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Assam Legislative Assembly Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

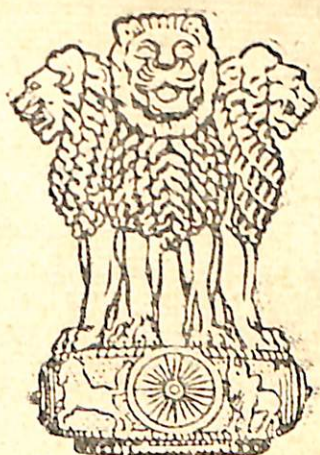
SEVEN SESSION OF THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY ASSEMBLED AFTER THE FIRST
GENERAL ELECTION UNDER THE
SOVEREIGN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN
CONSTITUTION OF
INDIA

MARCH SESSION

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The 18th March, 1955



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THE JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN

Proceedings of the Seventh Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly assembled after the first General Election under the Sovereign Democratic Republican Constitution of India

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 1-30 P.M. on Friday, the 18th March, 1955.

P R E S E N T

Shri Kuladhar Chaliha, B. L., Speaker, in the Chair, the nine Ministers, the two Deputy Ministers, the two Parliamentary Secretaries and sixty-nine Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Expenditure for the recent trip of Shri Mohendra Mohan Chaudhury to China and Japan

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

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

- (a) What amount of money had to be spent from the State Exchequer for the recent trip to China and Japan by Shri Mohendra Mohan Chaudhury, the then Minister-in-charge of the Cottage Industries Department and his party ?
- (b) Whether the gentleman who acted as the Personal Secretary of the Minister, Shri Mohendra Mohan Chaudhury, is a salaried Officer of the Government and still in the employment of the Government ?
- (c) What is the reason of non-selection of a permanent employee of the Cottage Industries Department as the Personal Secretary or a companion of the Minister concerned in his said trip ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) replied :

19. (a)—Rupees 24,011-14-0 (Rupees twenty-four thousand eleven and annas fourteen only).

(b)—The person who acted was not a permanent salaried Officer, but temporary Officer who is no longer in employment of the Government.

(c)—To suit his own convenience, the Minister was allowed to select his own Private Secretary and accordingly he selected a non-official.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : With regard to (a), Sir—Has it been decided by Government that all the other Ministers also will be given the opportunity of taking overseas tours prior to their retirement from Ministerial *guddy*?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) : That depends on circumstances.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : With regard to (b), Sir—Is the particular gentleman who acted as the Personal Secretary of the Minister trained in Cottage Industries?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) : No.

Anyhow, the Minister was given the option to select a man according to his convenience and this gentleman did not draw his allowance.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : With regard to (c), Sir—Was the Minister also requested by the Government to select a man from within the Department?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) : I have already stated, Sir, that the Minister was given the option to select his own Private Secretary according to his convenience.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : Sir, in view of the fact that both the persons are not in the employ of the Government, is it not a loss to the public exchequer?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) : I do not consider so, Sir.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Sir, I want to clarify the position. The Minister who visited that country contacted various experts in connection with the development of our cottage industries, etc. He has submitted a report and we are taking action on the basis of his report. The report also proposed that some experts from that country should be brought here to help us in the development of cottage industries.

Exclusion of Ahoms from the Census Report of 1951

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI asked :

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

(a) The number of Ahom population, district by district ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the Ahoms are not recorded any more separately in the Census Report of 1951 as was done in the previous censuses ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied :

20. (a)—Not available.

(b)—Yes.

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: Will Government be pleased to state the reasons why it is not available ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Sir, the census operation is under the Government of India and according to the direction from the Government of India, the operation is carried on to enumerate and collect all the communities including the backward communities also. So, the total number of the backward communities were collected together ; that is why, it is not available.

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: Whether this non-recording of the Ahom Community is not the order of the Chief Minister of the Assam Government ? If so, will he please put on the table a copy of the order ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Sir, I have already replied that all the backward communities were enumerated and collected together according to the direction from the Government of India. I cannot give any order to enumerate and collect the census of any particular

community or individual community and the census operation was not made on the basis of an individual community. For example, Sir, we cannot give a separate census for the scheduled tribes also. All the scheduled tribes also were enumerated and collected together. For instance, it is not possible also to give separate figures for the Boros, or Mikirs, etc.; they are all collected together.

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: Do the Government know that the non-recordings of the Ahom community in the 1951 Census have greatly affected the feeling of the community?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): I have already stated, Sir, there is no separate figure available for the Ahom Community.

Police quarters in the North-East Bank of Sibsagar Tank

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI asked :

- *21. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—
- (a) Whether some police quarters were constructed in the North-East bank of Sibsagar Tank?
 - (b) If so, when?
 - (c) Whether it is a fact that they are in a very bad state of disrepair and are not in the occupation of those for whom they are meant?
 - (d) What was the cost involved in constructing these quarters?
 - (e) Who constructed these houses, *i.e.*, whether by the Police Department or by the Public Works Department?
 - (f) For what period only the Police Officers occupied the house?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied :

21. (a)—Yes.

(b)—In different years as below :—

1912-13, 1913-14, 1927-28 and 1948-49.

(c) and (f)—No, except that two Assistant Sub-Inspectors' quarters and the Circle Inspector's quarters were badly damaged by storm and the Officers are not occupying the same since 1953.

(d)—Rs.23,561.

(e)—One Court Constable's barrack was constructed

by the Public Works Department in 1912-13 and the rest were constructed by the Police Department.

Procedure of drawing Departmental Proceedings

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

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

- (a) Whether it has been made a rule in this Department first to discharge or dismiss an employee and then to draw up departmental proceedings against him ?
- (b) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, will the Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof ?
- (c) If the answer to (a) above is in the negative, will the Minister be pleased to state whether the region under the jurisdiction of the Executive Engineer, Tura, has been made an exception to it ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied :

22. (a)—No.
(b)—Does not arise.
(c)—No.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : With regard to (c), Sir—Has the attention of the Government been drawn to order No. 4557, dated 11th June, 1954, whereby the Executive Engineer of Tura Division had drawn up proceedings against a particular gentleman on 11th June, 1954 who was dismissed from his services on 28th April, 1953 ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) : Yes, you will find it in the reply.

Departmental proceedings against a Muharrir under the Executive Engineer, Tura

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

*23. Will the Minister, Public Works Department, be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether a Muharrir working under the Executive Engineer, Tura, was served by the said Executive Engineer with orders of transfer, sus-

pension and discharge on the same date, namely, 28th April, 1953, without any proceedings being drawn against him ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that departmental proceedings were drawn up against the said Muharrir by the said Executive Engineer after about 14 months of his discharge from service, that is, on 11th June, 1954 ?

(c) What is the result of the said proceedings ?

(d) Whether for the period from 28th April, 1953, to 11th June, 1954, the said employee was regarded as being in service, or under suspension or under discharge ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied :

23. (a)—On the 27th April, 1953, he disobeyed the orders of the Executive Engineer, so he was transferred on the 28th April, 1953. On the 28th April, 1953 he instituted a false criminal case against the Executive Engineer in the Court of the Deputy Commissioner, Garo Hills, who, after judicial enquiry, passed judgment that the case was entirely false. As he was absent from duty without permission, he was suspended from the date (28th April, 1953), he was absent from duty. Subsequently he was dismissed from service with effect from the same date (28th April, 1953) on receipt of the result of the judicial enquiry held by the Deputy Commissioner. Orders were issued on the 28th April, 1953, and 1st May, 1953 and 9th May, 1953 but effect was given from the 28th April, 1953 in all cases. No departmental proceedings were drawn up against him before he was discharged but subsequently formal proceedings were drawn up.

(b)—No. The departmental proceedings were drawn up against him on 29th October, 1953 only and not after 14 months but the Muharrir refused to receive the same as reported by the Postal Authority.

(c)—He was found guilty of the charges and was accordingly dismissed from service.

(d)—The period from 28th April, 1953 to 29th October, 1953 and (not 11th June, 1954) was not treated as a period of

service or suspension as he was subsequently dismissed with effect from 28th April, 1953. It is pointed out that no subsistence allowance was admissible to him during the period of suspension as he was a member of the Work Charged Establishment.

Re : Civil Works Department of an Autonomous District

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

*24. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department be pleased to state whether the Civil Works Department of an Autonomous District is also autonomous or subordinate to the Public Works Department of the Government of Assam ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied :

24.—The Public Works Department of an Autonomous District is subordinate to the Public Works Department of the Government of Assam.

Cancellation of certain Government Orders in the Public Works Department

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

*25. (a) Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department be pleased to state whether by order No.E.3M/21/53/5571, dated the 8th May, 1954 of the Public Works Department, Establishment Branch, Government Order No.E.3M-/21/53/3586 of the Public Works Department, Establishment Branch, was cancelled ?

(b) If the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, will the Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied :

25. (a)—Yes.

(b)—On further examination of the case it is decided that a Government servant dismissed by Government is not to be appointed by the District Council and *vice-versa*.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Motor accidents in the State

Shri MOHENDRA NATH DEKA asked :

37. Will the Home Minister be pleased to state—

(a) The number of motor accidents in the State in the year 1954 and how many of them are with fatal injuries ?

(b) What is the number of prosecutions for such accidents and how many of them are convicted ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied :

37. (a)—Number of Motor accidents	...	...	340
Number of fatal injuries...	...	...	109
(b)—Number of prosecution	...	...	199
Number of convictions	...	...	49

Re: Posts of Head Assistants and Superintendents in the office of the Inspector General of Prisons, Assam

Shri A. ALLEY asked :

38. Will the Minister-in-charge of Jails be pleased to state—

(a) How many posts of Head Assistants and Superintendents are there in the office of the Inspector General of Prisons, Assam ?

(b) When were these posts created ?

(c) Of these which posts are permanent and which posts are temporary ?

(d) How long have the temporary posts been kept as such and why they are not made permanent with effect from the dates of their creation ?

- (e) When and why was the post of Superintendent in the above office created ?
- (f) Whether it has been made permanent and if not, why not ?
- (g) Whether it is a fact that the post of Head Assistant in the office of the Inspector General of Prisons, Assam, has been kept in abeyance for more than three years, and if so, why ?

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister) replied :

38. (a), (b) & (c)—There is only one permanent post of Head Assistant in the office of the Inspector General of Prisons. A temporary post of Superintendent in the office of the Inspector General of Prisons has been created with effect from 1st December, 1951, the post of the Head Assistant being kept in abeyance from the date of the creation of the post of Superintendent.

(d) & (e)—The post of the Superintendent has been created on an experimental basis in order to relieve Inspector General of Prisons from disposing of matters which are purely of routine nature and also to raise the general efficiency of his office and as such it has not been made permanent.

(f) & (g)—Do not arise.

Settlement of Land in Bijni in Dhubri Subdivision

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli asked :

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

- (a) The names and addresses of persons or associations of persons who have received settlement of land in more than one locality in Bijni in Dhubri Subdivision within last three years ?
- (b) The area of Lands settled with them in one plot or in different plots ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister) replied :

39. (a)—No person or association of persons received settlement in more than one locality during the period in Bijni.
- (b)—Does not arise.

Cases taken Cognisance of by the Police in Goalpara District

Maulavi SAHADAT ALI MANDAL asked:

40. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state —

- (a) Number of cases that were taken cognisance of by the Police in Goalpara District in the year 1954 ?
- (b) How many were disposed of by the Police with final report ?
- (c) How many were sent up for trial ?
- (d) How many ended in (1) conviction of the accused, (2) discharged, and (3) acquitted ?
- (e) How many are pending in Court ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied:

40. (a)—1916.

(b)—1090.

(c)—745.

