

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

MARCH SESSION

VOLUME I

No.5

The 7th March, 1955



सत्यमेव जयते

1955

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Minutes

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(March Session)

Vol. I, No. 5

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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 Monday, the 7th 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, two Parliamentary Secretaries and fifty-three Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(Starred Question No.2 standing in the name of Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya was not put and answered as the Questioner was absent.)

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Motorable Road from Belleikawn to Aijal

Pu LALBUAIA asked :

6. Will the Minister-in-charge, Public Works Department be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government will be prepared to maintain the existing motorable road from Belleikawn to Aijal after completing the construction of the diversion ?

(b) If so, what will be the approximate cost of maintenance per year ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied :

6. (a)—The position will be reviewed as and when the construction of the road from Kolosib to Aijal is completed.

(b)—Does not arise.

Presentation of Budget for 1955-56 and Budget speech of the Finance Minister

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister)

MR. SPEAKER, SIR,

I rise to present the Budget Estimates for 1955-56.

During the financial year which is about to end there was overall stability in the country's economy. The trend of prices was downwards. The general index of wholesale prices registered a fall of 8 per cent. between December 1953 and January 1955. This was reflected in the living costs in the various industrial centres. The improvement in the food position which I referred to in my budget speech of last year was maintained and there was definite improvement registered in industrial production. The boom in tea prices continued. The economy of this State was however temporarily subjected to a severe strain by the devastating floods which occurred during the last monsoon, causing extensive damage to standing crops and property. The Assam Rail Link was damaged at various points and we were virtually cut off from the rest of the Union for about five months. There was a temporary dislocation in the supply of various commodities which was reflected in the cost of living indices prepared by the Department of Statistics and Economics. In the plantations and the rural areas the cost of living index showed temporarily an increasing trend. A serious situation confronted the Government and the economic stability was threatened. It is remarkable that despite the floods our food position is better to-day. The law and order situation is also satisfactory. I am therefore happy to be able to present the estimates for the next year with a reasonable degree of confidence.

The Five-Year Plan

We are now coming to the last year of the First Five Year Plan. In my Budget Speech last year, I gave a detailed account of our Five Year Plan, its magnitude, resources and steps for implementation. I am glad that we have been able to achieve a considerable degree of success in the implementation of our Plan. It may be that we may not be able to achieve all the targets of the Plan within the plan period. The natural calamities to which we have been repeatedly subjected have strained our administrative machinery to the utmost and we have been compelled to divert resources and manpower for the repair of damage and construction of protective works. This along with other factors like dearth of trained technical personnel, etc. has inevitably retarded the progress of work under

the Five Year Plan. I need hardly add that the unfinished schemes under the First Five Year Plan will be carried to the Second Five Year Plan. As the hon. Members are aware in the matter of food the targets set for the plan period have already been exceeded. No effort is being spared to achieve the targets under other schemes.

It is probably not unknown to this August House that the final magnitude of our First Five Year Plan stands at Rs.23.07 crores. This figure does not take into account the outlay on Community Projects, National Extension Service Blocks and various other Central sector schemes in which the State is also participating. In the third year of the Plan, our expenditure was Rs.3.2 crores, as against a total expenditure of Rs.3.36 crores in the first two years of the Plan. A programme costing over Rs.7½ crores is under implementation in the current year. The contemplated expenditure in the next year, which is the final year of the Plan, is about Rs.9½ crores.

Everything possible has been done to increase the tempo of expenditure. The trends of expenditure and of achievements of physical targets are under constant review. Opportunity is taken in consultation with the Planning Commission to divert funds from heads under which it could not be spent to heads where the need and scope for expenditure are larger.

Apart from other Five Year Plan schemes, we have certain schemes of local development and social welfare. Under the local development schemes, 832 projects were sanctioned during 1953-54 involving a total outlay of Rs.15,33,124. Of these, 824 projects involving an expenditure of Rs.14,71,239 have been completed. During the current year, a programme of local development works entailing Government grants to the tune of Rs.15 lakhs has been sanctioned. This amount does not take into account the people's contribution. In addition, a sum of Rs.14 lakhs has been earmarked for rural water-supply.

The State Government have set up a State Social Welfare Board. The State has been allotted 17 Social Welfare Extension Projects. Four of them have already been taken up for execution. The other schemes will be taken up during the remaining period of the Plan. An expenditure of Rs.50,000 per project has been envisaged. The Government of India will bear 50 per cent. of the expenditure, the State Government will bear 25 per cent. and the remaining 25 per cent. will have to come from the people in the shape of contribution in cash or kind.

Second Five-Year Plan

In my last year's Budget Speech, I indicated our intention to take up the framing of the Second Five Year Plan methodically and systematically with popular co-operation behind the work. Suggestions have already been received from public organisations, such as local bodies, subdivisional boards, and from leading people like M. Ps. and M. L. As. The fullest possible opportunity has been given to people at all levels of private and public life to participate in the preparation of the plan and to make known their needs for inclusion in the Second Five Year Plan. Schemes to be included in the plan are to be classified into State-level, district-level and village-level schemes. Targets of achievements under different heads will be prescribed in definite terms and the plan will be so presented that the schemes benefiting different areas are known to the people.

The magnitude of our Second Five Year Plan has to be fixed with reference to the size of the All-India Plan. From indications available it appears that the Second Five Year Plan, in the public sector, would be of the order of Rs.3,500 crores as against Rs.2,269 crores in the first Plan. In the light of these indications and considering the needs of the State, it has been tentatively decided to formulate a Five Year Plan involving a total outlay of Rs.71.5 crores. Out of this amount, Rs.66.5 crores are to be spent under different heads and Rs.5 crores will be set apart as reserve for meeting special needs. The tentative allocations were recently discussed in a meeting of the State Planning Advisory Board and the Sub-Committee for the Second Five Year Plan. Valuable suggestions and advice were received from the members present. They are under examination. It is likely that there will be some variation in the allocations as a result of such advice and suggestions. Liberal provisions are however contemplated for the hill districts.

The above figures do not take into account the expenditure that may be required for measures of flood control and for multi-purpose River Valley Schemes. The expenditure on such schemes can be gauged only when the result of surveys, now being carried out, is known. The expenditure on National Extension Service during the Second Five Year Plan is also not included in the above figures.

Government are anxiously waiting for valuable suggestions from the hon. Members for giving final shape to the Second Five Year Plan.

Generation of Power

Accepting the proposals of the State Government, the Government of India have, during the current year, offered a loan of Rs.42 lakhs to the State Government for extension of power facilities in the State. Along with the extension of various benefits to the people the scheme is also designed to relieve unemployment. The work has been taken up. Rules are being finalised. The general idea is to assist the existing power generating companies to extend their power supplies, and to encourage the setting up of new companies and to take up electrification projects in rural areas.

The Project Officer, Umtru Hydel Project, undertook a preliminary investigation on the possibilities of hydel electric development around Tura town. Government have now agreed to cause detail survey and investigation and have sanctioned the necessary expenditure of Rs.15,000. The survey work is expected to start soon.

Low Income Group Housing

The Government of India have recently finalised a scheme for giving loans to people in the low income group to build houses. The State Government have also agreed to participate in the scheme. For the implementation of the scheme, it may be necessary to set up a Housing Corporation. Initially Government have set up a policy making Committee of some Secretaries and a Housing Board. The scheme contemplates giving loans to local bodies to provide residences to their employees, loans to people in the low income group to build houses. Government will also acquire lands and make house-sites or houses according to plan with the ultimate aim of selling them to people of the low income group on reasonable terms. It is expected that as a result of the scheme not only will the problem of housing scarcity be solved, but Government will also be able to plan for systematic development of the towns.

River Control

Some idea of the work undertaken in this behalf was given in my last year's Budget Speech. Since then work has been put on a more systematic basis. The Central Government have set up a full-fledged River Investigation Circle consisting of a Superintending Engineer and 4 Executive Engineers for Assam. The Circle is already functioning for

several months. The State Public Works Department is also co-operating and assisting in the work. It is expected that after the current working season, the Investigation Circle will be able to make available to the State Government preliminary reports on a number of problem rivers on the basis of which more definite conclusions can be arrived at about the projects to be included in the Second Plan. Simultaneously, the Circle, with the assistance of the Geological Survey of India, is obtaining geological reports on the possibility of harnessing other rivers, some of which fall within the zone affected by the great Earthquake of 1950. Further investigations on these rivers will depend on geological reports.

The data collected by the River Investigation Circle will also help planning of integrated flood control measures. Along with the concentrated attention given to the devastating floods of 1954, it was decided to set up Central and State Flood Control Boards. The State Board has met a number of times. Decisions on both long-term and short-term measures were taken. A separate Chief Engineer for Flood Control work has been appointed in view of the large scale protective work that has to be taken up in Dibrugarh, Palasbari, Soalkuchi and some other places. In these measures we have received the greatest possible assistance from the Central Water Power Commission, the Central River Research Station at Poona, the River Research Station of the Government of West Bengal and the Survey of India, and I take this opportunity of expressing our thanks to them.

Umtru Project

The hon. Members are aware of initial difficulties which have delayed the implementation of the Umtru Hydro-Electric scheme. I am, however, happy to say that the work is now proceeding according to plan. As at present envisaged, power would be generated from this project by the end of 1956. It is expected to take up the extension of the transmission system to the north bank of the Brahmaputra in the Second Five Year Plan period. In addition a survey is in progress for a second phase of the Umtru Project by construction of a storage dam in the upper reach of the river. Experts tell us that this measure will have the potential of developing 90,000 kwt. of power. For the utilization of the power from Umtru Project and further possible thermal generation in the Cherrapunji area alternate schemes for

electrical traction on the Gauhati-Shillong road and construction of a ropeway from Pandu to Cherrapunji via Shillong are now being examined.

Autonomous Districts

In my last year's Budget Speech, I dwelt at length on the financial resources of the Sixth Scheduled districts, and District Councils. I would not take the time of the House by repeating them. All I want to say now is that the economy of the hill districts is likely to improve considerably as a result of the success of the constructive and ameliorative measures taken by Government.

The hon. Members know that a scheme of subsidising transport of rice and other essential supplies from nearest road heads to the distributing centres in Garo Hills and in the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills was introduced some time back. The scheme is still in force in Garo Hills. At the instance of the M. L. As. from the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills district, the scheme was withdrawn from that district. The amount allocated for the scheme has been utilised during the current year in implementing certain other ameliorative measures, such as construction of village roads as test relief work, rehabilitation of families in border areas, grant of agricultural loans for purchase of cattle, implements, seeds, etc. The total cost of the scheme is Rs.4,80,000 and it is proposed to continue it during the next financial year.

In the current year, we have taken up a scheme for the permanent improvement of scarcity areas of United Khasi and Jaintia Hills and the Naga Hills at a total cost of Rs.44 lakhs. The Government of India have promised to make available to us a loan for the purpose. The scheme includes permanent rehabilitation of distressed families of the border areas of United Khasi and Jaintia Hills, reclamation of waste lands for wet paddy cultivation and introduction of cash crops like cashew nuts, pepper, etc. It also includes construction of two major roads, viz., Kohima-Zunheboto and Kikdolong-Birema roads as test relief works in the Naga Hills at an estimated cost of Rs.29 lakhs. It is expected that in the current year an amount of Rs.3½ lakhs will be spent on this schemes in the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills and a sum of Rs.10 lakhs in the Naga Hills. The work will be completed in the next financial year.

Article 275 Schemes

The welfare schemes in implementation during the last three years under Article 275 of the Constitution have been continued in the current year. The magnitude of the schemes for the current year for the Autonomous districts can be appreciated from the aggregate outlay which comes to Rs.1,07,81,119. This amount has been distributed to the different hill districts under the following heads—

	Rs.
1. Education	...
2. Medical	11,60,000
3. Sericulture and Weaving	5,51,825
4. Public Health	2,60,290
5. Agriculture	2,55,928
6. Forest	5,68,955
7. Cottage Industries	5,09,087
8. Co-operation	3,13,948
9. Veterinary	1,66,980
10. Communication	2,64,106
11. Miscellaneous	62,00,000
	5,30,000

With a view to promoting tribal crafts and cottage industries and also tribal art and music two new schemes have been initiated. An emporium has been established in each of the district and subdivisional headquarters of the autonomous districts for procurement and marketing of the products of tribal crafts and cottage industries and for the supply of raw materials to the tribal producers. For the promotion of tribal music and folk dances, assistance has been given to organisations engaged in these lines. It is also proposed to appoint a Research Officer in consultation with the Gauhati University to collect, edit and publish tribal folk songs and to study the tribal folk dances so that they may be preserved in their original tune and form.

With a view to weaning away the tribal people from the unproductive system of jhum cultivation, a pilot project for the control of jhum cultivation in the autonomous districts was initiated in the Garo Hills last year. It was under the supervision of an expert deputed by the Government of India. The scheme achieved considerable success. It has since been extended to the autonomous districts of Mikir Hills, North Cachar Hills and Mizo district. A new Forest Division called Jhum Control Division under the control of an experienced

and senior Divisional Forest Officer has been set up. Preliminary action has been taken to open six more jhum control centres in Mikir Hills, North Cachar Hills and in Mizo district. In the current year, in addition to the road programme schemes taken up under Article 275, the State Government have, from their own resources, taken up additional road projects in the autonomous districts under the expanded State Five-Year Plan and have already sanctioned Rs.25 lakhs for their implementation. In addition, Government have decided to divert the anticipated shortfall of expenditure on the road programme in the current Five-Year Plan to the extent of Rs.43 lakhs to the construction of roads which were originally put in the Second priority list.

To end the isolation of Lungleh from the rest of the State the local people completed the major portion of a jeepable road between Aijal and Lungleh on self-help basis. This road has been taken over by the State P. W. D. for improvement with a view to make it a motorable road. To achieve this end, a sum of rupees ten lakhs has been sanctioned from the Special Petrol Tax reserve to meet the cost of construction of two major bridges on this road.

As in every other part of the country, in the hill districts also, there is a persistent demand for betterment of general conditions. Perhaps the demand is stronger in the hill districts because till lately conditions there were more backward than in other parts of the State. As such the demand is justifiable. The people want that their conditions should be improved and improved quickly.

On several occasions, the present Government have repeatedly emphasised the importance of the problems of the hill districts. There is unanimity of opinion that the conditions of our brethren from the hills should be improved very quickly. The only obstacle to progress in this respect arise from difficult terrain and dearth of technical personnel. The very first requisite for the improvement and betterment of a place is communication. You cannot build a school or start a hospital or carry improved agricultural implements to any place unless there is a road to it. Having regard to this fact Government are giving top priority to communication in the hills. The difficulties confronting Government are, however, enormous. The terrain is so difficult that survey alone of a road in hill takes a lot of time. Then we have the problems of

transporting machineries, implements and workers for construction. Hence progress cannot be as quick as desired by the people. But what is not realised, and therefore not appreciated, is the fact that despite all these handicaps Government have been able to do much during the last four years for the betterment of the conditions in the hills. I give below a comparative statement showing the number of institutions and the length of roads prior to Independence and now. It will show what rapid strides have been made in bringing all round development to the autonomous hill districts.

