৰ পৰা প্ৰমাণ পোৱা যায় যে এই চৰকাৰৰ খেতিয়ক চৰকাৰ নহয়, এই চৰকাৰ জমিদাৰ তথা ধনী শ্ৰেণীৰ চৰকাৰ। ইয়াৰ ফলত দেশৰ খাদ্য সমস্যা অবনতিৰ ফালে যাব ধৰিছে।

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding) : How many times you will repeat the same story ?

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) : চাহ বাগনত বহুত খেতিৰ উপযুক্ত মাটি আছে। অৱশ্যে চাহ খেতিৰ উন্নতিৰ বাবে যি মাটি আবশ্যক সেই মাটি মই খেতিয়কে দিব লাগে বুলি কোৱা নাই। যিবিলাক মাটি চাহৰ বাবে অনুপযোগী অথচ এনেদৰে পৰি আছে সেই মাটি খেতিয়কক দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা উচিত। মই অলপতে বাইজৰ পৰা পোৱা চিঠিৰ পৰা জানিব পাৰিছো যোৰহাট অঞ্চলৰ চাহবাগান এলেকাত ৫/৬ টা গ্ৰান্ট আছে সেইবিলাক মাটি চৰকাৰে খেতিয়কক দিয়াৰ কোনো ব্যৱস্থা কৰা নাই।

Shri HARESWAR DAS : will the hon. Member name those grants ?

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA : I shall supply the names.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : I will also give them letter.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari) : On a point of information, whether there are lots of waste land lying at Subankhata forest reserve ?

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA : চৰকাৰে যি Reclamation scheme লৈছে যেনে শোৱনশীৰি, কাকী তাত উপযুক্ত খেতিয়কৰ পৰিবৰ্তে এই rulling পাৰ্টৰ লগত সম্বন্ধ থকা আৰু আগৰ কেবিনেটত থকা মানুহে পাইছে। উপযুক্ত মানুহক দিয়া হোৱা নাই। আৰু এটাকথা, খাদ্য শস্য উৎপাদন সম্পৰ্কে চৰকাৰে কৈছিল.....

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister, Cottage Industries) : মাননীয় সদস্যই, অভিযোগ অনা মানুহবিলাকৰ ভিতৰত যি কেবিনেটত থকা মানুহো আছে তেখেতে নাম দিব পাৰিবনে ?

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA : হয় দিব পৰা হব। (সকলো দিব পৰাহব; মতা, মাইকী সকলো তাত আছে বামুণ, কলিতা, কৈৱৰ্ত্ত সকলো আছে, etc., are the voices)

কো-অপাৰেটিভ ফাৰ্মিং সম্বন্ধে কিছু কওঁ। মাটি সংস্কাৰ কৰি, তাত কো-অপাৰেটিভ ফাৰ্মিং পতা চৰকাৰৰ উচিত আছিল। তাকে নকৰি, আগতে উল্লেখ কৰি অহা Reclaimed area বিলাকত (individual) ব্যক্তিগত ভাবে মানুহক মাটি বিতৰণ কৰা হৈছে যিবিলাক মানুহ খেতিয়ক নহয়। এইদৰেই ব্যক্তিগত মানুহৰ পাচত ভূমিহীন খেতিয়কৰ নামত চৰকাৰে অজস্ৰ টকা খৰচ কৰিছে। অন্যফালে পাহাৰী অঞ্চলত অজস্ৰ মাটি আছে। চৰকাৰে কৈছে পাহাৰী অঞ্চলৰ মাটি সংস্কাৰৰ কাৰণে প্ৰথম পৰিকল্পনাৰ অন্তৰ্গত কেইবা লাখো টকা খৰচ কৰিছো কিন্তু কেনেকৈ কৰিছে ? আমি জানো এই টকা এটা সুচিন্তিত পৰিকল্পনা অনুযায়ী খৰচ কৰা নাই, কেৱল কেই লাখ মান টকা শাসক পাৰ্টীৰ লগত নিবিড় ভাবে জড়িত থকা কেইজন মান লোকৰ উপকাৰৰ কাৰণে খৰচ কৰিছে, জনসাধাৰণ খেতিয়ক বাইজৰ উপকাৰৰ কাৰণে নহয়। বেচি ভাগ ক্ষেত্ৰতেই এই টকাৰ শ্ৰাদ্ধ হৈছে কংগ্ৰেচ পাৰ্টীৰ লগত সম্বন্ধ থকা মানুহৰ কাৰণে।

(টিলিঙা বাজে)

সেই কাৰণে মই কওঁ যদি চৰকাৰ খাদ্য উৎপাদন দৃষ্টিৰ নীতিত sincere হয়, তেনেহলে তেওঁলোকে অচিৰে দেশৰ সমষ্ট অনাবাদি মাটি চৰকাৰৰ হাতলৈ আনি তাৰ সংস্কাৰ কৰি co-operative ভেটিত বিতৰণ কৰি আচল খেতিয়ক সকলৰ সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিব লাগে আৰু কেনেকুৱা মাটিত কেনেকুৱা সাৰৰ প্ৰয়োজন সেইটো নিৰ্দ্ধাৰণ কৰিবলৈ Soil test কৰা উচিত। আৰু খেতিয়কসকলক উপযুক্ত বৈজ্ঞানিক কৃষি বিষয়ক শিক্ষা দিয়া উচিত। যোৱা দহ বছৰত চৰকাৰে এই সম্বন্ধে বহুতাই দি আছে কাৰ্য্যকৰী পন্থা লবলৈ সক্ষম হবপৰা নাই আৰু এই ক্ষেত্ৰত চৰকাৰে খালি suggestion বিচাৰি আছে। এনেকুৱা হলে নহব। যদি সকলো সময়ত এইদৰে চৰকাৰী যত্ন চলি থাকে তেনেহলে দেশৰ অনাহাৰী আৰু অৰ্দ্ধাহাৰী লোক সকলে চৰকাৰক ক্ষমা কৰিব নোৱাৰে। সেইকাৰণে মই চৰকাৰক কওঁ যে এই বিষয়ে এটা সবল নীতি গ্ৰহণ কৰি আৱস্থাৰ আনুল পৰিবৰ্তন আনে।

(টিলিঙা বাজে)

আৰু কিছ সময় দিলে ভাল হয়।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : বাক দুইমিনিট কওক।

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA : উপাধক্ষ্য মহোদয়, খাদ্য শস্যৰ দামবৃদ্ধিৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত, চৰকাৰৰ অকৰ্ম্মন্যতাৰ কথা কওঁ। চেনীৰ দাম বৃদ্ধি কথা বহুতো সদস্যই কৈ গৈছে মই আৰু তাৰ পুণৰালোচনা নকৰোঁ। মই কেৱল চাউলৰ কথাই কওঁ। যোৱাবছৰৰ এই সময়ত চাউলৰ দাম আছিল মোনে ২২/২৪ টকাৰ ভিতৰত কিন্তু এতিয়া ২৪/৩০ টকাৰ ভিতৰত। সেই দৰে যোৱাবছৰ মিঠাতেলৰ ১৬ সেৰীয়া টিং এটাৰ দাম আছিল ৩২। টকা, আৰু এতিয়া তাৰ দাম ৩৬। টকা। চাউল, তেল, ডাইল আদি নিত্য প্ৰয়োজনীয় বস্তুৰ দাম দিনকদিনে বাঢ়ি ওপৰলৈ উঠিব লাগিছে। ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰাই ধনি শ্ৰেণীৰ একো অসুবিধা নহলেও গৰীৰ শ্ৰেণীৰ চলিব নোৱাৰা অৱস্থা হৈছে। এই অৱস্থাৰ প্ৰতিকাৰ লাগে। প্ৰয়োজন হলে, ordinance আদি জাৰী কৰি হলেও এই অৱস্থাৰ আৱস্থাধীন কৰিব লাগে আৰু লাভান্ধ বিলাকক বিহিত ব্যৱস্থা কৰি দমন কৰিব লাগে।

