

Assam Legislative Assembly Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

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

NOVEMBER SESSION

VOLUME II

No.29

The 21st November 1955



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DEBATES OF THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1955

(November Session)

Vol. II, No.29

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
 COMMITTEE ON
 JUDICIARY
 REPORT
 ON THE
 JUDICIAL SYSTEM
 1911

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Proceedings of the Eighth 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 21st November, 1955.

PRESENT

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

Starred question Nos.2 and 3 standing in the name of Shri Hareswar Goswami were not put and answered as the hon. Questioner was absent.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Implementation of the Housing Scheme

Shri PRABHAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI asked :

8. Will the Minister-in-charge of Housing be pleased to state—

- (a) The total provision available to grant as loan for implementation of the Housing Schemes for 1955-56 in the State of Assam ?
- (b) The total amount so far expended ?
- (c) The number of applications pending for disposal with the Department up-to-date ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that all the co-patta holders of a particular plot of land on which the borrower wants to construct the house are to give their consent by registered deeds for proposed construction ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that a searching certificate from the Sub-Registrar is needed for thirteen years ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister) replied :

8. (a)—The Government of India was requested to make an allotment of Rs.19 lakhs for the issue of loans only during the current financial year as follows :—

Rupees sixteen lakhs for loans to individuals and Housing Co-operatives.

Rupees three lakhs for loans to Local Bodies.

The Government of India have, however, indicated that Rs.10 lakhs might be adequate for the current financial year. The sum is proposed to be allotted for different schemes as below :—

Loans to individuals and Co-operatives...Rs. 6 lakhs.

Loans to Local BodiesRs. 3 lakhs.

Development of buildings sites ...Rs. 1 lakh.

(b)—The total amount of loan sanctioned till 15th November, 1955 is Rs.1,16,000.

(c)—Number of applications pending till 15th November, 1955 are as follows :—

With Government—2.

With Director of Housing—11 (received since 7th November 1955).

With Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers—997 (as on 31st October 1955).

(d)—Applicants who otherwise appear to be eligible for housing loan have been asked to furnish registered declarations from co-sharers agreeing to the mortgage of properties held jointly.

(e)—According to rules, encumbrances are to be investigated for a period of 12 years. In order to expedite matters the Housing Staffs have been directed to make necessary enquiries in the Sub-Registrars' Offices and furnish non-encumbrance certificates.

Second Five Year Plan of Assam

Shri A. ALLEY asked :

9. Will the Minister-in-charge of Planning be pleased to state—

(a) How many persons went to New Delhi from Assam at the public expense in September 1955 to discuss the Second Five Year Plan of Assam with the Planning Commission ?

- (b) Whether any Member from the Hills or Hill official was included in that list ?
- (c) If so, who were they ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister) replied :

9. (a)—The three Ministers who represented the State in the discussions with the Planning Commission were accompanied by 21 Secretaries and Heads of Departments. Some clerical staff such as assistants, stenographers, etc., also went with the party.

(b)—As only Secretaries and Heads of Development Departments directly dealing with Second Five Year Plan had to go to Delhi for discussions with the Planning Commission, there was no question of including a Member from the Hills or an official from the Hills as such.

(c)—Does not arise.

Statement made by the Chief Minister regarding Community Project Seminar in the Bhoi Area

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : Sir, I want to make a statement to get the permission of the House in connection with an important function relating to Community Project matters. We are going to have a Seminar in the Bhoi area in which important persons and officers of the Community Projects and the Adviser, Community Project, New Delhi and Community Project Officers of other parts of our country are attending.

About 300 officers are attending the Seminar on the 24th of this month. It is also desirable that the hon. Members of this House attend the Seminar. Invitation will be issued to them. I hope the hon. Members will go and attend this function. But Sir, 24th is meant for voting on demands for Supplementary Grants. So, if we sit at about 11 or 11-30 A.M. and agree to sit beyond 4 p. m. to make good our absence on that day, we shall be able to finish the day's business. We shall all start at about 7 a.m. to look round, attend the function and shall leave that place at about 10 a.m. we shall be able to arrive at about 10-30 or 11 a.m. The Ministers will also be going there, so some of the hon. Members may try to accommodate themselves in the Ministers' cars and two State buses will be ready at about 7 a.m. The Secretary in charge of Community Projects will arrange the transport.

If the hon. Members agree we can have the House commenced its business on the 24th at about 11 or 11-30 a.m.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : Where is the place ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : It is about 20 or 25 miles from Shillong. This Bhoi area is near about Naya Bungalow.

Mr. SPEAKER : I see there is no objection. It is quite all right that we should go and see the Community Project matters in the Bhoi area.

Government Resolution regarding the control and Regulation of Prize Competitions

Shri MAHI KANTA DAS (Parliamentary Secretary) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to move the following resolution "Whereas for the purpose of securing the uniformity in legislation it is desirable that the control and regulation of Prize Competitions and all other matters ancillary thereto should be regulated in the State of Assam by the Prize Competitions Act, 1955 (Act 42 of 1955) passed by Parliament".

Now, therefore, in pursuance of clause 1 of Article 252 of the Constitution, this Assembly resolves that the Act aforesaid be adopted by the State of Assam.

Now Sir, I may be permitted to speak a few words in this connection. We often see in the newspapers "Cross words prize puzzle competition, Missing words prize puzzle competitions and similar other competitions based on the building up, arrangement, combination or permutation of letters, words and figures. Thousands of people join the competitions and there was no Central Act to control these competitions. The Central Government by the Act above referred to has sought to control such competitions. But the subject comes under State List—List No. II of the Seventh Schedule. Entry No. 34 under Article 252(1) such act may be passed for regulating such matters throughout the Union—if resolutions in this regard are passed under Article 252(1) by the State Legislatures—so the States such as Andhra, Bombay, Madras, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh,

Hyderabad, Madhya Bharat, Patiala, East Punjab States Union Saurashtra passed such resolutions and requested the Central Government to undertake the above legislation.

This State has not adopted such resolution. So this resolution for adoption of this Act in our State has been moved before the House. Hence the necessity of this resolution. Section 4 limits the Prize money at Rs.1,000 in a month and limits the number of entries at two thousand.

Section 5 enjoins on taking of Licences from the Licensing authority for such competition.

Section 6 deals with procedure for taking licence.

Section 9 deals with cancellation or suspension of licence for contravention of conditions of licence.

Sections 9, 10, 11 and 12 are penal sections.

Section 15 deals with forfeiture of newspapers and publications containing Prize competitions conducted in contravention of laws.

Section 20 deals with Power to make rules.

Sir, these are some of the salient provisions of this Act. Therefore, I hope the House will accept this resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion is that "Whereas for the purpose of securing the uniformity in legislation it is desirable that the Control and regulation of Prize Competitions and all other matters ancillary thereto should be regulated in the State of Assam by the Prize Competitions Act, 1955 (Act 42 of 1955) passed by Parliament."

(The Motion was put as a question and was adopted)

**Government Resolution regarding the approval of
an expenditure of Rs.70,956 under the head
"39.—Public Health"**

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.70,956 under the head "39.—Public Health" by re-appropriation from the savings from the sanctioned grant as indicated below.

It has been explained in the Explanatory Note why this additional expenditure has been necessary.

39.—Public Health—

	General	Sixth Schedule Part A Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Grant original voted by the Assembly.	48,85,700	10,65,500	59,51,300
2. Sub-head under which the appropriation will be accounted for—			
(1) A—P. H. Establishment—			
(d)—Vaccine Depot ...	70,956	...	70,956
Total ...	70,956	...	70,956
3. Sub-head from which the amount is to be re-appropriated—			
(1) A—P.H. Establishment—			
(a)—Superintendence and other establishment.			

EXPLANATORY NOTES

2 (1)—The amount is required for maintenance of accurate and clear proforma accounts for the Vaccine Depot, Shillong and as such a suitable sub-head, *viz.*, "A.—P. H. Establishment—(d)—Vaccine Depot" with appropriate detailed heads has been opened under "39.—Public Health". The funds already provided for in the Public Health Budget under the Sub-head "A.—P. H. Establishment—(a)—Superintendence and other Establishment" is proposed to be re-appropriated to this new sub-head in the current year's (1955-56) Budget for the above purpose.

3 (1)—In the current year's Budget there is a provision of Rs.10,95,565 for the General areas wherefrom the saving is anticipated due to this splitting of the sub-heads.

Mr. SPEAKKR: Motion moved is:

"That this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.70,956 under the head "39.—Public Health" by re-appropriation from savings from the sanctioned grant.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want certain clarification regarding the Vaccine Depot which comes under this Motion. So long the system was that vaccine was to be supplied to local bodies free of any charge from the Government, but recently we have seen that by notification it has been made that the local bodies like Local Boards and Municipalities are to pay the cost for these vaccines. The obvious result would be that these poor local bodies with their slender finance will not be able to cope with the situation in their respective areas. So when we are increasing the expenditure in the Medical and Public Health Department the old system of free supply of vaccines should be retained.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) : The matter will be examined.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : Thank you.

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.70,956 under the head "39.—Public Health" by re-appropriation from the savings from the sanctioned grant as indicated.

(The Motion was adopted)

**The Assam (Sales of Petroleum and Petroleum Products,
including Kerosene, Motor Spirit and Lubricants)
Taxation Bill, 1955**

Mr. SPEAKER : There are two messages, dated Raj Bhaban, Shillong, the 14th November, 1955 from the Governor of Assam which read :

1. "I recommend under Article 207(1) of the Constitution of India that the Assam (Sales of Petroleum and Petroleum Products, including Kerosene, Motor Spirit and Lubricants) Taxation Bill, 1955, be introduced and moved in the Assam Legislative Assembly.

2. I recommend under Article 207(3) of the Constitution of India that the Assam (Sales of Petroleum and Petroleum Products, including Kerosene, Motor Spirit and Lubricants) Taxation Bill, 1955, be taken into consideration by the Assam Legislative Assembly.

JAIRAMDAS DAULATRAM,

Governor of Assam".

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I now beg to introduce the Assam (Sales of Petroleum and Petroleum Products, including Kerosene, Motor Spirit and Lubricants) Taxation Bill, 1955.

(The Bill was introduced.)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam (Sales of Petroleum and Petroleum Products, including Kerosene, Motor Spirit and Lubricants) Taxation Bill, 1955, be taken into consideration.

In the Statement of Objects and Reasons, it has been clearly shown why this measure is necessary. It is known to the hon. Members of this House that we had, in the last year, run an actual deficit of 2 crores 94 lakhs of rupees. It is a staggering amount, so to say. This small State of Assam had run into a staggering deficit of 2 crores 94 lakhs in the last year. From this fact it will be quite apparent, to the hon. Members, the need for enhancing our resources by some means and one of the means is taxation and there may be other means also. Therefore, I have come before this House with this measure of taxation. By this measure of taxation, we will be getting 20 to 30 lakhs of rupees as additional revenue. This will certainly help us to a certain extent to meet the deficit.

Then again, besides the need of additional revenue in this State, there are other reasons why I have come forward with this measure. It is also known to the hon. Members of this House that we have had as many as 8 amending Acts on the original measure. This has made the whole thing very cumbrous and complicated. It is very difficult to find out what is the intention of the Act because there are so many amending Acts which have been passed during the last 4 or 5 years. Therefore, to consolidate the original and amending Acts into one and to make matters simple, there is absolute necessity of this Bill, and this particular Bill ensures that.

These are the main things for which I have come forward before the House with this measure. I hope the House will agree with me.

Mr. SPEAKER : Motion moved is: That the Assam (Sales of Petroleum and Petroleum Products, including Kerosene, Motor Spirit and Lubricants) Taxation Bill, 1955 be taken into consideration.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a few observations regarding the Bill before the House. As for the first part to amend and consolidate the law relating to taxation on motor spirit and lubricants, etc., we have no objection. It has been said that there are as many as 8 or 9 amending Acts, all should be consolidated into one whole.

Regarding the second part by which Government propose to increase the tax and make up the deficit, I shall speak a few words. Sir, we have seen from our experience every year that a big deficit is shown in the Budget, and after the end of the year, we see actually that is not the real state of affairs. Only to magnify the state of affairs like that, Government shows a very big deficit. Now, we are shown a deficit to the tune of 2 crores 94 lakhs only to.....

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : This is actual.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : But I was telling that in presenting the budget, generally what do they show? They show to the people that Government is in actual need of money and there is a big deficit and every time we saw that this deficit is almost met from our own resources. What is meant by all these things? By all these, Government creates field for new taxation from the people. Sir, it is the general principle accepted all over the country that in a socialistic pattern of State, taxation from the richer people and not from the commoners—should be aimed at. So far as the present Bill is concerned, to some extent, it goes for taxing the richer people no doubt.

Sir, to some extent, it goes for the taxation of the richer section of the people. But what we have seen from the consumption of petrol in the country, if it is assessed, only a few percentage would go to the richer section of the people. I mean the bulk of the people who consume petrol in running buses, trucks and other public vehicles, etc., are generally used by the poorer section of the people, and if you increase

the rate of tax on petrol, only 10 per cent of the richer section of the people will be affected and 90 per cent of the poorer section of the State will be affected by this increase in the rate of the tax.

Secondly, Sir, it is proposed to introduce a new taxation on kerosene by this Bill. In the modern age when electricity has taken the place of kerosene in the big cities and towns, the kerosene is generally consumed by the poorer section of the people who live in villages. Out of nearly one crore of population in Assam, I can come to the conclusion that more than 95 per cent of the people live in villages and kerosene is being consumed by the people living in the villages. So, it will be an indirect taxation upon the consumers. Sir, it may be argued that it is only the dealers in kerosene who pay the tax, but in actual practice, the dealers would realise the tax from the consumers of the kerosene oil in the cost of each gallon of kerosene which will be sold to the consumers. So, it comes to this: it is the consumers who are being taxed by imposition of tax on kerosene. Who are the consumers? They are the poorer section of the people of Assam. Sir, does it not go against the principle of socialistic pattern of the State? So, when we increase the tax, we must see that the richer section of the people only are affected by such increase in tax and not the poorer section of the people, if we want to have socialistic pattern of society.

Lastly, I draw the attention of the Government to the report of the Taxation Enquiry Committee and in the light of that report the Government should come forward with measures of taxation if there is any deficit in the budget. By the tax on petrol and kerosene, the Government would get about thirty lakhs of rupees, and our deficit in the Budget is about 3 crores of rupees. One can well imagine what percentage of such a deficit in the Budget could be derived by this sum of Rs.30 lakhs. So, it will be nothing but harassment on the poorer section of the people. With these few observations, Sir, I oppose the Bill.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my hon. Friend, Shri Das, is labouring under certain misapprehension. He feels we are, as in previous years, having no real deficit in our Budget. But, I would like to say that, unlike previous years, we are not going to have a surplus Budget any more. Sir, as already stated, the Accountant General has given us the deficit figure of Rs.2 crores and 94 lakhs for last

year. Therefore, there is really a cause of apprehension and anxiety.

Sir, this deficit is not a small sum ; it is really a very big sum and that is why I have come before the House with this Bill for having some extra money with a view to partially meet the deficit. My hon. Friend has said that by Rs.30 lakhs how could I meet the deficit of about rupees three crores. But then, somehow we will have to meet the deficit and I am not stopping here also. The sum of Rs.30 lakhs will enable us at least to partially meet the deficit. My Friend, Shri Ranendra Mohan Das, has told us that we should not resort to such taxation, because the burden of this taxation will fall heavily on the poorer section of the people. I am sorry, I cannot agree with him. Sir, by enhancing the taxes on petrol and lubricant, the main burden of taxation will fall on the richer section of the people who can maintain cars, buses, trucks, and etc., and really these people will be materially affected and not the poorer section of the people by this measure.

So far as kerosene is concerned, it is true that the burden of taxation on kerosene will generally fall on the poorer people. But, the hon. Members will have ample time to discuss this when we come into the consideration state of the manner, clause by clause. At this stage we are only having a general discussion. It is, I feel, not the time for us to object to it. As a matter of fact, for information of Shri Das and for the information of the House, I should like to state that many hon. Members have also asked me as to why I have come forward with this Bill to impose tax on kerosene. Speaking personally. I am really keeping an open mind. The hon. Members will have ample time to discuss this matter when the Bill for consideration, clause by clause, will come before the House. But this is not the stage now. With these few observations, I would like to request the hon Members to agree with

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that the Assam (Sales of Petroleum and Petroleum Products, including Kerosene, Motor Spirit and Lubricants) Taxation Bill, 1955, be taken into consideration.

(The Motion was adopted.)

The Assam Requisition and Control of Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 1955

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received a message, dated Raj Bhavan, Shillong the 14th November, 1955 from the Governor of Assam which reads:

“ I recommend under Article 207 (I) of the Constitution of India that the Assam Requisition and Control of Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 1955 be introduced and moved in the Assam Legislative Assembly”.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Requisition and Control of Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 1955.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that the Assam Requisition and Control of Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 1955 be introduced.

(The Bill was introduced.)

I have received another message, dated Raj Bhavan, Shillong, the 14th November, 1955 from the Governor of Assam which reads:

“ I recommend under Article 207(3) of the Constitution of India that the Assam Requisition and Control of Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 1955 be taken into consideration by the Assam Legislative Assembly”.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Requisition and Control of Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 1955 be taken into consideration.

Sir, the object of introducing the Bill is that the life time of the Assam Requisition and Control of Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 1950 expired on 30th September, 1955. The Act, however, is kept alive by an Ordinance No. VI of 1955. Since it is necessary to have for some time more powers to meet any emergency caused by the break-down in the system of communications in various circumstances including natural calamities, it is necessary to make suitable provision for that purpose for another three years, i.e., upto 30th September, 1958, and this Bill seeks to meet that purpose.

Mr. SPEAKER. The Motion moved is that the Assam Requisition and Control of Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 1955 be taken into consideration.

