

It is correct that Land Settlement Advisory Committee recommended settlement with 80 persons in the late 1930s. But only 321 rights 26 and 12 1 of land were actually settled and 103 rights 26 41 of land are being unoccupied, this being high land and nobody seems to take any more of the land. That land is scattered in 3 blocks. If my hon. friend says that the people are ready to occupy the land then this will be settled. That is the position.

Adjournment

The Assembly then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Monday, the 28th April 1938.

R. N. BARUA.

Secretary,
Legislative Assembly, Assam.

Shillong,
11th March 1938.

**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 Monday, the 28th April, 1958.

PRESENT

Shri Dev Kanta Barooah, B.A. LL.B., Speaker in the Chair,
the nine Ministers, the two Deputy Ministers and eighty-one
Members.

Oath of Allegiance

The following Member was sworn in:—

1. Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury.
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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

**Benefit of officers and employees of the Co-operative
Department by the recommendations of the last
Pay Committee**

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) asked :

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

- (a) Why the officers and employees of the Co-operative Department have not been benefited by the recommendations of the last Pay Committee ?
- (b) Whether Government propose to extend the benefit of the last Pay Committee to them ?
- (c) If so, when ?
- (d) If not, why ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Co-operative) replied :

213. (a)—Except the Assistant Registrar and Non-Graduate Deputy Co-operative Officers and Assistant Co-operative Officers all officers have got the benefit of the revised pay scales. The case of Chief Auditor and Co-operative Education Officers which was not previously considered by the Pay Committee is now under consideration.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c) & (d)—Do not arise.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) : What is the reason for excluding these officers ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Co-operative) : So far as the Assistant Registrar is concerned, his proposed revised pay scale has actually derogated his position. Therefore, the Department has referred this matter to the Finance Department. With regard to non-graduate A. C. Os. and D. C. Os., they were not given any new pay scales.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI : What is the reason for excluding the non-graduates and other D. C. Os. and A. C. Os. ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : It is known only to the Pay Committee.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) : May I know whether their cases are going to be considered by Government ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : I myself very much want them to be considered.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : Was the case of the Assistant Registrar placed before the Pay Committee ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Yes, Sir.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : What is the reason for the Pay Committee bringing down the pay scale of the Assistant Registrar ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : The pay scale has been brought down in this way: the original scale was Rs.200—25—600 and the revised pay scale is Rs.200—20—400—25—600. Therefore, his lot has not been improved: rather his position has been derogated.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : What are the reasons ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : I do not know the reasons; they are not apparent in the report.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Has this case been placed before the Government for consideration ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Yes, the matter is now in the Finance Department.

Shri KARKA CHANDRA DOLEY [North Lakhimpur (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: বড়মান্নে কোন কোন বিভাগে Pay Committee ৰ Recommendation ৰ Benefit পোৱা নাই তালিৰ পাবোনে ?

Mr. SPEAKER: That will not arise out of this question?

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): The Finance Minister has assured that any cases of anomalies if brought to the notice of the Government will be considered. May I know whether and when this case will be considered ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY (Minister, Co-operative): The Co-operative Department considered that these were cases of anomalies and hence they went to the Finance Department where they are under scrutiny.

Establishment of Jute, Paper Pulp and Silk Spinning Mill in the State

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding) asked :

*214. Will the Minister-in-charge of Major Industries Department be pleased to state—

- (a) What is the progress made so far in establishing Jute, Paper Pulp and Silk Spinning Mill in the State ?
- (b) Whether any handicap was faced by Government while establishing these Mills ?
- (c) If so, what steps Government have taken to overcome the same ?
- (d) Whether these Mills will be completed or will start functioning by the end of 2nd Five-Year Plan period ?

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

214. (a)—Regarding Jute Mill—

(i) Heads of agreement for State assistance in the form of loan of Rs.28.5 lakhs for a Jute Mill at Amingaon to Messrs Assam Jute Mill, Ltd., have been settled and an agreement with the party would have been executed very soon. But the party has raised some points about the period of repayment and the matter is under correspondence with the party. The party has secured necessary licenses and made arrangements for obtaining land. The machineries for the Jute mill have also been arranged from an existing Mill at Calcutta and would be obtained after execution of the agreement.

(ii) Regarding Paper Pulp Mill and Spun Silk Mill, the attention of the hon. Member is drawn to replies to question No.208 by Shri R. N. Sarma, M.L.A., and other supplementary questions arising therefrom on 15th March 1958. It is presumed that hon. Member means "Spun Silk Mill" by "Silk Spinning Mill".

(b)—Except for the usual delay entailed in securing the consent of all parties concerned on terms and conditions of the relevant agreements, leases, etc., no special handicap has been faced.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—It is expected that the Jute Mill would go into production by the end of 1959, the Paper Pulp Mill by 1962 and the Spun Silk Mill by 1960.

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding): May I know whether the Government has finalised the contract with the party who are to establish the jute mill, and if not, why not?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Major Industries): Practically all the terms have been finalised except one point, which has been mentioned, *viz.*, the clause of repayment. As soon as this is finalised the agreement will be signed.

Shri RAMNATH SARMA: As regards the paper pulp mill, has Government finalised the site and, if not, when will it be finalised?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: There has been some difficulty in coming to an agreement because the company proposed certain terms which were not acceptable to the Government. The situation has not changed since then and, therefore, the question of actual selection of site has not arisen as yet.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj): What is the place where the jute mill will be established?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Amingaon, according to the proposal.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI: Is it not a fact that the Dhubri subdivision is the biggest jute-producing area and the Dhubri market is the biggest jute market in the State?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: The hon. Member may be right, but the point is the site to be selected by a private party because this jute mill is in the private sector. Therefore, it is not for the Government to dictate.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi): May I know who are the partners of the Assam Jute Mill, Ltd.?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Major Industries): I will require notice, Sir.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Is it a fact that the jute mill which will be installed at Amingaon will be an old mill?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: That is included in the answer.

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding): If the terms and conditions of the paper pulp mill cannot be agreed upon by the Government, then what will be the fate of the installation of the mill itself?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: In course of discussion of the budget with regard to Major Industries, I pointed out that there were other offers also. So, we hope, either the paper mill or the paper pulp mill whichever has been finalised would come into being.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): How old is the mill that will be shifted from Calcutta?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: That mill has been running not for too long a period. When the contract is finalised, the valuation will be made by experts and on the basis of that valuation the matter would be decided.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Whether this mill will not be a very old one compared with other mills?

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the actual period for which it has been operating?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: So far as the profit side of this mill is concerned, we are informed that it was earning a fairly good profit.

Mr. SPEAKER: What the Hon'ble Minister means to say is that it is an old mill but not a very old mill. (*Laughter*).

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): Are Government aware that Kharupatia is a big jute growing area?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Yes, it is a very good jute growing area.

Shri KHAGENDRA NATH BARBARUA (Amguri): Whether any new machinery is not available for Assam?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: That is why we have been forced to accept idea of a second-hand mill.

Shri RAMNATH SARMA: May I know the name of the party who will finally instal the jute mill?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: The Assam Jute Mill, Ltd.

Shri RAMNATH SARMA: Whether any firm is operating the mill in the name of this party?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):

The Assam Jute Mill, Ltd., is the Company that have been registered and they are actually operating the Mill. But the company owned by Mr. Shanti Prasad Jain known as Sahu Jain & Co. are taking interest in this company.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is what the hon. Member wanted to know.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Is there any condition in the contract or agreement that the parts will be replaced if necessary?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Major Industries): We hope that it would be in the interest of the party itself gradually to modernise the mill.

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding): As regards paper pulp mill, if Government cannot agree with the terms and conditions given by the company with whom they are now in correspondence, will they select another party very soon?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: No, some time would have to lapse before you can expect to have results in this matter.

Shri GOURISHANKAR ROY (Katlicherra): Is it a fact that the Forest Utilisation Officer had a tour in the district of Cachar in the forest areas and suggested the possibility of starting a Paper Pulp Mill there to utilize the forest produce?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: So far as bamboo is concerned, we know that the Mizo Hills district has quite a lot of it and therefore it is quite possible to have a paper pulp mill there. But the difficulty is with regard to coal. Coal is not available there, it has to be carried from outside.

Shri NURUL ISLAM (Dhing): Whether the site for the Paper Mill has been finally selected?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: No.

Shri JOGA KANTA BARUA (Jaipur): Are our Government making arrangement for employment of local people in these industries?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: So far as employment is concerned, that is being looked into.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): অসমৰ ভিতৰত নগাঁও আৰু খাৰুপতিয়াই আটাইতকৈ ডাঙৰ jute growing centres। গতিকে খেতিয়ক সকলৰ স্বার্থলৈ চাই খাৰুপতিয়াতেই site select কৰিবৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে চিন্তা কৰিবনে?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Major Industries) : গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে site select নকৰে, কোম্পানীয়েহে কৰিব আৰু কোম্পানীয়ে যতে সুবিধা দেখে তাতেই কৰিব। বোধকৰো গুৱাহাটীত site select কৰাৰ কাৰণ এয়ে হ'ব যে আমি তাত বিজুলী দিব পাৰিম।

Shri TAMIZUDDIN PRODHANI (Dhubri) : মাননীয় মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে জানেনে যে গোটেই ভাৰতৰ ভিতৰত গোৱালপাৰা জিলাতেই বেচি পাট উৎপন্ন হয় ?

(loud laughter)

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARI (Morongi) : May I know the names of the parties with whom the paper pulp mill and the-spun silk mill have been settled or going to be settled ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : So far as the spun silk mill is concerned it will be a Government concern, and so far as the paper pulp mill is concerned, it is Messrs. Balmer Lawrie with whom we are corresponding.

Shri NURUL ISLAM (Dhing) : Whether Lamsakhang in the district of Nowgong has been selected for establishing a Paper Pulp Mill ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : The Company has indicated broadly that that would be the area where they would be willing to set up a paper pulp mill.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY (Nalbari-East) : How the Hon'ble Minister says that the paper pulp mill will go into production in 1962 when the Paper Pulp Mill has not yet been established ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : On the basis of anticipation that the agreement would be signed soon.

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] : মাননীয় মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয় বলেছেন যে মিজো জিলা এবং কাছাড়ে বাঁশ বেশী, কিন্তু কয়লাৰ অভাবে সেখানে paper pulp mill স্থাপন করা সম্ভব হবেনা। মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয় কি জানেন যে বদৰপুৰ থেকে আৱন্ত কৰে জোৱাই পৰ্য্যন্ত কয়লাৰ সন্ধান পাওঁৱা গিয়াছে ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : বদৰ পুৰৰ পৰা জোৱাই। In this area there is coal as well as lime-stone but the difficulty is that the coal is not yet mined. Until the coal is mined it is not possible for any industry to thrive there.

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding) : মাটি acquire কৰা সম্পূৰ্ণ হৈছে বুলি মই জানো। P.W.D. Sectionৰ মাটিৰ কাম P.W.D. এ কেতিয়া আৰম্ভ কৰিব ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : P. W. D. Section ৰ কাম কেতিয়া আৰম্ভ হ'ব মই ক'ব নোৱাৰোঁ।

Increase of freight charges by the Joint Steamer Companies

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery) asked :

*215. Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the R. S. N. & I. G. N. Steamer Companies have increased recently the freight charges of all articles by 10 per cent ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that this increase is over and above the $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent increase they had effected only a few months back ?
- (c) Whether the Government was informed about this increase and what is the reason for this increase ?
- (d) Whether this increase will lead to further rise in prices of goods in Assam and if so, what steps Government have taken to arrest this increase ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that the Joint Companies have decided to curtail their services and if so, what are the Ghats they have decided to close and how many persons will be retrenched ?
- (f) Whether Government propose to set up a Board of Enquiry to investigate into the affairs of Joint Companies ?
- (g) Whether Government are aware of the resolutions passed by the Kamrup and Dibrugarh Chambers of Commerce in this respect and what action have they taken on these resolutions ?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Transport) replied:

215. (a)—Yes. The freight rates have been increased by the Joint Steamer Companies by 10 per cent from 1st April 1958 for all commodities except grain and pulses.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes. The reasons given were the recurring operational losses suffered by the Joint Steamer Companies.

(d)—It is likely that goods generally imported to Assam by the riverine route (salt, piece goods, vegetable oil, etc.), may show some rise in prices consequent to the rise of freight rates.

Since the Steamer Companies have increased their freight rates on grounds of recurring operational losses and also because powers for regulation of freights rates in case of Inland navigation are vested in Government of India and not in this State Government in accordance with Section 54(A) of the Inland Steam Vessel Act, this Government have taken up the matter with the Government of India.

(e)—The Steamer Companies have closed down the following Ghats and depots and the number of staff engaged in these Ghats/depots prior to their closure was as indicated below in each case—

Name of Ghat	Date of permanent closure of ghat	No. of staff employed			Position of staff after closure of the ghat
		Clerks	Subordinate	Labourers	
Dibrugarh Depot.	15th Oct. 1956.	29	16	56	Negotiations are in progress between the Joint Steamer Companies and the Labour Union.
Amingaon ..	14th June 1957.	1	1	83	The clerical and the subordinate staff absorbed elsewhere and 83 labourers have been temporarily absorbed at Pandu. Negotiations are in progress between Joint Steamer Companies and the Labour Union about absorption of this staff.
Pandu Goal Depot.	21st April 1957.	....	....	92	The labourers were temporarily absorbed at Pandu but negotiations are in progress between the Joint Steamer Companies and the Labour Union.
Fancy Bazar Depot (Gauhati).	1st March 1958.	1	....	....	This clerk has been retained as the Steamer Companies are using this Depot as their own store godown.
Palastari Ghat.	....	1	....	....	In the event of closure of this Ghat being finally decided upon it would be possible for the Steamer Companies to absorb this staff in alternative employment.

(f)—No. Because the matter comes under the purview of the Government of India as stated in (d) above and the State Government have taken up the matter with the Government of India.

(g)—Yes. The Government have seen press report about the resolution passed by the Kamrup Chamber of Commerce, Gauhati and as stated in the reply at (d) above they propose to take up the whole matter regarding the operation of Inland Water Transport in this part of the country with the Government of India. Increase in freight rates is only one aspect of the whole problem.

† **Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur)**: As regards (c) whether Government of Assam scrutinised the operational loss alleged to have been suffered by the Joint Steamer Company?

† **Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Transport)**: Sir, in the year 1954 one Shri Lakhyan was deputed by the Government of India to enquire into the general working of the Steamer Company.

† **Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI**: Since 1954, I mean whether before the closure of these Ghats the Government of Assam, when they were informed of the losses, scrutinised the operational losses alleged to have been incurred by the Company?

† **Capt WILIAMSON A. SANGMA**: The entire matter was taken up by the Government of India and these water transports are in the purview of Government of India and in consultation with the Government of India these Ghats were closed.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is whether the Government of Assam was satisfied that the closing down of some of the Ghats were genuine?

† **Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister)**: The Company submitted some materials for closing down some Ghats. As it is a private Company, naturally there is no question of going into much details. But the balance sheets and other things supplied to the Government by the Company are as a matter of fact are being looked into now.

† **HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur)**: Are not the Government interested in these freight rates although they are charged by a private Company specially when the effect is on the essential commodities of the State ?

† **Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister)**: Government is of course interested and has been explained by my colleague, Shri Williamson Sangma, that these come under the jurisdiction of the Government of India and they before giving approval of the increase in freight looked into these things and from our side also we are examining these things.

† **Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI** : Actually, Sir, yesterday it appeared in the newspapers that it was stated in the Parliament that the Government of India is examining this matter,

† **Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar)** : How many workers will be retrenched ?

† **Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA**: Actually there is not very much retrenchment at the moment but they have a proposal for closing some more Ghats and if that scheme is given effect to then according to the estimate given by the Company 50 clerical and about 250 abourers will be affected.

† **Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI**: From the figures given by the Minister that about 250 labourers will be involved, my point is whether if these people are laid off will they be given involuntary unemployment compensation ?

† **Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Transport)** : Actually there will be no retrenchment as they will have to be given alternative employment.

† **Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI** : My point is whether these 250 labourers are considered to have been laid off already and whether they will be given involuntary unemployment compensation ?

Mr. SPEAKER : The Minister has stated that they are being provided with employment elsewhere.

† **Shri MOHIKANTA DAS (Barchalla)** : When the 12½ per cent increase was given effect to ?

† **Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Transport)** : The 12½ per cent increase was given effect from 1st July, 1957.

† **Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi)** : Is it a fact that the Company is going to close down the Neamatighat ?

† **Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister)** : There is no proposal of closing down Neamatighat. The Company is thinking of closing some other Ghats.

† **Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur)** : Is it a fact that the some of these Ghats were closed due to shallow water or due to the closure of some channels ?

† **Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA** : Dibrugarh is one, like that.

† **Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI** : Is it a fact that Government of Assam have given some money to the Company for bandelling the channel ?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Transport) : The Government of India allots Rs. 73,000 annually and we reimburse the same for river conservancy and bandelling.

† **Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA** : What are the names of those Ghats which the Company propose to close down ?

† **Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA** : I have got a long list. Should I read them out, Sir ?

Mr. SPEAKER : If it is a big list that may be placed on the Library Table.

† **Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh)** : Who maintains the navigation channel ?

† **Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA** : It is not yet declared as a national highway, so the Company maintains it.

Mr. SPEAKER : The question asked is who maintains the channel ? Whether it is the responsibility of the Government or the Steamer Company ?

† **Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Transport):** The Brahmaputra and Ganges Board.

† **Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** In spite of Government's contribution for the last so many years, is there any bandelling of the channel ?

† **Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA :** In which particular area ?

† **Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** From Neamatighat upto Desangmukhghat.

† **Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA :** Sir, regarding that, according to information available with me, the figures are as follows : 5 lakhs and odd in 1942, 11 lakhs 31 thousand in 1955, and

† **Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** No, Sir, my question is that, since 1955 in spite of the fact that the Government has been giving contribution all through the Company has not made any expenditure whatsoever—whether Government are aware of that ?

† **Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA :** The difficulty is that these people have no separate account or budget for expenditure made on our part of the country. They operate both through India and Pakistan and they do not maintain separate accounts for that.

† **Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** While Government of India give this contribution, the money was spent in Pakistan—are Government aware of that ?

† **Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA :** No Sir, Government are not aware of that.

† **Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** Has the Company furnished any accounts of the amount incurred since 1955 up till now out of the amount advanced by the Government ?

† **Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Transport)**: I want notice of that quistion, Sir.

† **Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi)** : Sir, the Chief Minister in the course of his reply said that these Companies are controlled by the Ganga-Brahmaputra Board. Now, will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any representative from Assam in that Board ?

† **Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister)**: Yes Sir, we have a representative in this Board. I may add Sir, in this connection that, for maintenance of the Brahmaputra channel there is a proposal for having some light operational machines which will soon be put into operation.

† **Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur)** : Is it a fact that the Government of Assam have reduced the price of coal supplied to the Joint Steamer Company ?

† **Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA** : We have reduced the price of Khasi coal only and that is more in the interest of the Khasi miners than in the interest of the Joint Steamer Company. On a previous occasion I had already said on the floor of this House that because the price of Khasi coal is very high, these Companies do not like to take Khasi coal but prefer West Bengal and other coal; so to help the Khasi miners we have made some adjustments in the transport cost of this Khasi coal by which the price was reduced.

† **Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI** : Is this reduction made only for the Joint Steamer Company or for others as well ?

† **Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA** : It is a general reduction for all, Sir.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Inclusion of Tarungs (Syama) Tribes in the list of Scheduled Tribes in the Plains Districts of Assam

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) asked:

685. Will the Minister-in-charge of Tribal Areas Department be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Tarungs (Syama) Tribes living in Assam are included in the Scheduled of the Plains Tribals ?

- (b) If so, whether they are entitled to obtain free Secondary Education like other Plains Tribals ?
- (c) Whether Government propose to issue circulars to High Schools to this effect ?
- (d) If the answer to (b) is in the negative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons ?
- (e) Whether Government will take necessary steps to include them and extend the benefit of free Secondary Education ?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Tribal Areas Department) replied :

685. (a)—No. The Tarungs Tribes are not included in the list of Scheduled Tribes in the Plains Districts of Assam.

(b)—As Tarungs are not specified as Scheduled Tribes in Assam, they are not entitled to free Secondary Education extended to the communities specified as Scheduled Tribes in Assam.

(c)—The Tarungs in Assam have been recognised as a Community belonging to the Other Backward Classes. The Government of India has not yet arrived at a decision on the recommendation of the Backward Classes Commission concerning the Other Backward Classes. The question of extending free Secondary education to the Tarung Communities or other communities belonging to the Other Backward Classes is not decided.

(d)—The specification of Scheduled Tribes in Assam has been made region-wise to cover those tribes of the State having their own distinct manners, culture and customs, and following their own distinctive way of life. Those tribes who have migrated into the Plains of Assam and at the same time are economically, socially and educationally backward have been classified as a community belonging to the Other Backward Classes in the State and the Tarungs fall under this category.

