



**Proceedings of the Fourth 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 Thursday, the 28th August, 1958.

**PRESENT**

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

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**STARRED QUESTIONS**

(To which oral answers were given)

**Formation of a Subdivision at Nalbari**

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) asked :**

- \*15. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—
- Whether Government have come to any decision regarding formation of a Subdivision at Nalbari ?
  - If the reply to (a) above is in the negative, whether Government are aware of the widespread public opinion in favour of formation of such a Subdivision ?

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

15. (a)—No, but it is under active consideration.  
(b)—Yes.



# **Bordowa-Balikatia Road in the District of Nowgong**

**Maulavi NURUL ISLAM (Dhing)** asked :

\*16. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings Wing) be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Bordowa-Balikatia road in the District of Nowgong has been completed ?

(b) If not, why not ?

(c) Whether Government propose to complete the work within this year ?

(d) What is the distance of the road and how far the road has been constructed ?

**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI (Deputy Minister, Public Works Department)** replied :

16. (a)—Yes. The portion of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Bordowa and taken over for improvement has been completed.

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

(c) & (d)—The total length of the road is 4 miles out of which  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Bordowa end have been improved as per sanctioned estimate and completed.

The question of taking up of the remaining length of the road will be put up before the next Assam Roads Communication Board meeting for their consideration and action will be taken on its decision.

**Maulavi NURUL ISLAM:** May I know, Sir, when the work of this road was begun ?

**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI:** I would supply the answer later if the hon. Member insists on it.

**Maulavi NURUL ISLAM:** Why work for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles only has been taken up ?

**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI:** Out of the total distance of 4 miles the Government gave sanction for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles only.

## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

## Cattle loan in Goalpara District

**Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj)**  
asked :

28. Will the Minister-in-charge of Agriculture, etc., be pleased to state—

(a) The amount Government spent as cattle loan in Goalpara district during the last three years (figures to be given year by year) ?

(b) What is the rate of cattle mortality during the last three years in the said district ?

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

28.(a)—The amount of cattle loan sanctioned during last 3 years in Goalpara district is noted below :—

			Rs.
1955-56	...	...	25,000
1956-57	...	...	2,32,000
1957-58	...	...	2,10,500

(b)—Collection of vital statistics for livestock is not done in this State. The department however, collects mortality figure from epidemic diseases and the figures of death due to epidemic diseases are as follows:

1955-56	...	...	No epidemic reported.
1956-57	...	...	970
1957-58	...	...	4,358



**Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj):** Is it not a fact, Sir, that the figure of cattle mortality has also been collected by the Rural Panchayat and the figure so collected by the Panchayat is much higher than the figure supplied by the Department.

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture):** That is not a fact, Sir.

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon):** May I know, Sir, what amount of cattle loan has so far been granted by the Government?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** Up to April last it was 9 lakhs.

### **Marboats running in the Beki Public Works Department Ghat**

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog)** asked :

29. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (R. & B. Wing) be pleased to state—

(a) What is the breadth of the Beki Public Works Department Ghat at the present time?

(b) How many marboats have been provided by the Government for that Ghat?

(c) Whether they have engines?

(d) Whether it is a fact that the Chief Engineer visited this Ghat in 1957 during the rainy season?

(e) Whether it is a fact that he promised to provide diesel engines to two marboats having capacity of 15 tons in front of the Member of Legislative Assembly of Sorbhog?

(f) If so, whether he has kept his words?

(g) When the 15 tons marboats with diesel engines will be provided?



- (h) Whether Government is aware that the trucks are required to be unloaded and reloaded as the present marboats are very small ?
- (i) Whether Government propose to remove the difficulties of the people in this respect ?
- (j) Whether it is a fact that the people are to wait for two to three hours to go to the other side of the river ?
- (k) Whether Government will remove these difficulties ?
- (l) If so, when ?

**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI (Deputy Minister, Public Works Department)** replied:

29. (a)—The breadth of the Beki Public Works Department ferry ghat at present is about six furlongs. It may be less in winter.

(b)—Two engined marboats have been provided by Government in the Ghat.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Yes.

(e) & (f)—There is no record in office to this effect. The Chief Engineer is on leave.

(g)—There is no such proposal.

(h)—Yes. Unloading of trucks is made not due to the fact that the marboat is small, but to avoid accident.

(i)—Does not arise.

(j)—There are no complaints received from any quarter in this regard. This is always looked into when any complaint is received.

(k) & (l)—Do not arise.

**\*Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East):** Sir, regarding (e) and (f), the answer given is "There is no record in office to this effect. The Chief Engineer is on leave." May I know whether the Chief Engineer takes the record with him also ?



**\*Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P.W.D.):** During the tour he does not make any such record.

**\*Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog):** Sir, does he not submit his diary ?

**\*Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH:** He submits his diary, but there is no record of any conversation during his tour.

**\*Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR:** What about the promise he made ?

**\*Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH:** A promise is not admitted.

**\*Shri RAMNATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]:** With regard to (h), Sir, will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether it is the general policy to unload the trucks while crossing in marboats to avoid accidents?

**\*Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH:** It is not a general policy, but whenever it is found that unloading of trucks is necessary for the safety of all concerned in a particular ferry or occasion then it is done.

**\*Shri RAMNATH DAS:** In this particular case unloading is done only to avoid accident. May I know whether or not this is done in every ferry ?

**\*Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH:** Whenever occasions demand it is done so.

### **National Malaria Eradication Scheme**

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East)** asked:

30. Will the Minister of Medical be pleased to state—

(a) When the National Malaria Control Scheme in Assam is to be switched over to National Malaria Eradication Scheme as decided by the Government of India ?

(b) Why Malaria Eradication Scheme was not executed this year in Assam in spite of the decision of the Government of India to have it done in 1958 ?

(c) Why Assam could not come into line with other States of India in the above respect?

(d) When Assam will be able to implement Malaria Eradication Scheme fully?

**Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical)** replied :

30. (a)—Already switched over.

(b)—The Malaria Eradication Programme has been in operation in this State since 1st April, 1958.

(c)—As far as we are aware the progress of work in this State fares well in comparison with other States.

(d)—Does not arise.

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East):** Sir, what is the difference between the National Malaria Control Scheme and the Eradication Scheme?

**Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA :** The National Malaria Control scheme is meant for controlling malaria whereas Eradication Scheme is meant for eradicating malaria. Under, the Control Scheme we cannot cover all the areas of the State but under the Eradication Scheme we cover all the areas of the State—both in the hills and plains.

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):** In the Eradication Scheme the object is to spray intensive D.D.T. so that the mosquitoes are killed before they become D.D.T. resistant.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):** Is it not a fact that the Malaria Control centres are not equitably distributed all over the State?

**Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA :** There are such centres in almost all the districts, but the work is done according to the advice of the experts.

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY:** Is it a fact that the additional staff required for the Eradication Scheme has not been sanctioned?



**Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical):** We are having the additional staff.

**Public Works Department Inspection Bungalow at Sorbhog**

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog)** asked:

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

(a) Whether there is any Public Works Department Inspection Bungalow at Sorbhog ?

(b) If not, why not ?

(c) Whether the Medical Minister and the Finance Minister have visited the Sorbhog Public Works Department Rest House ?

(d) If so, what remarks were made by them in the book of the Rest House ?

(e) Whether a Public Works Department Bungalow will be constructed immediately at Sorbhog ?

(f) If so, when ?

(g) Whether Government feel the necessity of a Public Works Department Inspection Bungalow at Sorbhog ?

**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI (Deputy Minister P. W. D.)** replied:

31. (a)—No.

(b)—There is a P.W.D. Inspection Bungalow at Roha, at a distance of 4 miles from Sorbhog and one Rest house at Sorbhog has already been constructed. So, construction of another Inspection Bungalow at Sorbhog is not considered necessary.

(c)—Yes.



(d)—The remarks made recently by the Medical Minister, Shri R. N. Brahma, are—"The house is too small. There should be regular Inspection Bungalow here with sanitary fittings" and the remarks made by Finance Minister Shri F. A. Ahmed, are—"Officers also complain of scanty accommodation. This should be taken for increasing the accommodation".

(e) & (f)—There is no such proposal to construct an Inspection Bungalow at Sorbhog immediately, as this is not included either under the 2nd Plan programme or under any other approved schemes. But, the matter will be examined and steps will be taken to upgrade the Rest house at Sorbhog to the standard of an Inspection Bungalow if fund becomes available for the purpose.

(g)—Seems so, in view of (d) above.

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR ( Sorbhog ) :**  
Regarding (e) and (f), Sir, will this be implemented ?

**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI (Deputy Minister, P.W.D.):** This will be implemented when fund becomes available.

**Instructors to Students at the Industrial Training  
Institute, Srikona, Cachar**

**Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West)** asked:

32. Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that under-qualified Instructors who are incapable of imparting instruction in two trades to students at the Industrial Training Institute, Srikona, Cachar, were appointed without due approval from the Public Service Commission, or without proper Notification inviting applications ?

(b) Whether Government are aware that there is considerable indignation in Cachar for this, particularly because of the fact that one of the Instructors is not even a Matriculate while students are all Matriculate ?



**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS** (Deputy Minister, Education) replied:

32.(a)—No. Certain appointments had to be made under Regulation 3(e) of Assam Public Service Commission regulations on account of urgency as recruitment through Assam Public Service Commission takes a considerable period. The candidates however possess requisite technical qualifications. Government are not aware that some of them are not able to impart instructions. Assam Public Service Commission have however advertised the post and their recommendation is being awaited.

(b)—No. Minimum qualification for the post is a certificate from any Technical Institute. A certificate holder may be a Matriculate or a non-Matriculate.

**Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA** (Silchar-West): Are Government aware that the Instructors who were appointed to impart instruction in two trades to students in this institute at Srikona are not qualified and as such are not able to instruct the students well?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS**: There are two sets of students with two different opinions: one set of students say that the Instructors are imparting instructions quite well while the other set of students say that it is not so. So, an enquiry is being made.

**Mr. SPEAKER**: What is the result?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS**: The result is awaited.

**Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA**: Are Government aware that these Instructors who are imparting instruction to students of Srikona Technical School are said to be certificate holders? Are Government aware that these certificate holders have not got sufficient qualification for imparting instructions to the students of this Institute?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS**: The minimum academical qualification is non-matriculation having a certificate from some technical school. And all these Instructors have got that qualification.



**Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West)** : Are Government aware that the Instructors who passed from the Arunachal Technical School are much less qualified than the students who got instruction in the Srikona Technical School ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Education)** : It may be.

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Education)** : The hon. Member's contentions are substantially correct because there is great shortage of technical personnel and it is the intention of the Government to make the teaching staff more efficient than what it is.

**Pending bill of Shri Bidya Dhar Barua, a former Government Pleader of Nowgong**

**Maulavi NURUL ISLAM (DHING)** asked :

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

(a) Whether it is a fact that Shri Bidya Dhar Barua, a former Government Pleader of Nowgong, has been engaged as a Pleader by Government for representing Government in the arbitration proceedings of the Nowgong Electric Supply Corporation Ltd. and conducting Miscellaneous Case No. 21 of 1956 in the court of Sub-Judge, Nowgong ?

(b) If so, why his bill to the extent of Rs. 3,000 (three thousands) which Sj. B. Barua submitted has not been paid so long in spite of reminders ?

(c) When Government propose to pay his bill ?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Electricity)** replied :

33. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The matter was under examination and hence it could not be paid earlier.

(c)—Steps are being taken for early payment of the fee found due.



**\*Maulavi NURUL ISLAM (Dhing):** In which month of the year he was engaged?

**\*Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Electricity):** That is difficult for me to say off-hand.

**\*Maulavi NURUL ISLAM:** Why so long steps were not taken for payment of the fees?

**\*Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI:** There is conflict of views with regard to the bill. The bill is for Rs.3,000 and our Department after scrutinizing the bill came to the conclusion that only Rs.1,550 are due to him.

**\*Maulavi NURUL ISLAM** In what time it would be settled?

**\*Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI:** When the dispute is of financial type it may take a little more time.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The matter is under examination.

**Diversion of the North Trunk Road from Bhalukadoba to Barpeta Road along the Railway line via Sorbhog**

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog)** asked:

34. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (R. and B. Wing) be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the North Trunk Road will be diverted from Bhalukadoba to Barpeta Road along the railway line *via* Sorbhog?

(b) If so, when this portion of the road will be constructed?

(c) Whether Government consider the necessity of constructing this road immediately?

(d) What will be the length of this road?

**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, (R. and B. Wing)]** replied:

34. (a)—No. There is no such proposal at present.



(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—The matter may be examined, if funds for new road projects become available, and if the proposal is accepted by the Assam Roads Communication Board.

(d)—The length from Bhalukadoba to Barpeta Road, by the Railway line, will be about 8 (eight) miles.

**\*Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog):** When the next meeting of the Roads Communication Board will be held?

**\*Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI (Deputy Minister, P. W. D.):** That depends upon availability of funds.

**\*Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY (Nalbari-East):** Will there be any meeting of the Roads Communication board during the life time of this Assembly?

**\*Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P.W.D.):** This point naturally indicates the minds of several hon. Members. So, Sir, we are having a discussion soon and we will try and see how we can render some services during the life time of this Assembly, because the hon. Members do want, and it is really so, that some works are done during their tenure of office.

**\*Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon):** In reply to (c) it has been said that the matter may be examined if funds become available. Whether there is any possibility of having the funds in the near future?

**\*Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH:** We are living in hopes.

**Distance between the Brahmaputra and the Rongagora Road between Maijan and Nagaghoolie in Dibrugarh Subdivision**

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa)** asked :

35. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (R. and B. Wing) be pleased to state—

(a) The minimum distance between the Brahmaputra and the Rongagora road between Maijan and Nagaghoolie in Dibrugarh Subdivision?



- (b) Whether Government have any proposal to keep up the communication of that portion of the road in tact by constructing an alternative road due to its possible erosion by the Brahmaputra ?

**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI (Deputy Minister, P. W. D.)** replied :

35. (a)—The minimum distance between the Brahmaputra and Rongagora Road is—

(i) At Maijan—The river has already reached the toe of the road embankment where there is a pucca bridge on the road retained with a wing wall. At present the portion is reported to be silted up due to change in the course of the river. Protection work has been taken up by the Embankment and Drainage Department on the upstream side of the bridge.

(ii) at Nagaghoolie—distance is only 120 ft.

(b)—Yes.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):** When can we expect commencement of construction of this alternative road ?

**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI (Deputy Minister, P. W. D.):** Next winter.

**Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lohowal):** মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, বঙ্গগড়া আলীটো প্রতিবন্ধ্য কৰিব নোৱাৰিলে সেই অঞ্চলৰ ৰাইজৰ কিমান ক্ষতি হ'ব চৰকাৰে অনুমান কৰিব পাৰিছেনে ?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH, (Minister, P. W. D.):** হয়, পাৰিছে।

*(Loud laughter)*

### Payment of Compensatory Grants to the Local Bodies in the State

**Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golokganj)** asked :

36. Will the Minister-in-charge of Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that all Local Bodies in the State have not yet been paid the full amount of compensatory grants payable in the year 1957-58 on the actual receipts of the year 1956-57 credited to the State Revenue ?



(b) Whether it is a fact that Local Bodies have repeatedly brought this matter of unusual delay in payment of compensatory grants to the notice of the Government ?

(c) Whether Government are aware that this has put the administrative authority of the Board into extreme financial difficulties ?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance)**  
replied :

36. (a)—All Local Bodies (Board) in the State except the Local Board under Dhubri Subdivision have been paid in full the compensatory grants due for 1957-58 in lieu of actual receipts credited to State Revenue during 1956-57.

(b)—No. There is no unusual delay in payment of compensatory grant on the part of Government except in case of Local Board under Dhubri Subdivision. The delay in respect of Local Board under Dhubri Subdivision is due to non-submission of the verified statement of actual receipts credited during 1956-57 by the Deputy Commissioner, Goalpara.

(c)—Except the Dhubri Local Board, no Board can assign their financial difficulties to non-receipt of compensatory grant in 1957-58. In the case of Dhubri Local Board also the Government realising its financial difficulty gave Rs.83,000 as advance payment of grant during 1957-58 pending receipt of the verified statement of actual receipts credited to the State Revenue during 1956-57 from the Deputy Commissioner, Goalpara.

**Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj) :**  
Is it not a fact that Government have failed to get the statement from the Deputy Commissioner, Goalpara as yet ?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED :** In the case of Dhubri Local Board difficulty is really this. The Zamindaries were acquired by Government and the Managers, who have been put in charge, are not able to supply the statement. For this reason the Deputy Commissioner, in spite of his repeated efforts, has failed to get information for sending the returns of local rates which have been realized during the previous year, on the basis of which above compensation is granted.



**Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj):** Is it a fact that with the abolition of Zamindaries the amount of local rates did not vary?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance):** The amount varies as a portion has to go to the Panchayats and a portion has to go to the Local Board. We do not know definitely what was the amount of local rates realised during the year 1956-57.

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY (Nalbari-East):** Is the Minister aware that some Panchayats, for example, the Bahjani Panchayat under Nalbari Police Station and Domkasoka under Sorbhog Police Station did not get any grant from local rates.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** It is specifically a question about Dhubri.

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** So far as grants for 1957-58 are concerned my information is that all Panchayats have been paid. But as my hon. Friend has mentioned about two specific cases, namely Bahjani and Domkasoka Panchayats, I will enquire about this.

*Ad-hoc advance of compensatory grant paid to  
Dhubri Local Board*

**Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI** asked:

37. Will the Minister-in-charge of Finance be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Dhubri Local Board has been paid only Rs. 83,000 as *ad-hoc* advance of compensatory grant during the year 1957-58 against the estimated amount of Rs. 2,21,465 for the year 1956-57?

(b) If so, what are the circumstances under which the said Board has not been paid the full amount of compensatory grant for the year?

(c) Whether Government propose to sanction another *ad-hoc* advance to the Dhubri Local Board for which the Board is repeatedly praying just to enable the Board to run the administration till the verified stamps of receipt under "Local rate", etc., credited to State Revenue during the year 1957-58 are received from the Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara?



**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance)**

replied :

37. (a)—It is a fact that Dhubri Local Board has been paid only Rs. 83,000 as *ad-hoc* advance of compensatory grant during the year 1957-58 to tide over its financial difficulty pending the receipt of the verified statements of actual receipts credited to State Revenue during 1956-57 from the Deputy Commissioner, Goalpara. As amount of actual receipt can only be ascertained from the verified statements submitted by the Deputy Commissioner, it is not possible to accept the figure of estimated amount for the year 1956-57 given in the question. But from the figures available of previous year it is doubtful if the figure in the question is correct.

(b)—Compensatory grants are sanctioned on the basis of figures of actual receipts shown in the statements submitted by the Deputy Commissioner and Subdivisional Officers. The full amount of compensatory grants payable to Dhubri Local Board during 1957-58 is yet to be known as the verified statement in question has not yet been received from the Deputy Commissioner concerned. However, the amount for final grant due to the Board, could not be sanctioned during 1957-58 for non-receipt of the said statement within the stipulated time in spite of repeated reminders.

(c)—An amount of Rs. 30,000 has already been sanctioned to Dhubri Local Board during the current year as advance payment, in the early part of this month, in lieu of Local rates credited during 1957-58.

**Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj) :**

Is it not a fact that the amount is too meagre to run the bare administration of the Board, not to speak of payment of the obligatory dues.

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED :** This amount has been given as an *ad-hoc* grant to the Dhubri Local Board as has been giving to all the Local Boards this year. I have the other day passed orders for giving another instalment of such grants to the Local Boards and naturally the Dhubri Local Board will also get something.

**Principal of Rupshi Destitute Home**

**Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta)** asked :

38. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Who is the Principal of Rupshi Destitute Home and what is his academic qualification ?



(b) Whether any academic qualification is necessary for the purpose ?

(c) If so, upto what standard ?

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

38. (a)—There is no post of Principal for the Home. Shrimati Amala Chaudhury is the Superintendent of Rupshi Asram (Home). She passed M. V. Examination and obtained training in Weaving and Nursing. She had previous experience as she had served as Manager in the Kasturba Gram Sewa Kendra for two years.

(b)—Not specifically stated in the Advertisement, except that a lady candidate having Wardha Training would be given preference.

(c)—Does not arise.

**Calling attention to Matter of Urgent Public Importance regarding situation created by the breaches of the Dihing Bund.**

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Now we come to the item Calling attention by Shri Durgeswar Saikia and others.

**Shrimati PADMA KUMARI GOHAIN** (Moran) : (Rising to speak).

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Mr. Saikia will speak first because in the list his name appears first.

**Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA** (Thowra) মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আজি যিটো বিষয়ৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰক বিশেষকৈ E. & D. বিভাগৰ বিষয়ে আলোচনা কৰা হ'ব, সেই বিষয়টো বৰ গুৰুত্বৰ। বিষয়টো হৈছে দিহিং নৈৰ মঠাউৰিৰ হালধিবাৰী চিগাৰ কথা। এই চিগাৰ বিষয়ে E. & D. বিভাগ কৰা স্বত্বেও একো ফল ধৰা নাই। এই চিগা অকল এই বছৰেই চিগা নাই আগতেও ৩ বাৰ চিগিছে, কিন্তু মেৰামতি কৰাৰ পিচতে পুনৰ বছৰি বছৰি চিগি বাইজক নানান বিলাই বিপত্তি পোৱায়। ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰা খেতিৰ মাটিও নষ্ট কৰিছে, গৰু-মহৰ বেমাৰ হৈছে আৰু বাইজৰো অনেক বিলাই বিপত্তি হৈছে।

দিহিং নদীৰ মথাউৰা নিটাই পুখুৰিৰ পৰা হালধিবাৰীলৈ। এইটো ইংৰাজৰ দিনতে ব। মঠাউৰি। এই মঠাউৰি ১৮৮০ চনৰ পৰা ১৮৯৭ চনলৈ ভঙা নাছিল। ১৮৯৭ চনত এঠাইত ৫০ ফুট মান ভাঙিছিল। তাৰ পিচত ১৯৫৬ চনত ভঙাত বাইজ



আৰু চৰকাৰে মিলি মেৰামত কৰে। তাৰ পিছত ১৯৫৭ চনৰ পুনৰ উক্ত মঠাউৰি ভাগে। বিভাগীয় কৰ্তৃপক্ষই পুনৰ বান্ধে কিন্তু পুনৰ যোৱা ৫ আগষ্ট তাৰিখে আকৌ ৫০০ ফুট বহলকৈ ভাঙিছে। এতিয়ালৈকে মুঠ ৫ বাৰ ভাঙিছে। ১৯৫৭ চনত ৩০০ ফুট ভাঙিছিল।

যোৱা বাজেট অধিবেশনত E. and D. ৰ মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে উত্তৰত কৈছিল যে এই মঠাউৰি ভঙাৰ ফলত প্ৰায় ১১টা মৌজাৰ লোকৰ বিপন্ন অবস্থা হৈছে। এই ক্ষতিত অকল যে মানুহেই কষ্টত পৰিছে, এনে নহয় চৰকাৰী বহুটো সম্পত্তি নষ্ট হৈছে। যেনে মৰীয়া আল, Assam Trunk Road, নিটাই পুখুৰী জন গাওঁ আলী Public Works Department, শেনছোৱা Public Works Department আলী।

যোৱা বছৰ ৩০০ ফুট ভাঙিলে কিন্তু এইবাৰ ৫০০ ফুট ভাঙি মৰাণ, চেপন, খোৱাং, লেদগুৰী, ডিব্ৰুগড় মহকুমাৰ আৰু নিতাই, খাওৰা, মাহমৰা, খালৈঘোংগোৰা, বৰঠা, কোৱঁৰপুৰ মৌজাৰ খেতি বাতি নষ্ট কৰাৰ উপৰিও ৰাইজৰ বিপত্তি অৰ্ণনীয় হৈছে। এই ১০ খন মৌজাৰ ভিতৰত প্ৰায় ৫ খন মৌজাৰ ৰায়তৰ বিপত্তি অৰ্ণনীয়। এই বিষয়ে শিৱসাগৰ জিলা কংগ্ৰেছৰ সভাপতি, সম্পাদক, খাওৰা, নিতাই মৌজা পঞ্চায়তৰ পৰা বিপোর্ট অহাৰ বাহিৰেও শ্ৰীযুত দুৰ্গেশ্বৰ দত্ত শ্ৰীমিঠ ৰাম বৰা আদি নানান লোকৰ পৰা বিপদাপন্নৰ বিপোর্ট সহ আহিছে তাতে এই বোৰ অঞ্চলৰ গৰু ম'হ মৰি আৰু বিপদত পেলাইছে।

**Mr. SPEAKER** গৰু ম'হৰ বিষয়ে বিশেষ আলোচনা কৰাৰ পিছত স্থবিধা পাব।

**Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra)** অবশ্যে চৰকাৰৰ বহুত বিশেষজ্ঞই মঠাউৰি বান্ধিছে। মই বিশেষজ্ঞ নহও কাৰণে মোৰ ইয়াত কবৰ একো অধিকাৰ নাই। কিন্তু আমাক লাগে যাতে চৰকাৰৰ টকা অবাৰ্জিত খৰচ নহয় আৰু যি খৰচ কৰে সি ৰাইজৰ উপকাৰৰ অৰ্থে হয় তাৰ ফলত ৰাইজে দুৰ্বেলা দমুঠি খাই পিন্ধি থাকিব পাৰে। কথা হল চৰকাৰে লাখে লাখে টকা খৰচ কৰিব অৰ্থচ ৰাইজৰ উপকাৰ হওক চাৰি অনিষ্টহে হব ই কেনেধৰণৰ কাম? ৩০০ ফুট বান্ধোতে প্ৰায় ৯৮ হাজাৰ টকা খৰচ হৈছে। যি পদ্ধতিৰে বান্ধ বন্ধা হৈছে সেই পদ্ধতিত ৩০০ ফুটকে বিশেষজ্ঞ সকলে বাখিব পৰা নাই এতিয়া আকৌ ৫০০ ফুট ভাঙিছে। আমাৰ বিশেষজ্ঞ সকলে বাৰে বাৰে টকা খৰচ কৰি কিয় বান্ধ বাখিব পৰা নাই? এইবিষয়ে আমাৰ কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ কোনো দৃষ্টি নাই।

**Mr. SPEAKER:** বৰ্তমানে Calling for attention ৰ বিষয়টোত আপোনাৰ বক্তৃতা সীমাবদ্ধ কৰক।

**Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA** দিহিঙৰ ইপাৰে কোটোহাৰ পৰা চেচামুখলৈ যিটো মঠাউৰি আছে তাত বিশেষজ্ঞ সকলে যিটো লাইন কৰিলে তাত খত হৈছে বুলি ৰাইজে কয়। অৰ্থাৎ মঠাউৰিটো পোনাই নাবান্ধি কেই ঘৰমান লোকক সহায় কৰিবলৈ যাওঁতে এই মঠাউৰি বাৰে বাৰে ভাঙিছে। মই কৈছো যে এই মঠাউৰি বাৰে বাৰে বান্ধিব লগা হোৱাত ৰাইজৰ কৃষিক্ষণৰ টকা, Seedlingৰ টকা, Gratuitous



relief ব টকা, এনেদৰে বহুতো টকা খৰচ হৈছে। তাৰ কলত চৰকাৰৰ Grow-More Food আচনি কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰাত বাধা হৈছে। আৰু বাইজৰ হাঁহাকাৰ অবস্থা।

এইবিলাকলৈ চাই, যাতে এই মথাউৰি অহা খালীতে ঠিকমতে বন্ধা হয় তাৰ কাৰণে মই চৰকাৰৰ চোকা দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিলো। আৰু এই বিষয়ে শ্রীবিজয় ভাগৱতী দেৱৰ সভাপতিত্বত এখন তদন্ত কমিটি চৰকাৰে গঠন কৰিছে এই কমিটিৰ দ্বাৰা কি কাৰণেনো বাবে বাবে মথাউৰি ভাঙি আছে, কাৰ দোষত এনে বিপৰ্য্য হৈছে তাৰ বাবে বিশেষ ভাৱে তদন্ত কৰাব লাগে। শেষত মই কব খোজো যে পুথমতে এই মথাউৰি বাবে বাবে ভঙাৰ কি কাৰণ থাকিব পাৰে সেই তথ্য ভালকৈ বাহিৰ কৰি তাৰ সুব্যৱস্থা চৰকাৰে গ্ৰহণ কৰাৰ চেষ্টা কৰিব তাৰ পিচত টকা খৰচ কৰিলেহে কাৰ্য্যকৰী হব।

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY** (Minister, Embankment and Drainage) : Sir, the next Calling Attention is also on the same subject.

**Mr. SPEAKER** : That will not come.

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am extremely grateful to the hon. Members for drawing the attention of the House to this subject. Before going into the details of the matter, I would like to reply to my Friend, Shri Saikia, who has posed a question by saying that there was an embankment previously in the same locality but it had never breached. But why the new embankment has been breached several times from 1956? The answer is quite simple. There was a small embankment of a that length in Dihing river in that locality but today both sides of almost the whole of the Dihing river have been embanked. Naturally high floods level has gone up because there is no spill water to be accumulated in the countryside. There are one or two places where there are apprehensions for breaches. We are taking precautions to prevent them. Other countries which took up such programme of embanking rivers have had to face similar problems, particularly in the beginning. Because at the beginning the earth of an embankment is not properly settled, thus having the danger of breaches here and there. Anyway, I am not going to analyse the causes now. I am to give information to the House. The Haldhibari breach in the fourth mile of Dihing left bank down-stream of Khowang first occurred in the high flood of July, 1956, and was caused by heavy rush of water through a big hole (probably a rat hole) in the embankment which appeared immediately before the breach occurred. The breach left a deep scour-ditch about 500' in length, 300' in width and 30-35' in depth. In the working season of 1956-57, the breach was cleared by a retirement leaving the scour-ditch towards the



riverside. This retired bund was again breached during the high floods of May, 1957, which exceeded the previous highest known floods due to over-topping. Last year, the breach was temporarily closed during the flood-season with a ring of earth-filling double bamboo pallisading, which also gave way during the last flood of the year. For permanent closure of this breach the Department initially selected an alignment to the south of the scour-ditch with a view to avoid percolation into the ditch during high floods. As the people raised vehement opposition to this alignment, (my Friend has also referred to it—), which would encroach some strips of their homestead, the then Minister of Public Works Department, Shri Siddhinath Sarma, inspected the breach and desired examination of an alternative alignment to the north of the ditch as suggested by the villagers. To avoid delay in obtaining land against public protest, it had to be finally decided to align the embankment to the north of the breach. The Department fixed the alignment after taking into consideration all the technical aspects of the problem in addition to the question of protest raised by the villagers. The retired bund along this alignment was built strongly providing sufficient free board above the high flood level and adequate measures like provision of guide bunds to keep away direct attack of the current from the new retirement. In spite of all these precautions, this retired bund also suddenly gave away on 5th August 1958 without any previous warning, apparently due to blowing from underneath the seat of the embankment. The situation of breaches is very difficult as it is located at a position where these spill channels join together and try to have their way into the countryside through an old blocked channel named Digholia Jan which extends right upto the embankment at that point. The presence of the scour-ditch of such a depth and magnitude has worsened the position further as three successive attempts in three consecutive years to close the breach by retired earth-embankment had failed. It appears much more costly measures will have to be adopted to close the breach successfully. This will be studied and decided just after the floods.

The Superintending Engineer had recently been ordered to close the gap temporarily by some means, to protect the affected area from inundation by subsequent floods though he reported that any attempt for temporary closure would be costly and difficult at this time of the season. But from a copy of a resolution passed by the public of the locality a few days back, it appears that the people do not like the idea of spending money for temporary closure which they feel will not be of



much use at this fag end of the cultivating season, even if it eventually proves successful. The Department is, therefore, contemplating to revise its previous orders. The Additional Chief Engineer, under my orders, has already left for the site to inspect and investigate. I am waiting for his report.

So far as can be known from the reports of the Executive Engineer, Sibsagar Embankment and Drainage Division, and the Superintending Engineer, Eastern Embankment and Drainage Circle, there has been no other breach in any of the embankments of Dihing river except the one at Haldhibari. There are 60 miles of embankments on the left bank of Dihing river and 48 miles on the right bank, totalling 108 miles. In the year 1956, the highest flood level recorded at Khowang was 336.50 in the month of July. Some 20 breaches occurred in the flood season of that year, *viz.*, 1956. This year, Sir, there is only one breach. Therefore, there has been a definite improvement in the situation.

In the year 1957, the highest flood level of Dihing river at Khowang was recorded as 336.90 in the month of May. There had been 9 breaches in the embankments of the Dihing river in that year. This year, the highest flood level so far recorded had reached 337.10 on the 18th of August 1958, thus exceeding the previous highest known flood levels. As a result of this abnormal high flood in Dihing river, there was very heavy pressure on the embankments all along and as a result there had been some percolation and sliding down of the embankments on the country side in some places. But with ceaseless efforts carried out by the Department day and night the whole length of 108 miles of embankments had withstood the high flood and there is no report of any breach anywhere up-to-date. I may inform the House that there was day and night watch of the embankment by the staff and watchmen.

It is rather unfortunate that the embankment was breached at the Haldhibari retirement for the third consecutive year. But the breach was caused in such a way that there were no possible means of detecting the same or taking any precautionary measures to stop the breach. As a matter of fact, the Department had all along maintained their strict watch and supervision over the whole length of the embankments to avoid any possible breach, but in view of the suddenness of the happening at Haldhibari, the breach could not be averted. In this connection, it may be mentioned that human ingenuity has not yet been able to make embankments absolutely safe



from breaches. Even in advanced countries, where advanced scientific means are available for tackling such problems, breaches do occur now and then. But on the whole, from a perusal of the figures of flood levels and breaches of three consecutive years given above for the Dihing embankments, it will be seen that the position of maintenance of the embankments has fairly improved, although, I admit, there is more scope for further improvement. As Dihing was in high flood in the third week of the current month, and there was a gap of 500' or so in the embankment at Haldhibari, some water of Dihing river was bound to rush in innundating the countryside in the left bank of Dihing near Haldhibari. As soon as water-level in the river falls sufficiently, water from the countryside will begin to drain out. This breach had affected an area of 16 square miles. Relief measures in the shape of distribution of rice for people and fodder for cattle are being undertaken. For Sibsagar, a cattle loan of Rs. 1,50,000 and gratuitous relief of Rs. 5,000 had already been issued and I believe distributed. In the meantime we have received two telegrams from the Subdivisional Officer of Sibsagar in this connection and I propose to convey the contents of these telegrams to the House. The first telegram was sent on 26th August to Revenue Secretary. It states "Serious flood caused by breach of Dihing Bund. 5394 human population and 6400 cattle badly affected in 15 villages of Netaipukhuri Mouza. 100 maunds rice 50 maunds bran distributed as gratuitous relief. Continuance of relief measures essential as flood water not receding."

The other one is also dated 26th August. It reads : "There was temporary flood in Kaziranga-Bokakhat and Rangamati Mauzas from overnight of sixteenth. No relief in Rangamati Mauza was necessary. In Bokakhat and Kaziranga Mauzas Relief Committee formed and ten maunds rice and one maund gram were distributed.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** This is a separate matter.

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Embankment and Drainage) :** You are right. I am sorry, Sir. I have already informed the House that relief has already been given. The question of giving further relief to the affected people is under consideration of the Revenue Department. This is all the information we have got at our command at the moment. I am also awaiting receipt of the report from the Additional Chief Engineer who is in the site at present.



**Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) :** Contractor  
বিলাকৰ Register কৰাৰ কাৰণ কি ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Embankment and Drainage) :** Sir, at that particular place and at that particular time who were the officers present at the site, I do not know. But the watchmen were there.

**Further discussion on the motions to take into consideration of the food situation in the State and to consider the various ways and means by which food production can be increased in the State**

**Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS [North Salmara (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak on a few points in connection with the food situation in the State. On the food situation of the State many of the hon. Memers have put forward their suggestions. I want only to stress the view point that more stress should be given on the production of supplementary food, because the supplementary food is also essential element for human being and the rice is not the whole-some diet. Therefore, for that purpose and to propagate the utility of supplementary food, a propaganda machinery is necessary and for that purpose, from my experience I want to suggest that a non-official machinery should be set up for making propaganda in this respect. Sir, I put forward this suggestion for the consideration of the Government.

Secondly, I want to put forward another important suggestion that more stress should be given for green manuring, because it has been heard from the experts that chemical manuring is also a danger to the fishes and we have heard that millions of fishes die, because of chemical manure. During rains the chemical manures are generally washed away and taken to the rivers or beels as a result of which fishes die even 1 per cent of chemical manuring can kill millions of fishes. Therefore, stress should be given on the utility of green manures by the Department.



Then, Sir, I have not much to add except to say that Government should give more importance to the production of winter crops which requires less water and less irrigation. By this I mean that more stress should be given for production of pulses and other things which are in less production in our State. Winter crops, therefore, may be utilised with advantage to meet the difficulties of food in our State.

With these few words, Sir, I conclude my speech.

**Shri CHATRA SING TERON [Mikir Hills-West (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]**: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we had discussed the food situation of the State in the last Budget Session of the Assembly and also we have been discussing this matter in the present session of the Assembly uptill to-day. I do not know, how far it has been fruitful and how far constructive suggestions we have been able to give for implementation by the Government.

Sir, the food problem, as it appears to me is a problem of corresponding relation between the mouths to be fed and the things with which such mouths are to be fed. In this connection again, there is another important point to consider that is the non elastic nature of land and the limited elasticity of production from land and at the same time the unending elastic nature of increase in the human population. In consideration of these it is very difficult to say that the food problem can be subjected to a sealed off permanent solution once for all. The problem will come from time to time and man will have to face with vigour and new technique of intelligence. I believe Sir, the area that is being covered by our State can be made to increase like a piece of rubber. I think it will remain static and it will never increase. Only what we can do is to increase more areas under cultivation. Now, in this context it would be proper to examine the relation between the increase in the number of mouths to be fed, *i.e.*, population and the corresponding rate of food production in our State. Of course, by production, I mean the production of principal food crops for consumption in this State, *i.e.*, rice, which is produced in three seasons throughout the year, *viz.*, autumn crop, winter crop and spring crop. In this context if we examine the increase in population, it is really alarming. Let us now examine the population figures. According to the Census Report in 1901 our State had a population of 38,29,450 persons. But in 1951 the total population of our State is 90,43,707. That means we have got an increase of population at the rate of 18.5 per cent during every ten years. If we calculate on this basis, then it appears to me that this



year (1958) in our State we have got a population of about 1,03,82,175 according to the rate of 18.5 per cent increase during ten years. Now this is the aspect of the increase in the population.

Let us now examine the other things, *i.e.*, the aspect of food production in our State corresponding to this alarming increase in the population. I have already stated that the principal food crop in our State is rice. So I shall mainly be dealing with the production of rice in our State. From the statistical figures supplied by the Agriculture Department of our State, let us now examine the position. Of course, Sir, many hon. Members of this House have doubts about the correctness or accuracy of the figures supplied by the Agriculture Department. Still let us examine the position taking the official figures given by the Department. From the statistical figures of 1945 and later on we find that during ten years from 1945, the total figures of production of paddy is as follows —

1945-46	...	...	...	16.50 lakh tons.
1946-47	...	...	...	14.89    "   "
1947-48	...	...	...	16.88    "   "
1948-49	...	...	...	17.21    "   "
1949-50	...	...	...	17.53    "   "
1950-51	...	...	...	14.06    "   "
1951-52	...	...	...	15.08    "   "
1952-53	...	...	...	16.53    "   "
1953-54	...	...	...	16.49    "   "
1954-55	...	...	...	16.82    "   "

During last year, *i.e.*, 1957-58, the total production was about 15,54,436 tons according to the figures given in the Review of Industrial Survey and Economic Situation of Assam, 1958, July.



So it appears that the rate of production is ranging between 14 to 17 lakh tons during these years. Therefore, it is conclusively evident that the rate of production that ought to have increased with the corresponding increase of population does not at all stand any comparison. Far more increase in population is going on whereas we have not been able to increase the rate of food production along with the increased population.

Again, if we examine the area under crop it appears that in 1950-51 the total area under crop—I do not mean the total area of land under cultivation, but the total area under different rice crop—is about 43.45 lakh acres, in 1951-52 about 41.77 lakh acres, in 1952-53 about 42.38 lakh acres, in 1953-54 about 42.64 lakh acres and in 1954-55 about 41.94 lakh acres. Therefore, it is evident that we have also not been able to extend the total area under the different crops or the total area under paddy. As you know Sir, food production has got a definite bearing on the extension of the area under different crops. Now, in our State the largest area is covered by winter crop; the total autumn crop area covers about 25 per cent whereas the total area under spring crops is only about 5 per cent. Therefore, the immensity of the problem is very serious one and if we cannot keep pace in respect of our food production along with the corresponding increase of population, probably in no time everyone of us and the greater part of the population of this State will have to face not only malnutrition but also will have to face starvation.

Now, let me come to the food problem as it stands today. Probably everyone will agree with me that harvesting of winter crop is coming shortly within the next few months only and during these few months it is useless to speak about food production for solving this problem of this specific period. So, I would concentrate on another aspect of this problem, that is so far as the food problem of this period is concerned, it is absolutely a problem of distribution of whatever food grain that is available in our State. I learn that during the year as also during last year our production of food is deficient by about one lakh tons in our State. I do not know how far it has been possible for Government and particularly the Minister in-charge to import food from outside, but, as I have said the problem during this period is mainly of distribution which is now being done through cheap grain shops. In this context Sir, I would particularly like to draw the attention of Government to the question of distribution of food grains in the different hill areas. Sir, it is probably known



to all hon. Members of this House that in the hill areas communication is extremely difficult. At the same time persons with means and well-to-do persons are also very limited, so that even if Government provide some quota for the hill areas it is difficult to lift the same for distribution to various hill areas. From my personal experience I can say that during last year and also this year there are different areas in the hills where in spite of the fact that Government provided rice to the people, due to transport difficulties it was not possible to reach those people. So, I would request that better facilities for transport should be provided and at the same time Government should look into these things to ensure efficient management and sufficient supply of rice to the cheap grain shops in the different hill areas.