(পুণৰ টিলিঙা বাজে)

(সদস্যই নিজৰ আসন লয়)

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : Sir, what is the most vital point? It is that which has the least vitality. Vital parts are therefore very sensitive. When one touches the vital point of somebody naturally he becomes very touchy and begins to make a stir. So, Sir, I am not surprised that towards the latter part of the debate today there is a great deal of stir in certain quarters. Sir, I thought of not participating in this debate, but I feel that I should make certain points clear

The most important thing that has promoted me to participate in this debate is a statement, however cryptic it may be, made by our Minister-in-charge of Major Industries in answer to unstarred question No.169 of to-day. He has made a very important statement and I am glad that he made it: he said "In the ultimate analysis it is the supply position which dictates the ruling price of a commodity". This is very true, Sir. It is a truism in the present context of the capitalist society because unlike the days of Adam Smith or Marshall, it is the monopolists who determine primarily the trend of prices in the capitalist world. And, therefore, the situation that has arisen to-day in our country is not only a consequence of less production but also the consequence of mal-distribution and control of the world capitalist market by a handful of monopolists. We have read so many things in books and papers and I can strengthen it by chapters and verses to show that while lakhs of people die of starvation shiploads of grains are thrown into the ocean or fed to the pigs because there must be maximum profit for the monopolist traders. The capitalists are guided not by any sense of humanitarianism, not by any sense of philanthropy, but by the theory of optimum profit. When, therefore, we heard that in India there was over-production of sugar it did not mean that our countrymen, whether in towns or villages, were getting sugar at a cheap price. When we were little boys, we used to get sugar at four annas six pies per seer even in interior village, but a few days ago sugar sold at Rs.1-12-0 per seer even at Gauhati town. Why was this? Because those who control sugar market, the sugar kings, wanted the maximum profit. Similar was the case with regard to cement, cotton and so on. As they are not foodgrains I am not going to dwell on them now. I was glad to see the righteous indignation of our present Chief Minister, who, not as an Economist but as an honest, simple, ordinary man, expressing his indignation said, "If some goods was purchased at a particular price, how is it that to-morrow that very thing should be sold at a price, three times higher? This is monstrous." He said that this sort of thing should be suppressed with the determination and strength that lie at the command of the Government.

I am glad that he had said so. It is generally said that our present Chief Minister is a good man, but Sir, tell me the man's companion, I shall tell you what sort of man he is. (*Laughter*). Yes, he has bewailed at the rise of price of sugar, but can I remind him that within one hour he and his friends collected for the Congress party Rs.1,09,000 at Gauhati? Who were the persons from whom this money was collected?

Were not some of this people the monopolists of sugar at Gauhati market? So, we should not be surprised to see the inactivity of the subordinates of the Chief Minister even when these monopolists create artificial scarcity and raise prices. Should we be very much surprised when we have seen the performances in this House of our Agriculture-cum-Food Minister? It appeared from his statement made yesterday that he is still in the days of Adam Smith. When we said that these cheap grain shops should not be there only like symbols, where you will find sign boards with big letters "Cheap Grain Shops" and in front of them another notice board stating that "there is no rice" that does not go to show well for a welfare State. According to the food Minister cheap grain shops are not meant for supply of rice and other cereals to anybody and everybody. The Minister said that his only aim was that there should be some buffer stock, or I should say, bluffer stock. (*Laughter*). When out of 365 days of the year people do not get rice in those shops for 300 days what sort of shops are those? He brings in a new economic theory. I do not mind if he gets a Doctorate from the Harvard University. What is the purpose of Government in procuring something? I do not mean that there should be rationing throughout the whole State, but what is the purpose of procuring? It is with a view to control the price of the market, in other words, that is a check to the trading community's intransigency. If you do normal profit, you being a capitalist, that should be say 5 or 10 per cent. You take that 5 per cent. or even 10 per cent. With that profit you can carry on business, but if you go to take one hundred per cent of profit then here is a stock that you shall have to face as a powerful competitor. That is the buffer stock. We always see it is used thus in economics. When the relationship between the Government and the traders is not very smooth when on the one hand, there is planned economy in the public sector and on the other private sector some capitalists try their utmost to undermine the public sector. So that the capitalists may not make undue and enormous profit this buffer stock is a necessity. As it is a welfare State that buffer stock is not only a threat to the monopolists in order to make them behave properly but also a help towards those who are in need. In our country here is a good deal of scarcity to-day. Now, when my Friend, Mr. Mohikanta Das, said about starvation, our Major Industries Minister was so touchy about the word "starvation" that he took his stand and protested that there was no starvation death. I do not say his conscience is guilty but I say he is touchy. One thing, Sir, that there is no starvation death

in the sense of death from bullet-shot ; but do you think a starving person dies just like a Dorik shot at by a gun ? I shall not be surprised if the Government claims that no man in Assam dies of cholera, or small pox, malaria, etc. and that the only cause of death in Assam is heart failure. If one instead of getting two meals hardly gets one and instead of getting cereals gets, to use the words of Mr. Sangma, while he was only a Member and not a Minister, "jungle roots" and "Kachus" then the food becomes poisonous and he consequently dies. Will it be wrong to describe such death as being due to starvation ? A man who dies for want of sufficient calories, vitamin and other essential ingredients in his food, the man does not die immediately but he dies slowly and that is due to mal-nutrition.

Sir, we feel very much concerned about this food problem. Not only that it is very acute in our State but it has got a great bearing in our Second Five Year Plan. We have seen the beginning of the Plan. We have made certain big promises and we have great expectations. Now, we find that our Plan faces certain difficulties. These are due to the rising prices of almost all the commodities. The estimated cost of the Plan consequently is going up as our foreign exchange reserves have dwindled and also due to the lack of internal resources. Acute food shortage has largely caused many areas bordering on famine conditions. There has been deterioration of the living condition of the masses in almost all sectors of our economic life. These are all ominous manifestations. So, we find that our Second Plan itself is going to face a crisis and when this acute food position is one of the factors which is creating this crisis, we cannot take it quite easily. Besides, there is the bravado of saying that in this democracy no man will die of starvation. As my Friend, Mr. Das has said figures and words do not satisfy our stomachs. That is the trouble. You made big promises, but let us see whether you are true to your promises. My Friend Mr. Borthakur quoted from the Gazette of January 29th in which it is said that in pursuance to the Government of India's order this Government has passed an order and they have fixed the price of paddy and also of rice—the price of rice was fixed at Rs.18.14 Np in Gauhati, but what is the prevailing price there now ? From where can you get rice at Rs.18.14 Np per maund ? This shows, Sir, that Government figure is one thing and reality is another thing. I do not mind if my Friends on other side of the House say that I am harsh, but I say that most of these Government figures are bogus—the figures of one Department do not tally with the figures of another