(e)—Government would like to sympathetically consider the cases of the "Other Backward Classes" but it is not possible to make any commitment at this stage.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLAI (Titabar): Whether Government is aware that these tribes did not migrate from anywhere into Assam but are the aboriginal tribes of Assam ?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Tribal Areas Department): No, Sir, I am not aware of that.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): What is the source of information which led the Government to say that these tribes migrated into the plains of Assam from somewhere else and therefore they were deprived of these facilities ?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: Sir, we have to depend on the Report of the Backward Classes Commission. They are preparing the list of other backward classes.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Question is, what is the source from which Government got the information that these tribes migrated into Assam from some other places ?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: History is the source, Sir. *(Laughter).*

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYY: What History ?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: History of Assam.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Was that History written by the Minister-in-charge and not printed or published for others to read ?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: Ministers do not write History, but they make History.....*(More laughter).*

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Often they make very bad history. My question is, which is that historical book from which Government has collected the information that these tribes migrated from somewhere into the plains of Assam ?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: I am not able to supply the information off-hand, Sir.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): While in North-East Frontier Agency these tribes are included as Scheduled Tribes, why are they not included as such in Assam ?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: (Minister) Tribal Areas Sir, at present the Government of India maintain three different lists of these tribes. There are certain tribes in the autonomous districts listed as Scheduled Tribes, there are others regarded as Scheduled Tribes in North East Frontier Agency and there are other communities regarded as Scheduled Tribes in the plains districts of Assam. So it follows that some of those tribes regarded as Scheduled Tribes in North East Frontier Agency are not regarded as such in the plains or in other areas.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj): Sir, the reply is that Government would like to consider sympathetically the case of the "Other Backward Classes" but it is not possible to make any commitment at this stage. Now, as to how long it will take and whether Government consider this as a matter of urgency and impress upon the Central Government to come to an early decision in the matter as the major section of the people of the State belong to this class and who are lagging behind beyond dream.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: I have already said, Sir, that this matter is being enquired into by the Central Census authorities and they are formulating a scheme shortly.

Regarding Mundas, Orangs and Chowttials

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) asked :

686. Will the Minister, Tribal Areas Department be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the Mundas, Orangs and Chowttials living in the villages of Assam are listed as Plains tribals ?
- (b) If so, whether they are entitled to free secondary education ?
- (c) Whether Government will be pleased to issue instruction to the High Schools to this effect ?
- (d) If the answer to (a) is in the negative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons ?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Tribal Areas Department) replied.:

686. (a)—The Mundas, Orangs and Chowttials are not specified as Scheduled Tribes in Assam. They are listed as communities belonging to the Other Backward Classes.

(b)—As they are not specified as Scheduled Tribes in Assam, they are not entitled to free Secondary education extended to the communities specified as Scheduled Tribes in Assam.

(c)—The Mundas, Orangs and Chowttials in Assam have been recognised as communities belonging to the Other Backward Classes. The Government of India has not yet arrived at a decision on the recommendation of the Backward Classes Commission concerning the Other Backward Classes. The question of extending free secondary education to these communities or other communities belonging to the Other Backward Classes is yet undecided.

(d)—The specification of Scheduled Tribes in Assam has been made region-wise to cover only those tribes who are indigenous to the State having their own distinct manners, culture and customs, and following their own distinctive way of life. The Mundas, Orangs and Chowttials have migrated to Assam from other States in India mainly for work in tea gardens, and have been treated as communities belonging to Other Backward Classes in the same manner as other communities of Assam who are socially, educationally and economically backward. These communities may have their own way of life but they have not been specified as Scheduled Tribes in Assam because the specification of Scheduled Tribes in Assam relates to those who are indigenous to the State.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): Will Government consider the question of giving free education to the Mundas, Orangs and Chowttial even without including them in the list of Plains tribals and consider them as backward class?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: No, Sir, because we have got to get specific instruction from the Government of India in this regard.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): Is it a fact that these tribes are scheduled tribes in Bihar and Orissa?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Tribal Area): That may be, Sir.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): Will Government do something to these tribes for the purpose of development of education even before the final recommendation of the Backward Classes Commission comes to our State?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: I am sorry, this cannot be done now. The question will be taken together along with the other communities.

Free education to Boys and Girls belonging to Mehtar or Bhangi Community

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) asked :

687. Will the Minister-in-charge of Tribal Areas Department be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the sweepers' boys and girls are entitled to free education which are now enjoyed by the Scheduled Castes of Assam?

(b) Whether Government have issued any instruction to this effect to different school authorities?

(c) If not, why?

(d) Whether Government propose to issue such instructions to different school authorities?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Tribal Areas Department) replied :

687. (a)—It is presumed that by the word "sweepers" the hon. Member means those persons who belong to the Mehtar or Bhangi community. If so, the reply is in the affirmative.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—Does not arise.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI : Sir, in reply to question (b) the reply is in the affirmative but I would like to inform the House that the reply given to Starred Question No. 194 was in the negative

Mr. SPEAKER: The latter is the improvement of the previous one.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): Sir, may I know to which question the hon. Members refers to ?

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): Starred Question No. 194 of 24th April, 1958.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: Sir, the question which the hon. Member refers is not handy.

Mr. SPEAKER: So this supplementary can stand over for to morrow because the question to which the hon. Member refers is not available just now.

Amount distributed by Government to the Scheduled Castes for construction of Namghars, Water Supply etc.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) asked :

688. Will the Minister-in-charge of Tribal Areas Department be pleased to state—

(a) What amount Government have distributed to the Scheduled Castes in 1954, 1955, 1956 and 1957 for their Namghars, individual house construction, water supply, public works, health and community feasts ?

(b) Out of that amount mentioned in (a) above whether the Government will be pleased to state the amount spent for sweepers ?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Tribal Areas Department) replied :

688. (a)—The amounts distributed are shown in the list placed on the Library Table.

[Statement laid on the Library Table in reply to Unstarred Question No. 688 (a)]

The following amount were sanctioned by the Government for the Purpose as noted against each under the Welfare Schemes for the Scheduled Castes.

Year	Construction and improvement of Namghars	Individual house construction	Water supply	Public Works	Health	Community feasts
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7) Rs. a. p.
1954-55	..	..	..	81,762 Expenditure under Public Works is for the benefit of all communities inhabiting the area or areas served by such works and is not split community-wise.	25,000 (For purchase of medicine etc. for the treatment of Scheduled Castes patients in addition to the general expenditure for the treatment of patients irrespective of communities to which they belong.)	11,800 0 0
1955-56	..	..	87,008	....	50,000 do.	16,831 14 0
1956-57	34,000	73,500	45,600	....	11,452 do. 2,077 (For compounder stipends.)	4,950 0 0
1957-58	37,450	3,07,000 (for construction of students' home and construction of individual houses in the selected villages. Not less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the amount was set apart for construction of students home.)	97,500	....	13,470 (For compounder stipends and stipends for training in midwifery and Dhat course. 27,944 (Purchase of medicine for the treatment of Scheduled Caste patients) addition to the general expenditure for the treatment of patients irrespective of communities to which they belong.)	4,800 0 0

(b)—The grants were sanctioned for the benefit of the Scheduled Castes population in general and not for any, single community in particular. However, for the special benefit of the Harijans, in addition to the various amounts sanctioned for the schemes named in the list mentioned in reply to question (a) above, a sum of Rs.20,000 was sanctioned to the All-India Harijan Sevak Sangh, Assam Branch, Jorhat, for its welfare activities among the Harijans during 1956-57, and another sum of Rs.18,000 was sanctioned in 1957-58 for similar purpose. The State Government has also sanctioned an amount of Rs.13,62,910 for the period from 1955-56 to 1957-58 to various Municipal Boards in the State for the construction of better quarters for the sweepers. A sum of Rs.6,000 was also sanctioned for the construction of a creche for the Harijan colony at Gauhati.

Shri SARBESWAR BARDOLOI (Titabar): Will Government issue instruction to the Deputy Commissioners concerned to give special attention in the matter of giving adequate grants to the Harijans ?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister), Tribal Areas Department: We always take both the recommendations of the Deputy Commissioners as well as that of the Development Committees.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): The position is that when the grants are distributed, the representatives of the Harijans are not in the committees, would the Government issue instructions that Harijans should get adequate benefit of these funds when they are distributed ?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: That will be taken into consideration.

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Dergaon [Reserved for Scheduled Castes]): Sir, here in the reply it is seen that Rs. 20,000 was sanctioned to the All-India Harijan Sevak Sangha, Assam Branch, during 1956-57 and another sum of Rs. 18,000 was sanctioned in 1957-58 for similar purpose. May I know from the Minister whether he has ascertained how those amounts were spent by that Sangha ?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: The Sangha is always required to submit return certificates to the Government so that we shall be able to know how much money has been spent. But just now I don't have those certificates.

Embankment on the left bank of the Beki

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

689. Will the Minister-in-charge of Flood Control be pleased to state—

(a) Whether an embankment on the left bank of the Beki River has been constructed from Mathan-guri to Basbari ?

(b) If so, when ?

(c) Whether the right bank of the river was surveyed when constructing this embankment ?

(d) If not, why not ?

(e) Whether Government is aware that more damage was caused to the right bank of the river by this embankment as there was heavy pressure of water ?

(f) Whether a portion of the North Trunk Road near the Beki Public Works Department Ghat was washed away as a result of this embankment ?

(g) Whether Government received public petitions for construction of an embankment on the right bank ?

(h) If so, what action was taken by Government ?

(i) If not, whether it will be surveyed immediately before the next rainy season ?

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

689. (a)—Yes.

(b)—In 1956-57.

(c)—No.

(d)—It was not considered necessary.

(e)—No. The embankment from Mathanguri to Basbari has only prevented the development of spill channels which emerged out of the river Beki in 1954 and flowed towards Pahumara and Palla rivers. The flood conditions on the right bank have been slightly increased since 1954 as the river Beki is gradually carrying more discharge from the river Monas.

(f)—No. A portion of the road was eroded away by the river Beki during last flood season.

(g)—Yes.

(h)—The matter has been referred to the Divisional Officer for investigation.

(i)—Does not arise.

Training of the river Beki

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

690. Will the Minister-in-charge of Flood Control be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the river Beki in Kherija Bijni Mouza will be trained ?
- (b) Whether any survey has been made as regards this ?
- (c) If not, whether Government will make a survey into this matter immediately ?
- (d) Whether this river and its tributaries have done immense damage to villages in Kherija Bijni Mouza ?
- (e) How many villages have been wiped out ?
what measures have been taken for the protection of these villages ?
- (g) How many acres of lands have been damaged by these rivers in that Mouza ?

(h) Whether there was public representation to the Government ?

(i) If so, when and what action has been taken ?

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

690. (a)—No.

(b)—No.

(c)—The matter is being investigated.

(d)—The river Beki and its tributaries have done some damage to some of the villages of Kherija Bijni Mouza.

(e)—8 or 9 villages have been affected.

(f)—Please refer to reply to Question (c).

(g)—About 300 acres of land have been eroded.

(h)—Yes.

(i)—Necessary investigation is being taken up.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog): How embankment on the left bank could be constructed without surveying the right bank of the Beki river.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Flood Control): In order to stop the spilling of water.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Whether the right bank was properly surveyed before the embankment on the left bank was undertaken.

Whether it is a fact that after raising the embankment on the right side the water rushed to the other side ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: The answer is there, Sir.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: The answers to (a) and (b) are "No". Whether it is a fact that some damage has been done to some of the villages and if damage is done, will Government consider it necessary to take immediate steps in this regard ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, there can't be any river which will not cause damage if there is flood. This does not mean that every river should and can be trained. It needs money. If there is no money one must fix priority.

Mr. SPEAKER: In view of the fact that this question relates to Beki river, the Hon. Minister will please confine his observation only to this river.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Whether Government are aware that the flood on the right bank of Beki river was man-made, *i. e.*, made by the Government itself?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: No; we have no such information, Sir.

Gobardhana N. E. S. Block

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

691. Will the Minister-in-charge, Community Projects, be pleased to state—

- (a) On what date first meeting of the Gobardhana N.E.S. Block was held to pass the budget?
- (b) Whether the President was present in the meeting?
- (c) If not, who was the President?
- (d) What is the total budget of the block under different sub-heads and minor heads in 1957-58?
- (e) How much money has been allotted for Medical Department?
- (f) What are the amounts allotted to each Mouza of the Block for medical facilities?
- (g) Is it a fact that doctor does not attend cases properly?
- (h) How many Middle English, Middle Vernacular and Lower Primary Schools have been allotted grants and what are their names and how much amount to different schools?

- (i) Is it a fact that the said President works without the approval of the Advisory Board ?
- (j) Is it a fact that there was no President in the meeting ?
- (k) If so, how the budget may be passed ?
- (l) Whether the budget may be made null and void ?
- (m) If so, what steps are going to be taken against the Officer ?
- (n) How much money has been allotted to each Mouza out of the total money ?
- (o) Who selects the different Projects ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Community Projects) replied :

691. (a)—The first meeting of the Project Advisory Committee was held on 27th July, 1957 to approve the various schemes of the Block.

(b)—The permanent President was absent.

(c)—It does not appear that anybody was specifically elected as President for the particular meeting.

(d)—Total budget provision of the Block is furnished below—minor-head-wise :—

				Rs.
(1) Block Headquarters	...	...	...	44,730
(2) Animal Husbandary and Agriculture	...	...	...	11,585
(3) Irrigation	...	...	...	1,000
(4) Reclamation	...	...	...	1,000
(5) Health and Rural Sanitation	...	...	...	21,960
(6) Education	...	...	...	10,000

(7) Social Education	...	...	...	10,890
(8) Communication	...	...	...	19,950
(9) Rural Arts and Crafts	...	...	...	1,895
(10) Housing	...	...	...	27,710
				<u>Rs. 1,50,720</u>

This amount is under Major Head "63-B-etc."

(e)—Rs.21,960 was provided for Medical activities of the Block.

(f)—(1) Gobardhana Mouza	...	Rs.2,000
(2) Howli Mouza	...	Rs.2,000
(3) Kharija Bijni Mouza	...	Rs.1,800

Besides, one in-door ward has been sanctioned for the Block Headquarters at Berpeta Road.

(g)—Government have no information. No such reports have however, been received by the Government.

(h)—Three Middle English, two Middle Vernacular and 15 Lower Primary Schools were allotted grants as detailed below :—

	Rs.
(1) Gobardhana Middle English School	2,400
(2) Komargaon Middle English School	800
(3) Bilasipara Middle English School	1,000
(4) Kamargaon Middle Vernacular School	2,400
(5) Dhupguri Middle Vernacular School	2,050

	Rs.
(6) Golagaon Lower Primary School ...	300
(7) Puran Khagrabari Lower Primary School	300
(8) Nalpara Lower Primary School ...	300
(9) Bansibari Lower Primary School ..	300
(10) Aikhari Lower Primary School ...	300
(11) Bagurigurigaon Lower Primary School	300
(12) Umukuri Lower Primary School ...	300
(13) Kaijarmati Lower Primary School ...	300
(14) Khudnabari Lower Primary School ...	300
(15) Halapakri Lower Primary School ...	300
(16) Bunmajar Pam Lower Primary School	300
(17) Rangdia Lower Primary School ...	300
(18) Luahur Lower Primary School ...	300
(19) Khatal Para Lower Primary School ...	300
(20) Mayangpara Lower Primary School ...	300

(i)—Government have no information.

(j)—Answer to (c) above may be seen.

(k)—The schematic budget in respect of each National Extension Service Block is laid down by the Government. Although no person was elected as President in the above meeting, all the members present who are chiefly to advise in the planning and implementation of the schemes unanimously advised and approved the schemes which were then communicated and subsequently approved by the Government with the concurrence of the Heads of Departments and the Finance Department.

It appears that the meeting proceeded to discuss the schematic National Extension Service budget without formally electing a President to guide the deliberations of the meeting because the members were expecting the President to arrive at any moment. In any case, after obtaining the unanimous approval of the members of the Project Advisory Committee, the schemes were placed before the Subdivisional Officer who was to preside over this meeting and with his approval, the schemes were forwarded to the Government for sanction.

(l)—In view of (k) above, there is no reason why the budget should be considered as null and void as the schemes were approved by the members present. The approval of technical heads was also obtained prior to sanctioning the schemes with concurrence of Finance Department. The role of a President for the Project Advisory Committee meetings is primarily to guide the deliberations of the Project Advisory Committee meetings. The absence of the President cannot, by itself, make the proceedings of such meetings void provided there is general agreement among the members present on the issues raised in the meetings.

(m)—No action is proposed to be taken against the Officer as there was no violation of any specific rules in this regard and the defect was only procedural. Instructions are, however, being issued that, in future, in the absence of the permanent President or Vice-President, one of the members present may be elected to preside over the Project Advisory Committee meeting.

			Rs.
(n)—(1) Kharija Bijni	...	...	40,354
(2) Gobardhana	...	...	33,319
(3) Howli	...	...	30,812

(o)—Selection of National Extension Service Block is made by Government on the recommendations of the District Subdivisional Development Boards.

Mr. SPEAKER. The motion moved is that a sum of Rs.4,78,16,000 (Rupees four crores, seventy-eight lakhs and sixteen thousand), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1959, for the administration of the head "37.—Education".

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR(Sorbhog): Sir, I beg move to the Cut Motions standing in my name:

That the provision of Rs.2,80,000, under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—G.—Direct Grants to non-Government Secondary Schools, Sub-head (b) Non-recurring Grants (total) at page 147 of the budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.4,78,16,000, do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To criticise the Government for not uniformly distributing grants to non-Government Secondary Schools).

That the total provision of Rs.4,78,16,000 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, at page 136 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.4,78,16,000, do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To criticise the Government for not enhancing the pay scales of the Middle Vernacular School Teachers.)

That the total provision of Rs.4,78,16,000 under Grant No.17, Major head—37.—Education, at page 136 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.4,78,16,000, do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To criticise the Government for not taking up all the existing Venture Schools by the Government.)

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta): Sir, I beg to move the Cut Motion standing in my name:

That the provision of Rs.2,80,000 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—G.—Direct Grants to non-Government Secondary Schools, Sub-head (b)—Non-recurring Grants (total), at page 147 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.4,78,16,000, do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(Failure of the Government to provide sufficient money to improve the Barpeta J. R. P. Girls' High English Schools).

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari east): Sir, I beg to move the Cut Motions standing in my name:

That the provision of Rs.34,80,000 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—G.—Direct grant to non-Government Secondary Schools (total), at page 147 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.4,78,16,000, do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(The criticise Government for failure of the Government to provide a suitable amount in the Budget for 1958-59 for aid of deserving unaided High and Middle English Schools and deserving unaided ones.)

That the provision of Rs.10,73,100 under Grant No.17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—Special—M—Government Special Schools (total), at page 156 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.4,78,16,000, do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To criticise Government for failure to provide money for a fulfilled Music College in the State of Assam.)

That the provision of Rs.10,98,000 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—Q.—Inspection (total), at page 159 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.4,78,16,000, do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To criticise Government for inability to make arrangement for sufficient and proper inspection of Secondary and Primary Schools.)

That the total provision of Rs.4,78,16,000, under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, at page 136 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.4,78,16,000, do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To criticise the Government for anomalies in Selection of Text Books, etc.)

That the total provision of Rs.4,78,16,000, under Grant No.17, Major head—37.—Education at page 136 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.4,78,16,000, do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To criticise the Government for inefficiency in management of Primary Education by some Regional School Boards.)

Shri BIRNEDRA KUMAR DAS [Patacharkuchi (Reserved for scheduled Tribes)] : Sir, I beg to move the Cut Motion standing in my name:

That the total provision of Rs.4,78,16,000, under Grant No.17, Major head—37.—Education, at page 136 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.4,78,16,000, do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To criticise for not taking up venture Lower Primary School of Tihu Circle by the Government, to include Tihu High School either in Multipurpose or Higher Secondary Scheme and to criticise the Demand.)

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari West) : Sir, I beg to move the Cut Motion standing in my name:

That the total provision of Rs. 4,78,16,000 under Grant No.17, Major head—37.—Education, at page 136 of the Budget be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.4,78,16,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

- (1. To raise a discussion about Sanskrit Education.
2. To criticise salary and dearness allowance of the teachers, particularly who are serving in the Middle Vernacular Schools.
3. To raise a discussion about the increment of salary and allowance of the Gauhati University Employees, etc.)

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] : Sir, I beg to move the Cut Motion standing in my name:

That the total provision of Rs. 4,78,16,000 under Grant No.17, Major head—37.—Education, at page, 136 of the Budget be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 4,78,16,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(1. To raise a discussion about the failure of the Government in regard to spreading of Education amongst the backward Scheduled Caste people.

2. To criticise the distribution of cyclone damage grant.

3. No raise a discussion about the primary teachers.)

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : Sir, I beg to move the Cut Motion standing in my name:

That the total provision of Rs. 4,78,16,000 under Grant No.17, Major head—37.—Education, at page 136 of the Budget be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 4,78,16,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(1. To discuss the Education policy of the Government and particularly the system of giving aids to Schools and Colleges.

2. To discuss the uselessness of continuing the Middle English Examination.)

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri):

Sir, I beg to move the Cut Motion standing in my name :

That the total provision of Rs.4,78,16,000, under Grant No.17, Major head—37.—Education, at page 136 of the Budget be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.4,78,16,000, do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To raise a general discussion.)

Shri PAKHIRAI DEKA [Panery (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Sir, I beg to move the Cut Motion standing in my name :

That the total provision of Rs. 4,78,16,000, under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, at page 136 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1 *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.4,78,16,000, do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To raise a discussion.)

Shri MATHIAS TUDU (Gossaigaon): Sir, I beg to move the Cut Motion standing in my name :

That the total provision of Rs. 4,78,16,000 under Grant No.17, Major head—37.—Education, at page 136 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.4,78,16,000, do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(To raise a general discussion.)

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) : Sir, I beg to move the Cut Motion standing in my name:

That the total provision of Rs. 4,78,16,000 under Grant No.17, Major head—37.—Education, at page 136 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.4,78,16,000, do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To criticise the Educational policy of the Government.)

