

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 10 A. M. on Saturday, the 26th February, 1966.

PRESENT

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY, B. L., Speaker in the Chair, eight Ministers, two Ministers of State, two Deputy Ministers and fifty-four Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Re: Control of Price of Fish

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS (North Salmara, Reserved for Scheduled Castes) asked :

*5. Will the Minister-in-charge of Veterinary (Fisheries) be pleased to state—

- (a) Why price of fish has been controlled at Gauhati alone and not in other places of the District ?
- (b) Whether Government propose to introduce it throughout the State ?
- (c) Whether Government propose to introduce selling of fish by weight all over the State ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Fisheries) replied :

5. (a)—The Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, Gauhati, as per power conferred under Defence of India Rules controlled price of fish at Gauhati for high price and scarcity of fish. The control of fish at Gauhati, however, was lifted by the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup with effect from 8th February 1966.

Since Government did not issue any instructions to the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup in respect of control of fish in other areas not excluding Gauhati and he is competent to promulgate orders for control of fish, etc., in particular area/areas under D. I. Rules where fish is particularly found to be scarce and of high price the question of control of fish by Government in other areas does not arise.

(b) —No, Government has no contemplation to introduce such a control system throughout the State, at present.

(c)—In view of reply at (b) this question does not arise.

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat): Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister what are the reasons of decontrolling fish at Gauhati ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Sir, the control was done by the Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup as per powers conferred under the Defence of India Rules and the subsequent decontrol of fish was also done by him.

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI: Sir, my question was what is the reason for lifting the control of fish at Gauhati ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Possibly, the availability of fish at Gauhati became either meagre or sufficient. In fact Government do not know the exact reason. The Deputy Commissioner as per powers conferred under Defence of India Rules has decontrolled the price of fish at Gauhati at his discretion.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (Bihpuria): Sir, whether Government is aware that a huge quantity of fish goes outside from the State? Whether Government is going to restrict movement of such fish from the State to other States ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Yes. Some quantities do go to North Bengal. It is true. But we are trying to improve the marketing facilities so that the fish can be diverted from North Bengal markets to areas within our State. Our Fishery Department is also operating certain schemes to bring fish from Barpeta and Goalpara.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): In consideration of scarcity of fish, the Deputy Commissioner introduced control of fish. Will the Government be pleased to consider the question of restriction of movement of fish from this State, specially from Goalpara to other States?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: So far as the Deputy Commissioner was concerned, he took the action without consulting the Government in the Fisheries Department. But so far as the Fisheries Department is concerned, we think that such restrictions should not be imposed without making availability of fish and the supply position better.

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB (Kokrajhar): Sir, is it not a fact that the terms of the lessees include a clause that 25 per cent of the fish caught must be sold locally ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I think there is such a provision in the lease.

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB: Sir, may I know why this is not strictly observed ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: It should be observed by the lessees; it is the responsibility of the Subdivisional Officers and the Deputy Commissioners concerned to enforce it. But I suppose due to difficulties inherent in a situation like this, this could not be fully enforced.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara): Sir, why the Government cannot restrict the export of fish to outside and what is the reason?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: After all fish is a perishable commodity. If we cannot make proper marketing facilities for the fish caught in the border areas like Goalpara, the catch is likely to perish. Till we can have marketing facilities and cold storage arrangements, I think this should not be imposed and our poor fishermen should not be put to further difficulties.

Shri AKSHOY KUMAR DAS (Sarbhog): Sir, may I know from the honourable Minister whether the cold storage scheme is under active consideration of the Government?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: We have already set up one cold storage at Gauhati and one more is going to be set up by the Agriculture Department. As the hon. Members know in spite of our best efforts we have not been able to make much headway in this direction. There is difficulty in getting equipments; also there is difficulty of getting engineers to set up the plants. In fact we have not got any engineers at all, to set up such cold storage. Earlier I had requested the Government of India to make available such engineers who could help us in setting up cold storage, but they could not send anybody. At one stage I personally requested the State Minister of the Government of India, but he told me that they were also finding it difficult to get people and advised me to approach private parties. We made some efforts in this direction also; I also personally met some private entrepreneurs and requested them to set up cold storages, but till now we have not been able to make any headway.

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB: Sir, may I know from the honourable Minister, if in the opinion of the Minister fish is not exported outside, there will be wastage of fish caught?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: This is not at all my opinion. We have taken up schemes to divert fish in other areas of the State. So, it is only a question of time to divert fish catch of Goalpara and Barpeta from North Bengal to other places in the State. In other words, it is a question of giving marketing facilities to the fishermen. As you know, Sir, fish is a perishable commodity; unless it is despatched within two or three hours, it will not be eatable commodity.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): Sir, can the Minister give us the price of fish—before the control and after decontrol?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, I have not got the figures with me at the moment. The market price of fish was fixed by the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup. The price fixed by the Deputy Commissioner must be lower than the open market price at the time of clamping,

the control. But that could not be fully enforced at Gauhati town. As a result of control, I was told, fish was diverted from Gauhati to other areas where there was no control. People did not bring fish to Gauhati as a result of which there was more difficulty in the availability of fish after control than could be anticipated before.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: Sir, whether marketing scheme is in operation in Goalpara area and if so, what is the result?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Not only in Goalpara, it was also in operation at Gauhati. In fact we were bringing fish from Goalpara and Barpeta and selling them in Shillong markets. As the hon. Members know import of fish from Pakistan was stopped even before Pakistan launched aggression due to shortage of foreign exchange and since then the scheme had to be operated in Shillong.

Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY (Patacharkuchi): What is the total requirement of fish per day at Gauhati?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: There are no statistics.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, what are the sources of supply of fish to Gauhati?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Primarily all the fisheries of Kamrup District.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Re: Inundation of Bokota and Thowra Mouzas

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) asked:

10. Will the Minister, P.W.D. (E. & D.) be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that in Bokota and Thowra Mouzas of Sivasagar Sub-division bunds were constructed on the Desang and Demow rivers in course of the last 10 years?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that due to non-construction of Diroi bund, major portion of Bokota and Thowra mouzas are inundated every year causing damage to crops?
- (c) If so, what steps Government have taken in this matter?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Flood Control) replied:

10. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes, to some extent.

(c)—It is under examination.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA : Sir, since 1961 till to-day, the Minister regularly replied that it was under examination. May I know from the Minister how long it will take to examine the matter and when it will be finalised?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Sir, it is not that the Dimow area has not got any embankment. The bunds so far constructed are : (1) left bank-from Dekow-Dehing Road to Dhari Ali—7 miles, (2) right bank-from Demow-Dehing Road to approximately 3 miles downstream, (3) from Patsaku.....

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA : I mean the Deroi river, not Dimow.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : The area along the Deroi river is low and gets inundated to an average depth of 10 ft. or so requiring high embankment. The rough estimate was that it would cost about Rs. 11,89,000. If the embankments are taken right upto Sepon-Sunpura Road from Diroimukh, the length will be about 25 miles and will cost Rs. 17,30,000. First of all, there is difficulty from the technical point of view. The technicians feel that these areas should be filled up a little before embankments are constructed. The second difficulty is the cost. As the hon. Members know, if all the flood control schemes are to be implemented, which is the desire of the hon. Members, the cost will be not within crores but will run to over three hundred crores. The Governor has given the figure in his Address.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA : মিনিষ্টাৰ চাহাৰে দিনোৰ কথা মনত ৰাখিহে উত্তৰটো দিছে নেকি? মই দিবৈ নদীৰ কথাহে শুধিছো আৰু দিবৈ নদীৰ পৰা কেনেকৈ silt আহিব?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : I have already replied regarding Deroi river.

Mr. SPEAKER : The hon. Member said that the matter was under examination for a long time and he wanted to know how long will the examination take.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : There are large number of schemes in the State which are under consideration for quite a long time. There are too many schemes and too many demands compared to the funds available. Therefore, the Department will have to give priority. This priority is not given by me alone, it is given by a Board—a high-powered Board—presided over by the Chief Minister, in which the Government of India and its representatives are also associated.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : May I know whether this scheme was discussed in the last meeting of the State Flood Control Board?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : In the last meeting, no.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA : মিনিষ্টাৰ চাহাৰৰ পৰা এই কথা জানিব পাবোনে—যি এয় পৰিকল্পনাত যিমান টকা ধৰা হৈছিল আৰু কিমান টকা বেচিকৈ খৰচ কৰিলো?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: এতিয়া প্রশ্ন হ'ল কেবাটাও এটা এটা কৈ উত্তৰ দিব লাগিব। তৃতীয় পৰিকল্পনাৰ কালছোৱাত ৫ কোটি টকা ধৰা হৈছিল কিন্তু এতিয়ালৈকে ১১ কোটি টকা খৰছ হৈ গৈছে। দ্বিতীয় কথা মই বহুত ঠাইলৈ যাওঁ বা গৈছিলো। বহুতো লোকে মোৰ ওচৰত আহি কন্দা কটা কৰিছে কিন্তু সকলোবোৰ ঠাইৰ কাম মই কেনেকৈ একেলগে কৰো। সিমান টকা দিয়াই হোৱা নাই। গোটেই খিনি স্বল্পম্যাদী কাম কৰিবলৈ ২৪ কোটি টকাৰ প্ৰয়োজন। এতিয়া আমাৰ ২৪ কোটি টকাৰ স্কীম প্ৰায় প্ৰস্তুত হৈয়েই আছে। কিন্তু ২৪ কোটি টকাৰ স্কীম মই কেনেকৈ একেলগে কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰোঁ? সেইকাৰণে কোনো কোনোৱে বেয়া পাব পাৰে কিন্তু মোৰ উপায় নাই একমাত্ৰ টকাৰ অভাৱৰ কাৰণে।

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: ম'ৰী মহোদয়ে কৈছে যে ৫ কোটি টকাহে দিয়া হৈছে তেন্তে কিয় ১১ কোটি টকা খৰছ কৰিছে?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: আপোনালোকে কিয় দাবীৰ পিছত দাবী কৰিছে?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: The Minister said that this scheme was not discussed in the meeting of the Flood Control Board. May I know what is the nature of consideration that was given to this scheme, since it did not come before the meeting at all?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: It did not come in the last meeting specifically, but from time to time we discuss these scheme generally. Then, the draft master plan is there, in which all these are included. The draft master plan was discussed in the last meeting.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: May I know when the draft scheme for this project was prepared by the Government?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: It is not possible for a Minister to give dates of framing of individual schemes, costing Rs. 311 crores in all and running hundreds in number.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA: In reply to (b), the Government admits that crops were damaged to some extent. May I know to what extent?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: For the details, a question may please be sent to the Revenue Department. It is their responsibility to collect these details.

Re: Demarcation of boundaries of Fisheries

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS (North Salmara, Reserved for Scheduled Castes) asked:

11. Will the Minister, Veterinary (Fishery) be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government is aware that the boundary disputes frequently take place in connection with fisheries in the State?

(b) If so, what steps Government has taken to demarcate the boundaries of fisheries?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Fisheries)
replied :

11. (a)--Yes.

(b)—Government received a number of representations both from the public as well as from the lessees of some fisheries regarding unauthorised encroachments as also issue of annual and periodic pattas within a few fisheries. On receipt of the same, reports were called for from the Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers concerned. Government then, after having satisfied with the reports of the local Officers concerned on specific encroachments and issue of pattas considered it expedient to evict those encroachers and cancel such pattas, where found, at an early date. Instructions, were therefore, issued to the local authorities to look into each such case personally and take steps to ensure that all such encroachers were evicted without delay and annual and periodic pattas cancelled early. They were further instructed to refer the cases where periodic pattas were issued within fisheries to the respective Commissioners of Divisions, who are competent to cancel such pattas as per Rules. On receipt of Government orders actions were taken promptly by the Officers concerned and Government informed accordingly on the actions taken. In any case, since, then complaints on this account, are much at a low ebb. Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers are taking appropriate actions on the genuine issues as soon as they are reported to them on the line of Government's above circular.

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS: Will the hon. Minister detail a special officer for demarcating all the undemarcated fisheries all over the State to avoid dispute ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: We have not got any special officer. Demarcation has got to be done by the Revenue Department. We have got to request the Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers to use their normal staff to do it. We have already sent a circular to that effect. If any specific case is brought to our notice we will ask the Deputy Commissioner or the Subdivisional Officer, as the case may be, to do the demarcation expeditiously.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (Bihpuria): মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে জানে নে যে মাছের কারবার লাভজনক হোৱা কাৰণে বহুত ঠাইত কাজিয়া লাগিছে আৰু শান্তি গুণ্ডলাৰ ব্যাৰাট বটিছে আৰু চকুৱাখানাতো বেচি অশান্তি হৈছে আৰু ইয়াৰ বাবে চৰকাৰে কিবা ব্যৱস্থা লৈছে নে ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Demarcation
কাৰাৰ কাৰণে D. C. আৰু S. D. O. লৈ circular পঠোৱা হৈছে।

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara): সীমা লৈ তেজপুৰত
কাজিয়া হোৱাৰ কথা মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে জানে নে ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: কাজিয়া হোৱাৰ
কথাটো জানো।

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahaul) : মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে জানে নে যে Sadiya transferred area ত fishery ৰে যিটো সীমা নিৰ্দ্ধাৰণ কৰিছে তাৰ ভিতৰত মানুহৰ একচনা আৰু মাটি পট্টাৰ মাটি সোমাই গৈছে ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : মই এই নিৰ্দ্ধিষ্ট কেচৰ কথা নাজানো। কিন্তু এনেকুৱা কিছুমান ঘটনাৰ কথা গোচৰীভূত হৈছে আৰু সেইবিলাক সোনকালে নিষ্পত্তি কৰিবৰ কাৰণে নিৰ্দেশ দিয়া হৈছে।

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) : May I know why fisheries are settled with lessees without demarcation of boundaries ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : The position unfortunately, Sir, is this: an enquiry revealed that we had a fishery register in which fisheries were registered without detailing to the desired extent boundaries and areas. This came out as a result of Ramesh Chandra Committee's Enquiry Report. Since then steps are being taken to properly demarcate the boundaries of fisheries and take further follow-up action.

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI Laharighat) : How do the Government propose to cancel pattas within the fisheries ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : There is provision for cancelling annual pattas.

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI : What about periodic pattas ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Of course I quite agree with the hon. Member that there would be some difficulties in some cases. Regarding periodic patta once an order is passed and the matter has proceeded beyond a certain procedural limit, we cannot cancel it. In fact there has been a number of cases not only in Fisheries Department but also in the Revenue Department itself that in the matter of settlement of land some Revenue staff have been found to be guilty of not following the Rules. The House may remember that the Minister of Revenue made a statement in this House giving the number of officers in the Revenue Department against whom disciplinary actions were taken as they were found defaulting in discharging their duties.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) : Have the Government received any representation from people that due to the wrong demarcation of Deghali Beel a serious law and order situation has arisen in that area and if so what steps Government have taken for that ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : I do not think there was any representation to me asking about boundary demarcation. If I remember aright there was a representation to me with the demand that this fishery should not be auctioned and it should be left open for fishing by the public of that area. It is difficult to accede to this kind of request as once it is done in one place there will be demand for such free fishing all over the State.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : May I know from the hon. Minister whether this particular fishery was not originally included as a public fishery ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I am not aware of that.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: May I know on what date demarcation was made for this beel ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: The demand from some members of the public of that area was not for demarcation but the demand was that they must fish free with the result the poor lessee was in troubles and he came to the Government saying that he would not continue with the lease and that Government should accept his resignation.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: May I inform the hon. Minister that this is not a fact but the fact is that the people were representing regarding the demarcation of the boundary which was found defective, especially because one new area which was formerly used by public for free fishing has been included ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I have given out what is in my information. If the hon. Member has got any other information than what I know, he may write to me conveying those specific information and I will look into the matter.

