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# Assam Legislative Assembly Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

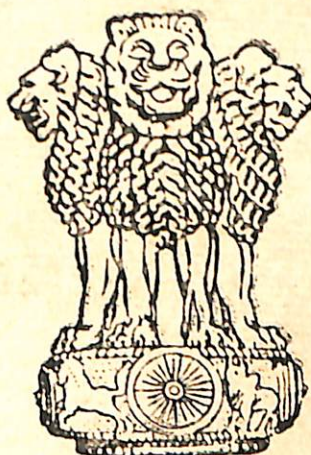
SEVENTH SESSION OF THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE  
ASSEMBLY ASSEMBLED AFTER THE FIRST  
GENERAL ELECTION UNDER THE  
SOVEREIGN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN  
CONSTITUTION OF  
INDIA

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**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 10 A. M. on Saturday, the 19th 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-eight Members.

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**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS**

(To which oral answers were given)

**Alleged evacuation of Bengalees in Gossaigaon Police Station and Bijni Police Station of Dhubri Subdivision**

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS** asked :

1. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—
  - (a) If there is mass scale evacuation of Bengalees in Gossaigaon Police Station and Bijni Police Station of Dhubri Subdivision as a result of “Bangal Kheda” movement by the local people ?
  - (b) Whether the Chief Minister has received any copy of the letter on the subject by a Bengalee addressed to Deputy Commissioner, Goalpara, on 6th March, 1955 ?
  - (c) Whether the Chief Minister will kindly enlighten the actual state of affairs ?

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister)** replied :

1. (a)—No.  
(b)—No.

Before replying to (c), I am just putting certain facts before this House to make it clear how these words like ‘Bangal Kheda’ and others are being raised and repeated everywhere by interested parties. Now, it is known that in the Panjika, *i.e.*,



calendar of the current year, there is some prediction, viz., ১৮৭৭ শকৰ ২৭ ফাগুন অথবা ১৭ মাৰ্চৰ ১১ তাৰিখে ৰাতি অসমত এটা ভয়াবহ অৱস্থা হোৱাৰ সম্ভৱ । and taking advantage of such a prediction, correspondent from Jorhat published a report in the Jugantar that something will happen on the 11th of March and some people who believe in predictions of calendar generally are in the habit of quoting things according to their convenience to serve their own interests. With regard to (c) I am just now going to reply and with this background, I hope my reply will properly be appreciated by the hon. Members of the House.

(c) Government received telegraphic report that there were some rumours of a possible attack on Muslims of Goalpara on the 11th of March. That is the day when it is predicted in the Panjika that something will happen to the country. I would like to read the telegram because the question has practically no substance and it is expected that a gentleman of Shri Ranendra Mohan Das's calibre would not use such objectionable words as "Bangal Kheda". This is the telegram I received that there were persistent rumours that the attack on Muslims of Goalpara commences from 11th of March. Inform all concerned and take steps. This is from Asaf Ali Mandal, Gopey-cher. I received the telegram and immediately I sent telegraphic instructions to the Sub-divisional Officer and the Deputy Commissioner, Dhubri. The Deputy Commissioner, Dhubri, was immediately directed to take all necessary steps and preventive measures against any outbreak of communal violence. The Deputy Commissioner visited the areas where such rumours were afloat and took all precautionary measures. The situation was found normal. Another telegraphic report was received subsequently that some Bengalees and Muslims were panicky, reasons for such panic being not known. This is the telegram I received that such things are going on when the Bengalees and Muslims were alarmed and expecting great riots. The reasons of such panic are not known and immediate enquiry by Intelligence Branch was ordered. Immediate telegraphic instructions to Deputy Commissioner to go and look into this matter were issued. The local officers had taken all necessary precautions everywhere and no incident has been reported so far. The situation continues to be normal. The reasons for such panic appear to be interested propaganda by some sections of the population in view of the impending visit of the States Re-organisation Commission to the district and no particular community appears to have been made the target of any propaganda or accusation.



**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS:** With regard to question 1 (b), there was a letter which was addressed to the Deputy Commissioner and I received a copy of it. I hope the Chief Minister also received a copy of the letter and if I am allowed I will read it.

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** I have not received that letter.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** When the Hon'ble Chief Minister has stated that he has not received it, you should be satisfied and accept his statement.

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** Sir, what I want to say is that it is quite clear now that those persons have not the courage to send letters containing false rumours. The hon. Member also does not take the risk of sending copy to me.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** Whether the Hon'ble Chief Minister has received any information of anti-Bengalee agitation at Barpeta town in connection with the States Re-organisation Commission?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** This question has no connection and it is not proper.

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS:** Is it a fact that this agitation is going on only to stop the Bengalees from appearing before the States Re-organisation Commission?

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** How does this question arise? Is it not that this question motivated to prejudice the States Re-organisation Commission, Sir?

#### STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

#### Inclusion of Barak Project in the Second Five-Year Plan

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS** asked:

\*26. Will the Minister-in-charge of Planning and Development be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government propose to include the Barak Project in the Second Five-Year Plan for the purpose of flood control, irrigation, navigation and hydro-electricity?



- (b) Whether any steps have been taken to collect the necessary hydro-logical data and if so, the progress made in the matter so far and the report, if any, submitted in this regard ?
- (c) Whether the Government are aware of the vital importance of harnessing the Barak and its tributaries for development of Cachar, Lushai Hills, Manipur and Southern Tripura and if so, whether the Government propose to give the project top priority ?
- (d) What steps have been taken by the Assam Government to impress upon the Central Government the necessity for early taking up of the project ?

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister)** replied :

26. (a)—Government have yet to decide upon the project or projects, for multi-purpose river control, to be included in the Second Five-Year Plan. A decision will be taken after the preliminary engineering-cum-economic feasibility reports have been received from the River Investigation Circle to whom investigation of a number of rivers including Barak, has been entrusted. The Superintending Engineer, River Investigation Circle, is now carrying out investigation for the construction of a multi-purpose storage dam in Barak.

(b)—Hydro-logical and topographical data collection are well in hand. The dam axis has been tentatively fixed by Engineers and Geologists. Necessary reports are expected to be ready shortly.

(c) & (d)—These questions will be attended to after receipt of the preliminary report of the feasibility of the Barak project and other projects.

### **Allotment of Funds in the First Five-Year Plan**

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS** asked :

\*27. Will the Minister-in-charge of Planning and Development be pleased to state—

- (a) Total allotment of funds in the First Five-Year Plan for the whole of Assam ?
- (b) What has been the total expenditure from the allotment during these five years upto 15th February, 1955 ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware of the probable allotment for Assam in the Second Five-Year Plan ?



**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister)** replied :

27. (a)—The Revised State Plan of Assam as on 1st April, 1954 stood at Rs. 18.42 crores. The Planning Commission has approved of further additions of Rs. 1.12 crores for permanent improvements to relieve scarcity and famine, and Rs. 44 lakhs for hill roads, etc. The present Plan of the State of Assam, therefore, stands at Rs. 19.98 crores. In addition, other schemes are being financed from the Central Sector of the Five-Year Plan.

(b)—The total expenditure against the State Plan proper up till the end of 1953-54 was Rs. 645.47 lakhs. The likely expenditure during 1954-55 is Rs. 628.91 lakhs making a total expenditure upto the end of March, 1955 of Rs. 12.74 crores. Figures of expenditure upto 15th February, 1955 are not available.

(c)—No allocations for the State Plan of Assam for the Second Five-Year Plan have yet been intimated by the Planning Commission.

#### **Liquor Prohibition in the District of Kamrup**

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA** asked :

\*28. Will the Minister-in-charge of Excise be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the experiment of Liquor Prohibition in the District of Kamrup to the north of the Brahmaputra has been successful ?
- (b) In the light of the experience gathered so far whether Government propose to extend prohibition of liquor throughout the entire district of Kamrup with immediate effect ?

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

28. (a)—The Assam Liquor Prohibition Act was enforced respectively in the Barpeta Subdivision and in the North Kamrup portion of the Gauhati Sadar Subdivision with effect from 1st March, 1953 and 2nd October, 1954. Success of the experiment is closely associated with the control achieved over liquor offences. Judged by this standard, the experiment has achieved considerable success in Barpeta. So far as North Kamrup is concerned, it is too early to assess the results.

(b)—The suggestion will come up for final consideration in due course and on basis of further experience gained. The extension of prohibition is only a question of time.



**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** With regard to (b), when do Government propose to make greater Gauhati, i. e., Gauhati town along with its suburbs and its extensions upto Jhalukbari on the west, Bamunimaidan on the east and Khanapara on the south a dry area?

**Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister):** I have said that it is only a question of time. We are waiting for the full results of prohibition in the North Kamrup area of the Gauhati Subdivision.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** Approximately at what time Government propose to extend prohibition to Gauhati?

**Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister):** It cannot be said exactly, may be within this year or within a few months or two years, it all depends on circumstances?

#### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

#### Government Aided Middle Madrasa at Barkola

**Shri NANDA KISHORE SINHA** asked:

42. (a) Will the Education Minister be pleased to state whether Government are aware that there is a Government Aided Middle Madrasa at Barkola in the Silchar Subdivision?

(b) Whether Government are aware that the Managing Committee of the said institution had not been re-constituted since the last eleven years?

(c) Whether Government have received a copy of a Public petition addressed to the Director of Public Instruction of Assam, dated 25th February, 1954 stating therein various discrepancies of accounts of the Madrasa and other complaints against the illiterate Secretary?

(d) Whether Government are aware that there is almost no student and no qualified staff in the said institution?

(e) Whether Government proposed to lay on the table a copy of the inspection remarks upto date made by the inspecting authorities from time to time since 6th July, 1953 with regard to the said Madrasa?

(f) Whether Government intend to stop the grant-in-aid of the said institution until all round improvement is found?



**Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister)** replied :

42. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Information is being collected.

(c)—No such petition appears to have been received.

(d)—Information is being collected.

(e)—The inspection remarks are not readily available and are being called for.

(f)—Necessary action will be taken on receipt of particulars.

**Patta Lands of Muslims in Barpeta Subdivision**

**Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED.** asked :

43. Will the Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the annual Patta lands including the Basties of the Muslims forcefully occupied by the Refugees in Barpeta Subdivision are cancelled though the Minister, Revenue, himself assured the Pattadars for the restoration of those lands while he toured in Barpeta Subdivision last year ?

(b) If so, why ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that the landless Muslims who are entitled to get settlement of Government khas land occupied the same and applied for settlement and they are evicted at the time of eviction, and that those lands are now allotted to the Refugees and the Muslims are to vacate those lands ?

(d) If so, where those Muslims will go ?

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister)** replied :

43. (a)—No annual Patta lands including the Basties of Muslims forcibly occupied by the Refugees are cancelled in Barpeta Subdivision.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Landless Muslims have been given settlement of land including land in their possession according to eligibility. No such khas lands have been settled with Refugees and as such, no Muslims have been evicted from lands in their possession, in order to provide lands to Refugees.

(d)—Does not arise.



**Point whether matters relating to Assembly Secretariat can be discussed in the House by way of Cut Motion**

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** Sir, I rise to raise a point of privilege. I have received a letter from the Secretary, Legislative Assembly, objecting to my moving a Cut Motion on a subject which is a voted subject and which is proposed to be moved by the Chief Minister. But, Sir, in the detailed estimates of demand for grants the subject has been shown as being a voted subject. So, this House should have an opportunity of discussing the matter or it should be transferred under the charged head. And therefore if the Chief Minister has got the right to move for the passing of this demand, I think, any Member of this House also has got the right to table a Cut Motion on the subject. Therefore, I seek your protection with regard to this letter of the Secretary of the Legislative Assembly.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The hon. Member would perhaps do well to come to the Secretary's office and have the matter clarified there. If necessary he can also meet me in my office, and if after that he chooses to agitate further, it is up to him. This matter stands over in the meantime.

**Grant No.10**

**"25.—General Administration."**

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.87,49,500 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 "25.—General Administration".

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Motion moved is that a sum of Rs.87,49,500 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 "25.—General Administration".

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.2,56,500 under Grant No.10, Major head 25.—General Administration, Minor head—C.—Elections—C—1.—Other Election Charges, Sub-head—4—Contingencies (total), at page 48 of the Budget be



reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.87,49,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

The object of my Motion is to criticise the failure of Government in making an up-to-date corrections of the electoral rolls of the Gauhati constituency within the Gauhati Municipal area.

Sir, if it so happens that I die to-day and that necessitates an election in the Gauhati Constituency in the near future, the election shall have to take place on an electoral roll, at least so far as the Gauhati town is concerned, which was prepared some five years ago. Many of the voters whose names are there on the electoral roll are no more there. Some are perhaps dead and some have gone away. There again many people who have been living in the town for a long time have not got their names on the electoral rolls. This is contrary to the rules and procedure that electoral rolls should be revised annually. At least so far as Gauhati is concerned, Government has not taken any initiative to do so. Of course individuals were free to apply for getting their names entered in the list or to submit petitions objecting to the presence of certain names in the rolls, but it is a very well-known fact that so far as ordinary people are concerned, they are not in the know of all these technicalities. Moreover we find that it is extremely difficult for those people to have their names on the electoral roll or to object to the names of those persons who are dead or missing. As such this is a matter which ought to have drawn the attention of Government long long ago.

We made certain representation locally with regard to that point, but we were told at that time that when the Gauhati Municipality would come into being, the electoral rolls for the Gauhati town would be revised. Now it is more than two years that the Gauhati Municipality has been functioning and yet this revision has not been made. Therefore, my intention in tabling this Cut Motion is to draw the pointed attention of Government to this urgent necessity. With these words, I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Cut Motion moved is that the provision of Rs.2,56,500 under Grant No.10, Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head—C—Elections—C—I—Other Election Charges, Sub-Head—4.—Contingencies (total), at page 48 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, that is, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.87,49,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** I do not understand what my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, means by saying that the electoral rolls are not up-to-date. So it would



be better for him to clarify as to by what date he considers the electoral roll should be made up-to-date so that I can explain the position.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** Sir, for the rural areas these electoral rolls are generally revised every year by June or July. But so far Gauhati town, that is, Gauhati Municipal area is concerned, these rolls have not been revised since they were prepared before. So the electoral rolls for Gauhati Municipal area should also be made up-to-date by June or July.

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** No electoral rolls remain up-to-date in March as revision starts from the 1st March particularly to include persons who attain the age of 21 on the 1st of March and generally to correct and amend them every year. That is the procedure adopted so that everyone should get a chance of being included in the rolls. But as regards the particular date, that matter does not lie with us but with the Chief Election Commissioner who fixes the date. As I said, the electoral rolls are revised every year and the official date for publication was after 30th September every year and a new electoral roll comes into force from 1st of October. There is a general instruction that before the general election takes place, there should be an intensive revision. But during other periods the revision is not intensive. So, this year from 1st March we had intensive revision of the electoral rolls.