***Shri SARJU PRASAD SINGH:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to take my stand to oppose this Bill. In my opinion it is absolutely unnecessary to bring in this piece of legislation at the moment. The Assam Requisition and Control of Vehicles Act was passed only in 1953. At the time when this piece of legislation was enacted, there was great scarcity of motor vehicles immediately after the last great war. But now the situation is not such as to warrant introduction of this measure. We have now our motor manufacturing plants in Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and so on. You know Mr. Speaker, Sir, that in order to control and supply of motor vehicles according to priorities, Government have a department known as the P. M. T. C. The argument advanced by the Hon'ble Minister is that he wants to have some more powers in order to meet any emergent circumstances resulting from the break-down of communication and so on. Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you are aware, we have in our State sufficient number of vehicles services which can be obtained, in the event of as emergency, without taking recourse to this piece of legislation, and on the willing co-operation of the vehicle owners. I therefore, feel that it is not for the purpose as stated in the objects and reasons of the Bill, but with some other object in view that piece of legislation is sought to be enacted. What is that? As you know, Sir, the condition of our roads are very deplorable. Government have completely failed to keep our roads fit for all time vehicular traffic. As a result, lives of many of the vehicles purchased at great cost by our poor people with the object of earning some money to maintain their subsistence have been shortened. Due to the deplorable conditions of our roads, vehicles very often go out of order prematurely and the owners have got to repair them at very high and prohibitive cost. But Government in order to cover their inability in times of emergency, are trying to take shelter behind this enactment in the fear lest people might not voluntarily come forward to offer their vehicles for Government purpose.

With these few words, Sir, I beg to oppose this Bill.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to add a few words more with a view to explain as to why this measure is now considered necessary. At the outset I must, however, make it clear that the hon. Member is entirely wrong in thinking that this measure is considered necessary by Government because of the fact that the Government failed to keep the roads in proper order. Sir, I think every hon. Member in the House is aware, how urgent the protection work at Dibrugarh was. During the last financial year Government had to requisition about one hundred vehicles for carrying materials including boulders required for construction of stone spurs of Dibrugarh protection work. Even now about 20 numbers of vehicles required for Dibrugarh protection work have to be requisitioned. Even though Dibrugarh has probably the highest number of motor vehicles in the State, vehicle-owners, far from coming forward voluntarily to offer their vehicles to speed up construction work of such an over-riding importance, refused even to lend their vehicles on hire at reasonable rates at all, unless, of course, an exorbitant rate was offered to them. Now although we are partially relieved of the urgency of that important work, it cannot be said that we have passed the stage of emergency altogether. Emergency still exists. We have got the Umtru Project construction work which is also one of equal importance. We have got to construct embankments and dykes which will, unless constructed within the limited time of the dry season, fail to achieve the very purpose for which they are made. Again, Sir, under the 2nd Five-Year Plan, we are going to take up various constructive works. A large number of trucks and vehicles will be necessary. Hence the necessity of this power.

Mr. SPEAKER : Instead of taking recourse to such an abnormal measure, why don't you then purchase the vehicle required by you ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) : Sir, the transport problem is quite well known. We do not manufacture motor cars or trucks in our State. Whenever we want them we have got to bring them here either from Calcutta or from Bombay. This takes quite a long time in the usual course apart from the delay involved in transshipment or other reasons. In an emergency even apart from the question of delay in transit, there is also another important point which weighed

with the Government. This is this: Suppose, at the moment we require only about 100 vehicles and for a limited period. If these vehicles can be arranged locally, and we can tide over the emergency, necessity of these vehicles will no longer be there. Then these vehicles can be immediately released to the owners. If we bring in or purchase entirely new vehicles from the market, what will be the fate of these when they will no longer be required for Government purposes? Naturally we will have to dispose them of at a much lower rate. In this way Government is likely to incur loss. On the other hand, if we incur any loss, this loss will have to be added to the total cost of the work or the project whatever they may be. Now, who will pay the cost of the project? It is certainly the people benefited by it in the shape of betterment tax. This being the case, it was considered quite inadvisable to purchase new vehicles outright. Thus it is not a question of good road or bad road.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that the Assam Requisition and Control of Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 1955 be taken into consideration.

(The Motion was adopted).

The Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1955

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received a Message from the Governor of Assam which is dated Shillong, the 16th November, 1955, and the Message is as follows:—

“I recommend under Article 207(1) of the Constitution of India that the Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1955, be introduced and moved in the Assam Legislative Assembly.

JAIRAMDAS DOULATRAM,
Governor of Assam.”

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1955, be introduced.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved is that the Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1955, be introduced.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1955, be taken into consideration.

The objects of introducing this Bill are these :

1. It is proposed to empower Officers of the Transport Department to stop a vehicle for the purpose of satisfying that the tax due on such vehicles has been paid.

2. Difficulties have been experienced in expeditious realisation of the tax due under the Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1936, on account of the long drawn out process of realisation from the defaulters and for absence of any provision for deterrent consequences in the event of default and hence it is sought to provide for the cancellation of the certificate of registration in such cases. Due to absence of any provision in that Act for any deterrent consequences, heavy arrears have accumulated which cannot be realised.

3. It is also considered necessary to raise the Motor Vehicles Tax for financing the various development projects during the Second Five-Year Plan period.

Just now the Hon'ble Minister for Finance has informed the House that there has been a deficit to the tune of Rs.2 crores 94 lakhs in our Budget. It is well known to the hon. Members that Government have taken up various developmental projects in hand. To meet this deficiency, at least partially, this measure has been brought before the House.

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

(The Motion was adopted)

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak something on the Bill before it is taken for consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER : But the Motion has already been carried that the Bill be taken into consideration. You ought to have stood up before the Motion was carried.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : But, Sir, how could I stand up when you did not take your seat ?

Mr. SPEAKER : All right then you can speak.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a few observations regarding this Bill, viz., The Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1955. Two things will be found from the Statement of Objects and Reasons. Firstly Government want to realise the accumulation of arrear taxes, and for this purpose they want to introduce a new clause for easy realisation. But I have dealt with this matter and from the information that I have gathered so far, I know something of

the inner history of this organisation. Sir, so long this Department was under the Superintendent of Police, the realisation of taxes was good. But now when so many District Transport Officers have been introduced, all of whom are inexperienced and new hands and most of them corrupt, the realisation of taxes is not good under them. We have noticed that there is an illicit connection between the motor owners and the office of the District Transport Officers and as a result of which taxes are being evaded.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): On the point of order, Sir, is he making the sweeping remarks on all or on some of the District Transport Officers? Even if the remarks are applicable to some of the District Transport Officers, has he brought such allegations to the notice of the Government? Or can he now cite any instances before this House in support of his charges or remarks against the District Transport Officers?

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Das, when you make a charge like that, it is better for you to fortify that charge with specific instances, otherwise I shall have to request you not to make such sweeping charges.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Yes, Sir, I accept what you have said. But the only thing that I want to say to the Hon'ble Minister is that there has been grievances from all Members of the Assembly in so far as the District Transport Officer of Cachar was concerned. There have also been representations from the public to the Government and after a long time Government transferred that gentleman.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): The transfer is a matter of convention, and for the interest of public service, Government officers are generally transferred for the interest of public service, and, as a convention, after two or three years of their being in a certain place, transfer is not considered as a punishment. The transfer of that gentleman from Cachar was not made on such ground. If avoidable, Government servants are not kept in his home district.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: In case of Cachar, transfer was made as a sort of punishment. Now, the main question is that the working of the Department has deteriorated under these District Transport Officers and it was better when it was under the Police Department. Now, we are simply increasing the expenditure in maintaining some young men whereas there is a big accumulation of taxes and the public are being harrassed. Secondly, Sir, we find that taxes from a section of the permit holders which belong to a particular political party are left unpaid and are being accumulated years

after years. You may enquire of this yourself, Sir. So, the actual remedy which is proposed by this Bill is not a real remedy. You should tighten up the Department and see where lies the actual difficulty. Secondly, Sir, this Bill proposes to increase the taxes. Sir, until and unless we get a copy of the existing taxes rates, it is very difficult for us to say or to make any observation regarding the rates of taxes which are going to be raised. We did not get that copy. But, one thing I want to say. As Government realise taxes under the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, they also have obligations for that. What are these obligations? They should construct good roads for plying of these carriages and vehicles as they are paying taxes to the Government, but these obligations are not fulfilled. We have seen that even Public Works Department roads remain under water during rains. Sir, we are fortunate that both the Departments of Public Works and Motor Vehicles are under one Minister. So, naturally, he should know well what is the work of the Public Works Department. During the last rainy season almost all Public Works Department roads were under water in the Cachar District and these roads were closed down under the orders of the Executive Engineer and the Subdivisional Officer, Public Works Department, and this continued for a long time. So, will the Government refund the taxes for this particular period? Of course, I realise that this is not possible. Sir, I have given you the description of the roads in the Cachar District and I think that is the condition in the Assam Valley. The main road which runs from Karimganj to Silchar was under water in various places and it had to be closed. Another main road from Patharkandi to Karimganj was under water in certain places. There was a notification by which all the roads there were stopped and those who would travel along these roads can do so at their own risks. This is the obligation of the Government which was not fulfilled. I do not object the raising of taxes on motor vehicles when it is to be paid by a richer section of the people. But Government should see that their obligations should be fulfilled and that the roads on which vehicles are plying should remain opened throughout the year. With these observations, Sir, I resume my seat.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: Sir, may I ask one question to get a clear explanation from Government? Under the First Schedule—Part A—in Article No. 1 of the amending Bill it is written: "Cycles (including motor scooters and cycles with attachment for propelling the same by

mechanical power)". I want to know whether the ordinary cycles or tricycles propelled by human power also come within the purview of this Taxation Act? I want to know about this because it is not clearly stated in the Schedule.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): As is written here in the Schedule, the word "cycles" means those which are propelled by mechanical power and such cycles only come within the purview of this Taxation Act.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: Ordinary cycles are also propelled mechanically but through some physical force, and so, Sir, this should be properly defined in the body of the Bill whether such cycles should or should not come under the purview of the Act.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): It is known to the hon. Member that in some places a small motor driven engine or, so to say, a separate engine is attached to an ordinary cycle for propelling and in that case only such a cycle comes within the purview of this Taxation Act, otherwise not.

The Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1955

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1955.

This Bill has already been published on the 15th November 1955 in an Extraordinary Gazette.

Mr. SPEAKER : The motion moved is that the Industrial Dispute (Appellate Tribunal) (Assam Amendment) Bill 1955, be introduced.

(The Bill was introduced.)

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

Sir, the House is aware that in 1950 owing to the scarcity of rice in our State, the quality of rice and other food stuffs supplied to the tea garden labourers by the tea industry at concessional rates had to be brought to the level of All-India Ration Scale in some tea gardens it was found that the rice supplied was higher in quantity than the All-India Scale. Au

agreement was reached between the industry and the labour that the industry would pay the cost of the rice reduced to make up the difference. But in 1952 when the Minimum Wage Advisory Board recommended the minimum wage it was considered that the minimum wage included the price of the concessional rice. This was considered to have been merged in the minimum wage. After the publication of the notification regarding the minimum wage there was a dispute between the industry and the labour regarding the price of the concessional food stuff. This had to be referred to the Industrial Tribunal. The Industrial Tribunal having gone into the dispute issued an award which accepted the merger of the concessional rice in the minimum wage. But the Indian National Trade Union Congress was not satisfied with this award and they filed an appeal to the Appellate Tribunal. This Appellate Tribunal gave another award on the 2nd April, 1954. After this Industry again referred the matter to the Government representing that this would mean a burden of 75 lakhs on the Industry and the Government, having considered the whole question, had to amend the award in favour of the uneconomic gardens only. The tea industry was facing an unprecedented crisis, and uneconomic garden had to be closed down and a large number of labourer was thrown out of employment. So in the case of the uneconomic gardens only, the Government had to amend the award to some extent. The statutory limit, for amending the award under the Industrial Dispute Amendment Act, is only 30 days. Having amended the award, the Government found that the labourers were dissatisfied and industry had also filed an appeal to the Supreme Court. Then it was the Government having reconsidered this question decided to amend the award so that it can be maintained *status-quo*. The Government of Assam then moved the Government of India for giving permission to introduce a Bill because under the Industrial Dispute Appellate Tribunal Act, Section 15 (2) statutory limit was fixed 30 days and if it has to be amended after this, statutory period it must lay the decision before the House with its reasons for rejecting or amending the award on the first available opportunity. But so long the Government of India did not give us the permission to bring the matter before the Assembly. Now it is only a few weeks ago that the Government of India has given us the permission as such we have brought this matter before the House will agree to pass this Bill in toto.

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

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that the Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) (Assam / amendment) Bill, 1955, be taken into consideration.

(The Motion was adopted.)

Statement made by the Speaker *re* : Submission of Amendment to Bills

Mr. Speaker : There is an announcement. The Bills which have been introduced to-day will be considered clause by clause on the 25th November, 1955. Amendments, if any, to these Bills should reach the Assembly Secretariat by 4-30 p. m. to-day.

Statement on the Second Five Year Plan

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in accordance with the instructions of the Planning Commission and bearing in mind the multifarious needs of this State, the State Government drew up a comprehensive Draft Plan envisaging a total outlay of Rs. 290.7 crores for Assam for the Second Five Year Plan period. The outlay of Rs. 20.8 crores under the First Plan along with the development expenditure outside the Plan being considered very small and inadequate in proportion to the needs of the State, every effort was made to make the draft Second Five Year Plan of the State as all embracing as possible and designed not only to bring about a material improvement in all development sectors of the State's economy but also to achieve a substantial improvement in the standard of living and the level of employment in the State.

The basic objectives of the first Draft Plan were to :—

- (a) increase the *per capita* income in the State from an expected Rs. 251 in 1955-56 to Rs. 308 in 1960-61.
- (b) initiate a process of industrialisation of the State through greatly increased power facilities, establishment of factory industries such as cement, jute, sugar, textile, re-rolling, spun silk mills, etc., and much greater emphasis on small-scale and cottage industries.
- (c) provide additional full time employment for 2.96 lakhs, and

(d) bring about a greater degree of social justice through an all-round expansion of development facilities. Detailed programmes were drawn up for the various development sectors and all the pressing needs of the State, such as an alternative railway line, a bridge over the Brahmaputra, multi-purpose river valley project, adequate provision for village and town plans, etc., were given due emphasis.

Among other bodies, the State Planning Advisory Board on which almost every section of opinion in the State is represented, approved of the broad financial and productivity targets that were sought to be achieved in the Draft Plan.

The first Draft Plan was printed in August, 1955 and given wide circulation in the State. Copies were circulated to all hon. Members of this House.

The main difficulty that faced Government in drawing up the first Draft Plan was that the Planning Commission, while instructing that the Draft Plan should be as comprehensive as possible, did not, at any stage before the Draft Plan was printed, give an idea of the likely financial size of the State Plan. In the absence of any clear guidance from the Planning Commission on this fundamental point, the Government proceeded to draw up as complete a Plan as was considered necessary for the State. The first Draft Plan, seeking as it did, to tackle in a substantial measure, all our pressing needs and requirements, provided a very sound basis for discussions with the Planning Commission. It was obvious that the size of the Plan would have to be reduced just as the Draft Plan of all other States had been greatly reduced, but the main purpose of our first Draft Plan was to present our sector-wise needs and programmes in a complete and integrated manner and this purpose was fully achieved.

The first Draft Plan was discussed with the representatives of the Planning Commission in the first week of September last. The State Government was represented by the Chief Minister, the Finance Minister and myself, along with a number of Secretaries and Heads of Departments. The Planning Commission had prepared a preliminary review of the State Plan which formed the basis of the initial discussion with the Planning Commission. In this review, it was suggested that the magnitude of the State Plan should be only Rs. 46.6 crores. The sum would be exclusive of.—

(a) the expenditure required on maintenance of First Plan Schemes which would be treated as a "committed expenditure" to be borne by the State Government ;

- (b) such portion of the total loan expenditure under the Second Plan as would be recoverable during the Second Plan ;
- (c) Central sector scheme ;
- (d) the allocation that would be made for flood control schemes, the rehabilitation programme, tourism, etc.; and
- (e) the increased provision likely in respect of certain sectors such as welfare of backward classes, housing, community projects and N. E. S. schemes, etc.

In the initial discussion with the Planning Commission, the Chief Minister expressing his surprise and regret at the low ceiling figure suggested by the Planning Commission, stated that the Planning Commission had not taken into account the manifold problems facing this State as a result of the economic dislocation caused by the Partition, the under developed condition of the whole State, particularly the tribal areas, and the natural calamities like floods, erosion, etc., with which this State was periodically faced. The Chief Minister pointed out that the first Plan did not, by any means, do justice to Assam's needs, particularly because of omission of important items such as a river valley project, major industrial undertakings, housing and town planning and because of meagre provision in other sectors, and that the first Plan's magnitude should not be made the basis for fixing the magnitude of the second Plan in the case of Assam. The tempo of development activity in the State had been built up to a satisfactory stage and if funds were forthcoming, there would be no difficulty regarding their satisfactory expenditure. The outlay suggested in the first Draft Plan of Rs. 290 crores barely did justice to Assam's needs in respect of *per capita* income and employment targets and the *per capita* income targets envisaged did not even reach the proposed all-India figure for the second Plan. It was stressed that on a population *cum* area basis, Assam was entitled to much more than the figure suggested by the Planning Commission and, considering its relatively undeveloped nature, the State was entitled to weightage also.

The Planning Commission, after noting the points made by the Chief Minister, suggested a detailed examination of the different sector plans in various Working Groups in which State officials were also present. As a result of the discussion in the Working Groups, the total figure recommended for the State Plan came to Rs. 73.63 crores. Taking into account the above recommendations, the Programme Adviser of the

Planning Commission, who was required to give his revised proposal in the light of the recommendations of the Working Groups, suggested that the ceiling of the State Plan should be raised to Rs. 55.19 crores, which sum formed the basis for discussion in another general meeting between the Planning Commission and the representatives of the State Government. At this meeting, the Chief Minister and the other Ministers once again forcefully pointed out that the allocation of Rs. 55.19 crores would be very inadequate for Assam and would not meet some of the basic requirements of the State. The Planning Commission were requested particularly to make necessary provision in the second Plan for a bridge over the Brahmaputra, for a river valley project in the State, for increased provision for welfare of backward classes and housing and suitable provision for village plans and town planning.