Shri SYED AHMED ALI (Gauripur): Sir, as a result of the disputes in demarcating the boundaries of different fisheries in the State many lessees have suffered loss, may I know whether the hon. Minister will consider to compensate their losses ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I am sorry, Sir, I cannot give such an assurance.

Re: Dikhow River Erosion

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) asked :

12. Will the Minister, P.W.D. (F. C. & I.) be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Dikhow river is eroding the left bank on the 17th mile (Dechial village) and the bund is already breached ?

(b) If so, whether Government will take steps to repair the bund and put spur to prevent further erosion ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Flood Control) replied :

12. (a)—Yes. The Dikhow river is eroding the left bank on the 17th mile. The bund is not yet breached.

(b)—No, but protective measures to hold the bank line at the present position are being taken up along with retirement.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH: What is the distance from the river to the bund at present ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: A part of the embankment has already been eroded. About the exact distance I have not got the information.

Shri KHOGEN DRA NATH BARBARUAH: What is the estimated cost of the retirement and the protective measures?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I have not got the figure with me.

Re: Damage of Food crops by Insects, Pests, etc.

Shri INDRESWAR KHAUND (Jaipur) asked:

13. Will the Minister-in-charge of Agriculture be pleased to state—

- (a) The quantity of food crops annually damaged by insects, pests, etc?
- (b) The measures taken to check?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) replied:

13. (a)—It is not possible to assess precisely this damage by insects and pests. The probable annual loss in India is taken as 10 per cent of the production for all practical purpose.

(b)—Following measures are taken to check the loss—

- (i) Pesticides are issued at 50 per cent subsidised rates to the cultivators.
- (ii) In case of outbreaks of diseases in epidemic form and insect pests, pesticides are issued free and control operations are organised by the Extension staff with the help and co-operation of the cultivators.
- (iii) Equipments for applying the pesticides to the crops are lent out to the cultivators free of charge; to those who are willing to possess their own equipments these are also sold at 50 per cent subsidised rates to them.
- (iv) Demonstrations are conducted at different places to acquaint the cultivators with the preventive and control methods of the different diseases and insects, pests, etc., and in the use and handling of the pesticides and equipments.
- (v) Farmers are given institutional training and also training at camps organised in different parts of the Blocks from time to time where they are told about the pests and the diseases which cause damage to the crops; methods of their control and prevention are explained and the handling of the equipments and the use of pesticides demonstrated.
- (vi) Instructions are issued as and when necessary by the extension staff and also supplies of equipments and pesticides made when required.
- (vii) Campaigns are also organized from time to time for the control of rats.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (Bihpuria): In answer to (b) the Government has stated regarding measures taken to check insects, pests, etc., but may I know from Government whether the pesticide used for potato diseases had any effect during the last potato season?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, such reports were received about application of blitex for prevention of late blight disease and we are looking into them. I would like to inform the hon. Members that blitex is not a medicine for the cure of the disease but it is a preventive for the same. In fact, technical advice given is that no effective medicine for blight has yet been discovered. Spraying of blitex is a prophylactic measure. Once a field is already affected by blight if blitex is used probably there will be no result. I am told this is an airborne disease and thus is carried by air from one field to another.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara): May I know from the Minister the extent of areas affected last year by insects and pests?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: It has already been replied that it is not possible to assess precisely this damage by insects and pests and that the probable annual loss in India is taken as 10 per cent of the production for all practical purposes.

Shri STANLEY D. D. NICHOLS ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: In the answer to (b) (v) it is stated that farmers are given institutional training and also training at camps or organised in different parts of the Blocks from time to time. May I know whether there is any institutional training or training in camps organised in the Blocks in the hills and in the U. K. & J. Hills in particular?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Yes, but if details are asked in connection with this question I cannot possibly give them without notice.

Shri INDRESWAR KHAUND (Jaipur): May I know whether after taking these measures as replied in (b), there have been any improvement in preventing the damages?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Certainly there has been improvement but not to the extent one would expect, as these trainings must go hand in hand with education. The cultivators should know and understand the causes of the diseases and measures to be taken and for that some education is necessary.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): May I know, Sir, whether Government is thinking it necessary to have this subject included in the Higher Secondary level of education?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: This is a matter of policy.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: May I know how the Government is contemplating to deal with the situation?

[26th Feb.,

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : So far as blight disease is concerned, whether there is incidence of this disease or not, all the agriculturists must be induced to take prophylactic measures by spraying pesticides as is done in almost all advanced countries; at least this is what they have been doing.

Complaint regarding the number of questions replied to during the earlier Sessions and the Budget session, 1966.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : (Jorhat) Sir, I should like to bring to your notice that the replies to the questions put in the earlier Sessions were not satisfactory and in this Session also up till now we have found that only a limited number of questions has been replied. I hope, Sir, you will see that steps are taken to expedite replies to the questions in this Session of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER : We have already taken steps in this regard to see that answers are expedited.

Further information on Unstarred Question No.9, dated 25th February 1966

Re: Discharge of Unqualified Primary School Teachers

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) : Sir, yesterday some hon. Members wanted to know the dates of the disposal of the cases filed by the discharged Primary School Teachers in the High Court. I can give the information now. The High Court has so far disposed of 21 cases in 3 batches. One batch of 8 cases were disposed of on 9th September, 1964. Another batch of 3 cases were disposed of on 30th March, 1965. The third batch of 10 cases were disposed of on 19th January, 1966. The Supreme Court has granted special leave for appeal in respect of the first batch of 8 cases on 5th January, 1966.

With regard to the three cases which were disposed of by the High Court on the 30th March, steps have been taken to move the Supreme Court for special leave by the Law Department. For the third batch of cases the High Court has granted leave for appeal to Supreme Court.

Re: Address by Shri Tarlok Singh, Member, Planning Commission

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) : Sir, the hon. Members know that a Member of the Planning Commission, Shri Tarlok Singh with a team of experts has been spending considerable number of days in our State touring in the Hills Districts. I requested him that it would be perhaps very nice if he addresses the hon. Members of this House some time when it is convenient for him. He has said that he would be very glad to meet hon. Members of the House on the 3rd March. May I request you to kindly fix a time ?

Mr. SPEAKER : I think it is the general desire of the House. He will address the hon. Members in the Art Gallery on the 3rd March, Thursday, at 3-30 P. M. Will it be convenient to all Members ?

Mr. STANLEY D. D. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes):] Sir, a programme has been finalised and also circulated, according to which he has given time to meet the local leaders and representative at 3-30 P. M.

Mr. SPEAKER: If he is engaged at 3-30 P. M. some other time will be fixed up and the hon. Members will be informed.

**Calling Attention to a matter of urgent Public Importance—
News published in the Hindusthan Standard, dated the
11th February, 1966 under the Caption "Big Fire at
Silchar"**

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister for Revenue to an urgent matter of public importance and of recent occurrence that a big fire took place at Fatakbar at Silchar on the 9th February causing extensive damage to 10 double-storied C. I. Sheet shops which with a huge quantity of food stuff stored in them were burnt. This has caused a great loss to owners as nearly all these shops were damaged and also building materials to the extent of a big amount. My intention in drawing attention of the hon'ble Minister is to know whether the Government have made any enquiry into the cause of that fire havoc and whether any relief has been so far given and what is the estimated loss caused by the devastating fire?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Revenue): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the fire took place on 6th February 1966 and not on 9th February 1966, as mentioned in the call attention motion. It occurred at 1-30 A. M. At first it started from one tea stall and spread to 9 other shops. The fire brigade immediately came and controlled the entire fire within a short time. The entire operation was completed within 3 hours. The number of shops that were lost by fire is as follows:—

1. Tea Stall	...	...	...	...	1
2. Grocery Shops	...	...	...	...	5
3. Stationery Shops	...	...	...	...	2
4. Pan Biri Shop	...	...	...	...	1
5. Empty Godown	...	...	...	...	1

It is not a fact that 10 double storied C. I. Sheet roofed godown, with huge stocks of food-stuff were damaged. All the houses were of C. S. roofs walls of single stories. There were some foodstuff in the 5 grocery shops. The total loss of these Grocery shops is estimated at Rs.44,000-00. The valuation of the houses gutted by fire is Rs.34,200-00. The loss of stocks in the other shops is estimated at Rs.16,200-00. Total loss on the whole is, therefore, Rs.94,400-00.

Of the 5 grocery shops, 4 are covered by insurance and of the 2 stationery shops, one is covered by insurance.

The Deputy Commissioner says that nobody has asked for either gratuitous relief or loans. He thinks that no gratuitous relief is actually necessary as their main houses elsewhere are in tact. So far as loan is concerned according to him, nobody seems interested in the same because those whose losses have been considerable are covered by insurance policies. However, if any prayer for loan is received, Deputy Commissioner will send his recommendation for granting the same immediately. In this connection, it may be noted that on last 9th January also another fire took place in the same Fatak Bazar in another part and it is said that occurrence of fire in Fatak Bazar is a common thing.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora). Sir, as stated by the hon'ble Minister, when these fires break out frequently, do Government consider to investigate the entire matter so that loss cannot occur so frequently?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA: Sir, I have given this information after investigation and after proper enquiry.

Mr. SPEAKER: His point is what steps are being taken to stop further recurrence of fire.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA: Sir, I shall refer the matter to the Deputy Commissioner.

Debate on the Governor's Address

Shri SURENDRA NATH DAS (Barama Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ হোদায়, অসমখন ভাৰতৰ

এখন সীমান্তবৰ্তী ৰাজ্য আৰু আমি সকলো বিষয়তে পিচ পৰা। আজি আমাৰ অসমৰ পিচপৰা লোকসকলৰ বাবে বিশেষ ব্যৱস্থা আবে—এয়েই আমাৰ সান্তনা। এনে এটা অৱস্থাত, ই আমাৰ গোৱাৰ আৰু আনন্দৰ বিষয় যে আমাৰ প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী শ্ৰীমতী ইন্দিৰা গান্ধী কৰ্মভাৰ লোৱাৰ পিচতে অসমত আহি পৰ্য্যটন কৰিছে। ইয়াত মিৰি সন্মিলনত বক্তৃতা দি কৈছে যে জনজাতীয় জনসাধাৰণৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে ১০৫ কোটি টকা পৰ্য্যন্ত ধাৰ্য্য কৰা হৈছে। এই ক্ষেত্ৰত আজি যিবিলাক অসুবিধা পোৱা হৈছে, সেইবিলাক আৰু আমাৰ নানা অভাৱ অভিযোগ বিলাক আমাৰ প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰীক জনাবলৈ এটা সুবিধা হৈছে। যিসকলে এই সুবিধা দিলে তেখেত সকলো আমাৰ ধন্যবাদৰ পাত্ৰ।

কাজেই আমাৰ উদ্যোক্তা সকল ধন্যবাদৰ পাত্ৰ। যদি আমাৰ কোনো কোনো সদস্যই পিচপৰা সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ লোক সকলৰ প্ৰতি Separatist ভাৱ পোষণ কৰিছে সেইটো ভুল। আমাৰ এই লোকসকলে নিজে নিজৰ উন্নয়নৰ কাৰণে আগবাঢ়িছে। আমাৰ মন্ত্ৰী সকলেও আমাৰ দেশৰ অৱস্থাটো প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰীক বুজাবলৈ সন্মত হৈছে। যিহেতু আমাৰ জনজাতিৰ উন্নয়নৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত চৰকাৰে যথেষ্ট বকমে চেষ্টা কৰিছে। আজি ১৭ বছৰ তিতবত বহুত পৰিবৰ্তন দেখিবলৈ পাইছো।

শিক্ষাৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত গাঁও সভাই প্ৰতি অন্ততঃ একোখন স্কুল হৈছে; আনকি সেইবিলাক ঠাইত কলেজ স্থাপন কৰাৰো ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে। ইয়াৰ কাৰণে আমাৰ মানুহে সম্ভাষণ পাইছে। এই বিষয়ে আমাৰ চৰকাৰ যথেষ্ট ভাৱ আগবঢ়াই আহিছে। কিন্তু এটা কথা কওঁ যে সকলো স্কুলতে Class VI লৈ মাচুল মাফ দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা হ'ব লাগে। জনজাতিৰ বাবে স্কুলীয়া সকলে মাচুল মাফ পাইছে কিন্তু এইটো সকলো লৰা ছোৱালীয়ে পাব পাৰে। কিন্তু ইয়াৰ কাৰণে বহুত টকাৰ প্ৰয়োজন,

তথাপি যি কোনো উপায়েৰে Class VI লৈ মাচুল নাক দিবৰ কাৰণে ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে। যদি সেইটো কৰিব নোৱাৰে তেন্তে অন্ততঃ আধা মাচুল নাক দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা হব লাগে আৰু ছাত্র-ছাত্রীসকলক বৃত্তি দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা বঢ়াব লাগে।