Last year in accordance with the procedure laid down, there was no intensive revision of the urban areas as instructed by the Election Commission, India, and it was decided to wait publication of the Census Hand Book—that was not available at the time. This year intensive revision of the Gauhati constituency has been undertaken. For Gauhati alone a number of officers have been appointed including one Supervisor and 11 Enumerators have been employed for house to house survey. Preliminary publication will be made about the end of June and notices will be invited under the law inviting claims and objections. These notices will be issued by the Returning Officers of the respective areas. The objections and claims will be received and disposed of by the end of August mostly by judicial officers, where there are such officers—they will receive these objections and claims and decide. But where there are no judicial officers in some places specially in the hill areas, these objections and claims will be received and disposed of by some other officers who are appointed specially for the purpose. To make the rolls as complete as possible, co-operation has been invited and I am sure my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, will also help our



officers if there is any omission in the electoral rolls, and at the time when house to house survey takes place and also at the time when objections and claims are invited as soon as dates are given by the officer specially appointed for hearing these objections, *i. e.*, after 21 days from the date of issue of the notice. Every effort is being made to make the rolls as complete as possible and for this we want the co-operation of all hon. Members of this House, not only with regard to the Gauhati Municipal area as mentioned in this Cut Motion, but also with regard to other constituencies as well. I would appeal to all my Friends to help in enlisting all the adult males and females and there should be some sort of propaganda which is absolutely necessary. There may be omissions here and there, but such omissions can be corrected provided all hon. Members of the House who are interested in their constituencies will persuade the people to submit objections and claims. It may be expected that a very satisfactory electoral roll of Gauhati Municipal area particularly will be turned out this year. In the meantime there has been extension of the Gauhati Municipality and this time we have undertaken preparation of electoral rolls ward by ward and houses are being numbered and recorded on the road basis. So, there would be no difficulty now.

Now, Sir, in view of these active steps taken by the Government, I would request my Friend that as a token of his whole hearted co-operation in this matter, he will withdraw his Cut Motion.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Mr. Bhattacharyya, are you withdrawing ?

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** All right Sir, on the assurance that we will also give whole hearted co-operation in the matter, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Cut Motion.

*(Voices—Yes, yes.)*

*(The Cut Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.)*

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.8,68,000 under Grant No.10, Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head—D.—Secretariat and Headquarters Establishment



—D—1(a)—Civil Secretariat, Sub-head—2.—Pay of establishment (total), at page 49 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.87,49,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

I have stated my purpose as being to criticise irregularity and favouritism in the matter of promotion of Lower Division Assistants in the Secretariat. I said this on the information which I received and so I shall be only too glad to know if that information which I have received is not correct and if Government are satisfied that things are really not as bad as I have been reported. Now, it has been said that so far as promotion of the Assistants to the Upper Division is concerned, that is mostly dependent on the favouritism and recommendation of the Secretary. If the Secretary has got a grudge, or when he gets angry even for personal reasons, then the Lower Division Assistants suffer. It has also been said that about 30 or 40 such assistants have upto this time suffered like that in the Secretariat, as a result of which there has been some discontent which is usually bad for good administration in the country. Therefore, I want clarification from the Minister concerned whether these allegations are true or false.

Secondly, I want also to know what is the criterion or principle adopted by the Government at the time of confirmation and also promotion of the Lower Division Assistants. When the temporary Lower Division Assistants are promoted, whether their service is counted from the date of their entry into the service or from the date of their passing the Public Service Commission examination? What principle was followed in case of those who were confirmed on the 1st April, 1954 by the order No.S72/54, dated 11th March, 1955? Which one of these criteria was followed by the Department in the matter of promotion or upgrading of those temporary assistants? Now, Sir, whether at the time of promotion the length of service or seniority or merit shown in the Public Service Commission examination is the main criterion or whether, at the time of such promotion or confirmation, the Secretariat Service Rules—I mean, Revised Rules—are followed or whether some junior assistants are given promotion over-riding the claims of senior ones due to favouritism of some Secretaries? Whether it is a fact that recently at the time of promotion of some Lower Division Assistants the authority had included only 28 Lower Division Assistants who were officiating in the upper division posts and who passed the Public Service Commission examination in 1950 and 5 outsiders who were exempted from passing the Public Service Commission



examination even though the original recommendation was for 39 Lower Division Assistants for promotion? I want to know whether the original recommendation was over-ruled and, if so, whether it was with approval of the Minister concerned? Or did it happen somewhere in between? At any rate, I want to get a clarification with regard to the effectiveness of the Secretariat Service Rules of 1951 and whether in the promotion and confirmation that have taken place from the 1951 to 1955 these Rules have been strictly followed or not.

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

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The Cut Motion moved is that the provision of Rs.8,68,000 under grant No.10, Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head—D.—Secretariat and Headquarters Establishment—D—1(a)—Civil Secretariat, Sub-head—2.—Pay of establishment (total), at page 49 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 87,49,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know whether there were any such rules in 1950, but the revised rules came into effect in 1951 and the objective of these rules I will now explain. Formerly we found that assistants, whether efficient or not, were given promotion on the basis of seniority and subsequently we found that it was necessary to give incentive to them to be more efficient for promotion. With that object in view efficiency and seniority are laid down as criteria for promotion. In order to give incentive to do better work or to be efficient in their work we wanted to adopt a method by which the merit can be rewarded. Thus we have adopted a means to give incentive to all the officials to be more and more efficient in working in the Secretariat. Under the previous convention in the Secretariat, before these rules came into force, it was very difficult to ascertain whether a particular person is efficient or not, and now we have been trying to find out whether a particular assistant is efficient or not and in order to do that we have ordered to fill up a certain percentage of the upper division posts in the Secretariat direct by competition and the rest of the posts to be promoted from the Lower Division Assistants who have already passed the Public Service Commission examination for Secretariat recruitment. Rules on this line were framed. After the framing of the rules some of the officers represented to me to know whether those rules would be enforced in case of those who were appointed and confirmed before the rules came into force. We had to examine those rules to see whether any injustice would be done if they



were applied in their case also and whether there was any legal implication. As those rules are under further examination they could not be applied now for the purpose of giving promotion to those persons who were appointed and confirmed before 1951. We do not want to make any discrimination in respect of application of those revised rules and therefore those rules have got to be re-examined to remove the difficulty. I have asked the appropriate Department to examine the legal implication of those rules and advise us whether those rules can be enforced or not or some *via media* can be found out to suit also those persons who were appointed and confirmed before 1951. When the re-examination is made then they will be considered again by the Government and decision will be arrived at in the matter. Under the previous rules the recruitment of the personnel was to be made as follows:—

“Superior—Upper Division Assistant—.(i). By competitive examination conducted by the Commission in case of direct recruitment ; (ii) By promotion from Lower Division Assistants on the result of competitive examination conducted by the Commission subject to the production of a certificate from the appointing authority that the work and conduct of the candidate has been satisfactory.” To this rule an objection has been raised and so we are keeping this rule in abeyance until we finally come to a decision on the matter. The procedure that is followed at present in the matter of promotion is on the basis of seniority-cum-merit. But I want to make it clear that in the event of any senior person being superseded or left out for promotion then he has the right of appeal to the Chief Minister who can examine the matter. But as far as I remember, after promotion of so many persons there has been no representation as yet submitted by any person aggrieved through proper channel. I have already said that the recruitment to the upper division posts is made direct by competitive examination conducted by the Public Service Commission and by promotion from Lower Division Assistants, on the basis of results of competitive examination according to the rule I have just now read out. According to this rule—Rule 5-A.—70 per cent of the vacancies of upper division posts is to be reserved for the Lower Division Assistants and the rest by direct recruitment on the basis of competitive examination.

In the meantime another difficulty has arisen and it is regarding the syllabus which contains several text books for the examination. There must be sufficient number of such text books available for the competitors. Some of those books are now out of print and some are very few for distribution among the assistants.



That is one of the reasons why we have not immediately enforced the competitive examination. We are trying to have the books that are prescribed for this examination, and in the meantime, in order to ensure efficiency in the Secretariat service, we have started a training class for the Secretariat Assistants. Most of the Secretariat Assistants who have entered service before the rules came into force submitted representations. In view of this it has been postponed up till now to give effect to the provision of Rule 5 (a) and Rule 15 of the Secretariat Service Rules. In the meantime, the question is now under active consideration and will be shortly finalised. In the meantime promotions are given according to the old practice, *i. e.*, on the basis of seniority-*cum*-merit. About two months ago some vacancies have been filled up by promotion after the Departmental heads concerned have reported as regards the suitability or otherwise of the Secretariat Assistants concerned. This shows that it is the Departments concerned who make the recommendations and these recommendations are examined by the Chief Secretary and other Secretaries. As a matter of fact, except in the case of Shri Dharanidhar Mahanta, all promotions have been made strictly on the basis of seniority. In case of Shri Dharanidhar Mahanta, however, report submitted by the Secretary of the Department concerned was not such as to merit him any promotion, and in the meantime proceedings have to be drawn up against this Assistant for some other reasons, and the proceedings have not yet been disposed of. So far no representations have been received in connection with these promotions, and therefore it appears that the information supplied to my Friend, whoever he might be, was not correct. Although our rules for promotion in the Secretariat is merit-*cum*-seniority, sometimes it becomes very difficult to determine the merit of a person, and that is why we now want to hold a competitive examination. Although seniority and merit are the criteria of promotion, in all these cases promotions were given on the basis of merit. In view of this, I hope my Friend will disabuse from his mind any wrong impression that he has formed because of the wrong information he has received from interested parties, and withdraw his Cut Motion.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** What do you think, Mr. Bhattacharyya? Do you withdraw your Cut Motion?

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** I am sorry, Sir, I shall not be able to withdraw my Cut Motion as the reply given is not satisfactory.



**Mr. SPEAKER :** The question is that the provision of Rs.8,68,000 under grant No.10, Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head—D.—Secretariat and Headquarters Establishment—D.—1(a)—Civil Secretariat, Sub-head—2.—Pay of establishment (total), at page 49 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.87,49,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(The Cut Motion was negatived).

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.4,49,000, under Grant No. 10, Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head—D.—Secretariat and Headquarters Establishment, Sub-head—3.—Allowances and Honoraria (total) at page 49 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 87,49,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

I want to discuss about the difficulty of married employees and particularly employees with big families in consequence of the introduction of cash allowance in lieu of Free Ration and Rice Concession. This cash allowance has now been given at a flat rate of Rs. 13-8-0 to one and all Government servants irrespective of the fact whether a Government servant is married or unmarried or whether that Government servant has a big family or whether he has a family with only one or two members. Prior to this every Government servant used to draw 2 seers 10 chhataks of rice for every adult per week and 1 seer for every minor per week which he could purchase at Rs. 10-8-0 per maund. Secondly those Government servants who drew a salary below Rs.100 per month enjoyed another sum of Rs.6 as an extra Dearness Allowance. Besides the above advantages, a Government servant used to draw cash allowance at the rate of annas six and pies six only for every adult member of his family. Now according to the new rules, Finance Department has thought it fit to grant to every Government servant a flat sum of Rs.13-8-0. I do not know on what basis this has been fixed and why Government servants who are married and have big families should be made to suffer like this by curtailing some of the concessions which they used to receive before this. So my intention in moving this Cut Motion is to request the Government to revise these new rules and see that some other concessions are given to them, because these people quite deserve some more consideration. People who draw a salary below Rs.100 are really poorly paid people and should get better consideration from the State which aims at a Socialistic



pattern of society. From a perusal of the account—cost of entertainments—in 1953-54 we see that a sum of Rs. 53,402 was spent in the Secretariat in eating Sandesh, Rasagollas, etc. This year also a sum of Rs. 25,000 has been allotted for entertainment. Instead of doing these things, these poorly paid Government servants should have been given some more concessions. With these few words I commend this Cut Motion to the acceptance of the House.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Cut Motion moved is that the provision of Rs.4,49,000 under Grant No.10, Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head—D.—Secretariat and Headquarters Establishment, Sub-head—3—Allowances and Honoraria (total), at page 49 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.87,49,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a Cut Motion in my name, but instead of moving that Cut Motion I would now like to speak a few words, in support of the Motion moved by my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya. He has explained how our lower grade Government servants used to get better treatment prior to the introduction of the new rules of cash allowance of Rs. 13-8-0 may be adequate for a single man, but absolutely inadequate for a family having 7 or 8 members. Such a man and his family at the previous rate used to get nearabout 40 or 50 rupees in the shape of rice concession, but now he will get only Rs.13-8-0. This is a big disparity and that is our bone of contention here. During war time due to rise in the cost of necessities of life the then Government introduced this system of free ration and rice concession for lower grade employees and this was done in a uniform way throughout India; probably the same principle which was enunciated by India Government was followed by all the States. That decision was fair and equitable. But now, the present Government have thought it fit to curtail those concessions and we do not think that this action has been wise or judicious, because as I have said, and Mr. Bhattacharyya has also explained, that a man with a family of 7 or 8 members used to get foodstuffs worth Rs.40 or Rs.50, but now he would get only Rs.13-8-0. Sir, this may be suitable so far as day labour is concerned. We know that in a family of labourer in tea gardens every adult



person, both man and woman, works and everybody draws Rs.13-8-0 as rice concession.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Is it your suggestion that some slab system of payment should be introduced? Say a certain slab for a family of 3, and a different one for a family of 5 and so on?

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS:** Yes, Sir, this would be still better. You have explained the position in a better way than myself.

Sir, we have seen from the budget speech of the hon. Members, both of the Government side and of the Opposition, that everybody wants to lessen the big disparity in income between the highly salaried officers and the lower paid employees of Government and that the lower paid employees should be given better pay and privileges. In the face of this observation it is painful to see that Government have devised a procedure by which they are curtailing the concessions which have so long been enjoyed by the lower paid Government servants. I therefore, hope that Government will think over this matter sympathetically so that proper justice is done to the poor employees of this Government.

Sir, though we move this Cut Motion under "General Administration", for the employees of the Secretariat and the Assembly, the same principle has been adopted all over the State and all the lower grade employees have been made to suffer from this curtailment of concessions. The discontent which is prevailing amongst all the lower-grade employees throughout the State is very great and if this persists, it will affect the efficiency of the administration.

With these few words, I hope the Government will give due consideration to this matter.

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir it has been said by the two hon. Members who have already spoken on this subject, that some concessions were given to the lower paid employees of Government during the war period and also immediately after that have now been reduced without justification, etc. The scheme, which was in vogue at the time of the war or immediately after that, has recently been changed. Sir, some sort of relief was given in the shape of rice concession and free ration to the employees who used to draw salaries upto Rs. 300 per month. Sir, I am at one with the hon. Members when they say that the persons who are low paid should receive much sympathetic consideration in this matter, but by the way in which they have put the case they sought to give an impression in the minds of the hon.



Members of this House that by changing the procedure Government have saved some money on that account. Sir, this is not a fact. I am just giving some figures to show that the picture as depicted by my Friends is not the true picture.

