

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 22nd March, 1958.

PRESENT

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Arrest made in connection with the incident at Batamara-Duramara Beel in Utter Barkhetri Mauza, District Kamrup

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari West) asked :

***84. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—**

- (a) How many persons were arrested in connection with a recent incident at Batamara-Duramara Beel near village Kekan of Mouza Uttre-Barkhetri in the district of Kamrup ?
- (b) Whether the investigation of the case is completed, and further arrest of men are stopped ?

- (c) Whether the arrested persons are named in the Ejahar, or they are arrested on suspicion ?
- (d) Whether the arrested persons are of one village or of different villages ?
- (e) If they are of different villages, please name the villages including the number of persons of each village so arrested ?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that a batch of armed Police was posted at the Beel since before the incident, at the request of the lessee so that except him nobody could fish there ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister)
replied :

84. (a)—69 persons.

(b)—The investigation of the case has not yet been completed.

The question of making or not making further arrests will depend on the result of investigation.

(c)—Some of the arrested persons were named in the Ejahar and some were arrested during investigation on information received from different sources.

(d)—The persons arrested belong to different villages.

(e)—The name of the villages including the number of persons are—

(1) Bornibari village	..	...	3 persons.
(2) Thatikata village	...	...	6 „
(3) Piplibari village ...	...	...	16 „
(4) Kachua village ...	...	...	11 „
(5) Bonmutha village	...	...	5 „

(6) Kekankuchi village	...	...	2 persons
(7) Dirua village	...	...	2 „
(8) Pikan Dirua village	...	...	5 „
(9) Domdoma village	...	...	5 „
(10) Jagra village	...	...	2 „
(11) Potabari village	...	...	1 person.
(12) Salmara village	..	...	1 „
(13) Somarabhoira village	...	...	2 persons.
(14) Bori village	...	...	7 „
(15) Paikan Gonmaja village	...	...	1 person.

(f)—Yes. Armed Police (consisting of one Havildar and 6 constables) was posted a few days before the incident at the request of, and on payment by, the lessee to protect the Beel from unauthorised fishing.

Borphukon Ali of Atkhel Mouza in the Sibsagar Sub-division

Shri TANKESWAR CHETIA (Nazira) asked :

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

(a) When will the remaining 2 miles of the Borphukon Ali of Atkhel Mouza in the Sibsagar Sub-division be taken up by Government ?

(b) Whether Government is aware or received report to the effect that the road will not serve any useful purpose unless the remaining portion is completed to link up the Ladoigarh thereby connecting all business centres ?

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

85.(a)—Only 5 miles (out of the total length of 7 miles) of the road could be taken up under the Expanded First Five Year Plan Programme at an estimated cost of Rs.1,00,000. As regards the remaining 2 miles, the proposal was placed before the Assam Roads Communication Board during its meeting in May 1956. But, it did not get the recommendation of the Board.

The proposal will again be placed before the next meeting of the Board and works will be taken up if the proposal is selected and fund is made available for the purpose.

(b)—A copy of a resolution adopted in a public meeting, held at the Dolakharia L. P. School on 12th November 1957, requesting the Government to take up the remaining 2 miles of the Borphukon Ali was received from Shri Suchan Chandra Gogoi of Dolakharia Gaon.

Shri TANKESWAR CHETIA (Nazira): Whether in the completed portion of the road the necessary bridges have been done ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH [Minister, Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings Wing)]: I have not got the information with me now.

Land of Halua Pathar village in Sadiya Mouza spoiled by Earthquake of 1950

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa)
asked :

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that cultivable land belonging to the villagers of Halua Pathar village in south bank of Sadiya Mouza was spoiled by the great earthquake of 1950 and the subsequent flood and has become unfit for cultivation ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the occupant cultivators gave up their land in 1953 ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that they are intending not to reoccupy these lands in future also ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that the Mouzadar is pressing for revenue for these lands which are unfit for cultivation ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that the Mouzadar expresses his unwillingness to accept revenues from the cultivators for the land actually under their occupation unless they pay revenue for their land which they abandoned in 1953 or so ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

86. (a)—It is not a fact. Due to the Earthquake of 1950 and subsequent floods the land became fertile.

(b)—It is not a fact. The Pattadars are in occupation of the land.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—Mouzadar is demanding revenue but the land is not unfit for cultivation.

(e)—It is not a fact. The Mouzadar is demanding revenue for the land in actual occupation of pattadars.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : Whether the Revenue Minister knows that these villages are lying between the Brahmaputra bund and Brahmaputra river, and therefore these places are water-logged and due to stagnant water, cultivation is spoiled and there is no feasibility of having any cultivation in these areas in near future also ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : I have no personal knowledge about the land but cultivation can be made that is the report.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : Whether the Minister-in-charge will take the information from the questioner and make thorough enquiry ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : I am not inclined to take that information because our local officers are there and the report is that the land is cultivable.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj) : Whether the Mauzadar has paid the revenue for those lands for the period under reference ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : Possibly he has done it otherwise it will be realised.

Starred Question 87 standing in the name of Shri Narendra Nath Sarma was not put and answered as the Member was absent).

Dibrugarh Town Protection Drain**Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh)** asked :

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

- (a) Whether Government are aware that the side walls (retaining) of the Dibrugarh town protection drain have not yet been completed?
- (b) Whether Government are aware that the bricks on the side walls of the said drain are simply arranged symmetrically without any mortar in between them?
- (c) Whether it is in accordance with the specifications of the Government?
- (d) Whether Government are aware that some bricks of a part of the wall on the southern side of the drain just on the west of the Mancutta road have slid down?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that the part of the said drain towards south-west of Chiring Chapari Chowkidinghee road is very shallow and as a consequence thereof the sewage water there is stagnating?
- (f) Whether Government are aware that due to the negligence of the contractors the portion of the Dibrugarh town protection drain within Jamira Mouza had not been dug to the required depth, in consequence whereof the sewage water of the drain inundated the whole of the northern part of the said Mauza and thereby rendered the cultivation of the agricultural lands impossible?
- g) If so, what steps Government propose to take to remedy these defects?
- h) Whether Government have come to a decision regarding the fencing of both the banks of the Dibrugarh town protection drain in order to seal the chances of children and cattle falling into the drain?

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

88. (a)—The drain constructed in connection with the Dibrugarh Town Protection Works is an excavated channel. The side slopes and the bed of the portion in the town proper for about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles length is lined with dry bricks pitching, and in the heavily built up areas, retaining walls

have been provided to reduce the width of land occupied by the drain to minimum. All these retaining walls and dry brick lining have been completed in all respects.

(b)—Yes. The brick lining has no mortar in between the bricks which has been laid dry. The retaining walls are built in cement mortar.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—A few bricks of the dry lining on the western side of the Mancutta Road were displaced due to seepage. These have been relaid in proper positions.

(e)—The drain towards the south west of Chiring Chapari Chowkidinghee Road has since been completed and no sewage water is stagnating.

(f)—Excavation of a portion of the drain within the Jamira Mauza could not be completed to required depth during 1956 and the drain had not been able to completely drain out some water logged portions of the said Mauza.

(g)—The drain in Jamira Mauza has since been dug to the full depth.

(h)—The question of providing fencing on both the banks of the portion of the drain within Dibrugarh town has been engaging the attention of the Government and an estimate for the purpose amounting to Rs.49,200 has already been framed. As the necessary funds for erecting the fencing could not be arranged from any State source, the Government of India is being moved to include the work in the Flood Control Programme for loan assistance. The work will be taken up as soon as funds are available.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) : When do Government expect to complete the remaining portion of the road, *i. e.*, Dibrugarh Town Protection Drain ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY [Minister, P. W. D. (Flood control and Irrigation Wing)] : I have said that the work will be taken up as soon as possible when funds are available.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : Whether Government propose to pay compensation to the cultivators whose paddy fields have been spoiled by the town protection drain works ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : This is altogether a new question.

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is whether Government will pay compensation for the lands where agriculture has become impossible ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : We will consider about it.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Re: Panchayats in Assam

Shri ABDUL HAMID CHOUDHURY (Karimganj South) asked :

296. Will the Minister-in-charge of Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) Whether arrangement has been made to instal Union Panchayats in the State ?

(b) If so, when will it be given effect to ?

(c) What arrangement has been made to abolish the existing Local Boards ?

(d) What interim arrangement has been contemplated for running the affairs during the transition period from Local Boards to Union Panchayats ?

297. Will the Minister-in-charge of Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is the intention of Government to bring about a change in the Panchayat hierarchy by abolishing the Rural Panchayats ?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken to introduce the change ?

(c) Whether instructions have been issued not to take permanent ventures by the Presidents of Rural Panchayats including construction of their office buildings, etc. ?

(d) Whether in view of the intended change Government propose to revise the practice so that the Rural Panchayats may not appoint Secretaries for the Rural and Primary Panchayats ?

(e) Whether Government propose under the circumstances to place funds with the Presidents of the Rural Panchayats which have been formed of late ?

(f) If so, for what particular purposes ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister, Rural Development) replied :

296. (a)—An amending Bill to the Assam Rural Panchayat Act, 1948, is likely to be introduced in this session of the Assembly for establishing Union Panchayats.

(b)—As soon as the said Bill is passed into an Act, steps will be taken to establish Union Panchayats.

(c)—With the establishment of the Union Panchayats, the existing Local Boards will be abolished.

(d)—This will be considered in the draft Bill which is under preparation.

297. (a) & (b)—As at 296 (a) above.

(c)—Reply to first part of the question is in the negative. As for the second part, instructions have been issued not to construct new building.

(d)—The Rural Panchayat President appoints Primary Panchayat Secretaries only in consultation with the Rural Panchayat and the President of the Primary Panchayat concerned. This point is being considered in the amending Bill.

(e)—The question is not clear. The present practice is that the Panchayat funds are operated jointly by the Presidents and Secretaries of Panchayats. The funds are utilised in the manner provided in the Act. Until the Act is amended funds will have to be placed with the Rural Panchayats to carry on their activities.

(f)—Rural Panchayats are carrying on all their activities except construction of office buildings.

Shri ABDUL HAMID CHOUDHURY (Karimganj-South) : Rural Panchayat-এর President এবং Primary Panchayat-এর President-কে consult না করে Secretary appoint হয় নাকি ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister, Rural Development) : দুয়োটা পঞ্চায়তৰ প্ৰেচিডেণ্টৰ পৰামৰ্শ লৈহে চেফেক্টাৰী নিয়োগ কৰা হয় ।

Shri MAHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur) : লোকেলবোৰ্ড বিলাককে ইউনিয়ন পঞ্চায়তলৈ পৰিবৰ্তন কৰা হ'ব । এই সম্পৰ্কে মেহটা কমিটিয়ে পৰামৰ্শ দিছে National Extension Service-ৰ এটা ব্লকত এখন পাতিবলৈ । মহকুমা বিলাকতবহুতো National Extension Service Block থাকিব পাৰে । গতিকে National Extension Service ব্লক হিচাবে ইউনিয়ন পঞ্চায়ত বিলাক পাতিবনে নাই মহকুমা হিচাবে পাতিব ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister, Rural Development): এই সম্পর্কীয় বিল এখন অন্যত ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হৈছে। Subdivision-wise কৰা হব।

Shri GOURI SHANKAR ROY (Katlicherra): যুনিয়ন পঞ্চায়তों में चाय वगान के प्रतिनिधि निर्वाचन के द्वारा चुने जायगे या मनोनयन द्वारा होगा।

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : সংশোধিত আইনত ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হৈছে।

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : কিছুমান পঞ্চায়তৰ টকাপয়চাৰ অভাৱত দিকনতে function কৰিব পৰা নাই এই কথা মন্ত্ৰীমহোদেৱ জানেনে ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : হয়।

Shri MOHIDHAR PEGOO (Jorhat Reserved for Scheduled Tribes) : এই পঞ্চায়ত বিলাক কি হিচাবে গঠিত হব ?

Mr. SPEAKER : দৈছেই নহয়—Subdivision-wise পতা হব বুলি।

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) : Rural Panchayat বিলাকৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে ঘৰ পাতিবলৈ দিয়া নাই। অফিচৰ কাৰণে ঘৰ ভাৰা মঞ্জুৰ কৰা হৈছেনে ? ঘৰ নহলে পঞ্চায়ত বিলাক কেনেকৈ চলি থাকিব ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : পঞ্চায়তৰ কাৰ্য বন্ধ হৈ থকা নাই।

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) : পঞ্চায়ত সংশোধনী আইন অনা হোৱা নাই কিয় ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : এই অধিবেশনতে অনা হব।

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari) : পঞ্চায়ত চেক্রেটৰী বিলাকে টকাপয়ছা লেনদেন কৰিব লাগিব। তেওঁলোকক চৰকাৰে নিয়োগ কৰিবনে পঞ্চায়তে কৰিব ?

Mr. SPEAKER : I think when the Bill will come before the House, the Hon. Members will have a chance to discuss these.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golokganj) : মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে জানেন যে একালে চৰকাৰে অফিচ সজাব ব্যৱস্থা কৰা নাই, কিন্তু আন ফালে অফিচ চলিবৰ বাবে ঘৰৰ ভাড়া দিয়েই আছে।

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister Rural Development) : তাৰ কাৰণে ব্যৱস্থা আছে।

Shri CHATRASING TERON [(Mikir Hills-West Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : গাঁও পঞ্চায়ত আৰু ইউনিয়ন পঞ্চায়তৰ মধ্যবৰ্ত্তি কোনো পঞ্চায়তৰ ব্যৱস্থাও আছে নেকি ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : ইয়াৰ বাবে বিবেচনা চলি আছে।

Nilamsbazar Rural Panchayat

Shri ABDUL HAMID CHOUDHURY (Karimganj-South) asked :

298. Will the Minister-in-charge of Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that one Shoiob Ali of village Iswarsri of Nilamsbazar conveyed in 1950 by sale by registered deed 9 Kedars of land to the Nilamsbazar Rural Panchayat for its model farm ?

(b) If so, whether the amount has been paid for the land ?

(c) If not, why not ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister, Rural Development) replied :

298. (a), (b) ও (c)—Information have been called for.

Shri ABDUL HAMID CHOUDHURY : কৰে পৰ্য্যন্ত খবৰ পাইতে পাৰি ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : যেতিয়াই আহে তেতিয়াই জনোৱা হ'ব।

Bijou Cinema House in Police Bazar Shillong

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

299. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether he is aware—

(i) that the owner of the Bijou Cinema house in Policebazar, Shillong, had encroached upon the main road ;

(ii) that there is no arrangement for advance sale of tickets and there is also no interval in all the Cinema houses in Shillong ; and

(iii) that the arrangements in the Cinema houses at Shillong are not in accordance with the provision of the Cinematographic Act ?

(b) If so, what steps Government propose to take to improve them ?

(c) If not, whether Government propose to make an enquiry in this regard and see that the necessary improvement in accordance with the provision of the Act is effected ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied :

299. (a)—

(i)—Yes.

(ii)—Yes.

(iii)—No.

(b) & (c)—Do not arise in view of the above reply.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Here in answer to (a) it has been said, "yes". Whether Government has taken any step against the encroacher, namely the owner of the Bijou Cinema?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) : When this report of encroachment was received by Government the matter was referred to the Municipal Board, but they denied that there has been any encroachment by the Bijou Cinema. Subsequently the Deputy Commissioner undertook an inquiry and he stated that there is encroachment. As a matter of fact there is difference of opinion between the Municipal Board and the Government officer. Now the Municipality has been advised to take steps for removal of this encroachment.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : Whether it is a fact that the owner of this Cinema Hall, one Shri Goenka, is a Government nominated member of the Municipal Board, Shillong which said that there was no encroachment?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North) : Is there any bar to that?

Mr. SPEAKER : Let us not make any inference.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : I am sorry I am not in a position to reply to that.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Whether it is a fact that in front of or near that Cinema Hall the poor road side stall keepers have been forcibly evicted whereas this big cinema owner has been allowed to go on untouched?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : Removal of unauthorised stalls within the Municipal area is a responsibility of the Municipal Board. As a matter of fact I received a representation about removal of these road-side stalls and we have called for report.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the news item regarding missing of files in this connection in the Assam Tribune of day before yesterday?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : True, but I do not know exactly whether it is in respect of this case or some other case. I shall look into the matter.

Shri CHATRASING TERON (Mikir Hills-West: Reserved for Scheduled Tribes) : What step Government propose to take if, after the advice that has been given to the Municipality, they do not take any action in this matter?

Mr. SPEAKER : That is a hypothetical question.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) : With regard to (a) (iii)—that the arrangements are not in accordance with the provision of the Cinematographic Act, the reply given is, "No". Will Government be pleased to enquire into the fact which amounts to violation of the Cinematographic Act?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) : At the time of licensing, the conditions that are necessary to receive a license have to be fulfilled. If the Government is satisfied that these conditions have been fulfilled, the license is granted. So far our information goes there is no violation of the conditions, but if the Hon. Member please let us know about any violation of any condition, we shall certainly enquire.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS : With regard to (a) (ii) that there is no arrangements for advance sale of tickets and no interval in these cinemas, the answer given is, "Yes". Will the Government be pleased to take necessary steps and issue necessary directions to the owners of the cinemas to remove these public inconveniences?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) : In these matters we can only proceed according to the rules under the Assam Cinematographic Act of 1935 with regard to the inconvenience for not giving any interval and absence of advance booking arrangement.

Assam Executive Manual

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Aimguri)
asked :

300. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether he is aware that the Assam Executive Manual is out of stock and is not available for purchase ?
- (b) Whether the rules in the Assam Executive Manual have been adapted in line with the Constitution of India ?
- (c) Whether steps will be taken to revise and reprint this Manual immediately and make it available for sale?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied :

300. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Adaptation has been taken up, but a comprehensive revision of the Manual has become necessary.

(c)—Yes.

**Hail Storm in Villages of Patidarang Mauza under
Kamalpur Circle**

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked :

301. (a) Whether the Revenue Minister is aware that a severe hailstorm occurred in December, 1957 which caused heavy damage to ripe paddy in several villages of Patidarang Mauza under Kamalpur Circle ?

(b) What was the extent of the damage ?

(c) Whether there was any officer deputed by the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup to the area to determine the extent of damage ?

(d) What measures Government propose to take to relieve the people who could not gather any harvest due to calamity and thereby facing acute shortage of paddy ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to grant remission of land revenue of the land of which the crop was damaged ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Revenue Minister) replied :

301. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Rs. 1,96 901 approximately.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Deputy Commissioner has been asked to issue agricultural loans to the affected people out of Rs. 1,75,000 recently placed at his disposal by the Agriculture Department. Any further proposal that may be submitted by Deputy Commissioner will be sympathetically considered.

(e)—Government will consider the proposal when submitted by local officers.

Shri RADHIKARAM DAS (Palasbari) : In answer to (c) it has been said, "yes". May I know who was the officer deputed by the Deputy Commissioner?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : S.D.C., Kamalpur.

Shri RADHIKARAM DAS : Is it a fact that only a Mandal was deputed and no other officer?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : That is not a fact.

Labour Officer, North-Lakhimpur Subdivision

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur) asked:

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

- (a) Whether there is any Labour Officer in-charge of North Lakhimpur Subdivision who is posted at Tezpur and a vehicle is also placed at the disposal of this officer?
- (b) If the reply is in the affirmative, whether Government has any information that this Officer though equipped with a vehicle has not visited North Lakhimpur Subdivision for the last 13 months?
- (c) Whether there is any proposal to post an Inspector at North Lakhimpur for the immediate need of the labourers there?
- (d) Whether Government has any information from its Tezpur office regarding the deplorable condition of the Labour quarters of some tea-gardens of North Lakhimpur?
- (e) Whether Government has taken any action for improvement of the quarters of labourers as well as Karmacharis in the Silonibari and some other tea-gardens of North Lakhimpur?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour) replied :

302. (a)—Yes.

A vehicle has been placed at the disposal of the Labour Officer, Tezpur.

(b)—This Officer has not been specifically given a vehicle. However, he has paid seven visits to North Lakhimpur during the period from January to December, 1957.

(c)—Yes. Unfortunately due to non-availability of accommodation at North Lakhimpur and shortage of staff at Tezpur, he has been temporarily retained at Tezpur. As soon as accommodation and staff are available, the Inspector will be posted at North Lakhimpur.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Silonibari and eight other gardens have submitted housing schemes and are endeavouring to fulfil the 8 per cent target as required under the Assam Plantation Labour Rules. Defaulting gardens have been reminded and Labour Inspector has also been instructed to visit the gardens.

***Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur)** : In reply to (b) it has been said that the officer has paid seven visits to North Lakhimpur during the period from January to December 1957. Will Government please enquire which are the places he visited and who are the people he met?

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour)** : We have got this information from the tour diary of the said officer. If it is suggested that the tour diary is incorrect in that case we will enquire.

***Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi)** : Is the Minister aware of the fact that some other Labour Officers who are to stay in the Subdivision do not stay there at all?

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour):** I have no information, but if the Hon. Member gives me information about specific instances then I shall enquire.

***Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi):** Will the Minister kindly enquire whether the Labour Officer of Golaghat does stay at Golaghat or at Jorhat?

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI :** I will enquire.

Bund of Choulkhowa Drainage

Shri MAHADEV DAS [Barpeta (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] asked :

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

(a) Whether the Sub-Divisional Officer, Embankment and Drainage, Barpeta, has passed order to cut the Bund of Choulkhowa Drainage to the East of Barpeta (near Byahkuchi village) ?

(b) If so, whether Government is aware that the farmers of that area have suffered greatly due to this act of the Sub-Divisional Officer, Embankment and Drainage ?

(c) What steps Government propose to take to save the cultivation in the said area ?

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

303. (a)—Yes. The lessee of Choulkhowa river Fishery was allowed to make a small cut in the Bund on the request of the Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil), Barpeta for the interest of the Fishery on condition that the cut would be closed by the lessee at his own cost.

The said Bund is actually a spoil bank of Choulkhowa Drainage Channel and not a flood embankment and it remains submerged throughout the whole flood season.

(b)—No. This small cut was made in December, 1957 after harvesting in the area was over.

(c)—This cut in the spoil bank was closed by the lessee at his own cost under supervision of the Department as was contemplated while allowing to make the cut.

**Agriculture loan to landless cultivators through
Co-operative Department**

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj):
asked :

304. Will the Minister-in-charge of Co-operative be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether landless cultivators are entitled to agriculture loan from Government through Co-operative Department?
- (b) If so, whether Government is aware that agriculture loan is not granted to the landless cultivators by the Co-operative Department in the Dhubri Sub-division?
- (c) If not, how the landless cultivators can get help for this purpose from the Co-operative Department?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister-in-charge of Co-operative) replied:

304. (a)—No loan is issued from Government through Co-operative Department. But loans received by the Co-operative Apex Bank from the Reserve Bank of India on guarantee of Government are issued as Short Term Loans to cultivators whether owning land or not provided they are members of a Co-operative Credit Society.

(b)—No. Government have no such information.

(c)—As stated in (a) above, Short Term Loans can be availed of by real cultivators if they become members of a Registered Co-operative Credit Society.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI: Whether Government is aware that loans are not issued to the landless cultivators except on third party security in Dhubri Sub-division?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Co-operative): So far as the co-operative short term loans are concerned no security is required, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: His question is in case of landless cultivators it is not granted.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Co-operative) : So far as the short term loan is concerned it is issued on his credit-worthiness and looking into his cultivation. That is the procedure every-where, Sir.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) : Are they required to execute any personal bond?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Co-operative) : The co-operative is required to enter into a joint bond.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj) : What is the amount of minimum and maximum loan?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Co-operative) : There is no limit, Sir. It is issued according to the merit of each case.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East) : Can any amount be issued without any security?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Co-operative) : Generally short term loan is of a small sum. But there is no limit about it. It is given according to the availability of the funds and also according to the credit-worthiness of the man.

Shri GOURI SHANKAR ROY (Katlicherra) : Is it a fact that loan is not available in proper time?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Co-operative) : This has never been complained of, Sir.

Hiramati near Digheli Beel in Pub-Bangsar Mauza, Kamrup

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) : asked :

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that there is a plot of about 200 bighas of Hiramati land specially required and reserved for pottery industry in Bargaon village near Digheli Beel in the Pub-Bangsar Mauza in the District of Kamrup for the use of Hira Community of Kamrup, which comprises about 1,500 families?

- (b) Whether it is a fact that there is only one passage by Molongijan to transport the extracted earth by boats, and the Hira people carry their required earth through the passage ?
- (c) Whether Government is aware that the Molongijan passage has been blocked by raising Bunds and small sluice gate causing tremendous disadvantages and difficulties to carry Hiramati by boats ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that representation has been made by the people of the Hira community stating that due to the above blockage they are adversely affected, their pottery industry is on the verge of ruin, and that the Government of Assam should consider their case ?
- (e) If so, what steps Government has taken to mitigate their distress ?

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

- (a)—Yes.
- (b)—Yes.
- (c)—Yes.
- (d)—Yes.
- (e)—Necessary arrangement is being made to convert the under-sluice at Dighalighaijan into an open sluice culvert type in order to allow free passage of boats through it.

Shri RADHIKARAM DAS (Palashbari) : Whether this sluice gate has benefited 20,000 bighas of land ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister, Cottage Industries) : তেনেকুৱাই হব।

Shri RADHIKARAM DAS : যেতিয়া open sluice gate কৰা হব, তেতিয়া সেইনাটি বিলাক বেয়া হবনে নহয়?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister, Cottage Industries) : বেয়া নোহোৱালৈকে লক্ষ্যৰাখি কৰা হব।

Shri RADHIKARAM DAS : সেইটো বন্ধ কৰিব লাগে বুলি ৰাইজৰ পৰা representation চৰকাৰে পাইছে নে?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister, Cottage Industries) : এতিয়ালৈকে আমি তেনে representation পোৱা নাই।

Disbursement of loan by Credit Societies**Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta)** asked :

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

- (a) How many Credit Societies are there in Barpeta Subdivision ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the Credit Officer, Barpeta, takes one per cent as remuneration from the Credit Societies ?
- (c) Whether there is any rule under Assam Government to take one per cent as remuneration ?
- (d) If not, whether Government propose to take strong steps against such Officer to stop such corrupt practices ?
- (e) Whether there is any rule under the State Government under which either Assistant Co-operative Officers or Deputy Co-operative Officers are required to be present at the time of disbursement of cash by Credit Societies ?
- (f) If so, whether it is a fact that during disbursement of credit loan by the Credit Societies, the Officers concerned are not informed ?
- (g) Whether Government propose to inquire about these anomalies ?

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

306. (a)—Two hundred (both Larger-sized and Small-sized Credit Society).

(b)—An enquiry in this connection reveals that the Officer has never accepted such remuneration.

(c)—No.

(d)—Yes, if any such case of corrupt practice is proved against any officer.

(e)—No. There is no such rule. But there is a standing order that loans should be disbursed by the Co-operative Societies to the loanes in presence of either an Officer of the financing bank or of the Co-operative Department to prevent 'benami' transaction, etc.

(f)—Government have no information.

(g)—Yes ; if any report be received about such anomalies, immediate steps will surely be taken.

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta) : With regard to question (f) it is said, "Government have no information". Is it not the duty of the Government to see that at the time of disbursement the officer concerned is present ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) : It is clear from the reply. There is no such rule. But there is a standing order that loans should be disbursed by the co-operative societies to the loanees in presence of either an officer of the financing bank or of the Co-operative Department to prevent 'benami' transaction, etc. The answer is there, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is whether there was any instance where the order was not observed.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) : We have not received any complaint to that effect, Sir.

Dr. SRIHARI DAS : Will Government enquire whether the officer concerned was informed or not at the time of disbursement ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) : It is the duty of the officer concerned to attend. If there is any violation of the procedure and if the Hon. Member gives the information to the Government, Government will certainly take action.

Re: Gun Licence

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa)
asked :

307. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that a tea stall keeper at Panitola near the Railway Station has been granted a gun licence about one or two months back ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that there was no enquiry about this by the Officer-in-charge of the local Thana ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that there was no enquiry about this person in his home district also which is outside this State ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that certain persons residing in Panitola area who hailed from the home district of the said person were either detained for sometime or made undertrial in different dacoity cases ?
- (e) Whether Government proposed to cancel this gun licence ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister)
replied :

307. (a)—Yes.

(b)—It is not a fact. Usual enquiry was held by a Sub-Inspector of Police.

(c)—The licensee was born and brought up at Panitola and as such no enquiry in his original home district was necessary.

(d)—No.

(e)—No. The license for a gun is considered necessary for protection of his crops.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) :

Sir, how the question of protection of crop comes in when the man is a stall keeper and non-cultivator by profession and there is no likelihood of any wild animal coming to his shop ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) :

He is also a land owner and he has got 142 bighas of land.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : What is the name of the stall keeper, Sir ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) :

Sri Parashuram Saha.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Sikhowa) :

Whether Government knows that this man was given preference, superseding the claim of many cultivators of the interior places where the crop was being damaged by wild animals ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) :

Government have no information, Sir.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari) : Whether

Police enquiry is necessary in granting gun licences in all cases, Sir ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) :

It is so, Sir.

Shri CHATRASING TERON [(Mikir Hills—West Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Whether in this case it was made ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) :

Yes, Sir.

Shri LARSINGH KHYRIEM [(Jowai (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes))] : What is the purpose of investigation by a Sub-Inspector of Police, Sir ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) :

To see whether the man is fit to get the gun.

General discussion of the Budget

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, জাতীয় উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে Employment Exchange ব দায়িত্ব যে কিমান বেচি সেই কথা আজি পুনৰ ব্যাখ্যা কৰাৰ প্ৰয়োজন নাই। Employment Exchange ব কাৰ্য্যত বৰঙনি যোগাবলৈ হলে সকলোৱে Employment Exchange এ নিবৰ্চন কৰি দিয়া মানুহ লোৱা প্ৰয়োজন। কিন্তু দুখেৰে সৈতে কব লাগিব যে আজি Employment Exchange ব পৰা অসম চৰকাৰে মানুহ নলয়। অসম চৰকাৰে Public Service Commission ব জৰিয়তে ওপৰৰ কৰ্মচাৰী লয় কিন্তু Department বিলাকে যে বছৰি বছৰি বহুতো তলৰ মানুহ লয় সেই বিলাক মানুহ এতিয়ালৈকে Employment Exchange ব জৰিয়তে লোৱাহোৱা নাই। যদি গবৰ্ণমেণ্টেই নলয় তেনেহলে ব্যক্তিগত মালিক সকলক Employment Exchange এ মনোনীত কৰি দিয়া মানুহ লবলৈ কেনেকৈ বাধ্য কৰিব পাৰিব? এই Employment Exchange বিভাগ আগেয়ে ভাৰত গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ এটা বিভাগ আছিল কিন্তু ১৯৫৬।৫৭ চনৰে পৰা ই অসম চৰকাৰৰ এটা বিভাগ হৈছে। অসম চৰকাৰৰ বেলেগ বেলেগ ঠাইত থকা অফিচ বোৰত যদি Employment Exchange এ বাচি দিয়া মানুহ নলয় আৰু অন্যান্য নিয়োগ কৰ্ত্তা সকলক Employment Exchange ব মানুহ লবলৈ বাধ্য নকৰে তেনেহলে এনেকুৱা বিৰাট অনুষ্ঠান এটা বখা কি দৰকাৰ? যদিহে Employment Exchange ব প্ৰয়োজন আছে তেনেহলে মই আশাকৰোঁ। Assam Public Service Commission এ বাচি দিয়া মানুহৰ বাহিৰে যি বিলাক মানুহ লোৱা হয় সেইবিলাক Employment Exchange ব জৰিয়তে লবলগে আৰু বাগিছা, ডিগবৈ, কয়লাখনি আৰু অন্যান্য কলকাৰখানাত Employment Exchange ব মানুহ লব লাগে। উপযুক্ত কামৰ কাৰণে নিযুক্ত মানুহ আৰু উপযুক্ত মানুহৰ কাৰণে উপযুক্ত কাম মনোনয়ন কৰা আজি দেশৰ এটা ডাঙৰ সমস্যা। এই সমস্যাসমাধান কৰিবলৈ Employment Exchange ব প্ৰয়োজন অতি গুৰুতৰ।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, যোৱা বছৰ বাজেট অধিবেশনত দ্বিতীয় পঞ্চবাৰ্ষিক পৰিকল্পনাৰ ভিতৰত Industrial Disputes Act খন সংশোধন কৰাৰ কথা উল্লেখ কৰিছিলো। দ্বিতীয় পঞ্চবাৰ্ষিক পৰিকল্পনাত Trade Union recognise কৰি এটা status দিব লাগে। দ্বিতীয় পঞ্চবাৰ্ষিক পৰিকল্পনাৰ কিছু অংশ মই পঢ়িদিছো।

“Any step to build up a strong Union is to grant them recognition as representative union under certain conditions. Some representative has played a noble part for strengthening the movement in some States. It is suggested that some statutory provision for creating recognition of Union should be made by States where such provision does not exist at present.

Industrial Disputes Act আৰু Trade Union Act recognise কৰা দফা যিবিলাক States ত নাই সেই States বিলাকে সেই দফা বিলাক সোমোৱাৰ লাগে বুলি দ্বিতীয় পঞ্চবাৰ্ষিক পৰিকল্পনাত কোৱা হৈছে, সেই কাৰণে যি Trade Union Act আছে তাক অতি সোনকালে সংশোধন কৰা হব।

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY (Minister, Labour): May I point out, Sir, অসমৰ নিজা কোনো Trade Union Act নাই।

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): মই আশাকৰোঁ। ভাৰত চৰকাৰে Trade Union Act খন সেই মতে সংশোধন কৰিব আৰু অসম চৰকাৰৰ কালৰ পৰাও তাৰ এটা ব্যৱস্থা কৰা উচিত হ'ব। বিশেষকৈ Trade Union সন্দৰ্ভে Union আৰু annual return দিয়াৰ সময়ত বেজিষ্ট্ৰেৰে যেন উপযুক্ত ভাবে তদন্ত কৰি চাই দিয়ে। কিন্তু Trade Union Act ত checking ৰ কোনো ব্যৱস্থা কৰা নাই। সেই কাৰণে অসম চৰকাৰে Trade Union Act খন সংশোধন কৰা কাম হাতত ল'ব লাগে আৰু ভাৰত চৰকাৰেও আইন খন সংশোধন কৰিব লাগে।

দ্বিতীয় পঞ্চবাৰ্ষিক পৰিকল্পনাত Labour Participation in management বুলি এটা নীতি আছে। অসমৰ চাহ বাগিচা বিলাককেই Organised industry বুলি ক'ব পাৰি। গতিকে এই চাহ বাগিচা বিলাকত Labour participation ৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে। তেতিয়াহলে মজদুৰ বিলাকে নিজ দায়িত্ব বুজিব আৰু শিল্পৰ বহুতো সহায় হ'ব।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আজি অসম গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ এনেকুৱা বহুতো কৰ্মচাৰী আছে সেই সকলক অসম গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে যি অৱস্থাত ৰাখিছে সেই অৱস্থাত ৰখা কেতিয়াও উচিত হোৱা নাই। আজি অসম গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ শতকৰা বহুতো সংখ্যক কৰ্মচাৰীয়ে অস্থায়ী ভাবে কাম কৰি আছে। এইটো কিয় হৈছে আনি বুজিব পৰা নাই। আজি শিক্ষক আৰু কৃষি বিভাগৰ কাম কৰা বহুতো কৰ্মচাৰী কিয় অস্থায়ী হৈ আছে বুজিব নোৱাৰোঁ। তেওঁবিলাকৰ বহুতো ১০।১৫ বছৰ কাম কৰিও কিয় অস্থায়ী হৈ আছে ক'ব নোৱাৰোঁ। Supply Procurement আদি বিভাগৰ ৮ বছৰ, ১০ বছৰ, ১৫ বছৰ কাম কৰিও আজিলৈকে অস্থায়ী হৈ থাকিব লগীয়া হৈছে। তেওঁবিলাক অস্থায়ী হৈ থকাত স্থায়ী বিভাগলৈ তেওঁবিলাকক নিয়া নহয়। স্থায়ী বিভাগৰ এজন উপযুক্ত Head Clerk কে অস্থায়ী বিভাগলৈ লৈ নাযায় স্থায়ী বিভাগৰ পৰা অস্থায়ী বিভাগলৈ গলে সেই কৰ্মচাৰী সকলক স্থায়ী বিভাগলৈ পিচত বদলি কৰি লৈ আহে। গতিকে পাঁচ বছৰৰ ওপৰ কাম কৰা কৰ্মচাৰী সকলক অস্থায়ী কৰি ৰখা উচিত হোৱা নাই। মই ভাবো যে ৬ মাহ সময় অস্থায়ী কৰি ৰাখিব পৰা, কিন্তু তাৰ ওপৰৰ সকলো কৰ্মচাৰীকে স্থায়ী কৰিব লাগে। তথাপিও পাঁচবছৰৰ ওপৰ কাম কৰা কৰ্মচাৰী সকলক কিয় স্থায়ী কৰা নহয় মই বুজিব নোৱাৰোঁ। পাঁচবছৰৰ ওপৰ কাম কৰা কৰ্মচাৰী সকলক স্থায়ী কৰিলে বহুত কৰ্মচাৰীৰ পেঞ্চনৰ সুবিধা হ'ব আৰু তেওঁবিলাকে আন আন সুবিধাও পাব। যদি গবৰ্ণমেণ্টেই এইটো নকৰে তেন্তে অন্যান্য নিয়োগ কৰ্ত্তা সকল ধিলা হ'ব।

ষোৰা বছৰ Pay Committee ৰ কাম হৈ গল। Pay Committee এ এনেকুৱা বেতন নিৰ্দ্ধাৰণ কৰিছে যে তাত আগৰ সময়ত সমাধান হোৱা বুলি ক'ব নোৱাৰি। কোনো বোৰৰ হয়তো বেতন ৫৩ টকাৰ পৰা ৫৫ টকা কৰা হৈছে কিন্তু পিচৰ বেতন একেই আছে আৰু বছৰে বছৰে বঢ়া নিবিধো একেই আছে। Artisan বিলাকৰ দৰমহা একেই থাকিল। কেবাটাও শ্ৰেণী বা আন দুইচাৰি কৰ্মচাৰীৰ বেতন দুই পইচা বঢ়াই দিয়া হৈছে কিন্তু Artisan বিলাকক একেবাৰেই অৱজ্ঞা কৰা হৈছে। Public Works Department ৰ মটৰ ড্ৰাইভাৰ আৰু

Tractor ডাইভাবৰ অলপ দৰমহা বাঢ়াই দিয়া হৈছে কিন্তু ওৱৰ্কচপত কামকৰা সকলক একেবাৰেই বঢ়োৱা হোৱা নাই। যদিও Pay Committee যোৱা বছৰেই হৈ গল আজিলৈকে বহুতৰে Pay নিৰ্দ্ধাৰণ নহল। যদিহে ১৯৫০/১৯৫৬ তাৰিখৰ পৰা increment দিব লগা হয় তেনেহলে অহা বাজেটতো সেইটো দেখুৱাব লাগিব। Pay Committee ৰ অনুমোদন বিলাক ইমান গুণগোলাৱীয়া যে কোনো কোনো অফিচাৰৰ বেতন ৫০ টকা লৈকে কমোৱা হৈছে। Labour Officer সকলৰ বেতন ৫০ টকা কমোৱা হৈছে। Pay Committee ৰ কি নীতি আছিল বেতন কমোৱাৰ? বেতন উৰ্দ্ধগতিত নিৰ্দ্ধাৰণ কৰিব লাগে বেতনৰ উচ্চ আৰু নিম্নৰ পাৰ্থক্য কমকৰা এয়ে আছিল Pay Committeeৰ নীতি। কিন্তু সেই নীতি ত্যাগ কৰি তেওঁলোকে এনেকুৱা অনুমোদন দিলে যাৰ ফলত মানুহৰ বেতন বাঢ়ক চাৰি ৫০ টকা কম হল আৰু যাৰ ফলত মানুহে বৰ্দ্ধিত হাৰে বেতন পোৱা নাই। অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, যি সকলে Trade Union কৰি বেতন বাঢ়াই লব পাৰে তেওঁলোকৰ কথা বেলেগ। কিন্তু এই গৱৰ্ণমেণ্ট কৰ্মচাৰী সকলক Trade Union কৰিবলৈকো অনুমতি দিয়ানাই। ভাৰত চৰকাৰে এটা আঁচনিৰ ভিতৰত Pay Committee কৰি তেওঁ বিলাকৰ চাকৰিয়াল সকলক সুবিধা দিবলৈ এটা নীতি গ্ৰহণ কৰিছে। সেই নীতি অনুসৰি ১৯৫২ চনত এটা Pay Committee নিয়োগ কৰিছিল। এতিয়া আকৌ আন এটা Pay Committee কৰি কামত বহুত খিনি আগবাঢ়িছে। Pay Committeeএ যদি কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ কথা ভালকৈ বিবেচনা নকৰে, তেনেহলে কি এটা অশান্তিৰ কাৰণ হয়, কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ কামত বহুত ব্যাঘাত হয় আৰু তেওঁলোকৰ মানসিক আৰু আৰ্থিক অসুবিধা হয় গতিকে নতুনকৈ এখন Pay Committee জৰুৰ কৰা উচিত। Pay Committee বুলি Anomaly Committee বুলিয়েই কোৱা হব। সেই কাৰণে মই এই Pay Committeeৰ অনুমোদন বিলাক সংশোধন কৰিবলৈ আবেদন জনালোঁ আৰু আশা কৰোঁ অসম চৰকাৰে সংশোধন কৰিব।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, অসমত বহুতো হৰিজন আছে। হৰিজন সকলে মিউনিছিপালিটিত কাম কৰে। চৰকাৰী কৰ্মচাৰী সকল টাউনত থাকে আৰু এই হৰিজন সকলো টাউনত থাকে। কিন্তু তেওঁলোকৰ দৰমহাৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে কোনো ব্যৱস্থা হাতত লোৱা নাই। অসম প্ৰাদেশিক কংগ্ৰেছৰ অধীনত প্ৰাদেশিক কংগ্ৰেছৰ সভাপতি, আগৰ মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰী, নিখিল ভাৰতৰ হৰিজন সেৱক সঙ্ঘৰ সাধাৰণ সম্পাদক, অসম শাখাৰ সভাপতি অসমৰ স্বায়ত্ত্ব শাসন বিভাগৰ মন্ত্ৰী আদিৰ উপস্থিতিত ২৬ জানুৱাৰী ১৯৫৬ চনত এখন সভা পাতিছিল। সেই সভাত Sweeper সকলৰ নিম্নতম দৰমহা ৫০ টকা হবলাগে, ভালঘৰৰ ব্যৱস্থা, ছাত্ৰৰ ব্যৱস্থা, স্কুল, আৰু অন্যান্য কল্যাণ মূলক কাম আদিৰ প্ৰস্তাৱ গৃহীত হৈছিল। অসমৰ মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰী আৰু স্বায়ত্ত্ব শাসন বিভাগৰ মন্ত্ৰীৰ উপস্থিতিত সমাজৰ নিচেই তলত পৰিথকা হৰিজন সকলৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে যিটো প্ৰস্তাৱ গৃহীত হৈছিল সেই প্ৰস্তাৱ কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰিবলৈ অসম গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে ব্যৱস্থা হাতত লব লাগে। আজি অসম চৰকাৰৰ নিজৰ যি বিলাক Sweeper আছে সেই সকলক চৰকাৰে কেনেকৈ ৰাখিছে চৰকাৰৰ List of non-pensionable contingency menial'ৰ পৰা দেখা যায় যে এই সকলে পেঞ্চন নাপায়। চাকৰীৰ স্থায়ীত্বও নাই।

List of non-pensionable contingency menials.