জন স্বাস্থ্যৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত দেখিবলৈ পাইছো আমাৰ দেশত মহামাৰীয়ে দেশখনক জুৰুলা কৰি থাকে। বোৱা বাৰ gastro enteritis আৰু কলেৰা হৈ বহুত মানুহ মৰিল। এই ক্ষেত্ৰত আমাৰ গাঁও সত্ৰবিলাকত বিৰোধ ডাক্তৰ আছে তেওঁলোকে সেই সময়ত বৰ সহায় কৰিলে। হাস্পতালৰ পৰা মানুহে বহুত সুবিধা পাইছে। আন নহলেও Sulpha Guinidine হাস্পতালৰ পৰা দি বহুত মানুহৰ প্ৰাণ ৰক্ষা কৰিছে। গতিকেই নহি কওঁ যে Subsidised Dispensary বোৰত ডাক্তৰ দিব লাগে। বৰ্তমানে ডাক্তৰ দিব নোৱাৰিলেও অন্ততঃ কম্পাউণ্ডাৰ দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা হব লাগে। ঘোৰ মনেৰে এই হাস্পতালবোৰত ঔষধ পাতিব কাৰণে অন্ততঃ ৪৫ শ টকা grant দিব লাগে। যিবিলাক Subsidised Dispensary আছে সেইবিলাক চৰকাৰে লোৱাৰ ব্যৱস্থা হব লাগে; আৰু Primary Health unit ৰ সম্পৰ্কাৰ হব লাগে; আৰু indoor patient ৰখাৰ ব্যৱস্থা হব লাগে। দুঃখৰ কথা যে ছাত্র-ছাত্রীৰ মাজত T. B. হোৱা দেখা গৈছে। এই মহামাৰীয়ে আজি চাৰিওফালে আঙুৰি ধৰিছে। ছাত্রসকলৰ এনে অৱস্থা দেখিলে বৰ দুঃখ লাগে। ইয়াৰ যেন চৰকাৰে কিবা এটা ব্যৱস্থা কৰে তাৰ বাবে অনুৰোধ জনালো। আজি আমাৰ গাঁৱত বিশেষকৈ জনজাতি অঞ্চলত মানুহৰ আৰ্থিক অৱস্থা দিনক-দিনে বেয়াৰ ফালে গৈছে। এতিয়াও কিছুমান অঞ্চলত মহাজনৰ শোষণ চলি আছে-- দাদন প্ৰথা চলিয়েই আছে। ২০ টকাত ২৬ টকা দিব লাগে। মহাজন সকলে যেনে তেনে জনজাতীয় লোকৰ পৰা ধাৰৰ টকা আদায় কৰি লয়। সেই কাৰণে কওঁ যে credit relief Co-operative societies ৰ যোগেদি টকা দিয়াৰ যি ব্যৱস্থা আছে সেইটো যাতে জনজাতীয় এলেকাতো দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা হয় তাৰ বাবে চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ জনালো যাতে এই লোকসকলৰ শোষণ গ্ৰাসৰ পৰা আমাৰ জনজাতীয় লোকসকল ৰক্ষা পাব পাৰে। জনজাতীয় অঞ্চলত credit Co-operative ৰ ব্যৱস্থা হব লাগে। আজি এতিয়া বহাগ মাহ নৌ যাওঁতেই মানুহৰ খাবলৈ নাইকিয়া হ'ল। সেই কাৰণে আমাৰ নিৰিহ মানুহবোৰ মহাজনৰ শৰণাপন হব লগা হয়। সেই কাৰণে চৰকাৰ যাতে এই বিষয়ে বিশেষ তত্পৰ হয় তাৰ বাবে অনুৰোধ জনাই মোৰ বক্তব্যৰ সামৰণি মাৰিলো।

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister Agriculture, Flood Control, etc.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, quite a number of hon. Members have complained that details had not been given in the Governor's speech. Sir, in fact, the same criticism was made with regard to the paragraphs mentioning the activities of the Agriculture Department in the speech of the Governor. I would like to point out to the hon. Members that this practice of either the President or the Governor addressing the Session is somewhat analogous with the King's speech in the British parliament. Such a speech from the Throne generally deals with the broad policy matters and programmes of work for the year to be followed by the King's Government. It is never over-burdened with details. Article 87 and 176 of the Constitution of India also do not enjoin such details being given. It is only in the Budget Speech one could expect some details.

However, Sir, I share with the House the anxiety about the food situation in the country, and therefore, I would like to give some details in matter. There is no doubt about the fact that the food situation in the country as a whole is not a very happy one. This is due to the draught, more or less, all over India in the year 1965-66. No doubt, some shortage

has already been met by bringing wheat from the United States of America under PL 480, but there is a big gap between the requirement and the actual availability of rice.

Sir, the production of rice in the year 1964-65 in the whole country was 38,73,2000 tons. From the preliminary fore-casts given by the different States it has been estimated that in the year 1965 there may be a production of 3,20,33,000 tons of paddy. But later on, from the indications received from the various States including ours show that this figure may come down when the final production picture emerges. But whatever may come out of the Statistics Department, even if we, for the present, minus one figure from the other it would be seen that there is a shortfall of about 66,99,000 tons of rice in India in one year, i.e., in 1965 compared to the production in 1964. Almost all the States show a decrease in production. In the past years also we had imported some rice from various countries. In the year 1963 the Government of India imported 4.83 lakh tons of rice from outside; in 1964 it rose to 6.45 lakh tons and in 1965 to 7.83 lakh tons. So far as this year is concerned, owing to the difficult foreign exchange situation and difficulty in general of obtaining rice from other countries it has not been possible to plan for the normal import of rice in 1966. However, the present indications are that we would get rice to the extent of 1.5 lakh tons from U.A.R. and 0.10 lakh tons from British Guiana. Thus the total quantity which may be available for import is of the order of 2.95 tons.

Last year under PL 480 we brought 2.8 lakh tons of rice from United States of America. But this year it would not be possible to get this or any quantity as the production of rice in U.S.A. has been decreased. Therefore, under PL 480 agreement it would not be possible to import any quantity of rice from U.S.A. Whatever they would give us it would be wheat. As against a demand of 28.27 lakh tons on them this year, the Government of India expect to make available 18.5 lakh tons of rice by way of internal and external procurement for distribution in the country. Thus there would be a big gap of about 10 lakh tons of rice in the country. The gap is much wider with regard to wheat but it is expected that almost whole of it can be met by import.

Sir, from these figures it would be seen that the availability of rice both within the country and outside is decreasing every year and the reason for this is the terrific population explosion going on in the world as a whole. The House will be surprised to learn in what proportion the world population is increasing. From 1650 to 1850 it took 200 years for the world to double its population but from 1850 to 1950 it took only 100 years to double itself again. It is predicted that from 1950 it will take only 50 years to double the world population. Sir, I am bringing these facts and figures to the notice of the House to show the necessity of giving very great importance to the population control. Either for Assam or for India, as a matter of fact for the world as a whole, the food problem will remain a problem unsolved for ever, if we do not take particular care about it. I am glad that the Governor in his Address has mentioned about the necessity of family planning. Sir, it may be mentioned that the world population is increasing by 5 to 6 crores a year. World added a population as big as that of France in 1964. What about India? The population of India in 1951 was 361.8 million; in 1962 it has become 439.2 million thus adding 77.4 million people in this period to be fed by India. Since 1962 it is calculated there had been an increase of 5 to 6 crores of people making in all probability the population of India 500 million.

Sir, since independence there has been an increase of 35 per cent in our agricultural production but the food problem has not been solved. It is because food could not be increased at the rate at which people had been increasing. In fact, food can't be increased at that rate. So we have been importing food from foreign countries. Even then we cannot meet the entire demand. This shortage and the consequent import have brought in trails of complications internally and internationally for India as a whole. Now, let us take the case of Assam. Sir on the eve of independence, that is, when India became independent, the population of Assam was estimated to be 82 lakhs. According to 1951 census, the population became 88,31,00 which in 1961 census rose to 1,18,73,000. It will be seen from these figures at what rate the population in Assam has been increasing. After 1961 census there had been another 4 years and during these years we must have increased. Taking the past rate of increase into consideration the Statistics Department has estimated the Assam population to be 1,32,59,000 in 1965 and 13,630,252 in 1966. All these are due to the fact that India is having at every minute 20 to 21 new babies and hourly about 1,200 babies. Assam is no less. We are giving birth to 22 babies every hour. As I said, it is estimated that in 1966 the figure will come up to 1 crore 36 lakhs in Assam. Thus it will be seen, Sir, that since the last census in 1961 Assam shall have, till the end of the next December, 17,57,000 new mouths to be fed in the shape of new babies along with other babies, grown up into adults, consuming more food. When the people talk that there has been no increase in food production, since 1951, I will like to point out to them that if the production has not increased how the increasing mouths numbering nearly 48 lakhs from 1951 are being fed? If the production would have remained static it would not have been possible to feed the increasing population. Sir, I would like to give to the hon. Members the figures of production in Assam. In 1951-52 our production was 14.93 lakh tons of rice. In 1961-62 the production increased to 17.72 lakh tons of rice; in 1962-63 it was 15.96 lakh tons; in 1963-64 the production was 18.87 lakh tons and in 1964-65 it was increased to 19.11 lakh tons. Therefore, the statistics will show that there has been a steady increase in our production. The fact that we have got to feed as much as over 17½ lakhs of new mouths from 1961 to 1966 without increasing the import—in fact we are not importing any rice for the last two years—would show that there has been a steady rise in the production. Since 1951, when our production was only 14.93 lakh tons, Assam has added 48,00,000 of people, almost half a crore. Wherefrom they are being fed if the agricultural production in the State had not or has not made any progress? The hon. Members know that till the year 1963-64 Assam had been importing rice, getting allocations from the Government of India. But thanks, in 1964-65 we did not ask for any rice from the Government of India. Rather we sent out. When in the Governor's Address on the floor of this House last year it was stated that we would be exporting some rice to out-side Assam, I still remember, Shri Dulal Barua then said, while speaking on the motion on the Governor's Address, that it was impossible and we were playing unnecessarily with the figures and the life of the people. But our figures will show that we did actually export some rice to other States and did not play with anybody. I will give the figures now. In the year in question, we supplied to Tripura 5,000 tonnes of rice, to Defence Services 1,607 tonnes of rice; we gave to Nagaland 251 tonnes of rice; we gave to N. E. F. A. 2,805 tonnes of rice and to the Political Officer, Khansa in N. E. F. A. 493 tonnes of rice

for the Chakma refugees there; later on, another instalment of 988 tonnes of paddy was given for the same purpose. How it became possible? If the production was static and when there was no import, it would not have been possible because the Minister-in-charge of Agriculture does not have a magic wand. I do not have an Aladin's lamp. I wish I had one. But I must strike a note of warning for the future despite the rosy picture of the past. We anticipated that our production this year would be 19.78 lakh tons of rice on the basis of the figure given by the Statistics Department as a forecast but it appears now that the actual production will be 18.46 lakh tons of rice. This is, of course, not a firm figure because the spring paddy has not been harvested as yet and when the spring paddy is harvested there may be slight variation in the figure. It seems, like the other States of India draught and irregular rains have affected paddy production in our State also but not to the extent suffered by other States. Anybody who had gone outside Assam will bear me out that the availability of rice in our State is much better than any other part of the country. It has been calculated, taking our population in 1966 as 1 crore 36 lakhs, that our requirement of food would be 17.059 lakhs tons and if we add to that 68,367 tons which is required by the cultivators for seed, at the rate of 25 seers per acre, our requirement comes to 18.27 lakh tons as against an availability of 18.46 lakh tons of rice, little more or less which will be confirmed when we harvest our spring paddy. We are assuming that our spring paddy production will be the same as last year while putting the production figure at 18.46 lakh tons of rice. Thus it will be seen that if we tighten the wastage in storage as well as in our food habit, we may not have much difficulty, provided our Ahu crop is fairly well. But we must remember that when we live in a scarcity condition all around with a wide border like ours, one has got to be very cautious. We have borders with N. E. F. A., Manipur, Tripura, Bhutan, North Bengal and Nagaland within our own country and all of them are highly deficit areas. We have also our border with Pakistan. Anybody can carry some amount of rice with him while travelling back. Any brother from N. E. F. A. or other adjoining areas can come down to our markets and carry little rice while returning back. We cannot stop them; we should not.

Therefore, there are certain drains on us, unnoticed and often unknown. Some drains we allow knowingly which we should allow but we must try to tighten against large scale unauthorised movement outside Assam. All measures against smuggling should be taken, otherwise there may be difficulty. There will be certainly some sympathetic rise in the prices even in Assam, because prices are very high in the whole of the country. I was told, in some parts of India rice is being sold at Rs.160 to Rs.200 per quintol. If this report is correct, you can expect that there will be some sympathetic rise of price in Assam also. I would, therefore, strike a note of caution in this matter and would request the hon. Members to be vigilant against all kinds of anti-social activities so far as smuggling of rice to outside the State is concerned.

Sir, in my speech delivered on 12th March 1965 in the House while intervening in the Budget discussion I gave quite a large amount of details about the problems of agriculture and the steps we had taken. Therefore, I do not propose to repeat them and thereby take the time of the House. Most of the problems referred to now had been discussed in that speech and elaborate replies were given. I now come to some of the specific problems referred to by some of the hon. Members. Sir, Shri Pabin Sarma.....

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): Sir, I want to know from the Agriculture Minister, what is the land brought under cultivation in the mean time ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: For which year the hon. Member is referring to ?

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: I want to have up-to-date figures. That will give us some idea.

Mr. SPEAKER: He means the land under paddy cultivation.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Paddy cultivation, yes, Sir, I have got the figures. In the year 1951-52 it was 16.53 lakh hectares in—

1952-53 ... 16.77 lakh hectares

1953-54 ... 16.87 „ „

1954-55 ... 16.59 „ „

1955-56 ... 17.03 „ „

1956-57 ... 17.20 „ „

1957-58 ... 17.14 „ „

1958-59 .. 18.11 „ „

1959-60 ... 18.12 „ „

1960-61 ... 18.40 „ „

1961-62 .. 18.84 „ „

1962-63 ... 19.13 „ „

1963-64 .. 18.44 „ „

1964-65 according to final forecast,
it is 19.04 lakh hectares.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Whether it includes the whole State also ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Of course, Assam as a whole.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Regarding one point, Sir, I do not get any clarification, that is about the fertilisers. The fertiliser figures show...

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I will be coming to that specifically. I may not mention all the names of hon. Members but all the subjects referred to by them will come in my reply.

Sir, Shri Pabin Sarma made a reference to a copy of the "Assam Information" and from it he quoted the average annual yield of paddy per hector in Assam as 4.5 Kg. when the annual increase itself in other areas in the country was much higher than that. I have looked into the matter, Sir, I am really very sorry to say that this anonymous article which has been published in the Assam Information has given all wrong figures about Assam.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: But it is the Government who published this book.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: That is why I have expressed regret; otherwise for somebody's article why should I express regret? Sir, it has been ascertained from the Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Assam that the article was contributed by some one from the Namrup Fertiliser Factory. The article itself is about Namrup Fertiliser Factory in which the trend of production in Assam and in the country was referred to incidentally. But the Directorate of Information and Public Relations could not furnish us the name of the writer as the manuscript is said to be now at Gauhati wherefrom this Assam Information was published. It is a matter of great regret for me that this article was published without due caution. According to the figures with me, Sir, the average annual increase per hector during 1951-52 to 1961-62 was 5.4 Kg. and during 1951-52 to 1964-65 it was 8 Kg. Therefore the figures given in the article are not correct. If the hon. Members again want the annual production in actual Kg, I can give them. It is in the increase as I have said. The actual position is like this:—

In year 1951-52, the average yield was 918 Kg; in 1963-64 it was 1019 Kg; in 1964-65 the final forecast is 1020 Kg. Therefore Sir, there has been an increase also in this respect. One of the hon. Members raised a question saying that with regard to the package district, the Governor should have given some more details. Sir, I am giving the details now. There, also, Sir, has been an increase in the production. In the year 1962-63, the production in Cachar district was 1,66,402 tons, in 1963-64 it was 2,24,637 tons; in 1964-65, it is 2,60,115 tons. I am not giving the figures for 1965-66 because these are only forecasts and therefore, would be a little misleading. But there is bound to be a little less production than the forecast because of the drought condition. Sir, with regard to the yield in Cachar district in the year 1963-64, the average of autumn paddy per hector was 827 Kg. It rose to 1015 Kg. in 1964-65 and 1134 Kg. in 1965-66, according to the final forecast. The figures for winter rice in the years 1963-64, 1964-65, 1965-66 were 1044 Kg., 1334 Kg. and 1186 Kg. (provisional) respectively. I can tell the hon. Members that the Package Programme had overcome the teething difficulties and it is going on according to plan well.

