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# Assam Legislative Assembly Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

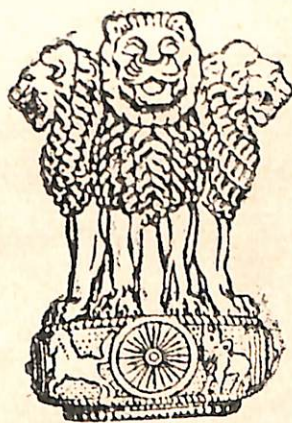
EIGHTH SESSION OF THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE  
ASSEMBLY ASSEMBLED AFTER THE FIRST  
GENERAL ELECTION UNDER THE  
SOVEREIGN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN  
CONSTITUTION OF  
INDIA

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VOLUME II

No. 33

The 25th November 1955



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Assembly

Legislative Assembly

Minutes

Official Report

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA  
MINUTES OF THE 10TH MEETING  
Held at Edmonton, Alberta  
on the 10th day of May, 1904

Session 1903-1904

Volume II

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ALBERTA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA  
1904

# DEBATES OF THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1955

(November Session)

Vol. II, No.33

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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**

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The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong  
at 1-30 P.M. on Friday, the 25th November, 1955.

**P R E S E N T**

Shri Rajendra Nath Barua, B. L., Deputy Speaker, in the  
Chair, the Eight Ministers, the Two Deputy Ministers, Two  
Parliamentary Secretaries and Seventy-three Members.

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**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**STARRED QUESTIONS**

(To which oral answers were given)

(Starred question No.6 standing in the name of Shri Mal  
Chandra Pegu was not put and answered as the hon. questioner  
was absent.)

**Acquisition of annual land for public purpose in  
Sibsagar**

**Shri ANANDA CHANDRA BEZBARUA** asked :

\*7. Will the Minister-in-Charge of Revenue be pleased to  
state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Sibsagar Municipal  
Board moved the Subdivisional Officer, Sibsaga-  
gar, for acquisition of annual land covered by  
Dag No.2093 of Sibsagar town for a public  
purpose on 10th April 1953 ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that in pursuance of the  
Subdivisional Officer's request Municipal Board  
deposited Rs.948-14-0 in Treasury on 20th May  
1953 ?
- (c) If so, why possession has not yet been given to the  
Board ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister)** replied :

7. (a)—Yes.



(b)—No. The Municipal Board did not deposit the amount of Rs.948-14-0 into the Treasury but issued a cheque for the said amount on 19th August 1953 in favour of the Subdivisional Officer, Sibsagar, which had not been cashed for the reasons below, *viz.*,—

(i) there was a proposal from the Municipal Board to open a Central Market on the present High School site which has been proposed to be given to the Municipal Board on payment of the cost of the land and buildings on it ;

(ii) the Municipal Board informed the Subdivisional Officer on 1st April 1955 that it had closed down the Second Market for extension of which the land in question was sought to be acquired ; and

(iii) the Municipal Board has informed the Subdivisional Officer on 10th October 1955 that inspite of the Central Market, if opened, on the existing High School site, they want to develop the Second Market in a planned manner. This contradicts their earlier decision. The matter is, however, under close examination of the Subdivisional Officer, Sibsagar, whether the Second Market can be developed in a planned manner as proposed by the Municipal Board and if it is feasible he would take steps to acquire the land.

(c)—Does not arise.

### **Motor Stands at various terminus of Private Bus Services in Assam**

**Shri ANANDA CHANDRA BEZBARUA** asked :

\*8. Will the Minister-in-Charge of Transport be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is not the responsibility of the Department of the Transport to provide Motor Stands at various terminus of private bus services and other vehicles ?

(b) Whether the attention of the Government had been drawn to the fact that roadsides are used as vehicles stands in almost all places including towns in the State ?

(c) Whether Government propose to take steps for their removal to avoid accidents to general public ?



**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister)** replied :

8. (a)—The Local Authority having jurisdiction in the area concerned is to determine places at which Motor Vehicles may stand either indefinitely or for a specified period of time. The Regional Transport Authority is to notify places so determined to be used as Stands and halting places.

(b)—No. In some places, however, for suitable sites not being provided by Local Authorities there are not sufficient number of Stands and halting places.

(c)—Government are taking up the matter with the Local Authorities and the Regional Transport Authorities to arrange suitable sites in every district and subdivisional head-quarter and notify such sites as Stands and halting places.

#### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

#### Fuel Research in Assam

**Sriman PRAFULLA GOSWAMI** asked :

23. Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether any fuel research was made ?
- (b) If so, when the research work had commenced ?
- (c) Who was appointed to do the research work ?
- (d) Whether he is continuing the research ?
- (e) If not, why and where he has gone ?
- (f) What is the progress of research ?

**Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister)** replied :

23. (a)-(f)—There is a field Research Laboratory at Jorhat which is under the control of the Government of India. This State Government have no information as to the research work done there.

#### Export of Rice from Assam

**Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli** asked :

24. Will the Minister, Supply, be pleased to state—

- (a) If Government are aware that rice is being imported and sold at Dhubri from Burma ?



- (b) If the reply to the above be in the affirmative, the price of such rice per maund ?
- (c) If Government fixed the price of such rice for local sale ?
- (d) If Government have allowed export of rice to Tibet from Assam ?
- (e) If Government appointed any Agent for procuring rice for export ?
- (f) If a quota has been fixed for exporting rice out of Assam ?
- (g) Whether Assam has sufficient rice to feed her population leaving surplus for export ?
- (h) Whether the Minister is aware that there is a scarcity of food in certain parts of Dhubri Sub-division ?

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

24. (a), (b) & (c)—Burma rice stocked in the Central Reserve Godowns at Calcutta has been sold from time to time by tender by the Government of India and as there is no control now on rice/paddy, interested traders may import rice from such stocks and sell it at any place in Assam. Government have no powers to fix the price of such rice. As regards the price at Dhubri necessary information has been called for.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—No.

(f)—No.

(g)—Yes.

(h)—There is no scarcity of foodgrains in that Subdivision.

**C. I. Sheet Dealer of Barpeta**

**Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED** asked :

25. Will the Minister-in-Charge of Supply be pleased to state—



Whether it is a fact that C. I. Sheet Dealer of Barpeta charges Re.1-6-0 per maund as carrying charge from Tarabarihat to Barpeta where the actual carrying charge is not more than 0-7-0 to 0-8-0 annas per maund ?

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

25.—Yes. This carrying charge has been fixed after proper enquiry and verification. It is not possible to bring G. C. I. Sheets from Tarabarihat to Barpeta at the rate of annas 0-7-0 to 0-8-0 per maund.

### **Purchase of Mura Buffaloes for Khanapara Cattle Farm**

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS** asked :

26. Will the Minister-in-Charge of Animal Husbandry and Livestock be pleased to state—

- (a) How many Mura buffaloes have been purchased for Khanapara Cattle Farm and what is the total cost ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that cost of each such buffalo amounts to Rs.1,300 ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that price of each Mura buffalo is Rs.400 to 500 ?
- (d) If so, why such a huge amount is paid for each buffalo ?
- (e) Who purchased these buffaloes ?
- (f) What action Government has taken against the officer concerned who is responsible for such a huge loss of Government money ?
- (g) Whether Government propose to realise the excess amount from the officer concerned ?

27. Will the Minister-in-Charge of Animal Husbandry and Live-stock be pleased to state—

- (a) The cost involved for the sheds constructed for keeping the Mura buffaloes at Khanapara ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that due to defective planning and construction of the sheds the buffaloes are to lie down in drains ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that these sheds are going to be demolished ?



(d) Who is responsible for the plans and the construction of these sheds ?

(e) What action Government has taken against the officer concerned ?

**Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Minister)**  
replied :

26&27.—Necessary information is being collected.

**Regarding European Owned Tea Gardens in Assam**  
**Shri HARIHAR CHAUDHURY** asked :

28. Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state—

(a) The total number of persons in the Managerial Staff of the European owned Tea Gardens in Assam—Europeans and Indians separately ?

(b) Number of Indians employed in Managerial Staff of the European owned Tea Gardens in Assam during the years of 1951-52, 1953, 1954 and 1955—Assamese and non-Assamese separately ?

**Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister)**  
replied :

28. (a)—(i) European	...	...	...	742
(ii) Indian	...	...	...	191

(b)—Not available as no separate figures have been kept for Assamese and non-Assamese by the European owned gardens.

**Shri HARIHAR CHAUDHURY :** Sir, Managerial staff ত অসমীয়া কিমান আছে আৰু অনা-অসমীয়া কিমান আছে সেইটো চবকাৰে আমাক জনাবনে ?

**Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister) :** Yes, Sir, Government will try to obtain the information.

**Printing of Electoral Rolls of Dhubri**

**Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli** asked :

29. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether some of the Electoral Rolls in connection with the General Elections to Legislatures were printed at Dhubri ?

- (b) Whether it is a fact that out of the five local printing presses one was not given any contract for printing ?

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

29. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

### Decrees of Barpeta Civil Court

**Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED** asked :

30. Will the Minister-in-Charge of Judicial be pleased to enquire and state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that decrees in Barpeta Civil Court Office which were passed long since, are not prepared and for that reason copies could not be obtained by parties ?

(b) If so, why ?

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

30. (a) & (b)—Necessary information has been called for and if it is found that there has been undue delay, in that case necessary steps will be taken to expedite the matter.

### Nomination of Members to Gauhati Sub-divisional School Board

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS** asked :

31. Will the Minister-in-Charge of Education be pleased to state—

(a) What is the number of Members nominated for the Gauhati Subdivisional School Board ?

(b) From which part of the district these Members are nominated ?

(c) What principle has been adopted in making these nominations ?

(d) Whether it is a fact that a vast area from Gauhati to Dhupdhara remains unrepresented ?

(e) Whether it is a fact that from some areas 2 to 3 Members have been nominated ?



(f) whether the Minister will be pleased to see that all areas are equally represented in the sub-divisional Board ?

**Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister)** replied :

31. (a)—Six.

(b)—From all parts of the Gauhati Sadr Subdivision.

(c)—In making the nominations, the past experience and special interest in educational matters of the persons have been considered.

(d)—No.

(e)—No.

(f) Does not arise.

### **Conversion of Lessee Manager System of Country Spirit into Country Spirit Shops**

**Shri SARJU PRASAD SINGH** asked :

32. Will the Excise Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether all the Lessee Manager System of country spirit shops of the State are to be converted to Country Spirit Shops in 1956-57 settlement ?

(b) How many of these shops will be removed to rural areas ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that all the Local Boards lodged complaint to district authority against the removal of liquor shops to rural areas ?

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

32. (a)—Yes, except the Digboi Lessee Manager Shop.

(b)—Thirty-seven.

(c)—No report has been received by Government in this regard.

### **Dearth of Agricultural Officers in Nowgong District**

**Shri BALIRAM DAS** asked :

33. Will the Minister-in-Charge of Agriculture be pleased to state



- (a) Whether he is aware that majority of the mauzas of Nowgong district are going on without Agricultural Demonstrators on account of which public are suffering a lot ?
- (b) Whether Government propose to depute some more Agricultural Inspectors, Assistant Inspectors and Demonstrators in no time ?

**Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister)** replied :

33. (a)—On an average each Agricultural Demonstrator has to manage 2 to 3 mauzas. Owing to paucity of staff it is not possible to place one Agricultural Demonstrator for each mauza, but with the available staff endeavour is always made to cover all the areas in each district or subdivision.

(b)—Government will look into this.

