

Assam Legislative Assembly Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION OF THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY AFTER THE FIRST GENERAL ELECTION
UNDER THE SOVEREIGN DEMO-
CRATIC REPUBLICAN CON-
STITUTION OF INDIA

MARCH-APRIL SESSION

VOLUME I

No. 8



सत्यमेव जयते

The 22nd and 24th March, 1952

SHILLONG
PRINTED AT THE ASSAM GOVERNMENT PRESS
1952

Price 10 annas.

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 A. M. on
Saturday, the 22nd March, 1952.

PRESENT

The Hon'ble Shri Kuladhar Chaliha, B.L., Speaker, in the Chair, the ten
Hon'ble Ministers, two Deputy Ministers and eighty-one Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

District Transport Officer of Cachar District

Maulavi NAMWAR ALI BARBHUIYA asked :

5. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the District Transport Officers have been ordered to check Motor Traffic and whether for this purpose they are required to remain out of office almost everyday or sometimes major part of the day ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to enquire and state whether it is a fact that the District Transport Officer, Cachar, remains out of station very often and remains engaged either on Motor Traffic checking or on leave, and during such absence of the District Transport Officer from Office, the public suffer, there being no other official empowered in the Transport Department to work in his absence ?

(c) If so, do Government propose to empower the subordinate Officials in the Transport Department to work in the absence of the District Transport Officer, particularly when he goes on leave for a few days and also direct the District Transport Officer to pay more attention to official works than on Motor checking leaving the latter work to the Police ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state how many days the District Transport Officer, Cachar, toured in each of the months of December 1951 and January 1952, and the mileages he has travelled during these two months and the amount of travelling and halting allowances that he has drawn or has become due for him for these two months ?

(e) Are Government aware or have received information or complaint to the effect that the District Transport Officer, Cachar, has been harassing the Motor Traders, and the travelling public for which the members of the public approached the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, as Chairman of the Regional Transport Authority Board, Cachar, several times for redresses of their grievances ?

(f) If so, do Government propose to take steps to put an immediate end to such state of things on the part of the said Officer?

(g) Will Government be pleased to enquire and state whether the District Transport Officer, Cachar, has any vehicle either of his own or of Government for his touring and checking purposes while he goes out on tour?

(h) If not, how that Officer is procuring conveyances for his touring purpose?

The Hon'ble Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA replied :

5. (a)—As Officers in charge of administering Motor Vehicles Act and Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, District Transport Officers are expected to do some checking without detriment to their main office duties.

(b)—Government are not aware that the District Transport Officer, Cachar, remains out of station very often. He however went on casual leave for ten days in February last. His temporary absence might have caused some inconvenience to the public.

(c)—The question of entrusting an officer with motor vehicles duties during the temporary absence of a District Transport Officer is under the consideration of Government.

(d)—So far, he has toured only in December 1951 :—

Days—9.

Mileage—495.

Travelling allowance, etc., for which bill received has not yet been passed by the Controlling Authority—Rs.154.

(e) & (f)—Three complaints against the District Transport Officer, which were received recently by Government, are under enquiry.

(g)—The District Transport Officer has not got a Vehicle of his own nor has he been provided with one by Government.

(h)—He is procuring conveyances on hire.

Result of Election to the Kamrup District Minority Board

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The following Members are duly elected to the District Minority Board, Kamrup :—

1. Maulavi Md. Suleiman.
2. Maulavi Ataur Rahman.
3. Maulavi Akram Hussain Saikia.

Re: Time-limit for speeches on Voting on Demands for Grants

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before the voting on Demands begins, I want to say that the time-limit for discussion for the Demands is very limited, and many hon. Members are willing to take part in discussions. So, I submit that there should some time-limit for each Member so that hon. Members on both sides willing to take part in the discussion are given that opportunity.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Leader of the House and the Opposition have agreed to this, and my hands are tight.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: Sir, my submission is that there should be a time-limit.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That will be decided according to the exigency of the situation.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

GRANT NO.24

(43—Industries and Supplies—II.—Cottage Industries)

The Hon'ble Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.2,04,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1953 for the administration of the head "43—Industries and Supplies—II—Cottage Industries".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved: "That a sum not exceeding Rs.2,04,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March, 1953 for the administration of the head '43—Industries and Supplies—II—Cottage Industries'."

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my hon. Friend, Srijut Bhattacharyya will not move his Motion, and I want to move Motion No.2.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Will he please say that he is not moving the Motion?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Yes, Sir. I shall not move the Motion.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.2,04,500 under Grant No.24, Major head—43—Industries and Supplies—II—Cottage Industries, at page 204 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,04,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, in moving this Cut Motion, I feel really very much dissatisfied with the industrial policy pursued by this Government. We find in the budget altogether for the development of industries about rupees eleven lakhs has been allotted. This is a poor sum, as compared with sums allotted under different heads. We cannot make our country prosperous by depending on agriculture alone and the problem of agriculture cannot be solved unless we take up the problem of industry at the same time. Sir, I find this State has always neglected this very important subject. If we read the history of Europe and other countries, we find for example, Germany built her industry on coal and iron. Similarly, England owes much of her wealth to her iron and coal. In Assam, the State has no sound economic basis. If we have given more attention to our Tea and Oil and other industries, we could have easily developed our State. Sir, the record of the Government in this sphere is quite a barren one.

The Hon'ble Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI: Is he speaking about Cottage Industry?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Well, I am coming to that, but I want to give a background. Sir, in Assam the record of the Government in this matter is quite a barren one.

Sir, if we analyse the industrial history of this State, we find three distinct phases. The first phase was when everything was left with the foreign capitalist, the second phase from 1946 commenced with an attempt by the State to take

the initiative in building up industries, and that phase also ended in a fiasco. The third is the chaotic stage which envisaged industrial enterprises either by the State or by private capitalists. Sir, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the other day said that we are living in a dynamic age and so we should move in a dynamic way. I do not see the dynamism in Government's approach to the various problems. On the other hand their mind has come to a static condition, and we are living in a stagnant situation. The Government was attributing it to lack of capital, but in a State where we have man-power and where there is lack of capital, we should concentrate on cottage industries and small scale industries. Here also we find the Government approach is hesitant and the approach is not scientific. In the Budget we find that only a paltry sum of rupees two lakhs five thousand has been sanctioned for the purpose, and when we read about the new schemes, we do not find any mention how this sum will be spent. But when we go to the details, we do not find any new scheme where this money will be spent. On the other hand the expenditure has been detailed as 'Pay of Officers, Travelling allowances, etc'. At page 205, in one case the grants-in-aid is Rs.3,840 and in another case the grant-in-aid under the Sixth Schedule is Rs.19,800. I do not know what the Industry Minister has in mind regarding the development of cottage industries. Is it the development of certain staff or certain industries? In Assam we can easily develop certain industries very well and among those industries, weaving is one. But that industry is all along there. There are other small scale industries which should be developed and for which there are enough facilities in our State. We should always aim at developing such small industries and other industries by which we can bring more wealth not only to the individuals, but also to the State. In a country like ours, the Government should not only reserve certain lines of manufacture but protect certain particular industries. It is necessary to develop with initiative certain industries in which we are better placed than any other State. I submit that, that has not been the policy of our State and I therefore beg to move that the sum of Rs.2,04,500 should be reduced by a sum of Re.1. I know Japan has been built mostly on cottage industries, I know France which is a land of small scale industries and land of atelier. If we can help our people who are engaged in cottage industries by giving them capital, marketing facilities and by protecting them from outside competition then we shall have enough cottage industries which will increase the prosperity of the State.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved: "That the total provision of Rs.2,04,500 under Grant No.24, Major head—43.—Industries and Supplies—II—Cottage Industries, at page 204 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,04,500 do stand reduced by Re.1."

Shri MOHENDRA NATH DEKA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Motion that stands in my name is this—

"That the total provision of Rs.2,04,500 under Grant No.24, Major head—43.—Industries and Supplies—II—Cottage Industries, at page 204 of the Budget, be reduced by Re 1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,04,500 do stand reduced by Re.1."

The intention of my moving this Cut Motion is to raise a discussion about want of provision for development schemes and training organisations. Sir, there is no doubt that Government have been trying for the improvement of the industries in the State, but I have seen with my own eyes that there is no respect for things which are produced by our indigenous people. For instance, whenever I go to the Fancy Bazar, I go there with a basket called *khaloi*, but I find that most of the people go there with a cloth bag for the purpose of carrying things including fish from the bazar. This shows we have no respect for things prepared by our own people. *Japi* is never used by us, *khaloi* is never used by us; everything used

by us is the article produced by manufacturers in foreign countries. When our country is full of bamboo, when our country is full of cane, we do not see why we should not encourage our people in making these things. Unless and until we, people of Assam, show proper respect to the hand-made productions made by our rural people, it is no use making attempts to improve the cottage industries. With this, I want to move that this amount of Rs.2,04,500 should be reduced by Re.1 as in my humble opinion this is only a misuse of money. Thorough propaganda for use of cottage industry products is of utmost necessity.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved :

"That the total provision of Rs.2,04,500 under Grant No.24, Major head—43.—Industries and Supplies—II—Cottage Industries, at page 204 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,04,500 do stand reduced by Re.1"

Mr. MAHAM SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when we come to the question of cottage industries, it is really very painful to state that our people in this part of the country used to receive a more sympathetic treatment from the British Government than from the present Government. The present Government has not taught a single industry to our people in this district of Khasi and Jaintia Hills. On the other hand it has closed down a number of coal mining cottage industries of the indigenous people and have sold their rights and interest to a foreign concern. Sir, the only means of livelihood of the people living in Cherrapunji, Laitryngew and other adjoining villages is from the coal fields. Almost every family in this locality owns a coal mine, which is worked on a cottage industry scale, and this has been the principal occupation of the bulk of the population in that area for more than a century. By virtue of a treaty drawn up in 1840 between the then Siem of Cherra and the British Government the rights and interests of these people were sufficiently protected in pre-independent days. I will read out a portion of the treaty. It runs as follows—"The Cossiahs of the Ponjee we reside in are not to be prohibited by the Government from working coal in these localities. They are to work it free of charge." Accordingly, Sir, the people of this locality have opened up coal mines in different places.

The Hon'ble Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI : After the Constitution he cannot discuss any treaty.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Yes, those things have lapsed with the introduction of the Constitution.

Mr. MAHAM SINGH : I am reading a portion of the treaty only to show the difference. As I said, the people of this locality have opened up coal mines in different places and are working these mines without any let or hindrance by the British Government. We have always cherished the hope that our rights and interests will be better protected by our own Government, but in this we have been disappointed. About 50 families of Cherrapunjee, Laitryngew and other adjoining villages own coal fields west of Shillong-Cherra Road. They have been working these fields for a very long time. Some have inherited them from their predecessors. They worked on a cottage industry scale and these were the only sources of income of these families. Not caring for the fate of these people, the Government at present has settled this land with a foreign Company, the Cherra-Chhatak Ropeway Company, which is at present managed by Messrs. Gilanders

Arbuthnott. Sir, it is not out of place to mention that this Company applied for settlement of this very same land since 1936. The British Government did not settle the land with the Company as already the indigenous people were working and owning many coal mines in this land. We were thunderstruck when suddenly on the 12th October 1951 the Deputy Commissioner, United Khasi-Jaintia Hills, directed the people of the locality to stop working their coal mines lying west of the Shillong-Cherra Road, as he stated the area would be leased out to the Cherra-Chhatak Ropeway Company. Sir, we had never expected this treatment from our Government; we had never thought that a key industry would be given to a foreign concern. We had always been expecting that our rights and interest would be better protected by our Government. But all have turned out to be false hopes, and we are deprived by force of our only means of livelihood at a period of extreme economic hardship. With these few words, I support the Motion.

Mrs. USHA BARTHA KUR: মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, অসমৰ ইতিহাসত ঘৰুৱা শিল্পৰ স্থান অতি উচ্চ, কিন্তু দৈব্যৰ দুৰ্বিপাকত বিদেশীশাসন আৰু শোষণৰ ফলত অতীজৰ আমাৰ এই ঘৰুৱা শিল্পবিলাক অলক্ষিতে আমাৰ মাজৰ পৰা আতৰহৈ, আমাক পদু কৰি তাৰ ঠাইত নানা ধৰণৰ বিদেশী বণ্টিয়া বস্ত্ৰাদি আমাক একেবাৰেই অন্ধ কৰি পেলাইছিল। বৰ সৌভাগ্যৰ বিষয় যে বৃটিচ শাসনৰ অৱসান ঘটোৱাই, স্বাধীনতা অৰ্জন কৰি আমাৰ কংগ্ৰেছ চৰকাৰে, তেওঁলোকৰ বিশেষ তত্বাৱধানত যি দৰে আমাৰ ঘৰুৱা শিল্পবিলাকৰ পুনৰ উৎকৰ্ষ সাধন কৰিবলৈ গাঁৱেভূয়ে অভিযান চলাইছে; তাৰ পৰা মোৰ অনুমান হয়, অসমৰ বিশেষকৈ মহিলা-সকলে বুজিব পাৰিছে যে, তেওঁবিলাকৰ হাতত অতীজত এনেকুৱা বিদ্যা আছিল যাৰ দ্বাৰা তেওঁলোকে গোটেই ভাৰত কিয়—সমস্ত জগতৰে দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিব পাৰিছিল। তেতিয়াৰ দিনত আমাৰ শিপিনী সকলে, এনেকি, উৰিযোৱা পৰ্খিলাকে তেওঁলোকে তাঁতৰ সহায়েৰে তুলিব পাৰিছিল। তাৰ বাহিৰেও, আজৰি সময়ত, আমাৰ পুৰুষ সকলক নিজৰ নিজৰ সংসাৰ যাত্ৰা কাৰ্য্যত সহায় উদ্ধীপনাৰে যোগান ধৰি, এৰি, মুগা, কপাহ আদি নানান শিল্পৰ উৎকৰ্ষ সাধন কৰি—বং মনেৰে আগুৱাই লৈ যাব পাৰিছিল। পুৰুষ সকলেও আজৰি সময়ত বাহ, বেত, কাহ, পিতল আদিৰে ঘৰুৱা শিল্পৰ চৰ্চা কৰি নিজক, দহক আৰু দেশক প্ৰেৰণা যোগাইছিল। সময়ৰ পৰিবৰ্তনত এই সকলোবোৰ ঘৰুৱা শিল্প লোপ পাব লগীয়া হোৱাটো অসমৰ এটা দুৰ্ভাগ্যৰ কথা। কিন্তু আজি অসমৰ সৌভাগ্যৰ বিষয় যে কংগ্ৰেছ চৰকাৰে আজি সেই উন্নতিমূলক পৰিকল্পনাৰ যি বিলাক আচনি পুনৰ হাতত লৈছে—আৰু গাঁৱেভূয়ে তাৰ উৎকৰ্ষ সাধনৰ নিমিত্তে যি চেষ্টা কৰিছে তাৰ পৰা ধাৰণা হৈছে—অতীজৰ অসমীয়া তিৰোতাই একে বাতিৰ ভিতৰত স্নাতকটি কাপোৰ বৈ পিন্ধায় নিজৰ পতি-পুত্ৰক হাঁহি হাঁহি যুদ্ধলৈ সজাই পঠোৱাৰ দিন বিলাক আকৌ ঘূৰি আহিব। আজি আমাৰ চৰকাৰৰ অতি গোঁবসময় কাম হৈছে ঘৰুৱা শিল্পৰ উৎকৰ্ষ সাধনৰ কাৰণে উপায় লৈ পুৰুষ, মহিলা, লৰা ছোৱালী সকলোকে আত্মনিৰ্ভৰশীল কৰি তোলাৰ প্ৰচেষ্টা। সেই কাৰণে, মই, মাননীয় মন্ত্ৰী শ্ৰীযুত চৌধুৰী ডাক্তাৰীয়াৰ প্ৰস্তাৱটো সম্পূৰ্ণ সমৰ্থন কৰোঁ আৰু আনহাতে, বিপক্ষদলৰ সদস্যসকলে, এই প্ৰস্তাৱৰ যি বিৰোধিতা কৰিছে তাক উঠাই লবলৈ অনুৰোধ কৰোঁ।

Shri JOGAKANTA BARUA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I stand to oppose the Cut Motion. The hon. Mover has spoken in English, but I want to reply in Assamese as I know they understand Assamese.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Are you speaking in Assamese now? It is a new kind of Assamese that you are speaking.

Shri JOGAKANTA BARUA: I speak in English as an introduction.