Now, I would like to speak something about long term and short term measures for increased production. Many short term and long term measures have been recommended in different reports by different committees and also from all sides of this House different suggestions have been offered. Now, as regards this production of food as it relates to agriculture, I do not like today to deal with the social organisational aspect of the agriculture, but I would like to make a few observations regarding the technical aspect of it. Now, one of the most important needs in our State for increased production of food, I mean the first and foremost need of our peasantry is regulated flow of water supply. Now, as the matter stands our peasant walks behind his sick bullock with his left hand on the plough, you will always find him gazing at the sky on the accumulated clouds overhead with the expectation that it would pour down rain which only can give life to the seed that he would sow. This is the state of affairs in almost all parts of our State. In other words, we are wholly dependent on nature for the success of our crops, and at the same time for want of arrangement for reserving water we are also dependent on natural rainfall to maintain regular flow of water supply to our paddy fields.

The next important thing is the vigour in the soil and seed. During the last Session of the Assembly also speaking on the hills agriculture, I have mentioned regarding the hunger of the soil in the hills as well as the hunger of the people in the hills. From the rate of production that we have when it is compared with other advanced countries, it is evident that our soil has become very poor. Of course our Agriculture



Department has tried to introduce new chemical fertilisers, etc., to increase fertility but it is a matter to be looked into how far our people have become used to these things. I believe that extensive propaganda is essentially necessary in this respect to educate our peasantry to the proper use of these chemical fertilisers, etc.

Lastly Sir, another important factor in this connection is the man-power factor ; the urge of the peasant to cultivate the fields and increase production. These are the few things that I would like to mention in this connection. Now, these are to some extent long term measures which are to be taken in course of time but the sooner they are taken the better. I believe Sir, if proper measures can be taken there is no reason why food production shall not increase. On the other hand by adopting progressive and scientific measures food production is bound to increase and in spite of increase in the population we can solve our food problem without least difficulty. Now, let me draw the attention of the Government and particularly of the Minister-in-charge of Agriculture as regards the things that we are to take up immediately during the coming season. The food problem will not be waiting for us. As I have said that the area covered by different crops is almost constant during last few years. There is no tendency in increase of areas under different crops. In our State unfortunately, areas covered by double or treble crop is very insignificant. But it is my firm belief that even in the present context of things, if the areas under cultivation are used for intensive cultivation—extensive agricultural practices are introduced—it will solve our problem in the State to a very great extent. I have shown that only 25 per cent of the total area under paddy crop is covered by the autumn paddy and 5 per cent is covered by spring paddy. Now, if the Agriculture Department work very seriously, I believe, Sir, the area under different crops may be extended. The people have been cultivating Aus crop. Now, what is required is further extensive help from the Government in the shape of facilities for carrying on such cultivation. In this context, I would like to request the Government to consider seriously in the matter of seed supply to the peasants. It is our bitter experience in the past that most of the seeds supplied by the Government to the peasants did not germinate. I would request the Government to start collecting the seeds from now on for spring paddy and autumn paddy, so that good and healthy seeds can be distributed to the cultivators in time. In this context, I believe, in every district there should be



one particular Agricultural Officer entrusted with this task of collecting good seeds. If it is done in right earnest things, so far as supply of better seeds to the cultivators is concerned, will improve greatly and this in turn will go to increase our food production. Now the practice is that Government engage some Mahajans to supply seeds, the result is that Government does not know the quality of the seeds that they are going to distribute to the cultivators. Instead of that, if one particular officer, say one Agricultural Inspector is appointed and he is made responsible to collect and distribute the seeds to the cultivators, then things are expected to improve. So I believe that the Minister will be pleased to take effective action in this matter. Then at the same time I would suggest that the peasants should be persuaded also to take to cultivating multiple crops. Now winter is approaching, and I would suggest that immediately Government should entrust the different District Agricultural Officers to examine the possibility of Boro cultivation in every part of the State where it is possible to grow such paddy. Taking into confidence the local cultivators, by creating necessary enthusiasm in their mind, if necessary, Ministers, local M. L. As, local leaders should try to create the enthusiasm in the minds of the people so that they may take up such cultivation in their interest and also in the interest of the country. Similar action is also necessary in respect of cultivation of Ahu crop, for which I would request the Government to think out means and measures from now on. Sir, I do not like to very lengthy in my speech; in this context I would like to suggest one very concrete thing. Probably in these days of democracy, we are very much inclined to demonstration, and so one very eminent politician once remarked that the other name of democracy is 'Photography' (*laughter*). So both for serving this purpose—the purpose of demonstration—and also for increasing the food production, I would suggest that the area which one comes across from Khanapara to Gauhati, while coming up and going down from Shillong that vast paddy field may be utilised for growing three crops. There are several streamlets that can be properly controlled and the water from these streamlets may be used for irrigating the land. If that is done, not only one crop but three crops can be grown there. It will not only add to the food production, but at the same time the V. I. Ps, public while coming up and going down from Shillong will be pleased to see this endeavour of the Government. Therefore, I would request the Minister-in-charge that he will kindly draw up a scheme in this respect for this area. Even if three crops are not grown, let there



be double cropping there. I believe in this context, if the Minister-in-charge and the Department concerned come forward with the help to the cultivator the leading people, and here is my Friend Shri Bhattacharyya, whose constituency it is there, will not be lagging behind in extending co-operation and also from the side of the local people.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The hon. Member suggested some photographs—I hope it will include Mr. Bhattacharyya also ? (*laughter*).

**Shri CHATRASING TERON [Mikir Hills—West (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]:** So I put forward this suggestion, Sir. I hope Government will see that this is be done. Similarly it may be found out that an area can be converted into double and triple cropping. I hope Government will take sufficient steps for extending the area under cultivation of different seasonal paddy crops on the same plot. Vigorous attempt should be made in this respect. I believe the Government will take into consideration the suggestions that I have put forwarded. With these few words, Sir, I conclude my speech.

**\*Shrimati PADMA KUMARI GOHAIN (Moran):** মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আজি আমাৰ দেশত যি খাদ্য সমস্যাৰ উদ্ভৱ হৈছে সেই সমস্যাৰ বিষয়েই এই সদনত আলোচনা হৈছে। সেই আলোচনা প্ৰসঙ্গত বহুত সদস্যই দেশ বিদেশত কেনেকৈ খাদ্য উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি কৰিছে, কি কি নতুন উপায় অৱলম্বন কৰিব পাৰি ইত্যাদিৰ বিষয়ে চৰকাৰৰ ওচৰত পৰামৰ্শ দাঙি ধৰিছে। দেশ বিদেশৰ উদাহৰণ দাঙি নধৰি মই আমাৰ দেশৰে দুটামান কথাৰ প্ৰতি মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিব খুজিছো। আমাৰ উজনিৰ খোৱাং অঞ্চলত বহু পৰিমাণে ধান সংগ্ৰহ কৰিব পাৰিছিল আৰু বহু পৰিমাণে ধান বিক্ৰিও কৰিছিল। সেই খোৱাং অঞ্চলৰ কথা কোনেও নজনা নহয় আৰু চৰকাৰৰ বিসকল কৰ্মচাৰীয়ে ধান কিনে সেই সকলেও ভালকৈ জানে। এই খোৱাঙৰ ৬-৭ টা মৌজাত বহু পৰিমাণে ধান উৎপন্ন হৈছিল আৰু তাৰ ধানেৰেই দেশৰ য'ত য'ত খাদ্যাভাৱ হৈছিল তাত চৰকাৰে প্ৰতিকাৰ কৰিছিল। উত্তৰ লক্ষীমপুৰৰ বৰদলনী অঞ্চল এই বিষয়ত বিশেষ ভাবে উল্লেখযোগ্য। ইংৰাজ ৰাজত্বৰ দিনৰে পৰা তাত বোচিকৈ ধান সংগ্ৰহ কৰা হৈছিল আৰু সেই কথা আনি সৰু কালৰে পৰা শুনি আহিছো।

পূৰ্বে খোৱাং অঞ্চলৰ ধানে অসমৰ দুৰ্ভিক্ষ অঞ্চলক পুহিছিল—দিহিঙৰ মঠাউৰি বান্ধি সেই অঞ্চলৰ এটা বিৰাট ক্ষতি কৰিছে। এতিয়া আনক দিবলৈ ধান উৎপন্ন কৰক চাৰি সেই লোক সকলেই ধান কিনি কিনি নিজৰ জীৱিকা নিবৰ্হাহ কৰিব লগাত পৰিছে।

মই এই থিনিতে ক'ব খোজো যে ইমান চৰকাৰী বিশেষজ্ঞৰ পৰামৰ্শত বন্ধা বান্ধ আজি ও বহুৰে ভাঙে কিয় ? বাইজে এতিয়া অনুমান কৰে যে মথাউৰি বন্ধা, নতুন বাস্তা নিৰ্মান আদি কামত চৰকাৰৰ কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ যোগ্যতা তাকৰ যোগ্যতা। থাকিলেও বাইজে কৰ্মক্ষেত্ৰত



তাব কোনো আভাৰ পোৱা নাই। এই লোক সকলক চৰকাৰী টকাৰে অভিজ্ঞতা অৰ্জন কৰিবলৈ দেশ বিদেশ ভ্ৰমণ কৰাই অনাৰ পিছত তেওলোকৰ ওপৰত দিয়া দায়িত্ব পালন কৰিবলৈ অসমৰ্থ হোৱাত বাইজে ভাবে যে চৰকাৰৰ সেই টকাৰ অকণো সাৰ্থকতা হোৱা নাই। ডিঙা মথাউৰি বান্ধোতে বান্ধোতে ৩০০ ফুটৰ ঠাইত বৰ্তমান ৫০০ ফুটত পৰিণত হৈছে আৰু এতিয়া আন এখন বিৰাট নৈ সেইঠাইৰে বৈ গৈছে। মানুহে পথাৰত খেতি কৰাটো দুবৰ কথা সকলো পানীৰ ওপৰত থাকিব লগা হৈছে। মই তিনিদিন আগতে সেই ঠাইলৈ গৈ চাই আহিছো, তাত চৰকাৰৰ বিলিক ফাণ্ড আদি থাকিব লাগিছিল কিন্তু সেই ঠাইত কোনো চৰকাৰী কৰ্মচাৰীৰ তৎপৰতা দেখা নগল। এই তৎপৰতাৰে চৰকাৰে সবহ শস্য উৎপাদন কৰি খাদ্য সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিবলৈ গৈছে আৰু বছৰি অৰ্দ্ধ টকা পানীত পেলাইছে। ছিলঙৰ শীৰ্ষ স্থানীয় E. and D. বিভাগৰ কৰ্মচাৰী এজনক এইবিলাক ঘনে ঘনে ভঙাৰ কাৰণ সোধাত মিচিকিয়াই হাঁহি কলে যে প্ৰকৃতিৰ লগত যুঁজ কৰা অসম্ভৱ। বিষয়টোৰ গুৰুত্ব কিন্তু অকনো উপলব্ধি নকৰিলে। আমি দেখিছো এনে অন্তঃসাবশ্যক কৰ্মচাৰীৰ ওপৰত এনে গুৰুদায়ীত্ব অৰ্পন কৰিলে, তেওৰ কাৰ্য্যই বাইজৰ মনত কেনেকৈ প্ৰেৰণা যোগাব? সেই বিষয়ে যথেষ্ট সন্দেহ হয়।

আমাৰ দেশখন লাচিতৰ দেশ—আমাৰ দেশ যেতিয়া বিপন্ন হৈছিল তেতিয়া লাচিতে কৈছিল, দেশতকৈ মোমাই ডাঙৰ নহয় বুলি দেশবন্ধাৰ, কাম সম্পন্ন কৰিবলৈ মোমাইক কাটিছিল। এয়ে হল পূৰ্বৰ আদৰ্শ সেই আদৰ্শকে আমাৰ আগতলৈ দেশক উন্নতি পথত আগবঢ়াব লাগিব—দুখৰ বিষয় কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ মনোবৃত্তি হল ওভোটা।

উত্তৰ লক্ষীমপুৰ অঞ্চলটো আওহতীয়া, তাৰ মানুহক বন্ধা কৰিবলৈ কোনো ব্যৱস্থা নাই। ফলত মানুহৰ হাহাকাৰ গৰু, মহ মৰি খোঁতাং। তাৰ ব্যৱস্থা ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ পৰা নহয় কিন্তু বৰ্তমান ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ পৰাই যাব লাগিব। সিদিনা আমাৰ কৰ্মী সকল এখন মিটিঙলৈ আহিছে। বানপানীৰ মাজেদি চুৰিয়া বিলাকৰ বন্ত বান্ধি আহিছে, এজন উটি যাব ধৰিছিল আন এজনে জাপ মাৰি ধৰি মানুহ জনৰ জীৱন বন্ধা কৰিছে। এনেদৰে ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ পৰা উত্তৰলক্ষীমপুৰলৈ আহি গৰু চিকিৎসা কৰা সম্ভৱ নহয়। সেইবিলাক আওহতীয়া ঠাইত যথেষ্ট সুবিধা থাকিব লাগে।

মই দুখেৰে কব খোজো যে আমি আমাৰ দেশত যিসকলে ধৰণী ধৰিছে—তাৰ ভিতৰত আমাৰ কৃষি বিভাগেই আমাৰ দেশৰ ঘাই সম্বল। এই বিভাগে চকু ৰখা দৰ্কাৰ যে বৰ্তমান যিবিলাক ঠাইত ধান খেতি নহল সেই ঠাইবিলাকত যাতে জাৰ কালিৰ আন খেতি কৰি ক্ষতি পূৰণ কৰিব পাৰে তাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰি দিয়া একান্ত আবশ্যক। কিন্তু আমি দেখিছো চৰকাৰী কৰ্মচাৰীয়ে এই বিষয়ে খবৰ কৰা বা চিন্তা কৰা যেন দেখা নাযায়। আজি বিহাৰত কোনো ঠাইত গম খেতি নষ্ট হলে অন্য খেতিৰ ব্যৱস্থা হৈছে, কৰিছে। কিন্তু আমাৰ কৰ্মচাৰী সেইফালে অকনো সজাগ নহয়। আমাৰ কৃষি বিভাগৰ বিষয়া সকলে কোনো ঠাইত এটা মিটিং বা বাইজক এটা নতুন পয়া দিয়া আমাৰ চকুত নপৰে। ছিলঙত বহি এখন চিঠিৰে দেশ শাসন কৰাৰ কথা ভাবিছে। এই পদ্ধতিৰে দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিছে যাতে ছিলঙত বহি চিঠি লেখি দেশৰ ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ সমস্যা বিলাক সমাধান কৰিব খোজা বৰমুৰীয়া কৰ্মচাৰী সকলক বাধ্যতামূলক পেৰুন দি বিদায় দিয়াই মোৰ বোধেৰে বোধকৰো ভাল হব।

(A Voice—টিক কৈছে, টিক কৈছে)



সাৰৰ বিষয়ে আমাৰ কৃষি বিভাগৰ কৰ্মচাৰীয়ে আমাৰ কৃষক সকলক ময়না চৰাইক মাত শিকোৱাৰ দৰে শিকনি দিছে যে সাৰ দিলে কৃষিৰ উন্নতি হ'ব। কিন্তু এই সাৰ কত দিব লাগে কিয় দিব লাগে এই কথা কৃষকক একো নকয়ও আৰু হয়তো নিজেও নাজানে। সাৰৰ উপকাৰীতা আছে এই কথা সদায় ময়না চৰাইৰ মাতৰ দৰে শুনি আছে।

**Mr. SPEAKER :** সদায়নো ক'ত শুনিবলৈ পায় ?

**Shrimati PADMAKUMARI GOHAIN (Moran) :** বৰ্ত্তমানে মাটি পৰীক্ষা নকৰাকৈয়ে সাৰ দিয়াৰ ব্যবস্থা আছে। নিজেও দেখিছো যে ধানত দিয়া সাৰ ফল বা কৰিৰ গুৰিত দিলে গছৰ পাত বঢ়ায় কিন্তু সেই সাৰ আকৌ ধানত দিলে ধান মৰিহে যায়। আকৌ সেই সাৰৰ পৰা ফলমূলৰ গছৰ পাত লহপহকৈ হয় অথচ গুটি নধৰে। সাৰৰ এই পৰিনামে বাইজৰ মাজত অসন্তোষৰ ভাবে দেখা দিছে। গতিকে চৰকাৰে এনেকুৱা সাৰৰ ব্যবস্থা কিয় ৰাখিব লাগে ক'ব নোৱাৰে।

তাৰ পাচত ফাৰ্মৰ গাখীৰ যি পৰিমানে পাব লাগে ফাৰ্মৰ গৰুৰ পৰা সেই পৰিমাণৰ গাখীৰ পোৱা নাযায়।

**Mr. SPEAKER :** ইয়াৰ পাছত এটা সেই সম্পৰ্কীয় প্ৰস্তাব আছে, সেইটোতহে গাখীৰ বিষয়টো প্ৰাসঙ্গিক হ'ব।

**Shrimati PADMAKUMARI GOHAIN :** ভাল তেনেহলে, কৃষিৰ বিষয়েই কওঁ। কৃষিক্ষেত্ৰত আমূল পৰিবৰ্ত্তন আনিব নোৱাৰিলে সম্ভা উৎপাদন ক্ষেত্ৰত উন্নতি আশা কৰা টান। আমাৰ মিলিলাক বান্ধ বান্ধিছে সেই বান্ধে আমাৰ কৃষকৰ তেনে কোনো উপকাৰ সাধন কৰা নাই। এই বান্ধ বোৰৰ দ্বাৰা যদিও বা এফালে ৬ খন গাঁৱৰ উপকাৰ হৈছে আনফালেদি আৰু ১৫ খন গাঁৱৰ অপকাৰ হৈছে। তেনেহলে অকল কৰি যোগ বিয়োগ কৰি দেখা যায় এই ধৰণৰ বান্ধৰ দ্বাৰা মুঠতে লোকচানহে হৈছে। কাজেই তেনেকুৱা বান্ধৰ প্ৰয়োজন কি? গতিকে এনেবোৰ কাম চৰকাৰে ভালদৰে বিবেচনা কৰি চাই বন্ধহে কৰি দিব লাগে। গতিকে এই বিষয়ে মই চৰকাৰলৈ পৰামৰ্শ আগ বঢ়ালো। এই বান্ধৰ লগত মানুহৰ জীৱন মৰণৰ সমস্যা জড়িত আছে। আজি বান্ধৰ উৎপাতত মানুহে ভৰালৰ চাঙৰ ওপৰত হাঁহ, পাৰ, গৰু ছাগলীৰ লগত একে লগে বাস কৰিব লগীয়া হৈছে। এনেকুৱা অবস্থাৰ পৰা মানুহক ৰক্ষা কৰি অসম খনক পুনৰ শস্য শ্যামলা কৰি তোলাৰ কাৰ্য্য পদ্ধতি লবলৈ চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ জনালো।

**Shri JOGA KANTA BARUA (Jaipur) :** অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই নিজেই কিছু লিখা পঢ়া কৰিছিলো যদিও, খেতিয়েই মোৰ জীৱন নিৰ্ব্বাহৰ উপায়। পিছে আনি সকলোৱে খেতিয়ক বুলি কওঁ আনকি মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়েও অলপতে সদনত কৈছে যে বে তেখেতো বোলে খেতিয়ক। অৱশ্যে মই জানো মিষ্টাৰ আইচেন হাৱাৰবো এখন ফাৰ্ম আৰু লৰ্ড মাউণ্ট বেটেনবো আছে। আজি ফাৰ্ম কৰা বহুত ডাঙৰ মানুহৰে এটা চখ। মই খেতি কৰাৰ পৰা কোনো শিক্ষিত ডেকাই খেতি কৰা দেখা নাই বৰঞ্চ খেতি কৰাৰ পাছত আমাৰ দেশৰ 'আমি খেতি কৰো' বুলি কোৱা দেশৰ ডাঙৰ নেতাই ডিফাৰ জোলোঙা লৈ দেশ বিদেশত ধান চাউল বিচাৰি ফুৰিব লগা হ'ল। সেই দেখি মই ভাবিলো মই খেতি কৰাতকৈ এবাৰ বজুতা দিয়েই চাওঁচোন ইয়াৰ দ্বা। খেতি বাঢ়েই নেকি? এতিয়া ধান খেতি কৰিবলৈ মানুহক উচটনি দিয়াৰ বিশেষ প্ৰয়োজন নাই। যেতিয়া ধানৰ দাম যোগে ১০ টকাতকৈ নকমা হ'ল আনকি ৩০ টকালৈকে উঠিছে, লাভৰ কাৰণেই মানুহে আপোনা আপোনি ধান খেতি কৰিব।



