

**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 Tuesday, the 29th April, 1958.

PRESENT

Shri Dev Kanta Borooah, B.A., LL.B., Speaker in the Chair,
the Nine Ministers, the Two Deputy Ministers and Eighty-three
Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

**Capture and sale of elephant calf with its mother at
Kharikhana in the Nowgong District**

Shri PROKRITISH CHANDRA BARUA (Gauripur)
asked :

*216. Will the Minister-in-charge of Forests be pleased to
state—

- (a) Whether the Government has relaxed the rule
that a suckling elephant calf should not be
caught with its mother ?
- (b) If not, on what consideration a suckling elephant
calf was allowed to be caught with its mother
and sold at Kharikhana in the Nowgong Dis-
trict ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Forests) replied :

216. (a)—No.

(b)—No suckling calf was captured with its mother
and sold at Kharikhana. The one sold at Kharikhana was
without its mother and released to the catcher for its safety as it
is dangerous to release a calf in the forest without its mother.

**Eviction of encroachers from Sakura, Tatidubi and other
P. G. Rs. of Gohpur Mouza in Tezpur Subdivision**

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) asked :

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

- (a) Whether Government is aware that the eviction of encroachers from Sakura, Tatidubi and other P. G. Rs of Gohpur Mouza in Tezpur Subdivision has been pending for the last 10 years ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that every eviction proceedings taken by the Deputy Commissioner is stayed by an order from Government and this process is going on for the last ten years and so there has been no eviction of the encroachers ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the order of eviction that was very recently passed by Government has not been given effect to up till now and it has been stayed again ?
- (d) How long Government would take to evict the encroachers ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

217. (a)—There are only two P. G. Rs in Gohpur Mouza of Tezpur Subdivision, viz., Tatidubi and Sakura. Government have no information about encroachment in Tatidubi P. G. R. Deputy Commissioner, Darrang, has however been directed to cause an enquiry into the matter. But eviction in Sakura P. G. R. is pending since 1951.

(b)—Eviction was once stayed by the High Court and subsequently by Government on three occasions on receipt of petitions from the people affected.

(c)—Government lastly vacated the stay order in June 1957. Prior to this the Deputy Commissioner was directed to provide the encroachers, whose A. P. lands were cancelled at the time of constitution of the P. G. R. but who were never evicted, with alternative lands elsewhere. But no suitable land has yet been found out for their settlement. Government have

also directed the Deputy Commissioner, Darrang, to report in consultation with the Land Settlement Advisory Committee as to the feasibility of dereservation of the land under encroachment of some Miri people which is said to be in a corner of the P. G. R. The matter is still under enquiry and therefore eviction has not yet been undertaken by the Deputy Commissioner.

(d)—It cannot be definitely stated. But every possible step is being taken to dispose of the matter finally.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): Are the Government aware that non-eviction of the encroachers for the last 7 or 8 years encouraged the encroachers to build permanent residential buildings and Baris ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): Yes, there is some report to that effect.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur): whether the Government are aware that encroachers are really landless people or people having land elsewhere ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: I have already stated that some of them are not really encroachers. They have annual Patta land. The Sakura P. G. R. consisted of 300 acres of land but it was extended by another 600 acres. In these 600 acres these annual Patta holders live. Though their annual Pattas were cancelled, still they are there. In a sense they are not actually encroachers.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS: When was the first stay order passed ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: The first stay order was passed by the High Court in 1951 ?

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS: When the last stay order was passed ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: The last stay order was passed on 6th April, 1957.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS: Who passed the stay order, the Government or the Deputy Commissioner ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: It was passed by Government.

Shri BHUBAN CHNDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj): Where from these encroachers came ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): I stated already that some of these persons were there already before the area under their occupation was declared a P. G. R.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI: Are they not erosion affected people from Majuli ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: No, Sir.

Shri LILA KANTA BORA (Kaliabar): What was the necessity of passing several stay orders ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: Because some of these encroachers are very poor people. They are Miris and it was stated that they were in possession of land in a corner of P. G. R., so it was considered whether the Miri people could be provided with alternate land elsewhere or the portion under their occupation could be dereserved. The Deputy Commissioner reported that there was no alternative land for them and this area could not be dereserved, so stay orders had to be passed so that these Miris could be provided some alternate land.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): Is it the policy of the Government to abolish gradually all the P. G. R.'s as was published in several newspapers ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: No, we are in favour of keeping P. G. Rs. in tact and evicting the encroachers.

Appointment of District Social Education Officers

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon) asked :

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that two posts of District Social Education Officer were advertised and interviews taken by Public Service Commission on 6th September 1957 ?
- (b) If so, why the appointments have not been made till now ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the said posts will again be advertised ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education) replied:

218. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The matter is held up pending, final decision.

(c)—The matter is under consideration.

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon): May I know from the Government whether Government feels that such incidents cause great difficulties to the applicants?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: I do not think any further difficulty is created than what they are already when they are unemployed.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): What are the functions and jurisdictions of these officers?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: That is exactly the reason why the matter is held up pending the report of the enquiry committee.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): How many posts have been filled up and how many lying vacant?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Advertisement was made for two posts but none of the posts have been filled up.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj): Whether Government is going to place one officer in each district or whether one officer is to be appointed for more than one district?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: The problem has arisen in this way. The department have got a static budget of about Rs.3 lakhs. The existing incumbents are getting their increments and the result is that with the static budget more officers cannot be appointed, so we have asked a committee whether in the static budget reasonable accommodation can be made for officers as well as to get real extension of the work.

This idea of having one officer for each district could not be implemented for want of accommodation because of the fact that we have got a static budget.

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon): May I know what was the meaning in taking interviews in the previous occasion, when the posts are again going to be advertised?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: (Minister, Education): As suitable person was not found in the first interview

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding): What is the necessary qualification required for these officers ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: He must be a graduate.

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS [North Salmara (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]: What is the status of these officers, are they gazetted or not ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: I think, he would be gazetted.

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA: May I know whether these officers have got any co-ordination with the Social Education Officers serving in the Community Development Blocks ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: This is a separate department altogether.

Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West): Do the Government consider that these officers should have qualifications in Sociology ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: That is an additional advantage.

Shri RAMNATH SARMA: The Minister replied that the qualification required for these officers is graduate. Is there any dearth of graduates for these posts ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: There is dearth of graduates so far as teachers for High Schools are concerned, but in this matter it is not the dearth but it is the re-organisation which has held up the matter.

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA: What is the scale of pay of these officers and how many District Social Education Officers are appointed in our State so far ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education): For that I will require notice.

Shri MAHANANDA BORA (North-Lakhimpur): What are the specific duties of these officers ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Promotion of social education and all that it connotes.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): As the advertisement was made and the interview granted, why the appointments are held up after completing all these processes ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: I think, I have replied to that pending re-organisation of the whole department which is difficult because of the static budget, the appointments could not be made.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Water Supply Projects in Sadiya Transferred Area

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked :

692. Will the Minister-in-charge of Town and Country Planning be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is fact that the Local Development officer has sanctioned 112 water supply projects in Sadiya Transferred area during the last three years (*i. e.*, 1954-55, 1955-56 and 1956-57) and that the cost of these projects amount to Rs.25,834 ?

(b) If so, whether the Minister-in-charge will furnish a list of these projects together with information (i) about the names of the villages where these were executed (ii) the amount of money paid against each project (iii) names of executing agency of each project and (iv) the year of execution ?

(c) Whether execution or completion of these projects were inspected by any official or non-official of standing ?

(d) If so, who inspected these works ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Town and Country Planning Department) replied :

692. (a)—No amount was sanctioned by the Local Development Officer, 112 water supply projects were, however, sanctioned in Sadiya Transferred area during the years 1954-55, 1955-56 and 1956-57 at a cost of Rs.25,834 out of the Local Development Works' fund by the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur in consultation with the Subdivisional Development Board.

(b), (c) & (d)—A statement containing all the particulars is laid on the Library Table. (Please see Library Register No.S:29)

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): Whether Government know that some of these projects appearing in the list of the Library Table do not appear on the sites although payments have been made ?

Mr. SPEAKER: What the hon. Member means to say is that they do not exist in fact.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : If the hon. Member points out where the discrepancies lie, then it would be my high endeavour to enquire to find out the facts.

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal): মই যোৱাবাৰ টিউব-ওৱেল সম্পৰ্কে কৰা প্ৰশ্নৰ উত্তৰত মন্ত্ৰীমহোদয়ে এটা ডাঙৰ সংখ্যক টিউব-ওৱেল পানীত উঠি যোৱা বুলি কৈছিল। মন্ত্ৰীমহোদয়ে জানে নে যে সেই টিউব-ওৱেল বিলাক নতুনকৈ পাতি লিফ্টভুক্ত কৰি কোনো লোকে দৰ্নীতি কৰিছে ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : আগৰ কথা মই নাজানোঁ।। সেই বিষয়ে সন্দেহ থাকিলে আমাক জনাব পাৰে।

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA : এই সম্পৰ্কে Development Board, Local Member of Legislative Assembly আৰু তাৰে ভান নাগৰিকক লগতলৈ চৰকাৰে এটা তদন্ত কৰিবনে ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : আজিকালি কোনো মানুহকে ভান নাগৰিক নহয় বুলি কবলৈ ডয়েই লাগে।

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): Out of the amount sanctioned in 1956-57, it appears from the list in the Library Table that a sum of Rs.2,393 was held up up till 31st March 1958. Why this amount was not utilised in the year 1956-57 or in the early part of that year and whether any action has been taken to utilise the amount when notice for the question had been served?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Town and Country Planning): I have no information about that. If it is a hasty action I would be quite prepared to inquire into the matter.

Agricultural Grants to the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills

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

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

- (a) The amount of agricultural grant for irrigation schemes and conversion of waste land to wet paddy field allotted to the Khasi and Jaintia Hills District in the year 1956-57?
- (b) That out of the amount allotted for 1956 and 1957, how much was earmarked for the Jowai Subdivision?
- (c) Whether the amount so allotted was spent every year?
- (d) If so, who are the persons who received such grants showing the amount of grant received by each?
- (e) If not, why not?

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

693. (a)—Rs.2,70,600.

(b)—Rs.20,400.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—A list is placed on the Library Table. (Please see Library Register No.S 30)

(e)—Does not arise.

Shri LARSINGH KHYRIEM: May I know why out of a total of Rs.2,70,600 allotted for the whole district, only Rs.20,400 was allotted for the Jowai Subdivision?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Tribal Areas Department): This amount of Rs.20,400 was allotted to the Jowai Subdivision on the recommendation of the Joint Director of Agriculture who has drawn specific schemes and also on the basis of the area. Shillong Subdivision is three times bigger than Jowai Subdivision.

Shri LARSINGH KHYRIEM [Jowai (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: How many persons applied for agricultural grants?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: I do not have that information at present.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golokganj): As Government has spent a sum of Rs.2,70,600 in the Khasi and Jantia Hills for development of agriculture, whether they have maintained a record of the development after this expenditure?

Capt. WILLIMSON A. SANGMA: Yes, it is done by the department.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI: Whether Government keeps a record of the development after the expenditure in comparison of the amount spent?

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minister has already said that the Department concerned maintain that record.

Court Building at Mangaldai

Shri DANDI RAM DUTTA (Madgaldai) asked:

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

- (a) How many Government offices in Mangaldai town are at present working in rented houses and what is the amount paid by Government for the same per month?
- (b) Whether Government are aware that the present Court building at Mangaldai is a very congested one?
- (c) Whether there is any proposal to reconstruct the said Court building at Mangaldai?
- (d) If so, what steps Government have taken?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

694. (a)—Eleven offices are at present located in rented houses and Government are to pay a sum of Rs.1,180 per mensem as rent for the purpose.

(b)—Yes.

(c) & (d)—Yes. A proposal for construction of a two-storied Court building at Mangaldai has recently been received without any plan and estimate and Deputy Commissioner has been asked to come up to Government with the proposal together with plans and estimates.

Shri DANDIRAM DUTTA (Mongaldai) : কোন মাহত চবকাৰে সেই proposal টো পাইছিল ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : That is in January last.

Shri DANDIRAM DUTTA : ইয়াৰ আগতে কোনো proposal পাইছিলনে নাই ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : In January last a proposal was received without plan and estimate ; so it has been sent back to the Deputy Commissioner with instruction to re-submit with plan and estimate.

Shri DANDIRAM DUTTA : যোৱা জানুৱাৰী মাহৰ আগতে এনে proposal পোৱা হৈছিল নে নাই ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : No, nothing was received.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) : মজলদৈত ১১ টা অফিছক ১১ ৮০ টকাকৈ মাহে, কিমান দিন দিয়া হৈছিল ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : That I cannot say off hand. I require notice for it.

Shri DANDIRAM DUTTA : Deputy Commissioner ক fresh proposal পঠিয়াবলৈ কোনো নিৰ্দিষ্ট সময় দিয়া হৈছিল নেকি ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : No.

Recommendation by Jorhat Local Board for public auction of Bhekelimukh-Kolbari-Kokilamukh Ghat

Shri KARKA CHANDRA DOLEY [North Lakhimpur (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] asked :

695. Will the Minister-in-charge of L.-S. G. be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that Bhekelimukh-Kolbari-Kokilamukh ghat had been recommended to the Government by Jorhat Local Board for public auction ?

(b) If so, what actions have been taken by Government ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, L.S.-G.) replied :

695. (a)—No, the Local Board, Jorhat while approaching the Government for declaration of the Bhekelimukh-Kokilamukh (*via* Kolbari) ghat as a public ferry under the Northern India Ferries Act, 1878 recommended that the ghat be settled with one Shri Dehiram Doley at an annual upset price of Rs.500 for a period of 5 years.

(b) Orders have since been issued declaring the aforesaid ghat as a public ferry accepting Local Board's recommendation in a modified form for settling it with Shri Dehiram Doley only for a period upto 31st March 1959 at an annual revenue of Rs. 500 and directing that after this period the ferry will be sold in public auction. It has also been brought to the notice of the Local Board that under Northern India Ferries Act and the rules thereunder prior sanction of the Government is necessary before establishing the public ferry and making the settlement thereof.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi): May I know the reasons for which this direct settlement with one Dehiram Doley was made by the Government ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Government do not approve such direct settlement. The recommendation made by the Local Board for settlement of this public ferry for five years has not been accepted. Because the public may not be put to any inconvenience, Government have as a special

case agreed to accept recommendation to settle the ferry with the said person for one year only upto 31st March 1959, after which the ferry would be settled by public auction. We have also warned the Local Board that in future before making these recommendations previous approval of the Government must be obtained.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi): Is it not a violation of the rules and the law of the Northern India Ferries Act ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Local Self-Government): This can be done only with the approval of Government. Here in this particular case the Local Board concerned had not paid due regard to these rules and therefore Government has told them that in future this kind of recommendation will not be accepted. This time as a special case we have accepted the recommendation to settle this ferry for one year and after this period is over the ferry will be settled by public auction.

Shri KARKA CHANDRA DOLEY [Nort Lakhimpur (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: এই কথা সঁচানে যে আজিব পৰা এয়াহ বা দুমাহৰ আগতে এই ঘাটটো নীলামৰ বাবে দিয়া হৈছিল ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED No, Sir, that is not a fact.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): লোকল বোৰ্ডৰ অনুমোদনৰ পিচত চৰকাৰে নীলামত উপনীত হবলৈ মাজতে কিয় ইমান বেছি সময় লাগে ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : This matter was considered by Government and it was referred to the Commission. As soon as the file came to me I passed the order immediately.

Enrolment of Pakistani nationals as voters

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North-Lakhimpur) asked:

696. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government has any information that some Pakistani nationals have also enrolled themselves as voters ?

- (b) Whether Government propose to make an enquiry into these and enforce strict control in time of enrolling immigrant voters ?
- (c) Whether Government is aware that such immigrant people are coming in batches to North-Lakhimpur Subdivision and are occupying Sarkari and other reserved land ?
- (d) What action Government propose to take for checking this sort of anomalies ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):
replied :

696. (a) & (b)—Yes, it was reported by the Subsidiary Intelligence Bureau, Government of India that 147 Pakistani nationals were enrolled as voters in the Lakhimpur district but their names were struck off from the electoral roll during the last revision after proper enquiry by the Electoral Registration Officer concerned. All the Electoral Registration officers have been duly instructed to keep a strict watch to avoid any such enrolment in future.

(c)—Some Pakistani nationals with valid passport and visas have come to North Lakhimpur but they have not occupied Sarkari and other reserved land.

(d)—The Subdivisional Officer is keeping watch over their movement and the land records staff is exercising a very strict check in the matter of settlement of land.

***Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North-Lakhimpur):**
Whether these Pakistani voters have got any passports ?

***Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA :** We are trying to extract information about these Pakistani nationals. As a matter of fact the Chief Electoral Officer has undertaken to enquire in the matter to get definite information. On receipt of these information, we shall be able to state the position.

***Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj):**
Does Government know that these Pakistani nationals are in other districts also especially in the border districts ?

***Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief (Minister)) :**

We have enquired all over the State in the districts and subdivisions and the reports received indicate that that is so.

***Shri SARBESWAR BARDOLOI (Titabar) :** Is Government aware that a large number of these Pakistani nationals are working in various tea gardens as labourers and staff? This fact was reported to the Government.

***Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA :** Yes, Sir, it is true that a large number of these people work as labourers in tea gardens and other places; they came with passports and visas.

Allegations against the Superintendent of the Office of the Commissioner of Excise

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri)
asked :

697. Will the Minister of Excise be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that certain allegations against the Superintendent of Excise Commissioner's office have been received either by Government or by the Excise Commissioner?
- (b) If so, whether these allegations have been enquired into and actions taken thereon?
- (c) If not, why not?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that he had some business in Shillong such as taxi business and hotel business, etc.?
- (e) If so, whether these actions can be allowed under Government Servants' Conduct Rules?
- (f) Whether he handles cash in office?
- (g) If so, whether Government consider it desirable to allow such an officer to handle Government money?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Excise) replied :

697. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—No.

(e)—Does not arise.

(f)—Yes.

(g)—There is no reason why the officer should not be allowed to handle Government money.

Conviction of Mohanlal Bhala and Kuldip Singh under Section 5(a) of the Assam Opium Prohibition Act

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked :

698. Will the Minister-in-charge of Excise be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that Mohanlal Bhala and Kuldip Singh were convicted under Section 5(a) of the Assam Opium Prohibition Act some time in the month of March, 1958 at Dibrugarh ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that 6 (six) seers and 20 (twenty) tolas of opium were detected in their possession ?

(c) What were the usual occupations of these persons ?

(d) When this detection was made and by whom ?

(e) Whether it is a fact that one of the accused persons confessed his guilt ?

(f) If so, whether Government are aware that this confession was made by him with a view to save the main smuggler who agreed to maintain his family during his stay in jail ?

(g) From whom these two smugglers procured this opium ?

(h) Whether any further enquiry was made to find out the source ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Excise) replied :

698 (a)—Sohanlal Bhala and not Mohanlal Bhala, and Kuldip Singh were convicted under Section 5(a) of the Assam Opium Prohibition Act, Sohanlal Bhala was convicted on the 19th February, 1958 and Kuldip Singh on the 13th March, 1958 at Dibrugarh.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Sohanlal Bhala was a tea garden contractor and Kuldip Singh was doing shoe business at Dibrugarh.

(d)—Detection was made on 17th February 1958 by Shri Bipin Chandra Mahanta, Inspector of Excise, Dibrugarh.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—Government are not aware of this.

(g)—Not known.

(h)—Yes.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikowa): Whether Government know that when these smugglers were detected and jailed their families are maintained by other big smugglers ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : Government have no official information.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): Is there any non-official information ? *(laughter)*.

Shri HARESWAR DAS: No, Sir, but people say like that.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : Whether Government know that there is a net-work of opium smugglers in Upper Assam ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: That is so.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: What steps do Government propose to take against these smugglers ? Do Government propose to take more drastic steps than what they are doing at present ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: The law is there. If they are detected they are punished.

Mr. SPEAKER: No, the question is, when Government have agreed that there is a net-work of these opium smugglers in Upper Assam, do Government propose to take some drastic measures against them ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Excise) : Various steps are taken, for example, there are police posted, there are prohibition committees and also some other measures which cannot be disclosed here in public interest.

Patta Land eroded by the Burhidihing River in Tirap and Makum Mouzas of the Dibrugarh Subdivision

Shri DWIJESH CHANDRA DEB SARMA (Digboi) asked :

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

(a) What amount of patta land has been eroded by the Burhidihing River in Tirap and Makum Mouzas of the Dibrugarh Subdivision ?

(b) Whether Government is contemplating to give up revenues of eroded land ?

(c) If so, when ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

699. (a)—Total area of land eroded is 18B—OK—3L and 68B—IK—18L in Tirap and Makum mouzas respectively. Besides, a considerable area of non-cadastral land in Tirap mouza has also been eroded, but the exact area thereof is not easily available.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Proposals for remission of land revenue are under scrutiny and will be finalised soon.

Shri DWIJESH CHANDRA DEB SARMA : বোৱা বছৰ বুঢ়ীদিহিং নদীৰ গৰা খহনীয়াই 'টিৰাপ ট্ৰান্সফাৰ্ড' areaৰ কিমান ঘৰ মানুহক গৃহহীন কৰিছিল ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : এই figure যোৰ হাতত নাই।

Shri DWIJESH CHANDRA DEB SARMA (Digboi) :

চৰকাৰে এইকথা জানেনে যে অহা বাৰিষাত বুঢ়ীদিহিং নদীৰ এই অঞ্চলত বৰ বেচি বকমে গৰা খহনীয়া হোৱাৰ সম্ভাৱনা আছে ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : মোৰ হাতত

এই সম্বন্ধীয় কোনো বিপৰ্টি নাই। হব পাৰে।

Shri DWIJESH CHANDRA DEB SARMA : চৰকাৰে এই

অঞ্চলটো erosion ৰ পৰা ৰক্ষা কৰিবৰ কাৰণে কিবা উপায় চিন্তা কৰিছেনে ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : ৰাজহ বিভাগে তেনে কোনো ব্যৱস্থাৰ

কথা চিন্তা কৰা নাই। Embankments and Drainage বিভাগে কিবা কৰিছে যদি কব নোৱাৰে।

Venture Schools, etc., in Assam

Dr. RAM PRASAD CHAUBEY (Lakhipur) asked :

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

- (a) The total number of 'A', 'B' and 'C' class schools including unrecognised 'C' class Venture schools (to be stated separately) in Assam as at present ?
- (b) The total number of Government Aided Night Schools within tea garden areas in Assam during 1957-58, 1956-57 and 1955-56 (figures for (a) and (b) above are to be given district-wise in a tabular form) ?
- (c) Whether it is the Government principle that no Government aid is to be sanctioned for the Night School within tea garden areas ?
- (d) Whether there is any special Government provision for exemption of tuition fees in respect of students belonging to the backward classes and scheduled caste community ?
- (e) If so, what is the authority for such provision ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education) replied :

700.(a)—

		A	B	C
Sibsagar District	..	5	6	159
Lakhimpur „	..	Nil	13	126
Nowgong „	...	Nil	2	20
Darrang „	...	1	Nil	72
Kamrup „	...	Nil	1	3
Goalpara „	..	Nil	2	2
Cachar „	...	3	23	55
Total	...	9	47	437

(b)—

Subdivision	No. of Social Education Centres in—		
	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58
Hailakandi Nil	4	4
Golaghat 3	2	1
Silchar 7	10	1

(c)—No. There is no such principle ; but assistance is given as far as possible along with rest of the schools in the State.

(d)—There is a provision of Rs.6 lakhs in the State Budget for the current financial year. The Government of India also grant a similar amount on 50 : 50 basis. This provision is meant for only Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students, whose parent's income is not more than Rs.3,600 a year. There is no provision for exemption of tuition fees of students belonging to Backward Class.

(e)—The Government of Assam in the Tribal Areas Department makes this provision.

Shri GAURI SANKAR ROY (Katlicherra) : सरकार का कहना है कि नैश विद्यालयों को मदद दी जाती है ! हमारे प्रान्तमें कितने ऐसे विद्यालय हैं जिन्हें कोई मदद नहीं मिली है । इस बारे में कोई जांच करके मदद देने की सरकार कृपा करेगी क्या ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : मेरे खयालसे हमारे प्रान्त में बहुत से ऐसे नैश विद्यालय होंगे जिन्हें सरकार की ओर से कोई मदद नहीं मिलती होगी ।

***Shri BISWANATH UPADHYAYA (Patharkandi):** Whether Government are aware that these schools in tea gardens are there in name only and that no teachers are provided by the managements ?

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education):** I think, Sir, to a large extent that is so. That is one of the reasons why we are trying to take over these schools.

***Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh):** In reply to question (c) the Government said, "No, there is no such principle....." Is it not the policy of Government to encourage adult education in the tea gardens ?

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI:** We have no separate proposal for adult education only in the tea gardens. Adult education is being managed by the Social Education Department, but this Social Education Department is at present not functioning properly, so we are trying to reorganise it.

***Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi):** Sir, in the reply to question (a), Government have stated that the number of A, B and C class schools in Sibsagar are, 5, 6 and 159 respectively. May I know whether there are only so many schools in the whole Sibsagar district ?

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI:** That is not so, Sir, this distinction of "A", "B" and "C" class applies only to tea garden schools.

Cachar Cha Sramik Union, Silchar

Dr. RAM PRASAD CHAUBEY (Lakhipur) asked :

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

- (a) Whether he is aware of the correspondence between the Cachar Cha Sramik Union, Silchar and the Government *vide* former's letter No.C/EDN-(Gen)/1720-27, dated the 18th November 1957, addressed to the Secretary to the Government of Assam, Department of Education regarding education in tea gardens ?
- (b) Whether any action in the matter is intended ?
- (c) If so, when ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education) replied :

701.(a)—Yes.