(d)—(1) Convicted	...	...	...	...	...	304
(2) Discharged	...	...	...	...	...	42
(3) Acquitted	...	...	...	...	...	86

[Disposed of otherwise, i. e., by compromise, withdrawal, etc....19]

(e)—294 cases are pending in Court and 81 cases are pending for investigation.

Amount of money sanctioned as gratuitous relief and as various loans to flood affected people

Sriman PRAFULLA GOSWAMI asked:

41. Will the Revenue Minister be pleased to state the amount sanctioned as gratuitous relief, agricultural loan, seed loan or any other loan, for the flood affected people during the last flood in each subdivision of the State ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) replied:

41.—A statement showing the gratuitous relief, agricultural loan including seed loan, cattle loan, distress loan and other loan sanctioned so far for the flood affected people during the last flood in each subdivision is placed in the library table.

Demands for Grants

GRANT No. 45

“XLVIA—Road Transport Schemes—Working Expenses”

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.68,08,600 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1956, for the administration of the head “XLVIA.—Road Transport Schemes—Working Expenses.”

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved: “That a sum of Rs.68,08,600 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1956 for the administration of the head XLVIA.—Road Transport Schemes—Working Expenses.”

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.35,81,265 under Grant No.45, Major head XLVIA.—Road Transport Schemes—Working Expenses, Minor head (b) Operation, Sub-head Section III—Pandu-Gauhati-Shillong Service, at page 326 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.68,08,600 do stand reduced by Re.1.

My purpose in moving this Cut Motion is to discuss the condition of the workers and employees engaged in the Pandu-Gauhati-Shillong Service of the State Transport Organisation and as a matter of fact all workmen and employees under the State Transport Organisation.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is 5 minutes.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I have opened the discussion on the subject not with a view to create any bitterness or to make any castigation on the Government, but to request the Government to give pointed attention to certain burning problems of the workers and employees of this organisation. This morning I have come from Gauhati. Just when I was leaving my home, my little daughter, Maya, clung to my neck and after giving and receiving kisses said: “পিতা, কমলা আনিবি।” “Papa, bring some oranges”. This she said because the other day I happened to take a few oranges for her. I was travelling by Bus No.E 18. This bus developed minor engine troubles in three places in the journey, namely, at mile 26, 42 and 49

and I saw the driver and the handyman doing immensely hard labour just to keep the engine running—sometimes falling under the bus and I also saw that because of the damage done to the road last night by the hailstorm, the conductor and driver had sometimes to get down and remove some of the stones or trees or branches that were falling on the road. While I was watching this, I thought that this driver or handyman also might have a baby like our 'Maya' who also when he left his home might have entreated him "Papa, bring me some oranges". But how can this handyman drawing only a basic monthly salary of Rs.22 and a trip allowance of As.12 for this long journey from Gauhati to Shillong afford to comply with the entreaties of his baby? While we ourselves feel that for keeping our body and soul together we need from Rs.10-8 to Rs.20 per diem apart from our monthly basic salary, can we expect that this fellow citizen of ours who is doing very useful service to the State and society can or should do with a trip allowance of As.12 in addition to a basic wage of Rs.22 per month? As a human being in our free country, has he not the same right as myself or anybody else to do a little kindness to his child and family?

I left my home this morning with a heavy heart because I had to leave behind my ailing wife; but I had the good fortune of leaving with her a sum of Rs.100 for her treatment. Perhaps, God forbid, the handyman whom I met this morning might also have an ailing wife at his home, but is it possible for him to have left with her even a sum of Rs.10 at her disposal for her medical treatment? It is with the labour of these men that our State Exchequer is making a handsome net profit! We see in the budget this year that there was a net profit of over 18 lakhs from this State Transport Organisation.

Now, it might be said that this organisation has been taken up by Government for making money. It is after all a commercial organisation-cum-public utility service. It is meant to make some profit. But everybody knows that there is at least one thing known as "bonus". If the organisation makes some handsome profit then the workers are entitled to get bonus, but in this State Transport, these workers are not given any bonus. There are many other things which I had mentioned during my discussion last year and also the year before last. I must admit that in some minor matters at least something has been done by Government.....(The bell rang)..... and for that the present Minister deserves our thanks. I would request Government to be more kind-hearted towards these

poorly paid workers and see their way to improve their condition. When the Government is earning handsome profit from the State Transport Organisation, it is possible for the Government to improve the service condition of the employees. Then and then only our State may prove itself to be an ideal employer.

Mr. SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved is that the provision of Rs.35,81,265 under Grant No.45, Major head—XLVIA—Road Transport Schemes—Working Expenses, Minor head (b) Operation, Sub-head Section III—Pandu-Gauhati-Shillong Service, at page 326 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.68,08,600 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion moved by my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya.

Mr. SPEAKER: What about your own Motion ?

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: I am also moving that, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.68,08,600 under Grant No.45, Major head—XLVIA—Road Transport Schemes Working Expenses, at page 326 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.68,08,600 do stand reduced by Re.1.

The object of my moving this Motion is to raise a discussion on the working of the Road Transport Schemes—Working Expenses.

Sir, the State Transport is a monopoly service. There is no room for any other vehicles to ply on the road except the private taxis. What we find is that the Service is after all not quite adequate resulting in inconvenience of the people who want to travel by transport buses. Very often due to want of accommodation they have to stay back and thus they have to miss important engagements. Sir, this causes great inconvenience to the people. The Services should be more frequent and more buses should be placed on the roads so that no inconvenience is caused to the public. For want of transport buses sometimes people have to travel in trucks meant for carrying goods, and this causes loss to the Government. I would also request the Government to reduce the rates a bit. If Government places diesel buses, the working cost of which is 50 per cent. less than that of petrol buses, the rate of charges

can be easily reduced by at least 50 per cent. The Government has introduced such buses in some places. I think that can be done in all the places. With these words, Sir, I move my Motion for acceptance of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved is that the total provision of Rs.68,08,600 under Grant No.45, Major head—XLVIA—Road Transport Schemes—Working Expenses, at page 326 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.68,08,600 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the picture depicted by my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, about the lot of the drivers of the State Transport is not so.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I did not say about drivers. I mentioned about the conductors.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): I shall therefore give the pay scale of the handymen and conductors on the Gauhati-Shillong Road which is Rs.25— $\frac{1}{2}$ —35 per month. They get the dearness allowance of Rs.25 per month and also average trip allowance of Rs. 25 to Rs.30. So, it comes to Rs.75 to Rs.80 a month and not Rs.22 a month. They get the trip allowance at the rate of As.12 per trip or Re.1 for the round trip. Thus a handyman or a Junior Conductor gets Rs.25 to Rs.30 per month. The qualification of a handyman or conductor is generally under Matric. So, if they get about Rs.75 to Rs.80 per month, I do not think the emolument is not adequate. I have also comparative figures of pay, dearness allowance, etc., of other States. The pay scales of these categories of employees are not more than that of ours.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: কিয় আগতে ২২ টকাহে কণ্ডাক্টৰৰ দৰ্জহা আছিল! What is the basic pay of the conductor?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): It is Rs.25— $\frac{1}{2}$ to 35, Dearness Allowance Rs.25.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Previously it was stated that it is Rs.22.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Since then their pay have been increased by Rs.3 per month. There has been a general increase in the pay scale of those employees of State Transport whose pay does not exceed Rs.100 per month.

Sir, as regards the complaints of my Friend, Shri Gogoi, that the passengers do not get accommodation in the State Transport buses, it is not correct.

On ceremonial occasions such as Pujas, etc., there may be some delay in getting accommodation in the plains districts. But, Sir, on such occasions, more buses are placed on routes and services are increased according to need. The passengers get accommodation within 15 minutes or at the most within half an hour, because the buses are placed in Stations according to needs. A passenger in such occasion may not get the tickets on his arrival, but arrangements are so made that they get accommodation within 15 minutes to 30 minutes. Sir, we are increasing the number of buses. Last year we have increased the number by 25 buses, and there is a proposal in the current Budget for acquiring more than 25 buses. Traffic survey does not disclose that there is dearth of buses in any route, and from this survey it is possible for the number of buses that should ply in a route. In case of a definite complaint to the effect that the number of buses are not adequate and that more accommodation should be provided to the passengers in a route, that will be considered. Generally, Sir, we have increased the number of buses in each route according to necessity. If my Friend, Mr. Gogoi, or anybody in the House brings to my notice or to the notice of the Secretary, Board of Control, that additional number of buses in any route is necessary, then that will be looked into, and we shall increase the number of buses and services according to need.

Then, Sir, as regards big fare rates, during Budget Session last year, I have given the rates of our routes in our State and those of the other States in India. Our rates are similar to those prevailing in other States in India but in certain cases, specially in the hills, our rates are lower than those of the hill routes in other States. As regards employees, Sir, the lower grade employees whose services are very frequently necessary in the Stations, and some other officers, are provided with accommodation. In addition to this the allowances admissible to other Government servants are also given to them. With these words, Sir, I hope.....

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Whether these employees get the bonus in view of the huge profits that the Government get from this Department?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Sir, my Friend was not present when some of the Resolutions relating to State Transport employees were discussed the other day. At present, State Transport Organisation are examining the question of providing them with uniforms. The question of giving bonus has not yet been considered.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: What about medical treatment to their family members?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Yes, the same facility is extended to them as other Government servants, Sir. I hope, my Friends will see their way to withdraw their Cut Motions.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is: That a sum of Rs.68,08,600 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1956 for the administration of the head—"XLVIA.—Road Transport Schemes—Working Expenses."

(The Motion was adopted).

GRANT No.2.

"7.—LAND REVENUE."

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.81,83,400 (Rupees eighty-one lakhs eighty-three thousand and four hundred) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1956, for the administration of the head—"7.—Land Revenue."

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved is that a sum of Rs.81,83,400 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1956, for the administration of the head, "7.—Land Revenue".

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Sir, on a point of order, I beg to submit that Mr. Ranendra Mohan Das's Cut Motion is out of order. The purpose of his Cut Motion is to criticise the payment of compensation for acquisition of lands for Government purposes. As a matter of fact, the compensation is not paid under the head, "7.—Land Revenue".

and the land compensation is paid by the respective Departments. I leave it to you to decide the issue.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: It is quite in order, Sir. It is meant to criticise the inefficiency of the Revenue Department.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am referring to your own words "to raise a discussion about payment of compensation for acquisition of lands for Government purposes". Therefore, I think, the Revenue Department is not concerned and the Cut Motion is therefore, out of order.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.2,52,000 under Grant No.2 Major head—7.—Land Revenue, Minor head—A.—General Establishment, Sub-head 1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 4 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.81,83,400 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, my purpose in moving this Cut Motion is to criticise the Government attitude with regard to the functioning, control and supervision of the work of Sub-Deputy Collectors. Sir, I do not propose to take much time of the House by too much generalisation. I want to point out a few instances which will lead to the contention which I propose to bring out in this Cut Motion. Sir, first of all, take the instance of the present Sub-Deputy Collector of Chaygaon Circle. I hope the Minister-in-charge of Revenue has recently received the telegram (Mr. Speaker.—Mr. Bhattacharyya, your time is only 6 minutes). Sir, I beg to submit that you may be pleased to distribute the time saved from the question hour. I wish I could be shorter. Now, Sir, as I said, the Minister-in-charge of Revenue must have received the telegram of which I also have received a copy and in this telegram there is serious allegation against the present Sub-Deputy Collector of Chaygaon, that he, as a matter of fact, is fomenting communal tension in that area. That is the substance of the allegation.