কিন্তু আহ খেতিৰ প্ৰতি মানুহৰ মন নাই, আহ খেতিৰ বাবে বেৰা দিব লাগে কাৰণে মানুহে আহ খেতি কৰিব পৰা নাই। যেতিয়ালৈকে আমাৰ দেশত উদং কালি বুলি এটা কথা থাকিব তেতিয়ালৈকে আহ খেতিৰ আশা নাই। আমাৰ অলপ লিখা পঢ়া কথা লবাই খেতি কৰিবলৈ মন নকৰাটো বেয়া কথা বুলি আমি অনুভব কৰিছো। কিন্তু এইটো থিক যে পায়জামা পিন্ধা লবাক খেতিত লগাবলৈ আমি যিমানেই বক্তৃতা নকৰো লাগিলে, তেওঁবিলাকে বোকাৰ লেটি নলয়। দেখা গৈছে যে বাম মাটি আমাৰ বহুত আছে, আমাৰ পায়জামা পিন্ধা লবাই বাম মাটিত পায়জামা আৰু গাম্বুট পিন্ধি খেতি কৰিব পাৰিব, কাৰণ বামৰ খেতিত বোকা নাই। বৰ দুখৰ বিষয় চৰকাৰে বাগানৰ পৰা বহুত বাম মাটি ললে অথচ খেতি কৰোতা নাই। এই মাটিত চৰকাৰে ২০ লাখ মান টকা কোম্পানীক দিব লগা হ'ল। সেই মাটিত মানুহে খেতি কৰিবলৈ নোযোৱাৰ কাৰণ হৈছে সেই মাটিত হাবি আছে, আৰু হাবি ভেঙোৱাৰ খৰছো বহুত লাগে। গতিকে চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰ পৰা Co-operative হিচাবেই হওক বা আন উপায়ে হওক সেই বিলাকৰ আবাদ কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰি আমাৰ ডেকা লবাক সকলক শাক, কচু, গৌমধান ইত্যাদিৰ খেতি কৰিবলৈ উৎসাহ দি আগবঢ়াই নিব লাগে। আমাৰ ডেকা লবাবিলাকক স্কুল কলেজত লিখাপঢ়া শিক্ষা দিয়াৰ পাছত খেতি কৰিবলৈও যদি যোগাৰ দিয়া হয় মই আশা কৰো এই ক্ষেত্ৰত আমি আশানুৰূপ ভাবে আগ বাঢ়িব পাৰিম। মই কি কি খেতি কৰিব লাগে তাৰ বিষয়ে ক'ব নোখোজো। কাৰণ শিক্ষিত লবাই খেতিত লাগি গলে কি কৰিলে বিশেষ লাভ হ'ব নিজেই জানিব। কিন্তু সকলো সময়তে চৰকাৰক দোষাৰোপ কৰিবলৈ গলে আমাৰ কাম নহ'ব। শ্ৰীযুক্ত পদ্মকুমাৰী গোস্বামীয়ে কোৱাৰ দৰে উচ্চ খাপৰ চৰকাৰী বিষয়া সকলক আমি গাঁৱত সকলো সময়তে খেতি-বাতিৰ কাম কৰি দেখুওৱাৰ কাম আশা কৰিব নোৱাৰো। সেই কাৰণে মই কওঁ কেৱল বিভাগীয় কৰ্মচাৰীৰ ওপৰত নিৰ্ভৰ কৰিলে আমাৰ অধিক শস্য উৎপাদন ক্ষেত্ৰত আমাৰ কল্যাণ হ'ব আৰু খাদ্য সমস্যাৰ সমাধান হ'ব। আমাৰ অসমৰ নিচিনা সূচলা সূচলা শস্য শ্যামলা দেশে ভাতমুঠিৰ কাৰণে নাহিবৰ চাউললৈ বৈ থকাটো বৰ দুখৰ কথা। মই আশা কৰো, চৰকাৰ আৰু বাইজ সকলোৱে লগলাগি, ইয়াৰ সমাধান কৰিবলৈ আগবাঢ়ি আহিব। ইয়াকে কৈ মোৰ বক্তব্য সামৰিলো।

**Shri LILA KANNTA BORA (Kaliabor):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, we had a food debate in the last Session of the House and we are having another in this Session as well. The present food situation in the State is very grave. It has been stated that the districts of Nowgong and Goalpara and some parts of the districts of Kamrup and Darrang have been badly affected by drought, as a result of which great scarcity for food in those areas is prevailing. I have of course no knowledge regarding the situation prevailing in Kamrup and Darrang districts. Of course, I had cursory glances in some of the fields of the Goalpara district in November last, from which I could see that the situation there was grave. So far as the district of Nowgong is concerned, I can say authentically and boldly that the situation in this district is really grave as well as disquieting. There is no doubt a difference of the situation prevailing in Nowgong to that of other districts because of the fact that the food situation in the Nowgong district is not bad for only one year but for three to four years. For more



than three years there is this occurrence of acute food situation. The main granary of Nowgong district so to say of Assam is the Hoi-Lanka-Dabaka area. But these places have been badly affected by drought continuously for over three years, besides other parts of Nowgong, excepting a few pockets here and there, which have been affected in last year and this year also. It has been very ably said by Shri Mohendra Mohan Choudhury that the food situation prevailing in this State in 1950-51 was somewhat different from that which is prevailing now. He said that in 1950-51 the people had the buying capacity, although their crops failed, but there was dearth of food but, on the contrary now there is food but what is wanting is the buying capacity of the people. So far as the Nowgong district is concerned it is mainly because there has been failure of crops one after another for the last three years and due to these successive failures of crops in three consecutive years people have lost the capacity of buying for want of money, although there is no dearth of rice and paddy in the markets. In the district of Nowgong more than 70 per cent of the people are under starvation and about 20 per cent of them can hardly get a square meal in two or three days. Some are living on roots, pumpkins, immatured jack-fruits and things like that. This is how they are passing their days. When we go to villages we feel very hurt to see their pitiable conditions. Of course, Government have given them some reliefs in the shape of test relief works, paddy husking, etc., but compared to the situation prevailing these are not enough to meet the situation even half way. People there grew Ahu in an extensive scale and from the growth of the crop we could expect that the situation which was prevailing for the last two, three years would be over but there was sudden appearance of insecticides which destructed the crops very extensively as a result of which only about 25 per cent of the crops could be saved. The estimated figures furnished by the Government that only 25 per cent of the crops were damaged by insecticides is not correct but actually 60 to 75 per cent of the crops have been damaged. Now, some of our people got some Ahu paddy with which they could live on them for at least one or two months but the real hardship of the people will be seen in the months of Asvin and Kartick. In usual years also our people have to face grave hardships in these months and this time, it is apparent, that the situation will be more acute and grave.

Sir, in the Nowgong district already some starvation deaths have occurred, the news about which were flashed in the newspapers. About this there has been different views of the



officials and non-officials. From the non-official view I can say that there was at least 5 cases of starvation deaths. From my personal enquiries I have assessed that this figure is true. But, what is apprehended most is that if the people do not get sufficient quantities of food during the months of Ashin and Kartick hundreds of deaths may take place. In order to allay this apprehension the Government should be alert to the situation and take strong measures to provide the people with sufficient test relief works, paddy husking schemes and other works, otherwise, the future is dark for Nowgong people.

Sir, my other Friends have made many suggestions for production of better crops in this House so that these scarcity conditions prevailing in the State can be removed. It was also the suggestion from some other hon. Members that seeds that is supplied to the cultivators by the Government is at present not upto the standard, therefore, Government should take steps to supply in future with improved varieties of seeds. They also suggested that there should be more irrigation schemes, especially small irrigation schemes and there should be projects for multiplicity of crops. While I am of the same view, I do not like to repeat them but there is not that incentive which is necessary for production. We have up till now failed to give that incentive to the people. We should, therefore, strive seriously to bring that incentive among the people. Whatever attempts have so far been made by Government to grow more food have not, I feel, been successful to meet the objective. I think, Sir, a band of army, in whatever name it is called, in the pattern of the Home Guards should be raised. We know how useful the Home Guards had been in making our prohibition scheme a success. An attempt in that line is necessary. A production army or land army, by whatever name you may call it, is necessary. A drive for two or three days or week by employing some officers like inspectors and demonstrators will not help much. The inspectors and demonstrators are not in a position to rouse the enthusiasm of the people. Men of importance in public life must be taken into confidence and any army on the pattern of Home Guards should be raised and the drive should not be confined to a month or a two only ; at least, for one year the drive should be continued. If Government are not in a position to give State-wise drive at the moment let them first take one district. Let them take up the Nowgong district first and we are prepared to give them all support. We shall do our best to make such a drive successful. So



I would request the Minister to take such a measure immediately, because unless we take measures of this sort, mere propaganda and speeches in the Assembly and the public platform will not take us anywhere. I hope Government will give serious consideration to this suggestion.

Then, Sir, another suggestion was given by Shri Jogakanta Barua, which I really welcome. So far all our attempt has been for the production of paddy. We cannot solve our food problem by production of one type of food only. And if we want to improve the economic condition of our people, we should think in terms of producing other foodstuffs also. We should encourage whatever crop may be produced which would improve the economic condition of the people. Now, Sir, I think high-land crops are more helpful and more economic than low-land crops. I think we can grow coconuts, betelnuts, cashew nuts and things of this sort. Their cost of maintenance is also less, for paddy every year we are to spend a great deal, but for these high land crops we have to spend little. We should, therefore, encourage production of these crops like coconuts, betel-nuts and cashew nuts along with cultivation of paddy, in order to ameliorate the economic condition of our people. So, I whole-heartedly support the suggestion made by Shri Jogakanta Barua.

Now, Sir, it has been suggested by Shri Ramnath Sarma that the N. E. S. blocks and C. D. blocks should be engaged mainly for the production of food. We have always engaged these blocks for all round development, we have engaged them for various purpose, *viz.*, education, communications, water supply, and so on and so forth. I would request Government to engage the N. E. S. blocks only for the production of food. There are other agencies to look after other things. The Rural Panchayats, which will replace Local Boards, may look after communication, water supply, etc. So, why should we engage the N.E. S. blocks and C. D. blocks for these purposes? Why should we not engage this one agency for the purpose of production so that the economic condition of our people improves? I request Government to consider this matter very seriously because unless we can ameliorate the economic condition of our people, freedom to us and freedom to them is absolutely meaningless. Though it is more than 11 years since we attained independence, till now we have not been able to solve this food problem. This is really pitiable and deplorable. I would request the Government to consider the matter seriously and to make an all-out attempt for the production of food in the country in the way I have suggested. Thank you, Sir.



**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Food and Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker Sir, I have heard with attention the speeches delivered by the hon. Members, in the course of the food debate, covering these three days, in which no less than 23 hon. Members of this House have had taken part.

I am extremely grateful to my Friend Shri Hazarika for the very constructive motion he has brought before the House. He has focussed the attention of the House to one fact; *viz.*, we must consider how we can improve our production. Then, Sir, I am very grateful to the two hon. Members, the two *ex*-Ministers of Agriculture in Assam, *viz.*, Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury and Jonab Abdul Matlib Mazumdar, for the very constructive suggestions they offered in course of their speeches, which bore ample evidence of the experience they had gathered in course of their handling of the portfolio of Agriculture. I am also very grateful to my Friend, Shri Nilmoney Borthakur for the able speech he delivered in this House analysing the situation. I am also grateful to other Members for the very keen interest they have had shown in this matter.

Sir, there are two sides of this problem; one is the problem of production, which I propose to deal later. The other side is the more important question of distribution, which I shall be dealing right now.

Sir, it is an admitted fact that our production to-day, not only in Assam but in the whole of India, has not been able to commensurate with the demand of the people. Our production in Assam is less than what we require. It is not the case with Assam alone, it is the case with the whole of India, as would be evident from the Food Debate that took place the other day in the Parliament in which the Prime Minister of India had to intervene and say that till before a year even he could not realise the gravity of the situation. Therefore, Sir, when we discuss the question of agriculture, the question of production or of distribution, we must not be taken away by passion. There is no question of throwing any fling on one another or accusing one section of the people, *viz.*, the officers of the Government who also come from the same society to which we belong. I would rather request the hon. Members to consider this question very dispassionately. It is not a question of the people of Assam



alone failing ; it is not a question of our Agriculture Department alone failing to rise to the occasion. If we have failed, we have failed as a nation. In fact, we have not been able to solve the problem for India as a whole. You know, Sir, a huge amount of our money is going out every year to bring food to feed the people of India. Therefore, Sir, when we go by passion or when we want to lay the blame entirely on one quarter or the other, I must myself be unable to agree with the hon. Members. I would, therefore, request the hon. Members to consider this question from a much greater and wider aspect of things. Sir, I will deal with the question of production of food grains later on as I have stated. First of all, let me deal with the question of distribution of food grains. I have said our production is not equal to our need. It is very unfortunate, Sir, this year we had a very big deficit in the matter of food grains because of decrease in the production due to drought in several places in the State. Because of the drought, I can tell the hon. Members, that our production in the matter of food grains, went down by about one lakh of ton. Therefore, the Food Department of the State Government had to face a very difficult situation. Perhaps it may be known to the hon. Members of this House that last year the Government of India allotted 38,000 tons of rice to tide-over our difficulties. Apart from this, there was an open market. There was no restriction in importing food grains from outside the State. The Food Department of the Government of Assam had found out that nearly 85,000 tons of food grains came to Assam through official and non-official sources last year which helped us to tide over our difficulties in the matter of food in a rather normal time. What is the position this year ? There is no open market; because the Government of India have cordoned off all the States in India. The result has been that one State, even if they like, cannot send food grains to another State. So we have not got anything from outside the State.

As I have stated Sir, while last year the Government of India allotted 38,000 tons of rice, the allotment for this year is only 20,000 tons of rice till now. Sir, naturally the position on this account is rather difficult. While we were getting 38,000 tons of rice from the Government of India last year, in addition to a huge quantity of food grains from outside the State through open market. This year we are to carry on with only about 20,000 tons of rice, we expect to get from the Government of India and nothing more from outside the State through open market. Therefore we have



got to resort to other subsidiary food including substitutes for rice. Therefore, we had to enter into an arrangement with the Government of India for allotment of Atta and we were able to get a monthly allotment of 3,000 tons of Atta. Later on due to increased demand for Atta from the people, this Government took up the matter with the Government of India to allot greater quantity of Atta for the State. The Government of India had agreed to allot this State Government 5,000 tons of Atta monthly. Now if we multiply  $5,000 \times 12$  we would find, we are likely to get about 60,000 tons of Atta, to which if we add 20,000 tons of rice the total quantity is likely to come 80,000 tons only. Therefore, if we agree to take Atta, considering that when, we as a people had failed to produce sufficient food, we should take to the consumption of Atta, then I think there should not be any scarcity of food in our State. There is shortage of food, but, Sir, in the meantime another factor had intervened. It is the question of a high price of rice which obtains now in the State. But it is not a question for Assam alone where high prices of food grains are prevailing but it is the situation in India as a whole.

In the last session of the Assembly also this question was discussed on the floor of the House. When my hon. Friend, Shri Nilmoney Borthakur put forward a resolution to consider the high prices of essential commodities prevailing in the State. Sir, high prices are prevailing not only for food grains alone but also for other articles, it is not only in Assam but also in other parts of India. So we have got to bear in mind that it is a problem for the country as a whole. Sir, to recapitulate what I had stated in the last session of the Assembly I would again try to illustrate that this is a problem for India as a whole. Sir, as we have seen since the First Five Year Plan period particularly during the Second Five year Plan period there is increased tempo of investments. While there was the total investment of Rs.343 crores in 1953-54, our investment in 1954-55 was 476 crores, in the year 1955-56 the investment rose up to Rs.667 crores and in 1956-57 to Rs.761 crores. Sir, when there is more circulation of money in the country, the prices of commodities and essential articles are bound to go high almost to the extent of increased circulation. Along with it we should consider another important thing, *viz.*, deficit financing in order to meet the increased demand for work by the people in the country. If our need cannot be met by taxation or if we cannot cut down our national needs, then, there is no way but to meet



it by deficit finance. With regard to deficit financing, Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Members of this House that while there was a deficit finance to the tune of 78 crores of rupees in 1953-54, it increased to Rs.93 crores in 1954-55. It went on increasing. In 1955-56 it was Rs.180 crores which rose to an amount of Rs.253 crores in the year 1956-57. This deficit financing also added to our difficulties for the country as a whole, by adding to the inflationary tendencies. On the top of this, due to increase demand and the rise on the standard of the people of the country as a whole, the Banks started playing their part vigorously. Sir, the credit expansion through Banks from the initial level of Rs.493.2 crores in the year 1953-54 was of the order of Rs. 58.9 crores in 1954-55 and in 1956-57 it had exceeded by Rs.149.2 crores. Then there has been adverse balance of trade to. From the deficit side, i.e., the amount involved in unfavourable balance of trade was to the tune of Rs.293 crores in the year 1956-57 and in 1957-58 it may be much more.

Then there has been an increase in money supply in the country. That is to say that the money supply has gone up from Rs.1994.0 crores on 31st March, 1954 to Rs.2,240.2 crores on 31st August, 1957. I think, it is also in the increase.

Then, Sir, on the demand side the purchasing power of the people have gone up. It would be evident from the fact that in 1957-58 the money supply with the public was Rs.2,313 crores; whereas in the year 1950-51 it was about 1980 crores. If we consider all these factors along with the question of high income elasticity of demand for food grains of the bulk of Indians who used to live on marginal land we will find the answer to the question. Increased nation building activities, issue of loans, grants, extreme shortness of the marketable surplus of food grains, change in volume and pattern of food consumption as a result of the increase in the standard of living and the increase in the capacity of the agriculturist to hold their goods have added to the problems of high price and the shortage of supply of food grains. Sir, it is not a phenomenon alone for the people of Assam, but it is a phenomenon for the people of India as a whole. Our people in Assam no doubt, are suffering more because of the geographical disadvantages to which we have been put to in relation to other parts of the Indian Union. The capacity of the railway line which connects our State with other parts of India is rather slender, occasional breaches with the result that the communication goes out of commission adds to our difficulties. Sir, this



problem is not unknown to the hon. Members of this House. Even to-day there is a breach. I apprehend that there may be further increase of prices of food grains and other articles as a result of this. Prices also depend on good internal communication, which we are lacking, particularly in our Hill districts and outlying areas. So, Sir, I would like to say that to put the blame only on the Food Department of the Government of Assam, saying that this Department had failed to keep down the prices of things, is not a correct approach. Therefore, I would request the hon. Members of the House to go deep into the whole question. It is not only the drought but there are other factors, which have contributed to bring about the present situation.

Other factors have also played their part in the food deficiency of the State. I am now referring to my hon. Friend Shri Chatra Singh Teron who has brought before us the question of increase in the population in the State. To-day there has been an increase of population by 50 per cent in the course of last 50 years resulting in that there are many more mouths to feed. It is said if there are many mouths to be fed, then there are also many hands to work. It is not true in this State. The people of Assam to-day are suffering from inflation.

**Shri CHATRA SINGH TERON** [Mikir Hills-West (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: The population has increased three times compared to what it was in 1901.

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY** (Minister, Food and Agriculture): Yes, I agree with my Friend. It was 38.14 lakhs in 1901 and in 1951 it was 90.42 lakhs—I agree that the population has increased three times. I am sorry I said it has increased by double, I think it is more than 100 lakhs to-day. Now Sir, as I was telling the House about a very serious problem. That serious problem is this: that there are more mouths to be fed but lesser hands to work. As I have said, the people of Assam to-day are suffering from inflation because this Government as well as the Government of India both in the private sector and in the public sector have put more money in the market for increased work of development and industrialisation of the State. When all these money are put in the market, prices of things go up; consequently the people must suffer because when the price of things go up they have got to pay high prices. But Sir, along with it if we have been able to get a part of that money that is being circulated in the market both in the private as well as public sector,



possibly we would have been able to fight the distress of high price. To illustrate, Sir, if my Government spent say, 100 crores, and if I could get 80 crores out of that money through work I could have been able to fight against inflation to that extent. But Sir, hon. Members of this House are more aware than the Minister of Agriculture or any member of the Cabinet that is not so. To-day who are the people engaged in construction of our embankments, who are the people engaged in making our buildings, who are the people engaged in other works? I have seen with my own eyes that even harvesting of crop is not done by some people in some areas of this State. The result is this: we have to bear the burden of high prices. Moreover, most of the money, I have mentioned is borrowed money and we have to pay it back. Thus we are suffering doubly and making ourselves poorer day by day. Firstly, money is spent for which there is inflation. And for this we are bearing the brunt. Secondly, that money being a loan money, we are to pay back. But we are not keeping any part of it, by working in these projects, either to pay back the loan or to fight the inflation and high price. With every new project in our State which is being done by loan money, newer mouths come and work who have to be fed. For example, at Pandu the Railway authorities opened a new zone. Along with it thousands of people came which means newer mouths to be fed by this State. The other day one hon. Member was telling me that as soon as the Bongaigaon Railway workshop would be opened there would come about 15 thousand new families from outside the State. Now, if each of those 15 thousand families consists of say 10 members, the population will be increased by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs, whom Assam will have to feed either by increasing her production or by procurement. Therefore, this question of food supply will have to be considered from other aspects as well. It will not do well to lay all the blame at the door of the Food Department of this State. If we cannot rise up to the occasion when our State is being industrialised, when our Government has put so much money in order to make us developed, if we do not work simultaneously in order that at least a part of the money come to our local people, I am afraid we are doomed. This is a world of competition. In this competitive world people are sending up sputniks—they are trying to conquer time and space. In this world no people can live properly if they are not competitive and dynamic enough. Therefore, I most earnestly request all hon. Members of this House not to consider this question very lightly. This question of food and population is not a light one particularly for Assam. It is not only a question of planning in the matter of distribution of food but also it is the question of keeping the social structure intact.