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):

Sir, I beg to move the Cut Motion standing my name:

That the total provision of Rs.4,78,16,000 under Grant No.17, Major head—37.—Education, at page 136 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 4,78,16,000, do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To raise a discussion about the Education policy of the Government)

Mr. SPEAKER: All the Cut Motions are moved as above.

***Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, education is a matter which aims at full flowering of the person. So during the ancient period the educational institutions laid emphasis on the individual and that aimed at fully developing the creative potentialities of the individual. But with the development of the modern State, the emphasis has been shifted to the masses of the people. Now, Sir, it is in the modern State, particularly in the complex modern State the education policy is guided by the Government. In guiding the education policy, the Government pays attention to the structure of the society and to the pattern of the civilisation which they propose to give. Now if we take into consideration the system of India prevailing during the British regime, we find the education policy was laid down by the British and the education policy was such as to suit their requirements. They wanted to run educational institutions for producing clerks, administrators and technicians so that they could be able to run their administration and the industries. During the national movement things were different. In the national movement it was felt that unless the percentage of the literacy increased, the country would not be able to advance even after the independence. That problem was tackled particularly by Mahatma Gandhi who could be termed as one who knew the mass mind well. Gandhiji understood that it was not possible with the finances at the disposal of the State to give free and compulsory education. So he tried to evolve a principle by which the education may be self-supporting. In our national movement there was a campaign for prohibition of liquor, opium, etc., and that would result in loss of revenue. Now for increased measure of spread of education it would mean more money. So it was necessary to evolve a principle by which education could be self-sufficient. That was the condition under which the basic condition was conceived. Now the condition is different. We have adopted

* Speech not corrected.

socialism as our goal. We have accepted heavy industries and mechanisation as our goal. But in our educational policy what do we find? We find the State has based it on basic or cottage industries. In the basic system of education the emphasis is that the students should produce through education. It lays emphasis on the cottage industries. Our whole education system should be based on the heavy industries like Bhakra Nangal, Damodar Valley Project for production of petroleum, electricity, etc. Therefore the basis system which obviously centres round cottage industries cannot be fulfilled—the very purpose which the Government accept for our educational system. Now we have taken for the reconstruction of the country rejuvenation of the entire economy. We have in the First and Second Five-Year Plans—particularly in the Second Plan—laid emphasis, there may be difference of opinion about the goal—on mechanisation and heavy industries. Now for the success of the Plan it is necessary to have emphasis on two important aspects. First, the material and second the men. We must have the material, but apart from that the most important thing is that we must produce sufficient number of people with a higher sense of duty, integrity and responsibility to the people and above all the spirit of sacrifice without which the Plan cannot succeed. Since the 2nd Plan have conceived industrialisation of the country, I like to say that education should be primary industry. In this industry the basic raw material is human mind. Human mind is fragile. So it is a very difficult raw material for the manufacturers. In this industry, the industrialists are not Tatas and Birlas. It is the half-clad, half starved school masters. On their shoulder the entire structure of our country depends. But least attention has been paid to these School teachers. But not only have they been relegated to the background so far as their status, pay and prospects are concerned but absolutely no attention has also been given for their training. Now, in our educational institutions the number of trained teachers is almost negligible and yet no sufficient emphasis has been laid on this aspect of the matter. Who are the administrators of our country to-day? Are not the students produced by these untrained teachers become our administrators. If that is so, then what efficient administration you can expect from these administrators? To build up an efficient administrative machinery for the country training of teachers is an absolute necessity which we can ignore only at our peril. I therefore call upon the Government to give greater attention to the question of training of our teachers in our State. The condition of the entire educational system, either in primary

secondary or higher stage is most appalling. For this, in my opinion, no body is to be blamed more than the Education Department itself in as much as it does not suit the requirements of the State at all. On the one hand we have the Basic school and other ordinary schools where the boys of the middle class and lower middle-class people read and on the other hand we have the Public Schools and the English Schools such as the Don Bosco and St. Edmunds, etc. There are two or three systems running side by side concurrently. So our people are at a loss to understand as to what would be the prospect and position of their sons and daughters ultimately. The intention of the Government as I understand it to be, the purpose of these Public Schools and English Schools is to prepare good administrators by imparting to the students a sound system of general education, administrative integrity, honesty and efficiency. If that is so, I think more attention should be given to general education. I do not say that vocational education is to be ignored in any way, vocational education is also necessary.

Now, if we go to the Text Book Committee, we find that this committee has entirely neglected this aspect of education. I am giving just one illustration. During the British regime historical facts were distorted and the students were given to read history only in a manner to suit the furtherance of their political and selfish motives so much so that immediately after independence some parts of the history had to be re-written with a view to give the students the correct picture of actual facts. But even then we find the same old mentality is still at work. In this connection I would like to refer to page 175 of the Assamese History written by one of the so-called most eminent educationist of our country, Shri Birinchi Kumar Barua. At page 175 he has written like this about the Yandabu Treaty:

“গৰ্ণৰ জেনেৰেলে চাৰ অকিবল্ড কেৰেলক সসৈন্যে ব্ৰাহ্মৰ বিৰুদ্ধে পঠালে। কেৰেলে ব্ৰাহ্মৰ ৰাজধানী বেঙ্গল অধিকাৰ কৰাত বজা বডো আকুই বাধ্য হৈ সন্ধিৰ প্ৰস্তাৱ জনালে। ইয়াণ্ডাবু নামৰ ঠাইত সন্ধি হল। সেই সন্ধি অনুযায়ী ব্ৰাহ্ম দেশৰ বজাই ইংৰাজক অসম, আৰাকান আৰু টোনাচেৰিম প্ৰদেশ এৰি দিয়ে।”

I think this is entirely wrong version. It is not borne out by facts. It means to say that under this treaty, Assam was transferred to British hands. The British version and the Burmese version, however, give us quite a different picture. Article 2 of the English version of the Treaty of Yandobo says like this:

“His Majesty the King of Ava renounces all claims upon, and will abstain from all future interference with the principality of Assam and its dependencies, and also with the contiguous petty States of Cachar and Jyntea. With regard to Munnipore, it is stipulated that, should Gumbheer Singh desire to return to that country, he shall be recognised by the King of Ava as Rajah thereof.”

Then again, if we come to the Burmese version of the treaty we find the 2nd Article running like this:

“The King of Burma shall no more have dominion over, or the direction of, the towns and country of Assam, the country of Ak-ka-hat (Cachar) and the country of Wa-tha-li (Jaintea). With regard to Munnipore, if Gambee-ra-shing desire to return to his country and remain ruler, the King of Burma shall not prevent or molest him, but let him remain.”

So both these versions show that Assam was not obtained by the British by the Yandabo Treaty. But yet that is what has been described as the reason by which the British obtained possession of Assam.

Then again, if we come to another part of this History, it has been stated about Lord Curzon like this:

ভাৰতৰ শ্ৰেষ্ঠ বৰলাট সকলৰ ভিতৰত কাজৰ্জুন অন্যতম। তেওঁৰ দিনত ভাৰতৰ ভালেমান উন্নতি হয়। প্ৰথমেই কাজৰ্জুনে আফগানিস্থানৰ নতুন আমীৰ হৰিবুল্লাৰ লগত মিত্ৰতা কৰি তেওঁক স্বাধীন বজা বুলি স্বীকাৰ কৰিলে। ভাৰতৰ উত্তৰ-পশ্চিম অঞ্চল বিদেশীৰ আক্ৰমণৰ পৰা ৰক্ষা কৰিবলৈ উত্তৰ-পশ্চিম গীমান্ত প্ৰদেশ নামে নতুন প্ৰদেশ এখন গঠন কৰিলে।

Now Lord Curzon is one of the most notorious Governor Generals of India who tried to build up a strong British Empire in India. Now, according to the British. Lord Curzon is one of the most able administrator who recognized Habibulla of Afganistan as an independent king and created the North-Western Frontier Province with a view to protect India from foreign invasion and divided Bengal and attached a part of the East Bengal with Assam.

This is a deliberately mistaken view and distortion of historical facts taught to our young pupils during the days of British domination in India and even though we are now an independant nation, the same old and wrong things have been allowed to continue as before.

The real thing, the correct picture, however, has been given in the history written by Professor Shri Bhattacharyya and Misra. They have described Curzon like this:

লৰ্ড কৰ্জৰ্জন—এওঁ ভাৰতৰ অন্যতম কুখ্যাত গৱৰ্ণৰ জেনেৰল। এওঁ ভাৰতীয় সকলৰ ৰাজনৈতিক চেতনাক সমূলি দেখিব নোৱাৰিছিল। এওঁৰ সময়ত বৃটিছ বিৰোধী মনোভাব বৰ প্ৰবল হৈ উঠিছিল। সেই সময়ত বঙ্গ দেশ জাতীয়তাবাদী আন্দোলনত আগৰণুৱা আছিল। সেই কাৰণ সাম্ৰাজ্যবাদী ইংৰাজ চৰকাৰে বঙ্গ দেশখন দুফাল কৰি বঙালী জাতিক দুৰ্বল কৰিবলৈ চক্ৰান্ত কৰিছিল।

Now if these two different books are taught, say, in two different schools, then our young students are sure to be confused and bewildered when two boys of two different schools happen to discuss about Lord Curzon. Because one has learnt Lord Curzon to be one of the ablest of administrators while the other will have quite different story to tell. This is the sample of education given to our young boys. Very brilliant education, indeed !

Again in this book we find at page 67 while writing about Allauddin Khiliji like this:

আল্লাউদ্দিন খিলজি—সিংহাসনত আৰোহনৰ পিচতেই তেওঁ দিগ্‌বিজয়ত ওলাইছিল। প্ৰথমে গুজৰাট জয় কৰিলে। এই আক্ৰমণত দুটা সম্পদ লাভ কৰিলে—এক গুজৰাটৰ ৰজাৰ পত্নী কমলাদেৱী, দ্বিতীয় মালিক কাঁকুৰ নামে এজন হিন্দু দাস।

Let us consider the effect of descriptions like this in the minds of the pupils of Class VI and VII. They are taught that somebodyelse's wife is a pride of possession. Such teachings offend our sense of morality. Yet our whole education system is going on merrily unchecked and unhampered giving lesson on imorality to the future hopefuls of our country.

Then again if we turn our attention to the lessons on arithmetic, we will find the same thing. Questions like these are asked in our School.

“এজন গুৱালে সেৱে ১৩৬ পাই দৰে ২২ সেৰ পাখীৰ কিনি তাৰলগত ১৩ সেৰ পানী মিহলাই সেৱে ॥ অনাটক বেচিলে কিমান লাভ হব ?”

Mr. SPEAKER: পঞ্চাচ টকা জৰিয়না হব। (laughter)

***Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh):** This is the type of question. If questions like these are asked in Russia, the teacher would have been answered with term of ten years imprisonment, but here they will work out the sum and reply “২৩ অনা Sir.”

Sir. Now, if immorality is taught in this way in our schools, then I say the whole of our educational system require over-all change, all our text-books should be re-written. But unfortunately in our country the Text Book Committee go by the names of the authors, they do not go into the contents of the books. If a certain author is sufficiently influential, his book is prescribed. If this is the standard by which books are prescribed, not only will it bring down the standard of education in our country, but it will also immoralise the whole system. It is time for the Government to take up measures to stop this kind of immoral teaching to our students. If we compare and judge the achievement we will find that this department yields to none in inefficiency and mal-administration. Only a few thousands of students appear in the Middle English Examination. They have not been able to conduct this Examination to their credit. If the Middle English Examination is to be continued, then the whole education system is to be remodelled. The Middle English Examination must be some sort of school living standard system. Otherwise this system of examination will have to be abolished. Therefore, I request the Education Minister to re-examine our basic education system and to apply his mind so that the whole education system can be evolved in such a way that it can suit our requirements. It is said that we should work in a dynamic way. If that is so, then our education system should be patterned in such a way that it can suit our society. Therefore, Sir, it is high time that we decide to change our present policy and try to execute such a policy in our education system that it can best suit our children.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Education Budget reveals that a sum of Rs. 4,78,16,000 has been provided this year for education and it shows that there has been an increase of Rs. 58,14,000 over that of the last year's budget. I thank the Government for providing more funds for education and this also shows that the Government is giving more attention every year to the expansion of education. There are some new schemes introduced and provisions have been made accordingly. The number and value of the scholarships of the Normal Students, have been increased, provision has been made for making permanent the ever temporary posts of lecturers of Cotton College, provision has been made for hostels of non-Government Colleges and Girl's High Schools, more funds have been also provided for Gauhati University. All these are highly welcome and much appreciated.

But, Sir, no provision have been made in the budget for improving the buildings of the non-Government educational institutions of the State. There are schools with a very large of students but for want of funds the school authorities have not been able to construct or expand buildings according to their need. The buildings of all categories of non-Government educational institutions are far from satisfactory. It has been well said that the worst building in a village is the village Lower Primary School. So also the case with the buildings of Middle Vernacular, Middle English and High English Schools. Last year a provision was made in the budget to improve the Lower Primary School buildings on self-help basis and a sum of Rs. 1,500 was sanctioned to those few schools who could contribute an equal sum for the improvement of their school buildings. But this year even that scheme has been withdrawn. Thus those schools who were assured of help this year under the scheme have been disappointed and the School Boards have to face great unpleasantness. A new scheme when introduced should not be withdrawn abruptly. There are very big High English Schools without a school hall and for want of class room classes can not be accommodated properly. It is often said that there has been mushroom growth of Non-Government Middle English and High English Schools and these are more due to local rivalry than to actual educational needs of the locality. I do not deny the fact and there may be some such rival schools but I think that the spirit of rivalry has also been nourished by the Government by favouring these schools with some nominal aids though these schools cannot manage with such meagre aids. If the Government recognises the necessity of a school and grants aid it is also the duty of the Government to see that the school is granted a substantial amount so that it can run properly. It is high time that the Government should come forward with a definite policy of giving grants-in-aid and no school should be extended grants under pressure. Government should provide funds for the improvement of the school buildings. We are moved in this direction only when there is some natural calamity like earthquake, flood or storm and funds are made available for the school buildings. Again, Sir, every year in spite of the fact that there is no regular provision in the budget some non-recurring grants are made for construction or repair of school buildings from the savings of the current year's budget. The amount that can be made available from savings must be naturally very small and yet in the absence of regular provision in the budget every school is anxious to get a little bit out of this fund. It becomes a difficult and

delicate job for the Education Department to accommodate all the schools and their patrons out of this little sum. The result that very small amounts are doled out to large number of schools as grants-in-aid to satisfy the school authorities and their patrons like consolation prizes. Thus two or three lakhs of rupees are being regularly doled out every year from the savings or unspent balance and during the Budget Session of the Assembly school authorities and their patrons throng Shillong to have the blessings of the Education Minister or D. P. I. but the aided school buildings show little signs of improvement. So, Sir, I beg to suggest that we should have a planned approach to this vital question. To say that we do not possess adequate resources to cope with the situation is only evading the problem. In fact we want a definite plan for the very reason that our resources are limited and we can ill afford to waste what little we can spare. There is again the complaint and criticism that there is no uniform and definite policy of distributing grants-in-aid and these are often granted on pressure. If Inspector's recommendation is the criterion for giving grants-in-aid then I fail to understand why some schools get grants every year and under different heads while some schools do not get grants at all. In my area Karara and Changsari H. E. Schools have not been given any grant this year. So I feel very strongly that a good deal of improvement can be done if we have a plan to provide even a modest sum like ten or fifteen lakhs of rupees every year for the improvement of the buildings of the aided institutions. Building grants to the aided schools have become all the more necessary because of the introduction of the new revised scale of pay and deficit system of grants-in-aid. The fee income of the institution is taken into account and the balance only is given by the Government by way of grant-in-aid. The big schools with a comparatively large number of students are not benefited and they are most hard hit as their needs are many but they will receive little from the Government and they will be left with no reserve fund to expand their institutions. The entire fee income now comes to the Government indirectly and only 25 per cent of the fee income is allowed for the school for payment of the employees other than teachers and other miscellaneous expenses. Thus the schools have been left with no resources of their own for expansion. So every school gives pressure for non-recurring building grants from the Government. The M. L. As also are compelled to approach the D. P. I. or Education Minister for grants for their schools. This has created much unpleasantness. As a matter of fact now-a-days the efficiency of an M. L. A. is judged by what amount of

money can be extorted from the different Ministers for his constituency and this has made us constituency mined. Justice can be done to the schools uniformly and much unpleasantness and troubles can very easily be avoided if we adopt some uniform principle of distributing grants-in-aid by increasing the education of the fee income of the aided institutions. Now 25 per cent of the fee income is allowed to the schools in assessing the deficit grants-in-aid. The reserve from fee income should be increased to 40 per cent and thus every school will get some amount by way of grant-in-aid. Say for example, a school has 300 students and below 300 students a school is not allowed the benefit of the revised scale of pay. If we take Rs. 2-8-0 as the average fee of the students of the school then the fee income comes to Rs. 750, then 40 per cent of this comes to be Rs. 300. Thus the school will get for the reserve fund Rs. 3,600 a year. From this at least Rs. 2,500 can be utilised for expansion works. Thus every school will get uniformly what it deserves and there will be no room for criticism of unequal distribution of grants. The school need not be given non-recurring grants-in-aid and thus the reserve fund will swell enabling the schools to be self-reliant and self-sufficient. The total fee income of the aided institutions comes to be about 60 lakhs of rupees and if my suggestion is given effect to the Government will incur an additional expenditure of Rs. about 9 lakhs. This amount is very modest and Government expends every year under different heads a sum much more than this by way of grant-in-aid to the aided institutions. This amount may not be sufficient to the schools but every school will know what amount it will get and will be in a position to adjust the projects accordingly. For construction of big projects Government should adopt a principle issuing interest-free loans payable in a number of years from that saving of the reserve fund. Loans may be issued to the schools varying from 10 to 20 thousands and thus the buildings of the schools will improve and we also need not go to the Minister or D. P. I. for favour of grants which will relieve the Education Department and Education Minister from much trouble and unpleasantness. As I have said, Sir, Government is spending a considerable sum of Rs. 8 to 9 lakhs every year as non-recurring grants but these grants are issued without any fixed policy and grants are given mostly under pressure. This should be avoided. But whenever a special reason arises say for instance, a school building is gutted by fire or eroded by river, then certainly Government should come forward with liberal grants to meet the situation but normally no discrimination should be made in the matter of distributing grants-in-aid to the aided institu-

tions and this 40 per cent reserve fund will be the amount for all normal purposes.

Another very important matter I want to bring before the House is that we have been continuously hearing about the deterioration of the standard of education. This has of late engaged the attention of the press also and this is a good sign. While it must be admitted that the reasons for the deterioration of the standard of education are many and varied and some of them are deep rooted in the very socio-economic set up of the society, yet, Sir, I feel that appreciable measure of improvement can be effected by a better system of teacher education, educational guidance and better supervision. There has been some effort to increase the number of seats in the training institutions. But an impression has been created that the desire to improve quantitatively has led to the sacrifice of quality to some extent. The very fact that supervision of the training institutions is generally confined to checking of accounts and other administrative irregularities and such works, proves that the training institutions are left to themselves without any benefit of expert advice or experience on educational guidance. The training institutions can justify the huge outlay of expenditure only if teachers coming out of these training institutions are better fitted to do their job well. I have grave doubt as to whether an appreciable number of teachers coming out of these training institutions have been able to give a good account of themselves as trained teachers in actual imparting of instructions to the pupils.

It has often been said that our educational policy is wrong and so the standard of education has been deteriorated. Now-a-days it has become usual, whether in a public meeting or in an educational gathering, to denounce the system of education and to say that we have been following a wrong policy. Even we do not refrain from saying before the students that we have been pursuing a wrong policy and the education we are imparting is useless, that we have been following the wrong policy that was introduced by the British Government, and so on. My submission is that so long as we have not been able to give an alternative policy and programme of education we have no right to say before the students absolutely wrong and useless. This sort of utterances only help to undermine the eagerness of students for study and disloyalty to the educational institutions and teachers. This system of education has also produced eminent men in our

country. So teachers should have good educational training and guidance so that education may be effective and deterioration of the standard of education is not due to the wrong policy and uselessness of the system of education.

Another fact, Sir, is that we have training institutions at different levels and of different grades. We have the Basic Training institutions, Guru Training, Senior Basic Training, Normal Schools, B. T. Classes, and so on. As my Friend, Shri Barthakur, said there is some confusion about the ideal of our education and thus we have not been able to adopt a definite policy about our education. If Basic education is our goal then we should give more stress on Basic Training and the training in Normal Schools becomes redundant. Because the programme of training in Normal Schools is meant for the Primary Schools. Again there is no co-ordination of the different levels of training schools and their programmes of training. Education is of one organic growth and the different stages of it are something like the preparations for the next higher stage. Therefore the training programmes of teachers of different levels of training schools should be so adjusted so that one stage becomes the stepping stone for the next stage of education and the pupils are given instructions accordingly. So, Sir, I suggest that an Advisory Board should be set up for bringing about the co-ordination of the programmes of the different levels of Training Institutions and in that Advisory Board all levels of Training Institutions, whether conducted by the University or conducted by the State Government, should be represented and all Training Institutions other than those conducted by the University should be brought under the State Government.