It is very well known at least to the Revenue Minister that there are some 7,000 bighas of land in the Chaygaon Circle which used to be covered by (1) Sampuparagaon, (2) Sampupara Pathar, (3) Hatipara, (4) Pukhuripara and (5) Singimari. These are lands which were under annual Pattas. Now, in 1938 or nearabout that time, when there was an influx of Muslim immigrants in South Kamrup, the annual Pattas of these lands were cancelled during the days of Mr. Paine who was the Revenue Secretary at the time. These were converted into Professional Grazing Reserves. As a matter of fact, they were never real Professional Grazing Reserves but this plea

was taken only with a view to bring the land under Government control. By 1946 some of these lands were settled with some new comers by passing the claim of the local people from whom annual Patta lands were taken away by the Government. Of late Government has decided, it is said on the advice of the Land Settlement Advisory Committee, to open some land of this Reserve to two types of people, namely, the river-eroded and also local indigenous landless people. Now, so far as the river-eroded people are concerned, it is said that it would be better for them if land be given to them at a place which is nearer to their original place. Now, most of these river-eroded people are Muslims. The Sub-Deputy Collector took some armed police and about 500 Muslims along with him to demolish the houses of the tribal people who were, theoretically speaking, encroachers, but who were also given to understand that if they would vacate the land of their own accord, their petitions for settlement would be considered. And accordingly they had vacated the paddy land and the crops were peacefully auctioned out. But in spite of that, quite unnecessarily, this Sub-Deputy Collector, in addition to taking armed police with him, took also as many as 500 Muslims with him. This has created a very serious communal tension in that area. That is the purport of the long telegram which I have received and which I think the Hon'ble Minister also has received. I hope the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Revenue will please enquire into the matter and if the allegations are true, then suitable steps should be taken against this Sub-Deputy Collector and he should be checked.

There is also an allegation against the Sub-Deputy Collector of Tamulpur Circle. I think both the Chief Minister as well as the Minister-in-charge of Transport know very well that for the last few years Government lost a huge amount of land revenue in that Tamulpur area due to the bungling of the Sub-Deputy Collector there. There are many people who are getting land there, but instead of granting Pattas to these people who enjoyed the land, the Land Records staff took money secretly from these people and allowed them to enjoy the land. As a result, the Government was deprived of the land revenue which was due to them and the people did not get any right—at least there is no record of right for them. Thus, while the peasants are deprived of their legitimate dues, Government is deprived of its legitimate land revenue. So, there is a great loss to the public exchequer as well as a great deal of harassment to the local people. There was also of late a quarrel between the Sub-Deputy Collector and

the Mouzadar, as a result of which the Mouzadar was kept under suspension and the Sub-Deputy Collector was transferred—that is best known to the Revenue Minister himself. At any rate, there are very serious allegations against the Sub-Deputy Collector of Tamulpur.

There are also, Sir, very serious allegations against the Sub-Deputy Collector of Rangiya—not only the present one but of the previous two. The allegations are that since after the communal disturbances when thousands of Muslim immigrants had to vacate that area, the Sub-Deputy Collector, in league with the Dolois and the local landlords, created a lot of difficulties in the matter of settlement of land. The same plot of land was given to several persons in turn. It is reported that enquiries were or are being made by the Anti-Corruption Department regarding the assets of the Sub-Deputy Collector including the building constructed by the Sub-Deputy Collector at Gauhati.

Due to the bungling of the Land Record staff, litigations are going on between the indigenous new allottees and the migrants who have come back and the lawyers are getting money due to large number of litigations in Rangiya as a result of this mischief done by the Sub-Deputy Collector and the Dolois in the matter of settlement of lands. The worst part of it is that grave communal tension was created. For this not only the Sub-Deputy Collector and the Dolois are responsible, but I should say, the entire Land Records staff. So it is proper for the Government to see to all these and to keep a watch on the activities of the Sub-Deputy Collectors so that the people do not suffer...(*A Voice from the Treasury Bench*—What about the Mandals?) They are only small fries who are of course enthusiastic accomplices of the Sub-Deputy Collectors. But, Sir, so far as this particular Motion of mine is concerned, I want to concentrate on the allegations against these Sub-Deputy Collectors and I would request Government to look into these things.

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

Mr. SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved is that the provision of Rs.2,52,000, under grant No.2, Major head 7.—Land Revenue, Minor head—A.—General Establishment, Sub-head 1.—pay of officer (total), at page 4 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.81,83,400 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Shri MOHENDRA NATH DEKA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I take my stand here to oppose the Motion moved by my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya. He has made complaints about certain

Sub-Deputy Collectors. Sir, we all know that there are as many as 150 Sub-Deputy Collectors under the Government. The object of my Friend in moving his Cut Motion is to criticise the Government attitude with regard to the functioning, control and supervision of work of the Sub-Deputy Collectors. In his speech, my Friend has cited instances of allegations against three Sub-Deputy Collectors only and there are no allegations against the others. This clearly shows that the majority, nay cent per cent of other Sub-Deputy Collectors are good officers.

Now, Sir, as regards Rangiya, so far my information goes, the Sub-Deputy Collector has been transferred to Gauhati long before the budget discussion of the last Budget and as such, if any allegation was against him, it could have been brought during the Budget discussion of 1954. So, Sir, if there was anything against him, that question should have been brought during the Budget discussion and not now. So, the allegation against the Sub-Deputy Collector of Rangiya falls through. For the allegations against few Sub-Deputy Collectors, it cannot be said that all the Sub-Deputy Collectors are bad or corrupt officers.

With these words, Sir, I oppose this Cut Motion.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA : (Minister) Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, while moving his Cut Motion, referred to three charges against three Sub-Deputy Collectors and these three charges are against the Sub-Deputy Collectors of Chaigaon, Tamulpur and Rangiya. Now, Sir, I will first take up the charges levelled by Mr. Bhattacharyya against these Sub-Deputy Collectors concerned. Frankly speaking, Sir, I have not been able to follow or rather comprehend clearly the charges levelled by Mr. Bhattacharyya against those officers. The charges levelled are vague in nature and so it is very difficult for me to answer to such vague charges. If there had been any specific instances of the Sub-Deputy Collectors committing some specific unlawful acts, then it would have been very easy for me to give my reply as to what action Government propose to take against those officers. However, Sir, I take up all the points of allegation made against the Sub-Deputy Collectors one by one.

His first complaint against the Sub-Deputy Collector of Chaigaon circle is that he fomented a communal trouble between the people of different communities—at least between the tribal people living in that area and the immigrant Muslims there. My Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, is thinking like that, because when the Sub-Deputy Collector had gone to evict certain encroachers who happened to be tribal people, he had

taken the help of some Muslims. What is the practice generally followed in our country for evicting encroachers from some Village Grazing Reserves? The Sub-Deputy Collector goes to evict the encroachers not only with the help of police but also with the help of such people who are interested in maintaining law and order in the locality. This country of ours is full of loyal citizens who render help to the Government and I do not think our Sub-Deputy Collectors will be well advised to refuse a help of that kind. What happened is this that a large number—a very large number of squatters—had encroached upon several reserves and to remove those encroachers, the Sub-Deputy Collector had gone there and if he was helped by the local people, then, I think, we should rather say, that Sub-Deputy Collector had done well. This is not a case of fomenting communal discord at all. The Sub-Deputy Collector had done wisely in taking co-operation of that people, because after the reserve is cleared of encroachers, it is these people who will have to keep guard. Therefore to arouse lively interest of the people is an act which instead of being blamed should be praised by all. I do not think the Sub-Deputy Collector had done anything wrong by his actions. Mr. Bhattacharyya does not say that those Muslims had done anything wrong. If he had said this, then it would have been something different. The Sub-Deputy Collector was only taking the help of some people in executing his duty and for that it cannot be said that he was fomenting communal trouble. I do not think that the materials placed before the House by Mr. Bhattacharyya are enough to justify a charge against the officer.

Now, I come to the second charge levelled against the Sub-Deputy Collector of Tamulpur. That through the help of the local Mouzadar, he managed to get a lot of money dishonestly and subsequently in sharing that money there was some quarrel between the Sub-Deputy Collector and the Mouzdar. That is the charge against the Sub-Deputy Collector and under the report of the Sub-Deputy Collector this Mouzdar was kept under suspension. But I personally do not know anything about the quarrel between the Sub-Deputy Collector and Mouzadar on the question of the division of spoils. What actually happened in the case of the Mouzadar is this. This Mouzadar was in arrear of a huge amount of land revenue and this was found out by Sub-Deputy Collector as a result of his periodical check and he made a report to the Deputy Commissioner about it and as a result the Deputy Commissioner recommended his suspension and when he appealed to me, I gave him some

time to enable him to clear the arrear. It was the Sub-Deputy Collector who enquired and found that the Mouzadar was in heavy arrear and for that reason there was some misunderstanding between the Sub-Deputy Collector and the Mouzadar. I not only took action against the Mouzadar ; I also took action to transfer the Sub-Deputy Collector from that circle. But in the meanwhile a case was filed by an individual of that locality against the Sub-Deputy Collector for alleged slapping in him. As it is a criminal case against the Sub-Deputy Collector, it is desirable that his transfer should not be given effect to immediately and therefore, I stayed the order of transfer until the case is over. When a Sub-Deputy Collector has been made a victim of a charge in a Criminal Court, it is fair that he should be allowed to stay there until the disposal of the case and that is why he has been kept there for the present. I do not find any dishonesty on the part of the Sub-Deputy Collector. Had there been anything of the kind, then I would have got report on it and accordingly action would also have been taken against him.

Now, I come to the charge against the Sub-Deputy Collector of Rangia. There is no specific grievance against this Sub-Deputy Collector. The only charge against him is that he had been kept at Rangiya for a long time, and as far as I have understood from the trend of the argument, he has been making a big house at Gauhati. I do not know what kind of house he is making—whether it is a big house or a small house. He is a Sub-Deputy Collector and he is earning a pretty handsome salary and besides that he is entitled to house building advance also for constructing a house of his own. It is for the first time I have heard that this Sub-Deputy Collector is constructing a house there. Not only the Sub-Deputy Collector, but other officers also constructing houses at Gauhati and as a matter of fact Government officers below the rank of Sub-Deputy Collectors are making houses all over the State.

Again, Government officers get house building advance. Besides, this Sub-Deputy Collector, as is known to my Friend, is a good writer in Assamese, and he has written several Assamese books which are good sellers in the market. Sale proceeds of his books might also help him to enable him to construct a house at Gauhati. I do not know from what quarters he has got money, but the fact remains that Government officers get house building advance to build houses.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA : I want to know whether an enquiry was made ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : Yes, Sir. We are getting some complaints not only [against this officer but

against a large number of officers serving in different Departments, and whenever any complaint comes with a specific case, such cases are at once enquired into. The complaints received against this officer was also enquired into but the report of the Anti-Corruption Department is that there was no material to prove the complaint against this Sub-Deputy Collector. Therefore, Sir, from the impression that I have been able to form on these three cases cited by my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, it is clear that the allegations made by the hon. Member are not correct, and therefore, I request him to withdraw his Motion. At the same time I would like to inform him that whenever any specific allegation comes to the notice of the Government, it is at once taken suitable steps, and in this case also, as I have stated before, necessary enquiry was made, but the result of the enquiry was not such as to warrant any action.

