

**Proceedings of the First Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly
assembled under the Sovereign Democratic Republican Constitution
of India.**

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 A.M. on Tuesday, the 14th March, 1950.

PRESENT

The Hon'ble Mr. Lakshesvar Borooah, Speaker, in the Chair, the seven Hon'ble Ministers and thirty-eight Members.

Oath of allegiance

The following Members were sworn in:—

- (1) Srijut Bepin Chandra Medhi.
- (2) Dr. Jinaram Das.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the Table)

Supply of Bonemeal to the cultivators in the Jaintia Hills

Mr. LARSINGH KHYRIEM asked :

3. (a) Are Government aware that the sowing season for wet rice cultivation in the Jaintia Hills starts from the third week of April every year ?

(b) Are Government aware that last year due to non-arrival of bonemeal in time, cultivators had to purchase the same from private dealers at a very high price costing Rs.30 to Rs.40 per maund and thus making them unable to purchase the required quantity when Government bonemeal arrived ?

(c) Whether Government have placed an order for bonemeal for Khasi and Jaintia Hills for this year ?

(d) If not, do Government propose to do it now and see that it is made available in time ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS replied :

3. (a)—Yes

(b)—The information in the possession of Government shows that 11,447 maunds of sterilised bonemeal were imported last year by Government and distributed in time at concessional rate.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Its arrival in time depends upon transport facilities.

**Taking over of Estates under the Assam Management of Estates
Act, 1949**

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM asked :

4. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether they are going to take over the management of all the Estates in Assam soon under the Assam Management of Estates Act, 1949 ?

- (b) If so, when ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware that almost all the waste land and Grazing Reserves in the Karaibari Estate have been secretly settled by the Zamindars during the last one year ?
- (d) If so, whether Government propose to treat all such settlements as null and void in the interest of the people of the area ?

Srijut HARESWAR DAS (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

4. (a)—At present Government propose to take over the Estates within permanently settled areas in Golapara.

(b)—As soon as possible.

(c)—Government have received no such information.

(d)—Does not arise.

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA : Question 4(b)ৰ উত্তৰত মই জানিব খোজো জমিদাৰী ইষ্টেটবোৰ গ্ৰহণ কৰা সম্পৰ্কে ১৭ জানুৱাৰী তাৰিখ নিৰ্দ্ধাৰিত কৰা হৈছিলনে কি ?

Srijut HARESWAR DAS (Parliamentary Secretary) : ১৭ জানুৱাৰী তাৰিখটো নিৰ্দ্ধাৰিত কৰা হোৱা নাই।

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA : ১৭ জানুৱাৰী তাৰিখে জমিদাৰী ইষ্টেটবোৰ গ্ৰহণ কৰা হ'ব, এই সম্পৰ্কে জমিদাৰ সকললৈ কিবা চিঠি-পত্ৰ লিখা হৈছিলনে ?

Srijut HARESWAR DAS (Parliamentary Secretary) : ডিপুটি কমিচনাৰে চিঠি লিখি কিছুমান details ascertain কৰিছিল। কিন্তু গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ পৰা কোনো লুকুম হোৱা নাই।

Pucca Ghats of Gauhati Town on the Brahmaputra

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :—

5. Will Government be pleased to refer to the replies given to Unstarred Questions Nos. 105 and 106 asked by the Questioner during the September Session, 1949 (*vide* Assembly Debates of 20th September at pages 1027-1028) and state—

(a) Whether the information regarding the responsibility of keeping the Pucca Ghats of the Gauhati town on the Brahmaputra under repair has been called for ?

(b) If so, when ?

(c) Whether the information has been received from the Municipality as well as from the Public Works Department ?

(d) Whether Government have been able to fix the responsibility on any of these two authorities ?

(e) If so, who is responsible, whether the Gauhati Municipality or the Public Works Department ?

(f) If the reply to question (d) above is in the negative, do Government propose to take early steps to ascertain and to see that they are repaired without delay ?

(g) Are Government aware that the dilapidated condition of these important Ghats is causing great inconvenience of the public of Gauhati ?

(h) If so, do Government propose to take the initiative and improve these Ghats without delay ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

5. (a) to (e)—In reply to enquiries made from the Gauhati Municipality and the Public Works Department in September and October 1949 respectively, it was ascertained that the ghats were not borne on the books of the Municipality and that the Public Works Department were not responsible for their maintenance and upkeep.

(f) to (h)—Orders have been issued to the Gauhati Municipality through the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, to assume the responsibility of properly maintaining the Kacharighat, the Uzanbazarghat, the Sukleswarghat as well as the Northbrook gate in the Gauhati Town and also to make provision of funds in its next year's Budget for undertaking essential repairs thereto, with the technical advice from the Public Works Department.

***Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN:** May I know why the name of the Fancybazar-ghat has been excluded ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Mention of the ghat was not in the question.

***Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN:** May I take it that the Fancybazar-ghat will also be taken along with the three other ghats mentioned in the reply ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think, the Questioner is responsible for the omission.

***Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN:** I want to draw the attention of the Government to that.

***Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** I shall be very glad if the Fancybazar-ghat is also included.

Special Fund for the Tezpur Municipality

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN asked :

6. (a) Are Government aware that the people of Lalmati and Kumargaon areas in Ward No.1, Tezpur Municipality, are suffering greatly for want of water supply and light ?

(b) Have Government received the petitions of the rate-payers of this Ward No.1, Tezpur Municipality which they made on the 11th January 1950 for providing 4 drinking wells and extension of Electric light or oil lamp posts for their areas ?

(c) Do Government propose to provide Special Fund for these areas, so that the Tezpur Municipality may be in a position to meet the demands as aforesaid ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

6. (a)—Yes, the water supply arrangement in the areas is reported to be inadequate.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Government propose to sanction a loan of Rs.50,000 to the Tezpur Municipality before the end of the current financial year.

*Speech not corrected.

POLICE ESCORT FOR MEMBERS TO ATTEND [14TH MAR. ASSEMBLY SITTINGS

Time limit for speeches on Budget discussion

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members have come to know that 16th March (from 1 P.M. or earlier on that day, if time permits), 17th and 18th March have been fixed for the general discussion of the Budget. It will be somewhat difficult for me to fix a time limit if necessary, for speeches until and unless I know how many Members desire to take part in the discussion on a particular day. I would therefore request the Leaders of various Parties to give the names of their Party Members who desire to speak on the subject on different dates to the Assembly Department by 12 noon on Wednesday, the 15th March, 1950.

With regard to the Demands for Grants to be considered by the House. hon. Members are now aware of the days that have been fixed for the purpose. I have got a time-table prepared allotting the time that should be devoted to the discussion of each of the demands during this Session. Copies of the time-table have already been circulated to the Leaders of Parties. I would request them to examine the same and inform the Secretary of their views, if any, on the said time-table before 3 P. M. to day, the 14th March. Printed copies of the time-table will be circulated to the hon. Members as soon as it is approved. I may, however, inform the hon. Members that the last date and time for receipt of Cut Motions on Demands for Grants to be taken up by the House on the 20th March is before 2 P.M. on the 16th March, 1950.

Police escort for Members to attend Assembly sittings

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may state that in view of the paucity of Members in the Opposition Benches, it will not be possible for me to give you list of speakers from the opposition side for general discussion of the Budget by tomorrow. If I am given time to submit the names, by say the 16th, perhaps I shall be able to know the position. I do not know whether the Hon'ble Chief Minister has received any request from certain Members of this side from Dhubri to provide them with police escort for their railway journey from Dhubri to Amingaon. I have received letters from two Members at least that they will not attend the Assembly lest they will be molested in the journey.

***The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to the question put forward by the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition, I have to say that I have not heard anything from the Members of Dhubri Constituencies sitting on that side, but from three Members from Barpeta we have received representation that they should be given some protection for their journey from Barpeta to this place. One of the Members of Dhubri also, while I was there, told me that so long as the uncertain situation in the district prevailed, he might not be able to attend the Assembly. That is all the information I have received.

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Ziaosh Shams ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I have received a letter from Mr. Ziaosh Shams addressed to the Secretary that he wants police escort up to Gauhati.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: As regards the three gentlemen from Barpeta, we have instructed the Subdivisional Officer to arrange for their safe journey if they want to come here to attend the Assembly. At the same time information may be sent to these Members to contact the Subdivisional Officer.

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: That is as regards Barpeta. The request that I have received is from the Members of Dhubri—one of whom has also written to the Secretary of the Assembly.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: From Dhubri we have no intimation.

***The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** We will do our best to see that they receive protection to come here.

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, what I suggest is this that the Hon'ble Chief Minister should order the Deputy Commissioner that if these Members want any Police escort for the journey from Dhubri to Gauhati to attend the Assembly, they should be provided with such protection. In the meantime, I will inform those Members to contact the Deputy Commissioner so that they may come together under one Police escort.

***The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Sir, I will send a wire to the Deputy Commissioner, Goalpara, so that they may get Police protection.

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Thank you, Sir.

Debate on His Excellency's address

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I have received only one amendment from Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move, as an amendment, that at the end of the Motion moved by Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma, the following be added:—

“But this Assembly regrets that in the long speech of His Excellency covering a wide range of subjects and expressing solicitude for the common man there is hardly any mention of the prevailing economic condition of the common man, scarcity and high price for essential items of food-stuff and clothing did not find a place therein. This Assembly requests His Excellency and through him the Government of Assam to take immediate steps to provide the citizens of Assam with sufficient items of food-stuff and clothing at a reasonable price within the means of the common man”.

Sir, we are meeting for the first time in an absolutely independent Legislature under a Republican India. With the declaration on the 26th of January 1950 of India as a Sovereign Democratic Republic, any doubt that might have been present in the minds of the people as to Indian independence must have disappeared. There are writers and politicians who still argue that a Dominion in the British Commonwealth is not a State and hence not independent on account of its allegiance to the British Crown. In that atmosphere His Excellency delivered, as is customary, his most illuminating speech covering, as it did, a wide range of subjects and expressing solicitude for the common man. His Excellency has taken great pains to give us a review of the prevailing situation

*Speech not corrected.

in Assam, especially, the difficulties and the problems that confronted the State and the measures and steps being adopted and proposed to be adopted to tackle those difficulties and problems.

His Excellency's speech was almost a summary of the Budget speech which was subsequently delivered by the Finance Minister. His Excellency has referred to a number of important measures adopted by the Government in order to solve the problems, and His Excellency referred to the relief given to the tenants through abolition of the Zamindaries. He also referred to the Deshmukh Award and in doing so, I am happy to know, he expressed a feeling of disappointment not only on behalf of the Government but of the people as well. A considerable portion of Excellency's speech has been devoted to the strategic position of Assam. His Excellency was also not unmindful of the worsening situation between East Pakistan and Assam, between whom there are 'thousand and one ties—social, economic and cultural that bind them each to each'. Unfortunately there are a large number of very responsible people who do not adequately appreciate this state of affairs, and some of whom not infrequently indulge in irresponsible talks of war between India and the other Dominion. As I have said, His Excellency covered in his speech quite a large number of important topics. But unfortunately there was no detailed reference to the economic condition of the common man. Man is born to live not to die. In order to live man requires certain essential commodities. He wants enough food, drink, and enough clothing to cover his body and a decent house to live in. These are the preliminary essential commodities that a man requires to live his life. Food, clothing and housing are the primary needs of the human being and these find a special place in the Law of Family Expenditure of Engels, Karl Marx's valued and patriotic colleague.

There has been for a long time an acute shortage of sugar, throughout the month of November and half of December, 1949. Assam went practically without sugar. By Assam I mean not the merchants, not the rich people, nor the fat-salaried people but the common men, the men in the street, the people in the rural parts. Enough sugar is produced in the country. According to Professor Sexena the quantity of sugar produced in the mills is enough for the population, regard being had to the partition of the country which resulted in the diminution of the population by about 80 millions. Yet the price of sugar is so high as not to be within the reach of the common man.

As for Atta and Maida, Sir, an acute shortage of these long felt commodities there is a virtual famine. Though we are mainly rice eaters yet a considerable quantity of Atta and Maida is consumed in Assam. Unfortunately the required quantity of these articles is not available in the State.

As for mustard oil and the different kinds of Dal, they are of course available in the market but their prices have increased so high that they are not within the easy reach of the common man.

Of late the cost of living has gone up considerably and the prices of different commodities have risen to a great extent, specially so since the devaluation of the currency. I am not going now into the cause or causes of the rise in the cost of living of the people in this country because I want to reserve it to my Budget speech in a few days to come. But what I want to say is that the people in the countryside are not as happy as is given out in the papers or in the Government communiques or in the Budget Speech.

As for cloth, we have not had adequate quantities of superior cloth in Assam for a pretty long time. There had been a keen competition between the rich cloth merchants on one side and the poor co-operatives on the other, and as a result of it the co-operatives have become a failure in our country. Sir, the rich merchants sell good cloth of superior grade and the co-operatives sell cloth of inferior grade. Good cloth is lasting, not bad cloth. People want

good and lasting cloth, but unfortunately these can be had only at much higher prices which the common people cannot afford. This is why I have brought up the Amendment to the main Motion in regard to His Excellency's speech. Mine is not the object of forcing a division or bringing any no-confidence Motion against the Government as Mr. Charchill recently did in the House of Commons though unsuccessfully. I only want to attract the attention of the Government to the very important fact that the condition of the common man is anything but happy, and that in his long speech His Excellency omitted a detailed statement of the needs of the common man for whom His Excellency expressed his solicitude.

With these words, Sir, I commend the Amendment for the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Amendment moved:

"That at the end of the original Motion the following be added:—

'But this Assembly regrets that in the long speech of His Excellency covering a wide range of subjects and expressing solicitude for the common man there is hardly any mention of the prevailing economic condition of the common man, scarcity and high price for essential items of food stuff and clothing did not find a place therein. This Assembly request His Excellency and through him the Government of Assam to take immediate steps to provide the citizens of Assam with sufficient items of food—stuff and clothing at a reasonable price within the means of the common man'."