Institutions, etc.	Number existing on the day of Inde- pendence (15th Aug. 1947)		Existing to-day	
(1)	(2)		(3)	
Government High Schools	4		8	
Aided High Schools	11		15	
Government Middle English Schools	13		45	
Aided Middle English Schools	38		93	
Government Primary Schools	450		749	
Aided Primary Schools	182		331	
Number of High Schools receiving grants-in-aid	1		5	
Number of Middle English Schools receiving grants-in-aid.	33		50	
Number of Primary Schools receiving grants-in-aid.	679		1085	
Number of Hospitals and Dispensaries	52		88	
Total mileage of roads	2040		5441	
Total mileage of motorable roads	393		834	
Mileage of jeepable roads	Nil		1201	
Mileage of bridle paths	1646		2474	

In addition, over 930 miles of roads are under construction or are being improved to make them motorable.

Hon. Members will thus see how great have been the improvements. But for the handicaps the progress would have been still more satisfactory. As soon as a measurable progress has been achieved in the matter of construction of roads, improvement in other directions is bound to be rapid. We realise that people are likely to get impatient over the slow progress. But I hope they will not under-rate the difficulties we have to face. I want to assure the Hon. Members of the House and through them our brethren in the hills that Government have full appreciation of their needs and are determined

to meet them as quickly as circumstances permit. The stride of progress in these matters will be determined by the measure of popular support and co-operation. I am sure our brethren of the hills will not fail us.

I have already indicated that liberal provisions will be made for the development of the hill districts in the Second Five-Year Plan. It will be noticed from the list of New Schemes appended to the Budget Memorandum, that Government propose to carry out several development schemes in the next year purely out of State resources.

Removal of Untouchability

In my Budget Speech last year, I stated that though untouchability is practically non-existent in the State, certain evil social customs have to be removed. I also stated that a scheme for removal of untouchability was under the active consideration of Government. The scheme has been finalised and is now being put into action. The ameliorative schemes under the Five-Year Plan as well as other schemes taken out of State revenues benefit the scheduled caste people equally with others. In addition, in the current year a special welfare programme for the scheduled caste people has been undertaken at a total estimated cost of Rs.4 lakhs. The Government of India will bear 50 per cent. of the expenditure. The scheme includes propaganda by visual and printed publicity against the evils of social disability imposed on the scheduled caste people. It also provides for the digging of wells in areas predominantly occupied by the scheduled caste people, giving grants-in-aid to secondary schools for providing adequate facilities for education of their children, establishment of primary schools in areas predominantly inhabited by them, the award of scholarships and stipends for training in cottage industries, establishment of more subsidised dispensaries, additional grants to existing subsidised and local board dispensaries for purchase of medicines and equipments in areas predominantly inhabited by them and placing funds at the disposal of Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers for inter-caste dinners, social meals, etc.

In my last year's Budget Speech, I mentioned the special measures taken by the State Government for the betterment of the conditions of the scheduled castes. In the next year's budget, provision is made for the award of additional Middle English

and Middle Vernacular Scholarships to the students of the Scheduled castes. The economic conditions of the Scheduled caste people are generally unsatisfactory. The number of landless people in this community is really very large. With a view to improve their economic conditions, Government have taken special care to provide lands to them whenever and wherever possible, and appreciable progress has been made in this direction. The same attention that is given now to their needs will be continued hereafter.

Relief and Rehabilitation

The influx of refugees from East Pakistan continued during the whole of 1954. This influx in varying degrees and in a sporadic manner made it difficult to formulate regular plans for expeditious rehabilitation. The devastating floods of 1954 also partly diverted attention from fresh rehabilitation to the relief of distress of already settled refugees. Apart from the general relief granted by the Revenue Department, the Relief and Rehabilitation Department distributed a sum of Rs.30,000 by way of relief to flood-affected refugees.

The various measures of relief under which free grants are given as medical aid, including grants for special treatment of T. B. patients, financial assistance is given for marriages, Shradh ceremonies, etc., and homes are maintained for the destitute and infirm, were continued during the year. An amount of over Rs.10,36,000 has been spent during the year up till last December. This brings the total expenditure on various kinds of gratuitous relief to Rs.1,08,45,125. For the education of the children of the refugees also special measures have been taken during the year. Up to the end of December last, about 24,000 refugee students got financial assistance. Thirty-four primary schools, exclusively for refugee students, are being maintained by Government in different rehabilitation colonies and some more are proposed to be taken up soon. Expenditure on them will devolve cent per cent. on the State Government after a period of five years, during which it will be shared with the Central Government on a sliding scale. Arrangements were continued during the year for training of refugee students in arts and crafts. Schemes for vocational and technical training of refugee students in the Civil Engineering Institute at Gauhati and in the Technical Schools at Nowgong and Tezpur are under implementation. A junior Technical School is being

started at Silchar also. The Jorhat Technical Institute, under the Director of Resettlement and Employment, is training 30 students per year in a number of subjects.

A revised scheme for the Central Destitute Women's and Children's Home at Nowgong is under consideration of the Government of India. It is also proposed to have a central destitute home in Cachar with a capacity of 1000. The site has already been selected. The details of the scheme are being worked out.

Of the 3,58,290 displaced persons in Assam, over 2,21,000 have been rehabilitated through Government help up to the end of September last. Financial assistance has also been given to refugees who are settling through public co-operation and private efforts. A sum of Rs.33,04,000 has been issued as loans to displaced persons during 1954-55 up till the end of December, making a total of Rs.3,39,58,000 on this account. Steps have been taken for raising the ceiling and the average amount of loans under different categories so that each displaced person may get the due amount in one instalment without having to look for further loan. Instructions have been issued to grant rehabilitation benefits to all genuine displaced persons irrespective of whether they hold Refugee Registration Certificates or not. Apart from the land acquired by the refugees who have rehabilitated themselves without much assistance from Government, about 1½ lakh bighas of land have been provided to refugees with the assistance of Government. A number of medical units are being run in the rehabilitation colonies. Schemes for refugee markets at Karimganj, Silchar, Nowgong, Dhubri, Tezpur and Nalbari are in process of implementation through the respective Local Bodies who have been granted long-term loans for the purpose. Five schemes of urban housing, under which about 1,000 families have been benefited, are in operation.

Labour

In this field, the welfare activities are continuing unabated. The State Government have already decided to introduce a compulsory provident fund scheme, which is likely to deal with about 5 lakhs of subscribers with an annual gross contribution amounting to Rs.1½ crores. A scheme of this nature cannot be effectively implemented without the full co-operation of labour and management. Government hope that such co-operation will be forthcoming.

The Assam Labour Welfare Board met from time to time and have recommended improvement of the Roroiya Labour Welfare Training Centre and construction of a Female Welfare Training Centre at Mazenga near Nazira. A sum of Rs.1 lakh has already been granted for this purpose. Two more labour welfare centres have been created bringing the total number of labour welfare centres to 17.

Navigation, Embankment and Drainage

Under the Grow-More-Food drive, the Public Works Department has undertaken 47 schemes estimated to cost Rs.120 lakhs. Three more schemes at a cost of Rs.16 lakhs were added in 1952-53. Of the 50 schemes, 34 are practically completed and 13 are likely to be completed during the year. As to the remaining three schemes survey is in progress.

The Five-Year Plan development schemes under Navigation, Embankment and Drainage consisted originally of 40 schemes at an estimated cost of Rs.100 lakhs. Subsequently, three schemes were transferred to G. M. F. Programme and one to Scarcity Areas Programme. Of these, 9 schemes have practically been completed and 14 are in progress.

In November 1953, a special Minor Irrigation Programme, consisting of 43 schemes at an estimated cost of Rs.140 lakhs, was included in the enlarged Five-Year Plan. Twenty-two of them have recently been administratively approved. While estimates in respect of some of the remaining schemes are under preparation, survey of others is in progress. Under the scheme for improvement of scarcity areas, 36 projects to cost over Rs.93 lakhs were approved under the expanded Five-Year Plan. Of them, 2 have been started and 8 have received administrative approval.

Dibrugarh Protection Scheme

Hon. Members are well aware of the anxiety which both the Central Government and the State Government have for the protection of Dibrugarh. The matter has been studied at great length by both the Governments and model experiments have been carried out in laboratories at Poona. After consideration of all relevant factors and the study of the results of model experiments, it has been decided to complete as four-mile revetment and a series of spurs. Work on these lines

is progressing. Difficulty has been felt in the supply of wagons for carrying enormous quantities of stone required for the purpose. The matter has been taken up at the highest level with the Union Government. To ensure speedy execution of this urgent protective work our Chief Minister has appealed to the public of Dibrugarh and to the student community in particular to make voluntary offer of their services. The House will be glad to learn that the response from the students has been heartening.

Judicial

As the first step towards separation of judiciary from the executive, the Superior Judicial Service was established in August, 1952. As a further step towards the same end, the Junior Judicial Service was constituted with effect from 1st January 1955. The institution of a separate Judicial Service is a landmark in the progress of the policy of complete separation of judiciary from the executive.

The problem of housing our Courts in an atmosphere of judicial serenity has been engaging the attention of Government for some time. Steps have been taken towards that end in several places. The location of our High Court in a proper building, suited to its dignity and status, has also received due attention of the Government. Steps have been taken to have a dignified house for the purpose. The President of India was graciously pleased to lay the foundation stone of the new High Court Building at Gauhati. Work on construction is now proceeding satisfactorily.

Excise Department

The Assam Liquor Prohibition Act, 1952, which was brought into force in the Barpeta Subdivision from 1st March 1953, has been extended to the North Kamrup portion of the Gauhati Subdivision with effect from 2nd October 1954. Government have recently decided that no new foreign liquor licence, either for loose sale or sale in bottles, should be issued in future. The existing clubs, etc., have been allowed only one kind of licence, either for loose sale or for sale in bottles.

Government have been seriously considering the question of gradual prohibition of Ganza in Assam. A final decision to this effect is expected shortly.

The work of prohibition, both through the official and non-official organisations, is proceeding satisfactorily. Strengthening of Excise staff to ensure effective prohibition by preventing smuggling of contraband opium and illicit distillation has also been taken in hand.

Forest Department

The Forest Department is continuing to face serious difficulties in respect of disposal of timber produce, particularly of the Goalpara and Cachar districts, owing to non-issue of import licence for Sal and miscellaneous hard wood timber by the Government of Pakistan. It has become virtually impossible to market such timber in the rest of India because of the limited carrying capacity of the Assam Rail Link, lack of transshipment facilities at the Ganga ferries and the increased railway freight rates. Owing to the difficult railway wagon position, even short distance movement of log timber from Goalpara to Dibrugarh within Assam for use in the Railway workshop there has not been possible.

It is gratifying to note that in response to repeated representation made by our Government, the Government of India have increased the price of sleeper supplied to the Railways by Re.1 per Broad Gauge or Metre Gauge Sal sleeper and annas 4 per evergreen Metre Gauge sleeper.

In line with the all India scheme of encouraging tourist traffic, Government have increased the amenities to the tourists and visitors in our wild life sanctuaries. A well-furnished bungalow at Kaziranga with catering facilities has been completed. In the North Kamrup Wild life Sanctuary also a motorable road and a bungalow are under construction.

The possibilities of establishing a quinine factory in Assam to utilise the products of our Cinchona Plantation are under investigation. The cultivation of economic and medicinal plants has been undertaken under an experimental scheme sanctioned by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and as part of our Five-Year Plan.

Communication

Government have approved in 1954-55 the execution of the incomplete items of the road projects previously taken up under various road improvement schemes at a total estimated cost of

about Rs.38 lakhs. These works will be continued next year. Besides this, some small road improvement schemes and incomplete works from the previous year are continuing and will continue till next year. Government have also approved the taking up of 25 roads, previously improved by Local Boards and Public Works Department, from Procurement Cess Funds for further improvement to Public Works Department standard at an estimated cost of Rs.20½ lakhs. The work on improvement of these roads has been started this year, and will continue till next year.

The devastating floods of 1954 caused extensive damage to roads and buildings of several divisions. Restoration of communication was done as early as possible and repairs to roads are also in progress. It is expected that the bulk of the work of repair and restoration will be completed during the current financial year.

The restoration of communication damaged by the floods, has necessarily delayed progress in the implementation of the Five-Year Plan schemes.

National Highway

During the year under review, a notable feature of improvement programme of the National Highway is the black-topping of the road between Numaligarh and Khowang. The work is likely to be completed within this month. The Government of India have approved additional projects costing approximately Rs.128 lakhs, for the improvement of the National Highway. So far 11 projects have been financially sanctioned by the Government of India at an estimated cost of Rs.54 lakhs.

Additional Road Schemes

With a view to step up expenditure under the Five-Year Plan, both in the general and Sixth Schedule areas, 111 additional road projects have been taken up at an estimated cost of Rs.158 lakhs. This programme will result in the construction or improvement of about 700 miles of roads both in the hills and in the plains.

The Rural Road Development Co-operation Scheme has also been expanded. We have, under this scheme, taken up a road

programme costing Rs.6 lakhs with a view to improve about 170 miles of rural roads. Work on these roads has been started by the Local Boards. It may be remembered that of the total cost, the Government of India will pay one-third, the State Government will pay one-third and the balance of one-third will be borne by the Local Boards concerned.

Over and above the original programme of Rs.256 lakhs approved under the Five-Year Plan for improvement and construction of 475 miles of road in the autonomous districts under Article 275 of the Constitution, the Government of India have recently approved an additional programme costing Rs.86 lakhs for another 152 miles of roads. About 200 miles of roads of the original programme have been rendered jeepable ; 106 miles are proposed to be cut by the end of the First Five-Year Plan and the rest will be carried over to the Second Five-Year Plan

The construction work of the Jowai-Badarpur and the Imphal-Tamenglong Roads at the estimated cost of Rs.110 lakhs and Rs.60 lakhs respectively is now in good progress.

The Government of India have agreed to bear the cost of constructing a bridge over the Jia Bhoroli river amounting to Rs.60 lakhs. They have also agreed to an expenditure of Rs.5 lakhs for the improvement of North Trunk Road from Beki to Sankosh. These measures will go a great way in making communication in the North bank better. The Government of India have also agreed to bear 90 per cent. of the cost of improving and surfacing some portion of the Karimganj Badarpur-Chunaibari road and also for surfacing certain portion of the Surma Trunk Road. The total cost involved is about Rs.24 lakhs.

I need hardly add that communication is the first essential requirement for the all round development of a country. Government have always been anxious to tackle this problem adequately. The hon. Members are not unaware of the considerable progress made in the matter of improvement of communication. For easy appreciation of the progress achieved in that direction, I give below certain figures which will speak for themselves. The hon. Members will no doubt agree that enormous progress has been made despite serious handicaps imposed on us by such factors as want of sufficient number of technical personnel, absence of bridge materials, disruption caused by floods and other natural calamities. Before Independence we had 804 miles of National Highway

and 740 miles of State roads, making a total of 1,584 miles. After Independence 1,287 miles of State roads have been constructed ; another 1,583 miles of roads are under construction and 700 miles of roads taken up in the current year. These bring us to the total of 3,570 miles. It will thus be seen that since Independence, the mileage of roads has increased by about 225 per cent.

I take this opportunity of assuring the hon. Members that Government have no idea of resting on the laurels. It will always be the effort of Government to provide more and better communication to our people so that the foundations for the all round development of the country may be solidly laid.