With these few observations, I request my Friend to see his way to withdraw his Cut Motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: Does the hon. Member withdraw his Cut Motion ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: No, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that the provision of Rs.2,52,000, under Grant No.2, Major head—7—Land Revenue, Minor head—A—General Establishment, Sub-head—1. Pay of Officers (total), at page 4 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.81,83,400 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(The Motion was negatived.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Cut Motion Nos. 4, 5 and 6 can be discussed at the same time.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 3,400 under Grant No. 2, Major head—7—Land Revenue, Minor head—E.—Charges on account of Fishery Collections (total), at page 8 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.81,83,400 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

Sir, my intention in moving this Cut Motion is to raise a discussion about the sale of fisheries by the Government. Sir, we know that we have in our State a good number of fisheries and the revenue which we derive from the sale of these fisheries is also quite nice. But we have noticed during these several years that the sale of these fishery Mahals is not made according to the rules framed by Government themselves. No proper action has been taken whenever any complaint is made. Patronising of favoured persons and nepotism are being practised not only by the Deputy Commissioners but also at the Ministerial level. Sir, we know in one of these bungalows, the matter had been even

referred to the Supreme Court of India, and the Supreme Court had given a severe stricture to the Government of Assam, as they stated in the judgment that the "Assam Government knows no law but its own." After this condemnation emanating from the highest judicial authority of the country, I do not think, I should add any thing further.

Secondly, another thing to which I want to draw the attention of the Government is that there is a fishery Mahal of Kusiara river from Bhanga to Lakhibazar in Karimganj Subdivision and as the river belongs to both the Dominions of India and Pakistan, the sale of fisheries was not affected since 1947. We brought the matter to the notice of Subdivisional Officer, the Deputy Commissioner as well as the Chief Secretary so that they may also, in their turn, bring the matter to the notice of Pakistan Government. We know not, what settlement was arrived at during the meeting of the Deputy Commissioners on both sides. Due to the stoppage of sale of fishery on this river covering an area of about 20 miles, loss to the Government exchequer is not negligible. There are about 15 to 20 ferries on the side of the river falling between the two States. These ferries have also been stopped and now some private persons are plying boats unofficially which has resulted in loss of revenue to Government. So, I would request the Government to take up the matter with the Government of Pakistan so that sale of these fisheries may also be taken up by this Government. Before coming to Shillong I heard from a reliable source in Karimganj that Pakistan Government had sold out half the river falling to them to a particular party. I do not know how they can sell it. I, however, request the Government to make arrangement so that the fisheries falling in the Indian Dominion may be sold out so that it may be a source of additional revenue for our Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved is that the provision of Rs. 3,400 under Grant No. 2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, Minor head—E.—Charges on account of Fishery Collections (total), at page 8 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.81,83,400 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in supporting the Motion moved by my Friend, Shri Ranendra Mohan Das, I beg to draw the attention of the Government to one point in particular, and that is with regard to the settlement of big and important fisheries. Sir, it has been seen specially in Kamrup district and particularly in Gauhati subdivision, that important fishery Mahals like the Brahmaputra Mahals and also a part of Kallong, are being settled not with

actual fishermen either whenever they form societies or whenever they apply for such settlement as unregistered corporate bodies, but with individuals who sub-let these fisheries. For example, two widows of Ujanbazar have been settled with two fisheries in the up-stream of the Brahmaputra. I do not know the names of these two widows, but they are known as the widows of late Bholaram Das. What they do is that they sub-let these fisheries to fishermen of Rangmahal, Rajaduar, etc., taking from them rather big amounts of money.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I understand that your objection is against settlement with widows?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Not widows as such, but with intermediaries. I have given this particular instance to show that the settlement-holder is not one who engages labourers or operates the fishery with the help of other family members but who has got nothing to do except taking the middlemen's share by sub-letting it to others. The result is that actual fishermen have to pay a greater amount of money than they would have paid if they got settlement direct from Government. I quite appreciate, Sir, that these intermediaries should also live, but they should live by doing some socially useful labour and not by exploiting the proper share of other people. From my personal knowledge, I have seen, Sir, that though Government profess to follow a policy of settlement of fisheries with actual fishermen, particularly those who do the job themselves, but in actual practice most of the settlement-holders are not fishermen by profession. They are fishermen only by birth; their fore-fathers perhaps did some fishing business. Government should not encourage casteism so much as they should encourage actual trade. Therefore, my suggestion is that at the time of making settlement, Government should see that the actual fishermen, either in properly constituted co-operative bodies or even as individuals—if they cannot form such corporate bodies—are given settlement of big and profitable fishery Mahals like the Brahmaputra Mahal.

With these few words I support the Motion moved by my Friend, Shri Ranendra Mohon Das.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while supporting the Cut Motion moved by my Friend, Mr. Das, I would draw your attention to the Memorandum on the Budget Estimates at page 1, Land Revenue. There, Sir, we find that in 1951-52, actuals were Rs.15,21,000 as rents for fisheries, in 1952-53, it came down to Rs.14 lakhs, in 1953-54 it further came down to Rs.11 lakhs, in 1954-55, the budget estimate was Rs.14 lakhs, but the revised estimate was Rs.13 lakhs. So, from 1951 till this year we find that there has been a fall in our fishery

revenue. Why should it be so? We know, Sir, in most of the auctions the fisheries are not being sold at proper prices. This is a very important source of our revenue and we should try to increase it. What I feel is that fisheries are not auctioned properly. I was present in auctions once or twice and found that big people—people with influence—did not allow a free auction. Very often the hammer drops at a price which is lower than the price a fishery would have actually fetched. I also know of case, which went even upto the High Court, where the bid given by another man was higher than the bid at which the hammer dropped because this bid could not be properly heard because of a big noise. This noise is also purposely made so that other bids may not be heard as in the story of “अश्वत्थामा इतः किञ्च इति गज” in Mahabharata. The officer is surrounded by important people and they make a big noise and say “this is the last bid, no other bid is coming”. The officer is not to be blamed because he has not heard it. This actually happened in one case, which was corroborated by an affidavit. My suggestion is that we have to examine whether the tender system would not be a better system for settlement of fisheries. It may be that the tender system may bring us better revenue. Auctions are a veritable nuisance. All people coming together in a house, just like in the Stock Exchange in Calcutta, and making noise and nothing is done properly. So, I believe that the tender system might bring better revenue and also lead to fairness in settling fisheries.

The other point is this: My Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, has also referred to it. We have amended the rules under the Land Revenue Manual regarding settlement of fisheries and we insist that the fisheries should not go to middleman. But I know of many cases where fisheries have actually gone to middlemen. Even when the fishery has not gone to a middleman, the man with whom it has been settled has become a victim of some middlemen for his lack of finance. He has to borrow money. Under the fishery rules it is clearly laid down that preference should be given in settling fisheries to actual fishermen of the scheduled castes. Unfortunately most of the scheduled cast people who are actual fishermen, are very poor and if Government really wants to implement the rule these fishermen should be helped by way of loans immediately the settlement is given against the profit they will derive for the fishery. If such people approach the Government for loan immediately on getting settlement Government, should be lenient in granting loans and thus help these people. A settlement holder has to pay one-fourth of the money immediately and another one-fourth within seven days. What happens is this: he has not got money, so he goes to

money lender, who extracts from him the maximum benefit—a share in the fishery *plus* a huge amount of interest. So, if our rules are really meant to give relief to actual fishermen, loans should be advanced to them.

Now, Sir, another important point is with regard to the settlement of fisheries with actual fishermen. Sir, amongst the Hindus the scheduled caste people are generally considered to be actual fishermen, though all scheduled caste people are not fishermen. Amongst the Muslims, there are also actual fishermen, who are doing this business, but they do not belong to the scheduled castes. So, they do not get any preference. The rules should be so amended that actual Muslim fishermen also should get benefit of these rules. Then, Sir, recently there have been many complaints from the Lakhimpur district and the Hon. Revenue Minister knows about that. In one case I know of a lady who wanted to have a fishery settled by the Government with her. That lady came to the Minister and the Minister asked for a report from the district officer, but the district officer did not send the report, and in the meantime the Fishery Officer sold the fishery in question. Sir, for want of report that lady had to pay higher amount and she may perhaps come up for remission. Sir, I quite appreciate that Government should call for the report from the District Officers before settlements, but my point is that the district officers should be prompt in sending their reports when such reports properly are necessary for such urgent work. At least, Sir, these things should be finished before auction takes place. Also, Sir, I have received a report regarding the Dibrugarh Fishery Co-operative Society. This Co-operative Society applied for remission because the Brahmaputra fisheries and other fisheries settled with that Co-operative Fishery Society could not do well because of the floods and erosion. Sir, this Fishery Society consists of about 200 families of actual fishermen, they live on it. Even this matter was sent to the Minister in-charge and even the Chief Minister was approached for it. The Minister in-charge asked for a report from the Deputy Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner asked for the report from the Sub-Deputy Collector who sent three reports, but even then up till now no report was received by the Government about this. Sir, when some people want some relief or when they demand certain things these things should be done promptly, because justice delayed is justice denied, and for that the people are suffering. There is another case, Sir. In Dibrugarh there is a fishery namely Tongani; the Deputy Commissioner has tagged it with another fishery and has given settlement of that fishery also to the same party. This fishery could have been settled with the different parties, therefore, there has been deprivation of revenue

to the State Exchequer. I would request the Minister in-charge to see that in this business when some fisheries are settled they should be settled with the actual fishermen and that no monopoly should be created, and no one should take the advantage alone, these fishermen should live and so Government should consider the question of settling the fisheries with the actual fishermen, and not to settle with a particular family as reported in Dibrugarh that a particular family has been given settlements of a number of fisheries. That is a malpractice. I request Government, specially the Minister in-charge, to take these points into consideration.

Shri BIMALA KANTA BORAH :—Mr, Speaker, Sir, I have heard Mr. Goswami's speech and I find that the remedy suggested by him will be worse than the disease. Sir, his first point is that in some cases fisheries are sold at lower prices in auction sales. There may be cases like that. Sir, I have experience of the sale of fisheries, specially in the district of Nowgong where some fisheries were sold at a price double than that of the previous year. I can cite one or two instances of other districts also. Sir, in the Darrang district one of the Brahmaputra fisheries was previously settled at a price of Rs.21,000, but last year price of that very fishery went up to Rs.56,000. I have got a report from the district of Lakhimpur that in Dibrugarh one fishery which was sold previously at Rs.8,000 has been settled at Rs.14,000 this year. I don't like to cite more instances. Sir, it cannot be said generally that fisheries are sold at lower prices in auction sales. Sir, this argument that fisheries are sold at lower prices in auction sales cannot be applied in all cases. People generally take great risk in offering bids for fisheries. There may be flood, and other disasters and these may affect the fishing income of the lessee. Sir, in case of liquor shops, they are sold by tender system. There are rules and procedures for the sale of liquor shops. So people do not take great risk in them. But in case of fisheries, these cannot be done generally by rules and so tender system is no remedy. Another point raised by my Friend, Mr. Goswami, is that the fisheries should be settled with the actual fishermen. I quite agree. But, Sir, it is a question of revenue. Sir, Mr. Goswami wants that Government should advance money then and there to the lessee who cannot deposit their earnest money, that is not a practical proposition. If a fishery is sold for Rs.56,000 and suppose the first instalment is Rs.7,000 and the lessee cannot deposit the money, the Government will have to advance the money according to Mr. Goswami...

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : I mean those fisheries which are sold not more than Rs.7,000.

Shri BIMALA KANTA BORAH: Even then, Sir, the principle will be same. Government will have to advance the money to those who cannot deposit the first instalment, and after some time the Government may be required to engage their own fishermen as well to realise the debt. In such cases, Sir, Government stand to lose. It is a very risky business for Government to advance money in such cases, and it may also be that in future the fishermen will ask the Government to run their business in view of the loan.

With these words, Sir, I oppose the Cut Motion.