Sir, I would now like to deal with the question of blight diseases. This has agitated and rightly so, the minds of the hon. Members. There has been the incidence of this disease in an epidemic form and quite extensively in the last potato season; there has been damage. I am really very sorry about it. We came to know about the incidence of this disease first from the Hajo area and the Director of Agriculture himself visited that area on 4th December 1965. According to him the worst affected area probably did not exceed 5 per cent of the total area. I do not want to pin myself down to this percentage. It may be more because there are large areas which we have not yet been able to survey. I would like to tell the hon. Members that this is a disease for which really effective pesticides have not yet been found out for its cure. As I have said already this morning, spraying of Britex in the field is a precautionary measure which has not been done thoroughly as a prophylactic measure. In all advance countries in the world there is the incidence of this disease, but there they spray pesticide as a prophylactic measure. Sir, we have found that the seed we had procured from Khasi and Jaintia Hills proved better than the ordinary seed procured from the market. It is because we have got a scheme in operation in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills to produce disease resistant variety of potato. We have taken to a scheme of spraying operations in selected areas in cultivators' fields in Khasi and Jaintia Hills wherefrom we try to procure our seeds, apart from inducing the Government of India to have a Research Station in Upper Shillong to produce the nucleus potato seeds. Sir, the officers of the Department as well as the scientists in the country are seized of this problem. Till a really effective pesticide, as a cure, is found out, I would appeal to the agriculturists and I would appeal to the hon. Members also to educate the agriculturists in their turn whenever they come across their constituents, to take to prophylactic spraying of Blitex, whether there is disease or not, as a future precaution.

Sir, one of the hon. Members raised a question about fertilizer consumption in the State. I can give him the figures. Sir, these figures will be in thousand tons. Sir, in respect of ammonium sulphate, the consumption was as follows: In 1961-62 it was 0.19, 1962-63 0.34, 1963-64 1.70, 1964-65 4.60 and in 1965-66 it is anticipated that it will be 10. That is 10,000 tons.

Superphosphate again in thousand tons: In 1961-62 it was 0.22, 1962-63 0.25, 1963-64 2.20, 1964-65 4.50, in 1965-66 it is 10. Thus the hon. Members will see that from a very small beginning in the term of 100 tons we have now come to 20,000 tons. It is a significant increase, and we feel that in the year 1966-67 we will be able to show much better result; provided we get our requirement of fertilizers which we were not getting in the past. Partly because of the difficulties that we have not got sufficient internal production of fertilizers in the country and partly because of the transport bottle-neck we had been suffering in this matter.

Sir, some hon. Members raised a question about die back disease in the orange gardens. While intervening in the House in the Budget discussion last year, I informed the House that on our request the Government of India had sent a team of experts to examine this problem. We were waiting for their Report. In the meantime we took some steps including demonstration in the cultivators' fields. I also informed the House about it. After long correspondence and lastly at Ministers level we have received a report from this Team of the Government of India recently and we are trying to implement the recommendations as contained in that report.

Sir, some of the hon. Members expressed their concern about marketing difficulties of the rabi crops particularly vegetables grown in various areas. There had been a suggestion that we should take up this matter with the military so that they might purchase all their requirements from our cultivators. We did take it up, Sir, with the military. The military is not prepared to purchase directly from the market. They would like to operate through their contractors. After a lot of persuasion including a discussion at Ministers' level they ultimately agreed to purchase through the co-operatives which should be linked up with their purchase machinery. Unfortunately there are large number of complaints from the co-operatives side; they feel that the military was out to create troubles for them so that they might give up the business; the military also made frequent grievances about the co-operatives. It appears this Scheme, despite our effort, has not produced the desired result. In fact, some of the co-operatives, in the meantime, have given up the business. We are pursuing this matter but the real answer to this problem lies in having a series of Cold Storages in addition to strengthening the marketing co-operatives. One of the hon. Members, in fact, had suggested that we should have a series of Cold Storages for storing the perishables with particular reference to vegetables. One Cold Storage is being established in Gauhati during the current year; during 1966-67 it is proposed to construct five more Cold Storages in Jorhat, Nowgong, Sivasagar, Tezpur and Gauhati. The necessity of building Cold Storages subdivisionwise or even intensified production area-wise cannot be denied. It needs a heavy investment and that will have to be found out at one time or the other. I am afraid I cannot promise anything more so far as the next year is concerned because of the small size of the annual Plan. There is also difficulties about engineers who can set up such plants.

Sir, there was a good amount of difficulties for the border cultivators in the hill areas after the hostilities started with Pakistan. It is known to the hon. Members that large quantities of agricultural produce used to find their market in the border areas in one or the other Dominion. After the borders were sealed by both sides there were considerable difficulties for the agriculturists in border areas. Sir, to meet the immediate requirements of the border people of the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills district a fleet of 6 trucks and 7 jeeps with trailers were engaged in the border areas for transportation of border products like orange, tezpata and pan-leaves. The arrangement was as follows:—(1) Transportation of border produce free of cost from collecting centres to the road-heads (2) Transportation from the road-heads to the consuming markets, viz., Shillong and Gauhati on payment of transport cost. The House may like to know about the achievements in this matter. We transported 10955400 numbers of oranges and they were sent to Calcutta and places outside the State. In addition, we also helped in movement and disposal of nearly 28,62,200 oranges at local markets outside Shillong. Further, we ourselves purchased 45,600 numbers of oranges for our Fruit Preservation Factories. Altogether 282 maunds of Tezpata leaves have been transported from the interior areas of United Khasi and Jaintia Hills and sold to the local merchants. The collection and transportation of pan-leaves have started. As a result of this, operation by us, the slump in the prices got eased, and I am told that the people got somewhat better prices, of course, not the maximum price that could have been expected in a normal situation. But they

had better price and many of the families were saved from calamities I have got, in the meantime, requests for putting in more vehicles. I wish I had them with us in the Agriculture Department. In the meantime, problems have also started in the rural areas in the plains about marketing of the vegetables and other produces. We have got to look into it also. The organisation for marketing products, hitherto we have, is unequal to the task. There is no doubt about the fact that this will have to be further strengthened. The Agriculture Department has to take the responsibility of guiding the people increasingly to market their produces. But, Sir, nowhere in the world the Government Marketing Department can undertake the responsibility of marketing the entire agricultural produces. This has got to be done either by the private sector or by the co-operative sector. We will have to make the people enthusiastic about starting such and connected industries. We will have to find out some people who will set up plants for deep freezing and preservation of vegetable or other eatables.

Sir, several hon. Members have complained about inadequacy of seed supply. In fact, some of them have told me, as the Agriculture Minister, that I should not promise what I cannot give. Sir, I would ask them—"Where did I promise?" Every time this subject was discussed I said that unless we had built up seed stores and be prepared to suffer heavy losses in normal years this problem could not be solved. The problem is like this. In a normal year everybody does not come to the Agriculture Department for seed. If there is a flood or any kind of natural calamity, suddenly there is a demand for seed particularly when loans are issued. The seed loan is issued by the Revenue Department and the Deputy Commissioners or the Subdivisional officers, as the case may be, are asked to distribute them. In order to utilise the loans the Revenue officers try to locate seeds. When the Agriculture Department can't meet the sudden and increased demand of seed either from the farms or from the registered seed growers, the officers of the Agriculture Department are asked to certify paddy purchased from all sources as seed. But, Sir, I for one, do not want my officers to do it. But circumstances as they are and pressed as they are, they often do this without me or my order, as the Deputy Commissioners and S. D. Os, say "People are in difficulty—they want seed loan". Such paddy distributed as seed, when don't show satisfactory results the Department is blamed. Sir, the seed-paddy is costlier than the ordinary paddy. When there is no flood or natural calamity, if seed is to be sold in the market as paddy, to prevent deterioration there is bound to be a huge loss. So, to tackle the problem successfully in emergency, we will have to build up a series of huge storage godowns and store seeds in them on the basis of replenishment from year to year. So, Sir, I do not see any justification for such criticisms as have been made by the hon. Members, particularly, when the House could not find out money for such investment. Sir, so far as the Departmental seed is concerned, I can tell the House that there has been significant progress in the matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please try to cut short.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): I am trying to do so. But there are so many matters.

Sir, works have already been undertaken to reorganise the seed farms by closing down the uneconomic ones. I can tell the House that in 1963-64, 9 seed farms made profit even after paying the overhead cost. 20 had a surplus over the direct expenditures; 22 were marginal and the remaining 49 were in the process of improvement. The production of foundation seeds from the seed farms was 11,500 mds in 1961-62 which had increased in 1964-65 to 30,000 mds, thus registering an increase of 65 per cent. Since then, the position has further improved. In 1965-66, our anticipated production of seed is as follows:

Paddy	...	...	..	...	1245 tons.
Mustard	...	...	...	...	47 tons.
Jute	...	...	...	...	31 tons.
Pulses	...	...	...	...	24 tons.

These are from our agriculture farms. Bulk of these seeds are expected to be given to the registered growers. They multiply in their turns. These are being distributed and this scheme is in operation. But difficulty comes when there is greater and sudden demands. It is true, so far as the seed potato was concerned which was to be mainly procured from the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills, we could not reach the target in the last crop season. The reason was the unusual rise in the price of potatoes. The price became almost double. When the Khasi cultivators raised the price of seed potato by double, naturally the money placed at our disposal could purchase only half the quantity we aimed at. Unless and until, we would have gone for controlling the prices and enforcing the same under D. I. Rules, or doubling the amount, there was no question of realising the target. The question of controlling the price came up but ultimately it was decided that it should not be done. It was thought that the cultivators should not be discouraged by enforcing such an unpopular measure.

Sir, one hon. Member said about power pumps in the Blocks. Sir, it is true, in a large number of Blocks, in the past, power pumps were purchased without making much of an arrangement for their upkeep and service. So far as the Agriculture Department is concerned, each pumping set issued on hire to the cultivators, is provided with an operator also. There are trained mechanics in each Assistant Agricultural Engineer's headquarters to maintain the agricultural machineries belonging to the Department. In fact, the Department is sending mechanics to the Blocks to look after the Block machines as and when requested. We have taken note of the complaints that service in the Blocks is inadequate. Directly, of course, the Agriculture Department cannot do much about it. The Panchayat Department, I expect, will look into this matter in details.

Grievances or complaints have been made that there were inadequate number of teachers in the Agriculture College. Sir, occasionally it might have happened that we could not fill up vacancies. Availability of trained teachers being very short and being inadequate in the State, it so happened occasionally. We have taken a policy decision that so far as our technical personnel are concerned, including professors or teachers in our technical institutions, we should appoint them from whatever sources we get. We

will not confine to Assam alone. Even then Sir, we have not been able to solve the problem. The problem is linked up with the inherent weakness of Assam. Assam has not got sufficient number of technically qualified personnel to meet our requirement. Further, for our tomorrows we are to send our people for training or higher education outside the State or abroad. Such a thing also increases the problem. There is no short-cut solution to the problem. This problem will continue for a number of years to come as is the case with the Medical Colleges, Engineering Colleges and the Veterinary College. This is not the result of inefficiency. Nobody can say that there is a qualified man in the State and he is without appointment. In fact, we go even for appointment under Regulation without waiting for the Assam Public Service Commission so far as professors and teachers in the Agriculture and Veterinary Colleges are concerned. Sir, I am not, unfortunately, in a position to assure the House that we will start an Agricultural University at Jorhat or in any place in Assam. We have provided a scheme for the purpose in the Fourth Draft Plan. But it depends on the availability of fund. What will be pruned in the Draft Plan I do not know. If sufficient fund is not provided, we may have to prune it. So far as I am concerned, I will be the last person to prune those schemes which are productive in nature directly or indirectly in preference to a scheme for a University. Shri Prabin Choudhury in his speech asked for giving preference so far as fisheries settlement is concerned to the co-operatives of actual fishermen. Sir, rule provides this. In fact, the rule provides preference to the co-operatives of actual fishermen and also that the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes people should be given 7½ per cent concession if they are not the highest bidders. In case their bid is very low and even if their bid is as low as 60 per cent they can be given settlement of fisheries if they agree to raise the bid. It has been urged that the co-operatives of fishermen given preference should be of the area where the particular fishery is situated. I do not know how far this is possible; even if a rule is made, how far it is feasible to enforce it.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpuri): As regards fisheries of the value of Rs.1,000, it has already been decided that these should not be put to auction sale but should be handed over to the respective Panchayats. May I know, Sir, whether this has been done?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: My impression is that it has been given effect to but I am not certain about it. However, I will look into this matter.

I, now come to the various criticisms with regard to Medium Irrigation Schemes. Sir, these are Jamuna Irrigation Scheme, Sukla Irrigation Scheme, Longa Irrigation Scheme and Patradisha Irrigation Scheme which had received approval of the Planning Commission for implementation during the Third Plan. Details of the estimated cost and areas to be benefited are as follows:—

	Estimated cost	Area to be benefited
1. Jamuna Irrigation Scheme ...	Rs.396.00 lakhs.	83,000 acres
2. Sukla Irrigation Scheme ...	Rs.300.00 lakhs.	73,000 acres
3. Longa Irrigation Scheme ...	Rs. 30.00 lakhs.	20,000 acres
4. Patradisha Irrigation Scheme ...	Rs. 20.02 lakhs.	6,000 acres
Total ...	Rs.746.2 lakhs.	182,000 acres

I had informed the House in the past that the fund provided was extremely meagre. In fact, so far as Jamuna Irrigation Scheme is concerned we spent the entire amount provided for the year in the early part of 1964-65 and later on some money was given to carry on the work with a promise to provide another 30 lakhs before the close of the financial year. In fact, if the execution of all the schemes are to be expedited we need a huge amount of money. To summarise, the amount so far allotted during the 3rd Plan is about Rs.131.85 lakhs as against a requirement of Rs.746.2 lakhs ; this would mean that there would be a spill over of Rs.614.35 lakhs in the Fourth Plan to complete these schemes. The allocation for next year for all the Medium Irrigation Schemes is only Rs.105 lakhs. The Jamuna Project alone would require about Rs.282.35 lakhs if the additional amount of Rs.30 lakhs as promised is not provided during this current year.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Sir, as regards the Sukla Irrigation Scheme it was taken up in the 1st Plan, but the 2nd Plan is over and the 3rd Plan is also going to be over but it appears that this project has not been undertaken. May I know the reason from the Minister ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : The Sukla Irrigation Project was not really taken up to the 1st Plan ; probably, then investigation was undertaken. In course of investigation it was found to be a medium irrigation scheme. A project report entailing an estimated cost of Rs.67.00 lakhs was prepared. The most essential item of the project, viz., the Model Testing is being carried out in the State River Research Station at Basistha, Gauhati. Technical sanction for a sum of Rs.2,97,700 lakhs has already been given for construction of Sukla Model at Basistha and Rs.1,99,300 for special tools and plants. Yesterday evening the Chief Engineer was telling me that if he was permitted to go to Basistha, outside his headquarters, he would give a start to the model testing; but I am sorry to say that I could not permit him to go due to the Assembly Session. Thus there would be a delay in this matter for a few days. Patradisha Irrigation Scheme has been started. The investigation of Longa Scheme has been done. A project report is to be prepared. On the whole, the progress of all the medium irrigation schemes will depend on the availability of fund.