Department, the figures of this year do not tally with the figures of another year. Why is it like this? It is so because you first made out a formula, you say we should create a slogan that food production is growing—as my Friend Shri Tarun Sen Deka said at the beginning that there was a slogan from Delhi that we are completing the First Five Year Plan successfully and that we have done things successfully: Why this was so? Because there was an Election. Just before the Election there was a cry for doing big things and that still bigger things would be done by our Government. In this way the drum was beaten with the maximum amount of force that the First Five Year Plan has become a grand success, that we are marching ahead with industrial development of the country under the First Five Year Plan, what Soviet Russia could not do in 30 years we are able to do in 10 years and that too with non-violence; without class struggle and without bitterness, we are going to win over the black-marketers just like বিড়াল ভণ্ডারী, etc., etc. But after the Election is over what do we find? There was a cry, “Oh! all our calculations are wrong, we have miscalculated our First Five Year Plan.”. And now, when the Second Five Year Plan was started you said “to make the Plan a success, we must lay stress again on agriculture and agriculture again and so on. Well, Sir, if you have solved all your problems three years ago how then your problem is making you restless to-day? It is so because you did not really solve your problem at all. Yes, you did not solve the problem of the mass people: the only thing that you did is that you do not want the people to know the facts. Of course you can fool all people for some time, you can fool some people for all times, but you cannot fool all people for all times! How can you solve your problems if you are not sincere about your professed policies, about your deficiencies. You said, the first essential thing is to produce more, that there must be more production of food. Yes, we are all agreed to that. But how can we produce more? The first thing is that there must be a man to produce—yes, man-power is necessary. The other day the Chief Minister said that the number of unemployed dependants and underemployed dependants are increasing; so there is a huge unemployed man power in our State. We agree, it is so. Now, what is required next? It is land for the peasant. Have you given land to the peasants? How many peasants have you evicted during the last three years? How many peasants have you settled with land? You may ask me, “where from can we get land to settle these people? When mother earth has

limited space and we have not yet become so very irreligious as to be able to build suptniks and try to conquer space, or what is to be done when mother earth is not an elastic balloon which can be pumped to make it ever expanding ?”

Now, Sir, that is not at all necessary. If you want land, I will show you where and how to get land. I will give certain figures to show that there is land enough in our State. First of all, let me point out that our Chief Minister who is a tea planter, has got a Tea Estate named Banamali Tea Estate. I know that he has sold some of this land to the peasants during the last few years—the land that was lying fallow. I am giving this not because it is a glaring instance. I know Indian owned gardens have limited quantity of surplus land where the difference between the gross acreage and acreage under tea is not big. If we take the average we will find that so far as Indian owned tea gardens are concerned they have got something from 25 to 50 per cent of the gross acreage that is lying fallow. But so far as the European owned gardens are concerned, you cannot get their figures. Sir, there is a book, *The Assam Directory and Tea Areas in Assam*. You will see from this how cunning these businessmen are. So far as our Indian owned tea gardens are concerned you will always find their gross acreage—so much gross area in the garden and so much acreage under tea. But so far as European owned gardens are concerned in 99·9 recurring cases they do not show what is the gross area. I will cite one instance, the Assam Consolidated Tea Estate—the Revenue Minister will please note, he wants land and I am showing him where he can find land. Now, under this Assam Consolidated Tea Estate it has got the Ghillidari Tea Estate where the gross acreage is 2,583·51 acres and under tea it is 313·40 acres. Then Hingrijan—gross acreage 2,180 acres; under tea, only 626·62; Khowang Tea Estate gross acreage 5,681·94 acres, under tea only 707·53 acres; Sokiating Tea Estate gross acreage 1,216·74, under tea 420 acres, and (*A voice*—Are these up-to-date figures ?) Yes. I quote from the latest edition of the *Assam Directory and Tea Areas Hand Book*, published by Thackers. It was not published by me nor by the Government, but by those tea planters themselves. Now another instance.

One European owned Tea Estate namely-Dinjan under the managing agency of McNeil and Berry, gross acreage 2,355 acres, under tea 736 acres. Some of the Indian gardens and

Indian companies also are trying to cope and catch up with the European companies. For example, the famous Mundras have got a company known as the Brahmaputra Tea Company. It has got one garden in Negheritting, gross acreage 4,354.37 acres, under tea 1,772.5 acres, and Missamara T. E., gross acreage 2,702.8 acres, under tea 1,086.03 acres and Seklating T. E., gross acreage 2,316.3 acres, under tea 810.55 acres. Then Shri Rameswar Saharia has got Tarazan T.E., gross acreage 3012.51 acres, under tea 423 acres. Then another European Company-Gillandars Arbuthnot. They have got big business here in the Khasi Hills also. They have got Empire of India (and Ceylon Tea Company). They have got almost the same gross acreage under tea.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi): Whether the hon. Member is aware that same action has been taken by the Government and the cases are hanging in the High Court?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Whether the case is hanging in the High Court or in the air, I am not concerned with that. I am speaking of lands in Assam where peasants want to till, where some lands are lying fallow which can be tilled wherefrom crops can be raised and people can be fed. Laws are there and these tea laws are created by the same persons who now own the land. They got it as fee simple grants, as waste land grants not by paying any money, not by paying any compensation, not even by clearing the jungles. It was Indian land, Indian toil which created them. It is not the property of the European Planters, but it is Europeans laws which govern us. We have no freedom, we have no right to make laws and to serve our own people in the State. What steps we have taken to take the laws from the European tea planters who have controlled 84 per cent of the total tea estates in our State and only 16 per cent has been left to our Indian tea planters? Nothing has been done in this respect because we have attained our independence through adjustment and compromise with the British imperialists. So far as the tea estates are concerned all the laws, etc. will continue to be made by the Britishers at their whims and pleasure even when our own people are starving. I used the word starving because we have got no land to cultivate in spite of all the "measures"

Government have taken for grow more food. Mr. Mohikanta Das said that every cultivator must have a pair of bullocks. Mr. M. Bora said that if for one year the door of the Department of Agriculture is locked up and paying to the Ministers, Secretaries and other officers of the Department are stopped, with the money that will be so saved, we shall be able to purchase plough cattle, seeds, etc, we will be able to do much more for the peasants, because what is most needed at present for our cultivators is bullocks, seeds, etc. At present most of our cultivators are deprived of bullocks but as a matter of fact, if we want to increase our food production, we must see that every cultivator should get a pair of bullocks. If I remember aright, Mr. Lohar when he was a Member of this House, gave a suggestion in this House, perhaps five years ago that if we want to solve our agriculture problem, we must see that every single cultivator gets a pair of bullocks. If we cannot give a pair of bullocks to every cultivator in five years why could we not make a Ten Year Plan? We are spending enough money for planning, etc., and some people may make some money, say a few thousands of rupees for taking up some industry. Should we deprive our agriculturists of having a pair of bullocks at the cost of a few persons? The other day Shri M. K. Das made certain allegations here in connection with the measure regarding grow more food. He has rightly said it. Sir, in this connection I would like to say that at Gauhati I made enquiries of all these things as to how things are going on at Gauhati regarding agriculture and I am pained to say that the condition at Ganhati is worse than anywhere else. The people are not getting any agricultural help.

Our Agriculture Department as it appears has become a drag on our Government. What a big Department it is now! Previously there was only one Director; now there are so many Deputy Directors, Additional Directors. In other words, it is top heavy; but so far as the relation of the officers of the Agriculture Department with the agriculturists is concerned, it can be said without the fear of contradiction that the department has the least touch with the agriculturist. The agriculturist at least knows the Police, he knows his mandal, he knows his school master, but he does not know who is the Agricultural Demonstrator of his area. Come with me anywhere in the State. I shall pick up any people from the village; ask him to say who is the Agricultural Demonstrator of his area, he will not be able to say his name. That is the position today.

