

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 9 A.M. on Friday, the 14th March, 1958.

PRESENT

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Re: The Superintendent of the Junior Technical School at Tezpur

Shri KAMALA PRASAD AGARWALA (Tezpur)
asked:

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

- (a) The date, month and year when one Shri Siba Kanta Barua was put in charge of the Junior Technical School at Tezpur ?
- (b) How long he remained in charge of that Institute ?
- (c) Whether he was given any charge allowance ?
- (d) If so, what was the amount paid and for what period ?
- (e) When was the Superintendent of the said School appointed ?
- (f) What was his basic salary ?

(g) Whether it is a fact that Shri Siba Kanta Barua visited Jorhat several times on duty as asked by the then Principal of Prince of Wales Technical School, Jorhat ?

(h) If so, whether it is a fact that he was not given any Travelling Allowance and Dearness Allowance ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education) replied :

44. (a)—On 12th September 1954.

(b)—From 12th September 1954 to 31st December 1956.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Charge allowance at 20 per cent of his basic pay for the period from 4th October 1956 to 31st December 1956 was given. The Tezpur School which was under Jorhat Technical Institute was given an independent status from 4th October 1956.

(e)—On 31st December 1956 (afternoon).

(f)—Rupees 450 per mensem.

(g) & (h)—Enquiry is being made.

Shri KAMALA PRASAD AGARWALA (Tezpur): How is it that he was given allowance for three months only while he served for thirty-two months ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : That is what I said here, for a part of the period the School was under the direct supervision of the Principal, Jorhat Technical School. Therefore although Shri Siba Kanta Barua was in charge of the Tezpur Technical School locally, for all practical purposes, the Principal, Jorhat Technical School was in charge of it.

Shri KAMALA PRASAD AGARWALA : Is he not entitled under the Fundamental Rules to draw basic salaries of the post of the Superintendent of the Technical School, Tezpur while he was in charge of the same institution ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education): So far as the charge was concerned the charge was placed on the Principal of the Jorhat Technical School. So far as the local administration was concerned it was in the hand of Shri Barua. Therefore technically he was not in charge of it although he was practically in charge of it. I admit that there seems to be some injustice done to Shri Barua for not having given him the allowance for this period also, if not in full, at least in part, because the man in Jorhat could not have taken charge of the Tezpur Institution completely, while he was serving in Jorhat. This will be looked into, Sir.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): What is the number of the trainees in the Jorhat Technical School, Sir?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: I have not the figure with me just at the moment, Sir.

Shri KAMALA PRASAD AGARWALA (Tezpur): Is it not a fact that while he was in charge of the School for three months, he is entitled to the basic salary of the Superintendent for that period?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: I have already stated that, Sir, so far as he was concerned he was not technically placed in charge of the Institution, the Principal, Jorhat Technical School was in charge of it.

Mr. SPEAKER: He has said that already.

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon): Is it a fact that although the Superintendent of the Nowgong Technical School is technically less qualified, he was drawing a bigger salary than what is being drawn by Shri Siba Kanta Barua?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: I cannot say it off hand whether it is a fact or not, Sir.

Shri KAMALA PRASAD AGARWALA: Will the Minister enquire about this matter?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Yes, the matter will be enquired into.

Conversion of Karka and Fatri Boys' Schools to Junior Basic Schools

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) asked :

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

(a) Whether the Education Department received applications for conversion of the existing Schools of Karka and Fatri (boys) to Junior Basic Schools ?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken to take over these Schools ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education) replied :

45. (a)—Yes, application for Karka has been received. About Fatri (boys) School Board is requested to inform.

(b)—Karka will be taken over this year.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Sir, with regard to Fatri School, it should be Faturi and not 'Fatri', Sir, it is not stated here clearly what steps are being taken to take it over ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : Yes, Sir, it should have been 'Faturi' and not 'Fatri'. With regard to that school we are taking necessary action, Sir.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Will the Minister-in-charge of Education please pursue the matter ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : Yes, Sir.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari) : What is the principle that is applied in the matter of converting the L. P. Schools into Basic Schools, Sir.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : It is too wide a question, Sir. I have said already that our policy is to convert all the existing Primary Schools into Basic Schools in a number of years and it is expected that it will take about 15 years to effect such conversion.

Jaha Drainage Channel

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East) asked :

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

- (a) Whether Government are aware that for want of adequate provision for retention of rain water the upper reaches of Khata and Bahjani Mouzas of Jaha Drainage Channel to the south of Nalbari is doing great harm to the peasants of 20 villages of the above Mouzas?
- (b) Whether the Government have lately received complaints from the public that for the above reason more than ten thousand bighas of paddy fields have been rendered unfit for cultivation?
- (c) If so, what steps have been taken to protect cultivation of the area and to save the people thereby?
- (d) Whether Government propose to take immediate necessary measures to provide for retention of rain water of the area, if necessary, by providing sluice gates on the upper reaches?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education for Minister, Flood Control, etc.) replied :

46. (a)—Jaha Drainage Channel was constructed for relieving flood congestion in Khata and Bahjani Mouzas prior to construction of flood embankments on both banks of the Pagladiya. After construction of these embankments, the spills of the Pagladiya are shut out which has greatly relieved flood congestion in the two mouzas and so the utility of the drainage channel in the upper reaches has diminished to some extent resulting in some difficulties to the public.

(b)—Yes. A representation was received from the Questioner giving the figure of paddy fields affected as more than 5,000 bighas.

(c) & (d)—The matter is under investigation and necessary steps will be taken on the result of the investigation.

Cut of rain water due to Parbatiajan

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East) asked :

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

(a) Whether Government have lately received representation from the peasants of Natundechar Mouza in Kamrup District to the effect that a cut of rain water has developed into a big channel named Parbatiajan rendering more than 10,000 bighas of fertile paddy lands fallow and unfit for cultivation ?

(b) If so, what measures have been taken to protect cultivation of the area ?

(c) If the reply to (b) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to take immediate steps to protect cultivation of the area in question ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education for Minister, Flood Control, etc.) replied :

47. (a)—Yes.

(b) & (c)—The matter is under investigation. Any steps to be taken will depend on the availability of fund and its relative priority.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY : Are Government aware that the matter is pending for the last 9 months ? I want to know whether the matter was investigated and also further I want to know since when the investigation was started ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : In these matters investigation covers almost 90 per cent of the whole scheme, since if any mistake occurs, the whole area will be flooded.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table))

Removal of Sorbhog Malaria Sub-unit to Manikpur

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDER (Sorbhog) asked :

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

(a) Whether it is a fact that a Malaria Sub-unit was established at Sorbhog ?

(b) If so, why it was removed to Manikpur ?

(c) Whether the Sub-unit will be shifted to Sorbhog from Manikpur as soon as free houses are provided at Sorbhog ?

Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) replied :

174. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Manikpur is comparatively better located from the viewpoint of operation.

(c)—No, as the inhabitants of Sorbhog will get full benefit, whether it is at Manikpur or Sorbhog.

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta): What would be the condition of the operation if it was located at Manikpur?

Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA: Manikpur was found more convenient than Sarbhog for the purpose of the operation and some areas near the Bhutan boundary would be more accessible from Manikpur.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDER : Sir, is it also due to the fact that Manikpur is the home village of a Congress Member of Legislative Assembly ?

Mr. SPEAKER : That question does not arise.

**Establishment of Public Health Dispensary at Bartori
in Barpeta Subdivision**

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDER (Sorbhog) asked :

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

(a) Whether a public health dispensary will be established at Bartori in Barpeta Subdivision ?

(b) If so, when ?

Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) replied :

175. (a)—Necessary enquiry is being made and if a dispensary is justified at Bartori the case may be taken up for consideration along with others in due course.

(b)—Does not arise.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDER : Sir, what is the principle on which Government dispensaries are established?

Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA : It all depends on the demands of the local people. Whenever we get any demand through applications we make an enquiry through the local Civil Surgeon whether there is a real need or not and when we are satisfied that there is a real need then we decide to establish a dispensary there.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is on the principle of service to the people.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDER: What is the distance to Bartori from the next dispensary ?

Mr. SPEAKER : That is a question of local geography.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDER: Sir, in Answer (a) it is said that necessary enquiry is being made to justify establishment of a dispensary at Bartori. May I know what necessary enquiry is being made ?

Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA : We have got to ascertain first whether a locality where a demand is made for a dispensary is beyond or within the radius of 5 miles from an existing dispensary.

Conversion of Sorbhog Local Board Dispensary into a Primary Health Unit

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog) asked :

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

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Sorbhog Local Board Dispensary will be converted into a primary health unit.

(b) If so, when ?

Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) replied :

176. (a)—Not at present.

(b)—Does not arise.

Establishment of Public Health Dispensary at Chamthaibari in Kherija Bijni Mauza of Barpeta Subdivision

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog) asked :

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

(a) Whether a public health dispensary will be established at Chamthaibori in Kherija Bijni Mauza of Barpeta Subdivision ?

(b) If so, when ?

Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) replied :

177. (a)—Necessary enquiry is being made and if a dispensary is justified at Chamthaibari the case may be taken up for consideration along with others in due course.

(b)—Does not arise.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR: How many dispensaries are there in the Kherija Bijni Mouza of Barpeta subdivision ?

Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA : I require notice of this question.

Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi Memorial T. B. Hospital

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) asked :

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

- (a) Who are the members of the Managing Committee of the Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi Memorial T. B. Hospital ?
- (b) Who was the Secretary of the Managing Committee of the said Hospital for last two years, and who is the Secretary functioning at present ?
- (c) Whether there is public contribution to the Hospital fund ?
- (d) If so, what is the total amount of money contributed by the people up-till now ?
- (e) Whether the State Government or the Central Government has rendered any subsidiary grant to the said Hospital ?
- (f) If so, what is the amount given each year by both the Governments ?
- (g) How the grant is utilised ?
- (h) Whether there was any audit of the Hospital fund made by the Government or whether the audit is made by the Hospital authority itself ?
- (i) Whether any objection was raised in audit ?
- (j) If so, what are the objections, and steps taken by Government in the matter ?

Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) replied :

178. (a)—The following are the members of the *Ad-hoc* Governing Body (Managing Committee) of the Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi Memorial T. B. Hospital:—

1. Shri M. M. Choudhury, Chairman from 12th January 1958.
2. Shri B. R. Medhi, Governor of Madras (*Ex-Chairman*).
3. Late Dr. Hem Chandra Barooah, (*Recently dead*)^a Vice-Chairman. No Vice-Chairman has been elected.
4. Dr. Nalini Kanta Sarma, Secretary.
5. Dr. S. P. Sadhu, Superintendent and Joint Secretary.
6. Dr. Kanak Chandra Barooah, Treasurer.
7. Shri Rup Nath Brahma, State Health Minister.
8. Dr. Ghanashyam Das.
9. Shri Baidya Nath Mukherjee.
10. Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.
11. Shri Radha Gobinda Barua.
12. Dr. Birinchi Kumar Barua.
13. Shri Uma Charan Barua, Jorhat.
14. Shri Satish Chandra Kakati.
15. Dr. (Mrs.) Tilottama Roy Choudhury.
16. Dr. R. A. Hughes, Shillong.
17. Shri Ganapati Dhanuka.
18. Shri Aridaman Kuthari.
19. Chairman, Gauhati Municipality (*ex-officio*).

20. Chairman, Nowgong Local Board (*ex-officio*).
21. Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., L.A.D. (*ex-officio*).
22. Civil Surgeon, Kamrup (*ex-officio*).
23. Director of Health Services, Assam (*ex-officio*).

(b)—The Secretary of the Managing Committee for the last two years ending 12th May 1957 was Dr. Ghanashyam Das. Present Secretary is Dr. Nalini Kanta Sarma functioning from 13th May 1957.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Rs.45,914.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—

	State Government			Central Government		
	Rs.			Rs.		
1955-56	2,25,000	...	...	2,00,000		
1956-57	2,77,250	...	...	Nil		
1957-58	3,50,000	...	...	30,000		
1955-56	Central Government			2,00,000		
Do.	State Government ...			1,00,000		
Do.		do.	...	25,000		
Do.		do.	...	2,250		
1956-57	State Government ...			1,00,000		
Do.		do.	...	1,75,000		
Do.		do.	...	1,75,000		
Do.		do.	...	1,200		

(g)—

For construction of buildings for the hospital for the patients, quarters for doctors, Sister nurses and purchase of important hospital equipment and for the maintenance of the hospital.

(h)—Yes, both by an Auditor of Local Accounts and by a Sub-Committee of the Hospital.