**Re: Petitions submitted by the displaced persons of Basugaon and Kokrajhar area for rehabilitation loan**

**Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli** asked :

34. Will the Minister-in-charge of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to say—

- (a) If he is aware that more than 500 petitions were submitted by the displaced persons of Basugaon and Kokrajhar area to the Relief and Rehabilitation Officer, Dhubri, praying for loan since 1952 ?
- (b) If the said petitions were received by the Head Clerk of the office after signing the Peon Book ?
- (c) If all those were not found later in the office and no action was taken by the Relief and Rehabilitation Officer ?
- (d) If enquiries were also completed with regard to some petitions about a year ago ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that no action was taken by the Deputy Commissioner, Goalpara, on the petitions forwarded by the Commissioner of Relief and Rehabilitation, Assam, with the remarks “that the Deputy Commissioner should dispose them of” ?



(f) If some displaced persons were paid 16 to 30 rupees as first instalment and no further payment was made ?

(g) Whether the Minister-in-charge will kindly call for the Peon Books from the Refugee Associations of Basugaon and Kokrajhar in Dhubri Subdivision and verify in the office of the Relief and Rehabilitation Officer, Dhubri ?

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

34. (a) to (f)—It is not known but necessary information has been called for from the Deputy Commissioner, Goalpara.

(g)—Government need not call for the Peon Books from the Refugee Associations of Basugaon and Kokrajhar but if the Associations so desire, they may produce the same before the Deputy Commissioner, Goalpara or before the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, Assam, Shillong for necessary action.

*Re : Construction of a bridge over "Umiām"*

**Shri A. ALLEY** asked :

35. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether he received in March 1955 proposal from the questioner for a supplementary budget of 2 lakhs of rupees for construction of the bridge over Umiām and to re-adjust the amount from "Marginal embankment along the Barapani below village Umlaiteng" found at page 154-55 of this year Budget (68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works) ?

(b) Whether Government proposed to provide 2 lakhs of rupees by supplementary budget as prayed for in that representation ?

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

35. (a)—Yes, in May 1955.

(b)—No. Detailed investigation as regards the feasibility of constructing a bridge over the Umiām river is necessary. In the meantime, action has been taken for necessary survey work by the Public Works Department.



## Kazi and Muslim Registrars of the State

**Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED** asked :

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

- (a) Whether they have any information to the effect that the Kazi and Muslim Registrars of the State generally extort money from the innocent persons coming to register their marriages and divorces in the Kazi Offices ?
- (b) Whether Government propose to enquire into the matter and take necessary steps to stop such corruptions ?
- (c) Whether Government propose to issue notices to the Kazi and Muslims Marriage and Divorce Registrars to hung up the charts of different kinds of fees to be given to the Kazis in connection with the registration of the marriages and divorces ?

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

36. (a)—No.

(b)—Necessary steps will be taken when warranted.

(c)—Under Rule 19 of the rules under the Moslem Marriages and Divorces Registration Act, a table of fees in the vernacular of the district is to be hung up in every Moslem Marriage Registrar's office. It is not known if any Moslem Marriage Registrar has not done so. However, the District Registrars are being asked to see that all the Moslem Marriage Registrars hung up the table of fees in their offices.

## Provision for purchase of books, maps, etc., by the Veterinary College authority for the use of tribal students

**Pu LALBUAIA** asked :

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that three tribal students reading in the Assam Veterinary College at Gauhati are granted book allowance of Rs. 250 ?
- (b) If so, why these students are not yet given the allowance ?



- (c) Whether Government propose to look into the matter and cause immediate payment to the students ?

**Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAJUMDAR (Minister)** replied :

37. (a)—No. Provision was made for the purchase of books, maps, etc., by the College authority for the use of these tribal students.

(b) & (c)—Do not arise.

**Number of Construction Works done in the Goalpara District under Test Relief Scheme**

**Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli** asked :

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

(a) The number of construction works done in the Goalpara District under test relief scheme since 1954 to provide relief to the flood affected persons ?

(b) The names of such works and the sites thereof ?

(c) Names of contractors or persons in charge of those projects ?

(d) The names of persons who paid the labour charges and who supplied ration, etc., to the labourers ?

(e) If it is a fact that in South Salmara and Lakhipur the workers (labourers) were compelled to purchase their necessities, viz., rice, dal, etc., and even "bidis" from a shop ?

(f) The price of rice per seer at the abovenamed shop charged to the workers by the above shop-keeper ?

(g) The market price of rice at the time ?

(h) The number of labourers who worked on the South Salmara Project ?

(i) Total amount paid and the daily wages paid to each man ?

(j) If Government fixed any rate of wages, either on daily basis or on contract basis ?



- (k) If outside labourers were appointed by some contractors in some such projects ?
- (l) If the South Salmara Project was constructed with stone or sand ?
- (m) If Government made any enquiry as to the stability of the embankment ?
- (n) If Government made any enquiry regarding the payment made by the contractor or person in charge ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister)** replied :

38. (a) to (n)—A report has been called from the Deputy Commissioner, Goalpara in the matter.

### **Bagardoha Canal on Dhubri-Mankachar Road**

**Shri AARAN SANGMA** asked :

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Bagardoha Canal on Dhubri-Mankachar Road is permanent one and provides transport facilities to the tradesmen for the export and import of goods to and from Dhubri and Mankachar during all weather ?
- (b) If not, what measures were taken by the Government to make it a permanent one in the best interest of the public ?

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister)** replied :

39. (a)—Government have no information. The Canal is not maintained by Public Works Department. The matter will be examined.

(b)—Does not arise.

### **Free Grant of trees in Sidli Duar Estate**

**Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli** asked :

40. Will the Minister of Forests be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government sanctioned free grant of trees worth Rs.500 per year from Sidli Duar Estate Forests by their letter No.AFR.76/54/22, dated the 19th October, 1954 ?



- (b) Whether these Rs.500 worth of trees were distributed from Unclassed Forests under the management of Goalpara East Division of Forests ?
- (c) If so, the names of the recipients of the free grant ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that many petitions were submitted to the relevant authorities for free grants for public purposes ?
- (e) Whether some bodies or persons were given trees from Sidli Forests on payment of royalty though such trees were required for public purposes ?
- (f) Whether the Minister is aware that the questioner recommended some School Committees for receiving free trees for the public purpose of constructing their school houses ?

**Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister)** replied :

40. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—If the reference is to the petitions for trees of forests taken over by Government from the Sidli Raja, it is a fact that three petitions for free grants from these forests were received, one for the Sidli Government Aided Middle English School, another for the Basugaon Government Aided Middle English School and a third for the Bhadrugaon School.

(e)—Out of the above three, two petitions were refused as there was no provision then under Forest Rules for free grants from forests in respect of which Malikana was payable to the Raja of Sidli. There is no information readily available whether these institutions or others obtained permits on payment of royalty. One petition is pending report from Divisional Forest Officer.

(f)—es, one such petition for trees received in respect of School buildings by the Bhadrugaon villagers is pending report from the Divisional Forest Officer on the number of trees actually required and their royalty value.



## Various Government Grants to Gauhati School Board

**Sriman PRAFULLA GOSWAMI** asked :

41. Will the Education Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) How much money was distributed as building grant, storm-damaged, and flood affected grants by the Gauhati School Board in each of the financial years 1952-53, 1953-54 and 1954-55 ?
- (b) What was the total amount of such building grant distributed to each of the Sub-Inspector Circle in each of the above stated years (to be shown circle-wise and year by year) ?
- (c) What principle or principles have been adopted by the Gauhati School Board for distributing building grants to different Schools under different circles of Sub-Inspector of Schools ?
- (d) Whether the distribution list for building grants was approved by the meeting of the School Board ?
- (e) What amount has been spent for purchase of furniture by the Gauhati School Board in each of the financial years of 1952-53, 1953-54, 1954-55 ? (Figures to be given year by year.)
- (f) What is the cost of furniture spent in each of the Sub-Inspector Circles in each of the years mentioned at (e) above ?
- (g) The quota of furniture given to each of the Sub-Inspector Circles in each of the years mentioned at (e) above ?
- (h) Under what principle or procedure the furniture are given to different schools under Gauhati School Board ?

**Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister)**  
replied :

41. (a)—Amount of grants sanctioned—

	Flood	Storm	General
		Rs.	Rs.
1952-53	Nil	Nil	30,130
1953-54	Nil	14,843	86,606
1954-55	Nil	6,900	32,700



(b)—

1952-53

Circle		Flood	Storm	General
			Rs.	Rs.
1. Gauhati	..	Nil	Nil	6,860
2. Kamalpur	..	Nil	Nil	1,790
3. Hazo	..	Nil	Nil	1,450
4. Boko	..	Nil	Nil	1,820
5. Palasbari	..	Nil	Nil	2,850
6. Tihu	..	Nil	Nil	4,340
7. Rangiya	...	Nil	Nil	2,210
8. Nalbari	..	Nil	Nil	8,810

1953-54

1. Gauhati	..	..	1,140	21,690
2. Kamalpur	..	..	880	4,070
3. Hazo	..	..	980	6,800
4. Boko	..	..	1,490	6,676
5. Palasbari	..	..	2,553	8,180
6. Tihu	..	..	1,240	9,070
7. Rangiya	..	..	2,280	10,810
8. Nalbari	..	..	4,280	19,310

1954-55

1. Gauhati	..	...	Nil	2,410
2. Kamalpur	..	..	800	1,050
3. Hazo	..	..	500	4,920
4. Boko	..	..	500	4,500
5. Palasbari	..	..	1,000	2,250
6. Tihu	..	..	1,000	6,310
7. Rangiya	..	..	1,300	3,390
8. Nalbari	..	..	1,800	7,870

(c)—The building grants are distributed according to the number of schools in each circle keeping in view the necessity of such grants to the deserving schools.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Amount spent for purchase of furniture—

			Rs.
1952-53	...	...	25,879
1953-54	...	...	8,500
1954-55	...	...	12,276



(f)—

Circle		1952-53	1953-54	1954-55
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Gauhati	...	3,660	7,384	4,347
2. Kamalpur	...	1,899	720	1,072
3. Palasbari	...	2,656	90	860
4. Boko	...	1,734	18	696
5. Hajo	...	2,772	90	1,483
6. Nalbari	...	4,839	54	1,878
7. Rangiya	...	5,100	72	1,118
8. Tihu	...	3,219	72	822

(g)—A statement is placed on the Library Table.

(h)—Furniture are given to the deserving schools only according to requirements.

### Regarding Tea Gardens in Assam

**Shri HARIHAR CHAUDHURY** asked :

42. Will the Education Minister be pleased to refer to the interim reply given to Unstarred Question No.166 (a)—(e) asked by the questioner in the Assembly on 28th June 1955 and give final reply to the following questions now—

- Number of Tea Gardens in Assam ?
- Number of schools under Tea Gardens in Assam ?
- Number of Inspectorate Staff specially meant for inspection of Tea Garden Schools in Assam ?
- Number of such schools inspected by the Inspectorate Staff during the preceding three years, year by year ?
- Number not inspected during the last three preceding years ?

**Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister)** replied :

42. (a)—924.

(b)—534	{ 'A' Class	...	...	...	...	9
	{ 'B' Class	...	...	...	...	48
	{ 'C' Class	...	...	...	...	477
(c)—3	Sub-Inspectors of Schools.					
(d)—1952-53	...	...	...	...	...	220
1953-54	...	...	...	...	...	265
1954-55	...	...	...	...	...	328



(e)—1952-53	...	...	...	...	...	319
1953-54	...	...	...	...	...	266
1954-55	...	...	...	...	...	199

**Shri HARIHAR CHAUDHURY :** প্রশ্ন নম্বৰ ৪২ ত আমি দেখিছো যে বাগানৰ বেচিভাগ স্কুলেই গোটেই বছৰ ভিতৰত এবাৰো পৰিদৰ্শন কৰা নহয় ; বাগানৰ আটাইবিলাক স্কুলৰ ভাল পৰিদৰ্শনৰ দিহা কৰিবনে ?