So far as minor irrigation schemes are concerned, during the First Five Year Plan the P.W.D. took up 14 new minor irrigation schemes of which 6 were completed physically and an area of 20,700 acres were brought under net commanded area.

During the 2nd Plan period besides completing the remaining 8 schemes carried over from the 1st Plan period, 14 new schemes were taken up of which 8 were completed physically and the rest carried over to the Third Five Year Plan bringing an additional area of 56,500 acres (net) of land under command (gross being 73,400 acres).

The Planning Commission agreed to a provision of Rs. 250 lakhs under minor irrigation programme (Agriculture Section) executed by E. & D. Department for the 3rd Plan as against the demand made by the department for Rs. 400 lakhs.

The number of minor irrigation schemes taken up during the 3rd Plan period is 66. The total anticipated acreage to be benefited under the schemes taken up in the 3rd Plan would be 1.25 lakh acres of which actual achievement during the 3rd Plan was to be Rs.1.00 lakh acres with a spill over of 0.25 lakh acres to the 4th Plan.

The expenditure on minor irrigation works upto the end of the 4th year i.e., 1964-65 is Rs. 180 lakhs. It is expected that Rs. 70 lakhs will be spent during the current year against the allocation of Rs. 60 lakhs.

Coming to the irrigation schemes operated by the Agriculture Department following are the main schemes :—

(1). Minor Irrigation Scheme.

(2) Power Pump Irrigation

(3) Deep Tube well Schemes

For these schemes the department spent as follows during the last 3 years :—

Minor Irrigation Schemes.—

1963- 64 ... Rs. 9,93,338.00

1964- 65 ... Rs. 59,18,521.00

1965- 66 ... Rs. 11,16,000.00

So far as Power Pump Irrigation Schemes are concerned, the department spent the following amounts during the last 3 years :—

1963-64 ... Rs. 16,24,444.00

1964- 65 ... Rs. 15,21,969.00

1965- 66 .. Rs. 18,00,000.00

Under Deep Tube well Scheme, the department spent the following amount during the last 3 years :—

1963- 64 ... Rs. 1,49,424.00

1964- 65 ... Rs. 10,63,201.00

1965- 66 ... Rs. 1,93,000 00

I agree with the hon. Member, Maulavi Mahammad Idris, that we will have to switch over from diesel to electricity for operating power pumps and deep tube wells. Diesel is costly. There is demand that

agriculturists should be supplied diesel on subsidised price but the Government of India could not agree on the grounds that there might be diversion and evasion and in that case it would be difficult to avoid corruption and also loss to Government revenue. Use of diesel is not economic and therefore we will have to switch over to electricity to run the power pumps and deep tube wells. For this, heavy investment is necessary. The hon. Members are aware that most of the electricity lines in different parts of the State are not passing through the agricultural areas and for the purpose of extension of electricity to agricultural areas subsidiary lines shall have to be drawn, for which quite a huge amount will be necessary.

Mr. SPEAKER : You will please conclude.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Yes, Sir, I am concluding. Regarding Flood Control Schemes as against a requirement of Rs. 311 crores for completing our work we have got only about Rs. 18 crores in all these plan periods. Naturally, therefore, there are a large number of gaps between what we wish and what we have achieved. It is a question of heavy investment and till the investment is found out, I am afraid, we will not be able to meet the demand. Some of the hon. Members had given very great importance to opening of sluice gates so as to enable the agriculturists to get water by flush irrigation system. During the Third Plan period, construction of sluices of various sizes were approved in different districts and a total amount of Rs. 79.63 lakhs was provided for the purpose. The total number of sluices approved for construction was 199. Most of these sluices have since been completed and some are in progress and likely to be completed soon. It is expected that an area of 1,64,700 acres will be benefited on completion of these sluices. These sluices have been designed according to necessity for Flush Irrigation or for the purpose of internal Drainage according to site condition, generally in country-side of the flood protection bunds. The Assam Flood Control Board had also decided to provide sluices at particular sites of cuts after careful scrutiny and where necessary. Further, it is proposed to take up another set of sluices in the light of observation of recent floods during the 4th Plan period. The total estimated cost of these sluices is Rs. 40 lakhs. This is, however, subject to approval of the Assam Flood Control Board and availability of funds in the plan allocation.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua made a specific reference to the Gohaingaon bund and said that for the non-completion of the bund the Revenue Minister and myself should have resigned. I would have been happy if I am relieved of my responsibilities. I do not know wherefrom the hon. Members found that there was no obstruction from the people there at the time of construction of the bund. All reports show, there were vehement obstructions from them. In fact the hon. Member was asking for an enquiry. We did an enquiry and the Commissioner of Division made certain recommendations which Government had rejected and ordered for drawing up proceedings against some officers who were held to be *prima facie* responsible. We are very sorry for what had happened. I found on enquiry that the other schemes referred to by the hon. Member are under execution and they are expected to be completed within April 1966 or so. I will like to tell the hon. Member that some measures against flood control, construction of retirement at vulnerable points in various places have

been taken up already and making good progress. About sixty per cent of the work of Gohingaon retirement is already done and the whole work is expected to be completed within March next or so. The other embankment from Neamati P.W.D. Road to Railway line and Railway line to J. B. Road along Bar Ali, which have been taken up also are making good progress and I understand, about 45 percent to 50 percent of the works have so far been done. These are expected to be completed within April, 1966 or so. In addition, work strengthening and raising of embankments is also going on and making good progress.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, what about the Janjimukh?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I will look into the matter to see if there is any such project and if there is any impediment or difficulty and try to remove them.

Shri Pabin Sarma referred to the difficulties in his area and said that I had gone to that area; even then nothing had happened there. Sir, this is not correct. Shri Sarma made a reference to the Floods in the Upper Borbhag Mouza of North Kamrup. The Department has already taken up a proposal, *viz.*, providing sluices at Bhalukmari and Borgagajan for reducing flood congestion in Pub Borigog and Paschim Barbhag Mouza at a cost of Rs. 2.58 lakhs to reduce flood congestion in that area. And the above proposal was approved by the Flood Contros Board in its last meeting held at Gauhati on 28th January 1966.

Sir, my time is short. There are a large number of other matters referred to by the hon. Members. I am extremely sorry that I could not reply to each one of them because of paucity of time. If there be any further occasion I will try to cover them. Even if I cannot do so, Sir, I am certain that the Departmental officers in the officers' gallery who had taken notes of these specific matters would certainly look into them. I thank you and the House for giving me time to reply.

Mr. STANLEY D. D. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seem to be unfortunate to have to speak while three or four Ministers who are responsible for the Departments which I shall refer to happen unfortunately to be unwell or absent. Anyhow, there are other hon. Ministers who I hope will take notes and hand them over to the Ministers concerned.

Sir, the opening remarks of the Governor given at page I of the printed report of the Governor's Speech refer to Tashkent Declaration and I think everyone in the country including everyone in Assam is happy that the late Prime Minister was able to arrive at this Tashkent Declaration with the President of Pakistan. Sir, the Tashkent Declaration includes economic relations and in this connection there was a very important and interesting article in the Statesman of February 24. I would like to point out one or two aspects of that article. I hope Members of the Government will look very carefully to these aspects. The opening remark of this article is as follows—"The Tashkent Declaration covers not only political matters, which understandably have stolen the limelight, but also matters relating to economic relations". "The Prime Minister of India and the President of Pakistan have agreed to consider and take measures towards the restoration of economic and trade relation".

Sir, it is true, I believe, the political matters have come to limelight not only in Delhi but throughout the country and it will be wise for us to carefully examine the other aspects of the Declaration, particularly because we are on the border with Pakistan. Now, I shall certainly not read that whole article which is very important but I am giving a gist of it. We should take up trade relation with Pakistan at the earliest opportunity. Sir, I shall quote again a sentence which is rather important. It says "In the wake of the Tashkent Declaration," it is necessary that we build our economic relations with Pakistan on an expansive basis. It further says that "a long-term trade agreement should be arrived at between the two countries". Sir, it is understood that relation between the two countries in the past many years was certainly not very happy, particularly, since the hostilities of last year.

The article further quotes the European example where France and Germany fought three wars in 65 years, but says,—“in this respect also the economic co-operation evolved during the last few years in the European Economic Community should be an enlightening experience for us. France and Germany who fought three wars in 65 years and were once bitter enemies recognised the imperative need of a common market and close co-operation in mutual interest”. He goes on to point out that India and Pakistan were one country before, they have still many ties that would make it easier for us to bring about trade relations between the two countries on suitable basis, and I would further point out to one of the suggestions made that Trade Delegations between the two countries should be encouraged, and finally the article ends with the words “It is part of statemanship not to harp on past grievances and nurse old wrongs but to remember common interests and the welfare of the peoples. Economic pacts replete with platitudes and resonant declarations of eternal friendships”. Sir, in the context of the Border people of this District of K. & J. Hills and other Districts of Assam it is a very pertinent and important article for us. Sir, in the last three months I have made tours in the Border areas, and after the Tashkent Declaration particularly, the people are all asking the question—Whether trade relations are going to be re-opened with Pakistan? I believe, Sir, the earliest opportunity should be taken to re-open trade relations, and, I would stress that the Government of Assam should send some Ministers and other responsible Officers to Delhi when trade agreements are finally made with Pakistan because in the past sometimes our problems are forgotten in Delhi, and, certainly now that we have a Member of the Cabinet who used to be the Finance Minister of Assam, we should take the opportunity to represent all the necessary points that would be coming up in the Trade Agreement which would be to the benefit of the people on this side of the Border as well as on the other side.

Next, Sir, another point which I would just touch on is that at page 3 of the speech of the Governor there is a strange word used—at least to me it sounds strange. On the Nagaland Border, encroachment into our forest areas, kidnapping of persons, forcible collection of ‘taxes’ and food-stuffs were reported on various occasions. It is obviously a statement of fact but I question the word ‘taxes’. If from another State somebody comes into this State and demands money and food, I wonder whether the word ‘taxes’ is the correct word. Taxation is imposed by a Government on its people who are supposed to pay these taxes. So, I am just questioning whether that word ‘taxes’ is correct in the speech.

Sir, I am glad that the Government through the Governor's speech at page 4 have recognised that corruption is a menace and something has been done in the form of 'Anti-corruption Branch' and the report is here in the speech regarding cases taken up and so forth. Sir, in this connection may I also refer to an article in the Assam Tribune of February 3, 1966, written by a veteran leader of India, and I shall like to quote only one or two sentences in this regard. I would recommend rather that this article on 'Democracy and Opposition' be read by all those who are interested in Government and in politics in this State. There was one specific para which reads: "Our most serious troubles arise on account of want of efficiency and integrity in the Government. If these defects can be removed most of our problems would be solved. For instance if there is honesty and efficiency in the Government the food problem could be solved in a reasonable time without much difficulty."

Then it further goes on to say: "Further, if the administration is efficient and honest it will be possible to realize most of the revenues from various taxes that have been imposed after Independence.....Our Plans suffer not so much from being defectively conceived as from defective execution. This is due to inefficiency and want of integrity."

I am glad that the Government have paid some attention to this aspect of administration not only in Anti-corruption but in trying to do something about the efficiency, but I believe, Sir, that not enough has been done and more should be done in this respect. Reference has also been made to the Public Relations Committees set up for looking into the grievances of the public. I heard the Member from Jowai mentioning about the non-operation of the Public Relations Committee in that Sub-division. I am also sorry to say that the Public Relations Committee for the Shillong Subdivision has not been functioning.

Now, Sir, at page 5 of the Speech there is a full paragraph on area development and a reference has been made to the visit of Shri Tarlok Singh, Member of the Planning Commission, who is now visiting the Hill areas. Sir, we are very happy that the Government of India has finally been made aware of the serious problem of lack of development in the Hills areas, and we welcome the visit of the Member of the Planning Commission with the Central-State Study Team. But, Sir, in the past also there have been many attempts on studying the hill problems, and I hope that this particular time it does not end in mere reports but something concrete would be done both from the Centre and the State. Further I was very disappointed in the one single sentence which refers to the problem of the distress of the people living in the border. It is said in the Governor's Address "In the meantime necessary measures for ameliorating the distress specially in some of the border areas caused by the recent aggression have been continued". Sir, in the last Session we have had three full days' discussion regarding this problem, we had had two meetings convened by the Chief Minister of the Members from the Border areas along with Government Officers and Cabinet Members and we expected a little more would be said on the problem of the Border people consequent on the complete stoppage of trade with Pakistan following the hostilities. I believe a single sentence is not enough to describe the very serious situation which even today continues in the border areas of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, and, I am told, in some of the other areas as well.

We know that the Chief Minister particularly and the other members of the Government are aware of some of the problems, but up till now very little has actually been done and the growers are not benefited and the people of the border areas are not benefited. We have heard just now from the Minister in-charge of Agriculture regarding some of the border marketing schemes that have been proposed and have been implemented. Sir, shortly after the scheme was put into effect I myself felt very happy that at least now something has been done and that the Government has taken up some of the problems in a very serious way. No doubt, a lot of money has been spent for these schemes but when we look at the result, the achievement is very disappointing. The effect of the scheme is very discouraging. As a matter of fact we congratulated ourselves when we found that we had been able to persuade the Government to do something. But when we went to visit those areas the people told us that they had not been benefited at all. In orange and tezpata business the real growers are not at all benefited. Only the middle men are benefited. Why is it so? There are not enough vehicles to carry these commodities to the road heads from the various collecting centres. It was reported to me that to carry these commodities if about 10 trucks are required but only one jeep is placed or at the most only one truck was given for carrying these commodities. So the other 9 truck loads of commodities are left to be carried by the regular trade; naturally the middle men are getting the benefit as the price they offer to the growers are the same whether the goods are carried by the Government vehicles as by the trade. So for want of adequate transport facilities all the oranges cannot be brought from the collecting centres to the road head. It is not possible to bring all the commodities in one departmental vehicle. Therefore I am afraid if a review is made of this particular scheme it would be found that this scheme is not actually benefiting the real growers. The middle men are taking the advantage of the scheme and in any case I request the Minister-in-charge of this department to make a close study and review this matter.

Secondly, Sir, during the last session it was suggested that a Planning Committee should be formed to examine the various problems not only short term problems but also long term problems of the Border areas. I am not yet aware if any such committee has since been set up for examination of these problems for recommending measures for the solution of these problems in the border areas. One real solution will be, in the light of the Tashkent declaration, to reopen the border trade. At the same time I do not think we should neglect the problems of the border trade even after reopening the trade with Pakistan. The people have told me that they are grateful to the Government for whatever help is given to them though this help is very very small.

Now, Sir, about other long term measures to which we have referred in the last session and in the last budget sessions, nothing has so far been done and nothing has been mentioned either in the Governor's Address or in the intervening speech of the Minister. The Minister in-charge of Agriculture spoke about some diseases of oranges, but he has not mentioned about the disease of the Betelnut trees which is really very serious. There is no research organization that has been set up. As a matter of fact, only one research section is mentioned in the Governor's Address which is only for forest; but nothing has been done for this arecanut crop of the border areas. Sir, so far as horticulture is concerned, nothing has been done to

develop this in the whole of the State though the State had the potentiality of being one of the richest horticultural areas in the world. But what we have seen is that nothing has been done by the Government to really develop and improve horticulture. Vitalization is essential.