1. Ayah (Education Department).

2. Barbar (Tezpur Mental Hospital).

3. Beldars (Secretariat Hill Establishment).
4. Bistiwallas, Water-carriers and Paniwallas.
5. Boot cleaner (Pinemount School).
6. Cooks and cookmates.
7. Cook (Pinemount School).
8. Cartmen (Assam Rifles).
9. Coolies (Workshop and Press).
10. Chainman (Temporary).
11. Chowkidars (all sorts of Chowkidars except Office and Circuit House chowkidars).
12. Dak runners (Assam Rifles).
13. Dhobasis (Medical Department).
14. Drabis (Assam Rifles).
15. Farash (Council Office).
16. Goalas.
17. Grass cutters.
18. Hostel servants, servants, ward-servants and male attendants.
19. House servants (Pasteur Institute).
20. Hendymen.
21. Herdsmen.
22. Khalasis of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales Technical School.
23. Khansamas.
24. Lamp lighter and lamp trimmers.

25. Malis and Mali Chowkidars.
26. Maid servants, nurses, dhais, female attendants and matrons of weaving schools, who will henceforth be called female attendants.
27. Musalchi (Pinemount School).
28. Mates (Pinemount School).
29. Medicine carriers.
30. Sweepers.
31. Sewing woman (Pinemount School).
32. Table bearers (Pinemount School).
33. Washerman.
34. Wood-cutters.
35. Stoker (Legislative Assembly and Council).
36. Boatmen.

অফিচৰ আৰু চাবকোট হাউচৰ চাকিদাৰ সকলে পেঞ্চন পাব পাৰে কিন্তু বাকী চাকীদাৰ সকলে পেঞ্চন পাব নোৱাৰে তেওঁবিলাকক Contingency fundৰ পৰা দৰমহা দিয়ে। এই Contingency menial বুলি এটা শ্ৰেণী ৰাখি সমাজৰ তল ৰূপৰ মানুহ বহুতকেই প্ৰাপ্য আৰু নায্য সুবিধাৰ পৰা বঞ্চিত কৰি ৰখা হৈছে।

হেন্ৰিয়েন ডাকবানাবচ, ধূবী, ফৰাচ, গ্ৰাচকাটাৰ, হোষ্টেল চাবভেণ্ট, টেবুলবাববাৰ ওড্‌কাটাৰ, চুগিং ওৱমেন, ইত্যাদি বোৰক চৰকাৰে চৰকাৰৰ বিভিন্ন প্ৰতিস্থানত ৩০/৪০ বছৰকৈ খটুৱাই আছে কিন্তু তেওঁলোকৰ পেঞ্চন আৰু অন্যান্য চৰকাৰী চাকৰিৰালৈ পাবলগিয়া কোনো সুবিধা দিয়া নাই। এনে অবস্থাত আমি যি সমাজ প্ৰতিস্থা কৰিবলৈ ওলাইছো যি Socialistic pattern of Society প্ৰতিস্থা কৰিবলৈ ওলাইছো, এওলোকক বাদ দি কি সেই কাৰ্য্যত আমি আগবাঢ়িব পাৰিম। গতিকে আমি তেওঁলোকক permanency minimum wage, Housing, Pension ইত্যাদিৰ সুবিধা দিবই লাগিব। তদুপৰি তেওঁলোকক Permanent কৰা, আৰু চৰকাৰী চাকৰিৰ অন্যান্য সকলো সুবিধা বোৰ দিব লাগে।

আমাৰ ৰাজ্যত পেচা এটা আবশ্যকীয় শিল্প। এই শিল্পত যথোচিত উন্নতি এতিয়ালৈ হোৱা নাই। দেশৰ উন্নতি পথত খবৰ কাগজৰ আবশ্যকতাৰ বিষয়ে কোনেও নুই কবিব নোৱাৰে। কিন্তু আমাৰ ইয়াত খবৰ কাগজত কাম কৰা লোক সকলক চাকৰিৰ কোনো সুবিধাই দিয়া হোৱা নাই। journalist ক সুবিধা দিবৰ কাৰণে কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰে Minimum Wage Advisory Board কৰি দিছে। সেই act আমাৰ ৰাজ্যতো কাৰ্য্যকৰি হোৱা বিষয়ত আমাৰ চৰকাৰে মনোযোগ দিয়া উচিত। যোৱা অধিবেশনত মই কৰা এটা প্ৰশ্নৰ উত্তৰত চৰকাৰে উত্তৰ দিছিল যে অসমত দুটা পেছে নিম্নতম বেতন দিছে। কিন্তু মই তদন্ত কৰি পালো যে দুটা পেছে দিয়া নাই? এটাইহে দিছে। এটাই দিয়া নাই। এইদুটাৰ বাদেও অসমত আৰু ভালেকেটা পেছ আছে। দেশৰ জনগত গঠন আৰু উন্নতিত পেছত কাম কৰা কৰ্মী সকলক উন্নয়ন ও অনাৱিহাৰ্য্য। এইবোৰ বিষয়ৰ প্ৰতি আমাৰ চৰকাৰে তৎপৰ হোৱা উচিত। যিসকল শ্ৰমজীবি তেওঁলোকৰ নিজৰ যথেষ্ট বুদ্ধি বৃত্তি থাকিলেও তেওঁলোকৰ উন্নতি কৰিবৰ পৰিষৰ একেবাৰে সীমাবদ্ধ। এজন ব্যবসায়ীয়ে তেওঁৰ নিজৰ বুদ্ধিৰ বলত যেনেকৈ উন্নতিৰ শীৰ্ষস্থান পাবলৈ পাবে, এজন শ্ৰমজীবিৰ পক্ষে সেইটো সম্ভৱ নহয়। গতিকে তেওঁলোকক চাকৰিৰ সুবিধা বোৰ ভালকৰি দিব নোৱাৰিলে কেনেকৈ হব।

কালি মই অসমৰ uneconomic আৰু mismanaged চাহ বাগিছা বিলাক চৰকাৰে হাতলৈ অনাৰ বিষয়ে কৈছিলো। চাহ বাগিছা বিলাকৰ পৰা অসম চৰকাৰৰ বহুত টকা উপাৰ্জজন হয়। আমাৰ চৰকাৰে যোৱা বছৰ চাহবাগানৰ পৰা agriculture income tax হিচাবে দুই কোটি ২৩ লাখ ৪৩ হাজাৰ টকা পাইছে—road taxত পাইছে ২ কোটি ৪৮ লাখ টকা। এই টকাৰ কেই লাখ মান টকা অন্যখেতিৰ বাহিৰৰ পৰা অহা টকা বুলি ধৰি ললেও চাহৰ চাৰিকোটি টকা অসম চৰকাৰে চাহৰ পৰা পায়। ইয়াৰ বাহিৰেও চাহ বাগিছা বিলাকে Central Governmentক বহুত টকা দিয়ে। এতিয়া মোৰ কথা হৈছে চাহবাগিছাত আমাৰ চৰকাৰে টকা invest কৰিবলৈ কোনো আপত্তি কৰা উচিত নহয়। যিবিলাক বাগিছাৰ management বেয়া আৰু শোচনীয় অবস্থাত আছে সেই বিলাক বাগিছাত চৰকাৰে চাহৰ taxৰ পৰা পোৱা টকাৰ পৰা কিছু টকা invest কৰিলে ভবিষ্যতে চৰকাৰে আয় কৰিব পাৰিব। এইমতে বাগানত খৰছ কৰা টকাটো expenditure নহয়, সেইটো investment হৈ হব। তাৰ দ্বাৰা টেক্সও বাঢ়িব চাহ খেতিৰ উন্নতি হব। শ্ৰমিকৰ আৰু দেশৰ সমৃদ্ধি বাঢ়িব।

বৈজ্ঞানিক পদ্ধতিৰে চাহখেতি কৰিলে এক একৰ মাটিত ২৭ মৌন চাহ উৎপন্ন হব পাৰে। এতিয়া সেই ঠাইত বহুত ঠাইত ২৪ মৌনলৈকে উৎপন্ন কৰা হৈছে। এনেস্থলত চাহ বাগিছাৰ মালিক সকলে আজিৰ দিনত বনুৱাৰ প্ৰতি এনে উদাসীন ভাব লৈ থাকিবলৈ দিয়াটো ঠিক নহব। অসমৰ যি অঞ্চলত ৮০ৰ পৰা ১০০ ইঞ্চিলৈকে বৰষুণ হয় তেনেস্থলত একে অঞ্চলৰে এখন বাগিছাত উৎপাদন কম হোৱাৰ কোনো কাৰণ নাই। ইয়াৰ একমাত্ৰ কাৰণ হব পাৰে মালিকে বাগিছা নিজৰ দোষত নষ্ট কৰিছে। এনে স্থলত চৰকাৰে সেই বাগিছাত টকা খটুৱাই ভাল কৰিলে এই বাগিছাবোৰৰ জৰুৰ উন্নতি হব। মাত্ৰ লাগিব অলপ বেচি যত্ন আৰু অলপ বেচি টকা। কাষেই চাহ বাগিছাবিলাকৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰৰ টকা খৰচ হলেও তাৰ পৰা আয় হব আৰু বনুৱাৰ অৱস্থা টনকিয়াল হববুলি আশা কৰা যায়।

(Bell intimating that the time limit has been reached rings)

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মোৰ জটিল সম্ভাৱণ সমষ্টিৰ কথা বহুতো কবলৈ থাকিল পাচত গ্ৰাণ্ট বিলাকৰ প্ৰসঙ্গত সেইবিলাক দাঙি ধৰিব বুলি মোৰ বক্তব্য সামৰিলো।

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARJEE (Gauhati) :

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not been able to discover anything extraordinarily new in the figures of the Budget this year, nor have I been able to see any new trend therein; it is as stereotyped as the previous ones were. But I am glad to see a new trend in the Budget speech of the Finance Minister and at the very outset I should like to congratulate him for that. He has made an effort to survey the economic situation of the country and also to review the economic trend in the country in the background of the world economic trend. This is a very important thing, because at the present moment we cannot consider our State's economy in an isolated manner. Our economy is inseparably linked up with the economy of India and India's economy is linked up with the world economy, particularly the economy of the capitalist world. Now, just at this moment we find in the world a new economic feature; that feature is the recession in America. It was stated by the London Times in September last that when America sneezes the rest of the world, meaning the capitalist world, gets pneumonia, and, as a matter of fact, now that Uncle Sam has caught cold we have seen the symptoms of pneumonia throughout the entire capitalist world. According to the Federal and State Governments of the United State of America themselves, there has been a great drop in industrial production in February 1958. In key industrial areas alone the unemployment figure has reached 5,173,000 last month and this is the highest since August 1941. In a letter, dated 10th March 1958, Mr. Georges Minay, the President of the American Federation of Labour and the Congress of Industrial Organisations, has represented to President Eisenhower in that mid-February the production of motor vehicles was about one lakh a week, but in the present month it has come down to 83,000 a week and there has been a 48 per cent cut in the production of the iron and steel industry.

In a Government communique dated 13th March 1958, it has been stated that American industries have decided to cut down in 1958 by 13 per cent of the industrial production of 1957. In a Despatch from Washington, dated the 16th March 1958, Reuter has informed us that the plan for reducing the production of wheat, rice, other cereals and cotton has been approved and about Rs.55 per acre has been promised to the farmers for keeping their farm fallow for five to ten years.

The impact of this American recession has fallen on other capitalist countries of the world ; for example, in Canada, the figure of unemployed has risen to about six lakhs in mid-February and this is the highest in the last 30 years. In West Germany, steel production has been lowered. By the end of February the number of fully-unemployed persons rose to about 13,25,000, *i.e.*, 2,13,000 higher than the corresponding period of last year. In Great Britain, the unemployment figure stood at 4,24,000 last month and this is 35,000 more than what it was in January. In Japan, the plan of economic expansion has been pruned and in February unemployment figure stood at 5,30,000 *i.e.*, one lakh more than in January. Italy is facing the problem of 18,00,00 unemployed, Belgium 2,30,000, Denmark 1,48,700 *i.e.*, 20 per cent of the entire labour population of Denmark is idle.

Now, this economic situation in the capitalist world has affected the Indian economy also. How does it do so ? Without going into details we can say that this American recession has affected our economy, firstly, by more American expansion in war industries and thereby endangering world peace. My Friend, Mr. Ahmed, the Minister without portfolio in his policy statement was pleased to say that we stand not only for national development but also for world peace. Now, therefore, when this recession has pushed the American Industry towards war industries, it is really a danger for world peace and, therefore, a danger to our political stand. Secondly, it has affected us by the American sale of consumer goods to us on credit by dumping devices. Thirdly, it has affected us by increase of American exports through aid programmes. Fourthly, it has affected us by excessive supply of goods, particularly consumer goods, and this we see from the speedy fall in our foreign exchange reserves. Our Prime Minister, Shri Nehru, told the Lok Sabha only day before yesterday that there has been a sharp fall in our foreign exchange reserve. The Indian foreign exchange commitments by the end of this month were estimated at Rs.864 crores, out of which Rs.300 crores are on account of the private sector. India's sterling balances, which had been reduced by the end of September last to Rs.360 crores, may have fallen to about Rs.280 crores by April 1958. The shortage had been to some extent aggravated and hastened by larger food imports, higher import of consumer goods in 1955-56 and 1956-57, increase in prices and freights rates. The assumption in our Five Year Plan of an annual import of

Rs.48 crores worth of foodgrains has proved to be wide of the mark; the actual import of foodgrains in 1956-57 rose sharply to Rs.102 crores.

Under these circumstances, it is not very difficult to understand why the beautiful dollar now has been smiling upon us though in the last year she was very shy. It was not for the purpose of philanthropy as the venerable ladies and gentlemen of the American Lobby in India want us to believe. Take for instance the latest 225 million American dollar credit to India about which reference was made in the Governor's Address itself and spoken by many on the floor of this House. Out of this 225 million dollars, 150 million dollars will come from the Export-Import Bank, the builders of private monopolies. What are the terms of this loan? The first term is that we shall have to pay interest at $5\frac{1}{4}$ per cent per annum. (Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy: For 5 years the interest is not required to be paid).

Secondly, the entire loan has to be spent in the United States for buying things at prices which rule higher than in other parts of the world. Even Mr. Birla's Hindustan Times did not favourably comment about this. Thirdly, very little of it will be available for building vital industries in the public sector. On the contrary, fat amounts will go to the private sector to help industries producing consumer goods. It does not matter if our crude petroleum production has gone up from 68,746,000 Imperial Gallons to 1,13,076,000 Imperial Gallons, it does not matter if the Prime Minister of Rumania or the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic offer to build up the Oil Refinery in Assam in public sector at an interest of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent only. Our difficulties is that the tuft of our hair, i.e., the "টিকনি" is tied up with the tail of the Imperial lion. The United States while granting us loans have at the same time decided to help Pakistan with more arms and ammunitions. The direct result of this we have seen in our own Pakistan border in the provocative clashes compelling us to spend more money for defence purposes and for Police forces. Why is this? Because by one hand you give something and by the other take away more. It reminds me of a Bengali couplet এক হাতে লহ বোঝা অন্য হাতে। Now, those who are very eloquent about the generosity and assistance of the United States of America should not forget to take this matter into consideration. In the circumstances, we also see that as when there is some

indication of rain coming, the peacocks begin to dance, so also, the big business magnets of India have now begun to dance to the tune of American monopolists. Now, the goal of our Second Five Year Plan is very clear. We stand for a prosperous Assam in a prosperous India. We stand for development of our national economy and for fulfilling the core of the plan for national prosperity. We stand for the development of our State sector and to end the activities of foreign monopolists against national interests. But does this Budget promise us to lead a step forward in this direction? Well, the foreign monopolists still control our economy, at least the core of our economy. Take for instance, the tea industry. Who controls it? The I. T. A., *i. e.*, the Indian Tea Association, which is a British monopolistic concern. The Finance Minister has said that production of tea from 340.44 million lbs. in 1951 has risen to 351.30 million lbs. in 1957. Shri Satish Chandra, the Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industries, Government of India, said in the Lok Sabha on 18th of March that the figure will be 360 million lbs. But whether it is 351 million lbs. or 360 million lbs. it is clear that the tea industry is the principal industry of Assam. Not to speak of nationalisation of this industry, the State Government has no effective control over it. For example, who controls the Reserve Funds and the Depreciation Funds? Where are those Funds invested? It is curious that some gentlemen want the Government to take over the losing concerns and leave the big ones for the white bosses. Whatever that may be, let us examine certain aspects. Most of the profit giving tea estates are incorporated in Great Britain. Whether we can and whether we have been able to utilise the profits and the super profits of these estates in building up our national economy? Whether there is any proposal in the Budget also to that effect? Whether those funds, that is to say, the depreciation fund, reserve fund and super profit fund will have any bearing in our Budget? Where are these funds invested and whether we have been able to get a share of these? When workers as a result of their hard earned labour get a bonus we take a part of it for national saving certificates. Can we not take at least some portion of the super profit in India or in Assam so that the plan can be taken up for building our national economy? The Plantation Enquiry Committee had recommended that more effective control of the garden should be there. May I know, from the Government side, whether that recommendation has been implemented? It was in the national interest that the State Trading Corporation should take up tea exports. Has it been implemented?

The Planatation Enquiry Committee recommended that the Tea Board should control and regulate the sale of tea in India. Has it been implemented? As a result of non-implementation of all those salutary recommendations, where does the Industry itself stand today? While exports from all other tea producing countries recorded improvements in varying degrees, shipments of North East Indian Tea during 1957 at 359.9 million lbs. showed a marked fall of 76.2 million lbs. compared to the figures for the previous year.