**Shri PURNANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister) :** তিনিজন এচিষ্টেণ্ট চাব-ইনিষ্ট্ৰেটৰ নিয়োগ কৰা হৈছেই নহয় ?

But Sir, there is a mistake in question No.42(c). This should have been "3 Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Schools" in place of "3 Sub-Inspectors of Schools."

**Shri HARIHAR CHAUDHURY :** তিনিজন Assistant Sub-Inspector ৰ দ্বাৰা বাগানৰ ইমান বিলাক স্কুল পৰিদৰ্শন কৰা কেতিয়াও সম্ভব নহয় ;

**Shri PURNANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister) :** That is a matter of opinion. However, Government is prepared to consider if the number can be increased.

#### Regarding Annual Loss in Excise Revenue in converting Lessee Manager Shops to Country Spirit Shops

**Shri SARJU PRASAD SINGH** asked :

43. Will the Excise Minister be pleased to state—

- What would be the Annual Loss in Excise Revenue in converting Lessee Manager Shops to Country Spirit Shops ?
- What amount Government used to get as excise revenue from Lessee Manager Shops annually during the last three years from each district ?
- What was the rate of vend fee under Lessee Manager Shops per L. P. gallon of liquor, and at what rate of vend fee these shops will be settled as Country Spirit Shops for 1956-57 ?

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

43. (a)—Estimated loss is about 60,000 per annum but it may vary according to the consumption.

(b)—The information is being collected.

(c)—No vend fee is fixed for Lessee Manager Shops. But on conversion vend fees will be realised as ordinary Country Spirit Shops as per list placed on the Library Table.



**Draft amendment to the Assam Legislative Assembly  
Rules**

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the Report that has been accepted by the Select Committee regarding the Assam Lagislative Assembly Rules for which I made a Motion on the previous occasion. Copies of the Report as accepted by the Select Committee have been placed on the tables of the hon. Members.

I now beg to move that the draft amendment to the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules as reported by the Committee be taken into consideration.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that the draft amendment to the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules as reported by the Committee be taken into consideration.

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as the Select Committee unanimously decided to accept the changes proposed in the draft amendment to the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules, I now beg to move that the draft amendment as reported by the Committee may please be adopted.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that the draft amendment to the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules as reported by the Committee be adopted.

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

*(After a pause)*

Under rule 133 of the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules I hereby announce that I have signed a copy of the amendment which has just now been adopted by the House. This amended rule will have immediate validity.



**The Assam Appropriation (No.IV) Bill, 1955**

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I am now reading out a message received by me from the Government of Assam. The message is dated Rajbhavan, Shillong, the 24th November, 1955.

“Under the provision of Article 207 of the Constitution of India, I, Jairamdas Doulatram, Governor of Assam, recommend the introduction in the Legislative Assembly of Assam, the Assam Appropriation (No.IV) Bill, 1955 and also the consideration of the said Bill by the said Assembly.

JAIRAMDAS DAULATRAM  
Governor of Assam”.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Appropriation (No.IV) Bill, 1955.

(The Bill was introduced.)

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Appropriation (No.IV) Bill, 1955 be taken into consideration clause by clause.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that the Assam Appropriation (No.IV) Bill, 1955, be taken into consideration clause by clause.

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

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Appropriation (No.IV) Bill, 1955, be passed.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that the Assam Appropriation (No.IV) Bill, 1955, be passed.

(After a pause.)

The question is that the Assam Appropriation (No.IV) Bill, 1955, be passed.

(The Motion was adopted.)



**The Assam Disturbed Areas Bill, 1955**

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Disturbed Areas Bill, 1955, be taken into consideration clause by clause.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** This is not necessary. There is no amendment.

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Disturbed Areas Bill, 1955 be passed.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that the Assam Disturbed Areas Bill, 1955, be passed.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the consideration stage of this Bill we from this side objected the Bill on a fundamental principle and that was that such measures are in the nature of extra-ordinary measures and should be placed before the House only in a extra-ordinary situation. However, we did not move any amendment to the Bill, because if the Bill is passed notwithstanding the objection there is no question of moving any amendment to these clauses. Now at this stage I would only once more request the Chief Minister that this is a very extra-ordinary piece of legislation, and when the House has consented to its passing, I would appeal to him that the powers given under this Bill should be used as rarely as possible. We should try to have the operation of the normal laws and I am sure the Chief Minister being an eminent lawyer also knows that we have several provisions in our criminal laws which can cope with the situation envisaged in the Bill. And less frequently we use such measures more we will get the willing co-operation of the people. We must also see that no Police officer or any other officer who has been given power under this Bill misuses his power, because there is a clause that a Police officer or any other officer who has been given power under this Bill if he acts *bonafide* he cannot be sued in the Court. Sir, it is very difficult to prove *bonafide* and *malafide*, because nobody, even the devil does not know what is in the mind of a man. Therefore it is very difficult to prove *bonafide* or *malafide* and for that reason I would appeal to the Chief Minister to see that these officers are fully alerted that the provisions of this Bill should never be used unless they are compelled to do so. Although such a power may be used *malafide* by a Police Officer there are chances of his escape, and the blame *will* be against the Government. So we must not allow the *provisions* given under this Bill to be used easily and on every and any occasion



and I would appeal that the power given under the declaration clause of the Disturbed Areas Bill should be used sparingly. We must not consider an ordinary rioting or an ordinary turmoil to be the sufficient cause for declaring an area a disturbed area. With these words, although I am fundamentally opposed to the underlying principles of the Bill, I would appeal to the Chief Minister to see to these points.

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** I am glad to assure the Leader of the Opposition as well as other members of the House that we on our side are always very reluctant to use such extraordinary powers, and that very fact I have already stated at the beginning when I introduced the Bill and moved for its consideration. It is really a painful duty that we have to discharge in an area which is turned a disturbed area and I gave an assurance even at that time that there is no likelihood of the extension of this measure to any area merely for ordinary rioting or ordinary turmoil. But as there is armed gangs prepared to fight with the Police it is always desirable to have some such powers to deal with them. It is very difficult to anticipate when such powers would be necessary to be used, but as a matter of fact we have already issued instructions how and when this power should be used and that officer will act with great restraint in using such power. Under the provision of this Bill only the area along the border of Tuensang division within Mokukchung will be declared disturbed area when the whole border will be under our absolute control and the armed gang instead of infiltrating into our area will be caught and made to surrender their arms. Then there will be no necessity of keeping even the notification declaring an area as disturbed area in force. I am sure that as soon as we feel that exercise of such powers will not be necessary even in an area which has been declared as disturbed area, this notification will be withdrawn. I appeal to the loyal citizens of that area and also those who are armed with modern weapons such as guns and sten-guns to denounce such act of violence and surrender their arms. We appeal to those who have taken recourse to violence that they will cease to indulge in these lawlessness and illegal activities of harassing and oppressing the people so that these powers may not be necessary to be exercised in the area for which they are meant.

I sincerely hope that there will be no occasion for exercise of these powers as soon as the appeal made on the floor of this House as well as outside reaches that area and help to bring about a change in the mental outlook of the people there. Violence is no remedy for attainment of political objectives. We



are only expecting that such a situation will sooner or later arise when the people there will give up violence and surrender arms. The very fact that our officers are scrupulously avoiding the use of that power that has been given under this Bill even under very difficult circumstances and the very fact that so long from July onward that power has not been used on any occasion clearly indicate to the members of the House that the officers are very unwilling to use that power and that they have acted with greatest restraint in spite of all kinds of provocations given by the armed gang. So I again assure the House that there need not be any anxiety on the part of hon. Members that any and every area will be declared as disturbed area for mere solitary rioting or things of that kind. The power that has been given under this measure will never be used unless it is absolutely necessary for the preservation of law and order and protection of lives and property of the loyal citizens of the area.

**Pu LALMAWIA :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak also on this Bill.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** May I know what you are speaking for.

**Pu LALMAWIA :** I want to comment on.....

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Discussion on the Bill is already closed and therefore I cannot allow you to speak any more.

**Pu LALMAWIA :** I am sorry then. That is all.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The question is that the Assam Disturbed Area Bill, 1955, be passed.

(The Motion was adopted.)

### **The Assam Court-Fees (Amendment) Bill, 1955**

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as there is no amendment to my Bill, I beg to move that the Assam Court-Fees (Amendment) Bill, 1955, be passed.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The Motion moved is that the Assam Court-fees (Amendment) Bill, 1955, be passed.

(After a pause)

The question is that the Assam Court-Fees (Amendment) Bill, 1955, be passed.

(The Motion was adopted.)



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

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** We shall now consider the Assam (Sales of Petroleum and Petroleum Products, including Kerosene, Motor Spirit and Lubricants) Taxation Bill, 1955, clause by clause.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I have just received a message, dated Raj Bhaban, Shillong, the 22nd November, 1955 from the Governor of Assam which I read—

“ I recommend under Article 207(1) of the Constitution that the following amendment to the Assam (Sales of Petroleum and Petroleum Products, including Kerosene, Motor Spirit and Lubricants) Taxation Bill, 1955, be moved in the Assam Legislative Assembly by the Members shown against it.

Sarbashri B. K. Borah and M. K. Das to move: In section 3 the words ‘four and five’ in the fourth line between the words ‘of’ and ‘annas’ be substituted by the words ‘five and six’.

JAIRAMDAS DOULATRAM,  
Governor of Assam”.

*Title*

**Shri BIMALA KANTA BORAH:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the word ‘Kerosene’ appearing in the title between the words ‘including’ and ‘Motor Spirit’ be deleted.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that the word ‘Kerosene’ appearing in the title between the words ‘including’ and ‘Motor Spirit’, be deleted.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have no objection to accept the amendment.



**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that the word 'Kerosene' appearing in the title between the words 'including' and 'Motor Spirit', be deleted.

(The Motion was adopted.)

*Long Title and Preamble*

**Shri BIMALA KANTA BORAH:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the word 'Kerosene' appearing in the long title and preamble between the words 'including' and 'Motor Spirit', be deleted.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that the word 'Kerosene' appearing in the long title and preamble between the words 'including' and 'Motor Spirit', be deleted.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I accept the amendment.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that the word 'Kerosene' appearing in the long title and preamble between the words 'including' and 'Motor Spirit', be deleted.  
(The Motion was adopted.)

*Clause I*

**Shri BIMALA KANTA BORAH:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the word 'Kerosene' appearing in clause I between the words 'including' and 'Motor Spirit', be deleted.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that the word 'Kerosene' appearing in clause I between the words 'including' and 'Motor Spirit', be deleted.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I accept the amendment.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that the word "Kerosene" appearing in clause I between the words "including" and "Motor Spirit", be deleted.

(The Motion was adopted.)



THE ASSAM (SALES OF PETROLEUM AND  
PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, INCLUD-  
ING KEROSENE, MOTOR  
SPIRIT AND LUBRI-  
CANTS) TAXATION  
BILL, 1955

[25TH NOV.]

**Shri BIMALA KANTA BORAH:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that in sub-clause (2) of clause 2, the letter and words, '(a) in the case of motor spirit and lubricants', be deleted.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that in sub-clause (2) of clause 2, the letter and words, '(a) in the case of motor spirit and lubricants', be deleted.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I accept the amendment.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that in sub-clause (2) of clause 2, the letter and words, '(a) in the case of motor spirit and lubricants', be deleted.

(The Motion was adopted.)