Now, Sir, coming to the roads, naturally it would be wrong to say if anything has been done in this matter. The thing which could be done in 3/4 months has not yet been started. Even the Minister in-charge of the P. W. D. in spite of his assurance in last December that some vital roads would be taken up and which could be done immediately during this cold weather session, nothing has so far been done. The Chief Minister also assured that certain road in the border would be connected, but in spite of this assurance from the Chief Minister and Finance Minister, nothing so far has been done. This shows the lack of a sense of urgency given to these border roads by the P.W.D. Sir, it is amusing to find that a bridge was constructed overnight because the Deputy Commissioner went to an interior area of this place through that road. The bridge has to be constructed within 24 hours because the Deputy Commissioner had to come. This bridge is on the Pynursla Nongpai road and normally it would have taken about a month or a few weeks to complete. We hope that this speed will continue throughout.

Now, Sir, some of the important feeder roads have not yet been connected in the border so the people are asking us whether they would get any subsidy in the transport if they carry goods themselves and bring it to the road heads. We have not been able to give any answer to this question. These people may bring their produce to the road heads by their pony and we expect that the Government would give due consideration to this matter and try to help the poor people. Sir, again at page 6 of the Governor's speech it is stated "It is gratifying to note that agricultural production continues to show stability and growth". We are aware of it, but particularly it is not so in the hill areas.

But I would like to know whether stability and growth continues in the agricultural sector in the hill areas also.

Now, the Minister-in-charge of Agriculture has given the figures of consumption of fertilizer. Utilisation of fertilizer does not give a true picture of agricultural growth. Along with consumption of fertilizer the actual production should be given and then only we will be convinced that there is actual growth and stability in agriculture.

Sir, it is true that the Governor's Address is not supposed to contain all details. But whatever details are given they must convince us, so that we need not seek further information later on. Sir, about the effect of fertilizer on production many people are not yet convinced that the use of fertilizer is as good as sometimes pointed out to them. Therefore, the figures of production showing the effect of fertilizer is very important. Again, in regard to fertilizer may I point out to the Department of Agriculture through the Minister that it is important that fertilizer should be given in time? We complained from time to time that fertiliser did not arrive in time for the people in this district. In future may we expect that fertilizer will be provided in adequate quantity and in time?

Now, Sir, the Minister has given us the figure of loss due to pests as 10 per cent. I think not enough attention has been paid to the total loss in food that occurs in India and in the State as well. In a recent conference called by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in Delhi on 20th and 21st different figures were given by the Research organisation of the Government of India in regard to the loss of food. I myself was surprised at the amount of loss that occurs in food in this country. It is stated that food losses in the field due to pests, insects, etc., are estimated at approximately 25 per cent. The Minister probably, in giving the figure, took the loss due to pest only into account but the total loss in the field is 25 per cent. In addition to this there are losses in storage amounting to 15 per cent and loss in transport, handling and processing is another 10 per cent. Thus the total loss is about 50 per cent of the yield which do not go to the consumers. Since the amount of shortage is nearabout 7 to 8 per cent of the total food requirement which are to be imported, I think it is wise for us to pay more attention to the loss of food in the field, storage and transport. I think not much attention has been paid to this aspect of the problem. The conference called upon the people, not only in the Centre but also in the States to pay special attention to this aspect. Even if we can save 10 per cent of the 50 per cent loss I think we will be solving our food problem. In addition to that the conference also discussed yields per acre. It is astonishing to note that the yield per acre in India is one of the lowest in the world. If we can increase the yield of cereals, pulses, oil and potato to even to world averages, not to speak of the maximum possible yields under modern conditions, we will be able to increase our production by about 50 per cent. I would, therefore, suggest that the Government pay more attention to these two aspects. Without increasing the acreage even if we can increase the yield per acre and stop losses we can probably solve the food problem permanently.

Now, Sir, in regard to the statement at page 7 of the Governor's Address that "agricultural development is proceeding along proper lines". I just wonder whether horticultural development in the hills is proceeding along proper lines. I doubt about it and I suggest that the Government examine carefully this aspect.

Now, Sir, I come to Transport. It has been stated at page 8 that it has become necessary to increase the freight and fares, perhaps because of increasing cost due to taxation and other measures. I would request the Minister-in-charge of Transport to compare the mileage rate between Pathankot and Srinagar and between Gauhati and Shillong. What is the fare charged between Pathankot and Srinagar and between Gauhati and Shillong on mileage basis? Kashmir probably has as much transport trouble as Assam and is in the hill areas and I believe fares and freights are lower there, may be because of certain reasons. I would suggest that Transport Department should look into this and see whether these fares and freights should be reduced. Sir, we in the hill areas are particularly affected by the increase in the freight and fares because there is no other form of transport. In the plains we have Railways, Steamers, Air transport and road transport but here we have only road transport. Therefore, any increase in the freight on the road transport caused apparently by increased taxation by the centre and State, affects the hill people more than anyone in the State.

Sir, in the same page there is a strange sentence that caused me to wonder. The Governor has stated "my Government would like to record their appreciation for the smooth and satisfactory carriage of goods during the emergency by the Railway." I wonder why it has been mentioned that only during the emergency it was satisfactory. As a matter of fact reading between the lines we come to the conclusion that there has not been satisfactory carriage of goods during the other parts of the year. I believe, Sir, that the experience of most of the industrialists in Assam is that carriage of goods by railway from other parts of the country to this part is not satisfactory, and that is why we have to pay more for carriage of goods by road transport, because the Railways take such a long time to transport goods from other parts of the country to Assam.

Mr. SPEAKER: How long will you take to finish ?

Shri STANLEY D. D. NICHOLS-ROY: Another 15 minutes. Sir, at page 8 of the Governor's Address it has been stated that the supply "position remained fairly satisfactory throughout the year." Other members have pointed out that the supply position of the essential commodities has not been satisfactory throughout the year, particularly for C.I. sheets. Even the supply position of food stuff in the border areas is not satisfactory. If you go to the border areas, in my own constituency particularly.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 2 P.M.

Adjournment

The House was then adjourned for lunch till 2. P. M.

After Lunch

Shri STANLEY D. D. NICHOLS-ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am now resuming my talk on the Governor's speech, I think I was on the point of Railways. In his Address at pages 8, the Governor has said "The question of extension of the line to Gauhati has been taken up with the Government of India." That is with regard to the broad gauge line. Now, Sir, I think everyone of Assam including those of us in the hills are greatly concerned with the smooth transport of goods and passengers out of, and into, the State and we would like a categorical statement not only from the State Government but particularly from the Government of India because we understand that in the Union Budget for Railways, nothing has been said regarding the extension of broad gauge line to Gauhati. May we ask the Minister-in-charge of Transport to give a categorical statement that we can hope at least that within the early part of the Fourth Plan we may expect that the broad gauge line is definitely coming to Gauhati.

Then, Sir, in regard to supply. I have said so nothing in regard to supply earlier. I am sorry. Anyway, as I have said earlier, the people in certain parts of the State particularly in border areas are not satisfied with the distribution of food supplies in their areas. But the statement says that it is fairly satisfactory. Perhaps the overall position for the whole State may be so, but certainly in certain areas the position has been unsatisfactory, I know personally some areas in the border side where rice distribution has been very scarce or even, not at all.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Supply): Will the hon. Member mention the name of any particular areas?

Shri STANLEY D. D. NICHOLS-ROY: Yes, Sir, from Balat right up to the border of Garo Hills, there is a stretch of land inhabited by people who used to get much of their food from Garo Hills, I am sorry, I mean from Pakistan. Many of them are Garos. Many of these people, during our last visit to that area, said that they do not get rice and they are living on roots and so on and so forth. The Sardars of those areas have told us that these people are very very hard hit with regard to rice supply. Furthermore, in some of the villages in the Shella area also the same is the condition. Sir, it is very difficult to get food supplies because of lack of roads and the people are very much hard hit. The vast stretches of land along the border where there are no roads leading to villages, the people are facing great difficulty in getting their rice supplies. Now, Sir, this is not only the position in the border areas or in the hill areas, but apparently also in some of the plains areas, even where transport is a little easier, the people have complained of faulty distribution of rice and I would draw the attention of the Minister of Supply to the "Letters to the Editor" column published in the *Assam Tribune*, dated February 3, 1966 in which a letter was written by somebody from the Commerce College regarding scarcity of rice, and I would just read out one sentence: "It is a paradox that while the Government of Assam has been saying that Assam has a surplus production of rice, that people of Assam, especially living in many rural areas, are facing acute scarcity of rice even at this post-harvesting period of the year." Then later on, in the letter he says:—"Government has taken no step to increase its supply in the deficit rural areas." Again he says—"There is little or no distribution of rice at fair price in rural areas. As a result those rural areas where Sali crops was damaged by hailstorm in the month of November are experiencing acute food scarcity even famine. Sorbhog with its surrounding villages is one of such areas." I would request the Minister-in-charge of Supply to examine this question of distribution of rice particularly in rural areas in the whole State.

Now, Sir, I shall make a few remarks regarding the Co-operatives. The hon. Member from Jowai has said something about so called rural co-operatives with areas allocated for border rural areas, but whose headquarters and whose works are being carried on, in Barabazar, Shillong. Perhaps that is so. I have also heard something to that effect. I cannot quote particularly, but this is his statement and I believe he is correct. But there are certain co-operatives—genuine co-operative societies being formed in the border areas, in rural areas. And I know of certain cases where it took one year or two years for those societies to start functioning. Two or three cases came to my notice and I have heard there are other cases also in which registration by the Co-operative Department has been delayed. When I came to know of certain cases, I had a talk with the Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies and it seems to me there has been considerable delay and red-tape in the matter of registration of these societies. So, I would request the hon. Minister in-charge of Co-operative Department to look into this matter as to whether this method of dilatory registration of co-operative societies can be expedited or whether it can be stream-lined. I know of one Society, Sir, composed of 100 per cent of people engaged in the trade of tailoring, which wanted to start as an Industrial Co-operative Society. They

founded it in 1964, but up till to-day it has not been registered. Now the answer given to me by one of the officers of the Co-operative Department was that there are certain such cases awaiting registration and that it has been decided to hold up registration of any new society only to complete preparation of maps for all the Blocks in the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills which will show the location of existing societies with their respective areas of operation and also the expected societies.

Shri LALIT KUMAR DOLEY (Deputy Minister, Co-operation): May I know where those societies fall, which particular Development Block you are referring to?

Shri STANLEY D. D. NICHOLS-ROY: Yes, Sir, the Mawkyrwat Development Block. There are other Blocks also. This policy decision to await this preparation of statistics and maps of existing societies may be correct from the point of view of the Department and I thought they already had them, but they did not have it. But to expect any B. D. O. to forecast that so and so society will form in such and such area, I think it is expecting too much and there is bound to be delay in indicating in the map that such and such society is about to be formed. I think it is next to impossible to predict that such and such society will be coming up in such and such area; because it can only be done by the people themselves. You cannot force a co-operative on the people. It is they themselves who are to form into co-operative societies and to come forward for registration. Sir, I think this policy decision of the Department is faulty and I would request the Department to look into it.

It does not seem to me practical at all; as a result there are certain societies awaiting registration, genuine societies which have not been registered.

Then, Sir, I note on page 8 it has been stated that Government continued their policy of monopoly procurement through cooperatives and further on the Governor has said that an expanded programme for setting up 27 more rice mills in the co-operative sector has been taken up. Sir, I have noted this with considerable concern. If the capacity for milling in the State is not adequate then we would welcome whole-heartedly setting up of new mills in the co-operative sector. We would like to be assured that all mills in the State are operating at full capacity. I think it is a waste of national resources if we are to set up new mills when there are already existing mills not functioning or functioning without full capacity. If these existing mills are not in the co-operative sector and not functioning because of various reasons, then perhaps it is for the Government to examine the possibility of bringing them into the co-operative sector and doing something to utilise the idle machinery. My point is that before any new mill is opened and any money is spent on new milling capacity, the existing capacity should be utilised to its fullest extent.

Coming to industries, we are happy that at last after a number of years, Assam Cements will start operation by June 1966 at Cherrapunji. The Governor goes on to say that a larger factory near Bokajan is also contemplated. That is also good news to those who have got to get their cement from outside the State. But, Sir, we had heard about the definite possibility of expanding the small cement factory at Cherrapunji and we had hoped that at least some sort of statement would be forthcoming that this factory

of 250 tons capacity per day would be expanded to 750 tons capacity within a few years. We await a categorical statement from the Minister in this respect.

Then, Sir, with regard to Education, on page 10 of the speech we have noted with feelings of gratitude that Government have assisted in establishing a second university at Dibrugarh. But the speech is completely silent on the proposal for establishing another university for the hills to be located in the Shillong area. You may recall during the last Session there was a Bill to that effect. We had hoped that some statement would be made in the speech of the Governor in this regard. We wonder what has happened to that proposal for a university in the Shillong area. Then, Sir, we find a statement that a science college is being set up at Jorhat. That is good news. Again, we find many colleges in the State, and particularly in areas I am more familiar with in the hills, have not got facilities for teaching of science. In the hill areas this facility does not exist anywhere except in Shillong. We feel that assistance should be given to these colleges in the hills to introduce science classes, so that all the colleges in the State are brought up to a suitable level both in science and arts.

Then, Sir, something has been stated in regard to the emphasis on the training of teachers. We note with concern that nothing has been stated regarding establishment of any college for the training of teachers for high schools in the hill areas. In the old days, there used to be a B. T. college here in Shillong. That has closed down; as a result the quality of our teachers teaching in high schools, middle school and other schools is not up to the mark. I would request Government to look into the possibility of putting first class training college for teachers in the hill areas for the high schools as well as a teachers' training institute for teachers in the Middle English standard. At present many of the teachers go straight from after matriculation or after one or two years in college and start teaching immediately. Naturally, many of them not having any training, the quality of teaching has deteriorated. I think this is almost a general proposition throughout the State.

Then, Sir, something has been stated in regard to sports. It has been said that there has been satisfactory progress in the development of sports, athletics and physical education. I am very happy that it has been recognised that this is an important part of education. But, Sir, it is perhaps in the towns that there has been satisfactory development. I am sure this is not the case in rural areas, at least the rural areas I am familiar with in my constituency and some other hill areas. There has not been any satisfactory development in sports and physical education in the rural areas. There are no playgrounds. Even when with their own efforts the people manage to construct some playgrounds, they do not get the necessary assistance from Government with regard to equipments, coaching, etc. That is why we have not made the same development along with others. I thank the Minister for Education for arranging the National School Games Championship in Shillong. He said that it would give some encouragement to boys and girls to participate. I believe it has given this encouragement, but at the same time the enthusiasm generated by the National School Games Championship should be taken advantage of and further steps should be taken now to proceed with development of sports and physical education in the State.

Sir, on page 11, there is mention about the activities of the Department of Information and Public Relations being reoriented and revitalised. The Public Relations Committees should be made more active and made to function effectively. It is no use having them when they are not functioning.

