

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 10 A.M., on Thursday, the 22nd March 1951.

P R E S E N T

The Hon'ble Srijut Lakshesvar Borooah, Speaker, in the Chair, the Seven Hon'ble Ministers, the three Deputy Ministers and Thirty-seven Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Publicity Department

Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI asked

*4. (a) Is it a fact that Government have decided to abolish the post of whole-time Director of Information and Publicity for reasons of financial difficulties and as a measure of economy?

(b) Have Government decided to run the Publicity Department without a Head, or do Government intend to re-organise it on a new basis with a permanent incumbent at its helm?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state their plan and intention about the future of the Publicity Department?

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY (Deputy Minister) replied :

4. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No. The Secretary, Appointment Department has been appointed *Ex-officio* Director of Information and Publicity as a temporary measure pending re-organisation of the Department on a sound footing.

(c)—The matter is still under consideration of Government.

Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI: মই কি এইটোকেই ধৰি লম যে, বৰ্তমানেও Director of Publicity ৰ আৱশ্যকতা আছে। কেৱল অৰ্থাভাবতহে post টো abolish কৰি ৰাখিছে। কিন্তু যেতিয়া অৰ্থাভাব দূৰ হ'ব তেতিয়া আকৌ এই পদৰ অৱতৰন কৰিব ?

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY (Deputy Minister): প্রশ্নো-উত্তৰ দিয়াই হৈছে নহয়।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: প্রশ্নোত্তৰত আগতেই দিছে যে মিতব্যয়ীতা আৰু অৰ্থাভাবৰ কাৰণে এইটো উঠাই দিয়া হৈছে।

Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI: এই পদৰ creation বা abolition ৰ কাৰণে আগতে এই সদনৰ অনুমোদন লোৱা হৈছিলনে ?

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY (Deputy Minister): উঠাই দিয়াত সদনৰ অনুমোদন নালাগে।

Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI: এই বিভাগ চৰকাৰে temporary হিচাবে ৰাখিবনে permanent কৰিব খুজিছে?

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY (Deputy Minister): বৰ্তমান ই অস্থায়ী হৈ আছে। পিচতহে চৰকাৰে বিবেচনা কৰি চাব যে ইয়াক স্থায়ী কৰিব লাগিব নে নোলাগে।

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Public Works Department temporary Divisions and their Staff

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY asked: ৮৭

78. (a) How many temporary Divisions are there under the Public Works Department, Assam?

(b) Whether any Division was made permanent within the period 1942-50?

(c) If so, when was it made permanent?

(d) Is it a fact that Lower Assam Embankment and Drainage Division has been made permanent?

(e) When was the Department created?

(f) Is it a fact that in Jorhat Division Office Assistants have been serving for 10 years as temporary Assistants as a result of which the creation of 25 per cent. Upper Division Assistants could not be given effect to in their cases?

(g) Is it a fact that in Jorhat Division Lower Division Assistants have been serving for the last 10 years in a temporary capacity?

(h) Is it a fact that in permanent Division, Office Assistants with fewer years of service than those of a temporary Division have been made permanent?

(i) Do Government propose to make the Office Assistants serving under temporary Division permanent?

(j) Is it a fact that temporary Assistants are entitled to leave upto one month only whereas permanent Assistants are allowed leave upto 3 months?

(k) Is it a fact that temporary Assistants are deprived of advance of any kind such as House Building Advance, Cycle Advance, etc.?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied:

78. (a)—Ten.

(b)—Two, viz., Western Assam and Lower Assam Embankment and Drainage Divisions.

(c)—In 1946 and 1945 respectively.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—The Embankment and Drainage Branch (not Department) was created in 1939.

(f) & (g)—Jorhat Division was started in 1942 and some of the temporary Assistants working continuously in that Division had rendered about 9 years service. Creation of 25 per cent. Upper Division posts does not apply to temporary Divisions.

(h)—This is possible but definite information is not available here.

(i)—This is not possible until the Division is made permanent.

(j)—Yes.

(k)—Yes.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: With regard to No. 78(h) the Government reply is—"This is possible but definite information is not available here":

May I know if the Government would make enquiries about this?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: If necessary we will make enquiries about it.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: It is very necessary, Sir, that enquiries should be made.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: But how the hon. Member will be benefited by this, Sir?

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: I do not want to see any anomaly in any Department to remain uncorrected.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: So long a Department remains temporary there may be such anomalies. Enquiries will be made, if necessary, for information.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: The question is—

"Is it a fact that in permanent Division, Office Assistants with fewer years service than those of a temporary Division have been made permanent?"

This shows that there is some anomaly here because some people with fewer years' of service were made permanent simply because they happen to be in a permanent Division.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Yes, it may be possible.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: That is why an enquiry is necessary.

The reply to 78(i) is—

"This is not possible until the Division is made permanent".

May I know from the Government whether they contemplate making the Division permanent?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Yes, Sir, it is under consideration of the Government.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: Many thanks, Sir.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: The reply to 78(j) is "Yes". Here also another anomaly occurs which requires immediate removal. Will the Hon'ble Minister enquire into this and remove the anomaly?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: I have already said that in a temporary Division there may be some anomaly, and that anomaly must remain till this Division is made permanent.

Issue of Kerosene oil to Dihing Kinar Co-operative Store

Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI asked: x 34

79. Will Government be pleased to refer to the replies given to the Supplementary questions to Unstarred Question No. 31 asked by the Questioner during the Budget Session of the Assembly, 1950 (*vide* Assembly Debates of 20th March, 1950 at pages 296-298) on the subject of issue of Kerosene oil to Dihing Kinar Co-operative Store and state the result of the enquiry made by Government?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied:

79.—The Government had instituted an enquiry which revealed dishonest dealings on the part of the Store at least in respect of 33 tins of Kerosene oil. It was found that the then Manager and Salesman were responsible for the same. These persons had been removed and new Manager and Salesman appointed in their place. With the action taken against the dishonest staff it was not considered necessary to cancel the dealership of the Store. The Store had no fixed quota of Kerosene oil and it appears that *ad-hoc* allotments were made from time to time in its favour and therefore there was no question of any "Special Permit".

Sri BHADRA KANTA GOGOI: Unstarred Question No. 79—প্রশ্নোত্তরত কোৱা হৈছে যে, আগৰ manager আৰু salesman ক দোষী সাব্যস্ত কৰি তাৰ পৰা বদলি কৰি তাৰ ঠাইত নতুন manager আৰু salesman নিয়োগ কৰা হৈছে। কিন্তু মই দেখাত মানুহ বদলি কৰা হোৱা নাই কেৱল নামহে বদলি কৰা হৈছে। (শুনক, শুনক)

The Hon'ble Sri RAM NATH DAS: মই পোৱা report মতে মানুহ বদলি কৰা হৈ গৈছে।

Sri BHADRA KANTA GOGOI: মোৰ পৰা জানি লওক যে আগেয়ে যি বিলাক গৰাইখ চোৰে কাম চলাই আছিল এতিয়াও সেই বিলাকেই আছে। মই মাননীয় মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ক জনাও যে কেৱল নামহে বদলি হৈছে (*voice* গঠৈ দেৱে ঠিক কথা কৈছে)। মই কেৱল নাম বদলাবলৈহে প্রশ্ন সোধা নাছিলো। দৰ্কাৰ হলে মই প্ৰমান দিম যে নতুন মানুহ তাত নিয়োগ কৰা হোৱা নাই।

The Hon'ble Sri RAM NATH DAS: মই যিটো report পাইছো, সেইমতে ননতুনকৈ manager আৰু salesman নিয়োগ কৰিছে। মাননীয় সদস্যই অভিযোগ কৰে যে প্ৰকৃততে মানুহ নবদলাই নামহে বদলি কৰিছে, গতিকে মই আৰু এবাৰ enquiry কৰি চাম।

Sri BHADRA KANTA GOGOI: হয়, নামতহে বদলিছে, সেই একে মানুহেই কাম চলাই আছে। মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে তদন্ত কৰি চাব পাৰে। আশা কৰো সেইবকমে বিহিত ব্যৱস্থা সেনাকালে কৰিব।

General Election in the State of Assam

Prof. P. M. SARWAN asked :

80. (a) Are Government aware of the public desire for an early General Election in the State of Assam ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether they are aware of any section of the public who want delay in the General Election ?

(c) If so, who are those ?

(d) What steps have Government of Assam taken for an immediate General Election in the State ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

80. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for, and the conduct of all elections to the State Legislatures are vested in the Election Commission under the Constitution of India and the State Government has no control over the works of this Commission to expedite General Election.

Prof. P. M. SARWAN: In their reply to question 80 (d) the Government stated that the State Government has no control in matters concerning the General Election. Is this a fact ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Yes, Sir, in these matters we have to follow the directions of the Chief Election Commissioner. These are the instructions we received from the Chief Election Commissioner.

Prof. P. M. SARWAN: Will Government state what date they have proposed to hold the elections ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: I think there are some other questions with regard to this point. At the time of replying to those questions, hon. Member will have opportunity of eliciting further information. I am not quite certain about the date, except that the Central Government proposed to hold the elections in November or at least in December next—that is the information we have received so far.

Senior Accountant in the Accounts Branch of the Textile Department

Maulavi ATAUR RAHMAN asked :

81. Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Textile be pleased to state—

(a) The name of the Senior Accountant in the Accounts Branch of the Textile Department ?

(b) His present pay per mensem ?

(c) The date of his appointment in the Provincial Textile Commissioner's Office ?

(d) The post he held in the office from which he was recruited to the Accounts Branch ?

- (e) The capacity in which he was first appointed in the office of the Provincial Textile Commissioner ?
- (f) The date of his promotion to the post of Senior Accountant ?
- (g) Whether in order to ascertain his capacity his character roll was consulted at the time of his promotion to this responsible post ?
- (h) Whether Government are aware that due to the inefficiency of the Senior Accountant, the whole Accounts Branch of the Textile Commissioner's Office is in a muddle ?

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY (Deputy Minister) replied :

81. (a)—Shree Hem Chandra Bhattacharjee.
 (b)—Rs.260 per mensem.
 (c)—17th March 1949.
 (d)—Accounts clerk in the office of the Deputy Director of Supply (Accounts.)
 (e)—Accountant.
 (f)—1st August 1949.
 (g)—No. Promotion was made on his working record.
 (h)—No.

Maulavi ATAUR RAHMAN: With reference to Question No.81 (g), may I know, Sir, whether at the time of giving promotion to an officer, it is not necessary to consult his character roll ?

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY (Deputy Minister): Yes, Sir, the character roll has been consulted.

Forest Inspection Bungalows

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli asked : 27

82. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the designation of officers who are entitled to occupy Forest Inspection Bungalows without previous written permission of the Divisional Forest Officer ?
 (b) Is it a fact that Members of Legislative Assembly even when on duty are not allowed to occupy such Bungalows without previous written permission of the Divisional Forest Officers ?
 (c) Is it a fact that Government officers other than Forest Officers and Deputy Commissioners are not allowed to use Forest Bungalows without previous permission ?
 (d) In view of the present set up, do Government propose to alter the relevant rules to remove the ban on the public, public representatives and Government officers of other Departments using the Forest Bungalows ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

82. (a)—Officers of the Indian and Provincial Forest Services, when on duty, the Deputy Commissioner and members of the Minority Commission are only entitled to occupy Forest Inspection Bungalows without previous written permission of the Divisional Forest Officer.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Gazetted Officers of other Departments on duty may occupy Forest Inspection Bungalows with the written permission of the Divisional Forest Officer but the Deputy Commissioner of the District does not require such permission.

(d)—No. As Forest Officers must be sure of finding accommodation when camping in their jurisdiction, it is necessary that all others wishing to occupy Forest Bungalows should give prior intimation in writing. Non-officials may do so under condition mentioned in reply to Question (c) above, but the officials on duty will have a preference over non-officials.

**Nalbari Dhamdhama Public Works Department Road
in North Kamrup.**

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked: * 35

83. (a) Are Government aware that a serious breach has been caused to the Nalbari Dhamdhama Public Works Department Road in North Kamrup by the river Pagladia between the 3rd and 4th miles by its wild and violent currents during the monsoons of 1947-48 and 1948-49?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Embankment and Drainage Department has submitted to Government an estimate with a plan of preventive work to be undertaken against the breach?

(c) If so, whether Government have examined the Scheme and decided to take steps to put the plan into action?

(d) What steps Government are going to take to prevent the impending calamity?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied:

83. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c) & (d)—A retirement for the Road where it was eroded in mile 4 was constructed during 1949-50 and some protective measures are also taken which had prevented further damage and no immediate danger is apprehended. The situation both in mile 3 and 4 is under watch and necessary action to prevent large scale erosion will be taken as necessary and feasible.

In view of the above the Embankment and Drainage Scheme has been kept in abeyance for the time being.

Veterinary Assistant Surgeons serving under the Local Boards

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked: 28

84. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that Government have sanctioned rent-free quarters or house rent allowances in lieu of rent-free quarters to be provided to the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons whose services are lent to Local Boards?

(b) If so, whether this direction has been observed by the Local Boards of the State (Stating the names of the Local Boards which have allowed rent-free quarters or house rent allowances and the names of those Local Boards which have failed to do so separately)?

(c) Whether Government have received any representations from any Veterinary Assistant Surgeons complaining against any Local Boards which failed to observe the said Government direction?

- (d) If so, what are the names of those Local Boards ?
 (e) How do Government propose to compensate the aggrieved Veterinary Assistant Surgeons where the Local Boards are not carrying out the above Government directive ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

84. (a)—Government have sanctioned to all the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons house rent allowance as admissible to Sub-Assistant Surgeons of the Medical Department. As regards the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons whose services have been lent to the Local Boards their decision was that the respective Local Boards should bear the expenditure on this account or provide rent free quarters.

(b)—Gauhati, Nowgong, Sibsagar, Mangaldoi and Dibrugarh Local Boards have intimated their inability to provide rent free quarters to bear the extra expenditure on account of house rent allowance in lieu of rent-free quarters for paucity of funds. The replies of other Local Boards are still due.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Reply to (b) above may be referred to.

(e)—The matter is engaging the active consideration of Government.

Quality of rice supplied to people in rationed areas

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked : 29

85. (a) Are Government aware—

- (i) that there exist large quantities of paddy in the rice supplied to the people in rationed areas ;
- (ii) that due to this the consumers are put to unnecessary trouble and inconvenience and that there occurs heavy loss of rice ;
- (iii) that this unhappy state of things can be easily avoided if the rice mills of the State are compelled to use *paddy shifter* ?

(b) With a view to relieve the people from these troubles do Government propose to direct some responsible officers of the Procurement Department in each Subdivision to inspect the rice mills and take severe measures against those mills which do not use *paddy shifter* ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

85. (a) (i) & (ii)—Government are aware of the position and are doing their best to remedy matters.

(iii) & (b)—Government agree to make enquiries for taking suitable action.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Sir, in my question No. 85 (b) I enquired is whether Government proposes to direct some responsible officers of the Procurement Department in each subdivision to inspect the rice mills and take severe measures against those mills which do not use 'paddy-shifter' but I have not got a clear answer to that question. Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge make the point clear ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: I have replied that Government agree to make enquiries for taking suitable action. But that can be done either by calling for reports or by sending an officer.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Government have admitted that there exists large quantities of paddy in the rice supplied to the people in rationed areas. After that, is it not necessary on the part of the Government to appoint immediately an officer to inspect whether the mills are using paddy shifter or not?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: That I have already admitted.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: The Hon'ble Minister has stated that he will make enquiries. But my question is that there is absolutely no necessity of making any enquiry because it has already been admitted by the Government in the previous question that the state of affairs is undesirable.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member may put that question in a short sentence.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: My question is whether the Government has realised that paddy is found in large quantities in the rice supplied to the people in rationed areas?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Hon. Members know that there is a large number of mills in the State. Simply because some paddy is mixed up with some rice found at Shillong or Gauhati, it is not possible to say that a particular mill is responsible. So naturally some sort of enquiry is necessary to ascertain which of the mills is responsible.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: That is why an officer should be appointed to see which mill is responsible for this.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: I think it is also known to the hon. Member that the mills are situated in different parts of the State. So to depute an officer means delaying the matter, and it would not be more economic. It may be that officers who are in different localities may have an enquiry, but it is not necessary that one officer should be appointed to go round the whole State. It may also delay matters.

Hajo-Nalbari Public Works Department Road in Kamrup District

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked: ^{a 3b}

86. Will Government be pleased to refer to their reply to the Questioner's Unstarred Question No.9 at page 664 of the Assembly Debates of 28th September 1950 and state—

(a) Whether they have made any provision for repair and improvement of the Hajo-Nalbari Public Works Department Road in Kamrup district in the financial year 1951-52.

(b) If so, what is the amount allotted?

(c) If not, why not?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

86. (a)—Hajo-Nalbari section of the North Gauhati-Amingaon-Hajo-Nalbari Road has not yet been included in any of the improvement programme but provision has been proposed to be made for its maintenance during 1951-52.

(b)—Funds for maintenance of roads are provided for in lump and allotment to a particular road is made according to the requirement.

(c)—As the expenditure on this road under Post-War programme as compared to other roads was not much, it was considered proper that its further improvement should wait until other roads which were half completed or nearing completion are completed.

Land Settlement Advisory Boards

Prof. P. M. SARWAN asked :

87. (a) Will Government be pleased to state for what purpose the Land Settlement Advisory Boards have been set up ?

(b) Whom do these Boards represent ?

(c) Who represents the Indian Christians, tea garden and *ex-tea* garden labourers on these Boards ?

(d) Whether Government propose to give representation to Indian Christians, tea garden and *ex-tea* garden labourers on the Provincial Land Settlement Advisory Boards ?

(e) Whether Government are aware that numerous Indian Christians and *ex-tea* garden labourers are being overlooked by the existing Land Settlement Advisory Boards in the State of Assam ?

Srijut HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister) replied :

87. (a)—Land Settlement Advisory Committees have been formed to assist and advise the Deputy Commissioners or the Subdivisional Officers in the matter of settlement of waste lands, particularly on the following matters:—

(i) Reservation of areas and dereservation of reserves.

(ii) Settlement of waste lands in towns.

(iii) Settlement of waste land in villages on co-operative, collective or group basis or with political sufferers.

(iv) Planned settlement in general.

(v) Solution of the problem of rehabilitation of landless, flood affected people, people with uneconomic holdings and people displaced from or deprived of lands due to erosion, acquisition or requisition.

(vi) Any helpful suggestions in expediting the above with a view to help the Grow-More-Food drive by settlement of land with deserving persons.

(b)—The Boards represent public in general but not on communal or sectarian basis.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—Does not arise but Government have no objection to include any deserving public leader.

(e)—Government have no information.