**Shri BIMALA KANTA BORAH:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the whole item (b) of sub-clause (2) of clause 2, be deleted.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that the whole item (b) of sub-clause (2) of clause 2, be deleted.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I accept the amendment.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that the whole item (b) of sub-clause (2) of clause 2, be deleted.

(The Motion was adopted.)

**Shri BIMALA KANTA BORAH:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the words 'Kerosene or' occurring in the explanation of sub-clause (2) of clause 2, be deleted.



**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that the words 'Kerosene or' occurring in the explanation of sub-clause (2) of clause 2, be deleted.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I accept the amendment.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that the words 'Kerosene or' occurring in the explanation of sub-clause (2) of clause 2, be deleted

(The Motion was adopted.)

**Shri BIMALA KANTA BORAH:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that sub-clause (4) of clause 2, be deleted and subsequent sub-clauses be re-numbered accordingly.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that sub-clause (4) of clause 2, be deleted and subsequent sub-clauses be re-numbered accordingly.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I accept the amendment.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that sub-clause (4) of clause 2, be deleted and subsequent sub-clauses be re-numbered accordingly.

(The Motion was adopted.)

### *Clause 3*

**Shri BIMALA KANTA BORAH:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the words 'four and five' appearing in the fourth line of sub-clause (1) of clause 3 between the words 'of' and 'annas' be substituted by the words 'five and six'.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that the words 'four and five' appearing in the fourth line of sub-clause (1) of clause 3 between the words 'of' and 'annas' be substituted by the words, 'five and six'.



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[25TH Nov.,

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am glad to accept this amendment also.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose this amendment. Sir, clause 3(1) says:

“There shall be levied and collected from every dealer a tax on sales of motor spirit (except diesel oil and internal combustion oils other than petrol) and of lubricants at the rate of four and five annas respectively per gallon, of diesel oil and other internal combustion oils a tax at the rate of three annas per gallon and on sales of kerosene a tax at the rate of two annas per gallon”.

Now, instead of the words “four and five” it has been suggested to put “five and six”. It is proposed, perhaps, to compensate certain loss that will accrue due to non-imposition of tax on kerosene. But, as far as kerosene is concerned, we shall be grateful to the Minister-in-charge if no tax is levied on it because after all it is a poor man’s oil. I do not know if it is the intention of my Friend, the Mover of the amendment, to raise the price of petrol by bringing his Motion. If it is so, then I should like to say that already the price of petrol in Assam is very high. We are the producer of petrol and yet we are to pay more here than in Bengal and other States of India. I know, in Delhi it is cheaper even. The change of words from “four to five” to “five and six” will mean that we will have to pay two or three annas more than at present on the use of petrol per gallon. For this increase the private owners of cars may not mind much because they use their cars for their own use and so I am not worried about them. But, I am worried for the far-reaching effect of this increase. As soon as this tax is increased then the price of petrol will rise and this rise shall have to be shared by the passengers travelling in buses, the fares of which are already high. For coming to Shillong from Gauhati, what we used to pay at one time is not what we pay to-day; we pay much more now. Of course I do not deny that certain amount of comfort and amenities have been afforded to us at present, but for the rise of price of petrol, if the fares are increased, that will be a very unfortunate thing. I do not know what repercussion this will have on the passengers travelling in State Transport buses, but in the case of



private owners of buses, there will immediately be a tendency to increase the fares and thus it will in a way hard hit the poor men. In the case where the private owners of buses will increase the fare by one pice, they will have to realise two pices instead, as one pice coin is not available in our State. In that way, Sir, the bus fare is sure to go up. Therefore, unless an assurance is given that Government will see that fares are not increased for this rise in the price of petrol, I am not inclined to accept the amendment.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** The reply should come from the Mover of the Motion. I am only to accept it.

**Shri BIMALA KANTA BORAH:** Sir, I find that the objection has come from an unexpected quarter. In the original Bill, a tax on kerosene was proposed and on account of this tax, annually about 19 lakhs of rupees were estimated to come to the coffer of the Government, but after considering that this tax would directly fall on the poor men, this has been dropped. By dropping the levy of this tax, Government is now going to lose about 10 lakhs of rupees every year, but that must be compensated from other sources and for that reason, this amendment has been brought. It is quite likely that this tax on petrol will be passed on to the people and to the bus owners. But, the increase is very nominal and so it cannot be said that this burden cannot be borne by our people.

I, therefore, hope that in the interest of the State's finance, my Friend will please withdraw his objection.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** I should like to have an assurance from the Government that the bus fare will not be increased from one pice to two pices.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** Even without this tax, somebody can increase the bus fares. Without this amendment even there is some likelihood of increase of bus fares which Government cannot stop.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that the words "four and five" appearing in the fourth line of sub-clause (1)



of clause 3 between the words "of" and "annas" be substituted by the words "five and six".

(The Motion was adopted.)

**Shri BIMALA KANTA BORAH:** Sir, I beg to move that the words "and on sales of kerosene a tax at the rate of two annas per gallon" appearing at the sixth line of sub-clause (I) of clause 3, be deleted.

The reason which I have given in moving my previous amendment is applicable in this case.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that the words "and on sales of kerosene a tax at the rate of two annas per gallon" appearing at the sixth line of sub-clause (1) of clause 3, be deleted.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** This is a consequential amendment and I accept it.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that the words "and on sales of kerosene a tax at the rate of two annas per gallon" appearing at the sixth line of sub-clause (1) of clause 3, be deleted.

(The Motion was adopted.)

**Shri BIMALA KANTA BORAH:** Sir, I beg to move that the word "Kerosene" occurring in the second line of sub-clause (2) of clause 3 and the words "Kerosene or" wherever they occur in item (ii) of sub-clause (2) of clause 3, be deleted.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that the word "Kerosene" occurring in the second line of sub-clause (2) of clause 3 and the words "Kerosene or" wherever they occur in item (ii) of sub-clause (2) of clause 3, be deleted.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** I accept the amendment.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that the word "Kerosene" occurring in the second line of sub-clause



(2) of clause 3 and the words "Kerosene or" wherever they occur in item (ii) of sub-clause (2) of clause 3, be deleted.

(The Motion was adopted )

**Shri BIMALA KANTA BORAH :** Sir, I beg to move that the words "two or all the three" appearing in item (ii) of sub-clause (2) of clause 3, be substituted by the words "one or both."

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The Motion moved is that the words "two or all the three" appearing in item (ii) of sub-clause (2) of clause 3, be substituted by the words "one or both."

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** Sir, I accept the amendment.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The question is that the words "two or all the three" appearing in item (ii) of sub-clause (2) of clause 3, be substituted by the words "one or both."

(The Motion was adopted.)

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The question is that clauses 1, 2 and 3, as amended, do form part of the Bill.

(The question was adopted.)

(After a pause.)

The question is that clauses 4 to 23 do form part of the Bill.

(The question was adopted.)

#### Clause 24

**Shri BIMALA KANTA BORAH :** Sir, I beg to move that the word "Kerosene" occurring in clause 24 between the words "of" and "motor spirit", be deleted.

This is a consequential change.



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PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, INCLUDING  
KEROSENE MOTOR  
SPIRIT AND LUBRI-  
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BILL, 1955

[25TH NOV.,

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Motion moved is that the word "Kerosene" occurring in clause 24 between the words "of" and "motor spirit", be deleted.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** I accept this amendment, Sir.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that the word "Kerosene" occurring in clause 24 between the words "of" and "motor spirit", be deleted.

(The Motion was adopted.)

*Clause 25*

**Shri BIMALA KANTA BORAH:** Sir, I beg to move that the word "Kerosene" occurring in clause 25 between the words "of" and "motor spirit", be deleted.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Motion moved is that the word "Kerosene" occurring in clause 25 between the words "of" and "motor spirit", be deleted.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** I accept this, Sir.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that the word "kerosene" occurring in clause 25 between the words "of" and "motor spirit", be deleted.

(The Motion was adopted.)

*Clause 26*

**Shri BIMALA KANTA BORAH:** Sir, I beg to move that the words "kerosene or" occurring in item (b) of sub-clause (1) of clause 26, be deleted.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Motion moved is that the words "kerosene or" occurring in item (b) of sub-clause (1) of clause 26, be deleted.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** I accept this amendment, Sir.



**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The question is that the words "kerosene or" occurring in item (b) of sub-clause (1) of clause 26, be deleted.

(The Motion was adopted.)

*Clause 27*

**Shri BIMALA KANTA BORAH:** Sir, I beg to move that the word "kerosene" occurring in sub-clauses (a), (b) and (c) of clause 27, be deleted.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Motion moved is that the word "kerosene" occurring in sub-clauses (a), (b) and (c) of clause 27 be deleted.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) :** I accept this, Sir.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The question is that the word "kerosene" occurring in sub-clauses (a), (b) and (c) of clause 27, be deleted.

(The Motion was adopted.)

*Clause 35*

**Shri BIMALA KANTA BORAH :** I beg to move, Sir, that the word "kerosene" appearing in clause 35, be deleted.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Motion moved is that the word "kerosene" appearing in clause 35, be deleted.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) :** I accept this, Sir.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The question is that the word "kerosene" appearing in clause 35, be deleted.

(The Motion was adopted.)



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*Clause 44*

**Shri BIMALA KANTA BORAH :** Sir, I beg to move that the word "kerosene" appearing in item (e) of sub-clause (2) of clause 44, be deleted.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Motion moved is that the word "kerosene" appearing in item (e) of sub-clause (2) of clause 44, be deleted.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) :** I accept this, Sir.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The question is that the word "kerosene" appearing in item (e) of sub-clause (2) of clause 44, be deleted.

(The Motion was adopted.)

*Rest of the Bill*

**Shri BIMALA KANTA BORAH :** Sir, I beg to move that the word "kerosene" wherever it occurs in the rest of the Bill, be deleted.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Motion moved is that the word "kerosene" wherever it occurs in the rest of the Bill, be deleted.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) :** I accept this, Sir.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The question is that the word "Kerosene" wherever it occurs in the rest of the Bill, be deleted.

(The Motion was adopted.)

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The question is that clauses 24, 25, 26 and 27, as amended, do form part of the Bill.

(The question was adopted.)

*(After a pause)*

The question is that clauses 28 to 34 do form part of the Bill,

(The question was adopted.)



*(After a pause)*

The question is that clause 35, as amended, do form part of the Bill.

(The question was adopted.)

*(After a pause)*

The question is that clauses 36 to 43 and clause 45 do form part of the Bill.

(The question was adopted.)

*(After a pause)*

The question is that clause 44, as amended, do form part of the Bill.

(The question was adopted.)

*(After a pause)*

The question is that the Long Title and the Preamble as amended do form part of the Bill.

(The question was adopted.)

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister)** : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam (Sales of Petroleum and Petroleum Products, including Kerosene, Motor Spirit and Lubricants) Taxation Bill, 1955, as amended, be passed.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER** : Motion moved is that the Assam (Sales of Petroleum and Petroleum Products, including Kerosene, Motor Spirit and Lubricants) Taxation Bill, 1955, as amended, be passed.

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS** : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the consideration stage of this Bill, I raised some objection to the imposition of new tax on petroleum, petroleum products and kerosene. My main argument was that since kerosene is consumed by 90 per cent. of



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the poorer section of our people in the villages, the increase in its price by reason of this taxation will hit them hard. In view of this, I advocated that no taxation on kerosene should be imposed. Now, Government have accepted this contention and have exempted kerosene from this tax. But, the Government are going to impose new taxation on petroleum and its other products. I submit, Sir, that the same principle which guided Government in exempting kerosene from this taxation also holds good in the case of petrol. I will explain how. In the whole State of Assam, as the Transport Minister will be able to say, the number of private cars, which are used by the well-to-do people, forms a small percentage of motor vehicles. The trucks, buses, lorries and even private taxis, which are used by individuals, companies and Government for the convenience of the public, form 90 per cent. of the vehicles plying in the State. These vehicles render very useful service to the people by carrying goods and passengers from one place of the State to the other. They consume 90 per cent. of the petrol used in the State. So, the effect of this increase in taxation on petroleum will hit the common people for whose service these vehicles are used. I don't mind if only the richer section is taxed. But, unfortunately, they form only 10 per cent. and 90 per cent. of the general public will be affected. It is very easy to verify my assessment from the Transport Minister. I think my assessment will be correct.