As a result of a further examination of the points made by representatives of the State Government at the second meeting with the Planning Commission, the Planning Commission subsequently informed the State Government that the Revised Draft Plan should be prepared for a sum of Rs. 59.39 crores. The Planning Commission also indicated the specific allocations made for the various sectors, and in the case of some of the sectors, for the various schemes to be included in the Revised Plan.

It has to be noted that the final ceiling of Rs. 59.39 crores conveyed by the Planning Commission does not include provision for the important subjects of flood control and rehabilitation, for which allocations are likely to be communicated after consideration of the all-India proposals of the Ministries of Irrigation and Power, and Rehabilitation, who have duly taken note of the proposals of the State Government. Similarly the ceilings do not make any provision for industries other than cottage and small scale industries, tourism, etc. The ceilings provisionally accepted by the Planning Commission are also likely to be increased in respect of housing, urban water supply and sanitation, welfare of backward classes, social welfare and Panchayats, as a result of further consideration of these subjects from an all-India point of view. It is expected that allocations due for flood control and increase expected in other sectors will take the size of the revised Plan from the present figure of about Rs. 60 crores to about Rs. 80 crores. Allocations for rehabilitation and allocations for other items in the supplementary plan, if and when approved, will raise the ceiling still further.

It seems desirable to give an indication about the result of discussions with the Planning Commission on large and medium scale industries since these are not subjects left over for further consideration and neither do they find any place in the Revised Draft Second Five Year Plan of Assam as provisionally accepted by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission has accepted the need for setting up of a cement factory, a paper mill and a re-rolling mill *cum* cast iron foundry. The Planning Commission has accepted responsibility for seeing that these schemes materialise as early as possible, mainly in the private sector. The need for a textile mill, a jute mill, a sugar factory and a spun silk mill has also been accepted, and further, the Planning Commission have tentatively agreed to the following provision for these projects in the Central sector of the Second Five Year Plan:—

			Rs.
Spinning Mill	...	...	40 lakhs
Jute Mill	...	...	30 "
Sugar Factory	...	...	40 "
Spun Silk Mill	...	...	30 "
Total ...			140 lakhs.

The schemes for a fruit and vegetable preservation factory and a cold storage plant have also been accepted, and a provision of Rs. 7 lakhs, and Rs. 5 lakhs respectively, has been made in the agricultural sector of the Revised Draft Second Five Year Plan as accepted by the Planning Commission. The rope-way project will be considered further after receipt of more detailed data by the Planning Commission. The scheme for low temperature coal carbonization and tar distillation is being considered in the Central Sector. As only one plant is likely to be set up for the time being, and as other States have also submitted plans in this regard, the Planning Commission will decide the location of the industry after considering the plans of all State Governments. In the co-operative sector, Schemes for co-operative jute baling and pressing mills and cotton-ginning factory have been included.

For the present the State Government have prepared a Revised Draft Plan on the basis of the ceiling of Rs. 59.39 crores as decided by the Planning Commission, with marginal adjustments and have also printed the Revised Plan in two parts.

Part I is a general appreciation and summary of the Revised Plan, while Part II gives the details of the various sector programmes. Copies of Part I are now ready and have been circulated to Members of the House. Part II is also expected to be ready shortly and will be distributed by the end of this month.

The Government while submitting the Revised Draft Plan on the basis of the ceiling prescribed by the Planning Commission, have strongly felt that the allocation of Rs.59.39 crores or about Rs.60 crores roundly would not by any means be adequate for the State for the Second Plan period. Accordingly a supplementary plan of Rs.40.398 crores has also been drawn up and forwarded to the Planning Commission. In the supplementary plan, it has been suggested that a provision of Rs.10 crores be made for a River Valley Project in the State, a provision of Rs.5 crores be made for a bridge over the Brahmaputra, a provision of Rs.5 crores be made for village plans and a sum of Rs. 2 crores be allocated for a ropeway from Shella to Pandu, besides additional sums that should be allocated for the agricultural sector, education, roads, medical, housing, welfare of backward classes and town planning. Copies of the supplementary plan have also been printed and circulated to Members of the House. We have not so far received any communication from the Planning Commission regarding the additional provisions, suggested in the supplementary plan but it is hoped that some further allocation will be made for some of the items included in the supplementary plan. The State Government have asked for an opportunity for discussing the supplementary plan with the Planning Commission.

As a result of the very heavy cut in the size of the Second Five Year Plan of the State by the Planning Commission, the productivity and other targets to be achieved and the level of development sought to be realised in various sectors have naturally been greatly curtailed. The increase in *per capita* income expected as a result of the implementation of the Revised Draft Plan stands at only 9.2 per cent. as against 22 per cent. for the First Draft Plan of Rs.290.7 crores. The total volume of additional full-time employment which would be generated by 1960-61 is estimated to be about 1,92,000.

In the agricultural sector, it is expected to increase the production of foodgrains by 1.2 lakh tons over the First Plan figure. The existing deficit in the production of commodities such as pulses, oil seeds, cotton, jute, etc., is intended to be substantially reduced. The agricultural schemes will include, among other items, programmes for land reclamation, schemes or minor irrigation and power pump and deep tube-well irriga-

tion, manufacture of important agricultural implements suited to local conditions, etc., apart from horticulture development, establishment of a fruit preservation factory and cold storage plant, etc. The Agricultural College will be substantially expanded to meet the greater demand for trained agricultural personnel. A scheme for agricultural marketing is also proposed to be implemented.

In respect of animal husbandry and veterinary facilities, apart from expansion of the Veterinary College, provision has been made in the Revised Plan for provincialisation of 10 Local Board Dispensaries, increase in the number of veterinary hospitals and dispensaries by 20 and 40 respectively, establishment of 5 additional artificial insemination and 20 key village centres, continuation of the milk supply scheme, establishment of pig-sheep-poultry farms, subsidies for Goshalas, etc. Schemes for reclamation of natural fisheries, organisation of fishery co-operative, development of fisheries in the hill areas and in the Umtru reservoir will form part of the programme of development of inland fisheries in the State, besides the continuance and expansion of existing schemes. For forest development, it is intended to take up additional cultivation of medicinal and economic plants, increased plantation of wattle and matchwood, etc., construction of 441 miles of new forest roads, and regeneration of 12,525 acres of forests. Plantation of Khoir and cane will be greatly increased and an Ascu treatment plant will be set up. It is proposed to drop the First Plan scheme for a Cinchona factory in view of the fact that the demand in the country will be fully met by factories already set up in other States. Steps for utilising bark from existing plantations are under consideration.

By the end of the Second Plan period, it is expected that the Community Projects and National Extension Service Schemes, which have already done so much good in the rural areas, will cover the whole State. Panchayats are expected to cover the entire plains portion of the State in the next 2 years and provision has been made in the Revised Draft Plan for salary of Panchayat Secretaries, additional field and headquarter staff and for an expanded training programme. As part of the co-operation programme, it is proposed to expand the Co-operative Training Institute, establish a Central Land Mortgage Bank, set up Co-operative Development Funds, establish 4 jute baling mills and 1 cotton ginning mill, reorganise the Apex Bank and 7 Central Banks. The co-operative programme closely follows the recommendations of the All-India Rural Credit Survey Committee as adopted to suit local conditions,

Provision has been made in the Revised Draft Plan for the completion of the detailed investigation of 4 river valleys in the State, for survey and collection of minimum data for rivers in connection with flood control measures and for collection of hydrological data, etc.,

A sum of Rs.4 crores has been allocated for development of power facilities in the State, as a result of which programme it is planned to electrify 19 towns and 57 villages, set up a steam plant of 5,000 KW in the Cherrapunji area and construct a second dam on the Umtru to increase the installed capacity of the Umtru Project from 7,500 to 12,500 KW. A number of small hydro and diesel stations will also be set up during this period. The total additional installed capacity will be 20,650 KW while the total area to be electrified will come to 1,926 square miles. The Umtru distribution system will be extended to Nowgong area.

In the industrial sphere, I have already indicated the position regarding factories. Much greater emphasis will be given to cottage and small-scale industries in the State with the expansion of the Cottage Industries Training Institute, the establishment of a Central Workshop and a Central Store and Emporium at Gauhati, the setting up of training-cum-production centres in 13 districts and the intensive development of village industries in 30 selected villages. Special importance will be given to the expansion of the sericulture and weaving industries for which a sum of Rs.1.5 crores, out of a total allocation of Rs.4 crores for village and cottage industries, has been made. The schemes of the Khadi and Village Industries Board dealing with handloom and Khadi, hand-pounding of rice, oil procession, match making, etc., are expected to further supplement the efforts sought to be made to give every encouragement to the growth of cottage and village industries in the State. The provision for cottage industries along with some of the schemes included by the Government are expected, however, to be altered somewhat in line with the recommendations of the Karve Committee which has recently submitted its report.

In respect of road communications, for which a sum of Rs.7 crores has been allocated, it is proposed to complete the 900 miles of roads taken up during the first Plan Period, and to construct 450 miles of new roads and improve 650 miles of existing Public Works Department roads. The above mileage is in addition to the construction of some 500 miles of roads in the tribal districts under the Article 275 programme. Priority will be given to the construction of portions of the North Trunk Road. Provision has also been made for the construction of 10 new major bridges and for purchase of 3 or 4 steam vessels for

the existing ferry service. It is proposed to nationalise road transport for an additional 830 miles of important roads and highways in the State over and above the 600 miles already nationalised.

In the educational sphere, it is proposed to expand educational facilities for the age group 6-11 by 25 per cent. and for the age group 11-14 by 30 per cent. The Primary and Middle Vernacular Schools are proposed to be gradually converted to basic schools and 100 senior basic and 700 junior basic schools will be established during the Plan period. As regards secondary education the aim will be more to improve rather than to expand. 15 of the existing high schools will be converted to multipurpose schools while grants will be given to 100 high schools for additional equipment, etc. An important proposal plan is for increasing the pay scales for all categories of teachers. Provision will also be made for the proper training of the required number of additional teachers. For college education, consolidation rather than expansion will be the aim and grants and subsidies will be given to college for additional equipment, etc. The facilities in respect of technical education are proposed to be greatly increased, the most important item being the establishment of a full-fledged Engineering College. Liberal sums will also be given to the Gauhati University as grants during this period.

Shri HARI NARAYAN BARUA: মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ, মহোদয়, নই এইখিনিতে এটা কথা কব খুজিছো। মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে গৌহাটীত এটা ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং কলেজৰ স্থাপনৰ কথা উল্লেখ কৰিছে। যোৱা বাৰৰ এচেম্বলীত, যোৰহাটতো মেকানিকেল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং কলেজ এখন স্থাপন কৰাৰ সম্পর্কে গভৰ্ণমেন্টে প্রতিশ্রুতি (assurance) দিছিল.....। এতিয়া কি অৱস্থাত আছে অনুগ্রহ কৰি কবনে?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please refer to the relevant paragraph.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): In respect of medical facilities, it is expected to have 594 dispensaries and 4,885 beds in the State by the end of the Second Plan period. The corresponding figures in respect of population benefiting per unit is 13,000 and 1,640 respectively.

The Assam Medical College will be generally completed and much greater facilities for medical training will be available. Public health facilities including facilities for water supply and sanitation will be substantially increased and there will be by the end of the Second Plan period, one leprosy central unit with 40 leprosy treatment centres, 16 anti-malaria units, 6 T. B. Clinics, 3 maternity homes and 59 maternity

centres. Provision will also be made for mobile propaganda unit and a beginning will be made in respect of school health services (one unit to cover 24,000 students).

A sum of Rs.1.3 crores has been allocated for housing schemes. These include the development of building sites, loan assistance to local bodies, loans to individuals and co-operatives, schemes for slum clearance, industrial and plantation, labour housing and rural housing. With the allocation proposed, it is intended to develop 30 acres of land for building sites, build 175 tenements through local bodies, 350 residential houses through loans to individuals, 225 tenements for sweepers, etc., 225 tenements for industrial workers and 3,670 tenements for plantation workers.

It is intended to set up 81 welfare centres for tea garden labourers and 15 welfare centres for urban industrial workers as part of the labour welfare programme.

A total sum of Rs.10 crores is proposed to be spent on the welfare of backward classes. Out of this, a sum of Rs.7.4 crores will be spent for development schemes in the hill districts, a sum of Rs.2.1 crores for the plains tribals and Rs.50 lakhs for scheduled caste population in the State. The schemes proposed to be implemented from this provision cover all aspects of development activities in the areas inhabited by these classes of people and it is hoped that by the end of Second Five Year Plan period, conditions in these areas will compare favourably with conditions in the rest of the State. The provision is over and above the share of tribal areas from the general plan.

As part of the Social Welfare Programme in which provision has been made for grants-in-aid to voluntary welfare organisations, welfare extension projects, etc., it is also proposed to establish a Borstal Institution in the State along with provision for segregating of juvenile prisoners from adult criminals in some of the district jails.

The brunt of responsibility in regard to the implementation of the Second Plan programme will fall on the Public Works Department. A sum of Rs.1 crore has, therefore, been allocated for expansion of this Department and for purchase of tools, plants, etc., to enable it to take up its added responsibilities. The publicity and the statistics organisations in the State are also proposed to be greatly expanded in the Second Plan

period and necessary provision for such expansion has been made in the Revised Plan.

A sum of Rs.50 lakhs has been included for aid to Local Bodies to enable them to take up various development schemes and programmes which are part of their obligations. A sum of Rs.24 lakhs has been included for town planning, this sum being likely to be spent mainly on the Town Planning Organisation to be set up in the State.

A thorough assessment has been made of the trained personnel of various categories required in connection with the implementation of the Revised Draft Plan. It is intended to take up expanded training programme as soon as possible so as to meet the shortfalls in respect of various categories of such personnel.

I have tried to give to the House a general idea of the different stages in the preparation of the Revised Draft Plan and the various allocations that have been made for different sectors and the important schemes to be included in the various sector programmes forming part of the Revised Plan. A fuller idea can be obtained by hon. Members from the printed volumes circulated. I have already indicated that the State Government are not satisfied with the present ceiling of about Rs.60 crores which sum is considered to be wholly inadequate for this under developed State. Assam deserves a much higher allocation and the State Government have accordingly submitted a Supplementary Plan of Rs.40.398 crores for consideration of the Planning Commission. It is to be hoped that the Planning Commission will, in fairness and justice to Assam, increase the magnitude of our State Plan by this amount. I am sure that Members of the House will unanimously join in strongly pressing that the provisions included in the Supplementary Plan be approved by the Planning Commission and the size of the State Plan be increased accordingly.

I am conscious that the implementation of the Second Five-Year Plan will tax the resources of the State—financial, administrative and technical to the utmost. With our meagre financial resources we have already agreed to a contribution of Rs.12 crores for financing the Second Five-Year Plan against only Rs.2.74 crores for the First Plan. In the administrative sphere we have taken steps to put all the administrative development Departments on a sound basis with the establishment of Planning Cells therein and initiated improvements

in financial section procedure and other procedure to speed up work. Expansion and greater use of the Statistics Department is visualised in planning and checking progress of schemes. An assessment of technical and other trained personnel required has been made and as far as possible, complete provision has been made for turning out the requisite number of trained personnel by expanding or setting up training institutions. Steps are also being taken to make up remaining shortfalls, if any, by taking up further training schemes. Assessment of raw material requirement has been made so that these may be met locally or from the total national resources, as may be convenient. The setting up of a cement factory as part of the Plan, will speed up construction so also will reorganisation and expansion of Departments like Public Works Department and Flood Control for which financial provision has been made in the Plan. We have, on our part, made both the First Draft and the Revised Plans as comprehensive and as integrated as possible, though with the cuts applied by the Planning Commission, the Revised Plan is unbalanced somewhat unless the Planning Commission makes suitable provision in the Central Sector and gives additional allocations for the State Plan to take up vital schemes like the Brahmaputra bridge and a River Valley Project, etc. I am hopeful that the Planning Commission will yet agree to these schemes as the Working Group on roads, which included representations of the Railway and Transport Ministries, unanimously endorsed the fact that there can be no two opinions about the need for a bridge over the Brahmaputra. The Planning Commission has also agreed to consider making a lump provision for a river valley project even prior to completion of detailed investigations which are now in hand. The Shella-Pandu Ropeway Project, consideration of which was deferred pending detailed data, has again been referred along with a detailed project report prepared by foreign experts and might be accepted by the Planning Commission inasmuch as it will reduce transport cost of a ton of goods from Rs.100 to Rs.12 per ton, besides contributing to economic betterment of the tribal population in the border areas.

The existing Revised Plan, and much more so an enlarged Plan as sought by us, will require the maximum possible public co-operation for its fulfilment. I am sure that as in the past, this public co-operation will be fully forthcoming. Already, we received immense help for all sections of our people at all forums, in the preparation of the first Draft Plan which has been acknowledged by bodies like the State Planning Advisory

Board as adequately representing the needs and aspirations of the people of this State. I am confident that the people will put their shoulder to wheel in carrying the State forward with the implementation of the programme that has been agreed to, and might further be agreed to, for the next quinquennium.

Discussion on the Second Five Year Plan

Shri SARVESWAR BORUWA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have heard the speech of the Planning Minister just now, and we have got the Revised Draft Second Five Year Plan only on Saturday last. It has, therefore, not been possible for us to go through the Draft Plan properly during this short space of time. I therefore would like to know if it would not be possible for the Government to give us some more time so that it may be possible for the Members of the House to go through the statement of the Hon'ble Planning Minister which has just been made and also the Revised Draft Plans and examine it carefully. An opportunity for a debate on the same may be given.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have no objection to the suggestion put forward by the hon. Member with a view to have further discussions on the Draft Second Five Year Plan if the hon. Members are agreeable to continue during the time fixed for non-official business. 22nd and 23rd of November have been fixed for non-official business, and in case the House is agreeable, discussions on this matter may take place on any of those days. It is, therefore, for the House to take a decision on the matter.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: 22nd and 23rd of November you mean, do you?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Yes, Sir.