যেতিয়া আমাৰ দেশখন বৃটিচৰ অধীনত আছিল, তেতিয়া কংগ্ৰেছ দলে বৃটিচ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ বিৰোধিতা কৰিছিল আৰু opposition বেঞ্চত বহিছিল, তেওঁবিলাকৰ বক্তৃতা শুনিবলৈ গেলেৰী দৰ্শকেৰে উপচি পৰিছিল। বাতৰি কাকত বিলাকত তেখেত সকলৰ সৰল যোগাৰ কৰিব পাৰিছিল। স্বৰাজ হোৱাত মই ভয় কৰিছিলো, এই অৱস্থা নাইকিয়া হৈ যাব আৰু গেলেৰী

শূন্য হব। কিন্তু Socialist, Communist আৰু আন দলবিলাকে কংগ্ৰেছক অনুসৰণ কৰি আজি বিৰোধী দলৰ আসন লব পৰাত মই অতি আনন্দ পাইছো।

এতিয়া Socialist Party ব নেতাই, স্বৰূপা শিল্প বিৰোধিতা কৰাত কোনো আচৰিত হবৰ কথা নহয়; কাৰণ, তেখেত সকলৰ পাৰ্টিৰ নীতিয়েই হৈছে, দেশখনক Industrialise কৰি Nationalise কৰা। কংগ্ৰেছেহে কুটীৰ শিল্পত বিশ্বাস কৰে। গতিকে মই চৰকাৰৰ নীতি সম্পূৰ্ণ সমৰ্থন কৰো।

তাৰ পিচত আমাৰ মাননীয় শ্ৰীযুত মহেন্দ্ৰ ডেকাই তেখেতৰ কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাব সমৰ্থন কৰি যিখিনি কথা কলে সেই খিনি এই সদনত উত্থাপন নকৰি বাইজৰ মাজত ব্যক্ত কৰা হলেই বেচি ভাল হ'লহেতেন। কাৰণ যি বস্তু বাইজে ব্যৱহাৰ নকৰে, তাক নিজেই তৈয়াৰ কৰি ব্যৱহাৰ কৰাৰ উদগনি বাইজে পালে হেতেন।

Shri MAHENDRA NATH DEKA: My point is that the educated classes do not generally use the products of cottage industries.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: You mean they do not patronise.

Shri MAHENDRA NATH DEKA: Yes, Sir, I withdraw my Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Thank you.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That is an interim arrangement.

Shri JAGAKANTA BARUA: গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে স্বৰূপা শিল্প উন্নতি সাধনৰ হকে যি ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে সি বৰ আনন্দৰ কথা। চৰকাৰে সেই বিষয়ত মনোযোগেৰে আগবাঢ়িব বুলি আশা কৰিলো।

The Hon'ble Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am rather disappointed at the speech of my hon. Friend, the Leader of the Opposition. I expected that I would get some light, as to how this Cottage Industries Department could be developed in this State, from the Leader of the Opposition who has widely travelled both in this country as well as outside. But the only industry he has tried to make out is that of cane-making. But, Sir, I do not know of any industry which is called cane-making.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cane works. You ought to understand.

The Hon'ble Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY: I do appreciate the anxiety of the hon. Leader of the Opposition that this Government has not been able to do as much as it should have done. But I want to remind him at the same time that he should realise the difficulties under which this Government is now functioning regarding the development of these industries. We are here concerned only with cottage industries and not with major industries. My hon. Friend, the Leader of the Opposition, is giving more stress in his speech to major industries than cottage industries. The Cottage Industries Department do not even include small scale industries. This does not come under the purview of the Cottage Industries Department. Sir, my hon. Friend very well knows that in the British regime for the last 150 years, all the cottage industries in this country including that of spinning were killed by the British imperialists only to find market for their merchandise here in India. After they left this country this Government is trying its utmost to develop in all directions all cottage industries. Regarding cottage industries, Government policy is not to make any State venture, but to help and assist private enterprises, that is Government to give aid to these industries—Government is to give directions and

some financial help. Government is doing its best to give some stipends to the intending trainees as well as they are giving loans and subsidies. Government has established certain training institutes where training is being imparted. Before I give fuller details of the training institutes and stipends I would like to give reply to what Mr. Maham Singh has said. From his speech I could not understand anything what he hinted at. He mentioned about coal making industry. I do not exactly understand what he meant by coal making industry. If he means that people should collect coal from mines, and sell in the nearest market, this business has no scope any more. That might be his case, but that cannot be helped. Neither the Cottage Industries Department nor the Major Industries Department can help him in the matter. In days of yore we know of many such industries. We have heard that people used to collect gold from river beds from stones of the hills, but these things do not exist any more. They are dead and gone. There is no use wailing over these things now.

Now to Mr. Deka since he has withdrawn his Motion I have nothing to reply. It is not for Government to encourage 'Khaloi' to the bazar geer. Mr. Deka may start a rating campaign in the country for popularising cottage industries products and Government have full sympathies with him.

Now, Sir, I want to say a few words regarding what Government is doing in this behalf. In 1948 under the post-war development scheme we had a very ambitious cottage industry scheme, but that scheme was abandoned owing to the paucity of funds and as the Government of India in the long run withdrew the post-war grant. But in the present state of financial difficulties we are doing our best to develop soap making industry, hand-made paper making, bee-keeping, shellac manufacture scheme; we are giving grant of stipends for training in cottage industry and grant of contribution and industrial loans for the development of industry. During the coming year Government are providing the following stipends. Stipends for soap making 12, p. per making 8, Training at modern industrial work 2, Pottery 2 and also we have given grants-in-aid to various cottage industries and the Government have greatly increased financial aid to various cottage industries in the shape of loan and also in the shape of subsidy. During the current year Government sanctioned a total of Rs.99,300 against Rs.22,000 and Rs.14,500 and Rs.33,400 in preceding 3 years. During the year we have submitted estimate costing about Rs. 12 lakhs. This awaits the approval of the Planning Commission. Government is giving grant-in-aid and contribution for horticulture and pisciculture and tile-making. We are encouraging our boys and students to take up these industries and we have undertaken to train them in these industries and also to find out small finance for them so that they can start those industries. We are conscious of our limitation. I hope that my hon. Friend will appreciate our point of view and with these words I would request my Friend to withdraw his Cut Motion.

(The cut motion was put and negatived)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I put the main grant. The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs.2,04,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1953 for the administration of the head '43.—Industries and Supplies—II—Cottage Industries'."

(The motion was adopted)

GRANT No.25

(43.—INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES—III—FISHERIES)

The Hon'ble Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam,

I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.1,10,600 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1953 for the administration of the head "43.—Industries and Supplies—III—Fisheries".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs.1,10,600 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1953 for the administration of the head "43.—Industries and Supplies—III—Fisheries".

Shri RADHACHARAN CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.1,10,600 under Grant No.25, major head "43.—Industries and Supplies—III—Fisheries" at page 209 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,10,600 do stand reduced by Re.1.

By this Cut Motion I want to raise a general discussion.

Sir, in this connection I beg to say before the House that the total income shown in the Budget for 1952-53 in this aspect is nil. Sir, as a background of my discussion I beg to refer to the Grant No.2 where we found that in 1948-49 the income on account of fisheries was over 11 lakhs and in 1951-52 the income on account of these fisheries was only 7 lakhs 16 thousand.

The Hon'ble Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY: On a point of order, Sir, fisheries do not fall under pisciculture; it is under Revenue.

Shri RADHACHARAN CHAUDHURY: I have referred this, as I said, only as a background for this discussion. This constant progressive fall in revenue on fisheries is due to what reason I do not know. I do not know why it has happened. But I think this progressive fall of revenue is due to settlement of fisheries with interested individuals and not in public auction.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Will you please confine yourself to the Motion moved?

Shri RADHACHARAN CHAUDHURY: Sir, under Grant No.25.—III for charges to development schemes on account of fisheries we have seen that a sum of Rs.1,10,600 is allotted for expenditure for development purposes. In the revised estimates of 1951-52 the charges on development schemes have been shown as Rs.57,800. Now, the increased expenditure of Rs.52,800 over the budget estimates would have been welcome if this huge amount had been incurred in actual development projects. But we have seen no such projects in the Budget. The entire amount of Rs.1,10,600 is being allotted for other expenditures, for instance, officers' pay, officers' allowances, honoraria, contingencies, books, maps, liveries, furniture, etc. We would have welcome such expenditure provided there would have been real projects for development of industries, but the entire amount has been shown as expenditure on account of payment of salaries, etc. Now, will this expenditure incurred in connection with payment of officers' allowances increase the fishes or fishery revenue? I think it will not. So, the present sum provided in the Budget seems to be wastage without any fruits.

Sir, we know that in our forest areas there are natural granaries for fisheries. If these natural granaries would have been developed, I think the Government would have been able to earn more money on account of fisheries and this food production in the State would have been increased. But under this item we see nothing. So, Sir, I beg to move—That the total provision of Rs.1,10,600 under Grant No.25, major head "43.—Industries and Supplies—III—Fisheries, at page 209 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i. e., the whole grant of Rs.1,10,600 do stand reduced by Re.1.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Shri Mohendra Nath Deka,

Shri MOHENDRA NATH DEKA: I do not propose to move my Cut Motion, Sir.

Shri MAHENDRA HAZARIKA মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, বিবোধী দলৰ চৌধুৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই যি কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাৱ আনিছে, মই সেই প্ৰস্তাৱৰ বিৰোধিতা কৰো। আমাৰ মাননীয় মন্ত্ৰীমহোদয়ে 'পিচিকালচাৰ' স্বত্বক্ৰে যি প্ৰস্তাৱ কৰিছে তাৰ প্ৰসংগত তেখেতে আলোচনা কৰিছে 'ফিচাৰি'ৰ উন্নতিৰ বিষয়ে।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: 'মাইক' ওচৰলৈ আহক।

Shri MAHENDRA HAZARIKA: অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, চৰকাৰে যি আঁচনি লৈছে, সেইটো সঁচাকৈয়ে বৰ প্ৰশংসনীয় কথা। অৱশ্যে আমাৰ যিবিলাক ফৰেষ্ট ৰিজাৰ্ভ আছে তাত বহুত ফিচাৰি আছিল। কিন্তু যোৱা ভূমিকম্পত আৰু বান-পানীৰ ফলত তাৰ বহুত লুপ্ত হ'ল।

গাঁৱে-ভূঁয়ে অসমীয়া মানুহৰ মাছ এটা প্ৰধান খাদ্য। এই খাদ্যৰ অভাৱ হোৱাত আমাৰ ভয়ানক অসুবিধা হৈছে। ইয়াৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে বৰ্ত্তমান যি আঁচনি লৈছে সেইটো বৰ প্ৰশংসনীয় ব্যৱস্থা হৈছে। আমাৰ বহুত পুৰণি পুখুৰী আছে যত মাছৰ বহুত উন্নতি কৰিব পাৰি। আজি কালি খাল, বিল, নদী আদিতো মাছ একেবাৰে নোহোৱা হৈছে। সেই কাৰণে মাছ বেছিকৈ উৎপন্ন কৰিবৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে যি আঁচনি হাতত লৈছে সেইটো বৰ প্ৰশংসাৰ কথা। আৰু তাৰ বাবে চৰকাৰক ধন্যবাদ দিছো। আৰু বিবোধী দলৰ সদস্যই যি কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাৱ আনিছে তাৰ মই বিৰোধিতা কৰিছো।

Shri JOGAKANTA BARUA: মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ ডাঙৰীয়া, fishery স্বত্বক্ৰে যি cut motion আনিছে মই তাৰ বিৰোধিতা কৰিছো। আমাৰ দেশত মাছৰ যথেষ্ট উৎপাদন হোৱা উচিত। আগতে আসামত মাছ ইমান আছিল যে মানুহে কেতিয়াও অভাৱ পোৱা নাছিল। কিন্তু এতিয়া লোকসংখ্যা বঢ়াৰ লগে লগে মাছৰ আটক হৈ পৰিছে। মানুহে মাছৰ খেতি নকৰিলে মাছৰ ভয়ানক আটক হ'ব। গৰণ মেণ্টে মাছ বঢ়াবৰ কাৰণে যি চেষ্টা কৰিছে সি উত্তম হৈছে, যদিও দেশত মাছৰ হাহাকাৰ তিলমাত্রও কম নাই। লগতে মই ক'ব খোজো যে আমাৰ ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰত যিবিলাক ডাঙৰ মাছ আছে সেই বিলাক কণী পৰাৰ সময়ত ধৰিবলৈ বন্ধ কৰি নিদিলে মাছৰ অভাৱ কেতিয়াও নকমিব। গতিকে মই কও যে গৰণ মেণ্টে কণী পৰাৰ সময়ত মাছ ধৰা বন্ধ কৰি দিয়াৰ যাতে ব্যৱস্থা কৰে। তাৰ পাচত প্ৰত্যেক ঠাইতে, বিশেষকৈ উজনি আসামত, মাছৰ খেতিৰ বাবে ভাল পোণা মাছৰ বন্দবস্ত কৰি নিদিলে মাছৰ অভাৱ আৰু বাঢ়ি যাব। তাৰ কাৰণে গৰণ মেণ্টে চেষ্টা কৰিব বুলি আশা কৰিলো। আজি জয়সাগৰত ডিখেঁ আৰু ডিচাংৰ পৰা মাছৰ কণী ধৰি জগাই পোৱালী কৰিবলৈ যি বন্দবস্ত কৰা হৈছে সি অতি উত্তম হৈছে। তাকো যেন বিশেষ কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰে তাৰ কাৰণে আশা কৰিলো।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: আপুনি কোন কোন মাহত মাছ ধৰা বন্ধ কৰিবলৈ কয় ?

Shri JOGAKANTA BARUA: ডাঙৰ মাছবিলাক কণী পৰাৰ সময়ত বহাগ, জ্যৈষ্ঠ অৰ্থাৎ জুন মাহলৈকে ধৰা বন্ধ কৰিব লাগে। এনেকুৱা আইন আছে যদিও সেইমতে কাম হোৱা নাই।

The Hon'ble Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the course of this debate my hon. Friends have intermixed the issues between the revenue side of the question as well as the industrial side of it. But the Demand concerns the industrial side of the question. Therefore, I shall confine my replies only to the industrial side.

I believe, everyone of the hon. Members of this House will agree that this most essential food, namely, fish should be increased as one cannot for all time

to come depend on nature for the supply of this most essential food. Therefore, Government foreseeing it and in order to remove this difficulty in the supply of this essential food, they have taken up in right earnest the question as to how this industry can be developed.

Formerly, this Fishery Department was only a section of the Industries Department and they acted in an advisory capacity. In the year 1949-50, the then Chief Minister, Shri Bardoloi, held a Conference which was attended by our present Chief Minister also. In that Conference it was decided that this Fishery Department should be separated altogether and made an independent department and attempt should be made for improvement of pisciculture. After that decision was made in the Conference, Government acted on the recommendation of that Conference and in the year 1949-50 they actually started a Pisciculture Department. In the very year they started a stocking centre at Joysagar from the Post-War Development grants. Then in the year 1950-51, it was decided to bring this Department under the Grow-More-Food Department and after that a Loan-scheme for fishery development was launched and the Government of India gave its approval and sanctioned some money towards that Loan-scheme. As the rapid development of pisciculture can only take place if local sources of fish seed are created, it was therefore on this aspect of the work that the first steps were taken. Some surveys were conducted to locate sources of fish seed supply. Some rivers and channels like the Dikhow-Desang in Sibsagar, Haria Nishari in Nowgong, Fulung Rowmari in Gauhati have since been located. Two experimental centres for collection and hatching of fish eggs have been started at Safrai and Nazira, and fry and fingerling collecting centre at Haria Nishari and Fulung Rowmari, the latter areas have been taken over by the Fishery Department from the Revenue Department recently. These centres will provide fry and fingerlings both to the public and the Department in taking up pisciculture. In 1950-51 about 30,000 fry was sold to the public; along with these fry and fingerling collecting centres, fish farms are being started at Gauhati with a few Municipal tanks and low-lying areas at Tezpur with some Holla land, at Joysagar with the Khaois of the tank and at Salchapra and Silchar in Cachar and at Roha in Nowgong. Stocking has started in some of them and it is expected that in a few years they will not only be productive, but also ease the fish problem to some extent.

On the organisation side, we have Fishery Officers for Kamrup, Nowgong, Sibsagar, Darrang, Cachar and Lakhimpur. In the majority of these centres officers have been appointed during the last two years and in all these areas also necessary surveys, etc. are completed, development work is proposed to be started after getting possession of suitable areas.

Regarding grants-in-aid, nothing has been done so far. It was considered desirable to concentrate on developing sources of fish seed supply.

I thought that on these points, I shall get some light from the hon. Members of this House so that this important industry can be developed. As I said, Sir, that this industry is of recent origin and is in the experimental stage and it is not time yet to pass any verdict on it and therefore, I would request my hon. Friend to withdraw his Cut Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Will the hon. Member withdraw his Cut Motion?

Shri RADHACHARAN CHAUDHURY: No, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is: "That the total provision of Rs.1,10,600 under Grant No.25, major head—43.—Industries and Supplies—III—Fisheries, at page 209 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,10,600 do stand reduced by Re.1."

(The Cut Motion was negatived).

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs.1,10,600 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1953 for the administration of the head '43.—Industries and Supplies—III—Fisheries'."

(The Motion was adopted).

GRANT No.43

(85-A.—Capital Outlay on Schemes of State Trading)

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, Sir, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs 100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March 1953 for the administration of the head "85-A.—Capital Outlay on Schemes of State Trading."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs 100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March 1953 for the administration of the head "85-A.—Capital Outlay on Schemes of State Trading."

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.100 under Grant No.43, major head 85-A.—Capital Outlay on Schemes of State Trading, at page 269 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.100 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, the object of my moving the Motion is to criticise the system of procurement of food-grains in general.

Sir, as I said before that the relevant data under the head '85-A.—Capital Outlay on Schemes of State Trading' is not supplied to us, as such it will be very difficult to say how our State Trading Department is actually working.

