



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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 A.M., on Saturday, the 1st March, 1958.

PRESENT

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given.)

Gravels and Boulders in North Trunk Road from Karara-Chari Ali to Howli.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) asked :

*6. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings) be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government is aware that thousands of tons of gravels and boulders are kept heaped on either side of the North Trunk Road from Karara-Chari Ali to Howli causing tremendous disadvantages for buses and lorries ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the Kamrup Motor Workers' Union (a Registered Union) has passed resolution requesting the Department concerned to remove the heaps of boulders from the said North Trunk Road ?
- (c) If so, what steps Government has decided to take?
- (d) Whether Government is aware that repeated motor accidents have taken place for keeping up these heaps of gravels and boulders there ?
- (e) If so, why Government is not taking sufficient steps and measures to remove the gravels and boulders ?

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

6. (a)—Gravels and boulders have been collected for improving (metalling and black-topping) certain miles of North Trunk Road. These have been stacked on both side of road where un-avoidable.

(b)—No such resolution appears to have been received.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—No such information has been received but Government are collecting.

(e)—Does not arise.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Is it not possible to stack these gravels and boulders on one side of the road only?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : Sir, the quantity of boulders and gravels is such that if all are put at one side of the road then quite a good slice of the road would be absorbed and there would be inconvenience to traffic.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Anyway, will the Government at least see that about 15 to 16 feet of the road is kept open as otherwise accidents are likely to happen?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : The suggestion of the hon. Member will be examined.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West): For how long have these gravels and boulders been there?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : I cannot say exactly, Sir, but I think it is about a year that collection of these gravels and boulders was started.

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS [Rangiya (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: May we know, Sir, when Government expect to complete this road?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Public Works Department): Sir, the North Trunk Road is contemplated to be surfaced and black topped after gravelling but since it requires soling, gravelling and settling down and then surfacing and black topping, it takes time.

Shri NILMONEY BARTHAHAKUR (Dibrugarh): When are these gravels and boulders expected to be utilised for the purpose of surfacing the road?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : Efforts have been made to complete the work as quickly as possible but there are two snags in the way—(1) we have not got enough rollers, tools and implements and we have been trying to purchase rollers from Calcutta and Bombay, but unfortunately foreign exchange is not available and therefore import of diesel rollers are not available; (2) another insurmountable difficulty in the way of quick execution of the work is lack of funds also. The Central Government have not been able to place the sanctioned allotted money this year.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari): When do Government propose to start the work?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : I have already replied to that, Sir.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR : Why did the Government stack these gravels and boulders on the road long before starting the work?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : Sir, in our part of the country difficulties are manifold. If stones and gravels, etc., are not collected well in time while we have tools and implements the work cannot be completed, so in the normal collection of gravels and boulders always precedes actual operation of construction work.

Mr. SPEAKER: What about the time lag?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : The time lag is there, Sir, because, as I have said for want of rollers and also funds, we could not complete the work well in time.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara): Is it a fact that the money sanctioned for this road had been transferred somewhere?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance): I have no information, Sir. My information is that due to many reasons the Central Government have not been able to place the money which was allotted to us. This project falls under the 2nd Five-Year Plan and for the information of the House I may be permitted to say that about 7 crores of rupees was allotted out of which we are to get 1/5th for the 2nd Plan but unfortunately we are not getting more than 86 lakhs, that also not for any fault of the Central Government but because we are hard up both Central and State.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : Whether is it not possible to stack the gravels on the slopes?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : It will be very difficult, Sir, to stack them in slopes, they may disappear also.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : Whether is it not possible to stack these gravels and boulders on the neighbouring roadside lands?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : It is difficult Sir, because most of these roadside lands were purchased by private parties some 25 or 30 years ago and so have become private lands. If we stack gravels and boulders in those lands there will be lots of complications.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: Whether it is not possible instead of scattering the gravels and boulders in separate areas, the height of the stack can be raised?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: No, Sir, that will not be practicable nor possible.

Shri RADHIKARAM DAS (Palashbari): When can we expect this road to be completed?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : We are trying our best to start and complete the work as early as possible as this is a very important road and we are giving high priority to it.

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding): Do Government mean to give priority to this road at the cost of other roads ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Public Works Department): No, Sir.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) : অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, শ্রীযুত বাধিকা বাম দাসৰ প্ৰশ্নৰ উত্তৰত মাননীয় মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে কৈছে যে সময় মতে 'থ্ৰেভেল' 'কলেকচন' কৰিব নোৱাৰাৰ কাৰণে এই বিলাক জমা কৰি ৰখা হৈছে। মোৰ প্ৰশ্ন হৈছে—যে estimated rates অতকৈ 'কণ্ট্ৰেক্টাৰ' সকলক 40% (forty percent) below বেটত দিয়াৰ কাৰণেই নেকি সময় মতে 'কলেকচন' কৰিব নোৱাৰি ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : মাননীয় সদস্যই কথাটো অলপ বিপাকে গুনিলে। মই এইটো কোৱা নাই যে সময়মতে 'কলেকচন' কৰিব নোৱাৰি। মই কৈছিলোঁ, Operation ৰ আগতে এইবিলাক জমা কৰি নললে বৰষুণ আহিলে হাতত জাপি বিচাৰি নোপোৱাৰ নিচিনা কথা হব।

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Whether these gravels were imported from outside Assam?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : Not to my knowledge.

Trainees in Calcutta Blind School

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari West) asked :

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

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Government of Assam sent two trainees for training to the Calcutta Blind School with a stipend of Rs.60 per month in the year 1955-56, with the given understanding that they are to serve for a period of three years in the proposed Blind School somewhere at Gauhati ?

(b) If so, whether Government has definite proposal to start a Blind School at Gauhati which is most essential ?

(c) If the reply to (b) above be in the affirmative, when it will be opened?

(d) If the reply to (b) above be in the negative, why the two trainees were sent to training spending such a huge amount of public money?

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

7. (a)—Yes.

(b) Although Government had a definite proposal to start a Blind School, the same has been now dropped.

(c)—The Blind School may be started in the Third Five-Year Plan.

(d)—The trainees are now usefully employed in Sreemanta Sankar Mission and Government have given necessary grants-in-aid.

One of the trainees however has not yet joined.

Shri RADHIKARAM DAS (Palashbari) : Is it a fact that some private party wanted to advance about sixty thousand rupees for a blind school at Gauhati ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : I have no information.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table.)

Boat accident on the Zia-Bhorolli River on 7th October 1957

Shri KAMALA PRASAD AGARWALA (Tezpur) asked :

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

(a) The causes of accident that took place on 7th October 1957 at Silonipamghat on the Zia-Bhoroli river ?

- (b) How many passengers were on board the mar-boat at the time of the disaster ?
- (c) Whether there was any motor car on the boat ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that the Ghat was put in between two spurs ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that there was unprecedented high current and water level was highest on the day of the accident ?
- (f) Whether the lessee carried more passengers and other loads over the authorised load ?
- (g) Whether it is a fact that the motor engine of the boat suddenly stopped in the mid-stream on the day of the accident ?
- (h) Whether engine which was in service then was installed in 1954 ?
- (i) Whether it is a fact that stoppage of engines in mid-stream is a common occurrence every day ?
- (j) Whether it is a fact that there was no "Logis" and sufficient oarsmen to ply the boat in case of engine break-down ?
- (k) How many persons were accounted for as dead or missing ?
- (l) Whether it is a fact that no efforts were made to rescue the drowned persons ?
- (m) Whether there were any life-saving devices provided on the boat ?
- (n) How many corpses were found and identified up-to-date ?
- (o) Whether any enquiry was held by the Government into the causes of the accident ?
- (p) If so, what are the findings ?

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

24. (a)—(i) Bordekarai which meets Jiabhorali upstream of the place of accident was in high floods and the current became furious and there were high waves on the river near the place where the accident took place.

(ii) Due to splashing of waters on account of high waves water entered into the ignition system and the engine stopped which even though once started with great efforts stopped again and could not be restarted. The boat was caught in the eddies at the nose of spur No.1 and dashed against spur No.2 down stream which could not be prevented with all possible efforts.

(b)—No such records are generally maintained but from enquiry, it is learnt that the number of passengers were between 60 to 70 approximately.

(c)—Yes there was a motor car in the boat.

(d)—No.

(e)—No.

(f)—No.

(g)—In this connection please refer to the reply to question (a) above.

(h)—Yes. The engine was purchased in March, 1954 last and overhauled in August, 1956. The engine was again checked up and necessary repairs completed on 27th September 1957 by changing the Gear Box, self starter, distributor and propeller unit and was running from 28th September 1957 till the date of accident without any trouble.

(i)—No.

(j)—There were logs and 4 boatmen in the mar-boat.

(k)—Twenty-five persons have been accounted for as dead or missing as per report of the Judicial Enquiry which was held in this connection.

(l)—A mar-boat was immediately rushed to the spot to rescue the passengers with all efforts.

(m)—No.

(n)—As per Deputy Commissioner, Darrang's report, so far received, 7 (seven) corpses were found, out of which one could not be identified as the body was found in a decomposed state.

(o)—Yes.

(p)—A copy of the report on the Judicial Enquiry is placed on the Library Table*.

Shri KAMALA PRASAD AGARWALLA (Tezpur): May I know the source from which these informations were collected?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Public Works Department): Primarily from the judicial inquiry report and also from inquiries made by the Department, the Deputy Commissioner and other responsible officers.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Has any compensation been paid to the families of the victims of that boat disaster?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : No compensation has been paid to the families of those persons who were either dead or who underwent injuries, but the matter is under correspondence between the Government and the local officials and we hope to be able to complete this decision within, say, another six weeks or so and it is hoped that Government will be able to place a statement on the table of this House before the end of the session.

Shri MOHIKANTA DAS (Barchalla): With regard to (g), may I know if the engine of the boat which was used at the time of the disaster is still being used?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : Unfortunately I have not got that information.

Shri MOHIKANTA DAS : Do Government propose to replace that engine?

*See Appendix I.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Public Works Department): Surely, steps are taken that the defects which were found at the time of the accident are being remedied.

Mr. SPEAKER: Do Government propose to change the engine which was considered to be faulty?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: The theory of the fault of the engine is like this. One view of the matter is that the engine failed due to certain internal troubles or defects in the engine itself, but the evidence in the judicial inquiry discloses that when there were winds and strong currents water splashed and got into certain parts of the engine and this caused the stoppage of the engine and the judicial inquiry found that this was a land vehicle engine and not a marine engine. Moreover, there was no proper and adequate safeguard to prevent splashed water from getting inside the engine which naturally caused the stoppage of it. So, these are the defects which were alleged to have caused the stoppage of the engine at that time and these defects are now sought to be remedied. If my Friend means whether that particular engine has been changed or not, I have no information. But I presume a defective engine must have been changed after this tragedy.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara): What was the authorised capacity for load of the boat ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : The records do not disclose the weightage which is to be carried by the boat, but outside the boat there is a white mark. If the load is heavier the white mark on the boat may be submerged in the water.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : How then Government can say 'No' in reply to (f)?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : Outside the body of the boat a white water line is given and if the load is heavier, then the water mark would be submerged in the water. At that time when the mar-boats started the evidence was that the white mark was above the water level, but another version was that the boat had a load heavier than what the permitted capacity was.

Mr. SPEAKER: What was the capacity of the boat to give that white mark ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Public Works Department) : I cannot give the tonnage or maundage. The record does not disclose that except the white mark.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara) : Is there anybody to look into that?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : The lessee cannot allow more people or more cargoes to be loaded.

Mr. SPEAKER: Who gives that white mark ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : The boat belongs to the Public Works Department . When the Public Works Department place the boat for plying on the river they determine the capacity of the boat and put the white mark. Different boats have different capacity, some have a capacity of 6 tons, some have 8 tons and some have 11 tons and so on and so forth. So, before the Public Works Department place the boat for actual plying they put it on water loaded with prescribed weights and put that mark.

Mr. SPEAKER: What was the specific capacity of this particular boat ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : I do not find it in the record.

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding) : Whether there is any system of issuing tickets to the passengers in this particular Ghat ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : I presume, the system is there.

Shri RAMNATH SARMA : In reply to (b) it is said, "No such records are generally maintained but from enquiry it is learnt that the number of passengers were between 60 to 70 approximately". So when the system is there then it can be easily said how many tickets were issued on this particular occasion.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Public Works Department): No records of those issues of tickets are kept.

Shri KAMALA PRASAD AGARWALA (Tezpur): Sir, in respect to question 24 (d) the Minister said 'No.' but in reply to question 24(a) he admitted that the boat was caught in the eddies at the nose of spur No.1 and dashed against spur No.2 down-stream which could not be prevented with all possible efforts. So it was a fact that there were two spurs, between which the Ghat was maintained.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : I think my Friend is correct, Sir.

Shri BISHNU LAL UPADHYAYA (Gohpur): Whether it is a fact that one European lady apparently apprehending danger requested the Overseer in-charge not to load so many passengers, but no attention was paid to it?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : I do not think that suggestion was correct, Sir.

Shri BSWADEV SARMA (Balipara) : Is it not a fact that a large number of people did not board the boat for fear of being drowned as the capacity of the boat was inadequate and there was also a motor car in the boat?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : I have no information, Sir.

Shri MOHIKANTA DAS (Barchalla): May I know, Sir, whether any life saving device has been provided after the accident ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : Yes, Sir.

Shri BISWADEV SARMAH : Sir, recently when I was crossing that river I did not find any such thing (laughter). (A voice—When ?) 21st of February.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : I accept this statement, Sir. I shall cause an enquiry to be made.

Dr. GHANASYAM DAS [North Salmara (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Was there any anchor in the boat, Sir ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMA (Minister, Public Works Department) : I think, I shall require notice of it.

Shri KAMALA PRASAD AGARWALA (Tezpur) : Is it a fact that the Government is going to take over the ferry from 1st April ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : Government is making arrangements to take it over.

Shri MOHIKANTA DAS (Barchalla) : Was there any rescue boat on either side of the Ghat to go into operation in case of emergency ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : There was not exactly any rescue boat, but there were stand-by boats.

Mr. SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister is referring to the Judicial Enquiry and based his replies to the supplementaries as well as to the questions themselves on the basis of some Judicial Enquiries. I understand the report of the Judicial Committee is placed on the table of the House.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : That is what I am told, Sir.

Roads in Patacharkuchi Constituency

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

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

(a) The names of roads undertaken by Government in the Patacharkuchi Constituency in 1956-57 and 1957-58 ?

(b) Whether any road undertaken by the Government of Assam in the said Constituency still remains incomplete ?

(c) If so, will the Minister-in-charge be pleased to state the reasons of each road which still remains incomplete ?

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

25. (a)—Following are the roads undertaken by Government during 1956-57 in the Patacharkuchi Constituency.

(1) Anchali-Batabari Road—Length $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The road was taken up during March, 1957. Administrative Approval and Technical Sanction accorded on 15th February 1957 and 19th November 1957 respectively.

(2) Hajua-Bhuyapara Road—Length 7.6 miles.

(3) Extension of Bamakhata-Kardequari Road—Length 4 miles.

(4) Extension of Saderi-Sathisamkha Road upto Medarghat—3 miles.

(5) Further improvement of Hudukhata-Naosali Road (extension portion)—6 miles. No road was taken up during 1957-58.

(b)—All roads mentioned at (a) above remain incomplete.

(c)—Item 1 of the roads mentioned at (a) above could not be completed due to dispute of alignment. The road is expected to be completed during 1958-59. Items 2-5 are taken up under the Second Five Year-Plan, hence, these will be completed within the Plan period.

Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS [**Patacharkuchi (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)**]: What is the nature of the dispute, Sir ? This is with regard to question 25(c).

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Public Works Department): The dispute may be for the reasons that one party might like to have the road by the side of his house or to have the road pass through his village and the other party by different route; this is happening everywhere.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati): Is the Minister speaking from his information ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: I draw upon my imagination. (*laughter*).

Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS [**Patacharkuchi, (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)**]: Whether the Government is competent enough to settle the disputes ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: Government is competent enough, Sir.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari): Is it a fact, Sir, that many roads which were taken up during the first Plan, have remained incomplete and no work is being done during the second Plan? Now will it wait for the 5th Five-Year Plan ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: Sir, the suggestion of my hon. Friend is correct. The difficulty is with regard to the question of allotment of money and I invite the hon. Members of the House who are representatives of the people to put their heads together and to see how best we can distribute the money and complete the incomplete work.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Is there any possibility of pruning of the allotment already made under the Head—'Roads', Sir ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: Yes, Sir. The allotments have already been cut down; for this year, in place of Rs.150 lakhs we have only got 86 lakhs. The pruning is already there.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Any more pruning ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Public Works Department): Yes, Sir, it looks like this.

Srimati KOMOL KUMARI BORUA (Katanigaon): May I know from the Government whether any new road has been taken up in the Jorhat Subdivision during the year 1957-58.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: I have no accurate information about this, Sir. But I shall look into the matter and supply the information, to the hon. Member.

Procurement of Paddy

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) asked :

26. Will the Minister-in-charge of Food and Supply be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that Government decided to procure paddy in the month of December, 1957 to meet the situation arising out of the failure of Sali crop this year ?

(b) If so, how many maunds of paddy were procured from the month of January upto the first half of February, 1958 ?

(c) Whether Government is aware that thousands of maunds of paddy are purchased by millers, traders and hoarders at the price of Rs.8 per maund ?

(d) If so, what steps are contemplated to be taken by Government to bring the paddy from them ?

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

26.(a)—Yes.

(b)—8,948 tons upto 20th February, 1958.

(c)—No.

(d)—Does not arise.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West): At the time of taking up the procurement in the month of December last, is it a fact that the price of paddy in the month of January was Rs.8 per maund ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education): I have no information to that effect, Sir. The matter is like this: The Government of India fixes the procurement price and by the time we received the approval of the Government of India, it was too late ; so actually the procurement began in January.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): When was the price fixed and when did the procurement actually start.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Procurement was started in January.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): From which date of January was procurement actually started ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : This is the circular from the Government of Assam according to which procurement was authorised to be started. This circular is dated the 20th January 1958. So it was early in February as it appears.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : What was the actual date of starting procurement ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: It is very difficult to give the actual date, because in different districts, procurement was started on different dates.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : What was the target fixed by the Government of Assam for procurement of paddy ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : 10 lakhs maunds.

Shri RADHIKARAM DAS (Palashbari): Are Government aware that at times market price is higher than the procurement price ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: (Minister, Education) : Yes, that may be so sometimes.

Shri SARBESWAR BARDOLOI (Titabar) : May I know, Sir, from whom do the Government purchase paddy—whether from the cultivators or middlemen.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : From the licensees.

Shri RADHIKARAM DAS (Palashbari) : Are Government aware that at the time of taking delivery of paddy, bags are not measured?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : I think bags are excluded.

Shri RADHIKARAM DAS: My question is, Sir, at the time of taking delivery of paddy weight of all the bags is not taken, only sample measurement of one or two bags is taken—whether it is a fact?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : Market tradition is followed in this matter.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : Sir, with the progress of procurement of paddy upto 20th February, 1958 being what it is, do Government propose to reach its target figure within the course of the year?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : It will be difficult, we have started already very late.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) : Is it a fact that the actual procurement was started from the end of the first week of February of 1958?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : It may be so.

Shri RADHIKARAM DAS : Sir, what is the market tradition regarding measuring of weight of these paddy bags?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education) : Sample weight of a number of bags is taken individually and the others are weighed in lump.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery) : Are Government aware that Government have not been able to take delivery of thousands of maunds of paddy lying unsold with the Licensee?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : If the information is supplied, Government will look into it.

Shri NURUL ISLAM (Dhing) : May I know, Sir, whether Government will be pleased to make a thorough enquiry about the accumulated stock of paddy lying unsold with the cultivators ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : When any such information is supplied to Government, they will certainly enquire.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj) : Are Government aware that paddy in big quantities has been smuggled out of the State by boats ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : Yes, Sir, sometimes such information is received by Government.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari) : What is the difficulty in measuring each and every bag of paddy ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : Existing procedure saves a lot of time.

Shri RADHIKARAM DAS : My question is, Sir, if Government do not introduce the procedure of measuring every bag at the time of taking delivery, Government are likely to incur heavy loss and.....

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order, if any Member is not satisfied in regard to any reply given by Government, he is entitled under the existing rules of procedure of this Assembly to raise a half-an-hour discussion. Hon. Member, if he so desires, can take recourse to that rule.

Shri JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara): May I know from the hon. Minister how the Government propose to procure paddy when the market price is higher than the procurement price?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education): We have not yet come to any decision on this point. Government also expects that price may also go down after sometime.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati): Do Government desire the peasants to make some sacrifice by offering to sell their paddy at a price lesser than the market rate?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: At present we do not desire them to make any sacrifice and we do not propose to ask them to do so unless the food position in the country further deteriorates.

Shri LALIT CHANDRA DALEY [Moran (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: May we know what is the average content of each of the paddy bag?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Contents differ according to the size of the bags.

Shri HIRALA PATWARI (Panery): Are Government aware that at Tangla about 35 thousand maunds of paddy were stolen from Government licensee?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: We shall enquire into that.

Srirampur-Bajugaon Road

Shri MATHIAS TUDU (Gossaigoan) asked:

27. Will the Minister-in-charge of P. W. D. be pleased to reply when the work on the Srirampur-Bajugaon road will be started?

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

27. The work will be started as soon as the estimate for the project amounting to Rs.2,45,000 is technically sanctioned. The estimate is under scrutiny in the Chief Engineer's Office.

Shri MATHIAS TUDU (Gossaigaon): May I know, Sir, when the scrutiny of the estimate on the Srirampur-Bajugaon road will be completed ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Public Works Department): We will try to expedite the matter, Sir. It is likely to be completed, roughly, in another six months' time.

Shri MITHIAS TUDU: Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to give an assurance that the work on the road will be started as soon as the estimate is sanctioned ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : Yes, Sir.

Re: Subdivisional Development Boards

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

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

(a) What are the aims and objects of the Development Boards ?

(b) What are the functions and duties of the members of the Development Boards ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that the allotment of grants only is under the purview of the Boards and preparing of scheme and projects are not under the purview of the Development Boards ?

(d) If so, why ?

(e) Whether allocation of grants can be made by the Development Officers ?

(f) Whether schemes and projects are to be approved by Deputy Commissioner or Subdivisional Officer in consultation with the members of the Development Boards ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister-in-charge of Planning and Development) replied :

28.(a)—It is presumed that the question relates to Subdivisional Development Boards.

The Planning Commission have in the printed Second Five Year Plan stated as follows:—

“At the district level the primary object is to co ordinate the work of various agencies concerned with Development and to associate with them representatives, non-official and others who may be in a special position to assist”. The Subdivisional Development Boards in Assam are designed broadly to give effect to this recommendation, more particularly to associate representatives of various sections of the people with development work.

(b)—The functions of these Boards in Assam have been indicated as follows:—

(i) To advise on the formulation of Five-Year Plans and annual Plans in relation to the needs of the Subdivision.

(ii) To review of the progress in implementation of approved programmes of development, on the basis of quarterly progress reports to be submitted by the local Heads of Development Departments.

(iii) To advise on integrated implementation of plans and efficient utilisation of funds allotted and to suggest priorities for expenditure within the sums allotted by Government. In particular, to recommend measures for effective and speedy fulfilment of schemes of economic and social development and more especially of N. E. S. Community Projects, Agricultural Production Programmes, Local Development Works, Social Service and Village and Small Industries.

(iv) To promote public participation and co-operation in development programmes and expand local community effort both in Urban and Rural areas.

(v) To help promote the small savings movement.

(vi) To help allocation of, and preparation of schemes for utilisation of, grants made available for local development works and other self-help works.

(vii) To discharge statutory functions under the Panchayat Act.

(c)—As would be seen from the functions of the Boards, the Boards are not only to advise on the formulation of the schemes in relation to the needs of the subdivision but also to review progress, advise on the efficient utilisation of funds, suggest priorities, etc. It would be incorrect to say that only allotment of grants is under the purview of the Boards.

(d)—In view of the answer to (c) this question does not arise.

(e)—No. Consultation with the Development Boards is generally necessary before allocation of grants between various schemes is made.

(f)—For different programmes approval of Government or of Deputy Commissioners/Subdivisional Officers may be necessary, but this generally takes into account the recommendations of the Boards.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): Will the Minister in-charge be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the Secretary of Dibrugarh Subdivisional Development Board did not bring up for discussion or include in agenda any subject of Community Development, N. E. S., Social Service, Cottage and Village Industries, Panchayats, etc., except distribution of local Development and Water Supply grants since the formation of the present Board at Dibrugarh?

Mr. SPEAKER: Hon. Member will please be brief in putting the question to the House so that it may be intelligible to and understood by the Members.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state whether Government is aware that the Secretary of the Dibrugarh Subdivisional Board who happens to be a Government officer did not bring for discussion in the Board's meeting any subject other than that of distribution of Local Development Fund ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education): We have no specific information. But we shall enquire.

Shri RAM NATH SARMA (Lumding): Are not the proceedings of the District Development Boards' meetings sent to the Secretariat ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY (Minister, Education): Proceedings of these Boards' meetings usually do not come to the Secretariat unless called for on specific grounds.

Shri RAM NATH SARMA : Will Government be pleased to enquire into the actual working of the Development Board ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY: Government also feel that these Development Boards have not been functioning as they should, and therefore Government are now considering how best the functioning of these Boards can be improved with a view to achieve the object for which they are set up.