Shri BIMALA KANTA BORA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I propose to make certain observations on the statement just read out before the House by the Hon'ble Planning Minister. Sir, planning is a thing about which we have been hearing for the last five or six years. The first Plan was prepared, I should say, in a hurry. Of course, we were not then Members of the Assembly. But from the circumstances of the case it appears that first Plan was drawn up in a hurry. Therefore certain important schemes could not be incorporated in the body of the First Five Year Plan.

Sir, I am very much interested in the River Valley Projects, and, therefore, this will be the main subject of discussion in my speech. Now, in the First Five Year Plan a very small

project like the Umtru Hydel Project found a place in the Plan. This scheme, however, has not yet been completed though it is likely to be completed by 1956. But, Sir, it is a very small scheme. It is only a Hydro-Electric Project and not a multi-purpose project. It is going to supply electricity to a very small area covering certain parts of the Kamrup and Khasi Hill Districts. So the people likely to be benefited by this scheme is going to be very limited. I understand that only 7,500 killo watts of power will be supplied from this project. It is, as such, a very small project and not likely to satisfy the people of Assam. Bigger States of India have got bigger River Valley Projects such as the Damodar Valley Project, Tungrabhadra Project, Kosi Project, Bhakra-Nangal Project, etc., which are all known to the hon. Members of the House. But although we have been dreaming of a River Valley Project for a long time past, our dreams have not yet been realised. I therefore feel, Sir, it is the bounden duty of this House to press for a River Valley Project. Now it appears from a perusal of the original Draft Plan, *i. e.*, the 2nd Five Year Plan of Assam that a sum of Rs.10 crores was provided for River Valley Projects, but the same was rejected by the Centre. It is, however, not known to us which of the rivers in Assam will come in for the purpose of the scheme. So, far as I have been able to gather, that the experts have recommended that the Kapili Valley will be the most feasible project in Assam. Of course, that is not their final opinion. It requires further investigation, investigation are still going on and it is difficult to say which project will be ultimately selected for operation. Sir, I hail from the district of Nowgong, and the river Kapili also passes through this district. But I do not like to be parochial in this matter. I shall not be at all sorry if any other River Valley Scheme is selected by the Government of India. But what I want to do is to lay stress on the importance of a project on this river. River Kapili is one of the most turbulent rivers having innumerable tributaries which, during the floods, causes ruin and devastation to the fields and granaries of the people inhabiting this River Valley. Innumerable tributaries winding their ways through the Mikir Hills, North Cachar Hills and the Khasi and Jaintia Hills enter the district of Nowgong and falls into the river Kapili which again after running for about 80 miles through Mikir Hills and Nowgong falls into the river Brahmaputra. So this river which passes through not only one district but as many as three Hill districts and two Plains district must deserve priority consideration in the matter of selection of any River Valley Scheme. Besides this district—I mean the district of Nowgong—is one of the most centrally situated district in the whole State. About the

possibility of the scheme, I propose to take up that subject later in my speech. What I want to stress is that it is not a river only of one district but as many as five districts of the State are served by this river. I therefore feel that if the Central Engineers after investigating consider that the Kapili Valley Scheme is feasible, then I am of opinion that this scheme should be given due consideration by the Government. As a matter of fact, so far as I have been able to gather, this scheme has been given the first priority in the schemes of this State. It is, therefore, necessary on our part and also on the part of Government to see that this scheme is not rejected by the Government of India. It is heartening to know that the Government of India have already provided about 30 or 40 lakhs of rupees for survey of the rivers in Assam which also include the river Kapili in Nowgong. After completion of the survey the experts will submit their detailed recommendations to the Government of India. My objection is, Sir, directed against the rejection by the Government of India the 10 crore of rupees which was provided in the 2nd Five Year Draft Plan by the Government of Assam. If they do not at all want to take up any River Valley Project for Assam, well let them say it definitely and unequivocally. My contention is, Sir, if after investigation some River Valley Schemes are found feasible for working and if no money is provided in the 2nd Plan, it will not be possible to start any new work under the Plan. We know, Sir, certain detailed investigations are necessary before any scheme can be taken in hand. If it is so, some money must be provided in the Second Plan so that necessary work may be started immediately after investigation. Therefore, I say, Sir, the supplementary scheme is a reasonable one and the amount provided for this purpose, *i.e.*, Rs.10 crores is also very reasonable one. I hope this recommendation will be accepted by the Government of India. This is one side of the picture.

About the Kapili Valley Project itself, I propose to make some more observations. I have already requested my Friends not to charge me with parochialism or local patriotism. I have also stated before that the river Kapili is a very turbulent river. It is not my opinion only. The Central Finance Minister, Shri Deshmukh, came to Assam and visited Nowgong. When he happened to see this Kapili River which was then full to its brim he also expressed the same opinion. On seeing this furious river with his own eyes, he wrote a verse in Sanskrit, the temptation of quoting which I cannot resist. This runs like this :

চিত্রং যদস্মিন পৃথিবীত দেশে
যত্রান্ন কাৰ্বেয় মহিমো নিমগ্না ॥
শৈব্রে ত্রবৃতি থলু নিম্ন বেগে ।
দুৰ্ব্বাৰ কোৰো কপিলী ভবলো ॥

Its English translation runs like this: Assam is a beautiful country and the people are polite and hospitable. The women of the country are industrious. Even in such a beautiful country there are two turbulent rivers, viz., the Kopili and Bhoralu which come down to the plains with terrible velocity and damage the crops in their trail. So the Kopili river has been recognised as one of the most turbulent rivers of the State not by me but by the Finance Minister from India. Now I am going to speak a few words, Sir, of the damage done by this river. I have been a victim of the floods of this river since my childhood. In fact, I had to change my habitation from one place to another on account of the annual ravages of this river. In 1916 when I was a student the river was in spate and even my compound was under breast deep water. Thousands of cattle died and food crops damaged. Of course there was no system of relief, then. I remember also of the great flood in 1929 when the railway-lines were washed away and railways twisted beyond recognition. In 1934 a great flood came called পাগলা পাণী and caused extensive damages that could not be contemplated by any man. Government had to spend lakhs and lakhs of rupees in repairing the railway lines, the Public Works Department roads, school buildings, etc. I remember several Relief Societies from Calcutta, Bengal, Punjab, etc., rushed to the affected areas and rendered relief to the people living in the Kopili Valley and Government also had to spend a lot of money in giving relief to the people. Since 1941 there have been regular floods every year of the river. In 1952 the October floods came which brought the smiling paddy fields of the District of Nowgong under water. You will be surprised to hear that when test relief operation work was started after the flood many students of High Schools and Colleges, e.g., B. A. students, 3rd-year students, etc., had to go out and cut earth in Kampur and Jamuna area to earn their bread. Hojai area which is known as a granary of Assam was laid desolate and economically prostrate. Even two weeks ago, this river came in a fury and a vast area of the Kopili Valley was submerged. All winter crops were destroyed in certain areas and paddy ripe for harvesting damaged. Just imagine when ripe paddy is taken away from the fields, what would happen to the people? This is the river Kopili of which we hear off and on. For this reason there has been insistent demand for a River Valley Project of the Kopili river. Before

any people thought of a River Valley Project in Assam the people from the flood-affected area of Kopili have been sending petitions and prayers for a River Valley Project. Of course we had no clear idea of river valley projects then. But what we did was that we submitted petitions to the Government and said that we have been suffering from floods in the area and asked them to give us some help and save us from the Kopili floods. But after the October floods of 1952 when the ripe paddy was washed away the people became almost mad. Hundreds and hundreds of petitions and telegrams were sent to the Central Government. Whenever Central Ministers came to Assam we took the opportunity to meet them and represent our grievances to them. Sometimes it was rather awkward for us to place this question of River Valley Project to Ministers who had nothing to do with it. Even then as suffering men we had to do it. There was a contour survey for a River Valley Project in Assam. The Central Government spent money for a contour survey, and when the survey was undertaken it was stated that the Kopili Project was found to be a feasible one. The Central Water Power Commission also recommended it. I do not know what are the recommendations. But it is reported that if this scheme is accepted the whole of Assam will be saved. I have been informed by a reliable source that a hydrological project is proposed to be installed at Panimura which is in the Mikir Hills and then the entire State of Assam will be served by this project. It is further reported that if this river is controlled then later on power can be supplied to Tinsukia, Dhubri, Karimganj, Tezpur and other places. Another point is that if this river is controlled lakhs of acres of waste-lands can be thrown open for settlement and the landless people who are not getting settlement so long can be easily accommodated and there will be no land problem in Assam. To-day I feel, if this scheme is adopted and implemented, the whole of the waste-land in the Kopili valley can be made cultivable.

Shri RAM NATH DAS (Minister): Because the Kopili valley is very fertile.

Shri BIMALAKANTA BORA: Yes, Sir, he is the Agriculture Minister. He has seen the Kopili Valley. It is a very beautiful fertile valley and such a land is not available in any part of Assam. It is known to some hon. Members of this House that I said last year that water was sold at one anna per glass in Lanka area. For want of rain there was no cultivation last year and this drought area will be within a

distance of 6 or 7 miles from the place where they propose to have the project. In that case the area can be irrigated and water can be supplied and then the problem of water scarcity can be removed and in that way the people can be helped.

About other matters, I do not like to touch because the Central Power Commission will deal with them. But my only submission is that Assam must have a River Valley Project, as we cannot do without it. We have been charged by the people, even by the outsiders, that the Assamese people are lazy and they do not want to press the matter before the Government of India. We should place all the emphasis we can command to give us a River Valley Project and until and unless that is given we should not rest content. Through appeals, petitions, representations, etc., we should make the lives of the authorities miserable and impress upon them the necessity of giving us a River Valley Project (*laughter*). We should press this claim by all means until we achieve our end in this respect. That is my view and the view of the people of our State. Certain other rivers were investigated in Assam, but I do not know the results of these investigations. I do not like to say that only one project is sufficient for the State of Assam. There are many rivers which have caused terrible damage in some Districts.

I do not know how far it will be beneficial economically or scientifically to control the river Brahmaputra. Brahmaputra is a mighty river which is very difficult to control. It is our father (*A voice*: Not mother?). I have purposely put it in masculine gender. This river has been causing serious damage during the last two years in several parts of Goalpara District. Another area where serious damage was done by this river is Majuli. Something must be done to save the people of this area from the ravages of the Brahmaputra every year. Majuli is a place of our ancient culture—I mean Assamese culture—and so I do not want that the seat of our ancient culture should be washed away by this mighty river, the Brahmaputra. Though I have every respect for this river, the Brahmaputra, because we take a holy dip in this river on every Ashokastomi day to remove the impurities of our souls yet I want that this turbulent father Brahmaputra must be controlled. If the father does harm to his sons, the sons must rise against the father to see that such unnecessary harm is no more done. I not only speak for the people of my district, but I speak for the people of Sibsagar, Goalpara, Majuli and other places as well. I am not showing district patriotism I am speaking for all people who are sufferers of ravages and I hope my speech will be appreciated by all the hon. Members of the House (*A voice*: Yes). There are other

rivers also, namely, Dehing, Debang, etc., which cause terrible havocs to the people. Of course I have not seen the damage caused by these rivers personally—I have heard them from the papers only. We should try to utilise these rivers in the best possible way. Sir, I should tell my Friend that we should not say that all these rivers are “rivers of sorrow”. This phrase was used by the Chinese people only in the case of their turbulent river Yangchikiang. We hear the Chinese people calling the river Yangchikiang as “river of sorrow”. The words “river of sorrow” is applicable to river Kopili alone in my opinion as it causes terrible damage and incalculable sufferings to the people every year. Those who live near this river Kopili know it perfectly well with what violence it comes and washes away the cattle and houses of people. I request the hon. Members to give the Kopili river the attention it deserves. (*A voice*: Another such river is Ai.) Yes, I have heard also that this river coming from the Bhutan Hills causes serious damage to our people in Goalpara District. This river comes down during the flood times with terrible force and so its destructive power is very great. I have already heard of terrible disaster caused by this river Ai. Last year and this year also this river washed away the railway line at a certain place. (*A voice*: The river Barak also does serious damage). I know that but most part of it falls in Pakistan (*laughter*). I have full sympathy for the people of Cachar for the sufferings caused by this river. My point is that I fully appreciate the difficulties experienced by the flood affected people of all places as I am myself a victim of flood. Therefore, Sir, let there be a River Valley Project whichever is feasible and after proper investigation let the work be started immediately. Other States have gone much ahead of us and we only are lagging behind. Our State is a problem State. It has problems of communication it has problems of floods, it has problems of earthquake. It has so many problems due to natural calamities. So, Sir, I want that the Central Government should reconsider our claim very sympathetically. Rupees ten crores are provided in the Draft Plan but that was scrapped. Now a ten crore is proposed in the Supplementary Schemes and we hope that it will not be rejected. Some money must be provided to start work in case a River Valley Project is found feasible by the Expert Committee after investigation. We should not be made to wait for the third Plan. All people say that ours is a frontier Province, we occupy a strategic position. Having said all these words if our State is not provided with a River Valley Project then it will be difficult to appreciate these kind sentiments. Therefore my submission is that the Government of India should be requested

either by representation or pressure or by any other means by our Government and people to reconsider the matter. Let our Government approach them again and let them feel that we consider a River Valley Project as an urgent necessity for Assam. I, therefore, think that the Government of Assam, besides submitting all these reports which will of course be considered in due course, should take some other steps, such as arranging a deputation to wait on India and other steps which are considered necessary to make a strong representation about this matter to the Government of India.

With these few words, I support the draft supplementary proposals of the Scheme.

Shri HEM CHANDRA HAZARIKA : মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ ডাঙৰীয়া, শ্ৰীযুত বিমলা বৰা ডাঙৰীয়াই যি সুৰত কৈছে ঠিক সেই সুৰতে নদী উপত্যকা আচনিৰ (River Valley Project) বিষয়ে মই দুবাৰ মান কবলৈ ঠিয় হৈছো। মই অৱশ্যে কপিলিৰ বিৰুদ্ধে কব খোজা নাই। যোৱা ১৯৫০ চনৰ ভূমিকম্পৰ পিচৰ পৰা সোৱনশিৰী, ভৰলী, বঙ্গানদী আৰু কপিলী আদি নদীবিলাকে অসমৰ কিমান ক্ষতি সাধন কৰি আহিছে সেই কথা কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰৰ মন্ত্ৰীসকলে জানে আৰু সদস্য সকলেও ভালকৈ জানে। এই নদীবিলাকে প্ৰতি বছৰে অসমত কিমান হানি কৰিছে সেই কথা এতিয়া বিশদভাবে নকলেও হব।

অসমৰ বানপানীয়ে প্ৰতি বছৰে লাখ লাখ গৰু, মহ, মানুহৰ ঘৰ দুৱাৰ, ধানৰ ভৰাল আনকি মানুহৰ প্ৰাণ পৰ্য্যন্ত হানি কৰিছে সেই বিষয়েও সকলোৰে বিদিত। এইবিলাক বন্ধা কৰিবৰ কাৰণে দ্বিতীয় পাঁচ বছৰীয়া পৰিকল্পনাত একো ব্যৱস্থা কৰা নাই। ভৰলীৰ বানপানীয়ে আজি শ শ খন গাওঁ গ্ৰাস কৰিব লাগিছে। ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰইয়ো অসমৰ ভিন ভিন অঞ্চলত গ্ৰাস কৰি আহিছে—তেজপুৰ মহকুমাৰ মোনাবাৰি বাগিছাৰ কাষেদি বাগিছা আৰু গাওঁ সমূহ গ্ৰাস কৰিবলৈ ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰই জীৰামেলি আহিছে সকলোৰে সেই অঞ্চললৈ গলেই দেখা পাব গতিকে এই ভৰলী আৰু ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ নিয়ন্ত্ৰণৰ পৰিকল্পনাকো সোনকালে হাতত ললে বহুত মানুহৰ প্ৰাণ, ঘৰদুৱাৰ, গৰু, মহ আৰু ধন সম্পত্তি ৰক্ষা হয়। ১৯৫০ চনৰ ভূমিকম্প আৰু তাৰ পিছত হোৱা সোৱনশিৰী নদীৰ বানপানীয়ে ৩২১ জন মানুহ উতাই নি মৃত্যুৰ মুখত পেলালে সেই বানপানীত পিঠিত কেচুৱা বান্ধি উঠি যোৱা তিবোতাৰ মৃতদেহ পোৱা হৈছিল।

সোৱণশীৰী নদীয়ে, কপিলী, ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ ইত্যাদি আন আন নদীবোৰে অসমীয়া ৰাইজক কি দৰে জুৰুলা কৰি আহিছে আৰু প্ৰত্যেক বছৰে অত্যাচাৰ কৰিবই লাগিছে সেই কথা কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰে আৰু আমাৰ পালিৰামেণ্টৰ সভ্য সকলে নজনা নহয়। গতিকে সোৱণশীৰীতে হওক, কপিলীতে হওক বা অসমৰ যি কোনো উৎপত্তিয়া নদীত যদি River Valley Project আৰম্ভ কৰিলেহেঁতেন তেনেহলে অসমীয়া ৰাইজে অন্ততঃ অলপ আশ্বাস পালেহেঁতেন। পৰিকল্পনা আয়োগবোৰে অসমত বানপানীৰ ধ্বংশলীলাৰ কথা অবিদিত নহয়। প্ৰত্যেক বছৰে বিলিকৰ বাবে আমাৰ চৰকাৰৰ বহুত টকা ব্যয় হয়। River Valley Project ৰ কাম যদি ঠিক মতে হোৱা হলে চৰকাৰৰ অনেক খিনি খৰছৰ পৰা ৰেহাই হলেহেঁতেন। মই কোৱা নাই যে আমাৰ জিলাতেহে এই কাম আৰম্ভ কৰিব লাগে। মই জিলা হিচাবে কব খোজা নাই সমগ্ৰ অসমৰ হৈ কৈছো। অসমত River Valley Project ৰ আৱশ্যকতা যাতে কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰে অনুভৱ কৰি তাৰ বিহিত ব্যৱস্থা কৰে তাৰবাবে নিবেদন জনালো।