Shri MAHADEV DAS: মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় আমাৰ বিৰোধী দলৰ দলপতি ডাঙৰীয়া গোস্বামী দেৱে মাহ মহলৰ ডাক সম্পৰ্কে যিটো কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাৱ আনিছে তাক মই সম্পূৰ্ণ ৰূপে বিৰোধীতা আচৰণ কৰো। কাৰণ আমাৰ জনপ্ৰিয় গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে ভালকৈ গমি পিতি চাই এখন আঁচনী তৈয়াৰ কৰিছে সেই মৰ্কে আমাৰ মাছ মৰীয়া সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ লোক সকলৰ মহল বোৰ বন্দবস্ত কৰে। ইয়াতে মোৰ মনত এটি ফকৰা মনত পৰিল অৰ্থাৎ “যত দেখিবা মাছুৱা পাবা” “ততে পাবা ভঙ্গা বেৰা” তাৰ মানে দুখীয়া যেহেতু ধনীৰ ঘৰৰ বেৰ ভঙ্গা নহয়। ২০ হেজাৰ টকাৰ কম মহল বিলাক আমাৰ মাছমৰীয়া সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ লোক সকলে যদি ডাক কৰে তেন্তে তাত ১০ টকা শত কৰা কমিচন দি বন্দবস্ত কৰে-তাৰ ওপৰৰ বিলাককো যদি দুই এক ঘৰ অৱস্থাপন মানুহ থাকে তেন্তে তেওঁলোকৰ লগত বিবেচনা কৰি বন্দবস্ত কৰে।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় তেওঁ কৈছে যে আমাৰ দেশত মাছমৰীয়া মুছলমান সকলক কিয় অনুসূচিত জাতিত নধৰে মোৰ মনেৰে আমাৰ ইয়াত মুছলমান ভাই সকলে মাছ নেমাৰে অসমত মাছ অনুসূচিত জাতৰ মানুহৰ ভিতৰতে মাছ মৰা দেখা যায় যদিও ঠাই বুজি ২৪ ঘৰ উচ্চ হিন্দুৱে মাছৰ মহল লয় তাক মাত্ৰ তেওঁ লোকে ব্যৱসায়ৰ ছলত হৈ লয় আৰু তেওঁ লোকে কেতিয়াও মাছ নেমাৰে মাছুৱাৰ হাতেৰেহে মাছ মৰায় সেই কাৰণে তেওঁ লোকক অনুসূচিত জাতৰ মানুহ বুলি ধৰিব নোৱাৰি যিহেতু তেওঁ লোকৰ বংশ বংশানুক্ৰমে মাছৰ ব্যৱসায় কৰি অহা নাই মাছৰ ব্যৱসায় আমাৰ অসমত নিগাজী ফেচনে কেৱল মাত্ৰ দুই জাতৰ মানুহে কৰে। তেওঁ সকল “নমুগুদু” আৰু “কৈৱৰ্ত্ত” জাতৰ মানুহ। অৱশ্যে কিছুমান ভগনীয়াৰ মুছলমান আহি ইয়াত মাছ মাৰে। তেওঁলোকক দাঠিয়াৰ বোলে। মাছ মৰাৰ পিচত তেওঁলোক বঙ্গদেশলৈ গুচি যোৱা দেখা যায়।

আমাৰ অসমীয়া মুছলমান মানুহে মাছ মৰা দেখা নাই। মই নিজৰ অভিজ্ঞতাৰ পৰাহে কৈছো। যদিও এক শ্ৰেণীৰ মুছলমানৰ ভিতৰত অস্থায়ী ভাৱে মাছ মৰা দেখা যায়। তেওঁলোক অসমীয়া নহয়।

ডাক সম্বন্ধে কওঁ যে ই কম হব পাৰে এইটো অস্বাভাৱিক নহয় কাৰণ আজি জগতত সকলো বস্তুৰে দাম যিহেতু কমিছে মাছৰো দাম কমিছে। সেইদৰে কোনো কোনো ফিছাৰী মহলবো হয়তো দুই এক হেজাৰ দাম কমিছে। কিন্তু যিবিলাক মহলত পানীৰ সুবিধা থাকে, সেই বোৰৰ দাম কম নাই। আমাৰ বৰা ডাঙৰীয়াই কৈছে যে আঠ হেজাৰৰ পৰা এখন মহলৰ ডাক চৈধ্য হেজাৰ পাইছেগৈ। তেন্তে ডাক কম হৈছে বুলি কেনেকৈ কয়?

মোৰ বোধেৰে মাছ মহলৰ ডাকৰ পানীৰ অৱস্থাৰ আৰু বজাৰৰ লগত সম্বন্ধ থকাৰ কাৰণে ইয়াৰ ডাক সময়ে সময়ে বঢ়া ত্ৰু হয়; এইটো খাটাং কথা। তেওঁ কৈছে কম হলে বেয়া হয়। মই কিন্তু তাতকৈও কম হলেহে এই দুখীয়া জাতিটো বৰ্ত্তি থাকিব বুলি বিশ্বাস কৰো। কাৰণ টকা পয়ছাৰ অভাৱ হোৱাত জন সাধাৰণে বেছি

পয়ছা দি মাছ যদিও খোৱা বস্তু তাক ক্ৰয় কৰিব নোৱাৰে। তাৰ ফলত এই ব্যৱসায়টো অস্থায়ী অৰ্থাৎ মাছ পছিলে তাৰ দাম কম হয়। আন বস্ত্ৰৰ দৰে বজাৰ চাই বিক্ৰি কৰিব নোৱাৰি যি দামেই নহওক তাক বেচিব লাগিব। সেই কাৰণে আন বস্ত্ৰৰ তুলনাত মহল বোৰৰ দাম আক কম হলেহে মোৰ বোধেৰে এই মাছ মৰীয়া সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ লোকৰ কল্যাণ হ'ব বুলি ক'ব খোজো। যদি আমাৰ গোন্ধানী ডাঙৰীয়াই কলে হয় যে কম ডাকত মাছ মৰীয়া সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ লোকক মহল বোৰ দিলে হেতেন তেন্তে তেওঁক মই সমৰ্থন কৰিব পাৰিলোঁ। হেতেন কাৰণ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ কিছু ক্ষতি হলেও এটি জাতিৰ উপকাৰো হল হেতেন। আৰু এই কথাটো বোধ হয় আমাৰ জন প্ৰিয় গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে মাছ মৰীয়া গৰীৱ পুজাৰ হকে সহ্য কৰিবৰ কাৰণে সক্ষম হল হেতেন। মই ক'ব খজিছো যে ডাকৰ অৱস্থাত যিমান পৰা যায় সিমানে আমাৰ মাছ মৰীয়া ভাই সকলৰ প্ৰতি লক্ষ্য ৰাখি মহল বোৰৰ বন্দ-বস্ত কৰিব লাগে তাক কোনোও নুই কৰি নোৱাৰে।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় কোনো এটি জাতি বৰ্দ্ধমান সময়ত এক ব্যৱসায়ত বন্দি থাকিব নোৱাৰে অতীতত হয়টো থাকিব পাৰিছিল আৰু সেই অনুসাৰে তেনে জাতিৰো গতিত হৈছিল। যিহেতু ভাৰত গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে এই গণতান্ত্ৰিক ৰাজ্যত কোনো মানুহৰ হীন দোষ্টি উচ্ছ নিম্ন হ'ব নোৱাৰে তাৰ কাৰণে লক্ষ্য ৰাখি অস্পৃশ্যতা বৰ্জন আদিৰ বহু টকা পয়ছা খৰছ কৰিব লাগিছে। সেই কাৰণে মই ক'ও যে আমাৰ অনুসূচীত জাতিৰ মানুহৰ ভিতৰত অকল মাছৰ ব্যৱসায় এক চেতিয়াটকৈ নিদি আন আন ব্যৱসায় যেনে মাটি বৃত্তি স্থাৱৰ ব্যৱসায়ৰ সুবিধাৰ যোগতহে তেওঁ লোকৰ দাৰিদ্ৰতা দূৰ হ'ব বুলি মোৰ বিশ্বাস।

এই বোৰ কাৰণৰ পৰাহে মই তেওঁৰ কৰ্ত্তন মোচনৰ বিৰোধীতা কৰি মোৰ বক্তব্য সামৰণী কৰিলো।

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURI: Sir, I want to give some information. The statement of my Friend is absolutely incorrect that there is no fisherman amongst the Muslim Community. In my own district, there are considerable number of Muslim fishermen who are called 'Mahimal'. In fact, the District Congress Committee of Silchar, represented to the Backward Classes Commission for inclusion of these people as backward people.

Mr. SPEAKER: Among Assamese, probably there is no Muslim fishermen. That is what he said.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Friend Shri Ranendra Mohan Das has cast an insinuation against the Government by stating that in the matter of settlement of fisheries there is patronising and favouritism, both at the district as well as at the Government levels. I am sorry, Sir, my Friend has again made an irresponsible remark which is far from truth. There is not the least justification for making a remark like that. It is an allegation which is without any basis and it is absolutely untrue. My Friend is making reference of a case that was decided by the Supreme Court. What happened is this: A part of the Brahmaputra Fishery in the Darrang District was settled with an up-country man by Government. Some time before

the settlement. Government received a petition of a Co-operative Society belonging to actual fishermen. That petition was sent to the Deputy Commissioner for his report as to whether that Society was a registered one and whether it was formed by actual fishermen. For a long time the report from the District did not come and in the meantime the fishery was settled with the other party. But within a few days of the settlement, the report of the Deputy Commissioner was received by the Government which showed that the Society had been actually formed by the fishermen. The Deputy Commissioner also recommended that as that Co-operative Society was formed by the actual fishermen that fishery may be settled with that Society. As I have stated above, in the meantime the fishery, in the absence of the report from the Deputy Commissioner, had been settled with the other party and on receipt of the Deputy Commissioner's report which reached Government within a few days of the settlement, Government considered that probably Government would be justified to reopen and review the case in view of the new materials supplied by the Deputy Commissioner. In accordance with the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioner, Government reviewed the case and cancelled the settlement of the fishery with the other party and settled the same with the Co-operative Society. The matter was taken to the High Court where Government lost the case. Government then preferred an appeal to the Supreme Court. Government considered that it has inherent right to review a case in view of the new materials available in support of the case. To say that it was nepotism and favouratism is quite unjustified and.....

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Are we to understand that the judgment of the Supreme Court is also unjustified.? (At this stage the Speaker left the Chamber and the Deputy Speaker presided)

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): No, I am not challenging the judgment of the Supreme Court. What I mean to say is that the allegation made by my Friend Shri Das, is quite unjustified. I am not criticising the judgment of the Supreme Court. That is for the hon. Members to decide whether Government cares for law or not. I am only placing the facts, Sir. I am not questioning the right of the Supreme Court, but I am only placing the facts that in these circumstances a review was ordered which the Supreme Court stated that the Assam Government was not entitled to review the case and the Assam Government did not care for the law. For this it will be seen that the Government had passed an order in favour

of a co-operative society of fishermen and against any individual and from this it does not follow that Government is actually showing any favouritism to any person. Government wanted to do what was considered reasonable by Government in the matter of settlement of this fishing and there is no case of favouritism or nepotism. My Friend has taken advantage of his privileged position in the House and has made such an irresponsible statement which is hardly warranted.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : If I am irresponsible, then the Supreme Court is also irresponsible. **आनि कि आनार कथा बनहि ?**

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : The Supreme Court's order is not challenged by any one. Sir, what my Friend has characterised in his allegation is not correct. The Supreme Court never stated things like that and it never stated that it was a case of nepotism or favouritism. How can there be a case of nepotism when the Society itself belonged to actual fishermen. This is really an irresponsible statement. The Supreme Court cannot say this is a case of nepotism and that is why my Friend, taking advantage of his privileged position, has made such irresponsible utterances which are absolutely baseless.