By the manipulation of the I. T. A. and Tea Auction Market in London the price of North East Indian Tea has not been lowered to attract buyers. Pressure is given to the Govt. to lighten taxation and nullify labour welfare legislations. Shri Chandra, the Deputy Minister of the Union Government, has admitted only the other day, 18th of March this year, that certain foreign companies were selling less profitable tea gardens in Cachar, Assam Valley and North Bengal and were investing money in East Africa where there is no duty on common tea and where there is abundance of almost slave labour and consequently, enormous profit. These East African tea gardens are already producing 70 million lbs. of tea every year. Tea gardens have already sprung up also in Argentine, Brazil, Iran and Turkey, Russia, China and Formosa also have expanded their production. Exports of tea from Ceylon in 1957 totalled 367.7 million lbs. compared to 348.1 million lbs. in the previous year showing an increase of 19.6 million lbs. Even shipment of South Indian tea at 77.2 millions lbs. showed an increase of 1.5 million lbs. In the first ten months of 1957 shipment of tea from Indonesia amounted to 66 million lbs. compared to 59.9 million lbs. in the corresponding period of the previous year. In view of the above do you think, Sir, that the boom in the tea market will last long? What step has the Government taken to make the hay while the sun is shining? We have already seen that ominous signs are already there. Six gardens in Assam involving 1,598 workers with 2 lakhs lbs. output of tea are faced with closure; 12 more are on the verge of closure. Shri Morarji Desai, the Union Minister in charge of Commerce and Industry, told the Lok Sabha the other day, *i.e.*, 18th March 1958, that the Government of India could not take over these tea estates and manage them and also said that the State Government should tackle the problem of alternative employment for the retrenched workers. Splendid! Let the white gods run away with the baby! And our lot is to wash the dirty linens!

Now Sir, let us, secondly, look to the River Transport Service—the Joint Steamer Companies, namely the R. S. N. and I. G. N. and Railway Company Ltd. These companies also are incorporated in Great Britain. They monopolise the water transport in Assam. Taking advantage of our difficulties they also are blackmailing us to the extreme. They are raising freight rates every year. There will be another increase in the freight from 1st April next at the rate of 10 per cent. With a view to earn optimum profit they have closed down the Dibrugarh and Gauhati Fancy Bazar ghats and godowns and they propose to close down Desangmukh, Amingaon, Palasbari and some other ghats in Assam thereby making hundreds of their workers and employees unemployed. They want to raise the price of our imported goods. The plea of falling profit taken by these Companies does not stand scrutiny—these are entirely false. You never get their true accounts, you never get their correct balance sheet. Their purpose and *modus operandi* should not be missed by a discerning eye, and I believe our Finance Minister and the Government as a whole, has a discerning eye. Knowing the trend of India's effort for a planned economy and the policy of gradual nationalisation, these Companies and also other British concerns are quickly switching over to more complex and profit bearing industries in India itself. For example, in Steel and Iron and Pharmaceutical and Chemical Industries they have made big investment. They have also made certain combinations with Indian Big Business to throttle the core of Second Five Year Plan.

The Indian Big Business itself is falling in line with these British monopolies. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has renewed its attack against the policy of nationalisation. The out-going President of this Federation, who is now incidentally tipped as Congress candidate for the Rajya Sabha has expressed his dislike even for such terms like "increased emphasis on socialism" and even for such terms like "Welfare State" or "The Socialist Pattern". However, we cannot take seriously everybody who calls himself a "Socialist" because as Huxly said, the term "Socialism" has become like a hat which has lost its shape because everybody wears it. I cannot, for example, place Mr. Birla and Mr. Tripathi in the same category.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMA (Minister, Finance):
What about your neighbour?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):
It is not necessary to bring my Friend here. At least I cannot put together the white haired gentleman and the other whose

hair is not yet grey. Thereby I do not mean that the white-haired one may not be progressive. I saw a Chinese film by the name of "White Haired Girl"—I found that although that girl was only a girl yet she was progressive enough and I think Sir, our Finance Minister also in spite of his white hair may be considered progressive enough (*laughter*).

Now, it is interesting that here in Assam also there are some elements who have made it their religion to fight against the public sector and to undermine nationalised enterprises of the Government taking advantage of and fomenting racial, regional, sectional and every other prejudice of the people. Even our profitable and on the whole efficient State Transport Organisation itself is now under their fire. They want no nationalisation or State monopoly but they fight for monopoly by private capitalists. That, Sir, is our danger. Today before us stands the important slogan 'save the Plan'. Though my Friend, Shri Ahmed, does not like slogans I am bound to repeat that we must have a clear slogan and that slogan must be—'Save the Plan' against the Captains of commerce and industry who are out to throttle the Plan, to prune it down. We must ourselves realise the import of the slogan and make the plan successful. We must see that the core of the Second Five Year Plan is not defeated. The industrial capital construction plan is the core of our Second Five Year Plan. Our industrial capital construction plan which puts the main emphasis on heavy industry was designed to set our technically backward national economy on to the road of modern technology and lay an up-to-date technical foundation for our industry, agriculture and transport. To achieve this aim our plan of industrial capital construction must provide for the establishment of new industries equipped with up-to-date techniques and also the improvement of the existing industries step by step. Has the Government moved or is moving in this direction? No. The utilisation of the power generated in the Umtru Hydro-Electric Project stands as a shameful example of non-understanding of the very aim of the Second Five Year Plan. Whether those who were authorised to fix the rates in this concern were authorised to sabotage its purpose or manage it properly? How can I be so naive as to believe that the rate which has been fixed for an industrial unit of electrical power generated by the project will encourage for rather than scare away people from using this power in small and medium industries? Was the power of Umtru Project meant to be "Prasad" from Jagannath to be sold at fancy price to the benefit of the Pandas? If the Government is really serious about fulfilment of the targets—

not only financial but also, and more so, the physical targets—it must give up the mentality of “Hari loot” distribution of resources. While decentralisation must be arranged, localism, parochialism and such other fissiparous tendencies must be checked. If you really want to industrialise the country home—consumption should be economised and I for one, am prepared to wait for sometime if thereby I can contribute to the better development of industries. But Government does not appear to have appreciated it. I, therefore, would like to request Government to understand that what were suffering to-day is not appoplexy but jaundice. We must see that certain industrial centres may be built up and measures should be taken in the matter of construction.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Major Industries): I do not understand whether the hon. Member is opposing the electrification scheme of the Government.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): I am not saying any thing about the scheme but I am opposing the exorbitant rate which has been fixed for the industrial unit produced by the Umtru Hydel Project and thereby scaring away instead of encouraging the people to take to small scale and medium scale industries seriously. Government should concentrate for producing power for the purpose of helping the industries. Government however appears to be very keen in lighting the houses instead of giving priority to the successful implementation of the Second Five Year Plan. Sir, I am prepared to give up chicken-curry and live on Dal-Bhat for some time for the betterment of the nation. So far as utilisation of electricity is concerned and so far as equalisation of rate for domestic consumption is concerned, if Government will do it, I have no objection to that ; but the Government policy is that because electricity has come, instead of utilising it for the industries they will go on lighting the houses and making illuminations. Another thing is that with regard to electrification here in Assam, the Government has embarked on certain plans of rural electrification schemes so that the village can be electrified. But here the question is if we raise the rate of industrial units of Umtru Hydel Project beyond the reach of the industrialists?

they will not be encouraged to start industries in Assam in preference to, say, Calcutta where so many things are cheap. I am prepared to remain in darkness, I am prepared to go on with kerosene lamp and shall request the Ministers also go on with kerosene lamps for some time if electricity can thereby be made cheaply available for industries. I think that will be more important. I am not in favour of distribution of Prasad of Jagannath so that the Pandas everywhere, say Sibsagar, Nazira, Tinsukia, etc should get much premium. I am not in favour of that. We may wait for three years or so in favour of the fulfilment of the Second Five Year Plan which cannot wait. Now, Sir, I am not saying that there should be concentration of industries at one place. I would suggest that measures should be taken during the course of construction to combine the rational utilisation of the existing industrial units with the energetic construction of new bases so that the originally uneven economic development of our country can be corrected step by step. Correction cannot come all on a sudden ; that must come step by step. Government therefore, must have a plan in that respect.

This leads me to place certain suggestions which I would request Government to bear in mind.

Firstly, while giving priority to the development of heavy industries, efforts should be made to maintain a proper *ratio* of development between the various branches of the economy, particularly between the industry and agriculture.

The Finance Minister's figures show that between 1951 and 1957, there has been only 13 per cent rise in the production of rice and in the production of potatoes there has been a fall by about $33\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. This is an alarming situation. Potato is the principal crop on which the people of the Khazi and Jaintia Hills District and other Hills Districts depend for their livelihood. Even for political solution of the problem we must give more attention to the solution of the problem of the hills people and more particularly to the growers of potatoes in the Khazi hills and other hills if you want to relieve the sufferings of the people and to remove their discontentment. Under the existing circumstances, some

amount of adjustment at the top or even some amount of concession may be necessary. But simply by approaching the top people with some amount of appeasement will lead us where Chamberlain led Great Britain and therefore, Government should take special note about these 33½ per cent fall in the production of potatoes in the Khasi hills as also in other hills districts and the consequent suffering of the growers *i.e.*, the common men. This fall in the production of potatoes is a great strain on the producers of Khasi Hills, Garo Hills and in some other hills.

Secondly, it should be borne in mind that efforts should be made to adopt construction plans to the available funds, *i.e.* to our investment capacity and to give proper consideration to the question of technical personnel.

Thirdly, while ensuring in the first place that major project be built, local initiative and creativeness should be brought into full play through properly co-ordinated local plans.

Fourthly, consideration should be given to both the accumulation of funds, *i.e.*, capital formation and improvement of the people's livelihood.

The greatest and inexhaustible resource that we have is our people and unless and until the condition of our people—their material, cultural and moral condition—is raised, we shall not have a strong basis for further development of our country.

In this connection, it may be said—all right, you have placed good suggestions, but where are the resources for doing all these? I think, it is my duty to consider that aspect of the matter also. Sir, I have carefully followed the speeches given by the hon. Members of this House uptill now, and I think they have given very valuable suggestions to the Government. I would have been too glad to find some suggestions with regard to this aspect of augmenting the revenue of the State, with regard to finding out the resources for the development of our State.

May I know how many minutes more I shall get, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member may carry on. I shall ring him up.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):

In this connection without going into the details I have just for correct understanding examined the budget itself on the revenue side. The Government accounts are kept in the following 3 Parts—

Part I.—Consolidated Fund of Assam.

Part II.—Contingency Fund of Assam.

Part III.—Public Account of Assam.

In Part I of the Account, there are three main divisions, namely (1) Revenue ; (2) Capital ; and (3) Debt (comprising Public Debt and Loans and Advances). Now the 1st division deals with the proceeds of taxation and other receipts classed as revenue and the expenditure therefrom, the net result of which represents the revenue surplus or deficit for the year. The second division deals with expenditure met usually from borrowed funds with the object either of increasing concrete assets of a materials character or of reducing recurring liabilities, such as those for future pensions by payment of the capitalised value. It also includes receipts of a Capital nature intended to be applied as a set-off to Capital expenditure. The third division comprises loans raised by Government loans of a purely temporary nature classed as 'Floating Debt' (such as Treasury Bill and Ways and Means advances) as well as other loans classed as 'Permanent Debt' and 'Loans and Advances made by Government' together with repayments of the former and recoveries of the latter.

In Part II of the Account are recorded the transactions connected with the Contingency Fund set up by the Government of Assam under Article 267 (2) of the Constitution of India. In part II of the Account, there are two main divisions, namely—(1) Debt (other than those included in Part I) and Deposits ; and (2) Remittances. The First division comprises receipts and payments, other than those falling under Debt heads pertaining to Part I in respect of which Government incurs a liability to repay the moneys received or has a claim to recover the amounts paid, together with repayments of the former and recoveries of the latter. The second division embraces all merely adjusting heads, under which appear remittances of cash between treasuries and transfers between different accounting circles. The initial debits or credits to the heads in this division are cleared eventually by corresponding receipts or payments either within the same circle of account or in another account circle.

The transactions included in these accounts represent mainly the actual cash receipts and disbursements during the financial year April to March, as distinguished from amounts due to or by Government during the same period. The cash basis system is, however, not entirely suitable for recording the transactions and presenting the true state of affairs of Government commercial undertakings run on commercial principles. Now I am very thankful to the Finance Minister who was good enough to say that although the revenue side appeared to show that the budget is a surplus one, if we take a comprehensive view of our financial position, then the position is not at all encouraging. So far as the State finances are concerned, I must congratulate the Finance Minister for this realistic statement. Now the very important point here is that the cash basis system is not entirely suitable for recording the transaction and representing the true state of affairs the Government undertakings run on commercial principles. The detailed accounts of this class of undertakings are therefore maintained outside the regular accounts in proper commercial form and these accounts are subjected to a suitable audit check by the Indian Audit and Accounts Department. That being the type of account kept by the Government, let us see whether there are possibilities of improving the financial position of the State without increasing the burden on the common people, because after all, the last straw must not be put on the camel's back. Although it is generally easy and less irksome to bring indirect taxes, if the incidence of the burden of these taxes are put on the common people ultimately the State does not gain. It is mainly on the capital formation in the vast masses of the people--their investment in the State Bank, in the National Savings Certificates and various other means and also by their contribution to the loans floated by the State or the Union Government that the real capital formation takes place on a stable basis. So on principle, let him bear the burden of taxes more who has got the capacity to bear and let him pay less who has got no capacity. Taking that principle as our basis, let us see whether we can augment our finances or not. I should like to suggest that in spite of the fact that there are some tea gardens which are uneconomic and becoming losing concerns the position of tea industry as a whole is not bad. We should get more finance from this industry. We can also get more finance from our crude oil and also from petroleum and its bye-products when the Oil Refinery will be established here in our State.

We can get more from Navigation and Transport Services, Forest resources, coal mines and other latent resources. Even we can get more finance from lumbering hard and soft woods if we could properly utilise them by adopting improved methods for their utility. So far as soft wood is concerned, it would quickly fetch money.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Major Industries): Sir, it would be better for us to know a little from the hon. Member how he wants further to levy taxes on industries.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Sir, I have already stated how we can also levy certain fees on crude oil, petroleum, or how we can have some levy on Navigation, Transport Services and other things. I don't think I can go into further details, because the time at my disposal is almost over. So far as details are concerned, I am prepared to discuss them with the Honourable Minister or any one of them. I am simply placing the principle.

Now, the second suggestion which I should like to place about augmenting our resources is that there should be a little more emphasis on the non-tax revenue sources of the Government through State undertakings.

Thirdly, there should be steps taken by Government for stopping tax-evasion by the big businessmen. In this connection I would just like to refer to the report of the Central Board of Revenue, according to which, big businessmen evade about 150 crores of income-tax per year. According to Mr. Nicholas Kaldor, the distinguished Cambridge economist who was invited to India by the Indian Statistical Institute to make an investigation of the Indian Tax system in the light of the revenue requirement of the Second Five Year Plan, big businessmen in India evade to the extent of Rs. 300 crores of income-tax per year. Here in our State due to the inefficiency and corruption of our officialdom rich business concerns and cinema proprietors, who are monopolists in such business in Assam evade no less than 25 per cent of the tax. For example, one star-evader is said to be the proprietor of a Cinema House, who is as a matter of fact a monopolist in Cinema business in an important town and who is a pet of the Government. He is even nominated by the Government to be a member of the Municipal Board in order to see that the Municipal Board cannot take any step against the proprietors of Cinema houses even when they break laws. So in this State of Assam, because

of the patronage of the Government to these business concerns, because of the inefficiency of the officialdom and also to a certain extent because of the corruption in the tax collecting machinery of the Government there is a great deal of evasion so far as these big businessmen are concerned. If we could be a little more careful we could easily raise 25 per cent more in the collection of taxes from these big business concerns.

What actually we have been doing or propose to do? The Finance Minister has stated that there is no proposal for further taxation. We applauded it. But, Sir, when we raise money in the name of adjustments to decimal system and when we are bringing items like 'Registration fees' under the item 'Fees' it may be called another source of Governmental income. This item is used there which corresponds mainly to the raising of fees from our common man indirectly. So I would suggest that instead of realising higher fees from the poorer sections of the people, Government should realise them from the richer sections of the people. In the matter of inheritance, in the matter of surplus profit and in the matter of registration, beyond a particular limit, there should be progressive raising of fees. But we have noted that in our State while the rise in tax in the lower rung is 33 per cent, the rise in the top is only 27 per cent. The approach ought to be the other way.

The Finance Minister's Budget Speech reminds me of one of the well-known sayings in the Santi-Parba of the Mahabharata that — "The king should act like the leech taking blood mildly. He should treat his subjects like a tigress carrying her cubs, touching them with her teeth, but never cutting them therewith". But, Sir, after all, the Mahabharata was written many centuries ago. The context of the modern world has changed. So, Sir, let the Government not squeeze like a litch the miserable common man specially when we are going to have Socialism.

After all, success of our Development plans depends upon getting co-operation of the people. Whether our professed "Socialism" is real or phoney will depend upon the active co-operation and enthusiasm of the people that the State can muster for implementation of our Second Five-Year Plan. But unfortunately that active co-operation and enthusiasm is not there among our people in the State. So something must be done to enthuse the people. I do not know, whether I shall be dubbed as a man seeing things with a jaundiced eye, but I have often felt that the people do not think our

Government to be their own Government. They do not feel that they are also a part and parcel of the State. In my opinion that feeling has not yet been generated among the mass of our people. But we must get the co-operation of the people if we want to make successful all our plans. We must get it in the centres of production in the fields and factories. This we cannot achieve unless we give at least the minimum human treatment to the working classes and the peasantry.

I am very glad to say that on the 15th of March, 1958, All India Trade Union Congress, Indian National Trade Union Congress, Hind Mazdoor Sabha and the United Trade Union Congress all these four organisations have come to an agreement with the representatives of the Management and the Government to the effect that in the interest of the Second Five-Year Plan industrial peace should be there. Now let us see whether Government is going to reciprocate the same. So, Sir, I should like to place certain slogans, because if we want to make the people understand us we must learn to place things before them in a very simple manner. I am not talking this as a fun. I want to show an example how the slogan "Quit India" was forceful and how these two words generated the feeling and enthusiasm among the mass of the people at that time. Similarly, how the slogan "Inclub Zindabad" produce an energy and enthusiasm which perhaps three volumes of propagand books could not generate. When we have got certain aim and when we have got certain duty to do for the fulfilment of that aim we should go with certain clear slogans. I am not saying this as a matter of sermon, but I am placing it with all humility that the people should be approached in a slogan form which can be more easily understandable to them and will be appreciated by them.

I should like to place these slogans one by one for the consideration of the Government: (1) 'Produce More' (M. Moinul Haque Choudhury: By this does he mean produce more children also ?) Yes, Sir, some people produce more children, some produce more corruption, some people produce more bank-balances and some people produce more agricultural goods through chemical fertilizers. There are many types of production, but when we are discussing about the Second Five-Year Plan and when we are discussing about development of our national economy, the Minister in-charge of Agriculture and Food should not be either over intelligent or under-intelligent not to appreciate what I mean. After all

many of us have many types of idiosyncrasies. If he fails to appreciate what I mean by 'produce more' then I should say that this means to produce more wealth and economic goods for the country.

The second is 'Give land to the tiller and job to the worker'. There must be no idle person in our country.

Third is 'Reduce profits and prices'.

Fourth is 'Pay more and save more'.

Fifth is 'Invest in the State Sector and do not fall a victim to the threats of the monopolists or their agents however respectable those persons may appear to be'.

The last is 'Let us develop our economy not for the profiteers but for the people'.

Thank you Sir, for giving me extension of time.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall speak on land only. Almost all the speakers who took part in the debate on the Governor's Address or in this debate touched 'land' and many of them gave valuable suggestions. I welcome it and if this enthusiasm is maintained outside this House, it will go a great way in implementing various land reform measures. If we analyse the speeches then the points raised may be broadly reduced to three: (1) that land has not been provided to the landless, (2) that there has been forcible eviction of Adhiars and sub-tenants and (3) that the land reform measures are slow and should be expedited. I shall touch these points seriatim.

The first point is 'land has not been provided to the landless'. By this if it is meant that no land has been provided to the landless then that would be an incorrect statement. But if it is meant that there are sufficient landless people who have not been provided with land then that is a correct statement. I shall give a picture of land in Assam. Assam, as laid down in the Constitution, has an area of about 85,000 square miles. It is only about 23,000 sq. miles on which this Government has right of administration. 35,000 sq. miles go to North East Frontier Agency, 27,000 sq. miles go to the Autonomous Districts. Of the remaining 23,000 sq. miles about 5,000 sq. miles are covered by numerous hills and rivers. Now we have got about eighteen or nineteen thousand sq. miles in which,

according to the 1951 census, 80 lakhs people are housed. Every year the population is increasing and by now from the 1951 census figure the population has increased by several lakhs. But land has not increased. I give some figures from the 1951 census. In the plains district the density of population per sq. mile is 339. There are places like Nalbari where the density is near about 1,300. In rural areas this is the world's highest density. The general international standard is that in rural areas the density should not exceed 250, but in our State the density is 339. This shows that already the density is much higher than the international standard. This fact has got to be taken into consideration. Then 15·6 per cent of our population are totally landless and 52·3 per cent of the population hold land below 10 bighas. Those who hold one or 2 bighas of land can be termed also as landless. So, we have got 339 density in rural areas, 15·6 per cent of our population totally landless and 52·3 per cent hold land below 10 bighas. 15·6 per cent is equal to about 15 lakhs and about 5 lakhs displaced persons have come to the State and if we add these 5 lakhs persons with our total landless population of 15 lakhs, then the figure comes to about 20 lakhs—who are totally landless and whom we are to provide with land, if possible.