Secondly, Sir, the State of Assam is very backward so far as communications are concerned. We are moving the Government of India through Resolutions adopted in this House from time to time for establishment of new railway lines in different areas of the State.

If you compare the system of railways in Assam with any other State in India, you will see that the length of the railway system of Assam is nearly half as will be found in any other State of India, therefore, our main communication is dependent on road, *i. e.*, motor transport, particularly, in hill areas, as there is no railway communication and we cannot expect to have railway system in hill areas within the next 20 years or so. So, we want our motor vehicles to carry passengers and goods, such as, rice, cloth, medicines, etc. Then, it is easy for the Members to consider that the tax which is proposed to be



imposed on petroleum will fall upon the general public and very little on the richer section. Same is the case with kerosene. As my Friend, Mr. Goswami, said that petrol is produced in Assam but its cost is higher in Assam than in any other State in India. In the Parliament, this point was raised by Shri Debeswar Sarma who said that the price of petrol in Delhi is lesser than in Assam.

It has been said, Sir, by the Minister-in-charge of this Bill, that even when the price is increased on petroleum, the bus and truck owners or transport companies may raise the price of tickets and freights on luggages and goods, if they so like. It is alright. But, as a matter of fact, everything is going on a relative term and, until and unless there is a change for the better in the economic set-up, they will be afraid to increase the rate. But the passing of this Bill and increase on petroleum prices for the new taxation, the bus and truck owners will get a handle to raise the price of tickets and freights on goods.

Sir, on consideration of these few points, I would urge upon the Minister to reconsider the question. The most important fact is that we are deficit by 3 crores, but, by taxing further on kerosene and petrol, the amount which will come to Government coffers will be about Rs. 30 lakhs and, if tax on kerosene is withdrawn, the amount will be less than half of this, say about 15 lakhs of rupees, and thereby the poorer section of the public of the State will be affected. On the one hand, we are not going to fulfil the target of our deficit in a substantial manner, but, on the other hand, we are also putting the poor section in difficulty.

With these words, Sir, I would request the Minister to reconsider the matter.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, had it not been under a special situation, I would have opposed this Bill; but as I have full sympathy for our Finance Minister, who is so eager to wipe off the expected deficit in our Budget, which is mainly due to the implementation of different development schemes through which the people will get some benefit. But, before passing this Bill, I would like to get an assurance from the Finance Minister that at



least, till our standard of living goes up, till our *per capita* income increases, as envisaged in the second draft 5-Year Plan, there should be no attempt to increase any tax, particularly, on petroleum and petroleum products. This is more important for the fact that we have made representations to the Central Government that the price of petrol should be reduced in Assam to that of the price prevailing in other States. We also raised our voice in this regard on the floor of Parliament and that is how the price of petrol was reduced by two annas from Rs. 2-14-0 to Rs. 2-12-0 in our State, but this measure proposes to raise it again to Rs. 2-14-0 and thus our argument before the Central Government or on the floor of the Parliament will be weaker. You have represented to Government of India to reduce the price, but the Central Government will say that our argument is not correct as we are representing this in order to get a share for ourselves by raising the price of petrol in Assam by As.2 and thus keeping at the former level. This is a serious argument which they will put forward and it will hold no good in arguing that the price of petrol is very high in Assam.

Sir, it requires no repetition to say that our State produces petrol, where, in comparison to other States, we find that we are paying a higher charge for it. To-day, we are proposing to increase the price by As.2 and the amount that will be derived from this by State Exchequer will not be more than, say, Rs. 20 or 25 lakhs, and in my opinion that will be a drop in the ocean.

**Shri BIMALA KANTA BORAH:** It is a quarter of a crore.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Yes, for that matter every figure is a fraction of a crore but the fact remains that Rs. 3 crores cannot be reduced significantly by imposition of this tax. You can find out other avenues.

(Voice—What are they ?)

I cannot say just now. If we sit down we may find out. We should consider whether our traffic can bear this tax. I feel, by imposing this tax, we have not followed the canons and principles of taxation. However, at this moment, I will not



oppose this Bill with the hope that the Finance Minister will at least give us an assurance. Sir, the tax structure in our State is already too high ; only the richer class of people may be able to pay all these taxes. Sir, we must remember that there are petty businessmen in our State and there are also people who live by the income of a bus only. Sir, these people are also to be taken into consideration, and unless we can give gainful occupations to these people, resentment against such a tax is bound to remain. By imposition of this tax on petrol and petroleum products, the very purpose of this Bill will be defeated. Sir, as I have already stated, the incidence of taxation is always shifted and is also likely that the incidence of this tax will be shifted to the poor people, so, Sir, if this tax is imposed on the people, some section of the poor people will not be able to bear its burden. As I have already apprehended, this is not only the question of raising money, so, Sir, all these things will have to be taken into consideration in coming to a decision. Sir, after going through the whole Bill and listening to the arguments advanced by the other hon. Members, I feel that this is not the type of measure which can wipe out the deficit. Therefore, Sir, in view of the fact that we have already made our representation to the Central Government that the price of petrol is too high and in response to that the price of petrol was reduced by at least 2 annas per gallon, and now again, Sir, by a Legislative measure we are going to raise the price of petrol which, perhaps, will be more than the price which was prevailing before, and tax which is not likely to wipe off the deficit, this is not a wise measure. Therefore, Sir, we should not risk this kind of measure as otherwise the incidence of this tax will surely be shifted to the poor people, and I feel that we must be well on guard regarding raising such taxation measure. With these few words, Sir, I hope the Government will see to all these points before any decision is taken ; otherwise, by this measure, Government is in fact going to increase the burden on the poor people whom we want to give relief.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am glad that my Friend, Mr. Goswami, is not opposing this measure. He has given some suggestions and, Sir, I can assure him that his suggestions will be given due consideration by the Government at the proper time. Now, Sir, so



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far this taxation measure is concerned, some objections have been raised by my Friends in the Opposition on various grounds. For the information of the hon. Members of the House as well as the hon. Members of the Opposition, I should like to state that in accepting this additional taxation measure on petrol and kerosene, the price structure of these commodities in Bengal and Bihar was considered and it was found that the same is still higher than the price structure in our State. It is clear from this that in this respect we are more considerate than others.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Will the Minister tell us what is the price of petrol per gallon in Bengal?

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** Sir, the price of petrol per gallon in Bengal and other places is lower than in Assam, and the reasons are not unknown to my hon. Friend, Mr. Goswami. Sir, the petrol that is produced in Assam is not consumed wholly within Assam. It goes to Bengal, Bihar and other places. This very petrol that is taken out of Assam is sold at a cheaper rate in these places than is the price fixed for Assam and there are reasons for this and it is due to these reasons which are beyond our control and these reasons are well-known to my Friends. Sir, my Friend, Mr. Goswami, pleaded that by this taxation measure the burden will fall on the poor section of the people, but I say, Sir, that the burden of this taxation measure will fall on the richer section of the people. Sir, I will ask my Friend, Mr. Goswami, to look at the number of trucks that is used in the tea gardens, our rich merchants and by our contractors. It is known to my Friend, Mr. Goswami, that most of our contractors own about two to three trucks each, the rich merchants own about four to five trucks each and in each tea garden there are about 10 to 12 trucks. Sir, these are the people who will mainly fall under the category of the richer class of people, and the largest number of trucks is owned by this category of people. So, Sir, if the matter is looked at from that point of view, I think this increase of -/1/- or about -/2/- will not be such a burden that our people cannot bear it and as I have already stated, Sir, our rate is still lower than the rate prevailing in Bengal or Bihar. Therefore, Sir, I would request my Friends to agree with me to augment our resources ;



otherwise how can we be expected to raise the living standard of our people, how can we bring in a welfare State and how can we do our welfare activities? To do all these things, Sir, we must have money. Without money, Sir, no welfare activities of any sort can be undertaken in the country. To develop the undeveloped State we need money to a great extent, and this fact, Sir, is well known to my Friend, Mr. Goswami. Sir, in comparison to the other States we are much behind them, and for that reason we cannot stop our development works. At some stages in the progress of our country, some people will have to pay or bear the burden of the cost of development of the country. It is my honest conviction that in developing our country and in making it a wealthy and better country, some section of our people must come forward to bear the burden and that burden has, whether we like it or not, now fallen on us. For making a better Assam, we must willingly and voluntarily make certain amount of sacrifice.

My hon. Friend, Mr. Goswami, was, probably, under the impression that we are not having any deficit in the Budget. He used the word "expected". As a matter of fact, it is not expected. It is an actual deficit and the Accountant General had given us the deficit figure of about three crores of rupees. For a backward and undeveloped State like Assam it is really a very big deficit. To meet the deficit, the Government must find out some ways and means as Government must go on with their development activities without break or stoppage. Then, Sir, how to do it? Some sacrifice by some people is inevitable. The people of this backward State, in the interest of better and prosperous Assam that we are dreaming, must not grudge that sacrifice, especially, when we are in a position to do so.

Sir, while we were discussing about the measures of taxation in the consideration stage of the Bill, I referred to the sense of the House. I felt they were not at one with me, rather they were not feeling happy at the proposed tax on kerosene and so I have agreed to give it up in deference to their wishes. Sir, this is one of the measures by which I can realise some money to partially meet the deficit which is near about 3 crores of rupees. Is there any item of revenue from which I can fully realise the entire amount to cover the entire deficit?



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Can my honourable Friend, Mr. Goswami, suggest any item of revenue from where I can realise a big amount? So, Sir, by measures of this kind, I must have some money from here and some money from there, and the cumulative effect of this may be that I may be able to meet the deficit in the end. In this way, attempts will be made to find out different sources of revenue. There will be other measure to cut down expenditure where necessary by using the pruning knife. Sir, on account of using pruning knife I have of late been subjected to various kinds of criticisms, in some quarters, but I am not deterred from such action by such criticisms. But in spite of my efforts to cut down unnecessary expenditure wherever possible, I have not been able to meet the deficit even partially. Therefore, I must make attempt to find out some money by other means. Sir, here is such a means from which I can realise Rs. 25 lakhs. This cannot be called a small amount. There was a time when the entire budget of our Public Works Department was only Rs. 25 lakhs throughout the State of Assam. Now those days have changed and changed beyond recognition. Therefore, I feel that the hon. Members will not grudge this small amount of 2 annas on petrol which will fall on the richer section of the people.

Sir, as I have already given an assurance to Mr. Goswami, I will keep his suggestion always in my mind. With assurance of this nature given by me, I hope my hon. Friend, Mr. Goswami, will not have any more objection and allow the Bill to be passed to enable me to meet the deficit at least partially.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that the Assam (Sales of Petroleum and Petroleum Products, including Kerosene, Motor Spirit and Lubricants) Taxation Bill, 1955, as amended, be passed.

(The Motion was adopted.)

### The Assam Repealing Bill, 1955

**Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Repealing Bill, 1955, be passed.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that the Assam Repealing Bill, 1955, be passed,



*(After a pause)*

The question is that the Assam Repealing Bill, 1955, be passed.

(The Motion was adopted).