(b) & (c)—The matter is being examined by Government.

Dr. RAM PRASAD CHAUBEY (Lakhipur) : Sir, in reply to my questions (b) and (c) the Government stated that the matter is being examined, may I know how long it will take Government to come to a decision in the matter ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : Sir we had a conference with the tea industry, regarding this matter and in that conference certain proposals were mooted out by the Government. Those proposals are under examination by the tea industry now. But from our side we have advanced the proposals alternatively, first, to take over the tea garden schools for direct management, failing which to take over inspection, control etc. It is for the tea industry to tell us which would be more suitable to them and accordingly steps would be taken.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) : Sir, yesterday the Education Minister in a statement stated that this matter was under negotiation with the Indian Tea Association but today he stated that it was decided in the last standing labour committee. Why should Government wait for the Indian Tea Association to decide this matter now ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : We have to wait for these reasons. The first proposal says that for every student the tea industry shall have to pay about Rs. 20 per year. Now, this is a question of finance. Unless the tea industry pay that sum we cannot take over immediately. The second proposal is that if the tea industry does not pay, then we would merely take over inspection, provision of curriculum, etc. That is the position, Sir.

**Scheme to fight Leprosy by North Lakhimpur
Local Board**

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur) asked:

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

- (a) Whether Government has any information that an amount of about rupees forty thousand has been placed at the disposal of North Lakhimpur Local Board for working out a scheme to fight leprosy in that Subdivision ?
- (b) Whether Government is aware that the scheme sent by the Board has been approved and the Board has accordingly trained six workers, constructed a colony and organised five centres for the work ?
- (c) Whether Government has sanctioned another amount for the same purpose through the Public Health Department to start another colony at North Lakhimpur instead of working the previous scheme ?
- (d) Whether Government will instruct the Departmental officer to co-operate in the scheme of the Board that has already constructed a complete colony with accommodation for 12 patients and a dispensary ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Medical Minister) replied :

702. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes, Government have however no information if the Board has organized the 5 Centres.

(c)—Yes, arrangements are being made to establish one 15 bedded Leprosy Colony under the Centrally sponsored schemes at Narayanpur at an estimated cost of rupees one lakh.

(d)—Yes.

***Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS [North Salmara (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] :** Sir, may I know from the Hon. Minister what is the percentage of leprosy incidence in North Lakhimpur ?

***Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) :** Incidence of leprosy is pretty high in North Lakhimpur.

***Shri MOHIKANTA DAS (Barchalla) :** Whether it is a fact that the Department has so long been non-co-operating because of instructions given from this end ?

***Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA :** I have no such information.

***Shri LILA KANTA BORAH (Kaliabar) :** Sir, may I know from the Honourable Minister-in-charge, what is the necessity for entrusting two authorities over the same nature of work ?

***Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA :** Because the scheme which is now going to be operated by the Local Board was allotted an amount for the purpose for the plains tribals under Article 275 grant. But the scheme which I have suggested is a separate scheme which has been sponsored by the Government.

***Shri LILA KANTA BORAH :** Will the Government be pleased to enquire about this matter whether the same nature of work is being done by the two different authorities and submit a report before this House ?

***Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA :** I have no such information whether the same nature of work is being done. If the hon. Member so desires, I may make an enquiry into the matter.

Rastrabhasa Teachers

Shri TANKESWAR CHETIA (Nazira) asked :

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

- (a) Whether Government is aware that one Hindi teacher is insufficient to teach Hindi from class IV to X in a High School ?

- (b) Whether Government will take steps for an additional Rastrabhasa grants to be sanctioned for appointment of more Rastrabhasa teachers in schools where Hindi has been effectively taught ?

704. Will the Minister-in-charge of Education Department be pleased to state whether Government are contemplating to fix the pay scale of Rastrabhasa teachers who are 'Prarangat', i. e., M. A. in Hindi ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education) replied:

703. (a)—One teacher is considered sufficient for schools having only one section in each class. Hindi is taught only from class IV to VI.

(b)—Individual schools may be considered on merit. Second Hindi teachers have been provided for schools according to needs.

704 —No. The pay scale for Hindi teachers has already been fixed. There is no proposal to introduce different pay scales for Hindi teachers according to qualifications.

Shri TANKESWAR CHETIA (Nazira): Sir, may I know from the Honourable Minister-in-charge whether Hindi has been introduced as a compulsory subject from class IV to class X in our High Schools ? And a circular has been issued by the Education Department for compulsory introduction of Hindi in the High schools, beginning from class IV and gradually introducing it to class VIII ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : Sir, right now we have provision from class IV to class VI and the teaching of Hindi depends on the enthusiasm of the students.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): Sir, whether it is a fact that a circular has been issued by Government to teach Hindi from class IV to class VIII in the High schools ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : Yes, Sir.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj): Sir, may I know from the Honourable Minister-in-charge what is the criterion to judge the merit of individual schools for giving grants for the purpose of teaching Hindi ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education) : To judge the merit of the individual schools is dependant on the number of classes in which Hindi is going to be taught and the grants will be increased according to the increased number of classes in which Hindi is going to be taught. If these things are brought to the notice of the Government, Government will consider them.

Shri MOHIKANTA DAS (Barchalla) : Sir, is it not a fact that direction have been issued by Government to introduce Hindi compulsorily from lass IV to lass VIII in High Schools ? Will the Government be pleased to enquire also to increase the number of Hindi teachers in High Schools ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : We will look into this matter.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : Sir, may I know from the Honourable Minister-in-charge whether in view of the fact that Hindi is going to be introduced from class IV to class VIII, Government will be pleased to relax the rule relating to the teaching of Hindi by Probodh Hindi teachers instead of Bisharad Hindi teachers in respect of Middle English Schools ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : We will examine the matter.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery) : स्कूलों में हिन्दी पढ़ाई जाती है लेकिन Middle English परीक्षा में हिन्दी की marks की गिनती नहीं की जाती है। क्या सरकार हिन्दी की परीक्षाओं की marks की गिनती करने की व्यवस्था करेगी ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : इस बारे में बतलपर सोचा जायेगा।

Pay and Allowances of School Board Assistants

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta) asked :

705. Will the Education Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the School Board Assistants of the State are not given cash allowance of Rs. 13-8-0 in lieu of free ration whereas the Assistants of D. I. Office and other Government servants are given that concession ?

(b) If so, why ?

(c) Whether Government propose to sanction that cash allowance to them ?

(d) If so, when and from what date ?

706. Will the Education Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the benefits of revised pay scales are not given to School Board Assistants whereas the other Government Servants are drawing the same ?

(b) If so, why ?

(c) Whether Government propose to consider their case and give them the same benefit and the revised scale of pay ?

(d) If so, when ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education) replied :

705. (a)—Yes.

(b), (c) & (d)—The matter is under examination now.

706. (a)—Pay scales of School Board Assistants have not been revised by the Pay Committee.

(b), (c) & (d)—The matter will be looked into.

Dr. SRIHARI DAS : Sir, the answer in reply to (a) is "yes".

Is it not a fact that the Government is giving cash allowance of Rs.13-8-0 in lieu of rice concession to their employees in Shillong from February 1957?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education): Yes, Sir.

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta) : May I know from the Hon'ble Minister why not same benefit has been granted to the employees in the plains ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Sir, the whole thing needs examination.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): When the examination is expected to be finalised?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Sir, it is very difficult to give the exact date. But we will look into the matter.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur): Sir, may I know whether the School Boards are Government and whether the School Board Assistants are treated as Government employees?

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : Whether they are governed by the Government Servants Conduct Rules?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : Sir, naturally they being under the Schools Boards, the rules of the School Boards will govern them.

Cost of Buildings of Basic Training Institutions at Titabar

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) asked :

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

- (a) The total cost of the buildings of the 3 (three) Basic Training Institutions at Titabar ?
- (b) How many bighas of land the institutions are occupying (information to be given separately for each institution) ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that there is no fencing in the compound of the institutions?
- (d) Whether Government have lately received letters from Principals requesting to grant money for providing fencing?
- (e) Whether Government propose to place requisite funds for the purpose ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education) replied :

707. (a)—There are only two Basic Training Institutions at Titabar, viz., the Basic Training College and the Post-Graduate Basic Training College. There is also a Janata College. Total cost of the buildings of these three colleges are Rs.4,86,770.

(b)—Basic Training College—47·0085 bighas.

Post-Graduate Basic Training College—124·63 bighas.

Janata College—102·245 bighas.

(c)—There is fencing in the Basic Training College but not in other two.

(d)—Yes, proposal has been received from the Principal, Post-Graduate Basic Training College.

(e)—Under consideration.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) : Sir, as regards the total cost of buildings the amount involved is Rs.4,86,770. Whether this includes the cost of the building of the three institutions or the cost of one building only ?

May I know from the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education when the grants for fencing of the other two colleges will be granted?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : It is a question of finance. As soon as the Finance Department sanctions the amount, we will do it.

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon) : What is the present strength, of these colleges so far the number of students is concerned and what is the total amount spent on these colleges annually?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : Sir, this question does not relate to Question No.707. I would request the hon. Member to give notice of the question, then only it will be possible for me to reply.

Tribal Belts in Uttarkhola Mauza, Nowgong

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

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

- (a) The number of the Tribal Belts with names in Uttarkhola Mauza in the district of Nowgong ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that there is a Tribal Belt consisting of the following villages, *e.g.*, Silsang, Dahali, Makaria, Barpayak, Marabari, Bargaon and Palahguri in the said Mauza ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that there are sufficient number of non-tribals living in that Belt ?
- (d) Whether Government are aware that the non-tribals are selling lands to the non-tribals within the Belt ?
- (e) Whether Government is aware that the tribal people are objecting to the transfer of lands to other non-tribals living outside the said Belt ?
- (f) How many bighas of land were transferred to the non-tribals during the period of 1956 and 1957 in that Belt ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Revenue Minister) replied :

708. (a)—There is no Tribal Belt in Uttarkhola Mauza but two Tribal blocks, *viz.*, (1) Palahguri Tribal block and (2) Bagariguri Tribal block cover some villages of Uttarkhola Mouza.

(b)—These villages along with some other villages have been constituted into a Tribal block namely Palahguri Tribal block. Silsang forms part of Nijkhola and Banparadarpani village. Similarly Bargaon is a part of Killing Bongisa village which falls within this Tribal block.

(c)—There are about 172 non-tribal families.

(d)—Yes, some non-tribals are reported to have sold some land to some non-tribals living within the block.

(e)—Yes, Tribal people have objection to transfer of land in the Tribal block to non-tribals living outside. But no such transfer has taken place.

(f)—112½ bighas.

***Shri DHIRSING DEURI [Lahorighat (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]**: Sir, may I know from the Minister-in-charge whether the Government has taken any steps for non-transference of lands in the Tribal Belt to outsiders?

***Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue)**: There has been no transfer of lands to outsiders in the Tribal Belt.

***Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS [Patacharkuchi (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]**: Sir, whether the Government will be pleased to stop selling of lands in the Tribal Belt to non-Tribals in order to protect the interest of the Tribal people?

***Shri HARESWAR DAS**: Sir, there is some difficulty. Because there are large number of people from among the Tribals who are selling lands to non-Tribals within the Tribal Belt.

Encroachment on Jopadanga Reserve in the Madhyam Baska Mauza, Kamrup

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

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

- (a) Whether Government are aware that Jopadanga Reserve in the Madhyam Baska Mauza of Kamrup district has been encroached?
- (b) If so, how many families are settling there?
- (c) Whether encroachers will be evicted soon or not?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Revenue Minister) replied :

709. (a)—Yes, Japadanga Reserve which is a part of the Subankhata Bhogpara P.G.R. is under encroachment.

(b)—More than 300 persons, both tribals and refugees are encroaching on the P.G.R.

(c)—Yes, within this April.

Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS : Sir, in reply to (c) it has been said that the encroachers will be evicted within this April. Sir, may I know whether the encroachers have already been evicted or will be evicted within 30th April which falls tomorrow :

Shri HARESWAR DAS : Whether the encroachers have been evicted or not will be known to the Government only in May.

Mr. SPEAKER : The questions are over.

Furthers clarification regarding Supplementary replies to Starred Question No. 194 asked by Shri Sarbeswar Bardoloi on 24th April, 1958

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) : Mr, Speaker, Sir, the other day on the 24th April, 1958, in reply to a supplementary question put by my hon. Friend Shri Sarbeswar Bardoloi relating to Question (Starred) No.194 there has been some misunderstanding and I could not reply whether certain classes of people were working as sweepers or not. Now my hon. Friend, Shri Sangma, will reply to it.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Tribal Areas) : Mr, Speaker, Sir, there has been some misunderstanding in giving reply by the Chief Minister to the supplementaries raised by my hon. Friend, Shri Sarberwar Bardoloi, to Starred Question No. 194.

Again yesterday there was an Unstarred Question No.687 with regard to free education to the children belonging to Mehtar or Bhangi Community.

I replied "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",

Now it seems, that the contention of the hon. Member is that the Ramdasias, Bansphors and Robidasas do take the profession of sweeper and Muchis and therefore should be regarded as scheduled caste. Now, Sir, my point is that simply because one takes to the profession of a sweeper he cannot be regarded as a scheduled caste. That is not the only criterion. In this matter we are guided by the instructions of the Government of India. It may be a fact that these castes are scheduled caste in some other States, but they are not included in the list in this State. His contention was that all the sweepers should be included in the list of scheduled castes, which we cannot do so far as this State is concerned. For example, I made it clear outside this House that suppose one Brahmin because of his liking takes to the profession of sweeping, for that reason we cannot include him in the list of scheduled castes.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) : My question was whether Rabidasas and Ramdasias are included in the list of scheduled caste.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Tribal Areas Department) : My reply is 'no'.

Demands for Grants

Mr. SPEAKER : Now grants No. 29, 30 and 55.

These three grants are in the name of the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department. He may move these three grants together.

GRANT No. 29

“50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment)”

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH [Minister, P. W. D. (R. & B.)] : On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs. 7,22,15,200 (Rupees seven crores, twenty-two lakhs. fifteen thousand and two 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 “50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment)”.

GRANT No. 30

“Tools and Plant and Establishment”

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH [Minister, Public Works Department (R. & B.)]: On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs.82,11,100 (Rupees eighty two lakhs, eleven thousand and one 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 “Tools and Plant and Establishment”.

GRANT No. 55

“81.—Capital Account of Civil Works outside the Revenue Account”

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH [Minister, P. W. D. (R. & B.)]: On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs.3,44,08,400 (Rupees three crores, forty-four lakhs, eight 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 “81.—Capital Account of Civil Works outside the Revenue Account”.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motions moved are:

That a sum of Rs. 7,22,15,200 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 “50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment)”.

That a sum of Rs.82,11,100 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 “Tools and Plant and Establishment”.

That a sum of Rs.3,44,08,400 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 “81.—Capital Account of Civil Works outside the Revenue Account”.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East): Sir, I beg to move the cut motions standing in my name:—

That the provision of Rs.9,75,615 under Grant No.29, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head (a)—Buildings (total), at page 447 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100 *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.7,22,15,200, do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To criticise the Government for their failure to take up construction of Resettlement office building at Nalbari with Budget provision of Rs.1,02,500 in the passed Budget provision of 1957-58).

That the provision of Rs.7,84,000 under Grant No.29, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—Development Scheme (Second Five Year Plan—Central) A—7.—Original Works (total), at page 450 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100 *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.7,22,15,200 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To criticise the Government for the failure to provide permanent bridges on Bijlighat and Baruabari on Nalbari-Hajo-North Gauhati Road).

That the total provision of Rs.82,11,100 under Grant No.30, Major head—39.—Public Health—50.—Civil Works and 81—Capital Accounts, etc., at page 452 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.82,11,100, do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To criticise the Government for their decision to appoint engineers and overseers coming from outside Assam in permanent posts of the State).

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDER (Sorbhog): Sir, I beg to move the cut motion standing in my name:

That the total provision of Rs.7,22,15,200 under Grant No. 29, Major head—50.—Civil Works, at page 447 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.7,22,15,200, do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To criticise the Government for not constructing a bridge over the Beki river).

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

That the total provision of Rs.7,22,15,200 under Grant No.29, Major head—50.—Civil Works, at page 447 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.7,22,15,200, do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To raise a general discussion)

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): Sir, I beg to move the cut motions standing in my name:—

That the total provision of Rs.7,22,15,200 under Grant No.29, Major head—50.—Civil Works, at page 447 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.7,22,15,200, do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(1. To criticise the Government for making alignments of the portion of the Assam Trunk Road passing through the town of Dibrugarh and the portion of the North Trunk Road passing through Sissi Mouza without studying the needs of the people.

2. To criticise the Government for undertaking a scheme of Road making in a desultory and haphazard manner).

That the provision of Rs.15,60,773 under Grant No.30, Major head—39.—Public Health—50.—Civil Works and 81.—Capital Accounts, etc., Minor head—A.—Direction (total), at page 456 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.1,70,700, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.82,11,100, do stand reduced by Rs.1,70,700.

(To criticise the Government for the miserable standard of performance by the Architectural section of the Public Works Department and to suggest economy by abolishing this section).

That the total provision of Rs.82,11,100 under Grant No. 30, Major head—39.—Public Health—50.—Civil Works and 81.—Capital Accounts, etc., at page 452 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.82,11,900, do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(1. To criticise the top heavy administrative structure of the Department.

2. To criticise the Government for giving greater leeway to the shady contractors),

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Sir, I beg to move the cut motion standing in my name:—

That the provision of Rs.94,500 under Grant No.55 Major head—Charges on Account of Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment)—81.—Capital Account of Civil Works outside the Revenue Account, Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head (b) Communication, Detailed head—Ordinary Roads under Col. Sixth Schedule, (Part A) Areas, at page 596 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.3,44,08,400, do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To ask Government to clarify this point why the figures 94,500 in United Khasi-Jaintia Hills budget, at page 136 is put within brackets. What are the roads for which this amount has been budgeted).

That the provision of Rs.13,95,000 under Grant No.55, Major head—Charges on Account of Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment)—81.—Capital Account of Civil Works outside the Revenue Account, Minor head—Development Schemes (Second Five Year Plan)—A-6—Original Works, Sub-head (b) Communication—Ordinary Roads under Col. Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas, at page 597 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i. e.* the amount of the whole grant of Rs.3,44,08,400, do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To ask Government whether the sum of Rs.4,20,000 for ordinary roads in the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills budget at page 136, is for the completion of the Mawphlang-Balat Road and the Mawsmi-Shella Road or how is it to be used).

That the provision of Rs.1,00,000 under Grant No.55, Major head—Charges on Account of Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment)—81.—Capital Account of Civil Works outside the Revenue Account, Minor head—Development Schemes (Second Five Year Plan) A-6—Original Works, Sub-head—(b)—Communications, Detailed head—Shella-Shillong Ropeway, at page 597 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100 *i. e.*, the amount of whole grant of Rs.3,44,08,400, do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To ask Government to state whether this work will be started and when and what will be its alignment and whether the Government propose to consider about constructing the Ropeway all along the border from Balat to Shella and thence to Shillong and Amingaon and when.)

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati) : Sir, I beg to move the cut motions standing in my name :—

That the total provision of Rs.7,22,15,200 under Grant No.29, Major head—50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment), at page 447 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs 7,22,15,200, do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To raise a general discussion.)

That the total provision of Rs.82,11,100 under Grant No.30, Major head—39.—Public Health—50.—Civil Works and 81—Capital Accounts, etc., at page 452 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.82,11,100, do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To raise a general discussion).

That the total provision of Rs.3,44,08,400 under Grant No.55, Major head—Charges on Account of Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment)—81.—Capital Account of Civil Works outside the Revenue Account, at page 596 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.3,44,08,400, do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To raise a general discussion.)

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] : Sir, I beg to move:

That the total provision of Rs. 82,11,100 under Grant No.30, Major head—39.—Public Health—50.—Civil Works and 81.—Capital Accounts, etc., at page 452 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.82,11,100, do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To criticise the demand).

Mr. SPEAKER : All the cut motions are move as above

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my cut motion refers to Grant No. 55. There are some figures which are put here in the budget of the District Council of the United K. & J. Hills all at page 136 which need clarification. The amount is Rs.94,500. My desire is to know from the Government why this amount has been put within brackets? The other question I want to ask is whether the sum of Rs. 4,20,000 is meant for the ordinary

road in the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills—it is at page 136 also. Whether it is for the Maphlang-Balat and Mawsmail-Shella road and how this amount will be utilised. Whether it is connected with Mawphlang-Balat and Mawsmail-Shella road?

My next point is with regard to the provision made for the Ropeway project. Here the object of my motion is to know whether the work will be started and if so, when and what will be alignment? Whether Government propose to construct the Ropeway all along the border and from Cherra to Amingaon? These are the points on which I want information and clarification from the Government, Sir.

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Head—Civil Works is an important subject because the money spent by the Public Works Department forms the bulk of the public expenditure. It is not only the direct expenditure of the Public Works Department but also other Departments are to make expenditure through the Public Works Department, and therefore it is only natural that people talk most about the activities of this Department and it is also true that as this Department is the greatest expender here in this Department also there is the greatest number of scandals so much so that there are many people who say that the Public Works Department is in fact a Public Waste Department. Assuming that this statement is to some extent rhetoric or hyperbolic and assuming that there are always certain scope for wasteful expenditure or infructuous expenditure, it cannot be denied that there is room for improvement in this Department. For example, there are certain things which could have done better than it has been done. Let us take for instance the hectic works of this Department during the last Congress Session. Some roads were widened and some bridges were constructed hastily. Some sheds were constructed for the Police post. All these works were done within a very short time. It is very well known that these works were done very hurriedly. The result was that the work was done very defectively. Let anyone of the hon. Members go by the Gauhati-Shillong road, he will see that the widened portion of the road has already been eroded and washed away, because the work was not carried out properly. The asphaltting was done very badly, watering was not done properly. So the money has been practically wasted. One must have noticed in the road crossing at Ulubari where five roads meet, a shed was constructed for the Police post. While the Police man was standing, all on a sudden it fell down.

Why so ? Because construction was very defective, and that is there standing as a constructional monument of the Public Works Department even now. If you go to the Railway over-bridge at Gauhati, you will find that deterioration has already started in the bridge which was constructed at a cost of several lakhs of rupees. We have also seen that works which ought to be started in early winter, they are generally left to late winter or even till spring, and when the measurements are to be taken for earth-works, already rain sets in and measurements have to be done while the whole area is over-flooded, and as a result the measurements are inaccurate. So in these various ways there are defects in the department and room for improvement. As a matter of fact, I myself saw certain scandalous things, for example certain stone chips were collected in front of my house on this road, and in one fine afternoon they were measured. But at 12 mid-night some contractors men came there with lorries and removed all those stone chips. I happened to come to Shillong at about this time, and I personally met the Chief Engineer and the Additional Chief Engineer and narrated all these things to them, and told them that in case they would make an enquiry, I myself be cited as a witness to the case. I do not know what steps were taken by them afterwards. Of course, the Chief Engineer told that the work was done in such a hurry that it was not possible to make proper provision for all these things. Well, that might be true. But my point is as to how and why this sort of things are allowed to happen? Secondly, so far as widening of the road was concerned, I complained to the Chief Engineer that if the road was widened in the manner it was done, I as a lay man profesy that this widening would not stand the ensuing rains, and my profesy came true. Was not the widening meant to be permanent ? Why was it made in such a way as to be washed away by the rains ? We have also seen there are certain works which need not wait till March or April because they are continued works, and yet even on this road, the works do not start till February or March. On several previous occasions attention of Government was drawn to the state of affairs in the North Trunk Road, and the then Public Works Department Minister told us that materials were not available to speed up the work, but, Sir, these have been continuing for years. Too many works are started at the time and progress of work is not satisfactory. I have myself seen the progress of work of the Kamalpur-Marwa road and also about the Bagala road in Rangia Sub-division. When these roads were constructed I told the then Public Works Department Minister that instead of starting two roads together, it would be better

to start one first and complete it with the bridges and everything. But unfortunately the reply was not at all satisfactory. Parts of these roads fall in two different constituencies, on represented by him and the other by me. Not being satisfied the reply given to me by him here, he, while visiting the area, told the people there, "Look here, while I wanted to construct two roads here, this man opposed it." That is the type of appreciation of our suggestions. But up till now both the roads are there but the bridges are not there, and therefore, both the roads have been lying there useless. Some other roads are also lying in similar condition, such as the Nalbari-Septi road, Kaitha-lkuchi-Chepti road, Chepti-Bornebari road and so on. So my suggestion to the Government is that instead of starting too many works at a time, it is better to start a few works and complete them. Because starting of too many works and leaving them all unfinished bring more criticism, and at the same time such incomplete works do not bring any relief to the people. Of course in this connection naturally a question, and that is fundamental question, would arise as to what should be the policy of this department, and as a matter of that, Government itself with regard to the development schemes. In the first phase of our development, of course, the constructional activities will pay very important part. Naturally the question would arise whether we should invest more in welfare activities as they are generally understood, or in such other activities which will be some sort of investment. Without going into the details of the matter, I would like to say that so far as the objective is concerned, I think, we are all agreed but so far as the progress of that work is concerned, the actual functioning is concerned, there are certain difference of opinion. As regards the ideological aspect of socialism is concerned, it is not so very important. The problem to-day is that of functioning. The ideological problem of socialism is solved, that has been accepted by all. But so far as functioning is concerned, there are certain difficulties. I know in the matter of development of a society like ours there will be some conflict of interest; there will be also rivalries, local or sectional, and in a backward economy like ours, they are bound to be so. Therefore at the time of making the selection, the Government should see not only to the people, the particular section of people in a particular place at a particular time but as to whether in the long view of things they will add to the productive capacity of the State as a whole. I am thereby not asking that we should not make constructional expenditure for hospitals, schools or such other activities. But my point is that so far as the welfare works such as social securities, social services, etc., are

concerned, just at this moment we cannot take them with as much importance as is proposed. We would be able to take them after 5 years. We shall have to teach our people to have some amount of patience because welfare does not come all on a sudden. But in that the Ministers themselves or the Government as a whole should give a lead. If the Ministers themselves become constituency minded or become too much obsessed by local sentiments or local likes and dislikes then we shall not be able to enthuse the other people to have a national outlook and to have national reconstruction plan. Therefore, I should like to pause the question like the old Spanish proverb where it is said, "It was bemoaned that there is a quarrel between beauty and chastity". I think we should try to make an adjustment of the two things. But up till now, so far as the action of our Public Work Department is concerned, I feel that there has been rather more attention to the side of beauty than to the side of chastity. In this connection naturally arises the question as to whether the Public Works Department can take up certain immediate measures for the benefit of the people and at the same time for the enhancement of the income of the State. I should like in this connection to suggest that Government in the Public Work Department may take up certain things; first of all the Gauhati-North Gauhati ferry service. So far as this is concerned I understand that the period of lease is going to be over very shortly and so I suggest that if Government take up that charge then that will give relief to the travelling people and at the same time that will also give a very good income to the Government. So, my suggestion is that instead of extending the lease, the Public works Department should take up the ferry. It may be said that there is difficulty about obtaining steamer. If private party can obtain steamers, I do not understand why Government should not be able to get it. If steamers are not available in India, let them be obtained from England or Poland or Japan or from any other ship-building countries. In any way, that ferry service Government should take up. How much this ferry service bring profit can be seen from the growth of property of the Directors of that service itself. Almost all of them now have built very good two or three storied buildings out of the profit of this service. Before they took it up they were not so rich.