Then, Sir, 82 per cent of the people of Assam live on agriculture. According to 1951 census, only 5 per cent people live in towns and 95 per cent live in rural areas and in rural areas 82 per cent depend on agriculture. So, if we take 1 per cent as the rate at which the population is increasing, *i.e.*, 10 per cent in ten years, then by now the total population of our State will be near about a crore, and the increase in population will be near about a lakh every year. If that is so, the increase of population in the agricultural sector will be about 70,000 every year. But land is not increasing; so it is impossible to provide land to all the landless people in this State. I, therefore, think that some of our agricultural population will have to be switched over to other vocations, because land is not available. Now, Sir, the suggestion that we have not given land to anybody is not correct. From 1949, we have, upto the middle of 1957, settled about 7,11,900 bighas of waste land with the landless people. Almost all the khas land has been exhausted except small pockets here and there in developed villages. A developed village means a village where khas land does not exceed about 200 bighas; that land is kept for future expansion of the village. For this reason in developed villages there may be small pockets here and there; otherwise there is no Khas land available. So, we have fallen back on Professional

Grazing Reserves, Village Grazing Reserves and reserved forests. From 1949, we have opened about 3,00,158 bighas of Professional Grazing Reserves and Village Grazing Reserves. Then there is much pressure on forest reserves from the landless people. Now, the forest reserves in our State constitute only 12 per cent of the entire land, whereas the international standard is 25 per cent. The Planning Commission is pressing on us again and again to raise it to 33 per cent as otherwise our economy would suffer. Though we have got only 12 per cent still for pressure of land we have dereserved about 50,262 bighas from forest reserves. Then from tea gardens we have requisitioned about 1,32,162 bighas and distributed it amongst the landless people. Now, some of my Friends suggested, particularly my Friend, Shri Gauri Sankar Bhattacharyya named certain tea gardens and gave the total area and the land actually under tea plantation. I asked for a list and he promised to supply it, but it has not been given to me as yet.

Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): I read the list here. I can give it at any time.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): A wrong impression was sought to be created. My Friend suggested that, say, in a tea garden the total amount of land is 2,000 acres, but the land under tea is only 500 acres, so there is a surplus of 1,500 acres. But this is not so. The garden of our Chief Minister was cited that the difference between the total amount of land and the land actually under tea was very small, but in some gardens the grant is, say, about 3,000 acres, and the land under tea is about 800 acres and so surplus land is available there. But that is not so. When originally these grants were made, the procedure was like this ; the district officers were all Europeans and the entire land was full of jungle infested with wild beasts, and only an approximate area was given and an approximate boundary fixed. A company was formed in England, some officer came here to examine whether the land was suitable for tea or not. Then an approximate boundary was fixed. A notice was published in the District Magistrate's Court that this land would be sold on such and such date at public auction. Sometimes for 2,000 acres the bid was Rs.20 ; it never exceeded Rs.3,000 as nobody came forward with any bid because these were dense jungle areas. So, if there be a grant of 2,000 acres and the land actually under tea plantation is 500 acres, there may be another 500 acres which is low land and actually under the occupation of the labourers who are growing food there. So, it is incorrect to say that because the land actually under tea is 500 acres, there is an excess of 1,500 acres.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):

So far as the gardens that I mentioned are concerned, I spoke about them after proper enquiry.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): I have not finished ; I have only touched one part of the problem. Of course, I do not say that there is no excess land in the tea gardens, but the way in which the excess is sought to be calculated is not correct. That is my point. Then, Sir, I want to submit here what we have gathered from our experience. We requisition some lands, we make allotment but the people do not go there. Our cultivators are used to a certain mode of cultivating paddy. For instance, in the Upper Assam side, they grow one crop, i.e., wet crop. In Cachar, a very big garden offered me 10,000 bighas of land. Sixty-three bighas of that garden were requisitioned but the management filed an appeal. I told them that the grant is about 10 miles in length and you have yourselves offered 10,000 bighas of land, now why have you filed an appeal against requisition of 63 bighas of land ? They said, "You can take the 10,000 bighas, but these 63 bighas will drive a wedge between our plantation". I was convinced by their argument and had to de-requisition the land. I then asked the Deputy Commissioner to examine the land which the garden offered. The Deputy Commissioner did not recommend requisitioning this land because it is full of *tilahs* and very big trees and the uprooting of these trees would entail a huge expenditure and there could be only sugarcane cultivation there and nothing else. So, it would not be a paying proposition. As you know, Sir, there is no free land now, everybody pays revenue. That garden is, therefore, very eager to part with some of the land because they are paying revenue for it. If we requisition, the entire revenue will be lost to Government. Then, Sir, what has been our experience in Upper Assam ? During the Majuli flood there was a public petition from the people for land. I went there and requisitioned some tea garden land in Jorhat Subdivision. The land was allotted also, but the people did not move. They said, "the river is our life and we cannot go away from river". Because the land was in the interior away from the river, they did not go. The first list was cancelled and a second allotment list was prepared, but the people did not go. I asked for a third list of allotment, but nobody moved. We have to pay double the revenue every year for the requisitioned land to which allottees do not want to go. One year's revenue the owner pays to Government and the other he retains as compensation. As I

have said, we have got 20 lakhs of people who are landless but land is allotted to them they do not move, because our people are accustomed to certain system of cultivation which they cannot change and which they cannot follow in high land.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North):
But I can give another side of the picture.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : He will get the opportunity to give another side of the picture but I shall give my own picture. Then we had to look for land from dense forests. There was pressure of land, so we took to dense forests and heavy reclamation schemes were taken up by Government. From Kaki about 40,000 bighas, from Philobari 30,000 bighas, from Falangani 15,000 bighas and from Sribaokhata 9,500 bighas of land were made available.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):
Fact remains that Subansiri project was abandoned.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: All lands taken from tea gardens on requisition had to be derequisitioned as these lands cannot be used for cultivation.

Shri HARESWAR DAS : That may be so in some cases.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : So far as the Cachar District is concerned that is the fact. Tea gardens have not given good lands.

Shri HARESWAR DAS: The good lands in possession of tea gardens have already been brought under cultivation. The grantees are in possession of the land for 50, 60 or 100 years ; it is not expected that they would keep the good land fallow. Sir, it is the policy of the Government not to injure this industry, we have to see that our officers and others do not injure this industry.

Sir, now this is with regard to providing land to landless. Of course, it is not my claim that we have provided land to all landless people but this is the maximum to which we could go. There are now a few forests reserves and few P. G. Rs. and V. G. Rs. left and my view is that the time has come when some of our cultivators shall have to shift to other avocations.

Then about forcible evictions of Adhiars and sub-tenants. In this matter, I feel puzzled. It is an essential feature of democracy that Government move and act according to law. This House is a House of Legislature, it enacts laws according to which Government run the administration ; but in some of the speeches of some hon. Members it was said that the eviction of Adhiars should be stopped by Government by executive orders. Somebody even suggested that by Ordinance this can be done. This has puzzled me. An Ordinance is also a piece of law. Only the procedure of enactment is different. When the House is not in Session, and an emergency arises, an Ordinance is passed but that Ordinance becomes law. If there is any violation of its provisions, redress has to be sought in the Court of Law which will decide whether there is any violation or not. So, Ordinance does not help in any way. Later on I will speak as to how we had to contest in the Court of Law in enforcing measures.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): When law requires that Government should appoint Adhiar Conciliation Boards, why it is that Government have not been able to appoint many Adhiar Conciliation Boards ? This Legislature passed an Adhiar Protection Act and according to that Adhiar Conciliation Boards should have been constituted but in many places this has not been done. Does it mean to say that this legislation has become useless ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : My Friend, Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya, knows much and speaks well, particularly, it appeals to people with anti-Government bias. I will surely deal with those points which he raised.

Sir, it is the Planning Commission's recommendation which we are following. One of those recommendations is that there should be fixity of tenure and stoppage of indiscriminate enhancement of rent. This House has provided fixity of tenure. The Adhiars are now protected. If an Adhiar is in possession of land for one year he is protected from eviction. If a sub-tenant is in possession of land for one year he also gets protection from eviction. Now, eviction cannot be absolutely stopped. For example, if an Adhiar keeps land fallow for two years, he does not cultivate the land and does not grow food which is a national asset ; in that case he cannot get protection. Then if an Adhiar damages the land and makes it unfit for cultivation, he will be evicted. Again if an Adhiar do not pay owner's share of the crop he will be

evicted. So, there are provisions under which an Adhiar can be evicted and there are provisions under which an Adhiar shall be protected. If a man is evicted, say, forcibly, there is the Adhiar Conciliation Board in which he can seek redress. My Friend, Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya, said that in many places these Boards have not been constituted. The moment it is brought to our notice we will take steps to form the Boards there. Formerly the Deputy Commissioner was made the Chairman of the Board with one representative of the Adhiars and one representative of the landlords. As the Deputy Commissioner with his other multifarious duties cannot attend the Board, the local Sub-deputy Collector has now been made the Chairman for speedy disposal.

Now, if one Adhiar is evicted today he may go and file a petition before the Adhiar Conciliation Board which decides the issue—there is no question of lawyers—lawyers are not allowed there. If the Adhiar Conciliation Board decides that a particular Adhiar has been wrongly evicted, then within two years of eviction he can be restored to possession and there is provision for infliction of fine on the landlord. But if the Adhiar is evicted by persuasion he is somehow persuaded to leave the land then that is a separate matter altogether. If an Adhiar does not seek the help of the Adhiar Conciliation Board, what Government can do? No relief can be reached to persons, who are not conscious of their own self-interest. It is true that in spite of these Acts there will be some cases in which deserving men will not get the relief they need. These are land reform measures. In such measures co-operation of the people is necessary. These land reform measures cannot be enforced like penal measures. In penal measures co-operation of the people is not so necessary. For example, if the police catches a thief, then that thief is tried and punished according to law. The Indian Penal Code was enforced in 1860 and today it is 1958—almost a century has passed that Act is in force and in these one hundred years many thieves were punished. But stealing is still there—stealing has not stopped. Why all these courts, why all these police forces in our land? Because stealing has not stopped. So, in spite of our acts, some evasion will take place. Sir, in these land reform measures co-operation of the people is necessary. Now, in this respect I want to make this suggestion, that our landless people, Adhiars and sub-tenants are very poor as also the labour population in our State. Both these sets of people stand on the same level with regard to poverty and with regard to illiteracy. But so far as the labour population is concerned, there are various labour organisa-

tions to see to the implementation of labour legislations, with the result that employers now-a-days are afraid to infringe any of the provisions of these labour legislations. So the labour population are getting the advantage of the labour measures. But there are no such organisations in the case of Adhiars. If non-official organisations were there to see to the interest of the Adhiars, then the landlords would have been afraid to do any thing that goes against the interest of the Adhiars. If the enthusiasm showed by my Friends in delivering speeches here is maintained outside this House and such organisations are formed it will go a great way in implementation of our land reform legislations.

Now, Sir, about the other point that these land reform measures are slow and so they should be expedited. I admit that land reform measures have been slow. But the causes of delay are beyond the control of Government. I will give one instance. According to the instructions of the Planning Commission these land reform measures are to be done according to a phased programme. What this phased programme means? It is said here.....

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Is the Minister referring to the First Five Year Plan? This is the third Year of the Second Five Year Plan.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): That does not matter, a little patience on the part of my Friends will clear everything. Now, as I have said I admit that there is a little delay in these land reform measures, but this delay is due to causes which are beyond our control. As I have said, the Planning Commission's instruction is to go according to a phased programme. What is that phased programme? First of all there must be abolition of intermediaries. Without abolishing intermediaries you cannot go in for consolidation of holdings. We have first to abolish intermediaries, bring the tenants directly under the Government, then we can go in for consolidation of holdings. The first measure for abolition of intermediaries was the State Acquisition of Zamindari Bill. That Bill was passed in 1949, it was sent up to the Governor-General for assent. After about six or seven months the Governor-General returned the Bill with a direction that these were land reform measures and since the Constitution would be enforced very soon, we were to submit it to the President for assent after enforcement of the Constitution. So we have to wait for some time. When the

Constitution was enforced, the Bill was submitted to the President, and after six or seven months the Bill came back without the President's assent on the ground that many provisions in the Bill do not tally with fundamental rights laid down in the Constitution. Under the Government of India Act, there were no provisions of fundamental rights. So that Bill had to be amended in the light of the provisions in the Constitution.

Adjournment

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

After lunch

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was speaking about the implementation of the State Acquisition of Zamindaris Act. The Bill was passed in 1949 and became Act towards the end of 1951. We enforced this Act in 1952. The Zamindars went to High Court and subsequently we won the case. The Zamindars went to Supreme Court. In these cases judgment was delivered in 1956, and we took over these Zamindari in 1956; with regard to the other two cases only in the beginning of 1957, the Supreme Court delivered judgment and we took over these Zamindari in 1957. Now this is a step which was to be finished during the First Five Year Plan period but that period expired and the Second Five Year Plan entered. The delay was caused in the Courts over which Government has no control and that is the position almost in every State. The other day I received a letter from the Revenue Minister, West Bengal enquiring as to what actually we have done in these matters and just now I have received a letter from the Revenue Minister, Hyderabad enquiring as to how we were proceeding. The same difficulty is being experienced by every State. So although the Planning Commission has put pressure for expediting these matters, we are not in a position to proceed according to schedule for reasons beyond our control. Without finishing the first step, we cannot go to the second step; with regard to the fixity of tenure, there are provisions with respect to this in the existing laws. The total area under the Zamindari in our State is about 17 lakhs acres, the rest is under the Ryotwari system. The areas are covered by the Goalpara Tenancy Act and the Sylhet Tenancy Act, there are provisions for fixity of tenure. In temporary settled areas, the Temporarily settled Districts Tenancy Act, as amended in 1953, confers

occupancy right by 12 years' possession. The Urban Areas Tenancy Act also confers fixity of tenure in Urban areas. I admit of course that due to certain interpretation and definitions by the different Courts some anomalies have arisen and we want to correct that. Now the third point is stoppage of indiscriminate enhancement of rents ; for the information of the House I would like to say that provision to that effect has already been made in the Goalpara Tenancy Act, the Sylhet Tenancy Act, the Urban Areas Rent Control Act and the Urban Areas Tenancy Act.

In the Second Five Year Plan stress was laid to fix the size of holdings. We faced some difficulties here. We have got the fixation of Ceiling Act, where size of holdings has been fixed. The intermediaries are first to be abolished, the rayot were brought directly under Government and then the size of holdings are to be fixed. In our Ceiling Act we deal with both to some extent and so we had to face some difficulties. In this connection, some of my Friends have argued in this debate as also in the debate on the Governor's address that there is inordinate delay in implementing the fixation of Ceiling Act. The fixation of ceiling was passed and the assent was given by the President of India in 1956. In the original Act we provided that any transfer of land after a certain date would be null and void. This was considered to be repugnant to the Constitution and so we were advised by Government of India not to enforce the the Act till this and some other provisions were amended. Hence an amending Bill was passed and only in November/December, we got the assent of the President and therefore the Act was enforced in February last. Now about the fixation of ceiling, there are two aspects, one aspect, is fixing the present holding, 150 bighas is the basis. A man may possess 200 bighas, therefore, according to the provision of the Act, 50 bighas will be taken away from him and his holding will be fixed at 150 bighas. The other aspect is fixation of ceiling for future acquisition. To-day a man may have 150 bighas, three years after he may purchase some land and thereby may increase his holding to 200 bighas, so ceiling may be fixed there also. Now in the speeches advanced in this House it appears that the impression is that a person will be entitled to retain this 150 bighas under all circumstances. I want to impress upon the Members that this is not so, actually this land is not going to stay with him under all circumstances. If a man possess 200 bighas and sells 50 bighas out of it we do not dispute that, we allow him to do it, because who will be the purchaser ? If the purchaser is an agriculturist, well and good, let him have the

land. It is our policy to take away land from the hands of non-agriculturists and to put it into the hands of agriculturists. It may also happen that the purchaser is a non-agriculturist, a lawyer or a businessman, who stays in town. In such a case also we do not interfere, because the purchaser in this case will not gain much. If a lawyer or a businessman staying in town purchases 50 bighas of land in the rural area he will not cultivate land himself, he will give it to a tenant or an Adhiar. But he cannot evict the tenant or Adhiar at his sweet will. The Adhiar is protected from eviction by one year's possession. Now the Second Five-Year Plan provided resumption for personal cultivation. Suppose a man who now works as a clerk in town likes to give up his job and take to cultivation, he can do that. For taking possession of his leased land there is a provision of resumption for personal cultivation. But to resume land, agriculture must be his principal source of livelihood and he must reside within a certain radius from the land. We have fixed that radius at 5 miles. While resuming he will have to leave a minimum area of 10 bighas with each tenant or Adhiar. If a man who purchased 50 bighas let these 50 bighas to five tenants then he cannot resume any land. But after lapse of five years from the enforcement of the Ceiling Act nobody would be allowed to resume any land, that is provided in the Act.

Reforms cannot be effected by legislation alone. We have to educate the people, we have to carry the people with us. Time should be given to society to adjust itself to the new system. In our State there are only two classes of people, poor and middle class. The rich class does not exist here, the rich whom we see, they are from outside. The poor class is the cultivator class and the middle class is constituted by those who are clerks and Government and other employees, *i.e.*, mostly non-cultivators. Generally they are not rich, they stay in town and may have some land in the village and get some rice from there and thus manage somehow their family. After the 3rd week of the month most of them have to borrow money from others for their subsistence. So these are the people who are styled as middle class in our society. They own some land. With the implementation of the Ceiling Act, this class will be completely liquidated. So some time to adjust themselves to the new circumstances is necessary and a period of five years is the time. If a non-cultivator purchases 50 bighas of land and if that land is taken from him, what does he get as compensation? The maximum compensation is Rs.50 per bigha of cultivable land taking Re.1 as the rate of revenue. But it will be

apportioned thus Rs.35 will go to the tenant with occupancy right and Rs.15 will go to the land owner. So a non-cultivator will gain very little by purchasing land at a higher rate. The law, therefore, does not stop such purchase. Such purchases are not violation of the law.

My Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, raised the point of land management board. This is not the first time the point has been raised. This point was first suggested by the Agrarian Reforms Committee known as the Kumarappa Committee, but the recommendations of that Committee were so vast that no State has been able to implement them nor the Planning Commission accepted them in toto. I read the first few lines of those recommendations just to show the magnitude of the recommendations. These are the recommendations—

“The Provincial Planning Commission will practically be in charge of planning, development, and management of the rural economy, the centre of gravity of which would be land. To-day there are different departments, *e. g.* Land Revenue, Irrigation, Agriculture, Cottage Industry, Co-operative Movement specially credit, etc. and there is popular belief that these are different departments tackling different problems. Actually they are the projection of the same problem, *i.e.*, the management of land”.

So all these departments under the Land Commission as they are all connected with land.

Regarding the source of revenue for the proper functioning of this Commission, “the following among others, would be the source of finance of the Land Commission:

“Land Revenue, Irrigation Taxes, Agricultural Income-tax, some other direct taxes, *e.g.* export duties on agricultural products, all grants in connection with the Grow-More-Food Campaign, loans from Provincial and Central Governments, Subsidy and contribution from the Centre as well as Provinces for such purposes as building of ware-houses, digging of tanks, wells and anti-erosion measures and all grants under Land Improvement Loans Act and Agricultural Loans Act given by Provincial Governments”.

No State can lose these revenues and no State could accept it. The Second Five-Year Plan it has not been accepted as it is. But the Planning Commission in the Second Five Year Plan has made suggestions to the effect that there must be Land Management Boards and pursuant to that suggestion, some States, for example U. P. has provided for Land Reforms Boards. We have also provided for a Land Reforms Board in our Act, which is a statutory Board. With the progress of implementation of the Act, this Board will function properly. Some Hon. Members said that we are the most backward in respect of land reform measures. For the information of the House I may say that there are States which have not as yet passed any Act, fixing a ceiling on holdings.

Now there is another thing *viz* : the Consolidation of holdings ; I am dealing seriatim. I am dealing with the points raised by my Friends.