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই ডাক্তৰ ইমবান হুচেইন চৌধুৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ৰ অভিভাষণৰ ওপৰত উপস্থিত কৰা সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱটোৰ বিৰোধীতা নকৰি নোৱাৰিলো। মোৰ বিশ্বাস তেখেতে মনোযোগেৰে সৈতে ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ৰ বক্তৃতা শুনা নাই। আৰু তেখেতৰ অভিভাষণ খন মনোযোগেৰে পঢ়া নাই। অভিভাষণৰ ১০ম, ১১শ আৰু ১৫শ পৃষ্ঠাত উল্লেখ কৰা কথা কেইটালৈ যদি তেখেতে মন কৰিলে হেঁতেন তেন্তে তেখেতে নিশ্চয় দেখিবলৈ পালে হেঁতেন যে ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ে সৰ্ব-সাধাৰণ প্ৰজাই অনু-বস্ত্ৰ আৰু অন্যান্য সামগ্ৰীৰ দুৰ্ভুল্যৰ কাৰণে ভুগিব লগীয়া হোৱা দুখ কষ্ট সম্পূৰ্ণৰূপে উপলব্ধি কৰিছে আৰু এই বিলাক বস্ত্ৰ কিয় দুৰ্ভুল্য হৈছে আৰু কিয় এই বোৰ বস্ত্ৰৰ এনে অভাৱ অনাটন হৈছে তাৰো কাৰণ স্পষ্টকৈ উল্লেখ কৰিছে। অভিভাষণৰ ১৫শ পিঠিত তেখেতে কৈছে:—

"To the citizens, men and women alike, I must also give my whole-hearted meed of praise for having cheerfully borne the burden of life though the times have been difficult—very difficult indeed—for them with high prices and alarms of all sorts ;"

ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ৰ অভিভাষণৰ ১১শ পৃষ্ঠালৈ মন কৰিলে বুজিব পৰা যাব কিয় কাপোৰ-কানি আৰু খোৱা-লোৱা বস্ত্ৰৰ ইমান অনাটন ঘটিছে আৰু কিয় ইমান দুৰ্ভুল্য হৈছে।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, অতিশয় দুখৰ আৰু লাজৰ কথা এই যে, চাউল মুঠিৰ বাহিৰে আমি আন আটাইবিলাক বস্ত্ৰৰ কাৰণে ভাৰতৰ অন্যান্য প্ৰদেশৰ ওপৰত নিৰ্ভৰ কৰিব লাগে। আটা, ময়দা, দাইল, চেনি, সৰিয়হৰ তেলক আদি কৰি প্ৰায় সকলো খোৱা বস্ত্ৰৰ কাৰণে আন প্ৰদেশৰ ওচৰত হাত নেপাতিলে আমাৰ উপায় নাই। এই বিলাক বস্ত্ৰ আন প্ৰদেশৰ পৰা আনিবলৈ হ'লে আমাক লাগে যান-বাহনৰ সুযোগ সুবিধা। সিদিনালৈকে বিশাল ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ নৈ আৰু বেঙ্গল অসম ৰেলৱে আসাম প্ৰদেশলৈ বস্ত্ৰ-বাহানি অনাৰ আৰু এই প্ৰদেশৰ পৰা মৰা পাট, চাহপাত আৰু কাঠ আদি পঠোৱাৰ উপায় আছিল।

সম্প্রতি দেশখন বিভক্ত হোৱাৰ ফলত আৰু পাকিস্থানৰ প্ৰতিকূল কাৰ্য্য-কলাপৰ কাৰণে আমাৰ পক্ষে এই পথ দুটাৰ সুবিধা লোৱা অসম্ভৱ হৈ পৰিছে।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, পাকিস্থানে নানা অযুক্তিকৰ অজুহাত দেখুৱাই ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ নৈৰে আমাৰ প্ৰদেশলৈ বস্তু অনা নিয়াত নানা প্ৰকাৰ বাধা দিব ধৰিছে আৰু অনিষ্ট ঘটাব লাগিছে। কলিকতাত মজুত থকা বহুত কাপোৰ তাতেই আটক হৈ বহুদিন পৰি থাকিব লগীয়া হৈছিল। তাক আমি কোনেও নজনা কৈ থকা নাই। বেল পথতো পাকিস্থানে কেনেকৈ আমাৰ ব্যতি-ব্যস্ত কৰিব লাগিছে আৰু বস্তু-বাহানি অনা নিয়া কৰাত আৰু বাত্ৰী চলাচল কৰাত কিদৰে বিঘিণি ঘটাব লাগিছে তাকো আমি কোনোৱে নজনা কৈ থকা নাই। (A voice :— ১ হাজাৰ দবা আটক কৰি ৰাখিছে) এজন বন্ধুৱে কৈছে ১ হাজাৰ দবা পাকিস্থানে আটক কৰি ৰাখিছে। হ'ব পাৰে ১ হাজাৰ, মই সঠিক নাজানো। সেই দেখিয়েই বেল আৰু জাহাজেৰে আমাৰ জন সাধাৰণৰ দৈনন্দিন আৱশ্যকীয় বস্তু-বাহানি অনা-নিয়াৰ এই অসুবিধাৰ ফালে লক্ষ্য ৰাখি আমাৰ ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ে তেখেতৰ অভিভাষণত এনে দৰে কৈছে :—

“.....Our great highway of trade and commerce and pilgrimage, has been the mighty Brahmaputra, the diversion of whose course, unlike that of the rail, would tax the wit of man to the breaking point. The waters continue to flow, for they do not recognise Partition and persist in following Nature's law ; but the traffic of men and goods that used to flow with these life-giving waters, has been sadly interrupted ;.....”

তেনেস্থলতো বিৰোধীদলৰ সভ্যসকলে ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ৰ বহুমূলীয়া আৰু সুৱল অভিভাষণৰ কাৰণে তেখেতকে অভিনন্দন জনোৱা এই প্ৰস্তাৱৰ ওপৰত সংশোধনীৰ আলমলৈ ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ক তথা অসম চৰকাৰৰ দোষাবোপ কৰাটোত আমি আচৰিত হৈছোঁ আৰু আমাৰ তবফৰ পৰা ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ক অভিনন্দন জনোৱা প্ৰস্তাৱ সম্পূৰ্ণৰূপে সমীধান হৈছে বুলি সমৰ্থন কৰিছোঁ।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, পাকিস্থানৰ শাসনকৰ্ত্তা সকলৰ মনোভাব আৰু কাৰ্য্য-কলাপ আমাৰ পক্ষে বুজা বৰ টান হৈ পৰিছে। আজি তেখেত সকলৰ কাৰ্য্য-কলাপে সমগ্ৰ অসমক বিপন্ন কৰি তুলিছে। এই কথা আমাৰ সৰ্বসাধাৰণে ভালকৈয়ে উপলব্ধি কৰিব পাৰিছে। কিন্তু ডাক্তৰ ইমবান হুচেন চৌধুৰীয়ে যে এইখিনি কথা কয় উপলব্ধি কৰিবলৈ টান পাইছে আমি বুজিব পৰা নাই।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, তেখেতৰ অভিভাষণত ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ে জনসাধাৰণৰ এই অভাব অভিযোগৰ প্ৰতি তেখেতৰ সহানুভূতি জ্ঞাপন কৰিছে আৰু অসমত খাদ্য দ্ৰব্য ও অন্যান্য ব্যৱহাৰ্য্য দ্ৰব্যৰ যি অভাব আৰু দুৰ্যোগ ঘটিছে তাক দূৰ কৰিবলৈ আমাৰ প্ৰদেশখনক নানান বিপদৰ পৰা ৰক্ষা কৰিবলৈ কেন্দ্ৰীয় গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে যি কাৰ্য্যকৰী পন্থা অবলম্বন কৰিছে তাকো আমাৰ ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ে উল্লেখ নকৰাকৈ থকা নাই।

অভিভাষণৰ ১০ম পিঠিত নতুনকৈ খোলা বেল বাস্তাৱ বিষয়ে তেখেতে কৈছে,

“Another event to which I must refer is the opening of the new railway link that now connects Assam directly with the rest of India. India through centuries past had grown up as a Unity ; and as such her economy had taken no account of racial, creedal or provincial considerations as it progressed from stage to stage by inevitable processes of natural evolution. The sudden emergence of a two Nation theory with the demand for a separate Muslim State to be carved out of the fair body of our Motherland came with a great shock of surprise to all who were building a free United India of the future.....”

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, দেশ বিভক্ত হোৱাৰ ফলত ভাৰত আৰু পাকিস্তান উভয় ৰাজ্যৰ সৰ্বসাধাৰণ প্ৰজাৰ কেনে বিষম ক্ষতি হৈছে, তালৈ লক্ষ্য কৰি ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ে যি দৰে দুঃখ প্ৰকাশ কৰিছে মই তালৈ ডাক্তৰ হুচেইনৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিব খোজোঁ। ৰাজ্যপাল দেৱে অভিভাষণৰ ১১ শ পিঠিত কৈছে—

"I was invited to start the first passenger train from Amingaon on the eve of inauguration of our Republic; and though the thousands that gathered at the station and its environs and the hundreds that were in the train itself, were full of enthusiasms, as from the inside of the engine I pulled the lever and started the train, my own heart was sad because of the circumstances that had made this link so immediately necessary. All of us, whether in Pakistan or in Bharat, have pleaded for the interest of the common man; but despite the best of intention it is the common man unfortunately that seems to have suffered the most in the changes that have been brought about by the new alignments necessitated by the Partition. I pray in all sincerity and with all fervour, that we might follow the path of wisdom and have a proper appreciation of the values of life so that all unnecessary conflicts might be avoided and the life of the humble secured from all harm and allowed to flow undisturbed in its accustomed channels. * * *"

তেখেতে আকৌ কৈছে—

"** and tea and jute and timber that gave joy and comfort and occupation to hundreds of thousands are now being deprived of their utility in diverse bottle-necks. The curious fact which has only to be stated to be appreciated, however, is that practically all persons who were employed in river navigation are men from East Bengal who are in obvious danger of losing their livelihood by shortsighted activities of others. Thus we see that any disturbance in the arrangements that had been prevalent, harms the citizens of both the Dominions; and the realisation of this fact as it affects the humble are and should be the main concern of all in positions of power and authority, can and should bring about a speedy and satisfactory solution of the many problems that tax our minds and thoughts today."

আমাৰ জনসাধাৰণৰ দুঃখৰ কথা বিদিত কৰিবলৈ ইয়াতকৈ আৰু কি ভাল ভাব বা ভাষা মানুহে ব্যৱহাৰ কৰিব পাৰে আমি কব নোৱাৰোঁ। মোৰ বিশ্বাস ডাক্তৰ ইমৰান হুচেইন চৌধুৰীয়ে অভিভাষণখন মনোযোগেৰে সৈতে পঢ়া হৈ তেনে ৰাজ্যপালৰ বিৰুদ্ধে সৰ্বসাধাৰণ প্ৰজাৰ অনু-বস্ত্ৰৰ কষ্ট আৰু বস্ত্ৰৰ দুৰ্ন্যূত্যতাৰ বিষয়ে কোনো উক্তি নকৰা বুলি অভিযোগ উপস্থিত নকৰিলেহে তেনে।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, ভাৰতে কোনোদিনেই পাকিস্তানৰ প্ৰতি কোনো বকম দুৰভিসন্ধি বা প্ৰতিকূল মনোভাব পোষণ কৰা নাই। কিন্তু তথাপি কিয় পাকিস্তানে ভাৰতৰ প্ৰতি আক্ৰোশমূলক আৰু শত্ৰুতাৰ মনোভাব পোষণ কৰে তাক বুজা টান। আজি পাকিস্তানৰ আচৰণে আমাক নতুন ৰেললাইন অজুশ্ব ধন ব্যয় কৰি খুলিবলৈ বাধ্য কৰিলে। এই অসম লিঙ্ক এক্সপ্ৰেছ ৰেল-লাইন গোলাত আমি অসমবাসীয়ে অতি আনন্দ পাইছোঁ। কিন্তু ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰা অতি সোনকালে যে আমাৰ সমস্ত অভাৱ পূৰণ হব তেনে আশা কৰা টান। যি অভাৱ বিশাল ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ জলপথে আৰু অসম-বেঙ্গল ৰেলপথে পূৰণ কৰিব পৰা নাছিল, তাক যে অকল অসম লিঙ্ক এক্সপ্ৰেছে পূৰণ কৰিব পাৰিব সি আশাতীত। গতিকে বাহিৰৰ পৰা বস্ত্ৰ আনি আমাৰ অভাৱ পূৰণ কৰাত আৰু আমাৰ প্ৰদেশৰ পৰা বস্ত্ৰ বাহিৰলৈ পঠোৱাত আৰু কিছুদিন যে আমি অসুবিধা ভোগ কৰিব লাগিব তাত সন্দেহ নাই। সেই অসুবিধা হৰ্ষমানে সহিবলৈ মই অসমবাসীক অনুৰোধ কৰোঁ।

এই খিনিতে মই ডাক্তৰ ইমৰান হুচেইন চৌধুৰীক আৰু আমাৰ মুছলমান সদস্যসকলক এটা অনুৰোধ কৰিব খোজোঁ। আমি সকলোৱে ভাৰত আৰু পাকিস্তান উভয় ৰাজ্যৰে সাধাৰণ প্ৰজাৰ হিত কামনা কৰোঁ। কিন্তু সম্প্ৰতি পাকিস্তানী সকলৰ আচৰণে উভয় ৰাজ্যৰ প্ৰজাৰ মাজত বোৰ অশান্তিৰ সৃষ্টি কৰিব লাগিছে। মই অনুৰোধ কৰোঁ, আমাৰ মুছলমান সদস্য সকলে আৰু

মুছলীম নেতা সকলে গোহাৰিৰ যোগে নাইবা আন কোনো উপায়ে পাকিস্তানৰ শাসকবৰ্গৰ আৰু বাইজৰ এই আক্ৰোশ মূলক কাৰ্য্যকলাপ স্থগিত কৰিবলৈ আৰু উভয় ৰাজ্যৰ মাজত যাতে শ্ৰীতি আৰু সম্ভাৱ্য প্ৰতিষ্ঠা হয় তাৰ কাৰণে যত্ন কৰক। তেতিয়াহে সৰ্বসাধাৰণ প্ৰজাই সুখ শান্তিৰে থাকিব পাৰিব। আৰু তেতিয়াহে সেই সকলৰ কষ্টৰ লাঘৱ হ'ব।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, ডাক্তৰ চৌধুৰীয়ে তেখেতৰ সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাবৰ শেষ ভাগত উল্লেখ কৰা যি খিনি কথা ৰাজ্যপালক দেৱৰ অভিভাষণত যোগ দিবলৈ ইচ্ছা কৰিছে, সেই কথা অভিভাষণতে আছে। তাক তেখেতে মনোযোগেৰে অভিভাষণখন পঢ়ি চালেই বুজি পাব। এতেকে মই তেখেতক এই সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱটো উঠাই লবলৈ অনুৰোধ কৰোঁ।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: এতিয়া আপুনি সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱটো উঠাই লবলৈ অনুৰোধ কৰিছে, নহয় জানো?

(Voices তেখেতে অনুৰোধ কৰিছে।)

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: মই তেখেতক অনুৰোধহে কৰিছোঁ।

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the amendment moved by my hon. Friend Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury. This institution of an Address to His Excellency the Governor of each State for his speech to the House has been newly introduced in our Constitution under Article 176, following the precedent of the House of Commons in England corresponding to His Majesty the King's speech at the beginning of the Parliamentary Session. The precedent of England shows that the King in his speech declares the policy that will be followed during the course of the Session by his Government of the moment. In the present speech of His Excellency the Governor of Assam he had tried to amplify the reasons for which different Bills would be introduced in the House, the very bad and sad condition of our finances, our appeal to the Central Government for help and also he expressed general solicitude for the common man. And in spite of what my hon. Friend Srijut Gauri Kanta Talukdar has laid before the House I am perfectly convinced that in his solicitude for the common man His Excellency's speech falls short of announcing to the House, and through the House to the Public of Assam, the endeavour of his Government to meet those short-comings. Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury has very reasonably expressed that in the otherwise admirable speech by His Excellency covering a wide range of subjects this vital point was really an omission for which not only this side but also the occupants of the Treasury Benches should have the same perspective. The common man does not understand politic, he does not bother his head why the two neighbouring countries of Pakistan and India are at divergence. What he really wants is the security of life and property and the wherewithals to satisfy the cravings of the inner man.