Shri LALIT KUMAR DALEY [Moran (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: May I know whether any preference is given to anybody in the matter of appointment of Development Officers ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY: That would be a separate question. We are discussing the Board itself. The Board is an advisory body and we take non-officials for co-operation.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): Sir, are Government aware that the District authority of Dibrugarh has deviated or evaded the decisions or recommendations of the former Development Board without consultation with the present Board?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY: We have no information, Sir.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: Will the Government enquire about this?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY: We will enquire into this matter.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari): Sir, on what basis the Members of the Development Board are selected ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister-in-charge of Planning and Development): Different interests are represented in this Board. For instance, the Members of the Assembly from the Subdivision. They are expected to represent the locality. Then different Community Projects or National Extension Blocks are represented. Then Government officials are there. Then agriculture, industries and commerce are represented. All the different interests are there for their co-operation with the Government.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : Sir, is it a fact that all the recommendations are not accepted by the Government ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Most of the recommendations are retained. Some recommendations are to be changed according to the desire of the hon. Members here who represent the area concerned.

Srimati LILY SENGUPTA (Lahowal): Development Board যেতিয়া গঠিত হয়, তেতিয়া মহিলা সমিতিৰ প্ৰতিনিধি বোৰ্ডত লোৱাৰ বিষয়ে কিবা ব্যৱস্থা আছেনে? যদি আছে কোনো ঠাইত লোৱা হৈছে নে?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: মহিলা সমিতিৰ প্ৰতিনিধি নোলোৱাৰ কথা নাই—সেইটো মই অনুসন্ধান কৰি চাম।

Srimati LILY SEN GUPTA : একেবাৰেই লোৱা নাই।

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: একেবাৰে নোলোৱাৰ প্ৰশ্ন নাই; যি হওক মই চাম।

U JOR MANIK SIEM of Milliém [Nongpoh (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: May I know, Sir, whether persons representing other interests can also be taken in the Development Board?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: There are already representations for different interests of the public.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj):
Sir, is there any executive committee of the Board?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, in-charge of Planning and Development): So far as I know, there is an officially constituted body for the purpose of carrying out decisions of the Board.

Supply of Community Radio Sets to deserving Institutions

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY (Nalbari-East) asked:

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

(a) Whether there are many deserving institutions waiting for supply of Community Radio Sets on payment of share of contribution of the public?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the deserving Institutions coming forward to pay contribution could not be provided with such Radio Sets during last one year?

(c) Whether it is a fact that the Receivers have been received long ago, but could not be installed for non-arrival of the Aerials?

(d) If so, what steps Government propose to take for supply of the Community Radio Sets to the deserving Institutions without further delay?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical for Minister-in-charge of Publicity and Information) replied:

29. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes, some institutions.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—The matter has been taken up with Government of India and the supplying firm to secure supply of the Aerial Kits as early as possible.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHRY (Nalbari-East): May I know, Sir, how many radio sets have been installed in different centres?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical, etc.): About 200.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari): Sir, who supplies the radio sets?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: The Central Government give a subsidy of 50 per cent of the cost.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: Since when the Central Government has begun giving subsidy?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: From the year 1956-57.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog): Sir, is it a fact that some radio sets were lost on transit?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: I have no information, Sir.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY: What is the difficulty, Sir, in replacing aerials in some centres?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : We have taken up the matter with the Government of India again.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : What amount the villagers are expected to pay for a radio set ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : It appears from the record that 25 per cent of the cost is to be paid by them.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: What is the cost of a radio set, Sir ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: I cannot say off-hand.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari): Sir, is it a fact that the Development Board is expected to submit a list of villages to be supplied with radio sets?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical, etc.): I have no information.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : Will the Minister be pleased to enquire whether the Development Board submitted lists for supply of radio sets to different places?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : That may be enquired into.

Shri NILMONEY BARTHAHAKUR (Dibrugarh): Sir, has the Government contacted any electrical firm to get those aeriels replaced?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: There is no information in the record. I may supply the information to the Member later on if wanted.

Re: Beki Public Works Department Ghat

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog) asked :

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

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Beki P. W. D. Ghat was closed for one and a half month during the last rainy season as a portion of North Trunk Road was washed away by the Beki river?

(b) If so, how much remission will be given to the lessee of the Ghat?

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

30. (a)—The ferry was closed for wheeled traffic from 14th July 1957 to 18th August 1957 due to breach of the left bank approach road on account of flood, but other types of traffic crossed during the period.

(b)—The question of remission will be given due consideration, if admissible, under the Ferry Rules and lease after the expiry of the lease.

Radio Sets for Rural Areas

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

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

(a) The number of radio sets indented for supplying to the rural areas of the State during the year 1957?

(b) What is the total cost incurred in this regard?

(c) What is the number of sets installed in 1957 and what is the number installed in the district of Nowgong?

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

31. (a)—200 sets.

(b)—Rs.28,227

(c)—Out of this consignment, 50 sets were installed in Naga Hills District with locally purchased Aerial Kits.

No other set could be installed in any other District as the Aerial Kits have not yet been received.

Public Works Department Roads within Sorbhog and Barpeta Towns

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog) asked :

32. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings) be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government is aware of the deplorable conditions of the Public Works Department Roads within Sorbhog and Barpeta towns?

(b) Whether Government will improve the same ?

(c) If so, when ?

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

32. (a)—The Public Works Department Roads passed through Sorbhog and Barpeta towns, are gravelled and properly maintained. Government have not yet taken up for metalling and surfacing of these roads.

(b) & (c)—A proposal for improving town portion of Barpeta Bagbar road has been included in the expanded Petrol Tax Programme sent up to Government of India. The work will be taken up as soon as the scheme receives approval of Government of India and funds are available.

There is no proposal for improving any other roads at present.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog): Sir, when will the surfacing of the roads within Sorbhog and Barpeta towns be completed ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : Here the question of fund comes in, as I stated on an earlier occasion. When fund is available a portion of the road within Barpeta town will get priority.

Establishment of Multi-purpose High Schools in Barpeta Subdivision

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog) asked :

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

(a) How many multi-purpose High Schools will be established in Barpeta Subdivision ?

(b) What are their names ?

(c) Whether they have been distributed equitably ?

(d) If not, why not ?

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

33. (a)—One multi-purpose High School and 2 Higher Secondary Schools have been established in the Barpeta Sub-division.

(b)— (i) Bajali Aided High School (Multi-purpose).

(ii) Patacharkuchi Vidyapith (Higher Secondary).

(iii) Barpeta Government High School (Higher Secondary).

(c)—The selection is made on the basis of suitability in points of staff, accommodation, enrolment, etc., of the schools.

(d)—Does not arise.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog): How many more multi-purpose high schools in Barpeta subdivision will be opened?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : No further decision has been taken.

Shri RADHIKARAM DAS (Palashbari): On what basis multi-purpose high schools are opened?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : According to the suitability arising out of the position of enrolment, accommodation, etc.

Shri RADHIKARAM DAS : Who makes the selection, Sir?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : I think it is the Department itself. As I have joined as Education Minister only recently details are not known to me.

Shri TANKESWAR CHETIA (Nazira): What is the difference between a Multi-purpose and a higher secondary school?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: As far as I understand the deserving secondary schools are selected

for higher Secondary Schools for the lack of space, because a multi-purpose school requires a great deal of expansion as training for different crafts has to be provided for and this cannot be done without sufficient space and trained staff.

Shri TANKESWAR CHETIA (Nazira): Is there any restriction of enrolment?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education): I do not think there can be any restriction in enrolment except the space.

Shri RADHIKARAM DAS (Palashbari): What is the area of land required for a multi-purpose school?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : I cannot say off-hand.

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS [Rangiya (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: May I know whether any special considerations are shown for the tribal areas in selecting multi-purpose and higher secondary schools?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : I do not think any special consideration applies to this matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: We have finished with Questions. We shall now take up 'Discussion, if any, of Supplementary Statement of Expenditure charged upon the Consolidated Fund of the State for 1957-58.'

Discussion on the Supplementary Statement of Expenditure charged upon the Consolidated Fund of the State for 1957-58

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got a few observations to make on the Supplementary Statement of expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of the State during 1957-58.

I beg to refer to pages 62-69 of this list of supplementary demands. This list begins at page 62 and at page 69, in Statement B, the different major heads have been consolidated.

From this consolidated amount it appears that the amount originally included in the Appropriation Act stood at Rs.3,36,18,800, but the amount which is sought to be brought by way of supplementary appropriation comes up to Rs.4,73,02,632. In other words, the supplementaries constitute 140 per cent of the original amount as shown in the Appropriation Act. Whereas in the original Appropriation Act, the amount was only Rs.3 crores and odds, in the supplementary it has become more than Rs.4 crores and 73 lakhs. Now, when we examine the details, we find at page 62 under the head No.1 "Excise", the amount originally included in the Appropriation Act was nil, whereas the additional amount now required is Rs.4,405. In item No.2 at page 63—Interest on Debt and other obligations—the original was Rs.52,81,500 and the supplementary is Rs.45,72,885. In No.3—Agriculture—at page 64, the original was nil, and the supplementary is Rs.42,829. In No.4—Civil Works—at page 65, the original was Rs.55,000, the supplementary is Rs.18,600. In No.5, Superannuation allowances and pensions, etc.,—at page 66, the original was Rs.8,400 and the supplementary is Rs.11,913. In No.6—Miscellaneous—II—Donations for charitable purposes, etc., at page 67, the original was Rs.21,73,500 and the supplementary is Rs.1,50,000. Lastly, in No.7—Repayment of Debt—at page 68, the original was Rs.2,44,65,000 and the supplementary is Rs.4,25,02,000.

So, we find, Sir, that in these cases, as usual, the seed has proved to be bigger or longer than the gourd. "কেবেরাতকৈ গুটি দীঘল" হৈ গৈছে। What are the explanations? The explanations are also usual—I do not use the word 'hackneyed'. Let us, for example, see what is the explanation under item No.2 at page 63: "The excess could not be provided in the current year's budget as the contingency could not be anticipated at the time of preparation of the budget." Then with regard to the interest on loans taken from Central Government, it is stated in the last line of the same page that "it could not be anticipated at the time of preparation of the budget". Similarly, under the head "Agriculture", it is stated "the amount could not be provided in the budget pending final decision of Government". Then under item No.5, Superannuation allowances and pensions, etc.,—it is stated "no provision could be made in the current year's budget for want of prior information at the time of preparation of the budget." Under Miscellaneous, the explanation

states, "Due to non-receipt of verified figures of actuals of such receipt.....it has not been possible to make the payment to the Boards concerned." It is also stated "payment will have to be made within the financial year immediately on receipt of figures from the District Officers"; that is to say, the figures have not yet been received. Lastly, under "Repayment of Debts", we find that "the contingency could not be anticipated at the time of preparation of the budget." Then, "the excess is due to non-inclusion of the amounts for repayment of certain loans, etc." So, all these explanations lead us to believe that the controlling officers have got a set formula and as soon as they come to place certain demands they just put the formula just like $(a+b)^2 = a^2 + 2ab + b^2$!

Now, I believe this is a very serious state of affairs in our Finance Department, because in the earlier years when we complained about these things we were told that we were beginners and we were learning things; as time passes on things will improve. Now, if we compare the present Supplementary Demands with the Supplementary Demands of the previous years we find rather a deterioration in respect of control over expenditure and the accuracy in budgeting than the previous years. Instead of things being improved they have deteriorated in the last one year. As the hon. Members who are interested in finance very well know, so far as control over expenditure is concerned, there are certain very salutary and time-honoured principles followed in all civilised countries of the world. When public money is handled, controlling officers are expected to use great vigilance and care. The object of control over expenditure is to secure as close an approximation as possible between the actual expenditure and final grant or appropriation under each sub-head. The controlling officers are there effectively to control expenditure and, therefore, they are required to maintain accounts of expenditure and to ensure the correctness by periodical reconciliation. These reconciliations are done as accounts are maintained in the Audit Office also not only to keep watch over the progress of expenditure and to decide over the Supplementary Demands but also exercise control over the expenditure against final grants or appropriation. So these being the rules followed in all civilised countries, and our country is claiming as a civilised one it is expected that these things and slackness would not be allowed in the Finance Department. It is expected that the controlling officers will not only draw their salary but also will remember that they have got a duty to observe a strict supervision and control in the matter of

the financial commitments that are done through their Departments. We find, as I have already said, that in this respect control is lacking and therefore it could not be envisaged at the time of preparation of the budget as to whether some money will be necessary at all or what approximately might be the amount required, and therefore, we find that in the course of the last few months these new exigencies appeared to have come. But are these things quite new? For example repayment of loans from Central Government is not a new thing. Was there all on a sudden an earthquake in Upper Shillong which required a sudden repair of the Government House there? The Government appears to be following a policy of 'Blind Alley' and there is no examination from time to time and from period to period, with the result that our entire budget becomes a defective budget. Some figures are sent from the lower rung and these figures are compiled and then sent to the Finance Department. Proper examination and scrutiny are not done, and therefore, we always find a defective budget in our State. The result, as has been said during the Question Hour by the Finance Minister himself is that—"We do not know where we stand and how we take our stand." We are left to the mercy of fate and we, therefore, become fatalist. If Providence smiles on us, if the Central Government be well disposed towards us and if we meet with a good luck then something will be done; otherwise we do not know what will happen. This portion of our Supplementary Budget to-day gives an idea like this. To speak in a nutshell, it brings out two things that (i) there is absolutely no control over expenditure by the controlling officers, (ii) our budgeting is entirely defective and figures are not even fairly approximate. As this is a matter on which the vote of the House is not sought and we may only talk, I have given this talk. I hope the Minister will please remember this humble suggestion of mine and he will please see that in the Finance Department things improve in future in the matter of preparation of the budget. There should be at least some approximation and there should be some amount of control over expenditure.

With these few words I finish my observations.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has become almost a perennial feature of our budget that this House has to pass Supplementary Demands both on Voted and Charged accounts amounting to several crores of

rupees and a high percentage of our annual expenditure. Sir, I quite see that certain items cannot be foreseen in time, certain expenditures have to be incurred all on a sudden and for that both the Constitution and the Rules of this House provide for Supplementary Demands. Although the items now under discussion are not to be voted by this House, yet it is only proper that we ventilate our feelings and express our re-actions as to why these items are brought in this manner at this time of the year.

Sir, I have very carefully gone through the various items and I find that some items could have been foreseen. If we had exercised our capacity to foresee, those things would not have come in this list.

Now, Sir, taking for instance the item No.3 at page 64 under "Agriculture" where the amount is required to pay a certain gentleman for purchasing of buildings. My information is that this amount was long given in a decree by a competent court, not this year, not in 1957 but even before 1957 and this amount could have been paid long ago and if this amount was a disputed account it could have been left over for the next budget, there is no necessity of incurring this expenditure at this time. So far as item No.4 at page 65 is concerned, my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, has expressed our feelings and I can only endorse his feeling and say that this house has not been newly erected nor any natural calamity has overtaken the place in the meantime which warranted this repair. As a matter of fact all houses do require repair, and it could have been foreseen by the Department concerned that this house would require repair and that repair cost could have been included in the general budget at the time of presenting it. Similarly, I find in this item No.6 at page 67 where a very heavy amount is involved to the tune of 1,50,000 rupees. This amount also could have been included in the budget. If there was anything to be added or subtracted that could have been done afterwards because after all local rates have to be paid to the Local Boards. It is not a new thing that local rates have to be paid to the Local Boards ; on that assumption this sum could have been put under the proper head at the time of preparation of the general budget and this item could have been included therein. In case the Local Boards need not be paid that could have been shown afterwards. My submission is that this item cannot be included under the heading of unforeseen items or

items involving expenditure which has cropped up during an emergency. Therefore, my submission here is that we have seen in the whole list of supplementary budget about 2 crores of rupees will be necessary by way of supplementary grant and as against that about 4 crores of rupees will be necessary under the charged items. Sir, my submission here is that we should be very careful and very strict in budgeting because we not only show our lack of capacity of foreseeing things but on the other hand we shut out the House also from discussing the major policies of the Government because in discussing supplementary demands we cannot discuss the major policies. Therefore, Sir, I will only request the Finance Minister that in future he should not come up to this House to say that this or that was an unforeseen item. I very often found that it is the Department which prepares the budget and it is the Department which should foresee things but I would also request the Finance Minister to apply his own mind whether a certain item can be foreseen or not. Once it is made out that it is unforeseen, then it is quite right to come up with a supplementary demand. Before an item is treated as an unforeseen or not the Finance Minister should satisfy himself that that was so. We very often find just to take protection under the rules and the Constitution we call an item unforeseen but in reality it is not an unforeseen item. The Department who fails in this should be taken to task. It should be asked, why you did not come up with your budget or why you did not show this in the budget, now you must suffer for your laches and you will not get money this year'. I think that principle should be strictly adhered to otherwise laxity in preparing our budgets will continue and we will be faced with the same phenomena every year when the Finance Minister will come to the House asking for huge tsums of money by way of supplementary demands.

In this connection, I would also like to refer to a matter which we observed sometime back. It has become necessary also to consider whether we should not change the date of our financial year also. Why should it begin on the first of April and end on the thirty-first March. As a matter of fact long ago, about 20 years ago a Commission was set up and Late Lord Keynes was a Member of this Commission. Lord Keynes a financial wizard as he was, considering the climatic condition of our country, opined and correctly too that here the financial year should begin sometime in October or November. If that is done, we will also be saved from having to come with heavy

supplementary demands because then we shall be able to know what amount of money we shall actually be able to spend, what amount of money we actually need and that will also give speed to execution of work. I think only recently the West Bengal Assembly have also approved this idea, because there also the climatic condition is similar to ours. As you know, Sir, for most of the year, say from May to September no work can be done because of the monsoon. So, it is necessary to have our financial year begun from October or November the time when work can actually be done and the Assembly will sit some months before so that the budget can be passed and all these sanctions can be given. I hope that the Finance Minister will take into consideration this aspect of the matter which we all know is a sound proposition. I hope the Finance Minister will also move in the matter so that we can have our financial year corresponding or in harmony with the climatic condition of the country.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance) :

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have closely listened to the observations made by the Leader of the Opposition as well as Shri Bhattacharyya. I thank the Leader of the Opposition for bringing in a suggestion to change the financial year. In fact this question is already under active consideration of the Government of India as well as the State Governments and considerable logic is enforced behind the arguments for changing the financial year. Particularly for Departments like the Public work Department it is very necessary since lapses of amounts to the succeeding year entail lot of difficulties and irregularities. Sir, I could not compliment the two hon. Members who spoke before me on the point. Shri Bhattacharyya complained that no vote is sought for on this motion, but we can only talk. Sir, in democracy, people talk on administration and policies which is an essential part. But we cannot abuse the right of talk in wild talks. In the present instance the talk is not deep. Let us take the points that are being sought to be made, one after another. Shri Bhattacharyya was saying or rather pointing out that whereas the amount included in the Appropriation Account amounted only to Rs. 3 crores 36 lakhs, the additional amount required now is Rs. 4 crores 73 lakhs, and so he was pleased to introduce the cheap saying—“কেবেলাতকৈ গুটি দীঘল” and if sometimes Supplementary Demands are there, it only shows the vitality of the State. It only indicates—and not always, as I used to say, the vitality of the State. The Supplementary Demand under consideration not only contemplates

unforeseen expenditure in new services but also contemplates expenditure or meeting any new and urgent demand. Here let us go through the Explanatory Note at Page 68, from which it will appear that the criticism is not justified. It reads like this—"The additional amount of Rs.4,18,00,000 is required for repayment of the Ways and Means advances granted by the Reserve Bank of India during the current financial year from June 1957 to January, 1958 on many occasions the Ways and Means position of the State deteriorated below the prescribed minimum of Rs.10 lakhs due to some unforeseen heavy adjustments which warranted immediate Ways and Means advances to the extent of Rs. 6,38,00,000. The contingency could not be anticipated at the time of preparation of the budget. There is a provision of Rs. 20,00,000 only in the current year's budget and an additional provision of Rs. 6,18,00,000 is required. A sum of Rs. 2,00,00,000 which is a saving under the head.—'Discharge of Treasury Bills' has been reappropriated to this head. Hence the Supplementary Demand is to meet the balance of Rs.4,18,00,000."

Now let me elaborate how it came about, Sir. When the Naga terrorists started their depredations, started raids in the neighbouring Subdivisions of Jorhat and Golaghat, when they started killing people, attacking Police Stations, kidnapping Police Constables, looting villages and setting fire to houses of the villagers, we had to make adequate arrangements for checking all this and we had to bring armed police from Madhya Pradesh, Bihar on their terms. Thus a huge amount was required to meet this situation in purchasing equipments and for various other things. We all call it Naga terrorism and we call it Police action, but from fact and figures and from the scale of preparation that had to be made to protect the plains people from the attacks of the Naga terrorist, we may call it a conflict (*laughter*). Now when such an emergent situation arose we had no alternative but to draw upon the Reserve Bank of India, because we had only the budget provision of Rs.20 lakhs. Now, is the contention of my learned Friends that we should not have gone into this additional expenditure justified under circumstances stated above ?

The primary and most urgent function of a State Government is to maintain law and order, I think my Friends will not disagree with this. The Government had to do all that could be done. The biggest figure in that long list of 'কেবেরা'

is Rs.4 crores or something like that. Now if this sum is taken into account, then the rest of the figures dwindle only to a few lakhs of rupees. Sir, in an expansive economy, I think, the House will agree with me that the amount is not too much. So when my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, said that there is absolutely no control over expenditure, that budgeting is entirely wrong, that the expenditure control has deteriorated, I submit, he looked more to rhetoric and adjectives than to actual facts. His invectives may be catchy to the ears of the hon. Friends in this House and to the people outside, but my statement here will prove that there is nothing wrong with the control of expenditure ; rather it has been tightened.

Similarly I give two other instances. The Leader of the Opposition mentioned a case regarding Mohan Lal Malpani ; I think it is at page 64. The amount is required for payment of a decretal amount of Rs.42,829 to Shri Mohonlal Malpani, being the price of two buildings purchased by the Government in 1948, for starting the Assam Agricultural College, Jorhat. The amount could not be provided in the budget pending final decision of Government. It was therefore advanced from the Contingency Fund and hence the demand to regularise the advance.

Let us see, Sir, if the learned Leader of the Opposition has any reason, good, bad or indifferent, I would say, to castigate the Government for making this provision. The Government of Assam purchased two houses from one Mohon Lal Malpani. The property and the houses were in dispute. Somehow in 1948 Assam Government purchased two houses from Malpani, entered into a contract and made certain part payment. In the meantime the Central Government came into the scene. They said that the houses might belong to Malpani but the land belonged to the Central Government. "Therefore Assam Government cannot purchase the property", they said. Then Mohon Lal Malpani instituted a civil suit in the court of the Sub-Judge at Jorhat and he got a decree. Government had already entered into a contract and how can they now get out of it. This civil suit continued for three or four years, and ultimately the decree was passed against the Assam Government. Then there was another decree and money had to be paid. Then proceedings started in the same court. Then the Sub-Judge, Jorhat, issued notices to our officers. At that point Central Government came in and demanded payment to them. Government had therefore to make necessary arrangements to contest the claim.

In the meantime the Government of India agreed, however, to go by the order of the Court and the Sub-Judge ordered, "if you do not pay, we shall prosecute you with contempt of court." Therefore, Sir, I submit if the Leader of the Opposition would have taken a little care to go through the provision, he would have no reason to censure the Government.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): What I said is that the decree was passed long ago.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance): The decree was not the end of it. When a lawyer like the leader of the opposition is engaged in such a case, he can lengthen it to 14 years. It was only 7 years.

Another point that he mentioned is about the Peak Cottage. Sir, the Peak Cottage is a Government property. At one time the Government of Assam contemplated selling this Peak Cottage. But it so happened that neither any reasonable price was offered, nor the Assam Government were very much inclined to part with the property. And that about six months past our respected Governor was pleased to write a letter to the Assam Government with a view to have the cottage repaired and for this he offered as much money as he could out of his own budget and the rest he proposed should be paid from the State exchequer. The Government considered the letter from the Governor as a very reasonable one deserving the best consideration. So partly out of our respect for the Governor and partly also in consideration of the necessity of the Peak Cottage for the State, it was decided to incur the expenditure.

So, Sir, all the points that have been made out on the floor of the House against this provision are not very deep, if not superficial, if I may say so. But at the same time we welcome criticism from the hon. Member for, after, all criticism exhorting on the necessity of better financial control is very essential. I assure the hon. Members of the House, anxiety of the Government in this respect is none the less. Thank you, Sir.

Supplementary Demands for Grant for 1957-58

Mr. SPEAKER: Now, voting on Demands for Supplementary Grants for 1957-58.

Grant No. 1, there is no cut Motion.

No.1

(4—Taxes on Income—other than Corporation Taxes)

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam that an additional amount of Rs.12,283, be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1958 for the administration of the head "4.—Taxes on Income—Other than Corporation Tax".

I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly	Rs. 1,13,900
II.—Additional amount voted in the last session of the Assembly.	Nil.
III.—Additional amount now required	12,283
IV.—Sub-head under which the Supplementary Demand will be accounted for :—	

Minor and Sub-heads (1)	Grant originally voted by the Assembly		Additional amount now required		
	General	Sixth Schedule	General	Sixth Schedule	Total
	(2) Rs.	(3) Rs.	(4) Rs.	(5) Rs.	(6) Rs.
A.—2. Pay of Establishment	35,461	...	3,300	..	3,300
4. Contingencies	14,250	..	8,983	..	8,983
Total .. ..	..	..	12,283	..	12,283

Sir, the Explanatory Notes explain the reasons for the demand.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

A-2.—Due to fixation of pay of the non-gazetted Government servants at the increased rates in the revised pay scales.