Prof P. M. SARWAN : Will Government write to the Deputy Commissioners.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : It is a request for action.

Prof. P. M. SARWAN : Will Government see the expediency of writing to the Deputy Commissioners of Darrang, Sibsagar and Lakhimpur for recommending inclusion of some more people in the Land Settlement Advisory Committees to take care of the neglected cultivators ?

Srijut HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister) : These Committees are working well. So Government do not see the necessity of writing to the local officers.

Maulavi MD. MAKSED ALI : May I know whether a Land Settlement Advisory Committee will be formed in the district of Goalpara for temporary settlement of land ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : This is a new question.

Prof. P. M. SARWAN : The answer is that these Committees are working well, but may I tell the Government that these Committees are not working well ?

(No reply)

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : The reply to question No.87(d) is "Government have no objection to include any deserving public leader". In view of this reply may I know from the Government whether they think it desirable to include some more people on these Committees ?

Srijut HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister) : Government have no objection, but the proposal should come from the local officers such as Deputy Commissioners or Subdivisional Officers.

Complaint re non-receipt of replies to certain questions

Maulavi ABDUL HALIM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of information. Long, long ago I sent some questions of urgent public importance and I do not know what has happened to them.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Very well, I shall see to that.

Result of election to the Public Accounts Committee

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Order, order, I shall now announce the result of the voting for election of members to the Public Accounts Committee held on the 15th of March 1951. The following members are declared elected :—

1. Maulavi Abdul Halim.
2. Srijut Bhadra Kanta Gogoi.
3. Babu Kamini Kumar Sen.
4. Srijut Gauri Kanta Talukdar.
5. Mr. J. S. Hardman.
6. Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury.

Demands for Grants**GRANT No.38.****(Loans and Advances bearing interest and not bearing interest)**

The Hon'ble Srijut MOTIRAM BORA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.1,07,34,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952, for the administration of the head—"Loans and Advances, etc."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.1,07,34,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952, for the administration of the head—"Loans and Advances, etc."

There is no Cut Motion. I put the question.

The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.1,07,34,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952 for the administration of the head—"Loans and Advances, etc".

The Motion was adopted.

GRANT No. 9.**(18-B and 68-B—Navigation, Embankments and Drainage Works)**

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.12,81,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1952 for the administration of the head—"18-B and 68-B.—Navigation, Embankments and Drainage Works."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.12,81,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1952 for the administration of the head—"18-B & 68-B.—Navigation, Embankments and Drainage Works".

There is only one Cut Motion standing in the name of Maulavi Md. Nazmal Haque.

Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg, to move that the provision of Rs.4,00,000 under Grant No.9 Major head—18-B and 68-B.—Navigation, Embankments and Drainage Works, Minor head—C.—Maintenance and Repairs at page 58 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.12,81,300 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

My intention to move this Cut Motion, Sir, is to criticise the Government for their failure to overhaul the steam launch of Goalpara- Jogighopa ghat in a dry dock.

Sir, Government will agree with me that they have made a blunder in purchasing a defective steam ferry at the time of purchasing it and Government have committed another blunder by not sending it up for complete repair in a dry dock. Recurring expenditure is being incurred, but no real repair works are being done. The Hon'ble Minister holding the portfolio of Navigation once went to inspect this steam ferry in the year 1949.....

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : On a point of information, Sir, I was not holding the portfolio of Navigation in the year 1949.

Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE : I mean the Hon'ble Minister who is now holding the portfolio of Medical. He promised that he would see that this steam ferry was repaired completely so that it would be in a perfect running order within a week. Three years have since passed but still this steam ferry has not been put in proper order. This is I think a sheer neglect on the part of Government and wastage of public money. If this steam launch or ferry had been sent for complete repair I think the amount of expenditure in connection with the repair could have been made up already. I want to warn the Government that if it is put into operation without complete repair it will not be plied for a long time, because repair will have to be done again. At the time of spending public money the Government should be more cautious that the expenditure does not go to the detriment of the benefit to the public. The general opinion of the public of Goalpara is that Government, in order to pacify the public, had bought this steam launch as an exhibition.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved :

"That the provision of Rs.4,00,000 under Grant No.9, Major head—18-B and 68 B.—Navigation, Embankments and Drainage Works, Minor head—C.—Maintenance and Repairs, at page 58 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.12,81,300 do stand reduced by Re.1"

Maulavi MD. MAKSED ALI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to say only a few words on this Cut Motion moved by an hon. Member from this side of the House. Sir, the steam ferry referred to by my hon. Friend just now has been lying as useless at the Goalpara ghat for more than a couple of years and we have not yet seen what progress the Government has made to make this steam ferry in proper running condition. The people have to cross the river from Jogighopa to Goalpara twice daily and on some days more than twice. We feel much difficulty, Sir, in crossing the river by the present power driven mar boats. On my way to Shillong I saw this time how people were experiencing difficulties, because in some trips we find even cattle being taken in those mar boats in spite of the passengers' congestion which is already there. It will not be out of place to mention here that during the summer season when the mighty Brahmaputra is in high rising condition it is not at all safe for us to cross this deep river by the small power driven boats which are plied now. So, Sir, I request the Government to make early arrangement for replacing the present power driven mar boats by a reliable steam ferry. I hope Government would please try to remove the long felt difficulties of our people by placing a new and reliable steam ferry at the Jogighopa-Goalpara ghat.

With these few words, Sir, I support this Cut Motion.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the steam launch referred to by the hon. Mover of the Cut Motion does not belong to this Government; it was bought by the Central Government and placed at our disposal to ply on this ghat which is a national high way. Before it was purchased it was certified by an engineer appointed by Central Government. Therefore, Sir, my hon. Friend over there cannot find fault with this Government for the purchase of this steam ferry (Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury: Government lacked interest in this case). I am sorry, Sir, to hear the remark that at the time of purchasing it this Government did not take any interest.

It is to be expected that when the Government of India, commanding large resources get it certified before purchase, the launch should be in order. It is a fact that after plying for some months it has gone out of order and it is under repair now. As the launch belongs to the Government of India, they by sending their experts do give us advice as to how it should be repaired. In their advice they have not indicated at any time that this craft should be repaired in a dry dock. Neither it could be done by sending it through Pakistan border. Therefore, Sir, I submit that for failure to repair this 'Z' Craft in dry dock, this Government should not be blamed. We have been trying our best with our own Engineers and they have been doing all that they can. This is now under overhaul and by the first week of April it will be put again in order. In the circumstances I request the hon. Member to withdraw his Cut Motion.

Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE: I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Cut Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his Cut Motion? (Voices—Yes—Yes.)

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

I put the question.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.12,81,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952, for the administration of the head—"18-B. & 68-B.—Navigation, Embankments and Drainage Works."

The Motion was adopted.

GRANT No.29

(56.—STATIONERY AND PRINTING).

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.8, 58,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952, for the administration of the head "56.—Stationery and Printing".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.8,58,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952, for the administration of the head "56.—Stationery and Printing".

There are no Cut Motions. So I put the question.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.8,58,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952, for the administration of the head "56.—Stationery and Printing".

The Motion was adopted.

GRANT No.4

(9.—STAMPS)

The Hon'ble Srijut MOTIRAM BORA : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.69,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952, for the administration of the head " 9.—Stamps ".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

" That a sum not exceeding Rs.69,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952, for the administration of the head " 9.—Stamps ".

There is no Cut Motion. So I put the question.

The question is :

" That a sum not exceeding Rs.69,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952, for the administration of the head ' 9.—Stamps ' ".

The Motion was adopted.

GRANT No.33-B.

(64-C.—PRE-PARTITION PAYMENTS)

The Hon'ble Srijut MOTIRAM BORA : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.10,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952, for the administration of the head " 64-C.—Pre-Partition Payment ".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

" That a sum not exceeding Rs.10,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952, for the administration of the head "64-C.—Pre-Partition Payments ".

There are no Cut Motions. So I put the question.

The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.10,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952, for the administration of the head "64-C.—Pre-Partition Payments".

The Motion was adopted.

GRANT No.33-C.

(XLVI-A.—ROAD TRANSPORT SCHEMES—WORKING EXPENSES)

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.54,25,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952, for the administration of the head "XLVI-A.—Road Transport Schemes—Working Expenses".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

" That a sum not exceeding Rs.54,25,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952, for the administration of the head "XLVI-A.—Road Transport Schemes—Working Expenses ".

There are no Cut Motions. So I put the question.

The question is :

" That a sum not exceeding Rs.54,25,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952, for the administration of the head "XLVI-A.—Road Transport Schemes—Working Expenses ".

The Motion was adopted.

GRANT No.3

(8.—EXCISE)

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.8,17,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952, for the administration of the head "8.—Excise ".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

" That a sum not exceeding Rs.8,17,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952, for the administration of the head '8.—Excise'."

There is one Cut Motion standing in the name of Mr. Hardman.

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.8,17,400 under Grant No.3, Major head 8.—Excise, at page 43 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.8,17,400 do stand reduced by Re.1.

My object of moving this Cut Motion is to raise a general discussion, Sir.

We are not supporters of a policy of liquor prohibition but we consider that Government have a definite responsibility to do everything in their power to mitigate the evils of drink. The income which the Government are deriving from this source is rising from year to year. From the Budget Memorandum for 1951-52 we find that in 1947-48 the income was Rs.54 lakhs 32 thousand ; in 1948-49, it was Rs.68 lakhs 60 thousand ; in 1949-50, the income was Rs.71 lakhs 62 thousand ; in the revised it is still higher, viz., 72 lakhs 74 thousand. While it is true that the Budget figure shows a small decline of some 3½ lakhs, I feel certain that having regard to the prevailing trend in the past, Government is not correct in stating that the figure will be lower during the current year and judging by the trend of past actuals it is safe to estimate that a sum of Rs.75 or 76 lakhs will be obtained in the current year from the sale of country spirit.

In the Budget speech given by the Hon'ble Finance Minister a reference was made to a number of measures which Government have taken to reduce consumption, but our impression is or this is confirmed by the figures contained in the Memorandum, that income from liquor is on the increase, and Government's efforts to reduce consumption have not been conspicuously successful.
(Hear, hear.)

There was some discussion, I think, during the course of the year in regard to the measures which might appropriately be taken to curtail the consumption of liquor. One of the suggestions which was considered at the time was the closing of liquor shops on pay days and the day following pay days in the case of industrial labour, and this, according to the information I have received as I did not attend the meeting personally but a representative of the group was there, this arrangement was supported by the Committee appointed by Government. I am not aware, however, that there has been any closing of liquor shops on pay days and on the day following pay days, and in point of fact, during the course of my tours I have frequently seen drunken persons on the road side, and it seems that effective control of sale of liquor has not been taken. We would ask Government what action is proposed to be taken by Government in regard to the stoppage of sale of liquor on pay days and the subsequent day. I believe, this system has been in force in the industrial areas in Calcutta and has proved effective. Once the wage-earner succeeds in getting his money safely into his wife's hand, we can rely upon his wife to see that he is not exposed to the temptation of spending his money in liquor, which will be diverted to objects more conducive to the prosperity of the family. This is, we feel a measure which urgently needs the close attention of Government.

Government on the other hand, have taken particular merit in having advanced prohibition by taking certain steps to curtail the sale of foreign liquor. Foreign liquor concerns only a relatively unimportant section of the residents in India. In fact the figures show that the income from foreign liquor is steadily diminishing; from Rs.12 lakhs in 1947-48, the income declined to Rs.10 lakhs in 1948-49, to Rs.9 lakhs in 1949-50 and Rs.8 lakhs in the Revised. There is a very steady decline in the trend of consumption and therefore, we see little reason why further vigorous measures to curtail consumption of this spirit which pay the highest rate of tax should be taken. It has been taxed heavily both by the Centre and by the Provincial Government.

Another point which I think, merits the attention of the Government is that a large number of foreigners, not merely those from the United Kingdom, take foreign liquor in one form or another. It has been recognised by all countries that tourist traffic is important. Some countries, notably, Switzerland, depend almost entirely on tourist traffic. It is, therefore, undesirable that Government should adopt measures which tend to inhibit tourists from touring this country. Assam can secure some measure of prosperity by offering facilities to tourists from other parts of India and from outside and we think that a more liberal policy in providing refreshment will do much to attract tourists without materially harming Government's policy of progressively reducing liquor consumption.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

"That the total provision of Rs.8,17,400 under grant No.3, Major head—8.—Excise, at page 43 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.8,17,400 do stand reduced by Re.1."

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to the European Group, particularly to Mr. Hardman for raising a discussion on Excise. I do not think I should repeat what I have said already rather elaborately on a previous occasion as to the policy of the Government in the matter of total prohibition in Assam.

This policy has not yet been fully implemented. In 1948 circumstances forced, Mr. Motiram Bora, now the Hon'ble Finance Minister of the State to rise in his seat and make a vehement protest against Government's miserable failure in this very important matter—I should say—vital matter

concerning the health of the people in the Province. In addition to what I said, Mr. Bora wanted total prohibition. Now, I leave the whole thing to the judgment of my Friend over there.

From the figures quoted by hon. Mr. Hardman from the Memorandum, we find that there has been an yearly increase in the revenue from sales of liquor, although this year it has been reduced to Rs.68 8 lakhs.

Sir, we all know to the adverse effect liquor has on the health of the people—society and nation. In our country it is never taken in adequate doses. If it were consumed in the way the people of Europe and America consume it, I would have no objection to the continuation of its use. But it is never done so. Government may allow foreign liquor for some little time longer as the consumers of it constitute a small section of the community. What I do propose is that Government should take adequate steps in launching their total prohibition scheme in the whole State. If you are wedded to total prohibition—and that is the policy of the Government as stated on different occasions—do it as early as possible. Sir, during the regime of Herbert Hoover, the Republican President from 1928-1932, there was prohibition of liquor in America and the people of America wanted to see the success of this total prohibition, but when subsequently Mr. Roosevelt came to power the previous decision came to be reconsidered. Whatever the people of America or of other countries of Europe may do in this respect, we the people of East, specially of India are of the opinion that Government do take very early steps in the direction of launching this important scheme of theirs. With regard to country liquor, a statement is to be found at page 16 of the Memorandum of the Budget which says—“Country Spirit—The increase in the revised is due to the Assam Distillery being in a position to supply country spirit throughout the State while the decrease in the Budget as compared with the revised is due to anticipated lesser revenue on account of deterioration of economic condition of consuming public.” This means that Government are sorry that they are getting less not because of their scheme but because of the deterioration of the economic condition of the people over whom they are ruling.

Srijut BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: Is it mentioned that they are sorry for that?

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: It appears they are sorry. It is, I think, clear from the language and in the Memorandum. Sir, I have full sympathy with what has been stated by Mr. Hardman, but with regard to country liquor as the Government is wedded to the policy of total prohibition they should take immediate steps to put it into practice. I want, Sir, that every hon. Member of this House would accept this proposal. I hope the Cut Motion as has been advanced by Mr. Hardman would be supported by everybody. Mr. Hardman may be prepared to withdraw it if adequate assurance is given that action would be taken in the direction I have indicated.

Srijut HEM CHANDRA HAZARIKA: মাননীয় সভাপতি ডাঙরীয়া, মাননীয় চৌধুরী চাহাবে Country liquor আৰু Foreign liquor সম্পৰ্কে যিটো অভিযোগ কৰিছে সোৰ মনেৰে সেইটো হব নোৱাৰে। Country liquor আমাৰ দেশৰ মানুহে হজম কৰিছে আৰু Foreign liquor আমাৰ দেশৰ মানুহে কম খাবলৈ ধৰা নাই। আমি Foreign liquor বিক্ৰেতাৰ লগত আলোচনা কৰি গম পাইছো যে বিদেশৰ মানুহৰ সংখ্যা কমি গৈছে যদিও Foreign liquor ৰ বিক্ৰী কমি নাই। গতিকে Liquor Prohibition আৰ্চনি হাতত লবলৈ চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ জনালো। আজি আমাৰ দেশত চুলাই মদ বিক্ৰী হব লাগিছে এইটো সকলোৱে জনা কথা। আমাৰ দেশত আজি চুলাই মদ তৈয়াৰ

কৰা যি অনুপাতে বন্ধ হব লাগিছিল সেই অনুপাতে বন্ধ হোৱা নাই। Excise কৰ্মচাৰী সকলে চুলাই মদ তৈয়াৰ কৰা বন্ধ কৰিব নোৱাৰা হৈছে। সেই মানুহবিলাকক ধৰিবলৈ গৈ অনেক সময়ত বিপদত পৰা আনি শুনিছো। সেইমানুহ বিলাকে সাধাৰণতে আওহতীয়া ঠাইত মদ তৈয়াৰ কৰে আৰু এই বিলাকৰ ভিতৰত বেচি ভাগ মানুহেই বৰ জৰ্জী মানুহ। Excise কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ হাতত বন্দুক নিদিলে চুলাই মদ তৈয়াৰ কৰা মানুহবিলাকক ধৰা সহজ নহয়। তাৰ উপৰি চুলাই মদ তৈয়াৰ কৰা ঠাইৰ সন্ত্ৰে পালেও তৎক্ষণাত আবকাৰী কৰ্মচাৰী সকল গৈ উপস্থিত হবলৈ Conveyance ৰ সুবিধা নাই; Conveyance ৰ সুবিধা কৰি দিলে কোনোবা গাঁৱত চুলাই মদ তৈয়াৰ হৈছে বুলি গম পালে খবৰ পোৱা মাত্ৰে সেই চুলাই মদ কৰা মানুহক ধৰি আনিবলৈ সুবিধা হব। গতিকে মই চৰকাৰক এই সম্বন্ধে চিন্তা কৰিবলৈ অনুৰোধ কৰো। সময়ে সময়ে দেখা পাও Excise staff ৰ মানুহে মদৰ দোকানত বহি মদ খায়, গতিকে তেওঁলোকে নিয়মমতে Prohibition ৰ কাম কৰিব নোৱাৰে। গতিকে Excise staff ৰ কৰ্মচাৰীয়ে যাতে মদ খোৱাৰ পৰা আতৰি থাকে বা মদ খোৱাৰ পৰা বিবত থাকে তাৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে নিয়ম কৰিবৰ কাৰণে বিভাগীয় কৰ্তৃপক্ষৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰো।