Sir, one thing I have to say here. When a reference was made about Subankhata some of my Friends from the other side of the House said, "How long should we repeat this question". Well, we shall go on repeating so long it is not solved. Some hon. Friends on the other side of the House are afraid of slogans. The other day my Friend Shri Goswami said that these people, have made 'No slogan' a slogan. They will go on saying 'Don't raise a slogan, don't raise a slogan'. Well, we are not afraid of slogans. We want slogans because there must be at least one focal point where we must give concentration. Without sloganising we cannot give that concentrated attention. Those who say "do not give slogans," do not want to give concerted and concentrated attention to solve the problem. They want to remain vague. They resent any reference about America, Russia or any other country or some times they will say that this is the condition of the people of America or Russia. But I ask them, have they cared to know the condition of the villagers in Assam? Now even if people refer to conditions obtaining in some other parts of the world, why should we not learn some thing if it is good. I can tell these gentlemen that a slogan is rising in the country. They will resound, they will be repeated—that slogan is:—

रोटी कपड़ा मकान दो ।
नहीं तो गद्दी छोड़ दो ।

They will have to vacate the Gaddi, that slogan will compel them to vacate, it is coming. Now my Friends do not want the slogan, they want to keep everything vague, they want to make some adjustments here and there at the top, by some palace intrigue, by some unholy allowances they want to solve the problem. I warn them, the problem cannot be solved in this way. This acute problem of food cannot be solved in this way, they must remember it.

Sir, I had the misfortune of going to some places in the border of the Khasi Hills District, I found that the people are not getting food, they are taking root, etc. Many years back even when the country was not independent I had the occasion to go to these places. I found the people quite happy, they were robust in health, they had bright cheeks, they were cheerful, but what is the condition now? They look pale, they are emaciated, they are dejected. And why this is so? They are not getting food, they have become poor, their natural market is closed, and on the other hand, the Government

is unable to do anything. I can tell you, you cannot solve the problem of the hills in that way. If you want to solve that problem give them food, give them employment, but not employment only to one man (pointing out his finger to Captain Sangma, Minister, Tribal Areas Department) (*laughter*) because one gentleman however good he may be, cannot solve the problem of this magnitude. Of course in politics this sort of opportunist alliances are sometimes made that they will not solve the problem—the problem of food to the hungry. Here I am making a particular reference to my hill brethren living in the border areas, because their condition is very bad since they have lost their natural market. They are starving, they are very bitter. Taking advantage of this miserable condition of these hills people some opportunist raised a separatist cry. Now this slogan may be good or bad, but the fact remains that if there is suffering, some people act as agent provocateur. They do it not for the good of the people who are suffering but for their own purposes. Remember, Sir, in the hills areas also people will not remain what they are today. There also consciousness is rising and as in the case of plains so in the hills a handful of leaders will not decide the fate of the people. If you really want unity among the hills and plains people go to the root cause, remove their grievances, solve the problem. In that case we need not run after this man or that man giving a blank cheque to him. It will not solve the basic problem; it will lead you to a position where you will have to retire and say—গোবিন্দ গোবিন্দ গোবিন্দ গোবিন্দ গোবিন্দ বাম মুবাৰি।

Sir, a man may be good, that necessarily does not mean that he will be a good administrator. That must be remembered. So, Sir, I say this food problem must be solved early. Please remember that a stitch in time saves nine. Let us not think that by simply overlooking it by glossing over it we shall cross the “বৈতৰণী”. It is a big problem, let us boldly face it. If we can give a stitch in time, I hope we shall be able to save nine in future. (The Bell rang) I am sorry Sir, I have taken much time of the House.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: May I ask the Revenue Minister whether Government has given any direction to the tea industry to keep certain percentage of land for them?

Shri HARINARAYAN BARUA (Teok): মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, খাদ্য সমস্যা সম্পর্কে আলোচনাত যোগদান দিবলৈ আহি কোনখিনিৰ পৰা আবন্ত কৰিব বৰকৈ ধৰিব পৰা নাই। বহুতো সদস্যই নানা ফালৰ পৰা আলোচনা কৰিছে। আমাৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াই যি কলে তাৰ পৰা অনুমান হয় তেখেত আজি বৰ inspired হৈ আহিছে হবলা আৰু inspiration ৰ ফলত আলোচনা কোনোবা ফালে লৈ যোৱা যেন লাগিছে। আলোচনাৰ জৰিয়তেই তেখেতে স্বাদ মিটাই লৈছে যেন অনুমান হয়। প্ৰথমেই ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াৰ কথা কৈছো। খাদ্য সমস্যা সম্পর্কে আলোচনা প্ৰসঙ্গত আজি যোৱা ৫ বছৰে ডেকা ডাঙৰীয়া আৰু ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াৰ দলে একে কেইটা কথা কৈ কৈ আহিছে। শব্দবোৰ লবচৰ হোৱা নাই, সেই একে কেইটা শব্দকে ব্যৱহাৰ কৰিছে। ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াই চাহ-বাগিছাৰ মাটিৰ সম্পর্কে যিটো হিচাব এই সদনত দাঙি ধৰিলে সেই সংখ্যা কিমান দূৰ সঠিক হৈছে কব নোৱাৰো।

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati): কিতাপ খন খুলি চাওক।

Shri HARINARAYAN BARUA: মইও কওঁ যে আপুনিও মোৰ কিতাপ খন চাওক। আপুনি আপোনাৰ কিতাপৰ পৰা কওক আৰু ময়ো মোৰ কিতাপৰ পৰা কৈছো শুনক।

উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, তেখেতে যিটো মাটিৰ হিচাব এই সদনত দাঙি ধৰিছে সেই সংখ্যাৰ সঠিকতাৰ বিষয়ে মোৰ সন্দেহ আছে। মই কথাটো এনেকৈ বুজো—এখন বাগিছাৰ মাটিৰ সমষ্টিক কেইবা ভাগতো ভাগোৱা হয়; যেনে বাৰ লাইন, মজদুৰৰ লাইন, factory area আৰু বনুৱাক দিয়া খেতিৰ মাটি, খেবনি আৰু বাহনীৰ মাটি লগ লগালে আৰু কিমান surplus মাটি থাকিব পাৰে? মই তেখেতক শুধিছো!

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA: কোম্পানীৰ বাগিছাত মাটি নাথাকিব পাৰে, কিন্তু Indian garden তো মাটি নাই নে?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: May I ask the Revenue Minister whether Government has given any direction to the tea industry to keep certain percentage of land for them?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): No, Sir, there is no such direction.

Shri HARINARAYAN BARUA: এই দৰে মাটি বিলাক ভাগ ভাগ কৰি ব্যৱহাৰ হয় আৰু বনুৱা মজদুৰ সকলে এই মাটিত খেতি কৰিছে আৰু কাৰখানা অঞ্চলত (factory area) মজদুৰ সকলৰ বাসস্থান আৰু কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ লাইন ইয়াৰ ভিতৰত পৰিছে। গতিকে তেখেতে যি 'ফিগাৰ' এই সদনৰ আলোচনাত উপস্থিত কৰিছে এইটো মই সত্য বুলি নাভাবো। ইয়াৰ উপৰিও তেখেত সকলে নিজেই স্বীকাৰ কৰিছে যে চৰকাৰে অধিক শস্য উৎপাদনৰ কাৰণে, চাহ-বাগিছাৰ গ্ৰাণ্টৰ অংশ কাটি নি—মাটিহীন কৃষক সকলৰ ভিতৰত বিতৰণ কৰিছে। আমাৰ যোৰহাট মহকুমাৰ ভিতৰতে তেখেত সকলে যিখিনি কথা অবতাবনা কৰিছে বিশেষকৈ শ্ৰীযুত ডেকা ডাঙৰীয়াই—সেই চাহ-বাগিছাৰ 'গ্ৰাণ্ট'ৰ নাম মই নাজানো সেই কাৰণে কব নোৱাৰো তথাপি মই এইটো কব পাৰো যে তাত চাহ-বাগিছাৰ যি মাটি আছে তাৰ অধিকাংশ মাটি খেতিয়ক সকলক দিয়া হৈছে আৰু যি দুই এটা গ্ৰাণ্ট আছে—সেই বিলাক এতিয়া (Requisition) অধি গ্ৰহণ কৰিবলৈ Land Advisory Committee এ ঠিক কৰিছে আৰু এই দৰে প্ৰত্যেক চাহ-বাগিছাৰ গ্ৰাণ্ট বিলাক ভূমিহীন খেতিয়ক সকলৰ মাজত বিতৰণ কৰিবলৈ