Nobody can gainsay the fact that whatever the reason, there has been a very short supply of many essential commodities of a daily meal. Everyone knows that sugar is in extremely short supply. I must admit that Government are trying their best by means of rationing to distribute however small a quantity to the town-dwellers. While speaking of Shillong, sometimes I get a chhatak per week, sometimes even two chhataks (A voice:—It has been increased to 3 chhataks). I am glad to hear that. However, sugar is unavailable in the rural areas even for medicinal purposes. While everyone knows that India produces sufficient quantity of sugar to meet the requirements of the entire people. For reasons best known to the authorities of the Central Government, they have been given protection at the cost of the tax-payer, to the sugar industry of India. However reasonable this move might have been at its inception, many critics, both inside the Central Parliament as well as outside have been constrained to remark that the sugar industry has adopted all the characteristics of a spoilt child. They have not done anything to improve the technique of production, they have not adopted the most effective machinery

with the result that the Government of India had to fix for a maund of sugar ex-mill the very high price of Rs.28, whereas it is well-known to everyone, including the Government of India (I was in the Constituent Assembly when this was discussed and a note was circulated by the Government of India on the subject) that sugar can be had at the very low price of Rs.11 a maund in Mauritius, Java and in America, both North and South. When on account of some divergence of opinion between Pakistan and India, Pakistan had to import sugar from outside, I know for a fact that they got sugar landed at their ports of Karachi and Chittagong at the over-all price of Rs.17 per maund from outside. Mind, this is price plus freight, plus insurance plus profit to the sellers. We are thus, not to speak of other matter, on this simple matter of sugar being doubly taxed. First we have been taxed and the tax-payer's money has gone, if I remember aright, as a matter of subsidy, to the extent of Rs.8 per Cwt. This is a free gift to the sugar industry by the people of India and the people are mulcted further by the high price of sugar here.

Whereas in the district of Sylhet at the present moment sugar imported from outside India is being sold at the retail price of 9 annas per seer, the control price in Shillong, I think, is 14 annas per seer, but the commodity is unavailable whether in Assam or outside Assam. I have been recently to Calcutta and my host said that the sugar ration is not sufficient and they have to procure from the black market at the rate of Rs 2/8/- or Rs. 3/- per seer. Conditions are not far wide of the range of these prices in Assam as well. Apologists for this shortage of the commodity in the State of Assam naturally refer to the bottleneck of transport. That is correct to a certain extent. But this sugar muddle and the high price of sugar started before the trouble arose between Pakistan and India over the question of devaluation of currency in India and non-devaluation by Pakistan.

Srijut HARINARAYAN BARUA: On a point of information. মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মাননীয় বিবোধী দলৰ নেতা ডাক্তৰীয়াই পাকিস্থানত চাউল, কেৰাচিনতেল আৰু কাপোৰৰ কিমান দাম খবৰ পায়নে ?
(Voice: পায় — পায় —।)

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: মই পৃথিবীৰ সকলো দেশৰে খবৰ ৰাখি বৰ ভাল পাওঁ। সেই দেখি অকল পাকিস্থানৰে নহয় ব্ৰেজিল, গ্ৰীচ, ডেনমাৰ্ক আদি কৰি সকলো দেশৰে খবৰ মোৰ হাতত আছে আৰু সেই সকলো খবৰ মই দিব পাৰোঁ। সিদিনাখন, অসমৰ এসময়ৰ এজন ডাক্তৰ বিষয়াই ছিটাগঙ্গৰ তেখেতৰ জীয়েকৰ ঘৰলৈ গৈছিল। সেই জন ভদুলোকে, ছিটাগঙ্গৰ ভিতৰুৱা ঠাইত এতিয়াও মিহি চাউল খাই আহিছে। তেখেতে কৈছে, মিহি চাউল টকাত তিনি সেৰ পায়—আৰু ঘৰৰ অন্যান্য মানুহ বিলাকে ৰেশনৰ চাউল খাই থাকে আৰু ৰেশন চাউল টকাত ৮ সেৰ; চেনিৰ সেৰে ন (১১/২) অনা। কেৰাচিনতেল যথেষ্ট পোৱা যায়।

Now to resume my speech after this interruption from the redoubtable Srijut Hari Narayan "Hati" Barua. I know his brother hands. I was responsible to send him to Madras to further develop his muscular power. I referred to Mr. Harinarayan as Hati Barua as he looks stronger than his brother. I think his strength cannot be measured in horse power, but he is so strong as that elephant power should be used (*Loud Laughter*).

Sir, everyone whether sitting behind the Treasury Benches or in the Opposition cannot but feel for the citizens of Assam. We have really been shut out from the rest of India although we are one of the component States of the Union of the Republic of India. I entirely agree with my Friend Srijut Gauri Kanta Talukdar that the strategic link railway that has recently connected Assam with the rest of India will not be able to cope with the volume of traffic both in passengers and goods that Assam needs badly and I entirely agree with him in his idea that there should be a just and peaceful solution of the trouble

between Pakistan and Republic of India. I am not here as an apologist of Pakistan but what I read in the Press is that the entire attitude of Pakistan is due to their monetary policy of non-devaluation. Their currency is at a high level and therefore they want the freight whether by rail or steamer at their own currency which stands at $1\frac{2}{3}$ higher of India's currency. This Government cannot escape responsibility by blaming the Pakistan Government for the alleged unreasonable conduct in cutting our main traffic line whether by the Brahmaputra or by the old rail connection through Parbatipur from Assam to the outside world. Even then in my opinion it should be the bounden duty of the Government to see that the essential foodstuffs are made available in the State of Assam. I don't think well-fed gentlemen on the opposite are feeling the pinch at all. But for a man who is ill, especially myself who under doctor's advice have to take diet of wheat, I have been suffering from the last six months for the absence of atta from the Shillong market entirely. A little maida is available, maida mixed with, God knows what! May be ground-nut meal, may be Indian corn flour, a Chapati of which turns into a leather-like substance as soon as it is brought out of oven. So I think Dr. Emran's Motion not only provides a much-needed constitutional convention but also we are thankful to him for drawing pointed attention of His Excellency and the Government for these short-comings in the supply of essential foodstuffs. The opponent of Dr. Emran's Motion, I mean my Friend Srijut Gauri Kanta Talukdar who in his solicitude for the common man had actually tabled in the House a Motion for the extermination of *কৰ্কেটুৱা* which is responsible for the destruction of *ভাত* should have welcome the Motion of Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury and not opposed it because he is not criticising His Excellency's speech which is full of information which shows his solicitude for his special responsibility amongst the Hill people.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Sir, does he not criticise the speech of His Excellency when he said that he did not make mention of the prevailing conditions of the common man?

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, it is not a criticism, but he is drawing the attention to the fact that the grievances of the common man, redress measured for which have not been explained by His Excellency the Governor. His Excellency did not mention that his Government is taking steps to remove this shortage of food-stuff and cloth. As I said, His Excellency's speech takes place of the King's Speech in the British Parliament, and the speech is intended to give to the outside world the policy that is followed by his Government, and here in this particular matter, I have gone through the speech, I never found any where any reference to the problem to which Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury made mention of. Now, I need not dilate on other dietary materials and everyone knows as regards cloth. Yesterday, we heard from the speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister the same story as we had heard six months ago. The Assam Government had procured 30,000 bales of cloth, but they are lying in Calcutta for the last six months. The question now arises whether the common man and the common citizens in Assam are going without cloth. If the business men and merchants could take recourse to the air-lift, as we all know those who are now travelling by air that every day thousand maunds of consumer goods are imported into Assam by means of aeroplane, Government could adopt the same method, and could have brought these 30,000 bales of cloth from Calcutta for issue to our Co-operative Trade Societies to be distributed throughout Assam.

Sir, germane to the subject, I will refer to another matter, and I started by saying that the common man is concerned with the security of their lives and properties. In His Excellency's speech there was a short touch on the subject and beyond saying that Military and Police have done their best, and thanking them, he did not dilate upon them. Sir, I refer to the extreme disorder

and lawlessness resulting sometimes in murder, arson and looting of the property of the common man. In these connection, I cannot but congratulate our Chief Minister for his extreme endeavour to bring the country to its normal life. The redeeming feature of this very painful Communist *cum* communal trouble that is raging in Lower Assam, specially in Gauhati, is that both Hindus and Muslims have combined together in a fraternal spirit to repel this menace. I had been to the different centres at Gauhati both towards the end of last month and the beginning of this month, I found that although His Excellency's Government had sent enough Military platoons to Gauhati to strengthen the Police, the local volunteers—both Hindus and Muslims have been patrolling every night for the last three weeks to preserve their life and property in different areas. This trouble has continued. From my personal experience, I may say that I was sitting on the verandah of my house on the night of 2nd March 1950 when at about 6 O'clock in the evening some people shouted “ন বাড়ি, ন বাড়ি” and thereafter the police, as usual, of the reserve started ringing the bell, and blowing their bugles to inform the citizens that there was burning of houses. Young men from my own house went to help and that they brought the news that two houses in Lakhtokia where my house is situated was set fire to, and the local volunteers quelled the fire before extensive damage could be done. The Police Reserve also is in the Lakhtokia area of Gauhati.

I was at Gauhati on the 11th March 1950, when I was returning from Calcutta. Both Hindus and Muslims met me at the Aerodrome and requested me that I should stay at Gauhati, in order to confer with Hon'ble Chief Minister, how best to stop this arson and stabbing incidents that are continuing at Gauhati. I was told that on the previous evening, they saw a Muslim shop-keeper, in the very crowded locality of Fancy Bazar, was looted by a gang of some 20 people at the very busy hours in the evening., i.e., 6-30 P.M. The miscreants, from 15 to 20 in number, stabbed 3 of the inmates of the shops threw acid bulbs on the back of one man and on the ankle of another. These people had to be removed to the hospital. Though police was informed in time, till 11 O'clock they did not take any action. When I arrived at about 11-30 at my residence I found another batch of Hindus and Muslims waiting to represent matters at Gauhati. I immediately enquired of them whether the Hon'ble Chief Minister was there so that I could meet him in order to ask him to address a public meeting with me, but I was told that hearing that an extreme trouble had arisen at Sorbhog he rushed to that place. It was a commendable step on the part of the Government to bring some kind of assurance to the people of the minority communities. I need not state that if a house of a Musulman is set fire to the house of a neighbouring Hindu is also gutted. Therefore on behalf of the community I represent as well as the general people of Assam I must congratulate the Hon'ble Chief Minister who, immediately on hearing of some disturbance at Sorbhog, went there post haste. I know, he also went to Bongaigoan where there was a trouble and according to the reports that I got, some 5,000 people of a particular community were made homeless through arson, and unfortunately the perpetrators of this crime, according to the telegram, are Sontals, Nepalese and Meches. The actions of some people who misguided the illiterate miscreants are anti-social. The actions of every attempt is being made at the higher level of the Ministry and His Excellency the Governor, the orders, according to the popular belief in the Plains below, have not been carried out by the subordinate police and other officials. I do not want to dilate on this very sordid and sorry state of affairs, for if I give details they will get publicity with the result that there may be repercussions both from the side of the miscreants and, as a measure of self-defence, from the side of the sufferers. I simply place these facts before this House so that the Hon'ble Ministers will gird up their loins and try every means to stop this very ugly Communist *cum* communal disturbances that is

disfiguring the name and fame of Assam. I felt proud whenever I went outside the Province when people used to greet me and say "How is it that Assam remains so long free from all communal disturbances inspite of the fact that almost every province in India had suffered there from". But today the conditions which I saw in Calcutta only 5 days ago is prevailing in Assam which is blackening the beautiful country that we love. I am perfectly sure that every Hon'ble Member in the Government Bench as well as His Excellency the Governor has been trying his level best to do away with this menace and to restore communal harmony and brotherly feeling. As I have said, there has been a spirit of brotherly feeling between the Assamese Hindus and Assamese Muslims and non-Assamese Muslims, I mean the immigrants who have settled in Assam for about last 30 years. I, therefore, while commending His Excellency's speech to this House for his solicitude for the common man, want to strengthen the hand of the Government as well by the amendment to the address that is proposed in this Motion to focus this vital matter, a matter of security of their life and property and the provision of various articles of food necessary for maintaining themselves by the common man.

Srijut MOTI RAM BORA: মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই এই আলোচনাত ভাগ নলও বুলিয়েই ভাবিছিলো। কিন্তু শেষত দেখিলো আমাৰ অসমীয়াত এটা কথা আছে "সভাত থাকি নেমাতে উচিত, দোষে পায় কিঞ্চিৎ কিঞ্চিৎ" সেই কাৰণে এই আলোচনাত মই অলপ ভাগ লবলৈ ওলালো। বিৰোধী দলৰ নেতাৰ প্ৰতি আমাৰ যথেষ্ট সন্মান আছে। তেখেতৰ অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পৰ্কে অসমৰ কোনো দ্বিতীয় মত নাই। দেশৰ শাসন বিষয়ক কথা বা অন্যান্য অনেক কথাত তেখেতৰ আমাতকৈ বহুত বকমৰ অভিজ্ঞতা আছে। তেখেত বয়সস্থ আৰু পুৰণিলাক সদগত্যকৈ জ্যেষ্ঠ হব। সেই কাৰণে আমাৰ বহুতে তেখেতক শ্ৰদ্ধা কৰি আহিছোঁ। কিন্তু মোৰ মনত এটা আসোৱাহে দেখা দিছে। এই সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱৰ সুবিধা লৈ তেখেতে অলপ পাকিস্থানৰ গুণগান কৰিছে। এই সময়ত—সেইটো নকৰা হলেই ভাল আছিল। পাকিস্থানত চেনি সন্তত পোৱা যায়, পাকিস্থানত চেনিৰ দাম সেবে ৥/০ অনা, পাকিস্থানত মিহি চাউল টকাত ৮/৪ সেৰ, আৰু পাকিস্থানত বেশনৰ চাউল টকাত ৮/৫ সেৰ পোৱা যায়। এই বিলাক গুণাগুণ আমি ইয়াত আশা কৰা নাছিলো।

এই সভাত তেখেতে এই সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱটোৰ সুবিধা লৈ এনেকুৱা গুণ কীৰ্ত্তন কৰিব নালাগিছিল। অকল সেয়ে নহয় পাকিস্থানৰ কাৰ্য্যাবলী তেখেতে পাকে প্ৰকাৰে সমৰ্থন কৰিছে। অৰ্থাৎ তেখেতে কয় যে পাকিস্থান চৰকাৰে যি কাৰ্য্য-পদ্ধতি লৈছে সেইটো কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰে Devaluation নীতিলোৱাৰ পৰাহে হৈছে। কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰে Devaluation নীতিলোৱাৰ কাৰণে পাকিস্থানে এনেবিলাক কাৰ্য্য অবলম্বন কৰিছে আৰু পাকে প্ৰকাৰে সেইবিলাক ঠিক হৈছে বুলিয়েই তেখেতে কব খুজিছে বুলি অনুমান হয়। কাজেই পাকে প্ৰকাৰে পাকিস্থানৰ কাৰ্য্য-পদ্ধতিকে তেখেতে সমৰ্থন কৰিছে বুলি বুজিব পাৰি, যিটো সঁচাকৈয়ে আমি তেখেতৰ পৰা আশা কৰা নাছিলো। এই সময়ত এই বিলাক কথা মোৰ বিবেচনাৰে প্ৰাসঙ্গিক নহয়। সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱটোলৈ যদি চোৱা যায়, তেন্তে দেখিব তাত আছে কি?