(i)—Yes.

(j)—Number of irregularities were detected, the main being misappropriation of a sum of Rs.2,600 by the cashier. The cashier was placed under suspension and the case was reported to Police.

Government have already called for explanation from the Hospital authorities in regard to the audit objections.

(A copy of the audit report is placed on the Library Table). (Please see Library Register No. S. 1.)

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): Sir, is there any restriction to the admission of patients into this hospital or, in other words, is there a rule that if any Local Board does not contribute any money for this hospital no patient from that subdivision will be allowed in this hospital?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical): I will have to ascertain it.

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS (Rangiya: Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): When the cashier was suspended?

Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA: Government already called for explanation from the cashier with regard to the audit objection and when the explanation was not satisfactory he was placed under suspension and the case was reported to Police.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): Is it a fact that a patient from Tezpur was refused admission into this hospital on the ground that Tezpur Local Board contribute no money for this hospital?

Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical): I will have to ascertain this.

Advance of Cattle Loan

Shri MATHIAS TUDU (Gossaigaon) asked :

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

(a) What sum has been earmarked for Cattle Loan in the State during the current financial year?

(b) What is the quota in the Goalpara District?

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

(a) Whether Cattle Loan will also be advanced to—

(i) people holding land on annual patta; and

(ii) people residing in the reserved forest villages?

(b) If not, why not?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

179. (a)—Rs. 6,50,000.

(b)—There is no specific quota for any District.

180. (a)—(i) & (ii) Cattle Loans may be issued to the people of the categories mentioned, if they do not possess periodic land, either on joint bonds or on the security of a third party.

(b)—Does not arise.

Shri MATHIAS TUDU: What amount of cattle loans were granted in each subdivision of the Goalpara District?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : Dhubri Subdivision Rs. 50,000, Goalpara subdivision, Rs. 42,500 and Kokrajhar subdivision, Rs. 15,000 and the total comes to Rs. 1,07,500 for the whole District.

Shri MATHIAS TUDU (Gossaigaon) : On what basis the cattle loan is distributed ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): According to necessity.

Re: Supply of Cement, C. I. Sheets, Iron Rods, etc., in North Lakhimpur

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur) asked :

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

(a) Whether the scheme for distributing cement and C. I. Sheets through the agency of Rural Panchayats in some Subdivisions is successful ?

(b) Whether Government have any intention to extend the said scheme to other Subdivisions also ?

(c) Whether Government had received suggestion from North Lakhimpur Supply Advisory Board to apply immediately the scheme in that Subdivision also ?

(d) The reason for not applying the scheme in that Subdivision when the people are willing to test it and where there is every chance of such a scheme being successful ?

(e) Whether Government has any scheme for giving C. I. Sheets in exchange of paddy which is a sort of encouragement to the cultivators to grow more ?

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

(a) Whether Government have procured any quantity of iron rods and flat iron through its agents to be distributed among the public as assured in the last Budget Session ?

(b) Whether Government is aware that no such material is available at North Lakhimpur for the last two years and people there are experiencing great difficulty for want of such building materials ?

(c) Whether Government is aware that huge quantities of such materials can be had from big merchants of the business towns like Gauhati, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, etc. ?

(d) Whether Government is aware that these merchants realise fabulous prices from consumers who have no other way but to submit to such exploitation ?

(e) Whether Government proposes to procure these materials from the said merchants and sell the same at controlled price for the benefit of the people ?

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

181. (a)—It is too early to opine about it.

(b)—The matter is receiving the attention of Government.

(c)—No.

(d)—Does not arise.

(e)—No.

182. (a)—Yes. Only 430 tons of Iron Rods (350 tons of imported and 80 tons of indigenous) have been procured by Government.

(b)—Yes. But this was also the position in many other areas.

(c)—Certain quantities of imported iron and steel materials may be had from big merchants of big towns as imported iron and steel materials are available in the open market.

(d)—No. The prices of imported iron and steel materials are fixed by the Director of Consumer Goods, Assam, Shillong, on the basis of the supplier's bills for sale in the open market.

(e)—Imported materials are not under control and Government have no such statutory power.

***Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar)**: Sir, how the price can be controlled if Government cannot take over the responsibility of distribution of these imported iron materials?

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education)**: There are two types of iron materials which come to our State. One type is controlled materials of indigenous production. When they come here their prices and distribution are controlled. The other type of materials which is sold in the open market is imported from abroad by private parties. When it is sold in the open market naturally its price is higher than that of the materials of the indigenous production. Now attempt is being made to fix the price of this type of imported materials when it comes to our State.

***Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI**: Have those merchants the right to sell them without fixing quotas by the Government?

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI**: These are not distributed by quota system and as their prices are higher. The poor people are naturally not interested in them and the rich people only go for them.

***Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi)**: What is the difference between the indigenous iron materials and the foreign iron materials?

***Shri DEVESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance)**: The hon. Members are perhaps aware that iron and steel goods are in short supply in India. Therefore, in addition to the indigenous production, the Central Government of its own accord, allow private traders to import certain quantity of iron and steel goods into India and when that quota comes to India they have to notify to the Iron and Steel Controller. The Iron and Steel Controller fixes the prices and he notifies the State Government also. For example, a firm in Gauhati or Golaghat or Shillong can buy from the direct importers but at a price fixed by the Iron and Steel Controller and subsequently also the same thing by the State Government. There are, therefore, two categories of these materials. The price is no doubt fixed, but the trouble is that since the materials are in short supply the buyers pay higher prices. For example, we fix the price of Corrugated Iron Sheets at Rs.108, but the buyer will take a faked cash memo, and buy at, say, Rs. 130.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question was how to distinguish between these two kinds of iron and steel materials.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance):** It is difficult to distinguish, but a buyer has to take a permit from the Government in respect of indigenous products as well as Government imported products, whereas for the privately-imported things he is not required to take any permit.

Dhekeri and Mahangdijua Dispensaries

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

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that Dekhiri Dispensary has been sanctioned to be located at Kaliaui Rongbongghat in Duarbagori Mauza, Mikir Hills, before the separation of the District ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the said dispensary has been shifted to Bura Gohainghat in the District of Sibsagar ?
- (c) If so, what steps Government propose to take to have the dispensary located in the place for which it was sanctioned ?

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

- (a) The reason why the building for Mahangdijua Dispensary has not been taken up for construction as yet ?
- (b) When the construction work of the building for the above dispensary will be started ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the money has already been allotted for construction of the building for Dolamara Public Health Dispensary in its original site ?
- (d) If so, when the construction of the above building will be completed ?

Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA (Medical Minister) replied :

183. (a)—No.

(b)—Yes.

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

184. (a)—On account of the change of site.

(b)—The construction of the building at the new site is being undertaken this year.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—The building is expected to be completed during 1959-60.

Shri SAI SAI TERANG (Mikir Hills—East : Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): ১৮৩নং (a) প্রশ্নৰ উত্তৰত মেডিকেল মিনিষ্টাৰে কৈছে—No.। মই জানিব খুজিছো মিকিৰ হিলচ্ জিলাখন গঠনৰ আগতে দুৱাৰ বগবী মৌজাৰ ভিতৰত এই ডিচপেনচেৰি খন নাছিল নে? যদি আছিল তেন্তে কিয় ইয়াৰ পৰা বুৰা গোহাঁই ঘাটলৈ লৈ যোৱা হল?

Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA: Sanction আছিল দেখিবৰ কাৰণে আৰু এই সম্বন্ধত কলিয়াণীৰ কথা কিবা আছিল যদি মই নাজানো।

Mr. SPEAKER: তেখেতে কৈছে—‘ডিচপেনচেৰি’ খন কিয় বুৰাগোহাঁই ঘাটলৈ নিয়া হল?

Shri SAI SAI TERANG: মোৰ প্রশ্ন হৈছে তালৈ কিয় নিয়া হল। কলিয়ানি বংবংঘাটত কি পাবলিক নাই? (বিৰাট হৰ্ষ ধ্বনি)।

Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA: (Starred in English).

Mr. SPEAKER: আপুনি অসমীয়াতে কওক, তেহে তেখেতৰ বুজিবলৈ সুবিধা হব।

Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA: সেইটো কথা নহয়। যি ঠাইলৈ এই ডিচপেনচাৰী খন নিয়া হৈছে তাত মানুহৰ জনসংখ্যা বেচি আৰু তালৈ নিলে সুবিধা হব বুলি ভবা হৈছে।

Shri SAI SAI TERANG (Mikir Hills: East: Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): সেই ঠাই কিমান দূৰত ?

Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical): তিনি মাইল মান হ'ব।

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding): মিকিৰ পাহাৰত যে মানুহৰ ঘন বসতি নাই—সেইটো তেখেতে নাজানেনেকি ?

Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA: হয় জানো।

Shri RAMNATH SARMA: তেনে হলে কিয় সেই ঠাইলৈ লৈ যোৱা হ'ল ?

Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA: যত দিলে মানুহৰ বেচি সুবিধা হয় তাতেই চৰকাৰে দিছে।

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi): বুৰাগোহাঁই ঘাট ডিচপেনচাৰি খন মোৰ সমষ্টিৰ ভিতৰত পৰে—কিন্তু তাত মিকিৰ মানুহৰ বসতি ঘন নহয়।

Mr. SPEAKER: The fundamental rule of framing a question is that, it must not develop into a debate or argument.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARRIKA: Not debate, Sir, only I am explaining.

Shri SAI SAI TERANG: বুৰাগোহাঁই ঘাট বাগানৰ ভিতৰত পৰে নেকি ? জানিব পাবোনে ?

Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA: সেইটো মই ক'ব নোৱাৰো।

Shri KARKA CHANDRA DOLEY (North-Lakhimpur Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): এই বিষয়ে ৰাইজৰ মতামত লোৱা হৈছিল নেকি ?

Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA: ৰাইজৰ মতামত লোৱা হয় কিন্তু ডিচপেনচাৰি খন বুৰাগোহাঁই ঘাটলৈ নিয়া সম্পৰ্কত লোৱা হৈছিল নে নাই—ক'ব নোৱাৰো। মতৰ এই বিষয়ে আলোচনা কৰা হৈছিল।

Diet, etc., to the convicts and under-trial prisoners

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri)
asked :

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

- (a) What is the difference of diet between a convict and an undertrial prisoner of general class ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that an undertrial prisoner gets less amount of diet than that of a convict ?
- (c) If so, why ?

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

- (a) Whether mosquito-curtains are supplied to the convicts and undertrials ?
- (b) If not, why not ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Jails) replied :

185. (a)—There is no difference on the scale of diet of the convicts and under-trial prisoners of the general class. Only under-trial prisoners are allowed to purchase or receive food from private sources with some restrictions.

(b) & (c)—Do not arise.

186. (a)—No.

(b)—There is no provision in the Assam Jails Manual. The undertrial prisoners are however, permitted to purchase or receive such articles from the private sources.

***Shri MAHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla):** With regard to (a), the question was "whether mosquito curtains are supplied to the convicts and undertrials", the reply is "No". Is there no mosquito in the jail?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Jails):** Sir, I left jail in 1945 and am not competent to answer this question.

***Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari):** Is it under the contemplation of Government to revise the Jail Manual?

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

Industrial Loans to Tribal Weavers in Plains Areas

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

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

- (a) Whether Government is aware that the Tribal Weavers in the Plains areas are experts in Weaving Endi and other handlooms?
- (b) Whether Government is aware that they could not develop these industries due to financial stringency?
- (c) If so, whether Government propose to take adequate measures to help the said weavers for the development of their cottage industries?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that Government has not taken prompt and immediate action to provide cottage industry loan to the Tribal applicants who are really deserving?
- (e) Whether Government is aware that present procedure of sanctioning loans is lengthy and delaying one?

(f) Whether it is a fact that Industrial loans are not given even though sufficient land mortgage is given ?

(g) Whether Government propose to take adequate measures to provide cottage industry loans to the needy persons within a short time ?

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

187. (a)—Yes, not only the Tribal weavers of the plain areas are experts weavers but other weavers in the plain areas are also experts in the industry.

(b)—Yes. Tribal as well as non-Tribal weavers require financial, technical and other assistance to develop the industry.

(c)—Government have already taken measures to give financial assistance as well as other assistance to develop their cottage industries.

(d)—No, it is not a fact. Prompt action in issuing industrial loans is taken without discrimination. But delays occur occasionally for several reasons. Government have taken steps to reduce such delay to the minimum.

(e)—No. The present procedure is not a lengthy and delaying one ; but there is room for improvement and Government are taking steps to improve.