Sir, in 1952-53, the annual expenditure on rice concession and free ration was Rs. 68,54,700, in 1953-54, it was Rs. 65,50,237, the average being about Rs. 67,02,468. Now, after the cash conversion at the rate of Rs. 13-8-0 the expenditure on this account is Rs. 67,68,365 ( Mr. Speaker,—Almost the same ). Yes, Sir. But there is one snag, which I think it will be fair on my part to mention. The expenditure which we were incurring for the establishment has been saved. But that was not going to the employees. We had to maintain some staff to keep the accounts, etc., and that expenditure we have been able to save.

Sir, in 1950, the Accountant General remarked that the procedure was rather cumbrous and there were so many things to be done to give effect to that scheme that it was desired by him that the existing concession should be converted into cash benefit. We consulted all the Heads of Department, the district authorities and the different associations and they were unanimous on the point that cash conversion should be made. Sir, as I have already stated, the desire of the Government was not to save some money under this head; on contrary, I should say that Government are committed to a recurring expenditure of Rs. 67 lakhs annually by switching on to cash conversion.

Any way, this is a commitment. Now, Sir, there is another point which I would like to mention here as to how this amount of Rs.13-8-0 was arrived at. While the average value of the rice concession drawn in an average family of Government servants has been assessed at Rs.13-8-0 per mensem and those drawing rice concession in an average family of two adults and three minors at Rs.6-12-0 per mensem, it is clear that people enjoying rice concession get more relief than those enjoy free rations. Up till now we have not taken up the system or procedure or policy of paying to our employees according to their needs, that has not been accepted. Even in our private capacities, Sir, if we have got one or two employees, either part-time or full-time, we do not pay them according to the number of members in their families. Government did something to relieve the difficulties of employees who were not in a position to meet their both ends; therefore, Sir, the systems were introduced. Sir, my Friend has mentioned about Socialistic pattern of society, but that cannot be achieved by mere saying in



course of a month or so. It will require time. But, Sir, it is a fact that we did not pay our employees according to the number of members in their families as I have already said. I hope Shri Das and Shri Bhattacharyya will bear me out that they also did not pay to their employees according to the number of members in their families.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA** : That should be the ideal of employers.

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister)** : Sir, to achieve that ideal, it will take some time. It is not a matter of joke. It will not be an easy matter to give effect to it, we have to consider it from all points of view. Sir, if we compare the figures we will find that the number of those employees who have suffered to some extent is much less than the number of those employees who have gained. Now, Sir, it is not fair to say that Government had saved something by this conversion and I hope after hearing me about the amount which we spent during the last two years and the average of these two years it will be found that our expenditure after conversion is not less. There is a commitment on the part of the Government to the extent of '67 lakhs of rupees given now to the employees in the form of cash conversion.

Another point, Sir, was raised, namely, that we are going to spend Rs.25,000 for Pantoa, Rasogollas, etc., that, is the entertainment costs. I do not know what my Friend means by entertainment costs. Sir, it is not meant for rasgollas, singaras to be consumed and enjoyed by the Ministers and their friends. If we compare with the other States how they are spending on this account, my Friends will surely feel sorry why we are not making a bigger provision for this. Sir, there are State guests from different places and States and it has become necessary on the part of this State also to entertain them, even in a modest way. Sir, it is well known to everybody that if some one (guest) comes, he is offered something in private house. Certainly, Sir, we are not consuming this amount for our daily use or to meet our friends and relations, but it is used mostly for the purpose where it is absolutely necessary, that is, for the honoured State guests who visited our State. Sir, in this connection, I think, it will be better on my part to warn my Friends, otherwise they may be staggered in future. Sir, sometime this year, there will be a Conference of Speakers and Deputy Speakers in our State and I can say that the amount



that will have to be incurred for the conference will be a considerable one, that amount is necessary and we cannot avoid it, we have to entertain our honourable guests, I mean the guests from outside the State and outside the country. So, Sir, in that case, we shall have to spend something. Sir, on the very floor of this House my *ex-Colleague*, Shri Mohendra Mohan Choudhury, after returning from his Japan and China tours made a statement. Sir, my Friends certainly remember the speech when he said that he was in some places for a few days treated as a State guest, that is the kind of expenditure incurred when a Minister of a State like Assam went in Japan and China, he was treated as a State guest. Sir, if we don't treat other Ministers, etc., coming from outside the State as State guests, what would be our position? Can we afford to overlook this common courtesy? We must do unto them as they will do unto us. After considering all these points, I hope my Friends will not bring such things in future when there is not enough reason behind it. Sir, my Friends have brought up this discussion in order just to discredit the Government and to put a bad name against the Government according to their imaginations. Sir, I should not expect such things in future from my Friends and I hope my Friends will not mention these things which unnecessarily created a bad impression in the minds of those who are not in the actual know of facts.

I hope, Sir, my Friend will see his way to withdraw his Cut Motion.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** On a personal explanation, Sir, I want to refute that I said it from imagination. I said it on a definite information. I beg to refer to a letter of the Finance Department, namely, Government letter No.BB.241/53/64, dated 1st June 1954 by which a sum of Rs.3,000 was distributed to those who worked overtime in preparing the Budget. It was spent for Pan, Cigarettes and Rosogullas, etc., from the Morello & Co. for the Secretariat Bosses.

So, it is not an imagination and it is not a fact that it was spent for outside guests. It was spent mostly by the Secretaries and other high officials.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** When they work overtime, what is your idea?



**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA:** They may take overtime allowance. But there are others—the clerks, the Chaprasis. They should also get it when they work overtime. The Ministers should not think that their bellies are 64 times bigger than others—the Chaprasis or the Conductors who are paid a trip allowance of rupee one only for 128 miles while the Ministers themselves draw annas eight per mile as mileage in addition to their pay, allowances and all other amenities.

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** Sir, the whole thing is this. Sometimes the Secretaries stay late in the office and they work upto 10 P. M. or 12 P. M. at night. The Assistants and Chaprasis also remain in the office up to that time. They cannot go home and take tea and refreshment. So, naturally they should take some refreshment, and in such cases not only the Secretaries take the refreshment alone, but it is shared by all the subordinates who also remain in the office along with the Secretaries. I think nobody should grudge this. But it is not correct to think that the Secretaries alone will take refreshments and they will not share it with their subordinates. It is known to everyone that in our country, according to our tradition and culture, we do not make any differential treatment in such matters. Even the servants in our houses take the same food with us. There may be some people who may have acquired the habit from Europeans not to share food with servants. But it is unthinkable to us to think in that way.

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister):** Sir, I would like to add only a few words to what has been said by the Chief Minister. I cited only one example regarding the items of expenditure which was also a main item. I did not give the details of all the items. Sir, I think it is unfair to suggest that the Secretaries alone will take refreshments and it will not be shared by his subordinates who may also work with them. It is very mean and heinous to suggest that (Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharya—ভেনেইনে, টকা হৈছে ইবিনানুটে) (*Interruptions*) a Secretary will take Rosogulla and other things and he will not give a share of it to the Assistants and Chaprasis who might be working with him till 10 or 12 P. M. at night. It is very unkind to think in that way specially by any hon. Member.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Is it not possible not to use the words 'mean' and 'heinous'?

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister):** I meant the suggestion 'may be mean' or 'heinous'.



**Mr. SPEAKER :** The question is that the provision of Rs.4,49,000 under Grant No.10, Major head—25—General Administration, Minor head—D.—Secretariat and Headquarters Establishment, Sub-head-3—Allowances and Honoraria (total), at page 49 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.87,49,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(The Cut Motion was negatived).

Then Mr. Bhattacharyya, Cut Motion No 6.—

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 21,15,620 under Grant No.10, Major head—25—General Administration, Minor head-D—Secretariat and Headquarters establishment, Sub-head-D-1 (a) Civil Secretariat (total), at page 50 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1., *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.87,49,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

The object of my moving this Cut Motion is to criticise Government for its failure to bring out as yet a revised edition of Assam Code.

Sir, everyone knows that ignorance of law is no plea of innocence. Everyday laws are multiplying in our country and the laws are also being revised almost everywhere and the Assam Acts have in this way undergone various amendments and revisions. The Assam Code that is available with some persons or in some libraries are old editions and these have not been revised upto date so as to incorporate all these amendments, etc., as a result of which many people, specially, if they are not lawyers, and who are not in the habit of fitting in things—correction slips, etc., they find a great deal of difficulties. These books are very valuable in the day to day work to the people and that is why the Government should make a revised edition of the Assam Code so that they may be available not only to the members of the legal profession but also to the general public. In order to draw the attention of the Government to this important question, I have brought this Cut Motion, Sir.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The Cut Motion moved is that the provision of Rs.21,15,620 under Grant No.10, Major head-25.—General Administration, Minor heard-D.—Secretariat and Headquarters establishment, Sub-head D-1(a)—Civil Secretariat (total), at page 50 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.87,49,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank Shri Bhattacharyya for giving this opportunity to explain the exact position in this connection. Although he has not restored to a state of normalcy (*laughter*), still I place these facts for the information of the House.



Sir, we have been feeling that these Codes need revisions ; so steps have been taken accordingly. We have got I-III volumes of the Assam Code and this revision was taken up in 1952, and as a matter of fact the various Acts have been made up-to-date, but the difficulty is that by the time one is finished, the need of another Act arises (*laughter*). We have proposed to revise the laws therein as corrected upto 1951. Volume No. I which contains—

- (1) Bengal Regulation in force in Assam,
- (2) Local Acts of the Governor General under Government of India Act, 1870 in force in Assam and,

- (3) Regulations made under the Government of India Acts, 1870 and 1915 which are in force in Assam, were so revised and sent to the Press for printing. The first proof has already been approved and the second proof is awaited. After approval of the second proof it will be finally printed. As is known to all, our printing capacity also had to be increased on account of the increased amount of printing work. We are trying to increase the printing capacity of our Press and a large amount of the work has now been shifted to Gauhati. Well, in spite of this development we have not been able to cope with the pressure of work in the Press.

Then Volume II contains the Bengal Acts, Eastern Bengal and Assam Acts which are in force in Assam. There are not many changes in this Volume. So this is proposed to be taken up last.

Volume III which contains Assam Acts from 1912 to 1936 was also revised and is now with the Government Press for printing.

At present the Acts from 1937 are not incorporated in any Volume of the Code. It is proposed to compile a fourth volume of the Code containing Acts from 1937 to 1951. Accordingly, after necessary compilation and editing of the Acts, it was sent to the Press for printing. The Acts from 1937 to 1946 have been finally printed and the Acts from 1947 and 1948 have also been printed. Proofs of these are under scrutiny. The Superintendent of Assam Government Press has also reported that the type of the Acts from 1949 to 1951 are under set-up. It may also be noted that as printing could not be completed, opportunity is now being taken to correct some of the Acts (up-to-date) which are being printed at present for incorporation in the Code. The matter, it will be apparent, is being delayed for heavy pressure of urgent and immediate work which the Press is called upon to perform. Under these circumstances, my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, will see that we have



been trying our utmost to prepare these Codes and get them printed as early as possible, and I hope he will not press his Motion.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** When it will be expected, say within six months ?

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** It may be expected within six months or earlier.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** After hearing from the Chief Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

(The Cut Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.)

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.3,26,084 under Grant No.10, Major Head—25.—General Administration, Minor Head—D—Secretariat and Headquarters establishment ; Sub-head (b) Publicity Department (total), at page 53 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of whole grant of Rs.87,49,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

The object of my my Motion is to raise a discussion about the mode of publicity in Cachar.

Sir, I have seen that publicity is one of the greatest weapons in the most civilised countries to get their illiterate people educated and we have more realised since the last great War that our Government both in the State and in the Centre are spending lakhs and crore of rupees for the publicity of Governmental activities and also for the publicity so that the poor people living in the villages could live better. Sir, we have seen also that due to the coming of the Five Year Plan, the Department of Publicity, rather the works of the Publicity Department have increased manifold. They are giving informations and advices to the people living in the villages in different ways, *e.g.*, there is publicity for Medical Department, for Grow More Food and those aspects of the Five Year Plan, for the improvement of the Village Community Development projects and so on and so forth. But unfortunately, Sir, we have noticed that since Independence, the amount which is being spent in our State could not derive any benefit to the people of Cachar. Sir, my main charge is that Cachar is a district where 99.9 per cent of the people are Bengali-speaking ; they do not know the language of the other Valley—I mean the Assam Valley, but all the documents and the leaflets, all the papers and books of the Publicity Department which are being sent from the State Government are written in Assamese scripts. So,



it is evident to the House that the purpose for which these documents are sent to the people of the towns and villages of that district is not served, rather the money is being wasted like water. These can be utilised only in a shop of a grocer for preparing things, like *thongas*, i.e., paper packet and all such things. This subject was raised with the then Publicity Minister, Mr. Mohendra Mohan Choudhury, more than once not only in Shillong but when he visited Silchar and Karimganj; not only I but other journalists of that place also stated this fact before him. He also assured the people that he will see that all efforts should be made to print those leaflets in Bengali. So far as the districts of Assam Valley are concerned, when these are printed in Assamese, they could also be very well printed in Bengali for the district of Cachar. I have seen some leaflets, some books of the Government of India which were written in English or in Hindi are also translated into Assamese language and circulated in the Assam Valley. If those leaflets are again reprinted in Assamese, I do not see any reason why for a population of 11 lakhs of people in Cachar district these pamphlets cannot be printed in Bengali. What is the intention of Government in sending these pamphlets in a language which not a single person of the population know it? It reminds me of a man once passing along the street in a city and while looking at the sign-board of a shop and a friend told him take a glass (spectacle) and you will be able to read ('চশমা লাগাইলে পড়তে পারবে।') and the man at once entered the shop and asked the salesman to give him a glass and he was given the glass. He then took a daily Statesman to read. Ultimately it came out that the man was an illiterate. So, it is found that our Government do the like thing and some glasses are sent to Cachar to be read by the people though they are illiterate and do not know the language. So, I would emphasise not only the Government is doing mischief to the district of Cachar in their relation to the Government but also there is growing some misgivings in the minds of the people of Cachar that what is the necessity in sending all these pamphlets of the Publicity Department in the language we do not know. Is it for us to learn the Assamese language? That is not the way, Sir, and this should not be the way to any civilised State.

Secondly, during the last 7 or 8 years after Independence when this new method was invented by the present Government, the people in the villages know not what is the Five Year Plan or Community Development Project except a few literate people living in the towns who can read English. So, I hope



Government will see their way that in future not a single pamphlet or publication not published in Bengali is sent to the district of Cachar because it will be useless and do harm to all concerned.

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

(At this stage, the Speaker left the Chamber and the Deputy Speaker presided.)