My second suggestion is that Government should make the two roads (1) Morowa-Kamalpur road and (2) Bagalsahab road, really useful. Lakhs of rupees have already been spent by the Government. But if the bridges on the Baralia river are immediately completed then they will give relief to the people concerned and that will make the roads really purposeful,

otherwise those roads will remain useless. I should like to suggest that Government should take immediate measures to complete the work on those two roads within the Second Five-Year plan period. This will then not only save the travelling public from a great deal of difficulties but will save some amount of wastage from the Transport Department, as the heavy vehicles running over them suffer a great deal of damage and wear and tear. As the North Trunk Road has been nationalised, the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department and the State Transport Department should see that the work for improvement of this road is completed as quickly as possible. We should also try our best to solve the basic difficulty in regard to the personnel of the Public Works Department. The other day our Revenue Minister gave a very astounding figure with regard to unemployed rural population. Lakhs of our people in the villages have got no occupation. So far as labourers working under the Public Works Department are concerned, almost all of them are brought from outside. If the labourers from Bihar, Orissa or Uttar Pradesh do not come in time then our Public Works Department cannot function, because it is they on whose labour we have to depend. I think we should give a special drive for making our people employed in road making and other activities. I am, of course, not saying this as sermons. But we should lead ourselves for such works. In the Sibsagar District some efforts were made some time back, perhaps under the leadership of Shri P. C. Barua (now M. P.), for doing such constructional activities in the Janji area or near about it. We are also hearing about Shramdan and other movements. But I should like to ask not only the Government, the ruling party, but the other parties including my own as to whether we are doing anythings in this matter. It is not enough to say so by giving lecture only. But we should do as the various Seva Dal, Shramdan and other movements are doing in important field of work. We have not so far been able to participate in doing such works. I should like to request all hon. Members of this House, including the Ministers, to show an example by themselves taking a spade and basket by themselves just to encourage their followers to do likewise so that the feeling that the manual labour is a degrading thing goes away and so that the principle of dignity of labour becomes a practice rather than a profession for our social workers. Let there be a competition among different political parties themselves as to who can do better amongst themselves. We can compete with each other in doing such works instead of giving lectures or sermons to our people. Let us compete in such constructional activities to lead our people in actual field

I make the suggestion with all seriousness. If that is done we will be doing a real service to the people. Government should, therefore, encourage these things. In this connection, naturally comes the question of contractor's labour. We have seen that the Public Works Department's works are done through contractors. Now, so far as the contractor's labour is concerned, they do not get their due. Let Government make certain pilot scheme so that there may be co-operatives' of the contractor's labour. I had, as a matter of fact given notice of a Resolution to be moved in this Session of the Assembly, but as my Resolution has got a very low place in the ballot, it is not likely to be discussed during the Session. In that Resolution I had suggested "This Assembly recommends to the Government to launch a pilot Scheme for the organisation of Labour Contract Co-operative Societies in order to help workmen to play an effective and important role in the economic development of the community." This I think to be very important not only in the interest of the labourers but also in the interest of the State and our development programme, because up till now the present system of doing things through contractor has helped only a few contractors and, at best a few skilled workers. In this connection I should like to suggest that so far as payment to the labourers is concerned, there should be some rise in their emoluments, because I have seen that where as in private employment the labourers get, say for example, Rs.2-8-0 per day, when they work under the contractors they are not always assured of that. Not only that. Even the Grade III Overseers in our State are given a salary of only Rs.75 per month, even though in my own house I am not getting the services of an unskilled labourers at less than Rs. 2-8-0 per day. Is it proper for the State to engage Overseers, be they Grade III or Grade II, at Rs.75 per month only? Moreover, when by their experience for years together they have qualified themselves to be, and are found, the real operators in important road project in our State and when they have proved very efficient, why should there not be some provision for promoting them to Grade II or even Grade I? Many people have been brought from outside the State on contract basis and many of them have got only diplomas through correspondence course. We know what these correspondence courses mean. But whereas they are getting the benefits of Grade I Overseers, so far as our own youngmen are concerned, who, apart from passing the Matriculation Examination- and most of them are Intermediates also have had one year's theoretical training in the Institute and several years of practical training also. I do not understand why they should not be given

chances of promotion. I know of at least one Superintending Engineer who was a simple Matriculate and was an overseer. During war time he somehow got money, went to England and America and there having taken a diplomain the *Saraswati Kundu* came back a very learned man and became a Superintending Engineer ! Then another non-Matriculate, who was an overseer during war time, made some money and went to England. Just after returning from England he was promoted and is now an Executive Engineer ! If these people can rise to such heights, why these overseer of Grade III also, by dint of good labour, by dint of experience and efficient service in the field, cannot get promotion to Grade II or Grade I ? Sir, the other day when the question of promotion of a man to the position of a Superintendent of Weaving and Sericulture was discussed in this House, the Minister concerned said that though he had no theoretical qualification or any degree as required by the advertisement, he had experience in the line and was, therefore, considered qualified for promotion. If that can be the case in the Sericulture and Weaving Department or any other Department why that cannot be the case in Public Works Department ? Then, Sir, the other day the Education Minister correctly said that there has been less emphasis in our State in the creation of technicians. While we feel very strongly that there should be three or four Engineering Colleges as we are not satisfied with only one college and we are also not satisfied with one Medical College, we want more Medical Colleges, we are not making an equal agitation for getting more technical schools. Who will build our country if we have not got a sufficient number of technicians, sufficient number of overseers section-in-charge, overseers, and so on ? Simply some engineers roaming about in motor vehicles will not be able to execute our development plan. I, therefore, feel that the Public Works Department, which is engaged in the constructional side of our development plan, should give a lead in the matter and provide incentive to those men who are working in the field by giving them scope of promotion and then we shall see that our people also will develop through practical training into not only overseers but also Subdivisional Officers and Executive Engineers.

Then, Sir, with regard to the emolument of the staff of the Engineering Department, we have seen that an engineering graduate get only Rs. 250 per month. I think in the present circumstances for a man of his education and way of life and the responsibilities given to him, this is not sufficient. There

ought to be some more consideration for this technical staffs. Even in Socialist countries like Soviet Union, the engineers and other technicians are very highly paid. Their pay is much higher than those who pursue ordinary vocations of life. So I should like to suggest increased pay scales for our technicians also.

Then, Sir, with regard to the compensation paid to those whose lands, etc., have been taken by this Department or its allied Department—the Embankment and Drainage Department, I should like to say that there has been some injustice to many people in this regard. No doubt we have a legislation that for the purpose of embankment and drainage we can take land by paying only 20 times the land revenue. But that is not just. I know of a case in Karimganj Subdivision where the land of a man was taken for office purpose. The land was worth about Rs.27,000; it was acquired and the man was given only Rs.2,700. Of course he has refused to take the money. I therefore, feel that there should be some amendment of the Act so that people get proper compensation in this regard.

Then, Sir, another thing I should like to say is this; so far as the architectural section of the Public Works Department is concerned, it has not proved to be very efficient in our State. Without going into details, I can invite the Minister once to visit the State Central Library at Shillong and see for himself how efficient it is.

Now, with regard to the road schemes, as I have already said that these schemes have been taken haphazardly with the result that most of them remain incomplete. Let schemes be taken up but whatever is taken up should be completed. Let bridges be constructed be that at Borolia or at Rajmai but they should be completed in times. Let the buildings in the important institutions like the Medical College, the Engineering College be completed because so far as the Engineering College is concerned, we find that students have no Hostels. They will build for others but for them there is no accommodation. In view of all these, I do not propose to go into further details but I would like only that instead of getting the bad name of the Public Works Department, let the Public Works Department prove it to be a department primarily for national construction and let the Government give a lead to the development of the State properly instead of giving palliative structure here and there.

Shri SURENDRA NATH DAS (Patacharkuchi): মাননীয়

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মাননীয় গড়কাপ্তানী মন্ত্রী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ মঞ্জুৰী দাবী সমৰ্থন কৰি দুৰ্ঘাৰমান কৰ খুজিছে। গড়কাপ্তানী বিভাগেই আজি স্বাধীন দেশৰ নক্সা নিৰ্মাতা। চৰকাৰৰ প্ৰশাসনীয় বিভাগ সমূহৰ ভিতৰত এই বিভাগৰ দায়িত্বই গুৰুতৰ। এই বিভাগৰ জৰিয়তে চৰকাৰে গাওঁ ভূমি অঞ্চলত যাতায়তৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবলৈ হাতত লৈছে। কিন্তু এই গড়কাপ্তানী বিভাগৰ যিটো নমুনা সেইটোলৈ লক্ষ্য কৰিলে দেখা যায় যে এই বিভাগে প্ৰগতিশীল প্ৰেৰণাৰে জনসাধাৰণৰ কাম কৰা বুলি মনে নধৰে। উত্তৰ গুৱাহাটীৰ পৰা বৰপেটালৈ যিটো উত্তৰ ট্ৰাঙ্ক ৰোড আছে সেইটোৰ অবস্থা অতি শোকা লগা। এই ৰাস্তাইদি উত্তৰ গুৱাহাটীৰ পৰা বৰমালৈ ৪৫ মাইল দূৰ, কিন্তু এই ৪৫ মাইল বাট যাবলৈ ৫ ঘণ্টা লাগে। এই ৰাস্তাৰ মাজে মাজে ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ পাথৰ দিছে আৰু দলংবোৰৰ approach এতিয়াও সম্পূৰ্ণ কৰা নাই। নৰ্থকামৰূপ ডিভিজনৰ অন্তৰ্গত ১১৩ মাইলত মৰা পাগলাদিয়াৰ দলংখন দহ ফুট ওপৰত ওলমি আছে আৰু দুই ফালৰ approach সম্পূৰ্ণ হোৱা নাই। যোৱা ৩১ মাৰ্চৰ ভিতৰতে পুৰা কৰাৰ কথা আছিল, কিন্তু মই recess ত যাওঁতে দেখিলো যে এচপৰাও মাটি দিয়া নাই। এনেকুৱা ৰাস্তাইদি আজি জনসাধাৰণ আৰু যান বাহন চলাচল কৰিব লাগিছে। এইটো বৰ অন্যায় কাম হৈছে। ইয়াৰোপৰি জনজাতি অঞ্চলৰ বহুত ৰাস্তা আধৰুৱা হৈয়ে আছে। বৰমা সোৱনখাটা ৰাস্তাৰ ৮ মাইল হল বাকী ৩ মাইল এতিয়াও হোৱা নাই। ১৯৫৩ চনতে এই ৰাস্তাৰ কাম হাতত লৈছে কিন্তু আজি ৬ বছৰেও সম্পূৰ্ণ হোৱা নাই। জনজাতি অঞ্চলৰ ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ নদীত দলংদিয়া বা দ ঠাইবোৰত ৰাস্তা ওখ কৰিবৰ বাবে চৰকাৰে ব্যৱস্থা কৰা উচিত। কিছুমান ঠাইত একুট ডেবফুট মান মাটি দিলেই ৰাস্তা হয়। কিন্তু দেখা গৈছে যে এইবোৰ অঞ্চলৰ ৰাস্তাক ঘূৰাৰ চকুৰে চোৱা হৈছে। কুমৰিকাটা—মছলপুৰ—জালাহ ৰাস্তাটোৰ কাম হোৱা নাই। জালাহ কলিদিয়া নদীৰ দলংখনৰ কাম হোৱা নাই। ঠায়ে ঠায়ে মাটি দিব লাগে। বা কোনো ঠাইত culvert দিব লাগে। কিন্তু আজিও হোৱা নাই। এইটো এটা বৰ জৰুৰী ৰাস্তা—দুটা National Extension Service Block চুই গৈছে। ৰাস্তাটো ভাল নহলে এই National Extension Service Block দুটাত কাম কেনেকৈ কৰিব? ইয়াৰ উপৰিও কটালগুৰী বাশাখাটা এই ৰাস্তাটো সম্পূৰ্ণ নোহোৱা বাবে বজালী কলেজৰ ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰীৰ বাবে বৰ অসুবিধা হৈছে। বাৰ্ষিক তেওঁলোকে কলৰ ভূৰ গাজি নৈ পাৰ হ'ব লাগে। হাট-বজাৰ কৰাৰ অসুবিধাটো আছেই।

দ্বিতীয়তে যিটো গোৱালবিল আঠিয়াবাৰীলৈ ৰাস্তা আছে তাৰ দলং এতিয়াও তৈয়াৰ কৰা হোৱা নাই ফলত ৰাস্তা অঞ্চলৰ উৎপাদনৰ বিলাকৰ বেচা কিনা বন্ধ হৈছে।

নলবাৰীৰ পৰা ধমধমালৈ ৮ মাইল; কিন্তু সেই ৰাস্তাটো নকৰাৰ ফলত Public Works Department ৰাস্তাৰে বৰমালৈ যাহি তাৰ পাচত বৰমাৰ পৰা যুৰি ধমধমালৈ যাব লগিয়া হোৱাত ৮ মাইলৰ ঠাইত ১৬ মাইল ৰাস্তা হৈ পৰিছে। এনেকৈত ৩/৪ মাইল ৰাস্তা ভাল নকৰি মানুহৰ কষ্ট দিয়াৰ কোনো যুক্তি নাই।

এইবিলাকলৈ চাই মই মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ক অনুৰোধ কৰিছো যাতে তেখেতে এবাৰ এই দুৰৱস্থা বিলাক চাই তাৰ যথাবিহিত ব্যৱস্থা কৰে। দেখিব যে বহুত ঠাইত কিছুমান দলং চীনৰ প্ৰাচীৰৰ নিচিনাকৈ ১০ ফুট ওপৰত ওলমি আছে। মানুহ গলে টিলা বগাইছে যেনহে লাগে। আমাৰ শিক্ষা মন্ত্রী মহোদয় যোৱা ২০ এপ্ৰিল তাৰিখে গৈছিল। ইয়াৰ কাৰণে কোনো কোনো ঠাইত তেখেতৰ মটৰ যাব পৰা নাই।

জনসাধাৰণৰ হকে মই কও যে আমাৰ চৰকাৰৰ বিভিন্ন বিভাগৰ কাম এই বিভাগৰ ওপৰত নিহিত আছে। যেনে মেডিকেল বিভাগৰ বহুতো কাম এই বিভাগত নিহিত আছে। ডাক্তিৰখানা বিলাকৰ নিৰ্মাণৰ কাম Public Works Department এ কৰে।

এইবিলাকৰ কাৰণে Tender মাৰ্চ মাহত Call কৰিছে। কাম হ'ব কেতিয়া? গতিকে এই সকলোবিলাক গমি চাই কামত আগবাঢ়িব লাগে। এই বিলাকলৈ লক্ষ্যকৰি, যাতে মন্ত্ৰীমহোদয়ে ভবিষ্যতে এই বিলাক বিষয়ত গুৰুত্ব দিয়ে।

জনজাতীয় অঞ্চলত প্ৰায় কামেই আধাৰুৱা হৈ পৰি আছে। সেই বিলাক কাম যাতে সম্পূৰ্ণ কৰি জনজাতীয় ভাইসকলৰ কল্যাণ সাধণ কৰে তাকে চৰকাৰৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰি মই সামৰণি মাৰিলো।

Shri PAKHIRAI DEKA [Panery (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, বাস্তা নিৰ্মাণৰ কাম হাতত লওতে বহুল দৃষ্টিভঙ্গীৰে লব লাগে। বহুত ক্ষেত্ৰত যিবিলাক বিশেষ দৰ্কাৰী বাস্তা সেবিলাক বাদ দি কিছুমান কম দৰ্কাৰী বাস্তা লোৱা হয়। অৱশ্যে বাস্তা সকলোৰে দৰ্কাৰ। তৰ ভিতৰতে লওতে কম বেচি দৰ্কাৰ অনুযায়ী Priority দিব লাগে।

উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে মই কও যে মঙ্গলদৈৰ ভেৰগাঁও-ৰামগাঁও নামৰ যিটো বাস্তা আছে সেইটো মাত্ৰ ৬ মাইল। সেই বাস্তাটো যদি বজিয়া টংলা গৰ্বেশ্বৰক লগলগোৱা যায় সেই অঞ্চলৰ বাইজৰ বেপাৰ, যাতায়াত আদিত কিমান সুবিধা হয়। কামকৰপৰ সেই অঞ্চলৰ হাঁহ পাৰৰ বেপাৰৰ পৰা আৰম্ভকৰি সকলো বেপাৰ মঙ্গলদৈ অঞ্চলতে হয়। এইলোক সকলৰ কিমান কষ্ট হয়। ৰেলৰ কৰ্মচাৰীসকলক কিমান বুচ দি যাবলগীয়া হয়। এইমাত্ৰ ৬ মাইল বাস্তা নকৰাৰ কাৰণে মঙ্গলদৈ, চাৰি আলিলৈ বহুত ঘৰি আহিব লগীয়া হয়। এই থিনি বাস্তা কৰিবলৈ বাইজে কিমান আবেদন নিবেদন কৰাটো আজিলৈ Public Works Department য়ে হাতত নললে। ইয়াৰ কাৰণে টকাও বেচি নহয় মাত্ৰ ১,৮১,০০০ টকাৰ দৰ্কাৰ। কিন্তু ইয়াৰ পৰা উঃ কামকৰপ আৰু উঃ মঙ্গলদৈ উভয়ৰে মহা উপকাৰ হয়।

তামপিচত পানেৰী ওদালগুৰি হৰিচিঙা বাস্তাটোৰ ২ খন দলং আজিলৈকে দিয়া নহল। সেই লোকসকলৰ ৰেলৰ বাহিৰে আন যাতায়াতৰ পথ নাই। কোনো বাস্তা ঘাট নাই।

ওদালগুৰি খাক পেতীয়া এটা বাস্তা আছে। এনে এটা দৰ্কাৰী বাস্তাৰ কাম পেনাই থৈ কিছু অদৰ্কাৰী বাস্তাৰ কাম হাতত লোৱা হৈছে।

ইয়াৰ পৰাই অনুমান হয় যে আমি যেন স্বাধীনতা পোৱাই নাই। বুঢ়িছৰ দিনতে বাৰ্গানৰ কিছুমান বাস্তা আছে। তাৰো অবস্থা নাই। তৰ কোনো মেৰামতি কৰা হোৱা নাই। উঃ মঙ্গলদৈত নতুন চৰকাৰী বাস্তা প্ৰায় লোৱাই নাই। এই পিচপৰা অঞ্চলবিলাকত চৰকাৰে বাস্তাঘাটত একো মনকান দিয়া দেখা নাই। সেই পিচপৰা অঞ্চলবিলাকত যাতে চৰকাৰে কিছু বাস্তা ঘাট তৈয়াৰ কৰি দিয়ে তৰ কাৰণে মই অনুৰোধ কৰিলো।

তাৰ পিচত এই বিভাগৰ কিছুমান ওপৰৱালাৰ সহজে ঠিকাদাৰ বিলাকৰ পৰা নানা বকম অভিযোগ জানিব পৰা যায়। যেনেকৈ ঠিকা দিওঁতে কিছুমান অফিচাৰে আপোন পৰ বিবেচনা কৰি ঠিকা দি নানাবকম বেমেজালি কৰে। সেই বিলাক ওপৰৱালাৰ দোষত এই বিভাগৰ বহুত টকা অপব্যয় হৈছে আৰু সেই অপব্যয়ৰ পৰা ৰাইজৰ বহুত ক্ষতি হৈছে। কোনে কোনো ঠাইত কামৰ যি হিচাব দেখুওৱা হয়, সেই হিচাপে ৰাজ্যৰ কাম নহয়। গতিকে মই আশাকৰোঁ বিভাগীয় মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে এই বিষয়ে দৃষ্টি ৰাখিব। বহুত ঠাইত দেয়া যায় যে ৰাজ্যত সম্পূৰ্ণকৈ মাটি, গ্ৰেভেল নিদিয়ৈ, অথচ তেনেকৈয়ে বিল pass হৈ যায়। এনেকুৱা ভাবে ৰাইজৰ বহুত টকা অপব্যয় হয় বুলি অনুমান হয়। গতিকে এই বিলাকৰ প্ৰতি ৰাতে চৰকাৰে দৃষ্টি ৰাখে তাৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰৰ ওচৰত ভৰষা কৰিলোঁ।

মই আশাকৰোঁ চৰকাৰে যেন অভিসোনকালে কামৰূপ আৰু দৰং জিলাৰ সংযোগ বন্ধ কৰিবলৈ ডেৰগাঁও বামগাঁও ৰাস্তাটো তৈয়াৰ কৰে আৰু যেন এখন মাত্ৰ ৰেলৰ ওপৰত এই দুখন জিলাৰ মানুহে নিৰ্ভৰ কৰিবলগীয়া নহয়। এইটো কাৰো ব্যক্তিগত সুবিধাৰ নিমিত্তে নহয়। গোটেই কামৰূপ জিলা আৰু গোটেই মঙ্গলদৈ মহকুমাৰ সম্পৰ্ক কেৱল এখন ৰেলৰ ওপৰতেই নিৰ্ভৰ কৰিব লগীয়া হয়।

Mr. SPEAKER: সদস্য মহোদয়ে একেটা কথাকেই বাৰে বাৰে কৈছে। একেটা কথাকেই বাৰে বাৰে কোৱা উচিত নহয়।

Shri PAKHIRAI DEKA [Panery (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: এইটো বৰ দৰকাৰী ৰাস্তা, সেই কাৰণেই কৈছোঁ। আৰু বহুতো ৰাস্তা আছে কিন্তু সেই বিলাকৰ কথা কোৱা হোৱা নাই।

Mr. SPEAKER: একেটা কথাকেই বাৰে বাৰে পুনৰাবৃত্তি কৰা নীতি বিৰুদ্ধ।

Shri PAKHIRAI DEKA: সেই কাৰণে মই যিখিনি কথা কলোঁ সেই খিনি যেন চৰকাৰে কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰিবলৈ মনত ৰাখে। ইয়াকে মই চৰকাৰৰ ওচৰত ভৰষা ৰাখিলোঁ।

***Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS [North Salmara (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the cut motions moved by my hon. Friends from the Opposition. In doing so, I want to raise some points in connection with my constituency which has been neglected by the Government in-respect of its development, which compels me to speak a few words.

To say the least, I am rather afraid of visiting my constituency. Because, Sir, as you know, the Bijui area has been neglected and remained undeveloped in respect of communication even. During the year for two or three months there remains practically no communication and there is no way out of it, although the North Trunk Road which passes through this area, is also dislocated. So except by rail there is no other way

to reach that area. When the railway line is also dislocated due to floods caused by Aie and other rivers in the locality, the area remains cut-off practically from the other areas of the district. I have no doubt that the whole area on the North Bank in my constituency has been neglected. I personally feel like this, because the proposal which has been submitted to Government some years back for constructing a road from Chapor to Jogighopa has not been taken into consideration. Of course when I visited the area I have found some structure of bridges which are under construction lying here and there for want of materials. There are other small rivers like Dulani and Aie, but there are no bridges and nothing has been done with a view to complete the half-done bridges or to survey other areas for the purpose of providing bridges on the roads, and as a result of this, the whole area practically remains cut-off from the rest of the district during the rainy season.