(f)—It may be so in those cases where other requirements for advancing loans are not fulfilled.

(g)—As stated in (d) & (e) Government have already taken steps to issue loans within a short time as possible.

Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS (Patacharkuchi: Reserved for Scheduled Tribes) : কি কি বিশেষ কাৰণত Industrial Loan দিওঁতে পলম হয় ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : (Minister, Cottage Industries) : উত্তৰতে দিয়া আছে। ঋণ পাবৰ কাৰণে যিবিলাক আঁচনি সাধাৰণতে দিয়ে সেই বিলাক ঠিক কৰি নিদিয়ৈ আৰু পুনৰ পৰীক্ষা কৰিব লগীয়া হয়। সেই কাৰণেই পলম হয়।

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara) : জনজাতীয় লোকসকলৰ দ্বাৰাই এই আঁচনিবোৰ যুগুত কৰাবৰ দিহা চৰকাৰে কৰিব নোৱাৰেনে ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : হয়, তাৰ বাবে থ্ৰতি জিলাতে Superintendent নিয়োগ কৰি যথেষ্ট ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হৈছে।

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHUAY (Nalbari-East) : Are there not two categories of loans, one on personal security and the other on landed security ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : হয়, দুই প্ৰকাৰে ঋণ দিয়া হয়।

Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS : ভৈয়ানৰ জনজাতী সকলক এই ঋণ দিবৰ বাবে কিমান টকা ধৰা হৈছে ?

Mr. SPEAKER : সেইটো বাজেটতে পোৱা হব।

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari) : ঋণ পাওঁতে দুই তিনি বছৰ লাগে নেকি ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : কেতিয়াবাহে তেনে পলম হয়।

Shri SURENDRA NATH DAS (Patacharkuchi) : ব্যক্তিগত ভাবে পোহা এবি পলু শিল্পৰ বাবে কিবা মঞ্জুৰী দিয়া হয়নে ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : তাৰ কাৰণেও সাহায্য মঞ্জুৰী আছে আৰু দিয়া হয়।

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : দৰখাস্ত দিয়াৰ পৰা ঋণ পোৱালৈকে যিটো সময়ৰ ব্যৱধান হয় সেইটো কমাব নোৱাৰিনে ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister, Cottage Industries) : হয়, সেইটো কৰা হ'ব।

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDER (Sorbhog) : What are the reasons for delay for two to three years in some cases ?

Mr. SPEAKER : উত্তৰ দিয়া আছে।

Tube Wells in Saikhowa Area

Shrimati LILY SENGUPTA (Lohowal) asked :

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

- (a) How many tube wells were supplied and installed in the Saikhowa area after the 1950 earthquake and during the flooded periods following it ?
- (b) Whether the wells are still in existence there and being used ?
- (c) If not, what happened to the wells or the materials thereof ?
- (d) Whether Government propose to make immediate enquiries regarding these wells ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

188. (a)—Forty-nine tube wells were installed after the earthquake of 1950 and 4 tube wells were installed after the floods of 1956-57.

(b)—Twenty three tube wells are still in existence and are being used.

(c)—The other 30 tube wells installed after the earthquake of 1950 have been eroded by the subsequent floods.

(d)—Does not arise in view of the facts stated in reply to (c) above.

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal) : বানপানার আগতে বহোৱা Tube Well বিনাক বানপানীয়ে উটুৱাই নিয়াৰ কিবা প্ৰমাণ চৰকাৰে বিচাৰিছেনে ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : উটুৱাই নিয়াৰ পিচত প্ৰমাণৰ দৰকাৰ কি ? বহোৱা ঠাইত নথকাটোৱেই তাৰ প্ৰমাণ নহয় জানো ? (*Loud I aughter*).

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : May I know how the tube wells could be eroded without erosion of the villages ? (*Laughter*)

(No reply)

Mr. SPEAKER : Is the Hon'ble Minister going to reply to this question how the tube-wells could be eroded without erosion of the soil ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : The soil must have been eroded.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : May I know whether the four tube-wells installed in 1956-57 have been eroded ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : I am not in a position to reply off hand.

Shri LALIT KUMAR DOLEY (Moran : Reserved for Scheduled Tribes) : May I know whether these tube-wells were eroded at a time or at different times ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : I am afraid, Sir, I will require notice ; I cannot reply off hand.

Resettlement operation in the Town Mouza of Nowgong

Maulavi NURUL ISLAM (Dhing) asked :

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

- (a) When the recent re-settlement operation was started in the town mouza of Nowgong ?
- (b) Whether regular re-survey of the lands and attestation thereof were made ?
- (c) What time it took to complete the resettlement operation ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that recently Pattas were issued to the land owners enhancing the rate of revenue simply ?
- (e) What is the total cost incurred by Government in the said operation ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Revenue Minister) replied :

189. (a)—The resettlement operation of the town mouza of Nowgong along with some other minor towns and immatured area of the district was started in the year 1950.

(b)—Yes, wherever re-survey was found necessary.

(c)—About 7 years.

(d)—Pattas were issued to the land holders enhancing the rate of revenue as approved by Government with changes in classification of land, etc., where found necessary.

(e)—Rupees 13,85,316·4 N. P.

Maulavi NURUL ISLAM (Dhing) : May I know whether it was a perfect resettlement in the district of Nowgong ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : About one-third of the district was under resettlement and it was perfect resettlement in the area which was covered, except that where land has already been surveyed it was not re-surveyed.

Maulavi NURUL ISLAM : Whether there will be any resettlement operation for the whole district of Nowgong ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : There was a proposal but due to the heavy cost it was dropped.

Maulavi NURUL ISLAM : Whether for the resettlement operation in the Nowgong district Nowgong Town was also included ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : It was included.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari) : With regard to the reply at (c), may I know Sir, whether 5 years is not the limit for such resettlement operation ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : Yes.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : Then why it took 7 years in this case ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : There were many areas where there was no survey. Survey in these areas had to be done and that is why more time was taken.

Bilarfarihati Road

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta) asked :

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that Bilarfarihati Road (Ram Prasad Road) had been taken up by Public Works Department ?
- (b) If so, since when ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware that nothing has been done to that road since it was taken over by the Public Works Department ?
- (d) What is the cause of delay ?
- (e) Will Government focus attention to that road and starts the work early ?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that road running from Marwari Mondir Barpeta to Bhakatpara *via* Motor Stand has been taken up by Public Works Department ?
- (g) If so, whether Government propose to asphalt that portion in continuation of the asphalted road upto Marwari Mondir ?

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

190. (a)—A road named “Link road connecting Barpeta-Keotkuchi Road *via* Patbousi with Barpeta-Tarabari Road by

the Ramprasad Das Road" has been recommended by the Assam Road Communications Board to be taken up under the additional road development programme costing Rs. 40 lakhs under Petrol Tax Fund. The Programme as a whole has been sent to the Government of India for their approval without which no work can be taken up.

(b), (c), (d), & (e)—Do not arise.

(f)—No.

(g)—Only the Bazar portion of the road has been proposed to be black-topped under the scheme referred to in (a) above and this work will be taken up as and when the scheme meets with India Government's approval and funds are available for the purpose.

Payments for lands acquired for roads and building projects in Karimganj Subdivision under the Second Five Year Plan

Shri ABDUL HAMID CHOUDHURY (Karimganj-South) asked :

191. Will the Minister of Public Works Department be pleased to state whether any payment has been made to owners of land acquired by the Government for various roads and buildings projects in Karimganj Subdivision under the First Five Year Plan ?

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

191. Not yet. Works were executed after obtaining possession of lands amicably from owners with the concurrence of the local Revenue Authorities, who have already been requested to take up and expedite formal land acquisition proceedings and pay the amounts of compensations, as due, without delay. No land was acquired for any building purpose.

Representation not to settle dried beds of Punai Nadi

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked :

192. Will the Revenue Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government has received representations from the public of the Karara and Patidarang Mauzas not to settle the bed of the now dried

up Punai Nadi (or Mornai) and to keep the land as Government land in the settlement operation now going on ?

- (b) Will the Revenue Minister be pleased to instruct the Settlement Officer, Gauhati to enquire into the matter and keep the land as reserved ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

192. (a) & (b)—Yes. The matter is being enquired into by the Settlement Officer, Kamrup. No land will be settled with anybody till the final disposal of these representations.

Aid to Small Scale Industries in the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills

Shri LARSINGH KHYRIEM (Jowai: Reserved for Scheduled Tribes) asked :

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

- (a) The amount of aid to Small Scale Industries allotted by the Government of India and the State Government to the Khasi-Jaintia Hills District in 1956 and 1957 ?
- (b) How many petitions for grants were received by the Director of Industries from the people of Jowai Subdivision in the above years ?
- (c) Whether the petitions were considered ?
- (d) If the answer is in the affirmative, how many people received such grants and what was the amount received individually ?
- (e) If not, why not ?

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

193. (a)—No separate provision exclusively for the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills District has been made either by the

Government of India or by State Government. But provisions were made for all Autonomous Districts and for the State as whole as shown below—

	1955-56	1956-57
	Rs.	Rs.
Grants-in-aid to individuals for Development of Cottage and Small-Scale Industries under Development Schemes under Art. 275 (Hills Tribals).	18,700	20,000
Grants-in-aid to non-Government Industrial Schools under Art. 275 (Hills Tribals.)	10,000	14,000
Grants-in-aid to Industrial Schools for the whole State (State Fund).	50,000	50,000

(b)—The Director of Cottage Industries received five applications in 1955-56 and 50 applications in 1956-57 from Jowai Subdivision.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—In 1955-56 all the five applicants were given grants at Rs.73 each. In 1956-57, 46 applicants were given grants as mentioned below :—

Purpose	No.	Rate of amount	Total
(1)	(2)	(3) Rs.	(4) Rs.
Blacksmithy	13	50	650
Goldsmithy	1	100	100
Carpentry and Cabinet making	2	100	200
Cane and Bamboo works	12	30	360
Tailoring	9	100	900
Tailoring	6	25	150
Shoe making	1	100	100
Embroidery	1	100	100
Making of Musical Instruments	1	100	100
Total	46	..	2,660

The rest 4 applications were rejected as they were found not deserving.

(e)—Does not arise.

Promotion of Grade III trained Overseers

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) asked :

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that 250 boys who are now serving as Grade III Overseers were trained during the period of October, 1954, to July, 1955 with the understanding that their status would be raised to Grade I Overseers after the completion of 3 (three) years service ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that on October 18, 1954, the then Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department, and the Chief Engineer, Assam in a meeting held at Assam Engineering Institute, Gauhati, announced publicity, and gave repeated assurance to the trainees (Overseer Grade III Course) that they would be promoted to Grades II and I after their completion of first and third year of services respectively ?
- (c) If so, why the Grade III trained Overseers are not promoted either to Grade II or Grade I even though they have completed the required period of service ?
- (d) Whether any announcement was made in that meeting (October 18, 1954) that the 1st term of service of Overseers on contract basis whose services were requisitioned from outside Assam at a salary higher than the Grade I Overseer, would be terminated on or before 1957, and replaced by those trained Overseers ?
- (e) If so, why they have been given further extension ?
- (f) Whether there is any difference between the Overseers on contract basis and those newly trained Grade III Overseers so far work and efficiency are concerned ?

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

194. (a)—No.

Two hundred and fifty six boys trained during the period 1954 to December, 1955 and subsequently extended upto June, 1957 are serving as Overseer Grade III.

No understanding that their status would be raised to Grade I Overseer after completion of 3 (three) years services was given to them.

(b), (c)—On October 18, 1954, the day the classes were first started, the Minister, Public Works Department and the Chief Engineer spoke a few words of encouragement to the boys and also about the scope and purpose of training. They were told to study and work hard and learn their job well and that they would have scope for promotion to Grade II and Grade I after they learn their work and prove their worth and pass the necessary Departmental Examinations. This is still open and in fact 63 (sixty three) boys have appeared in the Departmental Examination held in November last. Those who pass will have chance to get promotion to Grade II as and when vacancies occur.

No announcement was made publicly and no assurance that they would be promoted to Grades II and I after completion of first and third year of their services respectively, was given to them.

(d)—No.

(e)—Does not arise.

(f)—Yes.

Overseers on contract are fully qualified and trained people for a period of 2 to 3 years in regular institutions where as Grade III Overseers have been departmentally trained on a short course for a period of one year only.

***Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West)** : With regard to the reply for (f), may I know, Sir, whether the difference is based on work and efficiency ?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH** [Minister, P. W. D. (R. & B. Wing.,)] : Yes, there is the difference. Overseers on contract are fully qualified with training for 2 to 3 years whereas Grade III Overseers have been trained for one year departmentally.

***Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East)** : Whether the duties of the Grade I and Grade II Overseers are the same ?

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

Dingdinga-Tamarhat Irrigation Scheme

Shri MATHIAS TUDU (Gossaigaon) asked :

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

(a) Whether Dingdinga-Tamarhat irrigation scheme has been completely worked out ?

(b) If not why not ?

(c) When will it be completed ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education for Minister, Flood Control, etc.) replied :

195. (a)—No.

(b)—Some essential data required for finalising the detailed design of the scheme are being collected. For designing even a small irrigation scheme hydrological data of at least two consecutive years are necessary.

(c)—It is expected that further works can be started next winter and completed in all respects by 1959-60.

Shri MATHIAS TUDU (Gossaigaon) : May I know, Sir, when the irrigation scheme was started ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education) : The answer obviously says :—Some essential data required for finalising the detailed design of the scheme are being collected. For designing even a small irrigation scheme hydrological data of at least two consecutive years are necessary. The scheme has not yet been started and it is still under investigation.

Shri MATHIAS TUDU : Is it not a fact that the scheme has started working ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : No, it is expected to start work next winter.

Professors and Lecturers of Engineering Institutes

Shrimati KOMAL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon) asked :

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

(a) Whether Government is aware that Professors and Lecturers of Engineering Institutes are not allowed to go to other Departments and their pay scales are also not raised, whereas the Engineers of Public Works Department, etc., has got every chance of promotion ?

(b) Why the pay scales, suggested by the Central Government has not been granted to attract qualified and experienced persons and made them stick to their post for the betterment of education ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education) replied :

196. (a)—No. The question of a higher pay scale for the staff of Engineering Institute is now under active consideration of State Government.

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

Shrimati KOMAL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon): Will the Minister-in-charge be pleased to state an approximate date when the result of this "active consideration" will come into light ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education): It is difficult to state approximate date because it involves Finance Department's agreeing. We are now in the process of finalising this new scheme.

Cattle loan, etc., to earthquake, Flood and Erosion-affected people of Abor Hills and Mishmi Hills Transferred Area

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked :

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

- (a) Whether any rehabilitation loan or cattle loan was granted to the earthquake, flood and erosion affected people of the Abor Hills Transferred Area in 1956 ?
- (b) If so, what were the amounts and how many families have been benefited by these loans in 1956 ?
- (c) If not, why no cattle loan or rehabilitation loan was granted to the people there in 1956 ?

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

- (a) Whether any rehabilitation or cattle loan was granted to the people of Abor Hills Transferred Area in 1955, 1954, 1953 and 1952 ?
- (b) If so, what were the amounts of rehabilitation loan and cattle loan granted in that area, year by year, since the great earthquake of 1950 ?
- (c) How many families were benefited year by year, by those loans and what were the amounts granted to each family ?

- (d) Whether those families have been able to stand on sound economic footing after receipt of these loans ?
- (e) Whether any family utilised any of these loans for other purposes than what it was granted for ?
- (f) If so, what is the number of such families ?

199. (a) Will the Minister-in-charge of Revenue be pleased to furnish the House with a list of rehabilitation and cattle loan granted in Mishmi Hills (Sadiya) Transferred Area since the years 1950-57, year by year ?

(b) What is the amount of such grants sanctioned to each family since 1950 to 1957, year by year ?

(c) What is the number of families benefited by these loans, year by year, during the above period ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

197. (a)—Only loan was granted.

(b)—Rupees.3,400 was granted to 17 families.

(c)—Does not arise.

198. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Cattle loan

Rehabilitation loan

					Rs.	Rs.
1951-52	...	...	...	...	10,000	Nil.
1953-54	...	...	...	...	5,000	Nil.
1954-55	...	...	...	...	2,000	Nil.
1955-56	..	...	...	...	10,000	13,000

(c)— (i) Number of families benefited

1951-52	...	..	...	...	100 families.
1953-54	..	...	..	...	141 families.
1954-55	...	...	...	...	40 families.
1955-56	..	..	...	..	155 families.

(ii) Amounts granted per family

Cattle loan

1951-52	..	..	Between Rs.50 to Rs.200 per family.
1953-54	...	..	Between Rs.30 to Rs.200 per family.
1954-55	..	...	Rs.50 per family.
1955-56	@ Rs.200 per family.

Rehabilitation loan

1955-56	Between Rs.10 to Rs.70 per family.
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(d)—Government have no information.

(e)—Government have no information.

(f)—Does not arise.

199. (a)—

Rehabilitation loan

						Rs.
1950-52	...	..	...	...	...	Nil.
1953	...	...	...	...	...	10,000
1954	...	...	...	...	...	2,000
1955	..	...	...	...	..	1,23,000
1956	...	...	...	..	...	12,600
1957	...	...	...	...	...	8,500

Cattle loan

1950-51	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
1952	...	...	...	...	...	19,900
1953	...	...	...	...	..	12,500
1954	...	...	...	...	..	8,000
1955	...	...	...	...	...	25,000
1956	...	...	...	...	...	8,400
1957	...	...	...	...	...	5,000

(b)—

Rehabilitation loan

1950-52	...	...	Nil.
1953	...	...	Between Rs.40 to Rs.100 per family.
1954	...	...	Rs.40 per family.
1955	...	...	Between Rs.250 and Rs.300 per family
1956	...	...	Rs.350 per family
1957	...	...	Rs.250 per family.

Cattle loan

1950-51	...	...	Nil.
1952	...	..	Rupees 100 per family.
1953	...	...	Between Rs.50 to Rs.100 per family.
1954	...	...	Between Rs.30 to Rs.100 per family.
1955	...	..	Between Rs.125 to Rs.250 per family.
1956	...	..	Rupees 200 per family.
1957	...	...	Between Rs.200 and Rs.400 per family.

(c)—Number of families benefited by Rehabilitation loan

					Families
					Nil
1950-52	...	...	...	...	110
1953	..	...	...	...	50
1954	...	...	...	...	482
1955	...	...	...	...	36
1956	...	...	...	...	34
1957	...	...	...	...

Number of families benefited by Cattle loan

1950-51	...	...	...	...	Nil
1952	...	...	...	...	199
1953	...	...	...	—	181
1954	..	..	...	...	220
1955	...	...	...	...	165
1956	...	...	...	...	42
1957	...	...	...	...	13

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that there is no arrangement for supervision of proper utilisation of these loans and grants ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : That is so, Sir.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : Regarding cattle loan granted to some family is shown as Rs.30, or Rs.50, may I know, Sir, whether Government is aware that the price of a pair of bullocks is five times more than the amount of loan and many of these families did not utilise the money as it is too small to purchase a pair of cattle ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : The matter is like this. According to the necessity of a family the amount of loan is granted. If one family requires one bullock, he gets money accordingly.

Shri LALIT KUMAR DALEY [Moran (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Whether is it not a fact that all the applicants have not got grant or loan from the Government ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : Off hand I cannot reply.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North): May I know, Sir, what is the highest amount of loan granted to an individual family uptill today ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : I cannot say. I want notice.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari) : May I know whether a bullock can be purchased at Rs.50 only ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : The loan is granted according to the necessity of a particular family.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : Whether the Minister in-charge knows that the suggestions of the Government were not taken into consideration in all cases when these grants were sanctioned ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : We issue general instructions and not suggestions.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi) : May I know what is the rate of interest charged for cattle loan ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : Six and one fourth per cent per annum, but I am not sure.

Silchar-Imphal Road

Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West) asked :

200. Will the Minister in-charge of Public Works Department be pleased to state what is the progress of the proposed Silchar-Imphal Road ?

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

200.—There is no such proposal of constructing any road, viz., Sihar-Imphal Road.

Government have however constructed a road, viz., Lakhipur-Jirighat Road (8.27 miles) which connects Silchar to the border of the Manipur State. If the hon. Member means this road, then all works on this road are almost complete.

***Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA** (Silchar-West): Sir, will the Government consider it necessary to construct this road upto Imphal ?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH**: The suggestion of the hon. Member will be placed before the Roads Communication Board.

Announcement by the Speaker regarding Governor's reply to Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami's thanks giving Motion

Mr. SPEAKER: I have a communication from the Governor as follows:—

“My dear Shri Dev Kanta Borooah,

Thank you for your letter No.5155-L. A., dated 12th March 1958, informing me that the Motion moved by Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami, Member, Legislative Assembly on my Address was unanimously adopted. I shall be grateful if you will convey to the House my deep appreciation of the keen interest evinced by the members of all sections of the House, who participated in the debate on my Address in the matters raised there in as well as of the kind terms in which the motion adopted by the House was couched. I have every reason to hope that the members of the House will work together to advance the best interest of the State and their deliberations will be constructive and in conformity with the highest democratic traditions and standards of parliamentary decorum.

Yours sincerely,

S. FAZL ALI.”

Statement made by the Chief Minister regarding the tragic bus accident which occurred on the 8th March, 1958 at Chengamara in the District of Darrang

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) :
Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the 10th March, 1958, hon. Member, Shri Mohi Kanta Das, called the attention of the House to a matter of public importance under Rule 54 of the Assam Assembly Rules, regarding the very tragic bus accident which occurred on the 8th March, 1958 at Chengamara in the District of Darrang. On that day I made a statement on the basis of the preliminary report received and assured the House to make a detailed statement later on. Now, Sir, I would like to make a detailed statement about the accident on the basis of the report so far received from the Deputy Commissioner, Darrang and the Subdivisional Officer, North Lakhimpur.

In the morning of 8th March, 1958, the public Bus No. ASK-1658 was returning with a marriage party of 33 persons, the driver and one handyman from Sootea (Darrang) to Bihpuria (North Lakhimpur). When the bus reached near Chengamara, a village about 94 miles East of Tezpur and about 5 miles West of North Lakhimpur border at about 8-30 A. M., it suddenly caught fire and the driver jumped out from the vehicle leaving the steering. As a result the vehicle capsized on the right side of the road and turned turtle with the full load of passengers. Within a very short time the whole vehicle was covered with flames. Five passengers, namely, Sarvashri (1) Joga Barua, a prominent Congress leader of North Lakhimpur, (2) Akon Bora, Public Health Inspector, Bihpuria, (3) Akhil Mazumdar, a shopkeeper, (3) Maheswar Hazarika and (5) Shrimati Aiti Barua died at the spot and another 17 persons received burnt injuries. Three dead bodies, those of Shri Joga Barua, Maheswar Hazarika and Shrimati Aiti Barua were burnt to ashes. Others injured were immediately taken to Bihpuria dispensary in a State Transport Bus and were admitted there for treatment. Shri A. K. Abraham, Overseer, National Extension Service Block, Bihpuria, Shri Sovan Chandra Shastri, Sanskrit teacher, Bihpuria High School and Shri Santi Das succumbed to burnt injuries on the same day at night at the Bihpuria dispensary. Another 2 injured, namely Shri Lakhidhar Sarma and Shrimati Subarnalata Phukan died in the same dispensary on 10th night. Thus the number of the death roll rises to 10. Twelve others received serious burn injuries, but I am glad to tell the House that they are out of danger now.

In fact one of them has already been discharged from the hospital on 11th March. The driver and the handyman apparently absconded and efforts are being made to trace them out. The remaining 11 passengers who must have been slightly injured or shaken up apparently left the place of occurrence without being noticed by anybody. We have so far received no proper information about them.

An unnatural death case was registered by Gohpur Police and investigation is proceeding. As soon as information reached Tezpur, the Senior Magistrate and the D. S. P. of Tezpur rushed to the place of occurrence to enquire about the matter. The Magistrate and the D.S.P. have since returned to Tezpur after preliminary enquiry. A judicial enquiry has already been ordered. The accident occurred at a spot where there is no human habitation near about, so it has become difficult on the part of the Magistrate to start a judicial enquiry immediately for want of proper evidence. The enquiry will have to be based largely on the evidence of the surviving passengers who travelled in that bus. As some of them are in the hospital and information about the others are not readily forthcoming, the Magistrate will take a few days to complete his enquiry. I hope the full truth will come out after the completion of the judicial enquiry.

Once again, Sir, I on behalf of our Government and myself convey our sincere condolence to the members of the bereaved families.

Presentation of Budget for the year 1958-59 and Budget Speech by the Finance Minister

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance):
(Raising to deliver Budget Speech).