### **The Assam Excise (Amendment) Bill 1955**

**Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Excise (Amendment) Bill, 1955, be passed.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The Motion moved is that the Assam Excise (Amendment) Bill, 1955, be passed.

*(After a pause)*

The question is that the Assam Excise (Amendment) Bill, 1955, be passed.

(The Motion was adopted.)

### **The Assam Ganja Prohibition Bill, 1955**

**Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Government have decided not to proceed with the Assam Ganja Prohibition Bill, 1955. So I do not like to move the Bill.

### **The Assam State Acquisition of Zamindaris (Amendment) Bill, 1955**

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as there is no amendment, I beg to move that the Assam State Acquisition of Zamindaris (Amendment) Bill, 1955, be passed.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The Motion moved is that the Assam State Acquisition of Zamindaris (Amendment) Bill, 1955, be passed.

*(After a pause)*



The question is that the Assam State Acquisition of Zamin-  
daris (Amendment) Bill 1955, be passed.

(The Motion was adopted).

**The Assam Urban Areas Rent Control Bill, 1955**

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister)** : Mr. Deputy  
Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Urban Areas  
Rent Control Bill, 1955, be passed.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER** : The Motion moved is that  
the Assam Urban Areas Rent Control Bill, 1955, be passed.

*(After a pause)*

The question is that the Assam Urban Areas Rent Controls  
Bill, 1955, be passed.

(The Motion was adopted).

**The Assam Rural Panchayat (Amendment) Bill, 1955**

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER** : I now read out the  
message :

"I recommend under Article 207(1) of the Constitution  
of India that the Assam Rural Panchayat (Amendment) Bill,  
1955, be introduced in the Assam Legislative Assembly.

**JAIRAMDAS DAULATRAM**

Governor of Assam".

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister)** : Mr. Deputy  
Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Rural Panchayat  
(Amendment) Bill, 1955, be passed.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER** : The Motion moved is that  
the Assam Rural Panchayat (Amendment) Bill, 1955, be passed.

*(After a pause)*



The question is that the Assam Rural Panchayat (Amendment) Bill, 1955, be passed.

(The Motion was adopted,)

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

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as there is no amendment, I beg to move that the Assam Requisition and Control of Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 1955, be passed.

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

(After a pause)

The question is that the Assam Requisition and Control of Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 1955, be passed.

(The Motion was adopted).

**The Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment)  
Bill, 1955**

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, I find, Sir, there is also no amendment. So, I move that the Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1955, be passed.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that the Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1955, be passed.

(The Motion was then put in the form of a question and was adopted).

**The Assam Aid to Industries (Small and Cottage  
Industries) Bill, 1955**

**Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister):** There are some amendments to the Bill, Sir.



**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that in clause 3 substitute the letters and figures 'Rs.3,000' for the letters and figures 'Rs.5,000'.

In clause 3, the State Government desires to "constitute a Board for advising the Cottage Industries Department for considering loan applications for amounts exceeding Rs.5,000 and for reviewing generally the work relating to industrial loans". This means the State Board will only be able to recommend applications exceeding Rs.5,000. My amendment wants to give more power to the Board so that it may advise the Cottage Industries Department for considering loan application for amount exceeding Rs.3,000. The Advisory Board will have some power although the final decision will remain with the Government. Otherwise grants below rupees five thousand, as it is now, can be given without the concurrence or without the advice of the Advisory Board. I think it will be wrong, because in that case the officer-in-charge will have more power to give loans irrespective of the fact whether these loans are really important or not and sound or not. We have not only to see that these loans are issued but also to the fact that they are repaid. Therefore this power for granting loans upto Rs.5,000 proposed to be given to the Government Officer is not justified. That is why in place of Rs.5,000 I want to put Rs.3,000.

I hope the Minister-in-charge will be pleased to accept my amendment.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that in clause 3, substitute the letters and figures 'Rs.3,000' for 'Rs.5,000'.

**Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sorry, I cannot accept the amendment moved by my Friend, Shri Hareswar Goswami. Because, as you know, Sir, the main object of this Bill is to issue loan on a more liberalised term. The object of my Friend, Shri Goswami's amendment is to authorise the Board to issue loans exceeding Rs.3,000. But the difference between Rs.3,000 and Rs.5,000 at which he sets the limit is not such as to warrant any change in our Bill. As I have stated before, the object of the Bill is to meet the increasing demands of the small industrialists for loans. The proposed amendment will only delay matters and will stand on the expeditious disposal of loan applications, thus frustrating the very object which the amendment seeks to



achieve. I am, therefore, sorry, I cannot see my way to accept the amendment. Under the circumstances, I request the Mover to withdraw his amendment.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Mr. Goswami, do you propose to withdraw your amendment?

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** No, Sir.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that in clause 3 of the Assam Aid to Industries (Small and Cottage Industries) Bill, 1955, substitute the letters and figures "Rs.3,000" for "Rs.5,000".

(The Motion was negatived).

(After a pause)

The question is that:

Clauses 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 do now form part of the Bill.

(This was adopted).

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I beg to move that in the second paragraph of clause 6 after the words 'personal security' occurring in the last line, the words "in exceptional circumstances to be recorded in writing" shall be added.

Sir, in clause 6, "The Government or the authorities empowered to sanction the loan may grant loan to Small or Cottage Industries on the following terms—The grant of a loan is to be secured and repaid in the prescribed manner and upon such terms as may be fixed by the order granting it:

Provided that no such loan shall exceed upto a maximum of 75 per cent. of the total value of the security as prescribed. Security may also include personal security."

Sir, here instead of the words 'personal security' only I want to add after the words 'personal security' "in exceptional circumstances to be recorded in writing." Sir, my intention is to safeguard the loan. It is quite possible that loans may be given on personal security of very doubtful character. If loans are given, it is quite necessary that we should have sufficient security against the loans. Now it is stated that in certain



cases personal security may also be taken and in other cases 75 per cent. value of the loan may be taken as security. My point is that we should not rely on personal security unless in exceptional circumstances where personal security may be taken provided it is stated in writing.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Mr. Goswami, do you think, these things are done verbally ?

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** It is not the question of security. What I want is that the reasons for giving loans on personal security in exceptional circumstances be recorded in writing. If the personal security is not recorded in writing, the loan may be totally lost, as there will not be any evidence that proper security was made before granting the loan. To safeguard such thing, it is necessary that the reasons for giving loan on personal security should be kept in writing. This will prevent the Government from giving loan on personal security at whim. During the last Session of the Assembly, questions were put in regard to certain loans given to industrialists and for other purposes and I was also told that big amount was given and these loans had not been repaid as yet and in certain cases there was no hope of getting back these loans. In this way, State money may be lost. So when loan is granted on personal security, the reasons for this personal security should be given. If a man is poor and at the same time industrious and possesses a technical nack then of course his case may be considered. But there are wealthy people who will try to take loan on personal security. In this case, personal security cannot be given. Therefore, in order to be able to scrutinise the giving of this loan, we want it to be put in writing. With these words I recommend the amendment.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The Motion moved is that in the second paragraph of clause 6 after the words "personal security" occurring in the last line, the words "in exceptional circumstances to be recorded in writing" shall be added.

**Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sorry, I cannot accept the amendment because the main object of giving this power to the Director of Cottage Industries is to help the industrialists to get the money as quickly as possible. I do not know what my hon. Friend means by saying 'exceptional circumstances'. It will be very



difficult to distinguish between the exceptional cases and those cases which are not exceptional. So I do not think it will be wise to accept this amendment.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that in the second paragraph of clause 6 after the words 'personal security' occurring in the last line, the words 'in exceptional circumstances to be recorded in writing' shall be added.

(The Motion was negatived)

(After a pause)

The question is that :

Clauses 6 to 9 do form part of the Bill.

(This was adopted.)

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that in clause 10 add the following after the words 'deems proper' occurring in the last line :—'however the reasons for doing so will be stated in writing'.

Clause 10 runs like this—

'10. Power to postpone or to extend time for realisation :— Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or in the Rules made thereunder, the Government, where the Government is the Sanctioning Authority, and the Director of Cottage Industries in other cases, may postpone the realisation of any instalment of a loan or may extend the period of repayment of the loan in the manner it deems proper'.

After the words 'deems proper', I want to put the words 'however the reasons for doing so will be stated in writing'. Sir, here power has been given to the Government as well as to the Director, Cottage Industries, and a lot of money is expected to be given as loans for rendering aid to cottage industrialists. Now, this clause gives power to postpone or to extend the time for realisation of the loans. Postponing or extending time for realisation means keeping the money blocked for some time. This would also in a way hamper the development of industries because money that would have been realised would have been again utilised in giving loan to some other people. Again, after having the rules and provisions of the law under the Act itself, we again give another power to the Director of Cottage



Industries that he will have the right to postpone or extend the time for realisation whenever he deems proper. This will be a very great power given to the Director of Cottage Industries. Therefore, in such cases, when the question of money is involved, the postponement and extension of time for realisation of the money must be supported with reasons so that we can see whether this is due to unavoidable reasons, or because the loanee did not utilise the money at all, etc. These things must be considered. Therefore, whenever that power to postpone or to extend time for realisation is exercised, the reasons for doing so must be given in writing. I hope the Minister-in-charge will accept my amendment.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The Motion moved is that in clause 10 *add* the following after the words 'deems proper' occurring in the last line :—'however the reasons for doing so will be stated in writing'.

**Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, such reasons are generally given in all cases. I do not think I can accept this amendment, but even then, I do not have any objection to accept it if the hon. Member insists on it.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The question is that in clause 10 *add* the following after the words 'deems proper' occurring in the last line :—'however the reasons for doing so will be stated in writing'.

(The Motion was adopted.)

(After a pause)

The question is that:

Clause 10 as amended do form part of the Bill.

(This was adopted.)

(After a pause)

The question is that:

Clauses 11 to 17 do form part of the Bill.

(This was adopted.)

(After a pause)



The question is that :

The main title and preamble do form part of the Bill.

(This was adopted.)

**Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Aid to Industries (Small and Cottage Industries) Bill, 1955, as amended, be passed.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The Motion moved is that the Assam Aid to Industries (Small and Cottage Industries) Bill, 1955, as amended be passed.

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

**The Industrial Dispute (Appellate Tribunal) (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1955**

**Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am in charge of the Industrial Dispute (Appellate Tribunal) (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1955. Government have decided to introduce the Bill only and not to pass it in this Session.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** Yes, this is an important Bill and therefore it cannot be introduced and passed in one Session.

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) :** This matter is pending in the Supreme Court and therefore we do not like to interfere in the matter at this stage.

**The Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings Bill, 1955**

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister) :** Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings Bill, 1955.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The Motion moved is that the Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings Bill, 1955, be introduced.

(The Bill was introduced.)

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister) :** Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings



Bill, 1955, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following Members:—

- (1) Shri Motiram Bora, Minister for Revenue, Chairman ;
- (2) Shri Mahendra Mohan Chaudhury ;
- (3) Shri Hareswar Goswami ;
- (4) Shri Sarveswar Boruwa ;
- (5) Maulavi Muhammad Umaruddin ;
- (6) Shri Bimala Kanta Borah ;
- (7) Shri Bijoy Chandra Bhagavati ;
- (8) Shri Hemchandra Chakravarty; and
- (9) Shri Hareswar Das (Deputy Minister).

Five members will form a quorum. The Committee will submit the report on or before the 31st January, 1956.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that the Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings Bill, 1955, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following Members:—

- (1) Shri Motiram Bora, Minister for Revenue, Chairman ;
- (2) Shri Mahendra Mohan Chaudhury ;
- (3) Shri Hareswar Goswami ;
- (4) Shri Sarveswar Boruwa ;
- (5) Maulavi Muhammad Umaruddin ;
- (6) Shri Bimala Kanta Borah ;
- (7) Shri Bijoy Chandra Bhagavati ;
- (8) Shri Hemchandra Chakravarty ; and
- (9) Shri Hareswar Das (Deputy Minister ).