So Sir, I would earnestly request the hon. Members of this House and through them, the whole country, that they will have to reconsider our position. How can we save ourselves? We must work and work hard. If we do not work hard we will not only be unable to stand competition but we will be getting poorer day by day; the day will come when our very existence will be in danger. Therefore, I am trying to impress upon the House about the seriousness of our position. If we cannot get money or portion of the money that our Government has put in the market, I am afraid we are heading towards destruction. As you know Sir, most of the money we are spending are by borrowing from outside. So unless we can make our people work and work hard, how can we repay that money? Very unfortunate indeed; Sir, some of my Friends referred to breaches in some bunds. Sir, I myself had seen some of these bunds earlier. In some places the bunds actually breached in the previous year but they could not be repaired because no outside labours were available and the local people were not agreeable to work. In one particular place my Friend Shri Doley, the Parliamentary Secretary was present with me when the people were telling us that the bund would be breached this year. My officers in reply told me that they were helpless for want of labourers. The position was either the officers themselves or the Minister and the Parliamentary Secretary would have to take the spade and do the work. I talked to the villagers present on the spot to work on payment but they said "It is not our work". Sir, such is the state of affairs.

Sir, I do not want to say that the Food Department or the Agriculture Department of the State has been able to rise fully to the occasion, nor that I want to shirk my responsibilities, but I do want to say that every one of us must rise to the occasion if we want to save ourselves from the catastrophe that is facing us. I want to lay all the emphasis at my command to this aspect of the question, Sir.

Now Sir, from the figures of prices in different places, which is before me, I find that the prices are not very much higher than what it had been last year. The difference is of the order of eight to fourteen annas in the whole State and yet there is so much distress. Rightly Sir, the Congress President and Ex-Minister of Agriculture, Shri Mohendra Mohan Choudhury, had said that the purchasing power of the people had gone down. In Nowgong the price of rice is not higher than in other places in the State, in spite of the fact that there was



drought for three consecutive years, but lots of people in Nowgong are unable to purchase foodgrains because they have not the purchasing power. How can you increase the purchasing power of the people, if they do not like to appropriate a portion of the money Government is spending for the development of the State? If you do not appropriate that money, if you sit idle, if you allow all the embankments or the buildings in the State to be constructed by people from outside the State who come with more mouths to be fed, well, I must say we have no future. Therefore, I appeal to all hon. Members of the House, leaders of the communities, leaders of Assam and representatives of the people to very seriously consider this aspect of the matter. If not, we are heading to a danger. Sir, in this background let us consider as to what are the steps this Government has taken in order to give the purchasing power to the people. The first thing is to make available more money to the people in the shape of gratuitous relief, in the shape of test relief work, in the shape of rehabilitation loan, seed loan, distress loan, cattle loan agricultural loan, etc. This House will be surprised to learn that in the last three months, a sum of Rs.23,24,881 has been issued by the Government on these heads. Apart from this, the Co-operative Department, which is attached to the Agriculture Ministry, and which gives money for the purpose of helping agricultural production, issued a sum of Rs.71,24,065 to the people. This can be properly understood, if we consider that in the whole year 1956-57, the Co-operative Department issued Rs.50 lakhs only as loan. The result is that to-day the Government in the shape of this loan or that loan, Co-operative and otherwise, have given added purchasing power of Rs.1 crore, 33 lakhs of rupees to the people of Assam. Still it is said to be a drop in the ocean, Sir. The people have not got back the purchasing power and as a matter of fact, Sir, no Government can create that power by issuing a loan of Rupees one crore thirty-three lakhs or so, unless and until the people themselves can create that resisting power. That power will have to be brought back by work. Every Member of this House knows intimately the budget of this State. They know how much money is available in the budget for giving gratuitous relief. The Finance Minister will bear me out that whatever money was provided for in the budget, we have had exceeded that already and yet we have not been able to cover, according to some Members, one per cent of the distress of the people. No Government can cover the distress of the people in this way. Shri Krishnananda Brahmachari in course of his speech said—“Why



do the Government give a loan of Rs.50 to a person ; why can they not give more?" Sir, even by giving at this rate, Government had to spend rupees one crore and thirty-three lakhs in course of three months. I do not know what would happen in course of the next nine months. I do not know whether the whole income of the Government will be sufficient to meet this distress, if we agreed to the proposal of Sri Brahmachari. Therefore, Sir, alone Government cannot solve this problem ; the Revenue Department, the Agriculture Department and the Finance Department of the State alone cannot solve this problem. This problem can be solved by the people of Assam, in which the Ministers, Government, the Members of Legislative Assembly of Congress party and the Opposition, everybody is included. I therefore, Sir, I appeal to the hon. Members for an active co-operation. Now, Sir, apart from issuing of loans in the State, we have taken certain other steps. To-day Sir, as against 1,247 fair price shops operating in July 1957, we have got 1,256 such shops. The quantity of food grains issued from these shops is higher than the previous year. How is it possible ? It is possible only because the Government took up a procurement policy. Government procured more than 8 lakhs maunds of paddy and that has given us added strength. We are issuing rice much more than what we issued in the corresponding period in the last year. For example, if we take the case of Dibrugarh, last year in July, there were 160 fair price shops ; this year during this period the number of such shop is 180.

**Shri CHATRASING TERON** [Mikir Hills-West (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Were that 8 lakhs maund of paddy procured within this State, Sir ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY** (Minister, Food and Agriculture): Yes, Sir. Then in Nowgong, it was 45 in July, 1957, to-day it is 229. Another district, which has been referred to is Goalpara. At this period of July, 1957 Goalpara district had no fair price shops, in the month of July, 1958 there are 45 such shops and Kokrajhar has 56 fair price shops. From these figures it would be seen that this Government is doing its utmost and it is taking all possible steps within its power to give more food to the people through the cheap grain shops. In the cheap grain shops we are issuing rice at the price of Rs. 18 only per md. My Friend Shri Goswami in course of his speech said that I should be prepared to reduce the price, I would have been happy if I could have done that. I will show the position. Sir, it may not be known to the hon. Members of this House that the landed cost of rice in



Calcutta, I mean the foreign rice which we are issuing, is Rs. 23/15/ per maund. To this we must add the transport costs from Calcutta to Assam and also from the Government depots in Assam to the cheap grain shops. Similarly the cost of procured paddy, excluding the pay we are giving to our officers and excluding the other incidental expenditures like godown expenses, wastage, etc. is near about Rs. 20 per maund. Now whatever quantity of rice we get from the Government of India at the rate of Rs. 23-15 per maund and also whatever quantity we procure which cost us Rs.20 per maund, we pool them together and then issue at Rs.18 per maund. Along with this Government of India and the Government of Assam contribute nearly Rs.79 lakhs as subsidy. Now, it is for the hon. Members to consider how far can the Government go in this respect. Similarly, for giving purchasing power to the people of the border areas the Government have to spend a large amount of money in the shape of subsidy. I have really great sympathy for the people living in the border areas. I sympathise with what has been said by Rev. Nichols Roy about them but, Sir, again I remind the hon. Members of this House that every such proposal put forward before this House will have to be considered from the side of the availability of funds also. Apart from what I had said, Sir *viz*, we had already given loan, and gratuitous relief to the tune of rupees one crore thirty-three lakhs, that the subsidy on food has cost us near about Rs. 77 lakhs, and to it another large sum will be added for the subsidies we are giving in the border areas. It is much beyond our capacity today to go further. The budget of the State would not enable us to do so. Therefore, I would request the hon. Members to consider this aspect of the matter.

Now, coming to Nowgong, I entirely agree with my Friend Shri Lila Bora that the people of Nowgong have been suffering from acute distress. There is really lack of purchasing power in Nowgong. As soon as we heard of the news that there were some starvations among some people I went to Nowgong and contacted every such area. I went to those villages and enquired about each of the reported cases. Similarly the Revenue Minister also went to Goalpara and toured in that district. That district is also drought affected. Although I cannot agree with Shri Bora that there were cases of starvation deaths, I entirely agree with him that there is distress in Nowgong. So also in the district of Goalpara. But there is no starvation death in any of these two places. Now, Sir let me inform the House about what has been done in the district of Nowgong this year. Sir, 229 fair price shops have been



opened up which have been distributing food to 74,929 families. If we calculate these families each having say 5 membes, then 3,74,645 people, which will be virtually  $\frac{2}{5}$  th of the population of Nowgong district are being benefited by the issue of rice and atta which are being given at subsidised rates. I agree that this is not sufficient as I have already stated. No Government can possibly meet the total or entire requirements of the people of the whole State. But Sir, whatever is possible, that will be done.

Similarly, Sir, I can assure my Friend Shri Lila Kanta Bora that Government will certainly do its very best in order to help the people of Nowgong. I was pained to learn that some money given by the department for test relief work has not yet been utilised in Nowgong. I had requested my friends to co-operate with the Government so that this money could also be spent for the purpose of test relief.

**Shri RAM NATH SARMA (Lumding):** May I know, Sir, why the money was not utilised?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY: (Agriculture and Flood Minister):** I am told that this money was given to the Local Board and the Local Board could not spend it because of rains—that is said to be the reason. I had suggested that when the rains had already set in, this money might be utilised in the paddy husking scheme. I hope my Friends, M.L.As from Nowgong will please consider this aspect of the matter.

**Shri RAM NATH SARMA:** Sir, I can explain the whole situation why the money was not spent there.

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY:** I am not casting aspersion to anybody. I am only giving out the information to the House. I assure the hon. Members that whatever is possible within the means of Government, will be certainly done.

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Penery):** অনুগ্রহ কৰি দিবঃ জিলাৰ figure দিবনে? কিমান fair price shop বোলা হৈছিল?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY:** Sir, last year in Tezpur Subdivision in the month of July 1957 there was no fair-price shop; in the month of July 1958, five fair-price shops were established there. Then in Mangaldai, last year i.e. in July 1957 it had 21 fair-price shops. As regards the figure for July 1958 I do not have the figure here.



**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery):** I think only three. (Voice-আপুনি জানেই দেখোন)।

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Agriculture and Flood Minister):** May be so, I accept the figure given by the hon. Member. The number might not be high as we have to go by priorities. I am referring particularly to the districts where the food position is acute.

Sir, cheap grain shops are set up from time to time according to the need and circumstances. I assure the hon. Members that we have got the necessary amount of food. The main question is of giving added purchasing power to the people. We have paddy husking schemes under operation in Nowgong, and Goalpara. These are also helping the people. There is no cause for fear that we will not have sufficient food. In spite of the gloomy picture given by the hon. Members of the House, I feel that the food position will be much more improved than the last year. I have seen in many places, where people were suffering from drought for the last three years, we are having good and beautiful paddy. If we get this paddy, I am sure, food situation will improve. Of course we will have to experience difficulties for two months more. This is all what I want to say with regard to distribution. I can assure the hon. members of the House once again that the Government will consider every one of the suggestions given by them in connection with distribution of food.

Now, I propose to go to the long term aspect of the matter, *i.e.*, the permanent aspect of the matter. We will have to solve this question of food if we want to retain our hard-earned independence. If we cannot solve this problem of making available food to the people, well, independence will only be a mockery. In this connection, certain speeches of my hon. Friends about the Agriculture Department will have to be considered. Sir, I find that the criticisms are such as if the Agriculture Department has not been able to rise to the occasion only to-day. I want to tell the hon. Members of the House that the Agriculture Department, not only of this State but many of the States were not organized in such a manner so as to be able to tackle such a gigantic problem in future. In fact, Sir, in the month of November, 1957 I myself told in course of my speech in the Seminar organised by the Community Project Department, which was flashed in many newspapers that if this department was abolished I believed there would be no protest from any quarter. Therefore I know very well about the weakness of this department and that is the reason why as soon as you proposed to ask the Estimate Committee to go into the question



of reorganization of the Agriculture Department, it was who welcomed it most because I was most conscious of the limitations and weakness of this Department of Agriculture in Assam. Now that the Estimate Committee has submitted its report, I am going to implement all but some of its recommendations. I am sorry, because of certain difficulties it may not be possible to implement all the recommendations. Thus it is evident in the matter of reorganisation of the Agriculture Department. Sir, I am going to take the whole House into confidence. I told repeatedly that I was ready to rely on the recommendations of the Estimate Committee, and therefore, when this House set up the Estimate Committee, I myself welcomed it. Even now I welcome its report although certain elements are distributing printed papers and leaflets, in order to get support from a section of the people by trying to give a communal colour to the activities of the department and in doing so they are wrongly quoting some portions of the report without reference to the context. I am not going to be influenced at all by these publications. I am not viewing the problem in that perverse communal mentality of these people. I am going to implement the recommendations of the Estimate Committee in the hope and belief that their proper implementation will go a long way in reorganising the department to solve the food problem in the country. Even after that re-organization if we fail to have the required quantity of food, well, then I think we will have to reconsider our position. But I would say, this much for the present that the responsibility of supplying food does not lay wholly with the Agriculture Department or with its officers. Rightly did the Ex-Agriculture Minister Shri Mohendra Mohon Chaudhury had said that we had not been able to inspire the people. Sir, while the Agriculture Department is only an indirect agent of the people, the people themselves are the main factor in bringing about an increased production. It is the man behind the plough who produces the food; it is the man who goes to the field every day to plough the land. It is therefore, he who is responsible for the increased food production and not the Agriculture Department. Agriculture Department is an indirect agent to help him by technical know-how, to help him by supplying improved seeds and modern implements etc. If the man behind the plough fails to accept the advice given to him, well, the department itself cannot produce food. Now we have to consider seriously how best



we can enthuse the man behind the plough. The Agriculture Department is now going to be organized mostly in the line of the recommendation of the Estimate Committee or shall I say, in accordance with the wishes of the hon. Members of the House; but the most important task of inspiring the people to come forward and act up to the instructions given by this department is not a very easy task. The work of an indirect agent dealing with innumerable number of people is a difficult one. It may be possible for instance in the Medical Department to solve the problem of disease with the help of say two thousand required number of trained doctors, if they have the zeal as the number of cases to be dealt are limited. So also in the Education Department if the whole band of teachers go on doing their job with a missionary zeal, general improvement of the standard of education is bound to follow within an appreciable time as not only this Department and the teachers are the direct agent to impart education but they are also dealing with limited number of people who are atleast partially receptive. But in agriculture it is not so. It is Sir, a country where more than 76 per cent of the people are agriculturists, who are unfortunately very backward. In Assam if our population is one crore then 76 lakhs people are agriculturists, *i.e.*, almost all the people are agriculturists. Therefore it is most essential that every one of our this 76 lakhs agriculturists understands that he must produce food not only to meet his own individual needs but, much more than that, in order to improve his lot and to save his country.

I must produce much more than my requirement in order to improve my lot. But that is a very big task..... (A voice from the Opposition side : But they are not getting land.) Those who have got land must produce so that not only they can feed themselves and their families but they can feed others as well. It is not a small task to produce food in order to feed a crore of people of our State.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** How long the hon. Minister would like to continue ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Food and Agriculture) :** I want to speak a few minutes more. Sir.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Then he can continue after 2 P.M.

### Adjournment

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



## After lunch

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Food and Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was dealing with the question of reorganisation of the Department of Agriculture. I have already said that Government will implement the report of the Estimates Committee as far as possible but then I want to tell the hon. Members that reorganisation alone will not solve the problem of food because the Department of Agriculture is only an indirect agent of the people who actually produce food. If we cannot enthuse our 76 lakhs of agricultural population of the State to work hard, we will not be able to attain self-sufficiency. As I have said already, it is not the job of a few officers to achieve this gigantic task. After all these officers, almost all of them, hail from this State of ours. Now, there may be bad officers but it must be admitted that there are good officers as well. It is our duty to make these officers alive to the gravity of the situation. I would like to appeal to the officers through this House that they will have to rise to the occasion. Here is a challenge. If we want to meet the challenge we shall have to work hard to attain the economic independence of our country. If we can make our country self-sufficient and thus attain economic salvation then and then only the independence which we have attained will bear fruit fully. I am sure, Sir; these officers will certainly rise to the occasion.

Now, Sir, I propose to deal with some of the problems that are facing the State. One of the problems is, which has been referred to by some of the hon. Members, regarding supply of bad seeds by the Department to our agriculturists. I would like to inform the hon. Members that at present the existing schemes of the Agriculture Department for production of good and improved variety of seeds is very very limited. The seed at the disposal of the Department is not sufficient to meet the demands of the cultivators of the whole State. In order to supply improved seeds to major parts of the State this Government has already taken up a scheme to open at least one Seed Farm in each of the Community Development Blocks in the State, i.e., we want to have 150 to 160 Seed Farms in the State, within the Second Five Year Plan, but, realising the urgency of this scheme, I have already ordered that without waiting to have the farms established within the whole of the Second Five Year Plan, we should have them all within the course of one or two years. I am glad to inform the House that we have already started 46 of these farms and the progress is very satisfactory. The hon. Members will bear me out that for quick establishment of these farms



I had issued D. O. letters to all the Deputy Commissioners, Sub-divisional Officers, M. L. A.'s and other non-official organisations to render their special help. The hon. Members know that it is very difficult to procure land for the farms. Sometimes if you get land, there is litigation and things like that which causes delay. I would appeal to the hon. Members to co-operate with the Government in this important matter. If we can establish the farms early, we can expect to supply our agriculturists with improved seeds from these farms.

Sir, there is a suggestion that the Department should procure and distribute improved seeds to our cultivators. But where can we get good and dependable seeds? In this, the Department's capacity is very limited. Good seeds at the Department's command, which are produced from the Agricultural Seed Farms at present are very limited. If we can supply seeds from our farms we can very well expect that hundred per cent of them will germinate. Very often at the instance of the Revenue Department, at the time of distress our Agriculture Officers procure seeds from the open markets but these seeds are not dependable. It is better to issue seed loans in cash than to distribute doubtful seeds. I would appeal to the hon. Members to co-operate in this matter. When there is a flood or any other calamity, the hon. Members naturally like to help the cultivators with good seeds and they ask the Agriculture Department to meet the public demand. As they have no stock of their own naturally the officers of the Department of Agriculture have to go to the open market and purchase doubtful seeds, which in many cases can be called only paddy and not seeds, and they in many cases do not germinate well. This is a thing which is impairing our progress and good name. For this not only our Department is losing its prestige but our cultivators have been made to suffer immensely. Therefore, I would appeal to the hon. Members to agree with me that it is better to issue seed loan in cash than to issue seeds of doubtful variety. When there is an emergency, I hope, the hon. Members will not insist on the Department to purchase seeds and distribute them to the cultivators. I have already issued instructions not to purchase doubtful seeds from the market and distribute them to the cultivators. If our present programme for setting up Seed Farms, one each in each C.D. Block materialises and I am sure, it will materialise, we will be able to supply improved seeds to our cultivators.



There is a suggestion that the department should collect seed at the beginning of the year by purchasing to meet the requirements of our cultivators. After calculation, I have come to the conclusion that such a scheme will require at least Rs.50 lakhs, besides the question of storing them which is a very difficult task. We will do that but such a programme, by its very nature, cannot solve the entire problem. The bulk of the cultivators must look after themselves. I would appeal to the cultivators to maintain the age-old practice of hoarding a part of their produce by themselves for seed purpose. This is what our agriculturists used to do. They used to keep a part of their own paddy at the beginning of the year for their seed requirement. Instead of depending on others why should not our cultivators hoard a part of their paddy for seed purpose? Why should they depend on doubtful seeds from the open market? Of course, we can depend on the good seeds produced by our farms but at present it is quite limited. The department cannot supply beyond their capacity. We have already set up 46 seed farms and we want to have 100 or so more as early as possible. Even after selling up of these farms some time will be necessary before they can go into production to supply the cultivators with improved seeds.

Sir, some of my Friends have referred to our tractor organisation and power pumps. It is true that some of our tractors are idle today. The main reason for this is the non-availability of spare parts. Spare parts are not available in the country; so we cannot utilise all the tractors at our disposal. The same difficulty has arisen in respect of power pumps too. In fact to utilise these power pumps and tractors contacted not only the big firms of Calcutta but all over India. We sent our officers to Calcutta and other places to purchase as many spare parts as they could for these tractors and power pumps, but unfortunately they could not purchase spare parts except for about 20. Spare parts for about 20 power pumps could be procured from Calcutta resulting in that the rest of the pumps will likely to remain idle at least for the time being. Before we take up more schemes of irrigation we must ensure supply of pumps for the purpose. For that reason I have already submitted a proposal to the Government of India to give us more money to purchase more power pumps. Some hon. Members might say why there should be such difficulty for spare parts because India today is able to produce power pumps herself. This is no doubt true, but the fact remains that most of the power pumps we possess today were of foreign made. Therefore



proper working of these pumps depend on the availability of spare parts from foreign countries which again depend on the availability of foreign exchange. Now that power pumps are manufactured in India we want to purchase India made power pumps. As I have disclosed, we have submitted a scheme to the Government of India already to give us more money.

One hon. Member said something about the touring of the Ministers. Touring is really necessary. Apart from administrative and other reasons, we have got to undertake tours to attend All India conferences, if not for anything but for the sake of getting money for implementation of our schemes. In the last Conference of Irrigation Ministers in Calcutta the question of power pumps came into prominence and this had to be posed by the Minister himself. If the hon. Members do not want the Ministers to go out on tour then we are likely to suffer.

Some of my Friends have referred to the difficulties created by the embankments. I entirely agree that along with the setting up of embankments we have also to change the pattern of our crops in some places. I have stated more than once in this House that immediately with the setting up of embankments we cannot provide sluice gates because until and unless the earth of the embankment is allowed to settle down this cannot be done. In order to settle up the earth in an embankment it requires about 3 to 4 years time. Therefore before that period is over sluice gates cannot be provided in the embankment often and on. We cannot provide any sluice gates in any embankment which was constructed only last year or year before last. However, Government has been pleased to set up a Committee with Shri Bijoy Chandra Bhagawati, Member of Parliament as Chairman to go into the question of difficulties created by the embankments and whatever recommendations that Committee would make would be considered very favourably by the Government and would as far as practicable be implemented in order to remove the difficulties of the people.