Sir, if we want to improve education in our schools, the entire system of supervision needs a radical change. Unless the inspection of the schools can be better conducted, education cannot improve. There are schools, even L. P. schools going on without inspection for years. Instances are also not rare where the inspecting staff completes inspection of schools without going to the schools. This cannot improve matters. So I beg to suggest that the number of Sub-Inspectors should be increased so that there may be atleast one Sub-Inspector for each Development Block and each Sub-Inspector should not be allotted more than 60 schools. Balvantry Mehta Committee also has made a similar suggestion. As the Deputy Inspectors of Schools are mostly engaged in administrative works of School Boards and find little time for supervisory works of the Middle Schools there should be one Additional Deputy Inspector for each Subdivision specially entrusted with the work of educational supervision

For regular and efficient supervision of the Secondary and Training Schools it is necessary to strengthen both in quality and quantity the Inspectorate at a level corresponding to the Assistant Inspectors of schools. There should be one District Education Officer who should be entrusted only with the supervision of teaching of Secondary and Training Schools and giving educational guidance to the teachers of these institutions. These District Education Officers should be men of brilliant academic record with creative and imaginative insight. They should be so recruited so that they may be appointed as Inspectors of Schools if and when vacancy arises. These Education Officers should be entrusted with the supervision of the works of the Sub-Inspectors and Deputy Inspector, of Schools. These Education Officers also should have professional training in educational guidance. I stress upon professional training deliberately because every profession has developed certain technicalities and unless one is trained in the technique of that profession he cannot be expected to do his job well. The District Education Officer should not be burdened with any routine administrative work and he should have time and leisure to supervise the teaching and inspection of the teachers and Sub-Inspector and Deputy Inspector of Schools. I can not urge it too strongly to impress the House that unless the entire system of educational supervision is radically changed, education cannot improve. We have a large number of Officers in the Education Department but we do not want highly qualified persons with their brilliant records and attainments here and abroad to endorse pay bills and to distribute grants-in-aid. These specialised persons should be treated as technical persons and their experience and specialisation should be better utilised in works for which they are more useful. So long as Inspectors are looked upon as mere administrative personnel whose duty is only that of fault finding, education in schools cannot improve, however much we may multiply the number of officers. The Inspectors should be looked upon by the teachers as friends and guide.

Then, Sir, another problem is that our Lower Primary teachers do not get their pay regularly and timely. This is one of the most difficult problems for our teachers and this has given a lot of dissatisfaction to the teachers throughout the entire State. Payment by Money Order has found to be ineffective as beyond a certain number of Money Orders the Post offices do not accept them daily and in the Branch Post Offices the remitted amount is not always found ready. The method of cash payment may be experimented by appointing

a person with cash security and he should be provided with a car or jeep and payment may be made on certain appointed dates in certain specified centres. If this system is considered risky and troublesome then payment should be made by Hundis. The Hundis should be sent to the teachers and Government should appoint certain authorised firms or business man of reputation who will make payment to the teachers on presentation of the Hundis and they in turn will get them cashed from some Bank at a certain percentage of commission. This will make payment easy and regular.

Then, Sir, regarding the pay scales of the teachers there is a lot of anomalies of the teachers of different levels. I do not know how the recommendations of the Pay Committee have affected in other departments but the scales recommended to the teachers have caused great disappointment. As regards some categories of teachers there is no recommendation at all. Besides the anomalies in the recommendations of the Pay Committee there are cases of wilful negligence of the Education Department to ameliorate the legitimate grievances of the teachers. For instance some time in 1951 a circular was issued that the untrained teachers of Lower Primary schools who have been in service for more than 15 years or who are more than 40 years of age should be treated as trained teachers for their pay and prospects. But this benefit has not been extended to the teachers of the Lower Primary section of the Middle Vernacular Schools managed by the same Education Boards. The D. A. of Rs.5 granted recently to the teachers of the Lower Primary Schools has not been extended to the teachers of the Lower Primary sections of the Middle Vernacular Schools. It is not proper. The pay of the teachers of the Lower Primary and the teachers of the Lower Primary section of the Board managed Middle Vernacular schools is the same but the benefits extended to the teachers of the Lower Primary schools have been improperly denied to the teachers of the Middle Vernacular schools who are clearly entitled to. As regards the D. A. recently granted to the teachers of the Lower Primary schools I suggest that this amount should be merged with their basic pay and the basic pay should be raised by Rs.10 per month. In that case the State Government can approach the Central Government for 50 per cent contribution of the increased pay but in case of D. A. it is only State's concern. The State Government is not to incur any additional expenditure but the teachers will get another Rs.5 if the Central Government can be made to agree to pay the 50 per cent of the total increment made to the teachers. There has been a lot of anomalies as

regards the teachers of the Government Middle Vernacular Schools. Much injustice has been done to them. A circular was issued to the effect that all Government employees getting below Rs.100 as pay allowance will get a flat increment of Rs.5, but this was denied to the teachers of the Government Middle Vernacular Schools. Teachers who have been serving in the Grades A and B under Assam Lower School Service cadres have not been given the corresponding increased scale of pay. So also the case with the teachers of the Government High English Schools who have been serving in Grade A. No scale has been recommended to the teaching staff of the Training Schools. All these are to be immediately removed. So I suggest that a high powered committee should be immediately constituted to examine all these anomalies and suggest remedial measures which should be implemented by the Government.

Then, Sir, coming to Sanskrit education, I should say that Sanskrit education is the most neglected subject now. We often say that Sanskrit is the mother of all Indian languages, it is the vehicle of our culture and heritage, it is the language of our ethics and religion, but we have not given any attention not to speak of its expansion but even for its preservation. The traditional Tol System is a complete failure because a student coming out of the Tol after his study finds that it cannot give him bread. Further, no recognition has been given to the scholars of the subject. For instance a Matriculate teacher if he passes the Normal Training he is given a benefit of higher scale of pay but a teacher if he passes a Sanskrit Title examination he is not recognised as having an additional qualification. To get a Title a student requires 10 to 12 years of study but he gets no recognition and there is no incentive to study the subject for all these. Without Sanskrit a teacher cannot teach Vernacular subjects well. So Sanskrit should be made a compulsory subject in the Secondary schools. Sanskrit can not be improved by the present Tol system only. A committee was constituted to suggest means for the improvement and popularity of the teaching of Sanskrit and this Committee has submitted its report. I hope and trust that Government will give a careful consideration to the recommendations of the report.

Another matter, Sir, I want to state is about the Middle English and Middle English Madrassas and High English Schools and High Madrassas. In certain places there are Middle English and Middle English Madrassas side by side so also High English Schools and High Madrassas in certain

other localities. Middle English Schools and Middle English Madrassas are of the same standard and teach the same courses with the difference of Arabic and Persian compulsorily taught in the Madrassas. So also in case of High Schools and High Madrassas. These two types of schools also teach the same courses of study and are of the same standard. In the High Madrassas more emphasis is given on classical subjects and the subjects are taught through Arabic and Persian in certain system of Madrassas. Madrassas and High Schools should not be encouraged in the same locality. It doubles the expenditure of education and encourages the separatist and sectarian tendencies. Provision can be very well made for the teaching of Arabic and Persian in the Middle English and High English Schools and in fact there are such provisions. For teaching of Arabic and Persian one teacher may do and for the other subjects the same staff will serve the purpose. Different arrangement can be made for religious teaching if thought necessary. Separate institutions in the same locality for these courses of study not only leads to duplication of expenses but is positively detrimental for the growth of common interest and unity in outlook. This also affects the democratic feelings in a democratic state. Further we are going to adopt the three years Degree Courses in the University stage and Secondary Schools are to be up-graded to Higher Secondary stages with a view to adjust the courses of study. As High Schools and High Madrassas are of equivalent status we shall also have to examine how the High Madrassa can be fitted in the new set up.

Then, Sir, regarding the Gauhati University Act I feel very strongly that it requires immediate amendment. I tabled a resolution for the amendment of the Gauhati University Act but for want of time I am afraid it may not come before the House for discussion. The Gauhati University Act and the Gauhati University Amendment Act have been found to be defective in many respects. The Development Board constituted according to the provisions of the Amendment Act has been disfavoured by the University Grants Commission. Shri Deshmukh when he visited the University last year made this perfectly clear to the University authorities that there will be difficulty in obtaining grants as no grant can be extended to the University Development Committee. The University Grants Commission recognises the University and not the Development Committee. Besides there are certain clauses in the University Act which are opposed to democratic principles. For instance as regards the constitution of the Executive Council, it may be pointed out that two Principals are to be elected

from their own body but these two seats are *ex-officio*. How elected offices can be *Ex-officio* I do not understand. If this is regular, then there are certain other elective offices in the University Court which also can by analogy claim to be *ex-officio*. The two seats in the Executive Council, because they were elected with the beginning of the University, will be occupied by the same persons because they were elected to be *ex-officio*. Is it not against any test of democratic principles? There are many instances of this type and I request the Government to bring about an amendment of the Act immediately. The University should also be pressed to open technical courses of study like Tea and Oil Technology for the interest of the children of the soil.

I want to say a few words about the Kamrup Music College of Gauhati. This College was established ten years ago but no non-recurring grant has been given to it. Only a sum of Rs.100 has been given as recurring grant per month. But this College has been affiliated to the Bhatkhande University and had brilliant results last year. Another College was started on 26th January 1957 at Gauhati as a rival College to this and that College has been given a non-recurring grant of Rs.5,000 in March, *i.e.*, after two months of its existence. So I request the Government and the Education Minister to give a surprise visit to both the Music Colleges of Gauhati and to realise which one is functioning properly and deserves Government patronage.

Then, Sir, regarding the Middle English Examination I beg to state that the examination as it is being conducted now should not be continued. The compulsory Middle English Examination as it is being continued now is totally unsatisfactory as it leads to waste of time, encourages cramming and interrupts the normal pace of work in the schools. But I do not favour its abolition at this stage. It can be abolished easily but no good will come by this step. The examination if suitably modified may however serve some useful purpose by providing a minimum standard to assess the quality and teaching of the schools. The examination has served some purpose and the schools have some attention to the students of Class VI and emphasis has been given to teaching of the subjects in which examination is taken. Our whole education system is examination ridden so it is not proper to decry examination in modified so that students are not very much over burdened and attention may be given to the really important subjects. The examination should be simplified so as to consist of four papers

only. English, Mother Tongue and Mathematics should be compulsory and the fourth subject should be selected by lot from the remaining subjects and should be announced only just one month before the date of examination. This will reduce the burden of examination without at the same time leaving no scope for neglecting the other subjects. The examination should be of objective type and will be able to be completed in two days. The number of examination centres should be increased so that the examinees can find the examination centre within a walking distance. The result of the examination will have to be completed within 45 days and the examination should be held at the last week of November and the result will have to be announced by 15th of January. The results should be communicated to the respective Head Masters and the Head Master will announce the results after taking into consideration the progress and records of the particular student in the school. A student must pass the external examination, but his promotion will also depend upon the progress records of the class. In this way I feel the examination can be modified and better results may be expected. The examination will also serve in propagating new educational ideas to the students. Simplified in this way the examination will be free from the defects. With these words, Sir, I support the demand and oppose the Cut Motions.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery) : शिक्षा के बारे में इस सदन में बहुत कुछ जरूरी बातें कही जा चुकी हैं। इस बारे में मेरा कहना यह है कि हम सबसे पहले अपनी शिक्षापद्धति को बदलना चाहिये। हमें ऐसी शिक्षा पद्धति ग्रहण करनी चाहिये जिससे हमारा देश बने। देश आगे बढ़े। जनता की सर्वांगीण उन्नति हो। समाज उन्नततर हो।

मैंने यह महसूस किया है कि, वर्तमान शिक्षापद्धति ठीक नहीं है। इसमें बहुत सारी त्रुटियाँ हैं। जब कि हम इन त्रुटियों को दूर न करें, जबतक हम अपनी शिक्षापद्धति में आमूल परिवर्तन न करें तबतक हमारी शिक्षा का मानदंड उचा नहीं उठ सकता। बल्कि वह दिनोंदिन नीचे ही गिरता जायगा। मैं महसूस करता हूँ और सरकार से निवेदन करता हूँ कि वे इस बारे में पूरा ध्यान दें और उचित कारवाइ करें। हमें आज वेसी शिक्षा चाहिये जिससे देशकी एकता बढ़े।

हमें एक ऐसी शिक्षापद्धति की आवश्यकता है जिससे एक कल्याणमय राष्ट्र निर्माण करने में सहायता पहुँचे। हमें ऐसी शिक्षा चाहिये जिससे हमें नैतिक सुधार हो। हम में शुंखला हो और साथ साथ देशकी बेकारी दूर हो। वह शिक्षा किस कामकी है जो हमारे नव युवकोंको पंगु बनाती है। वह शिक्षा किस कामकी है जिससे बेकारी उत्पन्न हो? हमें ऐसी शिक्षा की आवश्यकता है जिससे हमारा जी कार्यकरी, अर्थात् काम चलाउ बन सके।

अपनी पाठ्यपुस्तकों के बारे में भी मैं दो चार बातें कहना चाहता हूँ। इसके लिये तो यह चाहिये कि हमारी पाठ्यपुस्तक निर्वाचन समिति का चुनाव ऐसे व्यक्तियों से हो जिन्हें शिक्षा का पूरा ज्ञान हो। देश और समाज की बुनीयाद क्या है, देश कैसे बन सकता है, इन सारी बातोंकी पूरी जानकारी हो। किन्तु मूल सिद्धान्तों के आधार पर हम अपने समाज का निर्माण करना चाहते हैं, उन विषयों का पूरा पूरा ज्ञान के बिना हम कैसे अपनी पाठ्यपुस्तकों का निर्वाचन कर सकेंगे? इसलिये मेरा कहना है कि पाठ्यपुस्तक निर्वाचन समिति के गठन में सरकार को विशेष ध्यान देना चाहिये। पाठ्यपुस्तकों का भी हमारे नवयुवकोंपर बहुत बड़ा असर पड़ता है। पाठ्य-पुस्तक ही अच्छी न हो, तो शिक्षा का मापदंड कैसे ऊँचा उठ सकता है?

दूसरी बात जो मैं कहना चाहता हूँ वह यह है कि हमें भारतीय भाषाओं के प्रति अवहेलना की दृष्टि से नहीं देखना चाहिये। किन्तु यह बड़े ही दुःख की बात है कि आज भारतीय भाषाओं के प्रति निरादर तथा अवहेलना की दृष्टि दी जा रही है। उदाहरण स्वरूप मैं यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे High School में किसी Middle English पास लड़के को Class VII में भर्ती किया जाता है परन्तु एक Middle Vernacular पास लड़के को Class V में ही लिया जाता है। ज्ञान और शिक्षा की दृष्टि से एक Middle Vernacular उत्तीर्ण विद्यार्थी किसी भी हालतमें एक Middle English पास विद्यार्थी से हीन नहीं है। बल्कि Middle Vernacular परीक्षा का मान दंड Middle English से ऊँचा ही है। फिर भी High School में भर्ती होते समय क्यों इस तरह का अन्याय होता है? मैं सरकार से निवेदन करता हूँ कि वे इस ओर उचित कारवाई करें और इस प्रकार की वृत्तियों को दूर करें।

हमने यह भी देखा है कि करीब करीब हर साल स्कूलों की पाठ्यपुस्तकें बदलती रहती हैं। इस साल पाठ्य पुस्तक के रूपमें किसी पुस्तक की स्वीकृति दी जाती है तो दूसरे ही साल वह पुस्तक बदला दी जाती है और कोई दूसरी पुस्तक को स्वीकृति दी जाती है। इस तरह हमारी शिक्षा बहुत ही खर्चीली पड़ जाती है। इसलिये मैं निवेदन करता हूँ कि इस प्रकार पाठ्यपुस्तकों की हेरफेर न हो। एक पुस्तक कम से कम ५ साल तक चलनी चाहिये। तभी हमारी गरीब जनता पाठ्य-पुस्तकों के खर्च से बच सकेगी। तभी हमारी जनता को लाभ होगा। इसलिये पाठ्यपुस्तक के निर्वाचन करते समय ही उसकी सारी वृत्तियाँ और दोषों को देख लेना चाहिये। अगर शुरू शुरू में ही किसी पुस्तकके दोषों को देख लिया जाय तो उसे ५ साल के अन्दर ही परिवर्तन करने की आवश्यकता न होगी। इस तरह हमारी शिक्षा भी खर्चीली न होगी। और हमारी गरीब जनता का लाभ होगा।

शिक्षकों के वेतनक्रम की ओर भी सरकार को ध्यान देना चाहिये। यह वेतन कम अच्छा नहीं है। इसलिये योग्य व्यक्ति शिक्षा के प्रति न आकृष्ट होते हैं और न आना चाहते हैं। विशेषकर Primary School के शिक्षकों के प्रति मैं सरकार की कृपादृष्टि का आकर्षण करना चाहता हूँ। Primary Schools के शिक्षकों को सिर्फ ५ ही रुपये महंगाई भत्ते के रूपमें बढ़ा दिये गये हैं। अभी सरकारने एक सौ रुपये से कम वेतन पावनेवाले सरकारी कर्मचारियों को १२ रुपये महंगाई भत्ता देने की निश्चय किया है। किन्तु Primary School के लिये यह सुविधा नहीं मिली। इस बारेमें सरकार का कहना है कि ये शिक्षक सरकार के Direct Employees नहीं हैं। इसलिये सरकार उनके लिये कुछ नहीं कर सकती। यह बड़े ही दुःख की बात है। सरकार से मेरा निवेदन है कि इन शिक्षकों को भी अपनी Direct Em-ployees बना लें और उन्हें अन्य सरकारी कर्मचारियों को मिलनेवाली सुविधायें दें। मेरा

और भी निवेदन है कि इस विषयपर विचार-विमर्श करने के लिये एक कमेटी कायम करें। और Primary School के शिक्षकों का बतनक्रम तथा अन्यान्य सुविधाओं की उचित व्यवस्था करें।

चाय बगानों में Primary शिक्षा का प्रबन्ध है। किन्तु यह केवल नाम के वास्ते ही है। चंद रोज पहले एक प्रश्न का उत्तर देते हुए हमारे शिक्षा मंत्री महोदयने कहा था कि इस संबन्ध में Indian Tea Association से वार्तालाप हो रहा है। किन्तु वार्तालाप के लिये कितना समय चाहिये। पिछले दस सालों से हम यही सुनते आये हैं कि इस संबन्ध में वार्तालाप चल रहा है। इस संबन्धमें कोई ठोस काम करना चाहिये। नहीं तो कुछ सुविधावादी लोग इस की अनुचित सुविधा लेंगे और हमारे मजदूर भाइयों को misguide करने की चेष्टा करेंगे। इसके अलावा हमें अपने चाय बगान के श्रमिकों को शिक्षा का पूरा बन्दोबस्त करना चाहिये। यह एक अधिकार है जो संविधान के द्वारा उन्हें दिया गया है। आशा है सरकार इस ओर ध्यान देगी।

हिन्दी शिक्षा के बारेमें भी मैं दो चार बातें बताना चाहता हूँ। हिन्दी की शिक्षा के लिये सरकार ने काफ़ी रूपया खर्च किया है। किन्तु कैसी शिक्षा हो रही है इस ओर कोई निगरानी होती नहीं है। इसके लिये सरकार को एक हिन्दी Inspector की नियुक्ति करनी चाहिये। हमारे मंत्री महोदय खुद एक अभिज्ञ शिक्षक तथा शिक्षाविद हैं। केवल इस देशमें ही नहीं, बल्कि विदेशों में भी उनका नाम है। हमें पूरी आशा है कि श्रीत्रिपाठीजी की देखभाल में हमारे प्रान्त की शिक्षा दिनोदिन उन्नति होगी। हमारी शिक्षा ऐसी हो कि हमारे नवयुवकों के जीवन निर्वाह का अच्छा रास्ता प्राप्त हो। और जीवन निर्वाह का पथ आसान हो।

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, while opposing the Cut Motions of my Friends, I want to make a few observations so far as education of our State is concerned. Sir, education is the back-bone of the nation, without education, democratisation of a State and establishment of a socialistic pattern of society and achievement of the goal of a welfare State are nothing but mere impossibilities. No development can be achieved without education. Education of the British regime was not to develop our mental faculties but to produce some clerks. Like administrative machinery, educational system has not been changed or reformed totally till now. We are glad that Government has taken up the question of reorganisation of Primary and Secondary education of the State. Basic education has been introduced and Government has decided to take over the management of the Basic Education Board. Sir, basic idea of basic education is very good and beneficial to us but the principle and idea behind it has not been maintained in the true sense of the term. Sir, another great factor of the slow progress of our primary education is that the majority of our Lower Primary Schools have one teacher school and over and above this, there is no proper inspection at all. Therefore, it is not possible for one teacher to teach all the

classes of a school where the number of students will not be less than 70 or 80. Naturally he has to pay attention to classes II and III, and as a result the children of classes A, B and I are neglected. In this connection I may say that neither the parents at home nor their teacher at the school pay good attention to the little children during this most important period of the time of the little children. As a matter of fact this important period to psychological development remains neglected causing great hindrances to their development. So I would request the Government that all one teacher schools should be granted additional teachers. In this connection, for the improvement of our Primary education, I want to draw the attention of the Government to the publication which appeared in the Hindusthan Times, March, 15, 1958, regarding the Estimates Body's Plea-Report to Lok Sabha, reading as follows:—"According to the report the committee feels that the most important and crucial period of life of a child is being left almost entirely to be shaped in a haphazard state by a number of uncontrolled and unco-ordinated bodies which are not governed by any uniform policies laid down by the Government in this behalf." Sir, another portion of the above publication reads as follows—

"The Committee has suggested that the Ministry of Education should make efforts in co-operation with the State Governments to increase the number of institutions for training teachers for Primary Schools and encourage cheaper schools for the children of poor people who cannot afford to send their children to costly schools at present working in the field."