চেপ্টা কৰিছে। ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰাই এইটো প্ৰমাণ নহয় যে চাহ-বাগিচাৰ গ্ৰাণ্ট বিলাক এনেয়ে পৰি আছে আৰু এই বিলাক বিতৰণ নকৰাৰ কাৰণে খাদ্য শস্য উৎপাদন হোৱা নাই আৰু খাদ্য সংকটে দেখা দিছে। তেখেত সকলৰ কথাৰ স্মৰণ পৰা এইটো দেখুৱাবলৈ প্ৰমাণ কৰিছে যেন আমাৰ ৰাজ্যত সকলো বিলাক শস্য মজুত আছে চৰকাৰে দিব পৰা নাই অথবা সকলো দ্ৰব্য চোৰাং বজাৰৰ মজুতদাৰ সকলৰ গোদামত গোট খাই আছে— চৰকাৰেহে যেন দিব পৰা নাই। এই স্মৰণ আজিৰ সভাত শোভা পোৱা নাই। আমাৰ ৰাজ্যত খাদ্য শস্য যি বিলাক উৎপন্ন হয় সেই বিলাক কেনেকৈ হয় ৰাজ্যৰ প্ৰত্যেকেই জানে। আজি আমাৰ ৰাজ্যৰ কাৰণে যি পৰিমাণৰ খাদ্যৰ প্ৰয়োজন, তাৰ ঠু অংশ ৰাজ্যৰ বাহিৰৰ পৰা যোগান ধৰিব লগা হয়। সেইদৰে সব্বিয়হৰ তেল অৰ্থাৎ মিঠাতেল আমাৰ প্ৰয়োজন মিটাবলৈ ই বো অধিক বাহিৰৰ পৰা আনিব লগা হয়। গুৰু খেতি অসম হয়; কিন্তু আমাৰ ৰাজ্যৰ কাৰণে যিমান গুৰু লাগে সিমান উৎপন্ন নহয়। প্ৰায় আধাতকৈয়ো অধিক গুৰু বাহিৰৰ পৰা আনিব লগা হয়। এইদৰে প্ৰত্যেক খাদ্য দ্ৰব্যকে বাহিৰৰ পৰা আনি আমাৰ ৰাজ্যত বিতৰণ কৰিব লগা হয়। এনে অৱস্থাত কোনো কোনো প্ৰয়োজনীয় বস্তুৰ নাটনি সময়ে সময়ে আমাৰ ইয়াত হোৱাটো স্বভাৱিক। এই অৱস্থাৰ মাজত আজিৰ এই সদনত বিৰোধী দলৰ সদস্য সকলে চৰকাৰক দোষী সাব্যস্ত কৰিবলৈ প্ৰয়াস কৰাটো উচিত হোৱা নাই।

প্ৰথম পৰিকল্পনাৰ অন্তৰ্গত যিবিলাক অধিক শস্য উৎপাদনৰ কাম আৰু তাৰ ফলাফল সেই বিলাকৰ 'ফিগাৰ' দ্বিতীয় পৰিকল্পনাৰ আঁচনিত প্ৰকাশ পাইছে আৰু সেই ফিগাৰ বিলাক আসোঁৱাহ যুক্ত বুলি সদনৰ বহুতো সদস্যই সন্দেহ প্ৰকাশ কৰিছে। তেখেত সকলে এইটো স্বীকাৰ নকৰিবনে যে প্ৰথম পৰিকল্পনাৰ খাদ্য শস্য উৎপাদনৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে যি ব্যৱস্থা অবলম্বন কৰিলে তাৰ দ্বাৰাই অধিক শস্য উৎপাদন হোৱা নাই? প্ৰথম পৰিকল্পনাৰ কালছোৱাত বানপানীয়ে যাতে খেতি নষ্ট কৰিব নোৱাৰে তাৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে লোৱা ব্যৱস্থাৰ কথা তেখেত সকলে স্বীকাৰ নকৰিবনে? মই অলপতে কামৰূপৰ হাজোত গৈছিলো। তাত যিবিলাক প্ৰকাণ্ড প্ৰকাণ্ড মঠাউৰি দেখিলো সেই বিলাকৰ পৰা খেতিয়ক ৰাইজৰ যথেষ্ট উপকাৰ হৈছে বুলি স্থানীয় খেতিয়ক সকলে মন্তব্য প্ৰকাশ কৰিছে আৰু সেই বাবে তাৰ মানুহে চৰকাৰৰ গুণ গাইছে। ঠিক সেই দৰে অসম ৰাজ্যৰ অন্যান্য অংশত যিবিলাক মঠাউৰি চৰকাৰে বান্ধিছে সেই বিলাকৰ পৰা বানপানী নিয়ন্ত্ৰিত হৈ খেতিয়ক ৰাইজৰ উপকাৰ হোৱা নাইনে? আৰু সেই বিলাকৰ দ্বাৰা অধিক শস্য উৎপাদিত হোৱাত সহায় হোৱা নাইনে? এনে পৰিস্থিতি আৰু ফলাফল সমুখত ৰাখি তেখেত সকলে চৰকাৰী 'ফিগাৰ' ভুল বুলি প্ৰতিপন্ন কৰিবলৈ যোৱাটো সমীচীন হৈছেনে অথবা আমাৰ ৰাইজৰ খেতিয়ক সকল তাত পতিয়ন যাবনে? কেতিয়াও নাযায়।

আজি এই সদনৰ সদস্য বিশেষ কৈ শ্ৰীযুক্ত গোবীন্দৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াই আমাৰ মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰী শ্ৰীযুত চালিহা দেৱৰ নিচিনা মানুহৰ নামত ব্যক্তিগত ভাবে কলঙ্কৰ ছাঁ দিবলৈ যোৱাটো বৰ পৰিতাপৰ কথা হৈছে। মই জানো তেখেতৰ 'বানমালি' নামৰ চাহ বাগিচা খনত যিমান খিনি মাটি.....

Sri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : মই তেখেতৰ প্ৰশংসাহে কৰিছো। প্ৰশংসা কৰিলেও দায় লাগেনে? অৱশ্যে মই ইংৰাজীত কৈছিলো। মই কৈছিলোঁ, শ্ৰীযুত চালিহাই মাটি এৰি দিছে যদিও এতিয়াও বহুত ইউৰোপীয়ান চাহ বাগানৰ মালিক আছে যি মাটি দিব খোজা নাই।

Sri HARINARAYAN BARUA (Teok) : মই কবলৈ বিচাৰিছিলো যে এইক্ষেত্ৰত তেখেতৰ নাম নোলোৱা হলেও হল হেতেন।

Sri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYA : প্রশংসা কৰিলেও

দায় হয়নে ? তেখেতে ভাল কাম কৰিছে নান পাৰও নাপায় নে ?