A-4.—Due to payment of bills submitted by two advocates, engaged by the Government in the Supreme Court in connection with appeals against the judgment of the Assam High Court in respect of "Forest Income" and "Salami" which were disposed of in June, 1957.

To meet the immediate expenditure the amounts have already been advanced from the Contingency Fund. Hence the Supplementary Demand to regularise the advances.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no Cut Motion, so I put it to the House.

The question is that an additional amount of Rs.12,283, be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1958 for the administration of the head "4.—Taxes on Income—Other than Corporation Tax":

(The question was adopted.)

No.2

(10.—Forests)

Shri HARESAWAR DAS (Minister, Forests): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that an additional amount of Rs.2,38,143 be granted to the Minister-in-Charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1958 for the administration of the head "10.—Forests".

Rs.

I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly	74,40,000
II.—Supplementary grant voted by the Assembly during November, 1957, Session of the Assembly.	6,93,489
Additional amount now required	2,38,134
III.—Sub-head under which the Supplementary Demand will be accounted for:—	

Minor and Sub-heads	Grant originally voted by the Assembly		Supplementary grant voted by the Assembly during November, 1957, Session		Additional amount now required		Total
	General	Sixth Schedule	General	Sixth Schedule	General	Sixth Schedule	
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
(1)	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.

NORMAL

A:—General—

Direction—

(1) 1. Pay of officer ..	75,100	..	..	..	5,800	..	5,800
(2) 2. Pay of establishment	80,600	..	..	..	8,960	..	8,960

Minor and Sub-heads	Grant originally voted by the Assembly		Supplementary grant voted by the Ass- m- bly during Novem- ber, 1957 Session		Additional amount now required		Total
	General	Sixth Schedule	General	Sixth Schedule	General	Sixth Schedule	
	(2) Rs.	(3) Rs.	(4) Rs.	(5) Rs.	(6) Rs.	(7) Rs.	
(3) 3. Allowance and Honoraria.	50,000	..	..	..	1,000	..	1,000
B.—(a) Conservancy and Works—							
(4) I.—Timber and other produce removed from forests by Government Agency.	15,000	600	..	..	12,000	..	12,000
(5) II.—Timber and other produce removed from forests by Consumers and Purchasers.	1,15,000	19,000	16,420	..	10,000	..	10,000
(6) VII.—Miscellaneous.	1,65,000	21,200	20,150	..	2,000	..	2,000
C.—(a)—Establishment—							
(7) 1. Pay of officers	1,58,000	35,510	5,000	..	15,000	..	15,000
(8) 2. Pay of establishment.	9,00,000	1,58,900	90,000	8,500	10,000	..	10,000
(9) 3. Allowances and Honoraria.	7,00,000	1,46,300	20,000	20,000	57,733	..	57,733
4. Contingencies ..	1,75,000	31,000	..	200	13,850	..	13,850
C.—(b) Siddli Estate Forests Establish- ment—							
(10) 1. Pay of establish- ment.	6,200	..	..	..	1,120	..	1,120
(11) 2. Allowances and Honoraria.	5,200	..	..	..	680	..	680
Development Schemes— Second Five Year Plan Schemes under Second Plan—							
B.6—Conservancy and Works—							
(12) VI.—Communication and Buildings:	2,95,000	5,000	..	..	..	1,00,000	1,00,000
Total	..	..	..	..	1,38,143	1,00,000	2,38,143

EXPLANATORY NOTES

(1) A sum of Rs.5,800 is required to meet the arrear pay of 3rd Conservator of Forests refixed on the basis of scale of pay allowed to him. The post was created in the month of November, 1957, as such no provision was made in the Budget for 1957-58. Hence the demand.

(2), (3), and (7) to (11).—The amounts are required for payment of arrear pay and allowances to the officers, subordinate staff and office establishment due to revision of pay scales. As regards the amount of Rs. 13,850 it was advanced from the Contingency fund and hence the Supplementary demand to regularise it.

(4) The amount is required to meet the cost of supply of 4 Elephants to Delhi Zoological Park. As the request for supply of the Elephants has been received after the submission of the Budget for 1957-58 no provision could be made in the Budget. Hence the demand.

(5) The amount is required for meeting the expenditure in connection with marking and barking of the trees fallen in the Darrang Forests Division due to the cyclone on 29th April, 1957.

(6) The amount is required to meet the expenses in connection with the Timber Trends Survey which the Government of India is undertaking in conjunction with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations. The India Government have since sanctioned an equivalent amount of grant to the State Government for the purpose.

(12) The amount is required for the expenditure in connection with maintenance and extension of the Darugiri-Darangiri Coal Field Road in the Garo Hills District. The road is being required by the Geological Survey of India for undertaking surveys in the District. The amount has been advanced from the Contingency fund and hence the demand to regularise the same.

Mr. SPEAKER : The demand is moved.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog) :

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.2,38,143 under the Supplementary Demand No.2 Major head—10.—Forests, at page 3 of the List of Supplementary Demands, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 2,38,143, do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

In bringing the Cut Motion I want to state that the appointment of the third Conservator of Forests is not at all necessary. We have already two Conservators of Forests, and the appointment of the 3rd Conservator is absolutely unnecessary which will result in incurring large amount of expenditure without any appreciable benefit to the State in return. Already we have seen that our Forest administration is in its lowest ebb of efficiency. As for instance, we have seen in many forest areas wild elephants have been causing great devastations to

crops and paddy. Let us look to the North of Barpeta Subdivision. Here, Sir, wild elephants have destroyed a vast area of paddy field. Petitions were sent by the public to Government to take steps so that the affected public may be saved from their depredations. Petitions were followed up by telegrams sent at repeated intervals. But unfortunately, Sir, no action was taken whatsoever. It is reported that in Panbari area a person was trampled to death by an elephant from the forests, and many houses, schools and paddy crops were destroyed. But in spite of public petitions not a single Conservator of Forests or even the Divisional Forest Officer of the North Kamrup Division went to Kahitama to see the menace caused by wild elephants.

Our Conservators are not able to control the Divisional Forest Officers, Rangers and Foresters. A great deal of corruption is going on in forest administration. The Conservators are not doing anything to stop them. Let a Conservator go and see the actual conditions what the subordinate officers do. If they enquire properly they will see that their subordinate officers are throwing dust into the eyes of the higher officers. Many of the officers have contracts with the persons who take permit of timber and make money out of them. But no enquiry whatsoever is made into their conduct.

Let us talk about the Divisional Forest Officer at Barpeta Road. He does not care even the Forest Minister and on many occasions he says that Forest Ministers are not to be cared since they come and go. He says that the Divisional Forest Officer is the monarch of the forests. When the Forest Minister goes to Barpeta he goes there to receive him and to accompany him to Mathanguri and other places of the Barpeta subdivision.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. I think the the hon. Member is to criticise about the Third Conservator and not about the Divisional Forest Officer.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog): I am speaking about the lack of control by the Third Conservator on the Divisional Forest Officers, Rangers and Foresters and so they do whatever they like. We would not have any grudge for the appointment of a Third Conservator of Forests if the administration would have been improved thereby. But we see no better condition of forest administration up till now.

We have seen that a great deforestation has been done in our forests in spite of the fact that we have three Conservators of Forests. Many people take away timbers from the forests, but they are not punished. If such cases are found then the forest officers take some bribe and they are let free.

Since, I think, no improvement whatsoever has been made of the forest department and to maintain the forest wealth of our country the third post of Conservator should be abolished altogether.

Moreover, Sir, there has been too much centralisation in the forest administration. This should be absolutely decentralised and these Conservators should not be allowed to remain at Shillong. They should be sent to the plains and to the interior of the hills and should be asked to see the actual conditions of things. If that is not done then no improvement can be done in the forest administration and to maintain the forest wealth of our country.

On the whole if no improvement is done in the forest administration then the post of the third Conservator should be abolished at once.

With these words I resume my seat.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Forest and Excise): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Friend has advanced a list of grievances to show that they do not justify the appointment of the Third Conservator of Forests. If a certain officer has not discharged his function properly that is a different matter. If that matter is brought to our notice we would make an enquiry and try to correct him. But here we are concerned with the appointment of the Third Conservator of Forests. My Friend himself states that there is lack of supervision. So, Sir, there should be a Third Conservator. I ask my Friend to consider the activities of the forest officers. They are to work in the jungles away from civilisation and do not catch the popular eye. Often their activities are confined to plantation of trees, which increase the wealth of the country. They are to keep proper supervision over the forest wealth. We cannot allow this department to be under-manned. In terms of revenue also the activities have considerably increased. When there were two Conservators in about 1940 or 1942 the revenue from this Department was a little over Rs.37 lakhs. Now it is about a crore. That itself

justifies the increase of officers. The work of the Forest Department has increased in many other ways. In the past the forest coupes were very big and only rich people could work. But now a policy has been adopted to divide the big coupes into small ones so that people with small capital can work. This has also increased the work. Under the Second Five-Year Plan there is a large amount of developmental works. I shall give an idea of some of the developmental works that are to be done during the Second Five-Year Plan: Schemes for cultivation of medicinal and economic plants. Many of our unclassed trees are not properly utilised. But if they are properly treated then they can be properly utilised as their longevity increases to 30 to 40 years. For instance, there are some timbers which are now utilised only as fuel, but after treatment they can be utilised even as railway slippers. Now, plants for such treatment of timber are to be installed in Assam. Then there are preservation and seasoning plants for timber, cultivation of new varieties of cane, creation of Botanical garden and zoo, control of shifting cultivation in the hills and soil erosion in the plains, including planting of trees on many miles of roads and embankments, lac farms in the Sixth Scheduled Districts, planting of trees along important roads, etc. If the Second Five Year plan is to be implemented another Conservator with staff is necessary. In about 1940 or 1942 the number of staff was near about 800 or 900. Now the number comes to about 1300. This also justifies the creation of the Third Conservator's post.

The allegations that have been made by my Friend will be enquired into if he so desires and necessary steps will be taken. But they have nothing to do with the creation of the post of a Third Conservator. This Third Conservator is necessary in connection with the increase of work in the Forest Department.

So, Sir, I request my Friend to withdraw his Cut Motion.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog): I beg to withdraw my Cut Motion.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that an additional amount of Rs.2,38,143, be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1958 for the administration of the head "10.—Forests."

(The Motion was adopted.)

No.3

(11.—Registration)

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Registration):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that an additional amount of Rs.45,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1958 for the administration of the head "11.—Registration."

	Rs.
1.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly...	2,94,000
2.—Additional grant voted by the Assembly during the last session.	...
3.— Additional amount now required	45,000
4.—Sub-heads under which the Supplementary Demand will be accounted for:—	

Minor and Sub-heads	Grant originally voted by the Assembly		Supplementary grant voted by the Assembly during the year		Additional amount now required		Total	
	General	Sixth Schedule	General	Sixth Schedule	General	Sixth Schedule		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)		(7)	(8)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
A,—District Charges—								
1. Pay of officers ..	43,300	..	..	..	1,000	..	..	1,000
2. Pay of establishment.	94,700	3,260	..	..	30,000	..	..	30,000
3. Allowances and Honoraria.	65,000	1,025	..	..	10,000	..	..	10,000
4. Contingencies ..	25,500	190	..	..	4,000	..	..	4,000
<hr/>								
Total ..	..	..	..	..	45,000	..	..	45,000

The reasons for this demand have been detailed in the Explanatory Notes.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. The amount is required to meet the expenditure of staff due to revision of pay scales.
2. The amount is required to meet the expenditure of staff due to revision of pay scales.
3. The amount is required to meet the expenditure of Sub-Registrars due to transfer and revision of pay scale.
4. The amount is required to meet the expenditure due to revision of pay scales of casual employees and increase of Contingent Charges including House rent.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no Cut Motion. The question is that an additional amount of Rs.45,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1958, for the administration of the head "11.—Registration."

(The Motion is adopted.)

No.4

(13.—Other Taxes and Duties)

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that an additional amount of Rs.1,00,738 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1958, for the administration of the head "13.—Other Taxes and Duties."

Rs.

I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly	..	7,90,500
II.—Additional grant voted by the Assembly during the year.		...
III.—Additional amount now required		1,00,738

IV.—Sub-head under which the Supplementary Demand will be accounted for:—

Minor and Sub-heads	Grant originally voted by the Assembly		Supplementary grant voted by the Assembly during the year		Additional amount now required		Total	
	General	Sixth Schedule	General	Sixth Schedule	General	Sixth Schedule		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)		(7)	(8)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
A.—Collection Charges for Taxes and Duties having a common Administrative Staff—Entertainment, Sales and Professions Taxes—								
A. (a)—Direction—								
1. Pay of officers ..	37,173	..	..	..	2,229	..	..	2,229
2. Pay of establishment.	49,617	..	..	..	2,809	..	..	2,809
3. Allowances, etc...	33,160	..	..	..	3,100	..	..	3,100
4. Contingencies ..	8,420	..	..	..	58,050	..	..	58,050
A. (b)—Superintendence—								
1. Pay of officers ..	..	4,938	..	..	..	412	..	412
2. Pay of establishment.	2,95,396	10,630	..	..	10,615	1,236	..	11,851
3. Allowances, etc...	..	6,600	..	..	..	1,482	..	1,482
4. Contingencies ..	60,150	4,900	..	..	19,675	1,130	..	20,805
Total ..	..	..	..	..	96,478	4,260	..	1,00,738

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The additional amount is required to meet the expenses in connection with the creation of some additional staff in the Department, installation of telephone connections, printing of some statutory forms in private presses, purchase of type writers and gestetner machines and also to meet the cost of declaration form under the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956, printed and supplied by the Security Press, Nashik. The increased expenditure may also be attributed to the upgrading of the Cadre of the Sub-Inspector of Taxes to that of Inspector of Taxes and the revision of pay scales under the Assam Services (Revision of Pay) Rules, 1956.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no Cut Motion. The question is that an additional amount of Rs.1,00,738 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1958; for the administration of the head "13.—Other Taxes and Duties."

(The Motion is adopted.)

No.5

(25.—General Administration).

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that an additional amount of Rs.9,83,411 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1958, for the administration of the head "25.—General Administration."

							Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,30,19,500
II.—Supplementary grant voted by the Assembly during the year.	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,85,075
Additional amount now required	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,83,411
III.—Sub-head under which the Supplementary Demand will be accounted for :—							

Minor and Sub-heads	Grant originally voted by the Assembly		Supplementary grant voted by the Assembly during the year		Additional amount now required.		
	General	Sixth Schedule Areas	General	Sixth Schedule Areas	General	Sixth Schedule Areas	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
V.—7—Chief Minister and Secretariat Staff of Chief Minister.							
2. Pay of Officer ..	19,400	..	..	..	5,823	..	5,823
B-2.—State Legislature Secretariat—							
2. Pay of Establishment.	54,900	..	..	..	3,500	..	3,500
3. Allowances and Honoraria.	33,900	..	1,500	..	1,000	..	1,000
4. Contingencies ..	46,100	..	2,573	..	8,500	..	8,500

*The Finance Minister moved the Demand No.5 in the absence of the Chief Minister.

Minor and Sub-heads	Grant originally voted by the Assembly		Supplementary grant voted by the Assembly during the year		Additional amount now required		Total
	General	Sixth Schedule Areas	General	Sixth Schedule Areas	General	Sixth Schedule Areas	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
D.—Secretariat and Head Quarter Establishment—							
I. (a) Civil Secretariat—							
1. Pay of Officer ..	6,54,600	..	32,000	..	60,000	..	60,000
2. Pay of Establish- ment.	11,04,100	..	1,50,000	..	2,70,000	..	2,70,000
3. Allowances and Honoraria.	6,26,000	..	1,43,000	..	50,000	..	50,000
4. Contingencies ..	3,09,200	..	1,50,500	..	79,000	..	79,000
F.—District Adminis- tration—							
F.1—General Establish- ment—							
1. Pay of Officers ..	5,78,000	2,38,050	..	..	..	4,557	4,557
2. Pay of Establish- ment.	5,94,900	3,02,405	..	..	41,531	18,343	59,874
3. Allowances and Honoraria.	3,71,600	3,43,900	..	..	30,736	33,663	64,399
4. Contingencies ..	3,43,500	1,37,850	..	..	2,14,988	12,690	2,27,678
F.2—Subdivisional Establishment.							
	2,76,600	1,89,227	..	..	..	18,775	18,775

Minor and Sub-head	Grant originally voted by the Assembly		Supplementary grant voted by the Assembly during the year		Additional amount now required.		Total
	General	Sixth Schedule Areas	General	Sixth Schedule Areas	General	Sixth Schedule Areas	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
F-3.—Other Establish- ment—							
(a) Process Serving Establishment.	6,28,900	29,900	..	..	30,915	..	30,915
(c) Staging Bunga- low Establishment.	48,600	6,550	..	..	5,683	..	5,683
(d) S. S. and A. Boards—II—Dis- trict Boards.	58,000	18,545	..	..	6,587	15,649	22,236
F-5.—Local Board Election.	..	..	..	..	6,500	..	6,500
F-6.—Registration of persons as Indian Citizens.	..	..	..	..	57,711	..	57,711
H-2.—Miscellaneous..	66,300	..	..	..	2,000	..	2,000
H-3.—Charges in England—							
1. Share cost of High Commissioner's Office.	1,333	..	..	..	670	..	670
2. Leave Salaries and deputation pay.	..	..	..	..	4,590	..	4,590
TOTAL	..	..	..	..	8,79,734	1,03,677	9,83,411

EXPLANATORY NOTES

A-7.—*Chief Minister and Secretariat staff of Chief Minister.*—The amount of Rs.5,823 is required to meet the increased expenditure on account of the post of temporary Superintendent. As the post has been created recently no provision could be made in the budget.

B-2.—*State Legislature Secretariat—Pay of establishment.*—The excess expenditure is due to payment of arrear pay to the Ministerial staff and the Grade IV staff consequent on the revision of pay scales and also due to creation of a new post of Jamadar orderly to Secretary and two personal orderlies to the Deputy Speaker.

Allowances and Honoraria.—The excess expenditure is due to payment of Travelling Allowance to the Grade IV staff for accompanying the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Secretary on their journey to attend the Conference of the Presiding Officers of all Legislative Bodies in India held at Jaipur and also partly due to payment of increased Dearness Allowance to the Ministerial and Grade IV staff, which was consequent on the revision of scales of pay.

Contingencies.—The excess expenditure is due to installation of a permanent telephone connection in the Committee Room of the Assembly and for payment of some trunk call bills, purchase of certain important books for the Assembly Library, purchase of additional furniture for the Assembly Secretariat, increase of maintenance cost of the Members' Hostel Buildings which remain occupied throughout the year. Further it is due to payment of pay and allowances to Grade IV staff sanctioned for the Nava Bhavan and payment of side bearers engaged for the convenience of members.

D.—*Civil Secretariat—Pay of Officers.*—The amount is required to meet the pay of the newly appointed Officers in the Secretariat, viz., Special Officer for introduction of Metric System of Weights and Measures, Special Officer Medical and Education, Special Officer Supply Department, Special Officer Budget, Planning Officer, Agriculture Department, Instructor, Organisation and Method Division, Under Secretary Labour Department, Under Secretary, Revenue Department, Under Secretary Planning and Development Department. Also to meet the increase in pay due to the grant of higher status to some Under Secretaries and also due to promotion of certain A. C. S. Officers to I. A. S. Cadre.

Pay of Establishment.—The amount is required to meet increase expenditure for the Staff newly appointed in the Secretariat to cope with the expanding activities of Government and the staff appointed for the new Officers and also to meet the increased expenditure due to the grant of higher pay in the revised scales of pay to the staff with effect from the 1st October, 1956.

Allowances and Honoraria.—The following amounts are required under this items:—1. Rs.20,000 under Travelling Allowance of Officers due to increased number of official tours and Rs.13,000 for Travelling Allowance of Establishment. Rs.7,000 under Cost of Living Allowance for the newly appointed Officers, and Rs.10,000 under Dearness Allowance for the increased staff.

Contingencies.—The amount is required under the following items :

1. Purchase of Typewriters and Duplicating Machines— Rs. 29,000.
2. Entertainment Charges at the disposal of Government Rs. 30,000 due to increased expenditure on account of State Guests and 3. Rs.20,000 under Contract Contingencies owing to increased expenditure due to expansion in the strength of the Secretariat Staff and increase in the activities of the Government.

F.—District Administration—F.-1.—Pay of Officer.—Due to entertainment of more officers.

Pay of Establishment.—Due to the increase of pay of staff in the revised scales of pay.

Allowances and Honoraria.—The amount is required to pay the Dearness Allowances, etc., to the staff consequent on the increase of their pay scales.

Contingencies.—The amount is required to meet the increased demand of District Officers under Service Postage Stamps. Pay of Casual employees, and maintenance of Pooled Vehicles, etc.

F.-2.—Subdivisional Establishment.—The excess amount is due to the increase of pay of staff in the revised scales of pay.

F.-3.—Other Establishment—(a) Process Serving Establishment.—The excess amount is required to meet the tour charges of Nazarat Staff.

(c) Staging Bungalow Establishment.—Due to the entertainment of more Casual Employees in Dak-bungalows.

(d) S. S. and A. Boards—II—District Boards.—The employees of the D. S. S. & A. Boards (except Aijal) have been allowed the cost of free ration and rice concession like other employees of the State Government by the Supply Department. For this they have raised the debit of Rs.5,980. This amount is to be paid by the State Government and the Government of India on a 50:50 basis. Provision is, therefore, to be made for the full amount of Rs.5,980 half of which will in due course be reimbursed by the Central S. S. & A. Board.

So far as Aijal is concerned, the employees of the D. S. S. & A. Board have been given compensatory allowance for ration on the same scale as given to other employees of the State Government. An amount of Rs.13,503 has to be provided for this purpose, half of this amount will be reimbursed by the Central S. S. & A. Board in due course.

Like other employees of the State Government, Winter allowance and Hill allowance have been agreed to for the staff of the D. S. S. & A. Board at Aijal. An amount of Rs.1,085 is necessary for this purpose, half of this amount also will be reimbursed by the Central S. S. & A. Board in due course.

An extra expenditure totalling Rs.1,668 had to be incurred on account of purchase of type-writer for the Nowgong D.S.S. & A. Board, repair of the type-writer of the Silchar D.S.S. & A. Board and also for entertainment of office assistants in leave vacancies in the offices of Nowgong and Silchar D. S. S. & A. Boards. This amount has to be provided by Supplementary Grant. Here also the Central S. S. & A. Board will re-imburse half the amount.

F. 5—*Local Board Election*.—In view of recent decision by Government that bye-elections should be held in Missamari and Behali constituencies, it could not be anticipated before as to the amount necessary to be incurred by Deputy Commissioner, Darrang to run the ensuing Tezpur Local Board Election. The expenditure is first to be incurred by the Deputy Commissioner which is subsequently to be recovered from the Local Fund. As the Tezpur Local Board bye-election must be held in March 1958 the expenditure cannot be postponed and as such provision is necessary to sanction an amount of Rs.6,500. Hence the Supplementary Demand.

F.6—Immediately after the Citizenship Rules, 1956 came into force, a large number of persons, particularly displaced persons, applied for citizenship certificates and it was found impossible by the Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers to cope with the situation with the normal strength of their respective establishments and as such, temporary additional staff had to be retained for a period upto 28th February 1958 for the present. No provision could be made in current year's budget as the approval of the Government of India to the entertainment of staff and incurring of other expenditure has been received only in August, 1957. The amount being urgently required, it was advanced from the Contingency Fund and hence the Supplementary Demand to regularise the advance.

H. 2—The amount of Rs.2,000 is required for meeting additional expenditure on account of Pay of the Trade Adviser who has been appointed Director of Movements, in view of Government taking up direct movement of cement and iron and steel, etc., and consequent upgrading of his scale of salary.

H. 3—The amounts are required by the High Commissioner of India in London as estimated by him.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no Cut Motion. The question is that an additional amount of Rs. 9,83,411 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1958, for the administration of the head "25.—General Administration."

(The Motion was adopted.)

No.6

(27.—Administration of Justice)

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Judicial):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that an additional amount of Rs.3,01,181 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending

31st March 1958, for the administration of the head "27.—
Administration of Justice."

Rs.