As for other development works, I would like to point out that the Medical Department proposed to establish two units of Medical dispensary one at Bongaigaon and the other at Boitamari. But the Public Works Department had done nothing with a view to construct the buildings for purpose of establishing the dispensaries and as a result of this in an area inhabited by 50,000 people there is not a single dispensary. Similarly, for other development works nothing could be done for the slow-going attitude or neglect of the Department. I am personally convinced that had the Department been more active and had there been sufficient attention which could have been paid, then many other development works could have been done in my constituency, because I have seen in the neighbouring districts that this net work of roads had been done in such a way that one becomes puzzled as to which way he should go. Therefore, what I want is that my constituency should not be neglected in this way. In view of this, Sir, I would like to request the hon. Minister-in-charge to pay a visit to the area, and see the deplorable condition that prevails in the area. Therefore, Sir, I would request the Government to pay more attention to this area. It may be argued that due to dearth of technical personnel, the construction of roads and other developmental works cannot be taken up. But we cannot wait for years and years and we cannot tolerate these things. I do not know what are the reasons for this neglect on the part of the Department concerned. I, therefore, appeal to the Government to draw their attention to this matter.

Then another point. I would like to point out that people

have been complaining about having one Inspection Bungalow at Jogighopa. Sir, I am referring to this because there is no other way to come to Goalpara except through Jogighopa by road. If one after making a journey cannot avail the steamer service from Jogighopa to Goalpara he will have to remain at Jogighopa for about 12 hours to avail the steamer service for crossing over to Goalpara. So it is essential that there should be an Inspection Bungalow at Jogighopa, which is a middle point. We have seen in some other places where Inspection Bungalows have been constructed where tourists even do not stay for a single day.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P.W.D.):** Can the hon. Member give one or two names of such Inspection Bungalows which have been constructed by the Department ?

***Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS [North Salmara (Reserved for Scheduled castes)]:** At Mukalmua in Kamrup district there is such an Inspection Bungalow. But, Sir, we do not grudge this. What I would like to say is that in an important place like Jogighopa which is a middle point there should be an Inspection Bungalow. Therefore, I request the Government that in the near future a proposal may be taken up to construct an Inspection Bungalow at Jogighopa as early as possible.

With these few words, I oppose the cut motions and support the motion moved by the hon. Minister.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to confine my observations to only few points. Mr. Bhattacharyya has just said and as a matter of fact there is a general complaint that there is a high percentage of wastage known to us all. Again there has now been evolved a new device of misuse of money by accepting lowest tenders. After some time on this and that ground the rate of the lowest tenders are raised which often exceeds the rates of the highest tenderers. There are ample number of such cases in my locality which has been brought to the notice of the Minister-in-charge. Now the point is: Why should it be like this ? I know the apt reply of the Public Works Department Minister will be—"His contention is not correct". There are too many vices prevalent during the war time. But there was efficiency. But in the Public Works Department we find the vices are there like that of the war time, but the efficiency is not there. Measurement and pay-

ment to one contractor for one stack of gravel is made once at Nalbari and again for the same at Hajo. I know very definitely that two payments were made when there was the question and it was said that in that case one payment was deducted from one of his bills which was made for the same stack of gravel. The corruption is increasing more because of the recruitment of outsiders in the name of "Bastuhara" and so called refugee. I hope Government will find out some devices to check this sort of wastage and corruption. From some years past there is noticed a further lack of incentive on the part of many officers of the Public Works Department. Why? May be there is discontentment in the matter of promotions, etc. Then there were appointed some grade III Overseers with short training, as mentioned by Mr. Bhattacharyya. But the cases of this category and officers have not been considered though some Mohorirs got better benefit as free quarters and promotion to grade I Overseer. Discontentment of the grade III Overseers who are educated youngmen of our State and whose services may be usefully utilised need be rewarded by granting them the facilities of promotion, house rent or free quarters as the case may be, by giving them further necessary training. Advances to which the people of the permanent cadre are entitled, arranging, for further training if necessary, should be made available to them. When the Government made up its mind to appoint people from outside Assam in the permanent posts there is more discontent among the existing staff of Engineers and Overseers. In spite of the mismanagement and maladministration of the Engineering College at Gauhati a batch of Engineers are expected within about a year and half. Could the affairs of the Engineering College be improved to bring the college to a standard before we would have liked the idea of starting another Engineering College elsewhere in the State. When we thus expect a sufficient number of Engineers to come out what will be the fate of those who pass out from our Colleges? As I told the other day the cause of lack of progress of works of our State is not for want of Engineers and overseers but for failure to secure the reasonable amount of work for them. I shall again repeat that there is no amount of work to be done to utilise the full services of the existing number of Engineers and Overseers of the State. I will ask the Government to consider not to recruit any Engineer and Overseer from outside the State at the moment till a thorough examination of the case is made. Extension of services of the retired officers being technical ones should be made seldom, otherwise there will be some lack of enthusiasm in the minds of the junior officers.

It surprises to me to find that in spite of the provision of Rs. 1,02,500 of the budget for the year 1957-58 for construction of Resettlement office building at Nalbari the work was not carried out during the year and the amount had to be provided in the current year's budget for 1958-59. I do not know if it is to meet the fate of the provision for 1957-58. On construction of the building the existing Circle Office building could have been utilised for the court of the Magistrate with all the offices now attached to it. This was brought to the notice of the Chief Minister, but it is not known how the matter stands. I also discard the practice of providing the same amount annually in the budget not to be done subsequently.

Then I want to speak a few words with regard to my constituency.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member said at the outset that he would speak on few points, but now he is going to the details of his constituency.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East): With your permission, Sir, I would like to speak on a few important points only. The Nalbari-Hajo-North Gauhati Road is the oldest road in the North bank of Kamrup district passing through the most thickly populated area. Even to-day the road connects all the important trade centres and those with Gauhati and other places and has got heavy traffic including vehicular traffic during the dry season which might have been seen by the Ministers during the last Hajo election. In spite of the area served by the road it remains cut off during the rainy season, for want of permanent bridges over Baruabari and Bijighat, when the temporary bridges thereon are washed away. As a result the peasants suffer greatly as they cannot carry the agricultural produce to markets and market commodities to home when there be no bridges.

Look at the great economic drain annually due to the construction of these bamboo bridges on both these Ghats at a cost of Rs. 8,000 to Rs. 10,000 each annually. Not to speak of more during the last 20 years there has been a loss of rupee four lakhs on account of these temporary bridges. Why the Government were not prudent enough to spend Rs. 3 lakhs each once for all to prevent this wastage? I suggested to the Government to construct both Adabari and Baruabari bridges by providing concrete pillars and timber decking out of the

provision of Rs. 3 lakhs for Adabari bridge. But the Department avoided this suggestion on this or that pretext. Also imagine the time factor that is required for crossing the rivers which will be on the average half or a full hour.

On our North Trunk Road there do not exist permanent bridges on three rivers including Beki. The river Beki cuts Barnagar area from the rest of Assam during rainy season in the absence of a bridge there. Though other States are being provided with several permanent bridges over the big rivers like the Ganges and Jamuna, not only one but several on each of them, here in Assam we could not conceive of a bridge over the river like Beki and Manas. This is a great pity. I hope active attention of the Government will be given to this matter.

There are few roads like Jajiabari, Athari which do not touch the village Allia. Again there are other roads Morwa-Kamalpur but the road does not touch Morwa village. There are several other roads which do not connect important places. They are left in the middle, they are left incomplete. I complained to the Minister-in-charge in this regard and I was assured that things would be improved and these roads would be made fit for use, but nothing has happened. I was told by the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department that Haripu-Chandrigat Road was taken up at Rs. 70 lakhs, but in the schedule list that is not found.....
(The Speaker rang the Bell announcing that the time limit has been reached and the hon. Member resumed his seat).

Shri MAHADEB DAS [Barpeta (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] : মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মাননীয় Public Works Department মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে যিটো মঞ্জুরী প্রস্তাব আজিৰ সদনত দাঙি ধৰিছে— সেইটো মই সমর্থন কৰিছো—আৰু বিৰোধীদলৰ পৰা ইয়াৰ ওপৰত যিটো কৰ্ত্তণ প্রস্তাব অনা হৈছে—তাৰ বিৰোধীতা কৰিছো।

জয়জয়তে মই কবলৈ বিচাৰিছো যে আমাৰ পি, ডবলিও, ডি বিভাগে যথেষ্ট কাম নকৰাটকৈ থকা নাই। আমাৰ অসমখন এখন পিচপৰা ৰাজ্য। সেই হিচাবে ইয়াৰ অভাৱ অভিযোগো বেচি আৰু এই বিলাকলৈকে আঙুলিয়াই মাননীয় সদনৰ সদস্য সকলে নিজ নিজ সম্পৰ্কৰ কথা দাঙি ধৰিছে। ময়ো এই প্ৰসঙ্গতেই দুই চাৰিখাৰ কথা কয়।

প্ৰথম—আমাৰ ৰাজ্যৰ কাৰণে এটা Road Communication Board আছে আৰু দুখৰ বিষয় আজি এবছৰৰো অধিক কাল এই বৰ্ড বহা নাই। আজি প্ৰত্যেক সদস্যই এই কথা কৈ নিজৰ নিজৰ দৰ্খাস্তৰ কথা কৈছে আৰু বৰ্ড সময় মতে বহাহলে এনে সমালোচনা তোলোৱা সুবিধা নহলহেতেন।

দ্বিতীয়তে—১৯৫৬ চনৰ ৪ ডিচেম্বৰৰ দিনা চৰকাৰে এটা নিয়ম কৰিছিল আৰু সেই মতে আমাৰ ইয়াৰ পিচপৰা Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes আদিৰ মাজৰ পৰা ঠিকাদাৰ সকলক শতকৰা ৭১ ভাগ কমকৈ ঠিকা বিতৰণ কৰাৰ সময়ত বান্ধিদিয়া নিয়ম পালন কৰা নাই। সেইমৰ্মে মই নিজে মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ক আবেদন কৰো। দুখৰ বিষয়—চৰকাৰৰ এই নিৰ্দেশ বিভাগীয় কৰ্মচাৰী সকলে মানি কাম কৰা নাই। আমাৰ বৰপেটা মহকুমাত মই জনাত এইবাব এজনো ঠিকাদাৰক তেনে সুবিধা দিয়া নাই। আশাকৰো এই বিষয়ে চৰকাৰে দৃষ্টি দিব আৰু চৰকাৰৰ নিৰ্দেশ থকা স্বত্বেও—যিবিলাক তলতীয়া কৰ্মচাৰীয়ে এই নিৰ্দেশ লঙ্ঘন কৰিছে—তেওঁবিলাকক উপযুক্ত বিচাৰ কৰিব।

তাৰ পিচত কও, জনজাতিৰ লোক সকলৰ বাস্তা তৈয়াৰ কৰাৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে বহু টকা খৰচ কৰিছে আৰু এই কাম প্ৰধানকৈ ট্ৰাইবেল বেলাৰ ভিতৰতে চলিছে। মই চৰকাৰৰ এই ফালেও দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিব খুজিছো—যে ট্ৰাইবেল বেণ্টৰ বাহিৰেও আন আন ঠাইত জনজাতীয় লোক সকল থাকে তেওঁলোকৰ কাৰণে এই জনহিতকৰ কামবিলাক হোৱা প্ৰয়োজন। এই ফালে দিও চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰপৰা কাম হলে মোৰ বোধেৰে চৰকাৰে এনে সমালোচনা নাপাব।

প্ৰত্যেক মহকুমাতই বিভিন্ন বিভাগৰ ‘এডভাইজেৰী বৰ্ড’ বিলাক থকাৰ দৰে Public Works Department ৰো ‘এডভাইজেৰী বৰ্ড’ কৰিছিলে আঞ্চলিক বাস্তা পথৰ সুবিধা অসুবিধা বিচাৰ কৰি নিৰ্মাণ কাৰ্য্য কৰাত সহায় হব আৰু ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰাই বাইজৰ উপকাৰ হব। ইয়াৰ উপৰিও—Public Works Department ৰ কোটি কোটি টকা ভাঙি কৰা বাস্তাপথ বাইজৰ উপকাৰত আহিব। এনেবৰ্ড গঠিত হলে ‘একজিকিউটিভ ইঞ্জিনিয়াৰ’ সকলে Sanction দিব পৰা ওহেজাৰ টকা, অসুবিধা বুজি যত প্ৰয়োজন তত দিবলৈ সুপৰামশ পাব বুলি আশাকৰা যায়। আশাকৰো চৰকাৰে এই বিষয়লৈ মনোযোগ দিব আৰু যোনিকালে ‘এডভাইজেৰী’ বৰ্ড গঠন কৰি সমালোচনাৰ পৰা হাত সাৰিব। ইয়াকে কৈ মই মাননীয় মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ মঞ্জুৰী প্ৰস্তাৱটো সমৰ্থন কৰিলো আৰু বিৰোধী দলৰ কৰ্ত্তণ প্ৰস্তাৱৰ বিৰোধীতা কৰিলো।

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by the hon. Public Works Department Minister and to oppose the Cut Motions to it. While I am supporting the motion of the hon. Minister, I would like to suggest certain things. Sir, it is a fact that in certain areas we find there is great wastage of Public Works Department money as referred to by the hon. Member from Gauhati, Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya. Sir, only in support of certain portions of his speech I would like to cite a few instances. For example, the Kakapathar-Maithong Road for which a large amount was sanctioned for earth-work. The height of the road was originally proposed to raise from 5 to 7 feet, but in fact, actual earth-work raising the road level up to two to three feet was only done and as a result of this inadequate height there is possibility of the road being damaged by flood waters or being washed away. I personally had been to

the place when some of the local people made some complaints. That complaint was, of course, made to the Government and local Executive Engineer of Public Works Department there, and in fact, some officer of the department inspected the place. Of course the high Officer of the department could not manage to go as far as the actual spot where the earth work was done. He came back satisfied by visiting only the motorable portion of the road. I do not know so far what was the result of his inspection. But I find that the earth-work done during this year was not at all satisfactory. Ditches of last year renewed and measurement was taken. In certain places I find measurement was taken only from the boundary of the paddy fields. Perhaps that is the reason why the road was not raised to 5 to 7 feet according to the original specification. Similarly, Sir, I have received a complaint about the Jonai-Ramdan Road. A supplementary question regarding taking of measurement of the old pits by clearing them was put in the House. I only hope that the Hon'ble Minister in charge will be pleased to look into the matter. Sir, again about gravelling work I would like to cite a specific example so that proper investigation can be made. Sir, regarding the road from Rupai to Kakapathar, it is a gravelled road ; here we find from several years past that large quantities of boulders and gravels were stacked. But about 50 per cent of these boulders and gravels were used to be removed, may be they were meant to be used by the contractors on that road and removed after measurement to some other works. But any way, the way in which these stacks have been removed has given rise to some suspicion in the minds of the people about corrupt practice of contractors. If a technical examination is made on the road, perhaps this suspicion may prove true. Another similar complaint was made in respect of a road from Panitola to Dinjan. That road was improved during the last Great War, and the people did not want that, that road should be taken up by the Public Works Department. But even then the road was taken up by the Public Works Department and a sum of Rs.40 thousand had been spent over it. But unfortunately after the Public Works Department took over the road, its standard has gone down because asphaltting work which was done during the last Great War has not been renewed and less asphalt spread there on new pebbles. Regarding this road, Sir, last year I made out a question in the House and requested the then Public Works Department Minister to inspect the road personally. But I do not know what had happened to that assurance given to me in this august House. Sir, in this way we find that there has been wastage of money in the execution of Public Works Department works.

Sir, in regard to the question of availability of local labour for Public Works Department works, I would like to make one reference. It is alleged oft and on that local labourers are averse to doing Public Works Department work. I am sorry, Sir, I cannot subscribe to that view, because my experience does not go to substantiate that view. In our local development work we find our local people make voluntary contribution of labour of about 50 per cent of the earth-work. In Rural Panchayat Roads I find that 25 per cent or less in cash is paid and 75 per cent or more voluntary contribution of labour is made by local people. When we can execute these projects with local people even at a sacrifice of 50 or 75 per cent, I wonder how our people can be charged that they are averse to work. In my opinion correct approach is necessary. The present approach is not up to the mark. I think Public Works Department should utilise the services of these people. It is a fact that the Public Works Department contractors do not engage local labourers as far as possible. The reason for this is not that our local people are averse to manual work but that they do not like to tolerate the treatment meted out to them by the contractors. That is why they do not like work under the contractors because our people generally are habituated to Socialistic Pattern of Society and they cannot tolerate that kind of treatment that is generally shown by the contractors to the labourers. That is why Public Works Department contractors prefer outside labourers. Besides that our labourers are generally exploited and whenever the local labourers find that some injustice is done to them then some sort of quarrel arises between the parties concerned. Sir, if a correct approach is made, I think the local people will come in large number to work under the Public Works Department or under other Departments. Moreover, we have got *ex-tea* garden labourers in some villages, and if we come to them with a correct approach then those who are landless and jobless will surely come to work under the Public Works Department. Now-a-days we find that the surplus tea garden labourers in the uneconomic tea gardens do not find sufficient work and so their attention can well be diverted to such works of the Public Works Department. This is all regarding unskilled labour. For skilled labour, Sir, it is an admitted fact that in our State there is no sufficient provision. Our people cannot have scope for technical training for skilled labour. So, I request the Government to give a serious thinking in this direction to train our people.

I do not like to speak any longer and to take more time of the House, but in conclusion I would only request the hon.

Minister for Public Works Department to take into consideration the list of roads submitted by the Members of Legislative Assembly of Dibrugarh subdivision in the month of last February and to see the probability of taking over those roads in this year or in the next few years.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Public Works Department—Roads and Buildings): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I require at least half-an hour to deal with all the points raised in the debate.

Mr. SPEAKER: 45 minutes can be given to him.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: I shall try to summarise my answer as far as possible. I have taken note of all the matters that have been raised on the floor of this House in this connection. I would also like to say that many hon. Members from different subdivisions have not had enough time to give vent to their grievances or needs and yet those will not be neglected. Judging from the persons who have participated in the debate it appears that the bulk of the speakers are from one district. But it should not be understood that Government will not fulfil the needs of other districts. Government will try to do what it can to remove all the needs of the State as a whole.

My Friend from Mangaldai raised a very important point. He emphasised for the improvement of the North Kamrup roads. Dr. Ghanashyam Das also raised a point for having more roads in his district. Judging from the volume of road works that have been taken up by the Public Works Department in Assam after the independence and after a reference to the budgetary provisions in this connection, it is felt that enough headway has been made.

Rev. Nichols-Roy, through his Cut Motion, wanted to get clarified, why the figures 94,500 in United Khasi-Jaintia Hills budget, at page 136, is put within brackets and what are the roads for which this amount has been budgeted. The amount which is put within brackets is for new schemes and they are: construction of a rest house at Shella—Rs.24,500 ; a jeepable road from Shella village to Shella bazar—Rs.50,000 ; improvement of Mawshamak road in the 5th mile to avoid rope-way and protection of ropeway, Rs.20,000.

These are the items for the amount of Rs.94,000.

In the second Cut Motion he asked whether the sum of Rs.4,20,000 for ordinary roads in the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills budget at page 136, is for completion of the Mawphlang-Balat Road and the Mawsmmai-Shella road or how it is to be used. The items for which this provision of Rs.4,20,000 has been made will be found at pages 188-189 of the Public Works Department budget. As this is a long list I would not like to take the time of the House by reading it, but would like to pass it on to Rev. Nichols-Roy for his reference.

Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Shcheduled Tribes)]: In this connection, Sir, may I point out that the speed for making the Mawphlang-Balat road and the Mawsmmai-Shella road is very slow and we feel that the work will not be completed even this year. I hope the Minister for Public Works Department will make a note of this.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Public Works Department—Roads and Buildings): I would like to point out that the area, in which these works are going on, are very difficult ones and under the circumstances, the construction work is slow. The provision for the Mawphlang-Balat Road and the Mawsmmai-Shella Road has been made under Second Five Year Plan-Article 275, at page 180 of the Public Works Department Budget.

The portion of the road from Mawsmmai to Umwai is being financed from the Petrol Tax and the Motor Tax fund, as provided at page 178 of the Public Works Department Budget for 1958-59. The hon. Member will find the items there in the respective pages.

Then, Sir, the hon. Member wanted to discuss whether Government propose to construct a ropeway all along the border from Balat to Shella and thence to Shillong and Amingaon. Sir, this whole project will depend upon the cement factory scheme. If the cement factory scheme does not materialise, I am afraid it is difficult to say when this ropeway can be completed. The ground survey for the work has started and it has not yet been completed. The ropeway is proposed to be so aligned as to connect all the important coal-bearing areas and also important trade centres of the locality. This is not likely to cross the Brahmaputra to Amingaon. The construction of this ropeway, as per Government of India's instructions and as per approval of the Planning Commission, depends entirely on the establishment of the cement factory. So, the future of the ropeway is not entirely certain, although we have taken the preliminary works in hand.

Sir, I have heard with attention the observations made by the hon. Member from Gauhati, Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya. I have no doubt that some of his criticisms are constructive and deserve consideration and yet others are made with as hectic recklessness as, he alleged, the Gauhati works were done during the Congress Session. What I would myself appreciate is this: he has stated that the work-load on the officers is rather heavy, or, in other words, we have taken too many projects in hand. I agree with him, but how to minimise or standardise the work load for our present staff is a matter of great headache. Not that it cannot be done, but it has another aspect. I do not want to cast any reflection on any hon. Member, but I should like to submit that democracy has certain drawbacks also and in this connection what I have found is this: we have a Legislature of 105 Members including the Hon'ble Speaker and we have various committees at various levels. We have a Road Communications Board, in which is represented by members from all districts. All these members have responsibility towards their constituencies. We may say that our members and Ministers are not constituency-minded, but we cannot forget that every Member has a certain amount of responsibility towards his constituency while at the same time he should have a broad outlook and think of the State and of India as a whole. In the Road Communications Board members from different districts come and press for certain roads to be taken up. Our Friend, Shri Pakhirai Deka, rightly said that we should bring in broad-mindedness and wide outlook while insisting on taking over roads by the Public Works Department. His complaint was that while some less important roads were taken over by the Public Works Department, more important roads, connecting more than one district, were left over. I agree, Sir, that there is force in his complaint. But how does it happen? When members sit in the Road Communications Board they naturally try to have roads for their own constituencies or localities included and the Minister, being a popular Minister, cannot disoblige them. Sir, till now I have had no opportunity of sitting in the Road Communication Board, or for the matter of that, in any Development Board for road communications; but from my study of the proceedings and my contact with my predecessor and other people I have found that a large number of roads were taken up without having due regard to the resources, in funds, tools and plants and officers and that is why a large number of them are left half-done till now. If we just remember that while we have our responsibilities towards our constituencies, we have also to look to the over-all picture

of the whole State ; perhaps such anomalies will lessen in future. We cannot also overlook another aspect of the matter and it is this: as certain Friends said, for a long time save and except in the areas where there were tea estates there were no roads. Naturally after a long lapse of 100 years, when we have our independence and when civilisation is progressing apace and when we are being alert to the need of good roads, good drinking water, more schools, etc., a scramble for roads to be taken over by the Public Works Department is quite understandable and appreciable. But, Sir, the Department and for the matter of that, the State, has not got the wherewithal to build so many roads and so many bridges. We have not the materials. Many materials, such as long spans for bridges and various other things which go to construct a major bridge or even a medium-sized bridge, come from outside the State. Therein comes the transport bottleneck. Then, Sir, generally speaking, our contractors also by and large have not developed. If a work is entrusted to a contractor he is confronted with so many difficulties that he after taking the work finds himself at a loss. If he approaches the Department, the Department is in no better state when the question of materials comes in. Above all, comes the question of technical personnel. I will make my submission in respect of staff and technical personnel later, but in this connection I hope the hon. Members, when they press for taking over roads in future, will remember that the other side of the picture is the resources on which we can build our roads.

Adjournment

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

After lunch

Shri DEBESWAR SARMA (Minister, P.W.D.—R.&B.):

Sir, before the House rose for lunch, I was saying that due to the pressure of hon. Members and I believe, rightly exerted to a certain extent, that too many roads were taken up by the Public Works Department for improvement and I am constrained to say one thing ; it is that it is not possible to hold out hopes that the remaining portion of many roads can be completed within the Second Five-Year Plan period because resources of the Government are limited as too many roads

have been taken up and as the Central Government is unable to allot money for the purpose as envisaged earlier in this Plan.

Sir, Shri Bhattacharyya was pleased to say that there has been quarrel between duty and chastity. In certain quarters the quarrel is eternal and there is human effort as to how to make up conditions so that the quarrel may be eliminated. While some amount of quarrel is stimulating, let us not carry out to further them and I would beseech the hon. Members in the Communication Board not to press for more roads and let us not be too constituency minded. In this connection both the hon. Members, Shri Pakhi Rai Dekka from Mangaldai and Dr. Ghanashyam Das from North Salmara Constituency vented their feelings that in their areas people wonder whether they belong to the same State or whether they are also getting independence and this feeling arose when they see that the net amount of work on roads in the neighbouring districts were much more whereas in their respective districts there is a great lack of roads of any standard; Sir, Government will try to balance it but it is also true that wheel that creeks which gets the grease and I think, henceforward a view will be taken, if I cannot put it as Shri Pakhi Rai Dekka put "বহল মনোভাব লব লাগে". I hope that বহল মনোভাব is prevailing in the Communication Board but we will try to balance it as far as it is practicable.