তাৰ পাছত এই প্ৰসংগতে মই উত্তৰ লক্ষীমপুৰৰ যাতায়তৰ সম্পৰ্কেও একাধাৰ কব খোজো।

উত্তৰ লক্ষীমপুৰৰ পৰা বেলৰ কোনো যোগাযোগ নথকাৰ কাৰণে মানুহৰ যাতা-য়াতৰ অসুবিধা আজিলৈকে দূৰ হোৱা নাই। উত্তৰ লক্ষীমপুৰৰ এজন ছাত্ৰ গুৱাহাটীলৈ আহিবলৈ হলেও মটৰত ১৫/১৬ টকা খৰচ কৰি অতি কষ্টেৰে আহিব লগা হয়। বেলপথৰ যোগাযোগ নথকাতে অতি দুখৰ বিষয়। এনে অৱস্থাত বেলপথৰ অভাৱ যাতে অতি সোনকালে দূৰ কৰা হয় তাৰ কাৰণে দ্বিতীয় পঞ্চ বার্ষিক পৰিকল্পনাৰ ভিতৰত যাতে এই যাতায়াতৰ যোগাযোগটো লোৱা হয় তাৰ বাবে কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰিবৰ কাৰণে মই আমাৰ চৰকাৰক নিৱেদন জনালো। যি কোনো প্ৰকাৰে ধেমাজিৰ পৰা তেজপুৰ হৈ বঙাপাৰালৈ বেলৰ mileage বঢ়াবই লাগিব। তেতিয়াহলেহে অসমক সমৃদ্ধিশালী কৰিবলৈ সক্ষম হব। আমাৰ পিছপৰা তপশীলভুক্ত সম্প্ৰদায় আৰু জন-জাতীয় লোকসকলক চৰকাৰে যেনেকৈ আগবঢ়াই নিয়াৰ দিহা কৰিছে ঠিক সেই ভিত্তিত আমাৰ পিছপৰা অঞ্চলসমূহকো সকলোপিনে আগবঢ়াই নিব লাগিব। যোগাযোগৰ সুব্যৱস্থা নহলে কোনো সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ আৰ্থিক অবস্থাৰ উন্নতি কৰিব নোৱাৰি। সেই নৱে মই আমাৰ চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰাৰ লগেলগে কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰকো মোৰ অনু-ৰোধ জনালো।

এইখিনিকে কৈ মই সামৰনী মাৰিলো।

Shri SARJU PROSAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have had the opportunity of listening to the statement made by our Planning and Development Minister and I must thank him for that. Sir, to speak on a Plan is difficult. It becomes more difficult to speak when it is a State Plan. To speak on a Plan requires a great amount of knowledge and experience and I have got none. To me of course a Plan is to be a plan worth the name and should take into its consideration, first the four important factors of production—land, labour, capital and enterprise. What is a plan? To India to-day a plan means, a system, a procedure, a means for raising the production of our country. It is a means to an end. The end is in plenty. Sir, during the last two centuries under the British Rule, India which was originally an industrial country, was forced to become an agricultural country. I refer to page 421 of the *Glimses of World History* written by Shri Jawaharlal Nehru. It states thus, “the British policy in India which resulted in the death of India’s cottage-industries and the driving of the artisan to agriculture and the village. This over-pressure or burden on the land of far too many people who have no other occupation, is as I have said, the great problem of India. It is due to this, largely, that India is poor. If these people could be diverted from the land and given other wealth-producing occupation, they would not only add to the wealth of the country, but the pressure on land would be greatly relieved, and even agriculture would prosper.”

To India to day and to undo these wrongs is the object or should be the object of planning.

Now, let us examine how far our Government have done to undo these wrongs and in improving the major factors of production—land, labour, capital and enterprise—during its First Five Year Plan. Let us go the land question first. During the last two centuries British did definitely some wrongs to our land system. They created or introduced for systems of land tenure, (1) permanently-settled system, (2) temporary land settlement system, (3) Ryotary system, and (4) long-leases of land under tea. These systems were created in order to serve their main and only purpose—the purpose of plundering the country. You know, Sir, and most of the hon. Members know, that during the British period many highway robbers became Zamindars through the magic of auction room.

Now, Sir, as you want to establish a Welfare State and on a socialistic pattern of society, it becomes the duty of Government to undo these wrongs. I know Government is moving in this matter because you cannot but move. A glaring move of your incapability is seen from the fact that they have not yet been able to translate into action even the Assam Acquisition of Zamindaris Bill. No tenancy right has been given to tenants. Such is the fate of our land reform in Assam as well as in other States of India.

Now, may I draw your kind attention, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to the other side of our land question—I mean agriculture. You know that during the last war, the then Government—the British Government—launched the grow-more-need of their war supply. After 1947, just after parting both the Unions—Hindustan and Pakistan—became serious. To meet this acute food problem, all State Governments prepared plans to develop agriculture. Rs.323·53 lakhs were earmarked for Assam. Now, Sir, we are going to begin the Second Five Year Plan, but this Government proved incapable of spending the whole amount. Please refer to Assamese Satyameva Jayate Draft Second Year Plan, Part II, page 1. “An outlay of Rs.345 lakhs was allotted under the First Five Year Plan for agricultural scheme which sum was subsequently reduced to Rs.323·53 lakhs during 1953-54. Out of this amount, a sum of Rs.213·79 lakhs was spent till the end of 1954-55, leaving a balance of Rs.104·74 lakhs for expenditure during 1955-56.”

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): The year is still running and it is not over.

Shri SARJU PROSAD SINGH: Yes, there is still time to spend. But, Sir, I have great doubt whether the

Government would be in a position to spend it properly, equitably and justly.

Now, I draw your kind attention to the other factors.

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

(After lunch)

Shri SARJU PROSAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was telling something about labour and its position in our Second Five Year Plan. What is Labour? Labour is an ornament of society, you cannot deny it. In so far as our labour is concerned, I beg to refer you, Sir, to the States Reorganisation Commission's report, paragraph 680, at page 183. It says—"Assam also owes a great deal to capital and enterprise from outside the State; and its tea, coal and oil industries have been built up mainly as the result of such enterprise. The Tea District Labour Act, which is intended to regulate the recruitment of labour in the other States of India for the tea gardens in Assam, is a notable but not an isolated illustration of this statement. The contribution which permanent or temporary immigrants into the State can make to the development of its economy is important even at the present time". Now, Sir, I would again refer you to the Draft Second Five Year Plan, Part II. It is stated here—"Assam is primarily a plantation area and the plantation labour population constitute more than 10 per cent"—more than 10 per cent, Sir—"of the total population of the State. Because of their aboriginal character, and their extremely low standard of living, they are backward in every respect according to modern civilised standards. Though the State Labour Department is of very recent origin, it has addressed itself to the formidable task of bringing about a gradual improvement in the standard of living of this vast labour population, by legislative measures by persuading employer's"—as if the employers are angels. Mr. Speaker, Sir, to help labour—"to provide them education and undertake welfare activities". It is also stated here that—"the State also received from outside Agency a sum of Rs.2 lakhs in 1951 for welfare work among the tea garden labourers." So it appears that once upon a time the State received Rs.2 lakhs for the welfare of this 12 lakhs of people. I beg also to refer you, Sir, to the labour welfare item. Please refer to the Revise Draft Plan, Part III, introduction, page 5. For labour welfare under the Second Five Year Plan

40 crores, not even one crore but only 40 lakhs has been earmarked for welfare of labour. Whereas for a handful of our criminal and convicts Government is going to spend 64 crores, that is, 64 lakhs. This is the position, Sir. Look at the disparity of the Plan. In this connection, I again beg to refer you to page 432, last paragraph, of the 'Glimpses of World History' by Jawaharlal Nehru which says—"The pressure on land, of which I have told you, and the semi-famine conditions of the rural areas, drove many villagers to these factories, as well as to the great plantations that were rising in Bengal and Assam. This pressure also led many to emigrate to other countries where they were told they would get high wages. Emigration took place especially to South Africa, Fiji, Mauritius and Ceylon. But the change did little good to the workers. The emigrants in some of the countries were treated like slaves. In the tea plantations of Assam they were in no better condition Such were the miserable conditions under which these industrial workers worked in the factories. They were unhappy, of course, and discontent grew..... But they were weak and feeble, and could easily be crushed by their wealthy employers, backed often by the Government..... There has been some improvement in labour conditions in India. Certain laws have been passed giving just a little protection to the poor worker." Sir, again in this connection I want to tell you that when the President of the Congress, Shri Dhebar, came here in Assam, I had the opportunity of taking him to one tea garden at Jorhat and he was horrified to look at the houses and conditions of the tea labourers.

So, Sir, the very foundation of our State Plan is wrong and unsound. I am sorry that our Planning and Development Minister has completely failed to convince the House and the people at large about the soundness of the Plan. The Planning Commission was quite justified in curtailing and cutting down our Plan target from some hundred crores to 61 crores or so. This is simply due to the gross inefficiency of our Government even in preparing plan for our State.

So, Mr. Speaker, Sir, unless this Government receive the aid of some experts in regard to planning of our undeveloped State, I have every reason to believe that they will go on doing like this. We are already late in the race of States national reconstruction. Further delay would put us far below in the scales of reconstruction.

With these few words, I beg to resume my seat.

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak a few words on the planning question. To me planning is not a very easy matter. It is a thing which is going to affect generations to come. So to make a plan, it

requires great circumspection, greater national urge and the greatest expediting force. So any administrative officer is not competent to make plan in every department in every matter without administrative jugglery of figures. To my mind the whole thing will have to be taken like this. Planning requires a plastic principle first of all rather than a catalogue of schemes that will have to be taken in hand. So in all seriousness I should like to suggest to the Planning Minister, and I hope he will not take it as giving a lesson to him as he was unable to give a lesson to me before.....

Mr. SPEAKER : Why this unwanted hit ?

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN : I only suggest whether that plastic principle has been adopted in making this planning. Here we find, in Part III, page 1, Introduction, 5th paragraph, Supplementary Plan :

“Since the Planning Commission had stressed from the beginning that planning should be ‘from below’ and in view of the fact that the rural sector in this State needed special attention, emphasis was given to the preparation of village plans, to be drawn up by every village and designed to meet the more important needs of every village in the State. Side by side with the development of villages, it was considered necessary that the problem of haphazard urban expansion should also be tackled and provision was made in the Draft Plan for town planning and for development plans for each town in the State. While the First Plan sought to emphasise development in the agricultural sector, the Second Plan is expected to have an industrial bias, shifting the emphasis from agriculture to industry.”

That is the real objective of this Second Five Year Plan. I am sorry to say that it presupposes that the First Five Year Plan was quite effective as regards the agricultural matters. If the planning authorities are satisfied that the planning for development in agriculture has been quite effective then I should say that I am not in a position to appreciate that because we all feel, the Planning Minister himself must feel, that in the First Five Year Plan our villages have not been rebuilt as desired. It is absolutely harmful to say that we are satisfied with the First Five Year Plan as pertaining to the villages. Therefore if in the Second Five Year Plan emphasis has been given to the industrial side this time, then I must say the agricultural side will be left behind.

Mr. SPEAKER : Is it an exception that industry will not give employment while the agriculture will give ?

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN : I am coming to that. Sir, we are to start from below. In the Five Year Plan

emphasis has been given by the Government of India that it should be planned from below. That very fact shows that they will not be satisfied that in the First Five Year Plan planning was well done from below. And in the Second Plan when our planning authorities in this State have given emphasis on industry, I find that agriculture has been left in the lurch. Whatever might be my point I would stick to the basic objective that has already been given to us by the planning authorities themselves. Let us think from below. If we do that we shall have to give a renewed attention to the agricultural sector. The other day our Prime Minister not once but in every meeting said to this effect: "I want to have two morsels of food satisfactorily and have a house to live under. They should be so rebuilt that we shall not be ashamed of our mass people". All these mean that economic consideration must be given to them first and foremost and in doing so if we are to curtail some other things that would not matter much. But in examining the Second Plan, I have not been able to digest in two or three nights all that has been said about the planning from below. On the contrary I find that the planning has not been systematically made under a plastic principle, a principle which of itself will grow among the masses and that principle is wanting, I believe, in the Plan.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is very poetic.

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN: I am not using poetry. 'Plastic principle'—I have been taking from Edmund Burke who was not a poet (*Loud laughter*). Then I should like to say this much. Our villages—whatever may be the number—every village should have now systematic planning.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is your idea?

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN: I am going to give. Unless you allow me to speak, how could I give you the idea? So, in my opinion, we should begin from below. When in Assam more than 75 per cent. of the people are agriculturists, we should look to the agriculturists first and agriculturists last. Unless we do that, we should not look to any other project so seriously. Therefore, our first thing is to supply the agriculturists with economic holding of their own. Then if we can give them a piece of land, their economic distress would be next removed. They cannot think of systematic planning for themselves. Therefore, it will be our duty when we represent the mass people and none else. We must think for the villagers and prepare our plans accordingly. Every village must be self-sufficient, as Mahatma Gandhi, by whose name we attained Swaraj, worked day and night for the 7 lakhs villages; and such a Swaraj will

be meaningless if our villagers are not satisfied with what we are doing for them. They are credited as idlers ; they have no desire to do for themselves, and they are this and that. Sir, if you place yourself in the place of such persons, you will also cease to think ; such a wretched class of persons they are, they cannot think for themselves. Therefore, the number of villages must be surveyed thoroughly. Of course, the Statistics Department is doing that, but they are taking only a sample survey of the villages. We must have a survey, we must ascertain how many people live in the villages. We should think seriously to build the villages from below at the present moment. In my opinion, we should give them a piece of land where they can live peacefully. Besides this, let them earn something by way of cottage industry and also teach them higher method of cultivation.

Mr. SPEAKER : According to your idea, what is the economic holding ?

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN : The economic holding be not less than 30 bighas of land.

Mr. SPEAKER : How many members should comprise the family ?

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN : Five should be number in the family and each member will have 6 bighas of land.

Mr. SPEAKER : What is the total number of families in Assam ?

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN : 20 lakhs or something like that.

Mr. SPEAKER : What is the total area of land available at present in Assam ?

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN : About 70 lakhs acres.

Mr. SPEAKER : Then divide that how many acres will be available for a family.

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN : After dividing whatever might be available the villager must be given a piece of land and he must be satisfied. It will be our duty also to instruct them to grow double crop by giving them manures and helping them with tractors and by putting some of the demonstrators day and night to look after the cultivation. These are the plans we must have in our hands. If a village family is to prosper, let them have a subsidiary

cottage industries. We must ask the village young men not to sit idle; they should do something and they should take up cottage industries. We have also to know their psychology as to whether a particular young man will be fit for this kind of cottage industry or that and we must organise them properly.

Regarding women's work also I would like to add a few words. There are five lakhs of looms in Assam. I should like to suggest that these five lakh looms should be organised co-operatively and whatever yarn, whatever capital and whatever other sorts of things are necessary that should be provided at their door from the Government side.

Next thing is cattle strength. In our State 'Godhan' and 'Podhan' are the two main things. We must look to the cattle. We must bring sturdy bullock for ploughing purposes. It will not be very difficult task.

Then we should take care of our little children. They should be properly schooled for whatever worth they are worthy. Then the next point is to look into the health of our villagers as they must have good health. We must look to the health of the plough cattle; we must look to the health of the locality and the sanitary arrangements of the villagers. In short, Sir, I must say that the villagers should be given the first priority in our planning schemes. If this is done, I welcome it, and I congratulate those who have done this plan, and if it is not there, I would request them to revise their plan.

Mr. SPEAKER: You will find them at page 5, under Medical and Public Health.

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN: Then, Sir, it is welcomed.

Mr. SPEAKER: Provision for Medical and Public Health has been made at Rs. 6½ crores.

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN: There is another question regarding Public Health. I would like to say that by using Phenyle in some cases the duty of the Public Health Department is not considered to be finished. There are 60 to 70 per cent of the people in the villages who are suffering from Hookworm. More money should be spent for removing Hookworm.

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): Sir, the scheme is there.

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN: Sir, the less said is the better.

So, in the villages, though the Government have done something, it is not such as to meet with the requirement. As regards cottage industry, the steps Government so far have taken is, in my opinion, not also quite sufficient. In our country there is different guilds for different type of work, such *Japi-sajia* for making '*japis*' and also Kamar-Gaon, Kumar-Gaon, etc. So there should be schemes in our Plan to harness the inherited skill and ingenuity of these different guilds. If these schemes are scientifically planned on modern lines and introduced in our villages so as to give them an inspiration to take up their rightful place in the building up of our country, they will do not only a lot of good to our people economically but will go a long way to remove unemployment among the young men of our country.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Phookan, please refer to page 5 of the 2nd Draft Plan. There provision has been made for 4.4 crores under this head.

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN: Then that is all right. But even inspite of the provision made there, I cannot resist the temptation of suggesting one more item. Only on the other day when I visited Titabar, I found the district Agricultural Officer there opening a Demonstration Farm—a very small one of about 60 to 65 acres—where he planted various fruit trees and grafts. On inspecting the farm I found his experiments are giving very good results.

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): A grant has been already given to that farm.