Another hon. Member complained that the results of researches made about agriculture in the laboratory do not reach the field. It is true there is some organisational defect. The Research Stations were set up at Jorhat independent of the College. Whatever results are achieved through researches do not in fact reach the officers concerned and through them the fields nor do they go to the students of the Agriculture College. I have very carefully thought over the recommendations of the Estimates Committee in this connection. I agree with the Estimates Committee that the results of researches made in the



Research Stations must be linked up with the education of the boys in the Agriculture College. Whatever we get in the laboratories, whatever we find in the microscope, if that cannot be transmitted on to the boys who are reading in the Agriculture College at Jorhat then these new knowledges through research will have no meaning. Therefore I have been thinking of a re-organisation of the research branch of the Agriculture Department so that researches made can be utilised for the greater good of greater number.

I have also considered very seriously the question of land reform. In this connection the speech made by Shri Nilmoney Borthakur is really very thought provoking. He said until and unless we can give peasant proprietorship any effort in the direction of food production may prove to be futile. I entirely agree with him and not only I, the Congress as a whole agrees with him. The Congress principle is to give peasant proprietorship. Therefore a lot of legislation has been made. It is true that legislations have been made for that purpose in this House but we have not been able to set up a proper machinery in order to translate fully our desire into action. Government is taking steps in this connection. The Chief Minister on some other occasion announced that we are setting up Field Management Committees. This matter was considered in the Assam Provincial Congress Committee meeting at Silchar and it was decided that we must take the people into confidence and that we must carry our activities through them in the fields. Until and unless we take into confidence the man in the field we cannot possibly achieve our desire to produce more food. Therefore we decided to set up Field Management Committees. I repeat the Prime Minister who said that a country can go ahead only by taking lessons from the mistakes they make initially. Now we are go to the field and contact the men who work in the field and organize them and see in what respects the help of Government is required and in what manner that can be given to the best advantage of them. Now the tendency is to blame the Government only. Hence we are going to rely on the people, we want to take them into confidence and in this connection the help of the Panchayats will be very much necessary. As most of the hon. Members of the House are connected some way or other with the Panchayats, thier help and co-operation in this effort will be very much necessary. When recently there was an attack of intects. I am sorry in many places we did not get requisite cooperation and help from certain sections of the people. To make this scheme successful we will have to mobilize all the Panchayats who will also have to keep stock of insecticides such as



gamexine etc. with them. I am sorry to tell the hon. Members that we have already reports that some Panchayats are unwilling to take up such jobs. But, Sir, to make the scheme successful we must depend to a great extent on the non-official agencies, we must depend on the people, we must depend on the various Panchayats. I am really grateful to the hon. Members for taking particular interest in Agriculture. If they kindly take up this particular work, if there is united efforts to save our crops from the attacks of insects and in similar other matters then I can easily hope that we would be self-sufficient and forge ahead in the matter of food production.

In this connection one of the serious aspects of the problem which I propose to bring to the notice of the House is the question of Adhi System. Mr. Borthakur has rightly said that sharing of crop is disastrous for improved and increased production. Because the landlord is dependent on some one else's efforts. The man who in his forefather's time, long long ago, got some lands possibly at nominal price which he had got back already sits in his house today and gets a share of the produce without investing a single pie. He gets a share as a matter of course. He does not care or pay for the improvement of the land. Similarly the man who is behind the plough knows very well that whatever he produces with his toil and sweat will not come to him; it will be shared by the landlord. The land also does not belong to him. Therefore he does not naturally have any interest for increasing the yield or for improving the land. Any improvement of the land will add to the value of some one else's land. I submit to those who are landlords in this House that they will have to take all these into careful consideration. If they leave their lands to the tenants and do nothing for improvement of the same, certainly production will not increase. Similarly those who represent the tenants in the House will have to consider seriously as to how during the interim period before they get the proprietary right can improve production.

Production cannot be improved merely by speeches, merely by recommendations or merely by passing orders in the file. These should be reflected in the fields. We must all apply ourselves sincerely to the job. Various factors are involved, of which the human factor is the most important. As I said, if all these factors can be brought to play properly then we will be able to solve our food problem. It is not an isolated problem of Assam alone, but of the whole of India. Unless and until we are very sincere about it and we ourselves take up the job in our hand as a national problem I do not see any escape from the situation.



Sir, the primary thing in Assam would be to increase production by encouraging the people to go in for multiple crops. In Assam, it is known that most of the people do not go for more than one crop. This is a problem prevalent in most of the districts except possibly in Cachar, a part of Kamrup, a part of Nowgong and some other places. The hon. Members will bear me out as to the truth of what I had heard that people do not feel very enthusiastic to give their daughters in marriage to a family which go for Ahu cultivation because they feel Ahu cultivation is a difficult job and they should avoid such hardships for their daughters. In fact, in some parts of the State the people who do Ahu cultivation are looked down upon. We must tell the people that it is not derogatory to go for Ahu cultivation and that we have got to go for multiple crops. If we alone take to double-cropping possibly we will be able to tide over the marginal shortage in this State. For this reason, Sir, I took up the question of increasing Ahu cultivation in this State and issued a loan of Rs.37 lakhs to people of the State for Ahu cultivation. This, Sir, I am glad to say, has achieved good results. It may be that in one or two districts the Ahu crop was partially damaged by rice bugs but in other districts Ahu cultivation has increased very much. Similarly, Sir, this Government is trying to increase Boro cultivation and the production of other varieties of food-stuff. I entirely agree with my Friend Shri Lila Kanta Bora that paddy cultivation alone is not sufficient. Sir, I have found, in our State, if the land is water-logged or is not fit for Sali cultivation being high, the people do not consider it fit for any cultivation at all. I had been to Kaki and Phillobari. There the people were telling me that the land was not fit for Sali cultivation. But a land which is not fit for Sali cultivation may be fit for Boro or Ahu cultivation. If the land is high it is fit for Ahu cultivation and if the land is low it is fit for Boro cultivation. We must therefore encourage our people in those areas to take up Ahu or Boro cultivation, as the case may be. In Assam, Boro cultivation was not much in vogue, but now people are taking to it, particularly in Cachar, Kamrup and Nowgong. The hon. Members will be glad to hear that even in the Sibsagar district the people cultivated large areas under Boro and they got very good crop. If we can enthruse the people in other parts of the State to follow the example of Sibsagar, we will be able to solve our problem to a great extent. Sir, we have a shortage of only about one lakh tons of food grains. There is nothing to be worried about it; this is only a marginal shortage which can be easily made up



if we can induce the people to take to Ahu and Boro cultivation. We should ourselves take up the job without leaving it to the few officers of the Department and the cultivators, who are mostly ignorant about it.

Sir, the other day while touring in the State of Kerala, studying the system of agriculture there, I had seen several types of cultivation which the people had undertaken; for example, coconut, areca-nut, tapioca, etc. Tapioca is one of the staple food in Kerala where there is not much land for paddy cultivation. In our State also we can enthruse the people to take to tapioca cultivation in our high land. Then arecanut, which is a very valued cash crop, can be grown very well in Assam, but up till now we have not taken to it in a very extensive scale. We grow some coconuts near about our houses, but we have not gone in for groves. We have to enthruse our people to go in for extensive cultivation of these crops.

Sir, my Friend Shri Hiralal Patwary referred about the settlement of land. I admit that giving settlement of land may be one of the factors to encourage production, but there are other factors too. Can we say that all the land under settlement has been utilised? Are there not high land in the State which have been left unutilised, where we could very well grow arecanut, tapioca and coconut? Have we utilised all our low lying lands? So, Sir, I say, we will have to go in for different crops and multiple cropping as a family will not be able to meet its demands by depending on one crop only. As I said, Sir, the State Agriculture Department has taken in hand schemes to make multiple-cropping popular among our people, but I feel that the Department by itself can achieve very little unless we ourselves take up the job in right earnest and co-operate. I would, therefore, appeal to all the hon. Members for their co-operation in this difficult task of solving the food problem in this State.

Then, Sir, a lot of criticisms were made regarding cattle mortality. I will not take the time of the House at the moment to deal with this matter because the time at my disposal is short and I will have the occasion to speak about it in some details where the resolution tabled by Shri Mohi Kanta Das is moved immediately after this debate. I can only say this much that each criticism in this connection has been noted and I can assure the House that steps are being taken to set up this Department in a scientific manner. Then, Sir, it was rightly said by many hon.



Members that the propaganda machinery of the State is inadequate and we have not been able to propagate much amongst the people about the schemes of the Department. Sir, there is an Agricultural Wing in the Publicity Department to carry on propaganda. We have issued lots of pamphlets and papers to the public and I will place some of them on the Library Table so that the hon. Members may see as to what has been done so far. I admit even all these are not sufficient; in fact, no propaganda machinery of Government can be sufficient and, therefore, I say everyone of us will have to act as propagandists, in order to enthuse our people. This is a job which must be taken up in right earnest by all of us. I am glad that two of the Opposition leaders Sri Hareswar Goswami and Sri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya gave assurances, that they would keep the food problem above politics, and would co-operate with us although the very next day one of them misquoted a newspaper report and the other misquoted the proceedings of the Assembly in the House to malign the Minister of Agriculture. I don't know what sort of co-operation this is, but any way, I accept their offers of co-operation at their face value and I thank them for the same. Sir, I certainly seek co-operation from every section of the House and I hope it will be forthcoming.

In this connection, Sir, I would like to say that the departmental propaganda should be supplemented by the Press. I am very pained to point out certain aspects of the Press in this connection. I would not have referred to the Press here had it not been for the fact that for bringing about an effective co-operation of the people with the efforts of the Department, it is the Press which plays a very important role. A country can tackle its agricultural problem successfully only when the requisite circumstances are there. Sir, in the name of upholding the prestige of the Press, a particular individual was backed up and for that a section of the Press in Assam and Calcutta has been publishing every type of baseless news about the Assam Agriculture Department. It is a matter of great shame that even after issue of Press notes contradicting these news some newspapers particularly those which published the baseless news did not publish the contradictions.

**Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lamdin)** : How does it arise here ?

**Mr. SPEAKER** : It does. It is for me to decide.

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY (Minister, Food and Agriculture)** : If this is the type of co-operation that some



they are doing a great harm to the country. They are not doing harm to an individual only but to the whole country. Now, Sir, these baseless reports, contradictions to which are not published, create a very bad atmosphere in the country and create a bad impression about the Agriculture Department in Assam in the minds of the general public whose co-operation is primarily necessary for an increase in production. I was pained and surprised to see that a section of the Press had deemed it fit to back a wrong horse and even when the contradictions from the Agriculture Department were made available to them, they did not think it fit to publish them in their papers. What else is this except taking away the public co-operation from the Department of Agriculture? Surely this is not the way how we can rise to the occasion. I can only quote the feelings and the sentiments expressed by the Prime Minister of India the other day. He said that it is a national problem and this problem must be tackled keeping the whole thing above every type of smallness and personal prejudices. I would appeal to every section of the people of this State, including the hon. Members of this House, to keep the food issue above such small feelings and rise upto the occasion and then, only and there we will be able to serve the country. With thanks, I resume my seat.

**Short Notice Resolution to appoint one High Power Committee to examine the Causes and to recommend to Government measures needed under the circumstances to cope with the situation**

**Shri MOHI KATNA DAS (Barchalla):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that "In view of the large scale mortality of cattle due to various epidemics in the State causing consequent deterioration in food production and cattle wealth which has greatly affected the economy of the State, this Assembly is of opinion that a high power Committee be appointed by Government to examine the whole matter and recommend to Government measures needed under the circumstances to cope with the situation".

Sir, the hon. Members of this House have known and learnt from the discussions on the food situation that a large number of cattle died of various diseases in our State since March, 1957, onwards. As has been stated by the President of the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee that such a heavy toll of our cattle population by the epidemic is not unknown



in our living memory. The number was so huge that we exactly do not know what is the number. The other day the Veterinary Minister told us that the exact number of cattle population that died is being compiled.

Sir, as has been stated by different hon. Members on the floor of this House our cattle is the back-bone of our society and the prosperity of the whole nation depends on it. If we neglect our cattle population, then we neglect agriculture, we neglect our own prosperity. Eliminating cattle. You will have no agriculture and no prosperity. Formerly this subject was greatly neglected by the British people. Probably they did not like the idea that India should rise. So they took no steps for educating the people about the various methods by which cattle population of our country could be improved. Therefore, our cattle became de-generated during the British regime as there was no education of the people about Animal Husbandry or such other things.

Now, Sir, we have attained independence and after independence the Government of India and the State Governments have given utmost attention to our cattle and they have taken all possible measures as to how the cattle wealth of our country can be improved and how the supply of milk can be increased and how the milk-products can be produced in our country, because it is one of the main items of our basic food on which the whole nation depends for its healthy growth. Without milk the national wealth of our country, I mean the young boys and girls of our country who are no doubt our national wealth cannot have sound health. Milk and Ghee and other milk-products have importance. In Sanskrit it is said "वृद्धं आकूः Ghee is life" So, Sir, it has great value so far as building up of a healthy nation is concerned. Therefore the Government of India and State Governments are very much interested in it. Therefore in the First and the Second Plan the Government of India as well as the State Governments have not omitted to include a single scheme relating to cattle population which they considered necessary for the growth of a healthy nation. But Sir, it is most unfortunate that a huge number of cattle died in our State from rinderpest in 1957 and 1958. The records will show that suddenly there was a flare-up of rinderpest in an epidemic form and the flare-up had begun from March, 1957. The cause of the disease is perhaps known to the hon. Members of this House. Many Bihari people brought by land buffaloes from Bihar without getting them vaccinated and even without any quarantine through the district of Goalpara to our State. Some of them had



already the infection in them. Sir, it is a very serious thing to allow infected cattle to enter a State without being checked at the border. I am told that 300 buffaloes belonging to a certain contractor died on way of these disease. The movement of the buffaloes had not only taken place through Mangaldoi, Tezpur and North Lakhimpur Subdivisions, but also through other parts of the State with the result that we have a huge mortality of cattle population in our State. We were not prepared to meet such an emergency because there was no quarantine before the buffaloes entered into our State. Therefore, I would like to suggest that there should be arrangement at the border for the purpose of inspecting those cattle which are brought from outside the State whether they are vaccinated or not.

Secondly, there are many Veterinary Dispensaries in the State. But there are no doctors and the functions of such Veterinary Dispensaries are left to the supervisors or Veterinary Field Assistants. We should now try to find out what are our difficulties and defects in the administration of the department, for which the havoc, created as a result of the epidemic of rinderpest, could not be met by the Department. We must admit that most of our dispensaries are run without doctors and those dispensaries are left in the hands of Veterinary Field Assistants even. These things should be an eye-opener to us. Who knows, the epidemic of this kind may happen next year also. We must be prepared to meet this future emergency. Therefore, Sir, the purpose of bringing my resolution before the House is to discuss and devise ways and means to solve such a vital problem which confronts us today. It must be admitted that the Veterinary Department of the Government failed to anticipate such a danger to our cattle population. Therefore, the leaders of public and also the representative of the people should now discuss to find out a situation of this vital problem. It is quite apparent that at the time of the epidemic the Government machinery which was quite inadequate could not meet the situation.

Then, Sir, there is another important thing about which I would like to speak a few words also. We do not produce serum. This has to be brought from outside of the State. It loses its efficiency when it reaches destination here. Serum is an antidote to this fell disease. As I have stated, Sir, if we do not periodically vaccinate our cattle against rinderpest the entire population of our country will be in danger and that is the opinion of doctors. Sir, we produce goat vaccine tissue in the laboratories of our State but



we have to bring serum from Izatnagar and other places but while it is in transit, the potency and efficacy of the drug is lost and when it reaches the destination its application bears no fruit. Therefore, I insist on the Government to introduce production of serum in our laboratory at Gauhati whatever the cost may be. Other things, like construction of roads and construction of buildings costing us lakhs of rupees, may wait, but the production of serum in the Biological section of our Veterinary College at Gauhati cannot wait. If the Government hesitates in this regard I would say, that Government are still neglecting to take proper steps towards the treatment and preservation of our cattle population. Therefore, my first point so far as the treatment and preservation of our cattle is concerned is that introduction of serum in our laboratory in the State should be taken up immediately. I have seriously pondered over this matter Sir, and I find that this is the only solution, the only bulwork against the attack of rinderpest which is something like cholera. Therefore, I would request Government that they should consider this matter very seriously. If they mean business, if they really want to preserve and develop the cattle population which is the wealth of the State, they should take immediate steps to introduce production of serum in the Veterinary laboratory at Gauhati. Sir, in my motion I have suggested formation of a high power Committee of Enquiry. Now, the purpose of my resolution is that this Committee will enquire into the causes of such a huge mortality of cattle in the State. They should also enquire, into the lapses or lapses on the part of the officers if any. I am glad that our Chief Minister has said the other day on the floor of this House that he will not tolerate any lapses on the part of any officer. So the duty of this Committee is to see if it was the lapses on the part of any officer that led to the deaths of such a huge number of cattle in our State.

Another thing Sir, I want to submit that our Director's office is at Gauhati and the Secretariat is here in Shillong. In consequence there is tremendous delay in finalising things which I had experienced also while I was a Deputy Minister of this Government. Immediate personal contact is not possible. So Government should consider over this important aspect of the matter. Unless the Directorate and the Secretariat are brought together this delay would always remain. Either the Secretariat should go to Gauhati or the Directorate should come to Shillong. Unless there is amalgamation of these offices there will always be delay in the



implementation of schemes. Therefore, I would ask Government to consider this very important aspect of the matter is they mean to implement the schemes they have mooted under the Second Five Year Plan.

Thirdly, Sir, I would suggest that the veterinary dispensaries in the State should be regularly inspected. From personal experience I have found that these dispensaries are not regularly inspected. There should be one or two inspections in a year either by the Director or the Deputy Director. But generally speaking we do not find regular inspections by the District Veterinary officers. This lack of inspection renders the officer-in-charge of the veterinary dispensary inactive specially at the time of emergency. So I would request the Minister in charge to look into the matter and if necessary to increase the number of Inspectors. The Department should devise ways and means to have regular inspections of the various veterinary dispensaries that are in our State. This is a very important aspect of the matter and we are sadly lacking in it.

Sir, as regards other matters, I have elaborately dealt while I was speaking on the motions relating to Agriculture and Food. So I do not like to repeat them such as increasing the number of artificial insemination centres or increasing the number of Bull depots, etc. Many hon. Members will also speak on the most important subject. So I do not like to take much time of the House. With these words Sir, I conclude my speech and commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The resolution moved is that in view of the large scale mortality of cattle due to various epidemics in the State causing consequent deterioration in food production which has greatly affected the economy of the State, this Assembly is of opinion that a High Power Committee be appointed by the Government to examine the whole matter and recommend to Government measures needed under the circumstances to cope with the situation.

**\*Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding)** মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমার দাস ডাঙরীয়াই যিটো প্রস্তাব সদনত উত্থাপন কৰিছে সেই প্রস্তাব সমর্থন কৰি মই দুয়াৰ কবটৈ আগবাঢ়িছো।

দাস ডাঙরীয়াই প্রস্তাবটো দাঙি ধৰোতে কেইটামান পৰামৰ্শ দিছে। মই পুনৰ পৰামৰ্শ দিয়াৰ প্ৰয়োজন নাই। তেখেতে কৈছে যে ইয়াৰ কাৰণে এটা High Power Committee গঠন কৰিব লাগে, তাত মোৰ একমত।



আমাৰ যিটো অবস্থা তাতে cattle mortality যিকপ ধাৰণ কৰিছে তাৰ আভাস বিভাগীয় মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়েও দি গৈছে এইটো সচাঁকৈ দুখৰ কথা। আমাৰ দেশখন কৃষিপ্ৰধান দেশ। আৰু সকলো কৃষিৰ একমাত্ৰ সজুঁলি গৰু ম'হ। এনে দৰ্কাৰী সামগ্ৰী এটা, যদি এটা বেমাৰতে একেলগে ৩৫২ হাজাৰ মৰি যায় ই বৰ ভয়াবহ কথা। চৰকাৰে যি হিচাব দিছে সেইটো ভেটবোনেৰি বিভাগৰ দ্বাৰা সংগ্ৰহ কৰিছে। আমাৰ বিভিন্ন অভিজ্ঞতাৰ পৰা সংগ্ৰহ কৰিলে পাব যে এই সংখ্যা বহুত বেছি। আমাৰ নিচিনা দুখীয়া দেশ এখনত যদি ইমান গৰু মৰে, ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰা যে দেশৰ অৰ্থ নৈতিক অবস্থা জৰ্জৰিত হৈছে তাত অকনো সন্দেহ নাই।

আমাৰ ফালৰ পৰা সমস্যাৰ বিষয় দুটা দেখিছোঁ। এই cattle mortality ব শোকপূৰ্ণ আভাস মই দুটা দিওঁ। মোৰ সমষ্টিৰ এজন বন্ধুৰ ঘৰত সোমাই গুনিবলৈ কেঁচুৱা এটাই অবিৰাম কান্দিছে সোধাত কলে তাৰ মাক সবৃত্তে মৰিল এতিয়া সি তিনি মহীয়া কেঁচুৱা কিন্তু গাখীৰ নুখুৱাব কাৰণ সোধাত কলে যে একমাত্ৰ সম্বল এজনী গাই আছিল, সি এই মাৰি মৰকত মৰি থাকিল। গতিকে গাখীৰ কিনি খুৱাম কেনেকৈ? আধা পকা কল খুৱাইছোঁ ভোকত মানুহে আধা পকা কঠালকো খাই শেষ কৰিলে পকা কল পাম ক'ত?