Mr SPEAKER : The Honble, Minister should bear in mind that it would be hardly appropriate to discuss the Five-Year Plan now. It will be appropriate if he replies to the points raised by the hon. Members.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : The point raised by the hon. Member is with regard to the question of land reform. I am replying to that. It has been said that we are the most backward with regard to that. My point is, it is not a fact. We are following the directions of the Planning Commission as laid down in the Five-Year Plan. We are rather forward in this respect. About the Consolidation of holding, we have got a Bill drafted ; some preliminaries are being undergone. If these preliminaries are finished, like the previous approval the Government of India, if these preliminaries may be completed, that Bill will be introduced in this very Session. These are the points raised by the hon. Members Sir, and I hope I have replied to them.

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Dhekiajuli) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had no mind to participate in the debate, but having listened to some observations from some hon. Members, I feel it my duty to submit my views on them. Owing to the limitation of time, I would confine my observations to the remarks made by my Friend, Shri Mathias Tudu. He has made some observations with regard to the tea garden population and their backwardness. He had mentioned that the drinking habits has been the main cause for the backwardness of these

people. I agree with him in this respect. But I feel that he has fallen a victim to exaggeration when he says that the Government has not done anything for their welfare nor that the Government felt that the tea garden population are citizens of the State. He has mentioned that these tea garden population also do not feel themselves as citizens of this State. It may be that the tea garden population coming from different States of the country may feel that they may not be the citizens of the State. But when our Constitution has adopted a democratic principle, how can we ignore these tea garden population, their right as citizens of the State? The Government can not ignore them nor has the Government ignored them, Sir, during these years, I know the Government in spite of the paucity of funds have taken certain measures for their welfare. We cannot ignore the measures which had already been taken in this respect. When I say these things I refer to the steps which had been taken some years ago while I was in charge of the Labour portfolio. The welfare measures for which provision has been made for about a lakh of rupees, include establishment of welfare institutions through non-official organisations. These institutions which were more or less like Asram type provide for the accommodation and education of the tea garden and *ex-tea* garden labourers. Sir, I would agree with him if he had said that these institutions which have been established are not sufficient, because the number of institutions within tea gardens run by the Kasturba Memorial Fund is only 4 and by other organisations within and outside the plantations would be about 10. These institutions have been doing good work and they are advancing. Coming as he does from an area in the Goalpara district, where there has been very few tea gardens and the population belonging to these communities in his constituency is of course not negligible. Sir, I had the opportunity to move in his constituency and I have seen the Santal colony within his constituency. I spent about a week there. The Mission under which my Friend, Shir Tudu is working was kind enough to provide for my accommodation and also transport to move about in the inaccessible areas in the Santal colonies. I have moved amongst the Santals. Sir, this colony was established perhaps during the end of the last century. There is only one tea garden in that area. Of course there is no welfare institutions of the type established in some places. But it has one High School and another in Gossaigaon. The High School in the Santal colony is run by the Mission and Government has been awarding grants, but I do not want to say that this has been enough. But I must say that he must

acknowledge the work that has been done there. Of course we should try to do more. I would suggest to the Government with all humility I can command that the provision in the budget may be increased for this purpose.

The provision for Labour welfare was made when there was great paucity of funds. Probably the provision was made in 1950. I should request the Government to increase the provision for this. I would plead along with him and others to increase the budget provision on labour welfare measures. While on the subject of education and welfare of tea garden population my mind goes to the similar difficulties which were experienced by other countries outside India. My mind goes to the South American plantation. The South American plantations have a large concentration of labourers who have migrated from different parts of the world and are still in different stages of civilisation and culture. The labourers have migrated from China and also South India, Africa and from the Mediterranean Countries of Europe like Spain and Italy. One of the problems for this heterogeneous group of people was what should be the type of education, because they are in different stages of culture. That was the main question. A Commission was appointed and it was known as the "Caribbean Commission". This Commission consisted of the famous Social Anthropologists and they examined the question about their education and other problems. Of course, Sir, it would be too ambitious for a State like Assam to appoint such a Commission. But I feel that a nucleus of anthropological Department may be necessary to look into the question of the tea plantation labourers of our State. As a matter of fact, my Honourable Friend, Shri K. P. Agarwalla, mentioned on the floor of the House about the establishment of a Tribal Research Cultural Institute in our State. I agree with him in this matter. As a matter of fact steps were taken some years ago. But it was not possible to have such an Institute at that time due to dearth of sufficient fund for the purpose. The amount of money which was sanctioned by the Government of India for the purpose was given to the Gauhati University and the University is doing some research work in this connection under the able guidance of Dr. Birinchi Kumar Barua and Dr. Goswami. To my knowledge they have collected Tribal songs and tunes have been taperecorded. Besides this, some work has been done in the matter of research in some tribal languages. The other day in the Tribal Advisory Committee, I pleaded for having an institution for anthropological research in our State, under some Minister

so that the special problems relating to the tea garden labourers and other Tribal people could be referred to. I found during these years that one of the most important problems in the Education Department had been the preparation of the text-books for the tribal children. The institute may take up this question along with other allied problems like education of children of the tea garden population. The tea garden labourers come from different States of India like Central India, Madras and so on. That is why an enquiry about their mental attitude should be made to find out measures for their advancement, etc. It is, no doubt, a very difficult task. I am very glad to note that the Labour Department have taken up certain measures with a view to remove difficulties of education of tea garden population. But it would be better for the Government if there is an institute for Social Anthropology to carry on research of these typical problems of this State.

Sir, I do not propose to take up much time of the House. I have only submitted my humble suggestions in this matters. I would like to mention about another thing about social welfare institutions which I had been experiencing during all these years as a Minister also and that is the delay in financial sanctions. This delay retard the progress of work in social welfare. Sanction for expenditure is received towards the end of the year, *viz.*, in February or March and the whole amount sanctioned for social welfare scheme is to be spent within the financial year it is difficult to run these institutions if sanction is received at the fag end of the year. For example, I would like to cite the instances of the Leprosy Relief Centres which have been established by non-official organisations specially in the Mikir Hills and in the Garo Hills these institutions have to suffer a great deal as it becomes difficult to manage these institutions during the period from the 1st of April to the middle of February or March without having any money placed at their disposal. Therefore, I would like to request the Government to find out way to remove these difficulties at no distant date. Although I acknowledge that as a Minister, in spite of my great interest for social welfare, I could not expedite the financial sanction. The delay had been done by departmental procedure. I would, therefore, request the Government to find out ways and means as to how these delays in financial sanction could be removed.

Lastly, Sir, before I resume my seat, I want to mention a few more items. The House is aware that the Railways in Assam are now trying to take measures for the stabilisation of

the line and for the purpose of stabilisation the Railways are constructing new bridges. When the new bridges will be constructed, the old bridges will be abandoned. I took up this matter, of course individually with the Railway authorities, and I referred this matter to the Transport Minister just before I left the office last year with a request to take up this matter with the Government of India whether the abandoned bridges could be taken up by the State Government so that these could be utilised for improvement of communication in this area. The House is aware that the Railway line in Assam mostly runs through villages inhabited by Tribal people. For example, I understand that the old bridge over Belsiri river in Darrang District after the construction of the new bridge would be abandoned after some time. If the old bridge could be taken up by the State Government then the communication in this area might be improved. I understand Transport Department has taken up this with the Government of India.

Then, Sir, about the surfacing of North Trunk Road, I find that though certain measures have been taken in the matter of collection of stones, yet no work has been taken up for actual surfacing. So, my request to the Government is to expedite the actual work of surfacing of this road.

Another small matter I want to refer is about the Rangapara road. The Minister of Labour, myself and some of my friends from Tezpur took up this matter with the Government. This road used to bear a Local board road before the last war and in 1942 this road became one of the most important roads in the Tezpur Subdivision as it came to connect the airport at Misamari and so the Military took over this road and improved it by surfacing. After the war, this road was again handed over to the Local Board. Now the Local Board cannot be expected to maintain this surfaced road. The bridge over Gabru of this road at the other end had recently been handed over to the State Government. My request to the Government in this connection is that Government should take up this road from the point of this bridge up to the Rangapara Railway station so that communication is improved. There is a small bridge at the end of the Rangapara Tea Estate on this road and this bridge has given way creating great difficulty for the people. I hope Government would take over this road as early as possible.

With these words, Sir, I thank the Finance Minister for his budget speech.

Shri RAJENDRA NATH BARUA (Golaghat East):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset I must say that I am not going into the jugglery of figures of the budget which has been presented by our learned Finance Minister. We find from his speech that there has been a great deal of improvement of late in our State and the way in which he put it is also very elucidative. He said that nothing much can be achieved if our people are not hardworking. We have done our best to persuade our village people to come and take up labour work in the construction of P. W. D. roads and in some cases in the North Lakhimpur side the experiment has been successful. But we generally find that our own Assamese people offer to do labour work just near their homes. So, in this connection I want to suggest that if certain propaganda from the Publicity Department is made among our village people then I think our people will come and take up labour work for road construction in all places of the State. It is not unknown to the hon. Members of the House that a large amount of money from the P. W. D. is taken away by the labourers of other States. This is a very important thing to be considered. I think our leaders of the country should make a special effort to see that our people take up these labour works everywhere so that the national income of our State might be increased.

I find, Sir, in the budget speech that the Planning Commission has not granted any money for our State Transport Department. I find from the budget memorandum that for the Silchar-Hailakandi-Karimganj road transport alone a sum of about 5 lakhs has been granted this year. But the Kamargaon-Golaghat-Jorhat service (in item No. Section IX in the Budget Memorandum at page 80) has not yet been nationalised. The people of Golaghat have been agitating for the last 3 or 4 years in this connection to nationalise this route. I do not grudge for the nationalisation of the Silchar-Hailakandi-Karimganj road, but what I mean is that this important portion linking Golaghat Town with rest of the areas of the Subdivision should be nationalised even by bringing a supplementary demand in the next session of the Assembly.

I now want to speak about the Homeopathy Act of 1955. Hon. Members know very well that I myself sponsored this Bill in the year 1953 and it was sent for elucidating public opinion and after about 2 years and after a good deal of reluctance on the part of the Treasury Benches equal persuasion from Members and the public the Bill was passed in 1955 into an Act. A reference has been made in the budget speech about this subject. Now three years have passed since the Bill was passed

and yet the Homeopaths have not been registered. This is a very pitiable thing that the Department concerned has not taken up the matter seriously. Of course it might be said that the Homeopaths are insignificant people, but insignificant doses sometimes act as miracles. Three years ago a big surgeon of the Assam Medical College met me and said that he got cured of his eczema by homeopathy-medicine and at the same time he asked me not to disclose his name to other doctors. This shows Sir, there is some antagonism between Allopathy and Homeopathy. The Director of Health Services of our State is the Chairman of the Homeopathy-Board and it might be said that as he remains very busy with his other works and who had to visit various important places like Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, etc. so often that he does not find enough time to devote to this branch of medicine. Therefore, my suggestion would be that the Chairman should be a non-official gentleman as in other States like Bihar and Bombay. Whatever that may be, my submission to the Government is that rules which have to be framed under this Act have not yet been framed.

A Voice.—Who is the President of the Board ?

Shri RAJENDRA NATH BARUA (Golaghat-East:) The Director of the Health Services is the Chairman and I am an humble member of the Board. We had a meeting in 1956 and finalised our plan of work. We wanted about Rs.5,000 from the Government, but nothing was paid to us. How can the Board work? I am bringing this to the notice of Government so that this matter may be expedited and homeopathic institutions and homeopathic dispensaries may be spread over throughout Assam, so that the poor people may derive benefit therefrom.

Now, I come next to tourist traffic and a wild life of Assam. Under the Forest Department Wild Life Board was set up, but this Board has become so wild as not to meet for the last two or three years. Of course, the Hon'ble Finance Minister said that tourist traffic is being enlarged and more conveniences have been provided to the tourist who go to Kaziranga to see the rhinos. But meetings of the Board are necessary just to discuss how matters can be improved. But, Sir, during the last two or three years no meeting of this Wild Life Board was held. I was a member of the Board and we gave certain suggestions to provide certain facilities for the low-income group people who want to stay at Kaziranga and see its precious Wild Life. The charges in the existing forest guest house are very high and we suggested construction of small cottages for these low-income

group people so that they could remain there at moderate charges within their means and enjoy the site of beautiful rhinos moving about in the forest of Kaziranga. So, my request to Government is that a meeting of this Board might be convened early so that more facilities might be given to the people of low-income group and devise ways and means for further improvement of the sanctuaries.

Then, Sir, another thing about which I want to speak is this. To the Tocklai Experimental Farm at Jorhat many young graduates and others are sometimes sent to take training in tea. After completion of their training they roam about. No gardens take them; on the other hand, we find that those having no knowledge of tea are brought from outside and provided with good jobs as Assistant in the gardens. My point is that Government should take this up firmly with the tea garden authorities and association such as Indian Tea Association as has been done by the Chief Minister of West Bengal, who issued circulars that the children of the soil should be provided first before others are brought in such in other industries in private sector.

Another point, Sir, is that we are getting the oil refinery very soon. We want our young boys who are science graduates to be sent abroad for training in oil technology so that our boys can get jobs in the refinery and learn oil refinery technology.

I will finish with another point. Our Finance Minister laid some stress on food production without which this country will become poorer and poorer. In this connection I would urge not only upon the Ministry but also on ourselves, the leaders of the country, that propaganda should be made for introduction of double cropping and even by giving some sops to the cultivators in the shape of prizes or remission of revenue or whatever it may be, the cultivators must be encouraged to take to double cropping. Most of the time our villagers spend in merry-making after the Sain harvest is over and if double cropping is not done, the land remains fallow for most of the year and this hinders food production. So, I would urge on Government to see that double cropping is introduced in our State, if necessary, even by legislation.

These are the main points which have been agitating my mind. I hope Government will take into consideration what I have said so that we can see our country prosper, we can make idle people work hard and lay the foundation of a fully-developed country.

Shri RADHA KISHAN KHEMKA (Tinsukia) : माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय ! माननीय अर्थमंत्री महोदय ने इस वर्ष का जो बजट हमारे सम्मुख रखा है उसपर आज हम गम्भीरतापूर्वक विचार कर रहे हैं। और इससे यह साफ मालूम होता है हमारे प्रान्त की स्थिति के अनुकूल ही बजट बनाकर अर्थमंत्री महोदय ने इस सदन के सामने पेश किया है।

बजटपर विचार करने के पहले हमें अपने प्रान्त की स्थितिपर विचार करना है। हमारा प्रान्त भारतवर्ष की सीमा-प्रान्त है। यहां विभिन्न भाषा-भाषी एवं विभिन्न जाति, उपजाति के लोग रहते हैं। भारत के अन्य प्रान्तों की तुलना में हमारा प्रान्त बहुतसे विषयों में पिछड़ा हुआ है। साथ ही हमारी समस्याएँ भी अनेक हैं। लेकिन फिर भी यह हमारे लिए बड़ी ही खुशी की बात है कि गत वर्ष के बजट अधिवेशन के अवसरपर जिस तरह की बड़ी बड़ी तथा विकट समस्याएँ हमारे सम्मुख थीं और जिस प्रकार सारे प्रान्त में एक अशांतिपूर्ण वातावरण छाया हुआ था जैसे कि तेल-शोधनागार की समस्या, नागा पहाड़ की समस्या और इसी तरह की और और बहुत सी समस्याएँ थीं। वे आज नहीं हैं। यह बड़ी खुशी की बात है कि हमारे प्रान्त के सुयोग्य तथा दूरदर्शी नेता और जनता के अधिक परिश्रम और सहयोग के कारण इन समस्याओं का सुखद समाधान हुआ है। हमारी सरकार ने भी बड़ी तत्परता और दृढ़ता के साथ इन समस्याओं का समाधान किया है इसलिये सरकार धन्यवाद के पात्र है।

आज भी हमारे प्रान्त के सामने बहुतसा गुरुत्वपूर्ण समस्याएँ हैं। इन सब समस्याओं का समाधान करना कोई आसान काम नहीं है। वास्तव में किसी भी सरकार के लिये यह बड़ा ही कठिन काम है। इन सब समस्याओं का कोई भी सरकार एक ही साथ समाधान नहीं कर सकती है। धीरे धीरे तथा सरकार एवं जनता की संयुक्त शक्ति और सहयोग से ही इन समस्याओं का समाधान हो सकता है। इसी दृष्टिकोण से हमारे अर्थ मंत्री महोदय ने बजट बनाकर हमारे सम्मुख रखा है। इसके लिये हम उनको हार्दिक धन्यवाद ज्ञापन करते हैं और साथ ही इस बजट का पूर्ण समर्थन करते हैं।

माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय ! बजट के समर्थन के साथ ही कुछ अत्यन्त आवश्यकीय विषयों के प्रति मैं अपनी सरकार की दृष्टि आकर्षण करना चाहता हूँ।

केवल हमारे प्रान्त में ही नहीं बल्कि सारे देश में आज अधिक अन्न उत्पादन का आन्दोलन बहुत जोरों के साथ चल रहा है इस आन्दोलन को सफल बनाने के लिये तथा देश के सम्मुख जो खाद्य समस्या उपस्थित हुई है उसका समाधान करने के लिये हमारी सरकार और जनता सम्मिलित रूपसे प्रयास कर रही है। इस के कारण हमारी खाद्य-समस्या को सुलझाने में बड़ी मदद मिली है। इस समस्यापर हमारे अर्थमंत्री महोदय ने काफी प्रकाश डाला है। लेकिन इस आन्दोलन को हमें और भी शक्तिशाली बनाना है। खाद्य-समस्या समाधान के रास्तेपर जो जो बाधाएँ हैं उन सब को दूर करने से ही इस आन्दोलन को हम पूर्णरूपसे सफलवान बना सकते हैं। जैसे कि आप जानते ही हैं की हमारे प्रान्त में लाखों ऐसे कृषक हैं जो भूमिहीन हैं। दूसरों की भूमि खजाने में लेकर वे लोग खेती करते हैं। उनके पास उनकी निजी जमीन नहीं है। जमीन के मालिक आज भी अपनी इच्छा के अनुसार इन गरीब किसानों लोगोंपर जुल्म और अत्याचार करते हैं। यह सही है कि जमीन्दारों अन्याय तथा जुल्मों से गरीब किसानों को बचाने के लिये हमारी सरकार ने तरह तरह के कानून बनाये हैं। लेकिन इनसे हमारी मूल समस्या का समाधान नहीं हो सकता है। भूमिहीन किसानों को भूमि देकर ही हम इस समस्या का उचित समाधान कर सकते हैं। आप जानते हैं कि हमारे प्रान्त में विशेषकर

डिब्रुगढ़ सबडिविजन में बहुतसे ऐसे बेनामी जमीन्दार हैं जिनके पास सैकड़ों एवं हजारों बिघा जमीन पड़ी हुई है। भूमिहीन किसानों को खजाने में बेकार ये जमीन्दार खेती कराते हैं। अतएव मैं अपनी सरकार से अनुरोध करता हूँ कि इस बेनामी जमीन्दारों से ये जमीन लेकर भूमिहीन किसानों में वितरण कर दें जिससे हमारी खाद्य-समस्या के समाधान में सहायता हो और साथ ही भूमिहीन किसानों की समस्या का भी समाधान हो सके।

इसी तरह कृषि के साथ सम्बन्धित पशुधन के विषय में भी मैं अपनी सरकार की कृपादृष्टि का आकर्षण करना चाहता हूँ। आज जिस तरह हमारे प्रान्त में पशुधन का ह्रास हो रहा है वह हमारे लिये एक चिन्ता का विषय है। पशुधन की रक्षा के लिये हमारी सरकार ने उचित कारवाई की है और इसके लिये जरूरी कानून भी बना रखे हैं। नश्ल की उन्नति के लिये भी सरकार ने योजना बना रखी है। लेकिन फिर भी हमें इस विषयपर गम्भीरतापूर्वक विचार करना है। आशा है हमारी सरकार इस बारे में गम्भीरतापूर्वक विचार करेगी और शीघ्र ही ऐसी कोई योजना बनायेगी जिससे हमारे पशुधन का ह्रास न होने पावे।

इसके अलावा भी कृषिकृण देने में और खाद्य जैसी जरूरी चीजों के वितरण में भी कोई त्रुटियाँ हैं। उन्हें दूर करने से तथा खेती के उपयोगी साधन उचित समयपर हमारे कृषकों के पास पहुँचाने से अधिक खाद्य उत्पादन आन्दोलन का अधिक बल प्राप्त होगा। बेनामी जमीन्दारों से जमीन ले लेनी चाहिये और हमारे भूमिहीन कृषक भाइयों में वितरण कर देना चाहिये। इससे भी खाद्य-समस्या समाधान में हमें बल मिलेगा।