"But this Assembly regrets that in the long speech of His Excellency covering a wide range of subject and expressing solicitude for the common man there is hardly any mention of the prevailing economic condition of the common man, scarcity and high price for essential items of food-stuffs and clothing did not find a place therein" * * *

অভিভাষণটো ভালকৈ চালে দেখিব যে এই গোটেই খিনি কথা ৰাজ্যপাল ডাঙৰীয়াই কৈ গৈছে। কাজেই এইবোৰ কথাৰ—আলোচনা নোহোৱাই ভাল আছিল। আমাৰ দেশত খাদ্যবস্তু আৰু পৰিধানৰ বস্ত্ৰৰ অভাৱত সৰ্বসাধাৰণ ৰাইজৰ যে ভয়ানক কষ্ট হৈছে সেই কথা ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ৰ ১৫ পৃষ্ঠাৰ অভিভাষণত দেখিব—

* * * * "To the citizens, men and women alike, I must also give my wholehearted meed of praise for having cheerfully borne the burden of life though the times have been difficult—very difficult indeed—for them with high prices..."

ৰাজ্যপাল ডাঙৰীয়াই একেবাৰে কৈ দিছে—

* * * that times are difficult—very difficult indeed for them with high prices * * * * *

তথাপিও সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱকাৰীয়ে বেজাৰ কৰি কৈছে :—

“There is hardly any mention of the prevailing economic condition..... scarcity and high prices.....”

সঁচাকৈয়ে আমাৰ দেশৰ ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ৰ অভিভাষণত কোনো দোষ নাই। পাকিস্থান আৰু ভাৰতৰ কি অৱস্থা হৈছে, কি ভাল কি বেয়া এনেবিলাক কথাৰলৈ এই আলোচনাত নোযোৱাই ভাল আছিল। মই আৰু এটা কথাত টান পাইছোঁ। যিটো প্ৰস্তাৱত এই বিলাক কথা আলোচনা কৰিছে, সেইবিলাক এই প্ৰস্তাৱৰ অনুসঙ্গিক কথা নহয়। কিন্তু আমাৰ বিৰোধী দলৰ নেতাই তেখেতৰ বক্তৃতাৰ প্ৰায় সমস্ত অংশতেই কিছুমান অপ্ৰাসঙ্গিক কথাহে কৈ গৈছে। আমাৰ ৰাজ্যপাল বাহাদুৰৰ অভিভাষণৰ ওপৰত যিটো সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱ আছে সেই সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱৰ ওপৰতহে আলোচনাটো থকা উচিত আছিল। যি সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱক সন্মতি দিয়া লৈ তেখেতে বহুত বাহিৰা কথা কৈছে সেইটো ঠিক হোৱা নাই। ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ৰ অভিভাষণটো তেখেতে ভালদৰে মনদি চোৱা নাই, বা চালেও তাত সিমান মনোনিবেশ কৰা নাই। সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱত বিশেষকৈ সৰ্বসাধাৰণৰ প্ৰতি ৰাজ্যপাল ডাঙৰীয়াই আৰু আমাৰ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে সিমান মনযোগ দিয়া নাই বুলি পাকে প্ৰকাৰে কৈ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টক দোষাৰোপ কৰিছে। (A voice—দোষাৰোপ কৰা নাই) যদি এই সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱটো গৃহীত হয়, তেনেহলে গবৰ্ণমেণ্টক দোষাৰোপ কৰা হ'ব, আৰু সেই উদ্দেশ্যৰেই তেখেতে প্ৰস্তাৱটো দাঙি ধৰিছে।—বিৰোধী দলৰ নেতাই সকলোকে জনাই দিছে যে তেখেতে আটা খায়, ময়দা খায়, সেই কাৰণেই তেখেতৰ কষ্ট বেচি। আমি আটা ময়দা নোখোৱা মানুহ আৰু সেই গতিকৈ সেই বিলাক নোহোৱাকৈয়ে আমি চলিব পাৰোঁ।

তেখেতৰ জীৱনত কষ্ট হৈছে সঁচা, কিন্তু সৰ্বসাধাৰণৰ নামত এইবোৰ কথা কোৱা অপ্ৰাসঙ্গিক। কিয়নো মই ক'ও যে প্ৰাদেশিক গবৰ্ণমেণ্ট বা আসাম গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ চেনিৰ দাম বঢ়াবৰ বা কমাৰৰ হাত নাই; এই কথা বিৰোধী দলৰ নেতা ডাঙৰীয়াই ভালকৈ জানে। এই যে চেনিৰ দাম বাঢ়িছে, চেনিৰ নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ হৈছে, চেনি পাবলৈ নোহোৱা হৈছে ইয়াৰ মূলতে ধনী সম্প্ৰদায় আৰু মিল-মালিক সকল। কিন্তু অসম গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে বা ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ৰ চেনিৰ দাম বঢ়াবৰ বা কমাৰৰ বা সিবিলাকৰ সন্ত্ৰাত চেনি আনি দিবৰ কোনো হাত নাই। এই কথা তেখেতে বুজিব লাগিছিল। এইটো প্ৰাদেশিক গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ কথা নহয়, কেন্দ্ৰীয় গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰেই কথা। এই বিষয়ে যদি কেন্দ্ৰীয় গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে কিবা কাৰ্য্য পন্থা অবলম্বন কৰে তেনেহলে চেনি সস্তা হ'ব পাৰে। পাকিস্থানৰ কেন্দ্ৰীয় গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে হয়তো কিবা ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে, আৰু সেই কাৰণেই পাকিস্থানত কিজানি চেনিৰ সেৱে ১১/০ অনা দাম হ'ব পাৰে। মুঠৰ ওপৰত এইবোৰ কথা অপ্ৰাসঙ্গিক। মূল প্ৰস্তাৱটোৰ মূল কথাটোত ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ে যি খিনি ক'ব পাৰে সেই খিনিৰ ভিতৰতে সকলো কথাই কৈছে। আমাৰ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে যি খিনি ক'ব লাগে আৰু বাইজে যি খিনি জানিব লাগে তাকেই ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ে যথাযথ ভাবে আৰু বিশদ ভাবে আলোচনা কৰিছে। কাজেই মই ডাক্তৰ ইমৰাণ হুচেইন চৌধুৰী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱৰ বিৰোধীতা কৰোঁ। মই তেখেতক অনুৰোধ কৰোঁ, তেখেতে যিটো সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱ আনিছে তাক যেন উঠাই লয়।

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there seems to be a little danger that the real issues are being obscured in this debate. The occasion is one for confidence. A motion in response to an address by His Excellency the Governor is a matter of confidence, and an amendment cannot be dismissed lightly by this House. I was, Sir, a little surprised at the line which was taken by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, which was in effect that though His

Excellency's speech had been a good one it could have been improve and by the acceptance of this very innocuous amendment that objective could be achieved. Then in a further reply from the Government Benches we find that attempt was being made to demonstrate that His Excellency's speech already contained all the materials included in the amendment moved by the hon. Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury. That, Sir, in my view, is to obscure the whole purpose of this debate, which must remain a trial of strength between the large numbers on my left and the minor representation on my right. We wish, Sir, to take this opportunity of expressing our confidence in the administration, and yet, at the same time, to utilise this opportunity of bringing to the notice of the Government various matters which we regard as of importance. To digress for a moment to consider a matter raised by my hon. Friend Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury, and forcibly amplified by the hon. Leader of the Opposition,—I refer to the question of sugar. Now the hon. Leader of the Opposition has had the opportunity of participating in debates in Delhi on this important question, a debate, if the newspaper reports are correct, clearly demonstrated that a heavy responsibility attached not to the Government of this State but to the Government of India in the administration of sugar. It was recognised there, I think fairly clearly, by all sections that something had gone radically wrong, and the Government of India were the first to realise that the sugar industry had to be brought into order and the unsatisfactory state of affairs put right. I have, however, devoted considerable thought to this question of sugar, and I am not certain whether a casual remark made by His Excellency the Governor in another connection has any application to this issue. I seem to recollect him saying that there was far too great a tendency for all of us, and for the public, to look to the Government to do everything for them. What are the public doing for themselves? Here in the matter of sugar there has been undoubtedly an extensive business racket, if I may use the word. The public, the lower sections of the public, the poorer classes are automatically deprived of sugar by the rise in prices. But we find that there is not the degree of co-operation which we might expect and the middle and the richer classes are coming forward very readily to purchase sugar in the black market at high prices. I believe, Sir, I always endeavour to practise what I preach and when sugar went short I have gone without it. I feel certain that if other Members in this House had followed my very humble example they would not have afforded such an opportunity to the profiteer. Is it not time, Sir, that the middle classes went on strike when business endeavours to hold them to ransom? This is, Sir, we feel, an appropriate occasion for an expression, on behalf of European Industry and Commerce in Assam and also on behalf of the Europeans employed in these enterprises, of our loyal support to the Government of the Union and to the Government of the State. It is a pleasure for me to place on record our appreciation of the great encouragement and assistance which have invariably been given to us by the Government of Assam and the officials employed under the Government, and to express our warm satisfaction at the better and closer understanding which has grown up between the European Community and all sections of public life in Assam since the achievement of Independence. His Excellency referred to the problems arising from partition and to the relations with the neighbouring State of East Pakistan. We recognise that at the present time negotiations are constantly in progress at the highest level, and it is undesirable at this juncture to say anything which might prejudice such negotiations. His Excellency however has spoken words of great wisdom when, in referring to the stresses and strains set up by partition, he pointed out that despite best intentions it is the common man, unfortunately, who seems to have suffered most. We can only express the hope that a Nation fortified by the glorious heritage of Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy will find a

lasting and peaceful solution of the problems which momentarily appear so intractable.

The skies of Eastern Asia are tinged with red. Assam is a border State of the Union. Dangers crowd upon us from beyond these borders and from subversive activities within. The primary function of any Government is the preservation of law and order. Neglect of these very elementary precautions in Burma has been costing that country to-day not less than 22 crores a year on police measures, and to this must be added the immeasurable loss sustained by the virtual collapse of trade and the civil loss and suffering through looting and disorder. We would ask Government to consider whether in Assam the Police Force is adequately equipped to deal with threats to law and order on the scale which has convulsed other countries of Eastern Asia, and we would ask that expenditure on modernization of methods and equipment and the strengthening of security forces be increased as a prudent and wise measure of insurance.

The inadequate subvention which has been provided by the Centre for strategic roads in Assam, which clearly are of national importance, has resulted, I understand, in the suspension of work on the Shillong-Silchar road, which provides not merely an essential link with an important district but also with the State of Tripura. Costly though this project has been, we can see little value in leaving the road incomplete when so much has been done and when strategic considerations so clearly require the establishment of this vital line of communication.

The Assam Link Railway is a magnificent achievement but we fear that the remarkable speed of its completion and the psychological value of this All India Rail Link hastened to obscure the fact that the Railway cannot, for many years at least, meet more than fraction of Assam's transportation needs. In the first place, the Link Railway is required to serve extensive areas of North Bengal, which will absorb most of its capacity. In addition, it depends on a railway system which is required to serve a considerable area of Lihar: then there are transshipment arrangements to be made at a point where the Ganges is wide and the establishment of effective arrangements for handling a large volume of traffic will take time, money and ingenuity. Fortunately, an International convention, which has been accepted by both India and Pakistan, provides that navigation of rivers flowing through more than one country will be free and we can, therefore, look forward to the uninterrupted maintenance of the steamer transit traffic through Pakistan. The importance of this traffic cannot be over-emphasised and will be apparent from the figures which I am giving of the tonnage which has been carried by the river steamers in recent years:—

Year		Into Assam (tons)		Ex-Assam (tons)		Total (tons)
1939	...	2,18,266	...	2,40,360	...	4,58,626
1948	...	3,88,155	...	3,68,605	...	7,57,760
1949	...	4,26,876	...	3,52,685	...	7,79,561

This traffic between Assam and the rest of India is equivalent to a train load of 215 wagons for every day in the year.

Transport will, however, remain one of the most pressing problems for Assam, even if the Rail Link operates to capacity and the river steamers continue to operate with their customary efficiency. There is no doubt that to secure maximum efficiency in transport in Assam, close co-operation between the river steamers and the railways is needed, but from the side of the Railways there is little evidence that this co-operation is forthcoming.

In the past we have had occasion to make complaints on this point and have received very powerful support from the Hon'ble Prime Minister. Many of the riverine junctions are served by rail and if wagons were allocated to these sections, it would facilitate the quick turn round of both wagons and steamers which is so necessary for optimum transportation efficiency. At Neamati no goods trains are being sent, though the traffic there is considerable, and Jorhat and surrounding areas are in consequence adversely affected. No wagons are placed at Silghat and Amingaon has been closed by the Railway as a transhipment point. We would ask the Hon'ble Chief Minister once again to intervene and secure effective co-ordination between the Railway and River Services in Assam.

From the Assam Government we have received some assistance in securing acceptance of the principle that feeder roads to steamer ghats are of great importance but unfortunately, due possibly to financial stringency, it has been impossible to get that degree of priority for feeder roads as to ensure the uninterrupted movement of motor transport to river ghats. At Kharupatia Ghat in Mangaldai a motorable road is an urgent need; the Bokakhat-Dhunsirimukh road continues to make slow progress; while at Noali in North Lakhimpur a ghat can be opened which will serve a very extensive paddy producing area, but a new road of only 3 miles in length, is required. Once more we would request Government to issue directions for the immediate execution and completion of these supremely important projects.

We would be grateful for the assistance of the Hon'ble Chief Minister in securing some relief in regard to the forms required to be filled up when goods are despatched from one part of India to another. This system not merely serves no useful purpose, but only too frequently is a direct cause of the detention of goods. We accept entirely the condition that once goods are made over to the public carrier, the consignor should not have any right to divert the goods, and such goods must proceed to their destination in India. We endorse the tribute which His Excellency has paid to the Services both Civil and Military.

The pressure of work on the Administration continues to show no abatement and we realise that Government officers and Government Departments have very heavy and responsible duties to discharge. The enormous number of forms and returns to be filled up; the permits and licenses to be obtained; and the fees and taxes to be paid, inevitably brings the ordinary citizen more frequently than before into Government offices and this applies with far greater force to anyone engaged in a commercial undertaking. These contacts unfortunately are rarely inspiring occasions; it is not easy to find the particular official whose responsibility it is to discharge any specific duty; when found, he is frequently too busy; occasionally he lacks accurate knowledge of what has been done; only too frequently over very minor matters, it becomes necessary to interview a senior officer whose time should be reserved for matters of the highest importance. I am sure that I could surprise the hon. Members by recounting to them an actual case of a person who was anxious to pay certain dues of by no means an exceptional character, who was compelled to make numerous and lengthy journeys by car between the Subdivision and headquarters, before he could find anyone prepared to accept the Government dues. A colleague of mine in the Assembly can personally testify to the impossibility of securing a ration card in under three weeks. Some short time ago I was for a long while refused a ration card in spite of strenuous efforts being made, because the house in which I was residing, though numbered by the Municipality, had no A. R. P. number, and it was only through higher intervention that a ration card was secured. What, may I ask, is the position of the poorer sections of the community who cannot so easily enlist such powerful aid? I am informed that in certain ration shops those who fail to take rations on prescribed days, which are

changed without notice, forfeit their claims to rationed commodities. We have heard much in the past two days of Government's solicitude for the common man, and yet so little seems to be done to ensure that the common man is given a fair deal in transacting his business in Government offices.

A matter which is of equal concern to all is the quality of supplies received from Government. In trade, the customer is always right; when Government is the supplier, however, the customer is always wrong. We have bitter memories of rice supplied by Government which labour flatly refused to take: large quantities which had been supplied could only be used after heavy expenditure on cleaning, and in many cases as much as one-third had to be thrown away. This has not always occurred when Government stocks were running short but when Government procurement was proceeding on an even keel.