Then about Kushira Fishery, my Friend said that it is not being sold for several years. Sir, part of this fishery falls in the Indian Union and the other half falls in Pakistan and the line of partition is in the mid-stream. Unless there is some sort of settlement between the two Dominions, this fishery cannot be settled. What we wanted to do was not agreed to by the Dominion of Pakistan. This time an agreement has been arrived at by the two countries with regard to this fishery.

Shri RANENDRAMOHAN DAS : I do not charge Government. I also wanted that this should be sold.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : This will be sold when there is an agreement between the two countries and a settlement has been made with the Pakistan Dominion. And as a result the fishery will be sold in due course.

Now, Sir, my Friends, Mr. Goswami and Mr. Bhattacharyya, have stated that in the matter of settlement of fishery it is the poor who generally do not get due consideration and the fishery generally goes to the middlemen. I do not deny that the fishery goes to the middlemen. But it is inevitable for various reasons. Sir, there are big fisheries like the Brahmaputra Fishery and you have also heard Sir, what my Friend, Mr. Bimala Bora has said that a small part of the Brahmaputra fishery was sold for Rs. 56,000 (fifty six thousand). How can the poor fishermen, the actual fishermen of our country, be able to take up settlement of

such big fisheries? That is the reason why we are encouraging formation of Co-operative Societies and the Government policy in this matter is to encourage Co-operative Society. As a matter of fact we have also provided that if Co-operative Society of actual fishermen and individual fishermen take up the settlement, they will get at 10 per cent less. Our intention is for the formation of Co-operative Societies by actual fishermen, then only it will be possible for them to take up fishery but we do not find adequate response from them. Whenever we find that such Societies are formed, we are giving due consideration to them. The other day a report from the Deputy Commissioner, Tezpur had stated, that a Co-operative Society has taken lease of the Brahmaputra fishery and the society is doing really good work and on that report the fishery lease has been extended for 5 years. We are really giving due consideration to such Societies but as already stated such response is not forthcoming in adequate manner. As a matter of fact, these fishermen are not so much educated as to form and run such institutions. Therefore, these people have not been able to take advantage of the Government policy. But, then my request to members is that we should help formation of the Co-operative Societies as without that it will not be possible to avoid fisheries going to the hands of the middlemen or intermediaries because such things do need a lot of money and the poor people cannot take advantage of it and it cannot be helped at present. Again my Friend, Mr. Goswami, suggested that why not Government give help these people with loans? In that case, the people will again have to furnish security and they will need a very big amount of money.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: I pointed out one thing. Certain amount of money is to be paid in cash and the balance of the settlement fee by way of security. Very often the Deputy Commissioners or Subdivisional Officers take landed property as security and they insist on certain portion in cash. Why it may be possible to give loan on security and why it may not be possible to give cash? So far as cash amount is concerned, Government should give due consideration.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): I do not believe that these poor men will be able to furnish adequate security. But it is the desire of the Government to encourage formation of Co-operative Societies and if really such societies are formed and if they want to undertake such kind of work, they can raise the money among themselves and take loan from Government also. How can Government advance money to the people without adequate security? That is a matter to be considered. It will

not be in the interest of public revenue to advance money without security to anybody. Therefore, Sir, I do wish that in the matter of settlement of fisheries these people should get due consideration, but then poor people as they are, they cannot take advantage of the provision. I hope my Friends will try to help formation of such societies so that our actual fishermen may get the advantage out of it. My Friend, Mr. Goswami, has suggested that so far as the auction of fisheries is concerned, he feels, free auction is not generally to be had. Sometimes it may happen like that because auctions are done in such a way that there is a big congregation of many people and the result is that the highest bidder's name may not be recorded and the second man may be regarded as the highest bidder and, therefore, the highest bidder does not get the bid. Things may happen like that and I quite realise it. But how to cure that?

Now Sir, my Friend suggested that to avoid that mistake why Government do not introduce a system of tender and settle fisheries through a tender system? I am afraid, Sir, that will not be helpful because our experience is that if fisheries are settled by a tender system, the fishery revenue will go down. The fishery revenue as my Friend, Mr. Goswami, said, has gone down every year. I feel that if this is done through tender system, the fishery revenue will still go down because the spirit of competition and the heat generated through open competition in the case of big auctions will be lacking and the result will be, as I have already said, decrease in the fishery revenue. So, it is not possible to accept that suggestion from the point of view of revenue consideration also.

Now, Sir, my Friend, Mr. Goswami, has mentioned to me about some anomalies in the settlement of fisheries in Dibrugarh.

I do realise that such anomalies do happen. But we must find the cause for it. As a matter of fact there is a complaint from our Members that the Deputy Commissioners generally do not give their reports in time. But this is not the case only in fishery matters, it happens in other matters as well. Sometimes there are inordinate delays about something to be done at a certain time but which could not be done on account of the absence of a report from the Deputy Commissioner as in the case of this fishery which had to be put to auction. For the above reason of absence of report in time, Sir, things do happen in this way. That is why Government feel that something should be done in this regard. The other day I passed an order that a circular should be issued to all District Officers that if such things continue, serious notice will be taken by the Government. But then

one thing can also be said in support of our District Officers. They are much over worked now-a-days. Again the Deputy Commissioners have to ask for report from the Sub-Deputy Collectors and the Sub-Deputy Collectors have again to collect materials from their subordinates—in this way things pass from man to man and by the time the report reaches the Government, it had already taken a long time. In this way, sometimes delays cannot be avoided. But Sir, Government have taken note of this and we are taking steps to remedy these anomalies as best as we can.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: In the matter of settlement of fisheries, the cases of Muslim fishermen should also be considered.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): This question needs proper consideration whether the concession which is shown to the Scheduled Caste people, namely the rebate of 10 per cent. Can also be extended to others. As I said, this matter will be examined and it is not a matter which can be replied off hand by me, Sir. I can assure my Friends that their suggestions will be taken into consideration.

With these observations I would request my Friend to withdraw his Cut Motion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Bhattacharyya, are you withdrawing it?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: No Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that the provision of Rs.3,400 under Grant No. 2, Major head-7—Land Revenue, Minor head—E—charge on account of Fishery Collections (Total), at page 8 of the Budget be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 81,83,400 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(The Cut Motion was negatived)

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.10,62,000 under grant No. 2, Major Head 7—Land Revenue Minor head—F—Survey, Settlement and Record Operation, Sub-head (b) Settlement Operations (total), at page 11 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 81,83,400 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

Sir, I want by this Motion to criticise the Government policy in the matter of conversion of annual Pattas into periodic. Sir, in a Government publication of 1953, namely the Report on Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year 1950-51, we find that there are 6,77,379 estates settled on the basis of annual Pattas and these estates covered a total of 17,056,200 acres of land. So this problem of land covered by these Pattas is indeed a colossal one. And this problem

does not confine to one or a few districts alone. It is there in all the plains districts. For example, in Cachar there are as many as 10,101 such estates and they cover 18,289 acres. In Goalpara—18,949 such estates covering 36,253 acres. In Kamrup—1,86,678 estates and the acreage covered is 4,77,790. In Darrang the number of estates is 1,19,212 and the acreage covered is 7,31,063. In Nowgong, the number of estates is 1,31,315 and acreage is 3,56,945. In Lakhimpur the estates are 12,088 and the acreage is 3,92,268 and lastly, Sibsagar—1,10,026 estates and the acreage is 2, 26,016. So we see that the problem is indeed a very big and extensive one.

With regard to conversion of these annual Patta lands into periodic Pattas a great deal has been said and discussed on floor of this House. I, therefore, do not propose to take much time of the House on this issue. The only point that I would like to stress is that, as a result of the Government's lethargetic policy—if there is at all any policy, of conversion of these lands into periodic, the peasants have suffered very heavily, specially in the hands of corrupt officers and the Land Records staff. It might be said that the people are always free to come to the law court or write to the Deputy Commissioner or to the local Government against such corruption. Everyone of us know that these things really do not give much relief to the people, because after all the lengthy procedure of the law court is too costly for the village people. Moreover, a peasant who is at the mercy of the Mandal or Kanangoo or Sub-Deputy Collector for his Patta cannot well afford to be bold enough to go and report against him to the higher officer or to the court because he knows that if he submits a report against the Mandal then next year on one or another plea he will be deprived of the land for which he holds annual Patta this year. Those peasants are completely at the mercy of the corrupt Land Record staffs. I do not say that all the Land Record staffs are corrupt, but there are some who are corrupt.

Until and unless a peasant feels that he is the master of the land which he cultivates, he does not get the stamina, he does not have the incentive and interest to develop that land by manuring or by any other means, because he knows that if he improves the land then it might so happen that having seen the value of his land, the Land Records staff might under this or that plea transfer the land to some other people by getting greater amount of bribes. For the security and also for the improvement of the land it is, therefore, necessary that he should be given the necessary right, impetus and encouragement.

In the present society a man has got a many-sided life and at times he needs borrow money and he has to go to different individuals for loans for this or that purpose. Some times he has got to purchase bullocks and it is not easy for a cultivator to do so with his own money and so he has to take loan from others even for a temporary period. But so far as private loan is concerned, nobody will give loan to a cultivator if he cannot keep as security either gold or land. Now-a-days our cultivators have no gold. Whatever they had, they sold it during the difficult days in the post-war period. So far as land is concerned, they have no periodic Patta for it and so they cannot keep their land as security and thus they have no credit in the market. From all these points of view there is no reason why this system of annual Patta should not be converted into periodic Patta. Of course there was a time when there was influx of outsiders into our State and the Government took the plea to issue annual Patta to those people in order to check the influx as it was thought necessary to do so. But I do not think that such a policy should be followed even now.

One particular community has suffered most in the four Districts of Goalpara, Kamrup, Darrang and Nowgong and it is the Muslims. Many of them are born here and they are not actually getting any right over their land. Moreover, in spite of the fact that from 1947 there is no such thing as influx of immigrant outsiders there still exists the artificial and in famous limit-line of 1938 making the poor *ex-Mymensingia* peasants easy victims at the hands of the Land Revenue staff. I do not know whether Government has given any such direction of differentiation or whether the policy of discrimination making 1938 artificial limit line is still prevalent in the four districts mentioned by me. As a matter of fact, the Muslim peasants in particular have been suffering a great deal. There should be no such discrimination in this State of ours against any section of people simply because of their religion, caste or race and it is unconstitutional too.

Then, Sir, we also appreciate that there are some people whose land should not be made periodic, for example, those people who are not actually cultivators. There are people who have more than enough land under annual and periodic Pattas. It will be better if the Government cancel their annual Pattas. But what do we see in reality? We see that actual peasant's annual Pattas are not converted into periodic Pattas whereas the annual Pattas of the big landlords are converted into periodic Pattas. I can give many instances of this sort and the Minister-in-charge of Revenue also knows about it. Shri Kamakhya Ram Barua, a landlord and a leading Advocate of

Gauhati had some annual Patta lands at Pandu and Jhalukbari where the University is now situated and last year he got all those annual Patta lands converted into periodic Patta lands. This was the reply given by the Revenue Minister last year in reply to a question put in the Assembly. Then again, one Shri Tarini Das who is the owner of the paper 'Shantidut' and a press named "Sadhana Press" and also a Cinema Hall and who got an industrial loan of one lakh, seventy thousand rupees, got his annual Patta land converted into periodic Patta land. A rich lady also got her annual Patta land converted into periodic Patta land. One Shri Mohini Goswami, who entertained us, the Members of the Assembly with tea last year got his land converted in periodic land and his brother at Gauhati, Shri Kamala Kanta Goswami, who is known to be a friend of the Revenue Minister got his land converted into periodic land. Next, one Up-country Brahmin named Sri Brindeswami Prasad Upadhaya of Kumarikata and who is a friend of the Transport Minister got 199 bighas of annual Patta land converted into periodic land.