महोदय ! भारतवर्ष के अन्य प्रान्तों की तुलना में उद्योगिय एवं अर्थनैतिक विषयों में हमारे यह प्रान्त बहुत ही दुर्बल है। यही कारण है कि यहां के अधिक लोगों के जीवन में रोटी और रोजी की समस्या हमेशा जटीलतर रूप धारण करती आयी है। किन्तु यह हमारे लिये बड़ी खुशी की बात है कि हमारे अर्थमंत्री महोदय ने इस दिशा में भी प्रकाश डाला है। उन्होंने भाषण में यह स्पष्ट रूप से दिखाया है कि औद्योगिक विकास में सरकार की नीति कौन सी है और किन किन बड़े उद्योगों की स्थापना करने के लिये हमारी सरकार अपना कदम उठा रही है। अर्थमंत्री महोदय ने जूट और कागज जैसे वृहत् उद्योगों का जिक्र किया है। इस सम्बन्ध में उन्होंने बताया है कि हमारी सरकार इन उद्योगों की स्थापना करने के लिये तेजी से कदम बढ़ा रही है और इसके लिये बड़ी बड़ी कम्पनियों के साथ सम्बन्ध स्थापित हो चुका है। यह बड़ी खुशी की बात है कि इस दिशा में प्रोत्साहन देने के लिये सरकार ने कई पार्टियों को कर्ज भी दिया है। आशा है हमारे ये प्रयास सफलभूत होंगे और हम अपने औद्योगिक विकास के क्षेत्र में संतोषजनक रूप से आगे बढ़ सकेंगे। इसलिये हमारी सरकार बधाई के पात्र है। लेकिन इस विषयमें जनता के बीच एक उद्वेग तथा असन्तुष्टि की भावना उत्पन्न हुई है जिसका होना बहुत हद तक स्वाभाविक भी है। वह यह है कि इन स्कीमोंमेंसे एक भी अभी तक पूर्णरूपसे तैयार होकर हमारे सामने नहीं आयी है। इस बारे में हमारे प्रान्त की जनता में कुछ असंतोष भी है। और जनता इसकी चर्चा भी करती है। इसलिये मेरा सुझाव यह है कि इन स्कीमोंमेंसे कम से कम एक ही स्कीम को पूर्ण शक्ति लगाकर वास्तव रूप दें ताकि जनता को संतोष हो।

आज हमारे लिये यह बड़ा ही हर्ष का विषय है कि सरकार के साथ ही हमारे प्रान्त के व्यापारी बन्धुगण भी औद्योगिक विकास के लिये कटीबद्ध हुवे हैं और इस ओर वे जोरों की तैयारी कर रहे हैं। इस विकास के लिये सरकार की तरफ से व्यापारियों को बार बार आह्वान किया गया है एवं हर तरह के सहयोग का आश्वासन भी दिया गया है।

तिनसुकिया, गौहाटी और डिब्रुगढ़ के बहुत से व्यापारी वन्धु इस दिशा में आगे बढ़े हैं और उन्होंने लाखों रुपये खर्च किये हैं। अब सरकार को भी इन्हें उत्साह प्रदान करना चाहिये। अपने औद्योगिक केन्द्रों की स्थापना के लिये जिन चीजों तथा साधनों की आवश्यकता होती है जैसे कि टिन, सिमेन्ट, लोहा-लकड़ और अन्यान्य आवश्यकीय साधनों को जल्द से जल्द और उचित समयपर इनके पास पहुंचाना चाहिये। विशेष कर तिनसुकिया जैसे औद्योगिक स्थानों में बिजली-शक्ति का प्रवन्ध करना चाहिये। क्योंकि बिजली-शक्ति के बिना ये उद्योग संभव नहीं हैं। बिजली-शक्ति के न मिलने के कारण हमारे उद्योगपतियों को काफी दिक्कतें उठानी पड़ रही हैं।

यह बड़ी खुशी की बात है कि सरकार की तरफ से इन कठिनाइयों को दूर करने की चेष्टा की जा रही है। लेकिन इस दिशा में और भी प्रगति की आवश्यकता है। सरकार और भी शीघ्रता के साथ इन कठिनाइयों को दूर करके हमारे उद्योग करनेवाले वन्धुओं को सहायता पहुंचाये तो मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि हमारे प्रान्त में भी उद्योग-धंधे खिल उठेंगे। हमें आशा ही नहीं बल्कि पूरा विश्वास है कि सरकार इस बारे में गंभीरतापूर्वक विचार करेगी और व्यापारी वन्धुओं को उद्योग सम्बन्धी उनको आवश्यकीय चीजों की प्राप्ति में सहायता पहुंचायेगी।

अध्यक्ष महोदय ! अब मैं डिब्रुगढ़ जिले की कुछ विशेष विशेष समस्याओं के बारे में भी इस सदन के सामने दो चार बातें रखना चाहता हूं। आपको मालूम है कि दिहींग नदी के काटने के कारण हजारों लोगों को बड़ा भारी नुकसान होता है। इसके अलावा इस नदी की बाढ़ के कारण नाहरकटिया और उसके आस पास के अन्यान्य स्थानों को हमेशा बहुत नुकसान होता है। मैं सरकार से विनम्र निवेदन करता हूं कि इस नदी को नियंत्रित करने की जल्द से जल्द कोई व्यवस्था करें और इस नदी से बिजली उत्पन्न करके इस इलाके के रहनेवाले लाखों लोगों को फायदा पहुंचाये। नदी नियंत्रण की योजना के अन्दर इस नदी को रखना अत्यन्त आवश्यक है। आशा है सरकार इस ओर भी उचित कारवाई करेगी।

इसके अलावा नाहरकटिया, मराण और माकुम जैसे स्थानों को विकास की सुविधायें देनी चाहिये। इन स्थानों के लिये टाउन कमेटियां मंजूर करनी चाहिये ताकि यहां के निवासियों को विकास की सुविधायें प्राप्त हो। मैं सरकार से निवेदन करता हूं कि मेरे इस सुझाव के प्रति विशेष मनोयोग दें।

डिब्रुगढ़ जिले में अब भी ऐसे हजारों परिवार हैं जो पिछले भूमिकम्प और उसके बाद की बाढ़ों से पीड़ित हुये थे। नदी के काटने ने भी हजारों लोगों को बेघरवार बना दिया है। इन पीड़ित लोगों को फिर से बसाने के लिये सरकार को उचित कारवाई करनी चाहिये। इन लोगों के लिये जमीन और घरवार बनाने के लिये आवश्यकीय ऋण आदि देने की व्यवस्था करें।

हमारे जिले में और आसाम के अन्यान्य जिलों में भी बहुत से फारेष्ट विलेज हैं। यह बड़े ही दुख की बात है कि इन फारेष्ट विलेज में रहनेवाले भाइयों को स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा और इस तरह की अन्यान्य सुविधायें नहीं मिलती हैं। इन सुविधाओं से यहां रहनेवाले वंचित हैं। मैं सरकार से अनुरोध करता हूं इन गांवों में रहनेवाले भाइयों के लिये भी सभी तरह की नागरिक सुविधाओं का प्रवन्ध करें।

असम में तेल-शोधनागार स्थापना के विषय में माननीय जयपुर समष्टी के सदस्य महोदय ने जो अपना विचार प्रगट किया है उसका मैं समर्थन करता हूँ।

हमने देखा है कि हमारी सरकार समवाय समितियों को प्रोत्साहन देने के बारे में काफी प्रचार करती है। लेकिन यह बड़े ही दुख का विषय है कि हमारे जिले में ऐसी बहुत सी समवाय समितियाँ हैं जिन्हें सरकार की ओर से कोई भी प्रोत्साहन नहीं मिला है, उदाहरण के तौर पर मैं डिसांग समवाय समिति को आपके सामने रख सकता हूँ। सन् १९५४ में ही इस समिति की रैजिस्ट्रेशन हुई थी। इस समिति में करीब ७४ सदस्य हैं। इस समिति ने नाहरकटिया पार घाट को लेने के लिये बहुत कोशिश की थी। किन्तु यह बड़े दुख की बात है उस समिति को यह पार घाट नहीं दिया गया। इसी तरह नाहरकटिया फिसारी को-अपरेटिव सोसाइटी को भी फिसारी महल नहीं दिया गया है। नाहरकटिया फिसारी को-अपरेटिव सोसाइटी में भी करीब १०८ सदस्य हैं। इस सोसाइटी के सदस्य पिछड़े हुये जाति के हैं। ये लोग मछली का ही व्यापार करते हैं। इतना होते हुये भी यह सोसाइटी को इस फिसारी महल का न मिलना दुख की बात है।

आखिर में मैं तिनसुकिया के बारे में भी दो-चार बातें कहना चाहता हूँ। सरकार ने तिनसुकिया और गौहाटी को टाउन प्लैनिंग स्कीम के अन्दर रखा है। यह तिनसुकियावासी जनता के लिये बड़ा ही हर्ष का विषय है। इसके लिये मैं सरकार को हार्दिक धन्यवाद देता हूँ। अब सरकार से मेरा यही अनुरोध है कि टाउन प्लैनिंग का जो स्कीम बनाया गया है उसे जल्द से जल्द कार्यान्वित करें।

व्यापारिक तथा औद्योगिक दृष्टि से तिनसुकिया अपना एक अलग स्थान रखता है। प्रान्तभर में इस शहर का एक विशेष महत्व है। किन्तु इस महत्वपूर्ण शहर के लिये अग्नि-निर्वापक यंत्र का कोई व्यवस्था का न होना बड़े ही खेद का विषय है। अग्नि-निर्वापक व्यवस्था अर्थात् फायर फाइटिंग व्यवस्था के न होने के कारण यहां कई बार बड़ा भारी नुकसान हुवा है; कईबार यहां आग लगने की दुर्घटना हुई है और प्रत्येक ही बार कई व्यापारियों को तथा शहर के अन्य नागरिकों को सर्वस्वान्त होना पड़ा है। तिनसुकिया म्यूनिसिपालिटी अपने शहर के लिये अग्नि-निर्वापक यंत्र आदि मंगाना चाहती है। किन्तु अर्थ की कमी के कारण म्यूनिसिपालिटी समर्थ नहीं हो सकी है। सरकार से मेरा अनुरोध है कि इस अत्यावश्यकीय समस्या की ओर विशेष ध्यान दें। सरकार फायर फाइटिंग योजना को प्रथम स्थान दें और तिनसुकिया के लिये जल्द से जल्द फायर ब्रिगेड की व्यवस्था करें।

इसके अलावा तिनसुकिया का Water Supply Drainage, रास्ता आदि समस्याओं की ओर भी सरकार की कृपादृष्टि का आकर्षण करना चाहता हूँ। आसाम के इस महत्वपूर्ण शहर के रास्तों और नालों की व्यवस्था बड़ी ही शोचनीय है। वास्तव में यहां नालों और रास्तों की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है। यहां के रास्ते उबड़-खवड़ हैं। नालों का हाल यह है कि जहां जाइये वहीं दुर्गन्धी हि मिलेगा। मैं पहले ही कह चुका हूँ कि व्यापारिक और औद्योगिक दृष्टि से तिनसुकिया शहर प्रान्तभर में अपना महत्वपूर्ण स्थान रखता है। यहां बहुतसे लोग हमेशा बाहर से आते हैं। किन्तु शहर का हाल ऐसा है कि वह हमारे लिये लज्जा का विषय है। आप को मालूम होगा कि तिनसुकिया की म्यूनिसिपालिटी ने शहर की उन्नति के लिये एक योजना बनाई है। मैं अपनी सरकार से

अनुरोध करता हूँ कि इस महत्वपूर्ण शहर की उन्नति तथा विकास के लिये हमारी सरकार सक्रिय सहयोग दे तथा उसके लिये आवश्यकीय सहायता पहुंचाये।

किरायेदारों की समस्या भी हमारे लिये एक चिन्तनीय विषय है। हमने देखा है कि मकान के मालिक हमेशा अपने किरायेदारों पर अनुचितरूप से जोर-जुल्म और अन्याय का आचरण करते हैं। मकान-मालिक अपने किरायेदारों से ठीक समयपर मकान का किराया ले लेते हैं, किन्तु वे इन किरायेदारों की सुख-सुविधाओं के प्रति बिलकुल ध्यान नहीं देते हैं। मकान के मालिक १०-१२ सालों तक मकान की मरम्मत नहीं करवाते। सरकार ने शहर के मकानों का किराया नियंत्रित करने के लिये एक कानून बनाया है। किन्तु वास्तव क्षेत्र में उस कानून से किरायेदारों को कोई विशेष फायदा नहीं हुआ है। उस कानून में आवश्यकीय परिवर्तन करना चाहिये जिससे कि किरायेदारों की समस्या का समाधान हो।

आखिर में पुलिस व्यवस्था की बृद्धियों के प्रति हमारी सरकार की दृष्टि आकर्षण करना चाहता हूँ। पुलिस की बृद्धियों के कारण हमारे प्रान्त में चोरी, डकैती, पाकिटमारी और हत्या आदि अपराधों की वृद्धि हो रही है। जूबेका प्रकोप बढ़ रहा है। अभी हाल ही में तिनमुकिया में एक व्यापारी की हत्या हो गयी है। किन्तु यह बड़े ही आश्चर्य और साथ ही खेद का विषय है कि आज तक यह हत्याकारी पकड़ा नहीं जा सका। इसी तरह पुलिस की आंखों में धूल झोंककर चोर-गुंडे और बदमाश लोग अपना काम कर रहे हैं और लोगों को परेशान कर रहे हैं। तिनमुकिया के इस व्यापारी की हत्या एवं अपराधी का न पकड़ना पुलिस की अकर्मण्यता का परिचायक है। आशा है कि हमारी सरकार पुलिस को ऐसा कड़ा आदेश दे कि अपराधियों को जल्द से जल्द पकड़े।

अध्यक्ष महोदय ! आखिर मैं आप को अपने हृदय से धन्यवाद देता हूँ। आप ने मुझे इस सदन में बोलने तथा अपने प्रान्त की समस्याओं के प्रति हमारी सरकार की दृष्टि का आकर्षण करने के लिये जो मौका दिया है उसके लिये मैं आपको प्रति अति कृतज्ञ हूँ, और इसके लिये मैं आप को अशेष धन्यवाद देता हूँ।

***Shri RADHACHARAN CHAUDHURI (Boko):** गानगीर अध्यापक महोदय, १९५८-५९ जनर बजेट विभागकी महोदय ऐह सदनत दाङ्गि बनि चवकाब आग्न बायब शिचाब गगालोचना कबाब एठा ख्याग दिशाब काबणे मई तेथेतक धन्याबद जनाईछे।

***Mr. SPEAKER:** Will you please resume to your seat? I notice that one hon. Member has brought a stick or an umbrella in the House which is not permissible.

***Shri RADHA CHARAN CHAUDHURY :** आक बहते कथाब काबणे तेथेत आगाब धन्याबदर पात्र। आजि आगाब देशब उन्नयनमूलक आचनि बिलाक अफुग्न बथात यथेष्ट टका-पईछाब दबकाब हैछे। ऐह खबछ-बिलाक संकेत नकबात, ईगान अभावब सन्मुखीन हैयौ बाईजब उपबत कोनो नतुन कब धार्या नकबात, अगमब बाईजब तेथेत धन्याबदर पात्र। ईगाब उपबिउ तेथेत दुखीया कम बेतन पौरा चाकबीयाल सकलर प्रति यि गहानुभूति देखुराईछे ताब काबणे

তেখেতক ধন্যবাদ নিদি নোৱাৰো। বিশেষকৈ নিম্ন প্ৰাইমেৰী স্কুলৰ শিক্ষক সকলক ৫ টকা হিচাবে এটা Flat rate ত Dearness allowance দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা কাৰণে তেখেতে সকলোৰে আন্তৰিক ধন্যবাদ পাইছে।

বহু Temporary চাকৰীয়ালক Permanent কৰিছে—অকল Transport বিভাগতে প্ৰায় ৭০০ ব ওপৰ কৰ্মচাৰী Permanent কৰিছে। আমাৰ ৰাজ্যত যেতিয়া খাদ্য সমস্যা উৎকট হৈ উঠিছিল তেতিয়া তেখেতে Procurement প্ৰথা বলৱৎ কৰি ১০ লাখ মোণ ধান সংগ্ৰহ কৰিছে। ইতিমধ্যে ৫ লাখ মোণ মানৰ ওপৰ ধান সংগ্ৰহ কৰাত আমি সন্তোষ পাইছো। অৱশ্যে আমাৰ ৰাজ্যত খাদ্যৰ উৎপাদন লোকসংখ্যা অনুপাতে বৃদ্ধি হোৱা নাই। এই বিলাকৰ এটা সমন্বয় কৰাৰ কাৰণে জনসংখ্যা নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰাৰ যি Family Planning ৰ আঁচনি লৈছে সি অতি সুন্দৰ কথা। এই বিলাক গঠনৰ অৰ্থে Special Officer নিয়োগ কৰি চৰকাৰে কাৰ্য্যত তৎপৰতা দেখুৱাত সন্তোষ পাইছো।

অৱশ্যে Major Industry বিলাকৰ গঠনৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে যি বকমে কাম কৰিব লাগিছিল সেই বকমে হোৱা নাই, তাৰ কাৰণে আমি দুখ পাইছো। বোধকৰো গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ কিছুমান খাম-খেয়ালীৰ বাবে এই কাম বিলাকত আগ বাঢ়িব পৰা নাই। আমাৰ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ মন্ত্ৰীসকল একেবাৰে Constituency-minded হোৱাই ইয়াৰ এটা প্ৰধান কাৰণ। আমি ভাবো যে যেতিয়া এজন মন্ত্ৰী হয়, তেখেতে ভবা দৰ্কাৰ তেখেত অকল তেখেতৰ Constituency ৰ হৈ মন্ত্ৰী নহয়—তেখেত গোটেই অসমৰ মন্ত্ৰী। প্ৰত্যেকজনে মন্ত্ৰীয়ে সমগ্ৰ অসমৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে চকু দিয়া দৰ্কাৰ বুলি ভাবো। এনে ধৰণৰ নীতিৰ ফলত আমি দেখিছো যে যিবিলাক Project হৈ আছে সেই বিলাক ঠিকমতে Distribute হোৱা নাই। য'ত হৈছে, হৈছেই, য'ত হোৱা নাই নায়েই।

Sir, বকো সমষ্টিত প্ৰায় ২২ হাজাৰৰ ওপৰ ট্ৰাইবেল মানুহ আছে। গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ যি National Extension Service Block ৰ Scheme আছে আমি জন্মাত সেই বিলাক প্ৰধানকৈ পিচপৰা অঞ্চলত দিব লাগে। কিন্তু আজি ৬ বছৰে দেখা গৈছে যে, বকো ট্ৰাইবেল অঞ্চলত এটাও Community Project বা National Extension Service Block হোৱা নাই। এই মানুহ বিলাকৰ এই বিষয়ে যথেষ্ট আগ্ৰহ আছে; তথাপিও এতিয়ালৈকে এইবোৰ হোৱা নাই। তাৰ কাৰণে মানহ বিলাকৰ মনত বৰ দুখ। Sir, ইয়াৰ বাহিৰেও এই বকো অঞ্চলৰ ট্ৰাইবেল মানুহ বিলাকে মুগা, এড়ি এইবোৰ খুব ভালদৰে rear আৰু grow কৰে কিন্তু আজিলৈকে সেই অঞ্চলত Sericulture Farm এখনো হোৱা নাই। যোৱা বছৰ মই শ্ৰীযুত ব্ৰহ্ম মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ লগত সেই অঞ্চললৈ গৈছিলো। তেখেতে নিজে দেখি আহিছে কেনেকৈ তেওঁলোকে মুগা আৰু এড়ি পুহিছে। তেওঁলোকে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ পৰা পইছাৰ সহায় বা পৰামৰ্শ লোৱা নাই। সেই কাৰণে তেওঁবিলাকে দুখ কৰিছে। এই বিলাক অঞ্চল কি কাৰণে develop কৰা নহয় তাক বুজিব পৰা নাই। কিন্তু আমি ইয়াকে বুজিছো যে, য'ত মন্ত্ৰী নাই তাত এই দৰে কাম পেলাই থয়।

Sir, মই এগ্ৰিকালচাৰৰ সন্মুখ অলপ ক'ব খুজিছোঁ। আজি অসমত পানীৰ যোগানৰ অসুবিধাত খাদ্য উৎপাদন বেচি হোৱা নাই। খাদ্য উৎপাদনৰ বাবে আজি গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ তৰফৰ পৰা fertiliser, জাপানী পদ্ধতি আদি scheme উলিয়াইছে। অৱশ্যে এই scheme বিলাক বেয়া বুলি কোৱা নাই। কিন্তু আমি যি দেখিছো, বিশেষকৈ অসমত ধানৰ খেতি কৰিবলৈ হলে পানীৰ যোগান আৱশ্যক।