মই চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰো যাতে staff ত যি বিলাক 'পেট্ৰলপাৰ্চী' আছে তেওঁলোকেও যেন মদ পানৰ বিৰুদ্ধে প্ৰচাৰ কাৰ্য্য চলাব পাৰে তাৰ নিৰ্দেশ দিয়ে। ইং ১৯২১ চনত যেতিয়া আমি কলেজত পঢ়িছিলো, আৰু যেতিয়া বৃটিছৰ শাসন নীতি অতি কঠোৰ আছিল সেই তেতিয়াৰে পৰা মদ কানি নিবাৰণৰ বাবে যুজি অহাৰ কথা মনত আছে। আৰু মনত আছে তাৰ কাৰণে তীব্ৰ যাতনা ভুগিব লগা হৈছিল—। ইমান দিনৰে পৰা যি বস্ত্ৰৰ বিৰুদ্ধে ইমান অভিযান চলাই আহিব লগা হৈছে, সি, আজি আমাৰ স্বাধীনতাৰ প্ৰথম সুযোগৰ সোঁৱৰণীত আমাৰ জনপ্ৰিয় চৰকাৰৰ হাতত ক্ৰমাগুয়ে শেষ হৈ অহাতো মই একান্ত দৰ্কাৰ বুলি বিবেচনা কৰো।

(Voices—শুনক, শুনক)

আজি আমাৰ চৰকাৰে যি নীতিত কানি নিবাৰণ অভিযান আৰম্ভ কৰিছে, মদ নিবাৰণৰ অভিযানৰ হেতু সেই গতিত কাৰ্য্য হাতত লব পৰা নাই। এই সম্পৰ্কে মোৰ নিজা অভিজ্ঞতাৰ পৰা কেই আঘাৰ মান কথা কব খোজো। মদ খোৱা প্ৰথাটোৰ বিৰুদ্ধে, Rule regulation কৰিবলৈ চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰ পৰা এটা কমিটি গঠন কৰি দিয়া হৈছিল আৰু মইও সেই কমিটিৰেই এজন মেম্বাৰ আছিলো। কমিটিৰ তৰফৰ পৰা কিছুমান Recommendation দিয়া হৈছিল— যেনে,

(১) নিৰ্দিষ্ট সময়ৰ বাহিৰে অন্য সময়ত যাতে মদ বিক্ৰী নহয়;

(২) এজন মানুহে যাতে এক বটলৰ অধিক মদ নেপায়;

(৩) দোকান বিলাকত যাতে, এজন মানুহে এবাৰতকৈ বেচিবাৰ মদ কিনিব নোৱাৰে তাৰ কাৰণে আৱশ্যকীয় Register maintain কৰা ইত্যাদি। কিন্তু দুখৰ বিষয় সেই recommendation অনুযায়ী কাম হোৱা দেখা নেযায়। মদ খোৱা লোকৰ ইমানেই প্ৰকোপ যে, দিনে দিনে সিবিলাকৰ সংখ্যা বাঢ়িছেহে। নগৰবতৌ কথাই নাই, গাৱে-ভূঞা, মদ খোৱা মানুহৰ সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি হব ধৰিছে। চাহ বাগানৰ বনুৱাসকল, নগৰ-গাঁৱৰ ডেকা সকলৰো আজি মদ নহলে নচলাত পৰিছে; বনুৱা সকল, আৰু কিছুমান ডেকাই, একেলগে একো একোজনে তিনি বটল মদ কিনি এবটল খাই, দুবটল আকৌ চাহৰ দোকানত বিক্ৰী কৰি নতুনকৈ মদখোৱা মানুহৰ সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি কৰাত সহায় কৰিছে। গতিকে, মদৰ দোকান বিলাকত খৰিদ্ধাৰ সকলৰ নাম যাতে register থাকে, তাৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে কাম জোৰেৰে হাতত লব লাগে; আৰু কমিটিৰ recommendation বিলাক যাতে কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰিবলৈ চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰিলো।

আজি আমি স্বাধীন, আজি আমাৰ কৰ্তব্যৰ ভিতৰত অশিক্ষিত আমাৰ মানুহবিলাকক নিতাচাৰী হবলৈ শিকাব লাগিব আৰু সিবিলাকৰ সামাজিক, মানসিক উন্নতিৰ উৎকৰ্ষ সাধন কৰিবই লাগিব; তেহে আমি সকলো ফালৰ পৰা সুস্থ নাগৰিক গঢ়ি তুলি আমাৰ দেশখন বন্ধা কৰিবলৈ সমৰ্থ হব পাৰিম। এই অথে চৰকাৰে, চৰকাৰী কৰ্মচাৰী সকললৈ 'চাবকুলাৰ লেটাৰ'দি মদ নিবাবৰ কাৰ্য্যত সহায় কৰিবৰ কাৰণে নিৰ্দেশ দিয়া দৰ্কাৰ বুলি মই ভাবো। অনেক সময়ত মদৰ দোকান বিলাক বন্ধৰ বাৰত আৰু নিৰ্দিষ্ট সময়ৰ পাছতো মদৰ দোকান বিলাকত মদ খোৱা আৰু মদ কিনা দেখা যায়। মদৰ দোকানৰ দুৱাৰ বিলাক অসময়ত বন্ধ থাকিলেও দুৱাৰ মুখত মাতাল অৱস্থাত মানুহবিলাক প্ৰায়েই বৈ থকা দেখা যায়। তাৰ পৰা অনুমান হয়, সেই মানুহবিলাকক পিছ দুৱাৰেদি চোৰাং কৈ country liquor নিশ্চয় বেচে। সেই কাৰণে দোকানবিলাকত যাতে এনে কুকাৰ্য্য চলোৱা কাম কৰা নহয়, তাৰ কাৰণে যেন চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰ পৰা চোকা দৃষ্টি ৰাখে।

আন এটা কথাটো এই প্ৰসঙ্গত মই উল্লেখ কৰোঁ যে মদৰ দোকানৰ মহলদাৰ বিলাকৰ পৰাও যাতে দহৰ উপকাৰ হয় সেই অথে, অশিক্ষিত কিছুমান মানুহৰ হাতত দোকানৰ মহলদাৰী বাবটো যেন এৰি দিয়া নহয়। দোকানৰ বন্দবস্তৰ (settlement) সময়ত, যদি কোনো উচ্চ বংশৰ শিক্ষিত লোকৰ টেণ্ডাৰ থাকে, তেন্তে আগতে উল্লেখ কৰি অহা restriction বোৰৰে সৈতে তেনে মানুহৰ লগত মদৰ দোকানৰ বন্দবস্ত কৰিলে চৰকাৰ আৰু ৰাইজৰ, দুয়োৰে উপকাৰ হয় আৰু এই ফেৰা কাম ভবিষ্যতে কৰিবলৈ চৰকাৰক মই অনুৰোধ জনাও।

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN: গোঁসাই মহন্তক দিলে কেনে হয়?

Srijut HEM CHANDRA HAZARIKA: তেখেত সকলক দিলে কেনেহয় কব নোৱাৰিলেও, যদি তেনেকুৱা মানুহে "তেণ্ডাৰ" দিয়ে আৰু উল্লেখিত restriction বিলাকলৈ চকুৰাখি যদি কাম চলাব পাৰে, তেনেহলে বোধকৰোঁ বেয়া নহব।

তাৰ পিচত কানি সম্পৰ্কে দুআষাৰ মান কব খুজিছো। কানি নিবাবণি অভিযান ব্যাপক ভাবে চলোৱা হৈছে যদিও, আজি আমাৰ মানুহৰ মাজত কানি প্ৰচলন একেবাৰে বন্ধ হোৱা নাই। মদৰ লগতে, অসমৰ বাগীচা বিলাকৰ বনুৱা সকলৰ মাজত কানিৰ প্ৰচলনো ব্যাপক ভাবে সোমাইছে। কানি-সংক্ৰান্ত-ব্যাপাৰত, চৰকাৰী কৰ্মচাৰী (Excise Department ৰ কৰ্মচাৰী সকল) সকলে বাগীচাৰ কৰ্তৃপক্ষৰ পৰা আশানুৰূপ সহায় পোৱা দেখা নাযায়। কাজেই, মই Mr. Hardman ক অনুৰোধ কৰো যেন Indian Tea Association ৰ যোগেদি সকলো বিলাক বাগীচাতে "চাবকুলাৰ" জাৰী কৰি Excise বিভাগৰ কৰ্মচাৰী সকলক বাগীচাৰ কৰ্তৃপক্ষই সহায় কৰি কানি নিবাবণিৰ কামত চৰকাৰক সহায় কৰিবলৈ যেন সহানুভূতিৰ অভাৱ নহয়।

এই সম্বন্ধীয় আন এটা কথাটো মই চৰকাৰক চোকা দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰোঁ যে, আওহতীয়া কিছুমান অঞ্চল আছে যেনে উত্তৰলক্ষীমপুৰৰ চকুৱাখানা, মাছখোৱা, চিচি, আদি অঞ্চল সনুহ। যিবিলাক ঠাইলৈ যান বাহনৰ অসুবিধা দেখুৱাই বিভাগীয় কৰ্মচাৰী সকল যাব নোৱাৰে বুলি নাযায়; অথচ সেই অঞ্চল বিলাক কানিয়াৰ ঘাটি বুলি কব পাৰি। সেই ভিতৰৰা আওহতীয়া অঞ্চল সনুহৰ মাজতো যেন, কানি নিবাবণিৰ ব্যাপক অভিযান চলে, তাৰ নিমিত্তেও চৰকাৰক দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰোঁ।

Prof. P. M. SARWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Mr. Hardman has given us certain valuable facts and figures and also some suggestions. The Government cannot do better than adopting some of those suggestions. Mr. Hardman has pointed out that consumption of foreign liquor has diminished progressively; on the other hand, the consumption of country spirit has quadrupled. When the British were the rulers of India the revenue from Excise did not go above 15 lakhs of rupees, in fact it was sometimes very much below that figure. But now we

find that the Excise revenue has gone upto 72 lakhs, *i.e.*, it has more than quadrupled. The British, it seems, were better prohibitionists than the present rulers in spite of the fact that prohibition is the key-note of their rule. (*At the stage the Hon'ble the Speaker vacated the Chair and the Deputy Speaker occupied it*). The present rulers are anti-prohibitionists and the consumption of country spirit is on the increase in a geometrically progressive scale. If Government were alert they would find that in addition to the consumption of country spirit with the knowledge of the Government, there is large scale of illicit liquor obtained from illicit distillation. If the Government would send some members of the secret police they will find that illicit distillation of liquor is being carried on at Borpathar and Sarupathar mouzas; and Tingkhong mouza is another area where illicit distillation is being carried on unchecked.

The Excise men are more alert in getting hold of innocent inoffensive people who sometimes get drunk with 'lau pani'. I think such people should not be paid much attention to by the Excise men who should instead prevent this illicit distillation of liquor which is so harmful when people consume in large quantities. The fact that people are largely consuming country spirit is shown by the fact that last year's revenue amounted to no less than 72 lakhs of rupees. This does not show that Government are seriously thinking of checking consumption of liquor; rather they want the people to consume more and more liquor so that it could be a ready source of income for the Government revenue.

As regards the working of the Opium Prohibition by the Excise Department, I must say that it has not succeeded as Government have made the public to believe. I am here to represent the view of the common people and the view of the common people is that the opium prohibition has completely failed. The suggestion that the day when the labourers receive their wages should be the day when the sale of liquor should be stopped is a good suggestion. I also would suggest that the day labourers receive their wages and the day following should be the day on which liquor should be prohibited from being sold in our industrial areas (hear, hear). In that way Government will not only be helpful to the people to raise their standard of living, but also they will be following their ideal of moving towards total prohibition.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: Madam, Deputy Speaker, I had no intention to take part in this Cut Motion, but some of my Friends on my left desire me to speak something regarding prohibition, so I have no alternative but to speak a few words.

I fully agree with my hon. Friend Mr. Hardman when he says that Government should take some steps for the progressive reduction of consumption of liquor in our State. As a matter of fact it has been amply stated by the Hon'ble Finance Minister in his Budget speech that some steps have already been taken by Government in order to reduce the sale and consumption of liquor in our State.

Madam, it is very easy to speak about prohibition, but it is very difficult to make the campaign successful unless there is public opinion and public co-operation behind it. I think hon. Members of this House are aware of the result of total prohibition in other States like Bombay. These States could start the campaign of total prohibition in spite of the fact that they lose a huge part of their State revenue because these are very rich States. But our State is a poor one and at present is not in a position to take drastic steps towards total prohibition.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: On a point of personal explanation, Madam, may I refer the hon. Member's attention to Article 47 of the Constitution which says ".....the State shall endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption except for medicinal purposes of intoxicating drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health".

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: Yes, I quite realise that, but I have already submitted that our State has taken action to reduce consumption of liquor as far as practicable. But as I said, it is very difficult to bring total prohibition of liquor unless public opinion is behind it. I can tell the hon. Members of this House about our experience with regard to the Opium Prohibition. Many hon. Members are aware that there was an Opium Prohibition Campaign launched by this Government sometime in 1939. The result was total stoppage of opium and all opium shops were closed down by Government. But what happened? Subsequently the revenue that was derived by Government from this source was lost to the Government but went to some unscrupulous smugglers. Thus our Government had to suffer a huge loss of revenue and the income went to the smugglers. It was only after the Congress Government came into power that they passed the legislation for total prohibition of opium in Assam (The Assam Opium Prohibition Act, 1947) and the campaign of opium prohibition was started very vigorously with the result that many smugglers have been externed from this State and many have been dealt with very severely, some have been sentenced to rigorous imprisonment varying from 1 to 5 years and others have stopped their nefarious activities to smuggle opium so far as my information goes.

At the present moment the non-official organisations are making propaganda in villages both in the plains and in the hills against opium consumption and as a result hundreds of opium addicts have been pouring in to receive treatment in Treatment Centres which Government have opened at Sadiya, in the Mikir Hills and at Nongpoh. So, this public opinion is very essential in Opium Prohibition Campaign or any other campaign undertaken by Government. Now, along with the opium prohibition we are making propaganda both in our villages and in the hill areas against consumption of liquor. As a matter of fact our social workers and the Indian National Trade Union Congress are making this propaganda in the tea gardens and also as a result of public meetings the *ex-tea* garden labourers have voluntarily come out to speak against this harmful habit and the women workers have begun abusing their husbands for taking liquor and other intoxicants. I request my hon. Friends to make the same propaganda in public meetings when they go round their constituencies against taking liquor and thus with their co-operation and with the co-operation of social workers outside I think the habit of taking liquor can be minimised to a great extent.

Prof. Sarwan has made an allegation that this Government is not in favour of prohibition. He has made special mention of the cases of Barpathar, Sarupathar and Tingkhong areas which are overwhelmingly occupied by the *ex-tea* garden labourers. I would like to ask my hon. Friend whether he has so far requested any *ex-tea* garden labourers to give up the habit of taking liquor. But instead he has accused the Excise staff for detecting some cases of Laopani and other country-made liquors.

With regard to opium prohibition I would like to say that it is the public opinion that opium prohibition must be successful. I would like to ask the hon. Members where he has got this public opinion and how he could know that opium prohibition is not successful. Has he ever tried to know whether this campaign is successful or not? He has stated that some innocent persons were caught by the Excise staff as smugglers, though they were not actually smugglers. It is very difficult to say without trial or evidence who are actually smugglers and who are not when caught by the Excise staff.

Prof. P. M. SARWAN: On a point of personal explanation, Madam, I spoke against smuggling and I never spoke for smugglers. I would never take the cause of smugglers.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA : What I mean to say is that a certain party was caught by the Excise staff as being smugglers, that party went and told Prof. Sarwan that they were innocent. So my hon. Friend went to the Excise officer concerned to defend the man with whom opium was found. That is what I mean to say.

In the Cut Motion that has been moved by Mr. Hardman the hon. Mover has said that the consumption of liquor should be reduced as far as possible. As a matter of fact Government is also trying to do it with the public co-operation and with the co-operation of the hon. Members of this House. For total prohibition of liquor we should first try to create public opinion so that we can be successful as soon as total prohibition is launched on by our Government.

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN : উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়া, Excise Prohibition সম্পর্কে আমার মাননীয় হেম হাজৰীকা দেৱে কৈ গৈছে ; ময়ো সেই সম্পৰ্কে এঘাৰ কণ্ট বুলি থিয় দিছো।

মোৰ মনেৰে, এই Prohibition ৰ কাৰ্য্য সুসম্পন্ন কৰিবলৈ প্ৰথমতে আমাৰ ৰাজ্যত এটি সহানুভূতিপূৰ্ণ জনমত গঢ়ি তুলিব লাগিব। (Voice—কিয়, আমেৰীকা, ইংলণ্ড, মাদ্ৰাজ আদিত কেনেকৈ Prohibition কৰিছে?) তেনেকৈ আমাৰ ৰাজ্যত Prohibition কৰা সুকঠিন। আপোনালোকে দেখিছে যে, America, England আনকি মাদ্ৰাজ আদি কেনে ধনী আৰু শিক্ষা বিষয়ত উন্নত দেশ। সেই দেশৰ পায় সকলো লোকেই এই বস্তু বিলাকৰ অপকাৰীতা বুজি কিন্তু মাদকতাৰণত তেওঁলোকে Prohibition কৰিবলৈ সক্ষম নহৈছিল আৰু আমাৰ এই ৰাজ্যত এই কাম সিমান উজু নহয়। কিয়নো যিখন দেশত এচক ভাত পচাই ঘৰে ঘৰে মদ তৈয়াৰ কৰি খাব পাৰে, সেই ৰাজ্যত মাদকতা নিবাৰণৰ কাম কিমান কঠিন, সদস্য সকলেই ভাবি চাওক।

প্ৰথমতে আমাৰ সকলো ৰাইজে ইয়াৰ অপকাৰীতা ভালকৈ উপলব্ধি কৰিব লাগিব; আৰু ইয়াৰ Prohibition যে নিতান্ত প্ৰয়োজন সেই মন্ত্ৰে এটি জনমত সংগঠন হলেহে Prohibition কাৰ্য্যকৰী হব। কিন্তু এই জনমতৰ সমৰ্থন গঢ়ি তোলাটোৱেই টান আৰু ডাঙৰ কথা।

উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে এটা কথা কওঁ। ১৯২১ চনত কংগ্ৰেছে আন্দোলন (Movement) কৰা সময়ত আমাৰ দেশত ৭০ লাখ টকাৰ কানি বিক্ৰী কৰিছিল। তেতিয়া আমাৰ কংগ্ৰেছৰ তৰফৰ পৰা এই মদ কানি নিবাৰণৰ কাৰণে জনাত সংগ্ৰহ কৰাৰ চেষ্টা কৰা হৈছিল আৰু লগে লগে কংগ্ৰেছৰ স্বেচ্ছাসেৱক সকল গাঁৱে গাঁৱে গৈ আনকি কানি খোৱা মানুহৰ হোকা চিলিম বিলাকো আঁতৰাই লৈ আহিল (হাঁহি) কিন্তু ফলত জানো একেবাৰে কানি উঠাই দিবলৈ সমৰ্থ হৈছিল? হাজাৰ হাজাৰ শই শই স্বেচ্ছাসেৱকে গাঁৱে গাঁৱে সোমাব লগীয়া হৈছিল। অকল আমাৰ নগাৱঁতেই মাহে ১৫ মোণ কানি বিক্ৰী হৈছিল; আৰু সেই কানি খোৱা অভ্যাগ উঠোৱা কাম কৰাৰ কাৰণে জনমতৰ সমৰ্থন পাবলৈ ১,২০০ কংগ্ৰেছ স্বেচ্ছাসেৱকে কাৰাগাৰৰ আশ্ৰয় লব লগীয়া হৈছিল। তেওঁলোকে তেতিয়াও বৃটিছ গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ কোপ-দৃষ্টিত পৰিব লগীয়া হৈছিল। এনেকৈ জেল জৰিয়না কষ্ট ভোগৰ পাচতহে কানিৰ অপকাৰিতা মানুহে ক্ৰমে বুজিব পাৰিছিল। ১৯৩৯ চনত যেতিয়া কংগ্ৰেছ কোৱালিফায়েন গভৰ্ণমেণ্ট হৈছিল, তেতিয়া প্ৰথমতে দুখন জিলাত Experiment হিচাপে কানি নিবাৰণি অভিযান চলোৱা হৈছিল। কিন্তু কিছুমান মানুহে ইয়াৰ উপকাৰীতা উপলব্ধি নকৰি তেতিয়াও চোৰাংকৈ কানি বিক্ৰী কৰিয়েই আছিল।

আমাৰ মুচলমান ধৰ্ম, খৃষ্টিয়ান ধৰ্ম, হিন্দু ধৰ্ম আদি যাৱতীয় সকলো ধৰ্মতে মদ খোৱা নিষেধ স্বত্বেও সকলো ধৰ্মৰে অনেক মানুহে মদ খায়েই আছে। (Voice:—আমি নাখাওঁ) আপুনি মজীদলৈ গৈ কব পাৰিবনে যে আপুনি মদ নাখায়? আমি

প্রত্যেকেই সমাজৰ পৰা যদি মদ খোৱা মানুহ বিলাকক বাধা প্ৰদান কৰিলোহেঁ তেনে তেনে ইমান অভিযান নকৰাকৈয়ে সহজতে মদ উঠি গলহেঁতেন। আমাৰ মহাপুৰুষীয়া ধৰ্মত একেবাৰেই মদ খোৱা নিষেধ। এতিয়াও মদ খোৱা প্ৰথাটো মহাপুৰুষীয়া মানুহৰ ভিতৰত নাই। আজি কালি মানুহে ধৰ্ম, ঈশ্বৰ আদি নমনা হল। বিশেষকৈ স্বাধীনতা লাভ কৰাৰ পিচৰ পৰা, মানুহৰ নৈতিক, শাৰীৰিক আৰু সামাজিক উন্নতিৰ পৰিবৰ্ত্তে সকলো পিনে বিশৃঙ্খলা আৰু অবস্ৰতিয়েহে দেখা দিছে। বৰ্ত্তমান স্কুলীয়া ল'ৰা বিলাকৰ বহুতে লেখাপঢ়া স্কুলতে থৈ বাজনীতিত মনোনিবেশ কৰিছে। (হাঁহি) মহাপুৰুষীয়া বিলাকৰ ভিতৰতো এতিয়া মদ খোৱা লোক ওলাইছে।

গতিকে মই সকলোকে অনুৰোধ কৰো, যেন সকলোৱে সমাজৰ মুখলৈ চাই, জনসাধাৰণৰ মঙ্গলৰ হকে চিন্তা কৰি সকলো কাম নিজৰ বুলি সমাজ-বান্ধেৰে-বান্ধি কৰিবলৈ আগ বাঢ়ে। তেতিয়া হলেহে সকলো কাম কৰা সহজ হ'ব। মোৰ মনেৰে কেৱল গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ ওপৰত নিৰ্ভৰ কৰিলেই দেশৰ কাম কৰা নহয়; আৰু গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰো কিছুমান আইন প্ৰণয়ন কৰি বা কিছুমান কৰ্মচাৰী নিয়োগ কৰি এই কাজ সুসম্পন্ন কৰা অসম্ভৱ। প্ৰধান কথা হৈছে, ৰাইজৰ নৈতিকতা আৰু তাৰ জৰিয়তে এটি সুদৃঢ় জনমত গঠিত হোৱাৰ ওপৰতে এই All Out Prohibition ৰ সফলতা নিৰ্ভৰ কৰিছে। তেতিয়া হলে ৰাইজৰ ভিতৰতে এই কানি নিবাৰণি বা মদ নিবাৰণিৰ কাৰণে নানা prohibition society খুলি কানীয়া মদাপিৰ মাজত ইয়াৰ অপকাৰীতাৰ বিষয়ে প্ৰচাৰ কাৰ্য্য চলাব পাৰে; আৰু কানি, মদ খোৱা মানুহক যদি সমাজত ঠাই নিদিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰে, তেতিয়া গভৰ্ণমেণ্টেও এই প্ৰচেষ্টাত সহায় কৰিব। বৰ্ত্তমান গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে excise ৰ কাৰণে যি ২২ লাখ টকা ধৰিছে, তাৰ বাহিৰেও যদি আৰু কোটি কোটি টকা forego কৰিব লগা হয় তাকো কৰিবলৈ বাধ্য হ'ব। পুৱল জনমতৰ মৰ্যাদা কোনো গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে গ্ৰাহ্য নকৰাকৈ থাকিব নোৱাৰে।

এনেকুৱা Public Opinion প্ৰচাৰ হলে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে ২২ লাখ কিয় কোটি কোটি টকা Forego কৰিবলৈ হেলা নকৰিব। গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে Public Opinion বা জনমত নিশ্চয় গুনিব।

তদুপৰি প্ৰত্যেক সমাজত মদৰ বিৰুদ্ধে এটা জনমত সৃষ্টি কৰা উচিত। প্ৰত্যেক ধৰ্মৰ সমাজে এটা ৰাজহুৱা জনমত গঠন কৰি অতি সোনকালে মদ, কানি, ভাং যাতে উঠি যায় তাৰ নিমিত্তে চেষ্টা কৰিব লাগে—অৱশ্যে তেনেকুৱা জনমত আমাৰ সমাজত আছেই। ভাং খোৱা মানুহক ভঙুৱা, কানি খোৱা মানুহক কানীয়া বুলি কয়। এই জনমতৰ বাবেই এতিয়া লৰা ছোৱালীৰ ভিতৰত সিহঁতৰ বাপেক ভঙুৱা বা কানীয়া বা মদপী বুলিলে লৰাছোৱালী হ'তে লাজ পায়। গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে কানি যেনেকৈ Prohibition কৰিছে তেনেকৈ মদো Prohibition কৰিব লাগে। আৰু ভাঙৰ দোকান গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে তৎক্ষণাত উঠাই দিব লাগে। কাৰণ ডাক্তৰী মতে ভাং খোৱা মানুহৰ ভিতৰত শতকৰা ৭০ জন মানুহেই পগলা হয়। ভঙুৱা চাৰি পুৰুষৰ ভিতৰত তাৰ সতি-সন্ততি এটা নহয় এটা যেনে হলেও পগলা হয়। গতিকে ভাঙৰ দোকানবোৰ একেবাৰে উঠাই দিব লাগে। আৰু ভাঙৰ পৰা গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে বেচি টকাও নাপায়। যি টকা পায় সেইটো অন্যায্যৰ টকা (Tainted Money) বুলি ক'ব পাৰি। ইয়াৰ লগতে ক'ও আমাৰ মাননীয় মিঃ চাৰোৱান চাহাবে কংগ্ৰেছৰ বিৰুদ্ধে প্ৰচাৰ কৰিবলৈ যিমান ঠাই ভ্ৰমণ কৰে সেই ধিনি যদি তেখেতৰ Constituency ৰ মানুহৰ ভিতৰত মদ Prohibition ৰ কাৰণে Propaganda চলালেহেঁতেন তেনেহলে মোৰ বিশ্বাস বাগিছাৰ বনুৱা সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ মাজত মদৰ প্ৰচলন কমি গলহেঁতেন। তেখেতে যদি মদ, ভাং, কানি এই তিনিটা বস্তু এৰিবৰ নিমিত্তে প্ৰচাৰ কাৰ্য্য চলালেহেঁতেন তেনেহলে তেখেতে গভৰ্ণমেণ্ট, কংগ্ৰেছ আৰু সকলো সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ পৰা প্ৰশংসা পালেহেঁতেন। কাৰণ বনুৱা সম্প্ৰদায়ক আমি দমন কৰি ৰাখিবলৈ বিচৰা নাই। বনুৱা সম্প্ৰদায় লোক সকলক আমাৰ শাৰীলৈ আনিব পাৰিলে আমি সন্তোষ পাম। কাৰণ মানুহ মানুহ হিচাবে থাকিব লাগে। কিছুমান মানুহ যদি দুখীয়া হৈ থাকে তেনেহলে সেই মানুহ বিলাক চাহাবে কংগ্ৰেছৰ বিৰুদ্ধে প্ৰচাৰ কৰাতকৈ কানি, ভাং, মদ আদিৰ বিৰুদ্ধে প্ৰচাৰ কৰা হলে অনেক লাভবান হ'লহেঁতেন। (Voices—Shall we launch a picketing movement?) Oh, Yes, you can launch a picketing movement.

ডাঃ চৌধুৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই Constitution ক দোষ দিছে। Constitution ত বহুত কথা আছে। Constitution ৰ যিটো উদ্দেশ্য সমাজ আৰু ৰাষ্ট্ৰ যি দৰে গঠন কৰিব লাগে সেই উদ্দেশ্য লৈ কাম কৰিবলৈ আমাৰ বহুত সময় লাগিব। উদ্দেশ্য অনুসারে দেশৰ মানুহৰ উপাৰ্জন বঢ়াব লাগিব লেখা-পঢ়া শিক্ষা-দিক্ষা প্রচুৰ বিস্তাৰ কৰাব লাগিব তেতিয়াহে ৰাষ্ট্ৰ সম্পূৰ্ণ ৰূপে গঢ়ি উঠিব। ধৰক Constitution আছে আমাৰ ৰাজ্য খন Secular State কিন্তু আপুনি যিহে বুকত হাতদি কৰ পাৰিবনে আপোনাৰ মনত অলপো সাম্প্ৰদায়িকতাৰ ভাব নাই বা এজন হিন্দুৱে কৰ পাৰিবনে যে তেওঁৰ হিন্দু মুছলমান বিভেদ ভাব নাই বুলি ? গতিকে আমি Constitution, আমাৰ নিজৰ অভ্যাস আৰু কামৰ দ্বাৰা সম্পূৰ্ণ গঠন কৰিব লাগিব। ইয়াৰ কাৰণে Co-operation লাগিব। তেতিয়াহে আমাৰ Constitution কাৰ্য্যকৰী হব। ইয়াকে কৈ মই বহিব খোজো। I hope, Government will give assurance.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Deputy Speaker, Madam, I have to say that the hon. Mover of the Cut Motion did not indicate on what line the general discussion would be taken up by him. It would have been very convenient for the hon. Members as well as the Government if in moving such a Cut Motion the line of thought to be taken up by the hon. Mover of the Cut Motion would be indicated. I remember, in our past Legislative Council in 1921-22 the hon. Members were very much criticised by the then Government for not indicating the subjects to be taken up by the Mover of the Cut Motion because it placed the Government in an awkward position for not being ready with facts and figures.

Anyway, the hon. Member has the right to bring a Cut Motion of this kind. But I would consider that it would be much better if an indication had been given of the subjects of his Cut Motion and I think, Mr. Hardman as a good Parliamentarian would consider this inconvenience. Anyhow I shall try to give a reply to the points raised by him. I gather from his speech that his arguments or his points are (1) the increase of revenue from liquor inspite of the policy of progressive prohibition of liquor (2) the desirability of not controlling foreign liquor in order to attract foreigners to come to India and thus increase the economic condition in India, and (3) that Government should take steps that on the pay day of the labourers and on the day following liquor should not be sold to the labourers. I think, these are the points he intends to impress on the House.

If these are the points, Madam, I shall give my replies to them one by one. The reasons for the increase in revenue in the year 1950-51 will be given shortly. I notice that the revised estimate is 72 lakhs 24 thousand but the budget estimate is 52 lakhs. In 1949-50 the actual of the country spirit revenue was Rs. 71 lakhs and 62 thousand.

Madam, every one knows that the policy of the Government in regard to liquor is the same during this year. This increment is due to the fact that illicit distillation has been controlled more successfully. If illicit distillation is not controlled the money goes to the pocket of the people who are doing illicit work and the State loses this money and the people who are in the habit of drinking liquor are drinking just the same. Temperance or non-temperance is not indicated by simply looking at the figures. The figures may go down but it must be considered whether temperance is increasing among the people who are in the habit of drinking.

Prof. P. M. SARWAN: What about large scale distillation of illicit liquor ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I said that illicit distillation has been controlled a great deal, that is, the people are coming to Government shops to buy liquor.

Prof. P. M. SARWAN: That means, it is in the increase.

The Hon'ble Rev J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I shall be very glad if the hon. Member or any other hon. Members will give me the information—if they help Government by giving information confidentially also—Government will send the Excise staff to make enquiry. We will be thankful for such information. Only to inform the House that illicit distillation is in the increase does not help the Government.

The increase of revenue can be well understood. Government has got a staff to prevent people from manufacturing illicit liquor. We have an opium prohibition staff and a committee for opium prohibition which also are trying to educate people of the harm caused by liquor. Another reason for this increase of liquor revenue is due to the increase of rates also. This is not increasing the number of liquor addicts as has been mentioned by some hon. Members. When the rate has been increased, the price of liquor goes up and this is supposed to bring down consumption and to help discouraging the liquor habit. I now want to tell the hon. Members what Government has done in the way of prohibition.

The Liquor Prohibition Enquiry Committee appointed in 1949 to review the position, has imposed restrictions in the country-spirit. Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury is a Member of that Committee.

***Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Will there be any more sitting of that Committee?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I cannot tell him now about that. While Government have accepted all the recommendations set forth by the Liquor Prohibition Enquiry Committee, Government, however, decided in the wider interest of the liquor prohibition to impose the following restrictions with effect from the 1st of April, 1951.

- (1) All canteens and lessee-manager shops—located within one mile should be abolished from 1st April, 1951.
- (2) The age of consumers has been fixed at 21 years.
- (3) No liquor should be sold to students. Seller of liquor to students should be punished.

- (4) All liquor shops in the Dhubri subdivision and Kamrup district contiguous to Goalpara subdivision may be closed on every Sunday, Independence Day, Gandhi-Joyanti Day and Dassahara Day.

This action taken by the Government gives a reply to the request of Shri Hem Hazarika of North Lakhimpur, that the Government should put into effect the recommendations of the Opium Prohibition Enquiry Committee.

This shows that the Government is aiming at total prohibition, but in order to reach the actual successful stage of prohibition, we must begin slowly. If we begin suddenly, we shall fail. Even in the case of prohibition of opium, we had to go slowly. In connection with opium I was the first man to raise the question of registration of opium consumers in 1921. The resolution I moved on this matter was the first one in the then new Legislative Council of 1921. After registering the consumers a ration is allotted to each and the ration was reduced gradually and after about 10 years of propaganda the country was made ready for prohibition. When the country was really ready and the public opinion was in its favour, the scheme

* Speech not corrected.

of prohibition was introduced. In my opinion, the prohibition against liquor and to wipe out this evil habit will have to be done, and done in such a way as to make it successful and no going back. We cannot be simply playing with this great evil monster. Sometimes some people start agitation against an evil habit just before the election in order to catch votes.

***Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Madam, on a point of privilege—I could not follow what the Hon'ble Minister said about election.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Sometimes agitation is made just before election in order to down other parties, but that should not be the motive of any man. I would be too glad to see that all the shops of liquor, opium and Ganja are closed. I am a man for that. I do not drink, I do not smoke, I do not even chew pan. I should like everybody and every one to follow me in this respect. The main question is how we could remove these evil habits from this country. The aim of our Constitution is also to bring about total prohibition in the whole country against all these evils.

***Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** When?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: That depends upon you and me and all that we should prepare the ground for that. We are all anxious that there should be total prohibition, but that cannot be done suddenly. The country must be prepared for that so that we might be successful in this noble cause.

Then in regard to another point raised by Mr. Hardman namely of the desirability of not preventing sale of foreign liquor, we have, Madam.....

***Mr. J. S. HARDMAN:** My case was that increasing restrictions should not be placed on consumption of foreign liquor, in view of something like 20 per cent. decrease in revenue from this source.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY Anyway, we do not want that any new evil habit should take hold of our people. I am very much against this. If we are for prohibition we should welcome all kinds of restrictions on liquor whatever it may be. Any habit which is not necessary for health should be discouraged, and therefore Government have taken steps to stop the sale of foreign liquor to pilots and passengers in the Airfields, in the Railway Refreshment Rooms and in the Dining Cars and in Steamers. We have taken these steps as we have to begin prohibition somewhere. Mr. Hardman has said that his community that takes foreign liquor is very small. Then it may be hoped that they will be willing to help us that our Indian people do not take to this habit, and they should also help us in setting good example and support the move we are making. This will make our work easier. We are dealing with a monster evil, I mean the liquor habit. We are making an attempt to remove the evil habit of taking liquor. Therefore, we gradually begin first from the easiest points. I hope Mr. Hardman will support Government in this attempt. We hope we can get the co-operation of his community in this respect.

***Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Since Government wants co-operation from all sections of the people my suggestion to the Hon'ble Minister is that a district in Assam be taken for experiment next year for total prohibition, and that should be started with immediate effect.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : That has already been done in Barpeta which is now absolutely dry. Then we are also proposing to control in Kamrup and Goalpara districts. To be successful in this matter there should be strong public propaganda and public opinion and we must have the moral courage to go to the court to give evidence against a person who is found guilty in violating the prohibition rules. But it is our sad experience that sometimes people do not take the responsibility and moral courage to help the Government in giving evidence, etc., against persons who violate these rules. So if there is not sufficient public co-operation and strong public opinion, it cannot be successful.

***Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY :** The public opinion is there. I suggest that sale of liquor should be prohibited in all restaurants and hotels in the State.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : As regards public opinion it is a matter of opinion. As regards hotels and restaurants this will be considered by Government. Madam, I would request Mr. Hardman and his enlightened community to help Government in this habit, instead of asking us that we should allow that foreign liquor may be sold in restaurants, trains and in Airfields. In an Airfield one pilot got drunk with the result that he drove the plane wrongly and killed himself and his helpers, and the aeroplane was burnt up. So Government have taken these measures to save the public from these dangers.