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Cut Motion moved is that the provision of Rs.3,26,084 under Grant No.10; Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head—D.—Secretariat and Headquarters establishment, Sub-head (b) Publicity Department (total), at page 53 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.87,49,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

**Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN:** Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I oppose this Motion on real and substantial grounds and which will be justified by the tradition, culture, history and everything, that Cachar people are in a position to understand these circulars and other documents published in Assamese. I refuse to believe otherwise, because there is a Minister among us who is in-charge of the Veterinary Department coming from that district and when he speaks in Assamese non-could think that he is not an Assamese. What is our own experience? I for myself can say that I passed my “ছাত্রবৃত্তি” Middle Vernacular Examination in Bengali because in my time the administrators themselves, the Britishers had done the greatest disservice to the country by introducing Bengali with the idea that actually there was no language worth the name as Assamese.....(Shri Ranendra Mohan Das—Are we to commit the same mistake now?). Wait my Friend, I will give the whole history of Cachar. At that time even a Primer in Assamese was not found in the whole of Assam. So we had to find out a Primer for Assamese boys in Calcutta bazars. I myself had to read মদন মোহন তর্কালঙ্কার as primer. Is that the reason that my Friend now want to say that since you can read Bengali in your childhood, that shows that Bengali is the language of Assam? For the last 100 or 50 years Bengali has been thrust on us without any reason and for that reason our Assamese language has got a setback for half a century. As I said, the Britishers have done the greatest disservice to this country in respect of culture and literature. But I can say that our people could write lucid prose and serious literature even before Bengali literature could be developed. Even before Ramayana could be translated into Bengali, Assamese Maha Bharat and Ramayana made a mark in the whole of



Indian literature. In this connection I would like to mention that even men like Sir P. C. Roy of hallowed memory, made mention of Assamese prose literature as depicted in the “কথাগাতা” । Regarding “Kotha Gita” he wrote, “nowhere such lucid prose was written in world except writings of Latimer and Hooper, etc.”

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS:** That is quite irrelevant, Sir. My question is about Cachar District and.....

**Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN:** Do not disturb me. I am quite relevant and I am giving you the whole history of Cachar.

Now, Sir, in the words of Sir P.C. Roy, “People who could write such beautiful prose in Assamese must be very proud people and nowhere in the history of prose in the world literature such lucid prose can be found.” Such people could write Assamese prose centuries before Bengali literature could make any mark in the nation’s literary world.

Sir, Cachar was part and parcel of Assam. Cachar never claimed to be part of Bengal. It is only the other day in the meeting of the “অসম সাহিত্য সভা” the people passed a resolution unanimously that Assamese should be introduced in Cachar in spite of opposition of a Bengali minority. The indigenous Cachar people still speak Boro, Cachari and Assamese in their villages. It is only my friends from Sylhet who are dominating the local people of Cachar, and create all this sort of troubles, or to use his own words, with mischievous propensity. The people of Cachar are as a matter of fact, not Bengalis. Of course they can speak Bengali because it has been thrust upon them just as in the Assam Valley. So, for that reason you cannot say that they do not understand Assamese. I cannot believe that, when my Cachar friends themselves in one of their conferences moved and passed resolutions that they want to learn Assamese. They did not say that they want to give up Bengali, but that they want to learn Assamese because they know that Cachar, as I have already said, is part and parcel of Assam. It is also for their own interest that they want to learn Assamese, because if they do not learn Assamese how then these Government officers of the Cachar District can be posted to the Assam Valley? I know my Cachar friends will one day succeed, if not to-day and if not tomorrow they will succeed one day because they will one day stand against outside interference. They will have the freedom to express their own opinion. We are not imposing the Assamese language on anybody, neither on our hill brethren neither who are also sometimes misled by outside influence, as I believe it. We are not going to impose Assamese, I take this opportunity to say, on any people, whether in the



hills or in Cachar or in the Surma Valley. But if people learn Assamese then it will stand them in a good stead from administrative point of view and otherwise and we will all welcome it. To learn Assamese is not to forget Bengali and to know Bengali is not to disregard Assamese. I can speak Bengali as fluently as a Bengali gentleman can do. One Bengali gentleman once told me, "Well Mr. Phookan, when you learn Bengali what is the use of our learning Assamese?" But that is not the thing. It may be the opinion of Bengalees in Cachar. Therefore, Sir, I say that this Cut Motion should be vehemently opposed by people even from Cachar side. I do believe that at present the mass people of Cachar are the real Cachar people, the sojourners of Surma Valley are not and yet they think to be the people of Cachar. I am not speaking of a small section of minority who are always creating troubles. The real Cachar people now intend to learn Assamese because of their own interest and some of them now-a-days speak in Assamese. Some of them sometimes say that it is a misfortune that they are now learning Bengali as we did some 20 or 30 years before.

Therefore, Sir, with all seriousness and for the sake of a future Assamese compact life I do say that this Cut Motion should be opposed and we cannot allow any quarter to make such a move.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** Sir, I did not expect that this Cut Motion would generate so much heat. Besides that, the heat has been allowed to generate in aggressive language. I as an Assamese do really wish that my language and literature should develop and that more and more people should know it and appreciate it. But I am not one of those who want to impose the language (*Voices*: hear, hear). What for is this Publicity Department? Is it to publicise the Assamese language and literature or to publicise different relief measures and different other necessary things? What is the main purpose of this Publicity Department? I shall be too glad to be with Mr. Phookan or with any other patriotic gentlemen if they just help others to know my language and I will appreciate it. But I do not want to use the Governmental machinery to do this. Perhaps Mr. Phookan in his emotion and simplicity has failed to understand the deep significance that might be there in this sort of aggressive linguism. He as well as the Government must remember that Assam is a multi-lingual State inhabited by people of various languages and dialects and we must have the catholicity and we must have the broad-mindedness to appreciate it and accommodate others who are in the minority. Unless and until we can do that and if



even in a small degree we use the Publicity Department to the contrary, there will be serious repercussion in the State, not only in Cachar but in the hills and elsewhere also.....

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** May I know how the Assam Publicity machinery is used ?

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** No, Sir, that is not the point.

I am only opposing the suggestion given by Mr. Phookan and if I am misunderstood, I am sorry for it.

As far as I have understood, my Friend, Mr. Ranendra Mohan Das, has said that so far as the publicity matters are concerned in Cachar they should be in the language in which the people can generally understand. That is the main point, as I understand. As we are in a multi-lingual State we should know as many languages as possible, as Mr. Phookan knows. He is a master in Bengali and he knows English, Hindi and may be some other languages also, and we are proud of him. We should also know many languages. If Cachar people learn Assamese voluntarily it will be all for the best. But so far as the publicity matters are concerned, they should be in the language in which the people of that area can understand whether we like it or not. Whatever was done in the past in this respect 200 or 300 years ago should not be followed now. Those days are past. But the real position is that most of the people at present living in Cachar understand Bengali (Shri Nilmani Phookan: As well as Assamese). Some Hindi-speaking people including some hon. Members of this House are also there in Cachar and there are other areas also in Cachar where people know Bengali and Assamese as well. But there is no denying the fact that the language of the overwhelming majority of Cachar people is Bengali. So that language should be the medium of our Publicity Department. Assam Government should not take up the function of the Assam Literary Conference of which Mr. Phookan is a leader. That is what I beg to submit most humbly.

Secondly, Sir, we cannot take steps ignoring the present but depending upon our past history in such cases. Let us take the case of Canada, for example. Let us take the case of America. Hundreds of years ago they were inhabited by Red Indians, but at present they are inhabited mostly by Europeans and so there is the English language there and the Red Indians' language is not there. Language and such other things can be spread only through good will and co-operation of the



people concerned. We can develop such a common medium only through co-operation and good will without unnecessarily creating any agitation. At this moment what we need most is the co-operation and understanding. Those who come from the majority community have special responsibility. It is for them to appreciate the needs of the minority, the feelings of the minority and give them all necessary help and protection.

**Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN :** On a point of explanation, Sir, I never said that publicity matters should not be circulated in Bengali, but I said that they should be circulated in Assamese along with Bengali. Those who want to learn Assamese there let them learn it and those who want to learn Bengali let them do it. He ought to have said that such matters should be translated into Bengali. That is what I want also.

**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Parliamentary Secretary) :** Mr. Bhattacharyya has said that the discussion has generated heat. I think Mr. Das is responsible for the generation of this heat (*A voice* : Not at all.)

Now, Sir, this is a simple Cut Motion. If he had simply said that the Publicity Department should see that all their publications are given in the language that is understood in that Valley, that would have been sufficient. But he went beyond that with a motive and with a purpose. He had taken this question of publication in the language of the Valley as a ground for propagating his views. What was the necessity for him to speak that Government has done this with a motive ? What was the necessity for him to speak that Government has done this to do mischief ? Government have not issued the publications in the language as it exists now just to cause mischief to Cachar people. As a responsible Member of the House he should not have made such a statement which tends to create such bitterness, so much displeasure amongst the brothers and sisters of that Valley and the people of this side of the State. But he has repeated that several times in order that such a propaganda may give rise to a tendency of separatism. Are the people of Cachar so much different from the people of the Brahmaputra Valley ? He has been making this sort of statement not only on this occasion but on several occasions. We are here for forging unity in the midst of diversity. We should not forget that. In spite of our difference in language, in religion and in many other respects, we are moving towards a United Nation. Though we may be backward in this or that respect, we, the Members of this House, should all act, think and speak in a manner so that we may



arrive at our desired goal. I am constrained to remark that by raising such a heat and impression in the House on the plea of moving a Motion, my Friend is doing a great dis-service to the country. He said that this Assam Government is trying to foist the language of the Assam Valley on the people of Cachar. Not only on this occasion, Sir, he has repeated that times without number.

(Shri Ranendra Mohan Das: I never said that 'this Assam Government'.)

Sir, we are all responsible Members here. This Government have a clear-cut programme and policy. No Government can ever have any motive against a particular section of the community. As a matter of fact, we have seen with our own eyes that Bengali language has been going on unhampered by Government in many of the schools, why in the other Valley, but in many of the schools and colleges of this Valley also. Our Chief Minister has repeated times without number both from the Press and platform that this Government is not going to impose anything on anybody. We have all heard how our Chief Minister has laid great importance on the question of learning the languages of the Hills and every now and then requesting both our brothers in the Hills and in the Plains to learn each others' language for our mutual benefit. But still then unfortunately our Friend, Shri Ranendra Mohan Das, has been labouring under the impression that this Government is going to impose something on the people of Cachar. Such an impression has absolutely no foundation. I therefore accuse my Friend, Mr. Das, of importing an absolutely extraneous and irrelevant, communal and sectarian bias to the discussion of a very simple Motion. He could have, of course, stated the difficulties of the Cachar people and requested the Minister-in-charge to remove them, but unfortunately he has gone far out of his way to speak in that vein for his own interest.

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

**Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my Friend, Shri Ranendra Mohan Das, has dealt on two points in course of his discussion. First is that in spite of the fact that the work in the Publicity Department need expression due to Government taking up the Community Projects, Five Year Plan and various developmental works, staff has not increased proportionately so as to cope with the expanded volume of work.

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS:** I did not speak of the staff.



**Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister):** And secondly while speaking about Cachar, he has mentioned that Government have been sending leaflets written in Assamese which are not readable by the people of Cachar district.

Coming to his first point, I admit, Sir, that it is a fact that since the last few years the staff of the Publicity Department had to be retrenched. The district organisations existing in each district except, of course, the Naga Hills had to be retrenched.

As regards his second point with regard to sending Assamese leaflets, I must say that it is not correct. Previously some leaflets used to be sent but on receipt of representation to this effect since some time a Bengali Translator has been appointed and since then Bengali translation of publicity leaflets are being sent to Cachar along with Assamese leaflets. A Bengali leaflet on untouchability is now in the Press, which will be published shortly. Bengali posters on Five-Year Plan and on other subjects are being regularly distributed to Cachar in Bengali language. Therefore, it is wrong to say that only Assamese leaflets are sent to Cachar District. As has been mentioned by my Friend, Shri Ranendra Mohan Das, this point was raised by him to the *ex-Minister*, Shri Mohendra Mohan Chaudhury, and he took up this point last year and Bengali Translator has since been appointed for publicity work in the Cachar district. In view of what I have stated, I see no reason for my Friend to move this Cut Motion. In connection with this Cut Motion, I have noticed some heat has been raised and one hon. Member has already spoken on this. As such I do not like to tread on the ground covered by the previous speakers. But I propose to take up the point raised by my Friend, Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya. He has mentioned that Government should have a Catholic mind. I must state, Sir, that the Government are conscious of their responsibilities. We have resolved to build up a democracy in the back-ground of various divergent factors in society, in language and religion. In spite of all these divergent factors, the people of India have resolved to build up a democracy and Government are certainly conscious of their responsibility to carry out this task. Sir, the Government have never tried to impose any language on any people. With a view to bring about a unity in this diversity, we have introduced learning of hill languages in the schools of the plains. This has been done with a view to bring about an understanding between the different groups of



people speaking different languages. We have introduced teaching of Garo language in the Goalpara High School and some other hill languages are being taught in the plains' schools.

With these few words, I request my Friend, Shri Ranendra Mohan Das, to withdraw his Cut Motion because it is not a fact that we are sending only Assamese pamphlets. As a matter of fact we have been sending Bengali leaflets to the Cachar district. So, I again request my Friend to withdraw his Motion.

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS:** In view of the assurance given by the Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

(The Cut Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn).

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.59,900 under Grant No. 10, Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head—D.—Secretariat and Headquarters establishment, Sub-head (e) Relief and Rehabilitation Department (total) at page 54 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.87,49,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

The purpose of my Cut Motion is to criticise the Department for its failure to ascertain the number of refugees who have been properly rehabilitated.

Sir, at page 40 of the Detailed Estimates of the Budget, under Minor head—Secretariat and Headquarters Establishment, there is the Sub-head 'Relief and Rehabilitation Department, and this amount of Rs.59,900 is sought to be spent under this sub-head. Sir, we know that so far as Relief and Rehabilitation work is concerned, this Government will spend a sum of Rs.2,01,950 only because out of a total of Rs.25,25,100, the Central Government will give Rs.23,23,150. We, therefore, find that for spending a sum of Rs.2,01,950 of this Government and that too for staff and establishment we shall have to maintain a Secretariat establishment with an expenditure of about Rs.60,000. Now, what do we expect from the Secretariat at the first instance? If we take only the refugee problem—so far as relief and rehabilitation of displaced persons is concerned, it is not confined only to the refugees as there are other displaced persons also—if we take only a part of it, viz., the refugees, the



first necessity in order to tackle the problem, is to understand the problem. For understanding the refugee problem, what should we know first? It is the actual number of refugees that are here in the State. We have seen, both in the Address of the Governor as well as in the Budget speech of the Finance Minister, that a certain figure has been given as the number of refugees and it has also been said that some of them (their number was also given) have been rehabilitated. Sir, what is the basis of this number? Does it mean only those who have been registered with their dependents; does it also include those who have sworn affidavits in different Courts; does it include those whose applications for registration are pending in different district headquarters since 1951; does it include those who have neither registered themselves up till now nor have sworn affidavits, and so on? That is to say, what is the actual number of refugee registration cards issued by the different district headquarters. What is the number of dependents shown in these refugee certificates, the number of those who have sworn affidavits and also those who have come with migration certificates? Unless these are ascertained, it is very difficult to understand and appreciate the actual number of refugees that are in the State. Last year having got the number of refugees from Government, I had said, Sir, that I was reminded of Gopal Bhar, who had given some idea about the circumference of the earth, and I think, Sir, I am in no better position to-day because this Secretariat has failed in its first task of giving the actual number of refugees in this State. Either the necessary data are not with them or even if they have got them, these have not been placed before this House.