Five members will form a quorum.

The Committee will submit the report on or before the 31st January, 1956.

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



**Resolution re: the approval of an expenditure of Rs. 4,57,455 under the head "50.—Civil Works—State (excluding Establishment and Tools and Plant)"**

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs. 4,57,455 under the head "50.—Civil Works—State (excluding Establishment and Tools and Plant)" for the items below. The amount involved will be met from the sanctioned grant.

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

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	3,52,01,200	2,97,94,300	6,49,95,500
II.—Supplementary Grant voted by the Assembly during the year.	4,84,028	6,613	4,90,641
III.—Sub-head under which the appropriation will be accounted for :—	...	...	...
NORMAL			
A.—Original Works—			
(a) Buildings—			
Land Revenue ... ..	14,000	...	14,000
General Administration—	20,000	5,948	25,948
Voted.			
Jails and Convict Settlement	5,800	...	5,800
Police ... ..	...	22,908	22,908
Education ... ..	6,770	...	6,770
Medical ... ..	...	15,000	15,000
Public Health ... ..	...	10,000	10,000
Industries and Supplies—	20,840	...	20,840
I.—Sericulture and Weaving.			
Civil Works ... ..	1,11,489	50,800	1,62,289
Total—(a) Buildings ...	1,78,899	1,04,656	2,83,555



	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
(b) Communications—			
Ordinary Roads ...	11,700	...	11,700
Petrol Tax Projects—			
Ordinary ...	12,200	...	12,200
Total—(b) Communications	23,900	...	23,900
Total—Normal ...	2,02,799	1,04,656	3,07,455

DEVELOPMENT  
SCHEMES (ART. 275)  
A.—1.—Original Works—

(b) Communications—			
Ordinary Roads ...	1,50,000	...	1,50,000
Total—Development Schemes (Article 275) ...	1,50,000	...	1,50,000
Grand Total ...	3,52,799	1,04,656	4,57,455

EXPLANATORY NOTES

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

(ii) There will be considerable savings in the current year's Budget under various minor heads subordinate to "50.—Civil Works" for want of adequate supply of materials due to dislocation of communications during the last flood which made it difficult to obtain materials for buildings and bridges from outside the State as originally anticipated. Provision made for certain new buildings also will not be fully utilised as the estimates for some of them have not been finalised yet and for some there are delay in selection of sites. Savings thus accrued are proposed to be diverted to the new original works mentioned in Appendix 'A'.†

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs. 4,57,455 under the head "50.—Civil Works—State (excluding Establishment and Tools and Plant)". The amount involved will be met from the sanctioned grant.

† Not printed.



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

**Government Resolution re: the approval of an expenditure of Rs. 1,25,000 under the head "81.—Capital Accounts of Civil Works outside the Revenue Account"**

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs. 1,25,000 under the head "81.—Capital Accounts of Civil Works outside the Revenue Account" for the items below. The amount involved will be met from the sanctioned grant.

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

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	1,67,20,300	2,26,900	1,69,47,200
II.—Supplementary grant voted by the Assembly during the year.	...	10,000	10,000
III.—Sub-head under which the appropriation will be accounted for—	...	...	...

**DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES  
(FIVE YEAR PLAN)**

**A.—I.—Original Works—  
(a) Buildings—**

Medical ...	...	50,000	...	50,000
Total—(a) Buildings	...	50,000	...	50,000
(b) Communications— Ordinary Roads	...	75,000	...	75,000
Total—(b) Communications	...	75,000	...	75,000
Grand Total	...	1,25,000	...	1,25,000



**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The Motion moved is that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs. 1,25,000 under the head "81.—Capital Accounts of Civil Works outside the Revenue Account". The amount involved will be met from the sanctioned grant.

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

**Government Resolution re : the approval of an expenditure of Rs. 9,07,240, under the head "18-B, and 68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works"**

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs. 9,07,240 under the head "18-B. and 68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works" for the items below. The amount involved will be met from the sanctioned grant.

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

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	4,96,85,000	11,51,400	5,08,36,400
II.—Supplementary grant voted by the Assembly during the year.	..	...	...
III.—Sub-heads under which the appropriation will be accounted for—	..	...	...
18-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works financed from Ordinary Revenues—	..	..	...
(i) A.—Works ... ..	800	...	800
68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works financed from Capital Revenues—	...	...	...
(i) Productive—Flood Control works.	7 35,440	...	7,35,440
(ii) Maintenance and Repairs of productive works.	3,000	...	3,000



	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
(iii) Maintenance and Repairs of Flood Control works.	73,000	..	73,000
Development Schemes (Five Year Plan)—			
(i) Unproductive works—			
Additional Minor Irriga- tion Schemes.	95,000	...	95,000
Total	9,07,240	...	9,07,240

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

18-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage works—

2. 68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage works—

(ii) The work for protection of Sualkuchi has since been completed and this amount is required for meeting the cost of maintenance and repairs on the work during the current financial year as there is no provision in the budget for the purpose.

(iii) The protection work at Palasbari and Bamundi have since been completed and this amount is necessary for their maintenance and repairs during the current financial year as there is no provision in the budget for the purpose.

## Development Schemes

(Five Year Plan)—

3. Savings are due to the following reasons—

18-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage works—

Due to collective saving on certain works being completed.

68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage works—

(i) Due to want of labour and materials on certain works—

(ii) Provision in the current years' budget for all Flood Control works was made in lump. Hence requirement for the flood control works will be met from this lump provision.

(iii) Due to better progress of works in the last part of the last financial year which could not be anticipated, the time of preparation of the budget, the provision proves in excess.



**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The Motion moved is that this Assembly do approve an expenditure of Rs. 9,07,240 under the head "18-B. and 68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works". The amount involved will be met from the sanctioned grant.

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

**Government Resolution** *re*: the approval of an expenditure of Rs. 2,800 under the head "37.—Education".

**Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs. 2,800 under the head "37.—Education" by re-appropriation from the savings from the sanctioned grant as indicated below :—

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	3,18,16,200	41,78,800	3,59,95,000
2. Sub-head under which the appropriation will be accounted for—	...	...	...
Minor or Sub-head			
	Grant originally sanctioned		Additional Amount
	Rs.		Rs.
"37.—Education—N—Direct Grants to non-Government Special Schools—Recurring—General".	2,33,300		2,800
3. Sub-head from which the amount is to be re-appropriated—	...		...
"37.—Education—G—Direct Grants to non-Government Secondary Schools—Recurring—General".	26,38,344		2,800

#### EXPLANATORY NOTES

The additional amount is required due to introduction of Hindi in the non-Government Special Schools.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The Motion moved is that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs. 2,800 under the head "37.—Education" by re-appropriation from the savings from the sanctioned grant as indicated.

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



**Private Member's Resolution for construction of a railway line from Bongaigaon to Pandu via Goalpara along South bank of river Brahmaputra connecting Siju area of Garo Hills.**

**Shri HARRISON MOMIN:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak a few words in support of the Resolution moved by my Friend, Shri Bezbarua. Much has been said already by my Friends in support of this Resolution and it is not necessary for me to repeat them again and again. I listened attentively the talks given by the Deputy Minister, Mr. Das, in relation to Garo Hills. In his speech, he has given in detail the list of mineral resources, forest and agricultural products that could be available in the Garo Hills and which could be utilised as commercial commodities for the benefit of our people.

I would like to endorse his recommendation. Any scheme or proposal that would contribute something for the improvement of the economic condition of our people would always be welcome. We have been cherishing the hope that within the period of next few years, the most inaccessible parts of our district will be connected with the rest of Assam. Under the present scheme, the coal fields at Daranggiri and the limestone deposits of Siju areas will be connected with the rest of Assam by a railway line upto Pandu. This will give a great relief to our people from the hardship they had to suffer for want of transport facilities at present. If, according to this Resolution, another railway line is constructed connecting our district with Bongaigaon *via* Goalpara, it will serve as another doorway by which our people can send out their articles to the rest of India as well as to bring in their requirements from outside.

Some of our people, Sir, particularly those living in the coal areas, are, however, not so much in favour of the construction of the railway line connecting their places with outside. They say that the plains people will take away all their valuable articles leaving nothing for them. They also say that the people from outside coming into their places will teach them all sorts of bad things and their children will get spoiled. They say that they will leave their places and go somewhere else far away from the railway line. We are not very happy to hear such things. It appears that they are



still incapable of realising the good effects of having a railway line. It should be our duty to make them understand and to teach them to take advantage of such opportunity for their own development. It is for us to render all possible help to enable them to derive the maximum benefit from this proposal, should it become materialised. For myself I would say that let such opportunities come to us without fail and let them come soon. With these few words, I support the Resolution.

**\*Shri PRABHAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have no objection to the acceptance of this Resolution, but I want to point out one thing. Some of the supporters of this Resolution have sought to make out that the breaches in the line between Bongaigaon and Amingaon are the main cause for which a second line from Bongaigaon to Pandu *via* Goalpara is necessary. If this contention is accepted, it becomes very difficult for us to accept the Resolution because if the breaches in the line between Bongaigaon and Amingaon are made the most important cause for the construction of a line between Bongaigaon and Pandu, the question of construction of a bridge between Pandu and Amingaon may be delayed. We have been persistently demanding a bridge between Amingaon and Pandu because this has been considered the gateway of Assam. If we now demand for a line between Bongaigaon and Pandu and give more preference to the construction of this line to the restoration of the line between Bongaigaon and Amingaon, in that case, the Central Government may consider that the construction of the bridge between Amingaon and Pandu is not so necessary. They may say that when there is a division of opinion regarding diversion of the line from Bongaigaon and if that is to be done a bridge between Jogighopa and Pancharatna may also be necessary and, therefore, the proposal for construction of a bridge between Amingaon and Pandu may be deferred. So, before accepting this Resolution, we want to know definitely that the line between Amingaon and Bongaigaon will not be abandoned and the breaches in that line should not be made the cause for demand of a second line between Bongaigaon and Pandu. Sir, this line between Bongaigaon and Amingaon has its own importance because we are demanding extension of the railway line from Rangapara to North Lakhimpur. It is, therefore, essential that this



line should be restored to its proper condition. We earnestly request the Government of Assam to request the Central Government to see that proper steps are taken to restore the line between Bongaigaon and Amingaon to its former condition and the question of extension of the line from Rangapara to North Lakhimpur should also be considered to be a necessity when the Central Government consider this proposal of constructing a second line from Bongaigaon to Pandu *via* Goalpara. We support the proposal for the construction of this alternative line, but not due to breaches in the line between Bongaigaon and Amingaon.

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister):** Sir, my Friend was saying that the line between Bongaigaon and Amingaon should be restored. I don't understand how the question of restoration comes in because the line is already there.

**\*Shri PRABHAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI:** I mean restoration of the breaches.

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister):** Restoration of the breaches means that breaches will remain. Breaches cannot be restored, they can be repaired.

**\*Shri PRABHAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI:** I want the breaches should be repaired and the line restored to its former condition. I also want that there should be a second line but at the same time I must make it clear to the supporters of this Resolution that the question of the abandonment of the existing line between Amingaon and Bongaigaon does not arise.