In regard to the third point which has been raised by Mr. Hardman regarding the stoppage of sale of liquor to the labourers on the pay day, I am very glad for that suggestion; surely if Mr. Hardman will help us and ask the Managers of the tea gardens to propagate this among the tea garden labourers and strictly to control illicit distillation inside the tea garden areas we shall certainly take action on the lines of his suggestion. (a Voice.—Would you prohibit sale on the *Fagua* Day?). I don't know about the *Fagua* Day. We have already prohibited sale on the Independence Day, the Gandhi Jayanti Day, etc.

(Interruptions)

The Deputy SPEAKER : Now if the hon. Members go on interrupting we shall have total prohibition for lunch (laughter).

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : Then, Madam, another point raised by Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury is that Government, as he insinuates, seems to be sorry that there has been a reduction in the consumption of liquor. He accuses Government as possessing an inward desire for the increase in the consumption of liquor. That is a very unfortunate remark for a gentleman like Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury to make.....

***Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY :** Madam, I would like to have a Ruling on the point whether what I said was correct or not.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : It was only a statement of fact, and no motive should be imputed. What is stated is this: "The increase in the revised is due to the Assam Distillery being in a position to supply country spirit throughout the State while the decrease in the Budget as compared with the revised is due to anticipated lesser revenue on account of deterioration of economic condition of consuming public". This is only a statement of fact.....

*Speech not corrected.

***Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Yes, the decrease is due to deterioration of the economic condition of the people and not due to any activities on the part of Government. I would have been very glad had it been due to Government's activities.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: As I said, Madam, this is only a statement of fact that people are not coming to buy liquor because they do not have enough money. We do not say that we are sorry for this. To impute such motives to us is wrong. It is not right to impute wrong motives to Government. Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury insinuates that Government seem to try to throttle prohibition in Assam, though he knows in his heart of hearts that that is not a fact.

Then, Madam, Prof. Sarwan.....

The Deputy SPEAKER: How long more will the Hon'ble Minister take ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Another 20 minutes, Madam, if I am to deal with all the points raised.

The Deputy SPEAKER: Then the Hon'ble Minister will resume his speech after lunch.

Adjournment

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

(After lunch)

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair.)

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: (*contd.*) Madam, Deputy Speaker, I was trying to give a reply to Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury's statement that the Government was throttling prohibition in Assam, and at that point I had to stop. I think I said, as far as I remember, that Dr. Chaudhury does not mean that we are throttling prohibition in Assam.

I want to give the information as to what Government has already done in view of the recommendation of the Liquor Prohibition Enquiry Committee. The Committee decided that, notwithstanding the desirability of total prohibition, the time was not opportune for a full scale attempt in this direction because of the more urgent need to achieve full success with the campaign already launched for total prohibition of opium, apart from other relevant considerations. The Committee, however, recommended certain preliminary measures with a view to curb further spread of the habit among the public and to prepare the field for temperance. Following the recommendations of the Committee, a number of country spirit shops were either removed from their existing sites or closed. Restrictions in the hours of sale and in the issue of quantity of liquor (from 3 quart bottles to one per capita) were introduced in the country spirit shops at Margherita and Ledo in the Dibrugarh Subdivision and in all the shops of Goalpara Subdivision. All the country spirit shops in the BARPETA Subdivision were closed. The non-official Committee set up for opium prohibition in the different parts of the State also took necessary steps (by means of propaganda) to educate public opinion against addiction to liquor.

Then the Government also took action, as I have already said, that all canteens and Lessee Managers' shops located within one mile from the licensed liquor shops will be abolished with effect from the next settlement, *i.e.*, from 1st April 1951.

The minimum age of the consumers eligible to purchase liquor have been fixed at 21 years. No liquor should be sold to students and the seller of liquor to students should be punished. All liquor shops in Dhubri Subdivision and Kamrup

District contiguous to Goalpara Subdivision where some restrictions were already imposed should be closed on every Sunday, Independence Day, Gandhi Jayanti Day and Dasahara Day in the year.

We are taking action towards progressive prohibition. Gradual prohibition will be extended as more public opinion is created against liquor habit and as Government will find that there is also help from the garden areas. It is stated by Mr. Hazarika from North-Lakhimpur that sometime our Excise officers do not get the necessary help from the gardens when they go to make raid on alleged illicit distillation inside the gardens. The difficulty in stopping liquor altogether in these areas or in not allowing them to buy liquor on the day when they get their pay is because illicit distillation will be increased inside the gardens and it will be difficult for the Excise staff to check that. While the Government will be losing the revenue, the labourers will be taking liquor just the same without any increase in temperance. If the garden Managers will co-operate with the Excise staff and allow them to inspect the gardens and also to control illicit distillation inside the gardens, it will be easier for the prohibition scheme to be carried on nearabout those areas. Most of the liquor is consumed by the people who are in the tea gardens. So, it will be seen that we are going on with the policy of prohibition and I think I need not speak anymore regarding that.

Now, I must touch on another remark made in this House. I was a little surprised that my Friend Prof. Sarwan said that during the British days there was only 15 lakhs of Excise revenue. I think he spoke from memory without looking or examining the figures. I can tell him that the Excise revenue in 1922-23—during the British days, it was not only 15 lakhs, it was 1 crore 11 lakhs and 26 thousand.....

Prof. P. M. SARWAN: What I mean, Madam, is the revenue from country spirit.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I am speaking of Excise revenue as he spoke of Excise revenue. Even the liquor revenue was never 15 lakhs at any time. The opium revenue during the year 1922-33 was 71 lakhs. The Government of Assam has lost all that with the exception of Rs. 22,000 as will be seen from the present Budget.

Again I have to give reply probably to another allegation about the increase of illicit distillation in Sarupathar, Barpathar and other areas which is said to be going on unchecked. As I have already said we shall be very thankful if the hon. Members or other members of the public will give us definite information even confidentially which we won't disclose, and give their suggestions; and we shall do our best to see that illicit distillation is controlled if there is any. We are very sanguine about it and I hope the hon. Member will inform his constituency and his friends to help us in this matter. If he also finds that the Excise officer does something wrong, we shall be glad indeed to get definite information regarding this and we shall take steps against such a wrong doer.

Then I have to speak a little about the opium prohibition. Prof. Sarwan said that opium prohibition has "completely failed" and that this is the opinion of the common people. I do not understand why he should make such a statement. I think at the time of making that statement he did not give much thought to this important matter. It is not a fact that the common men have not been convinced of the success of this campaign. I have met many people in my district of Khasi and Jaintia Hills who told me that they have been greatly blessed by this opium prohibition scheme. In former elections all the opium consumers fought against me for introducing this scheme but now they bless me for this. Government have also opened treatment centres in Mikir Hills, Sadiya and Khasi and Jaintia Hills at Nongpoh on the Gauhati-Shillong

Road. Those people who have been treated in these centres have been greatly helped and many of them have been cured. One good thing which has been done to this country is that opium is now considered as a poison and an evil and it has saved the younger generation altogether. Whatever harm it might have done to the former generation and to some elderly persons now the younger generation at least has been saved from the evil habit of taking opium and the elderly people are being delivered from this pernicious habit. So it is a great success. We, however, cannot say that it is hundred per cent. successful, but I hope that after a few years the prohibition campaign will be a complete success. We have to control smuggling. That is our great enemy now. Of course it is difficult for the people to give up the habit altogether, but if we prevent the opium eaters from getting opium then we shall surely be 100 per cent. successful. In order to control smuggling we need a strong staff. There are some areas with so many routes through which smugglers can come, but our Excise staff have done very well in catching the smugglers and many of them have been punished.

I think, Madam, I do not need to say anything more about this. I think I have met all the criticisms which have been brought forward by the hon. Members and I thank them for all that they have said. We are looking into this matter very carefully and we are also going on with the scheme of progressive prohibition. We are here for making prohibition successful and to deliver our people from the habit of intemperance. With these words I request the hon. Member to withdraw his Cut Motion.

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: Madam, the main purpose of this Cut Motion has been served and I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Cut Motion. (The Cut Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.)

The Deputy SPEAKER: I put the main question.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,17,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1952, for the administration of the head '8.—Excise'."

The Motion was adopted

GRANT No. 16.

(37.—Education)

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Madam, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,69,75,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952, for the administration of the head "37.—Education".

The reply to the Cut Motions will be given by the hon. Deputy Minister, Srijut Mahendra Mohan Chaudhury.

The Deputy SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,69,75,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952, for the administration of the head '37.—Education'."

There are several Cut Motions. I think if we take Cut Motion No. 4, the hon. Members can take part in that. So may I call upon the hon. Member Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury to move his Cut Motion.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: Madam, Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 1,69,75,000 under Grant No. 16, Major head 37.—Education, at page 112 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, i. e. the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 1,69,75,000 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

My object is, Madam, to raise a general discussion on the subject of education. Madam, education is one of the most important subjects to receive adequate attention at the hands of the Government. I am glad to understand from the Budget speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister that some attention has actually been given to this important subject. This has resulted in an increase in the money earmarked for the spread of education in our State and the establishment of more schools. Government have also thought of meeting the needs of the needy people connected with the Education Department. In spite of all that has been done by the Government, in spite of all that has been stated and in spite of all the labours of the Government in this important matter, I think it was quite appropriate for me to bring up this Cut Motion in order to invite pointed attention of Government to some of the defects which remain in their policy and which call for an early and satisfactory solution. I know, Madam, that this year they have allotted a larger amount for education than they have done hitherto and yet I find that what they have done is more for the Government Institutions than for the Aided Schools or Institutions. From the Budget speech we find—at page 33—that Government grants to Secondary Schools whose number is 67 are over 20 lakhs whereas what they have given to non-Government Secondary Schools whose number is 582 is only 19.9 lakhs. Considering the number of non-Government Secondary Schools, the amount given by Government, in my opinion, is very very small. So far as Colleges are concerned, there is one Government Arts College to which Government have allotted as much as 4.3 lakhs of rupees whereas to all the non-Government Colleges throughout the State the amount allotted is 3.5 lakhs. Hon. Members can just imagine what is given for one Government College and what is spent for so many non-Government Colleges which are in many respects showing better results. I am glad that this year Government have seen it fit to do something more for the non-Government Colleges, but what is being given is small. I hope Government will please revise their method of asking me, or rather forcing me, to withdraw my Cut Motion specially in so far as Aided or non-Government institutions are concerned.

Applications from poorly paid teachers both of Secondary and Primary Schools must have been received by the Government. The Government must be well-posted with their grievances. I know Government are also handicapped in many important respects, but when they, by way of replying to my criticisms, speak of a rise in prices of things which justify their steps in raising the fees in Schools, I may also remind them that by way of enabling these teachers to meet their bare necessities, they might do well to increase the wages of their own faithful servants engaged in educational institutions. In the last Session, Madam, I remember having successfully invited the attention of the Government to a question of mine, namely, the necessity of giving more money in the form of dearness allowance or in the form of pay to the very low-paid teachers employed in Primary Schools. I am glad to remember that my suggestion was accepted by my Friend Sri Jut Mahendra Mohan Choudhury when he said that it would be considered in April, 1951. We are now at the advent of April, 1951 and we hope that he would implement the assurance that was given in the interest of the public and thus earn the gratefulness of a whole class of unfortunate people.

In this connection, Madam, because my Cut Motion raises a general discussion on the subject, I may let the Government know that the recent circular issued to the teachers employed in non-Government Schools asking them to repay the overdrawal of their pay during the last few years, is weighing very heavily upon them. Some of them have to pay not less than Rupees 1,500 to 2,000 as overdrawal. I see no reason why, when these people have once been allowed, under the recommendations of the Pay Committee, to draw certain amount consistent with their pay, they should now be forced to return the money. I hope Government would please revise their decision by remaining themselves silent over this instead of realising the overdrawn money from a large number of teachers. I hope this will be struck off.

Recently, Madam, two important posts of Class I of Educational Service, one for the Sanskrit education and the other for Islamic education, have been abolished, and now in place of those there are two posts of Class II of this Service. In view of the importance of Sanskrit and Islamic education and in view of the large number of pupils who receive such education in different places of the State, I hope Government would see that these two posts be recreated at a very early date.

Next, Madam, I come to Social Adult Education. I am glad that Government have done something in this regard. As a member of the standing Committee of Social Adult Education, I quite appreciate the work of the Government in this behalf. But I am pained to find that a huge amount of money had to lapse on account of Government's failure to spend the same at proper time. Social Adult Education is being spread no doubt, but we have not been able to test the knowledge gathered by the people for whom Social Adult Education is meant. I know that the Sub-Inspectors or Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Schools test the knowledge of the pupils of these institutions, but there is no knowing as to the actual position, whether boys and girls have actually received education. No facilities are afforded to know that.

In Assam we have no Kindergarten system of education. This is a very important system which is working so well in the western countries. I hope Government will please introduce this system in our institutions for the small children at a very early date.

Madam, the Text Book Committee sits at least once a year in order to review the work done by the Education Department. One of the things done by this Committee is to prescribe books for students of Class III to Class VIII. All the books prescribed by the Expert Committee are not always available in the market. Recently I found that one of the books prescribed for Class VI, an Assamese book, was not found in the market till the month of December which was the time allotted by the Education Department.

[At this stage the Deputy Speaker vacated the Chair and Babu Kamini Kumar Sen, (Chairman) occupied it.]

This happens much to the disadvantage of the pupils of Schools. The persons who took contract for the printing of this book should not be favoured with contracts in future. Sometimes books recommended by the Text Book Committee for the lower classes are not actually used in different classes. I think it would be quite desirable to ask the Text Book Committee Secretary who is a man of good repute—I mean Mr. Vaisya to tour the State to satisfy himself that books recommended by the Text Book Committee are used in Schools.

Madam, *(laughter in the House)*. The Chair is often occupied by the lady Member. This is a slip of the tongue. I withdraw what I said, Sir.

Sir, during the last Educational Conference in July, 1950 a resolution had been brought up at the instance of Government for adopting the Devanagiri Script in place of the Assamese. Fighting speeches were made by the educationists gathered there when the resolution favouring the Devanagiri Script was put up for consideration. With the exception of one or two speakers, the rest condemned the move in no uncertain terms. This is not a move in the right direction. The proposal appears to be quite thoughtless. It pays no regard to Assamese sentiments. In a meeting held in Jorhat with the exception of a single gentleman everyone opposed the move. It appears Government want to impose the Devanagiri in place of our original script. Uptil now any number of meetings have been held on this subject throughout the State. Every where the speakers have condemned this as an undesirable move on the part of the Government of the day, at a time when it is not wanted by any sane or reasonable person in the State. I hope Government have, by this time, seen the wisdom of revising their opinion in the matter of forcing the script on the people.

A great difficulty which is being experienced by our Schools is the abolition of Class III following a decision of a Text Book Committee. Government ought to realise the mistake they have committed in this regard. Our students for reasons already known to Government are very deficient in English. It is very difficult to teach pupils who are admitted in a College after Matriculation. It is not because they have not had enough opportunity to learn English properly. Without English India cannot do. Some fifteen years have been prescribed by the Central Government for the retention of English in our Country. I quite appreciate the motive of the Government behind that proposal regarding the abolition of English in Class III. But they must realise by now the difficulty which is being experienced by our pupils. Without English we cannot do in Colleges, *i.e.* in Post-Matriculation years. Our books in Science are available only in English. It will be a long time before they can be translated either into Hindi or into Assamese. Even then the necessity of English in our Country should be taken for granted. I do not like to take up the precious time of the House by debating on this but I must repeat that without English we cannot go on. I hope, Government will see that English is re-introduced in Class III of our Schools.

In this connection I should like to call the attention of the Government to the reduction in the number of indigenous Muslim Scholarships, from 25 scholarships to 13. I appreciate the move about the increase in the number of Scholarships for backward tribes but what I want the Government to do is that the poor Muslims who are deserving should not be deprived of the privilege which has been allowed to them until recently.

Sir, I think, I have said something about education and something about the point that I urged regarding the removal of grievances of teachers in non-Government Schools and Colleges. I hope my Friend, Prof. Sarwan will join me and also lend me his support in making the Government realise the difficulty through which we have to pass. Now, I would like to get an assurance that my points will receive the sympathetic consideration before I am forced to withdraw the Cut Motion. With these words I commend my Motion not for the acceptance of the House but for the serious and sympathetic consideration of my Friends sitting on the Treasury Benches.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN (Chairman): Motion moved:

"That the total provision of Rs.1,69,75,000 under Grant No.16, Major head—37.—Education at page 112 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,69,75,000 do stand reduced by Re.1."

Prof. P. M. SARWAN: Mr. Chairman Sir, I am glad to be able to support the Gut Motion moved by my hon. Friend, Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury.

It is good to see that the Government have made a provision of Rs.1 crore, 69 lakhs for Education. This is a move in the right direction, because education has a priority next only to food, cloth and employment. In fact all the advanced countries spend a major portion of their income for education, and I am glad that Government is spending such a large amount on education and, I hope, this amount will from year to year grow larger. I am glad to note that the Government is trying to do something for private institutions—Colleges and Schools. But the Government have not yet done enough for private institutions and I would request that the Government will try to put the private institutions on a par with Government institutions as far as possible. We hope that more money will be found for grants to colleges and schools that are run on private basis.

I quite agree with my Friend Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury in regard to the teaching of English in Class III. It is very necessary to continue teaching of English in Class III. I find that in some schools teaching of English has stopped even in Class IV. I do not know if it is the intention of Government that in all institutions gradually teaching of English will cease upto Class VI. Already in the colleges great difficulties are being found in teaching boys who pass the Matriculation examination, they have much poorer knowledge of English than when English was a medium of instruction in High Schools. I do not forward the plea for changing over to English as a medium of instruction but I strongly support the view that for the progress of India the teaching of English at the present moment is very necessary and should be started as early as possible even from Class III. The stopping of teaching of English in Class III and IV will be a mistake. It will, I believe, take more than 10 years—may 15 years when India will be ready to impart education through the medium of vernacular—at least for higher studies.

The Government have done well in providing a University, a Medical College and an Agricultural College and so forth, but have not yet been able to tackle the problem of educating the masses, *i. e.*, I know it will mean a lot of money to be drawn from public purse—but that problem has to be tackled and until this is done we cannot be fully on the road to progress.

When I look at the condition of tea garden tribes and castes in the gardens and outside the gardens, I feel that the Government have not even touched the fringe of the problem. This fact will be clear to the Government if they will turn to their answer which they have given, *e. g.*, for secondary education—they are giving two scholarships only for high school education to the children of a population which is not less than 17 lakhs. When one thinks of it he would surely feel that it is not trying or attempting to bring up a backward people to the level of advanced sections of the population of Assam and time and again it has been voiced in the Legislature.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member will be very brief as the time allotted is 45 minutes out of which 35 minutes has already been taken. Government must have sufficient time to reply.