Secondly, with regard to the number of those who have been rehabilitated, I would first like to know what do Government mean by "rehabilitation"? Supposing a doctor has been given a loan of Rs.500 or Rs.1,000, do Government mean to say that that doctor has been rehabilitated? Suppose a lawyer is given a sum of Rs.1,000, do Government mean to say that the lawyer has been rehabilitated? Suppose an artisan has been given a plot of land in Kowli, which he could not actually cultivate, do Government mean to say that that artisan has been rehabilitated? So, the second thing is that we expect from the Secretariat or the Headquarters staff of the Relief and Rehabilitation Department to get some idea as to what they mean by "rehabilitation", which they want us to understand, because we have seen, Sir, that proper person has not been placed in proper place and arrangements have not been made to give adequate help to a person to get actual rehabilitation in the sphere where he can be best rehabilitated.



Then, thirdly, simply giving of loans does not necessarily mean rehabilitation of the persons. He must have a shelter also. Has this headquarters staff of the Rehabilitation Department any idea as to how many houses have been built for the refugees either on the initiative and help of the Government or on the initiative of the refugees themselves? That figure is also not before us. Moreover, we have also not got the figure as to how many of the recipients of refugee rehabilitation loan have actually used that loan for the purpose for which it was given.

At least so far as my knowledge goes, I know that some of the recipients of the loans have to pay some percentage to the middle man. For example, if a man takes a loan of Rs.1,000 actually he gets only Rs.750 or so and also instead of spending the loan for the scheme which was placed before the Relief and Rehabilitation Officer who paid the loan, a fair portion of the amount has to be spent by the recipient of the loan to carry his body and soul together. Now, Sir, has the Secretariat any information how many of the recipients have utilised the money for the purpose for which the loans were given and how many of the recipients of the loans have left the State into West Bengal and other places? Has this department any information that many of the persons who are not actual refugees posed themselves as refugees, thereby misleading the Government had got loans? Sir, these things are several and they are very important items on which we want definite and correct information from the Minister in-charge of this department.

Sir, I am not going at present into the question of actual rehabilitation of refugees because that will come up in a different head. But so far as the Secretariat is concerned, it should give us an idea of these cases so that we can make proper appreciation of the problem. Sir, with a view to have an idea from the Government, I beg to move my cut motion for the acceptance of the House.

**Mr. Deputy SPEAKER:** Cut Motion moved is that the provision of Rs.59,900 under Grant No.10, Major head-25.—General Administration, Minor head-D.—Secretariat and Headquarters establishment, Sub-head (e) Relief and Rehabilitation Department (total) at page 54 of the Budget be reduced by Re. 1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.87,49,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister)** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Bhattacharjee, the Mover of the Cut Motion has raised a few points. I have taken note of what he has said, and I shall now give replies to those points.



first point is—what is the basis of arriving at the figures regarding the number of refugees in our State. Sir, it was mentioned in the Governor's speech as well as in the speech of my colleague, the Finance Minister, that it was based on the latest Census Report which was conducted on a scientific basis. Sir, the census operation took the figures of the displaced persons as 2,74,455. The figure has come up to 3,58,297 upto to 31st December, 1954. Sir, there has been a continued influx of the refugees since then, consequently up to the 12th of February 1955 the figure was 3,58,500 and by this time it will about 3,60,000.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA:** What is the basis ?

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister):** The Census Report and reports from local authorities. Sir, we are receiving reports from the Sub-Divisional Officers and Deputy Commissioners concerned regularly, that is why I am in a position to give the figures for 1954 as well as the figures up to 12th of February, 1955. There might be some mistakes here and there. It may not be quite accurate.

The second point, Sir, is whether Government consider that a lawyer or a doctor who has received a loan of Rs.1,000 or Rs.500 is supposed to be rehabilitated. Definitely not unless it is supplemented otherwise and to the next question as to why the lawyers and doctors were not given more money, in this connection I would like to bring to the notice of the House the fact that the Central Government has fixed ceiling for the professional men like the lawyers and doctors. The maximum amount fixed for giving loans to a professional man is Rs.3,000. It may be said, Sir, that why the amount of Rs.3,000 was not given to the lawyers and doctors and my reply to that is that the money that was allotted to this Government in the past was not sufficient to meet all the demands. Sir, in a statement which I made about 8 or 9 months back I made it quite clear that if we wanted to solve the refugee problem in our State several crores of rupees will be necessary. I thought that at least 8 crores of rupees will be necessary during the next financial year to meet the demands and that was my estimate about 8 or 9 months back. Sir, I have placed that demand to the Central Government. Sir, there is no denying the fact that the majority of the displaced persons have not been properly rehabilitated. I made it clear also in my reply to the question that some of them have been properly rehabilitated, many of them have been partially rehabilitated, and there are many who have not been rehabilitated as yet, because there are displaced persons who have not received any assistance from the Government as yet. I do not refute, Sir, that



this problem requires a sympathetic consideration and an early solution. It is also a fact that some persons got loan and then escaped, but this could not be helped as there was no restriction on movement previously.

Now, of course there are some restrictions on movement since the introduction of the Passport system between India and Pakistan. But before that there was no restriction on movement. There is no denying the fact that there are some who might have taken loan and ultimately left this place. I think my friends will appreciate the difficulty of the Government in this matter. We are to rely on somebody. There is no stamp on the body of a person so as to distinguish him as a displaced person. If he can produce a certificate from a reliable person or a reliable association we generally take him to be displaced person. But in spite of all these precautions some persons took advantage and it was not possible for the Government to put an absolute check to it. Now, Sir, my Friend raised another point as to whether Government had any information about the utilisation of the money which is being given to the displaced person as loan. As far as possible we are doing that, because in the bond itself there is a condition to the effect that after a certain period he is to pay interest on the loan or to pay the instalment in repayment of the loan. We are to keep a watch so that when the turn comes, we may ascertain whether the person has utilised the money properly, whether he or she is in a position to pay the instalment or the interest that may be due from him or her. Sir, as I have already said, that I wrote to the Central Government when the number was increasing that my demand for the next year would be over eight crores of rupees. Now, even if we get the money the difficulty will be that unless proper enquiries are made, we shall not be able to spend the money for giving loan, regarding other Schemes also we cannot spend the money in time and properly unless technical helps are available in time.

Sir, I am also trying to take assistance from the Central Government in the shape of getting technical personnel such as Engineers, Overseers, etc. We are also trying to get experts to advise on other technical matters such as in setting up industries—medium and cottage, so that our displaced brothers and sisters can get necessary help in this matter. Now, Sir, after hearing the details, I hope my Friend will realise our difficulties as to why it has not been possible for us to rehabilitate all our displaced brothers and sisters, as yet. Sir, we are trying our best to help our unfortunate brothers and sisters who are victims of circumstances, and who have been compelled to leave their sweet hearths and homes so that they may again start a



new life—a sweeter life in the new surrounding and can live like human beings.

With these words, Sir, I hope, after hearing me, my Friend will see his way to withdraw his Motion.

(The Cut Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.)

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No.9, Mr. Bhattacharyya.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.79,400 under Grant No.10, Major head—25—General Administration, Minor head—E.—Commissioner, Sub-head 1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 56 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.* the amount of the whole grant of Rs.87,49,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, in the olden days when the Congress Party was in the Opposition they used to say that the Commissioners of Divisions were white elephants and they were most enthusiastic in criticising the existence of those posts and it must be said in fairness to them that due to the countrywide agitation led by the Congress, ultimately Government had to abolish the post of Commissioner of Division. Then one post remained and the explanation for that was that in order to bring things to a settled state of affairs it was necessary. To-day we have been confronted with a situation where we are to pass the provision for another Commissioner of Divisions. Now it may be said that this has become necessary due to the pressure of work of the different Departments. It might be said that while on the one hand we want to remove the inefficiency of the administration, the delay in the administration of justice, how can we on the other hand oppose the introduction of methods for increasing greater efficiency of the administration? That might be said, but, Sir, here a question of principle and policy is involved. I might not elaborate myself much. Everybody in this House and also outside knows that this type of bureaucracy—I hope nobody will mind my saying so, because this word is quite parliamentary, and it has no sting—is the creation of British Imperialism for running administration which was for colonialism and for lording it over the dependent countries in the interest of the metropolitan power, *i. e.*, British imperialism and they developed that administration as perfectly as possible.....

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** How long will you take, please?



**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** About 10 minutes more Sir.

### Adjournment

(The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 2-30 P.M.).

### *After lunch*

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** Sir, as I was saying the present bureaucratic system was envisaged by the British Government in those days for a definite purpose but then to quote the words of the Leader of our House—"since Independence the whole outlook has undergone a change or gradual conversion of a police State into a welfare State". This is what the Leader of the House said last year. Now, in order to make it compatible with this changed outlook, it has become necessary to change the administrative set-up of our State also in so far as it is practicable within the framework of the Constitution. I am not going to blame any Member of the bureaucracy because as the Chief Minister himself had said, again to quote his words "everyone of them may not be an angel but at the same time, everyone of them is not a devil. There are good officers, bad officers, there are officers who may be called indifferent." But then all of them are part and parcel of the machinery and a time has come when this machinery is to be completely overhauled.

With the expansion of activities in different spheres of our public life it has become necessary for re-orientation of the administrative system. It is at this juncture that the present machinery is said to be tightened up as seems to be the purpose in the appointment of a second Commissioner. Then the tall talk of a changed outlook, changed circumstances and so on proves ultimately to be a colossal hypocrisy. I do not say, Sir, that the Minister, when proposing this sum has become hypocritical but whatever may be his intention, the effect becomes apparent. So the proposal has come under the changed circumstances in our country. This is a question of only a few thousands of rupees. It is no good saying, "why should there be created much fuss about this small amount?" Yes, Sir, the amount involved is not a very big one but is, to use an oft-quoted term of Hindu philosophy indicative in a diminutive form the entire policy of the Government—"গোপদে নভোমণ্ডলম্". Here, in the particular proposal of the Government the entire outlook of the Government is reflected. What actually do they mean by re-orientation of the services? Does it mean to



tighten and to bring it in a more tightening grit over the administrative officers or greater voluntary co-operation and development of initiative of these people at all levels? So far as discipline and efficiency are concerned, these can be had in two ways. One way is that of the chastising rod and the other way is that of voluntary co-operation. A teacher or a father used such a rod against a child in good old days relying upon the dictum 'spare the rod and spoil the child'. But the educationists of the present day have discarded that policy as fundamentally wrong. Similarly, in the days of the British Government, such Commissioner's rod was used as this country had to be ruled by force and by such tightening of the administration. But so far as our present Government is concerned, the sheet-anchor of its policy should be voluntary co-operation. Here, greater voluntary co-operation of the members of the services, which is the first and foremost necessity can be had, for example, by periodic discussion among the officers of every Department not only asking that to do the job well but also taking their opinion how best things can be done. If in this way not only in the matter of getting the things done but also in the matter of how the efficiency of services should be improved, participation of all levels of workers is encouraged, a new atmosphere will be created and that will bring about a closer understanding and improvement. With these words, I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Cut Motion moved is:

That the provision of Rs.79,400, under Grant No.10., Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head—E.—Commissioner, Sud-head—1.—Pay of officers (total) at page 56 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1., i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.87,49,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will speak a few words in support of the Motion moved by my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya. Sir, we have seen many times that the Congress would profess one thing and do another thing. During the years 1937, 1938 anyone who had seen the proceedings of this House would be surprised to see what the Congressmen are doing to-day. In 1937, 1938, more than once, if I remember exactly for three times or four times, this appointment and abolition of the post of Commissioner was the subject-matter of dispute in the House. When Government was run by the then bureaucratic regime, Sir, no less persons than late Gopinath Bordoloi, late Arun Kumar Chanda and all other Congress leaders big and small, spoke vehemently against the appointment of Commissioner and ultimately due to the pressure of public opinion and



due to their strong criticism, the then Government—rather when the grant was refused—was compelled to bow their head before the criticism of the Opposition. But when it came to light, even after the refusal of the grant, the Governor retained the post of the Commissioner by his discretionary powers; then again, a heated discussion ensued in the House and Sir, I do not like to relate the full story. It is known to the hon. Members of the House, but what I want to say is that (In Bengali—নক্ষায় যে যায় সেই হয় রাবণ।” a saying that he who goes to Lanka becomes Ravan. The Congressmen who were in the Opposition in 1937-38 have professed one thing to do but to-day when they are in the helm of the affairs, those things which they professed were being ignored by themselves.

Now, another point I want to bring to the notice of this House is that when in 1937-38 Congress opposed the posts of Commissioner, the entire district of Sylhet was included in the State of Assam, but to-day that portion of Sylhet district with a population of not less than 25 lakhs is no longer within Assam. Even then we required one Commissioner of Divisions and now there is the proposal for a second Commissioner. Now our population is much less and our area is also much less, still we require two Commissioners. Sir, when the post of first Commissioner was wanted it was stated before the House that this Commissioner was meant for tackling the food problem of the State, because there was great scarcity of food at that time, and to divert that attention of the public and also of the Legislature Government tactfully emphasised the food problem and he was called the Commissioner of Food. If Government like to profess that, now the food position has improved, ordinarily this post should have been abolished, but instead of that they have come with a new proposal for a second Commissioner. The reason which has been given by Finance Minister is that he needs efficiency in the administration. If there be efficiency by appointment of a Commissioner then we don't object, because the day-to-day talk is that the administration in our Government has deteriorated to a great extent. So, to pull up the administration, to make it efficient, if the creation of a Commissioner is the solution, then we should welcome not only two but half a dozen Commissioners, but this is not to be. It is known to the Government and to every Member of the House that mere appointment of one or two or half a dozen Commissioners at the top would not make the administration efficient. The entire bureaucratic system which has been elaborately dealt with by my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, should be completely overhauled. Sir, we would have been more glad that



instead of giving the reason to make the administration efficient if Government had said that they required one Commissioner for the prevention of Earthquake, Flood, etc., that would have been more appropriate for this Government. From what we have seen from the appointment of the first Commissioner it cannot be said that by appointing a high salaried officer as second Commissioner of Divisions there will be efficiency in the administration, there will be improvement in the food situation of the country. It is meant only to placate certain high officials or to place them in better position. The creation of a second post of Commissioner is not only redundant, it is absolutely useless and it will not serve the purpose for which it is meant. With these few words I request Government to withdraw the second post of Commissioner and I hope they will accept it.

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been very carefully hearing Messrs. Bhattacharyya and Ranendra Mohan Das. They are very much fascinated by some catch words like bureaucratic officers and things like that. I am glad that Mr. Bhattacharyya said that there should not be any coercion though he professes an ideology in which coercion forms an important part. I am glad that by his gradual touch with a large number of Congressmen he has now become non-violent (*laughter*).