The Supply Department

I have already stated that the food position is now easy. Rationing has been abolished. Government have still a considerable stock of rice and paddy. The Government of India have agreed to take over these stocks. They have however, been requested to keep these stocks in Assam so that they may be available to the people in times of need. The winter-crop being almost normal, the food position in the current year also is likely to remain satisfactory.

Our proposal to open a central wheat sale depôt in the State was finally turned down by the Government of India. Of course, we are still pressing the Government of India to make a humble beginning at least in Dibrugarh and Gauhati. Instead, the Government of India introduced an arrangement under which wheat would be made available to licensees of Assam at major destinations at the same price as in Calcutta. On pressure by Government of Assam, Government of India have extended this concession for all destinations in Assam. The pool price of wheat was reduced by two stages from Rs.15-8 to Rs.13-8 a maund.

The supply position of sugar, except for a brief period caused by dislocation of transport facilities as a result of flood, continued to be satisfactory. During the scarcity period caused by flood, the Government of India allotted an *ad hoc* allotment of 2,000 tons of sugar. This eased the position to a considerable extent.

An important decision taken during the year was the abolition of the public rationing system with effect from the 10th May and the conversion of Free Ration and Rice Concession, hitherto allowed to certain categories of Government servants, into cash allowance with effect from 1st January, 1955, with the exception of Armed Police Personnel. A cash allowance of Rs.13-8-0 a month to all such Government employees would be given in lieu of the above concessions.

During the year 52,400 tons of cement were allotted to the State. Due to breaches on the Rail Link, the supply position was not satisfactory. Government are taking action to improve the position.

The position of iron and steel materials in Assam during 1954 was satisfactory. All outstanding quotas of the previous years were lifted during the year. Corrugated Iron Sheets amounting to 3,720 tons for agricultural and 16,000 for non-agricultural purposes had been allotted to Assam during 1954. A quota of 1,500 tons of Corrugated Iron Sheets has been obtained to repair and reconstruct dwelling houses damaged by fire in Silchar and Jorhat and by cyclone in Tezpur and Nowgong. Over and above this *ad hoc* allotment, another quota of 2,000 tons of Corrugated Iron Sheets has also been obtained for rehabilitating the flood and erosion affected people.

Owing to the improvement of the supply position and discontinuance of procurement and rationing, very considerable reductions were effected in the staff employed by the Supply Department. It is hoped that as pending matters get cleared up and accounts are settled, more and more reduction of staff would be possible.

The reduction of staff in the Supply Department has already caused headache to Government as the problem of unemployment, which is acute in the State, has become still more complicated by the discharge of hundreds of employees from the Supply and Procurement Department. Steps have been taken to meet the situation. Directions have been given to various Departments and requests have been made to non-official agencies to absorb such discharged personnel as far as possible. Some progress has already been made in this. The problem has been rendered delicate by the attractive scales of pay given to the employees, in these temporary departments for various reasons.

Without the close co-operation of the discharged personnel, even our very best efforts at complete solution of the problem may be baffled. It may not be possible to give such discharged employees the same scales of pay in their new employments, specially in permanent departments. However, Government have adopted the principle of giving advance increments to such persons on absorption in order to alleviate hardship. It is hoped that the sincere efforts of Government will be appreciated.

Community Projects and National Extension Service Blocks

Five new National Extension Service Blocks were allotted to the State in 1954-55 and were formally inaugurated on the 2nd October last. Along with the inauguration of these new blocks, the earlier blocks which lay partly in one district and partly in another have been redistributed, so that no block lies now in more than one district. The projects taken up so far cover a total area of above 8,300 square miles with a population of approximately 17.5 lakhs in about 5,700 villages. Thus nearly one-fourth of the rural population has been brought under the Community Development Programme. Hon. Members will be glad to note that the original decision of the Government of India to cover the entire country with National Extension Service Blocks in a period of ten years from 1956-57 has been modified. It is now proposed to cover the entire country in a period of five years from 1956-57. The State Government has agreed to bear their share of the expenditure.

In all the old and newly started blocks and projects work is progressing satisfactorily. Considerable attention is given to the improvement of agriculture, which is the backbone of the country's economy. Over 9,000 maunds of improved seeds have been distributed and over 8,600 maunds of fertilizers and manure have been given. The value of compost manure is being gradually, but appreciably, realised by the people. Since the starting of Project Work, over 24,000 compost pits have been made in the Project areas by the people themselves.

Public health has received the special attention of Government. In order to ensure sanitary conditions over 6,300 bore-hole and pit latrines have been constructed and over a lakh of people have been inoculated or vaccinated. The supply of pure drinking water is a pre-requisite of health. With that end in view, about 520 new tanks and wells have been

excavated and sunk and over 8,400 wells repaired. In the matter of education also, considerable progress has been made. Some 94 new schools have come into being ; over 150 existing schools have been converted into Basic schools and over 500 night-schools have been started. Other directions in which activities have progressed satisfactorily are: establishment of youth clubs, recreation centres, village libraries, child welfare centres and women's organisations. But the most spectacular progress has been in the field of communication. Over 1,200 miles of new roads have been constructed and over 500 miles of old roads repaired and improved.

Popular co-operation has been a marked feature all through and it is hoped, that along with the increasing tempo of popular co-operation and self-help, it will be possible to change the face of rural Assam within a short time.

The State Government have also received sanction for an additional Extension Training Centre. The facilities available at the existing training centres are proposed to be increased to include training of selected lady Gram Sevikas in Home Economics and local artisans and others in carpentry and blacksmithy.

Two Agricultural Schools, one at Jorhat and the other near Gauhati, have recently been started for imparting basic agricultural training to rural youths, who will later be recruited as Gram Sevaks. In addition, a condensed course of agricultural training has been started in the Agricultural School for hill areas at Upper Shillong and a number of Gram Sevaks from the hill blocks are being trained there.

The State Government have taken advantage of various training schemes initiated by the Community Project Administration and the different Ministries of the Government of India. The Agricultural Extension Officers have been trained in the courses organised at Allahabad Agricultural Institute. Two batches of Social Education organisers have completed their training at Santiniketan and the third batch is under training. Medical Officers, Lady Health Visitors and Midwives have undergone the course of training organised by the Health Ministry at Singgur.

The Community Project is not a department, but a project in which officers of all Departments of Government and all district officers, who are directly interested in the welfare of

our rural population, would find a welcome opportunity to put forth their co-ordinated efforts to achieve their common end. To achieve necessary co-ordination at Governmental level, a State Development Committee with the Chief Minister as Chairman has been set up. The Chief Secretary has been appointed the Development Commissioner who will be responsible for co-ordination at departmental level. Assisted by a full-time Deputy Development Commissioner, he functions as the head of a team, consisting of Heads of Departments of Agriculture, Veterinary, Co-operation, etc., who have been declared responsible for implementing their respective programmes in the Community Development and National Extension Service areas.

The Deputy Commissioner, at the district level, is responsible for co-ordinating the activities of the various departments. He is to see that the implementation of the programme proceeds effectively and expeditiously. A similar set-up exists in the Subdivisions for co-ordination at the subdivisional level.

Government have laid down in detail the roles of the Heads of Departments in drawing up and implementing the Community Development Programme. They have been asked to ensure that the existing staff, supplies and services allotted to the project areas under the normal budget are maintained and intensified under special Departmental schemes such as those initiated in co-operation with the various Ministries of the Government of India. Amenities provided under the Community Development and National Extension Service Projects are to be considered as addition to amenities provided by maintenance and intensification of the normal services.

Department of Statistics

During this financial year, the Department of Economics and Statistics has extended its activities in several directions. The reports of the rural economic surveys in Naga Hills and Mikir Hills are in the press. The report for Kamrup is ready, and substantial progress has been made in preparing the reports for Goalpara and Cachar.

Two reports on family budget enquiry, one on tea plantations and the other on rice and oil mill employees, were published.

Crop cutting experiment surveys on autumn and winter paddy and jute and also for assessment of additional produce from Grow-More-Food Schemes continued as before.

The Department has undertaken the compilation of the quarterly statistical bulletin for the State. The report on the first census of Assam Government employees as on 1st June, 1953 is in the press. The report on the second census as on 1st June, 1954 is now under preparation. As to estimation of national income and components thereof substantial progress has been made in the collection and analysis of data. The survey of cottage industries is in progress.

The Department has been entrusted with the sample survey of land holdings in collaboration with the National Sample Survey Organisation of the Centre. The results of the survey would be specially important in the context of pressing land reforms and agricultural developments.

For the first time in the State, a survey on origin and destination of road traffic was planned and executed at Gauhati town in co-operation with the Post-Graduate students of the Gauhati University. A sample survey based on model questionnaire on tea manufacture, saw-milling, printing press and motor repairing factories of the State was completed by this Department. The object of the survey is to assess the income contributed by these industries to the total national income originating in the State.

Co-operation

A number of new societies, particularly weavers' co-operatives and rural credit societies, has been organised during the year, raising the total number from 3,420 to 4,330. The re-organisation of the credit movement, which was started last year with a loan of Rs. 20 lakhs obtained from the Reserve Bank of India has gained momentum during the year. A sum of about Rs.10 lakhs out of the said amount has been issued as loan to agriculturists on short-term basis, through the re-organised Central Banks at Dibrugarh, Nowgong, Tezpur, Silchar, Nalbari, Jorhat and the branches of the Apex Bank at Gauhati, Goalpara, Mongaldoi and Barpeta. Considering the necessity of medium and long-term loans for our agriculturists, the Government of India was moved for a loan of Rs.20 lakhs. Sanction for a sum of Rs.11½ lakhs as medium-term loan and Rs.5 lakhs as long-term loan has recently been received. The Department is taking action to make this credit available in rural areas.

The programme of training of Co-operative Officers is progressing satisfactorily.

In order to provide marketing facilities for agricultural produce, a scheme of construction of 16 godowns under the Five-Year Plan has been started. The construction of six godowns is in progress and the remaining godowns are expected to be completed by the end of the plan period. A scheme for marketing cotton produced in Garo Hills and Mikir Hills, has been taken up. Arrangements for the installation of a cotton ginning mill at Phulbari in the Garo Hills have been made.

With a view to rehabilitate the handloom industry, which supplements the family income of about 5 lakh families in Assam, some schemes, sponsored by the All-India Handloom Board, have been taken up from 1953-54. 307 new weavers' societies have been formed during the year under review. A sum of Rs.1,85,381 has been received as grant and Rs.3,03,750 as loan from the Central Handloom Board.

The possibilities of establishing a co-operative sugar mill in Assam are under active consideration of the Government.

Unemployment

In my speech last year I gave some details of the steps taken by the Government to solve the unemployment problem in the State. These steps are being continued, as would be apparent from the information given in other parts of the speech. In addition, Government have set up a Financial Corporation for providing long term credit to small and medium size industries. The Corporation has just commenced operations. Government have also decided to re-organise the Industries Department and to strengthen it by the appointment of industrial experts. They are also negotiating with private parties for establishing large scale industries in the private sector. Government are prepared to give active help to these parties by way of loans or participation in the share capital. It is hoped that as a result of the establishment of large and small scale industries the problem of unemployment in this predominantly agricultural State will be brought under control. I appealed last year to the private industrialists in the State to co-operate with the Government in solving the unemployment problem by employing as many of our young men as possible. I would repeat the same appeal this year.

Sericulture and Weaving

The activities of the Department in demonstration, and in the supply of training facilities, and seeds, etc., have been intensified. With a view to increase the yield of mulberry leaves, 4,000 mulberry sapplings of very high yielding varieties, imported from Japan, have been planted in different Sericultural Farms in the State. Under the scheme for the establishment of a graft nursery, as approved by the Central Silk Board, grafts of improved varieties will be supplied in the next year to the sericulturists.

Three reeling units are being started at Gaurisagar, Aijal and Shillong to improve the quality of raw silk. A "Chawki" rearing scheme in the same line as adopted in Japan has been taken up to supply young mulberry silk worms to rearers after the second moult. Two more Eri seed grainages have been established in the current year to meet the increasing demands of Eri layings. It is proposed to implement next year a scheme of a peripatetic party for demonstrating improved methods of Muga reeling and Eri spinning. The supply of Muga seed cocoons to the rearers is engaging increasing attention. A Muga Silk farm has been established at Khanapara. A scheme for giving subsidy to muga seed cocoon growers is under implementation. It is expected to supply 6 lakhs of Muga seed cocoons to the Muga growers.

Assam provides ample scope for conducting Tushar rearing. The forests of Assam abound in the food plant for Tushar silk worms. A scheme for Tushar rearing in Assam at a cost of over Rs.22,000 has been approved by the Central Silk Board. Two Sericulture Demonstrators have been deputed to Bihar to study Tushar Silk industry there.

With a view to supply yarn and raw material to weavers under co-operative schemes at economic price and to arrange marketing of their products, 10 new emporia both in the hills and the plains, are being established. These are in addition to the 22 existing emporia. Marketing centres at Kalimpong and Calcutta have been started. A cottage industries museum is being established at Gauhati.

Four Production and Sale centres for Khadi at Boroma, Rampur, Joysagar, and Patharkandi have been established in addition to one Khadi Bhandar at Gauhati with a branch in Shillong.

Cottage Industries

The Government attach great importance to the development of Cottage industries in the State. Cottage industries are particularly essential in a State like Assam, where, for several reasons, medium scale or large scale industries have not been able to thrive. Cottage industries provide not only employment to unemployed people, but also enable poor families to supplement their inadequate income.

One of the essential pre-requisites for the organization of Cottage industries is the training of workers. A training institute has therefore been started at Gauhati for training in bamboo, cane, carpentry and wood works and also in smithy and leather works. Arrangements for imparting training in some more trades are also being made. Two training institutes have been started within the Community Project areas of Darrang and Cachar. To give specialised training in Black-smithy and Carpentry, action has been taken to start a training institute at Barpeta.

An Umbrella-handle making centre has been started at Dudnoi, especially to give training to the people of Garo Hills where suitable bamboos for this purpose are available. Some plains tribal people are also receiving training there. A Carpentry Training Institute has been started at Shillong.

Sitalpati and Mat weaving centres have been started during the year.

An Instructor has been appointed to teach the indigenous potters improved techniques of burning in modernised kilns. A Doll and Toy Making Centre and a Nail Making Centre have been started during the current year. Students are being trained with stipends in making roof-tiles in a Co-operative Society started at Gauhati last year.

Besides the efforts of the Khadi Board to improve the Ghani Oil industry, the Government have added four production centres to the four already opened last year.

In order to encourage and assist people to start Cottage industries, Government have been giving loans liberally. In the current year, the Department has already granted loans to the extent of Rs.2½ lakhs as against Rs.1½ lakhs in the last year and Rs.1 lakh in the previous year and is likely to grant about Rs.2 lakhs more. Government are contemplating liberalisation

of the rules for giving of loans to Cottage industries. The Government of India have also agreed to offer loans to the State Government for the purpose of giving loans to Cottage industries. A small percentage of the loss that may follow from liberalisation of the loan rules will be borne by India.