In another matter several Members have made mention that local labour should be utilised. In this, I may take the House into confidence and say that after my taking over this portfolio I sent for the Chief Engineer, Additional Chief Engineer, all the Superintending Engineers and all the Executive Engineers. All came except one or two Executive Engineers. I told them that our State was at a road juncture when our local people would have to do the work. On the one hand, we are short of food and on the other hand, almost 70 or 80 per cent of the earth works in this State are done by outsiders and thus considerable amount of money passed out of the State although we are short of food, but people from outside come in the shape of labourers and consume a considerable amount of food whereas our people are in the habit of coming for test relief. Such a position could not be allowed to go on and I categorically instructed our Engineers to employ local labours and in some public meeting also I said that if our people do not take up labour work in building a road or digging a tank, we could not expect to improve the financial and economic condition of our people. Our

people should not expect to drink water from a tank dug by outsiders. Mr. Devendra Nath Hazarika said that it is not our people who do not want to take the job of a labourer but the contractors do not employ our local people. Perhaps, his experience may be true for an area but I feel immensely encouraged at what Shri Deven azarika said and I fondly hope that things are so. But my experience of a fairly big area of the State is that our people are not happy to take the work of labourers and I heard in certain places where I requested them to work, they said, এওঁবিলাকে আমাক নুনীয়া কুলি পাতিবলৈ আহিছে। That is the feeling of our people.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri):

নুনীয়া কুলিয়ে হাজ্জাবত ২২।২৫ টকা পায়, কিন্তু আমাৰ মানুহে ১২।১৫ টকা পায়। সেই নিমিত্তে আমাৰ মানুহে কাম নকৰে।

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

বৰবৰুৱা ডাঙৰীয়াৰ যি প্ৰতিপত্তি আছে তাক কাম কৰিবলৈ খটোৱা নাই: মোৰ যি অভিজ্ঞতা আছে, তেখেতে তাক অকাৰ্য কৰিবলৈহে খটুৱাইছে। বৰবৰুৱা ডাঙৰীয়াৰ যি খিনি প্ৰতিপত্তি আছে তাৰে আমাৰ স্থানীয় লোক সকলে কাম কৰিলে যে সৰু মানুহ নহয় তাক যদি বুজাই দিয়ে তেনেহলে অশেষ উপকাৰ হব।

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH: নুনীয়া

বেচি দিছে আৰু আমাৰ মানুহক কম দিয়া হৈছে।

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: আমাৰ মানুহকো বেচি দিয়া হৈছে।

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH: আমাৰ মানুহক

Self-help হিচাপেহে কাম কৰিবলৈ দিছে।

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: Self-help ত শতকৰা ৫০ টকা

দিয়া হয়। বাকী ভাগ ৰাইজৰ contribution বুলি ধৰা হয়। বৰবৰুৱাই কোৱাতকৈ আমাৰ মানুহে বেচিহে পাইছে।

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):

Whether it is fact that in the so called Self-help Schemes where it was expected that 50 per cent contribution would be given by the people in the form of labour it was unfortunate that they did not give this 50 per cent labour but instead of working at all they took the money employing outside labourers?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: Unfortunately, I cannot throw much light on the subject because my knowledge is theoretical except for one instance when I approached the villagers and they did the work.

That is a solitary instance of which I have personal knowledge. It perhaps does not belong to the Public Works Department. I have no direct knowledge, therefore I cannot throw light on it. But I would like to state that in our State we have to persuade our people to work. Not that I am complaining that our people do not work, our people work only when they are driven to it mostly. Therefore, in these Public Works Department projects if our local people take to such works then bulk of the money will remain with them. In Majuli, between 25 to 30 lakhs of rupees worth of earthwork was used to be done during the last 7 or 8 years and perhaps not more than 10 per cent of the entire money went to the local people. The rest all went to outsiders. I am talking of Majuli because that is inside my constituency and I have some idea about it. The same argument also applies to the rest of the areas. Our people are averse to earthwork. They think that to dig earth is derogatory to their self-respect. Similarly our people think that to work in the tea gardens is self-derogatory. When the Britishers came, our people non-co-operated with them and when tea gardens were opened our people did not go to Upper Assam to work in the tea gardens. The result of this attitude is that when lot of money is being spent in these items, our people are going without any money and are losing all purchasing power and stamina.

Shri KHAGENDRANATH BARBARUAH (Amguri):

So far as earthwork is concerned there are some difficulties with our villagers. For every work contractors are appointed and it generally takes a long time for these people to get their bills passed and thereby they fail to pay the workers. Unless some advance amount is given by the officers there is the difficulty of payment in time.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P.W.D.): That may be correct, but I would only beseech Shri Barbaruah to look into these things which go directly to the economy of the villagers and persuade our rural people to change from a propagandish outlook to an economic outlook. In that case our people would gain much.

Shri KHAGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH : Government should also change their outlook.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : Let us now carry on. In respect of this mobilisation of labour I request each and every Member of this august House to lend their helping hands

as best as they can so that our people may take to the work which the Public Works Department can offer and if there be any difficulty in certain respects we will try to remove those difficulties. We shall relax our rules so that our people will get certain advantages which are now denied to them.

Mr. SPEAKER : To-day is the last day for all demands and Bills. At 4 o'clock there will be guillotine which I personally do not very much like. So if the hon. Members allow the Minister to continue uninterrupted there may be chances of finishing these things in time.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P. W. D.): I may curtail my speech. I may continue till 2-30 P. M.

Mr. SPEAKER : What I said is that you may not be interrupted, in the interest of the House. I hope you will not be interrupted.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: I only hope that God will give me an opportunity to go to Shri Barbarua's place and be his guest in his village home. I would expect an invitation from him.

I would briefly touch on work-load and staff. When we talk of work-load and staff let us look to a very salient point. In 1947 there were only 2,610 miles of Public Works Department road and in 1957 it rose to about 6000 miles. In 1939 the Public Works Department budget was for 60 lakhs with 8 Divisions and in 1947 there was a budget of 1 crore 11 lakhs. In 1958-59 the Public Works Department budget under those three heads has come to 11.48 crores. Since we jumped from 60 lakhs in 1939 to 11.48 crores in 1958-59 the magnitude of the work can be very well judged. Now in place of 8 Divisions we have as many as 35 Divisions with a budget of 11.48 crores. The opinion seems to be sharply divided in this House. Some Friends say that the Public Works Department is over staffed and we have not been able to take adequate amount of work from the officers. Another opinion is, which I submit is mostly correct, that we have a far too few officers and very little resources for the working hand. In this connection I would only submit that we are greatly in shortage of staff. In the Roads and Buildings portion of the Public Works Department we are short by 78 Engineers and 157 Overseers. Since some Friends think that we have an adequate number of staff and we have not been able to get as much work as we can possibly expect, I would only request those of our youngish Members of the House just to study the Public Works Department budget carefully and find out things for themselves. In this connection I would particularly mention your youngish

Friends like Shri Nilmoney Barthakur and Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya who would like to study the Budget. I notice they are having a sub-committee there.

Mr. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister need not take notice of that.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P. W. D.): If some youngish Members like Shri Barthakur and Shri Bhattacharyya and some others would kindly try to study the working of the Public Works Department it will be very very helpful for them as well as the House. I, for one, would give them all facilities to look into the papers and also place some of our experienced officers with them so that they will have necessary conveniences for their study.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY (Nalbari East) : Is Mr. Barthakur the youngest Member?

Mr. SPEAKER : Not youngest but youngish.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : I do not say that my Friend, Shri Prabhat Narayan Chaudhury, is oldish. There is an English saying that a man is as old as he thinks himself. He is also youngish and he and other Members of his age have to study the Budget. In fact, every hon. Member has to study these things and the members of the Cabinet look up to educated opinion, constructive opinion and enlightened opinion of the hon. Members for their guidance. It is not that we come here to controvert matters or to advance arguments. I look up to hon. Members for correct advice and hon. Members can look up to me for help and assistance in their study of matters. I concede that the whole system in the working of the Public Works Department needs complete overhauling. This is an entrenched system. We do not have All India Service of Engineers, now we have got engineers of our own. Now a proposal is coming from the Centre that we should have All India Service of Engineers. I do not know where that will lead us. But this I do know that the present system is unsuitable and therefore needs overhauling. So I request those youngish friends as also the elderly Members who have interest in this Department to study the working of the Public Works Department and throw suggestions for consideration. Unless they do these things no useful purpose will be served by blaming the Public Works Department or the Agriculture Department or this and that Department for not making a headway. As I

have said, the system itself is defective. Even our Prime Minister has applied his mind to these things and he was pleased to throw out valuable suggestions to spill over the grants so that we need not go through the process of budgeting again the budgeted amount.

Mr. Bhattacharyya was pleased to criticise that the Public Works Department expedited the work with hectic speed during the last Congress session. I don't know; but all these ideological and psychological opinions are in our minds only. The material achievements are there we have the Railway Over Bridge at Pandu; we have the duplicate Bhoralumukh bridge. These material achievements are things that matter in a small State like ours when we can do them within our resources and limitations. These are the things which we were to worry about. As you will recall, Sir, I spoke in details about the eleven stages which this Department has to go through, from the sponsor of the proposal right down to the actual execution of the work. I spoke about these eleven stages in my reply to the Budget discussions and so I need not go over them again.

As regards those intractable operations in which timber and other materials are involved, it is a human character, We have to look to ourselves not individually but as a nation, as a race. Let us search our own hearts and then we will find that it is no use to blame the Public Works Department although I do not say that it does not deserve any blame. Sir, this Assam North Trunk Road is a headache to the Department itself, but we are trying our best to improve it as best and as quickly as we can.

Now I come to another point. My Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, said that the North Gauhati Ferry should be taken over. I quite agree with him and we are trying to find steamers. But what offence have the Jogighopa-Pancharatna-Goalpara or Neamati-Kamalabari ferries done that they were left out? Really my Friend has disappointed me.

Then again, Sir, about promotion of Overseers of Grade III. As a matter of fact it is open for these Overseers to get promoted to Grade I or Grade II. But they should qualify themselves for the purpose through examinations. Now, Sir, about 62 or 64 Grade III Overseers sat for one such examination. But only one passed—what can I do? How can I help?

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY (Nalbari-East) : What examination?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P. W. D.): These are departmental examinations to qualify the Overseers for promotion. As I have said, Sir, only one passed in this examination. We all know about our own people. How serious they take to these kinds of examinations.

Then again, my Friend said that the roads should be completed, the bridges should be completed, and I say 'Amen'. Thereafter my Friend said that the architect is not efficient. I think I may take the House into confidence that we had an architect but he also since left the service. We are trying to train up somebody. If my Friend complains that the architect is inefficient, I would say that he is non-existent today. My Friend, Shri Suren Das, said that the Barama Road is a disgrace to the Public Works Department. He and I know how much we are trying to improve this road.

মোৰ বন্ধু শ্ৰীসুৰেন্দ নাথ দাস ডাঙৰীয়াই কৈছে যে জনজাতি অঞ্চলৰ বাস্তাবোৰ ঘণাৰ চকুৰে চোৱা হৈছে। মই কব খোজো যে চৰকাৰে কেতিয়াও ঘণাৰ চকুৰে চোৱা নাই আৰু আগলৈকো নেচায়। বৰঞ্চ স্বাদৰেবে আৰু শ্ৰদ্ধাৰ চকুৰেহে চাইছে আৰু চাব।

শ্ৰীপক্ষীৰায় ডেকা ডাঙৰীয়াই কৈছে যে মজলদৈত বাস্তা নাই বুলিলেও হয় আৰু যি দুই এটা আছে তাৰো অবস্থা শোচনীয়। এই কথা আমাৰ Road Communication Board ৰ সদস্য সকলেও আশীৰ্বৰো মনত ৰখা উচিত। মোৰ বিশ্বাস এই অৱস্থা সদায় নেথাকে আৰু অনতিপলমে ইয়াৰ উন্নতি হব।

শ্ৰীধনশ্যাম দাস ডাঙৰীয়াই উত্তৰ টাঙ্কবোডৰ অৱস্থা উন্নত কৰিবলৈ পৰামৰ্শ দিছে আৰু আইনদী আৰু বেকী নদী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণৰ কথা কৈছে। মই আশা কৰো ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ দলং হৈ যোৱাৰ পিচত স্বাভাৱিকতে এই বোৰৰো উন্নতি হব।

শ্ৰীপ্ৰভাত নাৰায়ন চৌধুৰীয়ে বুখন দলঙৰ কথা কৈছে। সেই বিষয়ে কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰলৈ লিখা হৈছে আৰু অনুমতি পালেই কাম আৰম্ভ কৰা হব। মোৰ বিশ্বাস বেকী নদীৰ দলং সোনকালেই হব।

টেণ্ডাৰ সম্পৰ্কে এটা কথা কৈছে যে lowest bidder ক ঠিকা দিয়া হয়। কিন্তু পিচত টকাৰ পৰিমাণ বাঢ়ি যায়—যেনে ৫ লাখৰ ঠাইত ৯ লাখ পৰ্য্যন্ত হয়। এইটো গুচাবলৈ যত্ন কৰা হৈছে। আশা কৰা যায় টেণ্ডাৰ সম্বন্ধে ভৱিষ্যতে বিশেষ কোনো আপত্তি নোখাৰিব। Central State Library সম্পৰ্কে যি অভিযোগ অনা হৈছে মোৰ বোধেৰে এই বিষয়ত গড়কাপ্তানী বিভাগৰ সিমান দোষ হোৱা নাই। কাৰণ Architect এ চানেকী (design) প্ৰস্তুত কৰি দিছে আৰু সেই সম্বন্ধীয় বিভাগে কাম কৰাইছে। অৱশ্যে গড়কাপ্তানী বিভাগেও নমুনা পৰীক্ষা কৰি শুদ্ধবাহি নিদিয়া নহয়।

Mr. SPEAKER : গড়কাপ্তানী বিভাগে মজনাটক চানেকী (design) কোনে প্ৰস্তুত কৰিলে ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : প্ৰভাৱশালী লোকৰ দ্বাৰা চানেকীও কৰা হৈছিল আৰু অন্যান্য কামো কৰা হৈছিল। গড়কাপ্তানী মন্ত্ৰীতকৈও ক্ষমতাশালী লোক সেই সময়ত আছিল।

আমাৰ দেশত গড়কাপ্তানী কামৰ কাৰণে উপযুক্ত ঠিকাদাৰ পাবলৈ টান। স্থানীয়-খুচৰীয়া কামৰ কাৰণে অৱশ্যে পোৱা যায়।

Shri RAHIMUDDID AHMED (Jamunamukh): ঠিকাদাৰ পাবলৈ নাই বুলি যে কৈছে এইটো বোধ কৰো Executive Engineer সকলৰ অনুগ্ৰহতহে হৈছে।

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P. W. D.): কথাটো ঠিক তেনেকুৱা নহয়। মাটিৰ কাম আৰু সাধাৰণ ঘৰৰ কাম কৰিবৰ বাবে ঠিকাদাৰ আছে, নাইকিয়া ডাঙৰ কামৰ কাৰণে। মই ভাবো যে আমাৰ সচিবালয় নিৰ্মাণ কৰা ঠিকাদাৰসকল আমাৰ বাজ্যৰ লোক নহয়। এনেকুৱা ডাঙৰ কামৰ কাৰণে আমাৰ ঠিকাদাৰ দৰকাৰ। অৱশ্যে আমি lowest tender গ্ৰহণ কৰাটোও সকলো সময়তে ঠিক নহয়, কাৰণ তেনে ঠিকদাৰে সাধাৰণতে 10 per cent below schedule বেটত কাম কৰে আৰু তাৰ লগত 10 per cent লাভ কৰিলে rate 20 per cent লৈ কমি যাব। সেই কাৰণে ঘৰ বা বাস্তা এটাৰ কাম 80 per cent বা তাতকৈও তল খাপলৈ যায়।

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): তেন্তে higher bid গ্ৰহণ নকৰে কিয়? Under the existing rules there is no objection to exceed the rate?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: Accountant General এ ব্যতিব্যস্ত কৰে কাৰণে আমি সাৱধান হওঁ।

হাজো, নলবাৰী আদিৰ বাস্তা বিলাকৰ কথা মই note কৰি লৈছো। এই বিলাকৰ বিষয়ে একো নাই কোৱা যদিও ঠাক পাহৰা নহব। সেইবোৰৰ কামো বাকীবোৰৰ দৰেই কৰা হব।

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi): South Trunk Road ৰ কথা আছে।

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: এই বাস্তাত যোৱা বছৰ যত যত মাটি দিয়া হৈছিল সেইনোৰ ঠাই কিছু বহি গৈছে। এই বছৰ ঠিক কৰা হব। মাৰ্ঘেৰিতাৰ ওচৰত দুখন দলং হোৱা নাই। তাৰ বাবে কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰৰ দুজন ইঞ্জিনিয়াৰ আহিছিল আৰু তেওঁলোকক আমি কৈছিলো যে তেওঁলোকে নোৱাৰে যদি আমাৰ বাজ্যিক ইঞ্জিনিয়াৰেই কৰিব। এতিয়ালৈ একো গম পোৱা নাই। কি হয় ভগৱন্তইহে জানে।

শ্ৰীদেবেন্দ্ৰ নাথ হাজৰীকাই কাকপথাৰ অঞ্চলত যাতায়াতৰ অসুবিধাৰ কথা কৈছে। আমাৰ মাননীয় মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই সেই অঞ্চল চাই অহাৰ পিচত এটা ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হব। সেই অঞ্চলটোও বোধকৰো বৰ চেলুকা।

Shri DEVENDRR NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): বিভাগীয় মন্ত্ৰী নেৰায় কিয়? On a point of information Sir, whether the Chief Minister should only go and other Minister should not be interested with it?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: এটা কথা আছে—“সৰ্ব পুষ্প মূলে দুষৰ।” মুঠ কথা আমি শুদ্ধ ভাবে আগবাঢ়িব লাগে আৰু তেতিয়া সকলো কামেই হৈ উঠিব।

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati);

মই দখন দলঙৰ কথা কৈছিলো, তাৰ এখনহে হৈছে।

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

বাকীখনো হব। তাৰ বাবে চেণ্টাৰ ক্ৰটি হোৱা নাই। এতিয়া আশা কৰো মোৰ কথাখিনি শুনাৰ পিচত সদস্য সকলে কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাৱ সমূহ উঠাই লব।

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: নিশ্চয়।

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Now the Question is that a sum of Rs.7,22,15,200 (Rupees seven crores, twenty-two lakhs, fifteen thousand and two 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 "50.—Civil works (Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment)".

(The question was adopted.)

The Question is that a sum Rs.82,11,100 (Rupees eight-two lakhs, eleven thousand and one 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 "Tools and Plant and Establishment".

(The question was adopted.)

The Question is that a sum of Rs.3,44,08,400 (Rupees three crores, forty-four lakhs, eight 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 "81.—Capital Account of Civil works outside the Revenue Account".

(The question was adopted.)

GRANT No.8

"13—Other Taxes and duties."

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance): Sir, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.8,38,000, 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—"13—Other Taxes and duties."

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that a sum of Rs.8,38,000, 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—"13—Other taxes and duties."

(The question was adopted.)

(GRANT No.8 was passed).

Grant No.57.

"82—Capital account of Other State works Outside the Revenue Account."

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, L.S.G.):

Sir, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.21,79,800 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1959 for the administration of the head "82—Capital account of other State Works outside the Revenue Account".

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that a sum of Rs.21,79,800 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 "82—Capital account of other State works outside the Reveau Account."

(The question was adopted).

GRANT No.9

"18—B and 68. B—N. E. D. works."

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY [Minister, Public Works Department (E. and D).]: On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs.2,56,58,700 (Rupees two crores, fifty-six lakhs, fifty-eight thousand and seven 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 "18-B.—and 68-B.—N. E. D. Works."

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that a sum of Rs.2,56,58,700 (Rupees two crores, fifty six lakhs, fifty-eight thousands and seven 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 "18—B. and 68-B.—N. E. D. Works."

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East): Sir, I beg to move the cut motions standing in my name:

That the provision of Rs.54,83,450 under grant No.9, Major head—18.-B-and—68—B—Navigation, Embankments and Drainage Works, Minor head—18. B—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works financed from Ordinary Revenues (total) at page 46 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,56,58,700, do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To criticise the Government for their failure to pay compensation of lands, trees and buildings damaged in construction of marginal Embankments on Pagladiya, Nana, Baralia, Puthimaria rivers, etc, in Kamrup District.)

That the provision of Rs.49,200 under Grant No.9, Major head—18-B. and—68-B.—Navigation, Embankments Drainage Works, Minor head—68-B.—Navigation, Embankments, and Drainage Works financed from Capital Revenues, Sub-head Unproductive Works, flood Control, at page 47 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,56,58,700, do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To criticise Government for the their failure to remove silt deposits of rivers like Pagladiya by dredging and arrangement of proper flushing, etc.)

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

That the provision of Rs.9.70,000. under Grant No.9, Major head—18-B. and—68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works, Minor head—Development Scheme (Second Five Year Plan), Sub-head—Unproductive Works—Major and Medium Project, at page 47 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,56,58,700, do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To criticise the Government in failing to construct an embankment on the right bank of the Beki river from Mathanguri towards south.)

That the total provision of Rs.2,56,58,700 under Grant No.9, Major head—18-B and 68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works, at page 46 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,56,58,700, do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To criticise the Government for not taking up the Beki River Valley Project.)

That the total provision of Rs.2,56,58,700, under Grant No.9, Major head—18-B and 68-B.—Navigation, Embankments and Drainage Works, at page 46 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,56,58,700, do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(Failure of the Government to construct irrigation projects from the Kumbhira and Bwrisuta rivers.)

That the total provision of Rs.2,56,58,700, under Grant No.9, Major head—18-B and 68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works, at page 46 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,56,58,700 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To criticise the Government for not controlling the Hakna and Naljara rivers of Barpeta Subdivision.)

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West): I beg to move the cut motion standing in my name:

That the total provision of Rs.2,56,58,700 under Grant No.9, Major head—18-B. and 68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works, at page 46 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,56,58,700, do stand reduced by Rs.100.

- (1. To criticise the wastefulness and misuse of Public money.
2. To raise a discussion about rate of land compensation.)

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.2,56,58,700 under Grant No.9, Major head—18-B and 68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works, at page 46 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,56,58,700, do stand reduced by Rs.100.

- (1. To criticise the unplanned alignment of the Embankment.
2. To raise a discussion about the wastage of money):

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

That the total provision of Rs.2,56,58,700, under Grant No.9, Major head—18-B and 68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works, at page 46 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,56,58,700 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To criticise the Government for their failure to—

- (1) make full survey before undertaking the embankment works ;
- (2) undertake drainage schemes for areas that are likely to grow paddy ;
- (3) to provide sluice gates in the Maja embankments ;
- (4) make communication between the part of the Dibrugarh Subdivision lying to the north of the Brahmaputra and the District H. Q.)

Shri BIRENDRA 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.2,56,58,700, under Grant No.9, Major head—18-B and 68-B.—Navigation. Embankments and Drainage Works, at page 46 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,56,58,700, do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To criticise the demand and to criticise for not surveying Mara Pagladia, Landingijan, Tihu river and Kaldia river for embankment.)

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

That the total provision of Rs.2,56,58,700, under Grant No.9, Major head—18-B and 68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works, at page 46 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,56,58,700, do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To raise a general discussion.)

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

That the total provision of Rs.2,56,58,700, under Grant No.9, Major head—18-B and 68-B—Navigation, Embankment and drainage Works, at page 46 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,56,58,700, do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To criticise the unplanned manner in which the embankments have been constructed and emphasise the need of sluice gates).

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):

Sir I beg to move the cut motion standing in my name:

That the total provision of Rs.2,56,58,700, under Grant No. 9, major head—18-B and 68- B—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Work, at page 46 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,56,58,700, do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To raise a general discussion).

Mr. SPEAKER: All the cut motions are moved as above.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak on my cut motion which I have moved. The Beki river and its tributaries are causing immense devastation. These rivers are otherwise called Manas rivers. To control the rivers up till now no steps have been taken by Government. The Beki river and its tributaries such as Honua, Naljora, Ultaoikhurda, Burha Borisuta, and others are coming down from the Himalayas. They have been creating devastations to lands, houses and cultivable fields of Khariza Bijni Mouza, Damkacherabousi Muoza and Rupsi Mouza, and Tipopani Mouzas. Many villages have been wiped out—and they are Chukrungbari, Unneguri, Bhatarmari, Dimajuli Maknabari, Paragaon, etc. There is no trace of the village Dimajuli whose only three trees are the sole remnants of the village.

These rivers have not stopped erosions. A portion of the Sorbhog aerodrome has been washed away by the Beki river on the right bank. Last year, a portion of the North Trunk Road was washed away and due to this the Beki Public Works Department Ghat was closed for one and a half month causing immense difficulties to people.

People of these three Mauzas are not able to live at peace. No body in those Mauzas can say it boldly that his home and cultivable fields would not be washed away. The rivers mentioned above are not very deep. During the rainy season terrible currents of water come down from the North and they flow in innumerable directions. The rivers do not have any definite courses and every year they change their courses during the rainy season. We have referred those difficulties to Government. Though we have referred about our grievances to Government up till now nothing has been done in this respect and no steps have been taken to survey the river Beki and its tributaries. In 1946 the matter was referred to the Central Government about the control of rivers in Assam, and the Central Government recommened that four rivers in Assam and out of those four rivers Beki is also to be surveyed.

Sir, with your permission I would like to read out the relevant portion of the report. It is a Quinquennial Report April 1945 to March 1950 by the Central Water-Power, Irrigation and Navigation Commission. In that report at page 65 it is stated— "It was intended to carry out surveys and investigations on both the Manas and the Dihang Projects with a full working establishment of two Divisions and six Subdivisions under a superintending Engineer."

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, E. and D): What is that Report, Sir ?