Prof. P. M. SARWAN: I will take another 3 minutes more, Sir.

Time and again we have heard from hon. Members in this House that the Government is trying to bring all backward sections of the people of Assam to a higher level, *i. e.*, the same level as that of the advanced sections—but I find that the attention to this large population of 17 lakhs has been very meagre upto this moment. I would request Government to provide money for at least 20 scholarships for high school education from this year, starting from the 1st of April, 1951. If the Government have no funds, I would request the Government to apply to the Centre to make available funds for this purpose in view of the fact that Rupees seven crores goes to the Centre from the Tea Industry from this State.

I draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the duty of educating the masses is not to be shouldered by an industry but it is the duty of the Government (*Hear, hear*). That is the duty of Government. The Tea Industry—I would draw the attention of the Government—is already incurring a large expenditure in running Primary schools in tea gardens. But how these schools are being run and what benefit is derived by the population is not the concern of the Tea Industry. I should like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that an industry is there to produce commodities and make profits—which is the object of all other industries. But the object of the Government should be to educate the masses.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Is this the view of the labourers ?

Prof. P. M. SARWAN : Sir, a representative in the House is not only one who represents his Constituency but he also leads his constituents, as the Government is not only to represent the people but has also got to lead the population. The same responsibility belongs to a Member of the Legislature. So, if the backward labour people have not been properly looked after in regard to their education—it is their representatives in the House to bring the fact to the notice of Government.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Sir, the hon. Member said that the Industry is not to look to the problem of education of the Tea Garden Labourers. Is it the view of the labourer, whom the hon. Member says, he represents ?

Prof. P. M. SARWAN: The labourers have not clearly thought on the matter (*Laughter*). It is for the Government to educate them and to make them think. Lastly, I thank the Government for what they are trying to do in the matter of education. I should request the Government to give more serious thought in regard to the education of the masses, especially in regard to the education of the most backward tea garden labourers who deserve special consideration in this matter at the present moment.

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN: Sir, I want to speak a few words. I shall take 2 or 3 minutes.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not think it will be possible to allow more time. We have already encroached upon our time. It will be necessary for the Deputy Minister at least 10 minutes to reply. If the hon. Members want to sit longer, I have no objection.

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN: অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় !

The Hon'ble THE SPEAKER: You are given only two minutes.

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN: মুরো সিক্‌ দো হি মিনিট দিয়ে গয়ে হৈয়। ইন দো মিনিটম্‌ হি মই হিন্দী প্ৰচাৰ কে বাবেঁমে কুচ কহনা চাহতা হঁ। চৰকাৰণে হিন্দী প্ৰচাৰকে লিয়ে ২০ হজাৰ ৰূপয়ে দিয়ে হৈয়। মগৰ জিস সমিতিকো য়ে ৰূপয়ে দিয়ে জাতে হৈ ৰহ কৈইসী ভাষাকা প্ৰচাৰ কৰ বহী হৈয় য়হ হমৈ জাননা চাহিয়ে। ৰহ শুদ্ধ হিন্দীকা প্ৰচাৰ কৰ বহী হৈয় যা হিন্দীকী খিচড়ী পকা বহী হৈয়? আপলোগ ভী দেখিয়ে কি ৰহ কৈইসী ভাষাকা প্ৰচাৰ কৰ বহী হৈয়। এক সাধাৰণ বাত; আবেদন পত্ৰকো ৰহ আবেদন পত্ৰ ন কহকৰ “ইজাজত অৰ্জী” কহতী হৈয়। আপ হী দেখিয়ে কি “ইজাজত অৰ্জী” কহনেসে কোন সমৰোগা। মগৰ আবেদন পত্ৰ কহনেসে সব কোদি আসানীসে সমৰা সকেগা। হমাৰী Constitution কে অনুসার ভী ৰহী হমাৰী ৰাষ্ট্ৰভাষা হো জিসে সব কোদি আসানীসে সমৰা সকে। মই তো সমৰাতা হঁ কি এইসী ৰাষ্ট্ৰভাষা প্ৰচাৰ সমিতি কো কুছ নহী দেনা চাহিয়ে। জো সমিতি ৰাষ্ট্ৰা ৰাষ্ট্ৰভাষা প্ৰচাৰ সমিতি কে অন্দৰ অসমমে ৰাষ্ট্ৰভাষা কা প্ৰচাৰ কৰ বহী হৈয় উসী সমিতিকো য়হ ৰূপয়া দেনা চাহিয়ে। যা দেনেকো আধা আধা কৰকে য়হ ৰূপয়া বাঁট দেনা চাহিয়ে।

সৰকাৰ হিন্দী শিক্ষাকে কী training কে লিয়ে ভী ৫৬০০ ৰূপয়া মঞ্জুৰ কৰ বহী হৈয়। য়হ শিক্ষন কেন্দ্ৰ দুখনেমে হোণা, লেকিন দুখনেমে শিক্ষা দেনেসে ক্যা ফায়দা হোণা। য়হ কেন্দ্ৰ গোহাটী যা কিসী দুসবে শহৰমে হোনা চাহিয়ে। গোহাটীমে হোনেসে হিন্দীকে পুস্তকালয়কো ব্যৱহাৰমে লা সকেঙ্গে তথা হিন্দীমে বোলচাল কে লিয়ে মোকা মিলেগা। গোহাটীমে হিন্দীকা, এক বাতাবৰন ভী হৈয়। দুখনেমে হিন্দীকা কোদি বাতাবৰন নহী। য়হ ন হো, তো ৰাষ্ট্ৰা ইলাহাবাদ জৈসে স্থানোমে শিক্ষাকে লিয়ে ভেজা জায় তো আউৰ ভী ফায়দা হোণা।

Sriji HEM CHANDRA HAZARIKA: I shall take five minutes
Sir. মাননীয় চৌধুৰী চাহাবে চৰকাৰৰ মঞ্জুৰ সম্পৰ্কে দোষ দিছে। সেই সম্পৰ্কে উপমন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই উত্তৰ দিব। মই মাত্ৰ ইয়াকে কব খুজিছো যে আজি যি শিক্ষাৰ প্ৰণালী চলিছে সি অতি ব্যয় বহুল হৈ পৰিছে। পাঠশালাৰ পৰা আৰম্ভ কৰি স্কুলৰ ওপৰ খাপলৈকে যিমান বিলাক খাতা বহী কিনিব লগা হয়, তাৰ হিচাব কৰিলে লৰা ছোৱালীৰ পঢ়াশুনা টান হৈ পৰিছে। কিছুমান লৰা ছোৱালীৰ ইচ্ছা থাকিলেও পঢ়াশুনা কৰিব নোৱাৰে। হোজা দুখীয়া খেতিয়ক প্ৰজাই কিতাপ খাতা মাচুলৰ ভাৰ বহন কৰিব নোৱাৰা হয়। দেশৰ দুখীয়া শ্ৰেণীৰ লৰাই মেট্ৰিকুলেশ্যন পাচ কৰি তেওঁলোকে পঢ়াশুনাৰ কাৰণে উপায় নাপায় চাকৰী বিছাৰি ফুৰে। অৱশ্যে দক্ষতা থকা লৰাই বৃত্তি পায় কিন্তু এনেকুৱা লৰা আছে অতি কম সংখ্যক, কোনো ছাত্ৰৰ গণিত শাস্ত্ৰত বিশেষ পাৰদৰ্শিতা আছে কিন্তু আন বিষয়ত তেনে পাৰদৰ্শিতা নাই। যেনেকৈ বুৰঞ্জী সাহিত্যত চোকা নহয় তেনে লৰাই বৃত্তি নাপায়। কিন্তু তেনে লৰাই যদি বৃত্তিৰ সহায় পালে হয় তেনেহলে তেওঁ হয়তো গণিততো হব পাৰিলে হয়। গতিকে তেনে বিধৰ দুখীয়া লৰাই পঢ়াৰ আশা ত্যাগ কৰি চাকৰী কৰিবলৈ বাধ্য হয়। এনে অৱস্থাত চৰকাৰে বিশেষ বিশেষ বিষয়ত ব্যুৎপত্তি থকা লৰাক সেই ব্যুৎপত্তি থকা বিষয়ত বৃত্তি দি পঢ়াশুনাৰ পৰা বঞ্চিত হব নলগাব ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবলৈ অনুৰোধ কৰো। মই শিক্ষা প্ৰণালী সম্পৰ্কে বিশেষজ্ঞ নহও, কিন্তু আমাৰ শিক্ষাবিদ সকলে শিক্ষাপ্ৰণালী সম্পৰ্কে চিন্তা কৰি শিক্ষাপ্ৰণালী পৰিবৰ্তন কৰি দেশত ভিন ভিন বিষয়ত পাৰদৰ্শিতা বঢ়াবৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবলৈ অনুৰোধ জনাওঁ। আমাৰ দেশত বাসায়নিক গণিত, পদাৰ্থ বিজ্ঞান বা আন বিজ্ঞান বিষয়ৰ বিশেষজ্ঞ নাই। আন দেশত সাহিত্য ক্ষেত্ৰত, ইতিহাসৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত, বিজ্ঞান ক্ষেত্ৰত যি দৰে বিশেষ পাৰদৰ্শিতা লাভ কৰিছে আমাৰ দেশত তেনে পাৰদৰ্শিতা দেখুৱাব পৰা নাই। গতিকে মই এই বিষয়ে Educationists সকলৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিলো। আমাৰ দেশত Assistant Director of Public Instructions, Additional Assistant Director of Public Instruction, Inspectors, Assistant Inspectors ৰ সংখ্যা বহুত হলেও তেওঁলোকে ধাৰাবাহিক ৰূপে কাম চলাই আছে। এই

বিভাগীয় ঔবিরাল সকলৰ পৰা বৰ্তমান দেশৰ অৱস্থাৰ লগত খাপ খোৱা কোনো প্ৰকাৰৰ শিক্ষা প্ৰণালীৰ আচনি দিব পৰা নাই। গতিকে মই তেওঁলোকক অনুৰোধ কৰোঁ যাতে বৰ্তমান অসম দেশৰ লগত সকলো অৱস্থাৰ খাপ খোৱা শিক্ষাপ্ৰণালীৰ পৰিবৰ্তন কৰি দুখীয়া ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰী সকলক পঢ়িবৰ কাৰণে সুবিধা দিয়ে।

তাৰ পিচত শিক্ষক সকলক ঘনে ঘনে অদল বদল কৰাৰ কাৰণে শিক্ষক আৰু ছাত্ৰৰ মাজত ঘনিষ্ঠ সম্বন্ধ ঘটাত অন্তৰায় হয়। এনেকুৱা অদল বদল বিলাকে অনুষ্ঠান বিলাকক অনিষ্ট কৰিছে বুলিহে মোৰ অনুমান হয়। উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে মই কও, অলপতে উত্তৰ লক্ষীমপুৰ গভৰ্ণমেণ্ট হাই স্কুললৈ এজন হেড মাষ্টৰ (মিষ্টাৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য) নিছিল আৰু স্কুলখন ভালকৈ গঢ়ি তুলিবলৈ যো-জা কৰোঁতেই তেখেতৰ বদলিৰ হুকুম হল আৰু সেই স্কুলখনৰ উন্নতিৰ হকে লোৱা কামখিনি পুণৰ নতুন হেড মাষ্টৰলৈ স্থগিত ৰাখিব লগা হল।

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member has taken already seven minutes

Srijut HEM CHANDRA HAZARIKA: মই মোটিতে ইয়াকে কব খোজোঁ যে, এই সাল-সলনি বিলাক যাতে ঘনাই ঘনাই হৈ নেথাকে। মোৰ বহুতো কবলগীয়া থকা স্বত্বেও, সময়ৰ অভাৱত এইখিনিকে কৈ, এই ধৰণে যাতে শিক্ষকৰ সালসলনি ঘনাই হৈ নেথাকে তালৈ পুনৰ চৰকাৰৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰি, সমিৰণি মাৰিবলৈ বাধ্য হলো।

Maulavi ATAUR RAHMAN: Sir, I wish to say a few words not with a view to criticise the Government but to draw their attention to the problem of education in the areas affected by the disturbances last year. I do not know whether the hon. Members are aware of the amount of havoc that was done to the educational institutions in those areas, but I think they will have a fair idea if I refer to only one subdivision, *viz.*, Barpeta, where not less than 100 Primary Schools were destroyed, and a proportionate number of middle schools also shared the same fate. Now, Sir the people of those affected areas have returned and are trying to rehabilitate themselves, but it is well to remember that these people are no better than destitutes and thus circumstanced it is next to impossible for them to reconstruct and reopen the educational institutions, which they reared up by decades of labour and money, all by themselves. I think, therefore, that it was incumbent upon Government to make a special provision for the reconstruction and reopening of those educational institutions. When it is remembered that the policy of our Government has been to introduce compulsory education, and when it is also remembered that hundreds of pupils and students in those areas have been by circumstances debarred from having their cherished education, it fails one's comprehension as to how this aspect of a problem of nation building has entirely escaped sympathetic consideration. In this connection it might be argued that the whole problem of resettlement of these people in the affected areas is covered by the Prime Ministers' Agreement. Sir, it may be that their fate is largely dependent upon as to what was mentioned in the Prime Ministers' Agreement, but there can be no denying of the fact that these people form a part and parcel of our Assamese society, and as such we owe a duty to them so that they may not lag behind in education due to circumstances which were not of their making. I would therefore suggest, Sir, that Government which were be able to earmark, even at this late hour, a handsome amount for the reconstruction and reopening of the educational institutions in those areas. I would furthermore submit that special provision should be made for granting stipends and scholarships to the hundreds of pupils and students, including college students of those areas. I have finished, Sir.

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN: Sir, I want to say a few words.

The CHAIRMAN: I hope the hon. Member will not take more than two minutes.

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN:—I will possibly finish within 5 minutes.

Sir, we congratulate the Hon'ble Minister of Education for a Budget of Rs. 1, 69, 75,000 for Education. This is certainly an improvement, but it will have to be seen whether the money has been equitably distributed among all kinds of institutions; that is of course a different matter. I will first speak about the ideological difficulties which were mentioned in the speeches of my predecessors. Sir, recently I had been to Delhi to attend a meeting of the Cultural Society over which the Education Minister himself presided. I want to preface my speech with the weighty words which he uttered. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad said: "An Indian language has attained the status of the national language, and other Indian languages are enjoying the status of State languages in their own areas. Indian languages are also being increasingly used in higher education, and in the course of the next 15 years or so, they will completely replace English as the medium of instruction at all stages of education". Again, he said "Since literature and culture can flourish best in an atmosphere free from the restrictive influences of officialdom it was proper that the Royal Asiatic Society should recommend that the Trust should be an independent body". These weighty words came out from the mouth of one of the greatest savants not only of the East but possibly of the world of literature at the present moment. So, if we start from that point, and if we really believe that our educational policy, not only of this State but of the whole of the Republic, will be based on the basic educational policy of Mahatma Gandhi and if we also feel that the whole educational policy must be changed to that objective then, Sir, at this moment to think of English, how to express through the medium of English, to think what would be our fate if we cannot glibly speak English, these things

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: The hon. Member is speaking in English now.

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN: Yes, I am talking in English. Do you want me to speak in Assamese? It is not a matter of joke for an Hon'ble Minister to interrupt in this way. I am taking the matter very seriously.

Now, my Friends Dr. Chaudhury and Mr. Sarwan believe, and I believe I am right in thinking so, also, that if we give up English from the lower classes, then in the higher classes in the College the students will find it very difficult to know the scientific terms of words. I can say that when a student in the High School at the present moment can begin the alphabet in Arabic or Sanskrit from Class VII, when he goes to some College where English is glibly talked, in spite of this drawback in Sanskrit and Arabic he can read Raghu Vangsha and other Arabic classicals in the College with good results. A student with a good background in vernacular if he begins to learn any language at later years, say from Class VII he will learn effectively more than what he learnt within 8 years from Class III to Class X. That point we must not miss. I am quite convinced that English should not be taken up from Class III because for 150 years we have been taught, parrot-like English and the English ideology and mentality has been stereotyped in our minds and that we have not been able to give up that mentality as yet. Otherwise Lord Macaulay and his kind would not have said that the student of India should be taught in English—he should be made an Englishman in every way except his skin (*laughter*) and that fact still continues even in our present independent country. So the Government have every reason that English should not be given prominence specially at the present moment when you want to build up your national ideology.

Now, as regards the other point which my hon. Friend Dr. Chaudhury has raised about the change to Hindi script, I can say that in the Delhi Conference, where all languages have been represented, every representative from all over the States laid emphasis to this point, that is, that this is not the opportune time to change the script of any language and the Hindi script also shall have to be improved scientifically so that in process of time when this script might take root in the minds of all the people speaking different languages in the State, then we can adopt one script in the process of time but not just now. That is what I feel, Sir. It is only when the script and the culture of the people are the result of evolutionary process of the human mind, it cannot be changed by any administrative mechanism, nor can it be shaped on the legislative anvil. It will grow of its own growth by its own evolutionary process; it cannot be mechanised, it cannot be handled by any ordinary mechanic whether in the Legislative Assembly or in the Government Benches.

So, I think my hon. Friend Dr. Chaudhury has misunderstood the Government's action in taking public opinion in this regard. The question was a result of a Resolution mooted out in the last Education Conference held at Gauhati; somebody suggested that this Resolution was dealing with a serious matter and let the Government seek the opinion of the people in the matter. That is why Government is taking public opinion in the matter; Government has not decided that the script should be changed. My Friend need not be afraid of this because if the Government or anybody else forcibly change the script by a stroke of pen the whole people—the whole literary world of Assam—and the whole masses also will rise against it. As for myself, I am not believing in immediate change of Script. I feel that the question has been untimely mooted out in the Assembly Hall.

Then as regards the suggestion raised by my Friend, Shri Kedarmal Brahmin, that the Wardha Institution should be accepted as a standard institution, on this point also I had a discussion with some leading men of Hindi Prochar Samities of States in Delhi and also with the authorities of the Ministry of Education at Delhi. There also I find that the general opinion was to have more institutions for the teaching of Hindi. It will be better for the country to propagate introduction of Hindi in every nook throughout the length and breadth of India and to make Hindi a common language as soon as possible. This was also the opinion of our President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad. So on this point also we must allow Hindi to take its root in the people of our State and not be too hasty about it. I hope Government will encourage those institutions who are bent on teaching Hindi. Government have no reason to support this or that institution which they can only control as official agency. Just as the culture of the people cannot be controlled, so these institutions also should have a free atmosphere where they grow. The Government should help those institutions who are doing their utmost for the spread of Hindi language in our State with better results.

Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Deputy Minister): I am thankful to Dr. Chaudhury for delivering a balanced speech on the discussion of the Education Grant. It is for the first time I have heard Dr. Chaudhury placing a balanced view of things. Dr. Chaudhury has opened his speech with a charge against the Government saying that Government are making discrimination between the Government institutions and non-Government institutions. I do not say that there is no discrimination at all, but this Government is doing their utmost to remove this discrimination. If I disclose the budgetary position of 1944-45 and that of today then this assertion of mine will be very clear to the hon. Members. For the year 1944-45 Government granted only Rs.50,620 to the non-Government colleges, but this year the budgetary position is that they have

sanctioned Rs.3,52,468, that means 6 times of the amount spent by the then Government when we were not in power. Again, in the case of direct grant to secondary schools for the year 1944-45 when this Government was not in power, Government spent Rs.5,40,225 only. Now this amount has amounted to Rs.19,98,937, that means 4 times the Government spent in 1944-45. By this disclosure it will be very clear to Dr. Chaudhury that this Government is bent upon removing the discrimination that now exists between the Government and non-Government institutions. I do not say that grants now budgeted or sanctioned by Government for non-Government institutions or colleges is adequate. It is not adequate I would say, but this Government is doing their best to remove the difficulties that are now being experienced by the teachers of the non-Government institutions. Regarding primary school teachers, something has been said. In the year 1944-45 the pay of the primary school teacher was only Rs.12 and now this amount has been raised to Rs.35 a month. This means that there has been an increase by 300 per cent. of the pay of the primary school teacher. I do not say that we have fulfilled the whole object, but what I want to say is that this Government is doing their utmost to remove the difficulties that are now being experienced by these poorly paid teachers.

Dr. Chaudhury has referred to the Government circular to refund the amount of overdrawal by the secondary school teachers. Whatever may be the view of the teachers, if a mistake has been detected that mistake should be rectified, and so the teachers overdraw the amount have been asked to refund it. I believe Dr. Chaudhury has not espoused a right cause. Government placed certain formula as recommended by the Pay Committee for consideration to these teachers and it was their duty not to come to a wrong calculation whereby they over-drew some money from the public exchequer. It is therefore now the duty of the teachers to refund the same.

Dr. Chaudhury has advocated the cause of the restoration of two posts of Class I Educational Service. One of these posts was held by the Assistant Director of Public Instruction for Sanskrit Education and the other by the Assistant Director of Public Instruction for Islamic Studies. I may remind the hon. Members that this Government is charged very often for maintaining a top heavy administration. To remove top heaviness even partly Government decided to abolish these two posts. Without these posts Government could very well manage the Department. Therefore Dr. Chaudhury should not find fault with the Government on this score.

It is a news to me that a huge amount of money had to lapse under the head "Social Adult Education". I do not know of such a case. That a large amount of money has lapsed for the failure of the Government to spend it in time is not a fact. However, when this has been brought to the notice of the Government they would enquire about it.

Another charge of Dr. Chaudhury is that this Government has not done anything to introduce the kindergarten system of Education in our State. Government is not sitting over it silently. In Jorhat such a School has been opened under the direct supervision and guidance of the Inspector of Schools. Another school has been started by Srimati Pramila Pandit Barua at Chekanidhora for which Government has sanctioned a certain amount as grant. I therefore cannot agree with Dr. Chaudhury that Government is sitting idle on this matter.

Coming to the Text Book Committee, Dr. Chaudhury has revealed that the text books prescribed by this Committee for schools are not always made available in the market. I do not know if such a thing has ever been brought to the notice of the Government. However, Government would look into this, and the persons responsible will be taken to task.

With regard to introduction of Devnagri script in place of Assamese script I would like to say that Government has not yet decided either way. A resolution was passed in the Education Conference.....

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: On a point of personal information, at whose initiative Government convened this Conference ?

Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Deputy Minister): It must be at some body's initiative the Conference was convened by Government in the interest of education of Assam and to this educationists like Dr. Tarachand, Dr. Jha, Secretary of Education Department, Central Provinces and Dr. Sen, Secretary, Education Department, West Bengal Government were invited. Besides, all the educationists of Assam attended this Conference and in that Conference many important points were raised. Some of the invitees raised this question of changing the Assamese script into Devnagri script also. I do not know exactly who raised this question, but this much I know that this question was raised at the instance of some of invitees to the Conference and there was a sub-committee formed to discuss the question and in that sub-committee a resolution was passed to the effect that public opinion should be elicited on the issue of change of Assamese script into Devnagri script. When this resolution has come up to Government, Government want to take the opinion of the public in favour of or against the change of Assamese script.

There has been wailing on the part of Dr. Chaudhury and Prof. Sarwan regarding abolition of English from Class III. Abolition of Class III is not part of the programme of abolition of English from class III onward to class VI year after year. Class III has been abolished from High Schools and Middle English Schools only because it has been found redundant. We can very well adjust the Matriculation course in 7 years instead of dragging it for 8 years. It is for this reason that Class III has been abolished. I may inform the House that this Government is seriously thinking of abolition of English from class IV onwards. Dr. Chaudhury and Prof. Sarwan think that our instruction would suffer if we abolish English from Class III. English is bound to go from India. Indian Constitution has given a time limit of 15 years for English to remain in India. Out of these 15 years one year is already out and 14 years remain. Therefore it is time to think seriously whether we should fall in line with the rest of India and the recommendation of the Constitution of India.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: English was being taught before. This Constitution has given a life of English language for 15 years.

Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Deputy Minister): I was saying that one year is already gone and there remain only 14 years. I can assure my Friend, that English is bound to go much earlier than 14 years. This object will be achieved much before the time limit. I want to assert that English has no place now in India. It is better, therefore, that sooner we should abolish English from Class IV onwards to Class VI gradually year by year, and am glad to inform the House that Government is considering this matter very seriously.

Another thing which Dr. Chaudhury has raised is that Muslim Scholarships have been reduced. Muslims were given special Scholarships when they were a backward community in Assam. Now the Muslims are one of the most advanced communities of India and therefore it is an insult to that great community to dub it as backward for the sake of a few scholarships.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: What about poor people ?

Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY (Deputy Minister): There are poor students in all communities—Hindus as well as Muslims. Therefore poor people should get equal treatment irrespective of their community. Dr. Chaudhury should congratulate Government that they have abolished such discrimination and have decided to award scholarships for all students irrespective of their community.

Another point which Messrs. Phookan and Hazarika raised was about the controversies going on between two rival Samities regarding Hindi Prachar in Assam. Some other forum should be chosen by them for discussion of the subject instead of raising it here.

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN: I never meant this. I said in that Conference every speakers said that Hindi should be *lingua franca* of India. No agency should be patronised by Government more than any other. If that happens here that should be rectified.

Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY (Deputy Minister): I have nothing to revise my previous statement, though Shri Phookan now tries to explain away things like this. Sir, there is no question of any society being given grant or patronage. There is the Budget provision for starting a Hindi Teacher Training Institute and Government have undertaken to train teachers for propagation of Hindi in our country. The question which Mr. Hazarika raised a question that Government had not seen their way to increase the number of experts through special studies. He says that subjectwise scholarships should be given. I cannot agree with what he has said. But we are in favour of giving specialised education. We are granting Post-Graduate Scholarships and Research Scholarships. By this we are trying to send our students to other places for specialising subjects.

Mr. Ataur Rahman has appealed to Government that we should look with sympathy to those students in the areas which have been devastated during the last communal disturbance. This Government is taking a sympathetic view of what he has said and assure him that they will do their best if any specific case is brought to their notice. With these words I would request Dr. Chaudhury to withdraw his Cut Motion.

The CHAIRMAN: What does the hon. Member propose to do ?

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: In order to please my hon. Friend, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Cut Motion.

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

The CHAIRMAN: The question is :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.1,69,75,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952, for the administration of the head ‘37.—Education’.”

The Motion was adopted.

Grant No.19

40.—Agriculture

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.59,47,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952, for the administration of the head "40.—Agriculture".

The CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.59,47,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952, for the administration of the head '40.—Agriculture'."

There are two Cut Motions standing in the name of Mr. Hardman and Maulavi Muhammad Nazmul Haque. Mr. Hardman may move his Cut Motion. I hope he will be brief.

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: I beg, Sir, to move that the total provision of Rs.59,47,200 under grant No.19, Major head—40.—Agriculture, at page 164 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.59,47,200 do stand reduced by Re.1.

The object is to raise a general discussion. At the outset, I would point out that three quarter of an hour has been fixed for the discussion of this subject and it was at our instance this allocation of time was made, if perchance there has been excess of time taken in other Grants it seems to me unfortunate that adequate time cannot be granted for such an important subject as Agriculture.

Secondly, from the Treasury Benches there came an objection to the form in which Cut Motions are being proposed. It was suggested that it was a little unfair on Government—if not unparliamentary—to table a Cut Motion in the form of raising a general discussion. I will, Sir, briefly indicate the reasons why this practice appears to be becoming more general.

It will be recalled that when the question of discussing a Cut Motion is considered by the Chair, the general practice is to accept the Cut Motion which covers as widely as possible all the Motions included in the list. When, Sir, time is limited it becomes desirable to ensure that an opportunity is obtained for speaking. Therefore if Government are desirous of a change, I feel that they should indicate some different method by which priority should be given in dealing with Cut Motions.

There is also the further problem of dealing with a variety of subjects not altogether unimportant but perhaps of less vital importance in themselves than collectively of importance.

The CHAIRMAN: I think, the hon. Members should table Cut Motions in such a way that Government could get previous information so that Government may come prepared.

Of course, this Cut Motion is in order to raise a general discussion. It will be of advantage for all not only for the Mover but to Government to give information as to what would be the light of argument in regard to the Cut Motion he moves.

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: Thank you, Sir.

Turning to the points dealing with Agriculture, I will attempt to be as brief as possible. It has been already pointed out that difficulties have been experienced in the current year owing to the shortage of supply of *ahu* seed. The supply has been quite inadequate to meet the demand. I know of many tea gardens, to mention only one type of case, where land has been brought under cultivation, tractors have been purchased, heavy expenditure incurred in the expectation that seed would be supplied by the Department but, unfortunately, the Department has not been able so far to make the necessary arrangements. There is still time and we trust that the Hon'ble Minister will be able to give us today an assurance that all demands for supply of seeds will be adequately met and promptly met.

The second point to which I will make a reference is the most unsatisfactory method of preparing statistics of food-crops (*hear, hear*). I have had occasion to examine the forecasts of the rice crop for the current year and I have regrettably come to the conclusion that never in recent history has forecasting of crops proved to be so unsatisfactory. I was intrigued by the magnitude of the arrears that had occurred and therefore I went into the question somewhat more deeply than otherwise would have been the case.

We find, in case of the early autumn crop that there is a wide variation of the acreage under the crop. Now, it is evident that the time when the first forecast is made of the autumn rice crop that the land has already been sown and it is therefore surprising to find that the variation in acreage, as opposed to outturn, should be so large. In the case of one district alone, Kamrup—reported a decline of 40 thousand acres between the first and final forecast. There are still even more perplexing variations, when we turn to the Aman crop of rice. In the case of Cachar in the first estimate we find a detailed statement made regarding increase in the acreage above the normal. The increase in area was stated to be due to the extension of cultivation and favourable weather at the beginning of this season.

Let us turn to the final forecast, the decrease in area in Cachar area is stated to be due to unfavourable weather which prevented cultivators from sowing. We have increase due to favourable weather at the time of sowing. In the final forecast, we have decrease due to unfavourable weather at the same time.

Now, Sibsagar has reported in the first forecast an increase due to favourable weather and it attempts to explain the decline in the acreage under cultivation at the time of the final forecast as being due to the Earthquake.

Well, I have made careful enquiries which covered quite wide areas of Sibsagar district and I am assured not only by tea planters, but others, that any damage to cultivation due to the Earthquake in the Sibsagar district has been negligible. It cannot possibly explain the very large decrease in acreage in the return which has been submitted.

Eight districts reported very substantial increases in acreage at the time of the first forecast but these districts have been compelled to explain away large decreases in the final estimate. The same trend appears to apply to yield also. The rainfall statistics which are appended to the forecast show no surprising variations except in the case of two districts, the Garo Hills in the month of July and Nowgong in the month of November.

I feel that such astounding variations taking place in the estimates demand explanations. As regards acreage at least, which must be based on statistics, Government have a great deal to explain when they produce a final estimate showing such wide variations. In point of fact winter rice forecast is the lowest on record for 10 years, which suggests that in spite of the activities of the Agriculture Department over a decade and the efforts which have been made in the

Grow-More-Food Campaign, there has been an un-explained fall in the area and productivity of the crop. It is very unfortunate that these variations should occur, as these reports are relied upon by traders and must adversely affect Government Procurement operations. The changes, which we would suggest now are, that Government should utilise their Statistical Department. It should be their first task to embark on the overhauling of the crop statistics particularly of the rice crop in Assam. In the case of Bengal, the Indian Statistical Institute under Professor Mahalanobis prepared a scheme for accurately estimating the outturn of the jute crop. I believe that the scheme worked very satisfactorily. May we ask the Government to give this question the highest priority?

The final point which I wish to draw the attention of the Government is the unsatisfactory method of presenting the result of Grow-More-Food Campaign. In some cases, it is far from clear what result had been achieved. We realise perfectly well that every scheme which Government undertake cannot necessarily prove to be a success. We do not even expect Government to show that every scheme has in fact justified the expenditure. But there seems to be little means of gauging what results have been achieved by any particular scheme, although these should be capable of analysis. I have noticed in the Budget that Government are proposing to employ their statistical staff on this. In some cases it is not merely a question of statistical appraisal but of reports by competent officers being needed who have examined the scheme to give reliable estimates of the results which in their opinion have been achieved.

The CHAIRMAN: Cut Motion moved:

“That the total provision of Rs.59,47,200 under Grant No.19, Major head—40.—Agriculture, at page 164 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.59,47,200 do stand reduced by Re.1.”

Maulavi MD NAZMAL HAQUE: Sir, as the time at our disposal is very short, I do not propose to speak in detail on the matter, but I shall only draw the attention of the Government to certain schemes. I want to know what are the resultant benefits achieved from these schemes. The schemes are—(i) The Cattle Nutrition Scheme, (ii) Improving paddy seeds and (iii) Intensive cultivation scheme. In regard to animal husbandry, I want to know what improvement has been effected towards improving the breeding in rural areas and what steps have been taken to supply breeding bulls in the rural areas for the improvement of the village cattle.

With these words, I take my seat.

The CHAIRMAN: The Hon'ble Minister will now please reply.

The Hon'ble Srijit OMEO KUMAR DAS: Sir, I must thank the hon. Members for initiating this discussion. During these few days, this House was more or less engaged in discussing about food crisis. I had been listening with attention the points raised during these discussions, and I think I should take this opportunity to meet some of the points raised in the previous discussions besides the points raised by Mr. Hardman and Mr. Haque. I hope you will pardon me if I state that previous discussions on food crisis lacked constructive suggestions. I admit at the outset that our agriculture which lacked comprehensive plan and policy during the rule of our predecessors needs a new policy. It not only needs a basic change of the fundamentals, but it also demands a concerted action on the part of the Government and also of the people. Here I

need not go into the fundamentals of this new policy which relate to land tenure, prevention of fragmentation of holdings, consolidation of holdings, etc., but I propose to take the main factors which directly bear on the agriculture, *i. e.*, the question of improved variety of seeds, which my hon. Friend, Mr. Hardman, pointed out, and also the question of better control of pest and disease, better control of water supply and better use of manure, better implement, better system of cropping, etc. Mr. Hardman, has raised the question of supplying Ahu seeds. I must bring to the notice of the House that previously, it was the custom to procure seeds from the markets and to supply them to the cultivators at concessional rates. The defect of this system was that seeds had to be purchased through the contractors on tender system and it was liable to adulteration. Besides this, this system leaves out the question of improved seeds. After careful consideration, we had abandoned such scheme. When this Government took charge of this administration, the production of improved variety of seed was very low. During these years we had tried our utmost to increase the production of seeds of improved variety. We have been able to raise this to two to three thousand maunds of seeds from few hundred maunds. I hope this production will increase by next year to more than five thousand maunds. Then coming to next point raised, *i. e.*, failure to supply seeds, I must bring to the notice of the House that this year has been an extraordinary year.

The cultivators of Goalpara, Kamrup, Darrang and Nowgong, who are used to Ahu cultivation and did not generally depend on our seeds excepting only seeds of the improved variety to a small extent, have to come in for supply from Government owing to the loss of seed stocks of those areas due to communal disturbance. In Goalpara alone we had to meet a demand of more than 5,000 maunds; on the other hand, I must point out that due to the propaganda carried on by the Congress organisation and other public bodies the cultivators of Upper Assam, who were not used to Ahu cultivation, have this year taken this up in right earnest, and so the demand on the Department has been extraordinarily heavy. In Dibrugarh alone nearly 1,600 maunds of seed has been supplied, in Jorhat 3,500 maunds, in Sadiya 200 maunds, in Golaghat 750 maunds, in Darrang 2,000 maunds and in Sibsagar 600 maunds have already been supplied and arrangements have been made to supply another 3 to 400 maunds. In Nowgong 700 maunds was supplied, and about the same quantity was supplied in Cachar.

Then there is another difficulty with regard to the distribution of seeds. Three kinds of seeds are being distributed in the district of Sibsagar, *viz.*, (1) improved variety from our Government farms at the rate of Rs.8-8-0, (2) the seeds procured from the tribal areas of Kamrup at the rate of Rs.11-8-0, and (3) the seeds locally procured from some of the Miri areas of the Sibsagar district at a still higher rate. It is only the Miris in Upper Assam who are accustomed to cultivation of Ahu. Then, Sir, the price of locally procured seeds in Upper Assam had to be raised because the cultivators were not willing to part with their stock at the Government rate, and Finance had to be consulted for raising the rate. Owing to this *i. e.*, three kinds of seeds being supplied I admit that the cultivators are experiencing some difficulties because they do not want seeds at higher rate. That is one of the reasons why there has been much clamour about the distribution of Ahu seeds.

Then, Sir, regarding the I.T.A., Mr Hardman has requested me to supply the I.T.A. with seeds adequately. 1,000 maunds of seeds have already been supplied to the I.T.A. gardens in Upper Assam. Last year a large quantity of seeds was supplied to some of the I. T. A. gardens and it was expected that the tea planters, who got these primary seeds from the farms, should preserve the stock for this year also. But owing to the non-observance of the instructions issued or due to the ignorance of the instructions issued some of the Managers issued

also the seed raised in the gardens to their labourers for their consumption and so they were left without any stock to depend upon. When I went to Dhekiajuli some time ago, some of the Managers of that area met me and one of the Superintendents (I think he was the Superintendent of the Dibru-Darrang Tea Estate) requested me to supply him with some quantity of Ahu seeds. He stated that he had issued the stock produced with the primary seeds supplied last year to the labourers for their consumption. In spite of this, Sir, arrangements have been made to supply this garden with some quantity of primary seeds from the Dalgaon farm. Sir, I shall try my best to help the I. T. A. who are taking a great interest in the Grow-More-Food Campaign. Some of them have invested a big sum of money in purchasing tractors and have opened up large areas for cultivation. In the Dhekiajuli area itself they have already opened up more than 1,000 acres. I shall try my best to help them with supplies of seeds.