Building Programme

Despite the dearth of experienced engineers and difficulties in the procurement of iron materials, C. I. sheets and cement, the Public Works Department has undertaken an ambitious programme of buildings. It is unnecessary for me to state that developmental activities require construction of buildings, not only to house institutions, but also to serve as administrative centres. The Jowai High School building, the original items of Goalpara District Jail and some buildings of the Assam Medical College have been completed during the year. The extension of the Jorhat Circuit House has also been completed. The Election Buildings at Dibrugarh, Nowgong, Dhubri, Jorhat, Barpeta, Karimganj, Sibsagar, Golaghat, Mangaldoi, Goalpara and North Lakhimpur, the Circuit House building, at Gauhati, the Assembly Members Hostel at Shillong, Hostel, and Laboratory buildings of the Cotton College and the Vaccine Depôt at Shillong are nearing completion.

Several Tahsil and Circle Offices, Sub-Deputy Collector's quarters, the additional Court Building at Nowgong, the Gauhati Court building, hutments for officers at Jorhat, Dibrugarh and Dhubri, several Transport buildings, the High Court Building, Sibsagar High School Building, Barpeta High School Building, hostels of Civil Engineering School, the Agricultural College Building, Girls' Hostel at Tura, additional items of Goalpara District Jail, some Police buildings of Dibrugarh Reserve, some Police buildings at Dawki, Police Barracks at Diphu, dispensary buildings at Mairang and at Jowai, hospital building at Tura, Nurses quarter at Tura, T.B. Clinics in different places and some more buildings of Medical College have been undertaken. Work on the Circuit House building at Barpeta, Mokokchung High School Building, Barpeta Sub-Jail building, Baghbar Thana building, Public Health dispensary building at Ringkhang in Mikir Hills, Janata College building, Post-Graduate Basic Training College building, Co-operative godowns and Veterinary hospitals has been started. Several departmental buildings like the Inspection Bungalow at Kajiranga have also been completed during the year.

Under Article 275 of the Constitution 53 building projects, at a total cost of Rs.20,37,000, have been taken up during the year in the plains tribal areas and in the autonomous hill districts. These buildings are meant for housing various institutions under the Medical, Public Health, Veterinary, Education, Sericulture and Weaving Departments. The building schemes will continue till next year.

Relief of distress caused by flood

The hon. Members are aware of the serious devastation caused by the successive floods of 1954. The flood situation was discussed in detail on the floor of this House in the last session. Hence I do not intend to take the time of the hon. Members by giving a detailed account of the ravages caused by the floods.

In order to relieve the hardship caused by the floods Government have given gratuitous relief, including supply of rice and paddy at concessional rates, to the tune of Rs.9,83,000 up to the end of February 1955. This amount includes Rs.2,28,000 sanctioned from the Governor of Assam's Earthquake Relief Fund. The State Government have also so far sanctioned over Rs.31 lakhs as Agricultural Loan, besides rehabilitation loans.

In order to assist flood affected people and also to encourage the spirit of self-help Government have sanctioned a series of test relief work to be executed by the Local Boards and Panchayats. A sum of Rs.8,65,000 has so far been sanctioned for test relief.

Hon. Members are also aware that many of the local bodies, including the Panchayats, suffered badly due to the floods. Their resources are inadequate to repair the damage done to their property. At the request of the State Government the Government of India have agreed to bear $37\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the cost of such repairs provided the State Government pay $37\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and the Local Bodies themselves find the remaining 25 per cent. Accordingly, a scheme for giving assistance to the Local Bodies has been finalised and implemented. Under the scheme the Local Boards have been allotted Rs.12 lakhs, the Municipal Boards and Town Committees Rs.3 lakhs and Rural Panchayats Rs.3 lakhs. Of this total sum of Rs.18 lakhs, the Government of India will pay Rs.9 lakhs and the State Government an equivalent amount, while the Local Bodies will be expected to find another six lakhs of rupees, so that the total works estimate would come Rs.24 lakhs.

On repeated representation from this Government, the Government of India have agreed to bear 50 per cent. of the expenditure involved in the repair of flood damage and of the amount spent on gratuitous relief. They have also agreed to bear 50 per cent. of the difference between the amount spent on test relief and the value of the assets created by the expenditure. India has also agreed to give as grant fifty per cent. of the cost of repair of Public Works Department roads and buildings. I take this opportunity of expressing our gratefulness to the Government of India for giving us this much needed financial assistance.

Rehabilitation of the Flood Affected People

The rehabilitation of the people badly affected by floods and erosion has become a pressing problem. Sufficient Government land for the purpose is not available. Wherever possible, the Forest Department has also come to the rescue of the people and a very large number of sufferers have been accommodated in the forest reserves. Village and professional grazing grounds have also been dereserved for this purpose. Still the land made available by these means is not sufficient to meet the needs. Government have issued directions to local officers to requisition surplus tea garden lands wherever available and found suitable for the purpose. The work in this line is going on as planned by our officers. Schemes have been prepared to rehabilitate these people with financial assistance from Government. For such schemes of rehabilitation in Gauhati, Tezpur, Mangaldai, Jorhat, Golaghat and Sibsagar, a sum of Rs.22,28,000 has already been sanctioned under different heads like cost of land, water-supply, roads, C.I. sheets, etc., and loans and grants. Action has also been taken to start an alternative town for rehabilitation of the people of Palasbari.

It is gratifying to note that Assam's distress has evoked widespread sympathies from people and Governments both in India and outside. The Governments of Burma and Thailand have donated 2,700 maunds of rice each; the Bombay Government gave 2,260 maunds of beaten rice, the Indore Government 150 maunds of foodgrain, the Indian Red Cross Society medicines and vitamin tablets worth over Rs.20,000, the National Christian Council Relief Committee, milk, food, etc., worth more than Rs.4,500, the American Red Cross bleaching powder worth over Rs.2,500, the Government of India, milk and other products worth over Rs.19,000, the Government of United Kingdom medicines, etc., worth over Rs.17,000, the UNICEF

medicines worth over Rs.19,000. In addition, private organisations like Glaxo Laboratory, East India Pharmaceutical Works, May & Baker (India) Ltd., Park Davis & Co., Burroughs Welcome & Co., Messrs Atlantis (East) Ltd., Dumex & Co., American Cynamide & Co., Vicar General, the Bombay Mill Owners' Association, the Vanaspati Manufacturing Organisation, etc., gave a lot of medicines and food articles free of cost. Local relief committees were organized to relieve the distress of the people. The Ramkrishna Mission, the Mahila Samity, the Marwari Relief Society and the various Congress Committees in the State rendered immense service to the suffering people. A lot of private organisations and individuals, including the Assam Oil Company and the Indian Tea Association, contributed generously to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. The Assam Oil Company also supplied three Helicopters for visiting inaccessible areas in the State. The Steamer Companies operating in Assam not only did their utmost to transport all essential requirements to the State but also supplied steamer free of cost for the use of State Government for carrying relief to flood-affected areas. I take this opportunity of expressing our gratefulness to all of them for their kind help and assistance in mitigating the hardship of the unfortunate people of this State.

Abolition of Zamindary and Land Reforms measures

Notifications vesting the permanently settled estates of Goalpara in the State Government, with effect from 15th April 1955 have already been issued and published. Such notifications in respect of similar estates in the Karimganj Subdivision will be issued as soon as the preliminary enquiries, which are now being conducted, are completed.

The hon. Members are aware that the validity of the Assam Management of the Estate Act, 1949 has been challenged before the Supreme Court. The matter is still *sub-judice*. However the proprietors of the Gauripur Estate have voluntarily offered their property for being taken under the management of Government. The Estate has been taken over for management.

The validity of the Zamindari Acquisition Act has been challenged in the Assam High Court and the case is now pending before the court. We have however, kept our plan ready and if everything goes on according to our plan, it will be possible to acquire the estates without loss of time.

The hon. Members of the House are no doubt aware that a Land Development Board has been constituted to give advice on land reforms. The Board has advised Government to permit conversion of annual lands into periodic and this advice of the Board is under active examination of Government. It is hoped that action will be taken in this direction without much delay. The same Board has advised Government to fix a ceiling on agricultural holdings and this matter is also under active consideration of Government. Though such matters involve examination of complicated points, it is hoped to come to a decision as early as possible. Some hon. Members of this House and the Land Development Board had expressed a desire of amending some provisions of the Adhiar Act to make the same more useful and help ful to tenants. This matter is also under close scrutiny of Government and it is hoped to bring an amending Bill embodying some measures of improvement to give more adequate relief to Adhiars in the current session of the Assembly. To give effective and cheaper remedy to the Adhiars, Conciliation Boards are proposed as in the field of labour.

I am quite sure that the hon. Members of the House are aware of the generally unsatisfactory conditions prevailing in Temple lands and lands of similar nature. Some reforms in this direction are urgently called for to give relief to tenants and secure better rights to them. An officer has been appointed to make a detailed enquiry and report to Government. It is proposed to take some action in the contemplated direction on submission of the report by the officer.

Mineral Oils

The Assam Oil Company was permitted to carry out oil prospecting surveys in the Assam Valley by different methods. The seismic, gravity and aero-magnetic surveys were carried out simultaneously. The Company used helicopters in the seismic survey and ordinary aircraft for aero-magnetic survey. The surveys have been the most intensive ever carried out in India. Helicopters have also been used for the first time for oil prospecting in Asia.

At Naharkatiya oil was struck at a depth of 10,000 feet. Four wells have been drilled in this area and results obtained so far are encouraging. Three more wells are being drilled to prove the extent of the oil pools. The Assam Oil Company was granted a mining lease in the Naharkatiya area for 0.55 miles on the 24th January, 1954 and a prospecting licence in the Naharkatiya Extension area for 64 sq. miles on

28th January 1954. Two important conditions which have been incorporated in the licence for Naharkatiya extension area, are:

(1) Employment of Indian citizens at all levels in its organisation to such extent as may be agreed upon between it and the Government of Assam on the advice of the Central Government. Arrangements are also to be made by the Company for training Indians both inside and outside India to enable them to occupy important appointments.

(2) Formation of a Rupee-Company by the licensee to work the mining lease that may be subsequently granted to them and association of Indian capital in the enterprise to the extent of 25 per cent. of the share capital.

Survey Operation

Joint demarcation of the Indo-Pakistan Boundary is in progress. One sector of the boundary, i.e., Goalpara-Rongpur, has already been demarcated on the ground. Fixing of concrete pillars is now going on. Work in the other sector is also progressing with speed. Village traverse in the Zamindary areas of Goalpara is in progress according to plan.

Resettlement Operations

Resettlement operations in the district of Cachar have been brought to a close. Resettlement in the immature areas of Kamrup is in the final stage. Similar operations in the immature areas of Sibsagar, Darrang and Nowgong districts are proceeding apace. Government have appointed Forecast Officers for general resettlement of Kamrup and Sibsagar which falls due in 1957.

Rehabilitation of landless People

The problem of landless people has continued to cause anxiety to Government. The number of such people has been increasing every year due to natural growth of population and influx of new-comers into the State in various ways. Our efforts to meet the problem by settlement of waste lands, acquisition of surplus tea garden lands, dereservation of village and professional grazing reserves and reserve forests have met with some success, but the problem has not been fully solved. The disastrous floods have intensified the problem further. Efforts to tackle the problem have been intensified and large scale reclamation schemes have been

undertaken with that end in view. Through the efforts just indicated, some 7,96,078 bighas of land have been distributed to the people. Both landless people and persons with insufficient holdings were given lands. On the average the allotment per family may be safely taken at between 7 to 8 bighas. Thus in the course of these years since the establishment of our Republic roughly 1,00,000 families have been given land besides those settled in forests.

Under the Kaki Reclamation Scheme, about 1 lakh maund of paddy have been produced from the land reclaimed. The reclamation of Subankhata in the Kamrup district is nearing completion. In the current year, a scheme has been sanctioned for the reclamation of about 10,000 acres of land in the Philobar Reserve in the Dibrugarh Subdivision. This project is meant for the resettlement of people who have been rendered landless by the Great Earthquake of 1950. At our request the Government of India have kindly agreed to give as grant half the cost of the scheme of reclamation. I take this opportunity of expressing the gratitude of Government of Assam for this generous gesture from the Government of India. The work of reclamation has been entrusted to the Central Tractor Organisation, which has the necessary experience and machineries for carrying out heavy reclamation work.

General Administration

In the field of general administration, Government have started a Method and Organisation Division to look into all questions relating to work-load, incentive and re-organisation of cadres. These matters have become urgent with the enormous expansion of activities both in the normal administration and in the preparation and execution of the first and the second Five-Year Plans. A Secretariat Training School for Secretariat Assistants has been started. Refresher courses are also given to existing Assistants to make them more efficient. These measures, besides leading to efficiency, are expected to curtail delay and make expeditious disposal of Government business possible. It has also been found necessary to create a second post of Commissioner of Divisions. Besides inspecting and supervising the work of district officers, the Commissioner will be expected to guide them and to hear appeals against their orders. The hon. Members will agree that frequent inspection of the district offices is necessary. A senior officer is also required to guide and advise district officers. Hence the creation

of the second post of Commissioner has become absolutely necessary. With the appointment of this officer some of our Secretaries will be relieved of their work in the Appellate Tribunal.

Agriculture

Even though the food problem has been solved, the activities of the Agricultural Department in all directions are continuing unabated. Agriculture is the basic industry of our State. It is necessary to ensure to the cultivator a fair return. Furthermore, he should be able to produce the maximum with the minimum amount of labour and on the minimum amount of land. This is possible through improved methods of cultivation. It is also necessary to raise as many cash crops as possible to ensure a better income and a better standard of life to our peasantry. All these objectives are under the constant review of the Department. Now that the acute problem of rice scarcity has been solved, the Department is able to divert attention to the other pressing needs.

All together, 878 Minor Irrigation projects were executed by the Department of Agriculture, benefiting thereby over $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakh acres of land. Over 1,800 acres of land were irrigated with power-pump for cultivation of Boro paddy. The scheme has become extremely popular and demand for land and machinery for Boro cultivation has increased. The Department has increased the number of power-pump sets by 160 during the current year.

Although the use of manure was not very common in Assam, by skilful propaganda and demonstration the people have been persuaded to apply manure to their fields. Over a lakh of maunds of compost was made in the rural areas.

The Japanese Method of Cultivation has come to stay. Through this method high yields have been obtained throughout the State. Shri Tanuram Bora of Rangoti of the Lakhimpur district, has been able to produce 100 maunds and 35 seers of Sali paddy, per acre of land, through improved methods of cultivation and this has caused considerable enthusiasm among the people.

Horticulture is continuing to play an increasingly important role in the State. Our State is surplus in pine-apples and oranges. A small fruit preservation section has been opened in Shillong. A more ambitious scheme involving an outlay of

Rs.1,28,000 has been undertaken at Silchar with funds provided by the Community Project Department.

Steps have been taken to start a Ginger Research Centre in the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills and a scheme for the production of Cigarette tobacco in Barpeta is under examination.

Fishery

The Fishery Department is comparatively new in Assam. Yet the Department is making steady progress and it is expected that appreciable results will be achieved soon. So far fish farms have been opened in Gauhati, Nowgong, Tezpur, Sibsagar, Silchar and Dibrugarh.

A Scheme for the development of Forest fisheries and for the conservation of selected fisheries as sprawn and fingerling collecting areas has been undertaken with a view to increase the supply of fish seeds. Two students were trained at the Inland Fishery Research Station, Calcutta, and it has been decided to open a training centre at Joysagar for training lower subordinate staff of the Department.

Veterinary

To prevent the out-break of cattle epidemics immediately after the floods the Veterinary Department was called upon to undertake large scale effective measures. I am glad to inform the House that the Department discharged its responsibilities successfully and there was no serious out-break of epidemic among the cattle in the State.