Our apprehensions that the Co-operative scheme of cloth distribution would not be successful proved to be entirely correct and Government can regard themselves as fortunate in being able to close down this experiment without sustaining the heavy loss which at one time threatened the scheme. We consider the decision of Government to abandon their State-owned industries to be wise and unavoidable as Government were neither financial in a position to accept large industrial risks, nor had they technical experts of the calibre required for ventures of this magnitude.

A year ago we were informed of the investigation being made into large scale hydro-electric projects in Assam. In the modern world electrical development is the key note of industrial progress and we are anxious to know what progress is being made with major and minor electrical schemes. Electrification in other States in India is going ahead and going ahead very rapidly, but Assam appears to be getting left behind.

His Excellency has acknowledged the importance of food production at the present time, admittedly the first priority for India, Assam is in the fortunate position of being able to make a contribution towards relieving the shortages in other States within the Union. An intensive drive has been started in tea gardens to bring more land under food crops: immediate results may not be very large as mechanised equipment is required before rapid progress can be achieved, but we hope that at no very distant date substantial production of food grains by the Tea Industry will be achieved.

Though I have ventured to invite attention to a number of matters, which we consider merit the earnest consideration of Government, we believe that the broad principles of policy outlined in His Excellency's address are soundly based. Though we do not necessarily subscribe to each and every individual item comprised in that policy the measure of our disagreement is not such as to justify dissent from the motion which has been moved from the Government Benches. With these observations we offer our full support to the Motion moved by Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma thanking His Excellency for his comprehensive and inspiring address.

(Adjournment)

The Assembly was than adjourned till 1 P. M., for lunch.

(After Lunch)

Oath of allegiance

The following hon. Members were sworn in:—

1. Srijut Nilmani Phookan.
2. Professor P. M. Sarwan.

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA: মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ ডাঙৰীয়া, ডাঃ ইমবান হুচেইন চাহাবে অনাস্থা মূলক যিটো সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱ উত্থাপন কৰিছে মই সেই প্ৰস্তাৱৰ বিৰোধীতা কৰো। এই প্ৰস্তাৱৰে চললৈ আমাৰ মাননীয় বিৰোধী দলৰ নেতায়ো পাকিস্থানৰ গুণগান কৰিবলৈ গৈ যিটো বক্তৃতা দিলে আৰু মন্তব্য প্ৰকাশ কৰিলে, মই, সেই বক্তৃতা আৰু মন্তব্য, এই সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱৰ লগত কোনো সামঞ্জস্য নাই বুলি ভাবো। মোৰ বোধৰে তেখেতৰ সেই মন্তব্য অপ্রাসঙ্গিক আৰু পাকিস্থানত সাধাৰণ মানুহৰ সুখৰ কাৰণে দৈনিক লাগতিয়াল বস্তুবোৰৰ দাম কম বুলি কৈ তেখেতে পাকিস্থান সৰ্পকে যিখিনি কীৰ্ত্তন কৰিলে তাক শুনি সঁচাকৈয়ে মই বৰ আচৰিত হৈছো। মই ভাবো তেখেতে ভালকৈ জানে যে আমাৰ অসমৰ বুকত থকা খাল-বিল, জান-জুৰি আদিৰ পানীৰে যি বিশাল ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ নৈ বৈ গৈছে সেই ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ পানীৰ ওপৰত ন্যায়তঃ আমাৰ অধিকাৰ আছে। আৰু অত দিন ধৰি সেই ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ পানীৰ ওপৰেদি আমাৰ দৈনন্দিন জীৱনৰ লাগতিয়াল বস্তুবোৰ অনানিয়া কৰিছে। কিন্তু আজি আমাৰ বিশাল ভাৰতবৰ্ষখন কাটি একখণ্ডৰে পাকিস্থান ৰাষ্ট্ৰ হোৱাৰ কাৰণে আমাৰ এতিয়া সেই ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ পানীৰ ওপৰত অধিকাৰ নাইকিয়া হৈছে। ফলতঃ পাকিস্থানে প্ৰকৃতপক্ষে অন্যায় কৰি আমাৰ অতি প্ৰয়োজনীয় খাদ্যবস্তু অনানিয়া কৰা জাহাজবিলাক বন্ধ কৰি দিছে। আৰু অসংখ্য বেলৰ দৰাও পাৰ্ব্বতীপুৰ আৰু চান্দাহাবত আটক কৰি ৰাখিছে। এই বিলাক কাৰ্য্যৰ দ্বাৰা পাকিস্থানে আমাৰ জীৱনত কিমান দুঃখ, কিমান দুৰ্যোগ ঘটাইছে তাক তেখেতে নিশ্চয় জানে।

তেখেতে হেনো ভালকৈ আটা আৰু চেনি খাবলৈ পোৱা নাই। মই তাৰ কাৰণে বৰ দুখ অনুভৱ কৰিছো। কিন্তু তেখেতৰ লগতে যে সাধাৰণ গাঁৱলীয়া ৰাইজেও তেওঁ লোকৰ সাধাৰণ লাগতিয়াল বস্তুবোৰ পোৱা নাই সেই কথাও তেখেতে নিশ্চয় জানে। মোৰ বোধৰে ইয়াৰ কাৰণে দায়ী কোন তেখেতে ভালকৈ জানে। আমাৰ এই দুখ, আমাৰ এই অভাৱ অনাটনৰ বাবে দায়ী আমাৰ ওচৰত থকা মুছলমান ৰাষ্ট্ৰ—ইয়াৰ কাৰণে দায়ী সেই মুছলমান ৰাষ্ট্ৰৰ নেতাসকল। তাত হাজাৰ-হাজাৰ লক্ষ—লক্ষ সংখ্যালঘু সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ মানুহৰ ওপৰত অন্যায় আৰু নিৰ্লজ্জ অমানসিক অত্যাচাৰ উৎপীড়ন চলিছে। আমাৰ ইয়াতো যে ঠায়ে ঠায়ে তাৰ প্ৰতি ক্ৰিয়াই দেখা দিছে, ই অৱশ্যে স্বাভাৱিক। কিন্তু সেই প্ৰতিক্ৰিয়াৰ জুই সোনকালে নুমাৰলৈ আমি সকলোৱে এক যোগে চেষ্টা কৰা উচিত। মই ভাবিছিলোঁ, এইবিলাক কি উপায়ে বন্ধকৰিব পাৰি তাৰ কাৰণে আমাৰ বিৰোধী দলৰ মাননীয় নেতাই নিশ্চয় নভাবকৈ থকা নাই। কিন্তু যেতিয়া শুনিলো যে আমাৰ এই দুঃখ দৈন্যৰ কথা তেখেতে সিমান চিন্তা নকৰি কেৱল এইটো ভাবিছে যে সেই দেশত চেনি সস্তা, আমাৰ দেশত চেনিৰ দৰ বেচি, সেই দেশত কাপোৰ যথেষ্ট, আৰু আমাৰ দেশত কাপোৰৰ নাটনি, ইত্যাদি। এই কথা আমি তেখেতৰ পৰা কেতিয়াও আশা কৰা নাছিলো। মোৰ অন্তৰত এনে ভাব খেলাইছে যে প্ৰকৃতপক্ষে যদি বিৰোধী দলৰ নেতৃস্থানীয় ব্যক্তি সকলে এই দেশত থাকি এই দেশৰ অমঙ্গল চিন্তা কৰে, তেনেহলে আমাৰ দেশত দুৰ্যোগ ঘটাকোনো অসম্ভৱ নহয়। আজি যিমানখিনি অসুবিধাত আমি পৰিছো এই গোটেইখিনি অসুবিধা কেৱল পৰিবহনৰ ফলতেই যে হৈছে তাক সকলোৱে স্বীকাৰ কৰিব আৰু এই পৰিবহন অসুবিধাৰ মূলতো দায়ী পাকিস্থানেই। সেইকথা তেখেতে ভালকৈ বুজা উচিত। তাকে নুবুজি, হয়তো বুজিও, তেখেতে পাকিস্থান ৰাষ্ট্ৰক গৰিহণা নিদি বৰং সেই ৰাষ্ট্ৰক প্ৰশংসা কৰাত কি অভিপ্ৰায় থাকিব পাৰে সেইটো অৱশ্যে আমি কব নোৱাৰো। কিন্তু তেখেতৰ উদ্দেশ্য আমাৰ গণৰাজ্যৰ পৰিপন্থী বুলি বোধ কৰি আমি তেখেতৰ মন্তব্যত বৰ দুঃখ পাইছো।

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN: মাননীয় সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া.....

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Has the hon. Member taken the oath ?

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN: Yes, I have taken. (*light laughter*).

অধ্যক্ষ ডাঙৰীয়া, আজি মাননীয় ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ৰ ভাষণৰ চেলু লৈ আমাৰ বিৰোধী দলৰ নেতা শ্বাদুলা চাহাবে কেইটামান কথা কৈছে; সেই কথা কেইটাত যথার্থতে আমাৰ আসোৱাহ নাই বুলি ধৰিব নোৱাৰি। তেখেতে যে চেনি আৰু আটাৰ কথা কৈছে ই এটা বৰ গুৰুতৰ কথা নহয়। আৰু তেখেতৰ মুদ্রা বিনিময় হাৰ-হ্ৰাস (Devaluation) কথাটোও সেই একে বকৰবে গুৰুতৰ কথা। মুদ্রা বিনিময় হাৰ-হ্ৰাস (Devaluation) কৰাৰ বাবে পাকিস্থানৰ পৰা আমাৰ ইয়াতলৈ পঠোৱা বস্তুবিলাকৰ মূল্য বিনিময় আমাৰ নিৰিখমতে গ্ৰাহ্য নকৰে আৰু তাৰ ঠাইত তেওঁলোকৰ নিৰূপিত মূল্য বিচাৰে। কিন্তু লগতে তেখেতে এইয়াৰ কথাও কব লাগিছিল যে তেওঁলোকে আগতে লক্ষ লক্ষ টকা আগধন (Advance) লৈ যি মৰাপাট, কপাহ আদি পঠোৱাৰ বন্দবস্ত আছিল, সেইবিলাক তেওঁবিলাকে কেলেই বন্ধ কৰি ৰাখিছিল।

আমাৰ বিৰোধীদলৰ নেতা ডাঙৰীয়াই চেনি আৰু আটা খাবলৈ নোপোৱাটো বৰ দুঃখৰ কথা। ইয়াৰ বাবে তেখেতে হয়টো আমাৰ গৰ্ভগমেন্টকো দোষী কৰিছে। কিন্তু ইয়াৰ কাৰণ বিচাৰি চালে ফটফটীয়াকৈ ওলাই পৰিব যে দবাৰ পিচত দবা, তিনিশ চাৰিশ জাহাজৰ মাল সময়ে সময়ে পাকিস্থানে বন্ধ কৰিছে আৰু লুপ্ত কৰিছে; সেইবিলাক বস্তু ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰইদিও জাহাজেৰে আনিব পৰা নাই। শ, শ, হাজাৰ হাজাৰ বছৰ ধৰি যি ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ বুকুৱেদি আহি জাতি-বৰ্গ নিৰ্বিশেষে সকলো মানুহেই তীৰ্থ কৰিছিল, স্কলমে অহাযোৱা কৰিছিল—যি ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰই অসমক সকলো পুকাৰে যোগান ধৰিছিল, যি ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ বুকুৱেদি উজাই অহা মোগল শক্তিক পুৰল পুতাপী অসমীয়া সেনাই পৰাস্ত কৰাত সেই পিনেদিয়েই উভতি যাবলৈ বাট পাইছিল, সেই ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ ওপৰেদি চলাচল কৰা জাহাজবিলাকো আজি পাকিস্থানে বন্ধ কৰিছে। এই বিলাক কাৰণতেই চেনি আৰু আটা খাবলৈ নোপোৱাটোতো দূৰৰ কথা, ইয়াতকৈ বেচি প্ৰয়োজনীয় দৈনন্দিন জীৱনৰ লাগতিয়াল সামগ্ৰী বিলাকৰ পৰাও আমাৰ সৰ্বসাধাৰণ ৰাইজ বঞ্চিত হব লগা হৈছে।

আটাইতকৈ গুৰুতৰ কথা এই যে আগধন (Advance) লোৱাৰ পিচতো পাকিস্থানে দিব লগা বস্তু নিদি তাৰ কাৰণে বিশেষকৈ আমাৰ লোকপ্ৰিয় উপ প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী চৰ্দাৰ পেটেলক গৰিহণা দিছে আৰু আমাৰ প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰীক মিছলীয়া বুলি পুকাশ্য কৈছে। আমাৰ কেন্দ্ৰীয় গৰ্ভগমেন্টৰ কথাখিনি সম্পূৰ্ণৰূপে অসত্য বুলি পাকিস্থানে সদাই মিছা পুচাৰ কৰিছে আৰু বেডিঅ'ৰ যোগেদি অত্যাচাৰৰ কথাটো আমাৰ কেন্দ্ৰীয় গৰ্ভগমেন্টৰ বিপক্ষে অপ-পুচাৰ কৰি জুই তুলিছে। অৱশ্যে পাকিস্থান পৃষ্ঠপোষক সকলৰ পক্ষে ইয়াক ঢাকি ৰাখাটো একো আচৰিত কথা নহয়। বিশেষকৈ আমাৰ বিৰোধী দলৰ নেতা, যি এসময়ত মুছলীম লীগৰ প্ৰধান আছিল, আৰু পাকিস্থানৰ নেতাসকলৰ সোঁহাত (Right hand man) আছিল, তেখেতে এতিয়া পাকিস্থানৰ গুণ কীৰ্ত্তন কৰাটো একো আচৰিত কথা নহয়; কিন্তু ই আমাৰ পক্ষে কিমান গুৰুতৰ হৈ উঠিছে সেইটো তেখেতে এবাৰ ভাবি চাব।

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ ডাঙৰীয়া, মই মোৰ প্ৰস্তাৱটোৰ সংক্ৰান্তত উঠা কথাবিলাকৰ উত্তৰ দিবলৈ ঠিয় দিছো। মাননীয় ডাক্তৰ ইমবান হুচেইন চৌধুৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই যিটো সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱ উত্থাপন কৰিছে তাত মই বৰ দুঃখেৰে সৈতে জনাব লগীয়া হৈছে যে, সেই প্ৰস্তাৱটি মই সমৰ্থন কৰিব নোৱাৰিলো; বৰং তাৰ বাবে তেখেতক মই নিন্দাহে কৰো। ৰাজ্যপাল ডাঙৰীয়াই তেখেতৰ অভিভাষণত দেশৰ অৱস্থা মোটামোটি ভাবে বৰ্ণনা কৰিছে,—আৰু এই সম্বন্ধে যিটো সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱ হিচাপে ইয়াত আলোচিত হৈছে সেইটো মোৰ মনেৰে বাঞ্ছনীয় হোৱা নাই, যিহেতু মোৰ অনুমান হয়, যে তেখেতে ৰাজ্যপাল ডাঙৰীয়াৰ বক্তৃতাটি মনযোগ দি শুনাও নাই আৰু তাক মনযোগ দি চোৱাও নাই; কাৰণ ৰাজ্যপাল ডাঙৰীয়াই বক্তৃতাত ধোৱা বস্তু বা অন্যান্য সকলো বস্তুৰ কি কাৰণে অভাব-অনটন হৈছে তাক বিশদভাবে বৰ্ণনা কৰিছে। ৰাজ্যপাল ডাঙৰীয়াই আৰু বুজাই দিছে যে ৰাজনৈতিক অস্থিৰতাত দেশৰ শান্তি আৰু শৃঙ্খলা ভঙ্গ হোৱাৰ কাৰণে অৰ্থনৈতিক উত্তৰিত বাধা পৰিছে। তেখেতে কৈছে যে আমাৰ দেশ বিভক্ত হোৱাৰ ফলত আসামলৈ বস্তু