The system of procurement is a glaring example of the unscientific approach to the problem. There is no data on which the Procurement Department can lay hands in all the stock of food-grain held by a particular man. So, the Procurement staff moves in the dark in absence of any statistical information and apply their engines of oppression right and left. The farmer does not know where he stands in regard to his relation with the Procurement Department, which is a veritable terror to him and positive nuisance to others. If the procurement would be based on the acreage of paddy land held by a peasant, i.e., compulsory levy as in Eastern Pakistan, he would know his liability to the Department and procurement would have been systematic. But as things stand now, the procurement is unsatisfactory and the harassment to the growers is unbearable. Against these backgrounds, and in the context of such uncertainty, the growers will find no heart to produce more. He does not know when the vulture of the Procurement Department would pounce upon him and take away the fruits of hard toil.

Sir, if we compare the procurement price of paddy and the retail sale price of rice to the consumer we would notice a huge disparity. Any private trader in rice and paddy would have been glad to carry on this trade with a margin of not more than annas eight per maund. But margin of a monopoly trader like the State in food-grains ought not to be more than annas four per maund as the volume of turnover in State monopoly is much higher.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What is the total figure of requirement for Assam and the procurement price?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: It is about 2,778,400 tons and the procurement price is about annas ten per maund of paddy in 1951-52. I would like to emphasise that the margin of profit of a monopoly trader like the State in

foodgrains ought not to have been more than annas four per maund, as the volume of turnover in State monopoly is much higher. Here the difference between the procurement price and selling price is not less than Rs.5 per maund.

Sir, if any private trader would dare to charge such a high price for the processed commodity over the cost of raw materials, he would have been at once charged with the offence of profiteering. But the State is above law and so it can charge with impunity any amount from its commodity even in a monopoly trade.

Sir, one word more I want to speak and it is in regard to supply of cement.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: How it comes under this head ?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Then, Sir, I would speak on cloth and other goods.

I know many limited farms and companies set up during these years, dealing in controlled commodities like cloth, yarn, rice, etc. and thereby depriving *bona fide* traders of those commodities...

The Honble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: It is irrelevant, Sir ? There is no such item as has been stated by the hon. Member. He seems to be roaming in wilderness.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Sir, there is standard cloth in the item. If the monopoly of trade in the State and also the restriction on the inter-District movement of rice and paddy would have been abolished, the people would have heaved a sigh of relief. Sir, when the Government is procuring rice and paddy from all areas, it is also an obligation for the Government to give supply to the deficit rural areas, where there are many landless and helpless daily workers.

Now I come to procurement in the Kamrup District. In some places in the Kamrup District and in BARPETA, procurement has been stopped since last October or November and we do not know why it has been stopped—whether for any unforeseen reason or for helping the election propaganda. We know that Kamrup District is regarded as the granary of Assam and if procurement is stopped in this District, how the procurement drive can be successful we cannot visualise.

Sir, I know that Hon'ble Mr. Mookerjee has taken over charge of the Department very recently and he is not expected to know all these irregularities in the State trading. But I hope that he has the power and capacity to run the administration more efficiently and I believe much of the grievances of the common people will be removed by his sincere efforts.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved: "That the total provision of Rs.100 under Grant No.43, major head -85-A—Capital Outlay on Schemes of State Trading at page 269 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.100 do stand reduced by Re.1."

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.100 under Grant No.43, major head—85-A.—Capital Outlay on Schemes of State Trading, at page 269 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.100 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, in moving this Cut Motion, I want to raise a general discussion. I like to know whether the Government will assure people with food and clothing, with coarse and medium cloth for the common people and adequate supply of yarns. Sir, for lack of yarn, handlooms are going idle.....

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: The hon. member is mixing up.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes.

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: Then I am not speaking, Sir, now.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Have you withdrawn the motion ?

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: No, Sir. (He resumed his seat.)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved: "That the total provision of Rs.100 under Grant No.43, major head—85-A—Capital Outlay on Schemes of State Trading, at page 269 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.100 do stand reduced by Re.1."

Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak a few words.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes.

Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, পোন প্রথমে আমার সংগ্রহবিভাগৰ মাননীয় মন্ত্রী ডাঙৰীয়াই তেখেতৰ Demand for Grant ব অনুকূলে যি খিনি বিবৃতি দিলে তাক মই সমর্থন কৰিছো।

দ্বিতীয়তে, বিৰোধীদলৰ মাননীয় সদস্যই যি কৰ্ত্তন প্রস্তাব আনিছে তাক তীব্র ভাবে প্রতিবাদ কৰিছোঁ। মোৰ বন্ধু বিৰোধীদলৰ দাস ডাঙৰীয়াই কৰ্ত্তন প্রস্তাব অনাত আমি ভাবিছিলো যে অন্ততঃ তেখেতে এই বিভাগ স্কলমে চলাব কিছুমান দিহা পৰামৰ্শ আমাৰ আগত দাঙি ধৰিব, কিন্তু তেখেতৰ বিবৃতি শুনি হতাশহে হলো, এনেকুৱা বিৰোধীতাৰ কোনো সাৰ্থকতা নাই। তাৰ পিচত যিজন বিৰোধীদলৰ মাননীয় সদস্যই কৰ্ত্তন প্রস্তাব দি বিবৃতি শুনাতে, তাত কোন আন্তৰিকতা নাই। তেখেতে ক'বাব কথা ক'বালৈ নি সানমিহলি কৰি পেলালে। তেখেতে পৰামৰ্শ দিয়াতো দূৰৰ কথা, আনকি বিষয়বস্তুৰ লগত তেখেতৰ বিবৃতি যে অসংলগ্ন হৈছে তালৈকো তেখেতৰ ভুল্ফপ নাই। ধান চাউলৰ কথা ক'বলৈ গৈ cement ৰ কথাও টানি আনিছে। তাৰ পৰাই ভালকৈ অনুমান হয় যে তেখেতৰ এই বিষয়ত কোনো স্পষ্ট ধাৰনা নাই। কোনো বিষয়ত কিছু পৰিমাণে পাৰদৰ্শীতা নথকাটকৈ বিৰোধীতা কৰিবলৈ আগবঢ়াব কোনো যুক্তি থাকিব পাৰে বুলি মোৰ মনে নধৰে।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, তেখেতসকলে আমাক বুজাব নোৱাৰিলেও, মই ধৰি ললো যে তেখেত-সকলৰ কৰ্ত্তন প্রস্তাবৰ জৰিয়তে হয়তো সংগ্রহবিভাগৰ বেমেজালিৰ বিষয়েই কবলৈ বিচাৰিছিল। (Voice—yes...yes...now come to the point). যিহওক, যোৱা বানপানী, ভূমিকম্প আদি নানা বৰফৰ প্রাকৃতিক দুৰ্য্যোগত কিমান মানুহ অনু-বস্ত্ৰহীন আৰু সৰ্ব্বহাৰা হৈ হাহাকাৰত পৰিছিল—সেইটো কোনো মাননীয় সদস্যৰেই অবিদিত নহয়। তেতিয়া এই বিভাগে যি কাম কৰিছে তাৰ কাৰণে কেবল এই সদনৰ সদস্য সকলৰ পৰাই নহয় সমগ্র অসম বাসীৰ পৰাই প্রশংসা পাই আহিছে। তেখেত সকলেও কব নোৱাৰে যে এজন মানুহো খাবলৈ নাপাই মৰিছে। তথাপিও কি কাৰণে কৰ্ত্তন প্রস্তাব আনিছে মই বুজি নাপাওঁ। আৰু বেচি ভালকৈ চলাবলৈ উপদেশ দিয়াতো দূৰৰ কথা, বিষয় বস্তুকেই ভালকৈ বুজা বুলি প্রমাণ কৰিব নোৱাৰিলে তেখেতে।

যোৱাবাৰ এই বিভাগৰ ভাব শ্ৰীযুত চৌধুৰী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ হাতত আছিল। সেই সময়ত নানা বৰফ প্রাকৃতিক দুৰ্য্যোগৰ মাজত নিজে ঘূৰি ফুৰি যি দৰে কাম কৰিছিল তাক প্রশংসা নকৰি নোৱাৰি। এতিয়াও যি জনা মন্ত্ৰীৰ হাতত ভাব দিয়া হৈছে তেখেতেও সেই একে দৰে চলাব বুলি আশা কৰো। তেখেতে যে উপযুক্ত আৰু সুনিপুণ তাক অস্বীকাৰ কৰিব নোৱাৰি। Partition ৰ

যি হওক, এতিয়া যোৰ কথা হৈছে, আমাৰ জনপ্ৰিয় চৰকাৰে চোকা নজৰ ৰাখিব লাগিব যাতে আমাৰ খেতিয়ক বাইজৰ দুঃখদৈন্য দূৰ হয়, তেওলোকৰ নায্য পাওনাৰ পৰা যাতে তেওলোক ৰক্ষিত নহয়। নগৰ আৰু গাঁও সম্পৰ্কীয় কিবা হীনদেড়ি ভাব কেতিয়াবা পৰিলক্ষিত হলে তাক তৎক্ষণাত উপশম কৰিব লাগে। বিশেষকৈ আমাৰ চৰকাৰে বান্ধি দিয়া হাৰে ধানৰ দাম আমাৰ গাৱলীয়া খেতিয়ক সকলে নাপায়। এইটো গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ শিথিলতাৰ কাৰণেই হওক, সাধাৰণতে গাৱলীয়া খেতিয়ক নাইবা বিভাগীয় কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ অকৰ্মণ্যতাৰ কাৰণেই হওক, সাধাৰণতে গাৱলীয়া খেতিয়ক সকলে তেওলোকৰ নায্য পাওনাৰ পৰা ৰক্ষিত হোৱা দেখা যায়। গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে এই বিষয়ত যিটো Policy লৈছে সেইমতে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে বান্ধি দিয়া হাৰতকৈ খেতিয়কে মাত্ৰ ৮ অনা কম পাব লাগে। কিন্তু Procurement Agent সকলে খেতিয়কক ৮ অনাৰ ঠাইত কেতিয়াবা ২১০ টকা, ৭ টকালৈ কম কৈ দিয়ে। (Voice—He is supporting the Cut Motion, Sir). Sir, মই কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাব সমৰ্থন কৰা নাই আৰু সেই কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাবত সমৰ্থন কৰিবলৈ একোৱেই নাই। মই কেবল দুই এটি পৰামৰ্শ হে আগবঢ়াইছো। (Voice—চাৰ্ণৰি যোৱাকেই কুজা বোলে)।

Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: মই বুজায়েই কম, Sir. গাবৰ খেতিয়ক সকলৰ পৰা ধান সংগ্ৰহ কৰিবলৈ কিছুমান ঠাইত আমাৰ চৰকাৰে কিছুমান Procurement Agent নিয়োগ কৰিছে। সেই Procurement Agent সকলে খেতিয়ক সকলৰ পৰা ধান লৈ যায়। কিন্তু খেতিয়ক সকলে ধানৰ দাম পোৱাত যে কিমান মস্তিলত পৰে সেইটো চাব লগীয়া। ৰাইজে চৰকাৰী নিৰ্দ্ধাৰিত মূল্যতকৈ বহুত কম পায়। গোওবিলাকত এনেকুৱা কিছুমান বহুত বেমেজালি পৰিলক্ষিত হৈছে। এই সম্পৰ্কে যিবিলাক চৰকাৰী কৰ্মচাৰী নিয়োগ কৰা হৈছে তাতো বহুত গোলমাল আছে। কিন্তু তাৰ ঠাইত ২১০ টকা ৭ টকা কেনেকৈ কম বেচি হয়তো ৮ আন কম বেচি পাব লাগে। কিন্তু তাৰ ঠাইত ২১০ টকা ৭ টকা কেনেকৈ কম বেচি হয়? এই বিষয়ে মই চৰকাৰৰ বিশেষকৈ বিভাগীয় মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ৰ চোকা দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিলো। আৰু এটা মনকৰিব লগীয়া ঘটনা আছে, সেই সকলৰ ঘৰলৈ গৈ চৰকাৰী এজেন্ট বা কৰ্মচাৰী ধনী ভবনৰ মানুহৰ Surplus ধান আছে, সেই সকলৰ ঘৰলৈ গৈ চৰকাৰী এজেন্ট বা কৰ্মচাৰী ধনী ভবনৰ মানুহৰ Report দিয়ে, অথচ যাৰ ধান নাই তেওঁলোকক জুলুম সকলে তেওঁলোকৰ ধান নাই বুলি Interruption) ফলত মানুহৰ report ৰ ওপৰত নিৰ্ভৰ কৰি সংগ্ৰহ বিভাগৰ কৰ্মচাৰী সকলে ধান seize কৰাৰ order আনি seize কৰে আৰু খেতিয়ক সকলক সেই Procuring agent সকলৰ দোকানত ধান আনি দিবলৈ আদেশ দিয়ে আৰু ঠিক সময়ত আনি নিদিলে যি ইচ্ছা সকলৰ দোকানত ধান আনি দিবলৈ আদেশ দিয়ে আৰু ঠিক সময়ত আনি নিদিলে যি ইচ্ছা তাকে জৰিমনা কৰে যাৰ কাৰণত খেতিয়কে মোনে ৫/৬ টকাহে পায়। কিন্তু ৰছিদ দিয়ে চৰকাৰী নিৰ্দ্ধাৰিত দাম মতে, তাৰ মানে ৫/৬ টকাৰ ঠাইত ৮/৯ টকাৰ ৰছিদ লিখি দিয়ে। বাকী ৩/৪ টকা ক'লৈ যায় ভগবানেহে জানে। যাতায়তৰ অন্তৰ্বিধাত কৰ্মচাৰী নাইবা agent সকলে যাৰ নোৱাৰাৰ কাৰণে খেতিয়ক দায়ী নহয় যাৰ কাৰণে তেওঁলোকে কম দাম পাব। যিখিনি দাম পায় তাকো ৮/৯ মাহৰ পিছতহে ১০/১২ বাৰ গুৱাহাটীলৈ আহিহে পায়। এইবোৰ বেমেজালি সম্বন্ধে ভাল দৰে চাব বুলি আশা কৰিলোঁ। সেই বিলাক ঠাইলৈ যাৰ নোৱাৰে অথচ তেওঁবিলাকে (কৰ্মচাৰী বোৰে) মানুহৰ মুখ কথাকে বিশ্বাস কৰি কয় যে মানুহ বোৰৰ যথেষ্ট ধান আছে আৰু D. D. P. লৈকো লিখি দি বাজেয়াপ্ত কৰিবৰ কাৰণে। D. D. P. এও সেই কথাকে বিশ্বাস কৰি বাজেয়াপ্ত কৰিবলৈ ছকুম দিয়ে, কিন্তু ৬/৭ মাহৰ পিছত যেতিয়া ইনস্পেক্টৰ সকলে বাজেয়াপ্ত কৰিবলৈ গৈ ধান নেপায় তেতিয়া কয় যে তেওঁলোকে ধান বেচিলে। ফলত যিহকে পায় তাকে কৰি আহে।

কিছুমান গাঁৱত বিশেষকৈ জনজাতি উৎপাদনকাৰী সকলে ধান আনি দিব লগীয়া হয়। কিন্তু বাস্তৱ বৰ অসুবিধা কাৰণে তেওঁলোকৰ বৰ কষ্ট হয়। বাস্তৱ অভাবৰ কাৰণে তেওঁলোকক দায়ী কৰিব নোৱাৰে, সংগ্ৰহবিভাগেহে দায়ী, অথচ কষ্ট ভোগ কৰিবলগীয়া হয় সেই সৰল খেতিয়ক জনজাতি লোকসকলে। সেই কাৰণে মই আশাকৰো যে সংগ্ৰহবিভাগৰ পৰা যি টকা লাভ হয় সেই টকাৰেই আমাৰ জনজাতি অঞ্চলত, য'ত সংগ্ৰহ বিভাগে বেচিকৈ ধান সংগ্ৰহ কৰে তাত বাস্তৱ কৰি দিব লাগে। যোৱাবাৰ যেনেকৈ এই বিভাগৰ পৰা প্ৰায় ২৪ লাখ টকা লাভ কৰা টকাৰে বাস্তৱ দিছিল, ঠিক সেইদৰে এইবাবো বাস্তৱ কৰি দিব লাগে। যোৱাবাৰ যেতিয়া সংগ্ৰহবিভাগৰ লাভৰ টকাৰে বাস্তৱ দিবলৈ ঠিক কৰিছিল তেতিয়া বাস্তৱ ভাগ কৰোতে যত ধান বেচি হয় তাত বাস্তৱ নিদি এনেকুৱা ঠাইত দিছিল যি ঠাইক deficit area বুলি কৈ আন ঠাইৰ পৰা ধান আনি খুৱাব লাগিছিল। সেই কাৰণে মই কওঁ যে যত ধান বেচি হয় অৰ্থাৎ যি ঠাইৰ মানুহে আন ঠাইৰ মানুহক ধানেৰে পোহে সেইবিলাক ঠাইতহে বাস্তৱ সংগ্ৰহ বিভাগৰ পৰা হব লাগে। কাৰণ বাস্তৱ অভাৱত সেই ঠাইৰ মানুহে অনেক কষ্ট ভোগ কৰিব লগা হয়।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: আপনি বহক। আপনি যে কৈছে আঁঠু অনাৰ ঠাইত আট্ট টকাকৈ কম পায় বুলি তাৰ পৰা হাত সাৰিবৰ কাৰণে এটা উপায় দিয়ক।

Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: Sir, নিজে নিজে Procuring agent ৰ দোকানলৈ ধান আনি নিদিলে খেতিয়কে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ নিৰ্দ্ধাৰিত নিৰ্দ্ধাৰিতকৈ আঁঠু অনা কৰি কম পায়। কিন্তু তাৰ পৰিবৰ্ত্তে আট্ট টকাকৈ কম পোৱাৰ কোনো যুক্তিযুক্ততা নাই। গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ লোকচান হলেও উৎপাদনকাৰী সকলক সুবিধা কৰি দিব লাগে। ভাৰত চৰকাৰে বাহিৰৰ পৰা অনা খাদ্য বস্তুৰ দাম আচল দামতকৈ কম দামত দিয়ে, ঠিক সেই দৰে আমাৰ চৰকাৰেও বাস্তৱ অভাবত গাড়ী ভাৰা, লড়ী ভাৰা যিমানহে পৰক চৰকাৰে সেই নিৰ্দ্ধাৰিত দৰত খেতিয়ক সকলক দিব লাগে। আমাৰ চৰকাৰে বাহিৰৰ পৰা অনা খাদ্য বস্তু অ'জি আচল দৰতকৈ বহুত লোকচান কৰি মানুহক খুৱাইছে। সেই কাৰণে চাব লগে যাতে conveyance charge আঁঠু অনাতকৈ কোনো বকমে কম হব নোৱাৰে। কিয়নো অলপমান সুবিধা পালেই চৰকাৰী বিষয়া সকলে মানুহক নানা বকমৰ অসুবিধাত পেলাবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰে। গতিকে মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ক মই অনুৰোধ কৰিছো যে ইয়াৰ বাবে এটা নিয়ম কৰিব লাগে যাতে conveyance charge আঁঠু অনাতকৈ কম নহয়। ইয়াৰ লগতে আমাৰ বিপক্ষ দলৰ সদস্য শ্ৰীযুত বনেন্দ্ৰ মোহন দাস ডাঙৰীয়াকো অনুৰোধ কৰো তেখেতৰ প্ৰস্তাৱটো উঠাই লবলৈ। আশাকৰো উঠাই লব।

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thought that as my demand was very modest and probably the smallest, there would be no Cut Motion. But my hon. Friend, Mr. Das, whose name is Ranendra is determined to give a fight. He is always ready for a Ran or fight and therefore he could not restrain himself and tabled this Cut Motion (Shri Ranendra Mohon Das :—I did it on a matter of principle). Yes, Sir, exactly so, and his principle is to challenge for a fight only to court a defeat. However, Sir, I am thankful to him as he spoke a few good words in appreciating my ability and integrity. I do not know whether I deserve them or not.

Now, Sir, I shall deal with the points raised by my hon. Friends who took part in the debate. Sir, my hon. Friend, Mr. R. M. Das, was complaining about the insufficiency of details given in the Budget itself. It will be found, Sir, that six pages have been allotted for this purpose in the Budget Estimate wherein all the necessary details have been given. Not only that, Sir, in the Budget Memorandum also all relevant points, requiring explanation, in order to make them easily understandable, have been explained at length. My hon. Friend said that there were no data on the basis of which the Procurement Department could function properly. I could not understand what my Friend actually meant by "data" in respect of procurement. It is quite clear even to a layman that

when we are in deficit of certain controlled commodities we have to procure the required quantities that are necessary for our commitments. It is therefore, firstly, necessary to ascertain what is our actual requirement. Sir, the Government have got some idea about the approximate requirement of our State for the current year. I say "some idea" because the exact figures of foodgrains produced in the State cannot be obtained. We only get approximate figures from the forecasts of the Agriculture Department; they make three forecasts—and from these forecasts we assess what quantity of foodgrains we will have in our State and thereby deducting these from our requirements, we find out what will be our requirement from outside.

On the basis of these calculations we approach the Government of India for the allotment of our deficit quota of foodgrains. For the current year we wanted 2 lakh tons of foodgrains, but we have been allotted only 1 lakh 47 thousand tons.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What is the expected production in our State?

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, the annual requirement in tons in terms of rice including the unadministered area is about 14,76,400 tons of rice. The yield is 12,76,400 tons and on the basis of this we approached the Government of India for supplying us with 2 lakhs tons of foodgrains. We have been informed that we would get 1,47,000 tons. We made a request to them that as we were rice-eating people we should be given more rice than wheat. But we were told that there was no chance whatsoever of our getting more than 50 per cent. of rice. From the allotment and arrivals it is clear that there is absolutely no hope of our getting more than $\frac{1}{4}$ th of our requirements in terms of rice (*Laughter*). Sir, my hon. Friend is laughing and certainly without understanding. There is a class of persons who laughs thrice.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There is no need to refer to that.

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: You have understood, Sir, what class I mean. So I stop.

So far as the deficit of rice is concerned, I am sorry I do not find any way out of it. I can say this much and I can give this assurance to this House that there will be no scarcity of food. Rice may not be available, but wheat will be available.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: We propose to be beggars for the time being?

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: That is not our intention, Sir. Our intention is that we shall meet our demands by our own produce as far as possible and the balance should be met from the Central allotment. In previous years the Province was in a position to supply rice to others, but natural calamities.....

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Say—Flood and earthquake will take place.

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: When the last big earthquake took place, the whole world was shocked at the disaster and extended its helping hand, but my hon. Friend is laughing now. When we are thinking seriously and trying to devise ways and means so that people may not starve my Friend is laughing. The Hon'ble Finance Minister the other day termed some of our Friends as responsible Members—Is it the sample of responsibility? It is nothing but shallow childishness.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : He is talking like an astrologer. He says earthquake and flood will come.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Please neglect these things.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : I am cordial now.

The Hon'ble Shri MOTIRAM BORA : He admits that he was not cordial before. (*Laughter*).

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : So far I am concerned, Sir, I was cordial, am cordial and shall be cordial. My manners are quite different.

Government have been charged that they are not following a policy regarding levy system that is being followed in Pakistan. I do not know how many times during the last few months my hon. Friend had been to Pakistan. I spent several months there and I know what is done there. However, it is not my business to discuss Pakistan's policy. I am not going to say anything which concerns other State.

Sir, Srijut Das has condemned the procurement system saying that it is unsystematic and unsatisfactory. So far as the word unsatisfactory is concerned I can understand his intention. But I cannot understand what he means by unsystematic. Most probably he means that a uniform policy of procurement is not being followed in all the districts of the State. In the districts of Kamrup and Goalpara some restrictions have been relaxed and the procurement has suffered. Sir, he has rightly said that the district of Kamrup was really once one of the granaries of our State. But unfortunately, consecutive floods for the last 4 or 5 years have brought the food situation of the district to such a pass that we have been compelled to withdraw certain restrictions by notifications which are in force in other districts where procurement is going on. When the Government could not cope with the demands of the people, they withdrew certain restrictions which were then prevailing in other districts—such as the districts of Cachar, Nowgong, Darrang, etc. This was done only to save the people. My hon. Friend always finds big tigers in small bushes. Had there been any other motive behind it, why should it be withdrawn in one or two particular districts? That could have been applied in all other districts. Sir, because there was no other alternative, Government were compelled to do it. But I can tell this Hon'ble House that the Government is very seriously considering whether these two districts also should be brought under the same system of procurement as is prevailing in other parts. Sir, one should not grudge if there is some slackness in the system of procurement in some parts of the State to meet the emergency for a certain period of time. Formerly there was the uniform system and we are contemplating to introduce the same in the State. Nothing peculiar was done; just to meet the emergency, some restrictions were withdrawn and there was free movement within the districts; it was done only when there was scarcity in the district, but procurement has not been stopped. Most probably my Friend's idea was this, that the Hon'ble Minister who was in charge of this Department at that time belong to that district, so he did this only for his own district; but that is not a fact. I am sure that my Hon'ble Friend, Mr. Chaudhury, never dreamt of this, he was too busy at that time with the food problem that was facing the country and he had no time for thinking in that line. Besides, it was not done simply by himself, it was the policy of Government—he should not be blamed for this. I hope that my Friends who really intend to understand will now realise that there was no bad motive in this move.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Except calamities have you not got any other reasons, for example, increase of population?

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : I am coming to that, Sir. If we compare the figures we shall find that the increase during the last ten years is about 30 per cent. Before the Partition, Muslim immigrants came from Bengal and after the Partition many Hindus came from East Bengal.

The Hon'ble the S. EAKER : What is the number ?

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : The total number of population at present including unadministered areas is 98,43,707.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : What is the increase of population after Partition ?

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : If you mean the refugees, Sir, it will be to the extent of 5 to 6 lakhs.

Now, Sir, as you have rightly pointed out, cement and cloth do not come under the purview of this Cut Motion, therefore I am not touching on that point.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Standard cloth comes within the purview of the Cut Motion.

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Yes, Sir. However, I hope that the Hon'ble House will realise that it is very difficult for me to give a complete picture of the whole existing situation in the Province in the course of a reply like this. I can inform the hon. Members that I have decided to come before the House with a Motion for consideration of the food and cloth situation in our State and my Friends will get sufficient opportunity of hearing me of the actual state of affair that is prevailing in this State as well as they will have enough opportunity to give their constructive suggestions to us for the solution of the problems.

Now, Sir, some difficulties in regard to low price that is being received by the cultivators from the middlemen have been brought to our notice. I can assure my hon. Friend, Mr. Basumatari, that I shall personally look into the matter and see that nowhere in the State the poor cultivators are cheated by the middlemen due to our slackness. I shall certainly look into the matter, but as you know, Sir, that there are certain black sheeps and it is very difficult to stop it altogether ; but we shall try our level best to remove this difficulty which has been mentioned by him.

As regards roads.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I think roads do not apply here.

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Sir, I have got something to say to the credit of the Supply Department in this connection and I shall not miss this opportunity that has been given to me.....(*A voice from the Opposition—What about standard cloth ?*) As regards standard cloth, Sir, the figures as shown in the Budget Estimate are as follows—on the receipt side Rs.5,000 has been shown and on the debit side Rs.2,500. This Rs.5,000 on the receipt side was due to some adjustments. We expect to get this amount from some persons with whom Government had transactions in the past. For the information of the House I like to say specially when my Friends in the Opposition benches are so very eager to hear on the point that this Government did not lose anything on this account. The loss has been practically covered by the Central Government.

Now, Sir, in order to increase Government procurement by affording better transport facilities to the producers, the Supply Department has undertaken

construction of all-weather procurement roads at the cost of nearly 24 lakhs out of its own funds.....

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Good.

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I am glad, Sir, that the word "good" has come out of my Friend's mouth. (*Loud laughter.*)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What is the mileage ?

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: There are several roads and I cannot give the mileage off-hand, Sir. My point is this that from the laughing face of my hon. Friend Mr. Ranendra Mohan Das, it seems that I have been somehow or other given some consolation to him and he seems to be convinced of our seriousness now. Sir, if he is really serious as I am, because it is our moral and bounden duty to see that there is no food scarcity in this Province, we must find out food either from our own State or by begging or borrowing from other States so long as we cannot meet our demands from the State. I would earnestly request and expect that my hon. Friend will remember the seriousness of the situation when they go out of Shillong and should give their earnest and sincerest attention to this aspect of the affair. Sir, my Friends in the Opposition may say that this Government is not upto the mark or some particular Ministers are not quite efficient but what about the poor people of our country who want food and cloth. Are they also bad because the majority of them voted against the Oppositionists ? For our drawbacks, they should not be prejudiced which may bring chaos in this country. Therefore, I shall request all my hon. Friends in this House to pay full attention to this aspect of the affair and to give us assistance which we will welcome in the best of spirit and I can give this assurance that there would be no lacking of friendly sympathy and sincere co-operation from this side of the House in this regard. Sir, I trust that the position is now clear to my Friends.

(*Voice—Amen.*)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Will the hon. mover withdraw his Cut Motion ?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: I beg leave of the House to withdraw the Cut Motion as the Hon'ble Minister has given a bold assurance.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1953 for the administration of the head "85-A.—Capital Outlay on Schemes of State Trading".

(The Cut Motion was adopted.)

GRANT No.36

(63—Extraordinary Charges)

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, Sir, I beg to move that a sum

not exceedings Rs.21,92,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1953 for the administration of the head "63—Extraordinary Charges".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs.21,92,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1953 for the administration of the head '63—Extraordinary Charges'."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There is a Cut Motion in the name of Shri Ghana Kanta Gogoi. Will he move it?

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.21,92,300 under Grant No.36, major head—63.—Extraordinary Charges, at page 253 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.21,92,300 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, my idea of moving this Cut Motion is inviting an explanation from Hon'ble Mr. Mookerjee to give us exact information of what he is going to do with the money earmarked for consumer goods scheme. I would also want an assurance from him whether our people will be supplied with adequate quota of cloth and yarn, or not?

I will not speak more. I shall be satisfied with a reply from the Hon'ble Minister.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved is: "That the total provision of Rs.21,92,300 under Grant No.36, major head—63.—Extraordinary Charges, at page 253 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.21,92,300 do stand reduced by Re.1."

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very glad that my hon. Friend without indulging in unnecessary criticism has asked for certain clarification as well as certain assurances from me.

So far as the first part of my Friend's query is concerned, I can tell him that this amount which he has mentioned was earmarked against consumer goods scheme is meant for purchasing cement, iron and steel materials by the Government Agent. Sir, besides this amount which is going to be spent, it will be found that there is a bigger amount of a few lakhs which has been credited on the receipt side. The amount for which I have come before the House is not for nothing but for the purchase of cement, iron and steel materials through our Procuring Agent in Calcutta. After procuring the allotted quotas, they are distributed districtwise according to the availability of the stock with the Calcutta stockists of ours according to the allotment made by us.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: May I know what is the actual price in Calcutta and the prevailing price here? From the information that I got, the price of cement in Calcutta is Rs.5 and a few annas, but the price of the same is much higher here in Assam.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: This question need not be replied to as you know the information you want.

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Regarding the assurance Mr. Gogoi wants about adequate supply of cloth and yarn to our people.

Sir, I shall require five minutes more to reply so the time for the sitting of the House may be extended to 12-05 before lunch.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : You may continue.

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : A quota is allotted to us by the Central Government, which fact I believe is well known to all our hon. Friends. As we have no mill of our own, naturally we have got to depend on the Central Government allotment, which is based on population basis. We are trying our level best to lift the quotas and to distribute the same here also on population basis. Now, Sir, a situation has arisen which fact also I am sure, is well known to my hon. Friends, that so far as fine and superfine cloths are concerned, the Government of India have withdrawn certain restrictions and they have asked the millowners to sell any quantity of these varieties to any party of their choice. But so far as medium and coarse varieties are concerned, they have not withdrawn the restriction which was in force before.

Now, Sir, the cloth market is very shy at present. The procuring agents are rather afraid to lift the quotas, because they think that while the prices of some commodities are going down at present, the price of cloth also might go down further and as a result of that they might incur loss. The present system is this, that we give certain percentage of profit to the procuring agents, certain percentage to the wholesalers and certain percentage to the retail sellers. Therefore, Sir, I am afraid that unless the price of cloth stabilises, there might be some difficulty in the regular lifting of our full quotas. We are very seriously considering this aspect of the matter in order to avoid a serious situation that is likely to happen in case of further withdrawal of restrictions by the Central Government and consequent fall in prices.

In regard to yarn also I may say that the quotas allotted to us are being distributed through the Central Co-operative Societies—they give it to the license holders, P. T. Cs and others retailers. Some quantities of this quota are earmarked and distributed to certain class of weavers as well as certain cottage industries and some to certain other organisations such as Mahila Samity and the like. In certain Districts of Assam yarn is in great demand and we are trying to meet the same equitably according to our stock position.

Sir, I am really very sorry that I cannot give my hon. Friend the assurance he wants from me, regarding plenty of cloth and yarn because we are entirely dependent on the Central Government in regard to allotment of our quota and as such we shall not be in a position to supply our people with the required quantity of cloth and yarn as per their demand. However, Sir, we are trying to have a spinning mill established in Assam so that we may get some yarn for our State without delay caused by transport difficulty and as regards counts also we shall have them as per our choice.

Owing to the present difficulties in transport, Sir, I may say that sometimes it takes 3 to 6 months to bring our quotas of yarn to our State by steamer—which is practically the only means of transport now. We all know that the space available to bring our goods by railway is not at all adequate. Therefore, Sir, we are dependent on the Central Government not only in regard to our quota of cloth and yarn but also in regard to allotment of space in the Railways and the steamer. These are the main difficulties that stand in our way in regard to cloth and yarn in our State. But I can assure the hon. Member that this Government will try their best to improve the situation. We are no less eager than the Friends in the Opposition to meet all these contingencies as far as it is humanly possible.

The next point to which I want to give a reply is that sometimes it so happens that a certain quantity of cloth or yarn originally meant for one place has got to be diverted to another area to meet the emergency there. Sometimes it also so happens that to facilitate speedy arrival and to avoid undue delay in transport some agents bring the quota allotted for one place to another convenient area and then it is distributed according to the quota fixed for the areas according to allotment. There might be one or two such instances, but it is never done with any bad motive.

In view of what I have stated, Sir, I hope the hon. Member will see his way to withdraw the Cut Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Do you want to withdraw your Motion ?