During the current year, twenty-three Veterinary dispensaries and hospitals, including seven in the autonomous districts and plains tribal areas, have been established. Steps have also been taken to start Key-village centres in the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Garo Hills and Tezpur. A scheme of Demonstration Fodder Farms in Khanapara, Barpeta, Dibrugarh and Upper Shillong is under implementation. Two sheep-Breeding Farms one in the Mizo district and the other in the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills district, are being started soon. A Poultry Farm in Garo Hills and five Animal Husbandry Centres in the hill districts are also being established. Government have sanctioned the establishment of a poultry-cum-goat farm in each of the National Extension Service Blocks.

Provision has been made in the next year's budget for the establishment of 12 more Veterinary dispensaries, the starting of a large scale Poultry Farm at Khanapara and for mass-production of ducks.

A scheme for increasing the supply of milk is under implementation.

Technical Education

With a view to increase the number of Overseers, the number of seats in the Assam Civil Engineering Institute, Gauhati, has been raised from 40 to 80, and a sum of Rs.2,14,751 has been sanctioned for the construction of additional buildings. These buildings would provide accommodation for second shift classes.

As a step towards standardising technical education in the Indian Union, the Central Government have advised this Government to introduce the National Certificate Course approved by the All-India Council of Technical Education into the Assam Civil Engineering Institute. They have agreed to sanction a non-recurring grant of Rs.1,10,338 for building and equipments. The State Government are to contribute a like amount. We have agreed to the proposal and the All-India Certificate Course has already been introduced. At the instance of the Relief and Rehabilitation Department of this Government, a scheme for technical and vocational training of displaced students in the same Institute has been sanctioned. The scheme involves an initial capital expenditure of Rs.3 lakhs and a recurring expenditure of over Rs.42,000. Training will be imparted to 40 displaced students. The Government of India would pay half the capital expenditure and also major part of the recurring expenditure till the completion of the training programme. The scheme which has been started in the current year will have to be carried over to the next year.

A junior Technical Training School has been started at Tezpur with the equipments of the Local Board Technical Training Centre there. At the instance of the Relief and Rehabilitation Department, schemes for the training of displaced students in Nowgong and Tezpur Technical Schools were taken up for implementation. These schemes involve a non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 3,82,000 and a recurring expenditure of about Rs. 63,000. The non-recurring expenditure will be

shared equally between the Central Government and the State Government and the recurring expenditure will be borne by the Central Government till the completion of training of the first batch of displaced students. Arrangements for the establishment of a junior technical school at Silchar for similar training of displaced students have been made at the instance of the Relief and Rehabilitation Department.

Education

The hon. Members are well aware of the enormous expansion of education in the State. Besides the schemes sanctioned out of State revenues and under the Five-Year Plan, we are implementing several educational schemes of the Central sector of the Plan.

In the current year, the value of the scholarships awarded to Deaf, Dumb and Blind students was substantially increased. Seven second grade scholarships for girls and nine for boys, were added to the existing number and an additional first grade scholarship was created for girls.

During the current year, four mobile vans have been purchased under a scheme of Library Service. These vans will carry books to the remotest parts of the State. The construction of buildings for the Post-Graduate Basic Training College and the Janata College at Titabar has started. Under the scheme for the removal of unemployment, 100 Matriculates have been recruited as teachers for primary schools and 250 undergraduates for Government aided secondary schools. The Basic Training College and the Janata College at Titabar have started functioning. Five Community Centres have been organised in different localities near Titabar under the scheme of Integrated Development of Selected Areas. The Central sector schemes of Basic Training Schools, Junior Basic Schools, Community centres, integrated library service, improvement of primary schools, training of *audio-visual* experts, development of urban basic schools and grant to educational and cultural institutions have been implemented. Other schemes under progress include the establishment of a Post-Graduate Basic Training College and Senior Basic Schools, the preparation of literature for adults and children the promotion of Hindi, development of selected primary and secondary schools and the improvement of library service. Certain other schemes such as the expansion of basic and social education, are awaiting sanction of the Government of India.

The Lungleh High School has been provincialised. The teaching staff at Haflong has been strengthened by addition of five more teachers. Radio sets have been supplied to Government High Schools in the hill districts. Teaching of domestic science and hygiene has been introduced in Jowai Government High School. The control over Primary and Middle English schools in North Cachar Hills has been transferred from the Subdivisional Officer to the Deputy Inspector of Schools. Schools in the Mikir Hill areas, which were previously under the Primary Education Board, have been taken over as Government schools and transferred to the control of Deputy Inspector of Schools.

The number of teachers trained in Basic Education has increased from 489 to 596. Arrangements have been made for training the Inspecting staff and Superintendents of training schools in Basic Education. This will facilitate the amalgamation of primary schools with basic schools.

In implementation of Government decision, the Middle Vernacular schools have been transferred from Government and Local Bodies to the Primary Education Board.

New grants have been sanctioned to 50 more Middle English schools and the scheme for the teaching of Rastrabhasa in 130 more Aided schools undertaken.

The dearness allowance of teachers and clerks in Aided High Schools has been raised from Rs. 7 per month to Rs. 10 with retrospective effect from 1st March 1953.

Despite the increasing rate of expenditure under Education, Government have not failed to provide funds for new educational schemes in the next year's budget. The new schemes include provision for recurring and non-recurring grants to Aided Colleges, for additional courses of study, purchase of apparatus and construction of buildings, recurring and non-recurring grants to Primary, High and Middle English Schools and Madrassas, for construction of buildings, purchase of apparatus and the like. Provision has also been made for stipends in Civil and Marine Engineering and an additional scholarship at the Dehra Dun Military Academy. Additional scholarships have also been provided for boys and girls of the Scheduled Caste.

Special attention is invited to the provision made in the next year's budget for starting a Public School in Assam.

It is hoped that our Public School will turn out students who will be able to compete with the students of other States in all walks of life. I need hardly mention that the development of our State and its successful administration, require able administrators, educationists and experts. A Public School of sufficiently high standard is required to train our boys in these lines.

The hon. Members will be pleased to learn that the progress of construction work of our University buildings is satisfactory. A new University town is coming into being at a place which was formerly the abode of wild animals. The main block of the administrative building and the building for the science laboratories have been completed. A number of residential quarters have also been built. It will now be possible for the University to start post-graduate classes in Physics and Chemistry. To enable the University to do so Government proposed to raise the recurring grant by Rs.1 lakh and to make a non-recurring grant of Rs.1½ lakhs. Proposals to this effect will be submitted to the House in due course.

Medical

In the current year, 16 more hospitals and dispensaries have been established. Government have also sanctioned over Rs.3,90,000 for buildings and equipments, including X-Ray plants, to the hospitals and dispensaries of the Autonomous Districts. The establishment of five travelling dispensaries in the autonomous hill districts has been sanctioned under Article 275.

A new 11-bedded T. B. Hospital has been opened at Dhubri with generous donations from the local public. Government have taken over the running of the hospital. A T. B. Hospital with 20 beds attached to the Civil Hospital at Silchar is under construction, for which a generous donation of Rs.55,000 has been received from Shri B. Gupta and a grant of Rs.50,000 from the Community Project Administration. The bed strength of the Reid Chest Hospital has been increased from 75 to 99, including three beds in the Investigation Ward. Another 100-bedded ward is under construction. The building programme of the Assam Medical College at an estimated cost of over Rs.15 lakhs under the first Five-Year Plan is making satisfactory progress. A new Preventive medicines in the College, sponsored by the Government of India, has been accepted by the State Government

and is in the process of implementation. Two more schemes, viz., establishment of a diet-kitchen and employment of occupational therapy worker in the Medical College Hospital, are being implemented this year. To relieve the scarcity of nurses, a new training centre has been opened at Nowgong and another centre is being started at Gauhati. Plans are also being made to extend training facilities in all provincialised hospitals.

Next year's budget provides for a grant of Rs.1 lakh to Local Boards for improvement of subdivisional Hospitals, a grant of Rs.3 $\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs to Local Boards for high price of medicines and for equipments, a grant of Rs.1 lakh to the new Lokapriya Bordoloi T. B. Hospital at Gauhati, increased grant to subsidized dispensaries, opening 15 more subsidized dispensaries, establishment of a dispensary at Ti-rap, etc.

Public Health

Besides running the normal preventive services, a new scheme under the National Malaria Control Programme has been started. Five Maternity Centres were opened in rural areas this year. Buildings for the opening of seven more such centres in rural areas are under construction. The Government of India have allotted 24 Maternity and Child Welfare Centres for rural and backward areas of Assam under the Central sector of the Five-Year Plan. Steps are being taken to open these centres.

The treatment of leprosy cases has received special attention under the first Five-Year Plan. At the instance of the Government of India a subsidiary treatment centre has been opened at Datama in the Goalpara district.

Of the 15 Public Health Dispensaries sanctioned during 1953-54, six have already been opened. The construction of buildings for the other nine is in progress. A 20-bedded *Kala-Azar* ward at Dudnoi was opened in May last.

Under the Five-Year Plan, 5 T. B. Clinics at Tezpur, Nowgong, North-Lakhimpur, Barpeta and Silchar are going to be opened shortly.

Despite financial stringency provision has been made in next year's budget for three additional Hook Worm Mobile Units, 10 Public Health dispensaries and 10 Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. A sum of Rs.10 lakhs has also been provided for Rural Water Supply.

BUDGETARY POSITION

Actuals for 1953-54

In the revised estimates for the last year I had anticipated a deficit of Rs.53,29,000 on Revenue Account. The actual figures which have come in disclose a revenue surplus of Rs.58,64,000. For the information of the House I give the comparative figures which are as follow :—

					Revised estimates for 1953-54	Actuals for 1953-54
					Rs.	Rs.
Receipts	..	..	..	..	14,39,81,000	14,34,39,000
Expenditure	..	..	..	..	14,93,10,000	13,75,75,000

Hon. Members will notice that the actual figures of receipts on Revenue Account are fairly closed to the revised estimates. The same, however, cannot be said of the figures of expenditure. There is a difference of Rs.1,17,35,000 between the revised estimate of expenditure and the actuals. The explanation for this lies in the slow progress of expenditure under heads like Civil Works due to reasons beyond our control.

When presenting the budget for the current year I anticipated a revenue deficit of Rs.2,28,51,000. The estimates have been reviewed in the light of the first half of the year. The revised estimates show that the deficit will be Rs.1,96,02,000.

					Budget estimates for 1954-55	Revised estimates for 1954-55
					Rs.	Rs.
Receipts ..	..	..	..	..	14,41,61,000	17,43,11,000
Expenditure	..	..	..	..	16,70,12,000	19,39,13,000
Surplus (+) or Deficit (—)	..	..	..	..	—2,28,51,000	—1,96,02,000

The improvement on the revenue side as shown in the revised estimates has been due to increased receipts under taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax (Rs. 26 lakhs), Forests (Rs.7 lakhs), Motor Vehicles Taxes (Rs. 3 lakhs), other Taxes and Duties (Rs.67 lakhs), Grants-in-aid from the Central Government (Rs. 13 lakhs) and Extraordinary Receipts

(Rs. 127 lakhs). The explanation for these changes will be found in the Memorandum.

Hon. Members will notice that the revised estimates of expenditure also disclose substantial increase compared with the original Budget Estimates. The main heads under which the increase has been shown are Irrigation, Navigation and Embankment (Rs. 144 lakhs), Civil Works (Rs. 171 lakhs), Famine Relief (Rs. 30 lakhs), Community Development Projects (Rs. 33 lakhs). Hon. Members will re-call that during the year under review we had to undertake special measures for the relief and rehabilitation of the flood and erosion affected people and for the protection of places like Dibrugarh, Palasbari, Sualkuchi, Nowgong, Bhojo, Naharkatia, Jamuguri, Silchar, Goalpara, Bamundi and Karimganj. We have also been allotted a number of additional projects under the Community Development Schemes. All this has gone to increase the revised estimates.

I shall now turn to the Budget Estimates for the coming year. We have estimated our Revenue Receipts at Rs.19,05,22,000 and our expenditure on Revenue Account at Rs.21,47,28,000 leaving a deficit of Rs.2,42,06,000. Capital receipts have been estimated at Rs. 45,59,63,000 against a capital expenditure of Rs. 47,09,70,000. This will leave a capital deficit of Rs.1,50,07,000. There will thus be an overall deficit of Rs.3,92,13,000. Our accounts for 1953-54 were closed with a balance of Rs.3,02,43,000. According to our revised estimate for the current year, the balance at the end of the year will be Rs.3,50,75,000. If the anticipated deficits on Revenue and Capital Accounts for the coming year materialise our entire balance will be wiped out and there will thus be a negative closing balance of Rs.41,38,000. The main cause for this difficult budgetary position is the growing expenditure under the Five-Year Plan. During the current year the total expenditure on Five-Year Plan Schemes including the Community Development Schemes is estimated at Rs.9,73,35,800. This is however exclusive of expenditure on development schemes undertaken under Article 275 of the Constitution and schemes of relief and rehabilitation of refugees. It is expected that the net burden on our revenue on account of the expenditure on Five-Year Plan Schemes will be Rs.2,09,95,800. The balance will be available from India as loans and grants-in-aid under different heads. For the next year the expenditure under the Five-Year Plan including Community Development Schemes is estimated at Rs.15,30,55,000. This figure is also exclusive of expenditure on schemes undertaken under Article 275 and the relief and

rehabilitation schemes. For the next year the net burden on the State revenues on account of the Five-Year Plan is estimated at Rs.2,86,74,000. The balance will be available as loans and grants from the Centre. It will thus be seen that we are making substantial contributions out of our own revenues to the implementation of the Plan, and our deficits on Revenue Account during the current year and the coming year are due mainly to this fact. To find additional resources for the implementation of the Five-Year Plan and for other urgent welfare and development schemes, I was compelled last year to bring in several measures of new taxation. I do not propose to introduce any new taxation measure this session. We are slowly building up our tax structure along modern lines. The Taxation Enquiry Commission which recently went into the whole question of Central, State and local taxation, has submitted its report. We are examining its recommendations and it is hoped that we will be able to come to a decision on the various issues raised by the Commission at an early date. Hence, I have not come up with any measure of fresh taxation in the present session.

Before concluding I thank the Hon. Members for giving me a patient hearing for such a long time.

I thank the officers and the staff of the Finance Department for continued assistance and co-operation they have been giving me not only in running the Administration, but also for preparing the Budget Estimates and connected matters. I also thank the Superintendent of the Government Press and his staff for being able to print the Budget and other papers connected thereto in time even by putting very strenuous work. Lastly but not the least, my thanks are also due to the Accountant General and his staff for the valuable assistance and advice we have been receiving from them for the preparation of the Budget and for other matters throughout the year. Sir, with these remarks and with apologies for the long time taken, I beg to introduce the Budget for 1955-56 for the approval of the House.

JAI HIND.

**Statement from the Chair *re*: time limit of speeches for
Members participating in the general discussion
of the Budget**

Mr. SPEAKER : The hon. Members have come to know that 10th, 11th, 12th and 14th March, have been fixed for the general discussion of the Budget. It will be somewhat difficult for me to fix a time limit, if necessary, for speeches until and unless I know how many Members desire to take part in the discussion on a particular day. I would therefore, request the Leaders of Parties to arrange to give the names of their Party Members who desire to speak on the subject on different dates to the Assembly Secretariat before the sitting of the Assembly on the 10th March.