Sri HARINARAYAN BARUA (Teok) : লওক, আপত্তি নাই; মই

মাত্র কৈছো তেখেতৰ বাগিছা থকা কথাটো উল্লেখ নকৰা হলেও হল হেতেন। কাৰণ সকলোৱেই জানে যে তেখেতৰ এখন বাগিছা আছে। তাৰ পিচত শ্রীযুত ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াই গোলাঘাটৰ ঘিলাধাৰী চাহ বাগিছাৰ কথা কৈছে। এই বাগিছা ময়ো দেখিছো আৰু ময়ো জানো ইয়াৰ কিমান খিনি মাটি চাহৰ কাৰণে আটক আছে আৰু কিমান খিনি মাটি বনুৱাৰ কাৰণে আটক হৈছে। এই বাগিছাৰ কিছু অংশ মাটি কেইবা বছৰৰ আগতে বাগানে নিদিয়া বুলি বলপূৰ্বক ভাবে লবলৈ সত্যাপ্ত হ কৰাৰ কথা তেখেতৰ মনত নিশ্চয় থাকিব পাৰ। কিমান মানুহে বাগানৰ মাটি পাবৰ কাৰণে সেই সত্যাপ্ত কৰিছিল। প্ৰকৃত পক্ষে চৰকাৰে মাটি নিদিয়া নহয় : মাটি চৰকাৰে বিতৰণ কৰিছে। চাহ বাগিচাৰ মাটি ভূমিহীন খেতিয়কক চৰকাৰে বিতৰণ কৰিব লাগিছে আৰু বিতৰণৰ অধিক আয়োজন কৰিছে।

আজি দেশত যি খাদ্য সংকটৰ কথা কোৱা হৈছে ইয়াৰ আগতে যোৱা নবেম্বৰ মাহতো এই সদনতে খাদ্য সংকটৰ কথা আলোচনা কৰা হৈছিল আৰু সেই সময়ত সন্দেহ কৰা হৈছিল যে ঐ খাদ্য সংকট বেয়াৰ ফাললৈ যাব পাৰে। কিন্তু আমাৰ বৰ্তমান চৰকাৰৰ সময়োপযোগী প্ৰচেষ্টা আৰু ব্যৱস্থাৰ কাৰণেই সেই সংকট বেয়াতলৈ যোৱাৰ পৰা বচালে। যোৱা বছৰ আমাৰ ইয়াত বতৰ বৰ বেয়া হোৱাৰ কাৰণে খেতি ফলৱতী নহল আৰু ফলত ঐ খাদ্য সংকটে দেখা দিছে সঁচা। নগাঁও জিলাত, য'ৰ পৰা বেচি ধান বাহি কৰিব পাৰে, বতৰ বেয়া হোৱাৰ কাৰণে মানুহে খেতি কৰিব নোৱাৰিলে; আৰু আন আন ঠাইত বানপানী হৈ খেতি নষ্ট কৰাৰ কাৰণে আজি আমাৰ মানুহে কষ্ট ভোগ কৰিব লগা হৈছে। কিন্তু ইয়াৰ লগতে এই সমস্যাটো কেনেকৈ সমাধান কৰিব পৰা যায় আৰু আমাৰ মানুহবোৰক কেনেকৈ খাদ্য কষ্টৰ পৰা বন্ধ কৰিব পৰা যায় তাৰ যদি দিহা দিলেহেতেন সেইটোহে বেচি কাৰ্য্যকৰী হ'লহেতেন। আমাৰ এজন মাননীয় সদস্যই কৈছে যে বাহিবৰ পৰা আমাৰ দেশলৈ খাদ্য শস্য আনিবলৈ হলে আৰু দেশত বস্ত্ৰৰ চৰা দাম বন্ধ কৰিবলৈ হলে আমাৰ ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ নদীত চলা জাহাজ কোম্পানীটো ৰাষ্ট্ৰীয়কৰণ কৰিব লাগে। ঠিক এনে ধৰনৰ পৰামৰ্শ আগবঢ়ালেহে সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিবলৈ বেচি সুবিধা হ'লহেতেন।

আমাৰ বন্ধু শ্রীযুত ভট্টাচাৰ্য্যই তীব্ৰ সমালোচনা কৰি কৈছে যে আমাৰ মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰীয়ে একেদিনাই গুৱাহাটীত চোবাং কাৰাবাৰীৰ পৰা ডেৰ লাখ টকা আদায় কৰি সফলভাবে কংগ্ৰেছ অধিবেশন সমাধা কৰিলে। চুৰা বেপাৰীৰ ওপৰত উচিত ব্যৱস্থা লবৰ কাৰণে মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰী সদায় সাজু। শ্রীযুত ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াই কৈছে তেখেত বৰ ধাৰ্ম্মিক মানুহ। সদায় বাম নাম গ্ৰহণ কৰে। এইটো কথা কোৱাৰ পৰা মই এইটোহে বুজিছো যে তেখেত মানুহ হিচাবে বৰ ভাল but he is quite unfit for administration. যদি এনে ভাৱত কৈছে তেন্তে তেখেতে এইটো অভিযোগ কৰা উচিত হোৱা নাই।

(Voice—তেখেতৰ লগৰীয়াৰ কথাহে কৈছে) সেই কাৰণে ময়ো আগতে প্ৰতি-বিধানৰ বাবে সাজু থকাৰ কথা কৈছো। সবহকৈ চান্দা সংগ্ৰহ কৰাত বেজাৰ কৰিব নোলাগে। এইটো মানুহৰ ব্যক্তিত্বৰ বিশেষত্ব; কাৰণ এজন মানুহে চান্দা বিচাৰি গলে তিনি পয়ছাও নেপায়। অথচ আন এজন গলে হেজাৰ দুহেজাৰলৈ পায়। এই সদনৰে হয়তো এজন গলে বেচি চান্দা আনিব পাৰে, কিন্তু আন এজন গলে এপয়ছাও সংগ্ৰহ কৰিব নোৱাৰিব। চোবাং কাৰাবাৰীক সহায় কৰাৰ বাবে অথবা সুবিধা দিয়াৰ বাবেহে যে চান্দা আদায় কৰিব পাৰিছে এই আখ্যা দিয়া ভুল। কথাবোৰ এনেকৈ গোলমলীয়া ভাবে কলে সমস্যাৰ সমাধান কেনেকৈ হ'ব ? চৰকাৰে পাহাৰী ভাই সকলৰ সমস্যা সমাধান

কৰিবলৈ যি প্ৰচেষ্টা কৰিছে তাক সকলোৱেই দেখিছে। আংশিক ভাবে কৃতকাৰ্য্য ও হৈছে, তেনেস্থলত এনেবোৰ কথা কৈ পাহাৰী ভাই সকলক উত্তেজিত কৰাৰ বাহিৰে আন একো নহয়। পাকিস্তান সীমান্তত খাদ্য অনাটন হোৱা সঁচা কিন্তু সেই কথাকে কৈ ভুল ব্যাখ্যা দি তেওঁবিলাকক উত্তেজিত কৰিবলৈ যত্ন কৰা উচিত নহয়। পৰ্বত ভৈয়াম সমস্যাই আমাক আজি জুৰুলা কৰিছে তাতে ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াৰ কথাই তেওঁ-বিলাকক উৎসাহিত কৰিব আৰু সমস্যা সমাধান কৰা দুৰূহ হ'ব।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: অনুগ্ৰহ কৰি খাদ্যৰ বিষয়ে কওক।