আহাযোৱাৰ বাট বন্ধ হৈ গৈছে বা তাত ব্যাঘাত ঘটিছে, আৰু তাৰ ফলত আমাৰ বাঢ়িত কিছুমান বস্তৰ দুৰ্ভিক্ষ আৰু সাধাৰণ অভাৱ-অনাটন হৈছে। পুনৰ ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ে বুজাই দিছে যে আমাৰ দেশৰ একখণ্ড পাকিস্থানত সোমাই যোৱাৰ কাৰণে পাকিস্থান কৰ্তৃপক্ষই আমাৰ ওপৰত অত্যাচাৰ-উদ্ভাটনী চলাবলৈ সন্মত হৈছে আৰু এই অত্যাচাৰ উদ্ভাটনীৰ কাৰণেই আমাৰ দেশৰ আভ্যন্তৰিণ পৰিস্থিতিও জটিল হৈ উঠিছে; আৰু তাৰ লগে লগে নানা ৰকমৰ অৰ্থনৈতিক অভাৱ-অভিযোগৰ সৃষ্টি হৈছে। সেই কাৰণে আমাৰ ৰাইজৰ যাৱতীয় অভাৱ অভিযোগ পূৰণ হোৱা সম্ভৱপৰ হৈ উঠা নাই। তাৰ উপৰিও ৰাজ্যপাল ডাঙৰীয়াই সৰ্বসাধাৰণ ৰায়তৰ আৰু দাতিকাষৰিয়া অঞ্চলৰ পাহাৰীয়া ভাই সকলক উল্লেখ কৰি যি বক্তৃতা দিলে তাৰ পৰা তেখেতে এই বাঢ়িব সকলো সমস্যাকে উপলব্ধি কৰি যি দৃষ্টিভঙ্গিৰে সমস্যা সমাধানৰ ব্যৱস্থাৰ নিৰ্দেশ দিছে তাত আমাৰ সম্পূৰ্ণ সমৰ্থন আছে। তাৰ বাবে তেখেতক ধন্যবাদো জনাইছো। তাৰ বাহিৰেও তেখেতৰ বক্তৃতাত আৰু বহুতো সাক্ষাৎ কথা আছে যিবোলাৰ দোহাৰি কৰাৰ আৱশ্যক নাই। কিন্তু আমাৰ বিৰোধী দলৰ নেতাই বহুতো অবাস্তৱ কথা কৈ পাকিস্থানৰ সাধাৰণ প্ৰজাৰ অৱস্থা আমাৰ সাধাৰণ প্ৰজাৰ অৱস্থাতকৈ বহুত ভাল, তাৰ মানুহে চেনি ৥০/০ অনা সেৰে পায় আৰু আঠা ময়দাৰ নিয়মিত যোগান পাই আছে, আৰু পাকিস্থানত টকাত ১৫ সেৰ চাউল পোৱা যায়, আৰু মিহি চাউল টকাত ১৪ সেৰকৈ পায় বুলি কৈছে। তাৰ মানে পাকিস্থানৰ সৰ্বসাধাৰণ প্ৰজা আমাৰ প্ৰজাতকৈ বেচি সুখে আছে। অৰ্থাৎ পাকিস্থানত থাকিলে বেছি সুখ আৰু আমাৰ ইয়াত থাকিলে বেচি দুখ। অসমৰ মানুহবিলাকক পাকিস্থান ভ্ৰমাপন্ন কৰিবলৈ বা আসামক পাকিস্থানত সন্মুখাবলৈ, তেখেতে সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱটো আলোচনা কৰোঁতে বৃথা প্ৰচাৰৰ চেষ্টা কৰিছে। তেখেতৰ বক্তৃতাৰ অৰ্থ হৈছে এয়ে যে, যদি আসামৰ সাধাৰণ প্ৰজা পাকিস্থানৰ লগত থাকে তেন্তে তেওঁলোকে তাত সুখেৰে থাকিব পাৰিব। কাৰণ তাত চাউল টকাত ১৫ সেৰকৈ পাব, চেনি সেৰে ৥০/০ অনাকৈ পাব, আৰু কাপোৰ কানিও বহুত সস্তা। কাজেই আমাৰ ইয়াত পাকিস্থানৰ তুলনাত অভাৱ-অভিযোগ বৰ বেচি কাৰণ ইয়াত চেনিৰ সেৰে ৬০/০ অনা চাউল টকাত ১২-১২ ৥০ সেৰ। কিন্তু পাকিস্থানলৈ গলে আমি যে কি সুখ পাম, তাক পাকিস্থানৰ সংখ্যা লঘুৰ ওপৰত যি অত্যাচাৰ উৎপীড়ণ চলিছে তাৰ পৰাই সহজে অনুমান কৰিব পৰা যায়।

আমি ৥০/০ অনা সেৰৰ চেনিও নাখাও টকাত ১৫ সেৰীয়া চাউলো নাখাও বৰং যিসকলে তেনে সস্তা বস্ত পোৱাৰ ইচ্ছা কৰে তেওঁলোকেই সেই দেশলৈ গুছি যাওক।

(A voice—শুনক শুনক।)

মোৰ মতেৰে আসামত থাকি যিবোলাক মানুহে পাকিস্থানৰ সপোন দেখিছে আৰু আসামক পাকিস্থানৰ অন্তৰ্ভুক্ত কৰিবলৈ যি কল্পনা কৰিছে, তেওঁলোকৰ সেই সপোন কলিয়াবলৈ নিদিম আৰু তেনে হেপাই কৰা মানুহক অসমত থাকিবলৈকো দিয়া নহব।

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it seems to me that some heat has been imported into this debate. I feel that the situation that we face to-day does not admit of the kind of feeling in which we are generally liable to indulge in a discussion of this kind. Things have happened in the meanwhile which I shall have occasion to mention, because that has been necessitated by references made by the learned Leader of the Opposition. Time has come when all sensible people should put their heads together in order to meet the difficulties that are facing the Government and the people now. I would, however, before that like to refer to the particular Motion in question in its constitutional aspect and the import which the Motion has, and will speak a few words in reply.

The hon. Mover of the Motion stressed that His Excellency's Address has been—I cannot exactly follow his argument—inadequate, or (I do not know what he means) has failed to make any reference about the difficulties of the common man. The constitutional position regarding the Address of His

Excellency is that he usually states the policy of the Government, the legislation which the Government want to carry through the Assembly during a particular Session and matters allied to these points. If you have followed the Address of His Excellency, you will be pleased to find, Sir, that it has made two clear divisions, *viz.*, those matters that pertain to the Government's activities and other matters which he wanted to speak to the House because he would have no chance to meet the Members of the House for another six months. So far as the first part of his speech is concerned, the Opposition is entitled to bring in amendments with a view to challenge the policy of the Government, also on the ground that the legislation to implement certain policies is wrong and, therefore, the Government is liable to censure and even resignation. The Motion that has been brought forward is not of that nature. It only seeks to show that certain things were omitted from His Excellency's speech. I do not say that even for the matter of omission there cannot be a censure. For example, in the last opening speech of the King of England the Opposition wanted to show displeasure on account of the omission in the King's speech of any reference to the Steel Policy of the Government of England. It may be remembered that on the side of the Government the reply was that the policy was already there and, therefore, it was not necessary for the Government to reiterate it in the speech. I would make the same reply in reference to the Motion that has been brought forward by my hon. Friend, Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury. The policy of Government to do whatever is possible to be done to provide people with the essential commodities of life at the cheapest possible prices has been reiterated in this House more times than one. That policy is being continued even to-day, and if there are difficulties in the way of doing so it is expected that the House would seriously take them into consideration and understand them. I am not saying that the Opposition, or for the matter of that any Member of this House, are not entitled to raise any question over the Motion which has been brought forward by our Chief Whip, Srijiit Purna Chandra Sarma, but by its very nature His Excellency's speech must always be in the enunciation of policies and items of legislative measures which the Government, in pursuance of those policies, adopt. I think, Sir, this procedure has been followed in His Excellency's Address and that in moving the Motion the hon. Srijiit Purna Chandra Sarma invited a discussion on those policies and on those particular proposals. I have already said, Sir, that there is no limit to an hon. Member's right to discuss any matter which may or may not be followed in the policy, but so far as the presentation of the stand-point of Government, through His Excellency's Speech, is concerned it is only a matter of policy and particular matters of legislation on the basis of some policy that has been mentioned. Sir, I will now give reply to the particular charges which have been made by the hon. Mover of the amendment and by the learned Leader of the Opposition. Of the foodstuffs mention was made of sugar alone. Both the learned Mover of the amendment as well as the Leader of the Opposition refused to discuss the reasons which led to this scarcity. Their point of view was that Government is there and they must find everything for the people. Partially, I suppose, they are right but fundamentally, I must say, they are not only wrong in their ideas but surely not sufficiently constructive in the criticism they have offered. So far as sugar is concerned, the learned Leader of the Opposition was also comparing conditions of Pakistan with conditions prevailing in India. I have also tried to understand Pakistan economy, but conditions in Pakistan are quite different. Sugarcane is not grown in their own land. I think not more than 2 or 3 sugar mills are there in Pakistan. There is no question whether the industry is developed there or not or whether any benefit goes to the cultivators for the existence of the industry. So they are free to give this commodity which they import from foreign countries at a price they consider cheap. But here even it cannot be said that the policy pursued

is one which is entirely to the benefit of the common man. I know Pakistan is getting sugar from foreign countries at about Rs. 17 per maund at the port and they are giving it to the people at less than 11 annas per seer, after realising an import duty. I think, the same thing is done by the Government of India also when they put the excise duty on sugar. Therefore they are doing nothing different from Pakistan. The main thing that has got to be considered is that in India a certain production rate of sugarcane has got to be given to the cultivators who have actually produced the sugarcane and Government has also to get a some rate of excise duty. In the meantime we have heard that Government of India are going to bring down the excise duty on sugar and that they are also trying to reduce the rates which they are paying to the cultivators of sugarcane. So there cannot be any comparison with Pakistan. I would think that the action taken by the Government of India in this behalf cannot be considered wrong. An industry which is feeding so many people and so many cultivators particularly cannot be allowed to die. It must be given all encouragement to develop. It is also known that in order to bring indirect pressure on the manufacturers the tariff control is going to be lifted. I do not know the full implication of it. But it is quite clear that the Government of India is also following the policy to bring the price lower than what it is. I therefore think that if the hon. Mover of the Motion or the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition had taken these circumstances into their consideration they would have given full support to the action of the Government of India on account of which, I feel, that the price of sugar is higher than that in Pakistan. And even here if any blame is to go for a little higher price or scarcity, the blame must go to Pakistan.

I shall be reading to you a statement about our relationship with Pakistan. I suppose there is no doubt in the mind of anybody that Pakistan is not behaving with us as friendly as they should have as a neighbour. What has happened to-day? Our transport both through steamer as well as through railway has practically ceased to come through Pakistan and the railway link that has been recently established after yeoman service will not be able to carry all our requirements here in time as well as in quantity. And so far as sugar is concerned you will be pleased to hear that we had an allotment from the Government of India of 2,000 tons in the first instance, and in the meantime three other allotments had been made. But so far, we have been able to get only the first allotment of 2,000 tons which has already arrived and distribution made. This was arrived three months ago say about the 15th, December, but it actually arrived here towards the end of February. Our second allotment of 2,000 tons has not yet been lifted on account of the same transport difficulty. The third allotment of 1,800 tons has not been lifted at all as there are no transit facility. This is the position in regard to sugar.

The second thing about which scarcity has been pleaded is clothing. But what Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury mentioned was scarcity of finer cloth. Possibly it is true, but it is now known that if this scarcity has been there, it is due to some unavoidable reason. We were not having any State trading any more. Private parties are now bringing them. If consumers do not get it, some difficulty is always there due to transport. But I am not prepared to believe that cloths are scarce in the market to-day. They are available in plenty, although the prices may be a little higher. I do not think, Sir, it is such as to justify the kind of criticism which has been made by the Mover of the amendment and the Hon'ble the Leader of the Opposition. So I would like to mention to the House that Government have done what is possible to be done in the circumstances. The policy which has been pursued by this Government in this behalf, has been pursued with scrupulous care and with greatest attention. Wherever there is the least shortage of

supply, we bring to the notice of the concerning Department of the Government of India as well as to the notice of the Transport authority. But even in spite of that, if there is a little scarcity and hardship on the part of the people, I feel, we must be prepared to face it; we must be prepared to face it joyfully and pursue the same conduct in life as Mr. Hardman stated to you. If we are really short of things we should be prepared to divide them amongst ourselves, and undergo whatever hardship that may come in such a situation. And that is really the meaning of freedom. Freedom undoubtedly gives the opportunity to rise to the height of the occasion to which we are capable of. But Freedom also brings on us some responsibility, which we should be prepared to share. If we are not prepared to face it, and create difficulties for the people and the Government I can only say that we are not helpful to ourselves. There are various factions in societies, there are various communities in societies, but in the very State these various functions must co-operate and work together, and it is only on that basis, that freedom can be understood and enjoyed. Further it is only on that basis, we would be able to do something for the common man.

Sir, Mr. Hardman like one who understands what freedom is, has made some valuable suggestions in regard to that particular question. I am grateful for his kind suggestions, and many good things he has spoken about this Government's attitude towards them unduly. We have not been able to achieve much in any direction, but all that I would claim for ourselves is that we have tried to do our best and will continue to do our best. I have already mentioned that advice given by him comes from a man who lives in a free country, who have learnt to manage a democratic Government for centuries, is valuable, on account of his practical experience of how to solve all these social questions in amity and good will. Mr. Hardman also mentioned about certain matters, which I am sure, will come in the course of the debate, at a later stage, in the general discussion of the Budget. Sir, I do not want to take the time of the House with them, but I should like to say that whatever suggestion and advice are forthcoming they will be borne in mind and that consideration will be given to them.

Now, Sir, I will dwell upon a very important matter, which, of course, did not form part of the Motion at all. The security position of the Province has been very bad on account of the communal disturbance. Even to mention about that is very unfortunate. I have prepared a statement about the unfortunate happenings, and I think it is desirable to place the statement before the House and also to explain reasons which have led to unfortunate incidents. There must be some cause which led to the unfortunate happenings as they were not dropped from Heaven and there must be some reasons. We must investigate them.

I am reading out a written statement because I don't want that I should speak one loose word or sentence which may tend to worsen the relationship between Pakistan and India.