I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly 17,07,900

II.—Additional grant voted by the Assembly during the year Nil

Additional amount now required 3,01,181

III.—Sub-head under which the Supplementary Demand will
be accounted for:—

Minor and Sub-heads	Grant originally voted by the Assembly		Supplementary grant voted by the Assembly during the year		Additional amount now required		
	General	Sixth Schedule Areas	General	Sixth Schedule Areas	General	Sixth Schedule Areas	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
B.—Law Officers—							
(a)—Advocate General—							
(3) Allowances and Hono- raria.	8,200	..	..	..	1,331	..	1,331
(b)—Legal Remem- brancer—							
3. Allowances and Ho- noraria.	45,200	..	..	..	25,000	..	25,000
4. Contingencies ..	19,000	..	..	..	10,000	..	10,000
(c)—Mufassil Esta- blishment—							
2. Allowances and Ho- noraria.	48,000	2,700	..	..	10,000	..	10,000
3. Contingencies ..	34,000	1,700	..	..	10,000	3,000	13,000
D.—Civil and Sessions Courts—							
(a)—District and Ses- sion Judges—							
2. Pay of Establish- ment.	1,20,000	..	..	..	1,10,000	..	1,10,000

Minor and Sub-heads	Grant originally voted by the Assembly		Supplementary grants voted by the Assembly during the year		Additional amount now required		Total
	General	Sixth Schedule Areas	General	Sixth Schedule Areas	General	Sixth Schedule Areas	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
3. Allowances and Honoraria.	1,15,000	..	..	..	25,000	..	25,000
4. Contingencies ..	1,10,000	..	..	..	17,000	..	17,000
E.—Criminal Courts—							
2. Pay of Establishment.	1,97,600	2,500	..	..	20,000	700	20,700
3. Allowances and Honoraria.	1,35,500	2,900	..	..	20,000	..	20,000
4. Contingencies ..	3,83,100	22,300	..	..	45,000	4,150	49,150
Total ..	..	..	..	..	2,93,331	7,850	3,01,181

EXPLANATORY NOTES

B(a).—In this year, Advocate General, Assam had to go unlike previous years to Delhi several times in connection with Government cases before the Supreme Court. Advocate General has been informed that some Government cases are likely to come up for hearing in March 1958 and hence the provision.

B(b)3.—The additional amount of Rs. 25,000 is required to meet the increased expenditure on fees to lawyers at the Supreme Court (Rs. 10,000) and Government. Advocates and Advocate General for conducting cases before the High Court (Rs. 15,000). The cases under the Assam Taxation on Goods (Carried by Roads or Inland Water-ways) Act, 1954 are likely to come up for hearing before the Supreme Court during this month which will necessitate payment of a considerable amount to the two senior lawyers engaged to represent this Government and also to the Advocate General, Assam. Hence the necessity of this additional amount.

B(b)4.—The extra grant of Rs. 10,000 is required to meet the increased expenditure on security deposit in each appeal to the Supreme Court and printing cost on paper books.

B(c)2.—The additional grant of Rs. 10,000 is required to meet the increased expenditure on fees to Government pleaders for conducting criminal cases before the various Courts the number of which is daily on the increase.

B(c)3.—The extra grant of Rs. 13,000 is required to meet the increased expenditure on fees to other pleaders due to the increase in the volume of litigations throughout the State.

D(a)—District and Sessions Judges—2.—Pay of Establishment.—The additional amount is required to meet the increased expenditure due to operation of revised scales of pay with effect from 1st October 1956.

D(a)3—Allowances and Honoraria.—The amount is necessary mainly due to increased requirement under "Dearness allowance" and "Cash allowance, etc." consequent on the drawal of revised pay scales with arrears.

D(a)4—*Contingencies*.—The increased expenditure under this item is mainly due to purchase of country stationery, postage stamps, furniture, etc., relating to the various courts under the judgeships at Silchar and Gauhati.

E—*Criminal Courts*—

2. *Pay of Establishment*.—Same as under D(a) 2 above.

3. *Allowances and Honoraria*.—The increased requirement under this item is mainly due to increase in the number of Sessions and other criminal and appeal cases and also for examination of a large number of documents involving various cases by the Government examiner of questioned documents. The increase is also due to more demand for copies of criminal cases.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no Cut Motion. The question is that an additional amount of Rs.3,01,181 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1958 for the administration of the head “27.—Administration of Justice.”

(The Motion was adopted.)

No.7

(28.—Jails and Convict Settlement)

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Jails) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam I beg to move that an additional amount of Rs.7,18,901 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1958, for the administration of the head “28.—Jails and Convict Settlement.”

			Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly	...	...	20,86,800
II.—Supplementary grant voted by the Assembly during the year.			Nil
Additional amount now required...	...	...	7,18,901

III.—Sub-head under which the Supplementary Demand will be accounted for.—

Minor and Sub-heads	Grant originally voted by the Assembly		Supplementary grant voted by the Assembly during the year		Additional amount now required		
	General	Sixth Schedule	General	Sixth Schedule	General	Sixth Schedule	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
A—District Jails.—							
1. Pay of Officers	13,900	1,835	..	..	941	..	941
2. Pay of Establishment.	2,94,390	41,188	..	..	35,275	11,800	47,075
3. Allowances and Honoraria.	1,65,000	37,500	..	..	18,852	18,000	36,852
4. Contingencies	10,70,500	1,05,590	..	..	5,36,000	42,700	5,78,700
B—Charges for Police Custody.	1,02,400	43,170	..	..	16,223	1,000	17,223
D—Jail Manufacture	1,50,057	2,035	..	..	38,110	..	38,110
Total	..	..	..	..	6,45,401	73,500	7,18,901

EXPLANATORY NOTES

A.—The amount is required to meet the increased expenditure in respect of pay of Officers, Establishment, Allowances and Honoraria and Contingencies consequent on revised scales of pay to the Officers and Establishment and due to reclassification of Jails. Many temporary hands have also been entertained due to increase of population in the Jails. The major expenditure is necessary to meet the contingent expenditure for diet of the Prisoners. The average Jail population has considerably increased from 4017·07 to 5069·00.

B.—The additional amount is required due to increased expenditure under "diet and Conveyance of U. T. Ps", which is very uncertain and depends on the number of U.T.Ps during a particular year.

D.—The amount is necessary for miscellaneous manufacture and purchase of raw materials in the industrial section due to rise of price of Jail-made articles and greater demand for such articles

There is a Cut Motion, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved is that as an additional amount of Rs.7,18,901 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1958, for the administration of the head 28.—Jails and Convict Settlement."

Shri LARSINGH KHYRIEM [Jowai (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move :

That the total provision of Rs. 7,18,901, under Supplementary Demand No. 7, Major head "28.—Jails and Convict Settlement", at page 16 of the List of Supplementary Demands, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 7,18,901, do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, in moving this Cut Motion I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the lock-up at Jowai is too small. There had been occasions when under-trial prisoners were kept like cattle. They had no place to sleep, neither hardly to sit and they had to remain standing. This is the condition of under-trial prisoners at Jowai. Further, the latrine arrangement was badly done. The latrine is attached to the lock-up and no sanitary arrangement is being done. As such, the prisoners all the time inhale bad smell from the latrine and many under-trial prisoners could not take food unless pressed by hunger. Moreover, the food given to these under-trial prisoners is also not upto the standard ; they are given simple rice and two or three pieces of dried fish. Sir, I hope the Government will see that the lock-up is extended and the food supplied to them is according to the standard laid down by Government.

With these few words, Sir, I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER : Motion moved is that the total provision of Rs. 7,18,901 under Supplementary Demand No. 7, Major head. "28.—Jails and Convict Settlement", at page 16 of the List of Supplementary Demands, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 7,18,901, do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Jails, etc.) : Sir, as regards the accommodation of under-trial prisoners at Jowai, what my Friend stated is substantially correct. There are only two rooms, 8'X 6', for accommodation of the under-trial prisoners. These are indeed very small. A site has now been selected and arrangements have been made for expansion of the lock-up and it is hoped that in course of the next year the Scheme will be implemented.

As regards food given to the under-trial prisoners, I submit, Sir, that this is according to the standard, but, since my Friend, has stated that the food is bad, the matter will be closely looked into with a view to bring the food upto the standard. In view of this, I hope my Friend will withdraw his Cut Motion.

Shri LARSING KHYRIEM [Jowai (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : In view of what the Minister has said, I beg the leave the of House to withdraw my Motion.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that an additional amount of Rs.7,18,901, be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1958, for the administration of the head "28.—Jails and Convict Settlement".

(The Motion is adopted.)

No. 8

(29.—Police)

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance, etc.) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that an additional amount of Rs.36,65,746 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1958, for the administration of the head "29.—Police".

		Rs.					
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly		...	3,78,38,500				
II.—Additional amount already voted by the Assembly			10,87,922				
III.—Additional amount now required		... ..	36,65,746				
Minor and Sub-heads	Grant originally voted by the Assembly		Additional grant already voted by the Assembly		Additional amount now required		
	General	Sixth Schedule	General	Sixth Schedule	General	Sixth Schedule	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
B.—District Executive Force							
(a) District Police--12 Police Force deputed by other States".	33,29,517	..	..	..	36,00,000	..	36,00,000
J.—Works—Original Works (1) Police".	1,00,000	..	3,42,315	..	65,746	..	65,746
Total	.. 34,29,517	..	3,42,315	..	36,65,746	..	36,65,746

*The Finance Minister moved the Demand No.8 in the absence of the Chief Minister.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

(A) The sum of Rs.36,00,000 is required for meeting the expenditure on account of deputation of Police Forces from other States for Naga Hills operations. Initially there were only two Police Forces, viz., Bihar Military Police Force and 4th Battalion Madhya Pradesh Special Armed Force for which a provision of Rs.33,29,517 was made in the budget for 1957-58. Subsequently it became necessary to get more Police Forces from other States and so the 6th Battalion Madhya Pradesh Special Armed Force, Malabar Special Police, Special Reserve Police, Bombay, Uttar Pradesh Railway Protection Police, Uttar Pradesh Special Armed Constabulary and Central Reserve Police had to be taken on loan on terms and conditions as agreed upon. Extra expenditure had therefore to be incurred, and to meet it, a Supplementary Demand of Rs.36,00,000 is necessary. It may be stated in this connection that expenditure incurred by this Government on account of Police Forces borrowed from other States for Naga Hills operations will be re-imbursed by the Government of India.

(B) The sum of Rs.65,746 is required for expenditure already incurred in connection with the last Congress Session and comprises of:—

(i) Rs. 46,736 for construction of temporary buildings and Machangs for accommodation of Police force detailed for duty at Congress Nagar.

(ii) Rs.6,030 for construction of temporary buildings and Machangs for accommodation of Police force detailed for duty at Gauhati.

(iii) Rs.6,980 for arrangement of water supply for the Police force.

(iv) Rs.6,000 for electrification of the temporary buildings mentioned above. Out of the sum of Rs.65,746, Rs.59,716 represents amount for regularisation of the advance from the Contingency Fund.

Mr. SPEAKER : There are four Cut Motions. May I know whether all the Cut Motions are going to be moved ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : Sir, perhaps if we move one Cut Motion others will be able to speak also.

Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.36,65,746, under Supplementary Demand No.8, Major head 29.—Police, at page 17 of the List of Supplementary Demands, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.36,65,746, do stand reduced by Re.1.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to one item in this book. At page 17 under Explanatory Notes—(B) here it has been said—The sum of Rs.65,746 is required for expenditure already incurred in connection with the last Congress Session and comprises of,—

(i) Rupees 46,736 for construction of temporary buildings and Machangs for accommodation of Police force detailed for duty at Congress Nagar.

(ii) Rupees 6,030 for construction of temporary buildings and Machangs for accommodation of Police force detailed for duty at Gauhati.

(iii) Rupees 6,980 for arrangement of water supply for the Police force.

(iv) Rupees 6,000 for electrification of the temporary buildings mentioned above.

Sir, in answer to Unstarred Question No.16, which was asked yesterday, certain informations were given on behalf of the Government. The first question was "What was the total police force employed by the State Government during the last Congress Session?" The Answer was—"3,136 (including Officers and men)" "How many Police Officers were deputed to supervise the work and who were these Officers?" The answer was—"36 (3 Deputy Inspectors General of Police, 10 Superintendents of Police, 23 Deputy Superintendents of Police)". (C) What was the total expense incurred for employing this force at Pragiyotishpur?" The answer was—"As all the T. A. Bills have not yet been submitted and/or paid it is not possible to make an estimate."

So, in the Supplementary Demand which has been placed before us to-day this item—"Travelling Allowance." of those persons were not included and we do not know what would be the amount on that score. In the general Budget also there was a huge amount of money allotted for the Police Department keeping in view this extra-ordinary contingency though the Minister will perhaps say that this was unforeseen and this has come suddenly. Having seen that an additional amount to the tune of Rs.65,746 was spent on the police personnel assembled at Pragjyotishpur one will wonder whether that was a Police conference with a Wing of the Congress Mela or whether it was a Congress Session for which such police personnel assembled there for maintaining law and order. Let it not be misunderstood that I have put any castigation against the Police Force. The service that was rendered by the Police personnel was splendid and undoubtedly there was necessity of some Police Force being posted there. It is no doubt true that many people came from different parts of the country and it is also no doubt true that quite a lot of pick-pockets and other anti-social elements came there.

So some Police personnel should be there so that the people may not be pick-pocketed. But it is to be seen whether when similar Melas were held elsewhere if an equal number or even one-tenth of the number were posted for the purpose of law and order? For example, in Siva-Ratri Mela—either at Uma-nanda or at Sivadole at Sibsagar were such police forces detailed? Or in Ambubachi in Kamakhya has anybody seen such congregation of police forces? The posts for Police Forces engaged in the Congress Session were not temporary and the result was that the police administration, so to say, went on a holiday for the time being.

Then, Sir, some persons were arrested and kept in jail as under-trials and bail petitions were moved and the Magistrate remarked that Police report was necessary. The Court Inspector sent for the report to the Officer-in-charge of the Police Thana. But the Thana Officer was ordered to be at Pragjyotishpur and as a consequence the men were kept in jail. Thus while some people were feasting and feasting at Pragjyotishpur, some others who were suspected by the Police were arrested and were rotting in jail while the Police force at Pragjyotishpur were enjoying holiday. *কিছু পৌষ মাঘ কিছু সর্বনাশ।* As a matter of fact, many cases pending investigation by the Police and requiring prompt investigation went by default. So where is the necessity of employing such a huge police force for maintaining law and order for controlling traffic at a time like this? We do not see as to why such big mobilisation of police forces were there at Pragjyotishpur. And all these moneys were spent from the Public Exchequer. Every political party has a right to hold conferences and Congress being of course the biggest political organisation has every right to hold their conference, and when people come there Government have also the duty to see to their comforts and also to see that traffic is not jammed. For all these, adequate police force is of course necessary. My only complaint here is about the over-enthusiasm of the Government for show of Police force particularly in connection with the Session of a Party pledged to non-violence. Therefore, I consider that this Demand is excessive and this Assembly should not agree to pass this Demand at least as a warning for the future.

Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS [Patacharkuchi, (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, যোরা কংগ্রেছ চেচনৰ কাৰণে Police শিতানত যিটো Supplementary Demand No.7, অনা হৈছে, সেইটো একেবাৰে নিষ্প্ৰয়োজন আৰু বিশেষকৈ 'পুলিচ ফোর্চ' ৰাজনৈতিক দলীয় স্বার্থত

ব্যৱহাৰ কৰা যে অনুচিত সেই বিষয়ে মাননীয় সদস্য শ্ৰীযুত গৌৰীশঙ্কৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য দেৱে অলপ আগতে কৈ গৈছে আৰু এই মিটিং প্ৰসঙ্গতে পুলিচ বাহিনী ব্যৱহাৰ কৰাটো অত্যন্ত বেয়া কথা হৈছে - যিহেতু কংগ্ৰেছ 'চেচন' এটা ৰাজনৈতিক দলৰ অনুষ্ঠান—ইয়াত পুলিচ বাহিনী এনেদৰে ব্যৱহাৰ কৰাটো উচিত হোৱা নাই। কাৰণ পুলিচ বাহিনী হল, আমাৰ ৰাষ্ট্ৰৰ শান্তি আৰু নিৰাপত্তা ৰক্ষাৰ কাৰণে। গতিকে পুলিচক কোনো এটা ৰাজনৈতিক দলৰ হকে ব্যৱহাৰ কৰা যোৱা অন্যায় কথা। কিয়নো, আমি দেখিছো, কমিউনিষ্ট বা চোচিয়েলিষ্ট আদি যিবিলাক অন্যান্য ৰাজনৈতিক দল আছে তেওঁলোকৰ কোনো ৰাজনৈতিক অনুষ্ঠান হলে তাত পুলিচ আদি দিয়া নহয়। এনে ক্ষেত্ৰত এটা দলৰ ৰাজনৈতিক অনুষ্ঠান এটাৰ কাৰণে পুলিচ বাহিনী ব্যৱহাৰ কৰাটো নিশ্চয় অন্যায় হৈছে। এনে অন্যায়কাৰী Supplementary Demand টো আমাৰ এই সদনত পাচ হোৱাটো অন্যায় হ'ব।

তাৰ পিছত, প্ৰাগজ্যোতিষপুৰত পুলিচ থাকিবৰ কাৰণে যিবিলাক ঘৰ সজা হৈছিল সেই বিলাক একেবাৰে ফগস্থায়ী; সেই ঘৰবিলাক চেচন শেষ হোৱাৰ লগে লগে সেই-বিলাকৰ চিনচাব নোহোৱা হ'ল।

আমি শুনিছো, যেতিয়া কল্যাণীত কংগ্ৰেছ অধিবেশন হৈছিল তাৰ পিছত সেই ঠাইত এটা Township গঢ়ি উঠিছিল—গতিকে সেই ব্যয়ৰ পৰা ৰাইজ উপকৃত হৈছিল। কিন্তু গুৱাহাটীত কংগ্ৰেছৰ অধিবেশন বহাৰ পিছতেই ইমান টকা খৰচ কৰি কৰা ঘৰ থিনিবো চিনচাব নোহোৱা হ'ল। ফলত এই ৰাজহুৱা টকা বিলাক অথলৈ গল; নগৰ গঢ়ি উঠাতো দুবৰ কথা। ই বৰ পৰিতাপৰ কথা। ইয়াৰ উপৰিও তাত এটা ৰাজনৈতিক দলৰ মিটিং হোৱাৰ পৰিবৰ্ত্তে, সকলোৰে মনত ধাৰণা হৈছিল যেন তাৰ গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰহে এখন মিটিং হৈছে। কাৰণ তাত গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ Public Works Department, Public Health, Cottage Industry, Publicity আদি প্ৰায় সকলো বিভাগকে কামত খটোৱা হৈছিল। ই এটা অগণতান্ত্ৰিক নীতি। গণতান্ত্ৰিক ৰাজ্য এখনত এনে অগণতান্ত্ৰিক কাৰ্য্য দাঁচাকৈ অশোভনীয়।

এনে ক্ষেত্ৰত, তাৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰী টকা খৰচ হোৱাটো অবাঞ্ছনীয়। সেই ফালৰ-পৰা এনে এটা Demand উঠাই ল'ব লাগে; সেই মন্ত্ৰে মই চৰকাৰক এই Demand উঠাই ল'বলৈ অনুৰোধ জনাওঁ।

ইয়াৰ উপৰি তাৰ পানী যোগানৰ কাৰণেও চৰকাৰী টকা ধৰা হৈছে। ইয়াতকৈ কিছু কম টকাও যদি গুৱাহাটী বা ছিলং নগৰৰ পানী যোগানৰ কাৰণেই খৰচ কৰিলে-হেঁতেন, সিও কামত লাগিলেহেঁতেন। ছিলঙৰ পানীৰ অসুবিধা আনকি আমাৰ মাননীয় সদস্য সকলেও ভোগ কৰিছে। কিন্তু এই টকাৰ পৰা ৰাইজৰ কোনো স্থায়ী উপকাৰ নহল। মোৰ বোধেৰে সেইটো টকা ধৰাও অন্যায় হৈছে।

এই খাদ্য সমস্যাৰ দিনত এনে কংগ্ৰেছ মেলা পাতি বহু টকা-পইচা খৰচ নকৰি খাদ্য সমস্যা সমাধানৰ কাৰণে Test Relief আদি দিয়া হলেও ভাল আছিল। তেতিয়া সমগ্ৰ ৰাইজৰ উপকাৰ হ'লহেঁতেন।

গতিকে এই পুলিচ শিতানত যি টকা ধৰা হৈছে আৰু তাৰ কাৰণে যি Supplementary Demand অনা হৈছে সেইটো উঠাই ল'ব বুলি অনুৰোধ কৰি মই মানবণি মাৰিলোঁ।

Shri MOHIKANTA DAS (Barchalla) : মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমাৰ মাননীয় শ্ৰীবীৰেন্দ্ৰ দাস ডাঙৰীয়াই যিখিনি কথা এই সদনৰ আগত দাঙি ধৰিছে, মই আশা কৰা নাছিলো যে তেখেতে এই বিলাক কথা উঠাই আমাৰ যিটো Supplementary Demand আছে সেইটোৰ বিৰোধিতা কৰিব। অস্ততঃ পুলিচ Accommodation ৰ কাৰণে যি টকা ধৰা হৈছে তাত তেখেতে আপত্তি নকৰিব বুলিয়েই ভাবিছিলো।

Mr. SPEAKER : তেখেতে কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাৱ দিছে যেতিয়া আপুনি আশা কৰিবহে লাগিছিল। (হাঁহি)

Shri MOHIKANTA DAS : আমাৰ দেশত চোচিয়েলিষ্ট, কমিউনিষ্ট আদি নানা ৰাজনৈতিক দল উপদল আছে। গতিকে আমাৰ Political Ideology বেলেগে বেলেগে হোৱাটো স্বাভাৱিক। কিন্তু য'ত সকলো ধৰণৰ মানুহৰ এটা বিৰাট সমাগন হয়, তাত শান্তি আৰু শৃংখলা ৰক্ষা কৰাত চৰকাৰৰ এটা কৰ্ত্তব্য থাকে। প্ৰাগজ্যোতিষপুৰ কংগ্ৰেছত সমগ্ৰ ভাৰতৰ মানুহৰ সমাগন হৈছিল। তাত চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰপৰা পুলিচে Traffic control আৰু শান্তি শৃংখলা ৰক্ষা কৰাটো অপৰিহাৰ্য্য। এইটো কংগ্ৰেছ অনুষ্ঠান নহৈ আন দলৰ অনুষ্ঠান হোৱা হলেও চৰকাৰৰ সেই একে কৰ্ত্তব্যই নিহিত থাকিলহেঁতেন। এনে এখন বিৰাট জনসমাগমত যে আমাৰ পুলিচে ইমান শান্তিপূৰ্ণভাৱে সুদক্ষতাৰে কাম চলাই গল তাৰ কাৰণে দাস ডাঙৰীয়াই আনন্দহে প্ৰকাশ কৰিব লাগিছিল।

তেখেতৰ মতে তালৈ আমাৰ Publicity, Public Health, Police আদি কোনো বাৰ নালাগিছিল। তেখেতৰ আন্তৰিক মনোভাৱ এইটোৱেই নেকি যে সেই মহাসভাত সমবেত লোক সকলৰ শান্তি, নিৰাপত্তা, স্বাস্থ্য আদি সম্পৰ্কে আমাৰ চৰকাৰৰ কোনো কৰ্ত্তব্য নাই? অৱশ্যে য'ত ইমান মানুহৰ সমাগন হৈছিল তাত দুই এটা সামান্য দুৰ্ঘটনা হোৱাটো স্বাভাৱিক। আমাৰ পুলিচ বাহিনীয়ে এনে দক্ষতাৰে Traffic control কৰিছিল যে তাত দূৰদূৰণিৰ পৰা যি সকল লোক আহিছিল, তেখেত সকলে আমাৰ পুলিচৰ দক্ষতাত শতমুখে প্ৰশংসা কৰি গৈছে। কংগ্ৰেছৰ তৰফৰপৰা যি প্ৰদৰ্শনী হৈছিল সেইটোও সুচাৰুৰূপে হৈছিল। তাৰ পিচত পানী যোগানৰ বিষয়ে কৈছে

(Voice—পানীৰ লগত পুলিচৰ সম্বন্ধ কি?)