Shr HARI NARAYAN BARUA (Teok): মই খাদ্যৰ কথাকেহে কব খুজিছো। মই কৈছো মানুহক এইদৰে তীব্ৰ সমালোচনা কৰা উচিত নহয়। সমা-লোচনা কৰাৰ লগতে কেনেকৈ মানুহবোৰক কষ্টৰ পৰা বক্ষা কৰিব পাৰি তাৰ বাবে সমাধানৰ পথ আৰু উপায় আগবঢ়োৱাহে বেচি দৰকাৰ। চৰকাৰে ফিগবাৰী ৰিজাৰ্ভত দুখীয়া ৰায়তক মাটি দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে। শোৱন খাটাত ট্ৰেণ্টৰ লগাই মাটি সমান কৰিছে ৰায়তক ভগাই দিবৰ কাৰণেই। শোৱন খাটাত ট্ৰেণ্টৰ চলাওঁতে কৰবাত এটা শিল ওলাল বা কাঠৰ মুচা ওলাল তাৰ বাবে কেনেকৈ গোটেই আঁচনিখন বেয়া হ'ব পাৰে? এই ব্যৱস্থা কৰাৰ বাবে বৰঞ্চ চৰকাৰৰ শলাগহে ল'ব লাগে। তাৰ পৰিবৰ্ত্তে ট্ৰেণ্টৰ চলাওঁতে শিল ওলাল, কৰবাত আটালিকাৰ ভেটি বান্ধোতে গাঁত ওলাল ইত্যাদি কথাৰ বাবে চৰকাৰক সমালোচনা কৰিলে কেনেকৈ সমস্যা সমাধান হ'ব? আজি খাদ্য বস্ত্তৰ দাম বাঢ়িছে, আৰু তাৰ লগতে হালৰ গৰুৰ দাম বাঢ়িছে বুলি কলে মানো। খেতিয়কক গৰু দিয়াৰ প্ৰস্তাব যুক্তিসংগত বুলি গ্ৰহণ কৰো। এইবিলাক লাগতিয়াল কথা।

এই ক্ষেত্ৰত মই যোৰহাটৰ কথা ক'ব খুজিছো। যোৱা দুই-তিনি মাহ মানব আগতে যোৰহাটৰ টিয়কৰ মহামাৰীৰ ফলত সেই ঠাইৰ খেতিয়ক সকলৰ গৰু-মহ মৰি একেবাৰে খালী হ'ল। ফলত হালৰ গৰুৰ অভাৱত বেচিভাগ খেতিয়কে খেতি কৰিব পৰা নাই। তেনে ক্ষেত্ৰত যাতে সেই খেতিয়ক সকলে গৰু কিনি উৎপাদনৰ কামত লাগিব পাৰে, তাৰ ব্যৱস্থা চৰকাৰে কৰিবলৈ আগবঢ়াটো নিশ্চয় উচিত বুলি ময়ো কওঁ।

কিন্তু চৰকাৰে গৰু কিনি প্ৰত্যেক খেতিয়কক নিদিয়া কাৰণেই এনে ধৰনৰ খাদ্য সঙ্কট উদ্ভব হৈছে, এনেকুৱা সমালোচনাত মোৰ একমত নহয়। বাকি ধৰা যাওক, আজি যেনিবা চৰকাৰে খেতিয়কক একোহাল গৰুৱেই কিনি দিলে; তাৰ পিচতেই, ভগবানে নকৰক, যদি Rinder pest আদি হৈ গৰুহাল মৰি যায় তেতিয়াও জানো খাদ্য সমস্যাৰ সমাধান হ'ব?

গতিকে তেনে বিধ সমালোচনাৰ কোনো গুৰুত্ব নাই।

মহোদয়, খাদ্যসঙ্কটৰ আলোচনাত অংশ গ্ৰহণ কৰি মোৰ মাত্ৰ দুঘাৰ কথাহে কবলগীয়া আছিল। সেইটো হ'ল, টিয়কৰ একাংশত আৰু মাজুলিৰ একাংশত কিছুদিন আগৰ মহামাৰীত গৰু-মহ মৰি খেতিয়ক সকলৰ খেতি বন্ধ হোৱাৰ উপক্ৰম হৈছে। সেই খেতিয়ক লোক সকল বৰ দুখীয়া কোনোমতে পেটোভাতে খায়। চৰকাৰৰ সহায় নহলে তেওঁলোকে গৰু কিনি খেতি চলাবলৈ অক্ষম। সেই ফালৰ পৰা মই চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰো যাতে চৰকাৰে সেই লোকসকলক পাৰ্য্যমানে সহায় কৰি তেওঁলোকক খাদ্য উৎপাদনৰ কামত লগায়।

মই মাত্ৰ এইখিনিকেই এই প্ৰসঙ্গত কবলৈ বৈ আছিলো—আমাৰ ডেকা বা
ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াৰ সমালোচনা কৰাৰ ইচ্ছা অকনো নাছিল কথা প্ৰসঙ্গত হৈ
ইমান বিলাক কথা কবলগীয়া হলো। বিহণক শেহত মই টিয়কৰ খেতিয়কৰ সাহায্যৰ
কাৰণে যি কলো চৰকাৰে তাৰ এটা সোনকালে স্ব-ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব বুলি অনুৰোধ
কৰিলো।

***Shri LALIT KUMAR DALEY [Moran (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have carefully listened to the very interesting debate on the subject of food. Really food concerns every people of this country or people of the world ; so every one must take keen interest of this vital thing. There is very little time at my disposal. In this I will place some points on this subject. I do not know how the hon. Members of this House takes this subject and which way they are giving practical solution of this problem. I have heard many of the hon. Members speaking on behalf of the landless tillers that we have got lands to spare for them, that lands that are lying concealed in the tea gardens and lands can be and lands kept reserved by private proprietors should be distributed among landless tillers. I agree with them in this. I feel it is not the only vital problem. We require intensive cultivation. If we can grow more food by intensive cultivation and ask for extensive cultivation of lands in that case we can do a lot. At the same time there is the machinery of industrialisation of the country. If our Assam is an agricultural State the people of Assam have got to do more intensive cultivation but they have to give up this industrial *inertia* since the necessity of lands is so vast and if there is not enough land, there is the need for industrialisation of the country and there should be rapid industrialisation in the State, either in major industries, cottage industries and small scale industries. We should speak for intensive cultivation but in this there should be the spirit of industrial development and make them feel for industries. This is what I may say but I cannot dwell it at length now as the time at my disposal is very short.

Sir, at the same time, the food position so far as it relates to production, it is a question whether we are going to control the commodities of food or we prefer this de-control system of economics. We are going on a planned development of the country and so far the relation of control system of economics is concerned there was serious hue and cry of the control

system when it was in existence. If we accept control reforming during the Plan period then it will bring a great hindrance in the production. Unless and until the Government is entirely responsible for the whole system of production it cannot successfully carry out distribution. Therefore, we have to give individual cultivators and individual enterprisers incentive for production apart from the question of control or Government responsibility in that direction. The Government cannot take all the matters in their hands and therefore we have to depend largely on the individual enterprisers and the huge men power in our State. So far as agricultural development is concerned we have got to give certain assurances to our people that the lands are very rapidly devastated by floods and that we have got protection by Bunds, etc., by the Embankment and Drainage Department and to show to the people that we are improving lands and make them free from devastations of floods and rivers. The Embankment and Drainage Department also is to assure the people that lands can be made more productive. That is what we have got to do.

So far as the National Extension Service and Community Development Blocks are concerned, these are entirely new things to the State. Our people have got to be made to learn their own responsibility. It is premature to give comments on these National Extension Service and Community Blocks, because this system has been recently introduced to our people. So far as the various schemes related to these two departments are concerned our people have not as yet fully understood the implications. This is not only the responsibility of the Government but this also concerns us to make our people realise their own responsibility and their own duty in order to bring development in the country and that is why I feel that the success of the undertakings that we have taken is not so much the concern of the Government alone, but of the country as a whole. Therefore, if we criticise things, particularly from one angle of vision that would be absolutely wrong. So, in our country where the people are so much backward and poor we have got to exert enough of our energy to train our people all about these schemes that we have undertaken. It is no use magnifying the situation so much because magnifying the situation will not help to solve our problems. We must view these things coolly and in a systematic way and bring only practical and constructive suggestions to solve our problems. We may undertake many schemes, but the real problem facing us is how to inspire the people to have incentive for real work.