I have calculated that 960 minutes will be available in all. Of this 300 minutes will be taken by Government Members and 660 minutes for the House. If you take 15 minutes for each speak, 45 Members can speak. The proportion of the strength of the Parties is 36 Congress and 8 Members of the Opposition. Of course, there can be adjustment here and there, and if you sit longer, you can accommodate more Members. Generally I find not more than 45 Members can speak, allowing 15 minutes to each Member, but this is a mere suggestion and you can fix up your own time table by mutual adjustment.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA : Sir, with regard to the allotment of time.....

Mr. SPEAKER : There is no question of allotment, it is a suggestion.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA : Sir, as general discussion on the Budget concerns the Opposition most we should be given more time. The Government Benches perhaps do not require much time to criticise their own Budget. Generally that is the procedure followed in the House of Commons and in our Parliament.

Mr. SPEAKER : You have 96 minutes and you can also adjust it.

(A voice in Bengali—সময়ের দরকার। আমাদের Constituency র কথা ও বলতে হবে।)

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Sir, we have seen how the time has been wasted during the discussion on Governor's speech. However, to accommodate more Members and to give more time as desired by my Friend, if we sit longer we shall be able to do so as we may get about 4 hours more by sitting longer, if they agree this way.

**The Assam Adoption of standard Weights Bill,
1954.**

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Assam Adoption of Standard Weights Bill, 1954 and to move that the Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

At the outset, I want to express my thanks to the Members of the Select Committee who had very kindly put in strenuous labour for two days in scrutinising the original Bill and suggesting amendments in the way of improvement. As I do not see any bar to give any credit to any particular Member of the Select Committee, so I would like to give my special thanks to my hon. Friend, Maulavi Umaruddin Sahib, who sat in the Select Committee with a very critical mind. The Select Committee made certain amendments in some provisions of the Bill which are only consequential; but the following are the main important items in which the Select Committee made amendment. No. 1—They have increased the penalties provided in the Bill for breach of any provision of the Act. Secondly they have incorporated some penalty clauses to punish any officer or person who would be entrusted to discharge their duties under the provision of the Act but who would not be doing in the way he should do. Thirdly they have made the breaches of the provision of the Act cognisable. These are the main features in which the Select Committee has made amendments.

The importance and necessity of the Bill are known to most of the Members of this House. So I do not think that I should speak and take more time of the House on these. Such a Bill was once introduced in the year 1944 and the Bill was passed in the Lower House, but before it could pass through the Upper House the Upper House was abolished and the Bill lapsed. Then again, considering the importance and urgency of the subject a Bill was brought in 1951 and the same was published for eliciting public opinion. That Bill also lapsed because the Bill could not be passed before the last General

Election. Sir, as the necessity for such a measure was and is there, so such a Bill has been attempted since a long time. hon. Members some years back spoke about the need for introduction of a measure like this. So in order to meet the wishes of the Members who spoke on behalf of this measure as well as to remove the losses which the agriculturists and the general public are undergoing through their dealings with the unscrupulous traders, this Bill has been brought in.

With these words, Sir, I move the Motion for consideration of the Bill and hope that the House will be pleased to accept the same.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that the Assam Adoption of Standard Weights Bill, 1954 as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

(After a pause)

The question is that the Assam Adoption of Standard Weights Bill, 1954 as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

(The Motion was adopted)

The Assam Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 1955

Mr. SPEAKER: Now, I have received a message from the Governor of Assam which reads as follows: The Message is dated Raj Bhawan the 17th February, 1955.

"I recommend under Article 207(I) of the Constitution of India that the Assam Stamp (Amendment) Bill 1955 be introduced and moved in the Assam Legislative Assembly.

JAIRAMDAS DOULATRAM,
Governor of Assam."

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 1955.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that the Assam Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 1955 be introduced,

(After a pause)

The question is that the Assam Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 1955 be introduced.

(The Motion was adopted).

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 1955 be taken into consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that the Assam Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 1955 be taken into consideration.

(After a pause)

The question is that the Assam Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 1955, be taken into consideration.

(The Motion was adopted)

The Assam Finance Bill, 1955

Mr. SPEAKER: This is the message received from the Governor: "I recommend under Article 207 (1) of the Constitution of India that the Assam Finance Bill, 1955 be introduced and moved in the Assam Legislative Assembly.

JAIRAMDAS DOULATRAM,
Governor of Assam."

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Finance Bill, 1955 and move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that the Assam Finance Bill, 1955, be introduced and the Bill be taken into consideration.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Sir, it is necessary to bring this Bill every year in order to fix the rate of agricultural income-tax in Assam. Accordingly, I have brought in this Bill to fix the rate of agricultural income-tax for the next year. Sir, we are making no change in the rate which was fixed for the current year.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that the Assam Finance Bill, 1955 be taken into consideration.

(The Motion was adopted.)

The Assam Displaced Persons (Rehabilitation Loans) (Amendment) Bill, 1955.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Displaced Persons (Rehabilitation Loans) (Amendment) Bill, 1955.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that the Assam Displaced Persons (Rehabilitation Loans) (Amendment) Bill, 1955 be introduced.

(The Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted.)

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Displaced Persons (Rehabilitation Loans) (Amendment) Bill, 1955, be taken into consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that the Assam Displaced Persons (Rehabilitation Loans) (Amendment) Bill, 1955, be taken into consideration.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): Sir, the reason for bringing this Bill has been explained in the statement of objects and reasons which has already been placed before the hon. Members along with the Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that the Assam Displaced Persons (Rehabilitation Loans) (Amendment) Bill, 1955, be taken into consideration.

(The Motion was adopted.,)

The Assam Forest (Amendment) (Autonomous Districts) Bill, 1955

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Ramnath Das.

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): Sir, I do not propose to move this Bill or propose to introduce it in this session.

The Criminal Law Amendment (Extension to Autonomous Districts) Bill, 1955

Mr. SPEAKER: Shri Mohikanta Das.

Shri MOHIKANTA DAS (Parliamentary Secretary): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Criminal Law (Amendment) (Extension to Autonomous Districts) Bill, 1955.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that the Criminal Law Amendment (Extension to Autonomous Districts) Bill, 1955, be introduced.

(The Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted.)

Shri MOHIKANTA DAS (Parliamentary Secretary): Sir, I beg to move that the Criminal Law Amendment (Extension to Autonomous Districts) Bill, 1955, be taken into consideration.

The statement of objects and reasons have been given. This Bill is an extension of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1938 in the Autonomous Districts for the purpose of dealing with persons who carry on anti-recruitment propaganda and who dissuade people against enlistment in naval and air forces.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that the Criminal Law Amendment (Extension to Autonomous Districts) Bill 1955, be taken into consideration.

(The Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted.)

Announcement from the Chair of the date for receiving amendments to Bills introduced.

Mr. SPEAKER: The second and third readings of the Bill of which Motion for consideration has been adopted to day will be taken up on the 17th March. Amendments to these Bills if any, as well as to the Assam Acquisition of Land for Flood Control and Prevention of Erosion Bill, 1955 should reach the Assembly Secretariat before 3 P. M. on Saturday, the 12th March, 1955.

GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION

Government Resolution re: the approval of an expenditure of Rs. 24,43,245 under the head '18-B & 68-B—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works.'

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs. 24,43,245 under the head '18-B and 68-B—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works' for the items below. The amount involved will be met from the sanctioned grant.

"18-B and 68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works."

	General Rs.	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas Rs.	Total Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	1,19,32,000	1,50,000	1,20,82,000
II.—Supplementary Grant voted by the Assembly during the year.	64,45,050	30,000	64,75,050

III.—Sub-head under which the appropriation will be accounted for—

18-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works financed from Ordinary Revenues—

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas		Total
		Rs.	Rs.	
(i)—A.— Works ...		40,000	...	40,000
(ii)—E.—Establishment— 4—Contingencies.		53,045	..	53,045
(iii)—G.—Tools and Plant.		55,200	..	55,200
68-B.— Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works financed from Capital Revenues—Development Schemes (Five-year Plan)—				
(i)—G.-M.-F. Schemes— Major Irrigation Schemes.		50,000	..	50,000
(ii)—G.-M.-F. Schemes— Major Irrigation Schemes—Schemes for improvement of scarcity areas.		2,00,000	...	2,00,000
(iii)—Unproductive Works—Additional Minor Irrigation Schemes.		8,15,000	..	8,15,000
(iv)—Productive Works		12,00,000	...	12,00,000
(v)—Development Schemes (Five-Year Plan—Central)—Unproductive Works.		30,000	...	30,000
Total	..	24,43,245	..	24,43,245

EXPLANATORY NOTES

NORMAL

1. 18-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works—

(i)—For details please see Appendix 'A'* at page 4.

(ii)—As under* (i) at page 13.

*Not printed.

- (iii)—Due to creation of new Divisions and Subdivisions *viz.*, Nowgong Embankment and Drainage Division, Goalpara Embankment and Drainage Division, Sib-sagar Embankment and Drainage Division, Morigaon Embankment and Drainage, Goalpara Embankment and Drainage, Kokrajhar Embankment and Drainage, Karimganj Embankment and Drainage, Gauhati Embankment and Drainage Subdivisions the original budget provision proved inadequate.

Development Schemes (Five-Year Plan)—

2. 68-B.—Navigation Embankment and Drainage Works—

- (i) to (v)—For details please *see* Appendix 'A'* at page 5-12.
3. Savings are due to the following reasons:—

18-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works.—Due to better progress of certain works in the last part of the last financial year which could not be anticipated, the provision made in the Budget becomes in excess of the requirement during the current financial year. This is also partly due to want of labour and non-receipt of materials indented.

68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works.—(1) The areas in which most of the works are to be taken up remained water-logged and as such much work could not be taken up as anticipated.

(2) Difficulties have lately been arisen for getting possession of land either in advance or amicably as such the provision made in respect of certain schemes could not be fully utilised.

(3) There is also shortage of staff, labour and materials in most cases.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is:

That this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.24,43,245 under the head "18-B and 68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works" for the items below. The amount involved will be met from the sanctioned grant.

*Not printed.

“18-B and 68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works.

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	1,19,32,000	1,50,000	1,20,82,000
II.—Supplementary Grant voted by the Assembly during the year.	61,45,050	30,000	64,75,050
III.—Sub-head under which the appropriation will be accounted for—			
18-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works financed from Ordinary Revenues—			
(i)—A.—Works ...	40,000	...	40,000
(ii)—E.—Establishment--4—Contingencies.	53,045	..	53,045
(iii)—G.—Tools and Plant.	55,200	..	55,200
68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works financed from Capital Revenues—Development Schemes (Five-Year Plan)—			
(i)—G.-M.-F. Schemes—Major Irrigation Schemes.	50,000	...	50,000
(ii)—G.-M.-F. Schemes—Major Irrigation Schemes—Schemes for improvement of Scarcity areas.	2,00,000	..	2,00,000
(iii)—Unproductive Works—Additional Minor Irrigation Schemes.	8,15,000	...	8,15,000
(iv)—Productive Works	12,00,000	..	12,00,000
(v)—Development Schemes (Five-Year Plan—Central)—Unproductive Works.	30,000	...	30,000
Total ...	24,43,245	...	24,43,245

(The Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted.)

Government Resolution re: the approval of an expenditure of Rs. 34, 75, 272 under the head, "50-Civil Works State (Excluding Establishment and Tools and Plant)"

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.34,75,272 under the head "50—Civil Works—State (Excluding Establishment and Tools and Plant)" for the items below. The amount involved will be met from the sanctioned grant.

"50—Civil Works—State (Excluding Establishment and Tools and Plant)"

	General Rs.	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas. Rs.	Total Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	2,59,57,200	1,50,21,300	4,09,78,500
II.—Supplementary Grant voted by the Assembly during the year.	16,75,714	1,01,28,549	1,21,04,263
III.—Sub-head under which the appropriation will be accounted for:—			

NORMAL

A.—Original Works—			
(a) Buildings—			
General Administration—Voted.	45,396	...	45,396
Police other than Assam Rifles.	24,784	20,000	44,784
Education ...	12,000	...	12,000
Civil Works ...	40,000	...	40,000
Total—(a) Buildings	1,22,180	20,000	1,42,180
(b) Communications—			
Ordinary Roads ...	5,04,715	4,500	5,09,215
Total—Normal—(a) and (b).	6,26,895	24,500	6,51,395

B. REPAIRS—

Buildings			
Communication			
} Normal	14,90,000	50,000	50,000
} Five Year Plan.	1,25,000	3,30,000	18,20,000
} Article 275	10,000	62,000	1,25,000

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Tea Rates Works.	78,000	...	78,000
Maintenance of Shillong-Silchar Road.	...	36,000	36,000
Cess Procurement Projects.	1,15,000	...	1,15,000
Total—B—Repairs	18,18,000	4,78,000	22,96,000
D—Grants-in-aid for Communication.	6,667	..	6,667
Total—Normal.	24,51,562	5,02,500	29,54,062

DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES (ARTICLE 275)

A—1—Original Works—			
(a) Buildings—			
Education	10,000	95,000	1,05,000
Medical	...	66,210	66,210
Public Health	80,000	13,000	93,000
Veterinary	9,000	27,000	36,000
Sericulture and Weaving	...	5,000	5,000
Total—A—1—(a)	99,000	2,06,210	3,05,210
(b) Communications—			
Ordinary Roads.	1,66,000	...	1,66,000
(ii)—Project financed out of the Special Reserve in the Central Road Fund.	...	30,000	30,000
Total—A—1—(b)	1,66,000	30,000	1,96,000
Total—A—1—O. W.	2,65,000	2,36,210	5,01,210

DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES (FIVE-YEAR PLAN)

A—2—Original Works—			
(a) Buildings—			
Agriculture.	20,000	..	20,000
Total—A. 2.	20,000	...	20,000
Grand Total	27,36,562	7,38,710	34,75,272

EXPLANATORY NOTES

(i) Necessity of each scheme has been explained against each in Appendix 'A'*

(ii) There will be considerable savings under the head in the current year's Budget due to dislocation of communications during the last flood which made it difficult to obtain materials for buildings and bridges imported from

*Not printed.

outside the State. Some of the building projects provided in the Budget have to be abandoned in the areas threatened by erosion. A certain amount of savings also accrued due to the diversion of all the resources in men and materials for quick restoration of flood damages for the purpose of restoring normal communications as well as to prevent further damages in the affected areas as quickly as possible before the next rains. Savings thus accrued are proposed to be diverted for restoration of flood damages for which no provision have been made in the Budget and also to other urgent and imperative works that have cropped up during the year.

Government of India have since agreed to bear 50 per cent. of the expenditure incurred on the works taken up for restoration of flood damages.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is:

That this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs. 34,75,272 under the head "50—Civil Works—State (Excluding Establishment and Tools and Plant)" for the items below. The amount involved will be met from the sanctioned grant.