(Voice—পুলিচে পানী খায়)। (হাঁহি)

Mr. SPEAKER : এই বিষয়ে মোৰো অলপ ক্ৰটি হৈছে; কাৰণ শ্ৰীযুত দাস ডাঙৰীয়াই কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাৱটো আলোচনা কৰোঁতে পুলিচ বিভাগৰ বাহিৰে আন কথাৰ আলোচনা কৰিব বুলি ভবা নাছিলো। প্ৰস্তাৱৰ মুখ্য উদ্দেশ্য হৈছে পুলিচ বিভাগ। বাকী বিলাক কথাৰ আলোচনা কৰিবলৈ অন্যান্য কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাৱ পাব আৰু কুটীৰ শিল্পৰ মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ দাবীৰ প্ৰসঙ্গতো সুবিধা পাব। গতিকে পুলিচ বিভাগৰ লগত আৱদ্ধ থকাই ভাল।

Shri MOHIKANTA DAS : ভাল, মই পুলিচ বিভাগতে আৱদ্ধ থাকিম। কংগ্ৰেছ অধিবেশনৰ দৰে এটা বিৰাট জনসমাবেহত আইন, শৃংখলা আৰু যানবাহন নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ আদিত পুলিচ বিভাগে যথেষ্ট সাফল্য দেখুৱালে। এই বিভাগৰ সহযোগ নোহোৱা হলে হয়তো বহুতো দুৰ্ঘটনা হ'লহেঁতেন কিম্বা মৃত্যু পৰ্য্যন্ত

ঘটিলহেঁতেন। কিন্তু পুলিচ বিভাগৰ সহযোগিতা পোৱা বাবে অধিবেশনখন সাফল্য-মণ্ডিত হল। গতিকে পুলিচ থাকিবৰ বাবে ঘৰ সাজিব লাগিব আৰু খোৱা পানীৰো যোগান ধৰিব লাগিব। মোৰ বোধেৰে চৰকাৰে ই বিলাক সুব্যৱস্থা কৰি জনসমাবেশৰ অশেষ হিতসাধন কৰিলে। সেই কাৰণে আমি চৰকাৰক ধন্যবাদ দিয়া উচিত। এই প্ৰসঙ্গত যি খৰচ বহন কৰিছে বা কৰিব লাগিব তাৰ বাবে মই আশাকৰোঁ যেন আমাৰ বিৰোধী দলৰ বন্ধুসকলে চৰকাৰক সমালোচনা নকৰে, বৰঞ্চ চৰকাৰে যিবোৰ কাম কৰিছিল তাৰবাবে চৰকাৰক অভিনন্দন জনাব।

কিন্তু দুখৰ কথা যে এই ভালকামবোৰ হোৱাৰ বাবে আমাৰ বিৰোধী দলৰ বন্ধুসকলে ভাল পোৱা নাই। আশাকৰোঁ এই কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাৱটো অনা বন্ধুজনে এই বোৰত প্ৰতিবাদ নকৰি প্ৰস্তাৱটো উঠাই লয়। পুলিচে শুৱলৈ সময় পোৱা নাই আৰু ঠিঠি ঠিঠি বাতি-দিন সমানে খাটিব লগা হৈছিল। সেই কাৰণে প্ৰস্তাৱটো উঠাই লবলৈ অনুৰোধ জনাই মোৰ বক্তব্যৰ সামৰণি মাৰিলোঁ।

Shri TARUNSEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) : অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, শ্ৰীযুত ভটাচাৰ্য্যৰ কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাৱটো মই সৰ্বান্তঃকৰণে সমৰ্থন কৰিছোঁ। এই প্ৰসঙ্গত মই কব খোজোঁ যে ৰাজনৈতিক দলে সন্মিলন পাতে আৰু গণতান্ত্ৰিক দেশত সন্মিলন পাতিবৰ সকলো দলৰে অধিকাৰ আছে। কিন্তু তাকে কৰোঁতে দেশৰ শাসন ব্যৱস্থাৰ বিশৃংখল হোৱাটো আৰু জনসাধাৰণৰ অস্থিবিধা হোৱাটো অনুচিত। দেশৰ বিভিন্ন ঠাইত শান্তি আৰু শৃংখলা বক্ষাৰ কাৰণে যি পুলিচ বখা হৈছে, সেই পুলিচ বাহিনী এখন দলীয় অধিবেশনৰ বাবে লৈ আহি সেইবোৰ ঠাইৰ জনসাধাৰণক অস্থিবিধাত পেলোৱা অন্যাৱ্য হৈছে। ইয়াৰ উদাহৰণ শ্ৰীযুত ভটাচাৰ্য্যই দিছে আৰু ময়ো তাৰ এটা উদাহৰণ দিওঁ যে নলবাৰী আদালতত হাজিৰ হোৱা কেজনমান *under-trial Prisoner* আছিল। নিৰ্দিষ্ট সময়ত হাকিমে থানাৰ *Officer-in-charge* ৰ পৰা ৰিপোর্ট বিচাৰিলে, তেতিয়া কলে যে, অফিচাৰ নাই। তাৰ পিচত *Circle Inspector* ক বিচাৰিলে কিন্তু তেওঁকো নেপালে। সকলোবোৰক প্ৰাগজ্যোতিষপুৰ কংগ্ৰেছলৈ লৈ যোৱা হৈছে। ফলত সেই বিচাৰাধীন বন্দী কেজন গুৱাহাটী হাজোতত আৱদ্ধ হৈ থাকিব লগা হল।

আমাৰ পুলিচ সকলে কংগ্ৰেছ অধিবেশনত দক্ষতাৰে কাম কৰাৰ কাৰণে আনন্দ পাইছোঁ, কিন্তু লগতে দুঃখ পাইছোঁ যে কংগ্ৰেছৰ নিজস্ব ভলন্টিয়াৰ থকা স্বত্তেও পুলিচক শান্তি আৰু শৃংখলা বক্ষা কৰাৰ পৰিবৰ্ত্তে ভলন্টিয়াৰ কামত খটোৱা হল কিয়? অন্যান্য থানাৰ পৰা পুলিচবোৰ লৈ আহি কংগ্ৰেছৰ ভলন্টিয়াৰ কৰা অন্যাৱ্য হৈছে।

এই কংগ্ৰেছ অধিবেশনলৈ অহা নেতৃস্থানীয় নেলাকসকলক *State Guest* হিচাপে অভ্যর্থনা কৰাটো জনসাধাৰণে কেতিয়াও সমৰ্থন নকৰে। নেতাগকল আহিছিল নিজৰ দলীয় সন্মিলনত যোগ দিবৰ নিমিত্তে, তেওঁলোক কোনো চৰকাৰী কামত অহা নাই। তেনেস্থলত তেওঁলোকক *State Guest* কৰাটো সম্পূৰ্ণ অন্যাৱ্য হৈছে।

Mr. SPEAKER : The hon. Member should confine his observations with regard to the question of Police arrangements because the Cut Motion on the Supplementary Demand refers only to that point.

Shri TARUNSEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) : এই নেতা-সন্মান প্রদশনৰ নিমিত্তে পুলিচ ব্যৱহাৰ কৰাটো শোভনীয় হোৱা নাই।

Mr. SPEAKER : It is now 12-30. The House now stands adjourned till 2 p.m. to-day.

Adjournment

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

After Launch

Shri TARUNSEN DEKA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, আগৰ বক্তৃতাত মই কৈছোঁ যে দেশৰ শাসন আৰু শৃংখলাৰ ভাৰ যি সকলৰ হাতত ন্যস্ত কৰা হৈছে সেই সকলক কংগ্ৰেছৰ দলীয় অধিবেশনত ভলন্টিয়াৰ হিচাপে খটোৱাটো অত্যন্ত অন্যায় হৈছে। অকল অন্যায়ই নহয়, এইদৰে খটোৱাটো চৰকাৰৰ বহু বিঘোষিত নীতিৰ বিৰুদ্ধে গৈছে। চৰকাৰৰ নেতা সকলে বাৰে বাৰে ঘোষণা কৰিছে যে কোনো ৰাজ কৰ্মচাৰীক কোনো বিষয় ৰাজনৈতিক দলৰ কামত লগোৱা নহয় বা কোনো বিশেষ ৰাজনৈতিক দলৰ ভিতৰলৈ আনিবলৈ যত্ন কৰা নহয় আৰু এইটো হোৱা অন্যায়। এনে ধৰণৰ ঘোষণা বহুবাৰ কৰা হৈছে; অৰ্থাৎ আমাৰ নায়ক সকলে—আমাৰ চৰকাৰৰ নায়ক সকলে—শাসন আৰু শৃংখলাৰ মূল পুলিচ বাহিনীক এই দৰে ভলন্টিয়াৰ ৰূপে খটাই সেই নীতি ভঙ্গ কৰিছে। গতিকে আনিবলৈ যে সেই নীতিৰ প্ৰতিবাদ কৰিছোঁ এনে নহয়, দেশৰ ভিন্ ভিন্ ঠাইৰ চাৰিওফালৰ পৰা সকলো লোকেই এই নীতিৰ বিৰুদ্ধে মাত মাতিছে। সেই কাৰণে মই চৰকাৰক সতৰ্ক কৰি দিব খোজোঁ যে ভৱিষ্যতলৈ যেন আমাৰ শান্তি আৰু শৃংখলা ৰক্ষা কৰা পুলিচ বাহিনীক কংগ্ৰেছৰ দলীয় কামত নিয়োগ কৰিবলৈ কোনো যত্ন কৰা নহয়।

মোৰ দ্বিতীয় কথা হৈছে যে শান্তি আৰু শৃংখলা ৰক্ষাৰ কাৰণে যিমানখিনি পুলিচ প্ৰাগজ্যোতিষপুৰলৈ নিয়া হৈছিল আচলতে সিমানখিনি নিয়াৰ কোনো প্ৰয়োজন নাছিল। কাৰণ তাত কোনো বুদ্ধ বা সংগ্ৰাম হোৱা নাছিল। হয়তো পকেট মৰা বা লুকাই চুবকৈ যিবিলাকে অশান্তি মূলক কাম কৰিবলৈ উদ্যত হ'ব পাৰে সেইবিলাকক দমন কৰিবলৈ বা সিহঁতৰ হাতৰপৰা ৰক্ষা পাবৰ কাৰণে অৰ্থাৎ শান্তিপূৰ্ণ আবহাৱা সৃষ্টি কৰাৰ কাৰণে কিছু পুলিচৰ দৰকাৰ আছিল আৰু মোৰ বিশ্বাস সেই কাৰণে তাত ২০০ পুলিচ নিয়োগ কৰা হলেই কেতিয়াও শান্তি ভঙ্গ নহলহেঁতেন। তেনে অৱস্থাত চৰকাৰে ৩০০০ পুলিচ তালৈ লৈ গৈ ৰাজহুৱা ধনৰ এটা ডাঙৰ অংশ তাত খৰচ কৰাটো মোৰ বোধেৰে অত্যন্ত অন্যায় হৈছে। বিশেষকৈ যেতিয়া দেশৰ চাৰিওফালে, আকাল, দৰিদ্ৰতা, অনাহাৰে দেখা দিছে, যেতিয়া দেশৰ চাৰিওফালে ৰাইজৰ মাজত ভাত-কাপোৰৰ হাহাকাৰ উঠিছে এনে অৱস্থাত ইমানবোৰ পুলিচ নিয়োগ কৰি তেওঁবিলাকৰ ভাতাৰ নিমিত্তে যে ইমানখিনি টকা খৰচ কৰাৰ নীতি চৰকাৰে লৈছে সেইটো অত্যন্ত অন্যায় হৈছে। মই ভাবোঁ, যদি চৰকাৰৰ এই কাৰ্য্যৰ বিচাৰ কৰা হয়—যদিহে ন্যায্যমতে আদালতত বিচাৰ কৰা হয় তেতিয়াহলে আজি যি সকলে শাসনৰ গাৰ্দ্ৰীত বহি আছে—বিশেষকৈ যি সকলে পুলিচৰ শাসনৰ গাৰ্দ্ৰীত বহি আছে সেই সকলে জবাব দিবলৈ বাধ্য হ'ব লাগিব।

আমাৰ মাননীয় সদস্য, শ্ৰীযুত বীৰেন্দ্ৰ কুমাৰ দাসে কংগ্ৰেছ অধিবেশনত অন্যায় ভাবে পুলিচ নিয়োগ কৰা সম্বন্ধে যি আলোচনা কৰিছে সেই সম্বন্ধে আমাৰ অলপতে ভগা মন্ত্ৰী মাননীয় শ্ৰীযুত দাস ডাঙৰীয়াই কৈছে যে এই বিষয়ে আলোচনা নকৰি **Cut Motion** টো উঠাই ল'ব লাগে। তেখেতে যি স্মৰত বা যি ধৰণেৰে বক্তৃতা নকৰক

লাগে, কিন্তু এটা কথা অতি স্পষ্ট যে তেখেত সকলে হয়তো ভয় পাইছে যে তেখেত সকলৰ বা চৰকাৰৰ যি দুষ্কাৰ্য্য সেই বিষয়ে যদি আলোচনা চলি থাকে তেনেহলে তেওঁলোকৰ দুষ্কাৰ্য্যৰ কথা ওলাই যাব পাৰে আৰু ওলাই গলে তেওঁলোকৰ বদনাম হব পাৰে..

Mrs. LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal) : কি দুষ্কাৰ্য্য?

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order. No body has any right to stop any hon. Member when he is speaking in the House. The only person who can stop him is the Speaker. Now the Speaker has not stopped the hon. Member. So, there is no need to discuss this point.

Shri TARUNSEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) : শ্ৰীযুত দাস ডাঙৰীয়াই এটা কথা ঠিকেই কৈছে যে এই শিতানত যিমান টকা ধৰা হৈছে তাৰ বহুতখিনি টকা পুলিচৰ কাৰণে অস্থায়ী মাচাং আচিদ সজোৱাত খৰচ কৰা হৈছে।

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Member that in parliamentary debate repetition is not permitted. So what one hon. Member has already stated on the floor of the House, another Member need not again go over into it. Therefore, I request the hon. Member to confine his observations to specific points of his own rather than dwelling upon points raised by another hon. Member.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA : এই শিতানত যিখিনি টকা খৰচ হৈছে তাৰ ভালেখিনি অস্থায়ী কামত খৰচ কৰা হৈছে। অৱশ্যে এইটো ঠিক যে এনে অধিবেশনৰ সময়ত বহুত বিলাক অস্থায়ী কামৰো আৱশ্যক হয় আৰু সকলো ধৰণৰ স্থায়ী কাম হোৱাত অসুবিধা আছে। কিন্তু এই টকাৰে কিছুমান স্থায়ী কামো হব পাবিলেহেঁতেন। আৰু হোৱা হলে অধিবেশনৰ পাঁচত সেইবোৰ আন কামত খটোৱাৰ পাবিলেহেঁতেন। গতিকে এনেকুৱা ধৰণৰ অস্থায়ী কামত ইমানবোৰ টকা খৰচ কৰা অত্যন্ত অন্যায় হৈছে। এনেকুৱা বহুতো উদাহৰণ দিব পাৰি।

ইয়াৰ উপৰিও মোৰ মনত আৰু এটা খেলাইছে যে যেতিয়া এই পুলিচ বাহিনীক অতি সূচতুৰ বুলি কোৱা হয়, কিন্তু এইদৰে এখন মিটিঙৰ বাবে ৩,০০০ পুলিচ নিয়োগ কৰিবলৈ হলে আমাৰ পুলিচ বাহিনীৰ অকৰ্ম্মণ্যতাৰহে প্ৰমাণ কৰে। গতিকে কংগ্ৰেছ অধিবেশনত ইমানবিলাক পুলিচ নিয়োগ কৰা কাৰ্য্যৰ দ্বাৰা পুলিচ বিভাগক অপমানিত হৈ কৰা হৈছে বুলি ভাৱে!

A voice (আপুনিহে অকলে ভাৱে) (laughter).)

Shri TARUNSEN DEKA : বিশেষকৈ প্ৰাগজ্যোতিষপুৰ অধিবেশনৰ সময়ত বহুতো ঠাইত পুলিচ বাহিনীৰ কাৰণে

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order. This point had already been discussed by Shri Bhattacharyya. So, I do not think any further elaboration on the point is necessary.

Shri TARUNSEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) : সৰ্বশেষত এই বিষয়ে মই ইয়াকে কওঁ যে এই শিতানত পুলিচ বাহিনী নিয়োগ কৰা কামত ইমান টকা খৰচ কৰাটো অনুচিত হৈছে আৰু অন্যান্য দেশ প্ৰেমিক সকলৰ স্মৃতিত সুৰ মিলাই নয়ো এই কাৰ্য্যৰ তীব্ৰ নিন্দা কৰিছোঁ ।

Shri HARINARAYAN BARUA (Teok) : মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমাৰ অসমীয়াত এটা কথা আছে, 'খোঁৱৰ খোজে প্ৰতি অপৰাধ' । অৰ্থাৎ অপৰাধ ধৰিবলৈ ইচ্ছা কৰিলে প্ৰতি কথাতেই অপৰাধ ধৰিব পাৰে । সেই কাৰণে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে যিহকেই নকৰক তাতেই দোষ ধৰাটো বিৰোধী দলৰ পক্ষে একো অস্বাভাৱিক নহয় । গতিকে এই প্ৰসঙ্গত মই আলোচনাৰ মাজলৈ সোমাব লগা হোৱাত কিবা অপৰাধ হলেহে যেন তেখেত সকলে মৰিষণ কৰে । শ্ৰীযুত ভটাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াই উপস্থাপিত কৰা মূল প্ৰস্তাৱটো ইমান সহজ আৰু সৰল যে তাৰ আলোচনাত অংশ গ্ৰহণ কৰিবলৈ মোৰ একে-বাৰেই ইচ্ছা নাছিল । তাৰোপৰি তেখেতৰ প্ৰস্তাৱটোত সিদিনা তোলা প্ৰস্তাৱটোৰ দৰে 'S' বা ass ৰ বিভ্রাতো নাই । তেনেস্থলতো, মাননীয় কেইজনমান সদস্যৰ আলোচনাই মোৰ কথা কবলৈ ইচ্ছা নোহোৱা মনটোক উচপিচাই তুলিছে আৰু সেই কাৰণে দুই-চাৰিঘাৰ কথা কম ।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, এই বিতৰ্কত যোগদান কৰা বিৰোধী দলৰ নেতাসকলৰ আলো-চনাৰপৰা এইটো পৰিলক্ষিত হৈছে যে তেওঁলোকে যেন তেওঁলোকৰ তৰ্কৰ মাজেদিয়েই পৰাজয় স্বীকাৰ কৰিছে । এই কথাৰ স্পষ্ট প্ৰমাণ দিছে শ্ৰীযুত ডেকাৰ উক্তিৰে তেখেতেও আজি 'কিন্তু'ৰ বিভ্রাতত পৰিছে । আৱস্তাতে তেখেতে পুলিচক শ্লাগ ললে পিছত কিন্তুয়ে কি কৰিলে চাওক—তেখেতে প্ৰথমে পুলিচ বিভাগটো আৰু বিভাগীয় কৰ্মচাৰীৰ কাৰ্য্যদক্ষতাৰ শ্লাগলৈ তাৰ পিছত এই বিভাগৰ কৰ্মচাৰীৰ কাৰ্য্যৰ হেতু খৰচৰ মোণাটো ডাঙৰ হৈছে বুলি আপত্তি কৰিছে । আকৌ সৰ্বশেষত পুলিচ কৰ্মচাৰী তথা পুলিচ বিভাগটোৰ কাৰ্য্যৰ অকৰ্ম্মণ্যতাৰ কথা কৈছে । মোৰ মনেৰে তেখেত সকলৰ এই কথা বিলাক অনৰ্থক । তেওঁলোকে এফালে পুলিচৰ কাৰ্য্যকুশলতাৰ শ্লাগ লৈছে—আৰু আনফালে ঠিক তাৰ পিচতেই জোৰকৈ তেওঁলোকক অকৰ্ম্মণ্য বুলি দোষাবোপ কৰিছে । এই বিলাক জোৰ দিয়া কথা ; জোৰৰ আবেগত সু আৰু কুকাৰ্য্যৰ সংমিশ্ৰণ ঘটাবৰ নোৱাৰি—তেখেত সকল বিপাওত পৰিছে আৰু এই অৱস্থাতোৱেই তেওঁলোকৰ পৰাজয় স্বীকাৰ কৰোৱাইছে । তেওঁলোকে মানি লৈছে—পুলিচে ভাল কাম কৰিছে । আৰু কৈছে—ইমান পুলিচ বাহিনীৰ প্ৰয়োজন নাছিল ; কংগ্ৰেছৰ ভলণ্টিয়াৰ সকলক কামত নলগালে কিয় এই প্ৰশ্নৰ উত্তৰত মই কওঁ—কংগ্ৰেছ অধিবেশনৰ কাৰণে গুৱাহাটী-ছিলং ৰ'ডৰ শবণীয়া পাহাৰৰ পৰা আৱস্ত কৰি প্ৰাগজ্যোতিষপুৰৰ শেষ গাঁৱলৈ অৰ্থাৎ জালুকবাৰী চাৰ্ভে স্কুললৈকে

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order. This is not relevant to the discussion. মাননীয় সদস্যই প্ৰাগজ্যোতিষপুৰ বৰ্ণনা বা ব্যাখ্যা নকৰি কৈ যাওক ।

Shri HARINARAYAN BARUA : এই বিৰাট অঞ্চলটো ওতপ্ৰোতভাবে জড়িত হৈ ব্যস্ত হৈ পৰিছিল । গুৱাহাটী চহৰৰ এই বিৰাট অংশটো প্ৰয়োজন হলে আয়ত্বাধীনলৈ আনিবলৈ কিমান পুলিচ বাহিনীৰ প্ৰয়োজন হব পাৰে তাক সকলোৱে অনুমান কৰিব পাৰে বুলি মোৰ বিশ্বাস । তেনে এটা পৰিস্থিতিত তেখেত সকলৰ আজিৰ সদনত দিয়া পৰামৰ্শ অনুসৰি যদি পুলিচ বাহিনী ব্যৱহাৰ নকৰি কেৱল ভলণ্টিয়াৰৰ দ্বাৰাই কাম কৰোৱা হলেহেঁতেন—তেতিয়াও ঠিক তাৰ ওপৰত তীব্ৰ

সমালোচনা হ'লহেঁতেন যে, আমাৰ চৰকাৰ ইমান অলায়ক যে ইমান এটা বিৰাট আয়োজন হোৱা স্বত্তেও তেওঁলোকে পুলিচক কামত নিদি ৰাইজৰ, জনসাধাৰণৰ অমঙ্গল সাধিলে। অ'ত দুৰ্ঘটনা, ত'ত দুৰ্ঘটনা—মানুহৰ প্ৰাণহানী হ'ল; গাড়ী ভাগিল, ৰাইজৰ সম্পত্তি নষ্ট হ'ল, ইত্যাদি। ভাগ্যে ভগৱানৰ কৰুণাত তেনে হৈ নুঠিল—শান্তি-শৃংখলাৰ মাজত কাৰ্য্য সমাধা হ'ল; অৰ্থাৎ তেনেদৰে সমাধা নোহোৱা হ'লেও সি সকলে ভাল পালে-হেঁতেন—লেঠা হ'ল এতিয়া মই দেখাত অধিবেশনখন নিবিধে সমাধান হ'ল। আৰু সেই কাৰণে তেখেতসকলে তৰ্ক যে কৰিব লাগে তাৰ অৰ্থেই এই বিলাক তৰ্কৰ অৱতারণা কৰিছে—ইমান টকা খৰচ হ'ল কিয়? আমাৰ ভাগ্যত প্ৰাগজ্যোতিষপুৰৰ কংগ্ৰেছ অধিবেশন চোৱাৰ সৌভাগ্য ঘটিছিল—আমাৰ কংগ্ৰেছী সকলৰ বাহিৰেও অন্যান্য দলৰ মুখীয়াল মুখীয়াল সকলক তাত দেখা মনত পৰে।

(Voice—শ্ৰীযুত ভটাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াকো দেখা পাইছিল নেকি?)

(Voice ইমান জনাৰণ্যৰ মাজত কাকনো আৰু কিমান চাব।)

সকলোৱেই আৰু যি সকলেই আজিও কংগ্ৰেছৰ অধিবেশনৰ কথা কয়, মই তেখেত সকলে কোৱাত সুখী হৈছোঁ যে ইমান শৃংখলাবদ্ধভাৱে অধিবেশন হৈ যোৱাত অসমৰ পুলিচ বাহিনীৰ শলাগ লৈছে। অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, শ্ৰীযুত ভটাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়া আৰু শ্ৰীযুত গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াই গুৱাহাটীতেই বাস কৰে। আৰু এই অধিবেশন হৈছিল গুৱাহাটীতেই। গতিকেই সদ্ব্যৱস্থা বদ্ব্যৱস্থা তেখেত সকলৰেই। অধিবেশন অকৃতকাৰ্য্য হোৱা হ'লে নিশ্চয় অসমৰ বাহিৰৰ পৰা অহা লোকসকলে বা অসমৰ মানুহেই কি ভাবিলেহেঁতেন। সকলোৱে একেবাক্যে কলেহেঁতেন, “অসম চৰকাৰৰ কোনো দায়িত্ব নাই—অসমীয়া মানুহে একো নাজানে।” এই বদনামে তেখেত সকলকো ধৰিলেহেঁতেন। প্ৰাগজ্যোতিষপুৰলৈ, অধিবেশনৰ সময়ত যি এবাৰ জালুকবাৰীলৈ গৈছিল তেওঁৰেই স্পষ্ট অনুমান কৰিব পাৰে—সেই সময়ত বাস্তৱ-পথত মানুহৰ কিমান ভিৰ। বাস্তৱ ইপাৰৰ পৰা সিপাৰলৈ যাবলৈ হ'লে গাড়ী আৰু মানুহৰ ভিৰত কিমান সময় অপেক্ষা কৰিব লাগে! তেনে অৱস্থাত পুলিচ বাহিনী নিয়োগ নকৰা হ'লে কিমান বিপদ আপদৰ সন্মুখীন হ'বলগা হ'লহেঁতেন তাক সহজেই অনুমান কৰিব পৰা যায়। এই সকলোবিলাক বিপদ আপদৰ হাত সাৰিব পৰাটো বৰ ডাঙৰ কথা আৰু ইয়াৰ কাৰণে পুলিচ বিভাগৰ কাৰ্য্যতৎপৰতাৰ শলাগ, সকলোৱেই ল'ব লাগিব। সেই কাৰণেই আমি শলাগ লৈছোঁ আৰু অসমৰ বাহিৰৰ বিভিন্ন ঠাইৰ পৰাও পুলিচৰ কাৰ্য্যতৎপৰতাৰ ওপৰত শলাগনী পত্ৰ আহিছে।

গতিকে আমাৰ ভটাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াই যিটো কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাৱ আনিছে তাত তেখেতে Supplementary Demand নো পাচ হ'ব নালাগে বুলি কোৱা নাই কেৱল তেখেতে কিছু আলোচনা কৰাৰহে সুযোগ লৈছে কাৰণ তেখেতৰ মতে তাত যিমান খৰচ হৈছে তাতকৈ অলপ কম হ'লে ভাল পালেহেঁতেন, ইয়াকেহে তেখেতে ক'ব বিচাৰিছে।

কিন্তু মই তেখেতক ক'ব খোজোঁ যে আমাৰ পুলিচ বাহিনীয়ে যি গুৰুতৰ কাম সু-যোগ্যভাবে সমাধা কৰিছে, সেই কাম অনুপাতে খৰচ অকণো বেছি হোৱা নাই।

চোচিয়েলিষ্টেই হওক বা কমিউনিষ্টেই হওক ইতিপূৰ্বে আমাৰ ৰাজ্যত কাহানিওই এনে বিৰাট জনসমাগম হোৱা নাছিল। যোৱা কংগ্ৰেছ মহাসভাত অকল কংগ্ৰেছী লোকে নহয়, সকলো ৰাজনৈতিক দলৰে মানুহৰ তাত সমাগম হৈছিল। এনে এটা বিৰাট সভা যে শান্তি আৰু শৃংখলাৰ মাজেৰে অসমত হৈ গ'ল তাৰ কাৰণে তেখেত সকলেও গৰ্ব্বহে অনুভৱ কৰা উচিত।

গতিকে মোৰ বোধেৰে এই খৰচখিনি হোৱাত তেখেত সকলে আপত্তি কৰা উচিত নহয় ।

মই ইয়াতে কওঁ যে কোনো মানুহৰ শ্ৰীবৃদ্ধি দেখিলে বহুতে সহ্য কৰিব নোৱাৰে । উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে মই কওঁ যে, মই প্ৰথমে যেতিয়া এই সদনলৈ সভা হিচাবে আহো তেতিয়া অলপ চিকন আছিলোঁ, অলপ চুলিৰ 'বাবৰি'ও আছিল ; কিন্তু এতিয়া সেই 'বাবৰি'ও নাই আৰু মোৰ বাহিৰেও দুই চাৰিজন সভ্যৰ কেঁকোৰা চুলি আছিল, দেখাত শুকান-উকান আছিল কিন্তু আজি চিকন.....