Then, Sir, lastly in regard to the Medical Department, we have the old story of lack of sufficient doctors in our State, particularly in the hill areas. The Minister himself had admitted the fact that the doctors do not want to go to the rural areas. There was a recommendation made not only by the Department concerned but also a High Power Committee that was sent last year or more than a year ago, I believe, to study the problem of medical and health in the State. And one of the recommendations made was that the doctors serving in the rural areas of the State more particularly in some of the more difficult areas in the border, where there are no transport and other facilities, more pay should be paid to the Doctors. But I wonder what was the result of that recommendation. Up till now nothing has been done about it. Then over a year ago, in 1964, a Government hospital was to be built at Cherrapunji. A site was selected in the middle of 1964. The Chief Executive Member of the District Council, the Deputy Commissioner, the Executive Engineer and myself and a few others had been there. We thought to start the hospital in the winter of 1964-65. But now, in 1965-66, still there is no site, no sign of any work being done in that Cherrapunji hospital.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Health) : May I know whether the land has been handed over to the Department?

Shri STANLEY D. D. NICHOLS-ROY : That I can't say.

Shri BAIDHYANATH MOOKERJEE : Then that allegation should not have been made. Sir, I visited the area only the other day and I heard that the land had not been handed over duly and steps will be taken when the land is made over.

Mr. SPEAKER : Who will hand over the land ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : The District Council, Sir, as the owner of the land is the District Council.

Shri STANLEY D. D. NICHOLS-ROY : Sir, I am not concerned with what they should do. But the point is that delay is there. The Government want speed but somehow or other the hospital does not get built. I am happy that the Minister can assure that the work will now start.

Finally, the Governor has sounded the words of hope upon all of us to strive unitedly. We also call upon those of the administration to really strive not only in the plains but in the hills also. Sir, many officers, I am told, have visited the border areas for the first time along with Shri Tarlok Singh. It is strange that we have to wait for so many years for some of our officers to visit some of the areas. I recall two or three Block Development Committee meetings that I attended where the pointed remark made by the people and the Committee was that though there were 20 to 30 officers listed on the Committee, they never attended. As a matter of fact,

last time when I attended a Block Committee at Mawkyrwat, a pointed remark was that out of 25 officers or so, only two had showed up. On asking for the report, the Block Development Officer said that they have never attended. This is rather strange and sad that the people who have been put on Committees on rural development never attend. In this way, how can we expect the Block Committees to function, unless the administration is toned up not only in the towns but also in rural areas both in the plains and hills. Sir, it is difficult for us in the Opposition to make much representation on the Government. But I think it is our duty to point out whatever lapses there are in the policy as well as in the working of the Government. I hope the Government will take whatever remarks we make in the spirit of trying to work for the development of the State. Thank you, Sir.

Shri UPENDRANATH SANATON (Bogdung): অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, ৰাজ্যপালৰ ভাষণ সমৰ্থন কৰি তিনিচুকীয়াত ঘটনা ঘটনা সম্পৰ্কে ক'ব খুজিছোঁ। এই মাহৰ ৫ তাৰিখে তিনিচুকীয়াত যি ঘটনা ঘটি গ'ল সেই সম্পৰ্কে এটা Commission of Enquiry পাতি ঘটনাবোৰৰ বিষয়ে তদন্ত কৰিব লাগে। তাৰ বাইজেও এটা তদন্ত বিচাৰে। আশা কৰোঁ সোনকালেই তদন্ত কৰা হ'ব। সেই ঘটনা প্ৰসঙ্গত মই Medical Minister ক জনাব খোজোঁ যে সেই দুটোত মৰা কেইজন নৰিলেই কিন্তু জখম হোৱা কেইজনক নিবৰ বাবে Ambulance গাড়ী নাই, ঔষধ নাই আনকি বান্ধি দিবৰ বাবে Bandage পৰ্য্যন্ত নাই। জখম হোৱা মানুহ কঢ়িয়াই নিবৰ বাবে দুলীয়াজানৰ পৰা Ambulance গাড়ী আনিব লগা হৈছিল। তিনিচুকীয়াৰ নিচিনা এখন শিল্প প্ৰধান ঠাইত ভাল ডাক্তৰখানা নোহোৱাটো অতি দুখৰ কথা। আশা কৰোঁ স্বাস্থ্য মন্ত্ৰীয়ে এই কথাটো লক্ষ্য ৰাখি তিনিচুকীয়াত এটা ভাল ডাক্তৰখানাৰ ব্যৱস্থা উপক্ৰম staff আৰু ঔষধ পাতিব সৈতে ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব। আজি তিনিচুকীয়া Subdivision নোহোৱা বাবেই বহুত অসুবিধাৰ সম্মুখীন হ'ব লগা হৈছে। Subdivision নোহোৱা বাবেই কিছুমান দৰকাৰী বিষয়া তাত নাই যাৰ কাৰণে বাইজে কষ্ট ভোগ কৰিছে। সেই কাৰণে মই চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰোঁ যাতে তিনিচুকীয়াক অতি সোনকালে Subdivision পাতে।

ৰাজ্যপালৰ ভাষণত Dibrugarh University ৰ কথা উল্লেখ কৰিছে আৰু তাৰ বাবে আমি আনন্দ পাইছোঁ। কিন্তু যি ঠাইত University স্থাপন কৰিব খুজিছে সেই সম্বন্ধে কওঁ যে সেইয়া এখন খেতিৰ পথাৰ আৰু তাত বৰ ভাল ধান খেতি হয়। গতিকে সেই ধাননি পথাৰত University খন পাতিলে বহুত দুখীয়া বাইজৰ বৰ অসুবিধা হ'ব বা কিছুমানৰ খাবলৈ নাইকিয়া হ'ব। মই জানিব পাৰিছোঁ যে মানুহবোৰে শোভা যাত্ৰা কৰি আপত্তি দৰ্শাবৰ বাবে স্থিৰ কৰিছে। ইফালে তাৰ ওচৰেৰে Bokel Tea Estate ত বহুত মাটি পৰি আছে আৰু তাতে University পাতিব পাৰে। কানৈ কলেজৰ ওচৰতে যে Univeresity খন পাতিব লাগিব সেইটো নহয়--য'তে খালি মাটি আছে ত'তে পাতিব লাগে।

শিক্ষা সম্পৰ্কে কওঁ যে সকলো শ্ৰেণীৰ মানুহ শিক্ষাৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত সমান কৰিব লাগিব আৰু তেতিয়াহে আমি সমাজবাদী সমাজ প্ৰতিষ্ঠা কৰিব পাৰিম।

আমাৰ দেশে নো কেনেকৈ আগ বাঢ়িছে তাক আমি আজিও কৰ নোৱাৰো যিহেতু আমাৰ লোক যিবিলাক আছে তেওঁলোকৰ শিক্ষাৰ অভাৱ। স্বাধীনতাৰ আগতে যেনে অৱস্থাত আছিল সেই অৱস্থাতে আজিও আছে। আজি বিশেষকৈ চাহ বনুৱা সকলৰ গাঁৱত যিবিলাক L. P. Venture, M. E., M. V. School আছে। সেইবিলাকে আজিলৈ চৰকাৰৰ পৰা কোনো সাহায্য পোৱা নাই। বহুতে আশা কৰিছিল, চৰকাৰৰ পৰা টকা পাব—কিন্তু সেই আশা আজিলৈ পূৰণ হোৱা নাই। আমি যেতিয়া জনসাধাৰণৰ মাজলৈ যাওঁ, তেতিয়া বহুত কথাই শুনা আমাৰ পৰা deficit grant আৰু কত কি পাব; কিন্তু আজি ২ বছৰৰ পৰা কোনো স্কুলে চৰকাৰৰ পৰা একো পোৱা নাই। বিশেষকৈ ডিব্ৰুগড় মহকুমাৰ পৰা চিঞৰ বাখৰ কৰিব নোৱাৰে বা কৰা নাই। সেই কাৰণে তেওঁলোকৰ ভাগ্যত একো ঘটনা নাই। এটা বা দুটা স্কুলে এশ বা দুশ টকাৰ বাহিৰে বাকী স্কুলে একো সাহায্য পোৱা নাই। চৰকাৰে এই বিষয়ে মন দিব লাগে। আজি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ স্কুল কলেজ পাতিছে। তাৰ দ্বাৰা একশ্ৰেণীৰ লোক উঠি গৈছে আৰু আনহাতে এক শ্ৰেণীৰ মানুহৰ শিক্ষাৰ কোনো উন্নতিয়েই হোৱা নাই। এয়ে যদি হয় তেন্তে সমাজবাদী সমাজ গঢ়াৰ কথা কেনেকৈ উঠে? গাঁৱত মানুহে নানা কষ্টেৰে যিবিলাক L. P. School বান্ধিছিল, সিও আজি ভাঙি গ'ল। আজি প্ৰায় ৪ বছৰ হল—চাহ বাগানৰ স্কুল চৰকাৰে লব, চৰকাৰে লব বুলি, যি স্কুলত দুজন শিক্ষক আছিল, তাৰো একোজন কমাই দিলে—কিন্তু এতিয়াও একো হোৱা নাই। Assessment Committee এটা কৰিছে। আজি ইমান দিনে কি কৰিছে আমি নাজানো—কিন্তু এতিয়ালৈ এখনো স্কুল লোৱা নাই। ফলত আজি বনুৱা ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰীয়ে যি শিক্ষা পাব লাগিছিল তাৰ পৰা বঞ্চিত হৈছে। এই অনুন্নত সম্প্ৰদায় বিলাকে অন্যান্য সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ সমানে আগবাঢ়ি যোৱাত বাধা পৰিছে। আমাৰ যি আশা আছিল সেই আশা এতিয়া নোহোৱা হৈছে। আনহাতে এটা শ্ৰেণী উঠি গৈছে কিন্তু চাহ বাগিচাৰ ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰীৰ কোনো সুবিধা হোৱা নাই। মই বৰ দুখ পাইছো। যদি আমাৰ চৰকাৰে এইবিলাক কথাটলৈ লক্ষ্য নকৰে তেন্তে আমাৰ সম্প্ৰদায়টো এনেদৰে পিচ পৰিয়েই থাকিব—আৰু দৰিদ্ৰ হ'ব। সেইকাৰণে মই চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰো যাতে আমাৰ যি বেমেজালি ঘটছে, বিশেষকৈ ডিব্ৰুগৰ মহকুমাত শিক্ষা সম্বন্ধে যি বাধা পৰিছে, সেইটো গুচাবলৈ অতি সোনকালে এটা সুব্যৱস্থা কৰে।

মহোদয়, মই লগতে আৰু এটা অনুৰোধ কৰোঁ যে আমাৰ যিসকল মাটি হীন লোকে মাটিৰ কাৰণে হাহাকাৰ কৰিছে, সেই লোকসকলৰ এটা সুব্যৱস্থা চৰকাৰে সোনকালে কৰিব লাগে। দিঙাকটাৰ মানুহ বিলাকৰ ঘৰবাৰী মিলিটাৰী লগাই ভাঙি দিছে, সেই মানুহবোৰৰ খাবলৈ থাকিবলৈ ঠাই নাই—চৰকাৰৰ মাটিও বহুত আছে কিন্তু কৰ্মচাৰীৰ কাৰণে সেই মাটি মানুহে পোৱা নাই। চৰকাৰে সেই বিষয়ে এটা ভাল ব্যৱস্থা লবলৈ মই চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰি শ্ৰীগোঁস্বামীদেৱে অনা ধন্যবাদ সূচক প্ৰস্তাবৰ সমৰ্থন জনাওঁ।

Shri LILA KANTA BORAH (Kaliabor): Mr. Speaker, Sir. I rise to support the motion moved by my Friend Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami on the Address of the Governor and oppose the amendments brought by the hon. Member Shri Khogendra Nath Barbaruah. Sir, I am very grateful to the Governor for his illuminating Address. The Governor has touched almost all the salient features of Governmental activities. He has given a picture regarding achievement of Governmental activities in the last year and also about the works which the Government proposes to take up in the future. Sir, the Governor has referred to the stress and strain through

which the country had to pass during last year. I think, Sir, the year 1965 was one of the most critical in the annals of Independent India so far. Pakistan's act of aggression in the Rann of Kutch and massive aggression which took place in Kashmir paused a serious threat to security and independence of the country. Sir, the magnificent performance of our brave Jawans in the battle fields and the unity and solidarity of our people which they showed at the time of national crisis are really praiseworthy and commendable. Sir, the lead which our great Prime Minister gave at the time of this national emergency will remain ever in of gold in the letters history of India.

Sir, at the beginning of the current year the whole of the country was plunged into grief due to the sudden demise of our beloved Prime Minister, Shri Shastri at Tashkent where he had gone in search of peace. In fact, Sir, he paved the way for peace in India and Pakistan but he sacrificed his own life at the altar of peace. The Governor has rightly stated that Shri Shastri sacrificed his life in the cause of peace and that he died in the hour of his greatest glory. Sir, we all bow down our heads in respectful homage to this departed great for what he had done and achieved for India and humanity at large during the short but eventful tenure of his office as Prime Minister of India.

Sir, the Governor has referred to the policy of monopoly procurement of paddy through co-operatives. He also referred to the decision of the Government to establish 27 rice mills in the co-operative sector. I think, Sir, this is a step in the right direction. It appears that Mr. Nichols-Roy has cautioned the Government to see whether there is actually need for establishing new rice mills. He said that the milling capacity of the existing mills are to be taken into consideration before going for any new rice mill in the State. But, Sir, what we have seen is that the existing millers are resisting against procurement by co-operatives. We feel that unless there is encouragement the whole programme of procurement by co-operatives will be a failure, and this is the main reason for which Government has decided to establish 27 mills in co-operative sector throughout the State.

Sir, one of our hon. Friends has made glaring criticism about the procurement made by co-operatives. Sir, there might be lapses here and there. There might be some mistakes committed by some of them because they are new to this venture of procurement. Mistakes are likely to be committed but from the activities of certain co-operative societies only it will be wrong to censure all co-operative societies in the State, regarding procurement of paddy. I have seen in my own district of Nowgong the co-operatives have done really praiseworthy work. If we take the procurement during last year, 1964-65, we find that it went upto 83 lakh of maunds as compared to 45 lakhs of maunds in the previous year. This is not a mean achievement. Sir, I think, it is wrong to expect cent per cent success in a business venture. We are to judge the achievement as a whole. If we consider co-operative societies in respect of procurement we must say that their achievement is praiseworthy. I do not say that there should not be criticism. Criticisms are always welcome but it must be realthy and at the same time constructive. So to make a criticism with regard to co-operatives when we are all wedded to a socialist society, it will be going against our own principle. So, I hope, our hon. Members will always have a sympathetic consideration, sympathetic view and

healthy attitude towards our co-operative sector so that co-operatives may become successful. So far as the question of procurement in the current year is concerned, a very ambitious scheme of procurement to the tune of 1.25 crore maunds have been fixed. I have, of course, reasonable doubts whether this target can be achieved as we have seen in the district of Nowgong where the production of paddy in the current season is not satisfactory due to some drought conditions some areas of the district. I heard this morning the hon. Minister of Agriculture making a reference to this aspect on the floor of the House. However we must say that our achievement in respect of procurement is really laudable. What I have come to know from the Supply Department in our district is that rice is being sent to every important town of the State including the district of Cachar. Sir, we all know that Cachar has the benefit of a full-fledged Package Programme and we were told that Cachar reaped a good harvest in 1964-65 as well as the prospect in the current year is good. If it be a fact where the additional output in the Cachar district has gone? We have much doubt paddy from Cachar is going out of the State. When our State is finding difficulty in respect of food and when we have heard on the floor of this House that price of paddy has gone up between Rs.25 to 29 per maund, are we in a position to spare paddy to another State? If it is done it must go through proper channel and not by backdoor. This must be checked and I hope, Government will take strictest measures to stop paddy going out of the State by unfair means.