Statement by the Hon'ble Chief Minister regarding relation with Pakistan

The Hon'ble Sri Jit GOPINATH BARDOLOI: It is now 2½ years since India and Pakistan came into existence as two Dominions on the 15th August, 1947 with mutual consent and apparent good will. Here in Assam we did our

best to further that good will. In India we utilised this time in building up a Constitution to which representatives of all communities inhabiting the land have contributed and in trying to lay firm foundations of peace and progress by administrative action. The Constitution which came into operation with effect from the 26th January 1950 is as broad-based as any in the world, enunciates fundamental rights for all and provides against discrimination in favour of any except backward classes, Scheduled Castes and Tribes. There can be no distinction in the matter of fundamental and other rights between one community and another and the Muslims have the same rights as anybody else. In the administrative field we have been working for peace—industrial as well as political—both inside India as well as outside. Here in Assam we have succeeded in reducing the wastage due to border disputes but have met with little encouragement from our neighbouring Pakistan Government in our attempts to ensure that political separation need not necessarily mean economic non-co-operation. If economic dealings in East Bengal and Assam could have continued as before the Partition, we felt that the lives of the people of both the areas would be least disturbed and progress would be uninterrupted.

Pakistan on the other hand seems to have pursued a different policy—a policy which has been increasingly and pronouncedly hostile to this Province and India. It is not my purpose today to speak of matters other than those which immediately and directly concern us in Assam. There is no Constitution as yet in Pakistan to indicate the people of minority communities what rights and position they will have under Pakistan Constitution. The declaration that Pakistan is an Islamic State coupled with the type of internal administration which is reported to be functioning there only make the members of minority communities more nervous. Inter-Dominion Agreements are not scrupulously observed whether in their relations with us or with the minority communities within East Pakistan. Further more there seems a settled policy of exerting economic and political pressure on the areas adjoining East Pakistan by every means in their power.

Perhaps these general observations may not convey what I wish to convey to the House. I will therefore take the Hon'ble Members along the whole Pakistan border, commencing from the southern most point, namely South Lushai Hills and Chittagong Hill tracts border. Here Pakistan has in spite of Inter-Dominion Agreements on Customs matters been trying to obstruct the transit of consignments to Lushai Hills. In their own areas at Chittagong Hill Tracts, they are reported to be ill-treating Buddhist Chakmas and virtually driving them to Lushai Hills. We then come to Tripura State-Pakistan border. Since the House has no responsibility for Tripura State I do not think it necessary to go into the conditions created by Pakistan on the border. Proceeding northwards we come to Cachar-Sylhet section. Here by raising spurious dispute over the identity of the Kusiara with a view to claiming Karimganj and surrounding area and alleged massing of armed forces to take possession of the area in anticipation that the decision of the majority in the Bagge Tribunal would go in its favour, it created considerable tension and apprehension in the minds of persons inhabiting this area. Further north along the Khasi Hills border there have been series of incidents at various points in which Pakistanis have adopted various types of harassment against the tribal hill people. The *hats* or *bazars* within the Hills have been boycotted and rival *hats* or *bazars* in Pakistan have been started. Persons visiting Pakistan *hats* are waylaid and robbed, and women ill-treated and molested. In one case two innocent Nepalis returning from *hats* were shot dead. Khasis having cultivation across the border in Pakistan are not allowed to reap their crops nor are paid any compensation. In one case Khasis reaping crops within India were shot

at and one Khasi killed. From other places along the border there were reports of arson and loot in Khasi and Garo villages by Pakistanis. Going on to the Garo Hills, Pakistan seems to be bent on driving the Hajong population within its area into Garo Hills under pressure of Military action against them on the ostensible ground that they are Communist-minded. Their crops are reported to be reaped by Pakistani personnel, their houses burnt and whole families driven to the hills where they eke out a miserable existence. Finally, we come to Goalpara-Rangpur border, where there are many Muslims on either side of the greater part of the border. Pakistan indulges in arresting Assam Government employees who may happen to be on or near Pakistan side through mistake. You must have all read the Press Note issued by Assam Government in the matter of Pakistan arresting a police party on Khasi Hills border and sentencing the men to rigorous imprisonment for long periods. This then is briefly the picture of Pakistan as our border people see it to their cost. The Government of Assam sent protests, asked for joint inquiries in the case of border incidents as provided for in the Inter-Dominion Agreements but these are either not answered or if answered, no relief is offered or ensured.

What about conditions inside Pakistan? From all accounts Hindu middle classes have been squeezed out of all fields of useful employment, whether under Government or other gainful professions. Their economic future is dark. For every ill which Pakistan suffers from, politicians have found it convenient to make the Hindus responsible. By constantly harping upon the "Islamic State" and carrying on an unceasing and unscrupulous campaign of misrepresentation of, and hatred against India and calling the Hindus of Pakistan as Fifth Columnists, Pakistan's leaders and administrators have made the lives of the Hindus unsafe and unhappy. Some of the Hindus have migrated; others have been hoping against hope that Pakistan would sooner or later do its duty as a civilized Government towards them. But they are getting disillusioned. Now and then one hears of incidents in which vile crimes against the Hindu population are alleged to be committed by armed personnel and Muslim mobs. All this is having its repercussions on popular minds in India. As you, Sir, know the Bengali-Hindu community is not confined to East Bengal. West Bengal is dominated by it and even in Assam it is an important and influential community. The Hindus elsewhere in India have been powerfully moved. It is unfortunate that the Muslims of India did not, till lately, feel it necessary to declare their feelings. Feeling in regard to Pakistan hardened.

Meanwhile Pakistani politicians went on their own way both inside Pakistan as well as on the borders. What is more, even in the interior of Assam they went on sending Muslims. These Muslims found shelter with older immigrant settlers and increased number pressed on the subsistence of the indigenous population. There was clash of interests which increased in severity with every influx of Muslims immigrants. Popular demand for stopping the influx has been vocal for years and the Government of Assam continually moved Government of India for controlling this influx since April, 1948. But Government of India perhaps desirous to keep in the best of terms with Pakistan took action only when the rest of India supported this demand of the people of Assam. The Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Ordinance was issued early in January, 1950 and a Bill to replace the Ordinance was simultaneously introduced, discussed in some heat and passed in February and has only just received the assent of the President.

This in short is the background which Government would like the hon. Members to remember for their consideration. There have been incidents and occurrences in various parts of Assam which no one regrets more

than the Government itself. Government have done and are doing all that is possible to be done to suppress disorder and lawlessness to the best of their ability. Full reports on the situation have yet to be received and so sudden and widespread has been the outburst, that fullest reports are yet to be obtained, inspite of the tour of four Hon'ble Ministers in the two affected areas of Cachar district and Goalpara and West Kamrup districts. We are also organising relief to displaced persons both Muslims and Hindus to the best of our ability and are also arranging to send away such immigrants to their own country who have declared their desire to leave Assam.

The recent happenings have cast a shadow over certain parts of Assam. The Government of have issued Press notes on each of these, but the matter will bear repetition. The remarkable fact is that in every single case there was no local cause whatsoever for the incident. It started at Lumding where Muslim passengers going to Pakistan were assaulted and robbed by miscreants who were apparently not residents of Assam. The story that there were deaths or kidnapping was completely false. The exciting cause was the reports of atrocities in East Pakistan, published in Calcutta papers. A few days later trouble started in Karimganj immediately on hearing from two lady passengers regarding the alleged murder and throwing into the river on Bhairab bridge of Hindu male passengers. Hindu and Muslim mobs gathered and controlled firing had to be resorted to in order to keep the peace. While police were busy with the mobs, there was arson and looting in the bazar. Minor outburst followed at Badarpur and at Hailakandi both of which had close communication with Karimganj. Atrociously false propaganda has been made in Pakistan about the casualties at Karimganj and other places. The information now at hand after the Deputy Commissioner's enquiry is that only one person died in Karimganj by Police firing and that at Badarpur there was neither firing nor death. These facts are open to verification by anybody, and the Pakistan Deputy High Commissioner whom we allowed to visit the areas also did the verification on behalf of Pakistan. At Hailakandi the matter is under investigation and action will be taken against those responsible.

In Assam Valley there were a few sporadic cases of arson and stabbing in Gauhati town. Police took action and there has been no case worth notice by the District authorities.

But by far the greatest tragedy that has been enacted is in the North of Goalpara district and the adjoining part in Barpeta Subdivision. Whole masses of tribal and other people seem to have taken overnight to burning the houses of those whom they believed to be immigrant Muslims. There was no immediate or proximate cause for this development in the locality itself. It now appears that the minds of the local people had been prepared by accounts of incidents in our borders such as the killing of Nepalais and Khasis and attempts to exterminate Hajongs by Pakistani armed personnel, possibly reinforced by accounts from the lips of the unfortunate Hajongs themselves. It now appears that they were prepared for action as soon as the legislation for expulsion of undesirable immigrants was passed. While the Government was instructing the District Officers how the list of undesirable persons was to be prepared and notifying the delegation of powers to them, the tribal masses seem to have embarked upon expelling the whole lot of the immigrants in their own way. Government have reason to believe that the tribals were being instigated by other agencies. Before District Officers could realise what was happening, whole villages were on fire and the unfortunate immigrants were evacuating in panic. In a few villages in Eastern Goalpara and Barpeta the Muslims took to retaliation only to receive larger retaliation by the miscreants. Armed forces were rushed, but the rot could not be stayed until grievous

damage to property was done in Goalpara and part of Kamrup. The Government of Assam have been grieved to feel that they could not save the property or the morale of the Muslims. They had no idea that anything serious was brewing in Goalpara before the disturbance actually broke out, nor could they judge of the pattern of action and areas decided upon by the miscreants till the greater part of the mischief was done. I myself and my colleague, the Forest Minister, have been to Goalpara while the fires were burning. I have also visited Barpeta. I have conveyed my feelings to the unfortunate victims both Muslims and some Hindus and assured them of protection and begged them to go back to their lands. But the one thought now of the Muslims is personal safety which they think they can ensure by going to Pakistan. They have asked repeatedly for special arrangements for quick transport to Pakistan. Government are accordingly requesting the Railway Administration, Steamer Companies and those in control of road transport to convey these people to Pakistan border as quickly as possible.

No words on my part could adequately express the sadness and shame that we as Government have felt at this tragedy. We have tried to do our best to check it and control it. We will have to wait for sometime before confidence will return. We propose to inquire into the genesis of the trouble and to take action against those who may have been guilty of acts of commission as well as omission. Already a thousand men have been arrested and cases taken up against some. We have already declared in the Press note that the immigrants with holdings are welcome to go back to their lands. We stand by that declaration. We are also considering how the land left uncultivated by most of the unfortunates could be used for growing food at least as a temporary measure.

Before I conclude, I would venture to address a few words through the House to the Muslims in Assam, who hail from what is now known as Pakistan. They have been here comparatively recently. They have all along been under the influence of Muslim League and were supporters of Pakistan idea. Such of them as are still Pakistan-minded and would work for Pakistan, would do well to be in Pakistan. There may be others who would like to settle down and make Assam their home. They can only do this by being good Assamese and good Indian. They will harmonise their interests with those of the children of the soil, including the tribal people, obey the laws of the land and follow the policy laid down by the Government for the time being. To imagine that they could live here otherwise than by doing so is, to say the least, unrealistic. No power outside India can help them to do so. It would be well, therefore, if they will cease connection with Pakistan politicians and their agents in the garb of Mullahs and Moulanas. Even for spiritual administration, they need not go to Pakistan sources since there are almost as many Muslims in India as in Pakistan. If they will observe, I am particularly referring to the Assamese Muslims—who have been with us for centuries, they will see how that community has managed its own affairs and developed in every sphere of life and what position it occupies. If they will become as good Assamese as these, they would undoubtedly be welcome. The privilege of sharing joys and glory is conditional on their wholehearted readiness to share the sorrows and difficulties. It is for them to ponder over these matters deeply and make their choice. It is not in their interests to lead a lie which makes their neighbours feel that they are foreign and undependable element. On behalf of the Government I want to reassure that we stand by the spirit and the letter of the Constitution. We make no discrimination between a Hindu, a Muslim or any other people having Indian citizenship. They have all equal rights under the Constitution and they will have them in Assam.

Debate on His Excellency's Address

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : What has the hon. Member got to say ?

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHOUDHURY : In view of the explanation given by the Hon'ble Leader of the House and in consistence with the promise I made at the time I moved this amendment, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

The Motion was, by leave of the House withdrawn.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I put the original Motion.

The question is :

"That a respectful address be presented to His Excellency the Governor of Assam as follows :—

'Your Excellency,

We the members of the Assam Legislative Assembly assembled in this Session offer our humble thanks to your Excellency for the most illuminating speech which your Excellency has delivered to this House'."

The question was adopted.

Amendment to the Assam Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present certain amendments* to the Assam Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, under section 133(3) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The time for tabling amendments to the amended Rules will be notified later.

The Assam Special Courts Ordinance, 1949

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay out copies of the Assam Special Courts Ordinance, 1949, under article 213(2) (a) of the Constitution of India.

The Assam Jute (Control of Prices) Ordinance, 1950

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay out copies of the Assam Jute (Control of Prices) Ordinance, 1950, under article 213(2) (a) of the Constitution of India.

* See Appendix "A"

The Assam State Legislature Members' (Removal of Disqualifications) Ordinance, 1950.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay copies of the Assam State Legislature Member's (Removal of Disqualifications) Ordinance, 1950, under article 213(2) (a) of the Constitution of India.

Sir, in doing so I desire to remove the curiosity why such an Ordinance had to be issued in connection with this matter. Some doubts were raised in certain places that after the Constitution came into force on the 26th January last the previous Removal of Disqualifications Act might not be sufficient for removing the disqualification of the members. With a view to remove those doubts the Ordinance was promulgated, and in due course a Bill will be introduced for consideration of the House.

Election to the Gauhati University Court

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assembly under section 9(1) (XVII) of the Gauhati University Act, 1947, (Assam Act XVI of 1947), do elect a Member to the Gauhati University Court from among their own numbers to fill up the vacancy caused by the resignation of Maulavi Abdul Hai, M.Sc., B.L.

The seat which was occupied by Maulavi Abdul Hai has fallen vacant on account of his joining service. We have therefore got to elect a member from this House according to the date and time of election to be announced by you.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That this Assembly, under section 9(1) (XVII) of the Gauhati University Act, 1947 (Assam Act XVI of 1947), do elect a Member to the Gauhati University Court from among their own numbers to fill up the vacancy caused by the resignation of Maulavi Abdul Hai, M.Sc., B.L."

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I hereby fix Friday, the 17th March 1950 as the date for holding the election to the Gauhati University Court. The voting will be held between the hours of 1-30 and 3 P.M. in the Committee Room No.1, or as soon as the business of the day is finished, whichever is earlier.

Election to the Assam Embankment and Drainage Advisory Committee

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do elect in accordance with the instructions contained in the voting paper one member of the Assembly coming from the district of Kamrup to the Assam Embankment and Drainage Advisory Committee in place of Maulavi Abdul Hai.

The Hon'ble Speaker to announce the date and time for holding the election.

Sir, this has been necessary in view of the fact that Maulavi Abdul Hai has joined service and each district must have one member in the Advisory Committee. So, I move this Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That this Assembly do elect in accordance with the instructions contained in the voting paper one member of the Assembly coming from the district of Kamrup to the Assam Embankment and Drainage Advisory Committee in place of Maulavi Abdul Hai."

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I hereby fix Saturday, the 18th March 1950 as the date for holding the election to the Assam Embankment and Drainage Advisory Committee. Voting will be held between 1 P.M. to 3 P.M. in Committee Room No.1.

Election to the Assam Railway Advisory Committee

The Hon'ble Srijiit RAMNATH DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do elect in accordance with the instructions contained in the voting paper one member to the Assam Railway Advisory Committee.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That this Assembly do elect in accordance with the instructions contained in the voting paper one member to the Assam Railway Advisory Committee."