তাৰ পিচত মই গৈ এটা Horlics কিনি পঠিয়াই দিছোঁ। তাৰ পিচত দেখিলো এটা হালুৱা গৰুৰ ওচৰত ৫ বছৰীয়া লৰা এটা বহি গৰুটোৰ পিনে চাই আছে। অনুসন্ধান কৰি জানিলো যে আনটো মৰকত মৰিল, পেট ফুলা বেমাৰত ইটো মৰে বুলি ভয়তে লৰাটোৱে চাই বহি আছে। ই কিমান কৰুণ দৃশ্য! এই হ'ল গাঁৱৰ অবস্থা। I am speaking the bare fact, Sir.

এনে অবস্থাত আমি যিমানেই Plan নকৰো আমাৰ প্ৰকৃত আৰ্থিক সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিব নোৱাৰো। আজি rinderpest ত গৰু মৰিছে। ইয়াত এটা কথা পৰিস্কাৰ হৈছে যে আমাৰ পশুবিভাগৰ কৰ্মচাৰী সকলে যিমান চেষ্টা কৰিব লাগিছিল সিমান যে হোৱা নাই সেইটো আমি চকুৰ আগতে দেখিছোঁ। আমাৰ পশুবিভাগৰ ডাক্তৰ বৰ কম গতিকে এনে ডাঙৰ সমস্যা কেনেকৈ সমাধান কৰিব পাৰি? কিন্তু ডাক্তৰ নাই বুলি দেশক জৰ্জৰিত হবলৈ দিব নোৱাৰি? কোৱা হয় এই Field Assistant বিলাকে বেজী দিব নোৱাৰে কিন্তু কি বিশেষ ব্যৱস্থাৰ দ্বাৰা তেওলোকক দৰ্কাৰী কামত খটোৱাৰ পাৰি তাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে।

সকলো পৰিস্থিতি বিবেচনা কৰিলে দেখা যায় যে ঔষধে যিধৰণে কাম দিব লাগিছিল সেই ধৰণে কাম দিয়া নাই। আমি বিশেষজ্ঞ নহ'ও, কিন্তু কয় যে বেজীৰ উপকাৰীতাৰ এটা সময় নিৰ্দ্ধাৰণ কৰা আছে; সেই সময় উকলি গলে তাৰ ফল নাথাকে, কিন্তু যি বস্তু যেনেকৈ ৰাখি ব্যৱহাৰ কৰিব লাগে তাৰ সেই দৰে ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগিছিল। সেইটো আমাৰ ইয়াত হোৱা নাই।

কিছুমান বিশেষজ্ঞই কয় যে বেজীবিলাক বখাৰ কাৰণে Refrigerator লাগে। আমাৰ চৰকাৰে সংগ্ৰহ কৰিব পৰা নাই। কিয়নো Foreign Exchange লৈ গোলমাল। কিন্তু যিটো নহলে দেশৰ বাজ হাড় ভাঙি যায় তাত Foreign Exchange ব দোহাই দি বহি থাকিলে কেতিয়াও হব নোৱাৰে আমি তাৰ ব্যৱস্থা



কবিবই লাগিব। আমাৰ বিশেষজ্ঞকলৈ এনেকুৱা ব্যবস্থা কৰিব লাগে যাতে আমাৰ ৰাজ্য ভেটেকীনেৰী ক্ষেত্ৰত যিমান তললৈ গৈছে তাতকৈ যেন আৰু তললৈ নাযায়। যোৱা ৪ জুলাইত দিল্লীত ভেটেকীনেৰী বিলিক চোচাইটিব যি মিটিং বহিছিল তাত সিদ্ধান্ত হৈছে যে আমাৰ ভাৰতবৰ্ষত বছৰি ৩০ মিলিয়ন গৰু মৰে আৰু এই ৩০ মিলিয়নৰ কাৰণে ৪০ মিলিয়ন বেজী তৈয়াৰ কৰা হ'ব। ইয়াৰ বাবে ৬ টা Producing Centre গোটাই ভাৰতবৰ্ষৰ কাৰণে কৰা হ'ব। আমাৰ nearest centre হ'ব কলিকতা। আমাৰ ভেটেকীনেৰী বিলিক চোচাইটিয়ে যাতে এই আচনিৰ সম্পূৰ্ণ সুযোগ ল'ব পাৰে তাৰ দিহা কৰাৰ ব্যবস্থা ল'ব লাগে। High Power Committee বুলিলে আৰু Technical Personnel Committee বুলিয়েই বজো, কিন্তু মোৰ মনেৰে এই High Power Committee বোৰত non-Technical মানুহ থকা উচিত। কাৰণ Technical লোক সকলে তেওঁলোকে যি দৰে জানে সেই দৰেই কাম কৰে আমাৰ কথা জানিবলৈ ব'ব মন নকৰে। আৰু তেওঁলোকৰ পক্ষে public mind win কৰাও অলপ টান হয়। তাৰ পিছত ভেটেকীনেৰী বিভাগৰ কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ ভিতৰত কামত নিৰুৎসাহৰ ভাব দেখা যায়। অফিচাৰ সকলৰ নিজৰ ভিতৰতো সন্তোষ নাই। ইয়াৰ কাৰণেও ভেটেকীনেৰী বিভাগে suffer কৰিছে। মন্ত্ৰীসকলে যিমানৈ চেষ্টা নকৰক অফিচাৰ সকলৰ কামত উৎসাহ নাথাকিলে এই বিভাগৰ কাম কেতিয়াও ফলৱতী নহ'ব। আমি দেখিছোঁ তেওঁলোকে কাম অৱহেলা কৰি কোন কেনেকৈ Assistant Secretary হ'ব, Secretary হ'ব ইত্যাদিৰ তালত থাকে। আমাৰ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে চোৱা উচিত Not those who pay a visit to the Ministers and M. L. As. twice or thrice a day. Only efficient men should get the chance of promotion.

গতিকে তেনেকুৱা অফিচাৰ চৰকাৰে বখা উচিত নহয়। তাৰ ঠাইত নতুন অফিচাৰ নিযুক্ত কৰিব লাগে। High Power Committee যদি কৰা হয় তেনে-হলে মোৰ বিশ্বাস এই ভেটেকীনেৰী ক্ষেত্ৰত অমাৰ কিছু উন্নতি হ'ব, নহলে যি অবস্থাত আমি পৰিছোঁ, সেই অৱস্থাৰ পৰা আগুৱা টান হ'ব।

**Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAJUMDER (Hailakandi) :**

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to speak a few words in connection with this very important resolution moved by my Friend Mr. Das. At the very outset I want to submit that in his resolution he wanted to cover the whole problem of animal husbandry. First thing he touched upon is about the huge cattle mortality in our State. Then he spoke about improvement of cattle. At the same time he also referred to increase milk production. Sir, within the limited time at my disposal it will not be possible to deal adequately and do full justice to all these various branches of animal husbandry. So, I propose to limit my observations to the protection of cattle wealth in our State. In the motion the hon. mover has referred to a large scale cattle mortality due to various epidemic diseases. We have here on the floor of the Assembly discussed at length about the huge mortality of cattle in our State. Therefore, Sir, I do not propose to go into the matter once over again. I do not think that the question of as to how many times the Veterinary Director visited the different



affected places during the epidemics is very important. I would only like to point out that it is not most essential for the Director, or as a matter of that, the Minister, to visit those places personally. But what is more important is to prepare a well thought out protection scheme well ahead of the epidemic so that the scheme can be properly implemented as soon as the report of cattle mortality due to the epidemic reaches the Government. I have also heard in this very Session of the House of reference being made to quarantining cattle during epidemic. It is not a fact that we do not have quarantine stations in our State. We have at present two such stations in our State, one at Tamulpur and the other at Lhubri. But these two stations alone are not enough. Therefore what is needed is to strengthen these two stations and also to have some more such stations installed in some other places. Officers of these stations should have been cautioned well ahead of any apprehension of such large scale cattle epidemic spreading out in the country so that no cattle in an affected area enter our State without being properly inoculated. Sir, it is a very huge task to immunise all our cattle population in the State. Of course once I attempted this but I could only immunise only a few epidemic spots in the State and as a result the cattle mortality from rinderpest was checked. But unless the whole cattle population of the state can be immunize either by vaccine that is prepared here which gives immunity for three years or by vaccines, prepared out side this State, inoculation by which gives life-long immunity, immunization here and there will not solve the problem of cattle mortality, because once an epidemic starts in some place, it takes heavy tool of cattle life. In order that our people can be given temporary relief in cases of cattle mortality, serum can be also used for vaccination, but unfortunately, as Mr. Das has referred to in his speech, it is not produced here. Mr. Das also referred to mortality of buffaloes. It is, Sir, a different problem ; it is not the same problem. We can get our cattle vaccinated by our students in the Veterinary College or by the Field Assistants of the department. But in getting the buffaloes vaccinated, doctors must be present at the spot ; otherwise it is not possible to vaccinate buffaloes. If without sufficient care and protection serum is applied or vaccination is given, then there is the risk of instantaneous death. We have experience of similar instances occurring previously in our State. Once I remember to have visited a village where all bufaloes succumed to death due to vaccination by serum without sufficient protection being taken against the risk of applying serum or such other



similar protective measures. Now Sir, as this question of cattle mortality has been discussed at great length in the House, I would like to confine my remarks to giving some constructive suggestions which, if our Government be pleased to implement will I think, save our cattle population from these epidemic diseases. At the outset Mr. Das has mentioned in his resolution to the large scale mortality of cattle due to various epidemics. Now of all the different types of epidemic prevalent in our State, mention must first be made of rinderpest. We have got goat tissue vaccines prepared in our State and at the same time we sold our goat tissue vaccines to people outside the State. We have Vaccine Depot here in our State and we can prepare this type of goat tissue vaccines. Then Sir, the other epidemics are Anthrax, haemorrhagic Septaemia and B.C.P.P. these are the epidemics. There are other epidemics also, but these are not prevalent here in our State. Vaccine against B.C.P.P. is prepared in our State. This disease is prevalent mostly along the banks of the Brahmaputra, and certain other riverine areas are only affected by this disease. Therefore, I do not think, we should worry very much over it as we have sufficient safeguards against this disease. If we want to protect our cattle then they must be immunised against rinderpest, anthrax, haemorrhagic septisemia, etc. How can we do that ? We have a biological product section in our State, but this has not been sufficiently equipped as yet. So, I say that the biological product section must be very much strengthened. We are to start from there. The money that has been spent for that purpose has not been adequate. Unless we strengthen and sufficiently equip our biological product section in the State it is no use to think of protecting our cattle against epidemic. Along with this, the vaccine depots that are here also must be sufficiently equipped and vaccines should be kept in various centres in the State, in refrigerators so that at the time of outbreak of epidemic those vaccines can be taken out. Unless this is done we cannot expect to protect our cattle in the State. There are experts in the Department and they must first examine what are the resources or materials at their hands to protect the cattle. Unless this is assessed and unless, as I have said, the biological product section and the vaccine depots are sufficiently equipped and all the necessary serum, etc., are prepared here locally it is not possible to protect our cattle against epidemics and some other bad diseases. It is less difficult to protect the cattle against rinderpest than against anthrax, haemorrhagic septisemia and some other such diseases. So, unless our cattle population is immunised those diseases are sure to attack



them. In certain cases it is very difficult to get the help of a doctor when such diseases attack them. It so happens that when a doctor arrives at such a scene he only finds the cattle already dead and there is no scope for treatment. Any way when he ascertains that disease of a certain animal is antrax or such other disease then serum vaccine is given to all the cattle. But that will not protect our cattle. There are certain places where these diseases are prevalent. So, the animal of those places must be immunised. They must be inoculated at the very beginning of the rainy season every year, and at the same time we should have sufficient co-operation from our people. We never hear of any stall-fed cattle contacting such diseases like anthrax, haemorrhagic septisemia, etc. This proves that only those animals which are left at large to graze contact these diseases. It is mainly because in our State the rainfall is very heavy and with the rain some such diseases crop up in the grass and the cattle contact them when they go to graze there. Our people must be cautioned against this. If they want to protect their cattle from these bad diseases then in certain part of the year they must keep their cattle in the stall. Unless that is done it is not possible to protect their cattle from such diseases. These diseases take a small time to kill the animals and as I have said, when the doctor arrives at such a scene he only finds them already dead. So, at this time no preventive steps can be taken. To take preventive steps we must do things from the start. We must see whether we have got the sufficient quantity of medicine in our State if we want to protect our cattle. In some cases, Sir, the required medicine takes a good deal of time to arrive and so some such medicines do not retain their potency, and I am afraid this happened this year also. In certain cases inspite of the vaccine, the animals died that shows that the medicine given had lost its potency during transit. Therefore it is all the more necessary Sir, that our biological product section should be strengthened and medicines kept ready at hand in all the districts and subdivisions. If this is done then I think we can protect our animals.

Then comes the question of staff. It is known to the hon. Members of the House that the Department has been running with a great shortage of personnel. In place of 200 to 300 veterinary doctors we have now less than one hundred of them. So, most of the dispensaries are running without doctors. In some cases the dispensaries are being



run by senior Field Assistants. It is because doctors are not available. Steps have been taken to increase the number of doctors, but that will take a long time. In these circumstances it is advisable if all the Field Assistants and the Students of the Veterinary College are engaged in giving mass inoculation to the cattle. We must begin from one end of the State and finish at the other so that none of our cattle remain unprotected. That is the only way to protect our animals. Sir, I am not an expert, but I am giving this suggestion from my practical experience of running this Department for a long time. Our protection machinery is not so sound and strong. So, in order to strengthen our vaccine depot and the staff Government must provide more money and without doing this there is no use talking of giving protection to our animals from various diseases. This is so essential for our food production also.

Regarding the high power Committee, my apprehension is that if we appoint such a committee the problem will have an academic bias. It will take some time in forming the committee, then it will move to different parts of the State, they will have to collect various information and then submit a report to the Government and the Government in its turn consider it for which they will have also some lengthy process of consulting the Department, etc., which on the whole will take a long time. Considering the urgency of this problem such a committee will not help. I do not think there is necessity of appointing this high power Committee. If Government can undertake to equip the department with sufficient apparatus for production of vaccines and serums in large scale and then can keep them in refrigerators in various district and sub-divisional headquarters and can maintain proper staff for their use at the time of need, I think, we will achieve our objective.

Further, my submission is that Government should give more attention and provide more money for preparation of these medicines that are extremely necessary to protect the animals against diseases and straightway take the matter in hand and begin to immunise our cattle, then we can solve this problem and save our cattle population. From our past experiences, we have seen that we will not have very favourable results by constituting a committee. Of course, I do not oppose the appointment of a committee, but the high power Committee as has been suggested by Mr. Das will, in my opinion, not serve practical purposes for early checking of the diseases.



With these words, I resume my seat and I hope Government will pay due attention to the humble suggestions made by me.

**\*Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar):** মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, যোৱা কেইমাহৰ ভিতৰত অসমত ইমান গৰু মৰিছে আৰু গৰ্ভণ মেণ্টেও যথামত কৈফিয়ত দি গৈছে, ইপিনে অকৌ খাদ্য সমস্যা দিনে দিনে বাঢ়ি গৈছে, আনপিনে গৰু মহ মৰি ধবংস হৈছে। সদনত ব্যাপক ভাবে ইয়াৰ আলোচনা কৰিছে আৰু ফল স্বৰূপে যে এই সমস্যা সমাধান হ'ব এনে নহয়। অসমত গৰুৰ মাৰিমৰক বন্ধ কৰিবই লাগিব। আৰু কিছু দিন এনে ধৰণে চলি থাকিলে অসমত গৰুয়েই নাইকীয়া হ'ব। কোনো কোনো গাঁৱত ইমান গৰু আছে যে তাৰে কিছুমান মৰি গলেও লোকচান নহয়, কেবল মাটিৰ ব্যৱস্থা থাকিলে এই গৰু বোৰ কামত লগাব পাৰে। কিন্তু নিজৰ অঞ্চলত সেই কথাৰ সাৰ্থকতা নাই। মাটি এনেয়ে পৰি আছে, গৰুহে নাই। এই বিষয়ে চৰকাৰে এটা কমিটি গঠন কৰি এই বিলাক বিবেচনা কৰি চাবৰ বাবে অনুৰোধ জনালো। যি মানুহৰ আজিলৈকে মাটি পৰি আছে হাল লগাব পৰা নাই সেই মাটি আৰু কেনেকৈ বোৱা হ'ব। আজি গৰ্ভণ মেণ্টে চিন্তা নকৰিলে নহয়। গৰুৰ সংখ্যা হ্ৰাস পোৱাত আমাৰ কেবল খেতিহে হোৱা নাই এনে নহয় আমাৰ গাখীৰবো অত্যন্ত অভাৱ হৈ পৰিছে। যোবহাটত যি গাখীৰ যোগান দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা আছিল, বৰ্তমানে তাৰ শতকৰা ২৫ ভাগহে দিয়ে অৰ্থাৎ ৭৫ ভাগেই নোহোৱা হৈছে। গতিকে গাখীৰ সম্পৰ্কে গোটেই অসমতে এটা জটিল সমস্যাৰ উদ্ভৱ হৈছে। এই কথা বিলাক পুৰুষানুপুৰুষ কপে আলোচনা কৰা আৱশ্যক হৈ পৰিছে। আজি কিয় এই অবস্থাৰ সৃষ্টি হৈছে? এই মাৰিমৰকৰ কাৰণ অকল যে চিকিৎসাৰ অভাৱ তেনে নহয়, কিছুমান ক্ষেত্ৰত দেখা গৈছে ইনজেকচন দিয়া হৈছে কিন্তু কাম হোৱা নাই। এইটো এটা গুৰুতৰ বিষয় যে প্ৰতিষেধক বেজীয়ে কিয় কাম দিয়া নাই? গতিকে মই সদনক জনাও যে ঔষধে কোনো কাম নিদিয়াত সমস্যা আৰু জটিল হৈ পৰিছে। কিছুমানে কৈছে ভেটেৰীনেৰী ডাক্তৰ নাই, Assistant ৰ অভাৱ। মোৰ কথা সেইটো নহয় মই কৈছো ঔষধে কোনো কাম দিয়া নাই। আজি যদি ঔষধে গুণ নিদিয়ে সেইটো বৰ ডাঙৰ সমস্যা। এই সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিবলৈ চৰকাৰে সকলো বকমে তদন্ত কৰিব লাগে। ইয়াৰ ওপৰত দেশৰ বহুত কথা নিভৰ কৰে। দৰকাৰ হলে মই আমাৰ কৃষি আৰু ভেটাৰীনেৰী বিভাগক ঔষধে কিমান ঠাইত কাম কৰা নাই তাৰ লিষ্ট দি দিব পাৰো। আমাৰ ভূতপূৰ্ব অধ্যক্ষ শ্ৰীকূলধৰ চলিহাৰ ঘৰৰ ৫ জনী গাঁইৰ ভিতৰত ৪ জনী মৰিছে, ১ জনী হৈ বাঢ়িছে, কিন্তু বেজী হলে ৫ জনীকে দিয়া হৈছিল।

এই কাৰণে মই চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰো, যাতে এই ভেটেৰীনেৰী বিভাগৰ ঔষধে কিয় গুণ নিদিয়ে তাক তদন্ত কৰিবলৈ এটা কমিটি গঠন কৰি ইয়াৰ প্ৰতিকাৰৰ এটা ব্যৱস্থা উদ্ঘাটন কৰে। ইয়াকে মই সদনত প্ৰস্তাবটো গ্ৰহণ কৰিবৰ বাবে সমৰ্থ ন জনালো।

**\*Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri):** অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মাননীয় সদস্য বৰদলৈয়ে যি মন্তব্য কৰিছে মই সেই বিষয়ত এক। এই বছৰ গৰু মহৰ মহামাৰীত চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰ পৰা যি বেজী বা ঔষধ দিছিল সি কাম কৰা নাই। বেজী দি যোৱাৰ পাচতে গৰু ম'হ মৰে। সেই কাৰণে শিৱসাগৰ মহকুমাৰ দোখদৰ মৌজাৰ বৰাহিবাৰীত নাজিৰাৰ পশুবিভাগৰ ডাক্তৰে বেজী দিবলৈ যাওঁতে গাঁও বাসীয়ে কৈছিল 'সকাম নিকামকে কৰো' বেজী দিলেও যেতিয়া গৰু ম'হ নাবাচে সকাম নিকাম হৈ কৰিম। আচৰিত কথা যে আজিৰ যুগতো চৰকাৰৰ ওপৰত, পশুবিভাগৰ ওপৰত বিশ্বাস হেৰুৱাইছে, ভগবান, আল্লাৰ ওপৰত ভৰসা ৰাখিব লগাত পৰিছে।



মই কোনো ডাক্তৰ নহয়। গৰু মহ এইবাৰ কি বেমাৰত মৰিল ক'ব নোৱাৰো। চৰকাৰেও খাটাং কৈ ক'ব নোৱাৰে, বিশেষ পৰীক্ষাই হোৱা নাই। পশুবিভাগৰ এভাগ ডাক্তৰে কয় ৰিণ্ডাৰ পেষ্ট, (Rinderpest) মৰিছে। এভাগে কৈছে নহয় ই এবিধ নতুন বসন্ত (pox), এভাগে কৈছে নহয় শামুকৰ জীভাৰ লালতিৰ পৰা হৈছে। দ'হাঁহনীৰ পানীৰ লগত শামুক আহে আৰু পানী শুকাই গলে ঘাঁহত শামুকৰ জীভাৰ লালতি লাগে—তাতে বীজাণু থাকে আৰু গৰু মহে ঘাঁহ খাওঁতে বীজাণুৰ পৰাই বেমাৰ হৈ গৰু মহ মৰিছে। বিন্দাৰ পেষ্টত মৰিছে নে.....