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN: Yes, only a paltry sum of Rs. 6,000. But I can assure the hon. Minister, whatever is given to such farms, it will be amply repaid from the yield produced there if such farms can be opened in every Mauza of Assam. I think we have 400 or 500 Mauzas in Assam. I do not know whether there are any Mauza or not in the Hills districts—about 500 centres of demonstration farms can be opened where about 2,500 young men, each of the farms having fair young men can be provided with employments. These young men will do their work

collectively, but what the Government will have to give them is expert advice of qualified persons and necessary financial assistance to start with to initiate the work. If that is done, I am quite sure a good number of unemployed young men will be absorbed in profitable employment instead of going about aimlessly and troubling the M. L. As every now and then for a certificate to apply for post here and there. That will minimise the worries of the Government to provide them with suitable employments; that will inspire our young men who are down-trodden, and drooping for want of inspiration and that will also give a fillip to our village life as a whole.

Sir, regarding the river valley project which has been dwelt at length by my Friends, Shri Bimala Kanta Bora and others, I crave your indulgence to say this much only. It is not very difficult to control a river. Because man has done greater things than that. But we must see first of all how much fruitfully we can control a river. So, instead of controlling the Brahmaputra, if Brahmaputra can be persuaded to divert its course this way or that, it will help to solve the problem confronting the country at present to a great extent. Sir, the Brahmaputra is a mighty river bringing down in its bosom torrential showers from the hills. Therefore I suggest that the smaller rivers should be controlled first. I therefore feel that if any river valley scheme, Kapili must get the first preference. Sir, I am not against controlling of the river Barak also. If I do so, my Friend, Shri Ranendra Mohan Das, might say: let cachar be taken, away elsewhere. So, I only want tributaries of the Brahmaputra be first controlled. In case the small rivers are controlled first, Brahmaputra will automatically be less turbulent. If a river valley project can be ushered in, this will not only give electricity to lit up our towns but will also increase the productivity of our country. (*A voice*: Where then the Majuli people will receive supply of rice?) Well, if the paddy fields of Hojai are made to yield bumper crops as a result of Kapili Valley Project, Hojai will feed Majuli. So I shall only be too glad if the Kapili Valley Project is taken up by Government as the first priority. I want River Valley Project to be taken in hand.

Then, Sir, regarding Basic Education.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think next is Industry.

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN: Regarding Industry, Sir, I

want to make every cultivating family satisfied with economic holdings whatever Government can spare and within that economic holdings let us put our brains and hearts; how to improve in quality and not in quantity, of course quantity will increase with the improvement in quality. But the scientific results and scientific instruments should be supplied to the people by the Government and public leaders sincerely and seriously and with a view to that the nation should be built up from below.

Regarding the cottage industries, I believe whatever Mahatma Gandhi said in this regard throughout his life.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I think you are discussing the Plan. For Cottage Industries a sum of Rs.4 crores has been provided. Do you want more or less?

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN: My point is that it should be effective within 5 years and it should be at least double of that amount so that the villagers, life will be electrified without electricity.

Mr. SPEAKER: They have put it at double this amount—Rs. 8.12 crores. But the Planning Commission reduced it by 50 per cent.

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN: I think another 50 per cent should be given for this purpose. We have already curtailed the amount according to the dictate of the Central Government. Therefore, we should restore it again.

Then as regards Basic Education, the other day I read from a newspaper that Venobhaveji says that basic education is Narasinghabotar, নবসিংহ অবতাব neither men nor animal. So to him, basic education is an education given to a child from 5 years upwards and even in that age they must be able to do something practical on the earning side. That is, youngmen should be so taught that their hands and legs should be applied in practical things. At any rate at present people do not understand what are the meanings of primary and basic educations. So villagers say that basic school is for "Gaolia গাৱলীয়া and primary school is for Nagaria নগৰীয়া". This thing should go away and, as Mahatma Gandhi has said, primary education should be upto Class X minus English. We must therefore have primary education upto Class X and that 90 per cent of young men should be given such practical knowledge so that if they do not get any job elsewhere they will be given vocational training. This is not new

to-day. I have been telling this for the last 20 years that we should not send all the boys to the colleges. Let them have 3 years' course in B. A. and if they are bright let them have M. A. But by passing M. A. they should not be Sub-Deputy Collectors or Magistrates. They should apply themselves to fields of education. Regarding all-India services, of course this is also not under Planning.

Mr. SPEAKER: This is not planning.

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN: Then I do not deal with that now. One important thing, Sir, which I cannot omit and you can also possibly think that it is not a matter to be omitted. This is regarding the Engineering College at Jorhat.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have got it somewhere.

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN: No, Sir, not in the main Plan, but in the Supplementary Plan and if the Supplementary Plan is not accepted then we will lose the chance of having this college. We waited on deputation upon the Chief Minister at his place when his whole room was packed up by us.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please look to page 20 (C) of the Supplementary Plan.

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN: Yes, Sir, page 20 (C) of the Supplementary Plan reads "Rs.40.00 lakhs are provided for establishment of a Mechanical and Electrical Engineering College at Jorhat with the help of existing laboratories and workshops and equipment of His Royal Highness Prince of Wales Institute of Engineering at Jorhat". Of course this is in the Supplementary Plan, but what I object is that it must be in the main Plan. If the Supplementary Plan is not accepted then it goes away. But this is not our decision. The clear decision of Government is that it has already been included in the Second Five Year Plan. After this, I wrote, to the Chief Minister, a letter on 5th July and it runs like this: "Dear Medhi Dangaria, As desired by you I am again bringing the following matter regarding the Engineering College at Jorhat for your kind attention and immediate action."

"It has been agreed that Engineering College with two branches—Electrical and Mechanical—will be opened at Jorhat. In pursuance of the Government orders, the Principal, Prince of Wales Institute of Engineering and Technology at Jorhat,

submitted immediate requirements of Rs. 1,24,400 for beginning the classes from August next. Only Rs. 6,780 out of that amount will be necessary for temporary buildings and furniture. The rest of the amount for staff, etc. For the first two years there will be no difficulties as regards building equipments, etc. The existing building equipments with little addition will do. I believe the Civil Engineering College at Gauhati will be opened under similar circumstances."

"But as the posts for Civil Engineering College at Gauhati have been advertised in the *Assam Gazette* recently and no such advertisement of staff as proposed by the Principal under Government orders has been appearing in the Gazette, the Jorhat public has again entertained doubts as to the opening of the College from August next at Jorhat but which even the Government orders clearly indicated.

So, I hope you will kindly order the Principal, Jorhat Institute of Engineering and Technology to advertise for the posts immediately and take other necessary steps so that the College, like Gauhati Civil Engineering College, may also be opened at Jorhat from August next.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this letter and a favourable reply immediately will remove further doubts from the public mind.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

NILMANI PHOOKAN".

I wrote this letter to the Chief Minister and he did not acknowledge it and after 7 or 8 days I sent another big telegram like this letter asking as to what action he took on my letter. This time the Chief Minister or his Private Secretary replied stating that my telegram had been sent to the Education Minister for taking necessary action. There the matter ends and I do not know anything further. But, Sir, my point is that an Electrical and Mechanical Engineering College should have been opened as efficiently, if not more efficiently, as the Civil Engineering College in a hired house with a retired person as its Principal, and it could be managed there also. As regards the possession of the land for its site the Sub-Deputy Collector of Titabar has been asked by the Deputy Commissioner for giving a report. I think he has not submitted his report as yet. In this regard I asked the House, specially I ask the Minister concerned to think seriously. The Chief Minister and other Ministers including the Education Minister presided over meetings of this Technical

Institute of Jorhat for the last 4 or 5 years and every time they gave definite assurance that the Institute would be converted into a College and that there should remain no misgiving about it. After that the public organised a meeting in which they clamoured very much. They not only clamoured, they also passed a resolution to the effect that if the assurances of the Ministers were not fulfilled, they would advise their representatives to resign. It will be a terrible thing, Sir, if you and Shri Ram Nath Das as their representatives, have to resign if they are the true representatives and true to their salt. A Sword of Democles is hanging over us all (*laughter*). Of course, Sir, you did not take part in that meeting, but silence was your consent. This is a serious thing. I ask with all emphasis and with all my respect to the Leader to see that the assurances given are fulfilled and unless that is done the public there might create such a situation where we shall be helpless, including yourself, Sir.

Shri JOGA KANTA BARUAH: অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, ভাৰতৰ অনেক ৰাজ্য পানীৰ অভাৱত ব্যতিব্যস্ত হয় কিন্তু অসমৰ অৱস্থা সম্পূৰ্ণ বেলেগ। ই বানপানীৰ বাবেই সদায় ব্যস্ত। ইয়াৰ মূল হৈছে ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ নদী। ইয়াৰ নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰিব পৰাটোৱেই আচল উপায়। কিন্তু আমি বিশেষজ্ঞৰ পৰা জানিব পাৰিছো যে ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰা সম্ভৱ নহয়। সেই কাৰণেই ডিব্ৰুগড়ত ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ পাৰ ৰাখিবলৈ ধৰিছে। বহুতে হয়তো ভাবিছে ডিব্ৰুগড়ত পাৰ ৰাখি অকল ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰে কাম কৰিছে। কিন্তু সেইটো নহয়। ডিব্ৰুগড়ত ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ ৰাখি গোটেই অসমকেই ৰক্ষা কৰিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰা হৈছে। তাকে কিয়দন্তি আছে যে ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰই গোটেই অসমকে খহাই নিব। আমাৰ মাজত ইয়াৰ পাৰ নেৰাখিলে ই নিশ্চয় নগাপাহাৰৰ কাম পাবগৈ। মোৰ বোধেৰে ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ বহুত উজনিলাকে ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ পাৰ ৰাখি অসমক ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ গৰাহৰ পৰা ৰক্ষা কৰিব লাগিব।

Mr. SPEAKER: Has the Minister-in-charge got any allotment from the Government of India in this respect?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): We have got an information from the Ministry of Irrigation and Power stating that they have allotted about Rs.17 crores for the purpose of flood control.

Mr. SPEAKER: ইয়াৰ কাৰণে ১৭ কোটি টকা দিছে বুলি শুনা গৈছে।

Shri JOGA KANTA BARUAH: ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰক যেতিয়া নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰিব নোৱাৰি তেতিয়া তাৰ উপৰি বিলাকক নিশ্চয় নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰিব লাগিব। তাকে কৰিবলৈ গৈ কোনোৱে কপিলীৰ কাৰণে কোনোৱে উৰলুৰ কাৰণে অকলে চেষ্টা কৰিবলৈ এৰি এই বিষয়ে এটা সমূহীয়া নীতি গ্ৰহণ কৰা উচিত।

মোৰ মনেৰে এই নদী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণৰ কাম ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ ওপৰ ফালৰ পৰা কৰি আহিব গৈ। এইদৰে নিয়ন্ত্ৰণৰ কাম কৰি আহিলে সেই ঠাইৰ মানুহে উপকাৰ পোৱাৰ পৰিও তাৰ পানীয়ে ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ ভাটি ফালে যি অপকাৰ কৰে তাৰ পৰাও মানুহ ৰক্ষা বিব।

এই নীতি মতে নেফা আৰু ডিব্ৰুগড় মহকুমাৰ অশেষ অনিষ্ট সাধন কৰা দিহিং নদীকে পোন প্ৰথমে নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰিব লাগিব। তেতিয়া নেফা আৰু ডিব্ৰুগড় মহকুমাৰ মানুহেই যে উপকৃত হ'ব এনে নহয় এই দিহিংৰ পানী ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰত পৰি ভাটিৰ ফালে যি অপকাৰ কৰিলে হেতেন তাৰ পৰাও বক্ষা পাব। গতিকে সকলোৱে টনা আজোৰা নকৰি পোন প্ৰথমে দিহিং নৈকে নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰিবৰ কাৰণে পৰিকল্পনা আয়োগক টানি ধৰিব লাগে।

তাৰ পিচত আমাৰ চৰকাৰে যিখিনি লাগে বুলি পৰিকল্পনা আয়োগৰ আবেদন জনাইছে তাক সম্পূৰ্ণ সমৰ্থন কৰি ইয়াকে কব খোজো যে বৃহৎ শিল্পতকৈ কুটিৰ শিল্পত বেচি জোৰ দিব লাগে। দেশত কুটিৰ শিল্পৰ বিশেষ প্ৰচাৰ হলেহে সৰ্বসাধাৰণ মানুহৰ উন্নতি হ'ব। বৃহৎ শিল্পৰ পৰা কিছু মান ধনী মানুহৰ সৃষ্টি হ'ব পাৰে, কিন্তু সাধাৰণ মানুহৰ অৱস্থা একে দৰেই থাকিব। আনকি বৃহৎ শিল্পবোৰ জাতীয়কৰণ কৰিলেও বিশেষজ্ঞৰ দল, ডাঙৰ মানুহৰ দল আদিহে সৃষ্টি হ'ব। গতিকে কুটিৰ শিল্পৰ বাহিৰে সমাজবাদী সমাজ ব্যৱস্থাৰ সৃষ্টি কৰা কোনো মতে সম্ভৱ নহয়।

তাৰ পিচত সমবায় আন্দোলনত বিশেষ দায়ীত্ব আৰোপ নকৰিলে সৰ্বসাধাৰণৰ ৰাইজৰ অৱস্থা উন্নত হ'ব বুলি ভাবিব নোৱাৰি। কংগ্ৰেছ সমবায় ভেটিত সমাজ স্থাপনৰ নীতি গ্ৰহণ কৰিলেই নহ'ব, নাইবা সমবায় বিভাগৰ কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ ওপৰতে সম্পূৰ্ণ নিৰ্ভৰ কৰি বা এই বিলাকক দোষ দি সন্তুষ্ট থাকিলেই নহ'ব। সকলোৱেই ইয়াত কাজে কামে লাগি ইয়াক কৃতকাৰ্য্য কৰিবলৈ দৃঢ়সঙ্কল্প হলেহে জনসাধাৰণৰ উন্নতি হ'ব। আশাকৰো চৰকাৰ আৰু ৰাইজ দুয়ো ইয়াক উপলব্ধি কৰি হাতে কামে লাগি দেশখনক উন্নত কৰিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিব।

শেহত কওঁ আমাৰ চৰকাৰে যি আবেদন ডাঙি ধৰিব তাক মই সমৰ্থন কৰো।

Shri HARI NARAYAN BARUA: মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই দিঘলীয়া বজ্জতা দিব খোজা নাই। মোৰ মনত খেলোৱা দুই এটা কথাহে মাত্ৰ ডাঙি ধৰিবলৈ ইচ্ছা কৰিছো। দ্বিতীয় পাচ বছৰীয়া পৰিকল্পনাত আমাৰ চৰকাৰে যি আচনি ডাঙি ধৰিছে তাৰে শতকৰা ৫০ ভাগ কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰে দিব বুলি প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতি দিছে। আৰু সেই অনুযায়ী গৰণমেণ্টে আচনি লৈছে। মই কেবল আমাৰ ফুকন ডাঙৰীয়াই ডাঙি ধৰা কথাটোহে আৰু অলপ উনুকিয়াই দিও। মাননীয় Planning মন্ত্ৰীয়ে বজ্জতা দিওতেও মই এই কথাটোকে উনুকিয়াইছিলো যে Mechanical Engineering College খন যোৰহাটত পতা বিষয়ে চৰকাৰে কি ঠিক কৰিছে। কিন্তু সেই সময়ত মই তেখেতৰ পৰা কোনো উত্তৰ নাপালো।

এইটো ২য় পঞ্চবাৰ্ষিক পৰিকল্পনাৰ ভিতৰত আমি আজি কলেজ খন ধৰা দেখা নাই; কেবল চৰকাৰে Supplementary Demand তহে যোৰহাটত সেই কলেজটো দিয়াৰ কথা আছে সেইটোনো কোনসময়ত কেতিয়া হ'ব তাৰ এটা উত্তৰ পালে আমি সুখী হম। কাৰণ বহু মানুহে এই বিষয়ে সন্দেহৰ ভাব পোষণ কৰিছে। মই আমাৰ মাননীয় শিক্ষা মন্ত্ৰী-মহোদয়ৰ পৰা এই কথাখিনি জানিবৰ ইচ্ছা কৰো। মই অকল উজনিৰ ফালৰ পৰাই কোৱা নাই, মই গোটেই অসমৰ উন্নতিৰ ফালৰ পৰাই এই কথা কৈছো। এই আন্দোলনৰ যাতে ওৰ পৰে আৰু আমাৰ লোকসকলৰ মনোবাতে পৰিষ্কাৰ হয় আৰু সন্দেহ ভঞ্জন হয় তেনে এটা বিবৃতি মাননীয় শিক্ষামন্ত্ৰীৰ পৰা বিচাৰো। এই আচনিটো planning ৰ ভিতৰত নপৰিলেও আমি মনত কৰি দিছো।

তাৰ পিছত আমাৰ নিৰ্মাতিৰ সমস্যা বৰ গুৰুতৰ। ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰই নিৰ্মাতিক ধহাই নাইকীয়া কৰিব খুজিছে। এতিয়া ৰেল লাইনো তুলি দিব যেন লাগিছে। যদি দলং খন ডাঙি ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ ভিতৰলৈ সোমাই আহে তেন্তে যোৰহাট টাউনো ৰক্ষাকৰা টান হ'ব। সেই ধহনীয়া কেনেকৈ বাধা দিব পাৰি সেই কথা যোৱা অধিবেশনতো ব্যৱস্থা লবলৈ মই কৈছিলো। আশাকৰো গড়গমেণ্টে ভালকৈ ভাবি চিন্তি চাই শিঘ্ৰে এটা ব্যৱস্থা হাতত ল'বলৈ সিদ্ধান্ত কৰিব।

দ্বিতীয়তে কমলাবাড়ী নিম্নাতিৰ মাজত যিখন ফেৰি আছে, সেইখনো বৰ বিপদজনক হৈ পৰিছে। মাননীয় মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী মহোদয় যেতিয়া যোৱাবাৰ নিম্নাতিলৈ গৈছিল তেতিয়া তেখেতক লগধৰি কোৱাত তেখেতে চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰ পৰা ফেৰিৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব বুলি আশ্বাস দিছিল। মই Planning মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়কো কও যাতে পাৰিলে তেখেতে এইটোবোৰ এটা আঁচনি লয়।

শেষত মই অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়কো খাটো যাতে শিক্ষামন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়কো মই কোৱাৰ পিচতে Technical College সম্বন্ধে বিবৃতি দিবলৈ সুবিধা দিয়ে।

Shri NARNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, plans may have to be re-drafted, our schemes may require to be re-shaped and money from one head may be re-appropriated to another head according to time and necessity, but one fundamental thing must be kept in view. Assam is called the 'land of *lahe lahe*' and I personally feel there is some meaning behind it. For want of a big city our State has not developed to its full stature and this obnoxious word sticks to our name. I, therefore, feel that there is urgent need of raising a town into a city. How this is to be done, what town is to be raised into a city, etc., are questions for the Government, the public and the member of this House to decide. But it is our bounden duty to raise a town into a city and give up our parochial ideas.