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: Sir, having heard the explanation given by the Hon'ble Minister in-charge saying that he is trying his best to satisfy the need of the people to the best of his ability, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.21,92,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1953 for the administration of the head "63.—Extraordinary Charges".

(The Motion was adopted.)

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 1 05 P. M.

After lunch

GRANT NO.41

(82.—Capital Accounts of other Provincial Works outside the Revenue Accounts)

The Hon'ble Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.11,04,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1953 for the administration of the head—"82.—Capital Accounts of other Provincial Works outside the Revenue Account".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs.11,04,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1953 for the administration of the head—"82.—Capital Accounts of other Provincial Works outside the Revenue Account."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion No.1 is in the name of Shri Mahammud Umaruddin. He is absent.

Shri Ghana Kanta Gogoi may move his Cut Motion.

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.11,04,400 under Grant No.41, major head—82.—Capital Account of other Provincial Works outside the Revenue Account, at page 267 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.11,04,400 do stand reduced by Re.1.

By this, I want to raise a general discussion.

Sir, I find, under this head, there is provision for roads, buildings and water supply. Sir, there are many refugees scattered in Upper Assam Districts who are in need of water supply and they are also asking for making roads

The Hon'ble Shri MOTIRAM BORA : On a point of information, Sir, my Friend appears to be irrelevant.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Will you please read the relevant item at page 267 of the Budget ?

(After a pause)

Then will you withdraw the Motion ?

(Shri Gogoi then resumed his seat.)

The Hon'ble Shri MOTIRAM BORA : My friend Mr. Gogoi has withdrawn the Motion, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Shri Siddhinath Sarma will please explain, because he has mixed up rehabilitation and all that.

The Hon'ble Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are five schemes, for development, communications and sites for five rehabilitation centres which are sanctioned by the Government of India. The schemes are as follows :—

The Baghbar Scheme includes 13 miles of road ; the second scheme of Kauli includes 8 miles of roads, 2 miles canal and 5 wells. The Goalpara scheme includes 6 small roads, 50 wells, some educational buildings, costing fifteen thousand rupees, and a scheme for dispensaries costing Rs.17,500. The Nowgong scheme includes roads costing Rs.20,000 and 5 wells costing Rs.4,000. The Mangaldai scheme includes roads costing Rs.5,000, five wells, estimated cost of which is Rs.25,000, schools for Rs.5,400 and for medical aid for Rs.3,500. The provision for these schemes has been made. These five schemes have been taken up by the Government of Assam for which money will be ultimately provided by the Government of India.

Srijut BIMALA KANTA BORA : What is the mileage in Nowgong district ?

The Hon'ble Shri MOTIRAM BORA : Not more than a mile near Lumding side.

Shri GIRINDRANATH GOGOI : What is the mileage in Sibsagar ?

The Hon'ble Shri MOTIRAM BORA : There is no scheme for Sibsagar.

The Hon'ble Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : Sir, the work has been entrusted to the Public Works Department, but the works for school buildings will be done departmentally.

Shri GIRINDRANATH GOGOI : What is the basis of selection ?

The Hon'ble Shri MOTIRAM BORA : The availability of land for refugees is the main criterion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is : "That a sum not exceeding Rs.11,04,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1953 for the administration of the head—'82.—Capital Accounts of other Provincial Works outside the Revenue Account'."

(The Motion was adopted.)

GRANT NO.29

52-A.—Other Revenue Expenditure connected with Electricity Schemes)

The Hon'ble Shri RAMNATH DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.43,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1953 for the administration of the head—"52-A.—Other Revenue Expenditure connected with Electricity Scheme."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.43,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1953 for the administration of the head—52-A.—Other Revenue Expenditure connected with Electricity Schemes".

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.43,300 under Grant No.29, major head—52-A.—Other Revenue Expenditure connected with Electricity Schemes, at page 226 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i. e. the amount of the whole grant of Rs.43,300 do stand reduced by Re.1.

The object of my tabling this Cut Motion is to criticise Government for its failure to nationalise electric supply concerns at Shillong, Gauhati, etc.

In moving this Motion, Sir, I don't want to take much of the time of this Hon'ble House. The other day when I moved a Cut Motion on Grant No.30.—"Capital outlay on Electricity Schemes", I had the opportunity of placing my suggestions and also my observations on the floor of this House with regard to what should be the policy of the Government as regards electricity schemes, and therein I urged that the Government should seriously consider and take steps for taking over the Shillong Hydro-Electric concern and the Gauhati Electric Supply Corporation. In that connection I had also the opportunity of explaining though very shortly the necessity of taking over these concerns not only from the point of view of Government revenue in the long run, but also for the sake of development of our industries—medium, small as well as cottage. We know from the experience of different countries, for example Japan and Soviet Union and other countries that by utilising electric power the medium and small industries can be developed very rapidly and at a very great profit. We know that at one time, before the war, Japanese goods were flooding our markets and we know that those goods were not only produced in very large industries, but also in medium and small industrial concerns. So, if our Government takes over these potent and latent concerns like the Shillong Hydro-Electric and Gauhati Electric Supply Corporation then our Government will be able to encourage and develop at least medium and small industries in our State.

Sir, when these concerns are private concerns they are naturally in the hands of the capitalists, whose aim is to make profit immediately. At the same time a private capitalist may not be expected to have a long and nation-building outlook. He will see how greater profit the investment will bring. But when a Government takes such a scheme, it would not only look to the immediate revenue, but also would be looking to the betterment of the country in the future with the development of industries. A private electric supply concern may not have the same outlook. We have seen even in Gauhati where there is an electric supply concern that some people who are starting medium and small industries are not getting any electric power for running those industries. Many such people are applying for electric power, but they are not getting it. I know of a particular friend of mine who has been recently granted an industrial loan of Rs.10,000 by Government and that he has been applying to the Gauhati Electric Supply Corporation for getting power so that he can utilise the machine which he has

installed. But, Sir, he has not got that electric supply as yet. As a result, even this loan granted by Government is not being properly utilised. So, if Government takes over these concerns, they may not get great profit immediately, but in the long run, or even after some years, these schemes which are taken with a broad outlook will bring a big amount of money to this State.

When Lenin came to power in Russia the first thing that he impressed upon the Government was the necessity of electricity. When he was asked by some foreign correspondents what was the prime necessity of the Soviet Government at that time, Lenin did not say it was army or navy or police force. He said that Soviet Union needed electricity first and foremost ; because that leader of the Soviet Government had very broad outlook and long perspective. So in 30 years, Russia has become one of the most prosperous countries in the world. And as I have already said, in the pre-war days Japan became a prosperous country. The Government of India has no doubt appreciated to a certain extent the urgency and necessity of this scheme and therefore they had passed the Electric Supply Act of 1948. In 1949 the Government of India had asked and empowered the Provincial Governments to appoint some Electricity Boards so as to encourage the exploitation of electric power and its proper utilisation. Accordingly, we know that some Provincial Governments like Madras and Orissa have taken the suggestion and they have appointed Electricity Boards and have tried to develop this power for the improvement of the people in these provinces. Here, in these grants we find that our Government has deemed it fit to appoint an Electrical Adviser. We do not know anything further. I refer to page 227 of the Budget, because there is some item, "Special pay of Electrical Adviser". As it appears, he has been given a special pay of only Rs.1,800. So, it appears that this officer has other duties as well. Government, it seems, is only giving part-time job to one officer. Therefore, it appears that Government is not very serious about the exploitation of these natural resources which are abundant in our country. My intention in moving this Cut Motion is to draw the attention of the Government to the urgent necessity of taking over the electric supply concerns at Shillong and Gauhati. As I said the other day, our Government should have a very broad outlook, should have a long view of things. On the industrialisation of our country depends the prosperity of the country and therefore such electric power as may be available should be utilised fully. I hope that the Hon'ble Minister will accept my suggestion and will please see that the Government takes more interest in the matter and utilises the money in this respect to the best interest of the country and does the best for helping the country to grow and prosper. With these few words I beg to move that the provision of Rs.43,300 under Grant No.29, major head—52-A.—Other Revenue Expenditure connected with Electricity Schemes be reduced by Re.1.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved—

"That the total provision of Rs.43,300 under Grant No.29, major head—52-A.—Other Revenue Expenditure connected with Electricity Schemes, at page 226 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole Grant of Rs.43,300 do stand reduced by Re.1".

The Hon'ble Shri RAMNATH DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully appreciate the point of view regarding the importance and need of cheap electricity of my hon. Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, who has moved this Motion. But I would like to bring to his notice that falling in line with his ideas Government have already undertaken a scheme, which is called the Umtru Scheme about which we had discussions on Saturday last. We have undertaken that scheme in order to develop electric power and we are taking steps to complete it in the year 1955-56. In addition to that, Sir, the Government of India also examined certain other big schemes for Assam, but unfortunately after the earthquake those schemes were temporarily abandoned and the Umtru Scheme is the only scheme which is left

for execution. For the Umtru Scheme we have budgeted the required funds in the current year and we shall execute it as speedily as possible. The other schemes investigated by India have not also been abandoned for good.

Then, Sir, my hon. Friend wanted Government to nationalise the Shillong Hydro-Electric concern and the Gauhati Electric concern. Advancing arguments for such a course of action, he said that the Gauhati concern had not been able to give the required amount of power which was wanted by the consumers. It may be so, Sir, but I would like to bring to his notice that when the Umtru project will be completed, it will give power for Gauhati, Pandu, Palashbari and other areas. If we now take over the Gauhati concern, which is an old concern, then along with the supply of energy from Umtru project to Gauhati area, the machineries of the present undertaking will not be necessary. Therefore, Sir, it is not desirable for us to take over the Gauhati concern at present. In addition to that, Sir, we feel that the development of a country does not depend only on nationalisation of the existing concerns. It depends on development of power which can be had even by allowing the existing concerns to run and if possible, adding to them other power projects run by Government.

Sir, the Shillong Electric concern has given us an assurance that they would generate more power within three years. They have also assured us that they would extend their facilities to different areas by establishing sub-stations mainly one at Laban and the other one at Nongthymmai. In view of this we do not think that we should take over this concern now.

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

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA: I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Cut Motion.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is: That a sum not exceeding Rs.43,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1953 for the administration of the head—"52-A.—Other Revenue Expenditure connected with Electricity Schemes".

(The Motion was adopted).

GRANT NO.11

(27.—Administration of Justice)

The Hon'ble Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.10,34,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March 1953 for the administration of the head "27.—Administration of Justice."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.10,34,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March 1953 for the administration of the head—27.—Administration of Justice."

Shri Ranendra Mohan Das may move his Cut Motion.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.2,61,891 under Grant No.11, major head 27.—Administration of Justice, minor head—D.—District and Sessions Judges (total), at page 60 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.10,34,900 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, in moving this Cut Motion I would like to discuss the judicial administration in the State in general and the state of things in my home district of Cachar in particular.

Sir, with regard to the first point, *viz.*, separation of judiciary from the executive, this is the burning need of the day. The Congress cried for it and the Congress is now in power and they are pledged by their election manifesto to effect separation of judiciary from the executive. I therefore hope that such separation will be done soon permanently. I hope our Government will take early steps to effect this separation permanently.

Regarding the second point, the administration of justice in my home district of Cachar is far from satisfactory. After Partition, a part of Karimganj Subdivision has been added to the district of Cachar. Consequently the population has become double than what it had been before the Partition. With this increase in population and area there is no corresponding increase in the machinery of magistracy or judicial administration. The Local Bar, representing the views of the litigant public, approached the Government more than once for appointing a District and Sessions Judge for the district of Cachar. But it is regrettable that their demand though justified was not considered by the Government. To add an insult to the injury, Government has thrust a Special Judge to replace the old Additional District Judge for the district. It is known to all that the situation of the kind that actuated for the appointment of a Special Judge ceased to exist. The relation between all communities is very cordial. Moreover, Sir, about the legal bearing and propriety of appointment of such special judges by the Government, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and the Hon'ble High Court of Assam made strong aspersions in various cases. Further, a huge money has also been spent for the appointment of Special Judges unnecessarily. It is regrettable to say that for the last two years 40 sessions cases and 700 appeal cases are lying undisposed. There has arisen more complication as a part of Karimganj subdivision which is a permanently settled area has been included in Cachar. As such more Magistrates and Judges are necessary for the speedy disposal of cases, otherwise the whole thing of Law and Justice will be frustrated. I would therefore request the Government to place a District and Sessions Judge and a Sub-Judge for Cachar District. Similar is the case with Subdivisional courts. So far as Karimganj courts are concerned, there are many cases pending since the last 3 or 4 years. So there should be an increase in the number of magistrates and clerks in the office of the Subdivisional Officer and Registration offices. With these words, I would like to move my Cut Motion that the provision of Rs.2,61,891 under Grant No.11, major head 27—Administration of Justice, minor head—D.—District and Sessions Judges (total), at page 60 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, amount of the whole grant of Rs.10,34,900 do stand reduced by Re.1.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved :

“ That the provision of Rs.2,61,891 under Grant No.11, Major head—27.—Administration of Justice, Minor head—D. —District and Sessions Judges (total), at page 60 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, amount of the whole Grant Rs.10,34,900 do stand reduced by Re.1”.

The Hon'ble Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: I am thankful to the hon. Mover of the Cut Motion, as he has given me an opportunity of explaining our Government's position in the matter. I shall first reply to the hon. Mover of the Cut Motion on the local grievances of Cachar. Hon. Members of the House know it well that before the Partition, the district of Cachar was included in the Surma Valley under a District and Sessions Judge with headquarters at Sylhet. After Partition, while Sylhet was transferred and when our High Court came into being, it became necessary to reconstitute a judgeship. After the transfer of Sylhet, when Karimganj was added to Assam, the question of giving one District and Sessions Judge at Silchar engaged our serious attention and we called for a report from the District Judge to see whether the figures would justify giving one District Judge for Cachar alone. On receipt of figures from the District Judge it was found that the figures did not at all justify having one District and Sessions Judge for Cachar.

After that we decided to give one Additional Judge with headquarters at Silchar. There is more accumulation of cases and we are conscious of this position and we have sufficiently increased the number of judges. For the information of the House I may say that we have already decided to post one Subordinate Judge at Silchar. Of course, I admit that certain inconveniences are being experienced by the litigant public with regard to bail petitions. For remedying this we have written to the District Judge to delegate the powers to the Additional Judge.

Regarding the question of separation of judiciary from the executive, we have already taken steps into the matter. But owing to some practical difficulties we have decided that this should be done in instalments. We have framed certain rules with regard to the separation of superior judicial service from the executive; we have submitted these rules for comments to the High Court. The comments have been received and as soon as we finish our examination of these rules we shall certainly take up the matter of separating the judiciary from the executive. I hope in view of the steps taken by the Government, the hon. Mover of the Cut Motion will withdraw his Motion.

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

Shri MOHENDRA NATH DEKA: I do not want to move my Cut Motion.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.10,34,900 under Grant No.11, Major head—27.—Administration of Justice, a page 54 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.10,34,900 do stand reduced by Re.1.

The object of this Motion, Sir, is to criticise the Government for its failure to do justice to the accused of what is known as the Naliapool-Dibrugarh case in spite of the High Court judgment declaring the Special Court and the convictions ordered by that Court as illegal.

The Hon'ble Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Members of the House know that the West Bengal Special Courts Act has been held *ultra-vires* and following that decision our Assam High Court has also held Section 5 of our Assam Special Courts Act *ultra-vires* of the Article 14 of the Constitution of India. The Hon'ble the High Court has ordered that some of the accused in the Naliapool case must manifestly take trial under an ordinary court of law, and we are making necessary arrangements for their trial before an ordinary court of law. So, Sir, I consider that this matter is *sub-judice* and I do not think it will be proper to discuss the merits or demerits of the case here.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What Mr. Bhattacharyya got to say?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I do not want to go into the merit or demerit of the case, Sir, I think, it will be clear from my Motion. I have said that I want to criticise the Government for their failure to implement the order given by the High Court. I say this, Sir, because I have here before me a letter from some of the accused in the Naliapool case.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What is the object of the hon. Member? The letter which has been received by the hon. Member is not under discussion.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: But Sir, if the Hon'ble Minister's explanation had made it clear that these accused are under-trial prisoners and not convicts that would have been understandable. But my point is in respect of the High Court's judgment declaring section 5 of the Special Courts Act of 1950 illegal and the convictions ordered by that Special Court were also

illegal. My information is that these persons are being treated as convicts and not as under-trial prisoners. So, I want to.....

The Hon'ble Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: I have already stated, Sir, about the High Court's order. It is like this—"Manifestly they must stand trial in the ordinary court of law" and we are making arrangements for their trial as ordered by the High Court, Sir. That is why I say the case is *sub-judice*.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I find here a communication from the Legal Remembrancer that the order of the High Court is "Manifestly they must stand trial in the ordinary court of law", and I also understand that the Police are taking up the matter. The matter will go to the proper court for trial. So this case is *sub-judice* and I disallow the Motion.

Now I put the main Motion. The question is:—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.10,34,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1953 for the administration of the head '27.—Administration of Justice'."

(The Motion was adopted.)

GRANT No.26

(47.—Miscellaneous Departments)

The Hon'ble Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.4,55,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March 1953 for the administration of the head—" 47—Miscellaneous Departments ".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

" That a sum not exceeding Rs.4,55,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1953 for the administration of the head ' 47—Miscellaneous Departments '."