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order. I have already brought to the notice of the hon. Member repeatedly that this is a Supplementary Demand and we are guided by rules and procedure which are laid down in respect of Supplementary Demands. So, we cannot discuss anything which is not strictly relevant to the subject under discussion.

Shri HARINARAYAN BARUA (Teok) : মই কথা প্ৰসঙ্গতেহে কবলৈ বিচাৰিছিলোঁ । বাক মই সেইটো নকওঁ । অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়! মই জনাত গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে শান্তি আৰু শৃংখলা বক্ষাৰ দায়িত্ব লৈছে যেতিয়া অন্যান্য ৰাজ নৈতিক দলে ইমান বিৰাট জনসমাগমৰ আয়োজন কৰি কৰি গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ সহায় বিচাৰিলে শান্তি আৰু শৃংখলা বক্ষাৰ কাৰণে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে নিশ্চয় সহায় কৰিব ।

সেই নিমিত্তে কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাৱটো উপস্থাপিত কৰি আমাৰ ভাটচাৰ্জী ডাঙৰীয়াই যি আপত্তি উঠাইছে সেইটো তেখেতে উঠাই লব বুলিয়েই মই আশা কৰিলোঁ ।

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance, etc.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, under this head of Demand there are 4 Cut Motions. Now I will deal with the item which is sought to be discussed under the first Cut Motion, that is, to criticise the Government for expenditure incurred on account of deputation of police forces from other States for Naga Hills operations. I take it that this point has not properly impressed the House. I trust that it is due to the imperative necessity that police forces from other States of India had to be deputed there. I will only briefly deal with the three other Cut Motions relating to the amount spent on police forces during the last Congress Session at Gauhati. Shri Deka said that it was unnecessary and extravagantly spent. Shri Bhattacharyya said that the Demand was excessive. It has been sought to establish that the forces of 3,500 were rather high. Critics did not see similar police forces being deployed on the occasion of Sibaratri at Sibadole or Ambubachi at Kamakhya. Sir, I submit that the analogies are not correct. How can there be such a huge gathering of people on the occasion of Sibaratri and Ambubachi in a single day. Perhaps never in the history of Assam there was such a huge gathering of people in connection

with the Congress Session and the Exhibition. I submit that considering the size of the gathering of the people from all parts of India the police force deployed at Pragjyotishpur was not too big. If we go to look at the statistics of England, the foremost civilised country, we find that the police force there is much bigger on *per capita* basis than in India and of all the various States of India the police force in Assam is rather much small, I am of course subject to correction, it will be about one constable for every 16 square miles, and for such a big congregation the police force consisting of 3,500 men in all, including the Officers, must not be considered as too big. Of course, it is a question of opinion. There may be parties of other ideologies or people of different nature who might like to commit serious offences during the congregation and therefore to maintain law and order the number of police force that was deployed was quite necessary and judging from the result it may be considered that that police force was just enough. Before the police force was there, there were several traffic accidents in that area and after the police force was deployed the number of such accidents came to almost nil. Those who had the good luck of seeing such huge gathering of people in connection with Congress Sessions elsewhere even say that the number of pick-pocketing here was very much less in comparison.

Mr. Bhattacharyya in his good English oratory says whether it was a conference of a party or not, it was undoubtedly not a Police Conference. I submit, Sir, that in such an area and in the midst of so many people if it is said that it was a police conference, I am quite at a loss to comment on it. Then, again, Sir, both Shri Birendra Kumar Das and Shri Deka have said:—

“পুলিচক ভলণ্টিয়াৰ হিচাপে খটুৱা হৈছে।” আৰু এবাৰ কৈছে “ৰাজনৈতিক অনুষ্ঠানত চৰকাৰে পুলিচক ভলণ্টিয়াৰ হিচাপে খটুৱা অনুচিত।” আৰু এঠাইত জোৰ দি কৈছে “পুলিচক দলীয় কামত খটুৱা হৈছে।”

মই বিনিীত ভাৱে নিবেদন কৰিব খোজোঁ যে,.....

Mr. SPEAKER : I thought the Hon'ble Minister was speaking in English.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance, etc): I was replying in English to the English portion of the debate. But these two gentlemen spoke in Assamese and I thought I should reply to them in Assamese.

Mr. SPEAKER : I had already given a Ruling during the last Session that when the Hon'ble Ministers speak they speak for the benefit of the entire House and it would be much to the convenience of the House if they speak in English.

*Voices :—*Thank you, Sir.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance, etc.): I submit to the direction of the Chair. If I spoke in Assamese it was out of deference to the two hon. Members who spoke in Assamese and I thought that if the reply was placed side by side with the accusation the record would be better reading and better looking. Any way, I submit to the direction of the Chair.

It was said, Sir, that the police were engaged in the Congress Session as volunteers and if it were so, it was rightly urged that this was a misdeed. But, I submit, Sir, that whoever went to that area and whoever came in contact with the Police during those days, he had unmistakably found that the police were doing only police duties, not one jot more nor one iota less. For the information of the hon. Members, I may be permitted to say that the organisation on its side had also a little over 3,500 volunteers, both youngmen and young women, and the volunteers did the part of duty for the organisation ; the police simply did what was necessary to be done to direct traffic and maintain law and order.

Sir, Pragjyotishpur was not the site for only one congregation or one conference. There were two others with conflicting ideologies. The memory is fresh that even that wide, decent and dignified gate was besmeared with a difficult-to-eradicate chemical with the slogan “ গো হত্যা নিবারণ করক ” Sir, we all have a special regard for cattle which can be used for useful purposes, for milk, for ploughing, drawing carts, and so on, but it seems the protagonists of cow went there with vengeance to disfigure the gate ! There was this congregation just with that slogan, as if taking the earliest opportunity to exhibit to the people to what extent one could go to protect the Mother Cow. Sir, I do not derisively say “Mother Cow” because we, the Hindus, call it “Go-Mata”. We have respect for the cow but it is difficult to appreciate when one wants to protect the cow by killing the Mother Country herself. So, these antics are difficult to understand.

Then, Sir, the Government were accused of taking too large a police force to Pragjyotishpur. Now, Sir, one thing should not be lost sight of. There was another not exactly 'hostile' (my vocabulary is not rich and if I do not find the proper word I may be pardoned) but not a too friendly a party which wanted to see that the Congress Session did not end successfully. There were processions, meetings and things of this sort. Suppose, not the party leaders but some hot-heads on either side came to fracas where such a large number of people had congregated, it would have been difficult to control the situation. So, it would be seen that the Government acted rightly in deploying that force.

Then, Sir, my Friends also said that because a large number of police force was deployed there, there was paucity of police men elsewhere and the people suffered. This is not a fact. It has not come to our notice that people anywhere suffered for want of adequate number of police force in those places. If it were so, there would have been a greater number of thefts and other crimes in those localities. Sir, I do not know what to say about the allegation that in a certain court a bail petition was moved on behalf of a certain under-trial accused and a remand had to be given because there was no report from the Police, who could not attend the bail petition. I submit, Sir, that this by itself goes to show that the people did not suffer

My Friend, Mr. Deka was very eloquent that when there is আকাল—দুৰ্ভিক্ষ—মহামারী, when there is so much want and starvation everywhere why should we have spent so much money in bringing so much police force to that place? I submit, Sir, if Shri Deka speaks in that language and in that strain I am sorry for him. It may be his wishful thinking. I hope by the grace of God and by the efforts of this Government, there will be no such difficulties in our State.

In conclusion, Sir, I may be accused in future that this Supplementary Demand did not come up in full. The total expenditure on police force besides Travelling Allowance charges, which could not be estimated till now, was given at about Rs.2,85,000, according to reports received so far. Out of this Rs.65,746 is proposed by me in this Supplementary Demand and the balance will have to be asked for by another Supplementary Demand. The people will pay this money just for the protection they received of their life and property. I, therefore, submit, Sir, that the House will consider that this money was very well-spent. In view of this, Sir, I would request my Friend to withdraw the Cut Motion.

Mr. SPEAKER : Is the hon. Member withdrawing ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) :
No, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that the total provision of Rs.36,65,746 under Supplementary Demand No.8, Major head—29.—Police, at page 17 of the List of Supplementary Demands, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand for Rs.36,65,746, do stand reduced by Re.1.

(The Motion was negatived.)

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that an additional amount of Rs.36,65,746 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1958, for the administration of the head "20.—Police".

(The Motion was adopted.)

DEMAND No.9

(37.—Education)

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, to move that an additional amount of Rs.36,47,810, be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1958 for the administration of the head "37.—Education".

		Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly	...	4,09,93,000
II.—Supplementary grant voted by the Assembly during the year.		11,70,926
Additional amount now required	... ..	36,47,810

III.—Sub-head under which the Supplementary Demand will be accounted for :—

Minor and Sub-heads	Grant originally voted by the Assembly		Supplementary grant voted by the Assembly during the year		Additional amount now required			
	General	Sixth Schedule Areas	General	Sixth Schedule Areas	General	Sixth Schedule Areas	Total	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
NORMAL—								
University— A.—Grants to University.	Uni-	6,28,000	..	..	..	6,00,000	..	6,00,000
G.—Direct grant to non-Government Secondary Schools. (b) Non-recurring		8,78,000	71,500	3,63,212	..	6,95,424	..	6,95,424
L.—Grants to the State Basic Education Board.		1,03,00,000	..	..	..	9,18,953	..	9,18,953
N.—Direct grant to non-Government Special Schools.		2,42,500	21,980	..	..	2,326	..	2,326
U.—Charges in England—Publications.		700	..	..	..	107	..	107
Total—Normal	..	..	..	..	..	22,16,810	..	22,16,810

DEVELOPMENT SCHEME—SECOND FIVE YEAR PLAN—

(iii) Development Schemes—2nd Five Year Plan—Central—

C.-7 —Grants to Non-Government Arts Colleges.	..	..	..	..	1,12,476	21,440	1,33,916
D.-7.—Government Professional Colleges	..	..	..	..	1,01,000	..	1,01,000
(b) Expansion of the Assam Engineering College, Gauhati.							

Minor and Sub-heads	Grant originally voted by the Assembly		Supplementary grant voted by the Assembly during the year		Additional amount now required		
	Sixth Schedule Areas		Sixth Schedule Areas		Sixth Schedule Areas		Total
	General	Sixth Schedule Areas	General	Sixth Schedule Areas	General	Sixth Schedule Areas	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
G.-7.—Direct grants to Non-Government Secondary Schools.	6,82,524	2,58,560	9,41,084
M.-7.—Government Special Schools— (f) Technical Education—(I) Expansion of the P.O.W. Technical Institute, Jorhat.	1,35,000	..	1,35,000
(II) Expansion of the Assam Engineering Institute, Gauhati.	1,20,000	..	1,20,000
Total—Development Schemes—Second Five Year Plan—Central.	11,51,090	2,80,000	14,31,000
Grand total	33,67,810	2,80,000	36,47,810

EXPLANATORY NOTES

A.—The Gauhati University is in urgent need of Rs.6,00,000 to meet certain unavoidable expenditure including purchase of laboratory equipments, furniture, books, etc. As the matter is urgent the amount had to be provided by taking advance from Contingency Fund. Hence the demand to regularise the same.

G. L. N.—Some Lower Primary Schools, Basic Schools, Middle Vernacular Schools, Middle English Schools and High Schools of the Plains Districts were badly damaged by Cyclone in April last. Classes in a few cases are being held in the open air. Condition of the people is such that they cannot rebuild the houses without Government help. Some grant is therefore necessary for these schools. Hence a sum of Rs.2,69,910 was advanced from Contingency Fund and the balance of Rs.13,46,793 being the second instalment of the total grant have to be provided by Supplementary Demands. [The 1st instalment of Rs.11,13,892 was already advanced from Contingency Fund and already regularised by Supplementary Demand in the last November Session of the Assembly *vide* items G and J at Page 16 of the Supplementary Demand note moved in November, 1957 Session].

G-7&G.-7.—It has been decided by Government to continue during the current financial year also to exempt from payment of tuition fees by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Hills and Plains) students reading in Government and non-Government Secondary, Vocational and Technical Schools and also in Government and non-Government Arts and Science Colleges within the State on the condition that those students whose parents'/guardians' annual income is more than Rs.3,600 and who are recipients of Central Government Scholarships in colleges will not be eligible for the concession. The Ministry of Home Affairs

Government of India have sanctioned Rs.6 lakhs under Centrally sponsored Scheme, Second Five Year Plan during the current year as their contribution towards the scheme. The State Government have also decided to contribute an equal amount for implementation of the scheme. The exemption has been granted during this year with effect from 1st April 1957. To avoid hardships on the part of non-Government Secondary Schools, an amount of Rs.3,84,116 has already been sanctioned for payment of *ad-hoc* grants to compensate the loss of fee income which mainly depend on it for the maintenance of the institution. The amount of Rs.3,84,116 was sanctioned by obtaining an advance from the Contingency Fund and the balance of Rs.6,90,884 have to be provided by Supplementary Demand as there is no corresponding provision of fund in the State budget to meet the entire expenditure of Rs.10,75,000. Hence the demand

D.-7&M.-7.—At the instance of Engineering Personnel Committee, the following schemes were approved by the Government of India :—

- (1) Expansion of Assam Engineering College, Gauhati, for introduction of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Degree Course in the institute (60 seats).
- (2) Expansion of the H. R. H. P. O. W. Institute, Jorhat for introduction of Civil Engineering Diploma Course in the institute (120 seats).
- (3) Expansion of the Assam Engineering Institute, Gauhati for introduction of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Diploma Course in the institute (60 seats).

Government of India will bear the entire non-recurring expenditure. As regards recurring expenditure Government of India will bear 100 per cent in the 1st year, 80 per cent in 2nd year and 50 per cent in subsequent years of the 2nd Plan. Government of India has since sanctioned the amount which is being credited to State Account by Accountant General. It is however necessary to make necessary provision in the State budget under appropriate head for meeting the expenditure initially. The decision was arrived at after the budget for 1957-58 was finalised and as such no provision could be made. On the other hand, the matter was so urgent that it was not possible to wait for the next financial year as the schemes are aimed at meeting the shortfall of Engineering personnel. Hence the sums of Rs.1,01,000, Rs.1,20,000 and Rs.4,405 for the Assam Engineering College, the Assam Engineering Institute, Gauhati and the P.O.W. Institute, Jorhat respectively were advanced from Contingency Fund and the balance of Rs.1,30,595 for the P.O.W. Institute, Jorhat have to be provided by Supplementary Demand. The entire expenditure during the current year is borne by Government of India. The amounts are meant for purchase of tools and equipments, pay of staff, etc.

U.—The amount is required by the High Commissioner of India in London on the basis of the information received from him.

Shri TARUNSEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.36,47,810 under Supplementary Demand No.9, Major head—37.—Education, at page 19 of the List of Supplementary Demands be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.36,47,810, do stand reduced by Re. 1.

The object of my moving this Cut Motion is to criticise the mode of distribution of grants to Cyclone damaged institution.

Sir, the Explanatory Notes under this Demand says in second paragraph—Some Lower Primary Schools, Basic Schools,

Middle Vernacular Schools, Middle English Schools, and High Schools of the Plains Districts were badly damaged by cyclone in April last. Classes in a few cases are being held in the open air. Condition of the people is such that they cannot rebuild the houses without Government help."

I welcome this note. Though lately it has been admitted by the Government that in some cases, classes are held in the open air and the capacity of the people is such that they cannot rebuild the houses with their own efforts is a frank admission of the situation. But, Sir, one point strikes me most and this is that the cyclone damage was caused in the month of April, 1957. After 1957 (April) we assembled here in this august House in the months of June and July, and after that we assembled again in last November; and it is about a year. During this period of one year if some of the boys are to sit in the open air, if the institutions are totally damaged it can easily be understood what is happening in those areas and of those institutions. If really the Government is sincere to the disadvantages and difficulties of the School boys, it is the bounden duty of the Government to render their help early. Why they came to realise these difficulties of the boys so late? This shows the apathetic attitude of the Government towards expansion of education, specially towards expansion of education among the villages. In the last Assembly Session I raised the point. But the then Education Minister took the stand that some cyclone damaged institutions of North Lakhimpur and Tezpur were required to be helped. But my point was that not only some institutions of North Lakhimpur and Tezpur should be given help by the Government but at the same time due consideration should be given to those cyclone damaged institutions also in other parts of the State. But to my utter surprise, though we had submitted the list of cyclone damaged institutions, the Government were not giving an iota of help. Not to speak of high Schools only but also some of the deserving Lower Primary Schools were damaged by cyclone and even their cases were not considered by the Government. It is surprising that distribution of money for cyclone damaged Schools in some cases was not properly done. There is example also that in some cases where Government rendered help there is no such institution. As an example, I would like to cite the case of one Lower Primary School, *viz.*, Iraligud in Badarpur Constituency wherefrom our Chief Minister is now contesting a seat. While an amount of Rs.1,000 was being sanctioned by the Government to the school, it appeared that the school did not exist at all, and actually damage by

cyclone was not caused. The reasons, perhaps, are that in those areas there are some influential Congressmen who could easily influence the Government and Government also with a view to have future Congress Organisation in those areas are giving money right and left. This clearly proves that this is sheer partiality. But money should not be spent by Government in this way. Along with my Cut Motion I would request the Minister-in-charge of Education to look into the matter so that our State money may not be spent in future in this way and along with it I would also request the Minister to see that the list submitted by the people's representative receives due consideration in the hands of the Government. In the last Assembly I myself stated that a Circular was issued by the Director of Public Instruction and according to that Circular all the M. L.As. had to submit the list of cyclone damaged institutions. We did submit the same. But our list, which was very genuine, was not really considered by the Government. So, I submit that Education which is one of the most important nation-building subjects should not be looked into from the point of view of party politics, and we must realise that Education is above party politics to make our State advanced when we want to wipe out illiteracy from our State. We should unitedly envisage plans and programmes so that we can educate our masses, so that the entire nation can prosper. Sir, I request the Education Minister to consider all these points.

Shri LARSINGH KHYRIEM [Jowai (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.36,47,810 under Supplementary Demand No.9, Major head—37.—Education, at page 19 of the List of Supplementary Demands be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.36,47,810 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

Sir, my Cut Motion is also similar to that moved by my Friend, Shri Deka. Sir, under Sub-head "N" Direct grant to non-Government Special Schools it is surprising to find that there is no amount allotted to Autonomous Districts. Sir, in this respect I want to point out that there were some Schools which were damaged by the Cyclone last year. These Schools have sent their representation to the authorities concerned with the hope that they will get some help from the Government for rebuilding their Schools. Those Schools affected are still hoping that some help would be coming from the Government. But, Sir, according to this Demand it seems that there is no hope for these cyclone affected Schools to get any help from

the Government in order to rebuild their Schools. I have not been to those localities recently but when last time, in November, I went to those localities I found that the children in those localities could not have their Schools because it is very difficult in the villages to find even rented houses to run the classes. So, I hope, Sir, that as those people are very poor, they will not be able to rebuild their affected Schools, so, Government will render them necessary help.

With these few words, I urge upon Government to see their way to help those Schools.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Supplementary Demand and to oppose the Cut Motion. Sir, Government were good enough to consider the case of cyclone damaged Lower Primary Schools all over the State. Government granted 75 per cent of the recommended amount with the condition that 25 per cent will come from the public. The first instalment of 50 per cent out of this 75 per cent of the grant has already been paid and the Second instalment of 50 per cent is in transit to the respective Schools.

Sir, in this connection I should point out that I do not agree with the hon. Member from Nalbari, Shri Deka, that a few Congressmen have influenced greatly in getting grants for their Schools. As for example, Sir, that there are 10 Congress Members from Dibrugarh Subdivision perhaps the highest from one Subdivision of the State but you will find that Dibrugarh Subdivision has been left out from the list of granting aid to cyclone affected Lower Primary Schools. So, Sir, that contention of Shri Deka does not hold water at all. It may be true, Sir, that there may be some mistake at certain stages of Government machinery but I hope Government is alive to that fact and will try to remove those mistakes. If there are some irregularities or some deliberate acts of omission on the part of certain officers in certain stages, I hope, Sir, Government will take such officer or officers whatever his status may be, to task and to see that there are no such mistake in future. Sir, for the sake of equity I hope our Education Minister will personally look into this matter if there is any irregularity or omission.

With these few words, Sir, I support the Supplementary Demand and oppose the Cut Motion moved by Shri Deka.

Shri MAHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fail to understand why this Cut Motion was brought at all. The mover of the Cut Motion had mentioned in this Cut Motion the object of his moving it. It is to criticise the mode of distribution of money to the cyclone damaged Lower Primary Schools, Middle Vernacular Schools, etc., but surprisingly enough he did not take up the subject. Instead, he began to dilate on the delay in giving the grants. Perhaps he did not know anything about the mode of distribution of grants. At first I was under the impression that he would say that such and such school got more money and such and such school got less and in this way I thought he has got instances at his disposal to be placed before the House in support of his motion about the mode of distribution of money. But he did not take up that issue at all. If he had spoken on the subject of his Motion then we could have tried to meet his grievances and Government would have been pleased to see what can be done to remedy the defect. But he did not do so. He instead trembled like a man falling in the midst of the Brahmaputra..... (*laughter—loud and prolonged*).....and said 'some' Congressmen influenced 'some' officers of the Department and therefore, 'some' schools got 'some' money. He has not a single instance of mal distribution to be placed before the House. He only spoke of 'some'—How will the Government deal with 'some'?(*Laughter*).....

Sir, as I have said, if he had come prepared with such instances he could have been able to convince the House of the utility of his motion. But he did not do that. He spoke many other things, *viz.*, that there has been some sort of partiality in the distribution on the ground of Congress and non-Congress and all that. Sir, any hon. Member may visit any part of the State and I am sure he will find that his statement is absolutely without any foundation. There is no partiality in the administration of the Educational institutions which is always free from partiality on the ground of castes, creed, religion or political affiliation. Nobody can cite any instance that during the last five or six years there has been any such thing in the matter of administration of the Education Department. Sir, I feel very much sorry that such a motion could be brought before this House which is only to waste our valuable time. Sir, had he criticised the Government about the delay in making the grant available to the school authorities I would have supported him, and as a matter of fact that has been admitted by the Government that there has been delay in making the grant available to the School Committees. I hope Government will expedite the payment of

the money on account of such grant. The Cyclone took place on the 29th April last year and now it is about a year many schools have not yet received the money, although Deputy Inspector got the sanctioning letter, etc. I hope the Government will see that such delays are avoided, and payments are made at the earliest possible moment.

With these words, Sir, I request my Friend to withdraw his Cut Motion.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak on the second motion standing in the name of my Friend, Mr. Larsingh Khyriem. He has only urged upon the Government to give grant to special school buildings in the Autonomous Districts which were badly damaged by cyclone. Sir, there are several places, several villages in the district of United Khasi and Jaintia Hills where the school buildings have been damaged by the Cyclone. Government may please make enquiries and help the schools with money. The mover of this Cut Motion has already stated cases. There are other cases also. I would request the Government to make enquiries to help these schools which are badly in need of it.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY: (Panery): মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, শিক্ষামন্ত্রী ডাঃবীয়াই যি ৩৬,৪৭,৮১০ টকাৰ অধিক মঞ্জুৰী বিচাৰিছে উক্ত বিষয়াত মই কব খোজোঁ যে শিক্ষা ক্ষেত্ৰত টকা দিয়াত আমাৰ কোনো আপত্তি নাই। আমি আগেয়েও ৪,০৯,৯৩,০০০ টকাৰ মঞ্জুৰী দিছিলোঁ। তাৰ উপৰিও চাপ্লি-মেন্টৰী ১১,৭০,৯২৬ টকা মঞ্জুৰী দিয়া হৈছিল। আজি মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে যিখিনি টকাৰ মঞ্জুৰী বিচাৰিছে সেই টকাৰ ভিতৰত ষ্টেট বেচিক বোৰ্ডৰ সাহায্যকল্পে ৯,১৮,৯৫৩ টকা ধৰা হৈছে। মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে উল্লেখ কৰা টকাৰ পৰা স্পষ্ট বুজা নাযায় যে উক্ত টকা প্ৰাইমেৰী শিক্ষক সকলক দিবখোজা নবগীয়া বানচ তাত ভুক্ত কৰা হৈছে নে অকল

Some Lower Primary Schools, Basic Schools, Middle Vernacular Schools, Middle English Schools and High English Schools of the Plains Districts were badly damaged by the cyclones in April last. Classes in a few cases are being held in the open air. Condition of the people is such that they cannot rebuild the houses without Government help. Some grant is therefore necessary for these Schools. Hence a sum of Rs.2,69,910 was advanced from Contingency Fund and the balance of Rs.13,46,793 being the second instalment of the total grant have to be provided by Supplementary Demands. The first instalment of Rs.11,13,892 was already advanced from Contingency Fund and already regularised by Supplementary Demand in the last November Session of the Assembly.