"50—Civil Works—State (Excluding Establishment and Tools and Plant)". -

	General Rs.	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas Rs.	Total Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	2,59,57,200	1,50,21,300	4,09,78,500
II.—Supplementary Grant voted by the Assembly during the year.	19,75,714	1,01,28,549	1,21,04,263
III.—Sub-head under which the appropriation will be accounted for :—			

NORMAL

A.—Original Works—			
(a) Buildings.—			
General Administration—Voted.	45,396	...	45,396
Police other than Assam Rifles	24,784	20,000	44,784

				General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Education	...	...	...	12,000	...	12,000
Civil Works	...	...	...	40,000	...	40,000
Total—(a) Buildings				1,22,180	20,000	1,42,180
(b) Communications—						
Ordinary Roads	...	...	...	5,04,715	4,500	5,09,215
Total—Normal—				6,26,895	24,500	6,51,395
(a) & (b).						
B.—REPAIRS—						
Buildings				..	50,000	50,000
Communica- tion.	}	Normal		14,90,000	3,30,000	18,20,000
		Five Year		1,25,000	...	1,25,000
		Plan.				
		Article		10,000	62,000	72,000
		275				
Tea Rates Works	..	...	...	78,000	...	78,000
Maintenance of						
Road.				...	36,000	36,000
Cess Procurement Projects	...	...	...	1,15,000	...	1,15,000
Total—B—Repairs	...	...	...	18,18,000	4,78,000	22,96,000
D—Grants-in-aid for Com- munication.				6,667	...	6,667
Total—Normal	...	...	...	24,51,562	5,02,500	29,54,062

DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES (ARTICLE 275)

A—I—Original Works—

(a) Buildings—

Education	..	...	...	10,000	95,000	1,05,000
Medical	...	..	...	...	66,210	66,210
Public Health	...	...	...	80,000	13,100	93,000
Veterinary	...	..	...	9,000	27,000	36,000
Sericulture and Weaving	...	...	...	...	5,000	5,000
Total—A—1—(a)	...	...	...	99,000	2,06,210	3,05,210

	General Rs.	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas Rs.	Total Rs.
(b) Communications—			
Ordinary Roads. ...	1,66,000	...	1,66,000
(ii)—Project financed out of the Special Reserve in the Central Road Fund. ...	...	30,000	30,000
Total—A—1—(b)	1,66,000	30,000	1,96,000
Total—A—1—O.W.	2,65,000	2,36,210	5,01,210

DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES (FIVE-YEAR PLAN)

A—2—Original Works—			
(a) Buildings—			
Agriculture ...	20,000	...	20,000
Total—A.2. ...	20,000	...	20,000
Grand Total ...	27,36,562	7,38,710	34,75,272

(The Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted.)

Government Resolution *re*: the approval of an expenditure of Rs.1,57,045 under the head "50.—Civil Works—State—Tools and Plant and Establishment."

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.1,57,045 under the head "50.—Civil Works—State—Tools and Plant and Establishment" for the items below. The amount involved will be met from the sanctioned grant. "50.—Civil Works—State".

	General Rs.	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas Rs.	Total Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	43,61,100	12,08,200	55,69,300
II.—Sub-head under which the Appropriation will be accounted for—			
B.—Charges on Construction—			
4—Contingencies—Voted ...	53,045	...	53,045
Total—B ...	53,045	...	53,045
G.—Tools and Plant—Voted	35,000	69,000	1,04,000
Grand Total ...	88,045	69,000	1,57,045

EXPLANATORY NOTES

In the current year's Budget there is a provision of Rs.4,00,000 for Road Rollers indented from United Kingdom. No debit is likely to be raised by the Government of India for this purpose during the current financial year. So it has become possible to divert the saving for the purchase of new vehicles and Tools and Plant essentially required for the implementation of the heavy programme of work undertaken by this Department for speedy execution of works in the interest of the State.

Mr. SPEAKER : The Motion moved is :

That this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.1,57,045 under the head "50—Civil Works—State—Tools and Plant and Establishment" for the items below. The amount involved will be met from the sanctioned grant.

"50—Civil Works—State".

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	43,61,100	12,08,200	55,69,300
II.—Sub-head under which the Appropriation will be accounted for—			
B.—Charges on Construction—			
4—Contingencies—Voted	...	...	53,045
Total—B	...	...	53,045
G—Tools and Plant—Voted.	35,000	69,000	1,04,000
Grand Total	...	...	1,57,045

(The Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted.)

Government Resolution re: the approval of an expenditure of Rs.36,200 under the head "81.—Capital—Account of Civil Works outside the Revenue Account"

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.36,200 under the head "81.—Capital Account of Civil Works outside the Revenue Account" for the items below. The amount involved will be met from the sanctioned grant.

"81.—Capital Accounts of Civil Works outside the Revenue Account".

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	1,25,03,300	2,25,000	1,27,28,000
II.—Supplementary Grant voted by the Assembly during the year.	20,47,400	60,000	21,07,400
III.—Sub-head under which the Appropriation will be accounted for—			
A.—Original Works—			
(a)—Buildings.—			
Medical	31,200	...	31,200
Co-operation—			
Co-operative Societies	...	5,000	5,000
Total—A	31,200	5,000	36,200

EXPLANATORY NOTES

There will be considerable saving out of the provision of Rs.13,95,300 provided under Medical for construction of Medical College Buildings due to late receipt of Administrative Approval and also due to want of Building materials which could not be obtained as anticipated from outside the State due to dislocation of communications during the last flood.

The amount required will be met out of that saving.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.36, 200 under the head "81—Capital Account of Civil Works outside the Revenue Account" for the items below. The amount involved will be met from the sanctioned grant.

"81—Capital Accounts of Civil Works outside the Revenue Account".

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	1,25,03,300	2,25,000	1,27,28,000
II.—Supplementary Grant voted by the Assembly during the year.	20,47,400	60,000	21,07,400
III.—Sub-head under which the Appropriation will be accounted for—			
A.—Original Works—			
(a)—Buildings.—			
Medical	31,200	...	31,200
Co-operation—			
Co-operative Societies	...	5,000	5,000
Total—A	31,200	5,000	36,200

(The Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted).

Government Resolution re: the approval of an expenditure of Rs.50,000 under the head "81-A—Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes"

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.50,000 under the head "81-A—Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes" for the item below. The amount involved will be met from the sanctioned grant.

"81-A.—Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes."

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	52,17,200	...	52,17,200
II.—Sub-head under which the appropriation will be accounted for—			
I.—Hydro-Electric Scheme—			
Umtru Hydro-Electric Scheme—			
II.—Civil Works Section—			
A.—Works	50,000	...	50,000
Total	50,000	...	50,000

Explanatory Notes

In the current year's budget there is a provision of Rs.25,00,000 under "II.—Civil Works Section—A—Works" for financing the Scheme "Umtru Hydro-Electric Project." A sum of Rs.19,00,000 only is necessary for expenditure during the current financial year as the settlement of contracts for the major works items namely, power house, surge tank, pipe lines and penstocks could not be made earlier due to prolonged negotiations. So it has become possible to finance the present emergent work which has cropped up after the preparation of budget out of saving.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.50,000 under the head "81-A—Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes" for the item below. The amount involved will be met from the sanctioned grant.

"81-A—Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes"

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	52,17,200	...	52,17,200
II.—Sub-head under which the appropriation will be accounted for—			
I.—Hydro-Electric Scheme— Umtru Hydro-Electric Scheme—			
II.—Civil Works Section—			
A.—Works	...	...	...
	50,000	...	50,000
Total	50,000	...	50,000

(The Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted.)

Government Resolution *re*: the approval of an expenditure of Rs. 10,985 under the head "37.—Education"

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs. 10,985 under the head "37.—Education" by re-appropriation from Savings from the sanctioned grant as indicated below—

I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly ... Rs.2,82,81,300

II.—Sub-head under which the appropriation will be accounted for—

Minor and Sub-head	Grant originally voted by the Assembly			Supplementary grant voted by the Assembly during the year			Additional amount now required	
	General	Sixth Schedule Areas		General	Sixth Schedule Areas		General	Sixth Schedule Areas
								Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
II.—Charges in Eng- land.	1,134	..	..	..	10,985	..	10,985	
III.—Sub-head from which the amount is to be re-appropriated.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"Primary—L.—Grants to Primary Education Board".	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,985	

EXPLANATORY NOTES

- I. The amount is required to meet the excess expenditure in England.
- III. The saving is due to non-implementation of the Scheme of transfer of Middle Vernacular Schools from the Local Bodies.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs. 10,985 under the head "37.—Education" by re-appropriation from Savings from the sanctioned grant as indicated below—

I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly .. Rs.2, 82,81,300.

II.—Sub-head under which the appropriation will be accounted for—

Minor and Sub-head	Grant originally voted by the Assembly			Supplementary grant voted by the Assembly during the year		Additional amount now required	
	General	Sixth Schedule Areas		General	Sixth Schedule Areas	General	Sixth Schedule Areas
							Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
II.—Charges in England.	1,134	..	..	..	10,985	..	10,985
II.—Sub-head from which the amount is to be re-appropriated.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
“Primary—L.—Grants to Primary Education Board”.	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,985

(The Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted).

Government Resolution for the approval of an expenditure of Rs.1,950 under the head “37.—Education”

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs. 1,950 under the head “37.—Education” by re-appropriation from Savings from the sanctioned grant as indicated below—

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	2,55,55,400	27,25,900	2,82,81,300
2. Sub-head under which the appropriation will be accounted for—			
(1) “37.—Education—“S” Miscellaneous.			
(a) Public Library, Shillong—			
Contingencies—Other Non-	1,950	...	1,950
Contract Contingencies—			
General—Voted”.			
Total	..	...	1,950

	General Rs.	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas Rs.	Total Rs.
3. Sub-head from which the amount is to be re-appropriated—			
(I) "37.—Education—Miscellaneous.			
(c) Text Book Committee Charges—Grant for preparation and publication of Text Books—General—Voted".	1,950	...	1,950

EXPLANATORY NOTES

2. (1) The amount is required for payment of arrear rent of the Government Public Library, Shillong. The payment of the rent of the Government Public Library was kept pending awaiting repairs of the roof of the Library room which was badly leaking.

3. (1) The saving is due to the fact that provision for publication of Departmental reader could not be utilised.

Mr. SPEAKER : The Motion moved is that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs. 1,950 under the head "37.—Education" by re-appropriation from Savings from the sanctioned grant as indicated below—

	General Rs.	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas Rs.	Total Rs.
1. Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	2,55,55,400	27,25,900	2,82,81,300
2. Sub-head under which the Appropriation will be accounted for—			
(1) "37.—Education—"S" Miscellaneous.			
(a) Public Library, Shillong—Contingencies—Other Non-Contract Contingencies—General—Voted".	1,950	...	1,950
Total	1,950	..	1,950

3. Sub-head from which the amount is to be re-appropriated—			
(1) "37.—Education—Miscellaneous.			
(c) Text Book Committee Charges—Grant for preparation and publication of Text Books,—General—Voted".	1,950	...	1,950

(The Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted.)

Government Resolution *re*: the approval of an expenditure of Rs.9,760 under the head "37.—Education"

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.9,760 under the head "37.—Education" by re-appropriation from Savings from the sanctioned grant as indicated below—

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
"37.—Education—			
1. Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	2,55,55,400	27,25,900	2,82,81,300
2. Head under which the appropriation will be accounted for—			
(1) "37.—Education—A.—Grants to Universities—Gauhati University—General—Voted.	9,760	...	9,760
3. Head from which the amount is to be re-appropriated—			
(1) "37.—Education—L.—Grants to the Assam Primary Education Board—General—Voted.	9,760	..	9,760

EXPLANATORY NOTES

(2) (i) The amount is required due to sanction of grant (equivalent to 20 per cent. of the total estimated cost being the State Government share) for implementation of the Folklore Research Scheme under the Gauhati University.

(3) (i) The saving is due to non-implementation of the Scheme of transfer of M. V. Schools from the Local Bodies.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.9,760 under the head

"37.—Education" by re-appropriation from Savings from the sanctioned grant as indicated below—

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	2,55,55,400	27,25,900	2,82,81,300
2. Head under which the Appropriation will be accounted for— (1) "37.—Education—A.—Grants to Universities—Gauhati University—General—Voted.	9,760	...	9,760
3. Head from which the amount is to be re-appropriated— (1) "37.—Education—L.—Grants to the Assam Primary Education Board—General—Voted.	9,760	...	9,760

(The Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted)

Government Resolution *re*: the approval of an expenditure of Rs.2,500 under the head "37.—Education"

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.2,500 under the head "37.—Education" by re-appropriation from savings from the sanctioned grant as indicated below—

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	2,55,55,400	27,25,900	2,82,81,300
2. Sub-head under which the Appropriation will be accounted for— (1) "S.—Miscellaneous—(d) Other Miscellaneous Charges—General—Voted."	2,500	..	2,500
Total	2,500	..	2,500
3. Sub-head from which the amount is to be re-appropriated— (1) "L.—Grants to the Assam Primary Education Board—General—Voted"	2,500	...	2,500

EXPLANATORY NOTES

2. (1) The amount is required for giving grant to the All-Assam Inter College Music Competition held at Nowgong.

3. (1) The Saving is due to non-implementation of the Scheme of transfer of Middle Vernacular Schools from the Local Bodies.

Mr. SPEAKER : The Motion moved is that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.2,500 under the head "37—Education" by re-appropriation from savings from the sanctioned grant as indicated below—

"37—Education"—	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	2,55,55,400	27,25,900	2,82,81,300
2. Sub-head under which the appropriation will be accounted for—			
(1) "S.—Miscellaneous—	2,500	..	2,500
(d) Other Miscellaneous			
Charges—General—Voted".			
Total	2,500	...	2,500
3. Sub-head from which the amount is to be re-appropriated—			
(1) "L.—Grants to the Assam Primary Education Board—General—Voted".	2,500	..	2,500

(The Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted.)

Election of Members to the Gauhati University Court

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly under Section 9 (1) (xvi) read with Statute 2 (5) of the Gauhati University Act, 1947 (Assam Act XVI of 1947) do elect five members for a period of three years to the Gauhati University Court, from among their own membership to the Gauhati University Court of Shri Mal Chandra Pegu, Shri Hem Chandra Chakravarty, Shri Bijoy Chandra Bhagavati, Shri Girindranath Gogoi and Pu. Ch. Saprawnga.

Mr. SPEAKER : The Motion moved is that this Assembly under Section 9(1) (xvi) read with Statute 2(5) of

the Gauhati University Act, 1947 (Assam Act XVI of 1947) do elect five members for a period of three years to the Gauhati University Court, from among their own numbers, to fill up the vacancies created by the termination of membership to the Gauhati University Court of Shri Mal Chandra Pegu, Shri Hem Chandra Chakravarty, Shri Bijoy Chandra Bhagavati, Shri Girindranath Gogoi and Pu. Ch. Saprawnga.

(The Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted).

I hereby fix Monday, the 14th March, 1955 as the date and Room No.2 of the Assembly Building as the place where Election to the Gauhati University Court will take place.

The voting will be held between the hours of 2 P. M. to 4 P. M.