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN: I object to this, Sir. Nobody has given any parochial views.

Shri NARNARAYAN GOSWAMI: "ঠাকুৰ বাৰীতে কে? আমি কলা খাইনি" I am not referring to you. I was only submitting that one town should be raised into a city; what town is to be so raised is for the competent authority to decide. But in doing so, Sir, certain basic factors should be taken into consideration. One is that as far as practicable the bigger educational institutions should be located there, so that educated and eminent persons may stay there in a compact body and intelligent people are produced by their contact. So, Sir, the first thing is that all the bigger educational institutions should be, as far as practicable, established in a suitable place so that persons of fame may interchange their views as they are doing in other States. Cities cannot grow without concentration of big educational institutions. So, I think our Planning Minister the Cabinet and the public will give special attention to start bigger educational institutions in a place, which can be raised into a city. Such a place is to be selected where already some big institutions exist, a place which has a historical background and which has some religious surroundings too. With this in view we are to proceed and proceed with all expedition. My appeal to the Planning Minister is that he should

see that money does not lapse ; he should make a scheme straightway to raise a town into a city and he should implement that scheme with all necessary vigour and expedition. If we are successful in raising a town into a city many things will follow automatically ; industries will grow, intelligent brains will be available and many of our problems will be solved. I, therefore, submit that it is the first duty of the Planning Minister to see how to raise a town into a city. If we can do that, men of metal and capacity will be available. We have seen how people living in a big city are much more forward in almost all respects than people living in rural areas. I do not particularly say which town is to be raised into a city. That is to be decided by considering the circumstances prevailing at particular places. All I say, Sir, is that we must raise a town into a city, we must give up our parochial views, we must see Assam as a whole. If we want to raise Assam into the status of Bombay and Madras, it is our bounden duty to raise a town into a city.

With this submission to the Planning Minister, again emphasising the point that it is the foremost duty of Assam to raise a town into a city in which case we will be able to solve many problems, I resume my seat.

Shri HARINARAYAN BARUA : গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াই কলেজ সম্বন্ধে কোৱাটো Parochial বুলি ভাবিছেনে কি ?

Shri NARNARAYAN GOSWAMI : Certainly not.

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN : Sir, anyway my Friend, Shri Narnarayan Goswami, has used the word parochial, but we have never raised the question in that sense at all. Raising of the status of the present Engineering School to College at Jorhat has been in the move since the time of Lokapriya Gopinath Bardoloi of hallowed memory. He asked an expert committee to examine the thing. We have not raised the question to obstruct Gauhati to be a city. For myself about 25 years ago, in the newspaper 'Batari', I stated that Gauhati should be converted into a city.

***Sriman PRAFULLA GOSWAMI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are very much disappointed when we found that the Planning Commission did not accept our whole demand of Rs.290 crores for the Second Five Year Plan and a sum round about Rs.60 crores has been allotted to Assam.

Sir, during the British regime Assam was kept in a very backward state as you know British did not develop Assam and it was almost.....

Mr. SPEAKER: How much you should get according to population basis ?

***Sriman PRAFULLA GOSWAMI:** I am coming to that point later. I am saying that we should be given special weightage in consideration of the fact that other States are progressing leaps and bounds while Assam has just begun. When other States, almost all of them, have river valley projects, whereas in Assam we are only having survey in this regard. During the period of rule of about hundred years, there was no effort for better communication of railways and roads and especially hills were kept in seclusion and in those areas there is no railway or industry or good communication. Assam has got vast wealth of natural resources which can be developed if they are properly tapped. Considering all these things, Assam should be given special weightage so that it can advance in line with other States.

I want to refer particularly about river valley project in Assam. In the first five year plan, the Central sector did not provide us with any. I whole-heartedly support my friends in demanding a few river valley projects in Assam. In my opinion, there should be at least 4 such river valley projects in Assam, considering the fact that Assam is a State of chronic floods and this is well known to the whole of India. To stop such chronic floods in Assam, Government of India should give us 4 river valley projects for the 2nd five year plan period. I do not mind where they are situated, but, I think, there should be one for Lakhimpur and Sibsagar, one for Nowgong and Darrang, one in Cachar and one for Kamrup or Goalpara. Which of the rivers are taken for this purpose is not my concern. Manaha, Kapili, Brahmaputra, Dihing or any other river may be surveyed and selected. For experimental basis we can have these four projects for the time being.

Sir, I am speaking about Central sector and not about this State's draft plan.

The second point is about a bridge over the Brahmaputra river, which should be railway-cum road bridge, between Pandu and Amingaon as this bridge is very very essential for the development of Assam.

Then, the railways in our State are in a very backward state and backward condition. There are innumerable resources produced by nature of Assam which can be utilised for the benefit of Assam if railways are constructed. I would specially mention here that there should be a railway line from Pandu to Garo Hills *via* Goalpara and from Goalpara to Bongaigaon and another line from North Lakhimpur to Rangapara. These lines are essential from the point of economic development of Assam.

Next point is about heavy industries. I already said that there is no industry, worth the name in Assam and as such, there could not be any development of this State and the tea and oil industries, which we have, are the monopoly of foreigners. We are backward in this respect although with our mineral and material resources, we can have several industries in Assam, especially, a paper mill and a sugar mill, which are very essential. With raw materials we have we can run 3 paper mills and 3 or 4 sugar mills. Of course, Government with the help of the Co-operative Department are floating for a co-operative sugar mill, but I think, Government of India should help us to have these mills as early as possible.

Next is about development of the hills. As I have already stated that hills were kept in solitude and in a primitive state. Of course, in these 8 years, we have been able to construct some roads, but the Central Government should give us sufficient money, materials and expert personnel to develop these hills. Unless and until, we can improve the hills, Assam will not be able to prosper.

Then regarding the point about which my Friend, Shri Narayan Goswami, has mentioned that in Assam a town should be raised to a city. I feel, Sir, that both Shillong and Gauhati should be raised to the status of cities. To maintain the beauty and sanitation of Shillong it requires lot of money to make it a modern city. Gauhati should be developed into a modern city. To do so we have a proposal in the State plan also. But, in this regard Government of India must come to our aid because Assam is lagging behind other States, where there are several cities, whereas we have none here.

Sir, if we want to develop the economic condition of the Hill people then they should give them scope to get market for their products. There is a proposal for a ropeway from Cherrapunji to Amingaon and if that ropeway is constructed, oranges, potato and other hill products can be marketed easily and at a cheaper cost of transport.

So, I would appeal to the Government of India that special weightage should be given to this State, considering that for foreign domination we were kept in a very backward state and if we want to get over this rut, special weightage for more funds is essentially necessary.

With these words, I resume my seat.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Mookerjee.

(Several hon. Members stood up for speaking)

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): As some hon. Members still want to speak, I think you can allow them Sir, to for speak for five minutes or so.

Mr. SPEAKER: But there is no time.

(Voices:—You can extend the time Sir, we won't mind)

If you are prepared to forego private Members' business to-morrow, I am prepared to allow the members to speak.

(Voices:—Yes Sir, we will have no objection).

Mr. Gogoi, I think you have a resolution to move, why don't you stand up and move it.

Shri GIRINDRANATH GOGOI: But I mean to move it tomorrow Sir.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: The members may be allowed to speak to day and I shall make my reply to-morrow Sir,

Mr. SPEAKER: Is that the sense of the House ?

(Voices:—Yes, yes).

All right. Now, Mr. Umaruddin.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: Mr. Speaker Sir, in discussing the merits of the Second Five Year Plan that has been placed before the House, I think we must bear in mind that its main objective which is to increase national income of the State. Sir, in the First Five Year Plan the target was to bring about an increase of 15.0 per cent. But that target could not be achieved and the actual estimated increase achieved was only 12.7 per cent. And it has been observed that for some special difficulties with which the State of Assam is beset the increase as aimed at could not be reached. Now Sir, our

Government with a view to make up the leeway in national income and to bring it to the desired level of 30.5 per cent and to increase the *per capita* income to 22.7 per cent formulated the State Second Five Year Plan involving a total outlay of more than 290 crores. But unfortunately the Planning Commission did not accept the proposals as presented but made a drastic reduction by more than 200 crores. It appears Sir, that we have not been able to impress upon the Planning Commission at the Centre about the peculiar position of Assam and her special needs. Therefore, I maintain that we must press our claims with all the emphasis at our command so that the total allotment be increased at least to such extent as may enable Assam to maintain an existence comparable to that of other States.

Sir, the special problems of Assam are lack of communication with the rest of India as well as within itself, the unstable agriculture due to frequent floods and other natural calamities and the inadequate industrialisation of the State as a whole. And above all, ours is a strategic State. So Sir, if Assam is to play the role of a strategic State, in that case its people must be economically prosperous, there must be contentment among the people so that their morale is as high as may be reasonably expected from citizens of a strategic State like ours. Now it has been stated here that the question of expansion of communications, *i. e.* the railway communications by the Government of India has been taken up. But we do not know what progress has been made in this regard. We should like to be enlightened by the Planning Minister about the question of having an alternative line between Assam and the rest of India and also extension of the railway line through Garo Hills and Goalpara to connect with Pandu at Kamrup, and then for extending the line from Tezpur to North Lakhimpur because unless we have this line it will be impossible for us to ensure the economic progress of the people in various fields whether in the field of major industries or cottage industries, etc., as you know Sir, for improving economic standard of the people we must have easy means of communications to export our goods and bringing essential goods from outside to meet our requirements. What we find happening in our State is that the slender means of communication with the rest of India is being snapped every year with the result that the people are being hard hit economically in addition to other forms of difficulties their economy is disrupted not to speak of acute distress caused to the poorer section of the people. For that reason we should know in what way or what are the schemes which the Central Government envisage to help our

State to meet its pressing problems. Personally Sir, I do not see any reason why we should not have the line from Bongai-gaon extended through Goalpara up to Garo Hills to connect the sites of coal mines and raw materials for a cement factory there and also to connect the southern regions of Khasi and Jaintia Hills and Kamrup district.

Secondly also, the northern part of our State from Tezpur to North Lakhimpur requires immediate development. Then Sir, the question of unstable character of our agriculture due to natural calamities needs our most urgent attention. This must be overcome to the best of our abilities. For this purpose we expect some money under the flood Control Schemes. We have set up a department for this purpose and all schemes under Flood Control should be given utmost priority. Unless we can make our agriculture stable and fairly secure from the ravages of floods and other natural calamities, it will be impossible for this section of our people—the agriculturists—to lead a tolerable existence. Another thing in this connection is this. Of all the States in India Assam has the highest percentage of population depended on agriculture. Then again the incidence of dependence of the agricultural families of Assam is also the highest in India. That shows that we must have larger scope for development of the economic standard of our people—both agricultural and non-agricultural population—through industries whether major industries or cottage industries or some other minor industries. If we allow the people to be dependent on agriculture alone that would be a very serious position. So Sir, I say, if the State is to prosper we must give highest priority to flood control measures. We must control the Brahmaputra and its tributaries as best as we can. Some of these measures can be undertaken through River Valley projects. The River Valley Projects can provide double benefit; they control floods and at the same time supply cheap power on which our major and minor industries can thrive. Then, Sir, this being the position, the Planning Commission should at least provide two River valley projects for Assam, if not more.

Next so far as the question of industrial development is concerned, we find a total sum of 1.40 crores has been provided in respect of a Jute Mill, a Sugar Mill, a Spinning Mill and Spun Silk Mill. In addition to these, the Planning Commission have recognised the need for the setting up of cement factory, Paper Mill and Re-rolling Mill, etc. But I do not find what the specific schemes of our Government are, whether the initiative to set the private sector in motion is the responsibility of the Planning Commission, Government of India or the Assam

Government and what amount of capital is going to be invested and whether and to what extent Government is going to buy shares and what agency is going to initiate such industrial projects. In my opinion our Government should set up a specific machinery with experts, etc., who can collect the necessary data and place them before intending industrialists and also examine the possibilities of the proposals put forward by them.

Mr. SPEAKER: What kind of machinery Mr. Umaruddin meant?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: Sir, an Industrial Development Board. I do not know what our Industries Department is going to do. My point is that every effort should be made to deploy local initiative, enterprise, capital and labour so that the people of the State can get the maximum benefit out of industrialisation.

Unless we can harness the local resources to the maximum extent possible, industrial development will have no meaning for the State of Assam. But what has been done to stimulate local initiative and enterprise? If we want to have the full benefit out of industrial development, the people of Assam must invest certain amount of capital also. That some steps have been taken to encourage our people in this direction is not mentioned nor whether any investigation has been made about our people's capacity to take initiative for industrial development. I say this, Sir, because in the case of the tea industry after the Europeans began to open tea gardens, our people also began to take some initiative and as a result some tea gardens owned by Assamese people came into existence and they are getting benefit out of them.

Then Sir, with regard to agriculture, we must see that by planning, our agriculturists derive more benefit. We must, no doubt, grow sufficient food crops such as paddy with a view to make the State self-sufficient in food, but if their income is to be increased, they must be induced to grow cash crops more extensively. In this direction, I would request the Government to give more specific attention to those people who do not still cultivate jute which is an important money crop. We must also encourage the production of other varieties of cash crops and commercial crops, etc., so that our villagers may derive more money income.

Then again, Sir, I find that all the schemes for improved methods of agriculture in this State will be initiated through Community Projects and National Extension Service Schemes. For village planning we must not necessarily wait for the introduction of National Extension Service Scheme, etc. We must

create certain amount of confidence and satisfaction in the minds of the village people that our Government have launched upon planning-covering the entire State and in various fields of development so that their enthusiasm is roused.

In distributing funds for various developmental activities special needs of different parts of the State should be borne in mind so that such distribution is equitable and rational. That is the best way of creating enthusiasm.

Success of planning mainly depends on the initiative and co-operation of the people. We must be able to develop this initiative. We must go to the people in the villages and explain to them the role they are expected to play as without their willing co-operation, no progress will be possible.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government and particularly the attention of the Planning Minister to the fact that the development projects generally at the district level have not been distributed on a rational and equitable basis. I have come to know that in many quarters people are not happy—they are disappointed at the ways in which money is being distributed. This feeling must be removed. The best way of creating satisfaction among various sections of the people is to distribute developmental activities on a fair basis, keeping in view the over-all welfare of the State as a whole. This can best be done by maintaining proper liaison with the Subdivisional Development Boards, who submit various schemes for sanction by Government but they do not know how many of such schemes have been accepted by Government. This gives rise to misunderstanding and disaffection which militate against the growth of public enthusiasm. In my opinion, the authoritative agency of the Planning Department or the Planning Minister himself, whenever possible, should discuss development schemes with Subdivisional Development Boards and create confidence by exchange of views and thereby pave the way for successful implementation of plans at the district and village levels.

Special attention should be given to development activities in the Tribal areas and steps taken to fully harness their willing co-operation. In my opinion a separate Development Board may be established for the Tribal areas so that the tribal people concerned may participate in its deliberations and help also in the matter of implementation. Sir, in this way, in my humble opinion, we shall be in a position to harness the co-operation and help of the people in general for successful implementation of the Second Five-Year Plan.

I hope Government will look into these things and see their way to make necessary adjustments to meet the exigencies of circumstances.

With these few words I conclude my observation on the Second Five-Year Plan.