উক্ত কথা বিলাকৰপৰা বুজিব পৰা যায় যে, ইয়াত মৰগীয়া বানচৰ টকা ধৰা হোৱা নাই। যদি সেয়ে হয় তেন্তে অকল এইটো দুখৰ কথাই নহয়, ই বৰ লাজৰো কথা। এটা দায়ীত্বপূৰ্ণ চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰ পৰা খোলা অধিবেশনৰ সময়ত ঘোষণা কৰা মঞ্জুৰী বাজেটত নথ্যত কি আখ্যা দিয়া দৰ্কাৰ, তেনে ধৰণৰ ভাষা বিচাৰি নাপাওঁ। মোৰ ধাৰণা হয়, মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে উক্ত টকাৰ স্পষ্ট বিবৰণী দিয়া নাই যেতিয়া মই অনুমান কৰিছোঁ উক্ত মৰগীয়া বানচৰ টকা ইয়াৰ মাজত সোমাই আছে। আনপিনে মই অতি দুখেৰে সদনত ডাঙি ধৰিবলৈ বাধ্য হৈছো যে, বেচিক বোৰ্ডৰ কাৰণে যিখিনি টকা দিয়া হৈছে উক্ত টকা সময়মতে খৰচ হোৱা নাই। মই ডাঙি কব পাৰো যে, আমাৰ ৰাজ্যত প্ৰাইমেৰী শিক্ষক সকলে সময়মতে বেতন পোৱা নাই। অকল সেয়ে নহয়, বেতন পোৱাত ৬ মাহ পৰ্য্যন্ত পলম হোৱা দেখা গৈছে।

মহোদয়, ই অতি পৰিতাপৰ কথা নহয়নে? কম বেতন পোৱা শিক্ষকে যদি সময়মতে বেতন নেপায় ই অতি সহজে অনুমান কৰিব পৰা যায় যে তেওঁলোকে সময়মতে বেতন নোপোৱাত কিমান কষ্ট আৰু বিপদৰ সন্মুখীন হবলগীয়া হয়। মই ইয়াৰ কোনো কাৰণ বিচাৰি নাপাওঁ, টকা থকাতো কিয় সময়মতে দিয়া নহয়।

মই এই কথাও স্পষ্ট বুজিব পৰা নাই, ধুমুহাত ভঙা স্কুলবিলাকক আজি পৰ্য্যন্ত টকা কিয় দিয়া হোৱা নাই। এই সকলো কথা বিবেচনা কৰিলে অতি দুখ লাগে আজিৰ বাজেটত মোৰ আৰু বহু কথা কবলগীয়া আছিল, কিন্তু মুখ খুলিলেই অবৈধ হব বুলি, বেচি নকৈ দুই এটা কথা কৈয়ে সামৰণী মাৰিম।

এই মঞ্জুৰীত কলেজৰ কাৰণেও টকা ধৰা হৈছে যেতিয়া মই আশা কৰোঁ, মঙ্গলদৈ কলেজৰ কাৰণেও টকা ইয়াত সোমোৱা হৈছে। হাইস্কুল বিলাকৰ কাৰণে ধৰা টকাৰ ভিতৰত মঙ্গলদৈ মহকমাৰ হাইস্কুল কিখন যে বাদ নপৰে, তাৰ বাবেও আশা কৰিলোঁ।

অৱশেষত উনকিয়াই খওঁ যে, হাইস্কুল, আৰু এংভি স্কুলৰ শিক্ষক সকলেকো যাতে পাহৰি যোৱা নহয়।

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS [Rangia (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Cut Motion moved by Shri Tarun Sen Deka.

Mr. SPEAKER : If the hon. Member only wants to Speak on the Cut Motion, he will have to confine his observations to the specific points raised by the hon. Mover of the Cut Motion. He can, however, make general observations on the demand, but as he wants to speak on the Cut Motion, he will have to confine himself to the motion only.

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS : I propose to speak on the Cut Motion only, Sir.

It is true Sir, that in 1957 there was a great cyclone causing great devastation to houses and properties in several parts of the State. Some School Buildings were blown away and

some others were D badly damaged. As a result of representation to Government regarding the heavy loss to public properties, specially to school buildings, Government asked the department concerned to prepare a list of the school buildings which were either heavily damaged or blown off altogether. This report was prepared basing on the representations received by the Education Department from different places. But when the report came to the hands of the Government and some grants were given to certain schools a number of counter representations were received either by alleging that totally undeserving schools which were not at all effected by the cyclone were given grants. Number of representations also swelled on hearing about the Government decision to help the cyclone effected Educational Institutions. On receipt of these objection petitions and also because the increasing number of claimants for grants, Government had to make certain enquiries as to the authenticity of the claims and this has caused all the delay in the matter of distribution of grants. Then Government decided to make proper enquiries as to the truth or otherwise of the demands for help and also the extent to which a school really deserved help. On enquiris, Sir, however, it is now understood that some faked and false demands were made which either were not at all damaged or where actually there was no cyclone. Therefore, Government had to be very careful in the matter. So, in my opinion, if any body is responsible in giving grants to the storm damaged schools, it is not the Government but those members of the public who overwhelmed with false and half-true petitions. Now, Sir, when the hon. Members had ample time to send in petitions, apply for grants to storm damaged schools, and when the hon. Members have easy approach to responsible Government officers and also to hon'ble Minister of the Government to understand the actual state of affairs regarding the matter of distribution of money to these schools, I do not think this Cut Motion is at all called for. I therefore, oppose the Cut Motion.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak a few words on this Cut Motion particularly on the principle on which distribution of grants has been made to educational institutions which were damaged in the Cyclone of the last year. Sir, no body would dispute the purpose for which these grants are given but the manner in which the grants have been distributed leaves much to be expected. I know of two such institutions in details—one in Dibrugarh, just on the boundary of the Municipality, in a village. That school building collapsed in the last cyclone.

On being informed by the people I went to the spot and advised them to make a petition to Government for help. Before asking for help we locally collected some materials on donation and voluntary contribution and somehow kept the structure erect. Before this, classes had to be held in the open but during the rains it was not possible, and the structure that was raised by the public was not such as to afford adequate protection to the little boys during the rains and storms. So, we asked the Secretary of the School to approach the School Board, specially in consideration of the fact that Government decided to help the cyclone affected schools. Now, Sir, even after the lapse of several months no grant was forthcoming. So, we instructed the Secretary of the School to approach the Chairman of the School Board who happen to be no less a person than the President of the District Congress Committee. The President was stated to have advised the Secretary to approach the Communist M. L. A. whom they returned to the Assembly. If this is the attitude of those who are supposed to direct and guide the educational institutions, then, Sir, education in our country is likely to suffer a very serious set-back. If this spirit persists in our guardians of Education, I think it is better to leave our children to nature.

Now, I would like to tell you about another School which was badly affected by Brahmaputra-erosion, situated in a village known as the Muttok Gaon in Dibrugarh. This school was built by the villagers themselves with funds collected by themselves. During the Brahmaputra-erosion the whole area was washed away and the villagers were rehabilitated in some other place. The villagers demanded that Government should give them some help to build a school in that new village so that their boys and girls may be able to have their elementary schooling. But they were asked to send their children to a neighbouring school about a quarter of a mile away from the village. Owing to the heavy vehicular traffic on the road to be covered by the little children, it is very risky. Here also the villagers are willing to build up a school for their children but they are not in a position to do so because of the apathetic attitude of the Government. I cannot appreciate that spirit. Primary schools impart the minimum basic education to our children. It should be the policy of the Government to establish as many schools as necessary. But instead of that, if they do not extend their help to those villagers who are themselves willing to set up schools, then, Sir, to say the least, we cannot expect to establish a Welfare State.

So, I appeal to the Hon'ble Minister of Education to look into the position of these two schools in particular, and to the whole question in general.

With these few words, Sir, I conclude.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education, etc.) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am myself very much concerned on the question of cyclone damaged Schools. Just after the 26th June when I heard of the cyclone in my own district, I ran down to the place and had the opportunity to visit some of the cyclone affected schools. In some places the cyclone caused very heavy damage and these schools really deserved immediate help. Therefore, immediately after I came back to Shillong and discussed the matter with my colleagues, and the Cabinet came to the conclusion on 26th June 1957, that necessary funds should be provided for building up the schools which were badly damaged. It was thus on the initiative of the Cabinet that the first action was taken to help these schools. But what is most unfortunate is that soon after, a lot of representations began to pour in, asking us to revise the order on the ground that really deserving schools were left out of the list and certain schools which were not at all affected by the cyclone received grants. The result was that in spite of the Cabinet decision the order had to be held up and fresh enquiry was ordered. You know, Sir, when a fresh enquiry is ordered it takes a long time. The damage occurred in April, the decision was taken in June and a fresh enquiry was ordered in August. You may realise that sometimes it is very difficult to find a school which has been demolished and when the proof is not forthcoming the result is that a fresh enquiry has to be made and it takes a long time. It may be that if the decision of the Cabinet were not revised a few schools would have been included which were not deserving and most of the schools would have got grant by now. Sir, you will realise that there is no perfection in life. So, mistakes creep in everywhere. If the decision had not been revised may be 90 per cent of the schools which were deserving would have got grant in time. Because the whole thing had to be enquired into again the Government action in this regard was very much delayed. Sir, as you know, I come originally from Education and I know what difficulty there is when assistance comes late. So, I personally regret very much on behalf of my Department that the assistance which we wanted to give could be given in time.

Now, the discussion which was raised by, Shri Deka is not pertinent to the question. The question which he raised was pertinent to the discussion raised in connection with the Supplementary Demand in November. It will be realised

that the present Demands are for balance payment which are going to be made on the completion of work. The first payments are supposed to have been made from the money which was voted in November. Since that money has been distributed the schools have been rebuilt after the demolition.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : On a point of information, Sir, I have been informed that grants for the Lower Primary Schools have not yet come, but grants for Middle English, Middle Vernacular and High Schools have been sent.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education, etc.) : Those demolished school buildings which were either owned by Government or by School Boards have received no grant, but that grant is included in the Supplementary Demand in November. All the private schools are being given grant from the Supplementary Demand in November and from this Demand also.

My Friend, Mr. Biswadev Sarma, asked as to what schools in his constituency were allotted provision. Those schools have been taken over by the Government by now. Therefore, no provision has been made for them. The provision made in the present Supplementary Demand will be disbursed on obtaining the completion certificate being furnished by the Schools authority.

Shri JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara) : May I know, Sir, whether money will be spent before the 31st of March next ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education, etc.) : I think this money will be spent by the 31st March, for the delay in giving cyclone relief the whole House is to blame because a subsequent enquiry had to be ordered not at the instance of the Government but at the instance of the Members of the Legislature themselves.

A point was raised about showing partiality in giving grants. If a school is rebuilt or a school is started for the first time not only will the children of the Congressmen read there but the children of non-Congressmen will also read. So, the idea that there is a question of partiality is quite wrong. I think Mr. Deka did not mean it seriously.

My Friend from Dibrugarh has pointed out that the Dibrugarh Subdivision has been left out. In spite of the fact that there are 10 Members from Dibrugarh Subdivision this Subdivision has been left out. Somehow, it seems, the list which was sent was found missing. So, we asked for sending us a duplicate copy of the list. As soon as the duplicate list is sent we will take action and give grants so that the schools which were demolished by cyclone can be rebuilt.

A reference was made by Mr. Deka about a school in Silchar and he brought an allegation. In his statement he said that no efforts were made in connection with this school. I do not know how this statement was made. As a matter of fact this school got grant long before the by-election was decided to be taken and long before it was known who was going to contest in the by-election. No responsible Member should have made such a statement without enquiring into the real position.

Mr. Khyriem said that 2 schools in his area were damaged. We have verified and found that in the Shillong Subdivision a grant of Rs.1,125 was made for a High School and Rs.3,750 was made for a Middle School.

Shri LARSING KHYRIEM [Jowai (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : I am speaking about Special Primary Schools, not about Middle English or Secondary Schools.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY (Minister, Education, etc.) : We are taking not about schools, but about cyclone grants. I find that for the Shillong Subdivision the grant given to High Schools is Rs.1,312.

Shri LARSING KHYRIEM : I am talking of Jowai.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY : Jowai is not mentioned, in his Cut Motion. He used the words "Autonomous Districts" and not "Jowai Subdivision". "Autonomous Districts" have a wider connotation and it was sought to be made out as if we were trying to discriminate between autonomous districts and non-autonomous districts. But I have said that grants were given to Garo Hills District and United Khasi-Jaintia Hills District and, as such, there was no discrimination.

Shri LARSING KHYRIEM [Jowai (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : That is so far as secondary schools are concerned. But there is nothing in this demand for special schools. There is no allotment here for Lower Primary Schools.

Mr. SPEAKER : The explanation at page 19 says "some Lower Primary Schools, Basic Schools, Middle Vernacular Schools, Middle English Schools and High Schools of the Plains Districts were badly damaged by Cyclone in April, last". So, there is no mention of autonomous districts in this explanation. That might create an impression that the autonomous districts had been left out.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY (Minister, Education, etc.) : That impression should not be created because it refers to cyclone.

Mr. SPEAKER : Yes, it refers to schools of the Plains Districts which were damaged by cyclone. The hon. Member's contention is that there were schools in the autonomous districts also which were damaged by cyclone.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY : Therefore, I was trying to show that the autonomous districts were not left out, although emphasis was placed on the plains portion because greater damage occurred in the plains districts. As a matter of fact, I was trying to point out that it was one of the biggest cyclones which created havoc in our State so far as schools are concerned. This would be evident from the number of institutions damaged. The number of high schools partially damaged was 152.

Mr. SPEAKER : The explanation is defective. 'Schools in Assam' would have been all right.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY : I am trying to explain the reason for this mis-definition.

Mr. SPEAKER : The reason for mis-conception are generally misconceived.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY : As I was saying, Sir, the number of High Schools damaged was 152, the number of Middle English Schools—358 ; Middle Vernacular Schools—306 ; Lower Primary Schools—1,812 ; other schools—15 ; Basic Schools—10 ; Basic Lower Primary Schools—13.

Then the completely damaged list is:

High Schools—21 ; Middle English Schools—29 ; Middle Vernacular Schools—23 ; Lower Primary Schools—434 ; other schools—8.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Does this list include Lower Primary Schools in the autonomous districts ? Does it include Lower Primary Schools damaged in Shillong Subdivision and Jowai Subdivision ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY (Minister, Education, etc.) : This list does not include those which are left out. Dibrugarh is left out, Jowai is left out.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : Does it include Lower Primary Schools in Shillong Subdivision ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY : No, so far as Shillong is concerned, only High Schools and not Primary Schools we mentioned. Therefore, I am merely trying to point out that the list which was given is not complete. As a matter of fact when such a devastation takes place in such a scattered area, it is difficult to make a complete list even for the plains areas. I realise that there might be many schools which have been left out. But it has not been done with any intention to discriminate between schools in autonomous districts and the plains areas. Now, that, Mr. Khyriem has pointed out certain mistakes, I would request him to pass on the names of the schools which he thinks were damaged. I would also request other Members to do likewise so that the cases of those schools may be considered in due course.

As I was saying, Sir, it was one of the biggest cyclones and the area covered was very vast. Because of the machinery through which we work it took us some time to assess the actual damage done to different educational institutions spread over such a vast area. Our officers had to do a real good job in order to find out what was the actual extent of damage to a particular institution except those completely damaged. Therefore, I have no doubt that after the explanations given to you, you would realise that in spite of imperfection at our end—

the imperfections which are quite human and possible under the circumstances—we have tried to do our best. I, therefore, think that he hon. Member would not press his Cut Motion and permit this grant to be passed.

Mr. SPEAKER : Is the hon. Member withdrawing ?

Shri LARSING KHYRIEM [Jowai (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Yes, Sir.

The Cut Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that an additional amount of Rs.36,47,810, be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1958, for the administration of the head “37.—Education”.

(The Motion is adopted.)

No. 10

(38.—Medical)

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that an additional amount of Rs. 2,54,927, be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1958, for the administration of the head “38.—Medical”.

	Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly ...	... 1,03,24,700
II.—Supplementary grant voted by the Assembly during the year.	2,06,206
Additional amount now required ...	... 2,54,927

III.—Sub-head under which the Supplementary Demand will be accounted for—

Minor and Sub-heads	Grant originally voted by the Assembly		Supplementary grant voted by the Assembly during the year		Additional amount now required		
	General	Sixth Schedule	General	Sixth Schedule	General	Sixth Schedule	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
A.—Medical Establishment—							
(c) District Medical Officers—							
3. Allowances and Honoraria.	61,300	52,000	..	..	..	5,000	5,000
(d) Reserve Medical Subordinates—							
2. Pay of Establishment.	22,100	16,600	..	..	..	3,000	3,000
B.—Hospitals and Dispensaries—							
(a) Ordinary Dispensaries—							
1. Pay of Officers	60,000	43,700	..	..	..	13,700	13,700
3. Allowances and Honoraria.	80,000	1,92,800	..	..	..	25,000	25,000
4. Contingencies	4,17,600	6,04,850	..	..	22,000	59,835	81,835
(b) Travelling Dispensaries—							
	32,033	81,567	..	..	..	5,000	5,000
E.—Mental Hospital—							
(a) Mental Hospital, Tezpur—							
2. Pay of Establishment.	87,300	..	..	..	13,750	..	13,750
4. Contingencies—							
(Non-contract) ..	2,61,500	..	..	..	27,500	..	27,500
Contingencies—							
(Contract) ..	30,000	..	..	..	9,200	..	9,200

Minor and Sub-head (1)	Grant originally voted by the Assembly		Supplementary Grant voted by the Assem- bly during the year		Additional amount now required		
	General (2) Rs.	Sixth Schedule (3) Rs.	General (4) Rs.	Sixth Schedule (5) Rs.	General (6) Rs.	Sixth Schedule (7) Rs.	Total (8) Rs.
H—Charges in Eng- land.							
Leave salary pay and deputation pay.	1,173	..	..	..	3,294	..	3,294
Miscellaneous ex- penditure.	3,667	..	..	..	2,867	..	2,867
Total—Normal..	..	..	..	..	78,611	1,11,535	1,90,146

Development Schemes
(First Five Year
Plan)

G.—2.—Works—

(a) Original works Second Five Year Plan Scheme under Article 275—	5,000	7,881	..	7,881
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B.—5.—Hospitals and
Dispensaries—

(a) Ordinary Dis- pensaries.	..	5,000	..	10,570	8,900	..	8,900
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C.—5.—Grants for
Medical purpose—

(a) Grant-in-aid to T. B. patients.	7,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	10,000
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(a) (b) Grants to Hospitals and Dispensaries.	18,000	..	18,000
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(b) (c) Grants to G. N. Bordoloi Memorial T. B. Hospital and Sanatorium, Gauhati.	20,000	..	20,000
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Total	51,900	5,000	56,900
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Grand total	1,38,392	1,16,535	2,54,927
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The reasons for the additional demand have been clearly detailed in the explanatory note.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

A. (c) 3.—The grant is required under travelling allowance of Officers (Rs.3,000) as the Civil Surgeons and Subdivisional Medical Officers had to take more tour within the Districts and Subdivisions, in the interest of Public Services. A grant under Ration Compensatory allowance (Rs.2,000) is required for Mizo District.

(d)—The grant is required due to revision of the scale of pay of the Staff.

B. (a) 1.—The grant is necessary due to revision of the scales of pay and conversion of the post of Assistant Surgeon I (Junior) into Assistant Surgeon I (Senior).

B. (a) 3.—The grant is necessary under travelling allowance of Officers (Rs.2,000) and travelling allowance of Establishment (Rs.3,000) to meet allowances of Assistant Surgeons I and Assistant Surgeons II on their transfer in the interest of the public service. A grant under Dearness Allowances (Rs.5,000) is required due to revision of the scale of pay of the staff. A grant under House Rent and other fixed allowances (Rs.7,000) is required to meet hill allowances, compensatory allowances, etc., and under Ration Compensatory allowance (Rs.5,000) is required for Mizo Hills. A grant under Uniform Allowances (Rs.3,000) is required for uniforms of medical and nursing personnel in the hospitals.

B. (a) 4.—The grant is necessary mainly to meet expenditure on the diet of patients and medical stores due to increase of patients in the hospitals and rise in price of articles and also for diet of patients (Rs.16,000) and Medical Stores (Rs.8,000) and clothing and bedding of patients (Rs.7,000) due to increase of the patients in the hospitals and rise of the prices of articles, and for casual employees (Rs.7,000) due to revision of scale of pay and requirement of more casual employees on account of increase of patients. An expenditure of Rs.21,835 was incurred for purchase of steriliser for Kohima Civil Hospital for which no provision was made in the original budget.

B. (b) 3.—The grant is necessary for travelling allowance of establishment (Rs.2,000) as the Assistant Surgeons II are to take more tour in the interior for giving medical aid to the people and under House Rent and other fixed allowances (Rs.3,000) to meet the fixed allowances such as house rent allowances, hill allowances, compensatory allowances and winter allowances.

E. (a) 2.—The grant is necessary due to revision of the scales of pay of the staff.

4(a).—The grant is necessary mainly for diet of patients and medical stores due to rise in price of articles.

4(b).—The grant is necessary mainly due to revision of the scales of pay of the casual employees. Additional expenditure is required for electric charges on Motor pump for water supply and lights.

H.—The amounts are required by the High Commissioner of India in London on the basis of his Estimates.

G. 2.—The staff quarter of the North Lakhimpur Civil Hospital were completely damaged by the cyclone of 29th April, 1957 and it was imperatively necessary to get the damaged work repaired departmentally immediately. So, the amount could not be provided in the current year's budget. The amount asked for is now required to defray the cost of the above work during the current financial year and also to regularise the amount advanced from the Contingency Fund. Hence the Supplementary Demand.

B-5 and C-5.—Government of India's sanction to the schemes under Article 275 (1) was received late. No provision could be made in the absence of their sanction. Hence provision by Supplementary Demand is necessary to regularise the advances taken from Contingency Fund for expenditure in connection with the above mentioned schemes under Article 275 (1).

C-5 (a) and (B).—Government of India's sanction to the schemes under Article 275 (1) was received late. No provision could, therefore, be made in due time. Hence provision by Supplementary Demand is necessary. The provision under items (a) and (b) is proposed to be utilised for purchase of medicines for treatment of Plains Tribals T. B. patients and for grant-in-aid to Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi Memorial Tuberculosis Hospital and Sanatorium, Gauhati for providing treatment facilities for Plains Tribals T. B. patients respectively.

Mr. SPEAKER : There are Cut Motions.

Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS [Patacharkuchi (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.2,54,927 under Supplementary Demand No.10, Major head—38—Medical, at page 22 of the List of Supplementary Demands, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.2,54,927, do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To criticise the failure of Government to give medical facilities to Plains Tribes).