A voice—Rinder pest কি?

\*Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BORBARUAH (Amguri):  
ৰিণ্ডাৰ পেষ্ট এবিধ কলেৰা বেমাৰ।

Mr. SPEAKER : ৰিণ্ডাৰ পেষ্ট জাৰ্মান শব্দ অৰ্থ Cattle plague, গৰু মহৰ প্লেগ।

\*Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BORBARUAH: ৰিণ্ডাৰ পেষ্টত মৰিছেনে বসন্তত মৰিছে, শামুকৰ লালতিৰ বীজাণুৰ পৰা মৰিছে মই ক'ব নোৱাৰো। জয় সাগৰৰ কাষৰ জেবেঙা পথাৰত পৰি থকা হেজাৰ হেজাৰ হাঁড় বোৰে স্তম্ভিলে ক'ব কি বেমাৰত গৰু মহ মৰিল।

(Voice—কাক স্তম্ভিলে ক'ব?) পৰি থকা হাঁড় বোৰক স্তম্ভিলে ক'ব। মাজুলী বনৰীয়া চাপৰিৰ লংগিবিৰ ১৮০টা মহ আছিল, তাৰে ১৮০টাত মৰিল। বনৰীয়া চাপৰিত পৰি থকা হাজাৰ হাজাৰ হাঁড় বোৰে স্তম্ভিলে উত্তৰ দিৱ কি বেমাৰত এনে দশা হল। মোৰ বিশ্বাস ভালকৈ পৰীক্ষা কৰা হোৱা নাই। কিয়নো পশুবিভাগ আस्पতাল বা ডিচপেনচৰীত সাজ-সবজান আৰু ঔষধ নাই। উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে কওঁ যে যোৰহাটৰ পশুবিভাগৰ আस्पতালত মাইক্ৰোচকোপ আছে কিন্তু Stand ভাল নাই। পলাশবাৰী আस्पতালত ভাল Stand আছে কিন্তু Microscope নাই। ইয়াৰ পৰা বুজা যায় আस्पতালৰ অৱস্থা কি?

যিহেতু মাননীয় সদস্য দাস ডাক্তৰীয়াই অনা প্ৰস্তাব অৰ্থাৎ এটা উচ্চ ক্ষমতা থকা পশু কমিটি গঠন কৰি তদন্তৰ কাৰণে ভাৰ দিয়া বিষয়ে মই সমৰ্থন কৰিছো। তদন্ত কৰি কি কি পায় আৰু কি কি পৰামৰ্শ যোগায় কমিটিৰে ওপৰত সেইটোৰ ভাৰ থাকিব। দুটা বিষয় লৈ কমিটিয়ে নিশ্চয় লক্ষ্য ৰাখিব লাগিব; প্ৰতিষেধক ব্যবস্থা (Preventive) আৰু চিকিৎসামূলক ব্যবস্থা (curative side.)

এই বছৰৰ গৰু মহৰ মহামাৰী সময়ত চৰকাৰে সময়োপযুক্ত ব্যবস্থা ল'ব নোৱাৰিলে। সময়োপযুক্ত যেনে বেমাৰ হলেই গৰু মহক গোহালিত মাঁহ খুওৱা (stall feeding) পদ্ধতিলৈ ৰাইজক আনিব নোৱাৰিলে। প্ৰচাৰ নহল—বেমাৰ হলে সেই গৰু মহ পৃথক কৈ ৰখা ব্যবস্থালৈ ৰাইজক আনিব নোৱাৰিলে, কাৰণ ৰাইজক এনেধৰণৰ তত্ত্বাবধান লবলৈ শিকোৱা বা বুজুৱা নাই। আশা কৰো উচ্চ ক্ষমতা সম্পন্ন কমিটিয়ে তদন্ত কৰি প্ৰতিষেধক মূলক ব্যবস্থাবোৰ পৰামৰ্শ যোগাব। সময়োচিত ব্যবস্থা ল'ব নোৱাৰাৰ কাৰণে গৰুৰ মৰণ নিশ্চয় দায়ী। দ্বিতীয় হল চিকিৎসা সম্বন্ধীয়। শিবৰ দিনৰ পৰা যিহেতু আমি কৃষিত গৰুৰ সহায় লৈ আহিছো, যিহেতু গৰুৰ শক্তি বা পৰিশ্ৰম নহ'লে খেতি সম্ভৱ নহয়, যিহেতু আমি ট্ৰেক্টৰ পদ্ধতি অৰ্থাৎ বৈজ্ঞানিক উপায়েৰে খেতি কৰিব পৰা নাই, যিহেতু মানুহৰ সিয়ান আस्पতাল দৰকাৰ গৰু মহৰ কাৰণেও



সিমানা দৰকাৰ। ঠায়ে ঠায়ে পশু আশুপাতাল পশু ডিচপেনচৰী নিৰ্মাণ কৰি শীঘ্ৰে সাজসজ্জা, ডাক্তৰ, ঔষধ যোগান ধৰি উৰিষ্যাতলৈ হুচিয়াব হৈ থাকিবলৈ উচ্চ ক্ষমতা সম্পন্ন কমিটিয়ে পৰামৰ্শ যোগাব বুলি আশা কৰিলে। আৰু এটা কথাটোও আশা কৰে। সেইটো হৈছে এই যে বহু কৰ্মচাৰীৰ দোষতো গৰু মহ নৰিব পাৰে। কিছুমান কৰ্মচাৰীৰ নিজৰ ডিপাৰ্টমেন্টৰ প্ৰতিয়েই অনুৰাগ নাই। ২১ দিনৰ আগতে কোনো এক ক'পাৰেটিভৰ এজন সভাপতিয়ে ক'পাৰেটিভ ডিপাৰ্টমেন্টৰ উচ্চ খাপৰ এজন বিষয়াক ক'পাৰেটিভ সংক্ৰান্তত কোনো এক বিষয়ত লগ বহিছিল চিন্তিত। অকিচাৰ গৰাকীয়ে কৈছে আপোনালোকৰ ক'পাৰেটিভ ব্যৰ্থ হ'ব। ক'পাৰেটিভ বিভাগৰ এজন উচ্চ খাপৰ বিষয়াই নোচোৱাকৈ নেদেখাকৈ কেনেকৈ ক'পাৰেটিভ আপোনালোকৰ ক'পাৰেটিভ failure হ'ব। তেনে বিষয়াৰ নিজৰ বিভাগৰ ওপৰতেই বাপ নাই। ঠিক সেইদৰে পশুবিভাগৰ বাপহীন বহু কৰ্মচাৰী বা ডাক্তৰৰ দোষতো গৰু মহ নৰিব পাৰে। শুনিছো আৰু আমাৰ মন্ত্ৰীয়েও কৈছে বোলে বিহাৰৰ পৰা গোৱালপাৰা হৈ এই বেমাৰ আহিল। যদি পেয়ে হয় তেন্তে গোৱালপাৰাত প্ৰথমে হওতে তাতেই বাধা দিয়া নহ'ল কিয়? বেপাৰীৰ জৰিয়তে গৰু মহৰ বেমাৰ এখন জিলাৰ পৰা অন্য এখন জিলালৈ এই মহা ব্যাধি কিয় যাবলৈ দিয়া হ'ল? ইয়াৰ কাৰণে কোন দায়ী? গতিকে উচ্চ ক্ষমতা সম্পন্ন কমিটিয়ে এটা তদন্ত কৰিব লাগে যে কোনোবা কৰ্মচাৰী গৰু মহ গৰাব কাৰণে দায়ী নেকি? নিশ্চয় ওলাব। তেনে অকিচাৰৰ বা কৰ্মচাৰীৰ শাস্তি হ'ব লাগে আৰু যদি এই ক্ষেত্ৰত মন্ত্ৰীয়ো পৰে মন্ত্ৰীকো বাদ দিব নালাগে। (laughter)

চাৰ, মন্ত্ৰী যে দায়ী নহৈ এই কথা বৰকৈ নক'ও। কিয়নো মন্ত্ৰীয়ে গৰু মহৰ পাছে পাছে কিমান কুৰিব। কিন্তু মন্ত্ৰীৰ দায়ীত্ব চোকা নজৰ ৰখা, সময়োচিত নিৰ্দেশ দিয়া আৰু নিম্ন বিষয়াই শীঘ্ৰে নিৰ্দেশ পালন কৰিছেনে নাই তাক লক্ষ্য কৰা। বাইজৰ আপত্তি শীঘ্ৰে বিচাৰ কৰা। কিন্তু যি বিষয়া গৰু মহৰ মহামাৰীৰ কাৰণে দায়ী তেনে বিষয়াক ঘোৰ শাস্তি বিহিব লাগে।

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY (Minister, Veterinary) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to my Friend Shri Mahi Kanta Das for moving this resolution before the House. It is well known to the House that the Veterinary Department of the State is running at a great shortage in staff and equipments. There is a population of 58 lakhs of cattle in this State. We have got only 106 hospitals and dispensaries. If all these hospitals and dispensaries were equipped with qualified doctors, it could be expected that each hospital or dispensary would serve an area of 500 sq. miles and a cattle population of 54,000. That means that a doctor in addition to his normal duties must inoculate at least 54,000 cattle every year and then only it is possible for him to stop the recurrence of any epidemic disease. Sir, that by itself is not possible. But today the Veterinary Department is being run with half the number of doctors actually necessary. This means that a qualified doctor in this State has to serve in average 1,000 sq. miles with a cattle population of 1,08,000. Sir, it is simply impossible to inoculate 1,08,000 cattle population in addition to ones, own duties. But in spite of these difficulties, the Department has done its best.



Rinderpest is a highly infectious and contagious rapidly spreading disease of cattle and buffaloes. The infecting agent is a filtrable virus. This dreadful disease has been prevailing in an epidemic form in India including Assam. The Goat Tissue vaccine is used as a preventive measure for controlling the disease. It minimises the rinderpest outbreaks to a considerable extent. This vaccine is manufactured locally here and is used extensively every year in this State. The disease was, as a result, under control upto the year 1956. Unfortunately a herd of diseased buffaloes entered Assam through Goalpara for sale. The traders offered these buffaloes at a very cheap price and the ignorant villagers failing to resist the temptation, purchased and carried them to their respective localities. This Department as soon as came to know about it notified all the Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers to stop the movement of the diseased herds. The traders, however, mostly evaded this restriction order which had no legal force and stealthily moved the animals in different groups to different places through various tracts. As a result the disease broke out simultaneously at a large number of places.

Subsequent investigation revealed that the virus strain of this outbreak was unusually virulent. It is said that there is strong reason to believe that mutation of the rinderpest-virus took place and the virulence became so severe that a considerable number of even the vaccinated animals fell victims and died. As an analogy it may be cited that an epidemic of Influenza broke out in 1957 amongst human population. The virus responsible for the disease was the same with that of the strain responsible for the great epidemic of the year 1918. It was a case of virus mutation and as a result of this mutation, the vaccine became partly ineffective during the outbreak of 1957. It may be added here that outbreaks of rinderpest are prevailing in some of the States of Indian Union as well as in East Pakistan with severe mortality.

Rinderpest in an epidemic form broke out in the District of Darrang in the month of March 1957 and was attended to by the District Veterinary staff. As the disease continued to spread in June I directed the then Director to visit the area and take necessary steps for control of this epidemic. Messrs Bhatnagar and Nagchoudhury, Director and Deputy Director respectively visited Tezpur on the 11th June 1957 and issued directions to District staff for taking control measures. On the 6th of June



the Scheme for Eradication of Rinderpest was sanctioned by the Government and a part of the staff including Rinderpest Eradication officer was appointed.

The Rinderpest Eradication Officer was deputed to Darrang district to make a survey on the 28th September 1957 and the new Director of Veterinary personally visited Tezpur on the 30th September 1957. Immediately on his return orders were passed for the appointment of 48 V. F. As. and their deputation to Darrang district. Tezpur was made the headquarters of Rinderpest Eradication Officer for the duration. Upto the month of September the local staff carried out vaccination at a montly rate varying between 3,700 to 5,600. In the month of October the vaccination figure rose to 11,000 followed by November 65,000, December 1,16,000, January 152,000, February 75,000 and March 77,000, at the same time vaccination campaign was extended to North Lakhimpur which was also in the grip of rinderpest by then. Special staff deputed in this district was 49 V, F. As. I myself visited both Tezpur and Lakhimpur.

After the epidemic was brought under control in Darrang district the Eradication team moved to Goalpara to take up mass vaccination on a systematic basis from the month of February 1958. From the month of March 1958 reports of rinderpest epidemic started coming from Cachar district and this took alarming proportions in April and May when the Director visited that district and ordered deputation of a special staff from Eradication Scheme as well as from such districts as were free from epidemic to control the epidemic which was spreading fast in that district. I myself also visited that district. The Chief Minister was also then in the district of Cachar. I 30 V. F. As. were deputed to Cachar. Reports of rinderpest started coming from Lakhimpur in the month of May, Sibsagar and North Cachar and Mikir Hills in the month of June and batches of staff from Rinderpest Eradication Scheme as well as from areas still not effected with rinderpest were deputed to these districts. 17 V. F. As. and one Veterinary Assistant Surgeon were deputed to Lakhimpur. 5 V. F. As., and 2 Supervisor V. F. As., were sent to Sibsagar. 5 V. F. As and 1 V. A. S. were deputed to North Cachar and Mikir Hills. Many of these Assistants were drawn from Cachar where the epidemic was brought under control by them. Some of these areas were visited by me as well.

Sir, after that the disease broke out throughout the State. The staff was to inadequate to meet the situation. We requested the Government of India to help us with men but they could



not spare any. Any way Sir, I entirely agree with the hon. mover of the resolution that Government should take Immediate steps for immunisation of the cattle population in the State. Sir, I can only tell the hon. Members of this House that more than 28,00,000 cattle population in the State have already been inoculated. Now, Sir, the question arises as to why inspite of giving inoculation some of the cattles are dying.

Jonab Abdul Matlib Mazumdar has rightly pointed out that chances of buffaloes dying as a result of the affect of inoculation is there. Further because of the widespread nature of the thing it is likely that many of the cattle and buffaloes were in oculated at a time when they had already been infected. When the infectious virus enter into the body of an animal thereafter any amount of vaccination is meaningless. There is some amount of suspicion as whether in the rinderpest epidemic which had broken out in the State among the cattle population this year there has been virus mutation resulting in virulance of attack hither to unknown. I have neither knowledge nor experience of such a technical matter. Even the Veterinary Graduates are divided amongst themselves in this respect. Those who read the Natin Assamiya, they must have seen that there was a statement made by the Veterinary Gradutes Association of the Department that there must have been similar virus mutation and that the disease was not rinderpest alone. It was complicated by the incidence of some other virus. So, Sir, it is necessary that the matter should be enquired into and for this a Committee is necessary. I am grateful that the mover of the resolution has himself said that there are difficulties for the Department. No doubt, the Department prepares Goat Tissue Vaccines at Gauhati. But the machinery at Gauhati is not very up-to-date. Our production station at Gauhati is not equipped with up-to-date apparates and as such we cannot produce up-to-date freeze dried vaccines which can be taken to any place because of its' additional keeping quality. The Goat Tissue vaccines which have been manufactured at Gauhati or procured from outside have to be carried to far distant places and into the remote places in the rural areas where there is no electricity and in which outlying areas of the State the disease was prevailing. We had to send those to outlying areas like Chapories and P. G. Rs and such other difficult places with virtually no communication we took the help of the tea garden managers, Community Projects, other non-official agencies and the Departments of the Government to get the maximum facilities of refrigerators to keep the vaccine active. During summer the keeping qualities of the vaccine are reduced to only



few days and it is essential that it should always be kept in ice while transited and stored. Unfortunately facilities in the shape of frigidness and ice are extremely limited in the Department and also in the State. In our campaign inspite of all efforts, we are very much handicapped. This is a question which should also be looked into by a Committee. They should tell us how we can solve this problem. In the village areas Sir, we can use a certain type of refrigerator which can be run on kerosine oil, but in India the supply of the same to-day is very limited ; possibly one would not get many in Calcutta market and that too at very high cost. Refrigerators which are run on electricity cannot be of any use in the distant villages. It is necessary that this question also should be gone into by the experts; they should advise as to how this problem has been solved in other countries which were as backward as we are industrially.

Now, Sir, we had to face some difficulties with respect to serum also. As has been rightly observed by my Friend Shri Mahi Kanta Das serum is not manufactured anywhere in the State; we have to get it from outside the State. The life of the serum is also very limited. It takes quite a lot of time for this medicine to come from other places like Izatnagar and thereafter we are to take it to outlying areas most of which suffer from transport difficulties apart from the difficulties of cold storage. Very often serum loses its potency. There are some of the difficulties standing on the way apart from the difficulties about the lack of doctors and experienced officers. So it is very much necessary that a Committee should go into these things as well.

Then Sir, another question ; it is perhaps known to hon. Members that due to the pecuniary difficulties and ignorance of the people, sick animals are not segregated. When healthy animals come in contact with the sick ones they easily get the infection. For this reason some particular persons lose quite a number of cattle. It is necessary that we should find out as to how to educate the people in this matter and also to desist them from doing such a foolish thing like throwing the carcass here and there. Often the carcasses are thrown in the V.G.Rs where the cattle of the whole village do graze and thus the disease spread in geometrical proportion: if there is one death in a particular V. G. R. then all the cattle visiting that V. G. R. are affected. Sir, our people have got the habit of not feeding their cattle in the stalls. They let them loose in the morning. This is another aspect of the question for which we must find out ways and



means to educate our people. For all these the advice of the Committee will be of great help. Then Sir, in many areas we have seen cattle owners behave in a very peculiar way. When an officer goes to their village, they do not like to give their cattle for inoculation because there may be one or two cases of death as a result of reaction of the injections. Sir, it has been aptly said by an hon. Members that many cattle owners do not like to give their cattle for inoculation because of ignorance and the fear of reactions. They would only give their cattle for inoculation after the disease has advanced in that area and they are afraid of losing them. This is another problem which has got to be solved and I think that the Committee can go into this also. Sir, I myself is thinking of legislation in these matters. I feel it is necessary to have an effective control in these matters, if and when an area is declared as an epidemic area. In such an area people must be compelled to get their cattle inoculated. If there is any loss due to reactions as a result of inoculations, the officer who is doing this in good faith should be made immune from any action in the law courts. Similarly Sir, we must legislate prohibiting entry of diseased animals into the V. G. R. or in the State from out side. Such things as throwing of carcasses at random should also be prohibited by law. But I know such a legislation will be unpopular. Therefore, it is very much necessary that this matter also should be looked into by the Committee.

Sir, I may inform the hon. Members that on the 19th July last our Chief Minister took a decision to go into all these questions by appointing a Committee. And as such when my Friend Shri Das moves this resolution I have no difficulty in accepting it. My Friend Shri Ramnath Sarma has, said that the Committee should not consist of experts only because if the Committee consists only of experts, they will have an academic bias. I entirely agree with him. We will see that the Committee is not consisted of experts only. Similarly Sir, Jonab Abdul Matlib Majumdar was apprehensive that such a Committee will only delay matters. I can assure him and the House that whatever may be the action contemplated by the Committee, we will not wait for it and delay taking action on the views and wishes expressed in the House to protect rest of our cattle population. In fact, we have already inoculated 2,80,000 heads of cattle and the rest will be inoculated. In the meantime, for this purpose, this department has taken steps. If necessary we will utilise the services of students if allowed by law, as suggested



by some hon.Members. Similarly Sir, we are moving for procuring some refrigerators. We are also investigating as to whether we can start manufacturing of more vaccines in Assam particularly dry freezed vaccine, so also serum.

Sir, once again I thank the hon. Members for taking so much interest in this matter. I accept the resolution.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The question is that in view of the large scale mortality of cattle due to various epidemics in the State causing consequent deterioration in food production and cattle wealth which has greatly affected the economy of the State, this Assembly is of opinion that a high power Committee be appointed by Government to examine the whole matter and recommend to Government measures needed under the circumstances to cope with the situation.

(The question was adopted)

### Adjournment

The Assembly then adjourned till 9 A.M. on Friday, the 29th August, 1958.

Shillong,

R.N. BARUA,  
Secretary,

The 27th May, 1960.

Assam Legislative Assembly.