An officer may be called bureaucratic if his mental outlook is that of a bureaucrat that existed in our country in the pre-independence period. These bureaucrats were not liable to disciplinary action even by their higher officers. That is one of the reasons why they were considered to be retarding the progress and development of the country. Although these officers were paid during that period out of the revenue of India, they were only anxious not to do good to the country but to carry out certain policies that were dictated from the above. For all these reasons they were considered by our Congressmen as bureaucrat as they did help to develop our State but were only anxious to carry out those policies that were needed for the benefit of the country from which they came. But now things have fundamentally changed. Now we can appoint a Commissioner and can dismiss him or retrench him. Any officer at present, whether he is a Commissioner or anybody, has got to carry out the policy of the Government. His duty is not only the collection of revenue or disposal of cases but he has also to be in closer touch with the people and to supervise and coordinate the works of his subordinates. He has got to know the policies of Government clearly and to



pull up these officers who are not efficient and who do not carry out the policies of the Government. He has also got to know how to secure public co-operation and how to behave with other officers. At one time there was a big gap between the junior officers and senior officers and due to dearth of experienced officers. Then the feeling was that the Magistrates were not disposing the cases as quickly as they should and a large number of cases were pending from year to year. So naturally with a view to look into these matters and to expedite disposal of cases efficiently, the post of the Commissioner of Divisions was created and that has resulted in a great deal of efficiency. Every one of the bar library whomever I have met really appreciates that on account of the appointment of a Commissioner who goes from place to place and examine records of disposal and collection of revenue and such other things as settlement of land disputes, settlement of fishery and excise mahals, etc., the district administration has been toned up. He has got to see whether the settlement of a certain dispute has been properly made. Again in case of an emergency the Commissioner has to run to that place immediately and to bring about a better understanding between the local officers and the local representatives of the people so that we can secure public co-operation in all important matters. He has also got to see that our officers have changed their outlook, for unless their mental outlook is changed, unless they help Government in carrying out its policy in establishing a welfare State, we cannot achieve our goal. We have found that things have now improved to a great extent by the appointment of the Commissioner. As a matter of fact a great deal of inefficiency has been removed from the junior officers and now they are anxious to do their bit, to work hard and they know also how to behave themselves and how to deal with the public.

Now, Sir, there are many development schemes such as Community Projects, National Extension Service Blocks, and other social welfare activities which need proper co-ordination. Now-a-days the Deputy Commissioner is practically the head of all departments in the district, he has to co-ordinate all these welfare activities. How can he do that and at the same time look to the cases and the work in his office? I have heard Mr. Bhattacharyya also said that there should be more Deputy Commissioners. We all know that all the Deputy Commissioners are very busy now and that is why in many cases we have appointed Additional Deputy Commissioners to assist the Deputy Commissioners. The Deputy Commissioner has also to attend meetings at headquarters, to advise in the matter of Land Settlement Advisory Board or



Advisory Board for distribution of controlled commodities, etc. Besides that he had also to keep contact with the people to get public co-operation for the successful implementation of the various welfare activities. Commissioner has to supervise the works of Deputy Commissioner. He has not got sufficient time to do other important works, such as looking to the activities of the Local Boards and Municipalities. I think my Friend, Ranendra Babu, will bear me out if I say that in many Local Boards and Municipalities, money allotted for a certain purpose are diverted for other purposes. Now, how to check that? And who will advise these Local Bodies in such matters not to act against the rule of diverting money intended for one purpose to another? There is a feeling that there is a great need for giving advice to these Local Bodies. Moreover, we want to establish Rural Panchayats in the entire State—we want to entrust all work of development in the State now being done by these Local Bodies, Panchayats and other non-official organisations. Now, for doing social welfare activities in the State there are many non-official organisations which the Government help with funds. So there must be someone to see that the money thus granted has been properly spent. Again, if we get complaints that a certain officer is retarding progress of development work there must be an officer who could go at the spot and at a glance he will be able to understand how to do away with such and other obstacles that stand in the way of progress of the work. In this way, Sir, I want to impress the need of superior officers.

As an instance I can tell the House that during the last flood at Dibrugarh, I had occasion to be there to see how work is going on. I then felt the necessity of a senior officer to co-ordinate the work in the emergency created by rapid erosion between officials and non-officials and other organisations. As the House is aware, there are a large number of voluntary workers and non-official organisations like the Congress, Indian National Trade Union Congress Workers and others who were working hard to save the houses by dismantling them, besides a large number of police force when I gave order to be there. As I said, I felt the need of a senior officer to co-ordinate the work of these parties to tide over the emergency and I considered Commissioner as one who could do so effectively. But at that time he was engaged in selecting sites for construction of administrative buildings in Diphu, the proposed headquarter of the United Mikir-North Cachar Hills District.



He was then at that place holding meeting with the Chief Engineer and other officers for selection of a site and for planning a town ; but in view of the grave emergency at Dibrugarh I had to call him back from there. Another instance is at the time of shifting the town of Sadiya where the people lost everything they possessed. For such occasions also the advice of a senior officer is wanted to advise the local officers and the public representatives in the matter. So, for all these things the services of a Commissioner are absolutely necessary because it is simply impossible for us, the Ministers or for our Secretaries from here, to see how to implement the development works with increased efficiency, and speed. So, it is essential to have a Commissioner. He will not only attend to emergencies, or he will not only inspect the work of the Magistrates, etc., but he will advise the Deputy Commissioners to have a proper check and control over the Local Boards and Municipalities. Sometimes we hear complaints that the Municipalities or the Local Boards are wasting money. It is necessary to check, examine and scrutinise the accounts of these Local Bodies so that their efficiency can be increased to a greater extent and the sense of responsibility can be brought home to them. Now, Sir, these are some of the works which keep a Commissioner busy throughout the year. Generally we find that the Commissioner formerly used to go only to headquarters of districts. That will not solve our problem. He will have to go to all districts and subdivisional headquarters to examine the total collection of revenue, etc., and to supervise the work.

The Government are also keen about setting up of ideal villages, the scheme for which have to be examined and scrutinised by an able senior officer so that his advice may be available to the officers in the locality and also to the public representatives as to how to have a speedy development of those areas. Another aspect of the work of the Commissioner is that in his round to all the district and subdivisional headquarters he had to see and examine the diaries of the officers and to watch their work so that he may enter his remarks in the Character Roll of officers. The Ministers and the Secretaries of Departments do not have constant touch with these officers to know whether a particular officer is efficient or not and fit for promotion, etc.

Besides the works that I have detailed, I want to remind the House that we always hear about delays in disposal of excise appeals. After the abolition of the Revenue Tribunal some of the revenue matters have been transferred to the High Court and they are hearing appeals or revision. But as



regards excise appeals, the matter is now being heard by a Tribunal consisting of three officers. In excise appeals it is very interesting to note that eminent lawyers always come and take up a lot of time in arguing the appeals.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** Because they are very paying !

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** That is for the hon. Member to judge. I am just telling this to show that a lot of time is taken by these eminent lawyers in these excise appeals. In spite of the fact that we have a Tribunal of three officers to deal with these appeals, what is actually happening, they cannot dispose of most probably before the year is out, as some lawyers come and request that as they have got some other engagements here and there the matters may be adjourned for some time. In these days of democracy, if the members of the noble profession who are also Members of the Assembly come with such requests, it is difficult for an officer to refuse such requests. There are few officers now-a-days who have the courage to refuse such requests. I think the lawyers should also see, as responsible people, that in such matters time is not unnecessarily taken.

In the excise appeal cases there are no law points, it is a question of discretion and on a matter like this it cannot be conceived how more than a day is taken in arguing such a case. I have no personal experience in the matter of excise appeal cases and I never appeared in any such appeal. Three of our officers, namely, the Revenue Secretary, Finance Secretary and another Secretary, are to get themselves engaged in hearing such appeal. There is a Resolution in the name of Mr. Pegu that to expedite matters he suggests that another Tribunal headed by a Parliamentary Secretary should be substituted as the appellate authority. He forgets that a Member of Legislative Assembly can never be a member in such Tribunals under the Constitution. It, however, indicates that there is an anxiety for speedy disposal of such appeals. If a Commissioner takes 10 or 12 days to reach a place like Lungleh and such other places in the hill districts for his inspection work, how can he find time to go to all the headquarters of the other Districts? Besides in his inspection work he is to see how the District Council is working and whether the Deputy Commissioner is getting on well with the District Councils. If a senior officer goes to such areas to see whether the Government policy is executed properly or not and if he keeps in touch with the District Council and discusses matters with the Deputy Commissioner on the spot and arrives at some decision, then it



becomes practically easy for the Government to come to a decision on certain matters on his recommendation. There has been some sort of a feeling in the minds of our District Council Members as well as of the Chief Executive Members that there is unusual delay in vetting of Bills and Regulations when they are sent for advice. Now-a-days rules and regulations have become so complicated that even the Bills and laws prepared by the State and the Central Legislatures are often declared invalid by the High Court. So, a great deal of care has to be taken in such matters. What do we generally do when complicated legal points are involved? We take the advice of the Legal Remembrancer and sometimes of the Advocate General. For the consideration of the Members of the District Council we can only give advice, and before doing so Government had to consult the Legal Remembrancer. The draft rules and regulation prepared by the District Council are not generally scrutinised by lawyers and the Government under the circumstances had to take great care in getting it examined by Legal Remembrancer so that the District Council may not have to face an awkward situation when their validity is questioned in the High Court. Sometimes some points cannot be made clear by correspondence. Hence we feel that a senior officer may personally contact District Councils and advise them and explain matters to them.

I want to give another instance. There is an impression in the minds of some Executive Members of the District Council that they can use Service stamps, Court-fees and Postal stamps and that the proposal was submitted to the State Government which immediately referred the matter to the Government of India. But unfortunately the Government of India refused to grant the permission. Under my direction the matter has again been referred to the Government of India. Thus there has been some unnecessary delay in disposing of this matter, as it is pending before the Government of India. Due to this delay an impression has been created in certain quarters that the State Government are standing in the way of such small matters as using of Service stamps, Court-fees, Postal stamps, etc. Had a senior officer visited those areas, such erroneous impression creating some misunderstanding would not have arisen at all. When I got this information from others to whom they made this complaint, I called them and explained matters to them and they were satisfied with the step taken by the State Government. But some irresponsible people took advantage of such small matters to create antipathy against the Government. We always want to remove such mis-understanding between us and those



people and it will be of great help if a senior officer is engaged for such a purpose. There is still a complaint that no criminal case between the State and a Tribal is allowed to be tried by the District Council Courts, under an erroneous impression. As soon as the matter was brought to my notice, I passed order that such cases can be tried by the District Council Court in case the complainant at whose instance the case is taken, and the accused are Scheduled tribes.

We are anxious to develop those autonomous District Councils and we must give them necessary advice to remove their difficulties in such complicated matters, that outlook must be there to help them and that can be done either by a Minister or by a senior officer. But it is not possible for a Minister to go round in those areas frequently because he has to meet so many demands everywhere. Now it all depends upon the attitude of an officer whether he is to exert his influence or to help them there and if his attitude is not helpful and sympathetic then we should no longer keep him in that position.

These are some of the reasons for which we are thinking of creating this post in order to remove some of the mis-apprehension in the minds of some of the people. A man who is known and respected by the people and who has fair knowledge of the area is put in charge of the administration will certainly do better. I do not feel any need of placating the officers. I do not quite understand my Friend, Ranendra Babu when he used these words. I am a simple man and I have no diplomacy in me and I therefore think that there is no need of placating the officers. We propose to cover the entire State with Community Projects and National Extension Service Blocks. Who is the officer to see what progress has been made and what progress yet remains to be done? Sir, the Secretary sitting here at the headquarters station at Shillong, who has also various other duties to perform, cannot naturally supervise the work of the Deputy Commissioners who have been placed in charge of such a variety of work. So, Sir, mere increase of an officer here and there will not serve the purpose. If the officer is of a bureaucratic frame of mind and does not know how to mix with the people and discharge his responsibilities under the new set up of things, such an officer will not serve the purpose. These are the reasons for which we want another Commissioner. We have already noticed that the appointment of the 1st Commissioner of Divisions has greatly increased the efficiency of our administration. But this Commissioner has a lot of work to do. He cannot devote himself whole-heartedly to all these works. This made the appointment of another Commissioner an imperative necessity. Our



aim is to increase the efficiency of the administration and to help development of the State.

With these few words, I request my Friend to withdraw his Cut Motion.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Yes, Mr. Bhattacharyya, do you like to withdraw?

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** Before I heard the Hon'ble Chief Minister, I did not actually know that the Commissioner would have to do so many things. As a matter of fact the whole world of responsibility appear to have devolved on him. He may be almost taken as an 'Avatar' with ক্ষিত্তিবিহ বিপুলতবে তা তিষ্টেতি পৃষ্ঠে.....”

**Mr. SPEAKER:** No, no, I cannot allow you any further explanation. Are you withdrawing?

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** No, Sir, I am not going to withdraw my Cut Motion.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The question is that the provision of Rs.79,400 under Grant No.10, Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head—E.—Commissioner, Sub-head—1.—Pay of officers (total) at page 56 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.87,49,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(The Cut Motion was negatived.)

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.20,10,425 under Grant No.10, Major head—25.—General Administration Minor head—F.—District Administration. Sub-head—F—1.—General Establishment (total), at page 59 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1. i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.87,49,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

By this Cut Motion I want to discuss about the general deterioration of District Administration.

I hope, Sir, the Chief Minister has heard the speeches of the hon. Members of the Congress Party at the time of the general discussion of the Budget. Almost all the Members invariably in thier speeches have criticised that the administration, particularly at the district-level, has deteriorated. We have



just now heard the speech of the Chief Minister where he has asked us to believe that of late there has been a great deal of improvement in the administration of the districts. I have failed to understand the lack of unity between the Leader of the House and his followers. Why do his followers fail to look at things as stated by him? At any rate, things have come to our notice to show that so far as the district administration is concerned, it has gradually gone from bad to worse. Of course, I do not blame the district officers themselves, because I fully agree that the district officers are burdened with too many responsibilities, with too many works, and they are very busy people. For there have been so many developmental activities due to the Five-Year Plan and so on and so forth in addition to their usual work. I think Government will do well to lighten their burden as far as practicable and possible. But I do not understand one thing. In spite of this heavier burden of responsibility thrown on the shoulders of our district officers, why have they been made to run after the Ministers or V. I. Ps when they go out on tours if the Government is really serious to lighten their burden of responsibilities? In the interest of the better administration of the districts, I think district officers may be relieved of this additional duty of clinging to the Ministers while they are on tours.

Secondly the nature and pressure of work in a particular district should determine the number of the Additional Deputy Commissioners and District Magistrates. For example, in the district of Kamrup only one Additional Deputy Commissioner is not enough. The Deputy Commissioner there should be supplemented by an Additional District Magistrate looking after magisterial work and one Additional Deputy Commissioner entrusted with the duties and responsibilities regarding the developmental activities under the Five-Year Plan, etc., So far as the judicial side is concerned, Additional District Magistrate should be able to look after this side of the work and so far as other matters are concerned, Additional Deputy Commissioner will be able to look after and the Deputy Commissioner will undertake general supervision and control. But all the districts are not equally important and big. When the district is small, volume of work there is necessarily small, and in such smaller districts, one Deputy Commissioner alone or along with one Additional Deputy Commissioner should be able to carry on.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Are you speaking generally.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** I am giving suggestions as to how the deterioration in District Administration can be checked and improvements effected.