Shri SAI SAI TERANG [(Mikir Hills-East: Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Mr. Speaker Sir, বাজেটৰ অসমীয়া Copy নাই নেকি ? অসমীয়া copy থকা হ'লে আমি পড়িব পাৰিলো হেতেন ।

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance) :

MR. SPEAKER, SIR,

I rise to present the Budget Estimates for the year 1958-59.

Economic Situation

As a preliminary to the Estimates I propose to give the House a brief review of the economic trends in the country during 1957-58 and the prospects in sight for the next year. The year which is about to close has been in many respects a critical year for the Indian economy. For those in charge of the Five Year Plan it has been a year of trial and tribulations. Despite all the efforts to curb inflation and to step up production, there was a definite set back in the price situation during 1957. The wholesale price index compiled by the office of the Economic Adviser to the Government of India stood at 417.8 on 15th January 1957 (with 1939 as base). In July 1957 the index rose to 443.5. Prices, particularly of foodgrains, rose continuously during the first-half of the year. The general price index which registered a drop of more than 17 points between the middle of 1953 and the middle of 1955, rose by more than 23 points by the middle of last year. The rise in foodgrain prices had its effect on the living costs of the people. Thus the cost of living index of the general working class at Gauhati (with 1944=100) rose from 123 in 1956 to 136 in November 1957. The index of cost of living of the rural population rose from 144.5 in 1956 to 151.4 in 1957. The average ruling price of rice in the headquarter towns of Assam was Rs.24.89 N.P. per maund in October 1957 against Rs.22.28 N.P. per maund in January 1957. There are indications of a downward tendency of prices towards the close of the year and the economic situation seems to have improved a little. But it is yet too early to predict.

The poignancy of the economic situation was heightened by the deterioration of the balance of payments position and the decline in foreign exchange reserves. Thanks to the policy of austerity followed in the country in the matter of imports and the promise of foreign financial assistance, the crisis has been averted.

So far as the Plan is concerned, the core of it has been saved. The lesson which the developments of 1957 have taught us is that until the lingering shortage of food and

essential commodities can be overcome, the investment programme will have to be phased with particular caution and that special efforts will have to be made to increase production, regulate consumption and promote saving. So far as this State is concerned the production of some of the important commodities during 1957 as compared with 1951, will be seen from the following table—

	1951	1957
Crude petroleum (in 000 Imperial gallons)	68,746	1,13,076
Coal (in tons)	4,56,056	5,85,444
Tea (in Million pounds)...	340.44	351.30
	1951-52	1956-57
Rice (in tons)	15,08,654	17,07,188
Jute (in bales of 400 lbs.)	7,53,545	10,48,784
Rape and mustard (in tons)	51,356	56,025
Sugarcane (tons)	65,613	66,626
Potato (tons)	1,22,133	90,960

It will be seen that the production of minerals and main industrial commodities was higher in 1957 compared with 1951. The same was the case with the production of rice, jute, oil seeds and sugarcane. But taking the country as a whole the increase in output fell short of the growth of demand initiated by the increase in population and continued rise of Government expenditure mainly on development.

Food Situation

The continued deficit in food production has upset the economy both internally and externally. I need not take the

time of the House by discussing the impact of food imports on our foreign exchange position in detail. It will be enough to say that the decline in our foreign exchange reserves which threatened to impede the progress of the Plan was accelerated by large scale import of foodgrains. Against the deteriorating food situation during the early part of the current year, the State Government had to obtain 36,000 tons of rice from the Centre. Fair price shops had to be set up all over the State for distribution of rice at subsidised rates. During the second half of the year the rice crop was affected by drought in several parts of the State which were otherwise surplus areas. The seasonal conditions for the next rice crop are yet to be known. To add to our problems, the economic situation in the border areas of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and Garo Hills has deteriorated as a result of dislocation of the border trade. As the Hon'ble Members are aware the partition of the country left these areas economically high and dry. The border trade with Pakistan was revived as a result of the Indo-Pak Trade Agreement. But the recent activities of the Pakistan authorities amounting to failure to implement their part of this agreement, have virtually sealed the markets across the border to our traders. To relieve hardship Government have been providing special transport facilities in some areas at subsidised freight rate for transport of border cash crops. Arrangements have also been made for supply of rice on Government account through fair price shops. The State Government have recently appointed an *ad-hoc* committee to examine the question of relief measures required to be undertaken for rehabilitation of the economy of the people living on the border of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills District adjoining Pakistan.

Thus the economic prospects in the country and particularly within the State, are not such as will warrant complacency on our part. It will require vigilance at all times and special measures for removing shortage in foodgrains and essential articles of consumption.

Accounts of 1956-57

In the original Budget Estimates for the year 1956-57 the receipts on revenue account were placed at Rs. 21.9 crores and expenditure at Rs. 25.5 crores, leaving a revenue deficit of Rs. 3.65 crores. The revenue deficit revealed by the

actuals is however much smaller. The year closed with a revenue deficit of Rs. 71 lakhs.

1956-57

In lakhs of rupees

			Budget	Actuals
Revenue receipts ...	...	...	2,190	2,349
Revenue expenditure ...	...	...	2,555	2,420
Surplus (+) ...	...	...	—365	—71
Deficit (—)				

It will be seen that compared with the Budget Estimates the actual receipts during 1956-57 were higher by Rs. 159 lakhs and actual expenditure was lower by Rs. 135 lakhs. The improvement in receipts was confined mainly to the heads, Agricultural Income Tax and Other Taxes and Duties. The decrease in expenditure was mainly due to reduction of the annual Plan ceiling by the Planning Commission from Rs. 13.59 crores to Rs. 10.33 crores. At the time of the preparation of the Budget Estimates for 1956-57, no firm decision had been received from the Planning Commission about the Plan outlay and provision had to be made on the basis of our phased Plan.

On the capital side the actual receipts were lower by Rs. 1,404 lakhs. Capital expenditure shows a shortfall of Rs. 1,080 lakhs compared with the estimates. The bulk of the variations on the receipt side was due to the shortfall under the head Loan from Central Government (Rs. 12.06 crores). As regards expenditure the shortfall was due to reduction of the Plan ceiling which affected the capital side of the budget also.

Financial year 1957-58

The Budget for the current year as finally approved by the House placed revenue at Rs. 24.29 crores and expenditure at Rs. 28.90 crores leaving a deficit on revenue account of Rs. 4.61 crores. According to estimates framed on the basis of actuals of the first eight months, the current year is likely to close with a deficit of Rs. 1.22 crores. The improvement is the result of an increase in revenue of Rs. 4.08 crores and an excess in expenditure of Rs. 69 lakhs. The increase in revenue

is accounted for mainly by the improved receipts under Union Excise Duties, Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax and Grants-in-aid from the Central Government. As the House is aware the second Finance Commission set up under Article 280 of the Constitution submitted its report in September 1957. The Commission's recommendations regarding the devolution of revenues were given effect to from 1st April 1957. The revised estimates show the impact of the Commission's recommendations on the State revenues. A comparative statement showing the receipts as originally estimated in the Budget and the receipts calculated on the basis of the Commission's recommendations is given below—

In lakhs of rupees

	Receipt as originally anticipated in the Budget	Receipts as estimated on the basis of the Commission's recommendations	Difference
Share of Income Tax ...	143.32	178.97	+35.65
Share of Union Excise Duties	49.6	99.5	+49.9
Grant-in-aid in lieu of jute export duty.	75	75	Nil
Grant-in-aid of revenue under substantive portion of Article 275.	100	375	+275
Share of Estate Duties ...	5.8	4.1	-1.7
Share of Additional Duties of Excise.	Nil	29.55	+29.55
Share of the Tax on Railway fares.	Nil	13	+13

The Additional Excise Duties and the Tax on Railway fares are to be shared for the first time during the current year between the Centre and the States. On their part the State Governments had to vacate the field of taxation in respect of the three commodities, mill-made textiles, sugar and tobacco. This has resulted in a loss of revenue from

Sales Tax against which the Finance Commission has recommended a minimum guaranteed annual payment of Rs. 85 lakhs to our State. Any surplus left after paying the guaranteed amount to the States will be shared according to percentages fixed by the Commission, which in the case of Assam is 2.73 per cent of the divisible pool. During the current year it is estimated that the State Government will get Rs. 29.55 lakhs as its share of the additional Excise duties over and above the guaranteed sum. For distributing the tax on Railway fares, the Commission has recommended different percentages for different States and Assam's share has been fixed at Rs. 2.71 per cent.

When the Budget proposals were made, the question of sharing the additional Excise duties and the Tax on Railway fare was not settled. There was therefore no estimate made of receipts from these two heads. As regards Income Tax, Union Excise Duties and Estate Duty, the Budget estimates were prepared on the basis of the first Finance Commission's award, as modified by the interim report of the second Finance Commission. In its final report the Commission has recommended that the percentage of the net proceeds of Income Tax to be assigned to the State should be raised from 55 to 60. As regards Union Excises the Commission has recommended that the number of duties to be shared with the States should be increased from 3 to 8 and 25 per cent of the net proceeds of these duties should be distributed among the States. Assam is to get 2.44 per cent of the net proceeds of Income Tax assigned to the States, 3.46 per cent of the divisible pool of Union Excise Duties and 2.53 per cent of the net proceeds of Estate Duty in respect of property other than immovable property. As regards immovable property other than agricultural land, the basis of distribution of the Estate Duty recommended by the Commission is the location of the property. The Commission has not made any change in the amount of the grant payable to Assam in lieu of the assignment of the Jute-Export Duty which is due to disappear after 1959-60. As regards the grant-in-aid under the substantive portion of Art. 275 the Commission has taken the view that devolution by sharing of taxes on a basis common to all the States may fall short of the total needs of certain States. In such cases the deficiency has to be made good by grants-in-aid. Accordingly, the Commission has recommended an annual grant-in-aid of Rs. 3.75 crores for Assam. In each of the last two years of the five year period covered by the Commission's recommendations, the grant-in-aid will be increased to Rs. 4.5 crores, to assist the

State to meet the shortfall in its revenue due to the disappearance, at the end of 1959-60, of the grant-in-aid under Art. 273 of the Constitution. In its estimate of Assam's needs the Commission has not included any provision for the expenditure on the Naga disturbances or on the two Battalions of Assam Rifles meant for permanent stationing in the Naga Hills. The Commission has expressed the view that Assam would not be able to meet this additional expenditure and that *ad hoc* assistance should be given to her by the Union. So far as the cost of the operation in the Naga Hills is concerned we have received a grant of Rs. 1,55 lakhs from the Centre. Further assistance on the basis of the Commission's recommendations will be asked for as soon as the accounts of the expenditure actually incurred upto the date of separation of Naga Hills, are finalised.

The Commission itself has estimated that as a result of the devolution of revenues recommended by it the States together will receive Rs. 1,40 crores a year as against Rs. 93 crores received by them under the last Commission's recommendations, in the five years ending 31st March 1957. Of the additional sum of Rs. 47 crores transferred to the States, Assam will receive about Rs. 3.8 crores.

The variations under different heads of expenditure during the year 1957-58 as shown by the revised estimates have been explained in the Budget Memorandum. Shortfalls are anticipated under Land Revenue, Police, Public Health, Cottage Industries and Community Projects. These will be partly offset by increases under General Administration, Education, Famine Relief and Miscellaneous. The last head includes appropriation made for transfer to the Contingency Fund under the recent ordinance temporarily increasing the corpus of the Fund.

Before turning to the Estimates for the next year, I shall try to give the House a brief review of the activities of the Government during the current year.

The improvement in the law and order situation after the Kohima Convention has enabled the State Administration to devote increasing attention to welfare and development activities. As the House is aware, the current year is the second year of the Second Five Year Plan. For this year the Planning Commission approved a ceiling outlay of Rs. 11.1 crores under the State Plan. In addition there are a number

of Central sector schemes taken up for implementation which will involve an outlay of about Rs.3.1 crores. The total target of Plan outlay during the current year is thus Rs.14.2 crores.