**Shri RADHIKARAM DAS:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Resolution, but I must say that some of the hon. Members have given a mis-interpretation of it. It is not the intention of this Resolution to abandon the existing railway line from Amingaon to Bongaigaon, because in that case the whole of the north bank of Assam cannot be linked with other railway lines. The existing railway line is very essential and important. From this line we have the railway line upto Tezpur and Rangapara. There is a proposal to extend this line upto North Lakhimpur and even upto North-East Frontier Agency; so the question of abandoning the existing line cannot arise and it should be maintained as properly as possible. The intention of this Resolution is that besides the existing line, there should be an additional line from Bongaigaon to Goalpara and Goalpara to Garo Hills and then



to Pandu. The intention of this Resolution is that the mineral resources of Garo Hills and forest resources of Garo Hills and Goalpara can be transported outside Assam so that they can get a ready market outside Assam, and thus the economic condition of the people will be improved.

Sir, with these few words, I support the Resolution, but the question of abandoning of the existing line cannot arise, rather it should be maintained properly.

**Shri ANANDA CHANDRA BEZBARUA:** Sir, I want to make my position clear in regard to this Resolution, as there was some confusion in the minds of some hon. Members.

Sir, at the very outset, I said that my Resolution is not meant for diversion of the existing railway line, but it was for an additional line. Because there might be confusion in the minds of some people regarding construction of the proposed line from Bongaigaon to Goalpara thence to Pandu along with the existing line. I have not mentioned about it in my Resolution. My Resolution is to have an additional railway line. There is no question of giving up or abandoning the existing line on the north bank of the Brahmaputra river as this is the only way to connect North Lakhimpur on the North Bank. I am sorry that some hon. Members have confused the issue.

With these words, I hope, my Resolution will be accepted. I resume my seat.

**Shri RAGHUNANDAN DHUBI:** उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह प्रस्ताव बहुत ही जरूरी है, मैं भी इसका support करता हूँ।

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to the hon. Mover for bringing in this Resolution before the House. It gives the Government an opportunity to clarify the Government position to remove some doubts and suspicion, if any, in the minds of hon. Members as well as the public. Some hon. Members, it appears to me, tried to blame this Government for not taking any steps in this direction. It is not a fact. Government took this matter in hand since 1948 and moved the Railway Board and the Railway Ministry since then.



Sir, the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee, at its meeting held on 31st May, 1955 at Nowgong, Assam, passed a resolution to which I referred yesterday and representations had also been recently received from Goalpara public and as a result, we have taken up the question with the Railway Board. Here, I will read out a letter :—

“I am directed to refer to the communications quoted above and to say that recently a proposal has been received from the public of Goalpara for construction of a Railway line from Bongaigaon to Garo Hills *via* Jogighopa with a link to Pandughat for exploiting the natural resources in this undeveloped region and for serving as an additional route to Assam. The Assam Pradesh Congress Committee at its meeting held on 31st May 1955 at Nowgong, Assam, also passed a resolution impressing on the State and the Union Governments to take early steps for the construction of such a Railway line. The portion of the Goalpara Subdivision which lies to the South of the river Brahmaputra has remained undeveloped in the absence of any railway line. The construction of a Railway line from Siju to Pandu will be of great advantage for the exploitation of Garo Hills mineral resources and for marketing of the products which continue untapped even now for want of proper communication. But this line in itself will touch only the fringe of the problem in view of the fact that many more areas nearabout Goalpara and Garo Hills district will still be without any good communication for marketing their products.

A copy of the resolution passed by the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee in this connection is enclosed.

It is therefore requested that the project be included in the Railway 2nd Five Year Plan and implemented during the 2nd Five Year Plan period along with Pandu-Siju-Goalpara-Bongaigaon rail link with such adjustment and modification as is considered necessary.”

There should therefore be no mis-understanding about the Government proposal. As I stated, as a result of Government move, survey work was undertaken and has already been completed.

Now, as regards the existing or present railway line in the North Bank, it appears to me from the speech delivered in the House by some hon. Members of this House in supporting this Resolution, that the new line in the South Bank should be constructed as a substitute of that line or the line between



Bongaigaon and Amingaon should be maintained as a fair weather line, because many breaches occur during flood between Bongaigaon and Amingaon. Sir, this is not the Government position. Sir, this Government moved the Railway Ministry and the Railway Board to maintain this line as a permanent all weather line and also to strengthen it and to protect it from flood and erosion or any mishaps. This Government not only requested the Railway authorities to maintain this line as an all weather line but moved the Railway authorities to extend this line from Rangapara to North Lakhimpur. This extension is necessary to serve the District of Darrang and North Lakhimpur as well as to serve N.-E. F. A. area. But, Sir, the Government has given first priority to the link line between Bongaigaon and Pandu *via* Goalpara and Siju. The new rail linking Pandu, Siju, Goalpara and Bongaigaon should be considered as an additional line not as a substitute of the old line in the North Bank. The proposed new line should link Siju area of Garo Hills for development of Garo Hills and for tapping mineral resources of the Hills. We can call this line a Link Line. There is a proposal for establishment of a cement factory in Siju area of Garo Hills and, therefore, for the purpose of distribution of cement throughout Assam, both on the North and South Banks and other goods produced in Garo Hills and Goalpara, both these lines are necessary. Sir, the present line can carry only 25 per cent of the goods; so, Sir, a second line is also necessary. As he has accepted my amendment, I have no objection in accepting his Resolution. Sir, the Chief Minister wrote a D. O. letter, dated the 7th March, 1955 to the Railway Ministry, and we received a reply. I shall read only the relevant portion of this letter, for the information of the House. The following points have been raised:—

### **“Training of the Aie River**

Aie is one of the notorious rivers in the section Fakiragram to Amingaon, which like many other rivers in this sub-montane region has been trying to outflank by turn its right and left bank after destroying the protection works. In abnormally high floods rivers in this region over-flow their banks and try to break through the Railway embankments taking the course of some moribund channel. Sudden changes in the channels in the immediate vicinity of the bridge or change of course upstream due to land slides in the Bhutan Hills, wherefrom these rivers originate are common features. The Aie River is not considered to be underbridged but breaches took place in Railway embankment in the abnormally high



floods of 1952 and 1954 due to reasons stated above. Increasing the waterway of a bridge is not always a solution to the problem of training a river. As a matter of fact with excessive waterways the river gets space to play about from one bank to another thus creating oblique flow which helps in the destruction of protection works.

In 1952 the Aie overflowed its banks and breached the Railway line at mile 175 near Chaprakata Station. In 1954 it breached the Railway line at miles 176/1-2 and 175/15-17. The right bank channel which flows close to the railway line for over a mile length above the bridge has become the main channel carrying over 80 per cent of the flood discharge, the left channel carrying the balance of 20 per cent only.

The spill from the Aie and the Beki (another notorious river with a history) has heavily stressed and damaged a few bridges, the important ones being :—

(1) Bridge No. 183G at mile 181/12-13

(2) Bridge No. 202 at mile 207/8.

These are being re-built. The training of the Aie River by diverting the major portion of the flood back through bridge, protecting the right bank of the right channel to prevent any overflow and attack on the main line are also being tackled.

Whoever knows the area will admit that a continuous fight is going on between men and nature during the last 50 years and the Railways have never spared any pains or money to keep the Railway line through."

So, Sir, our request to the Railway Ministry is to maintain this Line as an all weather line and not as fair-weather line.

Sir, the reply received regarding Garo Hills is as follows :—

"The traffic survey is in full swing and is reaching completion. It will take a month or slightly more, to submit a preliminary report. The country is difficult and to do full justice to the work, the survey officer had to take time to look into all aspects of the proposed line. The Chief Minister has stated that this line is required to encourage a Cement Factory and other industries. The traffic survey will no doubt show all the traffic prospects of the line."

Sir, a copy of the letter written by this Government to the Railway Ministry has also been given to Mr. Nath.



I therefore agree to accept the Resolution as amended with the clarification made in my speech.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that this Assembly do recommend to the Government of Assam to move the Central Government for construction of a Railway line from Bongaigaon to Pandu *via* Goalpara along the South bank of the river Brahmaputra connecting Siju area of the Garo Hills.

(The Resolution was adopted.)

**Private Member's Resolution to begin School Sessions from the month of January every year.**

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move, that in view of the fact that the education of the students is greatly hampered and many students cannot come out successful for having their school sessions begun from the month of March, this Assembly is of opinion that the school sessions do begin from the month of January every year.

Sir, this is a simple and harmless Resolution; but at the same time it will come to the benefit of school students who are the future generation of Assam. Now-a-days the school sessions begin in the month of March and the students are to appear in the examinations in the month of February and the students face great disadvantage and difficulty in passing the examinations. In the month of December, the students are generally engaged in tournaments and other meetings of associations which continue till the first week of January. Then in the middle of January, there is the Magh Bihu festival and then after Magh Bihu festival, there is the Swaraswati Puja, and then they are to appear in examinations. They get little time for study, and as a result of this, they cannot come out successful in class examinations as well as in the University examinations. So, the result of the University is that most of the students come out successful in the Third Division.

Now, Sir, if the sessions are to begin from January then they get sufficient time to study for their examinations after the Puja vacation. So, I commend my Resolution for the acceptance of this House.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Resolution moved is that in view of the fact that the education of the students is



greatly hampered and many students cannot come out successful for having their school sessions begun from the month of March, this Assembly is of opinion that the school sessions do begin from the month of January every year.

**Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister):** Although the Resolution moved by Shri Das is fraught with certain implications, yet I would like to accept the Resolution for examination of Government. In fact, in the context of the reorganisation of the secondary education, the question of commencing the school session with a view to synchronise the same with the commencement of the English calendar year is already under scrutiny of the Government.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that in view of the fact that the education of the students is greatly hampered and many students cannot come out successful for having their school sessions begun from the month of March, this Assembly is of opinion that the school sessions do begin from the month of January every year.

(The Resolution was adopted.)

**Private Members' Resolution to give sufficient test relief work to flood-affected and river-eroded people of the State.**

**Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that considering the great hardship of the people of the flood-affected and river-eroded areas of this State, this Assembly is of opinion that sufficient test relief work be given to those people for their help and existence.

Sir, due to the construction of the Bahari-Bagbar flood embankment, the whole of the area of Mouzas Bagribari and Baghbar, some portions of the Mouzas Chenga, Barpeta and Mondia fall in between the river Brahmaputra and the embankment. So, during summer season, this year there was high flood in this area and the people had to leave their hearth and home. Crops in this area were completely damaged. Moreover, due to the construction of the flood embankment, the current of the river Brahmaputra has become very strong and due to this *char* areas of the Brahmaputra



also the banks of the river are eroded and thousands of people have become homeless and helpless. In Mouza Jamia, a part of it was damaged due to the strong current of the Beki river. Such is the condition in other districts also. If test relief work is given to the flood-affected people and river-eroded people then it will be a great help to them. So, I hope my Resolution will be accepted by the House.

In this connection I would like to say that the people of the affected areas become day labourers or begin to work in the test relief work to get some money when they will find no way out to save their families. So they must get the money when they work then and there. But I am sorry to say, Sir, that last year Rs.3,000 was given for test relief work on the Rampur-Mungdi Road in Mouza Bar-khetri. It is within Hajo Constituency. The work was done in the last year but the bill is not yet paid. Then, Sir, with what hope the people of the affected areas can come to do the test relief work? Government must see so that the payment for the test relief work is made as soon as possible.

Sir, with these words, I commend my Resolution to the acceptance of the House.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Resolution moved is that considering the great hardship of the people of the flood-affected and river-eroded areas of this State, this Assembly is of opinion that sufficient test relief work be given to those people for their help and existence.

In the meantime, I want to know the sense of the House whether we should continue beyond 4 P. M. to-day.  
(Cries of "no", "no")

### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A. M. on Saturday, the 26th November 1955.

SHILLONG:

R. N. BARUA,

The 3rd August 1956.

Secretary, Legislative Assembly,  
Assam.



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