**Mr. SPEAKER :** What are the different causes according to you, leading to this deterioration in the efficiency?

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA :** They are so many, Sir. The other day the Congress Members themselves dwelt at length regarding these causes. I now do not like to repeat them. I would just now only like to give some suggestions as to how this can be improved. The Congress Members have spoken about them much better than perhaps I can do now.

Then there is another thing. There are some people who simply by paying annas eight go and dictate to the district officers. Some may be amused to hear this. Others may just ask how can that be so? Well, by paying 4 annas for the Gandhi cap and another four annas for the Congress membership! And with this authority they come and dictate the district officers to do this and to do that. There are so many cases of interference in the administration like this that this has become one of the reasons why these days the district officers cannot function properly. If we want to improve the district administration, this state of things should at once be stopped.

Our Ministers should know that a district officer does not become good simply if he knows how to say "Sir", "Sir" and "Sir". As soon as a Minister goes, he will say "Yes, Sir", "No, Sir", "Very well, Sir". But their merit should not be judged simply by this. They should be judged by their work though they are expected to be polite and well-behaved not only to the Ministers but to all people.

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

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Cut Motion moved is that the provision of Rs.20, 10, 425 under Grant No.10, Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head-F.—District Administration, Sub-head-F-1.—General Establishment (total), at page 59 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.87, 49, 500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

**Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI :** অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, অরশ্যে মোৰ একো কবলগীয়া নাছিল কেৱল ভটাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াৰ কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাৱ আৰত থকা কেইটামান কটুভি গুনিহে হঠাতে উঠিব লগীয়া হলো ।



এনে এটা উক্তিৰে মাত্ৰ তেখেতৰ দৃষ্টিভঙ্গীৰ হৈ পৰিচয় দিছে। তেখেতে আপোনমনে কিবাকিবি শুনি আনৰ আৰত নিজক লুকুৱাবলৈ বিছাৰিছে। কংগ্ৰেছ সদস্য সকলে কি কৈছে তেখেতেও হয়তো ভুলকৈ শুনা নাই; কিন্তু তাকে কিছু বক্তৃতা কৰি আপোন উদ্দেশ্য পূৰণ কৰিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰাটো এটা অপচেষ্টা মাত্ৰ।

তেখেতে কৈছে যে কংগ্ৰেছী সকল ৪ অনাৰ মেম্বাৰ হৈ ৪ অনাৰ এটা টুপি পিন্ধি দৈনন্দিন শাসনত হস্তক্ষেপ কৰে, আৰু নানা ৰকমৰ সুবিধা লয়। মোৰ বোধেৰে মানুহে যি বঙৰ গ্লাছ চকুত লয়, বাস্তবতো সেই বঙটোৰে সকলো বস্তু দেখে। তেখেতৰো সেই একে অৱস্থা। মই কওঁ তেখেতো এদিন এই কংগ্ৰেছৰে মেম্বাৰ আছিল। এই কংগ্ৰেছেই প্ৰথমতে তেখেতক শিক্ষা দিছে। তেখেতৰ নিচিনা শিক্ষিত লোকৰ মুখত এই কথা অকনো শোভা নাপায়।

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** তেহিনা দিবগা গতা। সেই দিন নাই আৰু। (বে দিন অব নহী বতে)।

**Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI:** তেখেতে মুখত যি আহে বা মনত যি ভাবে তাকে এই সদনত কৈ দিয়ে যিবোৰ কোৱা উচিত নহয় আৰু তেখেতৰ নিচিনা এজন শিক্ষিত লোকৰ সিবিলাক কোৱা অশোভনীয়। আমিও কৈছো যে আগৰ বুৰঞ্জীক শাসনৰ যি বিলাক আসোৱাহ আছিল সেইবিলাক আভাৰ লাগে। তদুপাৰ দুৰ্নীতি নিবাৰনৰ কাৰণে আমি পৰামৰ্শ আগবঢ়াইছো। গতিকে মই কওঁ যে তেখেতে এনেধৰণৰ অৱান্তৰ কথা কৈ নিজৰে মূল্য হেৰুৱাইছে। আশাকৰো তেখেতে যেন এনেবোৰ কথা আৰু কেতিয়াও নকয়। ময়ো অৱশ্যে কাছাৰীলৈ মাজে মাজে যাও আৰু তেওঁলোকৰ শ্ৰেণীৰ মানুহেই যে উপায় ভূৰ অফিচত কি ধৰণৰ দুৰ্নীতি কৰে মই জানিবলৈ পাও। কোনো কোনো তেখেতৰ শ্ৰেণীৰ মানুহেই নিজৰ কাম তাৰতাৰি কৰাবৰ বাবে গাওঁৰ মানুহবোৰক কেবাগা আদিক চাহ খাবলৈ টকা পইছা দিবলৈ কোৱা মই নিজ কাণেৰে শুনিবলৈ পাও। গতিকে দুৰ্নীতি অকল কংগ্ৰেছীৰ গাত দিলে নহব। এইবোৰ কথাটো চাবলৈ গলে কোনোৱেই দুৰ্নীতিৰ পৰা ৰাৱ নপৰিব আৰু তেখেতেও ইয়াৰ পৰা অব্যাহতি নাপায়। ইটো কথা ঠিক যে আমি সকলোৱে যদি এই দুৰ্নীতিৰ বিৰুদ্ধে এক গোট হৈ দিও তেনেহলে কেতিয়াও দুৰ্নীতি থাকিব নোৱাৰে। কাম হওক নহওক যদি সকলোৱে কাকো এপইচাও নিদিও বুলি প্ৰতিজ্ঞাবদ্ধ হয় তেন্তে কেতিয়াও দুৰ্নীতি থাকিব নোৱাৰে। এনেই বক্তৃতা দি শ্লোগান গাই দুৰ্নীতি দূৰ কৰা নাযায়।

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Mr. Bhattacharyya drew my attention to the various speeches delivered by the Congress Members regarding efficiency of administration. But he has overlooked the fact that Congressmen want to go faster and to have greater efficiency in administration. It was only a comparative statement. They did not say that efficiency in administration had deteriorated since the creation of the post of the Commissioner. They wanted that the progress should be much faster. I also want to go more faster for increasing efficiency. I agree with them that in view of the new set-up, when things are moving in a dynamic way, when what we do to-day may not be considered good to-morrow, when circumstances are changing every moment and when we are passing through a revolutionary time, the progress should be much faster than what it was in bureaucratic days or immediately after the attainment of Independence. So



the criticisms made by the Congress Members do not prove Mr. Bhattacharyya's contention.

Then, Sir, Mr. Bhattacharyya criticised the meeting of V. I. Ps. by the Deputy Commissioner. When a Minister goes to a district, how can he know about the state of affairs in his own Department unless the Deputy Commissioner or the officer concerned contacts him. The Minister has also got to contact the public representatives in order to get an idea of how things are going on. Generally when I go out on tour I interview non-officials in order to know how things are going on so that, I may pull up the district officers. Then, the district officers also might have something to say about the difficulties which they are facing and how to remove those difficulties. How can this be done if the district officers do not come and meet me? Say, for instance, I go to a particular area immediately after flood, I must enquire how many persons are affected, how many have become landless, whether they have been settled, whether adequate provision has been made for relief, and so on. How can I have any idea about these things if the Deputy Commissioner does not meet me? Is it, therefore, an offence? We have also got to know about the difficulties of district officers, why the difficulties arise, how we can solve them, whether they have got public co-operation—all these matters must be ascertained from the district officers. It is, therefore, essential for the district officers to meet the Ministers. I do not know what exactly Mr. Bhattacharyya means by "V. I. Ps." If he meant the Union Ministers and other Ministers coming from outside, the Deputy Commissioner should meet them as a matter of courtesy. The District Officer representing the State Government must attend to the visitors' comforts and arrange for their stay, movements and other things. Some of them are treated as State Guests and it is the duty of the District Officers to look after them. Is it an offence to be courteous? We are exhorting the Government servants to be courteous in their behaviour not only with the Minister but also with the public. Does he want our officers to be discourteous? Sir, I submit that it is necessary for our officers to be courteous. It is all the more necessary in a welfare State. With these few words, I request Mr. Bhattacharyya to withdraw his cut motion.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Are you withdrawing?

**Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** No, Sir.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The question is that the provision of Rs. 20,10,425 under Grant No. 10, Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head—F.—District Administration,



Sub-head—F—1.—General Establishment (total), at page 59 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.* the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 87,49,500 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(The Cut Motion was negatived.)

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 2,25,000 under Grant No.10, Major head—25—General Administration, Minor head—F—District Administration, Sub-head—F-5-Local Board Election (total), at page 62 of the Budget be reduced by Re. 1 *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 87,49,500 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

Sir, I want to criticise the Government in connection with the Local Board Elections. I want only to mention a few words regarding the bunglings as to why it was at first not decided as to whether those who pay Choukidari Tax or Panchayat Tax should be eligible for being candidates in the Local Board Elections. Sir, at first only the local rate payers were qualified for candidature, but in the last moment, I may say at the 11th hour Government changed the rule for reasons best known to them. By the previous notification, it would so happen that atleast in Goalpara and in Karimganj very few persons would be eligible to be candidates for Local Board Elections. I don't understand, Sir, why Government did not see this earlier.

Secondly Sir, there have been big anomalies, with regard to the position of the tea garden labourers. Sir, I am not sure whether it is constitutional or unconstitutional that these persons who have got franchise or voting power should have been deprived of the right of standing as candidates. But apart from the constitutional point, I think it is an anomalous provision in a State of ours which boasts of democracy, but which deprives the labourers, the working class, of the right of franchise simply because they did not directly pay the local rates. In my opinion, Sir, it is not only anomalous, but also incongruous.

Thirdly, Sir, we have seen that in the formulation of the rules, Government could not come to any decision all atonce and consequently rules came at in instalments up to the 12th hour. So, Sir, it is seen that many important things come at the 11th hour or even the 12th hour. Then with regard to certain departmental orders, or Press Notes regarding the symbols, etc., because this was not incorporated in the rules, atleast in many districts many nomination papers had been cancelled by the Deputy Commissioners. Sir, so far as the rules are concerned, they are unlike the rules relating to Parliament or Assembly elections and are too



cumbrous. Here, Sir, there is discrimination not to the spirit only but to the very letter itself. So, Sir, in several districts the Deputy Commissioners failed to make proper appreciation of the legal position of the administrative orders. These are, Sir, only a few of the many anomalies and for that very purpose I am moving my Cut Motion with the hope that in future this sort of anomalies should be avoided as far as practicable.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Cut Motion moved is that the provision of Rs.2,25,000 under Grant No.10, Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head—F.—District Administration—Sub-head—F.—5—Local Board Election (total), at page 62 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.87,49,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

**Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Minister) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the words 'bunglings' and 'anomalies' as pointed out by my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, are not quite understandable to me neither the words justifiably how that Government did not take proper steps in proper time. It is well known that when the rules are prepared, they are published in order that the various Local Bodies and the public in general may come forward with their suggestions and opinion. Sir, the Local Boards also in their turn published these things for the same purpose in order that suggestions and criticisms may come up so that necessary amendments be made in the rules.

Sir, my Friend has specially pointed out that the tea garden labourers have been deprived of franchise. But it is not so as many garden labourers pay the Choukidari Tax and also the Panchayat Tax.....

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** What will be the percentage ?

**Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAJUMDAR (Minister) :** Sir, about the percentage it will not be possible to say off-hand. Sir, my Friend has also pointed out that the rules are not made on the same basis in all the districts. In order to make the application of the rules more extensive the criterion of Choukidari Tax and Panchayat Tax has been included in the rules, to give more facilities to the people for contesting in the Local Board Elections.

It has been pointed out by my Friend that by making the criterion of pay of local rates or Choukidari Tax or Panchayat Tax the qualifications of the candidates for contesting the Local Board Elections have been narrowed. But this, Sir, has been done after due consideration. It has come to the notice of the Government that in many Local Boards members do not take care to come to the meetings, and there are also



cases where Local Board Member left the area altogether. That is why this has been done in order to give the opportunity to the people who have some interest in the Local Boards, so that they can give their best attention and also help to improve the Local Boards and also co-operate in the administration of the Local Boards.

So, Sir, the criterion has been fixed in that consideration. I hope it will not be difficult for the hon. Members to follow the purpose which is behind it. Sir, the amendments have been published and the reasons have been stated very clearly, as I have stated already, in order to make the application of the rules more extensive. In view of this, I do not see how my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, can say all these as bunglings and anomalies.

Regarding the symbols, Sir, there were new parties and they wanted to have new symbols. Sir, these new parties may go to the District officers for this purpose and this matter can very easily be solved by the District Officers themselves. I hope my Friend, Mr. Bathacharyya, after hearing me will see his way to withdraw his Cut Motion.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The question is that the provision of Rs.2,25,000 under Grant No.10, Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head—F.—District Administration, Sub-head—F.—5—Local Board Election (total), at page 62 of the budget, be reduced by Re.1 *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.87,49,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(The Cut Motion was negatived.)

Mr. Bathacharyya 3 Minutes only, please.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATRACHARYYA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may not take three minutes even, because almost all the points have been covered by my previous speeches. This Motion is, so to say, a summing up of the observations I made, and therefore I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.87,49,500 under Grant No.10, Major head—25—General Administration, at page 39 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.87,49,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, this is some sort of a policy motion. This motion is meant to criticise the policy in the matter of general administration, because I am sorry I could not see eye to eye with the Leader of the House as to the character and composition of present "officialdom". I am not using the term "bureaucracy", as it is objected to by some people. He tried to make out a point that it is only the officers who not only take decision but the efficiency of the administration also rest with them. I wanted to say that this is a wrong approach.



Sir, we find at page 48 under Head (b) that there are 10 Secretaries, the "Dasavataras". Now it is proposed to add another. The duty of the people will be to offer oblations to the Avatars.

For example, to one we shall have to say:—

“প্রলয় পয়োধি জলে ধৃতবানসি বেদং বিহিতবহিষত্রচবিদ্রনখেদং  
কেশবধৃত নীন শরীর জয় জগদীশ হবে”।

To another perhaps we shall have to say:—

“কিতিবিহরিপুলতবে তব তিষ্ঠতি পৃষ্ঠে ধবণীধাবণকিনচক্র গৰিষ্ঠে  
কেশবধৃত কুর্নগরীর জয় জগদীশ হবে।”

And so on. If we are to believe the Chief Minister, it was due to these ten Avataras in the form of Secretaries that our State was saved from the Deluge and so the creation of another is justified (*Laughter*). But I want to point out that it is the people of our State who by their initiative and voluntary co-operation will not only initiate the policies but will also execute them. The decision will also come from them. That way lies our salvation. There must be from this time onward an attempt to shift the bias in the administration to the Popular Gear so as to make the people participant in the work, both in the formulation of policy and its execution. But the Budget as presented before us does not give us any such idea. This is not in conformity with the goal that we profess to hold and therefore I move my motion for the acceptance of the House.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Cut Motion moved is that the total provision of Rs.87,49,000 under Grant No.10, Major head—25.—General Administration, at page 39 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.87,49,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very glad to find that my Friend, Sri Bhattacharyya, believes in Avataras—the incarnations of God. (*laughter*).