Shri HARIHAR CHAUDHURI: মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, দ্বিতীয় পঞ্চ বার্ষিক পরিকল্পনাৰ সমালোচনা প্ৰসঙ্গত মাননীয় সদস্যসকলৰ কেইবাজনো নদীনিয়ন্ত্ৰণ বিষয়ত জোৰ দিছে। ময়ো তেখেত সকলৰ লগতে হাত মিলাই কওঁ যে আমাৰ অসমৰ আন সকলো উন্নয়নৰ কামো যদি পিচ পৰি থাকে তথাপি নদী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণৰ কামত দ্ৰুত গতিৰে আগবাঢ়ি যাবই লাগিব। কাৰণ ফুটা জোৰোঙাত যিমানেই সোমায় সিমানেই ওলাই যায়।

এহাতে আমি Animal Husbandry ৰ দ্বাৰা খেতিৰ সজুলি গৰু-মহৰ বৃদ্ধি আৰু উন্নতি বঢ়াবলৈ আঁচনি লৈছে আনহাতে প্ৰত্যেক বছৰে হেজাৰ হেজাৰ গৰু মহ বানপানীয়ে উটুৱাই নিছে। এহাতে আমি জঙ্ঘল সংৰক্ষণকাৰী আমাৰ বাজ্যৰ বনজ সম্পদ বক্ষা কৰিবলৈ আৰু বঢ়াবলৈ যত্ন লৈছে। আনহাতে বছৰে বছৰে গাঁওৰ পিছত গাঁও নদীয়ে খহাই নিয়াৰ ফলত গৰাখহনিয়াৰ সংস্থাপন কৰিবৰ বাবে দেশৰ স্বাৰ্থৰ পৰিপন্থী শক্তি আমাৰ বিজাৰ্ভ বিলাক এফালৰ পৰা খুলি দিবলৈ বাধ্য হৈছে আৰু ফলত আমাৰ বনজ সম্পদ নষ্ট হৈছে আৰু আনহাতে গৰু-মহৰ ঘাহ নোহোৱা হৈছে। এহাতে খেতিৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে হৰেক বৰকমৰ চেষ্টা চলিছে আনহাতে বছৰি হেজাৰ হেজাৰ বিঘা মাটি নদীয়ে গ্ৰাস কৰি নিছে। ই বৰ গুৰুতৰ কথা সেই কাৰণে সকলো কাম পিছ পেলাই হলেও নদী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণৰ কামত জোৰ দিবই লাগিব।

শ্ৰদ্ধেয় বৰা ডাঙৰীয়াই আৰু শ্ৰদ্ধেয় ফুকন ডাঙৰীয়াই দ্বিতীয় পাচবছৰীয়া পৰিকল্পনাত যেনেহলেও এটা নদী উপত্যকা আঁচনি হাতত লোৱাৰ কথা উল্লেখ কৰিছে আৰু কপিলিৰ ওপৰত বিশেষ জোৰ দিছে। ভৰলি মানাহ, আই, বৰাক আদি নদীৰ কথাও উল্লেখ কৰিছে কিন্তু দিবাং আৰু দিহিংৰ কথা কোনেও উল্লেখ নকৰিলে। আমাৰ অসমৰ ইমূৰৰ নেতা সকলৰ যদি অসমৰ সিমূৰৰ কথা মনত নাহে তেন্তে ইমান দূৰৰ থকা দিল্লীৰ আমালৈ মনত নহা কোনো আচৰিত নহয়। কপিলি, ভৰলি, বৰাক আদি নদীতকৈ দিবাং আৰু দিহিংৰ গুৰুত্ব কম নহয় বৰং বেচিহে, দিবাঙে শদিয়া টাউন, ছৈখোবা গ্ৰাম কৰি শেষ কৰিলে, যি শদিয়া আমাৰ দ্বিতীয় স্বাস্থ্যনিবাস হিচাবে পৰিগণিত আছিল সেই শদিয়াৰ আজি চিহ্ন নাই। যি ছৈখোৱাই গোটেই ডিব্ৰুগড় অঞ্চলৰ মাছ, শাক-তৰকাৰীৰ যোগান দিছিল সেই ছৈখোৱাৰ এতিয়া চিন নাই, ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ গৰা খহনীয়াৰ কাৰণেও মূলতঃ দিবাংহে দায়ী। ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ লগত দিবাংৰ সংযোগস্থলৰ বাবে অকলে ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ তেনে জোৰ নাই কিন্তু দিবাংৰ মুখৰ পৰাহে ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ আচল ধ্বংশলীলা আৰম্ভ।

১৯৫০ ৰ ভূমিকম্পৰ পিছৰ পৰা উজনি অসমৰ নদীবিলাকৰ উৎপাত অতিকৈ বেচি হৈছে। ওপৰৰ পৰা বালিমাটি আহি নদীৰ তলি ভৰি গৈছে আৰু অলপ পানী অহাৰ লগে লগে নদীৰ পাৰ বাগৰি বানপানী হয়। তলি নোপোৱা ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ এতিয়া মাত্ৰ ১০।১২ হাত পানী। মই যোৱাৰাৰ শদিয়ালৈ যাওঁতে তলি নোহোৱা ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ ১০।১২ হাত লগিৰে পাৰ হৈ গৈছে। এই কথা মানুহে হয়টো বিশ্বাস কৰিবলৈও টান পাব।

আমাৰ এতিয়া নদীবিলাকত বানদি বানপানী ৰোধ কৰিবলৈ চেষ্টা চলিছে। কিন্তু নদীৰ পাৰ বান্ধি বানপানী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰা হৈ নুঠিব। বছৰি নদী তৰাংহৈ আহিছে আৰু বান্ধৰ ওপৰতে বান্ধৰ আৱশ্যক হৈ আছে। আৰু নদীত বান্ধ দিয়াৰ পৰা এফালে একাংশ মানুহৰ যি উপকাৰ হৈছে আন ফালে আন এক অংশৰ প্ৰচুৰ ক্ষতি হৈছে। যোৱাৰাৰ ছৈখোৱাত

ব্রহ্মপুত্ৰৰ বান্ধ ভাঙি হঠাতে অতিক্ৰিতে মানুহে সাৰধান হবলৈ সময় নৌপাওতেই পানী আহি গাঁওৰ পিচত গাঁও তল কৰি নিলে। কামৰূপতো পাগলাদিয়া নদীৰ বান্ধ ভাঙি গাঁওকে গাঁও উচচল কৰি নিছে। গতিকে নদীত বান্ধ বান্ধি দেশ বন্ধা কৰা নহব। নদী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণৰহে একান্ত আৱশ্যক।

Mr. SPEAKER : কোন ঠাইৰ নদী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰিব লাগে ?

Shri HARIHAR CHOUDHURY : বৰা ডাঙৰীয়াই কোৱা কপিলিৰ সম্বন্ধে হোৱা বিশেষ উপদ্ৰৱৰ কথা সকলোৰে জনাজাত। ১৯১৬ চনৰ কপিলিৰ বানপানীৰ বিষয় বিশেষ নাজানো যদিও ১৯৩৪ আৰু তাৰ পিছত কপিলিৰ বানপানীৰ বিষয় উপলব্ধি কৰো। ১৯৩৪ চনৰ ডুমডুমা অঞ্চলৰ পৰাও আমি কপিলিৰ বানপানীৰ ক্ষতিগ্ৰস্ত সকললৈ বিলিক সংগ্ৰহ কৰি পঠোৱা মনত পৰে। গতিকে কপিলিৰ গুৰুত্ব কম বুলি নকওঁ। মই কওঁ অকল কপিলি বা ভবলী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰিলে নহব। অসমৰ উপদ্ৰৱকাৰী এটাইবোৰ নদী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণৰ ব্যৱস্থা হাতত লবৰ বন্দবস্ত কৰিব লাগে। মাজতে এটা দুটা নদী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণে কাম নিদিয়ৈ। ওপৰৰ পৰা নদী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণৰ কাম হব লাগিব। গছৰ আগত পানী ঢালিলে কাম নহয়। গুৰিতহে পানীৰ আৱশ্যক। তেনেদৰে ওপৰৰ পৰা নদী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণৰ ব্যৱস্থা নহলে কাম নহব। প্ৰথমে দিবাং, দিহিং, সোৱণসিৰি আদি নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ হব লাগে আৰু তেতিয়াহে নদী তলফালে বন্ধা হোৱাৰ ব্যৱস্থা হব পাৰে।

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : তেন্তে তিব্বতত নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰিব লাগিব নেকি ?

Shri HARIHAR CHOUDHURY : আমি যদি প্ৰথমে তিব্বতৰ পৰা ওলোৱা নদী কেইটাৰ উপদ্ৰৱ বন্ধ কৰিব নোৱাৰো তেন্তে নদী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ হব কেনেকৈ। দৰ্কাৰ হলে তাকো কৰিব লাগিব। যি উপায়ে হওক অসমৰ অনিষ্টকাৰী নদী বিলাকৰ নিয়ন্ত্ৰণৰ বন্দবস্ত হবই লাগিব আৰু সেয়ে নহলে আমাৰ দেশক উন্নতিৰ পথত আগুৱাই নিব নোৱাৰো। নদীৰ বান্ধ বান্ধি টকা খবছ নকৰি আমাৰ চৰকাৰে আমাৰ অনিষ্টকাৰী নদী বিলাকৰ নিয়ন্ত্ৰণৰ কাম হাতত লোৱাহে নিতান্ত আৱশ্যক। অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই ইমানকে কৈ মোৰ বক্তব্য শেষ কৰিলো।

Shri GIRINDRANATH GOGOI : মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় জয় জয়তে Planning মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে ২য় পঞ্চবাৰ্ষিক পৰিকল্পনা বিষয়ে সদনত আলোচনা কৰাৰ সুবিধা দিয়াৰ কাৰণে তেখেতক ধন্যবাদ দিছো।

এই সম্বন্ধে মোৰ এটা কথা মনত পৰিছে। অসম কংগ্ৰেছ সভাপতি শ্ৰীমহেন্দ্ৰ মোহন চৌধুৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই গুৱাহাটীত গৃহমন্ত্ৰী পাণ্টজিক সম্বন্ধে জনাওঁতে কৈছিল যে অসমৰ দুভাগ্য যে অসমত আমাৰ able নেতা আৰু powerful press নাই যাৰ অভাৱত আমি আজি জিয়াত ভুগিব লাগিছো।

বহুতো মাননীয় সভ্যই ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ নিয়ন্ত্ৰণৰ কথা কৈছে। বিশেষকৈ আমাৰ নগৰৰ সদস্য শ্ৰীবিমলা কান্ত বৰা ডাঙৰীয়াই কপিলি, বৰাক, আই আৰু বহুত নৈৰ বন্যাৰ ফলত ডাঙৰ হোৱা আৰু তাৰ পৰিণতিৰ সম্বন্ধে বিষদ ব্যাখ্যা দি নদী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ যে নহলেই নহয় তাক টানি কৈছে। আমাৰ এই পিছ পৰা ৰাজ্যখন উন্নতিৰ পথত আগ বঢ়াবলৈ হলে নদী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰাটো অপৰিহাৰ্য্য।

এই বিষয়ত আৰু এটা কথা উনুৰিয়াব খোজো। গত অধিবেশনত এই কথাটো আলোচনা হৈছিল যে যোৰহাটতো এটা Technical College স্থাপন কৰিব লাগে।

মুখ্য মন্ত্রী ডাঙৰীয়াই আশ্বাস দিছিল কিন্তু এতিয়া দেখিছো সেইটোৰ supplementary draft planতহে কিছু টকা ধৰিছে। মোৰ মনত হয় সেই টকাও পোৱা হবনে নহয় সন্দেহ আছে। এই Technical College সম্বন্ধে আমি যোৰহাট, গোলাঘাট, শিৱসাগৰৰ পৰা আমি ৪০৫০ জনৰ এটা সজাতিদলো মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰীক তেখেতৰ বাগ ভবনতে লগ ধৰিছিলো। তাতো তেখেতে আমাক আশ্বাস দিছিল যে সেইটো হৈ যাব মই কৈছিলো যে এই college সম্বন্ধে মোৰ এটা Resolution আছে আৰু সদনত আশ্বাস পালে মই মোৰ প্ৰস্তাৱটো উঠাইলম। সদনত তেখেত সকলৰ আশ্বাস পাই প্ৰস্তাৱটো উঠাই লও। কিন্তু ইমান প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতিয়েও ফলত একো নহল। অথচ গুৱাহাটীৰ এজন পেঞ্চন ভোগী অসম চৰকাৰৰ চিফ ইঞ্জিনীয়াৰক প্ৰিন্সিপাল পাতি চিভিল ইঞ্জিনীয়াৰিং কলেজ চালু হৈ গল। আমি আগতে কেবা বাৰো এই সদনতে আলোচনা কৰিছিলো যে কলেজখন যোৰহাটতহে হব লাগে বুলি—সেই অনুযায়ী ৰাইজেও তাকে আশা কৰি আছিল। এই বিষয়ে ৰাইজৰ এখন মিটিঙত মই সভাপতিত্ব কৰিছিলো। তাত বহুতো গণ্যমান্য লোক উপস্থিত আছিল। শ্ৰীযুত নিলমণী ফুকন, শ্ৰীদেবেশ্বৰ শৰ্মা এম্, পি, অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়কে আদি কৰি। গতিকে এই সম্পৰ্কে আমি জড়িত হৈ পৰিছো—এতিয়া ৰাইজে আমাক গৰিহনা দিছে। শ্ৰী মুখাৰ্জীৰ কাৰণে এইটো একো নহব পাৰে কিন্তু যোৰহাট, গোলাঘাট, শিৱসাগৰৰ M. L. A., M. P. আৰু অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়ৰ কাৰণে এটা ডাঙৰ সমস্যাই হৈ পৰিছে। শি। মন্ত্রী আৰু মুখ্য মন্ত্রী মহোদয়েও এই কলেজখন যোৰহাটত হব বুলি প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতি দিছিল। আৰু সেই অনুযায়ী আমি ৰাইজক বুজাইছিলো। গতিকে এতিয়া ৰাইজৰ ভীষণ চাঞ্চল্যও অসন্তুষ্টি দূৰ কৰাৰ বিষয়ে চৰকাৰে চিন্তা কৰি চাব বুলি আশা কৰিছো। যোৰহাটত টেকনিকেল স্কুল বহুত দিনৰ পৰা চলি আছে তাক কলেজ পাতিবলৈ বহুতো সুবিধা আছিল। গতিকে মেকানিকেল আৰু ইলেকট্ৰিকেল কলেজ এখন যোৰহাটত পাতি দিব পাৰিলে শিৱসাগৰীয়া ৰাইজ সন্তুষ্ট হোৱাৰ লগে লগে আমাকো উন্নতিৰ পথত আগুৱাব পাৰিব। কাৰণ আমাৰ এখন ইঞ্জিনীয়াৰিং কলেজ যোৰহাটত পাতিলে অসমৰ বাবে উপকাৰহে হব। যোৰহাটত কলেজ পাতিবলৈ গলে টকাও বেছি আৱশ্যক নহব। গতিকে চৰকাৰে এই বিষয়ে বিবেচনা কৰিব বুলি আশা কৰি মোৰ বক্তব্য সামৰনি মাৰিলো।

Shri RAM PRASAD CHAUBEY : শ্ৰদ্ধেয় অধ্যক্ষজী মহোদয়,

Planning কে বাৱেঁ মুझे कोई शिकायत नहीं है। सबलोगोंको यह स्वीकार करना पड़ता है आवश्यक Planning पर ही किसी देशकी उन्नति निर्भर है। जो देश जितनी अच्छी Planning करेगा, वह उतना ही आगे बढ़ेगा और उन्नत देशोंका मुकाबला कर सकेगा। मुझे एक ही बातका बड़ा अफसोस है कि हमारी सरकार ने २६० करोड़ रुपये की Planning की थी। किन्तु केंद्रीय सरकार ने उसे घटाकर सिर्फ ५६ करोड़ रुपये कर दिये हैं। इस छोटी सी रकम से हमारे राज्यकी आशानुरूप उन्नति करने की कोई संभावना मैं देख नहीं पाता।

गाँव हमारे जीवन का तथा हमारे राज्य का प्रधानतम अंग है। किन्तु, गाँवोंकी Planning के बावत सिर्फ ५ करोड़ रुपये दिये गये हैं। और इधर, हमारे गाँवोंकी संख्या २५ हजार के करीब हैं। इससे हम देख सकते हैं कि फी गाँव सिर्फ दो ही हजार रुपये पड़ते हैं। मैं नहीं समझता कि दो दो हजार रुपयेसे एक एक गाँवकी क्या उन्नति हो सकती है।

इसके अलावा Plantation Labour के बाबत १२ लाख मजदूरों की उन्नति के लिये २५ लाख रुपये रखे गए हैं। यानी, हर मजदूर की उन्नति के लिये ५ सालका २ रुपये ही हैं। आप सोचिये कि इससे हमारे मजदूर भाइयों की क्या उन्नति हो सकती है।

आगे इसके, हमारी सरकार ने Ruralisation of Urban Areas तथा Urbanisation of Rural Areas की Scheme ले रखी है। किन्तु मैं पहले ही कह चुका हूँ कि हर गाँवकी उन्नति के बाबत दो दो हजार रुपये देकर (इससे) हमें कैसी सफलता मिल सकती है?

बराक नदीके बारेमें बहुत कुछ कहा जा चुका है। हम सब काछाड़ के लोग इस बारेमें एक मतपर हैं कि बराक पर जोरदार Control होनी चाहिये। और हम सब एक मत होकर यह मांग पेश करते आये हैं। जब दिल्लीसे Mr. Gary आये थे तब Silchar Circuit House में हम सभी M. L. A. और पाबलिक की ओर से भी कुछ लोग इस बारेमें बातचीत कर रहे थे।

Embankment and Drainage, Small River Training और Projects वगैरह के बारेमें हमलोग बातचीत कर रहे थे जिसमें कि मैं भाग नहीं ले रहा था। इसपर उनका ध्यान गया और उन्होंने पूछा।

Mr. SPEAKER : Mr. Chaubey what is your opinion about this?

मैंने कहा According to me unless and until the Barak River is controlled nothing can be hoped for Cachar District.

मैंने कहा कि हर साल बराकमें बड़ी बाढ़ आती रहती है और सबकुछ साफ करती रहती हैं। इसलिये इस नदी पर Control करना बहुत जरूरी है। हम नहीं जानते कि River Valley Projects के बाबत क्या Plan है और कितने रुपये की मांग है। बराक नदीके बारेमें मैं आप सबका ध्यान आकर्षित करता हूँ।

आखिर, मैं आप सबलोगोंसे विनम्र अनुरोध करता हूँ कि हमारी सरकारने आसाम की Planning के बाबत २६० करोड़ रुपये की जो मांग की थी उसे मंजूर करवाने के लिये जोर दें। २६० करोड़ की जगह पर केन्द्रीय सरकार ने सिर्फ ५६ करोड़ रुपये मंजूर किये हैं। इससे उन्नति के रास्तेपर कोई ठोस कदम हम नहीं उठा सकेंगे इसलिये

२६० करोड़ रुपये की सख्त जरूरत है। केन्द्रीय सरकार को यह रकम मंजूर करनी चाहिये।

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A. M. on Tuesday, the 22nd November, 1955.

SHILLONG :

R. N. BARUA,

The 7th July, 1956.

*Secretary, Legislative Assembly,
Assam.*

A.G.P. (L.A.) No.119/56—126—10-7-56.

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AGENTS IN INDIA

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