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.4,55,000 under Grant No.26, major head—47.—Miscellaneous Departments, at page 213 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.4,55,000 do stand reduced by Re.1. My object in moving this Motion is to raise a general discussion. My Friend our Leader will speak in support of this Motion, Sir.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise here to criticise the labour policy of the Government. To me the Labour Department of the Government is more an employers' department established to help the employers rather than do good to the labourers. Sir, whenever we approach the Labour Department we find this Department is more hand in gloves with the employers and particularly the white employers than with labour. Sir, when I make these charges I do so knowing full well what it means. Sir, I have been engaged in labour activities since I began my political life. I have seen how this Department has been working.

Sir, labour is a vital problem here. In the tea gardens 10 lakhs of labourers are working ; in the Assam Oil Company over 13 thousand labourers are working; in the Railways about 40 thousand labourers are working and in the R. S. N. and I. G. N. about 2 thousand labourers are working. Although all these industries do not come within the purview of the Provincial Government, yet, Sir, in the

matters of details and in the matter of doing justice to the workers, the Provincial Government is also interested and concerned.

Sir, this House knows perhaps about a letter written by Mr. Walsh, the Labour Officer of the Indian Tea Association and which was freely circulated. The Assamese rendering of that letter runs as follows:—

“ডাঙৰীয়া, ইণ্ডিয়ান নেচনেল ট্ৰেড ইউনিয়ন কংগ্ৰেছ আৰু অসমৰ প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী (সেই সময়ৰ প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী মাননীয় ওগোপীনাথ বৰদলৈ) এ শিৱসাগৰৰ বাবু ববীন্দ্ৰনাথ কাকতিৰ ওপৰত অসম উপত্যকাৰ চাহ বাগানৰ বনুৱা সকলক সংগঠিত কৰাৰ দায়িত্ব অৰ্পণ কৰিছে।

বাবু ববীন্দ্ৰনাথ কাকতিক এই সংগঠন কাৰ্য্যত সহায় কৰাৰ উদ্দেশ্যে যোৱা ৯ জুলাই তাৰিখে, Indian Tea Association ৰ অসম শাখাৰ চেয়াৰমেন আৰু Labour Adviserৰ উপস্থিতি হোৱা এখন মিটিংত এইটো সিদ্ধান্ত কৰা হয় যে সকলো চাহ বাগানৰ মেনেজাৰ সকলক জনাই দিবৰ কাৰণে বাবু ববীন্দ্ৰনাথ কাকতিয়ে তেওঁৰ অনুমোদিত বনুৱা কৰ্মী সকলৰ এখন নাম-তালিকা আমাৰ অফিচত দাখিল কৰিব। মিটিংত এইটোও স্থিৰ হয় যে, এই বনুৱা কৰ্মী সকলৰ হাতত বাবু ববীন্দ্ৰনাথ কাকতিৰ চহী থকা এখন প্ৰমান পত্ৰও থাকিব লাগিব। ইয়াৰ পৰা এইটোকে বুজিব লাগিব যে, এনে প্ৰমান পত্ৰ দেখুৱাব নোৱাৰা বনুৱা কৰ্মী সকলক মেনেজাৰ সকলে কোনো প্ৰকাৰৰে সন্নিবিধা নিদিব পাৰে। যদি প্ৰমান পত্ৰ দেখুৱা কোনো লোকে বাগানৰ মাটিৰ ভিতৰত মিটিং পাতিবৰ নিমিত্তে অনুমতি বিচাৰি আবেদন জনায় তেন্তে সেই আবেদন বাবু ববীন্দ্ৰনাথ কাকতিলৈ পঠাই দিব লাগে।

এই মিটিংতে বাবু ববীন্দ্ৰনাথ কাকতিয়ে প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতি দি কয় যে তেওঁৰ অনুমোদিত কৰ্মী সকলে বনুৱাৰ সভা সমিতি বোৰত যিবোৰ বক্তৃতা দিব তাৰ কেৱল উদ্দেশ্যৰে Trade Union ৰ নীতিমতে বনুৱা সকলক সংঘ বন্ধকৰা আৰু এই বক্তৃতাবোৰত মালিক কতৃপক্ষ আৰু বনুৱা সকলৰ মাজত বৰ্ত্তমান নীতি চলি থকা সম্পৰ্ক ক্ষুণ্ণ কৰিব পৰা কোনো প্ৰকাৰৰে অবৈধ কথা নাথাকে।

আপোনাৰ বিশ্বাস ভাজন

ৱালচ্, লেবাৰ অফিচাৰ ”

The sum and substance of this letter is giving of monopoly agency to Shri Rabindra Nath Kakoti to run the labour work.

Sir, I remember, in the year 1938, the present Hon'ble Labour Minister, Mr. Omeo Kumar Das, who was not a Minister then moved a Bill in this House known as Tea Estates Labourers' Freedom of Movement Bill. We know how the difficulties of the tea garden labours are perpetuated by tea garden authorities. Labourers in tea gardens are not allowed to move about freely. If we want to get into the gardens, we are not allowed to do so although they control lakhs of acres of tea garden land. Not only that, Sir, in the last general election when our workers wanted to go into the gardens they were refused to go into the gardens. I have got copies of letter on this subject. With such state of affairs, was there a free and fair election? I know also that in the tea gardens of Assam, Indian National Trade Union Congress alone does not exist, there are many other well known Trade Unions. Yet Indian National Trade Union Congress alone was allowed to participate in the deliberations of the Tripartite Conference. There is a partisan bias in it. Indian National Trade Union Congress has become the like labour front of Herr Hitler.

Sir, leaving aside tea garden labours, I will come to other labours also. I find that there is an important Union, the R. S. N. and I. G. N. Company Labour Union. There was a case pending before the Industrial Tribunal of this Union in 1950. The case was about to be heard by the District and Sessions Judge, Mr. Ikram Rasul, on the 20th February, but somehow immediately after the appointment of a new Labour Commissioner, the case was transferred to the Industrial Tribunal, the Special Judge of which was Mr. I. P. Baruah, a retired

Sessions Judge. We know that the appointment of Mr. I. P. Barua was questionable as it was not in accordance with the Industrial Dispute Act, because there is a provision under which a Judge of the High Court rank is entitled to be appointed as Judge of this Industrial Tribunal. In the case of Mr. Barua, he was not entitled to be the Judge of that Tribunal because he was also of overage. Soon after Mr. I. P. Barua was appointed Judge of the Industrial Tribunal, the case was transferred to him overnight. The Union was not represented in the case and there was an *ex-parte* decision. After the decision there were various points which were to be settled but they have not been taken up for settlement up till today. In this way, we cannot placate labour.

I find that the whole attitude towards labour is wrong. We should not try to do good to the labour population as a sign of mercy which we show to beggars. The labour has a right to have a better standard of living, but that is forgotten, that is ignored! These rights are recognised in the Constitution and we can't ignore them. The labour problem is treated as if we are doing something to show mercy or favour to them.

We have also seen that a Tripartite Conference was held in 1950. Some tentative decisions were arrived at, but have any of these decisions given effect to? Why this could not be done when there is one Labour Commissioner, one Assistant Commissioner and five Labour Officers? Have they not got time enough to implement these decisions? Even today the Minimum Wages Act has not been given effect to. May I know when the Minimum of Wages Act will be implemented, whereas this Minimum of Wages Act has already been implemented by other industries in other States? But in tea industry it has not been implemented for some reason or other. Perhaps, it was to placate the Indian Tea Association so that they can get votes through the Indian Tea Association.

I have also seen that the Labour Officers are behaving like figureheads. When troubles in tea gardens or anywhere are reported to them, they go straight to the employers, but not to the employees. When a strike is pending, then they will take the help of the Industrial Dispute Act. But in this piece of legislation there is a provision for stopping lockouts also, but they do not apply this provision when employees go on strike. Sir, I have seen that in various cases of involuntary unemployment which takes place say for want of coal or want of raw materials the mills are closed and the labours are not given pay for the days the mills remained closed but they do not realise the fact that these labourers have got to feed themselves and their dependents and in order to purchase food-stuff they must get pay. But not only that they are not given pay, but even I know of cases in which after the period of involuntary unemployment is over some workers were not taken back into their respective jobs.

Sir, I also see that the Trade Union Act and other rules pertaining to labour are often violated. There is a provision under which the Government have framed rules and in accordance with a rule trade union has got to submit monthly returns (over and above the annual returns) to Government and on the failure of submission of such returns it has been found that registrations of trade unions have been cancelled by Government. All the trade unions, specially, trade unions of the Assam Railways and Steamer Companies cannot be expected to submit monthly returns when they have got far-flung activities of multifarious nature. I cannot see the justification in cancelling the registrations of such trade union for the mere fault of failure to submit monthly returns. I do not think that this is the practice in other States.

With these words, I support the Cut Motion moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. Gogoi. Until the outlook of the Labour Department is changed and until the labour population is allowed to live like other human beings, till then it will not be easy to get rid of strikes and other such things.

Shri JADUNATH BHUYAN: মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমার বন্ধু পলাশবাৰীৰ সদস্যজনে শ্রমিক সম্পর্কে যি Cut Motion আনিছে.....(interruption).

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: তেখেতে Cut Motion অনা নাই।

Shri JADUNATH BHUYAN: আমার মবানৰ সদস্যজনে যি কৰ্ত্তন প্রস্তাব আনিছে আৰু তাকে সমর্থন কৰি পলাশবাৰীৰ সদস্যজনে সেই সম্পর্কে যিখিনি কথা কৈছে, তাৰ পৰা মোৰ অনুমান হৈছে যে তেখেতে কথাবিলাক কওঁতে তাৰ প্রসঙ্গৰে কিছু অংশ এৰি থৈ গৈছে। সেইটো সদায় ইচ্ছা কৰিয়েই বোধকৰো তেখেতে কৰে।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমি যিবিলাক গান্ধীবাদী মানুহ আছো, সেই সকলে সদায় সকলো বিষয়তে সন্মানিত আপোচৰ নীতিত বিশ্বাস কৰো। আনহাতে, Socialist আৰু Communist সকলে শ্রেণী সংঘৰ্ষত বিশ্বাস কৰে। তেখেত সকলে শ্রেণী সংঘৰ্ষৰ দ্বাৰা এটা বিশৃঙ্খলাৰ সৃষ্টি কৰাৰ পক্ষপাতী। আনহাতে, বনুৱা বিভাগৰ জৰিয়তে শিল্পপতি আৰু শ্রমিকৰ মাজত এটা সৌহার্দ্যপূৰ্ণ আবহাওৱাৰ সৃষ্টি কৰি কংগ্ৰেছ চৰকাৰে সুকলমে কাম চলাবলৈ বিচাৰে। এই দৰে সহযোগীতাৰে সৈতে কাম কৰাটো কংগ্ৰেছৰ আদৰ্শ। এই আদৰ্শ তেই অনুপ্রাণিত হৈ এটা আপোচ সিদ্ধান্তত উপনীত হোৱাৰ মানস কৰিয়েই শিল্পপতি, শ্রমিক আৰু কংগ্ৰেছ চৰকাৰৰ বনুৱা বিভাগ— এই তিনিটা দল একত্ৰিত কৰিবলৈকেই ত্ৰিদলীয় সন্মিলনৰ সৃষ্টি। মই ইয়াত এইখিনিতেই জোৰ দিছো যে, সকলো ক্ষেত্ৰতে শ্রেণী সংঘৰ্ষৰ দ্বাৰা বিশৃঙ্খলা কৰাতকৈ আপোচ মিমাংসাৰ জৰিয়তে এটা সিদ্ধান্তত উপনীত হোৱাই শ্রেয়ঃ। আগতে মাননীয় সদস্যজনে শ্রীৰবীণ কাকতিৰ সম্পর্কে কিবা চিঠি লিখা কথা উল্লেখ কৰিছে, তাৰ কিমানখিনি সত্যতা আছে তালৈ নগৈও যদি চিঠি দিয়া বুলিয়েই ধৰা হয়, তেন্তে সেইটোও এই উপৰোক্ত আদৰ্শৰ প্ৰতীকহে। সেই চিঠিৰ উদ্দেশ্যও হৈছে, মজদুৰ সকলৰ যিখিনি অভাৱ আছে তাৰ নিৰাবণাৰ্থে শিল্পপতি সকলৰ সহযোগীতা বিচৰা। যদি তেনেকৈও মিমাংসা নহয়, তেন্তে চৰকাৰ আছে, চৰকাৰে আৰু শিল্পপতি সকলে মিলি এটা নিষ্পত্তি কৰিব। গতিকে আমাৰ যি অনুস্থান প্ৰতিস্থা কৰাৰ প্ৰয়াস কৰা হৈছে, তাত তেখেতসকলৰ নিচিনা যুদ্ধৰ সাজেৰে অগ্ৰসৰ নহৈ, শিল্পপতিসকলৰ ওপৰত বিশ্বাস স্থাপন কৰি সহযোগীতাৰ সাজেৰে বনুৱা সকলৰ যি অভাৱ-অভিযোগ, আপদ-বিপদ আছে, তাক দূৰ কৰিব পাৰি কেনেকৈ তাৰহে চেষ্টা কৰা হৈছে। সেই কাৰণে সেই চিঠি লেখা যদি সত্য বুলিও ধৰা হয়, তাৰ ভিতৰত যিখিনি মূল কথা আছে, সি আমাৰ আদৰ্শৰ লগত খাপ খোৱা কথা, কোনো দলৰ বা শ্রেণীৰ লগত বিৰোধীতা কৰা কথা নহয়।

দ্বিতীয়তে, তেখেতে কৈছে যে নিৰ্বাচনৰ সময়ত কংগ্ৰেছী লোক সকলে অন্যান্য দলৰ লোক সকলক চাহ বাগিছাৰ ভিতৰৰ বনুৱা সকলৰ মাজলৈ যাবলৈ দিয়া নাই। কিন্তু মই এইটো ডাঠি কব পাৰো যে এই বিবৃতি ঠিক নহয়। নিৰ্বাচনৰ সময়ত মই নিজে যথেষ্ট সংখ্যক বনুৱা থকা তিনিটা constituency ত কাম কৰিছিলো। সেই সময়ত তেখেতৰ দলৰ বঙা টুপি লগোৱা যিবিলাক মানুহ তাত আছিল, সেইবিলাকে বাগানৰ ভিতৰেদি loud speaker লৈ তেখেতৰ দলৰ slogan গাই বাগানৰ লাইনতহে নেলাগে কাম কৰি থকা বনুৱাৰ মাজতো propaganda কৰা মই নিজেই দেখিছো। ইয়াৰ পিচত, মই তেখেতৰ উক্তি কেনেকৈ মানি লও।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, তেখেতে কালি আৰু এটা কথা কৈছে যে চাহ বাগান বিলাকত ১০ লাখ একৰ মাটি এনেদৰে পৰি আছে। সেইটো প্ৰকৃত কথা নহয়। চাহ বাগানৰ বিস্তৃতি আৰু বৃদ্ধিৰ কাৰণেও জমিৰ দৰ্কাৰ। যি হওক চাহ খেতিৰ ৪ লাখ একৰ মাটিৰ বাদেও ২ লাখ একৰ ধান খেতি কৰা মাটি আছে তেখেতে কৈছে.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: ইয়াত আপোনাৰ সেই কথা খাপ নাখায়।

Shri JADUNATH BHUYAN: অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই আগতে কৈছো তেখেতে বহুতো আনুসঙ্গিক কথা এৰি থৈ যায়। তেখেতে দিয়া হিছাপ মতে ১০ লাখ বনুৱাই অসমৰ চাহ বাগানত কাম নকৰে। অসমত ৫ লাখ বনুৱাই হে চাহ বাগিছাত কাম কৰে। ইয়াৰ পৰাই আমি তেখেতৰ বিবৃতি বিলাকৰ জোখ বাহিৰ কৰিব পাৰো।