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog): Quinquennial Report of the Central Water, Power and Irrigation and Navigation Commission, at page 65. Yet the Minister said that there was no need of controlling the Beki river. It is absurd. Perhaps the Minister-in-charge gave this vague reply without consulting his officers and he also does not care to read all these important reports. It is very sad. I hope in future Government will take more care to study these reports. Our Government have constructed an embankment from Mathanguri to Basbari. All the channels on the eastern side of the river have closed as a result of this embankment. Due to this the villages like Kharija Bijni Mauza, D.C. Bowsi Mauza and Ruposi Mauza sare flooded now. In reply to a question the Government said that only 300 acres of land have been eroded by the river Beki. I do not know wherefrom they got this figure. If our Minister-in-charge visit Karija Bijni Mauz : he will see for himself that not only

300 acres but many thousands acres of land have been eroded. The other day, a week before the Assembly started, our Medical Minister went to Kharija Bijni Mauza and he must have seen the damages caused to the villages by the Beki river and its tributaries, due to the erosion caused by these rivers. We have said that embankment is not the only solution for flood. Our Government have constructed embankments but have not provided any sluice gates. The river cannot be controlled by simply constructing some embankment. In that case the river beds get silted up and the chances of floods are more. That is why I would request the Government to study all these things carefully. I do not say that there should not be any embankments. But I say that it should be constructed more scientifically. There should be provision for dredging not only of the river beds of Beki river but of the rivers like Jia-Bharali, Mora Pagladia and others. They are to be controlled also. That can be done by dredging as well as by embankments which should be done more scientifically.

Again, Sir, our Government says that we have not enough technical personnel. Well technical personnel can be brought from outside the State if it is necessary. Now when people are living on the banks of the mighty river banks of Rhine and Danube can live in peace, our people living near the bank of river like Beki cannot feel secure and cannot live in peace. That is why I would request the Government to think about these matters deeply and control these rivers. When other States can take up and execute projects like Hirakud and Domodar Valley, our State Government cannot convince the Central Government about the necessity of taking up any such project in our State. They cannot secure any money for that purpose. They are not bold enough to put forward our claim and get the money from the Central Government, so that we can develop our country and improve the economic condition of our people.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra): মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, এই শিতানত যি দাবী আহিছে তাত বৰ্তমান কি কাম কৰিছে তাৰ বিষয় দুটা কথা কব খুজিছো।

প্ৰথমতে হৈছে, E. & D. বিভাগটোৱে গৰাখহনীয়া, বানপানী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ আদি কৰাৰ উপৰিও তাৰ মূল উদ্দেশ্য হৈল Reclamation of Land আৰু improvement আৰু সবহ শস্য উৎপাদন।

এই কালৰ পৰা এই বিভাগে বাইজৰ লগত যেনেভাবে সহযোগিতা কৰিব লাগিছিল তেনে সহযোগিতা কৰা দেখা নাযায়। ফলত বহুতো বেমেজালি ঘট দেখা যায়।

মহোদয়, এই বিভাগটো এটা Technical বিভাগ। আমাৰ নিচিনা non-Technical মানুহৰ পক্ষে সমালোচনা কৰাটো ভাল হওক চাৰি তাৰ পৰিণাম বেয়া হোৱাহে সম্ভব।

‘এই বিভাগত চকু দিবনে’ বুলি ‘জনমভূমি’ কাকতৰ ১৮ জুলাই তাৰিখত ওলোৱা article টোৰ আৰম্ভ মই দুঘাৰ কথা কবলৈ আগ বাঢ়িছো।

“মহোদয় মই এজন অভিজ্ঞতা থকা বুঢ়া ঠিকাদাৰৰ লৰা। বিয়া নকৰিলেও বতাব তলত বহুবাৰ বহিছো বুলি কব পৰা ক্ষমতা আছে। (হাহি) ই, এণ্ড ডি, বিভাগৰ দ্বাৰা এইবাৰ শিৱসাগৰৰ দিশে নৈৰ কেইবাখনো বুকজমৰা আমি দেখিছো। আঁঠখন বুকজৰ ভিতৰত চাৰি খন ইতিমধ্যে উটুৱাই নিলেই। নৈয়ে উটুৱাই নিব পৰালৈ বুকজ মৰায়েই যদি বিভাগীয় কৰ্মকৰ্তাসকলৰ ভিতৰৰা উদ্দেশ্য হয়, তেন্তে, শিৱসাগৰীয়া বাইজৰ চকুত ধূলি মৰাৰ নিচিনা নহবনে? আমাৰ চকুৰ আগত এনে কাণ্ড হবলৈ দিয়াটো অকল বাইজৰ ধনৰ অপব্যয়ই নহয় বাইজৰ মৰ্য্যমত উপেক্ষা কৰি ৰেপৰোৱাই তাৰে কাম কৰি যাবলৈ উদগনি দিয়াও হব। তাৰ বাহিৰে দিহিঙৰ abandoned বান্ধটো যেতিয়া ৩০০ ফুট খহাই নিলে তাত কিছু টকা খৰচ কৰি Ringbund কৰা হেতেন আজি কেতিয়াও বৃক্ষপুত্ৰৰ বান্ধ লাইবিলৰ পৰা টেণ্ডাৰটলৈ বিপেয়াৰ কৰোতে যি টকা খৰচ হল হেতেন, তাতকৈ ৩।৪ গুণ বেচি খৰচ নহল হেতেন। এয়ে হৈছে বিভাগৰ কাৰ্য্য তৎপৰতা। এনেকৈ কাম কৰি শিৱসাগৰৰ বাইজৰ ধূলি দিব খোজাটো কিমান অন্যায কথা। মই কওঁ য’ত লাখ লাখ কোটি কোটি টকা খৰচ কৰিছে, যি বিভাগৰ ওপৰত সবহ শস্য উৎপাদনৰ ভাৰ নিহিত আছে, এনেকুৱা এটা বিভাগৰ কাম যদি এটা সুপৰিকল্পিত আঁচনিৰ জৰিয়তে নহয় ইয়াতকৈ আৰু আচৰিত কথা কি থাকিব পাৰে?

দিবাঙৰ Left Bank ৰ মঠাউৰিৰ কাম বাঁহগড়ৰ পৰা দিহিঙীয়া গাঁৱৰ প্ৰায় ৪ মাইল প্ৰথম পঞ্চবাৰ্ষিক পৰিকল্পনাৰ সময়ৰ ভিতৰত কিছু কৰিলে; তাৰে মাজতে ৩।৪ মাইল বাদ দি পুনৰ এই বছৰ প্ৰজেক্টৰ টকাৰে কিছু কাম কৰিছে, কিন্তু দ্বিতীয় পৰিকল্পনাৰ সময়ত কিয় মাজৰ ডোখৰৰ কাম আঁচনিত ন পৰিল। কিন্তু যি চাৰি মাইলৰ কাম অতি দৰকাৰী তাত আজিও আঁচনিত নাই (বকঠা মৌজাৰ অন্তৰ্গত)। ফলত নতুন মঠাউৰীৰ পৰা যি পৰিমাণে সহায় হব বুলি ভবা হৈছে, সেই পৰিমাণে নহব বৰং যথেষ্ট ক্ষতি হৈ হব। এনেবিধ আঁচনিৰ জৰিয়তে কেনেকৈ দেশৰ উন্নতি হব বা বিভাগে কাম কৰা বুলিয়েই বা কয় কেনেকৈ? টকা পাইহে জৰেমধ্যে খৰচ কৰিছে, কোনো সু-পৰিকল্পিত আঁচনি নোলোৱাকৈ। আঁচনিৰ নমুনা হ’ল মঠাউৰি বান্ধিছে কিন্তু Sluice Gate নাই। ফলত হয় পানীয়েই নাই নহয় বানপানী হৈ খেতি ধ্বংস কৰিলে। কাৰণ বানপানী ওলাই যাবলৈ বাট নাই। এনে বিলাক বেমেজালি এই বিভাগত লাগিয়েই আছে। লাখ লাখ টকা ইতিমধ্যেই খৰচ কৰিছে; আৰু কিছু টকা খৰচ নকৰাৰ কাৰণে আগতে খৰচ কৰা সেই লাখ লাখ টকা নষ্ট হৈ গল।

কিন্তু যদি যি মঠাউৰী বান্ধিছে, তাৰ লগে লগে Sluice Gate, Culvert আদিৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰি গনহেতেন, তেন্তে, কেতিয়াও বৰ্ত্তমানে যি পৰিমাণে ক্ষতি হৈছে, সেই পৰিমাণে ক্ষতি নহলহেতেন। মঠাউৰী হাতীৰেৰ গছকা নিয়মটো আজি কালি নায়েই।

যদিহে দিহিঙৰ abandoned য’ত branch হৈছিল, তাত Ring Bard bund কৰিলেহেতেন তেনেহলে ১০।১২ হাজাৰ টকাতেই হল হেতেন। Subdivisional Officer Embankment and Drainage এ এই কাম হাতত লব লাগে বুলি

২৬।৯।৫৭ তাৰিখে Superintending Engineer লৈ লিখি পঠিয়ালে। Executive Engineer এ আকৌ ৪০৭ নং চিঠি নতে ২১ মাৰ্চত সেই bund repair কৰা উচিত নহয় বুলি লিখিলে সেই মতে যদি Dihing abandoned bund repair কৰিলেহেতেন তেন্তে লাইবিল টেক্সপানী bund টো repair কৰোঁতে ইমান বেচি টকা নষ্ট নহলহেতেন, কিন্তু সি হৈ নুঠিল। তাৰ ফলত প্ৰায় এহেজাৰ বিঘা মাটিৰ বাও আৰু আহধান নষ্ট হল আৰু গাঁৱলীয়া বাইজৰ যিবিলাকে যোৱা ৭।৮ বছৰ বানপানীত কষ্ট ভোগ কৰিছে তেনে ভোগ কৰিব নালাগিলহেতেন।

ওপৰৰ অফিচাৰ সকলে বিশেষকৈ শিলঙৰ অফিচাৰ সকলে বাইজৰ লগত সহ-যোগীতা নকৰে। বলিয়াঘাট দিখৌ bund কৰিবৰ নিমিত্তে যি পৰিকল্পনা কৰিছিল তাত বাইজৰ বহুত মাটি ঘৰে দূৰাৰে alignment অত সোমাই গল। বাইজে Minister, Chief Engineer ৰ ওচৰলৈ deputation লৈ আহিল। Additional Chief Engineer এ উত্তৰ দিলে—‘বাকু মই নিজে চাই আহিম’। তেওঁ শিৱসাগৰলৈ গল আৰু তাৰপৰা ডিব্ৰুগড় পালগৈ। তেওঁ বাইজক কৈছিল মই যাম, তোমালোকে সকলো ঠিককৈ ৰাখিবা। তলৰ অফিচাৰ সকলে খুটি পুতি মাহটো থাকিল। কিন্তু শিৱসাগৰ পৰা ৫ মাইল দূৰ, তালৈ কথা দিয়া স্বত্বেও নগল। বাইজে উপায়ন্তৰ হৈ পুনৰ শিলঙলৈ আহিল তেতিয়া কলে যে ৫০০ ফুট নালাগে ৩০০ ফুট alignment কৰা এই সময় ছোৱাৰ ভিতৰত প্ৰায় ২ ফাৰিং ৫০০ ফুটত মথাউৰী বান্ধি তাতেই নষ্ট কৰিলে। যদিহে বৈজ্ঞানিক basis ত ৫০০ ফুট হব লাগে তেনেহলে ৩০০ ফুটেই হব বুলি কেনেকৈ কলে? ফলত বহুত চৰকাৰী টকা অপব্যয় হল। ইয়াৰ পৰাই দেখা যায় যে technical অফিচাৰ সকলেও মাজে সময়ে বিধিপথালি দিব খোজে। এই দৰে টকা অপব্যৱহাৰ কৰিব কিয়? দিখৌ নৈত ৫০০ ফুট অথবা ৩০০ ফুটেই বা মথাউৰীৰ ভিতৰত লাগে কিয়? নাজিৰাৰ ওচৰত দেখোন ১০০ ফুটেই হৈছে। এনেদৰে বেচি মাটি যোৱাৰ ফলত খৰহ শস্য উৎপাদনত বাধা জন্মা নাইনে?

শিৱসাগৰত তিনিটা Project ১৯৫৭ চনৰ বাজেটত ধৰা বাদ পৰিল। এই কথা বাজেট বজুতাতো কৈছিলোঁ। মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে উত্তৰ দিলে যে Central Government এ টকা নিদিয়। যদি আমি কৃষি উৎপাদন কৰিবৰ নিমিত্তে বানপানী বন্ধ কৰিব খোজো Central Government এ সেইটো কিয় বন্ধ কৰিব? নিশ্চয় আমাৰ অফিচাৰ সকলে Central Government ক যেনেকৈ pressure দিব লাগে সেই বকৰে নিদিয়। সিদিনা শ্ৰীমলীয়া তাতীয়ৈও কৈছে যে কাছাৰত আৰু গুৱাহাটীত বেচি Project আৰু টকা ধৰিছে। তাত যদি দিব পাৰে আমাৰ ইয়াত কিয় দিব নোৱাৰে। মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে উত্তৰ দিছে ডিব্ৰুগড়ত ইমান টকা খৰচ কৰিছোঁ। অমুকত ইমান টকা খৰচ কৰিছোঁ। তমুকত ইমান টকা খৰচ কৰিছোঁ ইত্যাদি। এই দৰে গুৱাহাটী, কাছাৰৰ কথা কোৱাত মোৰ ঠেক গভীৰ পৰা ভাবিছে বুলি কব পাৰে কওক তালৈ মই লক্ষ্য নকৰো। মোৰে মাত্ৰাজ অন্ধুৰ কেন্দ্ৰক আন্দোলন কৰিলে Provincialism Pargative নহয় অসম কাৰণে হয় ঠিক তেনেকৈ মই কাছাৰ গুৱাহাটীৰ কথা কওতে তেনে কলেও মই কবলৈ বাধ্য। কিয় ডিব্ৰুগড় শিৱসাগৰ কিয় নাপাৰ? লক্ষীমপুৰ বৰপেটা গোৱালপাৰা কেনেই neglect কৰিব। এই বিলাক Important Project নহয় নেকি? আমাৰ আন দাবী নাছিল বাজেটত ধৰা টকাহে আমি দাবী কৰিছিলো। গতিকে এই বিভাগৰ ভিতৰতো বহুতো খেলিমেলি আছে। মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয় ডেকা মানুহ যেতিয়া ভালেই হৈছে তেখেতে তৎপৰতাৰে কাম কৰিব পাৰিব। কিন্তু যদিহে এই বেমেজালি বিলাক আঁঠুৰাৰ নোৱাৰে তেনেহলে কোনো কাম সূচাৰুৰূপে হোৱাৰ আশা নাই। মথাউৰী যদি বাদ দিয়ে তেনেহলে grow more food কেনেকৈ হব? শিৱসাগৰ, গোবীসাগৰ যিহে মথাউৰী জনজাতি কিয় ১৫০।২০০ ফুট মথাউৰীৰ ভিতৰত সোমাব লগা হ’ল এতিয়া জানাই ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ মথাউৰীৰ কথা বাক বাদ দিছে। কিন্তু নাজিৰা দিখৌৰ

এশ দশ ফুটৰ ওচৰতে আছে। যদি হাজাৰ হাজাৰ বিষা মাটি নৈৰ বুকুত সোমাই যাবলৈ হয় তেনেহলে সবহ শস্য উৎপাদন কেনেকৈ হব? এই বিভাগে ১৯৫৬ চনত ২৬ কি ২৭ মাৰ্চত ৬০,০০০ টকা পঠিয়াইছিল আৰু সেই টকা ৩১ মাৰ্চৰ ভিতৰত খৰচ কৰিব লাগে। এই নৌৰ টকা অপব্যয়হে হ'ল।

Dikhow right bank—Tariali to Dikhowmukh, 50 per cent work done—50 per cent remains due to non-acquisition of land.

সেই দৰে আমাৰ ই এণ্ড ডিৰ ফুট জোখ হয় যে মাহত Estimate শিলঙলৈ আহে নবেম্বৰ, ডিচেম্বৰত কিয় এই Estimate বিলাক November অৰ ভিতৰতে sanction নকৰে—কাৰণ ধান কটা নবেম্বৰ, ডিচেম্বৰত হৈ যায় নহয়। যদি চৰকাৰৰ নিজৰ ভিতৰতে Co-ordination নাথাকে তেনেহলে Public এ কিয় Co-operate কৰিব? তাৰোপৰি Estimate sanction হলেও মাটি acquire নহয়, কিয় Co-ordination নাথাকে। তেওঁলোকক এশৰ ঠাইত ৫০ টকা দিয়ক কিন্তু সেই ৫০ টকা লগে লগে পাব লাগে মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে সিদিনা যোৰ প্রশ্নৰ উত্তৰত কৈছে যে দিখৌ left bank অৰ মঠাদাঙৰ ক্ষতি পূৰণ ৩ বছৰ হৈছে নোপোৱা ই unreasonable নহয় বুলি কৈছে কিন্তু মন্ত্ৰী সকলক কওঁ তেখেত সকলে তিনি মাহৰ দৰমহা নলবচোন, কেনেকৈ খায় চাওঁ।

Kamarphodia: 15 miles of Dikhow right bank. Proposed to construct timber spurs to check the risk of the river upperdown stream. Proposed to take anti-erosion measure and there is proposal for new retirement.

Namdang out fall: Revised estimates have not yet been sanctioned. No proposals for extension of Komorajan.

Mitong: Both banks of Mitong will be completed. Tender has not been completed,

Revival of Longshai, Dilihi, Dorika-1st Phase estimate submitted.

নবেম্বৰত estimate sanction হৈ যায়, কিয়নো নবেম্বৰত ধান কাটিলে মথালিৰ বান্ধিব। কিন্তু তাৰ আগত sanction নহয় কিয় যাতে খৰালিত কাম কৰিব পাৰে?

টেম্পাৰাণী—দিছাংমুখ bund যদি দিয়া যায় তেনেহলে ই ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ নিচেই ওচৰত হেনো পৰে। এই plan নাজানি কৰিছিল কিয় আৰু বাজেটত ধৰিছিল কিয় তাৰোপৰি লাই ধান টেম্পাৰাণীৰ বান্ধটো জানো কোনো কোনো ঠাইত ২১৩ ফালঙৰ ভিতৰত নাই এয়ে Engineer ৰ সকলৰ মত। যদি সেয়েই হয় কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰৰ Engineer সকলেহে দেখিছে দুগুণৰ শইকীয়াই জানো দেখা নাই? লাইবিল টেম্পাৰাণী bundৰ পৰা দিচাংমুখৰ মথালিৰ বান্ধাহেতেন অন্ততঃ ১৫,০০০ বিষা মাটি reclaim হ'লে হেতেন, যত মানুহে খাবলৈ পোৱা নাই আৰু যি ঠাইৰ মানুহক চৰকাৰে মাটি দিব পৰা নাই যত ৭৮ বছৰ মানুহে বান পানী আৰু গড়া শহনীয়াৰ

উৎপীড়িত থাকিব লগা হৈছে, বছৰে বছৰে চৰকাৰে relief দিব লগা হৈছে তাত সেই বান্ধ আধাৰাইলৰ ওচৰেদি যোৱাৰ কাৰণে সেই scheme বাদ পৰিল এয়েই হল Engineer অৰ মত। কিন্তু মই কও বান পানী হোৱা ঠাইৰ ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰলৈ কোনো কোনো ঠাইত ৩ মাইল নহবনে? সেই কাৰণে মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ক কও যেন তেখেতে এই বোৰ কথা ভালদৰে বিবেচনা কৰে। পাব্লিকৰ কথাবোৰ একেবাৰে উৰাই দিয়া উচিত নহয়। যি হওক মই যি বোৰ কথা কওঁ। সেই বোৰ যেন চৰকাৰে বিবেচনা কৰে। অৱশ্যে মই যেতিয়া ইমান সমালোচনা Technical Department ক কৰিলো মোৰ proposal বিলাকৰ তো আশাই নাই। (laught r) লগতে Department এ যেন নথিউৰীৰ alignment দিওতে নাটি সময়স্যাৰ প্ৰতিও দৃষ্টি ৰাখে।

Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS [Patacharkucti (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, Embankment আৰু Drainage ৰ আৱশ্যকতা সম্বন্ধে কোনেও নুই কৰিব নোৱাৰে। অসমৰ দুৰ্ভাগ্য যে বান পানী গৰা খহনীয়া আদি প্ৰাকৃতিক দুৰ্যোগে যথেষ্ট সা-সম্পত্তি নষ্ট কৰিলে। সেই কাৰণে, Embankment আৰু Drainage ৰ আৱশ্যকতা খুব বেচি আছে বুলি মই ভাবো আৰু সেই হিচাপে আমাৰ এই বিভাগত যথেষ্ট সংখ্যক কৰ্মচাৰীও আছে। কিন্তু যিমান সংখ্যক কৰ্মচাৰী আছে ঠিক সেই পৰিমাণে আমাৰ কাম হোৱা নাই। সেই কাৰণে মই আশা কৰোঁ যে কৰ্মচাৰীৰ জোখাবে কাম হব লাগে। সাধাৰণতে দেখা যায় যে এই বিভাগৰ কৰ্মচাৰী সকল Headquarter তেই থাকে, গাঁৱৰ ফাললৈ বিশেষ মন নকৰে।

কিন্তু তেখেত সকলে যদি গাঁৱৰ ফাললৈ মন নকৰে আৰু কেনেকৈ নদী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰিব লাগে, গৰাখহনীয়া নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰিব লাগে সেই বিলাক কথা চাব নোৱাৰে তেনেহলে বাইজৰ কষ্টই কুলাই পাচিয়ে নধৰা হব। অনেক ক্ষেত্ৰত দেখা যায়, কিছুমান ঠাইত বিশেষ কাম কৰা হয় আৰু কিছুমান ঠাইত আৱশ্যক থাকিলেও তাত কাম কৰা নহয়। সেই কাৰণে মই আশা কৰোঁ যে আমাৰ কৰ্মচাৰী সকলে যি বিলাক ঠাইত বিশেষ কাম কৰা আৱশ্যক আছে সেই বিলাক ঠাইৰ কথা পোন প্ৰথমে চাব লাগে। মোৰ নিজৰ অঞ্চলতে মৰা পাগলাদিয়া নাথৰ এখন নদী আছে, সেই নদীত প্ৰতি বছৰে বান পানী হয়। সেই বান পানীয়ে বহুত গাঁৱৰ বহুত হাজাৰ একৰ মাটিৰ খেতিবাতি অনিষ্ট কৰে আৰু বিশেষকৈ বালি, শিয়ালমাৰী, বতন পুৰ, গোবৰাদল এই বিলাক কেবাটাও অঞ্চলত প্ৰতি বছৰত বানপানী হৈ থাকে, তাৰ ফলত খেতি বাতিৰ অনিষ্ট হয়। বাইজৰ খেতি বক্ষা কৰিবৰ নিমিত্তে বাইজে নদী বোৰ নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰিবৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰলৈ বাবে বাবে দৰখাস্ত কৰা স্বত্বেও মোৰ এটা প্ৰশ্নৰ উত্তৰত Flood Control মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে এনেকৈ উত্তৰ দিছে যে তেনে কোনো আবেদন বাইজৰ ফালৰ পৰা পোৱা নাই বুলি? আগৰ গৰাকী Flood Control Minister য়ে জানে মৰাপাগলাদিয়া নদীয়ে কেনেকৈ বাইজৰ খেতি অনিষ্ট কৰিছে। তেখেতৰ ওচৰলৈ যোৱাত তেখেতে survey কৰিবৰ বাবে ইঞ্জিনীয়াৰ পঠোৱাৰ কথা কৈছিল। কিন্তু বৰ্তমান মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে কেনেকৈ একো আবেদন পোৱা নাই বুলি মোৰ প্ৰশ্নৰ উত্তৰ দিলে বুজি নাপালো। ম'ৰী বদলি হোৱাৰ লগে লগে চৰকাৰী প্ৰথাও বদলি থাকিলে বাইজৰ কোনো উপকাৰ কেতিয়াও হব নোৱাৰে। খেতি বাতি যদি ৰোট হব লাগে তেনে হলে নদী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰিব লাগিব। মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে মোৰ বেকী নদীৰ প্ৰশ্নৰ উত্তৰত কৈছিল যে দুনিয়াত বহুত নদী আছে, সকলো নদী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰিব পাৰিনে? মই সকলো নদী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰিবলৈ কোৱা নাই। যিবিলাক নদীয়ে প্ৰতি বছৰে খেতি নষ্ট কৰি থাকে সেই বিলাক নদীহে নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰিবলৈ কৈছো। বেকী বা মৰা পাগলাদিয়া নদী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰা আৱশ্যক বুলি ভাবো। লাওডিঙি জানে বহুত খেতি বাতি নষ্ট কৰা কথা আমাৰ

বহুত সদস্যই জানে। এই বোৰ নদীৰ নিয়ন্ত্ৰণৰ আৱশ্যকতা চৰকাৰে অতি শীঘ্ৰে ভাৰি চোৱা উচিত। ওপৰ বৰভাগ মৌজাৰ মঠাউৰিত sluice gate নোহোৱাৰ কাৰণে মানুহৰ বিশেষ ক্ষতি হৈছে। তাৰ পিচত মই আৰু এটা কথা ক'ব খোজো, আমাৰ উত্তৰ কামৰূপত যোৱা বছৰ অনাবৃষ্টিৰ ফলত খেতি বাতি নহল, সেই কাৰণে এটা ডং সিংবাৰ পৰা দিঘলালৈকে দিয়া হ'ব বুলি মোৰ এটা প্ৰশ্নৰ উত্তৰত Flood Control মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে আশ্বাস দিছিল। যদি সেই ডংটো তৈয়াৰ কৰা হয় তেনেহলে (ঘণ্টা বাজে) উত্তৰ বান্ধা, চিহ্ন, নমাতি, লাউদিঙিডান, পশ্চিম বান্ধা মৌজাত সৰু সৰু শস্য উৎপাদন হ'ব। যি হওক মৰাপাৰ্গলাদিয়া চিহ্নপাৰ্গলাদিয়া ইত্যাদি নদী বিলাক নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰিবৰ বাবে চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ জনালো।

Shri MOHIKANTA DAS (Barchella): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the very outset I want to speak a few words about the protection works on the banks of the Jia-Bharali river. Recently a sad boat accident took place and in this disaster lives of several people while crossing this river were lost. It is alleged that the marboat that was involved in the accident struck against the spurs and as a result, it capsized and many persons were drowned. It is stated that those spurs were not placed at proper distances. The previous Public Works Department Minister himself saw that many of the spurs previously put at Silonipam and other places were washed away. We have heard that the river Jia-Bharali has a tendency to pass through about 40 villages and wash Jamuguri involving a risk to about 50 to 60 thousand people. This is a very serious thing to which I draw the attention of the Government. If the whole situation is not properly examined and scientific measures are not taken in time then it would not be possible to save or protect a huge population from being eroded by this Jia-Bharali river.