Shri GAURI SANKAR ROY : আজকাল ব্রাহ্মন লোক ভী খেতি কৰ বহে হয়।

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA : So, all these landlords who are mostly Brahmins and are not cultivators, got their annual Patta land converted into periodic land but the actual tillers, the Muslims in particular, who have been hard hit, could not get their annual Patta land converted into periodic land. Our peasants of Naharkatia can be evicted by the British A. O. C. from their land without compensation simply because their land has not been made periodic. If the land would have been made periodic they would have got some compensation.

So, With regard to conversion of annual Patta into periodic Patta, Government has been following a pernicious policy.

Therefore, Sir, I commend my Cut Motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved is that the provision of Rs. 10,62,000 under Grant No. 2, Major head—7—Land Revenue, Minor head—F.—Survey, Settlement and Record Operation, Sub-head (b) Settlement Operations (total), at page 11 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 81,83,400 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI : মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমাৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াই যিটো কৰ্ত্তণ প্ৰস্তাৱ এই সদনত দাঙি ধৰিছে, সেই বিষয়ে মোৰ বিশেষ কবলগীয়া নাছিল, কিন্তু এটা সাধাৰণ কথাৰ কাৰণেহে মোৰ অলপ

কবলগীয়াত পৰিল। তেখেতে কয় যে নিজৰ সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ লোকসকলৰ বিপক্ষে তীব্ৰ সমালোচনা কৰিছে, মই বুজিবলৈ টান পাইছো। হয়তো ইয়াৰ আৰত কিবা আইন কথাহে লুকাই আছে বুলি অনুমান হয়।

মহোদয়, এনেধৰণৰ একচনীয়া মাটিৰ পৰিমাণ সাধাৰণতে কেচা মহলত হে বেচি। এই কেচা মহল বিলাকত আমাৰ ট্ৰাইবেল লোকসকল বসতি কৰে। সেই মাটি বিলাক মাদি পটাতৈ পৰিবৰ্ত্তন কৰোতে চাবলাগিব যাতে সেই বিলাক ট্ৰাইবেল সকলৰ হাত ছাৰা নহয়। সাধাৰণতে মাটিৰ দাম মাদি পটাত কৰাৰ লগে লগে ১০ টকাৰ ঠাইত ৫০ টকা ৫০ টকাৰ ঠাইত ৩০০ টকা আৰু ৫০০ টকাৰ ঠাইত ১,০০০ টকাও বাঢ়ি যায়। যেতিয়া এনে দাম হব তেতিয়া নতুন এটা সমস্যাৰ উদ্ভব হব পাৰে। বৰ্ত্তমানে বানপানী বিশ্বস্ত অঞ্চলৰ লোকসকলেও মাটি বিচাৰি আছে। সেই লোক সকলৰ ভিতৰত কিছুমান ব্যবসায়ী লোকও আছে। বেচি দামৰ লোভ সামৰিব নোৱাৰি ট্ৰাইবেল লোক সকলে মাটি বিলাক বিক্ৰি কৰি মাটীহীন হৈ যাব পাৰে, সেই বিলাক ভালকৈ চাই চিন্তিহে মাটি মাদি পটাত convert কৰিব লাগে।

এই ক্ষেত্ৰত মই তেখেতৰ লগত একমত হব নোৱাৰি দুঃখ পাইছো। অলপ স্বজাতি সকলৰ কাৰণে তেখেতে যদি এনে এটা দৃষ্টি ভঙ্গি লৈছে (হাঁহি) মোৰ বোধেৰে সেইটো উচিত হোৱা নাই। (হাঁহি)

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have also a Cut Motion, but I do not want to take the time of the House by moving that Cut Motion. I only propose to make a few observations on the Motion moved by my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya. Sir, he has given figures from various districts as published in the report on Land Revenue Administration of Assam, and these figures are very telling. It is not a fact that the Annual Patta system is in vogue only in a particular area of our State. The other day, I also quoted figures published in the Survey Report of Sibsagar where it is stated that 23 per cent of lands in Sibsagar district is annual Patta land.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : Are they held by non-Assamese. This shows there is no discrimination.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : I am not raising any communal questions. I do not look at the problem from that angle.

I have also found that about 17 lakh acres of land are held as annual Patta lands from which we get 31 lakhs of rupees. When speaking on the general Budget, I spoke that we should try to increase our inelastic source of revenue, i. e., land revenue, and I am sure, if we convert these annual Patta lands into periodic Patta lands, people will pay more as revenue and some money will come as premia. Sir, generally the objections raised against converting annual lands into periodic ones is that without fixing a ceiling on holding, if we convert annual Pattas into periodic ones some people who are in possession of annual Pattas will get more as compensation if we want to take the excess amount of land from them. And this has been said to us since the time when in 1953 for the first time we moved an

amendment to the Governor's address from this side of the House. Since that time this question of conversion of annual Pattas to periodic ones has received added importance. Now that a tentative decision has been taken regarding ceiling on holdings yet we do not find any step being taken for conversion of annual lands into periodic ones. Sir, except in the districts of Kamrup and Nowgong, in other districts where there is no immigrants there we will find it is not held in such quantity as to cross the limit that we have visualised as the ceiling on holding. Sir, my Friend, Basumatari, spoke about *kutchha* Mahals and spoke that tribal people may be affected. I am quite aware of the conditions of the tribal people. In any land reforms, two tests are to be fulfilled, *i. e.*, (1) we should reform the existing structure so as to give lands to the actual tillers, and in this connection I was reading a very illuminating book by Shri Karuna Mukherjee on land reforms. He has dealt there elaborately on the question of land reforms in India and said there that two tests of land reforms are—(1) is to give lands to actual tillers of land to give them the real right over lands, and (2) the assurance that in future they will not be deprived of their lands. My Friend, Basumatari, is concerned with the second point, *i. e.*, that these lands should not go out of the hands of the tribal people. I know of cases where annual Pattas have been transferred against law and it has not been possible to annual Patta holders to come to the court and take the help of law. Even if we refer this to Government, Government will say proper remedies lie elsewhere. So, Sir, to-day even under the system annual Pattas are being transferred, and there also I maintain that by maintaining the annual Pattas we do not give any special benefit to the tribal people. What is wanted is conversion of annual Pattas into periodic Pattas not only in tribal areas but every where. The fear raised by Shri Basumatari can be allayed by proper legislations regarding land alienation. I am looking at this question from the standpoint of cultivators and tenants. Therefore I support this Motion of my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya. This is a burning problem, and once we convert these annual lands into periodic ones, there will be a great impetus for improvement of land by the people as in that case they will themselves be the owners of lands and they will get more help both in the form of cash loan and otherwise.

With these words I support the Motion moved by my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya.

Shri JADAB CHANDRA KHAKHLARI: অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় মই মাটিৰ বন্দৰস্তী সম্বন্ধে দুআঘাৰমান কও। মাটিৰ সমস্যাটো আমাৰ ৰাজ্যত বৰ জটীল সমস্যা হৈ উঠিছে। এই সম্বন্ধে আজিৰ এই সদনত যিখিনি আলোচনাৰ অৱতাৰনা হৈ গৈছে সেই খিনি সম্পূৰ্ণ সচা বুলিব নোৱাৰি যদিও মই কব খোজো যে—এই বিষয়ত, মহাজন সকলৰ

শোষণৰ পৰা আমাৰ খিলঞ্জীয়া ভূমিহীন খেতিয়ক সকলৰ আৰ্থিক অৱস্থা দিন দিন অবনতি হৈ উঠিছে। সেই কাৰণে, এই শ্ৰেণীৰ খেতিয়ক সকলক প্ৰকৃততে ৰক্ষা কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা চৰকাৰৰ কৰ্ত্তব্য। এই প্ৰসঙ্গতে মই এই কথাৰ উল্লেখ কৰিব খোজা যে, লক্ষীমপুৰ জিলাৰ, বৰডুৰিৰ এজন মহাজনে ১৬ বিঘা মাটি লৈ আছে। প্ৰকৃততে সেই মাটি অন্য এজন মানুহৰ নামত আছে আৰু মহাজনে খাই আছে। পাচত জানিব পাৰি, মানুহজনে চৰকাৰৰ ওচৰত আবেদন কৰিলে চৰকাৰৰ পৰা উত্তৰ পোৱা হ'ল যে, মহাজনে, মাটি দখল কৰি বছৰি খাজনা আদায় দি আছে। সেই কাৰণে সিজন মানুহৰ কোনো অধিকাৰ তাৰ ওপৰত নাই। কাৰণ এই বিলাক একচনীয়া মাটি। এই ৰকমৰ একচনীয়া মাটিৰ ওপৰত কত দুৰ্নীতি আদি চলিছেই লাগিছে—তাৰ প্ৰমাণ বিচাৰিলে মই বহুতো দিব পাৰো। কাজেই বৰ্ত্তমানৰ ব্যৱস্থাত একচনীয়া মাটিৰ ওপৰত মানুহৰ নাম থকা নথকা একে কথা আৰু তাৰ দ্বাৰাই খেতিয়ক সকলৰ একো উপকাৰত অহা নাই বুলিলেও বঢ়াই কোৱা নহয়। সেই কাৰণে, যদি, প্ৰকৃততে সেই ভূমিহীন খেতিয়ক সকলক ৰক্ষাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবলৈ ওলাইছে তেনেহলে এই ৰক্ষা ব্যৱস্থা থকা হ'ব লাগে। কাৰণ, যিবিলাক মানুহে এতিয়া 'এগ্ৰিকালচাবেল লন' বিচাৰিছে—এই বিলাকৰ ভূমি নাথাকিলে আৰু তাৰ ম্যাদি পট্টা নাথাকিলে সেই বিলাক মানুহে কেনেকৈ ধান পাব? কাজেই মাটিৰ একচনীয়া ব্যৱস্থাটোৰ ঠাইত ম্যাদি হোৱা দৰ্কাৰ।

তাৰ পিচত আৰু এটা কথা এই সদনৰ সদস্য সকলৰ আগত দাঙি ধৰো সেইটো হৈছে তেল উলিয়াবলৈ ডিগবইৰ তেলকোম্পানীয়ে যি বিলাক মাটি আমাৰ খেতিয়ক সকলৰ পৰা লৈছে সেই বিলাক যদি একচনীয়া বুলি বিবেচনা কৰা হয় তেনেহলে এই মানুহ বিলাকক ধবংসৰ মুখলৈ ঠেলি দিয়া হ'ব বুলি মই বিবেচনা কৰো। আৰু এই কথা বিলাক, বিৰোধী দলে কৈছে বুলিয়েই মই কোৱা নাই। এই বিলাক প্ৰকৃত অস্তবায় আৰু সেই কাৰণে ইয়াৰ মুক্তি বিচাৰাটো বাঞ্ছনীয়। আশাকৰো আমাৰ চৰকাৰে ইয়াৰ বিহিত ব্যৱস্থা কৰি ভূমিহীন খেতিয়ক সকলৰ স্বাৰ্থ ৰক্ষা কৰিব। বিশেষকৈ মই বাজেট সমন্ধে আৰু গভৰ্ণৰ-ভাষণৰ সমন্ধে বক্তৃতা প্ৰসঙ্গত কোৱা মতে জয়পুৰ খেৰমীয়া, টিপ্পিং আৰু চাচনি মৌজাৰ একচনীয়া পট্টাৰ মাটি অতি শীঘ্ৰে ম্যাদি কৰিবলৈ আজিও কওঁ।

Shri MAHENDRA NATH DEKA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I stand here to oppose the Cut Motion moved by Mr. Bhattacharyya. Mr. Bhattacharyya has cited number of estates covered by annual Patta and the corresponding number of bighas covered by each estate, but he has not cited the number of estates or the area covered by them, which are under periodic Pattas.