It is often talked that in Assam there are no industries—that is true because in Assam more than 80 per cent of the people are still engaged in agriculture and they are in such a backward state. What is necessary for our industrialisation? It is man power. Man power is the wealth of the nation. Man power with natural resources and an intelligent capacity to create an incentive in the people is what we need. We have been lucky enough to be able to get an oil refinery in our State, when we can establish that refinery in the State that will give sufficient incentive to our people to educate them towards industrialisation of the State. But as I have said, Assam is still more agricultural minded; so giving this incentive to the people for industrialisation of the State will help them. We find in the history of the world that those countries which are more agrarian, are bound to fall back into backwardness. So to help our people we must take recourse to industrialisation in keeping with the parity and growth of the population by means of scientific methods. This is the age of science. Whether it is the question of developing our agriculture or our industries we must take the help of science and with that science and with that scientific spirit we must educate our people, we must give them the incentive. So Sir, as I have already said, our main responsibility is in rising the spirit of the people and give them the inspiration to make them feel that they too have a responsibility to build up their own country. To be able to solve our problems whether it is for communication or such things we have to depend upon our man power. We are wedded to democracy we are bound to make our people understand their responsibility. Therefore, I appeal to my Friends opposite not to think in that light because that sort of magnifying things will not lead our country to progress. The real solution of the problem lies in giving practical suggestions and at the same time successfully implement our schemes by co-operating with the Government in the schemes that Government has undertaken.

Sir, I do not like to dwell much on this subject and I don't want to take up the time of the House, so with these words I request my Friends opposite to think over these things and fully co-operate with the Government.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are to-day discussing the food problem. The situation in our country today no doubt, requires very deep thinking, intelligent working and requires the co-operation of every one of us

from all sides because the problem is really a great one. It is beyond the control of the Government and of ourselves here in this Legislature. Things have gone to such a way that it seems to me to solve this food problem immediately it requires time and therefore we here in this House will have to think deeply how actually to solve the problem. Sir, I find many times in discussing such problems there is a kind of party feeling that enters the mind of some of us. I find this in Committees, I find it in discussions, and this sort of party feeling beclouds the issue so that the real problem is not solved. Whoever gets the majority that goes, whether it destroys the country or not they do not care so much so long as that party feeling gets a particular thing. That, Sir, is what we have to combat against. When prices of things rise higher and higher it is true Government are trying their best to see that the prices come lower down, but whether they can do it or not is the question to be seen.

Some are glad that Bunds are made. We have to see that a Bund once constructed by the Government in the plains district becomes a great boon to all the people connected with it, but some times the people on the other side of the Bund find that their fields become deteriorated. So these fields should be treated scientifically in order to make the land all round fertiliser.

Then there are lands for reclamation, marshy lands ; they also have to be studied very carefully by the Government.

Then, Sir, there are other problems of fertilisation. It is an experience that some lands which have been treated with chemical fertilisation become deteriorated. We here in Khasi and Jaintia Hills have seen certain fields that use chemical fertilisation, become deteriorated. There must be some practical study of all these things. Simply discussing will not help solve the problem. There must be expert study of all these matters before us.

Sir, prices of things here in Shillong are going up and up every day. Price of fish has gone up from Rs. 3 per seer to Rs. 5, 6, or 8. A fowl which used to sell at Rs. 2/8 each now it is sold at about Rs. 5 to Rs. 8 each. Dal also is sold now at 14 annas a seer. Rice of course is according to market demand. There can be no control except the price of subsidised rice to the poor people. Then there is another problem which my Friend, Mr. Das, has spoken very strongly

about the feeling of the cultivators who have got paddy. You have controlled the price of paddy at Rs. 10·5 or something per maund but what about the other commodities whose prices are soaring very high. If you control only the price of paddy the cultivators will not get a better price and so you shall discourage the cultivators from planting paddy. This question has to be examined and scrutinised very carefully as to how to solve the problem and also the feeling of the cultivators and other people who are suffering on account of the high prices of food articles they consume.

Now, Sir, there is also a question of corruption among officers and also among the traders. These problems are very great indeed. Therefore, we shall have to study this aspect of the matter also very carefully.

Now, Sir, a reference has been made of our people in the border. I have spoken on that point previously and the great trouble now is that it seems Government is unable to deal with this matter. We are now going to depend on a kind of committee which takes time and time is a great factor. Now is time for sowing, for preparing the fields by the cultivators and if they do not get the necessary help in time it will not help the cultivators very much. Time is a very important factor which has got to be considered seriously by the Government. Government should, therefore, see that financial help, seeds, etc., are given to the cultivators immediately so that the purpose may be served but if Government will have to go through various rules and procedures or committees and in doing all these things time passes away.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education, etc.): No relief will be held up by the committee, work will go on.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: I am glad if that is done. But the fact remains that although the Government has already ordered the Deputy Commissioner of the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills to distribute agricultural loans amounting to over 4 lakhs of rupees and when the agricultural loan is distributed everybody wants it, they don't care what happens in future and in this way some people get Rs.20, some Rs.40 and some Rs.80 and so on. What will these doles do? It would not help the people much for their cultivation although this small amount may help the people to buy food only to keep their body and soul together for a few days only while they do their cultivation work. Government should see to this matter immediately and arrange to distribute financial help according to the

needs of the cultivators, otherwise the doles given to the cultivators will help very little. I am afraid if this aspect of the matter has to be gone through certain rules and red-tape business it will not be possible on part of the Government to give help to the people who are really in distress at the proper time. Therefore, there must be some kind of arrangement by which certain body may be given the whole responsibility, the Chief Minister may handle the matter solely as a dictator to deal with the emergency. In war time one man is given power to handle and guide the whole army. Here in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills Government appointed a committee to study the condition of the border people. I quite appreciate that, but you know the committees always take time, it will take time to suggest anything and it will take time to visit the particular locality, it also takes time to study and discuss matters and when we come to discuss matter there will be clashes and difference of opinions for works which have to be dealt with immediately. The people send petitions but even those petitions are not properly taken care of and so thousands of people are suffering on account of scarcity of food. This is very distressing. I request Government to see that the border people who are now in great difficulties should be helped immediately. Sir, last evening a young man came to me who owned orange gardens and told me that oranges have fallen on the ground, he could not get any market for his oranges due to transport expenses, although Government gave transport subsidy he could not transport his oranges elsewhere because oranges are cheaper in other markets and so he cannot sell his oranges. Due to these difficulties many orange cultivators are now in great trouble, they have no money to purchase their food and they are now eating yam, kachu and other edible things mixed with some rice and due to this the people are suffering from various diseases. In a certain village there was an epidemic. A doctor was sent by the Government. He reported that these people have lost their vitality because they are eating kinds of food which used to be given to pigs and cows. They have lost their vitality and they won't be able to stand for long and subsequently they may die of starvation. These people should be helped immediately. Government is doing their best to render all possible help to the people, but there is one thing, that is very important and that is time factor. Now is the sowing season, the people should be helped in time. The people want to get money as well as seeds to cultivate their lands. The people in these areas are very industrious, they want to stand on their own feet.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will the hon. Member continue his speech?

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Yes, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Then you may continue on Thursday next, *i.e.* the next non-official day.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 9 a.m. on Friday, the 14th March, 1958.

Shillong
the 23rd January, 1959

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