Then, Sir, Mr. Hardman raised the question of statistics. I admit, Sir, that our statistics are not infallible. But I must point out that agricultural statistics were not the concern of the Agriculture Department so long. The custom in vogue was for the field staff of the Revenue Department to collect the primary figures, which were then compiled in Shillong by the Agriculture Department. This I must point out was due to the lack of a comprehensive policy previously. He has particularly mentioned about the Ahu forecast of this year. He said that at the time of preliminary forecast the weather was mentioned to be seasonable but at the time of final forecast the production was shown to be lower than the first forecast as due to unseasonable weather. I must admit that there might have crept in some mistakes. But this factor should also be taken into consideration, that continuous drought at the time of flowering hampered production. The House is aware that this Government had taken steps to improve the statistical machinery and a statistical organisation has already been established. With the help of this statistical machinery we are trying to assess the results achieved by the Grow-More-Food Campaign, and also to find out the yield rate by carrying on crop cutting experiments. Criticisms have often times been made of the huge expenditure of the Grow-More-Food Scheme and having realised the need for evolving an agency to determine the net result in terms of food production we have made attempts to assess the results.

I must admit that the additional productions shown in the reports published by the Agriculture Department are more or less on rough calculation on the basis of yield rates estimated previously. But this year after conducting the crop cutting experiment we have been able to assess some results only in three districts. This report is not yet available, but I may state for the information of the House that the additional yield as found out by the Statistical Department varies from two to three maunds. In the Gauhati circle it is 2.54 maunds while in the Nalbari circle it is 3 to 3.5 maunds. In Tezpur circle it is 2.24 maunds while in the Dhekiajuli circle it is 0.86. In Nowgong circle it is 2.16 maunds while in the Mikir Hills it is 3.94 maunds. It must be admitted that the yield in this season is unusually lower in these circles.

My Friend, Mr. Nazmal Haque, raised a point regarding the result of the cattle nutrition scheme. Some results have so far been achieved from the experimental research work with various kinds of grasses indigenous to Assam and from the results it is found that some of the indigenous grasses contain protein and other digestible salts and might be suitable for cattle fodder. This scheme seeks to find out what grasses would be more suitable as cattle fodder.

Regarding the point raised with regard to the huge expenditure in the Grow-More-Food Scheme, the House is aware from the Budget what are the schemes for which money has been provided. Manure is necessary for increased production and provision has been made for encouraging the cultivators to make compost manure and also bone-meal is supplied to the Khasi and Jaintia Hills.

Mr. Larsingh stated the other day that the Government supply of bone-meal in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills had kept down the price of bone-meal supplied by individual traders to the cultivators in this area.

With regard to the minor irrigation projects which is necessary for increased production, the House is aware that the scheme is being operated on sharing of 50 per cent. of the expenditure by the cultivators and more than 700 such schemes are being executed during this year. To find out that this expenditure is spent to the best advantage of the people, we are supplying lists to the Members of the Legislature in the Subdivisions concerned so that they may inspect these schemes and help the cultivators in having more such schemes.

Before concluding, I must mention that the present Government has realised the defects in the agricultural policy so long followed in the past. It lacked a comprehensive plan. As I have already mentioned that this comprehensive plan is related to the reform of land tenure system. In that direction the Government has already taken steps by initiating measures to reform our land tenure by abolishing Zamindari and by legislating the Adhjar Act. Of course I realise that there has been delay in this matter, but such measures take time.

Before resuming my seat I want to bring another point to the notice of the House and that is the settlement of lands. From the agricultural statistics it appears that the total area under paddy cultivation is 40 lakhs acres. It means that a population of nearly one crore has to subsist on this land. The ratio of cultivated land per capita will be less than half acre. This is another factor which has contributed to this food crisis. During these few days the Hon'ble Revenue Minister has brought to the notice of the House the total area of land which has been settled with the landless cultivators. But the House will realise that the available land fit for *sali* cultivation is very meagre. It is known to the hon. Members that the indigenous cultivators of Assam are accustomed to *sali* cultivation and they will not move to areas which are not fit for *sali* cultivation.

I must bring to the notice of the House that during the last century while countries in the West were taking plans for their economic regeneration and while an oriental country like Japan was taking steps in that direction our country was lying low in bondage and could not do anything in this respect. But after independence we have been able to take steps to formulate a proper agricultural policy. But we cannot work out miracle within this short space of time. It takes time. The scarcity of food may continue for some years. It depends on the concerted action of the people and the Government.

I hope I have sufficiently met the points raised not only in this debate but also during the debate on food position. With these words I request my Friend, Mr. Hardman, to withdraw his Motion.

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: Mr. Chairman, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Cut Motion.

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

The CHAIRMAN: I now put the main question.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 59,47,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1952 for the administration of the head '40—Agriculture'."

The Motion was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We have two more Grants to consider today and we have to sit up to 4 o'clock. So I propose to allot 15 minutes for Police and 20 minutes for the other Grant No.24.

GRANT No. 13

29.—Police

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 93,03,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1952 for the administration of the head '29—Police'."

The CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 93,03,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1952 for the administration of the head '29—Police'."

There is one Cut Motion standing in the name of the hon. Member, Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 93,03,800 under Grant No. 13, Major Head—29—Police, at page 96 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 93,03,800 do stand reduced by Re. 1. The object is to raise a general discussion on the Police.

Sir, in his Budget speech the Hon'ble Finance Minister has explained the situation faced by the Government on account of the prevailing crime situation and the internal troubles, as he has said at page 40 of the Budget speech, "Due to the prevailing crime situation and the internal troubles it has been found necessary to increase the police staff to some extent". The trouble is due among other things to the troubles occasioned by the R. C. P. I.

Sir, in this connection might I remind the Government that spending more simply on increasing the police staff alone cannot meet the situation? They must go to the root cause or causes of these troubles which gave rise to this crime wave. This however is not the occasion to go into the causes that led some people to do things which we all dislike. The economic condition of the people is the only cause which drives people who are unemployed or who fail to get anything by begging from door to door or by borrowing from other persons, to go to the extreme, and hence Government will be ill-advised to spend more to add to the police staff without going to the root of the troubles.

Sir, since I have to be brief on account of the shortness of time at my disposal, I should like to draw the attention of the Government to an incident that took place at Jorhat. By incident I do not mean actually some important event, but the refusal with which the Superintendent of Police of Jorhat once greeted a joint petition by myself and Mr. Sarwan for 50 gallons of petrol in April last year to be used in any car to tour the Sibsagar subdivision on account of the communal disturbance then prevailing there. We told the Superintendent of Police then that Government machinery had failed to meet the situation as what had happened amply proved that and hence our request for 50 gallons of petrol to be used in any car.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: When was that? I could not follow the hon. Member?

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: It was in April last. We explained to the Superintendent of Police that the situation brooked no delay, but unfortunately he wanted more particulars as to by whom the car is to be used, when it was insured, etc., etc., although all that was included in our petition

and we wanted the petrol to tour the areas where the police could not go. It was known that attempts were made by some people to rouse the tea garden population against the Muslims; in spite of that, the joint petition was of no avail. As a matter of fact each of the hon. Members might spend about 100 gallons of petrol per month. I had rarely applied to the Superintendent of Police for petrol but this time I could not help it on account of the communal trouble in the District. I hope Government will please enquire into this.

Secondly, I might also say that sometime back—may be in January this year some trouble arose in Bilasipara where on account of the highhandedness of a certain Zamindar who reoccupied a plot of land which was given over to the local people for the construction of a school, the school students began picketing. As a result some students were taken to the thana and severely beaten by the Officer in-charge. I fail to understand how such things could have happened during these days when democracy is in full swing and how a mere Officer in-charge could take the law into his hands and beat the shall innocent school students. What I fail to see is that these students did not go a step further and kill the Officer in question. I hope Government will take serious consideration of this matter.

With these words, Sir, I commend my Motion to the serious consideration of this House.

The CHAIRMAN: Cut Motion moved:

“That the total provision of Rs.93,03,800 under Grant No.13, Major head—29—Police, at page 96 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 93,03,800 do stand reduced by Re. 1.”

Maulavi MD. MAKSED ALI: Sir, during the last disturbances we have seen that a large number of Muslim houses were burnt down, their property looted in the very presence of the police officers in the disturbed areas. They could not protect our lives and property. This indicates that our police officers have become biased against the Muslims. When the displaced Muslims came back to their own homesteads, we see that even their cattle are being smuggled by some miscreants at the very nose of the police officers. Sir, it will be no exaggeration to add here that dacoities and thefts have become a common feature of the day.

Again, Sir, during the last disturbances Maulavi Abul Kashem was arrested by the police of Dhubri and he was beaten mercilessly in the Dhubri thana. I do not know for what reason he was arrested and was mercilessly beaten in the district headquarters thana when there was the Superintendent of Police and if I am right, also the Deputy Inspector General of Police was present on that occasion.

Then again, subsequently Maulavi Md. Nazmal Haque, M. L. A., Goalpara, Maulavi Amjad Ali, ex-M. L. A. of Goalpara and a big merchant Maulavi Majibur Rahman and Maulavi Majiruddin Ahmed, B. L., Pleader were also arrested by police and they were not shown the reasons for their arrest. Sir, recently the Officer-in-charge of Bilasipara arrested some school students of Bilasipara I. N. Academy for picketing.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member should concise his speech.

Maulavi MD. MAKSED ALI: What I want to say is that I do not want that Muslims should be given any preferential treatment by the Government, but what I want to say is that the Muslims are as loyal and faithful citizens as any other communities. So we want, Sir, that even-handed justice and fair play will be accorded to us by the Government of a secular State.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Sir, this Cut Motion was initiated to raise a general discussion only, but instead the debate being general, this hon. Member refers to a very few minor matters. It is very difficult, without getting sufficient notice of such minor matters, to place detailed particulars of such instances before the House in order to enlighten the House in regard to the particular incidents referred to by the hon. Members. I do not know under what circumstances those arrests were made.

It must be admitted by Maulavi Maksed Ali that the communal disturbances, in which the incidents mentioned by him, took place was some time before the Budget Session of last year, that is, in February and in the early part of March, and for this reason we instructed the Deputy Commissioner to give sufficient escort to the hon. Members of this House who wanted to come from Lhubri side to attend the sessions of the Assembly so that they could have the opportunity to tell us what they had to say in connection with the communal disturbances. They did not avail of this opportunity, but some of them were engaged in secret meetings and were moving from place to place in order to rouse the passion of some of the Muslims. Instead of helping the police or the administration, or the Magistrates or the Deputy Commissioner in controlling and putting down the disturbance.....

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: May I know, Sir, who were holding secret meetings?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: I do not like to disclose the names of those who were holding secret meetings. On the basis of reliable information, persons were arrested to prevent them from acting prejudicial to the maintenance of law and order. Percentage of the Muslims under arrest will not be even one per cent. of the total arrested persons. Large number of the arrested persons were Hindus and Tribals. I therefore say that if anybody was arrested at that time he was arrested for some prejudicial act done against maintenance of law and order. Those who are reported to be wrongly arrested had not made any complaint either to the Magistrates or to the Government. What does that show? If Maulavi Abul Kashem was arrested illegally, as has been said to-day, he could have lodged a complaint to the local Magistrate or submitted representation to Government, but instead of doing so he escaped to Pakistan.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: He left because his life was not secure here.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Our information is that not only he crossed the border, but he was exciting the people living on the border of Pakistan and carrying on propaganda against Indian Union. It is not proper on the part of the hon. Member to narrate stories on hearsay while the hon. Member himself was absent. Hon. Members probably know that there was a Commission of Enquiry set up and was presided over by a High Court Judge. Hon. Member had full liberty or opportunity of placing the grievances and the alleged oppression before the Commission. The report of this Commission which had already been submitted and will be published probably

simultaneously as soon as the East Bengal counter part submits its report. Hon. Members will be able to see from that report—how the police and the local authority controlled and put down the disturbances in the shortest time. That reflects great credit to the police administration. The very fact that almost all the migrants who at the incitement of some of these people went out of the Indian Union, returned and are living in peace in Indian Union, indicates that the minority community have full confidence in the administration.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: Is it a fact that a Member of the Government Party also went to Pakistan ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: It is not a fact. That is not correct.

It is alleged that permission for purchasing a few gallons of petrol was not granted by the Superintendent of Police. But the hon. Member did not draw the attention of the Government that the permission was refused till to-day when he is moving this Cut Motion after about a year.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: I wanted the petrol not to move here and there.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: The discussion will be an academical one now, as there is no petrol rationing at present.

(Interruption).

The Chairman: I am sorry to remind hon. Member that the Hon'ble Minister should be allowed to go on. He should not be interrupted.

Maulavi MD. MAKSED ALI: Dacoities are increasing day by day. Will the Hon'ble Minister see that these things are stopped ? I should be glad if such officials are transferred.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Mere transfer is no punishment. It is against public interests to transfer an officer merely on rumours or on reports without being verified. Such a procedure is likely to demoralise officers to some extent.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: People were very afraid of their lives.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: The event took place in April, 1950. Even after that period there was a session of the Assembly in September. I may simply say that he slept over the question for about a year. There are certain rules under which Superintendent of Police can issue coupons for petrol. As the hon. Member could not supply the number of the car in which he wanted to use the petrol, Superintendent of Police probably refused to issue coupons.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: We are not rich people like you. We have no car.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Hon. Member could have given the number of his friend's car he proposed to use for the purpose.

Srijut HARI NARAYAN BARUA: On a point of information, Sir, মই তেখেতক স্মৃতিব খোজো যে, Petrol ব কাৰণে তেখেতে কাৰ গাড়ীৰ নম্বৰ দিছিল ?

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: মোৰ বোধেৰে মাননীয় সভ্যই একো নুবুজিলে। তেখেত মনে মনে বহি থকাই ভাল, (*Interruption*).

The Hon'ble Srijut MOTIRAM BORA: On a point of order, Sir, the hon. Member should not utter that “সদস্যই একো নুবুজে, তেওঁ মনে মনে বহি থকাই ভাল” This is most objectionable and unparliamentary. (*Vice—He must withdraw this.*) (*Again interruption.*)

The CHAIRMAN: I think there should not be any further interference.

The Hon'ble Srijut MOTIRAM BORA: I may be permitted to bring to your notice that hon. Dr. Chaudhury has used some language, which he ought not to have used.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: I have not used any such language, Sir. “মই কৈছো যে, মাননীয় সদস্যই মোৰ কথা একো নুবুজিলে, মনে মনে বহি থকাই ভাল।” (*Interruption*).

The Hon'ble Srijut MOTIRAM BORA: That is not the fact, Sir, সদস্যই একো নুবুজে বুলি তেখেতে কৈছে। This is seriously objectionable.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: চাব, সেইকালৰ Member ধিনিয়ৈ মোৰ একো কথাই ভালকৈ নুশুনে। মই কৈছো Petrol নোপোৱাৰ কথা আৰু তেখেতে স্মৃতিছে মই কাৰ গাড়ীৰ নম্বৰ দিলো ইত্যাদি।

The CHAIRMAN: I have not heard exactly what did the hon. Member said, but if he said ‘(নুবুজিলে)’ I do not think that this expression can be taken to be objectionable. (*Voice—No Sir, he uttered একো নুবুজে—মাননীয় সদস্যই একো নুবুজে বহি থাকক।*)

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: চাব, মই নুবুজিলে বুলিহে কৈছিলো।

The CHAIRMAN: I do not see any utility of this discussion now. There is no petrol rationing at present.

The Hon'ble Srijut MOTIRAM BORA: He ought not to have used the language which he has done.

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: He ought to withdraw the words he has used. It is undignified.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: I want a decision from you, Sir, whether there was anything objectionable in what I said? What I said in Assamese was this. “মোৰ বোধেৰে মাননীয় সদস্যই একো নুবুজিলে। তেখেত মনে মনে বহি থকাই ভাল।”

The Hon'ble Srijut MOTIRAM BORA: The hon. Member has changed it now.

The CHAIRMAN: “নুবুজে” is unparliamentary. But the hon. Member said “নুবুজিলে” so, it should not be pressed anymore.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: As the hon. Member has disowned the statement alleged to have been made, I think we should not pursue the matter any further.

The petrol rationing is not in force now and any further discussion in this connection seems academic.

We are strengthening our police force and we are purchasing motor vehicles to render police force more mobile so that the police may pursue the dacoits quickly. A Police Re-organisation Committee has been constituted to go into these matters and how crimes can be effectively dealt with. In all those places where the Muslim immigrants came the crime is on the increase. In order to meet the situation there is need for re-organisation of the police. Police stations are at present situated at great distance and taking advantage of these difficulties the crimes committed by the unsocial elements are on the increase. We are trying to organise the police in such a way as to give them extra mobility. Wireless sets have been installed so that on receipt of information at the Police Station near which the crime is committed, the police force may go there quickly. Our efforts on the other hand are to keep the expenditures within reasonable limits.

Hon. Members will be satisfied that in 1944-45 the percentage of the Police expenditure was 9 whereas in 1950-51 the percentage is 8·7 only. We are trying to keep down the expenditure, but we are trying at the same time to increase the Police force wherever necessary to preserve law and order in the country.

With these few words, I request the hon. Member to withdraw his Motion.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: May I know about the Bilasipara incident, Sir?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: I do not know personally of the Bilasipara incident.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

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

The CHAIRMAN: I now put the main demand:

The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.93,03,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952, for the administration of the head ‘29—Police’.”

The Motion was adopted.

GRANT No.24

50—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plants and Establishment)

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Mr. Chairman, under Assembly Rule 105(4), this being the last day for voting on Demands for Grants, the Hon'ble Speaker is to put every question to dispose of by the time fixed under the rules, that is at 3 P.M. It is already exceeded by 55 minutes.

The CHAIRMAN: We are sitting till 4 P.M., with the consent of the House. There will be therefore no time for moving Cut Motions.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.1,94,53,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952, for the administration of the head "50—Civil Works (excluding Tools and Plants and Establishment)."

The CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.1,94,53,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952, for the administration of the head '50—Civil Works (excluding Tools and Plants and Establishment)'."

The CHAIRMAN: As there is no time, I put the question:

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,94,53,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952, for the administration of the head '50—Civil Works (excluding Tools and Plants and Establishment)'."

The Motion was adopted.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Saturday, the 24th March, 1951.

SHILLONG,
The 15th June, 1951.

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

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