শালি খেতিয়েই হওক বা বাও খেতিয়েই হওক নাইবা আলু খেতিয়েই হওক তাত যদি প্রচুর পৰিমাণে পানী নাপায় বা over-flooded হয় তেনেহলে খেতি হব নোৱাৰে। সেইকাৰণে Agriculture আমাৰ main target হব লাগে। আজি জাপানী পদ্ধতিত যিখিনি জোৰ দিছে তাতকৈ বহুত বেচি গুণে জোৰ দিব লাগিব পানী যোগানৰ কাৰণে। আজি জাপানী পদ্ধতিত খেতি ভাল হোৱা বুলি আমাৰ মনত নধৰে আৰু যিবিলাক fertiliser দিছে তাকো ধান খেতিৰ নিমিত্তে উপযোগী বুলি নাভাবো। কাৰণ, অসমৰ মাটি এনেয়ে সাকৰা, তাতে যদি fertiliser দিয়া হয়, তেন্তে ধান গছৰ পাতবোৰ শক্তিশালী হয় কিন্তু গুটি শক্তিশালী নহয়। এই fertiliser শাক পাচলিৰ খেতিত দিলে শাক পাচলি শক্তিশালী হব পাৰে। কিন্তু ধান গছৰ পাত যদি বেচি হয় আৰু গুটি কম হয় তেনেহলে ধান খেতিত এই fertiliser দিয়াৰ অৰ্থ নাই। সেই কাৰণে এইটো ভাল দৰে পৰীক্ষা কৰি চাবলৈ গৱৰ্ণমেন্টক অনুৰোধ জনাওঁ। আজিলৈকে মাটি test কৰা হোৱা নাই। মাটি test নকৰিলে acid--এই বেচি নে আন কোনো mineral--এই বেচি আছে তাক জানিব নোৱাৰি। সেইটো নাচাই যথেষ্টে য'তে ত'তে যি পাৰে দিলে ভালতকৈ বেয়াহে বেচি হয়। সেই কাৰণে মই কওঁ যে irrigation, water supply, দোং আদিত বেচি খৰচ কৰিব লাগে আৰু developmentৰ টকা water supply ত খৰচ কৰা উচিত হব বুলি মই ভাবো আৰু এইটো কথা বিবেচনা কৰিবলৈ চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ জনাওঁ।

Sir, মই এতিয়া শিক্ষা বিভাগৰ বিষয়ে অলপ কম। Basic Education ৰ কাৰণে অসম গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে সাজিপাৰি ওলাইছে। কিন্তু অসমৰ leader সকলৰ ল'ৰা-ছোৱালী বিলাকক Basic Education দিয়া হৈছে নে? কিন্তু গাঁৱলীয়া আৰু খেতিয়ক সকলৰ ল'ৰা-ছোৱালীক Basic Education দিয়া হৈছে। তাৰ কাৰণে ৰাইজৰ মনত আশংকা হৈছে যে Basic Education গাঁৱলীয়া মানুহৰ কাৰণেহে নেকি! যি সকলে লিখাপঢ়া জানে তেওঁলোকৰ আৰু leader সকলৰ কাৰণে Public School দিব আৰু সাধাৰণ গাঁৱলীয়া মানুহৰ কাৰণে Basic School থাকিব। যদিহে Basic School কেই শিক্ষাৰ প্ৰধান কেন্দ্ৰ বুলি ধৰি লৈছে, তেন্তে leader সকলৰ ল'ৰা-ছোৱালীকো Basic School ত দিব বুলি প্ৰাৰ্থনা জনাওঁ।

শিক্ষা বিভাগৰ বাজেটত দেখা গৈছে যে new scheme ৰ কাৰণে ভালেমান টকা ধৰিছে। সেইটো দেখি আমি ভাল পাইছো। New scheme ৰ ভিতৰত ছোৱালীৰ হোষ্টেল বন্ধাৰ কাৰণে Aided স্কুল বিলাকক এক লাখ টকা দিব বুলি বাজেটত ধৰিছে। বকো সমষ্টিৰ গোহালকোনা স্কুলত গাবো ল'ৰা-ছোৱালী বিলাকে পঢ়ে। তাত শতকৰা ৫০ ভাগ ছোৱালী আছে। এই টকাবোৰ যদি কেৱল ছোৱালীৰ হাইস্কুলৰ হোষ্টেলৰ কাৰণে খৰচ কৰা হয়, তেনেহলে এনেকুৱা স্কুলবোৰ বন্ধিত হব যদিও সেইবোৰত যথেষ্ট পৰিমাণে Girl Student আছে। যদিও সেই ঠাইৰ ৰাইজে এখন বেলেগ ছোৱালীৰ হাইস্কুল পাতিবলৈ হাতত লৈছে আৰু যদিও এইখন ল'ৰাৰ হাইস্কুল তথাপি এই স্কুলত শতকৰা ৫০ ভাগ ছোৱালীয়ে পঢ়ে। সেই কাৰণে এই এক লাখ টকাৰ যেতিয়া distribution হব তেতিয়া যেন এই স্কুলখনে এটা ভাগ পায় তাৰ কাৰণে অনুৰোধ জনালো।

[A voice : ২৭৫ নং article অৰ টকাৰ ভাগ পাব নহয়?]

Girl Student ৰ কাৰণে এই টকা ধৰা হৈছে। সেই কাৰণে যতে Girl Student থাকে তাতে দিয়া উচিত।

তাৰ পিচত বাজেটত দেখিছো যে ধুবুৰী আৰু কোকৰাঝাৰত দুটা Education Circle হ'ব। দুটা Circle কৰিব খোজাত আনি ভাল পাইছো। দেখা গৈছে ধুবুৰী আৰু কোকৰাঝাৰ circle ত এহাজাৰৰো কিছু কম Lower Primary School আছে কিন্তু Gauhati Subdivision ত ২ হাজাৰৰও ওপৰ Lower Primary স্কুল আছে। যদি কোকৰাঝাৰ আৰু ধুবুৰীৰ ভিতৰত দুটা স্কুল বোর্ড বা Circle হ'ব পাৰে তেনেহলে গুৱাহাটী চাবডিভিজনত চাৰিটা বোর্ড কিয় হ'ব নোৱাৰে মই বুজি নাপাও। এই বিষয়ে গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াই এটা Resolutionও আনিছিল, কিন্তু গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে কিয় মত দিয়া নাই ক'ব নোৱাৰো। গতিকে মই গবৰ্ণমেণ্টক অনুৰোধ জনাইছো যে গুৱাহাটীত স্কুলবোর্ড আৰু বেচি কৰি দিব লাগে। আৰু এটা কথা মই ক'ব খুজিছো—কথানো যাতে গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে ভাবি চায়।

আমাৰ দেশত বিশেষকৈ অসমত Middle Vernacular আৰু Middle English দুটা শ্ৰেণীৰ স্কুল আছে। Middle Vernacular স্কুলত ল'ৰা-ছোৱালীৰ সংখ্যা অতি কম। একেবাৰে পঢ়াত বেয়া ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰী বিলাকহে Middle Vernacular স্কুললৈ যায়। ভাল ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰী বিলাক হাইস্কুললৈ যায়। সেই কাৰণে Middle Vernacular School ৰ অৱস্থা অতি বেয়া। আকৌ যিবোৰ ল'ৰাই Middle Vernacular পাচ কৰি high school ত পঢ়িবলৈ যায় তেওঁলোকক Class V ত হে admission দিয়ে। তাতেই তেওঁলোকৰ ২ বছৰ লোকচান হৈ যায়। সেই কাৰণে মেট্ৰিক পাচ কৰোতে তেওঁলোকৰ ২৫ বছৰ হয়। সেই কাৰণে মই ভাবো Middle Vernacular আৰু Middle English ৰ ঠাইত Middle English School কৰি ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰীক ইংৰাজী শিক্ষাৰ সুবিধা দি এই গোলমালটো দূৰ কৰা উচিত। মই আশা কৰিলো এই কথা চৰকাৰে তথা Education Department এ বিবেচনা কৰি চাব। ইয়াৰ কাৰণে হয়তো centre ৰ approval ল'ব লাগিব পাৰে। ইয়াৰ কাৰণে যি বিলাক formalities আছে সেই বোৰৰ বিষয়ে চৰকাৰে বিবেচনা কৰি আৰু দৰকাৰ পৰিলে central ৰ approval লৈ শিক্ষা বিষয়ৰ এই বেমেজালিটো দূৰ কৰিব বুলি আশা কৰিলো।

ভেটাৰিনাৰিৰ বিষয়ে অলপ ক'ব খোজো। এইবাৰ চৰকাৰে কেইখনমান ভেটাৰিনাৰি হাস্পতাল লোৱাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা দেখি সুখী হৈছো। আগতে নিয়ম আছিল বাইজে ভেটাৰিনাৰী হাস্পতালৰ ঘৰবাৰি বান্ধি দিব লাগে। কিন্তু এনেকুৱা কিছুমান গাঁও আছে, য'ত ঘৰবাৰি বান্ধি দিয়াৰ ক্ষমতা বাইজৰ নাই। এতিয়া ঘৰবাৰি বান্ধি দিব নোৱাৰিলেও চৰকাৰে আৱশ্যক বুলি ভেটাৰিনাৰী হাস্পতাল দিব বুলি জানি আনন্দ পাইছো। সলগলি নামৰ এখন ঠাই আছে—তাত বসতি বৰ ঘন। সেই খন flood effected area। তাত বাইজৰ গৰু-মহ মৰি বাইজৰ বৰ হাহাকাৰ হৈছে। তাত ভেটাৰিনাৰী হাস্পতাল নাই। সনতলিত এখন ভেটাৰিনাৰী হাস্পতাল দিবৰ বাবে চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ জনালো।

Sir, Public Health Hospital এইবাৰ ৭ খন লৈছে। মই ভাবো প্ৰয়োজন অনুসৰি ৭ খন অতি কম হয়। Public Health হাস্পতালৰ অভাৱত দক্ষিণ সৰস্বংশৰ মৌজাৰ বাইজৰ চিকিৎসাৰ কোনো ব্যৱস্থাই হোৱা নাই। দু-বছৰৰ আগতে স্বাস্থ্যমন্ত্ৰী ব্ৰহ্ম ডাঙৰীয়া তালৈ গৈছিল আৰু আমাৰ লগত আমাৰ সদস্য বাধিকা দাস ডাঙৰীয়াও গৈছিল। মন্ত্ৰীমহোদয়ে তাত হাস্পতাল নথকাৰ কাৰণে দুখ প্ৰকাশ কৰি আহিছিল। এনে এখন ঠাইত Public Health Hospital নথকাত তেওঁ অতি বেজাৰ পাইছিল আৰু তাত অতি সোনকালে হাস্পতাল দিয়া হ'ব বুলি word দি আহিছিল। তাত হাস্পতাল আজিলৈকে হোৱা নাই। ব্ৰহ্ম ডাঙৰীয়াৰ ব্ৰহ্মবাক্য কিয় লঙ্ঘন হ'ল? তেখেতৰ ব্ৰহ্মবাক্য যাতে লংঘন নহয় তাৰ বাবে অনুৰোধ জনালো।

Sir, Public Works Department ৰ কাম কাজ বৰ slow হৈছে। মোৰ এলেকাতে মাত্ৰ ৪১৫টা বাস্তা যোৱা বাবেই লৈছিল, সেই বাস্তা আজিও সম্পূৰ্ণ হোৱা নাই। নগৰবেৰা বুলি এটা বাস্তা আছে তাৰ মানুহ গুৱাহাটীলৈ আহিবলৈ বৰ অসুবিধা। মামলা মোকদ্দমা ইত্যাদি বা আন আন বচত কামৰ কাৰণে তাৰ মানুহ গুৱাহাটীলৈ আহি থাকিব লগীয়া হয়। তেওঁলোক গোৱালপাৰা পাব হৈ ঘূৰি গুৱাহাটীলৈ আহিব লগাত পৰে। গতিকে হেকৰা-নগৰবেৰা-চুমৰিয়া আৰু সংকলিত বাস্তা যোগাযোগ ব্যৱস্থা কৰি দি ৰাইজৰ দুগতি দূৰ কৰিব বুলি আশা কৰিলো। এই বোৰ যোগাযোগ কৰোতেও বাস্তাৰ দূৰত্ব অতি সামান্য। মুঠ তেৰ মাইল মান বাস্তা খুলি দিলেই যোগাযোগৰ ব্যৱস্থা অতি সুবিধা হৈ পৰে। আশা কৰো চৰকাৰে ইয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব।

কৰেই বিভাগত টকা ধৰা দেখি বেয়া পোৱা নাই, কিন্তু যি পৰিমাণে গছ কটা হৈছে সেই পৰিমাণৰ Plantation হোৱা নাই। এজোপা গছ ডাঙৰ হওতে ৮০ বছৰ লাগে যদি এনেকুৱা এজোপা ডাঙৰ গছ কটা হয় তেনেকুৱা এজোপাগছৰ কাৰণে আমি আকৌ ৮০ বছৰ বৰ লাগিব। গতিকে সেই অবস্থা যাতে নহয় তাৰ বাবে সেই অনুপাতে Plantation ও হব লাগিব। আশা কৰিলো Forest Department এ এই বিষয়ে যাতে মন দিয়ে। অৰ্থাৎ যি অনুপাতে গছ কটা হয় তাৰ ২৫-৫০ গুণ গছ যাতে বোৱা হয়। আৰু এটা কথা কব খোজো যে মানুহে খৰি পাহাৰৰ পৰা অনাত বৰ দিগদাৰ পাইছে। কাৰণ forest permit লৈ মানুহে খৰি আনিবলৈ গ'লে ৪১৫ ফুটিয়া গছ নিবলৈ নিদিয়। যিবোৰ গছৰ কোনো মূল্য নাই মাত্ৰ খৰিব হে উপযুক্ত সেই বোৰ গছ ৪১৫ ফুটিয়া হলেও খৰিব বাবে নিদিয়া কথাটো দেখাত বুদ্ধি আছে যেন লাগে—কিন্তু এজোপা ডাঙৰ মূল্যহীন গছৰ পৰিবৰ্তে কেবা জোপাও সৰু সৰু গছ কাটিব লগীয়া হয়। কাৰণ এখন টুক ৰোজাই কৰিব-লগীয়া হলে বহুতো সৰু সৰু গছ কাটিব লগীয়া হয়। গতিকে এইটো কোনো মতেই economic হোৱা নাই। সৰু সোনাক পুলিত এটাৰ মূল্যৰ তুলনা ডাঙৰ মজ এজোপাৰ কোনো মূল্য নাই। গতিকে এই নীতিৰ দ্বাৰা চৰকাৰৰ লোকচানহে হৈছে। গতিকে এই নীতি টো চৰকাৰে পৰিবৰ্তন কৰিব বুলি আশা কৰিলো।

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the Hon'ble Finance Minister for his Budget speech on which the hon. Members have made their observations. But I am sorry to find that there is no mention in it about the Political sufferers, though this fact was mentioned in the Governor's Address.

Then I do not find any mention whatsoever either in the Governor's Address or in the Finance Minister's Budget speech about what provision has been made or contemplated for the improvement of the conditions of the other backward classes.

As regards the first, Sir, all hon. Members as also the public are aware that the position of India, and for the matter of that Assam, as an independent country, has been attained through the sufferings and sacrifices of these Political sufferers, and also by the dedication of the lives of the martyrs the "Sahids" I do not find any reference in Finance Minister's speech relating to the martyrs and Sahids. If we are grateful

to them and if we recognise their services and sacrifices, we must remember and cherish the ideal that they have placed before the country. Therefore, some steps should be taken to commemorate the names of the martyrs and the Sahids, which I feel would be befitting an independent country like ours. The names of the martyrs and the Sahids ranging from 1857 up to 1942—from the days of our Maniram Dewan, Piyali Phookan, U Tirath Singh to the days of Kanaklata, Kushal Kowar and others who fought and died for freedom of the country non-violently, and for which we are all proud, should be commemorated. Therefore, I would like to suggest that in a central place like Gauhati we should have a big monument just like the High Court building wherein all the names of the martyrs and the Sahids who laid their lives for the cause of the country nobly and gloriously could be engraved in golden letters. I discussed this matter with our Chief Minister, whether a monument could be raised for commemorating the names of those martyrs and Sahids who lost their lives in the 1942 Movement launched by the Congress, I am glad that the Chief Minister has given thought over the matter. For this purpose we need not depend on public contributions alone but the Government should take the entire responsibility. A non-official committee or Trust Board may be formed for management ultimately but the whole work must be done by Government. My suggestion to have the monument at Gauhati is guided by the facts that Gauhati is a place where the flowers of the whole nation—that is to say the young boys and girls of the country are there. If the monument is constructed there these young boys and girls—our future prospects—will have the opportunity to visit the memorial—read the names of the Sahids—receive inspirations and would try to mould their life and character accordingly.

Then as regards Political sufferers Government have done something and in the Governor's Address also reference has been made to the Political sufferers. I feel the Political sufferers are still suffering. I think the Government will make more provision to give relief to the Political sufferers who are still working and going from village to village even bare footed in connection with various constructive works and also for the implementation of schemes under our Second Five Year Plan proposed by our Government.

As regards the question of pension given to some political sufferers, I find that the pension allowed to these people varies from Rs.15 to 40, which is inadequate in meeting the basic demands of daily necessity. Therefore, if we want to give real relief to the pensioners, who are facing these difficulties, the

pension should be adequate enough to meet their two ends. I hope the Government will kindly consider this aspect of the matter and the rate of pension may be increased. In this connection I would like to make one suggestion: That is this—that on the first day of every Assembly Session we should start the business of this august House by observing one minute silence in remembrance of the martyrs. I place this suggestion for the kind consideration of the House. Then I come to the question of other backward classes. The hon. Members probably remember that the Backward Classes Commission travelled throughout the length and breadth of the country, and they also came to Assam. Because the Government of India felt that, besides, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of our country there are people who have been suffering terribly for want of education and other necessary facilities since the days of British this Commission was constituted with a view to examine whether their lot could be improved or not. This was done under distinct provision in the Constitution. We are very glad that the State and India Governments have provided funds for the upliftment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who are in darkness, ignorance and poverty still now.

Besides the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes there are also certain other classes of people in India who are more or less identical with Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and the Government of India felt that something should be done for them so that they can also advance both socially and educationally. With this end in view a Commission was constituted. This Commission travelled many parts of Assam and prepared a list of backward classes and made certain recommendations. Among those backward classes are also the *ex-tea* garden labourers and other labour population of Assam. These *ex-tea* garden labourers and tea labour population form a very important part of the population of Assam. Besides them, there are the tribal people from the hills who have migrated to the plains, for instance Mikirs, Garos, Khasis, etc., who live in the plains. But unfortunately they cannot claim the same privileges as are granted under the Constitution to the hills and plains tribal people. If we go deep into the interior areas in the plains we find how miserable their condition is. Most of them live almost naked. The reason perhaps is that they cannot afford to pay for their clothing to cover their body. This is the sight we see there. Therefore, Sir, something must be done for them.

What is the condition of the sweepers. Every one of us knows how they live, how they are housed, how they sleep, how they cook in the same house in which they sleep and cook. When we go to the Barabazar side we find what is their condition of living. After 10 years of our freedom if they ask us what we have done for them we cannot reply anything. We simply say that it is the duty of the Municipality concerned to do something for them and not the Assam Government or the Central Government. But we know well that it is the Government who are the guardian of these people. It is to be regretted that Municipality which is directly responsible for their welfare, have not done anything for them. The Municipality can raise money by imposing higher tax from the rate payers. But they could not do that. The Bhangis do the worst part of job that can be humanly conceived. They do the sweeping job and clear night soil when we are all fast asleep during the coldest season. So, instead of the officers rather they should be paid high salaries because they are never found to shirk from their responsibility. If the Municipality do not do anything for them, should the Government allow them to suffer and plead helplessness? Government being the guardian of these backward classes must do something to allow the sufferings of these wretched people. Next I deal with the other backward classes. Mr. Tudu, the other day, referred to some classes of *ex*-labourers of the Goalpara District. These *ex*-labourers deserve our sympathy. Let us give an example of the Ahom Community. Though there are M.L.As, Officers, etc., of this community, yet there are hundreds and thousands in the villages who are still backward. Similar is the case with the Boros, Kacharis and such other tribal people. Because there are M.L.As and Officers belonging to these communities, it cannot be said that their conditions have improved. So, among the caste Hindus also, there are some backward people who need special attention from us. The Backward Classes Commission made recommendations for the purpose of improving the conditions of these people. One is that scholarship should be granted for the benefit of the students of all the backward classes and the State Government should make adequate provision in the budget for this purpose. Next is that seats should be reserved in the veterinary and all other technical institutions with stipends and scholarships for the students of the Backward Classes. Provision should also be made for their higher technical education in foreign countries like England, America, etc. Like Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes the Backward Classes should also be given opportunity so that they may get inspiration to get higher qualifications.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M., on Monday, the 24th March, 1958.

Shillong:

The 30th May, 1959.

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