So, I request the Minister-in-charge of the Embankment and Drainage Department to visit the place and see the gravity of the danger to which I am, with all humility, drawing his attention. This is one side of the affair; on the other side, *i. e.*, towards the Bihiagaon side, about 30 villages have been already washed away. These 30 villages were the granaries of Tezpur. Bihiagaon is a famous village where immigrant Muslims used to produce very good crop and these villages used to supply vegetables and other commodity to the town of Tezpur. But, now, as I said, 30 villages have been washed away by "Mother Bharali". The Chief Engineer and other Officers visited the place. Our Governor, Shri Fazl Ali, also visited the place and seeing the hardship of the people, granted Rs.5,000 as gratuitous relief. Now, Sir, the river is proceeding towards the town. I am drawing the attention of the Government to this grave situation. If the Bharali river connects itself with its old channel, as it is possibly trying to do,

then there is no hope of saving Tezpur from the fury of the river. Tezpur is within four miles from that area and if Bhorali connects itself with the old channel and proceeds in that direction, no power on earth can prevent its fury. Therefore, Sir, this is a very serious thing to which I draw the attention of the Government. I hope Government would be pleased to take immediate steps to avert a potentially dangerous situation. Our Embankment Minister should visit the place, appreciate the situation and take such measures as will be appropriate.

Then, Sir, I would like to say a word about the construction of embankments. From my personal experience I can say that there are some defects in the construction of embankments. If these defects are allowed to remain, if the Embankment Relief Committee headed by Shri Bijoy Bhagavati does not sit for days and months together and finds ways and means to rectify the defects, then I say, Sir, the country will be laid waste in course of another 10 years. Due to the closing of natural channels of flood the fertility of the cultivable lands in many places has been affected, the jute and paddy crops in Nowgong and other places have been reduced and in my humble opinion this has been one of the causes for our deficit in food. If this defective system of construction of embankments is allowed to proceed then I have no doubt, Sir, that in course of 10 to 15 years, our *Sonar Asom* will be converted to a desert.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur): মাননীয়

উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, চৰকাৰে E. & D. সন্ধৰ্কে যি মঞ্জুৰী প্ৰস্তাব দাঙি ধৰিছে— সেইটো মই সমৰ্থন কৰিছো আৰু তাৰ লগতে এই কথাও প্ৰকাশ কৰিছো যে চৰকাৰে E. & D. বিভাগত যি টকাৰ মঞ্জুৰী বিচাৰিছে— সি দেশৰ পৰিস্থিতিলৈ চাই কমহে হৈছে। 'এমবেকমেন্ট'ৰ বিৰুদ্ধে এই সদনৰ বহুতো সদস্যই বহুতো কথা কৈ গৈছে আৰু এই মঠাউৰি বিলাকৰ কাম বোধকৰো অসমৰ ভিতৰত লক্ষীমপুৰ জিলাতেই বেচি হৈছে। বেচি হলেও এই মঠাউৰি বিলাকৰ পৰা সৰ্ব সাধাৰণ বাইজৰ উপকাৰ হোৱা নাই বুলি কৈছে। ইয়াৰ কাৰণ হৈছে— য'ত মঠাউৰি হ'ব লাগে ত'ত হোৱা নাই আৰু য'ত মঠাউৰি নহলেও হয় ত'ত হৈছে। মই ইয়াকেই ক'ব খুজিছো যে, উত্তৰ লক্ষীমপুৰ মহকুমাত মঠাউৰিৰ বেচি প্ৰয়োজন কাৰণ ইয়াত বছৰি গড়ে ১৩৪ ইঞ্চি পৰ্য্যন্ত বৰষুণ হয় আৰু এই মহকুমাৰ বুকুৱেদি হিমালয় আৰু তাৰ নামনিৰ পৰা ওলোৱা সৰু বৰ অসংখ্য নদী বৈ গৈছে আৰু বৰষুণ যিমানেই হয় সিমানেই বানপানী হৈ সৰ্বসাধাৰণ বাইজক সকলো ফালৰ পৰা আচ্ছাদিত কৰি পেলায়। সেই কাৰণে ইয়াত মঠাউৰিৰ প্ৰয়োজন বেচি। যোৱা প্ৰায় ১০০ বছৰীয়া ভূমিকম্পৰ আগতে ইয়াত বৰ বেচি মঠাউৰিৰ প্ৰয়োজন নাছিল। কিন্তু ভূমিকম্পৰ পিচত মঠাউৰি বন্ধ। কাৰ্য্যত চৰকাৰে বিশেষ মনোযোগ দিয়াত আমি উত্তৰ লক্ষীমপুৰ বাসীয়ে চৰকাৰক প্ৰশংসা কৰিছো আৰু তাৰ পৰা উপকৃত হৈছোঁহক। এই কথা নকলেও হ'ব যে প্ৰয়োজন অনুযায়ী অসমৰ বিভিন্ন ঠাইত মঠাউৰি নিৰ্মাণ কৰাৰ আৱশ্যকতা আছে। বিশেষকৈ উত্তৰ লক্ষীমপুৰত বৰ্তমান যিমান মঠাউৰি বন্ধ হৈছে তাৰ দুগুণ হোৱাৰ প্ৰয়োজন আৰু তেতিয়া হলেহে

প্রকৃততে মঠাউরিয়ে বাইজব উপকার সাধন করিব। এতিয়া এনে অরহা যে, একালে মঠাউরিয়ে বানপানী প্রতিবোধ করিলেও আনকালব পরা আন নৈয়ে বানপানী সিচবিত করি ওভোটা পানা তোলে। সেই কারণে, এতিয়ালৈকে ইয়াব যিবিলাক নৈত মঠাউবি বন্ধা হৈছে তাব বাহিবেও বহুতো নৈ আছে যত মঠাউবি দিয়া একান্ত প্রয়োজন আক আশা করো, দ্বিতীয় পবিকল্পনাব অন্তগত এইবিলাকব কাম যেন সমাধা হয়। নহলে উওব লক্ষীমপুৰব যি বিলাক অঞ্চলত প্রচুর ধান হয় আক যাক ধানব বাহী অঞ্চল বলিব পাৰি, সেই বিলাক অঞ্চলব পরা ধান পোরা নহব আক চবকাৰী খাদ্য শস্য সংগ্রহ কার্যত এতিয়ালৈকে যোগান ধৰি অহা কার্যত বাধা পৰিব। এই সম্পর্কে কিছুদিনব আগতে P. W. D.ব মন্ত্রীমহোদয়ব লগত মই আলোচনা করি তেখেতক নদী কেইখন দেখুৱাই আনিছো। আক তেখেতেও এই অভিযোগ স্বীকার কৰিছে। ইয়াব বাহিবেও মই আন এটা কথা লৈ আঙ্গুলিয়াই কও যে যেতিয়া কোনো এখন নৈব এটা পাৰ বন্ধা হয় তেতিয়া আনটো পাৰব কথাও বিবেচনা করিব লগায়া। উদাহরণ স্বরূপে কও উঃ লক্ষীমপুৰব আটাইতকৈ আহকলীয়া ডিক্রং নৈ খনব পূব পাৰটো বন্ধাব ফলত পশ্চিম পাৰব অরহা শোচনীয় হৈ উঠিছে আক তাব বাইজব দুখদুর্দশাব সীমা নাইকীয়া হৈছে। আশাকরো বিভাগীয় মন্ত্রীমহোদয়ে, এই বিষয়ে চকু দিব আক আরশাকীয় পাৰ বন্ধা কাম পশ্চিম পাৰত হাতত লব আক এই ব্যৱস্থা যেন দ্বিতীয় পবিকল্পনাব কালছোৱাতেই সম্পন্ন হয়; নহলে বছৰি বাইজব খেতি পথাৰ নষ্ট করি বাইজক কষ্টত পেলাব।

(সময়ব সংকেটধবনি)

উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই আক বেচি কথা নকও। দুই চাৰিটা মঠাউবিব নিমিত্তে লোৱা মাটিব বিষয়ে কৈয়েই শেষ করিম। মঠাউবি বন্ধা কামত কিছুমান আসোৱাহ এতিয়াও আমাব চকুত পৰাত দুখ পাইছে। মঠাউবিব কারণে যিবিলাক বাইজব মাটি অধিগৃহণ কৰা হৈছিল সেই বিলাকব ক্ষতিপূৰণ দিয়া হোৱা নাই আক এনেও হৈ আছে যে চবকাৰে অধিগৃহণ কৰা মাটিব খাজনা বাইজে আজি বহু বছৰ ধৰি দি থাকিব লগা হোৱাত তেখেত সকলব বব অসুবিধা হৈছে। আশাকরো চবকাৰে এই বিষয়ে মনোযোগ দি অনতিপলমে দিবলগীয়া সকলক ক্ষতিপূৰণ আক খাজনা বেহাই দি ওপবন্ধি পৰিশোধ কৰা খাজনা ঘৰাই দিব লাগে।

(The time bell being sounded, the hon. Member resumed his Seat).

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]: মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, “এমবাং-মেন্ট এণ্ড ডেনেজ” ডিপার্টমেন্টেৰ ব্যৱসৱাদেৰ দাবীৰ উপৰ যতগুলি ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাব বিরোধী দলেৰ পক্ষ থেকে উপস্থাপিত কৰা হয়েছে আমি সে সমস্ত প্রস্তাব সমর্থন করছি।

অনেক সদস্য বিতর্কে অংশ গ্রহণ করেছেন এবং অনেক বিষয়ে বক্তব্য উপস্থিত করেছেন। আসামের নদী নিয়ন্ত্রণে সরকারী ব্যৰ্থতার কথাই শুধু উপস্থিত করতে চাই।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আসাম কৃষি প্রধান দেশ এবং বাড়তি দেশ। কিন্তু প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগ বশতঃ আজ আসাম য়াতিৰি এলাকাৰ পৰিণত হয়েছে। যে কাছাড় এবং নওগাঁ জেলা সমস্ত আসামকে খাদ্যেৰ যোগান দিতে পারতো, আজ অনাবৃষ্টিতে নওগাঁৰ মাটি শুকিয়ে দেখানে ফসল ফলেনা। যে কাছাড় জিলা খাদ্যে চিৱদিন বাড়তি এলাকা বলে পরিগণিত ছিল আজ একটা নদীৰ বন্যায় তার কৃষি ব্যবস্থাকে বিপর্যয়ের মুখে

নিয়ে যায়। অথচ আজ বৈজ্ঞানিক প্রগতির যুগে এই দুই অবস্থাকে জয় করা মোটেই কষ্টসাধ্য নয়। বরাক এবং কপিলি নদীর জলধারাকে যদি নিয়ন্ত্রণ করা যায়, তবে কাছাড়ের কনালের প্রাচুর্য্য আবার ফিরে আসবে এবং নওগা জিলাও শস্যশ্যামল হয়ে উঠবে। কিন্তু বড়ই দুঃখের বিষয় প্রথম বা দ্বিতীয় পঞ্চবার্ষিকী পরিকল্পনার কালে আমাদের আগামে কোন নদীউপত্যকা পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ করা হয়নি।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমাদের গভর্ণমেন্ট সবসময় বলে থাকেন টাকার অভাবে আজ অনেককিছু করা সম্ভবপর নয়। কিন্তু আমি কি বলতে পারি একথা যেসময়ে পরিকল্পনার আর্থিক বরাদ্দ ছাটাই করা হয়েছে তখন সেই শতদুর্গ এবং বিপাসা নদীর জলধারাকে প্রায় ৫০০ শত মাইল দূরে নিয়ে গিয়ে রাজস্থানের মরুভূমি কে শ্যামল ভূমিতে পরিণত করার পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ করা হয়েছে। আর্থিক অসুবিধা সেখানে এমন কোন বাঁধা সৃষ্টি করতে পারেনি। আজ যটার প্রয়োজন আছে এবং প্রয়োজনের তাগিদেই অথের সংস্থান করতে হবে।

১৯৪৫ ইংরেজী থেকে ১৯৫০ ইংরেজী পর্যন্ত সে সময়েও Central Water, Power, Irrigation and Navigation Commission এর যে রিপোর্ট আমরা দেখেছি তাহাতে দেখা যায় ১৯৫০ ইংরেজীতে তদানীন্তন গভর্ণর মহোদয়ের আমরা দেখেছি তাহাতে দেখা যায় ১৯৫০ ইংরেজীতে তদানীন্তন গভর্ণর মহোদয়ের সভাপতিত্বে শিলং এ এক বৈঠকে কেন্দ্রীয় এবং প্রাদেশিক ইঞ্জিনিয়ার এবং সরকারী বিভিন্ন দপ্তরের কর্মচারীনিয়োগ সিদ্ধান্ত হয়েছিল আমাদের মনা, ডিহি, বরাক এবং বিনোদপুরী এই চারটি নদীর তথ্য নেওয়ার কাজ শুরু করতে হবে যাতে ওদের সোনেপুরী এই চারটি নদীর তথ্য নেওয়ার কাজ শুরু করতে হবে যাতে ওদের উপত্যকার জলাধার নির্মাণ করা যায়। এই কাজের জন্য ৫০ লক্ষ টাকার একটা স্কীম কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারের নিকট দাখিল করা হয়। পরে Stading Finance Committee তিনি লক্ষ টাকা মঞ্জুর করেন এবং মনা নদীকে প্রথম এবং ডিহি নদীকে দ্বিতীয় Priority দিয়ে কাজ শুরু করা হয়।

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHRY (Minister, Flood Control): আপনি কিসের থেকে বলছেন?

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]: Sir, আমি এই সমস্ত বলছি Quinquennial Report 1945-1950 থেকে। আমি জানি আসামে এই সমস্ত নদীর জরীপ করা হয়েছে কিন্তু বড়ই দুঃখের বিষয় এই Report বা তার পরবর্তী রিপোর্ট আসাম Public Works Department-তে বা কোন সরকারী লাইব্রেরীতেও নাই। এই হল আমাদের অবস্থা। পরবর্তী অবস্থায় কপিলী এবং বরাক নদী সার্ভে করা হয়। কপিলীতে নাকি বাঁধ বা জলাধার নির্মাণের স্থান আছে। আর বরাক সম্পর্কে বলা হয়েছে যে ওখানে নাকি বাঁধ বা জলাধার নির্মাণের কোন স্থান পাওয়া যায়নি। এই বৈজ্ঞানিক প্রগতির যুগে একথা আমাদের বিশ্বাস করতে হবে? আমি যতটুকু সংবাদ সংগ্রহ করেছি তাতে এই কথা সুস্পষ্ট যে কোন Detailed Investigation করা হয়নি। নদীর জলপ্রবাহের গতি বেগ বা Velocity, Discharge of water, Silt study বা অন্য সমস্ত তথ্য বাঁধ নির্মাণের স্বপক্ষে ছিল। কেবল মাত্র একজন Geologist এর বিপক্ষে মত দিয়েছেন যে ওখানকার মাটি নাকি উপযোগী নয়। আমি জানি তিনি Boring অথবা Drilling করেননি।

আজ আসাম সরকারের নিকট আমার আজ দাবী মনা, কপিলী এবং বরাক নদী উপত্যকা পরিকল্পনার গ্রহণ করার জন্য কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারে নিকট দাবী উপস্থিত করা উচিত। আমি এখন এই তিনি নদীর পরিকল্পনার কথা বলছি?

প্রথমতঃ—মনা নদী যখন সার্ভে করার পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ করা হয়—উপোর্জ রিপোর্টেই আছে তখন নদী উপত্যকা কমিশন একথা চিন্তা করেছিলেন যে মনা নদীর জল ধারাকে তিস্তার সংগে মিলিয়ে ভবিষ্যতে ব্রহ্মপুত্র-গংগা Link Project বা একটা বিকল্প জলপথে সৃষ্টি করা যাবে ; পাকিস্তানের মধ্যদিয়ে না গিয়ে কলিকাতার সংগে জলপথে যোগাযোগ সম্ভবপর হবে। আজ এটার প্রয়োজনীয়তা দেখা দিয়েছে।

দ্বিতীয়তঃ—কপিলী উপত্যকা পরিকল্পনায় নওগাঁর বৃষ্টিচাষা অঞ্চলে জলসেচ ব্যবস্থা প্রচলন করা সম্ভবপর হবে। আগামের প্রয়োজনীয় খাদ্য উৎপাদনের জন্য এটার প্রয়োজনীয়তা অত্যন্ত বেশী।

তৃতীয়তঃ—কাছাড় উদ্বাস্ত আগমনে আজ জনসংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি পেয়েছে। যে জনসংখ্যাকে আজ অন্য কোন ভাবে নিয়োগ করা সম্ভবপর হয়ে উঠেছে।

কাছাড় Uneconomic Tea garden গুলো বন্ধ হয়ে যাবার পর্যায়ে এসেছে। কৃষি ব্যবস্থাও অনিশ্চিত কারণ বরাকের বন্যা প্রায় প্রতি বৎসরই ফসল নষ্ট করে দেয়।

সেদিন শিল্প এবং শ্রম বিভাগের মাননীয় মন্ত্রী এই বিধান সভায় বলেছেন লুসাই পাহাড় এবং কাছাড় কাগজের মণ্ড বা তৈরীর কাঁচা মাল সবচেয়ে বেশী শুধু মাত্র জালাবীর কোন ব্যবস্থা সেখানে নেই যার জন্যে ঐ অঞ্চলে এই সব শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠার কথা চিন্তা করা যায় না।

আজ যদি বরাক নদী উপত্যকা পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ করা যায় তবে (১) সম্ভাব্য বিদ্যুৎ শক্তি পেয়ে কাছাড়ের চাষাগানের সংকট কমে যাবে কারণ Production Cost কমবে (২) বন্যার হাত থেকে কৃষি ব্যবস্থা রক্ষা পাবে।

(৩) নতুন শিল্প সৃষ্টি করা যাবে কাচা মাল ঐ সব অঞ্চলে পাওয়া যায়। ফল বাড়তি জনসংখ্যাকে কাজ দেওয়া সম্ভবপর হবে। কাছাড়ের বিশেষ অবস্থান আজ তার প্রয়োজন।

আমি আশা করি ঐ সমস্ত Consideration থেকে বিচার করে আগাম সরকার অত্যন্ত জোরের সংগে এই তিনটি নদী উপত্যকা পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ করার জন্য কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারে নিকট দাবী উপস্থিত করবেন।

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Embankment and Drainage) : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have heard with attention the speeches delivered by the hon. Members. I am extremely sorry to say that the tone displayed by some of the Members is really not very encouraging and I should like to remark that having failed to give replies to the arguments I advanced in my earlier speeches delivered in connection with the debates on the Governor's address and the budget discussion, they have now thought it better that those arguments should be met by a bit of temper and by creating certain amount of misunderstandings. Sir, what was the position? Although, the arguments or the criticisms made

have given vent to certain personal feelings but it is nevertheless a fact that this Department is in my hand only for a few months and therefore whatever might be the alleged defects and wrong handlings of situation they could not be the babies of mine. Similarly, an aspersion was made and repeated with regard to certain provisions for the district of Cachar, although it was clearly stated in this House by me that I was not the author of this Embankment and Drainage budget and only after the budget was framed, I took over the Department. Still, Sir, a great amount of perversity has been shown by repeating the same baseless statement.....

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Is the word 'perversity' Parliamentary, Sir?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Flood Control): It is Parliamentary.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, it is Parliamentary.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I wanted to use a stronger word but instead I have used the word perversity.

Now, Sir, what is the position? Position is this that when there were floods in this State, people were panicky and they wanted different measures to be taken up. Schemes and suggestions came from all over the State, but if all of them were to have been executed, possibly $\frac{1}{4}$ of the income of the whole of India would have been necessary. Therefore, Government had to select them. How it was done? A State Flood Control Board was formed; besides there were the State Development Board and the State Technical Committee. All these schemes were examined by them and a draft Second Five Year Plan was framed with some of the schemes. That Plan was necessary because there was the inadequacy of money, there was the lack of technicians, there was the question of time, there was the lack of experience too, etc., etc. So we had to leave out some of the schemes and select those of higher priority. Naturally, Sir, many of these schemes could not be accommodated even in the draft plan. Now, Sir, any hon. Member of the House whenever he finds that a particular scheme in which he is interested is dropped, he turns round us and starts abusing the Department and in doing so becomes an expert. He says that this is a worthless Department; this Department has no expert; because such and such portion of the Brahmaputra dyke was left out. That, Sir, is the position. But how can this Department build dykes on both sides of the river Brahmaputra?

It is an inhuman task for the Assam Embankment and Drainage Department with its existing finance and technical staff. So, Sir, as I have said, many of the schemes had to be cut down.

Now, Sir, how schemes were selected? They were selected on the basis of priority. It is admitted that floods were causing difficulties to the people in all areas but the problem of all these areas cannot be taken up all at a time. Some areas have to be selected on priority basis. But when one area is selected on priority basis according to the necessity and some other areas were left out, the hon. Members interested in those left out areas will turn round and criticise the Embankment and Drainage Department. If this process of elimination is not found then there is another way as to how these schemes can be finally selected. If the House so desires the schemes can be selected by votes in this House. But if that is not feasible, then, we must go by the advice of experts. Now, neither the Minister nor the hon. Members of the House are experts. But if we accept the advice of experts by which some schemes have got to be left out, then the hon. Members will become angry and start abusing the Department right from the Minister down to the lowest officer. If, as I have said, the House decides to select the schemes by voting without waiting for expert advice, I, for one would welcome that. But possibly every one of us know, it is not advisable to select technical schemes merely by the majority opinion.

Now, Sir, I find a lot of criticisms were hurled because a particular dyke was constructed without acquisition of land. But I request my Friends to remember the circumstances prevailing at that time. At that time there was an urgent necessity for construction of a dyke and people came forward and requested the Government to start construction of the dyke immediately and to complete it within a short time. That dyke was completed.

Now we remember about money and compensation. So the hon. Members are blaming the then Minister for constructing the dyke without acquiring land for the purpose. But, Sir, as I have already stated, under an emergency this dyke was constructed without acquiring land because there was no time for that. That matter went to the Revenue Court and the Revenue Court was to assess the compensation under the law prevailing then. But the Revenue Deptt. assessed the amount of compensation on the basis of the old law. When that assessment of compensation was put up before the Embankment and Drainage Department, the Department filed objections because the amount was more than what it was justifiable. Now if the Embankment and Drainage Department did not file objections,

it would be criticised that the Department was wasting public money just as the Public Works Department was criticised as a public waste department. One hon. Member asked whether this was a quarrel between one department with another, that is, between the Embankment and Drainage Department and the Revenue Department. That is not so. When the Court, Collector, or the Magistrate passes an order in favour of one department against another department, it is not a quarrel, but it is an inevitable process of law.

Then, Sir, I have been criticised that the Embankment and Drainage Department have favoured the district of Cachar. That amounts to an aspersion because the Minister-in-charge happens to come from that district although I had pointed out that the budget was framed by my predecessor. Now, I will place some figures which will prove that that is not the case. Some people who are selfish in themselves and they want to cover up their own selfishness by throwing the charge of selfishness on others. I shall show by facts and figures, as I have been repeatedly and clearly trying to show that distribution of money was not made on the basis of districts but it was distributed on the necessity of a particular area. In spite of the fact that I have clearly and repeatedly been trying to explain the point raised by my Friend, Shri Mohananda Bora, I find that Shri Durgeswar Saikia is blaming me for neglecting Sibsagar. I am really sorry for this. I can tell my Friend that compared to Sibsagar which got 149 lakhs, the district of Cachar got only 86 lakhs including all what is provided in the present budget. That was no discrimination.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): There was a great earthquake in Upper Assam besides other natural calamities.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, E. & D.): Yes, you are supporting me, because there was an earthquake and other natural calamities that is why Lakhimpur district got 415 lakhs, similarly Sibsagar district got 149 lakhs.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): On a point of clarification, Sir, what about Mangaldai?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I do not know about Mangaldai but I know about Darrang district. If you

speak of Mangaldai only you will be severely criticised by public.

Now, Sir, as I have already stated, Cachar district is not getting more than 86 lakhs. But what I want to impress upon the House is that money is never provided on the basis of a district but on the basis of an overall plan according to necessity.