Now, Sir, so far as my information goes, and so far as I have been able to work out from the revenue figures of Rs.2 crores 25 lakhs the revenue per bigha, in average, being eleven annas, it is found that 3 crores 50 lakhs bighas of land are settled by Government ; of this only 50 lakh bighas are under annual Patta while nearly 3 crores bighas are covered by periodic Pattas. Thus we find that only 15 per cent. of settled land is under annual Patta and 85 per cent. under periodic Patta. Again, Sir, if I remember aright, as many as 10 lakh bighas of land have been settled by this Government within the last four years with landless people and for rehabilitation of refugees and eroded persons. If we subtract these 10 lakh bighas, we get only 40 lakh bighas under annual Patta, which comes to 12 per cent. of the total settled land. Then, Sir, this land

which is under annual Patta is mostly in non-cadastral villages ; that means, this land is not properly classified, properly surveyed or properly assessed and unless and until there is some sort of regular settlement operations it is not desirable that these annual Pattas should be converted into periodic Pattas. I have no objection to convert annual Pattas lying within the cadastral villages, but the number of such estates is very small compared to the number of non-cadastral estates. Without proper classification and survey it is not desirable to convert all the annual Pattas into periodic ones. Government should move in this particular matter very cautiously, methodically and systematically.

With these few words, I oppose the Cut Motion moved by Mr. Bhattacharyya.

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to oppose this Cut Motion on the ground that it will not go very far to remove the land distemper which has already become chronic. Any quick remedy will not do, neither will a very cautious policy be able to remove all the difficulties standing in the way of our cultivators. In my opinion, the whole land policy should be very thoroughly examined and radically changed; a Cut Motion here or a Cut Motion there in every Budget Session will not solve the problem of the hungry peasants. Therefore, the whole matter should be considered *de novo*, so to say. Unless a bold step with imagination is taken by the Government, and the people co-operate unhesitatingly in giving effect to such a policy, the problem will remain where it is. Sir, as we know, the land is static but the population is increasing every year by leaps and bounds and, therefore, the same land will not serve the purpose of the same family very long. Therefore, it will have to be considered in this way; that the land which is still there must serve the purpose of the population, to feed them, to clothe them and also to supply other necessities of life. Therefore, as I have said in my Budget speech, I repeat here that ruralisation of every village must be accomplished completely. And to accomplish this every village must be taken as a unit for the purpose of cultivation and for the purpose of industrialisation. By industrialisation I mean cottage industries that will stand in time and help the cultivator's family as a subsidiary income. Therefore it is a large problem as Shri Vinoba Bhave has given a revolutionary character to land reform. Government should also see in the same line, *i.e.*, to help the cultivator in that way and not to create any intermediary proprietary right in the land. So the village must be taken as a unit and under that unit this problem should be taken very seriously, earnestly and with a faith to solve it.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, frankly speaking, I feel that these two Cut Motions of Messrs. Bhattacharyya and Goswami are not at all warranted, in view of the statement that I had made in course of my budget speech where I had given some sort of indication that this matter is under active consideration of Government and Government is contemplating some action in the matter. Sir, this is a very complicated matter, and this question is connected with various other matters. Therefore it needs some time for the Government to take the decision. But I can assure my hon. Friends that the decision will be taken by Government at the earliest possible time. In view of this I do not think that these Motions are at all called for, but as they have brought these Motions, they will need certain reply from me in detail.

I am quite at one with the sentiments expressed by Messrs Bhattacharyya and Goswami about the utility of conversion of annual lands. That will certainly give ownership to the agriculturists over the property; they will feel that they have got a right over the land and this will give an incentive to their cultivation and enable them to develop their lands. This will certainly give certain advantages to the persons who hold such lands. But, Sir, there are other things to be considered along with this matter. It has to be considered why this institution of annual land was created and retained by Government so long. Then, Sir, we had another institution like the line system in Assam and also we have had an institution like the belt system in Assam and why? The land system of Assam is a very peculiar thing. It is not unknown to you, Sir, that in our State there are certain sections of people who are very unsophisticated and simple minded who do not at least know their own interests properly. There was immediate danger of their being swamped by others. Thus to protect these people from being swamped by others and driven to the hills, this institution of annual land was retained, the institution of Line System was created and the institution of belt system is still retained in our land revenue system. So when the question of conversion of annual land into periodic comes in, many things have got to be considered along with that, namely whether by allowing wholesale conversion of annual land into periodic we will be doing justice to certain sections of our people who cannot sometimes protect their own interests. That will have to be considered very carefully.

Then again my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, has made a certain charge so to say against the Government that by keeping the institution of annual land in Assam we are in a way

encouraging some sort of discrimination against the Muslim population. As a matter of fact, the answer to this charge of Mr. Bhattacharyya has been provided by the Leader of the Opposition who has been pleased to state in his speech that in Sibsagar district alone there are 25 per cent. of land still held under annual lease and these lands are being held by non-Muslims. That will show clearly that the Patta holders of these annual lands are not only Muslims, rather a large number of these annuals Patta holders are non-Muslims. It is therefore clear that not only the Muslims but people of all communities are holding lands under this annual system. But I do not agree that this system has no utility at all. There was a time when it was very useful. On account of these three systems which I have mentioned just now it was possible to protect certain sections of our people in our State. My Friend, Mr. Goswami, says that by allowing conversion of annual land into periodic we may increase our revenue. But I am sorry to say that revenue cannot be increased by allowing conversion of annual land into periodic. Land revenue is fixed on the basis of class system and by conversion the nature of the land is not changed. Therefore revenue cannot be increased by that means. Of course, if for conversion some premium is fixed, that will bring some amount of revenue. That is under consideration at present before Government whether it would be wise to fix certain premium and in what way. As a matter of fact we are trying to come to a decision in this matter at the earliest possible time. But there are other things also to be considered, as I have already stated before. Sir, I like to bring to the notice of the House that in our Land Revenue Manual there are already provisions. Regarding the conversion of the annual lands into periodic and that was being done by the Deputy Commissioners and the Sub-Deputy Collectors. But Sir, that power was taken away from the Deputy Commissioners and Sub-Deputy Collectors and this power is now being exercised by the Government. Under the Land Revenue Manual there are certain provisions under which the land can be converted into periodic, but this conversion of the lands depends upon the fact whether the land proposed to be converted was cadastrally surveyed. It will be very risky to allow conversion of the lands into periodic without cadastral surveys. The crops raised in that area should be some permanent kind of crops, the crops must not be of shifting nature and also such areas should have fixed boundaries. Therefore, Sir, these conditions must be fulfilled before conversion is allowed. Sir, unless the area is cadastrally surveyed, how can we take conversion of annual lands into periodic? It might be infructuous

in future and it may lead to friction between the landlords. Therefore, before undertaking these things, that is conversion of annual lands into periodic, we will have first to undertake surveys of these areas. That work is being done and we have allowed surveys, to be done in many places, such as Naharkatiya and Kuarpur, etc. Therefore, Sir, we will have to go by a scheme of priority. If the area is cadastrally surveyed and have fixed boundaries with fixed kind of crops it will be easy for Government to allow conversion of annual lands into periodic.

Sir, where these conditions are not fulfilled, it will take some time, because to make a survey of a particular plot of land, some time will always be necessary—at least a year or six months time will be taken for such survey. Therefore, Sir, we will have to go and undertake these works by priority. Again the interests of the people also will have to be taken into consideration, as my Friend, Shri Basumatari, has given a hint, that this may not serve the cause of the tribals and that will also have to be considered, and also whether in the tribal belt these things should be allowed. At any rate, Sir, these matters are difficult and need close examination. Of course, Sir, I am glad to inform the hon. Members that a memorandum in this respect has been made by the Revenue Department which is coming up before the Cabinet after the Session of the Assembly is over and I hope we will be able to make some progress in this matter. Sir, my Friend, Mr. Goswami has spoken of some legislation after conversion of the annual lands into periodic, to prevent land alienation from certain section of the people, that is, from the agriculturists to non-agriculturists. I can assure him that it will be considered by Government in due course.

Sir Shri Khaklari has also spoken of one instance. He says about a certain man holding about 16 bighas of land. Sir, the matter was not quite clear to me, but I can say that—one swallow does not make a summer. My Friend has also mentioned about Naharkatiya. I have stated in this House that I have passed orders that Naharkatia matters should be taken up in hand in right earnest. Survey work is nearly completed, and as soon as survey is completed the whole position of the question of conversion of these lands into periodic will be taken up in right earnest. If there is any delay, the delay is due to the peculiar nature of surveys to be taken. Sir, this is a very complicated subject; therefore, some delay is bound to be there and it does not mean that we are not doing the works seriously.

My Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, has mentioned some instances of some persons. Sir, I have not got to say much in regard to individual but so far Mr. Barua is concerned, he got his annual Patta lands even before the Congress regime. About 13 bighas of this annual Patta lands are not still under cultivation and I have already passed orders cancelling settlement of his 13 bighas of land that are not under cultivation.

Sir, regarding the lands of Mr. Goswami this is a subject matter of some cases and on account of those cases not being disposed of, no decision is taken by Government. Hence the question of conversion of his lands cannot now be taken up.

Therefore, Sir, from this it will be seen that there is nothing which is not being done by Government to protect the interest of the people in the matter of conversion of annual lands into periodic.

With these observations, Sir, I request both my Friends, Shri Goswami and Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya, to withdraw their Cut Motions, because they are not very necessary.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : According to rules two days are not allotted for one grant. So it may be finished now.

(After a pause)

The question is that the provision of Rs.10,62,000 under Grant No.2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, Minor head—F.—Survey, Settlement and Records Operation, Sub-head (b) Settlement Operations (total), at page 11 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.81,83,400 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(The Cut Motion was negatived.)

As the time is now up, I shall now put the main Demand. The question is:

"That a sum of Rs.81,83,400 (rupees eighty-one lakhs, eighty-three thousand and four hundred) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1956, for the administration of the head '7—Land Revenue'.

(This was adopted)

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A. M. on Saturday, the 19th March, 1955.

Shillong:
The 5th January 1956.

S. KAR GUPTA,
For Secretary,
Legislative Assembly, Assam.

AGENTS IN INDIA

1. Messrs. Thacker Spink & Co., Calcutta.
2. Messrs. W. Newman & Co., Calcutta.
3. Messrs. S. K. Lahiri & Co., Calcutta.
4. Messrs. R. Cambray & Co., 6 and 8/2, Hastings Street, Calcutta.
5. Messrs. D. B. Taraporevala Sons and Co., 103, Meadow Street, Fort, Post Box No.187, Bombay.
6. The Indian School Supply Depot, 309, Bow Bazar Street, Calcutta.
7. The City Book Company, Post Box No.283, Madras.
8. The Director, The Book Company, Limited, Book Sellers and Stationers, 4/4A, College Square, Calcutta.
9. The Manager, The Imperial Publishing Co., 99, Ry. Road, Lahore.
10. Messrs. Chapala Book Stall, Shillong.
11. Messrs. Sirbhumi Publishing Co., Calcutta.
12. The Proprietor, 'Graduates Union,' Gauhati.
13. Mr. Banwarilal Jain (Book Seller), 1719/2002, Mati Katra, Agra (India).
14. Messrs. Low Book Society, 65/3, Harrison Road, Calcutta.
15. The Director, Benares Corporation, University Road, P.O. Lanka.
16. Messrs. Law Book Society, 4A, Wellington Square, Calcutta.
17. Messrs. Bodh Raj Marwah, Booksellers, Shop No.63, Pusa Colony Market, Delhi-Karol Bagh, New Delhi.
18. The Oxford Book and Stationery Co., Scindia House, New Delhi/17, Park Street, Calcutta-16.