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I hereby fix Monday, the 20th March 1950, as the date, and 1 P.M. to 3 P.M. as the time for holding the election to the Assam Railway Advisory Committee. Voting will take place in Committee Room No.1.

Election to the Public Accounts Committee

The Hon'ble Srijiit BISHNURAM MEDHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assembly do elect six members to the Public Accounts Committee under Rule 111 of the Assembly Rules for the year 1950-51.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That this Assembly do elect six members to the Public Accounts Committee under Rule 111 of the Assembly Rules for the year 1950-51."

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN : May I ask what has happened to the Public Accounts Committee appointed for this year ?

The Hon'ble Srijiit BISHNURAM MEDHI : We could not convene the meeting on account of the fact that the appropriation account which was sent to the Auditor General for approval and signature could not be received in time for print as the Auditor General did not get certain information from England. That is why we could not convene the meeting. We have sent reminders to the Auditor General so that these things may not occur in future.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this Assembly do elect six members to the Public Accounts Committee under Rule 111 of the Assembly Rules for the year 1950-51."

The question was carried.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Under the rules, I hereby fix Tuesday, the 21st March 1950 and 3 P.M. as the time or as soon as the business of the day is finished, whichever is earlier, for holding the election to the Public Accounts Committee. The voting will be held on the floor of the House.

The Assam Finance Bill, 1950

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Finance Bill, 1950.

In making this Motion I want to inform the hon. Members of the House that in case of individuals no rate has been enhanced and as a matter of fact a tax relief has been given to some extent to joint members of Hindu joint or undivided family. In their case the taxable limit has been raised from Rs.5,000 to Rs.6,000. As regards the company, a uniform rate has been introduced in this Bill. With these few remarks I beg to introduce the Assam Finance Bill, 1950.

The Assam Local Board Elections (Emergency Provisions) Bill, 1950

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIBMAZUMDAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Local Board Elections (Emergency Provisions) Bill, 1950 and to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Has it been published in the Gazette ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR : Yes.

The reasons for the introduction of this Bill have been mentioned in the statement of objects and reasons. Triennial elections of Local Boards due to be held before the 1st April 1949, had to be postponed for a period ending not later than the 31st March 1950, under the powers conferred by section 2 of the Assam Local Board Elections (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1949 (Assam Act III of 1949).

Government accordingly decided to hold and complete the general elections of Local Boards before the 10th March 1950 and issued orders and instructions to all concerned. Since then objections were received pointing out that the existing electoral rolls were not sufficiently full and accurate to ensure a fair election. Suggestions were received also for the delimitation of constituencies as single-member constituencies as far as possible. All these require time. It is therefore absolutely necessary to defer the Local Board Elections to a date not later than the 31st May 1950.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Assam Local Board Elections (Emergency Provisions) Bill, 1950 be taken into consideration."

The motion was then put before the House and adopted.

The Assam Amusements and Betting Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1950

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Amusements and Betting Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1950, and to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

In making this motion I beg to draw the attention of the hon. members of the House that this Bill was published on the 9th February 1950 and it has the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor.

Two important factors have been introduced in this Bill so that there may not be any loophole now existing in the present system for levy of entertainment tax under section 3(1). This section enables the proprietors of the entertainments to regulate their admission fee and to cause loss of revenue to Government. And with that object in view just like other provinces we have introduced in this amending Bill the percentage system of levy of this tax. From a comparison of the rate proposed on the Bill with that in other provinces appears that our Bill even now the rate with this increase is much below other provinces as it will appear from clause 2 that where the payment excluding the amount of the tax is Re.1 or more but is less than Rs.2, the rate proposed is only $37\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of such payment rounded off, if it is not a multiple of an anna, to the next higher multiple of an anna. In case of Bengal it is 50 per cent. and in case of Madras it is still higher. Where the payment is two rupees or more, the Bengal rate is 75 per cent. but in our case we have never gone above 50 per cent. There is another thing. In Bengal they levy the tax on all tickets whether free or complimentary and the Act provides for levying it on the person to whom such tickets are issued. But in our case we think it undesirable to provide for realisation of tax from the person to whom the complimentary ticket is issued. So the Bill provides to levy this tax on the proprietor or organiser of the entertainment if they want the luxury of issuing complimentary tickets. With a view to get some revenue it is proposed by this amending Bill to levy Rs.2 per show of these amusements. By this we expect to get some money to meet our deficit.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved is that the Assam Amusements and Betting Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1950 be taken into consideration.

The Motion was then put and carried.

The Assam Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1950

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1950 and to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

This Bill was published on the 28th February 1950 and it has the full recommendation of His Excellency the Governor. This Bill is introduced to remove certain defects that exist now. Under the previous decisions of the various Indian High Courts, the word 'person' included also any Department of the Government. But recently the decision of the Privy Council held that the word 'person' may not include the word 'Crown' unless specifically included. Hence the necessity has arisen for the amendment.

Clause 2

It is therefore proposed to include the Department specifically within the definition of "Person" which is necessary to remove the doubt that has been raised by the recent judicial decision. It is proposed that the word 'Person' may include all Government Departments carrying on commercial undertakings in order that any sale made by the Department may be liable to tax under this Act and realised from purchases so that there may not be any scope for evasion.

Clause 3

Then the existing provision leaves scope for unscrupulous dealers to change the names of commodities to avoid liability to pay taxes. The amendment seeks to minimise such avoidance. The volume of trade in Assam being comparatively small it is proposed by the amendment of Section 3, sub-section (1), to lower the limit of taxable minimum and thereby bring in more dealers within the purview of the Act.

The proposed amendment to sub-sections (2) and (4) of Section 3 are intended to impose the liability for the tax on any dealer, who was not liable to pay the tax at the commencement of the Act, as soon as his gross turnover reaches the taxable quantum at any time of the year.

Clause 5

Then Clause 5 prescribes the period of 2 years which is considered to be too short and it is therefore proposed to change the period to three years.

Clause 6

The amendment proposed to leave no scope for doubt as to the liability for tax in case of transfer of business. Previously there was doubt to impose liability on the transferee.

Clause 7

The proposed amendment of Clause 7 is made to provide for enforcing liability to pay the tax on stocks of goods remaining unsold, when the registration certificate is cancelled or when the business is discontinued or transferred. In such a case, there should be some provision by which we can levy taxes on the stocks that remain unsold after the transfer.

Clause 8

The amendment is intended to give statutory protection to purchaser from non-registered dealers realising tax and to ensure that a tax realised from a buyer for exempted goods is credited to Government Treasury and not misappropriated by the dealer.

Clause 9

The amendment is to penalise illegal or excess realisation of tax by a dealer from a buyer.

Clause 10

By amendment of Section 54 of the Indian Income-Tax Act, 1922, Income-Tax Authorities have been given powers to disclose any information to State Authorities which the latter may require in connection with the imposition of any State Tax. The proposed amendment is to enable the Sales-tax Authorities to disclose similar information to Federal Tax Authorities and other Departments of the State Government for such purposes.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that the Assam Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1950 be taken into consideration.

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while we are in general agreement with many of the amendments proposed to the Sales-Tax legislation, we would request the Government to consider whether it would not be advisable to refer this amending Bill to a Select Committee with a request to send their report within a very short time. I put forward this as a suggestion, and trust Government are disposed to accept it.

In the first place, we would request the Government to examine whether it is advisable to reduce the taxable *quantum* from Rs.10,000 to Rs.7,500. The House will appreciate the fact that the amending Bill will include within the scope of the Bill a large number of small dealers with a weekly turnover of less than Rs.150, who do not ordinarily maintain accounts of the quality required by the Sales-Tax Authorities. Further, it must be remembered, that dealers of this calibre do not normally import commodities from outside the Province, but they buy their commodities direct from the whole-salers. Government are already collecting the tax from the whole-salers, since sales by whole-salers to unregistered dealers are not free of sales-tax. There can be no doubt that Government will not be making trade much more difficult for small dealers. Does the Hon'ble Finance Minister realise how long a Sales-Tax Officer takes to check accounts which are presented by a dealer? I believe that even a smaller account, if done properly, may well take an officer two to three days to verify. It is not merely a question of verifying what appears in those accounts. But to make certain that everything has been included in those accounts which ought to be there and this constitutes a very difficult problem. It involves a great amount of cross checking to ensure that there are no obvious omissions. In fact, all this requires an expert accountant. If we assume therefore that it takes an officer two to three days to check even a small account, and probably a small account takes very much more time than a larger one, I doubt personally whether there will even be any possibility of gain to Government from the sales-tax on small dealers, and we may well reach a conclusion that it is going to cost Government considerably more than they will gain.

In regard to the next amendment with which I propose to deal, that is clause 4, I must confess my inability to appreciate the purport of this amendment. Now in dealing with this Amending Bill to-day the Hon'ble Finance Minister did not I think refer to clause 4 at all. Now Government propose to include the words 'in the State' in the body of section 15 (1). Now Government have no authority whatever to legislate in regard to sales outside the State. The whole power vested in Government relates to sales in the State except as expressly provided in the Explanation to sub-section (12) of Section 2 which gives a special meaning to the term 'sale'. It appears to me that by introducing in a particular clause this definition Government are importing into the Act an element of obscurity and is going to affect to a great extent the whole range of this Act and I personally consider that Government would be well advised to have this aspect of the amendment carefully examined further.

In clause 7 Government propose to introduce legislation to provide for sale tax on goods remaining on the dissolution of a business. While I agree with the Hon'ble Finance Minister that it is necessary to prevent a system of closing down businesses and opening them again, in order to profit by evasion of tax, we have to consider the question of the possibility that when closing down a business goods may be unsaleable; and yet the dealer is required to pay tax on those goods. Under the Constitution Act and under the Sales-tax Act taxation is dependent solely upon the sale of goods and yet Government propose to levy a tax on goods which are not sold and may not be saleable and we doubt very much whether Government are legally competent to impose a tax when there is no sale of goods. This is a point which, I suggest, requires further examination.

Sir, we had an occasion to address Government in regard to an omission when the Sales Tax Act was last amended and it has been disappointing to me to find that on the present occasion Government have taken no steps to rectify what is obviously an omission. I refer to sub-section (4) of Section 15 of the principal Act. Government will recollect that the rates of sales-tax was enhanced in respect of luxury goods. The principle had been accepted by Government that it is wrong to pay sales-tax on the tax levied on the sale of goods and for this reason we have a provision embodied in this section that a reduction of $3\frac{1}{8}$ th should be allowed in the case of goods chargeable at the ordinary rate and of $4\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. in the case of goods classified as luxury goods. When the rate was 9 pies in the rupee this was correct, but it has now been increased to one anna in the rupee. Therefore the appropriate rate should be $6\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. Government were addressed on this point on the 9th November last and we presumed that Government would have taken necessary steps to introduce this simple amendment. We realise that this is a Finance Bill and it is difficult for Opposition Members to secure any change in any Financial measures though, I am certain, that Government will concede that there has been an omission previously and that this should be put right at the earliest opportunity. I am not anxious to cause delay in this taxation measure and I am therefore suggesting that the simplest course will be for the Select Committee to meet and submit a report at a very early date.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: As regards the last point, that has been raised by Mr. Hardman that on the 9th November a matter had been referred to Government, I may say that it is probably under examination by the Department concerned.

As regards the other point that has been raised, that is, that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee, I am sorry, Sir, that I cannot agree with the hon. Member because reference to a Select Committee will, I consider, cause much delay. Moreover, a large number of Members, owing to the prevailing situation in the country, would like to go back to their respective places as soon as the business of the House is over. In view of these I would not agree to refer this Bill which is a Finance Bill to a Select Committee. On the other hand I want to say that we expect to get some revenue from the 1st of April next, but in case this Bill is not passed in this Session we may not get the expected revenue soon.

Now as regards the objection that has been raised by him that the taxable limit should not be reduced from 10,000 to 7,500. The information that is in possession of the Department is that even a very petty dealer imports goods from outside the Province and sometimes such petty dealers go personally to Calcutta and bring goods with them. In many cases it is difficult to rope them under Section 29 as they do not generally maintain any regular accounts for purchase, sale, etc., of goods, even if it is detected. No tax could be levied on good many small timber merchants whose total gross turnover is below Rs.10,000. Thus they escape payment of tax on sales of timber and they are placed in a much better position than big timber merchants. In view of all these we now propose to reduce the turnover from Rs.10,000 to Rs.7,500.

As regards the other amendments, I do not propose to go into details, but if any hon. Member of the House likes to put in any suggestions or amendments to this amended Bill they will be considered by Government at the time of consideration of this Bill clause by clause. In view of this I hope that my Motion for consideration of the amended Bill will be accepted unanimously by the House.

(At this stage the Hon'ble the Speaker vacated the chair and Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua one of the members of the Panel of Chairmen occupied it.)

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA (Chairman): The question is:

That the Assam Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1950, be taken into consideration.

The question was adopted.

The Assam Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 1950

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Motion will be moved by my hon. Friend, Srijut Hareswar Das.

Srijut HARESWAR DAS (Parliamentary Secretary): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 1950 and to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons is there to show why introduction of this Bill was considered necessary. So long we have been following the rates fixed under the Parent Act of 1899 and it was considered necessary to enhance this rate so as to bring our rates in line with those of West Bengal and other States. This will also bring some money which could be utilised in Nation building purposes such as Rural Water Supply and Improvement of Rural Communications, etc.

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA (Chairman): The Motion moved is: "That the Assam Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 1950 be taken into consideration".

(After a pause)

The question is:

"That the Assam Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 1950 be taken into consideration."

The question was adopted.

The Assam Court-Fees (Amendment) Bill, 1950

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: This Bill will also be moved by my Friend, Srijut Hareswar Das.

Srijut HARESWAR DAS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Court Fees (Amendment) Bill, 1950 and to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

This Bill is sister Bill to the previous one and they go hand in hand. From 1940 we have been following the rates fixed under the Parent Act. In 1936 these provisions were in force for the last time. But there is some difference of this Bill from the 1936 Act. In 1936 there was no High Court in Assam. So that Act did not touch any matters pertaining to the High Court. Here we propose to make provisions for such matters. Again we propose to charge certain petitions, like petitions for settlement of waste lands and petitions seeking for permit for Motor Vehicles, and controlled commodities, etc.

This will bring our rates in line with other States and also it will bring some money which will be spent in Nation Building purposes like Rural Water Supply and Rural Communications, etc.

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA (Chairman): The motion moved is: "That the Assam Court Fees (Amendment) Bill, 1950 be taken into consideration."

(After a pause)

The question is that the Assam Court Fees (Amendment) Bill, 1950, be taken into consideration.

The question was adopted.

The Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1950

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1950 and to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

Sir, the main feature of this Bill is the substitution of the existing First Schedule in the Parent Act by the proposed Schedule in the Bill. In that Schedule, Sir, different rates for different kinds of vehicles are mentioned. In the new Schedule I have slightly increased the rates of taxation of the various kinds of motor vehicles. In coming to this increased rates of taxation we have taken into account the existing rates of taxation of the different kind of vehicles in the different States and after comparison we have found that our rates in Assam are considerably lower than the existing rates in different States of the Union of India. Therefore, Sir, we thought it proper to make the rates in our State to fall in line, as far as practicable with the rates existing in the different States.

(At this stage the clock struck 3 P.M.)

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA (Chairman): Order, order. I think the time is up.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M., on Thursday, the 16th March, 1950.

SHILLONG:
The 21st April 1950.

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