Agriculture and Community Projects

An important feature of the State Plan for 1957-58 is the increased target of food production. As part of the national policy of attaining self-sufficiency at the earliest possible date, the State Government has been asked to raise the target of additional food production by 4.5 lakh tons of which the State Government have so far agreed to accept a target of 3.78 lakh tons. To achieve this target which is rather high, the Agriculture Department and the Community Projects Department have intensified their efforts in the rural areas where the actual production is to take place. The Agriculture Department has drawn up two model programmes, one for the hill areas and the other for the plain areas covered by the Community Project and National Extension Blocks. Under these schemes individual targets have been fixed for Gram Sevaks and Agricultural Demonstrators. The Community Projects Department is engaged in enlarging the coverage of the Community Development and National Extension Blocks. Eight new N. E. S. Blocks and one multi-purpose C. D. Block have been started during the current year. The blocks in operation in the State now cover an area of 22,423 square miles and a population of 34,32,626. Concentrated efforts have been made for popularising the production and use of compost and green manure, extensive cultivation of vegetables and fruit plants, introduction of double cropping Japanese method of cultivation and use of fertilisers. Two major reclamation projects have been taken up, one at Ramkrishnanagar in Cachar and the other at Falangani in the Sibsagar District. In the Hills Districts a programme of contour bunding and terracing has been started. These soil conservation measures are making steady progress. Irrigation by construction of dams, bunds and dongs under the Minor Irrigation programme of the Agriculture Department has been carried out throughout the State. To mitigate the effects of drought power pumping sets have been supplied to different areas. In Nowgong 34 pumps worked during the last Ahu season and 64 during the Sali season and 146 during the current Boro season. More than 30 pumps were working in Goalpara in addition to some pumps in Garo Hills and Sibsagar District. In my Budget speech last year I referred to the seed multiplication programme under which one seed farm is to be established in each N. E. S. Block within the first three years

of the Plan. Of the 150 farms which will be set up under this programme 64 have been set up so far and some more farms under this programme will be taken up in 1958-59.

The expenditure likely to be incurred by the P. W. D. on minor irrigation works during 1957-58 is Rs.46.62 lakhs. About 100 miles of dykes benefiting nearly 1 lakh acres of land, are expected to be completed at a cost of Rs.1 crore. In addition, 50 miles of older embankments will be raised and strengthened. To examine the adverse effects of embankments on cultivation a Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Sree B. Bhagwati, M.P.

For improvement of scarcity areas specific schemes were launched during the First Plan period. Some of these schemes which had to be carried to the Second Plan period will be completed during the current year at a cost of Rs.16.36 lakhs.

The Government of India have provided the State Government with a loan of Rs.39 lakhs for sanctioning short-term agricultural loans to cultivators as a step towards increasing food production. The loan has been availed of and the District and Subdivisional Officers and Project Executive Officers have been instructed to assess the requirements of the cultivators of different areas in seeds, fertilisers and cash by on-the-spot enquiries. On the basis of these enquiries the deserving loanees will be selected and the loans will be issued before the close of the current financial year. Of the amount sanctioned, about 11 per cent is expected to be issued in kind as seeds, 23 per cent as fertilisers and the balance in cash. The cash will have to be utilised by the loanees for the purchase of seeds. The loan is repayable with interest within 12 months from the date of receipt, the rate of interest being 6½ per cent.

Animal Husbandry, Veterinary and Fisheries

The Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department has started a campaign of mass inoculation of cattle in the district of Darrang for eradication of rinderpest. To improve the health of cattle and the milk yield, the Department proposes to introduce controlled grazing and grow suitable grasses in some of the Professional Grazing Reserves and Village Grazing Reserves. Two Local Board Veterinary Dispensaries have been provincialised during the year and ten more Dispensaries are going to be started. Schemes for establishment of rural Animal Husbandry Centres, Key Village Centres and Poultry farms have been

taken in hand. It is proposed to give grants to private individuals in the tribal areas to encourage them to take to animal husbandry. Three Cattle-cum-Dairy farms will be started next year as part of the programme to provide each District with at least one Dairy Farm.

The Fishery Department obtained 17.94 lakhs of fish seeds from Calcutta to meet the growing demand of the local people for fish seeds. Eleven additional tanks covering a water area of 97 acres have been taken up for reclamation and development as fisheries along with a few natural fisheries.

Forests

To prevent floods and erosions the Forest Department has taken up schemes for creation of forest belts along rivers. As part of the development programme plantations of medicinal plants like Sarpagandha, Ipecac and Digitalis and other valuable plants like black-pepper, wattle, khoir and matchwood have been taken up. Satisfactory progress has been made with the scheme for setting up a Zoo and a Botanical Garden near Gauhati. For providing better amenities to tourists the wild life sanctuaries are being developed.

The Forest Department has been encouraging cultivation in their plantations. Areas suitable for Boro and wet cultivation have been thrown open for the purpose. In larger forest villages the people have been provided with schools, dispensaries and markets.

Co-operation

Substantial progress has been made during the year with the Co-operative Development programme. Seventy large size Credit Societies have been set up and the State participation in the share capital of the Apex Bank has been raised by Rs. 7 lakhs. Government have also participated in the share capital of Central Banks. By the end of the year the issue of short, medium and long-term credit to agriculturists through the co-operative system is expected to go upto Rs. 2 crores. The Hon'ble members will be interested to know that the realisation of co-operative loans has been encouraging and the percentage of overdues against overall demand on 31st December 1957 was 9.48 per cent.

Some advance has also been made in the development of co-operative marketing. The scheme for subsidising marketing societies is progressing well. Twenty primary marketing societies have been selected which will be helped with an annual subsidy of Rs.2,500 each. Government will participate in share capital of these societies by purchasing shares of the value of Rs.10,000 in each society.

Panchayats

At the end of 1956-57 there were 422 Rural Panchayats in the State. Government have since accepted the recommendation of the Congress Parliamentary Party, which was approved by the Assam Provincial Congress Committee to abolish the Rural Panchayats and to make the Primary Panchayats more active than before. In the meantime the report of the Study Team for Community Project Administration under the Chairmanship of Shri Balwantrai Mehta has reached the State Government. The report has suggested far reaching changes in the entire set up of administration involving large redistribution of funds. It is being closely studied by the State Government in all its implications and there will be some time before the matter of reorganisation of the Panchayats on the lines suggested by the Committee is taken up. However, the State Government has drafted an amendment of the Assam Rural Panchayat Act, 1948 to accommodate some of the suggestions of the Committee. It is expected that this will provide a solution to the apparent stalemate and hasten the establishment of Union Panchayats to replace the Local Boards in the State.

Health

The approximate expenditure on Second Plan Medical and Public Health schemes implemented upto 1957-58 is Rs. 74.88 lakhs. Sixty-one Primary Health Centres have been established in rural areas. The scheme for expansion of the Jorhat and Gauhati hospitals has been sanctioned. Substantial financial assistance has been given to Local Board dispensaries and to the Subsidised Ayurvedic dispensaries. The construction of the building for the Ayurvedic College at Jhalukbari is in progress. A Board of Homeopathic Medicine has been constituted for the State during the year. Two more Public Health dispensaries have been opened and steps are being taken for providing existing dispensaries with a midwife each for maternity service. A Family Planning Board has

been constituted and a Special Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare-cum-Family Planning has been appointed. A scheme for the control of Filaria has been sanctioned. It is proposed to attach T. B. wards to some of the existing hospitals in the Hills districts.

The scheme of amalgamation of the Medical and Public Health Departments has been sanctioned. Approval has also been obtained from the Gauhati University for introduction of post-graduate (M. S. and M. D.) courses in the Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh.

Schemes have been drawn up for improvement of water supply in Shillong, Gauhati and Karimganj. The Government of India have approved the water supply scheme for Shillong involving a cost of Rs. 30.55 lakhs.

Education

The question of reorganisation of primary and secondary education in the State is engaging the attention of Government. For collecting necessary data an extensive survey has been taken up by the Education Department. With effect from 1st October, 1956 time-scales of pay have been introduced in all Aided Secondary Schools and Colleges. To help the Secondary institutions meet the deficit due to improvement of pay scales grants-in-aid have been sanctioned. A sum of Rs. 14 lakhs has been distributed as grants to Secondary Primary Schools for repair and reconstruction of buildings damaged by storm. Government have also decided to take over for management by the Basic Education Board, 587 more Venture Lower Primary and 40 Middle Vernacular Schools and a non-recurring grant of Rs. 4.35 lakhs has been sanctioned for building and equipment of these schools. Government have also granted Dearness Allowance at Rs.5 per mensem to the Lower Primary School teachers with effect from 1st April 1957. Free education has been sanctioned upto Collegiate standard for all pupils belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes whose parents' or guardians' annual income does not exceed Rs.3,600. The Government have also increased the recurring grant to the Gauhati University from Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs per annum. The question of a three-year degree course is under active consideration of the University.

The State is specially deficient in technical personnel and this has greatly retarded the progress of the Plan. To improve the supply of technicians it is necessary to expand the facilities for technical training within the State. Accordingly schemes for establishment of technical institutions have been given high priority. The Civil Engineering College at Gauhati has been raised to a full-fledged Engineering College with composite courses in civil, mechanical and electrical engineering. The Diploma Institutes at Gauhati and Jorhat have also been made into composite institutes imparting training in civil, mechanical and electrical engineering. The Industrial Training Institute at Jorhat and the Vocational Training School at Sreekona have been taken over by the State Technical Education Department. Preparations are afoot for starting a second Engineering College at Jorhat and a Poly-Technic at Nowgong. A scheme for establishment of Poly-Technic at Silchar primarily for the benefit of the displaced students is also under examination.

Grants-in-aid to a few vocational training institutes are being sanctioned.

Housing

Under the Low Income Group Housing Scheme loans aggregating Rs. 16 lakhs have been granted to individuals for construction of houses. Two land development projects have been taken up for the benefit of the people of the low income groups who will be provided with land for houses at no-profit no-loss basis. Under the Subsidised Housing Scheme the Government of India have sanctioned construction of 174 tenements, 100 at Maligaon (Gauhati), 38 at Kharguli (Gauhati) and 36 at Tinsukia. The total estimated costs of the tenements is Rs. 5.74 lakhs. For rehabilitation of slum dwellers at Paltan Bazar area of Gauhati, construction of 272 tenements at Kharguli at a cost of Rs. 8.98 lakhs, has been sanctioned by the Government of India.

Rehabilitation of Displaced persons

A reclamation scheme has been taken up in Cachar with the help of the Central Tractor Organisation at an estimated cost of Rs. 32 lakhs. The reclaimed land will be settled with displaced persons. Two Central Homes for destitute women and children are under construction, one at Nowgong and the other at Silchar. Financial assistance has been granted

to one Hosiery Factory and a Soap Factory on the condition that the employment created will be offered to the displaced persons.

Welfare of Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes

The development programme taken up during the Second Plan period for the welfare of the scheduled tribes and scheduled castes is progressing satisfactorily. On the advice of the Government of India, this Government constituted two State Advisory Boards in May last. One of the Boards is for the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes and the other for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes. A separate Board for the welfare of the Plains tribals is under consideration. The Boards are expected to advise the Government on the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes, to review the progress of various welfare measures and advise Government on adjustments in development programme in the light of experience gained. The Advisory Board for the welfare of Scheduled Castes met in November last and the Board for the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes the next month. In the meantime work on the continuing welfare schemes has been proceeding apace. The Dandengiri Land Reclamation Project in the Garo Hills has been sanctioned during the year. The construction of the hospital at Jowai has been completed and the re-construction of the Lungleh hospital is nearing completion. A building has been constructed for the X-Ray plant at Haflong. A dispensary with staff quarters has been constructed at Laisong in the North Cachar Hills. Sanction has been given for the construction of a dispensary with staff quarters at Harangajao, a static dispensary at Sibbary (Garo Hills), a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at Gunjung, a travelling dispensary at Hajadisa and a Public Health dispensary at Borochemnam. The Jowai Government High School has been raised to a multi-purpose School and three new Middle English Schools have been started in the Jowai Sub-division. Work has commenced on the road from Jatinga to Lampu, on the Jatinga-Haflong-Silchar Road and the Garampani-Haflong-Silchar Road. The water supply on gravity system at Jowai Bazar and Dawki have been completed and the water supply scheme for Sutunga is expected to be completed soon. Major water supply schemes have been sponsored by the State Government for Tura, Diphu and Lungleh.

Nine overseas scholarships have been awarded to deserving Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students for

post-graduate studies abroad, of whom two scholars have joined their courses in the United Kingdom.

The scheme for subsidised supply of essential commodities such as rice, wheat products, sugar, kerosene oil, etc., is being continued in the Garo Hills and the Lungleh Subdivision of the Mizo District. In the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, the amount used for the purpose of subsidy has been diverted on the recommendation of the local M. L. A's to a modified scheme of agricultural loans and test-relief work. The special schemes for the increase of food production and development of cash crops in the border areas and rehabilitation of 580 border families of the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills, were completed early this year. Some of the important road projects taken up for linking the border areas with marketing centres, have been opened to vehicular traffic. To mitigate the hardship of the border people who have suffered from the recent dislocation of border trade, Government have sanctioned agricultural loans to the tune of Rs.4,49,200 in the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills. A sum of Rs.50,000 has also been sanctioned to the famine stricken people of the Garo Hills as gratuitous relief. Test relief works of the value of Rs.1,34,000 have been sanctioned for the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. In parts of North Cachar Hills scarcity conditions have occurred due to drought. To mitigate hardship Government have sanctioned gratuitous relief and test relief work.