Sir, another important thing I want to point out is that female teachers, specially motherly teachers, should be engaged to impart education to the little children of Primary Schools as generally women has got more patiences and has got more knowledge regarding children's psychology, so that the characters of the children can be moulded properly. That is why we have seen that education to the children was imparted by the female teachers in the Aryan age. In this report also it has also suggested the same thing. Let me quote it here, Sir—"Expressing the view that it would be better to have women teachers for child education, the committee has suggested that the Government should encourage women with requisite qualifications to enter more and more in the field of pre-primary education as teachers, offer them stipends during the course of their training and give them extra amenities while in service specially in rural areas such as housing, etc.

As regards the administration of primary schools the committee has suggested that the recommendations of the Kher Committee should be implemented so as to achieve some uniformity. It has also suggested that the State Government may be requested to examine the complaint that teachers under the control of Local Boards suffer from certain handicaps like non-payment of salaries in time and their utilisation for non-educational purposes, and, if necessary, exercise more direct control on the general administration of primary education to eliminate the existing evils".

Mr. SPEAKER: If the hon. Member reads the entire report, I am afraid, she will not get time to speak.

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigoan): I am referring to the few lines of the report, Sir. Now, with regard to the basic system of education, it is unfortunate that after its introduction we do not find that it has proved very successful. I draw the attention of the Government to do something so that our education should be reformed and improved so that it be of practical help to the students. Provision for proper inspection must be made. Let me come to the question of compulsory Middle English Examination in the High Schools of our State. Sir, much has been discussed regarding the present state of affairs regarding the Middle English Examination which has been made compulsory in the High English School. I admit that examination is necessary to test the intelligence of the students and it is the mile stone of knowledge. But at the same time we must also admit that it should be conducted properly. But in the present arrangement prevailing in the State, we have seen that it has not been conducted properly. Sir, it is pure and simple that an officer with the help of some office assistants cannot conduct an examination efficiently when the number of the examinees run to about 50,000. I hope Governments will do the needful without any delay.

Sir, in our State about 1/3rd of our population belongs to labourers. Government have undertaken schemes for the improvement of the lots of the primary schools in the tea gardens. We are glad to hear this and hope that it will be materialised as soon as possible. Sir, there is great disparity between a Government teacher and a teacher serving in aided institutions so far as their security of service, scales of pay, future prospects, etc., are concerned.

Sir, in 1956, we had 25 colleges, 438 High Schools, 1,504 Middle English and Middle Vernacular schools, 12,898 Lower Primary schools, 612 junior basic and 28 senior basic schools. Out of this one is Government college and very few are Government schools and others are at the mercy of the Managing Committees and Governing Bodies. My submission to the Government is that Government should have control over the internal administration of these Committees, I mean the Managing Committees and Governing Bodies. The security of service, justice and equity must be assured to the teachers because there are instances that some Governing Bodies and Managing Committees are doing gross injustice to teachers for which aided institutions sometimes becomes halting places of teachers. Simple allocation of money cannot improve education. Sincerity must be rendered to have the sincerity of service of the teachers.

Now let me come to the question of University. Sir, the Gauhati University should have introduced subjects which are of special interest to the State of Assam *viz*: Agronomy, Anthropology, etc. I hope along with those subjects the University should introduce subject like Home Economics which will be of great help to the women students. I hope Government will insist the University for it as it will help our students to a great extent.

To another fact, I want to draw the attention of the Government and that is about the question of the under-matriculate persons in our villages. As no Government job is possible for them to get for their under-education, Government should provide vocational education to these persons. They have become a headache to the Government and the society. They should be given some technical training, so that they may earn their livelihood and become useful citizens of the country and render their service in nation building activities. Something should be done to utilise these under-matriculいたes. We should try to give them employment by giving them some training and utilise their services in various development schemes.

Sir, we have got an Agriculture College. In this connection I want to point out that in Assam we have got the tea industry which is an important industry. Some education, so far as cultivation and manufacture of tea is concerned, should be imparted to the students in the Agricultural College. I have come to understand that the Tea Board offered some financial help to open post graduate classes in tea and some refresher course in

the Agricultural College, but I do not know why the scheme has not materialised. I hope Government will pay some attention to this point and do the needful.

Sir, lastly I want to draw the attention of the Government that it is necessary to overhaul the present educational system which has become very essential in the changed circumstances. I hope Government will do something in this important matter.

With these words, Sir, I oppose the Cut Motion and support the motion moved by the Education Minister.

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patherkandi (Reserve for Scheduled Castes)] : মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, শিক্ষার ব্যয় বরাদ্দের উপর যতগুলি চ্যামাই প্রস্তাব উপাধন করা হয়েছে আমি তার সমর্থন করছি।

মাননীয় সদস্য শ্রী বড়গাঙ্গুর দেখিয়েছেন যে আমার পরিকল্পনার লক্ষ্য বেখানে ভারী শিল্প সৃষ্টির দিকে তখন আমার শিক্ষা ব্যবস্থাকে আমরা গড়তে চাইছি কুটির শিল্পের প্রয়োজনে। একটা Machanised দেশে Machanised কুটির শিল্পের ভূমিকা আছে। কিন্তু আমাদের এই কুটির শিল্পের ভূমিকা অন্য ধরনের। যতদিন পর্যন্ত ভারী শিল্প গঠন না হয় ততদিন বেশী লোককে কাজ দেওয়া বোধ হয় এর মুখ্য উদ্দেশ্য। এটা অস্বাভাবিক। কিন্তু আমাদের প্রাথমিক শিক্ষাকে আমরা যেন এই কাজের উপযোগী করে রাখতে চাইছি Basic Education এর নামে। স্বাধীনতা আন্দোলনের যোগে বিদেশী পন্য বর্জন এবং স্বাবলম্বী হওয়ার প্রয়োজনে এই শিক্ষারও প্রয়োজন ছিল আজ মোটাকো বিচার করতে হবে নতুন দৃষ্টি ভঙ্গী নিয়ে।

আর একটা জিনিষ আমাদের মনে অত্যন্ত পীড়া দেয়। আমরা বর্ধন স্কুলের ছাত্র ছিলাম তখন আমাদের মাননীয় প্রধান মন্ত্রী শ্রী নেহেরুর অনেক বক্তৃতা এই আমাদের অনুপ্রাণিত করেছে। সাম্রাজ্যবাদের বিরুদ্ধে চীনের যুবকদের উৎসাহ করার জন্য তিনি চীনে গিয়াছিলেন; তিনি দেখে এসেছিলেন কি ভাবে যে সমস্ত যুবক বিপ্লবীদ্যালয় ছেড়ে Front লাইনে যুদ্ধ করেছেন তাদের আবার চীনের সাম্রাজ্যবাদ বিরোধী গভর্ণমেন্ট দেশের অভ্যন্তরে নিয়ে গিয়ে পাহাড়ের গুহার শিক্ষা লাভের ব্যবস্থা করেছিল। আর বৃটিশ গভর্ণমেন্ট সাধারণ ভাবে শিক্ষা বিস্তার করছেন বলে তিনি বক্তৃতা দিয়েছেন।

গভর্ণমেন্টের স্কুল কলেজ এবং সাহায্যপ্রাপ্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানের মধ্যকার বৈষম্য সে যোগে সমালোচনার বস্তু ছিল। আমাদের জাতীয় আন্দোলনে সে বৈষম্যকে দূর করার জন্য দাবী ছিল। আমরা উৎসাহ হয়েছি যে শ্রোণাম। আজ ক্ষমতা পেয়ে কেন সে দাবী পূরণ করেন না আমার গভর্ণমেন্ট?

শিক্ষার সম্প্রসারণ অত্যন্ত প্রয়োজন। কিন্তু সে দিকে উৎসাহ খুবই কম। আমরা দেখতে পাই নতুন স্কুলকে গ্রান্ট দেওয়ার ব্যাপারে সরকারী নীতি খুব প্রশংসনীয় নয়। আমি একটা ছোট দৃষ্টান্ত দিচ্ছি।

করিমগঞ্জ মহকুমার জনসংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি পেয়েছে। মাত্র একটা গার্লস হাইস্কুল করিমগঞ্জ হাইস্কুল করিমগঞ্জ মহরে এতদিন জীশিকার প্রয়োজন মিটিয়েছে আজ সেখানে ১২ শত ছাত্রী। ১৬ টা ক্রমে ১৯ টা ক্লাস হয়। সংগীত, সেলাই প্রভৃতি জীশিকার প্রয়োজনীয় ক্লাসগুলি বাদ দেওয়া হয়েছে। অভিভাবকদের চাপে কয়জন নাগরিক নতুন একটা গার্লস এম.ই. স্কুল স্থাপন করেছেন—বিরজা সুলতানী গার্লস এম.ই. স্কুল নামে। পাকা ঘর, উপযুক্ত শিক্ষক সবই আছে, কিন্তু নাই শুধু সরকারী সাহায্য। দীর্ঘ পাচ বছর পর মাত্র এই বার সরকার কিছু সাহায্য দিয়েছেন।

এবংসর করিমগঞ্জ সহরে ২০০ ছাত্রী এম,ই, পরীক্ষা পাশ করেছে। একমাত্র হাইস্কুল মদনমোহন মাধব চরণ গার্লস হাইস্কুল আজ ছাত্রী ভর্তি করেছেন না। Class VII খুলবার জন্য বিরজা সুন্দরী এম,ই, স্কুলের কর্তৃপক্ষ সরকারের কাছে অনেক আবেদন করেছেন আজ পর্যন্ত অনুমতি দেননি গভর্ণমেন্ট। চিন্তা করণ একবার ছাত্রী এবং অভিভাবকদের অবস্থা। নারী শিক্ষার ক্ষেত্রে এই রক্ষণশীল মনোভাব মোটেই প্রশংসনীয় নয়।

আজ যেখানে প্রতিটি মহকুমা সহরে এক একটা বালক বিদ্যালয় সরকারী পরিচালনায় চলছে, সেখানে সমস্ত রাজ্যে মাত্র ২টা গভর্ণমেন্ট গার্লস হাইস্কুল আছে। এই বৈষম্য দূর করা উচিত এবং প্রতিটি মহকুমা সহরে অন্তত একটি গার্লস হাইস্কুল পরিচালনায় নেওয়া উচিত বলে আমি মনে করি।

পশ্চাদপদ Scheduled Caste এলাকায় শিক্ষা সম্প্রসারণে ও সরকারী নীতি ব্যর্থ হয়েছে। মাসিক বেতন মাফ করে দেওয়া হয়েছে সত্য কিন্তু সরকারী টাকা পাওয়ার অনিশ্চয়তা এবং দেরীর ফলে আজ পর্যন্ত সে সুবিধা অনেক ছাত্র উপভোগ করতে পারছেন না। সরকারী বেতন মাফ হয়ে যাওয়ার আজ Scheduled Caste এলাকায় নতুন স্কুল প্রতিষ্ঠা অসম্ভব হয়ে দাঁড়িয়েছে। কারণ প্রথম পর্যায় ছাত্র বেতনের উপরই প্রতিষ্ঠানকে নির্ভর করে চলতে হয়। এটা এখন সম্ভবপর নয় বলে ঐ সমস্ত পশ্চাদপদ এলাকায় স্কুল প্রতিষ্ঠায় নতুন সমস্যা দেখা দিয়েছে। শিক্ষা বিস্তারের জন্য সরকারী উদ্যোগে স্কুল প্রতিষ্ঠা করা প্রয়োজন এখনও পশ্চাদপদ এলাকা গুলিতে

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, while I was in Class VIII I remember to have read one English poem which runs like this :

“My days among the dead are past,
Around me I behold,
Wherever these casual eyes are cast
the mighty minds of old.”

The underlying idea is that the poet laments over the death of the intellectual giants who have kept the vast wealth of knowledge accumulated in their valuable books. But unfortunately these intellectual giants are no longer there to guide the society. Sir, since the very inception of human society these wise men of the past have kept their accumulated wealth of wisdom and experience recorded in their books and the subsequent generations are profited from their writings. Now the purpose of education is to open up the path for acquiring these past knowledge and experiences so that there may not be any hindrances for our young boys and girls in the path of acquirement of knowledge. But unfortunately we find our hindrances on the path of acquiring knowledge is day by day, year by year, increasing. Our Education Department is putting more and more obstacles on the path of acquiring these past knowledges and experiences recorded in the books of past writers. Moreover for an instance the education becomes costly as

the rate of fees is enhanced year after year. Moreover Education Department changes the syllabuses every year. One book prescribed for this year is prohibited for the next year and some other books are again introduced. For an instance—last year in Class VII ভাৰত বুৰঞ্জী—This year বিশ্ব ইতিহাসত এভূমুকি। In Class IV—Last year—history—বুৰঞ্জীৰ কথা—This year ভাৰত বুৰঞ্জী। Geography—Last year নতুন ভূগোল; This year আদৰ্শ ভূগোল। This has created great difficulty for the poorer section of our people. They cannot afford the luxury of buying new books every year for their boys and daughters. After all, Sir, historical facts do not change every year. The battle of Pallasey took place in the year 1756 and in all histories the one and the same thing is written.

Mr. SPEAKER : But geography changes.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH : (Amguri) Shillong is the Capital of Assam. Peking is the Capital of China. It remains so this year and also in subsequent years. I therefore do not see any point in changing the syllabus every year. However, there may be some addition—such as “a bridge over the Brahmaputra is proposed to be constructed at Gauhati” when the question of importance of Gauhati comes anew for this new addition, subsequent addition will do. Entire book needs no replacement. If constant change of books is done, poor parents will not be able to send their children to schools in fear of increasing expenditure every year. I hope Government will be pleased to consider this matter. Last year Government was pleased to give us an assurance to this effect on the floor of the House. But they do not seem to pay heed to their promises, they do not keep their own words. This will be successful only in jeopardising the scope of education of the poor section of the people.

Democracy means government of the people, by the people and for the people. So, if the people are not educated, then certainly this policy in democracy cannot be fulfilled. Today's youths are leaders of tomorrow. The growth of nation, the growth of industry, agriculture, civilisation, etc., depend upon the children of to-day. So, the future governance of the country rests upon the youths of to-day. Therefore a good policy for the good education of our youths should be adopted and it should be free. In some countries like, Burma, Russia, etc., there is no fee for education and there is no problem in this regard, and there is great freedom for promotion of education to

the children. If we want to establish here a fullfledged democracy then the road for education should always be free for our future generations.

The pay scale that has been recommended by the Pay Committee for the teachers of our educational institutions is not sound nor it is attractive for the really qualified persons to come to this Department. A professor gets a pay scale of Rs.350—Rs.800. But a Divisional Forest Officer gets a pay scale of Rs.600 to 900. This shows a great difference between these two while a Divisional Forest Officer can be produced by a Professor whereas a Professor cannot be produced by a Divisional Forest Officer.

Now, technical education should go side by side with general education. In the villages the people having general education are found to be remaining unemployed. There are in this way a large number of educated people who are remaining unemployed in the whole State. In my cadastral village there are 100 houses with 25 unemployed youths. From this it is evident that one person or youth in 4 families is unemployed. There are altogether about 25,000 villages in the State and if we roughly say that at least 5 youths in a village are unemployed then we find that in all about 125,000 youths approximately are remaining unemployed due to having no proper provision for technical education. So, Sir, provision should be made for giving technical or vocational education for our youths, for instance, for making matches, papers, and so many other things and also giving training in engine driving, motor driving, etc. Unless and until our youths get some avenues of life in Assam after their school education then this democracy will be meaningless and our democracy cannot be worth the name and peace will have no basis at all and as a result corruption, favouritism and nepotism will further settle themselves throughout the State. So, I think Government will consider this and try to open some vocational institutions so that our youths can be employed. Sir, I also agree that our Government has no definite policy regarding basic education as there is no proper syllabus for it. I know that there is a basic institution at Desangmukh, but in the normal examination the students of this institution have to appear after having the same syllabus as is practised in the general institutions. This shows that the ideal of our basic education is frustrating. Government is in between Scylla and Caribdis as to which way it should go it does not know.

The other day our Education Minister in answer to a question said that he did not know also who had given promises for C.I. sheets to the shools. But I should like to inform him that there are so many schools which were given promises for C.I. sheets if the frame is fitted with timber. I ask the Government to enquire whether such promises were given by the Chairman of the School Boards. There are so many schools which have not a single C. I. Sheet though these are fitted with timber. For want of C.I. Sheets many schools are running down. I therefore suggest that Government should make an enquiry and provide C.I. Sheets according to the requirements of the schools. I hope all the colleges and schools in our State will have C.I. Sheets very soon so that we can put our heads together.

Adjournment

The House then adjourned for lunch till 2 P.M.

After lunch

Shri KAMAKSHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcome the important suggestions given by different sections of the House with regard to the way in which education can be re-organised in the State. Many defects have been pointed out and I have no difficulty in owning them. As a matter of fact, Sir, within the last few years, there has been tremendous expansion of education in the State. I think of all the States of India, Assam is one of those States in which educational expansion is taking place at a very fast pace. Shri Nilmoney Barthakur said that education should be one of the most important industries of the State. It was in another sense he said so, but I am able to accept this in its literal sense also, because I feel that apart from all other developmental activities of the State, it is the educational development activities which are expanding with a fast pace, so much so that education may be described as the biggest industry of the State at the present time. The fact has been, Sir, that the expansion has been occurring in spite of the Government. If I may use a comparison, it might be said that 10 per cent of the educational structure of Assam is Government-owned and 90 per cent non-Government owned. The people have not waited for Government to come forward and take steps in different directions; they have taken it in their own hands and gone on expanding education at different levels, including the college level. Therefore, there has been an

uncorrelated development, so much so that Government finances are incapable of coping with the educational expansion in the private sector. If the private sector had been capable enough to own and open these schools, build them and properly staff them, then many of the difficulties would not have arisen. But what happened, Sir, is that the private sector also has opened schools even without buildings, even without adequate accommodation and without proper staff. The result has been that with very inadequate arrangements institutions have grown up. In some places they have grown up because a great necessity was there; in some places they have grown up because competition was there between different villages, and, therefore, we find the educational institutions growing up in different shades and forms, with different arrangements, different successes or failures, and the result has been that there has been a great deal of adulteration of standards.