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, Plains Tribal কাৰণে মেডিকেল শিতানত যিটো Supplementary Demand দাঙি ধৰা হৈছে সেইটো অদৰ্কাৰী বা খুব বেচি হৈছে বুলি মই কব খোজা নাই। মই কব খুজিছোঁ Plains Tribal ব মেডিকেল টি টেমেন্টৰ কাৰণে যিখিনি দৰ্কাৰ সেইখিনি দিয়া নাই।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, অসম এখন অতিকৈ পিচপৰা ৰাজ্য। জাতিবৰ্ণ নিৰ্বিশেষে ইয়াৰ সকলো পিচপৰা। তাৰ ভিতৰত 'প্লেইনচ্ ট্ৰাইবেল' বিলাক শিক্ষা-দীক্ষা আৰু অৰ্থ-নৈতিক ক্ষেত্ৰত অতিকৈ পিচপৰা। যেহেতু ট্ৰাইবেল বিলাক পিচপৰা—তেওঁলোকে স্বাস্থ্যবন্ধা আদিৰ সাধাৰণ নিয়ম বিলাককেই নাজানে। এই কাৰণে নানা বকম বেমাৰ আজাবে তেওঁলোকক অতি সোনকালে আক্ৰমণ কৰে। এওঁবিলাকৰ মূৰ্ত্তিৰ হকে ভৈয়ামৰ জনজাতিয় অঞ্চলবিলাকত 'হস্পিটেল' আৰু 'ডিচপেন্সেৰী' নো দিবই লাগে তাৰোপৰি মানুহ বিলাকে যাতে স্বাস্থ্যবন্ধাৰ সাধাৰণ জ্ঞান লাভ কৰিব পাৰে তাৰো প্ৰসাৰ অভিযান চলোৱাৰ ব্যৱস্থা চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰ পৰা হাতত লব লাগে। মই আগতে কৈয়ে আহিছোঁ যে, ট্ৰাইবেল বিলাক সকলো ক্ষেত্ৰতে পাচপৰা আৰু বিশেষকৈ যিবিলাক ট্ৰাইবেলৰ আৰ্থিক অৱস্থা বেয়া তেওঁলোকৰ যি বিলাক T. B. ৰোগত আক্ৰান্ত হৈছে সেই বিলাকক চৰকাৰে বিনা পইচাবে চিকিৎসা দিয়াৰ লাগে নহলে এই বিলাক মানুহ অতিশীঘ্ৰে মৃত্যুৰ মুখত পতিত হব। এই কল্যাণমূলক কামৰ প্ৰসাৰৰ হেতু "লোকপ্ৰিয় বৰদলৈ মেমৰীয়েল T. B. হস্পিটেল"ত যাতে এওঁলোকে বিনা পইচাবে চিকিৎসা পায় তাৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে ব্যৱস্থা হাতত লব লাগে আৰু আনফালে T. B. আক্ৰান্ত হোৱা আৰু আৰ্থিক দুৰৱস্থাত পৰা মানুহ বিলাকক আৰ্থিক সাহায্য দিয়াৰ বিহিত ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে। চিকিৎসাৰ কাৰণে বৰ্ত্তমান দেখা গৈছে যে লোকপ্ৰিয় বৰদলৈ মেমৰীয়েল T.B. হস্পিটাল আৰু ছিল্ডৰ Ried Chest Hospital এই দুয়ো ঠাইতে বিছনাও কম আৰু আন সা-সুবিধাও নাই। এনে অৱস্থাত ভৈয়ামৰ ট্ৰাইবেল সকলৰ T. B. হলেই বিনা চিকিৎসাই মৃত্যুৰ মুখত পতিত হব লাগিব। সেই কাৰণে চৰকাৰে বৰ্ত্তমান কিমান ট্ৰাইবেল মানুহ T.B ত আক্ৰান্ত হৈছে তাৰ এটা Survey কৰি নিৰ্ণয় কৰিব লাগে।

Mr. SPEAKER : আপুনি কোনটো বেমাৰৰ কথা কৈছে?

Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS: মই T. B. বেমাৰৰ কথা কৈছোঁ। মই বিশেষকৈ জানো মোৰ সময়ছিত বহুতো মানুহ T. B. ত আক্ৰান্ত হৈছে। তেওঁলোকে হস্পিটালত বিছনা পোৱা নাই। দিনে দিনে তেওঁলোকৰ অৱস্থা বেয়াৰ ফালেহে ঢাল খাইছে। আৰ্থিক অৱস্থা বেয়া কাৰণে নিজে চিকিৎসাও কৰিব নোৱাৰে। গতিকে তেওঁলোক ক্ৰমে মৃত্যু মুখলৈ আগ বাহিবলগীয়া হৈছে। সেই লোক সকলৰ চিকিৎসা যাতে অতি সোনকালে বিনা পইচাই হব পাৰে তাৰ ব্যৱস্থা চৰকাৰে অতি সোনকালে কৰিব লাগে।

সেইদৰে অন্যান্য বেমাৰ যেনে, নেলবীয়া, কালাজৰ আদিৰ ডাক্তৰখানাও ট্ৰাইবেল অঞ্চল বিলাকত বেচিকৈ দিব লাগে।

Mr. SPEAKER : আপুনি যিটো কৈছে সেইটো মূল বাজেটৰ আলোচনাত উল্লেখ কৰিলেহে ভাল হ'বহেঁতেন।

Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS [Patacharkuchi (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : T.B. বেমাৰ নিবানৰ কৰিবলৈহে grant ভাঙি ধৰিছে, গতিকে আপোনাৰ অনুমতিক্ৰমে মই এইখিনি কথা ইয়াতেই কৈছোঁ।

তাৰ পিচত সেই বেমাৰী সকলে যাতে বিনা পইচাই চিকিৎসা পাব পাৰে আৰু স্মচিকিৎসা পাব পাৰে তাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে।

শুনা যায় যে, এই Hospital বিলাকত যি Diet দিয়া হয় সেইটো সিমান ভাল নহয়। গতিকে তেওঁলোকে যাতে ভাল Diet পাব পাৰে তাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে। ইয়াকে কৈয়েই মই মানবিলোঁ।

Shri TARUNSEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.2,54,927 under Supplementary Demand No.10, Major head —“38—Medical at page 22 of the List of Supplementary Demands be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.2,54,927 do stand reduced by Rs.100”.

Sir, the object of my Cut Motion is to criticise the Medical Stores maintained and the diet of patients allotted in the hospitals.

First of all I would like to speak a few words about the diet now allotted to different hospitals in the State. Of course the amount sought for diet is very meagre and the standard of diet allotted to the general patients is very poor. Almost in all hospitals in the State the quality and quantity of diet is very poor. Not to speak much of any other hospital, if one goes to the Shillong Hospital which is just near this august House one will find that the diet allotted to patients is not up to the mark. The amount which is being spent for the diet to the patients by the Government is not really supplied to the patients in the hospitals. I know as I have gathered information from reliable sources that generally the contractors who supply the diet have some sort of under-hand understanding with the authorities in the hospitals in respect of supply of less quantity and inferior quality. To check this sort of under-hand activities there is no proper steps from the side of the Government. Not to speak of this, I enquired the hospital authorities whether any Minister or any superior authorities check diets or have paid any surprise visit with a view to see

that proper diet is given to the hospital patients. But came to know, that no such steps are taken.

In Gauhati hospital, so far my information goes, the diet generally supplied to the poor patients are not diets which should be really served to hospital patients. And particularly in jail hospitals the diet served to the convicts and under-trial patients are too poor, and when the Assistant Surgeon or the Civil Surgeon goes to inspect the jail, the patients who are under-trials and convicts do not get proper scope for representing their grievances about the diet served in the jail hospitals and sometimes when they get scope to present their grievances their grievances and representations are not really paid heed to.

Another point—which is about gradation of diet supplied to patients in hospitals according to the gradation of the disease or serial status. So far I know in this principle or gradation on the basis of disease is not followed. Almost in all cases diet is not at all served to the patients in hospitals according to the gradation of the disease. I think, this also requires some check so that at least in hospitals when people go for treatment they get equal treatment regarding diet. I would also like to draw the attention of this august House that some more money should be allotted for diet and also the general standard of the diet, and the quality of the diet should be improved so that patients really could get relief in hospital.

Now, Sir, regarding medical store I would like to draw the attention of this House to the fact that in our State uptodate instruments are not procured for our hospitals—uptodate instruments like modern type of operational instruments, modern apparatus for Gas and oxygen, oxygen cylinder. And X-Ray plant are not yet supplied to some of our hospitals. So, I request the Medical Minister to give his attention to bring more uptodate instruments to our Medical Stores so that our people can have proper and real treatment. One thing, Sir, strikes me most and that is this. The meagre instruments that we have at present in our stores sometimes are not properly kept and there is no proper checking. The instruments purchased at one time is not found at the same store the next time. To clarify this point, Sir, what I mean is that some valuable instruments get lost from our stores due to want of proper supervision and checking. So, Sir, I would request the Medical Minister to devise some practical methods to check these stores so that such things cannot repeat in future.

Again, Sir, I want to bring to the notice of the House to one thing. Yesterday when I had gone to the Secretariat, I saw a list of grants to hospitals for this year. Of course, I repeatedly requested the Minister to allot more funds to some of the hospitals but nothing was done. Surprisingly enough I found yesterday that one hospital which belong to the Medical Minister's constituency got the highest amount of grant—of course, I do not envy that hospital, I would rather like it. But it should be seen that the case of other hospitals also are properly looked into.....

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical and Public Health) : Can you say what is the amount ?

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) : Yes, I have got it here. It is Rs.5,500. But as I said, I do not grudge that, but it strikes a common man that a particular hospital in a particular area which incidentally belongs to the Minister's constituency have got the highest amount of grant. It is simply astonishing and interesting. So, I want to draw the Minister's attention to this fact also.

With these words, Sir, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

U. JOR MANICK SYIEM of Myllicm [Nongpoh (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far I thought my constituency was the only one that was neglected so far as medical aid is concerned. But it appears that there are other areas also where medical aid is not extended. It appears that more needy people are denied medical aid. I could not quite follow exactly what the mover of the Cut Motion said, but it appears to me that the same difficulty is being experienced in other areas also. In my constituency, Sir, I said last time that there are dispensaries which have been built one or two years ago but as yet no doctor has been appointed.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : Will the hon. Member give me the name of those places ?

U. JOR MANICK SYIEM : I have mentioned these names last year also, Sir. They are Bhoilymbong and Diengiei where buildings to house a dispensary had already been completed but no doctor has been appointed. The people of those areas are now

quite fed up to look at these buildings. Unless they get the much needed medical aid they need, then what is the use of these buildings? Then, Sir, there is another place named Umden, which is leprosy area where a leprosy hospital was started but it was never completed. Now, Sir, the people are really in great difficulty but our Medical Department is not making any serious and sincere effort to help these people. The last speaker also mentioned about the diet in the Shillong Civil Hospital. It is very poor indeed. But apart for the diet condition the attention given to the people coming from the villages especially is very very poor. I have got complaints about this on serious occasions. I wrote to the Civil Surgeon also once but he said that on enquiry he found that the allegation was not true. However, I hope that the Civil Surgeon has done what he thinks best but still complaints are coming in every day that people coming from the villages are not being properly attended to. It appears they are expected to do something if they must get attention. Sir, I do not stand just to criticise the Government but I would like to make suggestions at the same time. For the two places I have mentioned, may I request the Government to appoint doctors, or if that is not possible immediately, to depute a doctor at least once a week to those places. Now-a-days there is epidemic everywhere. To meet the situation we have to seek the help of the Red Cross from whom some times we get some medicine but cannot expect always. Now there is a dispensary at Umsning (Naya Bungalow) under the N. E. S. Blocks. I think it is not difficult for the doctor from Umsning to visit once a week to Bhoilymbong and to Diengiei on fixed day so that the people may be informed before hand that they can get medicine and other medical aid.

Sir, as regards the leper dispensary at Umden I do not know if the Government are really serious about it. Conditions in that area is really very bad. Even drinking water is scarce, people have no proper drinking water. Though they have started digging a well, but that also has been given up now, the reasons of which I don't know. May I request the Medical Minister to kindly see to that also because that area is really very bad and unless they get good drinking water and also doctors and adequate medical facilities many of these people will die.

With these few words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Monday, the 3rd March, 1958.

Shillong :

The 15th November, 1958.

R. N. BARUA,

Secretary,
Legislative Assembly, Assam.

APPENDIX I

[Ref: REPLY TO THE UNSTARRED QUESTION 24(P)]

REPORT on Judicial enquiry on the Ferry Boat accident on 7th October, 1957 at Silonipam Ferry Crossing in the Jiabharali River at 21st-22nd mile from Tezpur on the North Trunk Road East.

On being directed by the Deputy Commissioner on 9th October, 1957 to hold a Judicial Enquiry in connection with the Ferry Boat disaster at Silonipam ghat on 7th October, 1957 the enquiry was taken up by me immediately. The ferry is across the Jiabharali river at Silonipam in the 21st mile of the Diversion of North Trunk Road East in Tezpur Subdivision.

On 10th October, 1957, I went to the place of occurrence and inspected it and made a rough diagram marked X. The Marboat which carried passengers and a motor car from West Bank down to the East Bank of the Jiabharali river for about half a mile at the confluence of the Jiabharali and the Dikorai river went out of control due to the apparent cause of failure of the mar boat propelling engine near the East Bank upstream of the Spur No.1 (then first of the thirteen numbers of spurs put from the side of the bank into the river by the Embankment and Drainage Department to check erosion of bank) and after successfully negotiating it down, unfortunately dashed against the Spur No.2 at the 6th and 7th row of posts from the outer end at a distance of about 70 ft. from the Bank. The current was very strong about 15 feet to 20 feet Spur at this high speed the boat capsized then and there were the depth of water was 26 feet with the load of motor cars and passengers resulting in death of passenger and the loss of property. The ferry boat has been traced after a fortnight but the car could not be traced. The majority of passengers were rescued.

On inspection of Spur No. 2 some broken pieces of tie beams were found as evidence of impact at the 6th and 7th rows of the posts from the outer end of the Spur No.2.

(1) The purpose of the Judicial Enquiry is to find out (1) the extent of loss of human lives and property involved in the accident.

(2) *The cause of the accident.*—With this end in view all possible avenue of information were explored, wide publicity was given regarding the place and time of enquiry, possible witnesses were summoned and examined and ultimately the sunk marboat was traced and inspected. Thirty six witnesses were examined in all. As there is no more evidence coming forth the proceedings were closed and this report drawn up from the evidence on record and the memoranda of local inspection and other documents in the file.

(1) *Extent of loss of human lives and property.*—The capacity of the Sunk Boat for carrying load was over 6 (six) tons. It is unanimously stated by all eye witnesses that the boat carried full load upto the free board white mark by the side of the boat. There was one motor car and about one hundred persons on the boat. There could be found no definite evidence as to the exact number of passengers on board. No body kept any record of the names and numbers of survivors.

The following names and address of the definitely lost persons have been ascertained from the witnesses Nos. 9, 10, 11, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36 and the investigating police officer witness No.19:—

1. Mustm. Numali Devi, wife of Shri Naram Nath Baroholia, Tezpur town (dead body recovered).
2. Mustm. Sunity Alias Nandeswari, aged 10 years , daughter of Shri Naram Nath.
3. Mustm. Bhogeswari, aged 7 years , daughter of Shri Naram Nath.
4. Mustm. Padre Shrimati Marandi of Udalguri, District Darrang.
5. Shri Soneswar Bhuyan (12 years), S/o. Late Cheniram of Bamunchuburi, Tezpur.
6. Shri Bhubna Sardar of Borgong Tea Estate, District Darrang.
7. Shri Ramesh Bhumij, S/o. Late Bhikhari Bhumiz of Pabhoi Tea Estate, District Darrang.
8. Shri Onkanmal Sarma one Marwari of Narayanpur, North Lakhimpur.
9. Shri Gurdatt Singh, Panjabi of Rangapara, District Darrang.
10. Shri Datarang Sarma, aged 7 years, S/o. Sibanidhi Sarma of Behali (dead body recovered).
11. Shri Bharta Dighala of Baghamari Tea Estate.
12. Mustm. Tulu Dighla, aged 10 years, grand daughter of Bharta Dighla of Baghamari Tea Estate and daughter of Rasia.
13. Shri Nabin Bora of Singagaon, Police Station, Udalguri.
14. Mustm. Gangumaya, wife of Sibanidhi Sarma of village Rangasali, Behali Police Station.
15. Shri Liladhar Sarma, aged 1½ years, son of Sibanidhi Sarma of village Rangasali.
16. Mustm. Kansalaya, wife of Sadananda Sarma of village, Rangasali, Police Station Behali.
17. Mustm. Ranuka, 1½ years old, daughter of Sadananda Sarma, village Rangasali.
18. Mustm. Sundari (10 years) daughter of Sadananda Sarma of village Rangasali, Police Station Behali.
19. Mustm. Narbada Devi, wife of Abhinarayan Sarma of village, Rangasali, Police Station Behali.

**Six more deaths were reported by O/C., Sootea Police Station
witness No. 19.**

1. Debendra Barua, aged 40 years of Fulbari, North Lakhimpur.
2. Purna Barua, aged 10 years of Fulbari, North Lakhimpur.
3. Mahesh Barua, aged 7 years of Fulbari, North Lakhimpur.
4. Musmt. Kansalya Barua, aged 25 years of Fulbari, North Lakhimpur.
5. Musmt. Nilabati Barua, aged 12 years of Fulbari, North Lakhimpur.
6. Musmt. Pramila Barua, aged 11 years of Fulbari, North Lakhimpur.

But these were not verified by further enquiry by the witness. Nobody appeared before me to give evidence of these alleged deaths. So it is not certain if the report of the witness No.19 in respect of these alleged death is correct.

As regards loss of property there is no evidence on record as to the extent of such loss on the whole. This much is certain that an old motor car of witness No.1 Shri Bahar Ali was lost and could not be traced till now.

2. The causes of the accident :

From the evidence on record it is clear that the Ferry Boat was propelled by motor engine and the engine failed not very far from the East Bank Ghat about only 300 ft. (three hundred feet) from the ghat.

The current was very strong about 15 ft. per second at the place of occurrence. It was 11.76 ft. per second on the West Bank side as measured and recorded by C. W. P. C. during the course of daily records. The weather was fair and sunny.

The ferry boat was due to be anchored at the ghat (landing stage) only 68 ft. up current of spur No.1 (sketch marked X) and she negotiated safely spur No.1 just at the outer noes of the spur No.1.

The boatman spared no pains in their attempt to take the boat to the shore with their meagre equipments of bamboo poles immediately below the spur No.1 and failed.

The boat being drifted by the strong current at enormous velocity of about 15 ft. per second. Dashed with full load of passengers and a motor car on her against spur No.2 only 660 ft. below spur No.1 at a distance of about 68 ft. from the Bank and 32 ft. inside the outer nose of spur. No.2 and sank.

To the primary causes of the accident are (i) failure of the ferry boat propelling engine at mid-stream.

(ii) Collision of the boat with spur No.2 at ghat great velocity of about 15 ft. per second. As a result of the collision the boat might have sunk being broken or being overturned or for boat the reasons.

The boat was subsequently traced and examined by me personally on 6th November 1957 about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile down stream from the place of accident.

The boat was found overturned as shows in the sketch map marked XX. It was seen that there was no damage except that a piece of wooden plan of the front outer side of the right hand boat was damaged which might have allowed some water in. But from the evidence of eye witnesses and persons involved in the accident on the boat it was proved that the left hand boat first entered into the river and the boat sank being overturned. The position of the boat as found subsequently bears proof to the oral evidents of witnesses.

So the conclusion is that the boat sank being overturned as a result of the impact with the standing wooden spur above water level.

On the outer side of the bottom of the boat strong iron sheet cover was in tact and the boat was sufficiently strong having no apparent defect of make or due to wear and tear except the defects of engine or other machanical device if any.

Evidence of the witness No. 14, Pakamura Miri, Engine Driver of the Ferry Boat shows that failure of the engine was due to entry of water from waves below. Evidently there was no proper device for check against the entry of water into engine parts from waves below. The engine used for propelling the water fan is of land motor vehicles type and not marine engine. The engine is fitted on open board without any outer cover and without sufficient protection against entry of water into engine parts from the waves below.

The engine used for propelling the water fan is of land motor vehicle type and not marine engine. The engine is fitted on open board without any outer cover.

It does not require any expert knowledge to say that entry of water into vital parts of oil engines is certainly an impediment to smooth working of the engine. So, the mechanical device and arrangement as provided to the ferry boat was defective, which led to the failure of the engine in this particular case, resulting in loss of control of the boat by boatman in the strong current.

The engine driver again has no function in regard to the steering which is done by ordinary country boatmen. Co-ordination of action between the engine driver and country boatmen cannot be taken to be duly organise methods.

In this particular case the evidence on record shows that after the engine stopped the illfated boat negotiated the outer nose of the spur No.1. The current was diverted outwards by the spur No.1. The spur No. 2 was of equal projection into the river with spur No.1 and at a distance of only 660 ft. below.

The boatmen attempted to bring in the boat to the bank in between spur No. 1 and 2. The velocity of current was 15 ft. per second. It was a matter of only 44 seconds at the most for action and the boatmen failed in their attempt. If the boatmen would have attempted to direct the boat out in the midstream instead of directing here to the bank there would be less chance of accident. There are two other engine propelled boats which could have come to help if the illfated boat were drifted into the midstream.

It was an error of judgment on the part of the boatmen and the engine driver who is certainly a better trained man had no hand in a steering the boat.

Considering the importance of carrying about one hundred human beings over the risky watery way, the method of ferry arrangement cannot be said to be well devised, by fitting landmotor vehicle engine to marine transport and there being no proper co-ordination between the engine driver and the steering boatmen who are separate persons.

The sinking of the boat was next due to collision of the boat at high speed with transverse stout wooden spur projecting 100 ft. into the current. Evidently if there were no spur in the close proximity to the ferry ghat the particular accident would not have occurred. If sufficient time to control the boat could be found by boatmen things might be otherwise.

So, it is found that fixing of spurs near the ferryghat of ghat near the spurs is not well advised.

The Public Works Department Staff maintain that there was no other suitable site for ghat on the particular day. But from records it is found that there was a space of 1300 ft. between Spur Nos. 2 and 3 and only 728 ft. below the fixed ghat on the day of accident. As this space of 1300 ft. allows a drifting on 87 second it was perhaps advisable to fix the ghat in between spur Nos. 2 and 3 on the particular day of strong current.

From the evidence on record and on examination of the lease granted by the Executive Engineer, Tezpur Division to the lessee, Shri Biswanath Singh of the Ferry it is found that under Cl. No. 5 of the lease the following ferry appliances are provided and maintained in good repair by the Executive Engineer, Tezpur Subdivision.

(a) Marboats—Nil.

(b) Single Boat—one.

(c) Marboats fitted without board or in board engines—Three.

Clause 6.—The lessee is required to employ and keep available always at his own expense three licensed drivers(s) and three boatmen for each marboat.

Clause 7.—If for any reason, an engine cannot be supplied the ferry shall be operated without the use of the engine.

Clause 12.—The numbers of passengers, animals, etc., carried out at one time shall not be such as to submerge the white marks the minimum free board.

Clause 28.—(ii) The Executive Engineer is the controlling authority for the purposes of this lease.

The responsibility of the ferry crossing under the terms of the lease is a joint responsibility of the Public Works Department and the lessee. Evidence on record does not reveal any short comings of the lessee except the following under clause 7 it has been laid down that if for any reason an engine cannot be supplied the ferry shall be operated without the use of the engine.

The failure of engine occasionally is not unknown in ferry crossings across this ferry as deposed by the lessee, Shri Biswanath Singh witness No.6 minor appliances like oars to operate the ferry boat without the use of the engine. Such appliances were absent.

There is no evidence of over loading by submerging the white free board mark provided at the sides of the boat under clause 12.

The lessee kept engine drivers and boatmen as required under clause.

The responsibility for maintaining in good repair the appliances under clause 5 rests with the Public works Department and so also the approach roads to the ferry under clause 11.

The defects found on analysis of the evidence and records have been fully discussed above in respect of the ferry appliances and approach roads and landing stages ghats.

In conclusion the findings of the judicial proceedings in nutshell are as follows:—

(1) On mid day of 7th October, 1957 in fair and sunny weather the power driven ferry marboat loaded to the full capacity with passengers and cargo was crossing the Jiabhorali river at Silonipam from the West Bank to the East in the 21st mile of the diversion of North Trunk Road-East in Tezpur Subdivision. The river was furious with strong current of about the velocity of 15 per second near the East Bank where the engine of the ferry boat failed. The boatmen in their attempt to anchor the boat between the erosion controlling spur Nos. 1 and 2 of the Embankment and Drainage Department within a space of 660 ft. met with failure within 44 seconds of time at their disposal. The boat with the load of about one hundred passengers. On board one Motor Car was drifted at high speed of about 15 ft. per second against the stout wooden spur and capsized drowning passengers and cargo.

(2) Nineteen lives of passengers were lost to the certainty and six persons more were reported lost which could not be verified by any eye witness.

(3) Except the loss of a motor car, loss of further property is uncertain.

(4) The causes of accident are (a) failure of the engine of the ferry marboat due to entry of water from waves below the vital parts of the engine (b) impart at high speed of the marboat with erosion controlling wooden spurs projecting into the river over turning the ferry boat.

(5) The ferry is controlled by the Public Works Department, Assam, and run by the the lessee Shri Biswanath Singh, under the lease issued by the Executive Engineer, Tezpur.

The constitutions of the lease show that the ferry appliances are provided and maintained in good repair by the Executive Engineer, Tezpur Division and the lessee employes and keeps available engine drivers and boatmen. The approach roads to the ferry and landing stages are provided by the Public Works Department.

(6) Failure of engine is the responsibility of the Public Works Department.

(7) Construction of the spurs is the responsibility of the Embankment and Drainage Branch of the Public Works Department.

(8) If the engine would not have failed or if there were no spurs there would be the least chance of the accident.

(9) Fixing of the landing stage too near the spurs or putting the spurs too near the landing stage was one of the main causes of the accident.

(10) Failure of engine was due to entry of water into vital parts of the oil engine. Land Motor Engine with sufficient precautions against such eventuality was used for driving the propeller of the ferry boat.

If marine engines were fitted for the purpose the chances of failure of engine due to entry of water into engine parts would have been minimised which is common knowledge.

(11) The engine driver has no control on steering of the boat and there is little co-ordinations between the two agencies. In this particular case of the accident it might be averted if the boatmen would have let the boat drift out in the midstream instead of attempting to anchor to the bank in the narrow space of 660 ft. between spur Nos. 1 and spur No. 2 within the available time of 44 second in the circumstances. This was an error of judgment on the part of the unlicensed boatmen engaged by the lessees.

The overall control of ferry is with the Public Works Department whose attention may be drawn to remedy the defects and ensure future safety on further expert opinion.

Sd/- S. C. DAS,
Senior Magistrate, Tezpur.