Village and Small Industries

Sericulture has great possibilities in Assam. A comprehensive programme for the development and expansion of sericulture and weaving has been taken up under the Second Five Year Plan. During the year under review 19 Sericultural schemes have been taken up with financial assistance from the Central Silk Board. The Board has sanctioned a sum of Rs.4,73,581 for these schemes. Two Sericultural Officers who were trained in Japan are now engaged in popularising the Japanese method of rearing silk worm and seed production. The Sericultural Research Station at Titabar was visited during the year by Dr. Tajima the eminent silk worm geneticist of Japan. For development of hand-loom industry, the All-India Hand-loom Board has sanctioned grants to Assam. The total grants received upto the November 1957 amounted to Rs. 4.4 lakhs.

As the House is aware a Textile Institute has been set up at Gauhati. This year 71 students have been awarded stipends at the Institute for taking up courses leading to diplomas and certificates. The Cottage Industries Training Institute at Gauhati has been expanded by adding three more crafts, electroplating, electrowiring and pottery. Construction of two bamboo mills and a cane mill in the Industrial Estate at Gauhati has started. Machinery for the mills has already arrived from Japan. Sanction for an Industrial Estate at Dhekiajuli has also been received from the Government of India.

Major Industries

Messrs. Choes Limited of Nagpur has been selected for setting up an integrated fruit preservation and cold storage station with a loan of Rs. 11.34 lakhs from Government. Terms for a loan of Rs. 28 lakhs to the Assam Jute Mill Limited for establishing a Jute Mill in the State have also been finally approved. The two loans will be issued through the State Finance Corporation. The Dergaon Co-operative Sugar Mill is expected to be ready for going into production from next May. Preparations are afoot for establishing another Co-operative Sugar Mill at Nowgong. The pulp mill project at Lamsakhong for which a party has already been selected, is progressing according to schedule. Progress has not been satisfactory with the other industrial projects in hand. The project for setting up a cement mill at Umtyinger has been held up owing to difficulties in finalising the lease for coal and lime stone. Preliminaries for the establishment of the spun silk mill have been completed. But there has been some unavoidable delay in placing orders for machinery due to exchange difficulties.

At the request of the State Government, a Japanese firm has studied the industrial potentialities of natural gas of the Naharkatiya oil field. A preliminary outline of the project report has been received which shows that the natural gas can be used for manufacturing fertiliser, cement, carbon black, synthetic rubber and thermal power. When the complete project report becomes available it is proposed to submit a scheme for establishment of these industries for consideration of Government of India.

As the House is aware the Government of India have decided finally to locate the first refinery for processing

Naharkatiya crude oil within Assam. The reported earlier decision to locate the Oil Refinery outside Assam came as a shock to the Government and people of the State, who were not convinced of the technical and economic reasons advanced in support of the decision. The House passed a resolution demanding the location of the refinery in Assam. On behalf of the State Government a note was prepared explaining the economics of the refinery and pointing out, with facts and figures, how a refinery located within Assam would not only pay, but also earn a comparatively higher profit on the investment. It has been a matter of great satisfaction to us all that the Government of India have ultimately conceded to our demand. Several sites in Assam have been examined in this connection and the final selection will be made soon. The decision has removed one of the standing obstacles to industrialisation in this undeveloped region. With the establishment of the new refinery development nuclei will be created which will make possible full utilization of the industrial raw materials available in the State. Of equal significance is the decision to create a separate railway zone for Assam and to construct a bridge over the Brahmaputra. With these improvements in transport it will be possible for the State to function as a living limb of the Indian economy and to contribute its share to the development of a prosperous India.

The House will be interested to know that as a result of persistent efforts of this Government, the Geological Survey of India has started prospecting of the Garo Hills area for coal and lime stone. Some amount of drilling was done during the later part of the last working season and during the current working season also the work is progressing in full swing. Prospecting is expected to be over before the next rainy season. The completion of this survey will enhance the possibilities of establishing cement and other industries in the Garo Hills.

For industrial research a Regional Research Laboratory will be set up in Assam by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. The State Government have offered to provide land, communication, water supply and power facilities.

Power Development and River Valley Schemes

The Umtru Hydro-Electric Project was inaugurated on 9th July 1957. Almost simultaneously with it the State Government acquired the Gauhati Electric Supply undertaking after

revoking the existing licence. Fifteen new departmental power stations have been opened in addition to three private undertakings taken over from licensees. Work is in progress on four new power stations. The Tariff Committee which was set up to go into the question of rates for State electricity supply submitted its report and the new tariff rates have been brought into force from December 1957.

The detailed investigation of the Kopilli Valley project is expected to be completed in 1959. Further investigations on the Barak had to be dropped for want of a geologically suitable dam site. Preliminary investigations have been taken up in respect of Subansiri and the tributaries of Dihing. A scheme for collecting data for hydro-electric projects for Tura, Haflong, Bokakhat and Dimapur is under preparation.

Road Transport

The programme of nationalization of motor transport has been slowed down due to Planning Commission's refusal to allot funds within the Plan, as the State Government have not been able to agree to form a Corporation for running the motor transport with participation of Railways. During the current year only the Silchar-Badarpur-Karimganj road has been taken over for operation by nationalised motor transport. The State Transport organisation has now 2,300 employees on its rolls. Of them 1,107 with service of five years or more have been made permanent with usual pensionary benefits.

Communications

Improvement and surfacing of 126·87 miles of roads under the State Roads of Economic Importance programme is progressing well. The work which was taken up in 1954-55 is expected to be completed next year. Under the same programme a bridge will be constructed over Jia Bhorali at a cost of Rs.89,57,000. The survey and collection of data for the construction of the bridge will be completed during the current year. A road development programme costing Rs.70·58 lakhs has been taken up with funds allocated out of the Central Road Fund. The programme envisages the construction and improvement of 77 miles of roads in the Hills and 104 miles of roads in the plains. The State Five Year Plan provides a sum of Rs.180·27 lakhs for construction of 500 miles of new roads. Most of these road projects are already in hand. Twelve major bridges have been included in the Second

Plan for construction at a cost of Rs.38.32 lakhs. All the first priority roads taken up in the Autonomous Districts during the First Plan period, will be completed by the end of 1958-59. The road schemes taken up in the plains tribal areas are also progressing according to schedule.

The Public Works Department has been experiencing difficulty due to dearth of engineers. To attract qualified technical personnel from outside it has been decided to offer permanent appointments to them in regular cadres. So far as unskilled labour is concerned, the Public Works Department has so far depended almost exclusively on workers coming from outside this State. No people can prosper if they are averse to labour. It has become necessary to devise ways and means of inducing local labourers to take up work under Public Works Department. This is also desirable from the point of view of full employment of our agriculturists who remain without gainful employment for a good part of the year and thus cannot earn a sufficient income from land.

Supply

An allocation of 16,000 tons of rice has been received from the Centre for the first six months of 1958. Steps have also been taken to start procurement of rice and paddy on Government account and a programme has been taken in hand for procurement of 10 lakh maunds of paddy for building up a buffer stock. Government of India have been approached for a loan of Rs.1 crore for this purpose.

Continued efforts of the Government have resulted in the increase of the allotment of cement and iron and steel materials which were in short supply in the State. Government did away with the handling agency system in respect of these goods in the last part of 1957. Direct procurement of cement on Government account came into force from October, 1957. The same system in respect of iron and steel was introduced from November, 1957. As a result of the new scheme the selling price of cement has been reduced and the supply position has considerably improved. As regards iron and steel the profit margin of the registered dealers has been increased without any increase in the retail price and better arrangements have been made for ensuring regular movement of periodical quotas of these materials. To facilitate quick movement of allotted quantities, the staff in the Trade Adviser's office in Calcutta has been strengthened.

Statistics

In order to meet the increasing needs of economic and statistical data in the context of planning, the Department of Economics and Statistics has been thoroughly re-organised and expanded at the headquarters as well at district level. Also, with a view to reducing the lag between collection of data and processing and publication of the final reports, the Department has been provided with a Hollerith mechanical tabulation unit capable of carrying out speedy tabulations under the punched card system.

Financial Control and Procedure

As a result of the expansion of existing departments and creation of new ones along with the progress of development activities, it has become necessary to rationalise financial procedure and to expedite the issue of financial sanction. At the same time it has been felt that the present system of expenditure control requires improvement. One of the subjects which is engaging special attention in this connection is the improvement of Government accounts. At present the position of accounts is far from satisfactory. There is considerable delay in the booking of expenditure and submission of accounts at all stages. Even the treasuries have started falling into arrears. As a result both budgeting and control of expenditure have suffered in quality. One of the reasons for this unsatisfactory state of accounts is the dearth of trained personnel. To remove this, the Finance Department started a Central Training Institute at Shillong in 1956. So far three batches of Graduate and Intermediate probationers have been trained in accounts. They have been posted as Accountants in the Public Works Divisions and as Auditors under the Examiner of Local Accounts. Future batches of probationers who will be trained will be posted to Heads of Departments and other offices to take charge of the accounts. To advise the Heads of Departments in the observance of financial rules and procedure and to aid them in the preparation of departmental budgets, it will be necessary to appoint trained Accounts Officers in the Heads of Departments. As part of the same programme it will also be necessary to improve the compilation of accounts in the treasuries. The present Treasury Officers are part-time Officers and have also magisterial duties to perform. As a result the treasury accounts are not receiving the attention they deserve and there are arrears to be cleared. In two of the heavy treasuries full time Treasury Officers have been posted and it has been decided

to appoint whole time Treasury Officers in other treasuries also. With this object in view a training programme for Treasury Officers has been drawn up and the Public Service Commission has recently selected candidates for training under this scheme. There is also a proposal to depute a team of officers from the Finance Department to study improvements introduced in other States in regard to financial scrutiny and sanction. When these proposals are fully implemented it will be possible to improve the control of expenditure and the standard of budgeting to a measurable extent. In the meantime, a decision has been taken to attach Finance Officers as Financial Advisers to Administrative Departments with sizeable budgets. Three such Officers have already been appointed in the departments of Agriculture, Education and Public Works and the officers have been given larger financial delegations in connection with the Five Year Plan schemes to enable them to dispose of proposals at their level. As soon as more trained officers with requisite experience become available the number of Financial Advisers will be increased.

Land Reforms

It is necessary to make a reference to the reforms which Government are committed to undertake in the matter of land settlement. The steps already taken up by Government are known to the Hon'ble Members of the House. The problem is of such importance and magnitude that considerable time and attention will have to be devoted to suggest a long term solution. In course of general debate on the Budget the Hon'ble Members will no doubt offer valuable suggestions on this important subject and the House may rest assured that Government will give due weight to their suggestions and will come up with specific proposals before the House.

Budget Estimates, 1958-59

I shall now turn to the budget estimates for the next year. For the year 1958-59, the receipts on Revenue Account have been estimated at Rs.29,27 lakhs against the revised estimate of Rs.28,37 lakhs for the current year and expenditure on Revenue Account at Rs. 28,39 lakhs against the revised estimate of Rs. 29,58 lakhs. No new taxation has been proposed and the estimate of receipts have been framed on the basis of current rates of taxation.

An increase of Rs. 76 lakhs is estimated under Union Excise Duties compared with the revised estimate for the current year. This head comprises two sub-heads: the ordinary share of the Union Excise Duties and the payment out of the net proceeds of the Additional Excise Duties in replacement of sales tax on mill-made textiles, sugar and tobacco. During the coming year improvement is expected under both these sub-heads. As the House may be aware the Additional Excise Duties came into force from the middle of last December. In the revised estimates credit has been taken for payment due for the period between the 15th of December, 1957 and 31st March, 1958. As against that the Additional Duties will be collected during the whole of the next financial year and the payment to the State will also be for the whole of that year. This is the reason for the increased receipts under Union Excise Duties. An increase of Rs. 11 lakhs compared with the revised, is anticipated under Taxes on Railway Fares. This tax was also introduced during the second half of the current financial year. The estimate for next year is based on one full year's revenue from the tax.