Now, Sir, it has been asked what is the educational policy of the Government. Naturally, Sir, the educational policy or any policy of any Government is determined basically by financial resources. Now the resources of the State, so far as education is concerned, are fairly applied. Our resources are small, but we have tried to expand education at a very fast pace so far as our resources permit, but in terms of the requirements of the people it is extremely inadequate. Therefore, there is a great gap between our financial capabilities and the requirements of the State, not merely in education but in all other spheres also. But in education, it is specially emphasised because people understand the value of education, are demanding education and are going forward to establish educational institutions with their own efforts and the gap between the requirements and the resources grows wider every day. Now, Sir, so far as the resources are concerned, they tie us and accordingly we have to frame the policy also. So far as expansion of education is concerned, the Constitution lays down that primary education should be expanded quickly as far as possible. This is also necessary in a democratic society, otherwise democracy becomes imperfect. Therefore, so far as the expansion of education at the primary level is concerned, it is our policy to do so, but so far as the expansion of education at other levels is concerned, *viz.*, the Middle, High Schools or College level, expansion is not the policy. It is the improvement of standards which has to be the policy. As a matter of fact this should have been the policy of the State, but within the last few years, since Government did not apply control and since people were in a position to expand schools on their own,

the schools expanded and the result has been considerable. As a matter of fact, I was just looking through certain figures and I was surprised to find that there are nearly 700 Middle English schools in the State, which is a very large number, and about 500 Middle Vernacular schools and the High schools' number is also nearly 400. Now, naturally all these Middle English Schools tend to become High Schools. We have not been able to give adequate staff, adequate accommodation and adequate hostel arrangements even for the High Schools which exist in the State to-day. I had a chance to visit some of the schools during the last recess and I found every school was bursting to capacity, the number of students in each class had grown more than the class could bear, and every school wanted more money for expansion. On the top of it, all the Middle English schools are desiring to become High Schools and I can inform the House that not merely to-day but in the foreseeable future also the chances of the Education Department getting adequate money for the purpose of building these schools into good institutions, giving them adequate hostel accommodation, etc., are very slender. Therefore we have to look into this problem basically through economics, and economically speaking, Sir, the capacity of any State for spending on education is determined by the economic affluence and productivity of the State. And I may say that the capacity of a State for spending on any schemes is also determined by its surplus money, its capacity to bear taxes, etc. These are the factors which ultimately determine the problem of expansion of education in the State. In this way we find that expansion of production, expansion of economic activity in the State has not been commensurate with the demands of the State for amenities. Therefore, I think, time has come for the State to revise our attitude towards Education. Now what is happening? Most of the schools are not adequately staffed, not adequately housed, with the result that the percentage of failure is tremendous so that for every rupees spent nearly 8 annas is wasted. This is a colossal waste even for a very rich State, not to speak of a poor State like ours. For a poor State like ours we must not waste even a pie. If we come to this conclusion then inevitably we come to the resolve that whatever school above the primary stage we build it is adequately staffed, adequately housed so that the result of that school would be that 70 to 80 per cent would pass and the failure might be minimised. Then we come to the conclusion again that we have come to a stage in the State where the policy of Middle English and High School education and even College Education should hereafter be one of improving the

standard. We must apply ourselves to improve the standard rather than mere expansion of the schools. If we go on expanding the schools without improving the standard the result would be still more disastrous. Our students at high school level are not able to stand on a level with the students of other States. Why should it be so? The adulteration is very great. Many schools exist only in name without adequate staff and without adequate accommodation. They should not be high schools, they cannot be high schools, they cannot impart high school education. Let us compare a Government High School which has 80 to 90 per cent teachers who are graduates with a private High School with a percentage of only 20 or less graduate teachers. How the result of such schools can be comparable with the result of a Government High School? So, unless our people realise that we are a poor State and that we must husband our resources as best as we can, I would draw the attention of the hon. Members here as well as outside and in the country at large to give their co-operation and assistance so that the expansion of higher education merely in terms of institutions might be stopped and total energy might be applied for improving the quality of education in existing institution. Quality versus quantity is the question today and I have no doubt that in the middle and high schools stage the students should apply themselves to improve the quality rather than quantity. Now we are going to have a three years' Degree course. The result would be that intermediate education will be merged with high school education or the high schools would be upgraded to the intermediate stage. That will be a tremendous change. The idea is that ordinary education should completely stop at Matriculation stage so that students who want to go for any line would be able to do so, they might go to Medical, to Engineering or to Agriculture as they like. So Matriculation should become for all practical purposes the total education which the man should receive before he goes out in the world. So far as higher education is concerned that should be confined to people who have high intellectual power and who want to go for higher education in the general line. At present there is a general tendency on the part of our students to go in the same line which practice does not obtain in other countries. In other countries education is deemed necessary only in the primary stage. People who want to go beyond that to higher technical line they only go for education up to matriculation stage and there they branch out. But what is happening in our country? People who should have stopped at the primary stage merely glide into the Middle English stage and people who should have

stopped at the Middle English stage simply glide into the High School stage not knowing what is the scope in their life and what is the scope of their intellectual attainment. In other countries schools have been forced to appoint educational attendants or advisers for their students, from the primary stage, the children are advised as their special attitude, how far they should go and what should be their education attainment for certain lines. These are the advices which are given to the children of those countries so that they may determine their line of action. But in our country even a student in the college does not know what he would do after graduation. This is due to lack of variegation of our education. What about technical education? This will require money, but all our money is spent in the general line. Until and unless money is spared for these variegations, maladjustment will go on in our society and aggravate the situation. In our society there has been wrong planning. We find in our State peculiarly there is a tendency to open colleges even before the schools are opened. For instance two Engineering Colleges have been planned against only one technical institute and every one knows that you require for every engineer 6 or 10 overseers. This is incorrect planning and therefore for this reason the State should revise its attitude and try to balance its own realities and if that is done, then I have no doubt that I have great appreciation of the suggestion that in every Subdivision there should be a technical school so that students who are not suited for general line might seek technical education. I may also say that there is a tendency among the students who cannot pass Matriculation examination that they do not want to go for manual line. No country in the world can be of clerks and theoreticians. In our society gradually those students who cannot pass Matriculation should go for manual labour. The tendency for these people for seeking only clerkship should go. The women should come in to the jobs of clerks. Mrs. Barua rightly said that women should be given sole charge of teaching in the primary schools. I have great sympathy with her in this so far as primary education is concerned teaching should be entirely with women because they have far more ability to teach the children with kind words and sympathy than men have.

Mr. SPEAKER: In England and America the proper form of address of the word 'teacher' is 'she'.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education): Yes, Sir, therefore, so far as primary education is concerned teachership should go to women, so far as clericals and stenographers' works are concerned that should go to women.

This is the case throughout the world. For our boys to crave only for clerical jobs and not manual labour is a wrong policy. So long women did not come forward for education, that was a different thing, but now women are very enthusiastic for education and even they demand for education.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati): Why a women Minister is not taken as Deputy Minister by the Government ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education): I have full sympathy for the suggestion.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister is planning from below.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : Sir, I have no doubt that the hon. Members in this House have great influence on the society. So I would ask their co-operation so that they may impress upon our boys that instead of looking for soft work they should go for hard work to make themselves fit for harder life. I agree that there should be a technical institution for every subdivision so that there can be a certificate or diploma course and that besides this there should be a agricultural school for each subdivision. There is a tendency in our society that as soon as a boy goes to Class VI or VII he cannot go for manual or agricultural work. That is a wrong notion. No country in the world can improve unless educated people go for agriculture and technical work and unless intelligence is applied in these branches production will not increase. In other countries of the world even graduates are going to agriculture, not to the desk work but to ploughing. Our society should accept that idea when it will be accepted then alone our society will develop in the right direction. Therefore, a great deal of adjustments are necessary. So, I would request that instead of expanding high schools, middle schools and colleges, let us try to funnel all our resources to this new channel so that we may do better and make a balanced development of our economy.

Now, Sir, so far as Government effort to check this unbalanced growth, one of the steps taken by the Government is the introduction of Middle English School Examination. Now, it has been said that it has been mismanaged and not properly done. Mr. Sarat Goswami gave a good suggestion for improving this examination. The suggestion is that only 3 subjects of the Middle English should be compulsory and the remaining subjects not compulsory. For this he suggested that there should be a lottery for the subjects and of these one subject should be selected

on the result of the lottery before the examination takes place. The result will be that since the subjects will not be known to the students and teachers the student will learn all the subject. Besides, when these four subjects only will be examined, this procedure will reduce the workload and to some extent it will help to announce the results earlier. Whether this streamlining will be possible that will have to be examined from the point of view of finance as well as reference to our department. Unless, that is done, I cannot pronounce my opinion. I have no doubt that this is an interesting suggestion and it will be taken into consideration.

Sir, this Middle English Examination was introduced for two purposes, for checking the unblanced growth of High Schools and to improve the standard of education. This is also to prevent students getting promotion to the top classes without any proper examination as was happening in High Schools in the mofassil. I have no doubt that the introduction of this examination will help to raise the standard of education, if it is true that we want to produce quality and not quantity of students.

So far as the question raised by Shri Gopesh Namasudra is concerned that we are not doing anything for backward classes, I think, it is a very incorrect charge. The Government of Assam has given free studentships to all the tribal and scheduled caste students, so far as students of parents drawing an income of less than Rs.3,500 are concerned. This is an extraordinary thing.

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA : সব স্কুল কর্তৃপক্ষ ছাত্রদের কাছ থেকে বেতন আদায় করছে।

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education) :—For technical reasons some how it is not always possible for Government to go ahead so that schools might not charge the fees in full. Taking advantage of this some institutions are charging with the idea that when Government gives them the grants the same will be returned. I admit that this is objectionable. We will try to see how it can be readjusted, but from the Government point of view, we have undertaken financial responsibilities of giving free education to the students belonging to the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe communities. Apart from this, the Government of India are giving scholarships to a large number of students at different stages. I think, Sir, the effort of the country as a whole through scholarships and free studentships is one of

the most colossal ever undertaken by any country in the world. Therefore, to say that Government is rather careless about the backward people, the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, is unmerited and a very incorrect charge. I know my Friend does not mean it.

Now, Sir, so far the question raised that we are actually assisting the rich people to have education, that will also be incorrect. There is no such idea in the mind of the Government to give education only to the rich people. As a matter of fact all efforts made by Government in this connection, specially the two I have just mentioned, are not for the rich people but for the poor people. I have already said that people getting below Rs. 3,500 as annual income should get these advantages. That is not intended for the rich people, but obviously it is for the poor people, the psychology that is sought to be brought about is equalisation in the educational standards as quickly as possible. So that charge that we are favouring only the rich people or any class of people is I think wrong. Then again Sir so far the question of giving grants to the Schools; unfortunately in the beginning there was no grant from which to distribute to the schools—all these years we have distributed from the unspent balance. Luckily there was some fund provided last year out of which we have distributed. But naturally distribution was made on the basis of the report from the Inspectors and the Inspector took all points into account before making his recommendation. Therefore, to say that there was partiality or something of that kind in the matter of distribution of these grants is wrong. The whole intention is not partiality but that schools which deserve should be assisted. I have no doubt that it would be appreciated by my Friends that there is no discrimination or favouritism whatsoever in this matter, but the intention is proper distribution.

Now, regrading scholarships I quite realise, Sir, that centralised distribution of of scholarships at ministerial level has been a very incorrect step and it must be decentralised. Sitting at Shillong it is not possible for any single Minister to decide the competing interest of different students scattered all over the country. The best thing would be to distribute whatever we can on the basis of the schools. But how it should be done, the question has not been decided, the whole matter is under re-examination, and as soon as this is done, I think it would be possible to decentralise grant of scholarships.

With regard to special schools, namely music schools, etc. At Gauhati there are two music schools which vie with each other at the cost of the students. Both these schools claim to be colleges but they have nothing to be called college, the number of students is so low that they cannot even be called schools. There was rivalry and competition between them. There was effort from the Department's side to merge them into one, but all efforts have been unsuccessful. I think more than the interest of the students, it was the Secretary of the institution who is considered paramount. So when such things happen it becomes rather difficult to give grant to such schools. But this matter is also under examination.

Now, with regard to venture schools. It would be remembered that 587 new venture schools have been taken over in the year which has just gone out. Our policy with regard to these venture schools is gradual taking over. For the purpose of this taking over we have also laid down certain criteria that is, if they are found to be up to the mark they are taken over. But then if all the schools qualify suddenly in one year, it would be difficult for Government because of financial and other reasons. But finance permitting, our intention is to take over the venture schools. Now, Sir, one point which I want to draw the attention of the House is this. I think that point was also made by Mrs. Barua, that so far development of schools is concerned one-teacher school is bad. I agree. In America, Sir, I was told that in the beginning they had one-teacher schools but they were so inefficient that they had to be scrapped. Now they are having central schools where students travel as many as 30 miles to attend; they travel in buses because they found that it was far better to read in the central schools rather than in a one-teacher school. That is so because in a one-teacher school, the teacher may be dozing, he may not come to class or he may not be sufficiently educated, with the result that the students suffer. But in a big school even if one teacher is absent the students can still have the chance of learning from other teachers or even from students in higher classes. Whereas, as I have already said, in a one-teacher school if the teacher is absent, the result would be zero. In our society there is always a tendency to open primary schools in every village. I think this is the wrong idea. I feel that so far as primary education is concerned there should be one big central school and feeder schools may be developed where Classes A, B and I can be taught. When the pupil has completed his education in the feeder school he can get a chance of joining the central school for getting higher education. Unless this

is done, Sir, I think it would not be possible to expand primary education in our State. Our Prime Minister Nehru himself has said that instead of building houses, let us teach under the tree. Teach by all means. If we tie educational programme with Public Works Department performance then as our Prime Minister said, we won't be able to expand our education for 10, 15 or 20 years. But if we free our educational programme from the Public Works Department performance then only it would be possible for us to expand our education on a faster pace. This question is very important and these methods should be utilised in our existing village schools from the lowest level so that when the children come out of them they can join the central school.

Now, Sir, another important thing is that, so long we have been building schools and the idea was that a building is a school, but actually the building does not mean the school. What are the arrangements in a real school? First, there must be a teacher. But what is our teacher today? An unsatisfied teacher who thinks that he can teach only as much as he was paid for. Then what is a class room, no furniture, no accommodation. What is a library about which one of the hon. Members has said, the number of books is not enough. The child comes to school and sits and as soon as the bell rings he goes away, there is no intention of building his mind, to make him think, to appreciate to build his conduct and character. All these things are found to be outside the curriculum of the schools. How can there be a school without teaching these very A.B.Cs of the school. So, Sir, I say there has been a great mistake somewhere in our educational system. We have to take this matter into consideration. So, Sir, we should pay more attention to education than buildings.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) : Without buildings how the institutions can run?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education) : Well, Sir, if my Friend thinks that buildings are necessary, then let us have education programme which will be co-ordinated with building activities of the State and therefore, in that case it may take 30 or 40 years before total expansion of primary education may take place. Sir, my Friend is an economist, he knows better than me what is the capacity, what is the amount available for building of schools. He may calculate and find out for himself how many years will be

required for the expansion of the primary education. Prime Minister has said that if we tie up our education system with the Public Works Department performance then the education programme may be very slow. To this point of view, I am inviting the attention of the hon. Members as to how we can tackle the education programme.

Mr. SPEAKER : I am afraid the hon. Minister will have to be short. Too much time has been taken for Education.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education) : I was just saying that we have been thinking too much on buildings and the time has now come that we should think how far we can build the mind of the child rather than thinking too much on big buildings.

Now about library Sir, I am glad to find that in the Bajali they have got small library in each room. The library is given to the students themselves to manage and run the same apart from the general library. Sir, this is a very good system and I think this system should be introduced in other schools also.

Now so far as distribution of cyclone grants are concerned, it was an extra-ordinary thing. I agree that many schools have been left out but since it was the special grant voted by this House, no more money was available for distribution ; therefore, certain percentage of schools have to be left out, therefore, we have to abide by it, it was not done intentionally, but it was inevitable. Now, Sir, so far as pay scales are concerned.....

Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West) : The Hon'ble Minister has not replied about the point raised in connection with text books.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : I will come to it. Regarding pay scales there are anomalies and this question should be reconsidered. In this connection I think the Education Department has moved the Finance Department already for reconsideration, particularly the case of the M. V. school teachers is now under consideration of the Government.

Now so far as text books are concerned, I am much surprised the way in which the Text Book Committee has been functioning. I think the Government will have to consider the situation both with regard to quality of text books as well as periodicity of different text books. It may not be necessary to go on changing text books every year unless it is only for the purpose of helping the publishers.

This question has been discussed already and I am not in a position now to indicate the steps.

Now, Sir, as far as schools in the tea gardens are concerned, we have already made proposals to the Tea Industry. The Tea Industry has not yet replied. As soon as we get the reply, it should be our endeavour to take over or make some adjustment. Certain observation has been made with regard to inspection. Sir, I am quite conscious that expansion of education has been such that our inspectorate has completely broken down and the department cannot truly cope with the work of inspection due to expansion of education. This was not intended, but it could not be helped. I have no doubt that the Education Department will consider the suggestions made by the different hon. Members of House and I am also in great sympathy with the comments of the House with regard to inspection work. So far as appointment of a Special Officer for Hindi Education is concerned, this matter will be considered by the Government.

Sir, I think I have met most of the points raised by the hon. Members. Those point which remain unreplied due to want of time will be taken into consideration by the Government. Therefore I would request the hon. Members of the Opposition to withdraw their Cut Motions.

(All the Cut Motions were, by leave of the House withdrawn).

Mr. SPEAKER: Now the question is that a sum of Rs. 4,78,16,000 (Rupees four crores, Seventy eight lakhs and Sixteen thousand), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1959 for the administration of the head "37— Education".

(The question was adopted)

Grant No.24 '42—Co-operation—II—Rural Development'

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister, Rural Development): On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg Sir, to move that a sum of Rs.22,88,800 (Rupees twenty two lakhs, eighty-eight thousand and eight hundred) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1959 for the administration of the head "42—Co-operation—II—Rural Development."

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that a sum of Rs.22,88,800 (Rupees twenty two lakhs, eighty-eight thousand and eight hundred) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1959 for the administration of the head "42—Co-operation—II—Rural Development"
(The question was adopted)

Grant No. 7

"12.—Taxes on Vehicles"
and

Grant No.44

"XLVI.—A.—Road Transport Schemes—Working Expenses".

Mr. SPEAKER: There are two grants in the name of Capt. Sangma. I would request him to move both the grants together so that we may come to a general discussion.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister Transport) Sir, I beg to move grant Nos. 7 and 44.

On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, to move that a sum of Rs. 12,46,900 (Rupees twelve lakhs, forty-six thousand and nine hundred) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1959 for the administration of the head—"12.—Taxes on Vehicles".

On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs. 98,18,400 (Rupees ninety-eight lakhs, eighteen thousand and four hundred) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1959 for the administration of the head—"XLVI.—A.—Road Transport Schemes—Working Expenses."

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion moved is that a sum of Rs. 12,46,900 (Rupees twelve lakhs, forty-six thousand and nine hundred) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1959 for the administration of the head—"12.—Taxes on Vehicles".

The motion moved is that a sum of 98,18,400 (Rupees ninety-eight lakhs, eighteen thousand and four hundred), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1959 for the administration of the head—"XLVI.—A.—Road Transport Schemes—Working Expenses."

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Sir, I beg to move the Cut Motions standing in my name.

That the total provision of Rs. 12,46,900, under Grant No. 7, Major head 12.—Taxes on Vehicles, at page 40 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 100 *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 12,46,900, do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

(To discuss the looseness of control of the Transport Department).

That the total provision of Rs. 98,18,400, under Grant No. 44, Major head—XLVI—A.—Road Transport Schemes—Working Expenses, at page 518 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 98,18,400, do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(To raise a general discussion about the working of the State Transport Services).

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): Sir, I beg to move the Cut Motion standing in my name:

That the total provision of 12,46,900, under Grant No. 7, Major head—12—Taxes on Vehicles, at page 40 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1 *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 12,46,900, do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(To criticise the Government for):—

- (1) Crowding the R. T. A. Boards with Congressmen
- (2) The corrupt practice prevalent in the office of the R. T. As. in the matter of granting licenses and permits.

- (3) Failure to minimise risk for the travelling public).

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Sir, I beg to move the Cut Motions standing in my name:

That the total provision of Rs. 12,46,900, under Grant No. 7, Major head—12.—Taxes on Vehicles, at page 40 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 12,46,900, do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(To raise a general discussion)

That the total provision of Rs. 98,18,400 under Grant No. 44, Major head—XLVI-A.—Road Transport Schemes—Working expenses, at page 518 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 98,18,400, do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(To raise a general discussion).

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri):
Sir, I beg to move the Cut Motion standing in my name:

That the total provision of Rs. 98 18,400, under Grant No. 44, Major head—XLVI.A.—Road Transport Schemes—Working expenses, at page 518 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 98,18,400, do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(To raise a general discussion).

Mr. SPEAKER: All the Cut Motions are moved as above.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Mr. Speaker Sir, one of the important activities of the State is to run the State Transport, and since its inception, we have been earning a considerable amount of profit, by running the vehicles. At one time it was considered that the State is not competent enough to run its own vehicles and the Assam Transport would meet with a failure. Therefore this Assembly was very much hesitant to undertake such transport. Now, Sir, we have seen through our experiences that it is not only possible to run the transport vehicles efficiently but also it can be made profitable and we have been earning a huge profit from these vehicles. We have now about 563 vehicles, if I am correct, and of these, about 120 are trucks and the rest I suppose are buses for carrying passengers. We have also various routes; almost the whole of the State is covered with the State Transport vehicles. Now, Sir, it is time that we consider whether we have been running these vehicles in an efficient manner and secondly, whether it is not possible to improve the running of these vehicles. Sir, till two years back, most of the vehicles were petrol vehicles, but now we have mostly the diesel vehicles and the cost of running the vehicles is less, and even then the rates have not been lowered. As a matter of fact, compared with the vehicles run on the Gauhati-Shillong route by the Commercial Carrying Company, the rates have gone up very much. Even to-day we have found that a kind of cheating, if I may call it so, is being perpetrated. We have seen that a third class vehicle which has come from

Gauhati, becomes a second class vehicle at the time of going to Gauhati from Shillong. A person who had paid Rs. 3/- at the time of coming to Shillong had to pay Rs. 5-8-0 at the time of going from Shillong to Gauhati. Another type of cheating is that every bus is divided into two compartments. Now a person who sits a few inches ahead had to pay Rs. 5/8 while a person who takes his seat a few inches behind pays Rs. 3/- although the vehicle is the same, the leg space, sitting arrangements and other amenities are the same. Sir, I have the privilege of travelling in other countries. I have not seen this compartmentalisation in a particular vehicle. When our aim is the classless society let us also have a classless vehicle. Here we find the Government is more *bania* minded. For the same leg space same sitting arrangement, same scale of amenities different rates are charged. I think this is unreasonable. If the Minister in-charge wants that this type of arrangement should continue then he should give more facilities and other amenities and then if he charges more nobody will complain. Otherwise there is no meaning and justification to charge in this manner.

Secondly, we have seen also that the vehicles run from 6 0' Clock in the morning to 6 0' Clock in the evening. Now there are routes where it is possible to earn profit and continue the run till 9 0' Clock at night. Take for instance the Gauhati-Palasbari, Gauhati Rampur. Till 9 0' Clock passengers do travel on this route. As you have nationalised the route, it is the duty of the Government to provide them with transport till the time they go on moving. I do not find any reason why it cannot be done. Similarly, for Nowgong-Roha, Dergaon-Jorhat, Dibrugarh-Tinsukia, Hailakandi-Karimganj, Dhubri-Buxirhat, in these places also it is possible to place the vehicles thereby giving more facilities to the public and at the same time earning more profit to the Transport Department which is being earned by others in a clandestine way.

Then with regard to the question of maintenance and repairs of the buses, at one time it was suggested that whenever we nationalise a route we should form a Corporation. We have not formed that Corporation and we have now seen that our profit is so much. Now if a Corporation is formed the Railways will have to be taken in as a partner to it. The Railways will pay and will also get a profit. Now if a Corporation is formed, income-tax will have to be paid. We have earned a large sum of money as profit and as it is not a Corporation no income-tax has been paid. So Government loses the income-tax on that account. If we scrutinise the profit included by the private Corporation which would have paid many taxes, *viz:* vehicle tax, route

tax, income-tax—if we take into consideration all these things, most of these profit will vanish. So it cannot be said that our State Transport is running efficiently so as to earn a profit. When the private party can earn profit, after paying all these taxes, if we consider all these things, it will be seen that our State Transport is not earning sufficient profits. Why this is so ? First of all we have to consider the life of these buses. We have seen that very often our buses remain idle due to break-down. I have very often noticed many vehicles of the State Transport lying idle because of break-downs. Due to these break-downs, the passengers are put to great difficulties and inconveniences.