The Assam Homeopathic Medicine Bill, 1953

Shri RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Assam Homeopathic Medicine Bill, 1953, and to move that the Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

Sir, at the outset I must say that in the Select Committee all the members were more or less unanimous and there are no major changes, excepting reducing the rate of penalty and also reducing the registration fees as the fees are not in keeping with the level of fees obtained by Allopathic and other medical practitioners. The medical practitioners other than Homeopaths are getting the advantage of smaller fees and hence we have reduced the registration fees a little bit in the case of Homeopaths also. There is, however, one minor change and that is regarding the definition of Homeopathy, and I think, Sir, the definition in the present form is most appropriate and it has also been incorporated in the Bombay Act. It reads like this that 'Homeopath' means the system of medicine founded by Dr. Hahnemann and the expression 'Homeopathic' shall be construed accordingly. Sir, this is a most non-contentious Bill. It is true that some Allopaths may contend that it is not necessary, but as we all know Homeopathy has come to stay in India and almost all the States have their own Acts in this connection. It is a medicine for the poor people and it is also very much efficacious. I am glad to inform the House that we have been able to finish this Bill in the Select Committee within a period

of two hours. That is why I say it is a most non-contention Bill. So, I beg to move that the Bill as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that the Assam Homeopathic Medicine Bill, 1953, as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

(The Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted).

Adjournment

(The Assembly was then adjourned till 2 p. m. for lunch.)

After Lunch

The Assam Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 1955

Shri GAURI SHANKAR ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg leave of the House to introduce the Assam Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 1955.

The copy of the Bill with objects and reasons has already been circulated to all the hon. Members of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that leave be granted to introduce the Assam Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 1955, be introduced.

Has the Mover of the Bill got the leave of the House?
(After a pause) The Mover has the leave of the House.

(The Secretary then read the title of the Bill.)

Shri GAURI SHANKAR ROY: Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 1955.

Sir, the existing Maternity Benefit Act was enacted during pre-independence days. It was passed by the Assam Legislature in the year 1954. Since then the conditions have changed and it has become absolutely necessary to amend the Act to cover all cases of pregnancy and to provide adequate safeguard to the women workers during and after confinement.

The existing Act gives discretionary power to the employers in matters of grave concerns, such as, employment during the period of confinement, etc. The fate of those workers who

cannot complete the required number of working days have been left in the hands of destiny. Dr. Lloyd Jones in his report on medical care in plantation has frankly admitted the high mortality amongst plantation workers due to child birth and has recommended leave for an extensive period without any reserve which was considered as most scientific for recoupment of health.

Miscarriage affects the health of the mother more adversely than normal delivery and hence there should be no qualifications in payment of the benefit in such cases. There is no justification why the women workers should get less wages and not the minimum wages fixed by Government under the Minimum Wages Act.

Moreover, penalty clause against workers in any labour legislation has been considered objectionable by the 1st session of the Plantation Committee of the Indian Labour Organisation. For all these reasons it has been necessary to bring the amendments before this august House for consideration.

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to Mr. Roy for bringing this Bill before the House and thus giving the Government an opportunity to explain the views and position with regard to this Bill. In fact, I would like to admit that in our present Maternity Benefit Act there are some lacuna. Having realised this, in the meanwhile, the Government have taken measures to bring an amending Bill, if possible, during the course of this Budget Session. But as this is a labour matter; any amendment sought to be made in the existing Maternity Benefit Act requires prior approval of the Government of India, which of course, we could not get earlier. However, we have in the meanwhile, received the approval. There are two important suggestions in the Bill of Mr. Roy. One of the suggestions is that when the food concession is abolished the cash value thereon to be paid should have the legal basis along with other maternity benefits. The other suggestion is that for any miscarriage, the benefits should be extended, *i.e.*, there should be no disqualifications in payment of maternity benefits in cases of miscarriages also. Both these suggestions have already been included in our proposed Bill. The Maternity Benefit Act should conform to the provisions to be laid down in the Plantation Labour Rules under the Plantation Labour Act and Government have been thinking of making provisions on those lines. For our provisions must be in line with the provisions set forth by the Government of India in this respect.

In view of what I have explained, I would like to request Mr. Roy not to press for his Bill and to withdraw his Motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the opinion of Mr. Roy?

Shri GAURI SHANKAR ROY: In view of the assurance given by the Deputy Minister that an amendment to the Meternity Benefit Act would be brought before the House on the line of the Plantation Act passed by the Central Government I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: Has the Member leave of the House to withdraw his Motion? (*Voices—Yes, yes.*)

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

The Assam Adhiars Protection and Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 1955.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg leave of the House to introduce the Assam Adhiars Protection and Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 1955.

While begging leave of the House for introduction of this Bill, I propose to make a few observations. My Bill is a very modest one. I don't propose any revolutionary measure here-in. If I have been able to follow the speech of the Leader of the House and also the Budget speech of the Finance Minister, I think, I can safely presume that the Government is also thinking almost on the same line. Not only that, the other day the Leader of the House said that the Government proposed to bring certain measures which would be even more drastic than the measures that are here in my Bill. For example, Government is said to have been suggesting one-fourth and one-fifth in place of one-third and one-fourth that are prevailing to-day. So far as my intention in bringing this Bill is concerned, I propose to give the Adhiar protection for what has already been provided. We might so legislate that the Adhiar might give only $\frac{1}{20}$ or $\frac{1}{50}$ of his total production; but in actual practice if the Adhiar is to give half, the relief that is purported to be given to the Adhiar under the Act remains ineffective.

As a matter of fact, in my own area Rangia, at least in the Mouzas in between Borolia and Pagladia, I have seen that though the Adhiars Protection Act has theoretically been extended to that area, it is not actually in operation. Not only that the landlord is realising half the crop but the tenant is compelled to bring the entire crop to the courtyard of the landlord, keep all the stock in the house of the landlord and he is to go only with half the paddy after he thrashes the full stock. In addition, on ceremonial occasions the tenant is to give his labour in the house of the landlord without getting any remuneration. Sir, that is what is actually prevailing in the Paschim-Borigog, Pub-Borbhag and Upper Barbhag Mouzas of the Kamrup district. In the Saraibahi Mouza of Jorhat, so far as my information goes, and I think this is a reliable information, about 15 families, mostly Brahmins, own about 1,500 *puras*, that is, 6,000 bighas of land and they get from the tenants not one-third but at the rate of half. Some of them, for example, Trailokyanath Bhuyan and Kanak Bhattacharyya get some money in advance. Then again, one Lakhi Kataki takes Rs.150 as security from the Adhiar and only when the latter gives half share of the paddy he returns that security money. There is another landlord, his name is not given to me, who is giving 4 bighas to the Adhiar on condition that the Adhiar cultivates one bigha of the landlord's land for every 4 bighas that he takes on Adhi. That is in Saraibahi Mouza. Then in Kokrajhar we find the Officer-in-charge of the Kokrajhar Police Station had at the instance of Bazlur Rahman arrested one Bisha Sheikh on the allegation that he had misappropriated the share of the landlord. As a matter of fact, Bisha cultivated the said landlord's land on Adhi and raised the crop himself but the landlord did not come to take his share. At any rate, the Adhiar has no security at present. My intention in giving these instances was that even when there was a legislation it was not actually in operation. If the law is ineffective, it does not matter whether one-fourth or one-fifth or one-tenth is the stipulated share. What is most necessary in this important matter is to bring the Act into actual operation. So far as section 5 of the parent Act is concerned, we find therein that the landlord has got almost unlimited right to resume the land. He can resume it perhaps for any imaginable reason on earth, say for residential purpose, horticultural purpose, piscicultural purpose, sericultural purpose, or similar other purposes or by simply saying that he needs the land for the purpose of cultivation by himself or with

the help of others. The landlord is simply to say—"I *bonafide* require the land for my sericultural purpose, because I want to keep one cocoon" and then he can eject the Adhiar. In the judgments of different High Courts we find that if the landlord simply says that he requires the land *bonafide* for certain purpose that is sufficient. He is not to "prove" that he requires it *bonafide*. That is the ruling of the Calcutta High Court and the Assam High Court. When there are so many spheres and when we have seen with our own eyes how the Act is followed in actual practice we are convinced that it is not doing any good to the poor Adhiar. For example, in South Kamrup one tea planter, namely of Sonapur Tea Estate, has resumed some land simply by saying that he wanted the land for his cultivation. He did it simply with the intent of doing away with the old tenant. Subsequently he gave the said land to another tenant. In this way even people like tea planters are resuming land. So there should be some limit to the resumption. There are many accidents which may unfortunately have to be faced by the peasants in the months of *Ashar* or *Sraavan*. For example he may fall ill and therefore he may have to get the land cultivated by another person instead of keeping it fallow for one year. Even in such a case the present Act gives him no protection. He can be at once ejected on the ground either of keeping the land fallow or sub-letting it. This goes very damagingly against the Adhiar. Not only that, we have also seen that if the Government insists that the Act should be put in operation and that the landlords should obey it then the landlords take all possible measures to harass the Adhiars. For example, after the Ahu crop is over, they may raise some other crops, such as chillies, brinjals, etc. Then the landlord will appear and demand everything. This actually happened at Rajaduar which is just on the other side of Gauhati intervened by the Brahmaputra. This I say from my personal experience. It is therefore necessary to see that some provision is made to ensure that the landlords get the stipulated share only of the major crop and not of all crops.

It may be said from the side of the Government that in view of the fact that the Chief Minister has already made a declaration and also in view of the fact that the Finance Minister has stated this morning that the Government will bring in a fresh Bill, there is no necessity of this Bill coming from a private Member. I may say that if the Government actually come forward with a Bill with similar or better provisions, I shall have no hesitation to withdraw my Bill. But until they

do so, in view of the fact that this is a burning problem which is felt by all people very greatly, my humble suggestion to the House is that this Bill be introduced, and I shall be only grateful to the House, and particularly to the Government benches if they be so pleased as not to oppose introduction of this Bill. Let me impress upon them that in the present circumstances even this very small egg (showing an egg to the House) is more powerful against the Adhiar than the Atom Bomb. If the landlord goes and says, "I shall do poultry farming myself, so get out!" Then the Adhiar is helpless. The landlord can uproot a whole peasant family with the help of an egg!

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Parliamentary Secretary): Is it parliamentary for the hon. Member to show the egg?

Mr. SPEAKER: He is showing that only by way of an illustration.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I am saying this just to bring it home to the hon. Members the urgency of the matter. Even this 'Koi' fish (showing a fish to the House) seems to be more powerful against an Adhiar than the Hydrogen Bomb; because if the landlord says that he would make pisciculture, the peasant is helpless. Similarly, if he says "I want to make horticulture", the peasant is helpless and powerless. That is the position.

Mr. SPEAKER: Have you got any ruling about your illustration that qualify your statement?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Both the Calcutta and Assam High Courts have given rulings on this. In one of the cases I was the advocate, and I lost the case. The High Court held that it is not necessary for the landlord to prove his *bonafides*. It is sufficient if he only says so. In view of these facts, the Legislature should think whether some new provision should be made so as to protect the Adhiars. This was the original intention of the Legislature and this, I hope, still remains the intention of this Legislature.

With these words I beg leave of the House to introduce this Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved : That leave be granted to introduce the Assam Adhiars Protection and Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 1955.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister): Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to make the Government's stand clear regarding the amendment moved by Shri Bhattacharyya.

A convention has already been established not to oppose a Bill in the introductory stage. So I do not want to oppose the Bill. What I want to say is simply this: the Chief Minister in course of his reply to the debate in respect of the Governor's address and the Finance Minister to-day made it abundantly clear that the Government is going to introduce an amending Bill with a view to make it more comprehensive. My hon. Friend has stated in his speech that if the provisions sought to be provided in this amending Bill are more comprehensive, he will not have any objection to withdraw his Bill. Therefore I want to give him an idea. In my opinion my Friend will agree that those provisions sought to be provided in the Government's amending Bill are much more wider and more comprehensive than those contained in his Bill. It is perfectly true that there is inordinate delay in coming to a decision in regard to the Adhiars disputes. Now coming to the provisions sought to be provided in the proposed amending Bill of the Government I would like to let the House know that in that Bill we have introduced an Adhiar Conciliation Board which will decide such controversial matters. In different areas there will be many Conciliation Boards which will be in a position to decide speedily such controversial matters.

Then as regards Section 5, my Friend has in his amending Bill wanted to amend Section 5(i). I admit that there are many grounds on which the landlords can resume land. My Friend's Bill provides that if the land is necessary for residential purposes or for personal cultivation, then the landlord will be allowed to resume. He gives two grounds—residential purposes and personal cultivation. But we in our Bill propose to incorporate only one ground, i.e., if the land is wanted for personal cultivation only, in that case the landlord will be allowed to resume. So my Friend will appreciate that our Bill is more comprehensive than his Bill.

Then in Section 5 he does not table any other amendment, but we propose to do something more. At present after resumption, if the landlord keeps the land fallow for one year then possession is to be restored to the Adhiar. In

our Bill we want to provide something more. After resumption the landlord may cultivate—and he often does—the land for one year with hired labour, but after that he may sublet it. We have therefore provided that if he keeps the land fallow for one year or sublets it within 2 years, in that case the land will be restored to the Adhial. In the present Act there is provision that if the Adhial keeps the land fallow for one year, the landlord can resume it. My Friend has not tabled any amendment with regard to that provision.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA : I have suggested if it is more than one year.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister) : This is rather vague. More than one year may mean even 20 years. We in our Bill have put it at two years, *i.e.*, if the Adhial keeps the land fallow for two years the land can be resumed.

Then, Sir, in our Bill we have also reduced the share of the crop. Where the Adhial was required to give one-third share of the crop to the landlord, we have reduced it to one-fourth and where the Adhial had to pay one-fourth we have reduced it to one-fifth.

Then, my Friend has tabled another amendment, which we have almost accepted ; that is, if in one particular plot of land the Adhial grows more than one crop within the same agricultural year, at present he has got to pay share of every crop raised. My Friend wants to make it “share of the principal crop” only. We have also provided that share of the major crop only (same thing as principal crop) will be given.

These are the main provisions of the Bill which we propose to introduce. My Friend will appreciate that the provisions of our Bill will undoubtedly be better and more comprehensive than the provisions of the Bill, which he has tabled, I would, therefore, request him to withdraw his Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER : Further, I have received notice that the Bill is going to be introduced by the Government during the current Session of the Assembly. In view of this, I think Mr. Bhattacharyya will not press his Motion.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA : I can withdraw my Bill any day when the Government Bill is placed before us.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister) : It will be published in the next Gazette.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA : It is all the same. All right, I withdraw my Bill. (*Voice—ধন্যবাদ, আজি ভটাচাৰ্য ডাঙৰীয়া আমাৰ শলাগৰ পাত্ৰ হৈছে।*)

Private Members' Resolutions

Resolution regarding inclusion of the Nazira Town Committee in the first rural electrification Scheme

Shri ANANDA CHANDRA BEZBARUA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in deference to the advice of my leader, I will not move this Resolution as my purpose has been served.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are so many important resolutions and many Members on both sides of the House are absent. Most probably they thought that the Resolutions would not be taken up to-day. In view of this, It would perhaps be better if the Resolutions are deferred.

Mr. SPEAKER: Most probably, they are in a holiday mood! What is the sense of the House?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): If the Opposition does not want to avail of the time allotted for them, we have no objection.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: So many hon. Members are absent and there are so many important Resolutions, I think it is better to defer consideration of the resolutions.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): This is unfortunate, but if they do not want to avail of the time, we have no objection.

Mr. SPEAKER: It does not speak very well of the House. Any way, when this is the sense of the House, the House stands adjourned till 10 A. M. on the 10th.

Adjournment

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

SHILLONG:

The 9th September, 1955.

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

AGENTS IN INDIA

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