যি হওক, বৰ্ত্তমান যি ত্ৰিদিনীয় সন্মিলন বিলাক বহে তালৈ তেখেত সকলৰ সদস্যকে আহ্বান কৰে। তাক তেখেতে নুই কবিব নোৱাৰে। চাহ বাগিছাৰ বনুৱাৰ প্ৰতিনিধিত্ব কৰিবলৈ Indian National Trade Union Congress ৰ বাদে আন দল অপাৰগ। কাৰণ আন দলৰ কোনো অনুস্থান বাগিছাত নাই। Rice আৰু Oil Mills অৰ বনুৱাৰ প্ৰতিনিধিত্ব কৰিবলৈ বঙাটুপি দলে পাইছে। যাবতীয় অনুস্থানবিলাকৰ পৰা খোজা report সম্পৰ্কে চৰকাৰৰ বনুৱা বিভাগক দোষাৰোপ কৰি তেখেতে যি কথা কৈছে, সেই কথা অমূলক। এই বিভাগৰ পৰিপোষণৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে অনাহকত টকা খৰচ কৰা বোলাটো পক্ষপাতমূলক কথা। এই বিভাগৰ জৰিয়তে হোৱা কাৰ্য্যৰ ওপৰতে এটা জাতিৰ উৎপাদন শক্তি নিৰ্ভৰ কৰিছে। তাৰ উপৰিও বৰ্ত্তমান আন্তৰ্জাতিক পৰিস্থিতিত আমাৰ দেশৰ আন্তৰ্জাতিক উৎপাদন ক্ষমতা বৃদ্ধি কৰিবলগীয়া হৈছে, মালিক আৰু মজদুৰৰ সহযোগিতাৰ মাজেদি। তাৰ চাবি-কাঠি ঠিক ৰাখিব লাগিব এই বিভাগৰ কাৰ্য্যদক্ষতাৰে। তেনেকুৱা এটা বিভাগক শক্তিশালী কৰি তোলাটো চৰকাৰৰ প্ৰধান কৰ্ত্তব্য। নিম্নতম মজুৰী নিৰ্দ্ধাৰণ কৰা কথা কিমান কঠিন আৰু বৰ্ত্তমান চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰ পৰা এই উদ্দেশ্যটো সাধন কৰিবলৈ কৰা চেষ্টাৰ কথা তেখেতেও নিশ্চয় জানে। তেখেতে ইয়াকো ঠিৰাংকৈ জানে যে ইয়াকে কৰিবলৈ হলে ইয়াৰ লগত বহুত বৈজ্ঞানীক তথ্যও সংগ্ৰহ কৰিব লগা হয়। প্ৰথমতে চাবলাগিব যে আমাৰ বনুৱা শ্ৰেণীৰ থকা আৰু খোৱাৰ মান কেনে, শিল্পই কিমান দিব পাৰে, ইয়াৰ পৰা জাতীয় economy ত কিমান প্ৰভাৱ পৰে, এই সকলো বিলাক গবেষণা কৰিহে আগবাঢ়িব পাৰি। সেই গতিকে এই কামত সময় লগাটো স্বাভাৱিক। এটা বিভাগ একেদিনাই গঢ়ি উঠা বস্তু নহয়। চৰকাৰে লাহে লাহে ইয়াৰ উৎকৰ্ষ সাধন কৰি আনিছে। এই নীতি সঁচাকৈয়ে যুক্তিযুক্ত হৈছে। সেইটো আমি সমৰ্থন কৰো। মই নিজে চাহ শিল্পৰ Minimum Wage Committee ৰ মেম্বাৰ আছিলো। সেই হিচাবে ইয়াকো কৰ পাৰো যে চৰকাৰে বান্ধি দিয়া নিম্নতম মজুৰীত মই সন্তুষ্ট হোৱা নাই যদিও চৰকাৰৰ চেষ্টা প্ৰশংসনীয় হৈছে।

সৱশেষত আজিকালি নানাবকম অনুস্থান খুলি উপকাৰৰ পৰিবৰ্ত্তে বনুৱা সকলৰ অপকাৰহে কৰা দেখা যায়। সেইবিলাক যদি বাস্তৱ অনুস্থানেই হয়, তেন্তে মাহেকীয়া report দিবলৈ কোনো অসুবিধা নহয়। সেইবিলাক সত্য অনুস্থান হয় নে নহয়, প্ৰকৃত বনুৱাৰ অনুস্থান হয় নে নহয় তাক স্থিৰ কৰিবলৈ চৰকাৰে যিটো নীতি লৈছে সেই নীতি ঠিকেই লৈছে। বনুৱাৰ প্ৰতিনিধিত্ব কৰাৰ সত্যতা অসত্যতা নিৰ্দ্ধাৰণ কৰিবলৈ সেইটো কৰা হৈছে। (Voice—Indian National Trade Union Congress ৰো বহুত অগ্ৰাহ্য হৈছে নহয় জানো ?) Indian National Trade Union Congress ৰ কিবা কৰিছেনে নাই মই নকও। কিন্তু সত্যতা ৰাখিবলৈ যে চেষ্টা কৰিছে তাত অকনো সন্দেহ নাই। মুঠতে মই চৰকাৰৰ বনুৱা নীতি সমৰ্থন কৰো।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই আৰু বেচি সময় নষ্ট নকৰো এইখিনিকে কৈ মই এই কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাৱৰ ঘোৰ প্ৰতিবাদ কৰিছো।

Srijut MOHI KANTA DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Goswami has said in his speech that in the last election, there was no freedom for other parties to work in the tea gardens as the garden labourers were influenced by the Congress. So far as Tezpur side is concerned, the Socialist party as well as other parties, while going into the tea gardens, tried their level best to secure the co-operation and support of the garden labourers. There was no interference to the movement of any party either by the Congress or by the Indian National Trade Union Congress or by the Garden authorities. It is however a fact that the labour did not support any other party except Congress and voted solidly for Congress.

Therefore there is no use in speaking that the freedom of movement was curtailed at the instance of the Congress or Indian National Trade Union Congress or any other authority. If the result of the last election is analysed, it will be seen that the labour population greatly contributed to the success of the Congress in the last election. That shows that the labour population, whether in the tea gardens or in any other institutions had supported the Congress, and as such also the Congress Government which has been formed by the Congress Members. It also shows at least that the labourers are satisfied with the various measures that have been taken so long by the Government in as much as already there has been

increase in their wages. I have seen at least in Tezpur, Dibrugarh and other gardens, that houses for the labourers are being constructed, and other measures for ameliorating the condition of the labour population are also being undertaken. They are in good progress. Any impartial observer will admit that the labourers are supporting the Congress and the Indian National Trade Union Congress. No amount of argument will prove the contrary. In the British regime the labourers were not allowed to mix with the villagers. There was no 'milan' of Kisan and Mazdoor at that time. Now the labourers can hold meetings, they are coming to hats and freely mixing with the villagers. This is possible because of the independence achieved by the Congress. Next, Sir, my friends were saying that officials were not doing justice or rather partial towards the Indian National Trade Union Congress. There has been no such complaint against the Officials to this effect. In the last famine, Sir, it was the Congress Government who moved heaven and earth to save the labour in the gardens and other places, as a result of which there was no starvation death. All this goes to show that Government is taking all possible steps for the amelioration of the condition of the labourers. The House remembers that in His Excellency's Address as well as in the Budget speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister, the ameliorating measures that are under the contemplation of the Government have been indicated. If and when these measures are given effect to, I am confident within the short space of time the condition of the labour population will improve greatly. I earnestly solicit the co-operation of all the hon. Members of this House to make strenuous efforts to fulfil our obligation towards the labourers. The problem of labourers is a great problem in Assam, and we should make all efforts to fulfil this great task.

Thank you, Sir.

Shri GAURI SHANKAR ROY: মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়! মেৰে দোস্ত শ্ৰীগগৈজী জো cut motion ইস হাউসকে সামনে লায় হেঁয় আউৰ মেৰে দোস্ত শ্ৰীগোঁস্বামীজী জো বহস কৰে হেঁ, উসকে বাৰেঁমে মই ভী কুছ কহনা চাতা হঁ।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: ক্যা আপ বাঙ্গালী নহী বোল সকতে?

(A voice—This is pure Hindi, Sir) That's alright.

Shri GAURI SHANKAR ROY: শ্ৰীগোঁস্বামীজী নে কহা হেয় কি চায় বগানোমে কাম কৰণেৰে শ্ৰমিকোঁকী সংখ্যা ১০ লাখ হেঁয়। লেकिन, ইন শ্ৰমিকোঁকী সংখ্যা অসলমে ১২ই লাখ হেঁয়। আউৰ চায় কে বগানোমে প্রায় ৫ লাখ শ্ৰমিক কাম কৰতে হেঁয়। উনহোনে আউৰ ভী কহা হেয় কি আজকল ভী চায় বগানকে শ্ৰমিকোঁকো বাহৰকে আদমীসে মিলনে নহী দিয়া জাতা হেয়। পাহলে, যানে British কে জমানেনে যহ বাত থী। স্বাধীনতা প্রাপ্ত কখনেকে বাদ যহ নহী হেয়। অর স্বাধীনতা কে বাদ অওৰ কংগ্ৰেস সবকাৰকী প্রতিষ্ঠা হোনেকী রজহসে হম বগাণোঁমে জা সকতে হেঁয়। মজদুবোকে বীচ কাম কৰ সকতে হেয়। উনকী union বনা সকতে হেঁয়। অর Indian National Trade Union Congress যানে বাঠীয় মজদূৰ কংগ্ৰেস খুব জোৰোঁসে মজদূৰ সংগঠন কা কাম কৰ বহী হেয়। British জমানেনে ঐসী সুবিধা নহী দী জাতী থী। অব চায় বগানকে মজদূৰ ভী বাহৰ কে আদমী সে মিল সকতে হেয়। উনকে অন্দৰ কাম কৰ সকতে হেঁয়। দিল কী বাতকো খোলকব কহ সকতে হেঁয় অভাৱ অভিযোগকে বাৰেমে ন্যায় বিচাৰ মাঁগ সকতে হেঁয়।

শ্ৰীগোঁস্বামীজী নে কহ হেঁয় কি tripartite conference মেঁ Indian National Trade Union Congress কো ছোড়কৰ দূসৰী মজদূৰ সংস্থাকো নহী বুলায়া জাতা হেয়। মই ইস বাতকো ঠীক ঠীক সমজ নহী সকা হঁ। মই কম সে কম পিছলে ৫ সালোঁগে মজদূৰ সংগঠন কা কাম কৰ বহা হঁ। মই নে তো দেখা হেয় কি Socialist Party য়া অন্য দলকে লোগোঁকো tripartite conference মেঁ বুলায়া জাতা হেয় জেয়সে কি দিল্লী

tripartite conference মে বুলায়া গয়া। যাহাতি গোস্বামীজি হিন্দুস্থান মজদুৰ সঙ্ঘকা সঙ্ঘকা প্ৰতিনিধি হোতে ছয়ে ভি কই বৈঠকমে উপস্থিত নহী ছয়ে। ইসকে অলাবা গোস্বামীজিতো জানতে ছয়ে কি tripartite conference কিসলিয়ে বুলায়ী জাতী ছয়ে। জব মালিক আউৰ মজদুৰোমে কোই বগড়া হোতা ছয়ে, তব উস বাগড়ে কো মিটানেকে লিয়ে, মজদুৰ আউৰ মালিকোনে সমঝোতা কবনেকে লিয়ে য়হ ত্ৰিদলীয় সন্মিলন হোতা ছয়ে। ত্ৰিদলীয় সন্মিলন কো বুলাকব সবকাব সমঝোতা কবানেকী কোশিশ কৰতী ছয়ে। লেকিন জিস সংগঠনকে শ্ৰমিক নহীমানতে ছয়ে উসকায় প্ৰতিনিধি বুলাকব সবকাব কৈসী সমঝোতা কৰে ?

দুসৰা প্ৰশ্ন উঠা ছয়ে Tribunal কা। ম'য় মানতা হ' কি Tribunal মে defects ছয়ে। কোঁকি ইসমে দেবহোতী ছয়ে অওব ইসকী সুধাব হোনা চাহিয়ে লেকিন যদি হম সংগঠিত ছে যায়—যদি হমাৰা সংগঠন মজবুত হ' যায় তো হম অপনী মাঙ্গে কো হাগিল অন্যান্য উপায়োশেভি কব সকাতে ছয়ে কাৰণ ইসলিয়ে Negotiation, Arbitration, Conciliation ইত্যাদি য়াহ হমাৰে লিয়ে খুলা ছয়ে।

Monthly Return কা প্ৰশ্ন ভী য়হা উঠা ছয়ে। শ্ৰীগোস্বামীজী ইসকে বাবেমে শিকায়ত কব বহে ছয়ে। লেকিন য়ই তো সচচী বাত ছয়ে। হম তো চাহতে ছয়ে হমাৰে সংগঠনমে কড়ে নিয়ম হ'। হমাৰা হিসাব কিতাব সব ঠীক তবহ বহে। হম কিছু নিয়মসে চলে। হমাৰে সংগঠন ভী নিয়মসে চলে। জো কিছু return বগৈবহ হমে দেনা হো, খুশীসে দেনা চাহিয়ে। ইস বাবেমে মেৰে দোস্ত শ্ৰীগোস্বামীজী জো কিছু কহ বহে ছয়ে, উসে মাননে কে লিয়ে ম'ই তৈয়াৰ নহী।

কংগ্ৰেস শাধনমে মজদুৰোঁকী সতী তবহ কী উন্নতি হোনে জাবহী ছয়ে। অব Minimum Wages Act লাগু হোনে জা বহা ছয়ে। য়হ minimum wage ঠীক কপসে নহী কী গয়ী ছয়ে লেকিন ইস নীতিকো হাম মানতে ছয়ে মজদুৰোঁ কী ভলাই কে লিয়ে কংগ্ৰেস সবকাব সচেটে ছয়ে। বিভিন্ন কানুন বনচু কাছয়ে অওব বহুত সে কানুন বননে জা বহা-ছয়ে। হমাৰী কংগ্ৰেস সবকাবনে য়হ অনুভব কিয়া ছয়ে কি মজদুৰোঁ ভী মনুষ্য ছয়ে উনকাভি ভুখ অওব প্যাশ ছয়ে উনকোভি দুনিয়ামে মনুষ্যকী তবহ বহনা ছয়ে কংগ্ৰেস সবকাব ভলাই কে লিয়ে জো কাম কীয়ে ছয়ে, আওব কৰণে জা বহ' ছয়ে ইসসে য়হ স্পষ্ট প্ৰতীতি হোতী ছয়ে কি কংগ্ৰেস সবকাব কা ধ্যান য়হ ছয়ে কি শ্ৰমিক সমাজ আগে বঢ়ে। ময় আশা কৰতা হু কি কিছুদিনোমে শ্ৰমিক সমাজ এক উন্নত সমাজমে পৰিণত হো জায়গা। ইসলিয়ে ম'ই শ্ৰীগগৈজীসে অনুৰোধ কৰতা হু কি বে অপনে cut motion কো ৰাপস লে।

Shri DALBIR SINGH LOHAR: মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মাননীয় সদস্য শ্ৰীযুত গগৈ দেৱে এই সদনত আজি কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাৱ উপস্থাপিত কৰিছে, তাৰ প্ৰতিবাদ স্বৰূপে দুই-চাৰিঘাৰ কথা কবলৈ থিয় হৈছো। এই বিষয়ত শ্ৰীযুত ভূঞা ডাঙৰীয়াই যথেষ্টকপে কৈয়েই গৈছে। মোৰ এই বিষয়ে কোৱাৰ সিমান ইচ্ছা নাছিল যদিও অসমীয়াত এটা কথা আছে—

“সভাত থাকি নামাতে উচিত
দোষে পায় কিঞ্চিৎ কিঞ্চিৎ।”

সেই দেখিয়েই মই দুই-চাৰিঘাৰ কবলৈ বাধ্য হৈছো।

বিৰোধী দলৰ নেতা শ্ৰীযুত হৰেশ্বৰ গোস্বামীয়ে চৰকাৰৰ লেবাৰ ডিপাৰ্টমেন্টটোৰ বিষয়ে বহুতো অভিযোগ আনি কৈছে যে, এই বিভাগটোৱে, পুজিপতিসকলৰ সুবিধাথেই দুখীয়া বনুৱাসকলৰ ওপৰত শাসন আৰু শোষণৰ বাহিৰে বনুৱাৰ কোনো উন্নতিমূলক গঠনমূলক কাম কৰিব পৰা নাই। এই বিভাগৰ কৰ্মচাৰীসকলৰ দাবাই, বনুৱাৰ সমস্যাবিলাক সমাধান হোৱা দূৰৰ কথা, সিবিলাকৰ ওচৰেই চাপিব পৰা নাই। তেখেতৰ অভিযোগত এইটোও হৈছে যে, Indian National Trade Union Congress অনুস্থান অথবা কংগ্ৰেছৰ বাহিৰে ‘ইলেক্‌চন’ৰ সময়ত বনুৱাৰ দুখ উপলব্ধি কৰা অন্য পাৰ্টিক, চা-বাগিচাৰ বনুৱাসকলৰ মাজত