Sir, as I was saying, when the Ashoka Mehta Committee came to Assam a lot of unnecessary criticisms were made against the Embankment and Drainage Department and an impression was created that people of Assam did not want embankments and drainage schemes because there were drought in the State. Thereafter came the difficulties of finding out money by the Planning Commission to finance the plan. Sir, it is well-known that all over India there was money difficulty. As soon as the Planning Commission reduced the allocation, this Department had to drop many of their schemes for money difficulty. It is not the case with the Embankment and Drainage Department alone. The question of reduction of money by the Government of India was very much less in case of our State compared to many other States in India. The Government of India and the Planning Commission asked us to cut down our budget on account of money difficulty. So, Sir, we were compelled to reduce our budget by about a crore of rupees. Naturally we had to cut down some more schemes from the budget for which we had provided money earlier and in doing so, I can assure the honourable Members of this House, that we virtually accepted the list of the Flood Control Board which finally selected the schemes which were found justifiable after fixing priorities. Not one important scheme selected by them had been left out. As soon as the Government accepted the list of the Flood Control Board some hon. members of this House raised the objection that the Department had dropped this scheme and that scheme. Sir, I do not know if the hon. Members would like to accept the priorities fixed by the Department or they would like to revise it in the House. If they so desire, I am prepared to accept it. Otherwise as I have stated that the Flood Control Board which consists of technical personnel and which is advising the Government in these matter should be given preference and their recommendations should be accepted by the Government.

Next, Sir, my hon. Friend, Shri Ghanashyam Talukdar, has referred to a report of the Central Water-Power, Irrigation and Navigation Commission. I have gone through the report just now. I do not find anything in the report as to whether Manas or Beki river would be trained. Only thing which I

could find is that some rivers in Assam would be investigated for examining the feasibility of taking up such schemes *i.e.*, training of some rivers.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Not only rivers would be included, they should be surveyed?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, E. and D.): Sir, the only thing mentioned is this that provision for such investigation will be made.

Then in the last line of the report at page 65 it is stated—“In March 1950, permission of the Bhutan Government to enter Bhutan territory for the survey of the river Manas, subject to certain conditions—(I repeat—“subject to certain conditions”)—was received, and the position arising out of it, is under active consideration.”

This is the report that when the Bhutan Government gave permission to enter their territory on certain conditions, the Government of India was considering the same. It is not stated that they accepted those conditions. In fact, later on, we were not allowed to enter the Bhutan territory, on our terms suggested.....

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Our Government did enter the Bhutan territory, and afterwards the investigation was taken to Dihang.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: The fact remains that the Assam Government employees were not allowed by the Bhutan Government to enter their territory and as such the investigation could not be made with a view to train these rivers.

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA: দিহাং Survey করা হয়েছিল। কিন্তু বরাকের সম্পর্কে কেন করা হয় নাই?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister): Sir, I shall have to go by the informations contained in the files and records which were placed before me.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: we came to know that as much as Rs.33 lakhs were spent after this investigation, and afterwards investigation was taken to Dihang.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, I am giving these informations from the notes supplied to me by the Department. It is stated therein that the State Government for want of money could not include any river training scheme during the First Year Plan period. The Central Water and

Power Commission has been entrusted with the responsibility of preparing project reports in various rivers in Assam. The State Government have approved a programme of investigation of river training in the State as a whole and that they have selected four rivers *viz.*, Kopili, Barak ; Sabansiri and No-Dihing for preliminary investigation.

Then, Sir. Shri Namasudra wants that out of all these rivers which I have mentioned, the Barak should be taken up leaving out the other rivers. If Government could have acted upon the wishes of a man, no body would have been more happy than I myself if I could have accepted his suggestion as I myself repeatedly spoke on this matter on the floor of this House before I had become a Minister. With regard to Barak I would like to point out that engineering report is against us and they say that there is no dam site available in Barak. Sir, if my Friend thinks this can't be right then my hon. Friend should leave this House and go for engineering studies. Sir, there is practically no way out for the Minister or the Government or the Flood Control Board, after this report.

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]: Sir, is it not a fact that there was a geological investigation by a geologist who examined the sediments of the rocks found in the river bed of Barak and he recommended for due investigation ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, E. and D.): Sir, a detailed investigation was made and contents from the bottom of the rock and the bosom of the river said to have been taken by expert engineers and examined.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): One Engineer's words should not be the last words.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, my request to the hon. Members is this that they should not disparage the engineers and themselves take the role of engineers. (*interruptions*). A lay man should not take the role of an expert.

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA: আমি সেটা করিনি। আমি বলছি যে আজকালকার বৈজ্ঞানিক পদ্ধতির যুগে সেটা সম্ভবপর।

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, we have ordered for a second investigation. The other day I spoke in details about Kopili in this House. I do not want to repeat them here now as the time is short.

Now, coming to the question of embankment, I find a lot of criticisms have been made (*interruptions*). (*A voice*—what about Kopili). Kopili is in the mind of the Department. It has been said that this Department have constructed embankments without providing any sluice gates and culverts. I do not know how many times I should repeat the replies given in this connection. In these matters, Sir, we should depend on the opinion of the engineers. Now the opinion of the engineers in this matter is this that the sluice gates cannot be constructed unless the earth is settled. When the earth is settled they can be constructed. Although, I am not an engineer, my common sense also approves of this view. You cannot provide an opening in a Bund constructed to-day. Most of these Bunds are of sand. Particularly the dykes of Brahmaputra are of sand because no earth is available near about. Therefore, Sir, in case of a new project, as in the case of constructing a new house one is bound to suffer at the beginning. But I can assure the hon. Members that the Government is very much alive about this, and as a matter of fact steps have been taken for providing temporary openings in these Bunds. In fact in Nowgong which is said to have experienced the greatest difficulties in this respect, we have already made openings and we are doing so in other places. The work is in hand.

Now, Sir, my Friend, Shri Mohi Kanta Das, has brought to our notice about certain difficulties with regard to the Jia Bhorali and Ai Bhorali rivers. I assure the hon. Member that we shall investigate about it. Other suggestions of my Friends with regard to other schemes will be taken into consideration. But in these matters our difficulties are on the one hand of the shortage of technical personnels and on the other hand of the money. After all we are doing all these works with loan money which is also limited. The Government of India's capacity is also limited. Here it must be also remembered that before the creation of the Embankment and Drainage Department in our State, our engineers were never called upon to take up works connected with control of rivers or irrigation projects or embankments. They took up a new job and I am glad to say that they did certainly a good job. There must have been one or two occasions where due to inexperience or other difficulties they made mistakes for which some difficulties are being experienced by public but it will be wrong if this Department do not get any words of encouragement from the hon. Members. I am thankful to Sri Mohananda Bora who said some kind words (*interruptions*). I have heard angry words from most of the hon. Members and at the same time I have received demands from them for more schemes. Now if the Department is not doing a good work, why then

the demands for more schemes should come ? I feel that the anger was due more because of particular schemes being dropped than for the alleged failures of the Department. Sir, I quite appreciate the anxiety of the hon. Members for such ill-fated schemes, but as I have said, our resources do not permit us to take up all the schemes, although I feel that many of these are good schemes. I can assure the hon. Members that they will be considered when our financial position will be better.

Shri HARILAL PATWARI: But the hon. Minister has dropped all the schemes of Mangaldoi Subdivision (*laughter*).

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: My hon. Friend has conveniently forgotten about the Chandramal Dutta Bund scheme. The said irrigation project is helping cultivation of a large area of land, yet he finds fault with the Department (*laughter*). Now whenever any project is completed my hon. friends forget about it and says nothing has been done. I assure them that so far as we are concerned there is no lack of sympathy for anybody. As the Agriculture Minister of the State it will be my endeavour to irrigate more lands and to save more and more paddy fields of the agriculturists from being inundated. There cannot be any question of lack of sympathy on my part for the agriculturists. With these words, Sir, I request my friends to kindly withdraw their cut motions.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are the Movers of the Cut Motions going to withdraw their Motions ?

(As the Movers of the Cut Motions did not agree, all the Cut Motions were put together).

The House divided

Ayes—15

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Shri Birendra Kumar Das ... | 9. Shri Md. Matlebuddin ... |
| 2. Shri Bishwanath Upadhyaya ... | 10. Shri Nilmoney Barthakur ... |
| 3. Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya | 11. Shri Pakhirai Deka ... |
| 4. Shri Ghanashyam Talukdar ... | 12. Shri Prabhat Narayan Choudhury. |
| 5. Shri Gopesh Namasudra ... | 13. Kumar Prokritish Chandra Barua. |
| 6. Shri Hareswar Goswami ... | 14. Dr. Sri Hari Das ... |
| 7. Shri Hiralal Patwari ... | 15. Shri Tarun Sen Deka ... |
| 8. Shri Khagendra Nath Barbaruah | |

Noes—61

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Shri Bimala Prasad Chaliha .. | 31. Mrs. Jyotsna Chanda .. |
| 2. Shri Siddhi Nath Sarma ... | 32. Shri Kanala Prasad Agarwala ... |
| 3. Shri Rupnath Brahma ... | 33. Shri Karka Chandra Doley ... |
| 4. Shri Debeswar Sarmah .. | 34. Shri Khogendra Nath Nath ... |
| 5. Shri Hareswar Das ... | 35. Shrimati Komol Kumari Barua ... |
| 6. M. Moinul Haque Choudhury | 36. Shri Lalit Kumar Doley .. |
| 7. Shri Chatrasing Teron ... | 37. Pu Lalmawia ... |
| 8. Shri Mohi Kanta Das ... | 38. Shri Lalsingh Khyriem ... |
| 9. Shri Girindra Nath Gogoi .. | 39. Shri Lilakanta Borah ... |
| 10. Mrs. Usha Barthakur ... | 40. Shri Mahadev Das ... |
| 11. Dr. Ghanashyam Das ... | 41. Maulavi Mohammad Idris ... |
| 12. Shri Mahendra Nath Hazarika | 42. Shri Manik Chandra Das ... |
| 13. Shri Indreswar Khaund ... | 43. Shri Mohananda Bora .. |
| 14. Mr. A. Thanglura .. | 44. Shri Mohidhar Pegoo ... |
| 15. Shri Abdul Hamid Choudhury | 45. Shri Molia Tati ... |
| 16. Maulavi Abdul Matlib Mazumdar. | 46. Shri Narendra Nath Sarma ... |
| 17. Shri Baikuntla Nath Das ... | 47. Maulavi Nurul Islam ... |
| 18. Shri Bishnulal Upadhyaya ... | 48. Shri Omeo Kumar Das ... |
| 19. Shri Biswadev Sarma ... | 49. Shrimati Padma Kumari Gohain |
| 20. Shri Dandeswar Hazarika .. | 50. Shri Radha Charan Choudhury.. |
| 21. Shri Dandi Ram Dutta .. | 51. Shri Radha Krishna Khemka ... |
| 22. Shri Devedra Nath Hazarika | 52. Shri Radhik Ram Das ... |
| 23. Shri Dhirsing Deuri ... | 53. Maulavi Rohimuddin Ahmed ... |
| 24. Shri Durgeswar Saikia .. | 54. Shri Ram Nath Sarma ... |
| 25. Shri Dwijish Chandra Dev Sarma. | 55. Shri Sai Sai Terang ... |
| 26. Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed | 56. Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami ... |
| 27. Shri Gourisankar Roy .. | 57. Shri Surendra Nath Das ... |
| 28. Shri Hakim Chandra Rava ... | 58. Shri Tajammal Ali Barlaskar ... |
| 29. Shri Hamdhon Mohan Haplangbar. | 59. Shri Tamizuddin Prodhani ... |
| 30. Shri Joga Kanta Barua ... | 60. Shri Tankeswar Chetia ... |
| | 61. Capt. Williamson A. Sangma .. |

(The Cut Motions were negative).

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The cut motions are lost. Now the question is that a sum of Rs. 2,56,58,700 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 "18 B and 68—B—N. E. D. works"

(The question was adopted)

GRANT No. 45

" 63.—Extra ordinary charges "

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) : On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg Sir, to move that a sum of Rs. 2,000 (Rupees two thousand only) 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 "63.—Extraordinary Charges".

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is that a sum of Rs. 2,000 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 "63.—Extraordinary charges."

(The question was adopted)

GRANT No. 1

4.—Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax"

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance) : On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs. 1,20,300 (Rupees One lakh, twenty thousand and three 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 head—"4.—Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax."

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is that a sum of Rs. 1,20,300 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 "4—Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax".

(The question was adopted).

GRANT No 4

"9—Stamps"

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Stamps): On the recommendation of Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs. 1,27,600 (Rupees one lakh twenty-seven thousand and six 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 "9.—Stamps."

(The motion was put as a question from the Chair and was carried).

GRANT No. 6

"11—Registration."

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Registration) : On the recommendation Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs. 3,15,300 (Rupees three lakhs, fifteen thousand and three 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—"11.—Registration".

(The motion was put as a question from the Chair and was carried).

GRANT 58

"82—B—Capital outlay on Road and Water Transport—Schemes outside the Revenue Account—Road Transport"

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Transport): On the recommendation of Governor of Assam I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs. 35, 79,000 (Rupees thirty-five lakhs, and seventy-nine 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—"82-B.—Capital Outlay on Road and Water Transport—Schemes Outside the Revenue Account—Road Transport."

(The motion was put as a question from the Chair and was carried)

GRANT No. 12

"27—Administration of Justice"

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Judicial): On the recommendation of Governor of Assam I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs.18,79,900 (Rupees eighteen lakhs, seventy-nine thousand and nine-hundred), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during year ending 31st March, 1959, for the administration of the head "27—Administration of Justice."

(The motion was put as a question from the Chair and was carried).

GRANT No. 13

"28—Jails and Convicts Settlements"

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Jails): On the recommendation of Governor of Assam I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs.23,25,800 (Rupees twenty-three laks, twenty-five 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 administration of the head "28.—Jails and Convicts Settlements."

(The motion was put as a question from the Chair and was carried).

GRANT No. 15

"30—Ports and Pilotage"

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Transport): On the recommendation of Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs.2,00,000 (Rupees two lakhs) 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 "30.—Ports and Pilotage."

(The motion was put as a question from the Chair and was carried).

GRANT No. 16

"36.—Scientific Departments"

Shir KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education): On the recommendation of Governor of Assam

I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs.36,300 (Rupees thirty-six thousand and three 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 "36—Scientific Departments."

(The motion was put as a question from the Chair and was carried.)

GRANT No.33

"54—Famine Relief"

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): On the recommendation of Governor of Assam I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs.35,92,000 (Rupees thirty-five lakhs, and ninety-two 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—"54—Famine Relief."

(The motion was put as a question from the Chair and was carried.)

GRANT No. 34

"Superannuation Allowances and Pensions, etc"

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance): On the recommendation of Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs.42,50,800 (Rupees forty-two lakhs, fifty 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—"Superannuation Allowances and Pensions."

(The motion was put as a question from the Chair and was carried.)

GRANT No. 35

"56.—Stationery and Printing

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Printing and Stationery): On the recommendation of Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs.20,28,400 (Rupees twenty lakhs, twenty-eight 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—"56.—Stationery and Printing".

(The motion was put as a question from the Chair and was carried).

GRANT No. 36

„57.—Miscellaneous [I.—Expenditure on Account of State Prisoners and Detenus etc.]”

Shri BIMLA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): On the recommendation of Governor of Assam I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs.20,34,000 (Rupees twenty lakhs, and thirty-four 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—"57.—Miscellaneous—[I.—Expenditure on Account of State Prisoners and Detenus, etc.]”.

(The motion was put as a question from the Chair and was carried).

GRANT No. 37

“57.—Miscellaneous—[II.—Donation for charitable purposes, etc.]”

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance): On the recommendation of Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs.15,85,600 (Rupees fifteen lakhs, eighty-five thousand and six 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 head “57.—Miscellaneous—[II.—Donation for charitable purposes, etc.]”.

(The motion was put as a question from the Chair and was carried).

GRANT No. 38

“57.—Miscellaneous—[III.—Contributions]”

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Local-Self Government): On the recommendation of Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs.8,36,300 (Rupees eight lakhs, thirty-six thousand and three

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 administration of the head "57.—Miscellaneous—[III.—Contributions]".

(The motion was put as a question from the Chair and was carried).

GRANT No. 39

"57.—Miscellaneous—[IV.—Expenditure on issue of Free Ration and Rice Concession, etc.]."

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply): On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs.16,87,200 (Rupees sixteen lakhs eighty-seven thousand and two 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 "57.—Miscellaneous—[IV.—Expenditure on issue of Free Ration and Rice Concession, etc.]".

(The motion was put as a question from the Chair and was carried).

GRANT No. 40

"57.—Miscellaneous[V.—Pooled Transport and Contribution, etc.]".

Capt. WILLIAM SON A. SANGMA (Minister, Transport): On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs.1,56,1,00 (Rupees one lakh, fifty-six thousand and one 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 "57.—Miscellaneous—[V.—Pooled Transport and Contribution, etc.]".

(The motion was put as a question from the Chair and was carried).

GRANT No. 41

"57.—Miscellaneous [VI.—Expenditure on Displaced Persons]".

Shir BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs. 42,14,500 (Rupees forty-two lakhs

fourteen thousand and five 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 "57.—Miscellaneous—[VI.—Expenditure on Displaced Persons]."

(The motion was put as a question from the Chair and was carried).

GRANT No. 42

"57.—Miscellaneous—[VII.—Advanced Technical Training and Scholarships, etc.]"

Shri KAN'AKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education) : On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs. 7,900 (Rupees seven 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 administration of the head "57.—Miscellaneous—[VII.—Advanced Technical Training and Scholarships, etc.]".

(The motion was put as a question from the Chair and was carried).

GRANT No. 43

"57.—Miscellaneous—[VIII.—Scheme of Control of Cloth and Yarn]"

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Textile) : On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs. 1,12,600 (Rupees one lakh twelve thousand and six 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 "57.—Miscellaneous—[VIII.—Scheme of Control of Cloth and Yarn]".

(The Motion was put as a question from the Chair and was carried).

GRANT No.48**“64-C.—Pre-partition Payments”**

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance): On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs.17,000 (Rupees Seventeen 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 “64-C.—Pre-partition Payments”.

(The motion was put as a question from the Chair and was carried.)

GRANT No.59**“85-A.—Capital Outlay on the State Schemes of Government Trading”**

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOWDHURY (Minister, Supply): On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs.3,24,12,500 (Rupees three crores, twenty-four lakhs, twelve thousand and five 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 “85-A.—Capital Outlay on the State Scheme of Government Trading.”

(The motion was put as a question from the chair and was carried.)

GRANT No. 60**“Loans and Advances”**

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance): On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs.3,28,11,300 (Rupees three crores, twenty-eight lakhs, eleven thousand and three 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 “Loans and advances, etc.”

(The motion was put as a question from the Chair and was carried.)

The Assam Appropriation (No. III) Bill, 1958.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, the Assam Appropriation Bill (No. III) of 1958. I read the message from Governor.

“The 29th April, 1958

Under the provision of Article 207(1) of the Constitution of India, I, Saiyid Fazl Ali, Governor of Assam, recommend the introduction in the Assam Legislative Assembly of the Assam Appropriation (No.111) Bill, 1958.

S. FAZL ALI,
Governor of Assam”

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg leave of the House to introduce the Assam Appropriation (No.111) Bill, 1958.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Is it the pleasure of the House to introduce the Assam Appropriation (No.111) Bill, 1958.

(Voices ! Yes, Sir.)

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance): Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Appropriation (No. 111) Bill, 1958.

(The Secretary then read the title of the Bill)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Here is and these message from the Governor of Assam.

“The 29th April 1958

Under the provision of Article 207 (3) of the Constitution of India, I, Saiyid Fazl Ali, Governor of Assam, recommend that the Assam Appropriation (No. III) Bill, 1958 be taken into consideration by the Assam Legislative Assembly.

S. FAZL ALI,
Governor of Assam.”

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Appropriation Bill (No. 111), 1958 be taken into consideration.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The motion moved is that the Assam Appropriation (No. 111) Bill, 1958 be taken into consideration.

(The Motion was put and adopted)

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Appropriation (No.111) Bill, 1958 be passed.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The motion motion is that the Assam Appropriation Bill (No.111) 1958 be passed.

(The Motion was put in the form of a question from the Chair and was adopted.)

Let us now go to Half an hour Discussion.

Half-an-hour discussion on Unstarred Question No.374 asked by Shrimati Lily Sengupta on 27th March, 1958 regarding shifting of the old High School of Dibrugarh

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to raise the half-an-hour discussion on a subject of public importance.

Sir, I fear that I may be charged without judging the merit of the question as the Minister-in-charge charged me yesterday as having complexity. I welcome the charge or any condemnation on me simply at the same time I request the Minister-in-charge not to give me scope to make counter charge that he has been suffering from complexity on such subjects.

Sir, the Dibrugarh Government High School was eroded in 1954 and so it had to be shifted to the maternity ward of the Medical Department. Since 1954 that institution has been running in that congested building. The Minister-in-charge was pleased to confirm in reply to a question that the accommodation there was not sufficient for the school. He was also pleased to confirm that the classes were being held regularly in a shift arrangement. A school which was eroded in 1954 has not yet been reconstructed and the classes are being held in makeshift arrangement where there is no sufficient accommodation. However, the Minister concerned was pleased to reply that action was being taken to reconstruct the building. It has been said by him that there is an alternative proposal to locate the institution at a particular site. I could not understand what is that

alternative proposal and why the work in this direction has not been started during the last financial year. The only minor repair work in the improvement of the present temporary building is not enough. Even in that particular building, Sir, the position is not such that any improvement work will make suitable for an educational institution like that. There is no meeting hall in that building and the teachers find it very difficult to impart moral lessons to the students. According to the curriculum of the Education Department occasional meetings for moral lessons should be held collectively for both higher and lower classes separately or for senior and junior students. That facility has not been afforded by allowing this school to be run in a small building.

Sir, for the lack of such a facility the students of that area may become indisciplined in course of time. So, I think we cannot absolve of such a responsibility. Another point is that the District Judge's Court and the office of the District School Board are held in the same premises. Although the office of the School Board does not affect the moral of the students, I fear the occasional proceedings of the District Judge's Court will certainly affect adversely the moral of the youngsters. The students being naturally inquisitive, they go to the Judge's Court during recess or recreation hour and listen to the proceedings of the Court with keen interest. Sir, as is known to the hon. Members, in the Judge's Court often rape, abduction and other heinous crimes are tried and so nobody wants that our students should listen to such proceedings or trials. Nowhere in the State perhaps such disadvantages are prevailing.

Regarding selection of a site for the school building although it has been mentioned here that an alternative site is being selected at Jalan-nagar, we could not see any tangible progress. In 1955 of course we saw one sign-board in that area at Jalan-nagar as being a site for the Jalan Government High School. Our people wanted that there should not be "Jalan Government" at Dibrugarh by establishing a "Jalan Government High School". But the people wanted that the School should be named as "Assam Government High School". Of course it may be argued that mere name does not matter much. But the people there, whether they are right or wrong, did not favour this idea and accordingly they made a complaint. Perhaps in response to that complaint the sign-board disappeared from

there and since then no tangible progress has been made for constructing the school building. I do not like to make a long speech, but I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to the need for the reconstruction of the Dibrugarh Government High School. An argument may come forward that the Government is determined to do something in this direction but financial condition do not allow. But if we look into the comparative statement of grants of the school in different sub-divisions perhaps that argument will not be strong, because I do know that most of the Government High Schools in other places have been favoured with grants for improvement of their school buildings. But no adequate fund has been provided for the high school of my subdivision. If the grants to other High Schools are considered in proportion to the number of population of the subdivision and grants and number of population in other subdivisions then it will be found to be very discouraging. In these days of democracy we have every right to make such comparison.

With these words, Sir, I request the Minister-in-charge of Education to speed up the action for the reconstruction of the Dibrugarh Government High Schools as early as possible.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the history shows that the original building of this school was washed away by the river Brahmaputra. After it was eroded, it was the duty of the State Government to rebuild it. When it was being considered, Mr. Jalan came forward with a promise of donation to rebuild the school provided it was named after him. He also promised to give the required land for this purpose. Afterwards an agitation cropped up in Dibrugarh and as a result that proposal of Mr. Jalan did not advance further. Now the position is that the Government have come forward to undertake to rebuild the school. But so far as the site is concerned no final decision has been taken as yet. There are two opinions in this respect. One opinion is that it should not be built where it is at present housed, because it is too near the river and there might be chance of this being eroded again.

The other opinion is that the present site is the most suitable site and building should take place there. The technical advice is "let us wait a little and see if the spurs succeed completely and the situation stabilises". If it stabilises and if the spurs succeed in checking erosion completely,

then I agree, Sir, that the present site would be a very valuable site, being centrally situated, but if the position is otherwise, we may have to search for other land. It is this which is holding up the construction. I had a talk with the Headmaster when I went to Dibrugarh last and he was of the opinion that the present site should be selected and we should not try to shift the school to some other place. In view of the technical opinion it would be wise for us to wait a little before taking the crucial decision of building the school in the same place. If we could have come to the conclusion that we should build it in some other place, we could have gone forward. So, Sir, it is not the lack of desire on the part of the Government to rebuild but it is the pros and cons, which are weighing in our minds on the basis of technical advice that is holding up the matter. I assure the House that as soon as we are able to decide this matter of location, in consultation with the Deputy Commissioner and the school authorities, we would undertake rebuilding of the institution. We will try to come to a conclusion as early as possible within this year.

So far as the offer of Jalan is concerned, naturally we are requesting that party to divert his offer to some other purpose, educational if possible, or otherwise. We hope that offer would not lapse but would be available in another form for the development of the subdivision. Thank you, Sir.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A. M. on Wednesday, the 30th April, 1958.

Shillong,
The 13th November, 1959.

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