Sir, I think he has missed my whole point. The Secretaries do not lay down the policies. The policies are laid by the Government. Government also tries to associate the people at the village level, and as a matter of fact we have asked the Village Panchayats, the District and Subdivisional Boards to give us suggestions in the formulation of our plan. That is being done. The power of enlisting the co-operation of the villagers, their representatives and other local experts is vested on the District and Subdivisional Officers. Moreover there must be some one to supervise whether that power is properly being exercised. It is also necessary to see whether he is able to get the co-operation or not, and as matter of fact the efficiency of the officer is judged by the amount of public co-operation he is



able to secure in the development work. We want them to make contact with the people in the rural areas, to ascertain their wishes and needs and difficulties and to solve them in the light of their suggestion, taking all other facts into consideration. If my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, does not shut his eyes and does not put on a glass on his eyes he can see the real colour, he will then be able to see that the administration has changed to a great extent. He will find that the administration which was primarily concerned with the collection of revenue and maintenance of law and order is being switched off to meet the needs of a welfare State which we are going to usher in. I am quite sure, Sir, my Friend will realise the great change that has taken place now. We want rapid changes, Sir, and we shall not rest till we realise our objective of welfare State and with these words, Sir, I request my Friend to withdraw his Motion.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The question is that the total provision of Rs.87,49,500, under Grant No.10, Major head 25—General Administration at page 39 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.87,49,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(The Cut Motion was negatived).

**Maulavi FAIZNUR ALI:** Sir, the time allotted is two hours and that has passed long ago.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I think we are nearing completion. The question is:

“That a sum of Rs.87,49,500, 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 “25.—General Administration”.

(The Motion was adopted)

#### Grant No.43

#### “63.-B.—Community Development Projects”

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.1,12,67,500 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 “63-B.—Community Development Project”.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The Motion moved is:

That a sum of Rs.1,12,67,500 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 "63.-B--- Community Development Project".

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA:** I shall not move my Motion. Sir, Mr. Das will move his Motion.

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.1,12,67,500, under Grant No. 43, Major head 63.-B---Community Development Project, at page 303 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1., i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,12,67,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, my intention is to raise a discussion about lack of public enthusiasm and slow progress in the Development Projects. Sir, if we see the suggestion which has been compiled by the Planning Commission about the Community Development Projects, we shall see that public co-operation and public enthusiasm are the essence in the whole thing. In page 223, the programme which has been built on the co-operation of the people has more chances of success but the official machinery is to guide and insist the responsibility for meeting their own advantage must rest with the people themselves. Unless they feel that a programme is theirs and value it—it is a practical contribution to their own welfare—no substantial results will be gained.

So, the first thing in the matter of Community Development Projects is the public enthusiasm. The people must think that it is their own work. I should say one thing from my own personal experience. I had been in one of the Development Project areas near Silchar. I had been there in my own estate and stayed there for seven or eight days. I happened to meet one employee, a village worker of the Community Project. He told me complaining that the people of that area numbering about 5,000 or so are not co-operating with him. He wants to establish a dispensary for the people over there but he told me that all these things could not be done as he could not gather all these people there. He wanted me to help him in this line because the people there are Hindus, Muslims, Deswallies, Manipuris and others. I therefore called the people and about 100 or 200 people met me there. I am telling from my own experience and that is the truth. You will realise there how Community Development Projects are going on. In that meeting of the village people, the worker of the Community Department explained the necessity of a dispensary and all these things—he wanted the people to contribute land, money and also labour so that the dispensary should be their own. As we have seen, the village people are always illiterate, their enthusiasm is always lacking.



Generally they would say, it is the duty of the Government, why should we bother and even they don't like to contribute any money or labour or land and the worker became irritating and began to talk to them in incorrect English. Now, that is the point I want to bring to the notice of the House that a low paid village worker who is deputed to bring co-operation and create enthusiasm among the people. Then I convinced them about the necessity of a dispensary and I allotted a portion of land for them and I tried to explain to the people so that he could realise the good aim for the construction of a dispensary.

That I could do, because I have some position, I could influence the people over there.

(Shri Baiyanath Mookerjee: How can he [get village workers of his position)? I am coming to that. It is my point also. Your work cannot progress because how can a third grade uneducated person over there who is talking incorrect English with the people there could explain to them the necessity of the Community Development? Persons of the calibre of Ministers and Deputy Ministers, high officials and M. L. As. should be necessary if they want to create public enthusiasm which is the assential factor for these Community Development Projects. Sir, I know that when a Minister goes in a village, the Deputy Commissioner, the Subdivisional Officer or the Sub-Deputy Collector who is in charge of that area will compel the people of that area to make a gathering although the people themselves do not come on their own accord. So, I say the public enthusiasm which is lacking in all these spheres of Governmental activities is due to the incapacity of the Government to place good worker there. The top-ranking officers of Government are engaged in table work, file work and signing bills. I suggest that the top-ranking officers should also go to the actual field and mix up with the people and thus create public enthusiasm. When this is done, our development projects will be crowned with success. With these few words, Sir, I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The Cut Motion moved is :

That the total provision of Rs.1,12,67,500 under Grant No.43, Major Head 63B—Community Development Projects, at page 303 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1. i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,12,67,500, do stand reduced by Re.1

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really surprised to find a perfect Zamindar like my Friend should generalise from a single instance when he found one village level worker was speaking in broken English, that he failed to rouse public enthusiasm.



**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS:** I am not generalising. Sir, I was saying that this man was explaining about the Community Projects to the villagers in English. He was not talking with me.

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** Even then, from that single instance to generalise.....

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS:** I speak from my own personal experience.

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** It would have been better if he could give the name of that worker so that I can look into the matter.

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS:** I do not know the name of the man, or of the people.

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** It is a fact, Sir, that he wanted to generalise from a single instance with a view to create an impression that there has been no public enthusiasm or spirit of co-operation from the people in all Community Projects and National Extension Service Blocks. I do not expect such generalisation from a man of his position, a responsible man who claims to be a Zamindar. I will show that his generalisation is utterly incorrect. I will place a few facts before the House to disprove altogether his allegations.

Now, Sir, I will give a list of works done to show how much public enthusiasm has been created by the various development activities undertaken by Government. We have constructed *kutcha* new roads for 1,200 miles and 850 miles of road intensively repaired by voluntary labour freely given by the people. 370 buildings have been constructed for primary schools. 127 primary schools have been converted into basic type school—the buildings were constructed by voluntary labour. Then the people regularly attended 870 night schools, recreation centres and women organisations in the centres. 7,150 rural latrines were constructed with voluntary efforts. 96 miles of drains were constructed; 9,423 wells and tanks were renovated and repaired. The people contributed freely their time and labour for the construction of 433 new wells and tanks; 39,216 compost pits were dug by voluntary labour. This list is only illustrative and not exhaustive. Valued in terms of money, the contribution in labour comes to Rs.24,85,000 and in cash and kind it comes to Rs.4,03,000.

Besides that, I will place before the House the views of Shri S. K. Dey who had an intensive tour throughout the Community Project areas during the last 7 days in order to correct the wrong impression which my Friend Mr. Ranendra Mohan Das, wants to create here. Here is the impression of Shri S. K. Dey. He said that Assam featured as one of the foremost State in India in



the matter of successful implementation of the Community Project Schemes. About Naga Hills he said that the Community Projects have created a unique enthusiasm among the tribal people living in various stages of civilization and the economic programme involved in these schemes has captured their imagination and they are taking increased interest in these works from the Treasury Benches: (Hear, hear, *Voices*) People's contribution in money and materials totalled several lakhs of rupees. Then about the workers, this is his impression. He said that the workers engaged in Community Project works were doing first-grade work with a smile. But he pointed out that the progress of the work would have been more satisfactory if they had not had scarcity of technical personnel. There is no dearth of workers, what we are lacking is sufficient number of trained technical personnel. These, Sir, are the views of a man who had intensive study of the work done by our people. But it is a matter of regret that, just like in the rest of India, our Friends who belong to other parties do not see things in their true perspective whereas people from England, or even from Communist Countries like China and Russia, or even people from America, they all see a great deal of change in our Country. Why do they see like that? Because they come with an open mind and with open eyes. While our own people who do not believe in a democratic evolution for the development of the Country, they want to decry every activity of the Government. Instead of helping to create enthusiasm in the people, they try to retard the progress of the Country. Just in the beginning when a road was being constructed in the Community Project area they asked "why do you construct this road"? They tell the people that this road was constructed for the Police to come here and to punish them, or it was constructed for purposes of war. These kinds of propaganda are going on. Is it desirable that sensible and responsible persons should act in a way to retard the development of the Country like this?

So, I would request my Friend, Mr. Ranendra Mohan Das, to remove his coloured glasses and not bring in any bias in the minds of the people

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS :** I am not retarding the progress of work, I am rather helping the people to get sufficient benefit.

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) :** Now, Sir, regarding the progress of work, you will be glad to know that 8 N. E. S. Blocks have been converted into Community Project centres out of 12 such Blocks as a satisfactory working of N. E. S. Blocks.



With these words, Sir, I would request my Friend to understand things properly and to withdraw his Motion.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Mr. Das, are you withdrawing ?

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS :** No, Sir.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Then I will put the Motion.

The question is that the total provision of Rs.1,12,67,500 under Grant No.43, Major head 63-B.—Community Development Projects, at page 303 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,12,67,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(Cut Motion was negatived.)

(After a pause.)

Mr. Hareswar Goswami is absent, so I will put the original Motion.

The question is that, a sum of Rs.1,12,67,500 (Rupees one crore, twelve lakhs, sixty-seven thousand and five hundred) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1956 for the administration of the head "63-B.—Community Development Project.

(The Motion was adopted)

## GRANT No.20

### "41.—VETERINARY"

**Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAJUMDAR (Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam I beg to move that a sum of Rs.26,24,300 (Rupees twenty six lakhs, twenty four thousand and three hundred) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1956 for the administration of the head "41.—Veterinary".

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The Motion moved is the that a sum of Rs.26, 24,300 (Rupees twenty-six lakhs, twenty-four thousand and three hundred) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1956 for the administration of the head "41.—Veterinary".



As no Cut Motion, is going to be moved I put the original Motion.

The question is that a sum of Rs.26,24,300 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 "41.—Veterinary".

(The Motion was adopted)

### GRANT No.3

#### "8.—EXCISE"

**Rev J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, to move that a sum of Rs.12,74,700 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 "8.—Excise".

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that a sum of Rs.12,74,700 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 "8.—Excise".

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.3,93,506 under Grant No.3, Major head 8.—State Excise Duties, Minor head B.—District Executive Establishment, sub head 5—Prohibition Propaganda, at page 14 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.12,74,700 do stand reduced by Re.1.

I do not want to traverse a very wide area. My intention in moving this Motion is to offer my suggestion with regard to the growing menace of liquor in urban areas like Gauhati. I do not know the exact position and so I want to know something.

At Gauhati, Sir, the quantity of liquor which is selling openly is only a small fraction of what is selling secretly at night under cover of darkness. Not only that, there are so many clubs and institutions where we do not know what actually is going on behind the screen. There are cases where a girls' school or the choukidars' quarters thereof has become a veritable liquor shop. These things are happening at Gauhati after about 9 p. m. In some areas of the town it is difficult to walk after darkness, because there you will find only drunkards and they will naturally stop you and manhandle you. So, it has become the position even in a most prominent town of our State.



Now, our Government has been experimenting prohibition in rural areas. That is good so far as it goes because we do not want that our peasants, specially the poor peasants, should waste their paddy and rice in preparing Pachwai in their homes. This is a sheer waste. But the point is that now-a-days, in these days of scientific development and modern civilisation it is the villagers who look to the town people for guidance and inspiration. Gauhati, for example, is a very important town and naturally villagers who are our own people want guidance and inspiration from the people of this town. But there in the town liquor is not prohibited and persons who are held in high esteem in the society are known to be addicted to this habit. I do not mean to say that all esteemed officers are addicted to this habit. But I want to mention a Community Development Supervisor of Harisinga who when his higher officer went in search of him was not found there at his post but was found wallowing in a drain being a victim of liquor. I can give the names of other persons also to the Minister in confidence, if required. Some of the Members of the Congress Party also know about it.

I am now concerned with drunkenness particularly in urban areas,—very important urban areas like Gauhati. These are the places to the people of which the villagers look for guidance and inspiration. Government should make it a point to start prohibition successfully in some such areas. There may be some amount of difficulties at the initial stage, or there may be some opposition from some “respectable” quarters. Bombay is a place where some communities thought it wrongly or rightly that liquor taking is a part of their religion; but inspite of stiff opposition from them if the Bombay Government can make such a bold experiment to make prohibition a success, I do not see any reason why our Government also should not have the same boldness to make prohibition a success in the town like Gauhati and in other important towns. And then you can go to the country and say that when we have made it successful among the educated town people who have given up the bad habit of drinking, why should not the village people give up this habit?

Therefore, Sir, my suggestion is that if you want to make this prohibition campaign a success, then it must be started first in the towns instead of in the rural areas.

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.3,93,506 under Grant No.3, Major head 8.—State



Excise Duties, Minor head B.—District Executive Establishment, Sub-head 5.—Prohibition Propaganda, at page 14 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.12,74,700 do stand reduced by Re.1.

**Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have very few words to say in regard to what Mr. Bhattacharyya has said. It is very undesirable, regrettable and sad indeed that anybody should be a drunkard, that any man who is a gentleman should go to a liquor shop and be found drinking there or that any officer of the Government should go there to drink liquor and thus show a very bad example to the people. That is really undesirable and sad and nobody would like or countenance that. We all agree that such things should not be done and should be stopped. The desire of the hon. Member is not so much to tell about the drunkenness of some people in Gauhati town but that prohibition should be extended to the town first and to make it a success. I think that is what he wants. (Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya: Yes, that is right.) He wants that prohibition should be extended to the Gauhati town. We have been very seriously thinking about it that prohibition should be extended to that area and it is a question of time only. We are going to discuss shortly on this point in a committee. That is the only thing I need to say. We have a desire to extend prohibition and root out the evil from the Gauhati town and from other towns also.

With these words, Sir, that we are in agreement on this point and that we are considering the time when we should do it, I hope Mr. Bhattacharyya will withdraw his Cut Motion.

(The Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.)

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The question is:

That a sum of Rs.12,74,700 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 "8.—Excise".

(The Motion was adopted.)

### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M., on Monday, the 21st March, 1955.

Shillong:

The 13th January 1955.

S. KAR GUPTA,

For Secretary,

Legislative Assembly, Assam.







## AGENTS IN INDIA

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