সোমাই কাম কৰিবলৈ দিয়া নাছিল। এই অভিযোগটোৰ বিষয়ে এইখিনিকেই মই কও যে, শ্ৰীযুত গোস্বামীৰ ই এটা লান্ড ধাৰণা। ডিগবই এলেকাৰ পাঠে মাৰ্বেৰিটা, নামডাং আদিৰ বাগান সমূহত বাগানৰ মালিকসকলে, সকলো সংগঠনমূলক ভাবধাৰাৰে অনুপ্রাণিত অনুস্থান অথবা পাৰ্টিক, বনুৱাসকলৰ উন্নতিৰ অৰ্থে বনুৱাসকলৰ মাজত কাম কৰিবলৈ সমানে অধিকাৰ দিছিল আৰু কেতিয়াও তেনে কৰা নাছিল আৰু তাৰ 'ইলেক্‌চন' free আৰু fair হৈছিল। বনুৱাসকলে কংগ্ৰেচৰ কৰ্মীসকল আৰু Indian National Trade Union Congress ৰ কৰ্মীসকলৰ গঠনমূলক কাৰ্য্যত গুৰুত্ব আৰু সত্যতা উপলব্ধি কৰিয়েই অন্যান্য ধ্বংসমূলক ভাবধাৰাৰে অনুপ্রাণিত অনুস্থান সমূহক তেওঁলোকৰ মাজত তেওঁলোকেই কাম কৰিবলৈ স্বযোগ দিয়া নাছিল। বনুৱাসকলে স্পষ্টভাৱে কৈছিল যে, যেনেকৈ বাৰিঘাত ডেকুলীৰ টো-টোৱনীত মানুহৰ কাণ ভাল মাৰে আৰু বাৰিঘা যোৱাৰ লগে লগে ডেকুলী বিছাৰি নোপোৱা হয় ঠিক সেই দৰে ইলেক্‌চনৰ সময়ত আমি বহুত পাৰ্টিৰ টোৰটোৱনী শুনিম আৰু ইলেক্‌চন শেষ হলে সেই পাৰ্টিবিলাকক দেখা নাপাম, মাত্ৰ সদায় দুখে স্নেহে Indian National Trade Union Congress ৰ কৰ্মীসকলক পাম আৰু তেওঁলোকেই আমাৰ হিত সাধিব। এই বুলিয়েই বনুৱাসকলে আন আন পাৰ্টিবিলাকক সন্মাননে বিদায় দিছিল। এই কাৰণেই ছিট্ৰিয়েলিষ্ট অথবা কমিউনিষ্টসকলৰ ভাবধাৰা আৰু মতামত বাগানৰ বনুৱাসকলৰ মাজলৈ যাব পৰা নাছিল অৰ্থাৎ বনুৱাসকলে সেইটো স্পষ্ট ভাৱে মানি লবলৈ আৰু কাম কৰিবলৈ ইচ্ছুক নাছিল, আৰু সেই কাৰণেই কংগ্ৰেছ আৰু Indian National Trade Union Congress ৰ বাহিৰে অন্য পাৰ্টিৰ কৰ্মীসকলে কাম কৰি কৃতকাৰ্য্যতা অৰ্জন কৰিব পৰা নাছিল। তাৰেই স্ববিধালৈ আজিৰ এই সদনত বিবোধী দলৰ নেতাই কৈছে যে ইলেক্‌চন free আৰু fair হোৱা নাছিল; তেওঁবিলাকক বনুৱাসকলৰ মাজত সংগঠনৰ কাম কৰিবলৈ কংগ্ৰেছ আৰু Indian National Trade Union Congress এ স্ববিধা দিয়া নাছিল আৰু Indian National Trade Union Congress চৰকাৰেই পৰিচালিত এটা অনুস্থান। দখৰ বিষয়, শ্ৰীযুত গোস্বামী দেৱে প্রকৃততে বনুৱাসকলৰ এই মনোভাব বজিব পৰা নাই বুলিব লাগিব আৰু সেই কাৰণেই তেখেতৰ এনে অভিযোগ। তেখেতক মই এইটো জনাই দিব খোজো যে Indian National Trade Union Congress অথবা কংগ্ৰেছে কেতিয়াও তেখেতসকলক তেখেতসকলৰ পথত বাধা দিয়ানাছিল; বৰং বনুৱাসকলৰ মাজত মহাত্মা গান্ধীৰ কংগ্ৰেছ নীতিৰ সত্যতা উপলব্ধি আৰু অন্যান্য অনুস্থানৰ প্ৰতি আস্থা নথকাই তেখেতৰ এই অভিযোগৰ মূল কাৰণ।

মাননীয় গোস্বামী আৰু মাননীয় গগৈ ডাক্তৰীয়াই ভালকৈ জনা উচিত যে, তেখেতসকলৰ অপ্ৰিয় আৰু ক্ষত্ৰেকীয়া ভাল পোৱা কিছুমান কাৰ্য্যৰ দ্বাৰা বাগানৰ বনুৱাসকল অসন্তুষ্ট হৈ যদি তেখেতসকলৰ পাৰ্টিৰ লোকক বাগানত সোমাই কাম কৰিবলৈ বনুৱাসকলে বাধা দিয়ে তাৰ বাবে চৰকাৰ বা বাগানৰ মালিকসকল দোষী হয় কেনেকৈ? তেন্তে এই নিৰ্বাচনত তেখেতসকলৰ কাৰ্য্য আৰু নীতিত খাপ নোখোৱাৰ বাবেই ৰাইজে সমৰ্থন নকৰাত আৰু তেখেতসকলৰ বেছি ভাগ সদস্য আহিব নোৱাৰি আসামত তেখেতসকলৰ মন্ত্ৰী মণ্ডল গঠন কৰিব নোৱাৰা বাবেও চৰকাৰ দায়ী নে? তেন্তে তাৰ বাবেও তেখেতসকলৰ আক্ষেপ হোৱা উচিত।

ডিগবই, চৈখোৱা, ডিব্ৰুগড় আদি অঞ্চললৈ কিছুমান ৰঙাটুপী গৈ বাগানৰ আৰু গাওঁৰ বনুৱাসকলৰ মাজত তেওঁলোকৰ অভিযান চলাইছিল। কিন্তু সেই মানুহবিলাকে তেওঁলোকৰ নীতি গ্ৰহণ নকৰিলে আৰু তেওঁবিলাকৰ মাজত কেৱল কংগ্ৰেছৰ দোষাকপহে কৰি আহিছে। এই বিলাকৰ পৰা বনুৱাবিলাকৰ জটিলতাৰ কোনো সমস্যা সমাধান হোৱা নাই বৰং অনিষ্টহে হৈছে।

তাৰ পিচত তেখেতে Indian National Trade Union Congress ৰ প্ৰধান সম্পাদক শ্ৰীযুত ৰবীন্দ্ৰ নাথ কাকতিৰ বিষয়ে যি কথাৰ উল্লেখ কৰিছে, তেখেতে পঢ়ি শুনোৱা চিঠিত, সেই সময়ত বাগনবিলাকত যি বেমেজালিৰ সৃষ্টি হৈছিল মাননীয় সদস্যসকলৰ অজনা নহয়।

বৰ্তমান বাগানবিলাকৰ ভিতৰত নানান ৰকমৰ কেলেঙ্কাৰী দেখা যায়। বাগানৰ ভিতৰৰ পৰা চাহৰ বাকছ চুৰি হোৱা, লৰী বা মটৰৰ চকা, টায়াৰ আদি নানান ৰকম বস্তু হেৰোৱা বা চুৰি হোৱাৰ বাবে সাধাৰণতে বাগানৰ মালিকসকলে নজনা নুশুনাকৈ কোনো মানুহকে সোমাব নিদিয়, আনকি Indian National Trade Union Congress ৰ কৰ্মীসকলো সোমোৱা কঠিন। এই বাবে বাগানৰ মালিকসকলে অনেক বাগানৰ গেইট বন্ধ কৰি চাকিদাৰ গিৰি নজনা নুশুনা লোকক প্ৰবেশ কৰিব নিদিয়, আৰু Indian National Trade Union

Congress ৰ কৰ্মীসকলৰ বাহিৰে অন্য মানুহক তাত সোমাবলৈ নিদিয়া, বাগানৰ মালিকসকলে লোৱা কাৰ্য্যপন্থাটো Indian National Trade Union Congress ৰ নিৰ্দেশ মানি লোৱা পন্থা নহয়। বনুৱাৰ প্ৰকৃত সমস্যা আৰু তাৰ উপলব্ধি কৰি যেনেকৈ Indian National Trade Union Congress ৱে বনুৱাসকলৰ মাজত সোমাব পাৰিছে তেনেকৈ যেন তেওঁসকলে তেওঁবিলাকৰ মাজত সোমাবলৈ যত্নপৰ হয়, তাৰ নিৰ্দেশ দি শ্ৰীযুত গোস্বামী দেৱৰ অভিযোগবিলাকৰ প্ৰতি তীব্ৰ প্ৰতিবাদ জনাই উঠাই লবলৈ অনুৰোধ জনাও।

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hope that if I cannot finish my speech within five minutes you will be pleased to give me two minutes more.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: No.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: But the subject is so vast and the discussions have been so elaborate that I cannot do justice to it within five minutes. Any way, I shall try to be as brief as possible.

I thought, Sir, I would not take my stand to speak after the brilliant exposition of the subject made by my hon. Leader. But on hearing some hon. Members who are also labour organisers, and most probably leaders, I have been prompted to speak a few words.

I know our hon. Member from Tinsukia, Mr. Bhuyan. He is one of the pioneers of the Trade Union Movement in Assam. He was the Joint Secretary of the famous Digboi Strike and he was one of the pioneers who hoisted the Red Flag in Assam. I know Mr. Dalbir Singh Lohar represented Labour in the last Assembly. I want to say one word to the Cachar Member who spoke. But I do not want to make any differentiation between the labour organisers of A. I. T. U. C., the Indian National Trade Union Congress and the Hind Mazdoor Sabha. The working class as a whole have a general common approach and common problems. From whatever centre we may look at the Trade Union Organisation, it may come to serve workers as a whole. Indian National Trade Union Congress is an organisation which includes and is based on the nucleus of the Hindustan Mazdoor Sangha whose Leader was Sardar Patel himself. I see at page 216 of the Budget Estimate that Rs.35,280 has been granted to this Hindustan Mazdoor Sangha from our public exchequer. That is to say, this organisation is not only a tail of the Congress Party, but is a department of the Government of Assam (*Opposition cheers.*)

Secondly, our hon. Members from the other side have belittled the importance of the letter just read by hon. Mr. Goswami. If the Chief Minister of a Province gives sole agency to the Secretary of the Labour Department of a particular Party to organise labour, I have got something to say. I do not mind to see every worker in Assam being organised by Indian National Trade Union Congress if it was run on proper Trade Union lines. But Indian National Labour Officer of the I. T. A., and tries to organise labour in Assam with his help and patronage.

Then, I am surprised to find hon. Mr. Bhuyan, propagating the theory of class-collaboration and misconceiving the theory of class struggle in relation to the labour problem. Class-struggle is not a creation of Communists or Socialists. It is the grim reality of a class-Society.

When the workers cannot get their demands fulfilled, they have a right to abstain from work and to go on strike. It means that there is a contradiction of interests. The interest of the employers is generally to exploit the working classes and the interest of the workers is to save themselves from it. When there is a conflict of interests there is class struggle. If there is exploitation of man by man, class by class, this struggle will continue. If my hon. Friend wants to have a peaceful atmosphere in the country, he should help to end exploitation of class by class or man by man. When the workers are being exploited, they have a

right to go on strike. Have not Government received the notice of a strike at Pandu from the Indian National Trade Union Congress? (*A voice*—it is disowned). But I can say Mr. Dharanidhar Das and Mr. U. K. Deb who are Indian National Trade Union Congress leaders are known as leaders of the strike. So these strikes are not being instigated by the Communists or the Socialists. It is effected by the employers due to their intransigences and bad behaviour.

I do not think, I should take any more time of the House. I say, there had been interferences during the election. If I had time, I would have given a long list of such interferences. In order to make our labour really happy, all of us belong to whatever Party must see the truth. Let our Government offer such help as may be possible to see our labour well organised not as a department of the Government, but as a distinct class. Let the Labour Commissioner and other labour officers be helping the workers to get organised in Trade Unions of their own without Governmental interference. Let them not obstruct, but help in the growth of Trade Unions and with that end in view, let the cumbrous system of monthly returns be withdrawn.

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May I know if the letter, Mr. Goswami read was the original or a copy of the letter?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: It was a copy of a letter. I can produce the original—if he wants.

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Let it be produced, Sir.

The Hon'ble Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the object of the Cut Motion was to raise a general discussion on the expenditure that is proposed and I expected that my Friend Shri Gogoi with his constructive mind would give some constructive suggestions to the House with regard to the administration of the Labour Department. But my expectation has been belied. He has only paved the way for his hon. Friend, the Leader of the Opposition, to wreak his old vengeance on the Indian National Trade Union Congress. Mr. Goswami has brought in some old general statements which formed a part of his election propaganda. During the elections we were used to this propaganda. My hon. Friend being not satisfied with this propaganda outside has only used the floor of the Assembly to carry on the same propaganda again. He has read out letter to Shri Robin Kakaty who is a Member of this House. Sir, this letter was discussed in the I. L. O. because the World Federation of Trade Unions sponsored by the Communist Party raised this issue and the matter was disposed of long ago. He has stated that elections had not been fair and that labourers were not allowed to associate themselves freely with outsiders. He also mentioned the Bill which I associate themselves freely with outsiders. He also mentioned the Bill which I moved in 1938 in this House, that is, the Tea Estates Labourers Freedom of Movement Bill, but times have changed and I can say that there has not been any interference on the part of garden Managers to prevent labourers to mix freely. Sir, during the elections there had been no complaint raised by my hon. Friends. On the other hand, the Socialist friends used the platform in tea gardens very freely. They tried to win the votes of the tea garden labourers by placing before them sheafs of 'Joha' paddy and promising them that if they cast their votes for the Socialist Party their rations would be increased to the extent of five seers of rice per week. I should say that this is only a propaganda that Indian National Trade Union Congress is Government-sponsored organisation and I do not propose to go further in the matter.

Sir, my Friend, Mr. Goswami, has mentioned the case of the R. S. N. Company's Steamerghat Employees' Union and he stated that the Government transferred the case from the file of the Sessions Judge, Mr. Ikram Rasul, to Shri Iswar Prasad Barooah. I must mention that this trade union dispute was for a long time pending with Mr. Ikram Rasul. He, instead of dealing with the case fully and completely dealt with it partly. Now, under the Trade Union Disputes Act it was laid down that the Judge or the Tribunal should forward a

copy of the Award to Government so that the Government under the Trade Disputes Act can issue orders for its implementation. But the Sessions Judge failed to forward the copy of judgment because he had dealt with it only partly ; so under the advice of legal experts we had to transfer this case. I must also mention for the information of the House that before Mr. Iswar Prasad Barooah was appointed to the Industrial Tribunal, there was no separate Tribunal to deal with labour disputes. So the Government used to refer the disputes to the Sessions Judge. But as he was busy with other cases, and as he took much time in dealing with the industrial dispute, the Government felt the necessity of creating a separate Industrial Tribunal and when that Industrial Tribunal was created it was considered by the Government to refer this case to the newly created Industrial Tribunal under the advice of the legal experts.

Sir, my Friend has also mentioned that Government has failed to implement the Minimum Wages Act and that there had been much delay. For he information of this House I must state that it was the Socialist Party who was responsible for this delay—it was the hon'ble Leader of the Opposition himself who was responsible for this delay. The Representatives of the Socialist Party in the Minimum Wage Committee appointed by Government to fix the rate failed to attend the meetings of this committee in spite of the fact that the dates were fixed in consultation with them.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : It was not fixed with our consultation.

The Hon'ble Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS : Then, Sir. Mr. Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya has referred to the Indian National Trade Union Congress as monopoly agency under the aegis of the Government. In this connection while moving his amendment to His Excellency's Address he stated that it (*i.e.*, the address) did not mention that "Trade Unions rights including the right of collective bargaining, the right of strike, will be guaranteed to all sections of the workers, etc." Sir, under the Trade Unions Act, an association of workers, if organised for legitimate trade union purposes, can apply to the Registrar for registration and obtain a registration certificate. The Act guarantees non-interference in regard to the workmen exercising their rights. He referred to the recent strike at Pandu when the union is affiliated to the Indian National Trade Union Congress. This only proves that the Indian National Trade Union Congress is not a Government-sponsored union.

Again, Sir, Mr. Hareswar Goswami has mentioned about cancellation of some of the registered trade unions. Under the rules relating to trade unions it is provided that the Registrar of Trade Unions should be furnished with returns of expenses, etc., in time. But in spite of warning having been given to them, some of these trade unions failed to submit their returns in time. I do not know whether these trade unions are those affiliated to the Hindustan Mazdoor Sabha.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : On a point of information Sir. Is there any other State in India where the system of monthly submission of returns is prevalent ?

The Hon'ble Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS : Yes, the rules every where are the same. Unions are to submit returns.

Then Sir, I have to submit for the information of the House that this Labour Department is responsible for the administration of the following Acts—
 (1) the Factories Act (2) the Trade Unions Act (3) Payment of Wages Act
 (4) the Workmen's Compensation Act (5) the Maternity Benefits Act and
 (6) the Assam Shops and Establishments Act. The Plantation Labour Act has been passed recently and it will come under the purview of this Department for administration and the department has been carrying on the administration well.

Sir, I do not wish to take much time of the House. I would request my hon. Friend, the Leader of the Opposition, not to use the floor of this House for his political propaganda, but to help us in doing all that is possible for the welfare of labour. Mr. Bhattacharyya has brought in the name of the Hindusthan Mazdoor Sevak Sangha and stated that the Hindusthan Mazdoor Sevak Sangha is part of the Indian National Trade Union Congress. That is not a fact, Sir. The Hindusthan Mazdoor Sevak Sangha is not a labour union, but it is only an association for service to the labourers, for their uplift and we have given some grants to this body for labour welfare activities; it does not form part of the Indian National Trade Union Company.

With these words, Sir, I request my hon. Friend Mr. Ghana Kanta Gogoi to withdraw his Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Are you going to withdraw your Cut Motion ?

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI : I don't think, I should.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is that the total provision of Rs.4,55,000 under Grant No.26, major head—47.—Miscellaneous Departments, at page 213 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.4,55,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(The Cut Motion was negatived.)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I shall now put the main Motion. The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs.4,55,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1953 for the administration of the head—47.—Miscellaneous Departments."

(The Motion was adopted.)

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A. M., on Monday, the 24th March 1952.

SHILLONG :

R. N. BARUA,

The 18th June 1952.

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.