On this Gauhati-Shillong Road we have seen very often buses are not properly looked after and before going out from garrage they are not examined at all ; this is why they very often meet with break-downs. Most of these vehicles are put on the road incessantly. This is why almost 80 per cent of the buses run short of their life because of non-repairing, non-servicing and for not examining them properly in time. In this connection I would like to refer to the workshop facilities in the State Transport. We do not have any good workshop for repairs of the vehicles. For want of proper repairs in time those buses go out of action prematurely. Another point in this connection is about the bodies of the State Transport Buses. We have these bus bodies made in Bombay and for this we pay, I suppose, about 15 thousand rupees per each body. It is to be considered whether we are really paying for these bus bodies actually the due price or more than that. I have consulted many people, and I am told that these bodies can be built at a cost of five to six thousand rupees and that it is possible to build similar bodies even here in Assam. Therefore this point should also be considered. We can save a lot of money on this single item, i.e., construction of bus bodies, if we carefully examine the matter.

Then again, regarding workshop also we have now only one workshop worth the name and that is at Gauhati. Although we have got about 563 vehicles, we have got only one workshop worth naming, and there also space is very limited ; the workshop at Shillong is of very limited capacity ; in some other place we do not have any workshop at all. If we want to run these buses profitably, economically and efficiently, we should look to this question of having some more workshops and also expanding the scope of the existing workshops. In this connection I would also like to speak of the Shillong Motor Station. A new building has been recently built here but it has been

built in such a manner that it is impossible for one to get in ; it is so much congested that vehicles are kept jammed in such a way in between the two buildings, one newly built and the other old, that no one can dare to go inside the station without feeling of consternation due to heavy jamming of vehicles and the narrow passage for traffic. I do not know who planned this new building, why the planner did not have the imagination to keep wider space for easy movement of vehicles and passengers. It becomes a matter of shame for us to call it our State Transport Motor Station before any outsiders. In the workshop there is no space for keeping the vehicles coming for repairs ; there is not sufficient yard in the station and as a result all these vehicles or majority of them at least have to be kept on road with the consequence of heavy jamming threatening the life of passengers. This is about passenger traffic.

Than again, coming to the question of State Transport workers, we have seen the other day, they observed a Demand Day. These workers have contributed so much of their labour, time and energy for the success of the department, and yet their very essential demands, their basic demands have not been met. Sir, State Transport is an important undertaking of the State Government. It affords a splendid opportunity for having an organisation the management of which can be very well conducted by the workers themselves. If we sincerely desire for sharing the work with the workers here, it is necessary that we introduce the system of workers management in the State Transport. If it is introduced, I am sure, we will not be worse off than what we are now.

Regarding luggage traffic, Sir, we have about 120 vehicles and we charge at eleven annas per mound as against twelve annas charged by the private carriers before the State Transport was introduced. We have to examine the justice or otherwise of this rate. We find the State Transport trucks go empty from here, they do not carry anything except potatoes, and at the time of coming they bring goods from Gauhati. I know of many cases where the Bill of Lading has been received after two months and yet the State Transport cannot provide facilities for bringing the goods. At the time of bringing the goods the State Transport say that it is at the owners risk that they are taking the responsibility. They do not weigh the goods at the time of loading and as a result when they arrive here they are found less in weight. Pilfering of goods very often takes place and shortage is very often complained of. And then again, when it arrives in Shillong, there is no godown for proper storing of

goods or it is so limited that goods are often to be kept outside; and yet they charge demurrage, and it is also very excessive. When goods are carried, from Gauhati to Shillong, it is the responsibility of the carriers to weigh the things and to see that just in the same condition they are returned to the consignee. That has not been done. If that is not done, well, State Transport has no right to charge.

Then about potatoes, we find the rate of potatoes, Bihar potatoes at Gauhati is Rs.8 per maund, at Shillong the rate of of potato is Rs.6 per maund. Now over and above that a sum of Rs.1-4-0 is added as cost of labour. Therefore Shillong people have not been able to catch the market at Gauhati. This should be looked at not from the point of view of the State Transport. It has an important bearing on the economy of the people. Therefore the freight rate is to be carefully considered. We are all the time trying to give relief to these people in the Hills. Now, there is Mr. Willaimson Sangma, a representative of the Tribal people, as the Minister of Transport. I tell him, here is a case for you to push in hills goods in the plains. Do please make the transport of the hills goods easier and you can make it so by re-examining the rates. If you do not re-examine the rates and if you continue to charge the rates then I am sure that will not be good for our market and as a result Bihar and U. P. potato will come and capture our market and other goods also. We find that in many cases traffic go to Gauhati empty. On the other hand we see that coal is carried to Gauhati in about 120 trucks. Why not our transport vehicles carry such coal to Gauhati? If it is done, it will not only reduce the cost but it will also bring the price level of all goods. But it is not done now. In carrying good which our traffic cannot cope with, we should not monopolise it. Let other people also come in and have some share. If that is done then naturally there will be some competition and things will improve and the people will suffer less.

Another thing I want to suggest to increase our revenue is that, as in most of the States of India, we can allow beautiful advertisement posters to be fixed on our vehicles by levying some charge. That will surely bring us some money to our exchaquer. I think this can conveniently and profitably be allowed.

Another thing is that most of the District Transport Officer in the plains towns are running in rented houses and things are kept in such a clumsy way that it is difficult to go there. When these Departments are becoming permanent why should we not

have permanent Government owned buildings or why should we not shift such offices to the Deputy Commissioner's office buildings or such other buildings so that things can be put in a better way?

Another point is that the District Motor Vehicles officers are not found to be so careful as they should be and they do not condemn the vehicles which cannot run properly due to mechanical defects and which are to run at great risk. Had there been no mechanical defect in the bus at Tezpur then perhaps the very sad accident that took place resulting in death of several persons, could be averted?

Similarly, Sir, we find that there is no proper control in loading the private vehicles due to which so many accidents take place frequently.

Another thing is that some trucks do not switch off their head lights when crossing other vehicles on the road. In this matter also there is no control whatsoever. Either due to this or some mechanical defects almost every day we find on the Shillong-Gauhati road two trucks lying turtled. All this happens due to proper lack in traffic control. There is practically no traffic control on the road between Police Bazar and Mawlai and due to this sometimes it is impossible to move about freely on the road. This is so also at Fancybazar at Gauhati. Even in a town like Shillong traffic runs at a speed of 25 to 30 miles per hour. All these are to be taken into consideration by the Government. We know that this Department is not an infant department. Every year it is taking more important role and therefore it is necessary to see whether it is running efficiently or not and whether it is doing the best service to the people and whether there is further scope for improvement or not. We should see that this Department serves more useful purpose than what it is doing now.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion moved by the Hon'ble Minister for Transport.

Regarding Transport authority I would like to speak a few words. There is no proper checking of the vehicles—both public and private for the safety of the passengers and others. So, there should be a good number of mechanics at the disposal of the District Transport Office and that staff should occasionally

examine and check all the vehicles so that no accident can take place and the public will be safe in travelling in those vehicles. It is a very important Department and when it issues permits and tokens for the vehicles and if it has not got any arrangement for proper checking of the vehicles then a great number of accidents will often take place. So the Transport Department should consider about it.

Regarding the State Transport organisation, I like to support the Motion. The very Department itself proves that it has come into existence very successfully. Previously the Assam Transport organisation came into existence, but due to mismanagement and some other reasons it failed. It was in 1948 when the retrenched workers of the Assam Transport organisation made agitation and the Government however decided to discontinue that organisation and then this State Transport organisation for the better use of the public came into existence. It is now not only a successful organisation of the Assam Government but it gives an instance how our people can run such an organisation successfully which is vitally connected with people of the State. This organisation is earning a unique profit which is perhaps not earned by any other State Transport organisations. So, Sir, this organisation should be praised and along with that its workers should also be praised so that the workers can get more encouragement and the organisation can be better used in the interest of the public than at present, and in that case it will bring us more revenue to our State than it is now.

In the Second Five-Year Plan it is the State Transport organisation throughout the country are to form corporations, and in that case the Railway and the Central Government will give help in the shape of a large amount of shares. That organisation will be of Government of India's standing and in conformity with the Second Five Year Plan. I do not know what Government has decided on this issue. Possibly the Government has not yet decided the way they are hesitating over this issue and not reaching at a conclusion. If the Government of Assam are not forming a corporation, for the sake of State revenue, I can understand that that is a good reason in that case my humble submission is that this organisation should come out of the Finance Department of the Government of Assam. This is a commercial organisation and it is vitally connected with the public and with business and, as such, it should be taken out of the Finance Department. On many occasions I have seen, Sir,

this Department is handicapped on account of the difficulties put by the Finance Department in the way of its going forward. For instance, I can say that the Board of Directors decided to give uniform to the workers, specially to the fourth grade workers and the running staff in the lines. But the Finance Department has not agreed to it. The Finance Secretary was himself a member of the Board and he did not oppose the idea in the Board's meeting, but still he has given a veto in his department. All over India, Sir, all State Transports' running staff get uniform; the fourth grade staff get winter as well as summer uniform. But in Assam, who can say who is a Line Inspector, who can say who is a conductor and can say who is a driver once he leaves his steering wheel, who can say who is the porter or Chowkidar? There is no identifying uniform. The Board decided to give uniform but the Finance Department has not granted it. I should, therefore, think that there should be a separate body within the framework of Government of Assam to decide such things, which should be taken out of the hands of the Finance Department. Government should consider this and form a separate organisation of its own to deal with these matters, so that it can evolve the best method to meet the financial needs of this commercial organisation. Take for instance, Sir, the tea gardens, which are run on a profit and loss basis. There the Manager has the right to decide certain things on the spot. Similarly, the State Transport Director should have the right to decide certain things on the spot; not only the Director, the Divisional Superintendents and Superintendents also should have that right. This is a very important point for Government to consider.

Then, Sir, as regards profits, I should like to mention that profits in 1957 have gone upto a very high extent; it has become 101.04 per cent of the total capital. In 1952-53, the profit was Rs.15,77,000 and odd; in 1953-54, the profit was Rs.18,21,509; in 1954-55, the profit was Rs.20,05,364; in 1955-56, the profit was Rs.23,55,247; in 1956-57, the profit rose to Rs.30,18,403 and in 1957-58, it has risen upto Rs.36 lakhs. Now, Sir, in 1957, the capital rose to Rs.1,49,51,332 and the profit earned upto that year was Rs.1,55,16,850. That means the organisation earned about 6 lakhs of rupees more than the capital. I think, Sir, this is an unreasonable profit. In electricity, which is also a public utility concern, they cannot earn more than 5 per cent profit. If a tea garden earns 30 per cent profit, we call it very high profit. But the State Transport is earning a profit of 101.4 per cent

This I think to be very unreasonable. This profit should be cut down, not by extravagant expenditure but by reasonable spending. I will now explain, Sir, why, profit is going so high. Sir, there is shortage of staff. On a question of mine on the 24th, it was stated that though the Head Office of the Department is not short of hands, yet on certain occasions they are working overtime till late hours. At the time of making the budget, at the time of extending new lines during Assembly Sessions and at the time of preparing the balance sheets, on these four occasions they are required to work till late hours. If they have to work overtime on these four occasions, I don't know what is the normal time on which they are not required to work overtime. Then, Sir, the Department has issued instructions to the management in the field to grant weekly holidays to all the workers, but some of the field managements has refused to do that, or even to grant alternative holidays due to the shortage of hands. What is happening in Shillong office, Sir? There is a direction from the Director to the Station Superintendent that he should grant the weekly holiday to the workers, but the latter has refused to do so because he has not got sufficient number of workers. What is happening in Shillong is also happening at Gauhati, Goalpara and the North Bank stations. Of course, in certain stations like Jorhat the local Superintendent is managing by granting weekly holidays or alternative holidays. Then, Sir, in reply to another question of mine, it was stated that here for 15th of August and 26th of January no overtime allowance could be paid because workers are being granted alternative holidays. The State Transport workers here could not enjoy even these national holidays, but they were not granted any alternative holidays. Sir, this is a public utility concern and it runs for 7 days a week and not 6 days; the vehicles cannot be stopped for one day in the week, so we must agree to alternative holidays. The Department should, therefore, make arrangements for that. For that purpose at least one-sixth of the total number of workers must be increased; otherwise, no alternative holidays can be given. Then, what is happening about the vehicles? Many complaints have been lodged by the public. The Leader of the Opposition just now said that the vehicle condition was not satisfactory. Why the conditions are being unsatisfactory? It cannot be satisfactory. The public cannot be satisfied. The State Transport undertakings in India have laid down a standard of artisans to maintain vehicles, that is, at 1.8 per vehicles or artisan should be maintained. What is the standard now in Assam? What is

the number of artisans? It is only 0.6 per cent which is in existence in Assam. Then how the vehicles will be maintained properly? What is in West Bengal? 2.2 per cent in West Bengal, Bihar 1.6, Bombay 1.8, and in Uttar Pradesh 1.8, In Assam 0.6. The number of vehicles in Assam is, buses 370, trucks 134, cars 20, luggage vans 16 and staff cars 4.

Mr. SPEAKER : I am afraid, the hon. Member is going into details. He should shorten his speech.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) : There are 544 vehicles in all but there are only 306 artisans, namely, mechanics; so to maintain the vehicles with this number properly is an impossible task. The number of artisans should increase. This should not only increase in central places; it should be scattered in Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Tezpur, Silchar, etc. A vehicle when it is out of order should not come for repairs to Gauhati or Shillong but it should be repaired in the nearest station, say at Dibrugarh, Jorhat, etc. In Dibrugarh there is no workshop. There is necessity for a big workshop there. Of course, there is already a workshop at Jorhat. A little development of this will serve a lot.

Before taking up new lines for nationalisation, the Government should see that the purpose is properly served. If a new line is taken up it is called nationalisation. If you cannot give employment to the existing workers in the line, how that can be called nationalisation? The owners of buses if they cannot be given benefit that would not matter much but if workers are thrown out of employment for nationalisation of line, that is not correct. Nationalisation will be in the right line if the workers are taken in by the department and not thrown out of employment.

As regards workers' grievances, you know, Sir, a Demand's Day was observed by them and I will like to speak a few words on this. There is an organisation of the State Transport workers, it is necessary that due recognition should be given to it. This is the only organisation of the workers of this kind in the whole State of Assam, so it should be given due recognition and status. As the State Transport is a big organisation of the State Government, this organisation needs recognition. If employment is given to unemployed youths of Assam then they should be given some scope to represent their grievances before the Government. Now,

the powers are so centralised that some matters are under the purview of the Director, some under the Minister and some under the Cabinet. Such centralisation does not help. If this organisation is recognised, the Superintendent or Divisional Superintendent may be entrusted to hear grievances and settle locally. It is high time that this is done. In other spheres, such as tea gardens, there are labour officers appointed to look into the grievances of workers' but in this organisation there are more than 2,300 workers already, still there is no Labour Officer or Welfare Officer. This should be immediately appointed.

Then, there is the case of superannuation. A few more cases are lying at the hands of the Government. I hope they will be sympathetically disposed of. Regarding proving the age of these workers, I think, Government should accept their affidavits and horoscopes. I can assure no flimsy cases will be brought before the Government.

Regarding transfer. There are very many lowly paid employees who are transferred from one place to another. The low paid workers should not be transferred unless they are transferred on disciplinary grounds. The fourth-grade employees, the mechanics, drivers, conductors and Lower Division clerks are put to great difficulties if they are transferred outside their homes; so in time of transfer this should be considered. No transfer should be done except as a measure of punishment or promotion.

Sir, workshop staff who have been doing overtime, it is surprising to find that due to the introduction of their new scale of pay their pay is being deducted with retrospective effect; those who are not doing overtime work are getting a good retrospective amount, but those who have done overtime have not got the retrospective dues. I have been dealing with labour matters for so many years but I have not seen an instance like this. I have requested the Government to refer this matter to the Factory Inspectorate Department for their views, but this has not yet been done. I will be prepared to accept whatever views they give. I would request that this issue is settled very early.

The running staff should be provided with running rooms for their stay and adequate halting allowance for their halts. It is now seen that if a driver or a conductor

stops a night at say Dergaon he gets only 4 annas, which is not sufficient to meet his expenses. He gets the halting allowance in accordance with the distance he travels to place where he halts. This is quite an irrational position and it should be changed. Conductors and drivers of express buses also should be given higher rate of halting allowance. With these words, Sir, I conclude my speech with the hope that the grievances of the labourers may be removed and the whole department reorganised.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) :

Mr. Speaker Sir, in view of the fact that the time at my disposal is limited, I shall speak only a few words. Now, with regard to Grant No. 7, I would like to place a few facts for the consideration of the Government. Firstly, that Government should take certain strict measures with regard to control of the trucks. We have seen that these trucks violate traffic rules almost with impunity. They run even in the town at such a high speed that they very often make accidents killing people and animals. I myself was a victim of such rash driving and I saw that within three days on the Gauhati-Shillong Road between Mile-2 and Mile-6 from Gauhati three persons were killed and as many as 9 animals were killed by coal trucks running at very high speed to Shillong to Gauhati. These trucks run at such a terrific speed that even the people nearby could not have time to take down the number and when such a huge fleet of trucks were running at a time the guilty truck go unscathed. So I suggest that there should be speed governors in the trucks and there should be strict restriction that on no circumstances should these trucks be allowed to run at a speed of more than 20 miles per hour. This is my first suggestion.

Secondly, with regard to loading, there should be certain restrictions as to what should be the breadth and height of the load. We find that so many private carrying companies or parties ply their trucks from Gauhati to Nowgong or Jorhat mostly at night and they always carry overhead loads which make them sometime look like rolling mountains and they go at high speed. Besides that, when they go at night they do not dim their headlights and whoever comes from the opposite side by car or jeep always trembles that this truck might crush his car or jeep. That Sir, is the position when travelling at night. We saw that there were some weigh-bridges in Gauhati under construction but they are lying incomplete. So I suggest that these weigh-bridges

should be made not only in Gauhati but also in other important towns. And also that there should be strict control with regard to loading and also the height and breadth of the load.

Now, Sir, there are also some other important point I want to speak but as I have no time I would like to mention just one thing more. I should like to know from the Government as to what is its policy with regard to this head. Whether Government consider the State Transport Organisation as a public utility service or as a commercial service because if Government considers it as a public utility service not only our Government take advantage of such service when dealing with workers and also other staff, but they also must fulfil the obligations and duties which they want other public utility services to fulfil. Here we find that so far as our Government is concerned, it does not fulfil its own obligations as holder of public utility service but try to take advantage of all facilities in dealing with workers as well as others concerned in the matter. So Government should make their policy clear about this because once we know the clear policy of Government in this regard we shall be able to deal with the matter properly. The second point is that Government should furnish to the Legislature at least the true accounts of this Department. The account that has been shown both on the revenue side as well as the expenditure side is, I should say, fictitious, it does not indicate the true state of affairs. For example, it has been shown that it has made enormous profit, but then the State Transport enjoys certain special facilities which other transport services do not get. The State Transport it is said does not pay any road tax, it does not pay vehicles tax, it does not pay income tax, it does not pay monopoly fee. If all these things are taken into account then the profit shown would not be as big as is shown now. Sir, if we run a business we are to take into consideration all these aspects also. Now, so far as roads are concerned it is a fact that the damage to roads is mostly done by vehicles including Government vehicles. Is it not reasonable that some portion of the expenditure incurred on account of roads is also accountable to this Department? We find that this also is not at all taken into account. Therefore, this profit which is shown now is not actually the exact figure, it is not even an approximately correct figure. My friend, Shri Bardoloi, has rightly stated that so far as analysis of the gross receipt under roads or net profit is concerned it is evident that Government is doing a profiteering business, it is not even a profit making business but it is a profiteering business at the cost of workers, employees and also at the

cost of the users of this service. It has been shown that out of the gross receipt of 1 crore 25 lakhs there is a net profit of Rs. 37 lakhs 73 thousand, this must be excessive. Why is this so ? As I have said, it is to a certain extent due to wrong accounting, *i. e.*, some expenditure which should have been shown was not shown and on the other hand it is because of under payment to those who are due to get their proper share. So, Government should try at least to be an ideal employer. Now, what is the condition of the drivers, conductors and mechanics who are working under the State Transport service ? Sometime they are to run three trips on the Gauhati-Shillong Road. Does not Government consider this excessive ? I think two trips should be considered enough in view of the difficulties on this road. But for this these workers do not even get adequate overtime allowance or compensation. Apart from this question of compensation, it is a strenuous strain on the workers of the Government who should be an ideal employer. Therefore, without going into the details in the matter, I would like to request the Government that atleast in the next Budget, it should furnish a more detailed account of this department as the average commercial business would have done. It should treat its employees, its workers with more humane treatment, it should strive its best to be an ideal employer. It does not matter whether the profit will be less. When we are giving the Public Works Department contractors and other contractors of the different departments a reasonable profit of 10 or 12 per cent or sometimes less, the Government in its own undertakings should not try to get a profit of 33 per cent or more than that. Another thing I would like to point out is that the efficiency of service should be improved. Some amount of initiative should be given to the workers. I am told that when even a fan belt is broken on the road and if a fan belt is available the driver has no right to purchase it, he has to wait for formal order ; so unless some amount of initiative is given to the worker even in such small matter, the vehicle will be lying idle on the road side. Some sort of provision should be made with regard to repairs, etc., so that the work can be quickly attended to and put right. Mr. Bordoloi has said enough on this point ; so I need not repeat the same. Another thing I want to say is that Government should see that the road is made properly, there should be no hurry on the part of the Government to nationalise the road. Take for example, the North Trunk Road. Before that road was suitable for heavy vehicles Government took over the route and as a result, the vehicles became deteriorated and

the road also became deteriorated because of heavy vehicles. I think it would be more reasonable if Government could wait for a year or two, Government should not in a hurry nationalise every route or if they are very keen on nationalisation they should have placed smaller vehicles. Unless and until the Government can make the road strong enough by placing stone boulders, etc., Government ought not to have placed heavy vehicles on that route. So is the case with other routes. Therefore, I would like to suggest that while placing vehicles Government should be more careful in future and also to see the maximum use of vehicles under its disposal. I am also told that 25 or 30 vehicles are running empty from Shillong to Gauhati so that they may take certain commodities from Gauhati. When it is usually seen that carriage of goods from Gauhati sides to Shillong is heavier than from Shillong to Gauhati. Government could have made arrangement with some private firms so that certain commodities may be carried down to Gauhati from Shillong. Of course, quite recently some arrangement has been made with the owners of coal trucks. There is still room for further improvement in the matter. Mr. Goswami has stated certain difficulties about public criticism with regard to vehicles that sometimes different charges are realised from the passengers. For example, from a third class bus by simply putting the sign board as "inter class," the charge of inter class is realised from the passengers. So also if on an inter class bus a third class sign board is put, a third class fare is accordingly realised from the passengers. From the financial point of view no doubt the Government is compensated, but so far as passengers are concerned, in some cases the passengers have to pay more than what they have to pay and in some cases they are paying less than what they ought to have paid. There may not be profit and loss on the part of the Government; but Government is not a third rate *bania* as to find out what is the profit in rupee, anna and pie. I wish this Government has some amount of moral scruple.

***Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Transport) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the first instance I would like to express my thanks for the comments made by some hon. Members of the house as far as Road Transport Schemes are concerned. I am sure the hon. Members of the Opposition are taking interest in the improvement of the transport schemes, in the State of Assam. I would like to inform my Friend, Shri Hareswar Goswami, that the total mileage of 967 have been nationalised. We have a total fleet of 563 vehicles, the break up of which is 370 bus, 138 trucks, 18 luggage vans and

37 cars, this is the strenght maintained by the State Transport Department. The total strength of various categories of employees maintained by the State Transport at present is 2,338 out of which 1,107 employees who have completed five years service have been made permanent. Sir, as the time at my disposal is very short, it may not be possible on my part to reply to the points raised by the hon. Members of the Opposition as well as my Friend, Shri Bordoloi. But so far the vehicle tax and road permit fees are concerned. I cannot agree with my Friends, Shri Goswami and Shri Bhattacharyya that we do not pay these taxes, I can say that we are paying these taxes since the year 1949. I am giving the statement as follows:—

	Vehicle tax	Road permit	Total
1949-50	66,404	1,26,675	2,93,079
1950-51	57,546	3,72,805	4,30,351
1951-52	61,748	3,52,795	4,14,543
1952-53	71,705	3,41,195	4,12,900

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) :** To which page of the demand the Hon'ble Minister refers to? Whatever has been said by the Minister that is not shown in the account here and has not been placed before the Legislature.

These amounts have not been deducted.....

Mr. SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Minister has not said that these amounts have been deducted. He has replied to the assumption of the hon. Members of the Opposition that Government do not pay the vehicle tax and road permit tax.

***Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Transport) :** It is not a fact that the State Transport is not paying any road tax and permit tax, etc., as is paid by the private parties. Mr. Goswami has particularly referred to the formation of a Corporation and he said that if the Corporation is formed, in that case we shall have to get help from the Railway Department, and in that case we shall have to pay certain taxes. I am trying to reply to that. Sir, Mr. Bhattacharyya also said that.....

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** I said a different thing. I said that if there has been some expenditure which has not been shown there then the profit will be higher, and that is why the Government is guilty of profiteering all the more.

***Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Transport):** I shall come to that later, Sir. Sir, it is not correct to say that we are not paying any taxes as mentioned by Mr. Goswami. Then we are paying interest on the capital which we utilised in running this Service for the purchase of the vehicles, etc.

Now with regard to the rate which has been alleged to be very high by Mr. Goswami, I would like to say from my own experience of running the transport service in my own district of Garo Hills. He said that the Commercial Carrying Company used to charge less than what is being charged now. But it should not be lost sight of the fact that the private concerns try to make up their losses or they can earn more profit by unfair means such as overloading, etc, which the Government Transport Department cannot resort to. In my district I have seen the private owners of trucks can carry goods at the rate of twelve annas per maund whereas we from the District Council found it difficult to carry on with a rate of Rs. 1/4 per maund. Now, how is it possible for the private party to charge less? It is because they can carry more load than what is permitted by rules and thus they make up their losses. Similarly in case of passenger buses, the private parties resort to overloading. So they have their own means of charging more by indirect means, i.e., by overloading, etc. In some cases we have seen even 150 maunds are carried by a truck. Sir in fixing the rate we are to take into consideration the cost involved in running the Service. Only after taking into consideration this fact we fix the rates. The private operators carry more passengers than is allowed by rules. So I have seen in Tura the private operators carry sometimes 50 to 60 passengers in place of the schedule number that is 32. In this way they make up. If you take into consideration all these facts, you will see that the charges introduced by the Transport Department is not at all high. We must take into consideration what comfort we give to the travelling public. Of course, I cannot but agree that in case where the people pay more they should get more facilities and comfort. To that aspect of the matter we shall apply our mind. Here what I want to say is that it is wrong to say that because the private owners have been able to charge less and that the State Transport Department by charging more is earning the profit.

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** Does the Government know that it is earning 37 per cent net profit ?

***Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA :** If we take into consideration the facts mentioned by me before, some of the private parties might be earning double of that. Now we find a contradictory statement from the hon. Member, Mr. Goswami.

He said that at the outset the Government were rather hesitant to undertake this venture because they were not sure whether they could run it efficiently. So I am at a loss to understand how he can say that it is not being run properly. Of course I do not say that there is no scope for further improvement. As a matter of fact as in case of the Transport Department, so is in the case of other Departments such as Agriculture, Education—in all departments there are scopes for further improvement. We do not say the Department is being run excellently, and that there is no room for further improvement. As a matter of fact we are trying to provide more amenities to the passengers and affect other improvements. I would make an appeal to the hon. Members not to forget that this particular enterprise of the Government have three-fold purposes. In an under developed State like ours, we have got to pay more attention to the improvement of the system of road transport. As I said in the beginning, if we depend only on the private enterprise, we cannot achieve the desired improvement in this matter and that is why.....

(At this stage a Reporter crossed the Hon'ble Minister who was speaking).

Mr. SPEAKER—Order, order. I have noticed the Reporters cross between the Speaker and hon. Members when they are on their legs. This is highly objectionable. In future, drastic action will be taken against the Reporters if they do this.

***Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister Transport)**: We cannot achieve the desired improvement in this matter, and that is why Government has got to come to the picture. Another thing is that by so doing, Government has also, to some extent, helped the question of employment. Thirdly, in order to expand our activity in that particular aspect of development, we should have some additional revenue. We must also look to the income. We propose to expand the scope of this public utility service all over the State; we want to expand the State Transport facilities in the districts in an increasing measure. We must devise ways and means as to how this desire of the Government to improve the road transport in the State can be given effect to. While thinking about development and improvement of road transport in the State, we cannot be oblivious to the most important fact connected with it, *i.e.*, the necessary finance for implementation of these schemes. Improvement of road transport in the State is inseparably connected with the question of affording more facilities, more amenities and comforts to the travelling public. Only earning of more revenues will serve no purpose, unless we are in a position to extend more and more facilities to the

passengers. But this involves the question of fund available at our disposal. It will therefore be unfair to remark that this Government is running a profiteering concern. We have got to see whether State Transport have been able to cater to the travelling public better service than the other private carriers in the field. Some hon. Members both from the Government Benches as well as from the Opposition have complained that private buses are better than those of the State Transport. Do the hon. Members really feel like that? I, for myself cannot subscribe to that view. Only because of the fact that certain defects have been detected, some irregularities have occurred here and there, it cannot be concluded that State Transport is worthless.

Another point my Friend Shri Goswami, referred to was about break-downs. I do not say that there is no break-down. I have collected the figures from my office, and from the figures it appears to me, whatever break-downs are there, they are quite reasonable. It is not possible to say that there will be no break-down. This cannot be guaranteed. Even sometimes first-class cars break-down while going out straight from show-room. I am here now standing on the floor of the House speaking to you. Who knows, I may die tomorrow. Mechanism of the vehicles is also not infallible. Like the human system, it is also subject to unexpected and unanticipated defects. And because these defects occur it can be said that there is no proper supervision and repairs. I have got these break-down figures, Sir. Total break-down in 1955-56 at Gauhati-Nowgong road is only 28, 1956-57—21 and in Nowgong-Jorhat route in 1955-56 total break is 71 and 1956-57, it is only 42. Now, if you come to the mileage it will be, total mileage being 4,72,58,86,188.

Of course, I do not mean that there is no room for improvement of the State Transport activities either in the workshop or in the Maintenance Centres. There is scope, plenty of scopes for improvement, and we will always keep on trying to improve.

I shall be glad if the hon. Members will not confine their suggestion only inside this House, but will continue to offer us the benefit of their advice and see how the activities of the State Transport can be more efficient. My Friend, Shri Bardoloi, said that our artisans for the maintenance of our vehicles is 0.6 but, in fact, it is 1.16. So his statement is not based on fact.

Now regarding the question of facilities given to State Transport workers. My Bhattacharyya had the occasion to say that although we are getting a huge profit, we are not giving due remuneration to the employees. I do not think that his statement is correct. All the workers in the State Transport are properly paid and the facilities which are available to other Government servants are being given to them. Here also I do not say that there is no scope for improvement. That statement could be made only if we had stated that this department is above improvement. But that is not our view. Reference was made about the 24 demands. I do not say that these demands are unreasonable. When there are so many demands, sometimes there may be strike and lock-outs. But we have got to examine these demands very carefully and try to fulfil the reasonable ones consistent with our capacity and resources. We will surely try to meet all reasonable demands. Because it is highly important for any business undertaking to keep up the morale of the employees who actually run the whole thing. The demands cannot be met all at once as my Friend has contended. These demands have certain implications which have got to be examined. Government are taking every demand into careful consideration. We are also consulting the other State Governments who are running State Transport organisation as regards the amenities, etc., given by them to their workers.

Now, regarding over-loading of the trucks, I also see that the trucks are overloaded. This, of course, does not cover my Department. It is to be controlled by the police. I mean, the traffic is to be controlled by the police. I say that police is doing this. But it is not always possible to catch the culprit or the offender.

Mr. Goswami raised a point about issuing fitness certificate. In this case I may inform him that the people concerned are very very cunning. I myself know of a case at Tura. A certain vehicle was quite rotten and a part was wanting. What the owner did was that before the Motor Vehicles Inspector had come he borrowed that part from someone and fitted it in his vehicle and got his vehicle passed. But when the Motor Vehicles Inspector left he returned that part and brought his vehicle on the road without it. So, Sir, our Motor Vehicles Inspectors cannot be blamed. It is the private bus owners who are often to be blamed. In this respect I seek the co-operation of the leaders to explain to those bus owners and others not to cheat the Government in the interest of the people themselves, and also to see that fitness certificates are not issued to such vehicles.

I admit that there is great scope for improvement and I welcome the suggestions given in this connection. But I was rather disappointed when certain charges were brought against this Department regarding road permit tax. I want to say that when there is scope for improvement for giving better service to the travelling public this can be done only with the co-operation of the Members of both sides of the House. When it is such an important Department we should all try to devise ways and means to see how road transport can be improved in Assam. Such a great responsibility cannot be put on the Minister in-charge alone. If this Department is further improved then it is the people of the State who will be benefited thereby.

I believe our Friends who have made certain observations would not bring such allegations on the floor of the House, but they would please take the opportunity to give us concrete and valuable suggestions for further improvement of this particular Department and we shall always be ready to welcome such suggestions and examine them carefully and if we find that such suggestions can be implemented then we would surely implement them for the benefit of our own people and State. There will be no hesitation whatsoever in this respect.

With these observations, Sir, I would request the hon. Members to withdraw the Cut Motions.

(The Cut Motions were, by leave of the House, withdrawn).

Mr. SPEAKER : Now I put the Grants as questions.

The question is that a sum of Rs.12,46,900 (Rupees twelve lakhs, forty-six thousand and nine hundred), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1959 for the administration of the head "12.—Taxes on Vehicles".

(The question was adopted)

The question is that a sum of Rs.98,18,400 (Rupees ninety-eight lakhs, eighteen thousand and four hundred), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1959, for the administration of the head "XLVI.—A.—Road Transport Schemes—Working expenses".

(The question was adopted).

**Half-an-hour discussion on Starred Question No.135
and Unstarred Question No.470 asked by Shri
Devendra Nath Hazarika regarding venture
High School at Kakapathar**

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on that day when the Minister-in-charge replied to my Questions—Unstarred Question No. 470 and Starred Question No.135—I found that some of the answers were not encouraging. For example, after quoting the reference of a letter his reply was that the report did not reach as yet. But in answer to another question the Minister-in-charge quoted certain figures and those figures were taken from that particular report.

Sir, in the high school at Kakapathar, the number of students last year was over 200 and this year it is about 300 and this institution is located in a backward area. According to the Government policy the school that has 150 or more students in a backward area is taken over or given Government aid. But this institution has not yet been favoured with Government aid or grant.

In answer to another question the answer given was that there was no deficit in respect of the institution. But such an institution with that number of students and sections in other places we find a deficit of about 600 or so per month and Government give sanction of aid of Rs. 600 per month. Sir, if you calculate, you will find that in a year the School Committee is to find its own sources for about Rs.7,000 or 8,000 per year. In a locality where the people are not much advanced or rather poor it is difficult to collect such a fund unless the Government come forward with relief or grants. We also find that if a school can show good result then only aid will be given. In this respect it appears to me like putting the cart before the horse. The aid is necessary to improve the school. But the Education Department wants improvement first, then aid comes afterwards. It appears that in many places people find it very hard to do so.

Regarding that letter I quoted, it was received actually in the Directorate. But I could not understand why the reply was that it was not received. The school committee had been moving the Inspector of School since 1954 for inspecting the school, but it was not inspected until 12th September, 1957. After inspection the inspection report was delayed and it was despatched by the Inspector of Schools to the respective authority only on 26th December last.

I could not understand why such delay had occurred and that delay put the school at a great disadvantage. According to the rules and procedure of the Education Department, when a school is not recommended for University affiliation, the school committee can appeal to the next higher authority but that inspection report was despatched only on 26th December, 1957 and it was received by the School on 2nd January, 1958. Generally, the appeal was to be made during the year 1957 so that some reconsideration could be made before the end of the year, but that report was sent to the school so late that the School Committee could not get a chance. From this I want to draw the conclusion that the Education Department of our Government do not get the incentive to encourage the spread of education in our backward areas and among the backward communities.

Again, in that report that Assistant Inspector of Schools who had been to this school actually recommended that the school should get recurring and non-recurring aid and about the students he said that they belonged to tribal and backward communities. He had mentioned specifically that there were a certain number of tribal students and other students belonging backward communities, but the reply of the Hon'ble Minister to this was, "No specific information is available".

Again I would like to level a charge against the Education Department that they are averse to encourage education. The memorandum which was submitted on 22nd June 1957 has not been taken into consideration, that the reply of the Minister was that "action is being taken". From this, it is evident that action on that memorandum was not taken during the financial year ending on 31st March, 1958.

Sir, I could not understand why such delay is made. That charge which we have made about the Education Department itself is, I think, admitted by Government because we find that there is an Assistant Inspector of Schools for Tribal Education which is meant for institutions in the plains areas. When we have seen one Assistant Inspector for the plains tribal schools, the curriculum of which is not different from other places, it is evident that the non-tribal Assistant Inspectors or Inspectors could not do justice to those places. If that is true then the institutions which are located in areas mainly inhabited by other backward communities have reason to suspect that the education officers may not be properly sympathetic to encourage education in their areas.

Sir, if we study all these facts regarding the questions and answers and the other developments, we find that these officers really to some extent are orthodox to spread of education in backward areas. Specially in this locality Government has admitted there is no high school within a radius of 12 miles and in fact that area is inhabited by a number of population which is more than 50,000. I could not understand why such delay has occurred in making Government aid and if further delay is made in sanctioning grants to such schools, I fear, the local people may abandon these institutions because it is very heavy on their part to bear the expenditure. Students of those institutions already are being compelled to pay more fees than in other areas.

In view of these facts I request the Government to change the present policy and to treat all parts of the State equally and in the light and spirit of the Indian Constitution where we find that preference should be given to the backward areas. Sir, I do not like to make my statement long and in my notice the points to be discussed were published properly and I hope that I shall get a satisfactory reply from the Government.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education): In this long speech of my hon. Friend it has rather been difficult for me to keep space with him. But so far as I understood him broadly, the whole complaint is raised from the fact that the Assistant Inspector of Schools recommended that the school should be given recurring and non-recurring grants and should be upgraded to a High School, whereas the Inspector of Schools did not agree with him and instead suggested something else. Now the grouse is that the hon. Member thinks that since the Assistant Inspector of Schools recommended certain types of grants to the school and recommended its upgrading, it was the duty of the Inspector and the Director of Public Instruction to ditto the same. I think that is a wrong conception. Under our arrangements it is the Inspector of Schools alone who is empowered to recommend about high schools and not the Assistant Inspector. So if the Assistant Inspector does recommend he goes beyond his powers and the Government do not act on his recommendation. Wherever there is lack of power there is lack of responsibility also. It is for this reason that the Assistant Inspectors who have no power to recommend naturally are likely to be slack in recommending about high schools which is beyond their province.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Inspector did not inspect the school.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education): I am coming to the difficulty about inspection by the Inspector of Schools. The number of Inspectors is too small and the number of High and Middle English schools has grown too large. So it is not always possible for the Inspectorate to inspect the Middle English Schools which duty is entrusted to the Assistant Inspectors. Naturally when the Assistant Inspector gives any recommendation and forwards to our office it has got to be verified. Now the report which come to our office gave certain facts and figures.

These facts and figures are taken into account in accepting the recommendations. Now, what are the points that are taken into consideration ? (1) staff position, (2) enrolment position, (3) building and (4) equipments. These are the points examined before we accept the recommendations. It was found, Sir, that so far as enrolment was concerned, in Class X, the number was 8, of which 6 were present ; in Class IX, the number was 7 of which 6 were present ; in Class VIII, the enrolment was 13, of which 11 were present. This was the enrolment position. The staff of course was there. So far as building is concerned, the Middle English School has a building, but the high school building is temporary and arrangements have been made it is said for construction of a semi-permanent building. So, proper building is still lacking. With regard to equipments, it was found that so far as the high School is concerned, the report is "a few text books". In view of this, it was naturally found that conditions had not been fulfilled for a full-fledged high school. Therefore, the permission that was granted was for opening two classes only, viz., Classes VII and VIII. Therefore, Sir, I do not think, in view of the facts disclosed here at this end, the permission which was granted was inadequate. It was exactly what should have been done.

What was the arrangement between the Inspector and the Assistant Inspector, is not exactly known to me and I have to go on the basis of papers supplied to me. On the basis of the papers given to me, I find that the permission given has been adequate and not insufficient. Therefore, Sir, to run to the conclusion from this one single instance that the Department is averse to the development of education in backward areas is, I think, going too far. Even for ordinary conclusions, we

require two or three examples, but here a generalisation is made on the basis of a single instance and I think the mover's imagination caught fire and he has run away with it and he has stressed the matter to a breaking point. It would have been quite proper for my Friend to say, "here is a school; the Inspector's report is this; why it should not get permission"? I could understand that; I even admit that our inspecting staff is so over-strained that they are not able to inspect everything, but because of one single instance that a school was not accepted or an inadequate requisition was given, therefore to say that the Government policy with regard to intention behind development of backward areas is of a particular type, is not correct or warranted. I therefore, think that my Friend seems to be suffering from some complex. From the many questions he has put in this House earlier also, it appears that he has complex in his mind that Government is not mindful enough about the needs of the backward areas. I hope he will disabuse his mind of that. I have no doubt that the Department will make mistakes, but as soon as these are brought to the notice of Government, it would be our high endeavour to rectify them. Thank you, Sir.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):

Does the Minister know that there are many more instances where I can bring similar charges? I can cite the cases of 5 or 6 high schools in the Dibrugarh subdivision itself.

Shrimati LILY SENGUPTA (Lahowal) ময়ো দিব পাৰেঁ।
বহুতো আছে।

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education): I have already said that the number of schools, which are making applications to Government either for recognition or for expansion or for grants is terrific. There are more than 700 Middle English Schools in the State and each school is trying to develop into a High School and making application to Government for inspection. The inspecting staff has reached almost a breaking point, which I admitted earlier. I hope this will be appreciated.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A. M. on Tuesday, the 29th April, 1958.

Shillong:

The 30th October, 1959.

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