As against the above improvements, the estimates anticipate decreases under Taxes On Income Other Than Corporation Tax (Rs. 46 lakhs) and Other Taxes and Duties (Rs. 40 lakhs). The receipts under the first head include State's share of Central Income Tax and revenue from the Tax on Agricultural Income. During the last few years the receipts from Agricultural Income Tax improved as a result of arrear collections, particularly the arrears on account of incomes earned by the tea gardens during the boom year of 1954 the assessment of which had to be deferred owing to non-completion of assessment by the Central Income Tax authorities. All these pending assessments will be completed during the current year and there will thus be a decrease in receipts under Agricultural Income Tax next year. The anticipated fall of Rs. 40 lakhs under Other Taxes and Duties is due mainly to the exemption of mill made textiles, sugar and tobacco from sales tax. Among the heads of receipt under which major variations are anticipated the most important is XLVI—Miscellaneous. The improvement under this head is the result of the refund of Rs. 50 lakhs appropriated during the current year for increasing the corpus of the Contingency Fund.

There is an increase of Rs. 42 lakhs under Grants-in-aid from the Central Government. The details of these grants are given in the Budget Memorandum.

As I have stated earlier, the Revenue Expenditure during 1958-59 is estimated at Rs. 28,39 lakhs. This amount includes a provision of Rs. 10,70 lakhs for the State Annual Plan, and Rs. 264 lakhs for centrally sponsored development schemes. In addition there are new schemes outside the Plan involving an outlay of Rs. 59 lakhs. The list of new schemes included in the Budget will be found in Appendix A of the Budget Memorandum. Before the list was finalised the representatives of District Councils were invited to Shillong for consultation about the schemes relating to the Autonomous Hills Districts. The list as finally approved by the Cabinet includes items recommended by the representatives.

The annual Plan proposals of the Government were submitted to the Planning Commission in last December. Discussions were held in January in New Delhi between the representatives of the Planning Commission and Central Ministries and the State representatives for finalising the annual Plan for 1958-59. The State representatives were led by the Ministers-in-charge of Finance and Planning. As a result of the discussions the Planning Commission agreed to a ceiling outlay of Rs. 10.7 crores under the State Plan for 1958-59. This sum does not include the Central share of expenditure under the centrally sponsored schemes which is expected to be of the order of Rs. 2.64 crores. Broadly speaking the allocations made under Agriculture, Irrigation, Forests, Soil Conservation, Fisheries, Power, Roads, Education, Health and Welfare of Backward classes are sufficient for the year. But more allocations are required for Village and Small Industries, Housing and Ferries. It is hoped that these heads will receive further consideration from the Planning Commission during the course of the year.

Most of the Plan schemes for which provision has been made in the Budget are continuing schemes. Among the Plan schemes proposed to be taken up for the first time during the next year, mention may be made of the schemes for local manurial resources, agronomic and manurial trial, the integrated schemes for marketing intelligence, the group level workers refresher training and youth activities scheme, grants for treatment of T. B. and Cancer patients, establishment of T. B. clinics, training of health personnel under Community Development Programme, grants for urban water supply, establishment of an Engineering College at Jorhat and Poly-Technic at Nowgong, the revision of District Gazetteers, handloom development, training-cum-production centre scheme, State

participation in the share capital of the Jute Baling Mill and the State Warehousing Corporation, training of Veterinary Field Assistants, establishment of Veterinary dispensaries, establishment of Jorhat Dairy Farm and scheme for cattle sterility.

The Budget provides for a total Capital Expenditure of Rs. 1,279 lakhs during 1958-59. Of this amount Rs. 308 lakhs represent provision for repayment of loans taken by the State Government, Rs. 329 lakhs provision for new loans and advances by the State Government and the balance of Rs. 642 lakhs Capital Expenditure on schemes taken under the Plan and outside. A provision of Rs. 171 lakhs has been made for Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works and Rs. 344 lakhs for Civil Works. Other items of Capital Expenditure for which provision has been made are Industrial Development, Electricity Schemes and Road Transport. A sum of Rs. 88 lakhs has been provided for repayment of Union loans. The total debt of the State Government to the Centre outstanding on 1st January, 1958 was Rs. 25.5 crores. The loans received were granted for variety of purposes and the terms of repayment and interest also vary with individual loans. The second Finance Commission was asked to recommend modifications, if any, in the rates of interest and terms of repayment of the loans made to the various States by the Government of India between 15th August, 1947 and 31st March, 1956. The Commission after considering the proposals of State Governments recommended consolidation and rationalisation of the terms of the loans. The loans given for rehabilitation of displaced persons and interest free loans were treated as a separate category. Regarding rehabilitation loans the Commission accepted our suggestion that our sole obligation should be to pay to the Union whatever we are able to collect by way of interest and principal on account of these loans. As regards the other interest bearing loans the Commission suggested their consolidation in such a way that there would be only two interest rates, $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent and 3 per cent, and two maturities, 15 years and 30 years. The Government of India have accepted the recommendations of the Commission so far as the Rehabilitation loans and interest free loans are concerned. In regard to the scheme of consolidation suggested by the Commission the Government of India have decided to leave the matter for discussion with individual State Governments.

Of the total Capital Expenditure of Rs. 642 lakhs on schemes, the expenditure proposed under the Plan is

Rs. 534 lakhs including Central sector schemes. For financing the Plan schemes it is expected that Central loans will be available according to the existing pattern of assistance. On this assumption a sum of Rs. 282 lakhs has been estimated as Central loan assistance under the Five Year Plan schemes. This will leave a gap of Rs. 252 lakhs to be financed from other sources. For this expenditure and for financing the Capital Expenditure outside the Plan the State will have to depend upon public borrowings. As the House is aware the budget for the current year included a provision for a market loan of Rs. 200 lakhs. On the advice of the Reserve Bank of India the idea of floating an open market loan had to be given up during the current year. It is not proposed to enter the market during next year also. Accordingly reliance will have to be placed on collections of Small Savings for financing the Capital Expenditure. In the budget the receipts from the State's share of Small Savings collections have been estimated at Rs. 150 lakhs. It will be necessary for us to make special efforts to intensify the Small Savings campaign so that the savings in the rural sector may be tapped for covering the deficit in the capital budget. As the House may be aware a State Advisory Board has been set up for organizing the Small Savings campaign. There is also a State Advisory Board under Women's Savings campaign. Both these organizations have been working in the State for making the Small Savings campaign a success.

Ways and Means

The year 1956-57 closed with a balance of Rs. 222 lakhs. During the current year there is an anticipated deficit on Revenue Account of Rs. 122 lakhs. Outside the Revenue Account a surplus of Rs. 170 lakhs is expected. The year is therefore likely to close with an overall surplus of Rs. 48 lakhs. This will increase the balance from Rs. 222 lakhs as at the end of the previous year to Rs. 271 lakhs at the close of the current year. The next year is therefore expected to begin with an opening balance of Rs. 272 lakhs. The Budget estimates for next year reveal an overall deficit of Rs. 96 lakhs (as shown in the Appendix). There will be a Revenue surplus of Rs. 87 lakhs which will be more than offset by the deficit outside the Revenue Account, amounting to Rs. 184 lakhs.

As I have stated earlier, the receipts on Capital Account will fall short of the Capital Expenditure proposed for next

year. If by any chance we succeed in getting a larger loan from the Centre or in improving the collections under Small Savings which will improve our share also, the overall gap between Revenue and Expenditure will be narrowed. Otherwise we shall have to draw in full from our cash balance and the year will thus end with a reduced balance of Rs. 174 lakhs.

In this connection I may mention for the information of the House that our cash balances are not free balances for use in meeting ordinary budget deficits inasmuch as a part of the balance represents accumulations in different funds earmarked for specific purposes. Every year sizeable amounts are transferred to the Zamindari Abolition Fund, the Famine Relief Fund, the State Transport Depreciation and Reserve Fund and the State Transport Insurance Fund, which are not invested outside the Consolidated Fund and therefore lie as part of our cash balances. The purpose of setting up these funds will be defeated if we do not carry equivalent amount in cash or in Government of India securities which will enable us to meet withdrawals from the Funds as and when contingencies arise. It is therefore necessary to be very cautious in using the cash balances for meeting ordinary deficits in the Budget.

I have tried to give the House a clear picture of the economic situation as it obtains in the State today, the activities of the administration in different spheres, the progress of expenditure during the current year and our anticipations about the remaining part of the year. The Budget estimates which I have placed before the House are based upon these developments and upon our expectations for the future. Financially we have reached a stage in our development where consolidation of the gain is of utmost importance. We have extended our tax structure considerably of late. We have also pushed our development and welfare expenditure to the limits of our available resources. Further advance will call for additional resources which can come only from the additional income of the people.

The Budget proposals could not be finalised earlier as the Planning Commission's approval to our annual Plan proposals were received late. As the House may be aware the preparation of the Budget estimates along with the Budget literature which includes preparation of separate budgets for autonomous Hills Districts, takes a lot of time and delay in receipt of

Planning Commission's approval this year has delayed the preparation of all these Budget papers.

It has therefore become necessary for me to submit proposals for a vote on account for one month, so that expenditure may be incurred from the beginning of the financial year pending the final approval of the budget by the Assembly.

The budgets of the Autonomous Hills Districts were sent to the District Councils for their comments. The comments have since been received from all the District Councils and will be supplied to the Hon'ble Members. In the meantime discussions were held with the representatives of the Mizo District Council at Shillong. Similar discussions are proposed to be held with the representatives of the other District Councils. After Government have studied the comments and discussed them with the representatives of the District Councils specific proposal will be made. Finance Department will make provision of funds, if necessary by supplementary demand in due course.

With these remarks, Sir, I commend to this House, the Budget proposals for 1958-59.

JAI HIND.

Presentation of Vote on Accounts Budget for 1958-59

Sri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Finance Minister):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the vote on account for expenditure in 1958-59.

The Assam Finance Bill, 1958

Mr. Speaker: Before I call upon the Hon'ble Finance Minister to move it let me read out the message of the Governor of Assam.—

“Raj Bhavan, Shillong,

The 23rd Feb. 1958.

I recommend under Article 207(1) of the Constitution of India that the Assam Finance Bill, 1958 be introduced and moved in the Assam Legislative Assembly.

S. FAZL ALI,

Governor of Assam.”

Sri DEBESWAR SARMAH: Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Assam Finance Bill, 1958.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Assam Finance Bill, 1958 is introduced.

I may request the hon. Members to collect the Budget Memorandum and the connected papers from the lobby, before they depart to-day.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Saturday, the 15th March, 1958.

Shillong:

The 29th January, 1959.

R. N. BARUA,

Secretary,
Legislative Assembly, Assam.

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APPENDIX

Assam's Budget, 1958-59

(In thousands of rupees)

			Actuals 1956-57	Budget 1957-58	Revised 1957-58	Budget 1958-59
Receipts—						
Opening Balance	..	..	5,35,45	1,77,25	2,22,35	2,70,82
Revenue Receipts	..	..	23,49,08	24,28,82	28,36,86	29,26,58
Receipts from Debt raised in India			6,23,85	19,75,84	17,86,86	8,52,25
Recoveries of Loans and Advances by the State Government.			51,27	34,13	65,39	68,07
Receipts from Contingency Fund and Public Account.			1,36,83,38	36,75,20	36,23,44	36,12,88
Total	..		1,72,43,03	82,91,24	85,34,90	77,30,60
Expenditure—						
Revenue Expenditure	..	..	24,20,37	28,89,75	29,58,75	28,39,18
Capital Expenditure	..	...	6,95,10	10,56,69	9,31,73	6,41,94
Expenditure on Re-payment of Debt raised in India.			32,39	2,44,65	6,69,67	3,08,37
Loans and Advances by the State Government.			2,47,75	4,91,50	3,25,71	3,29,11
Expenditure on Contingency Fund and Public Account.			1,36,25,07	35,82,07	33,78,22	34,37,76
Closing Balance	...	..	2,22,35	26,58	2,70,82	1,74,24
Total	..		1,72,43,03	82,91,24	85,34,90	77,30,60
Net Results—						
Surplus (+)						
Deficit (—)						
(a) On Revenue Account	..		(—)71·29	(—)4·60·93	(—)1·21·89	(+)87·40
(b) Outside Revenue Account	..		(—)2·41·81	(+)3·10·26	(+)1·70·36	(—)1·83·98
(c) Net excluding opening balance			(—)3·13·10	(—)1·50·67	(+)48·47	(—)16·58

A.G.P. (L. A.) No.2/59—225—4.2.1959.