Sir, it is really a matter of serious concern that our country has been faced with shortage of food. It is said that the position in regard to food in some of the States is very acute. Sir, the current year is considered to be very critical in respect of food, Sir, we know our country has not been able to go ahead as expected in the matter of agricultural output. However, Sir, one of the most important feature's at present in our country as a whole has been conscious about it and there is a Nation-wide drive to achieve self-sufficiency in the matter of food. The goal of achieving self-sufficiency in food has not been achieved though it is long 18 years since we attained independence. It appears, Sir, our leaders have of late come to realise the vital importance for boosting up agricultural output. Sir, if India is to be assured of a sustained economic progress then, Sir, she shall have to be able to meet the whole of the requirement of her food which her vast and daily expanding population needs. Sir, Assam also must go hand in hand with the rest of India. We are, however, glad, Sir, as has been shown by the Agriculture Minister in his speech today that Assam is making a gradual progress in respect of self-sufficiency in food production. This is no doubt a very happy feature but then, Sir, there is no room for complacency, because we have seen that there is yet much to be achieved. We are indeed far lagging behind and we see that our people are not getting their food, their two square meals a day. Because we are making gradual improvement in respect of food production that must not make us complacent, because in this field we have yet to achieve much. Sir, though India has the largest irrigated acreage of cultivable land as a result of a large number of major irrigation projects taken up by her in the First, Second and Third Plans, such as Bhakranangal, Tungabhadra, Damodar Valley, Hirakud, etc, yet, Sir, there is much yet to be done to assure the farmers of water supply at the time of their cultivation. But so far Assam is concerned, Sir, there is not a single major irrigation project in our State though there is vast potentiality for the same. Though

medium irrigation programme of Jamuna river has been undertaken also, Sir, it is not completed. It is still in execution. Much has been talked about the Kapili river project. Since 1952, Sir, we have been told in this House year in and year out in the Finance Minister's speeches and in the Governor's speeches that investigation was being carried on. At the beginning of the Third Plan period we were told that in the Third Plan period itself some work would be undertaken such as construction of buildings, construction of roads and other preliminary nature of work and the major work would be taken up in the Fourth Plan. But, Sir, we find that Government have not done anything about this. This has been, it appears, kept in the cold storage. There is possibility of converting this scheme into a multi-purpose river valley project. I do not know, Sir, why it has been kept back. I would request the Government and particularly, the Chief Minister to take up this matter seriously, so that it may be converted into a major irrigation project. Sir, apart from major irrigation projects we are to undertake some lift irrigation projects, because I find there is much scope for such projects in our State. It is of course true that there is paucity of fund in our State and our State is economically very backward. But then, Sir, we cannot afford to neglect our farmers. 90 percent of the people are living in the villages and about 80 percent of them is cultivators. Unless we try to give benefit to the agriculturists then there will be no remarkable improvement in our State (Bell rang).

Mr SPEAKER: Please try to conclude.

Shri LILA KANTA BORAH: So, Sir, I would like to request Government to take some lift irrigation projects, i.e., irrigation by pumping sets powered by electricity. In this connection, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the Minister of Agriculture about a matter, i.e. when Dr K.L. Rao, Union Minister of State for Irrigation and Power, came to see the flood havoc at Hatimura near Silghat, he suggested to our Agriculture Minister to submit a scheme of lift irrigation there so that the Koliabar area which goes dry as a result of the blockade at the mouth of Kolong river may be benefited by such a scheme. He assured central assistance to this scheme also, but though it is about two years since that assurance was given and though the Union Minister of State asked for a scheme to be submitted, I have come to know that the same has not yet been finalised. Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government one fact that time is the essential factor in giving effect to such an assurance for if the person giving such assurance be no longer in the particular position then the whole assurance falls through. So, I request the Agriculture Minister to take it up with top-most priority and send the scheme to the Central Government.

Thank you, Sir.

Shri ZAHIRUL ISLAM (Mankachar): মাননীয়, অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, রাজ্যপালের ভাষণ আর বারের মতো এবারও অত্যন্ত গতানুগতিক। নিজের দায় সারার জন্যই যেন এ ভাষণ। রাজ্যপালের ভাষণে সরকারের অতীত কার্য-কলাপের যেমন শুধু বিশ্লেষণ নেই—তেমনি ভবিষ্যত কর্মপন্থারও কোন বলিষ্ঠ ইঙ্গিত নেই।

স্যার, ভারত ও পাকিস্তানের মধ্যে তাসখণ্ডে যে যুক্ত ঘোষণা হয়েছে তাকে আমরা স্বাগত জানাই। দেশ বিভাগের পর থেকে ভারত ও পাকিস্তানের মধ্যে যে তিক্ততা চলে আসছিল তাসখণ্ড ঘোষণার দ্বারা তার অবসান ঘটবে বলে আমরা আশা করি। আমরা আশা করি এই যুক্ত ঘোষণার দ্বারা ভারত-পাক এই উপ-মহাদেশের ৬০০ কোটি মানুষের জীবনে নতুন যাত্রার সূচনা হবে।

স্যার, রাজ্যপাল মহোদয় তাঁর ভাষণে গণতন্ত্রের কথা বলেছেন। তিনি ভারতের নতুন প্রধান মন্ত্রীর নিব্বাচন উপলক্ষে বলেছেন— "It is a measure of the deep roots of Democracy in our country that we have elected a new leader, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, in a Democratic way as the head of the Government of this great Country."

স্যার, যে দেশে Tashkent Declaration এর পরও Emergency বজায় রাখা হয়—যে দেশে প্রচলিত আইন কানুনকে বরবাদ করে সর্বক্ষেত্রে বিনা বিচারে D. I. R. প্রয়োগ করা হয়, সেখানে গণতন্ত্রের নামে গর্ব করার কিছুই নাই। 'ভারত পৃথিবীর বৃহত্তম গণতন্ত্র'—এই কথাই সর্বদা ঘোষণা করা হয়। এটা গভীর পরিতাপের বিষয় যে গত সাড়ে তিন বৎসর Emergency চালু রাখার পরও আজ একে তুলে দেওয়া সক্ষে গবর্ণ-মেন্ট চিন্তা করছেন না। Emergencyর দৌলতে সাংবিধানিক অধিকার এবং সর্বোপরি মানবিক অধিকার হরণ করে সরকার এই "বৃহত্তম গণতন্ত্র" সমাধি রচনাই করে চলেছেন। আর একদিনও এই "বে-আইনী আইন" চালু রাখা উচিত নয়।

স্যার, আমরা সকল ভাবেই আশা করেছিলাম পাক-ভারতের সঙ্ঘর্ষের সময় যে ভাবে D.I.R. প্রয়োগ করা হয়েছিল সে সম্বন্ধে রাজ্যপালের ভাষণে কিছু উল্লেখ থাকবে। যদি বলি—দেশ রক্ষার নামে D. I. R. এর চূড়ান্ত অপব্যবহার করা হয়েছিল সরকার তা মানবেন না। যদি বলি বিধেয় এবং ব্যক্তিগত আক্রোশ দমনের জন্যই বহুক্ষেত্রে দেশরক্ষা আইন প্রয়োগ করা হয়েছিল তাহলে সরকার তা স্বীকার করবেন না। যদি বলি কিছুসংখ্যক কর্মচারীর উদ্দেশ্য সিদ্ধির হাতিয়ার হিসাবে এর ব্যবহার হয়েছিল তাহলে সরকার ঘোরতর আপত্তি তুলবেন। স্যার, আপনার মাধ্যমে সরকার তথা মুখ্যমন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের কাছে শুধু একটি নিবেদন পেশ করতে চাই। সরকারী গোপন দলিলে কার সম্বন্ধে কি অভিযোগ লিপিবদ্ধ হয়ে আছে—আমরা কেউ তা জানি না। অনুমান করতে পারি যাদের আটক রাখা হয়েছিল তাদের সম্বন্ধে খুবই গুরুতর ধরনের অভিযোগ আছে। যদি তাই হয় তাহলে তার কিছু পরিমাণ প্রমাণ করার মত দলিল—পত্রও নিশ্চয়ই সরকারের হাতে আছে। একটি ক্ষেত্রে অন্ততঃ সরকার trial বা বিচারের ব্যবস্থা করুক। স্যার, আপনি জানেন এই বিধান সভার যতজন সদস্য আছেন তার মধ্যে পাক-ভারত সঙ্ঘর্ষের সময় আমিই একমাত্র দেশরক্ষা আইনের বলি হয়েছিলাম। স্যার, সরকারের কাছে আমার সম্বন্ধে যে সমস্ত অভিযোগ আছে তার ভিত্তিতে যদি আমাকে কোর্টে বিচারের জন্য দাঁড় করানো হয় তাহলে আমি খুবই আনন্দিত হব। মুখ্যমন্ত্রী মহোদয় পরীক্ষামূলক ভাবে অন্ততঃ এই কেসটি হাতে নিতে পারেন। শুধু আমি কেন—আমার বড় ভাই যিনি গত ১৮ বছর ধরে শিক্ষকতা করে আসছেন এবং যাকে fantastic অভিযোগের ভিত্তিতে চাকুরী থেকে বিতাড়নের ব্যবস্থা চলছে সরকার তাঁকেও কাঠগড়ায় দাঁড় করিয়ে পরীক্ষা করে নিতে পারেন। স্যার, আইনের চোখে দোষী সাব্যস্ত হলে সরকারের ন্যায় শাসন দেশজোড়া নাম পাবে। সরকার কি এই বিষয়টি একটু গভীর ভাবে বিবেচনা করবেন?

স্যার, বাঘে হুঁলে আঠারো ঘা। আর D.I.R. হুঁলে ভাতে মারা জীবনটাই নষ্ট। শুধু একলার নয়—গোটা পরিবারের।

প্রথম নম্বর:—সরকারী চাকুরিদের মধ্যে যারা D.I.R. এ আটক হয়েছিলেন চাকুরী থেকে তাঁদের বিদায়ের ব্যবস্থা।

দ্বিতীয় নম্বর:—যারা সরকারী সাহায্যপ্রাপ্ত স্কুলের শিক্ষক ছিলেন তাঁদের ও চাকুরী থেকে বিদায়ের জন্য Managing Committee র উপর নির্দেশ জারীর ব্যবস্থা। উদাহরণ—আমার নিজের ভাই।

তৃতীয় নম্বর:—যারা D.I.R. এ আটক হয়েছিলেন তাঁরা Government patronage বা সরকারী পৃষ্ঠপোষকতা থেকে বঞ্চিত, Contractor Contract পাবেন না—অন্যদিকে যারা সরকারী patronage পাচ্ছিলেন তা থেকে, তাদের বঞ্চিত করা হয়েছে। গত নভেম্বর মাসের ২৫ তারিখে সরকার যে গোপন Circular Issue করেছেন—তাতে সুস্পষ্ট ভাবে এই নির্দেশ দেওয়া হয়েছে।

চতুর্থ নম্বর:—এবং এটা একটু কোতুকজনকও। স্কুল ম্যানেজিং কমিটির মিটিং এ যোগদানের অধিকার থেকে অনির্দিষ্ট কালের জন্য বঞ্চিত করে রাখা। একটি নির্দিষ্ট স্কুলের ক্ষেত্রেই সম্ভবতঃ এটা উদ্দেশ্যমূলক ভাবে চালু করা হয়েছে। স্যার, নোটিশ দিয়ে স্কুলের Inspector মহোদয় আমাকে এবং আরো দুই জন Guardians' representative কে Managing Committee র মিটিং-এ যোগদান নিষিদ্ধ করেছেন।

স্যার, D.I.R. এ যারা আটক ছিলেন সরকার তাদের সপরিবারে ভাতে মারার ব্যবস্থা করেছেন। মুখ্যমন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে আমি বিশেষ ভাবে অনুরোধ করতে চাই তিনি যেন এবিষয়ে নুতন করে বিবেচনা করেন। যাতে এই হতভাগ্য মানুষগুলো তাদের স্ত্রী পুত্র পরিবার আছে—সংসার আছে—যারা দীর্ঘদিন নিজেদের Capacity তে সেবা করে এসেছেন—তাদের যেন ভাতে মারা না হয়। মুখ্যমন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের কাছে আমি আবেদন করছি তিনি যেন মানবতার দৃষ্টিকোণ থেকে বিচার করে তাদের সকলকে কাজে যোগদানের অনুমতি দেন। সরকারী পৃষ্ঠপোষকতা থেকে বঞ্চিত করে যে নির্দেশ দেওয়া হয়েছে তা উঠিয়ে নিয়ে তিনি যেন গণতন্ত্রের ভিত্তি সুদৃঢ় করেন। “আইন নাই, বিচার নাই”—যে কথা এই সভায় শ্রবিত প্রতিশ্রবিত হয়েছে এই কথা অসত্য প্রমাণের জন্য আমি মুখ্যমন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে আহ্বান জানাচ্ছি।

দুর্নীতি দমন এবং ঘুষখোঁরী বৃদ্ধির জন্য সরকার যে সমস্ত ব্যবস্থাগ্রহণ করেছেন রাজ্যপাল তাঁর ভাষণে সে সম্বন্ধে বিশদভাবে বলেছেন। স্যার, সারা রাজ্যে দুর্নীতির ব্যাপক প্রসার ঘটেছে। It has become a convention in the country. Vigilance Commission or Public Relations Committee র সীমাবদ্ধ ক্ষমতা দ্বারা এই ব্যাধি দূর হবে না। জরুরী-কালীন অবস্থার সুযোগে এবং, পাকিস্তানী বিতাড়ণের বর্তমান পদ্ধতির জন্য এই দুর্নীতি ব্যাপক ভাবে বৃদ্ধি পেয়েছে। সারা বিশ্বে আমাদের দেশের এককোটি লোককে দুর্ভিক্ষের হাত থেকে বাঁচাবার জন্য স্কুলের ছোট ছোট ছেলে মেয়েরা যে ভাবে খাদ্য ভিক্ষা করে বেড়াচ্ছে—স্যার, দুর্নীতির বদলে যদি আমাদের দেশে খাদ্যের প্রসার হতো—তাহলে দুর্নীতির কাছে এমনি করে লজ্জা পেতে হত না। সরকার এবং সরকারী যন্ত্র এ ব্যাপারে সত্যই কৃতিত্বের অধিকারী। আমরা যাতে ঘুষখোঁরী

আর দুর্নীতি দূর করার দুটো রাস্তা আছে। এক নম্বর:—সমাজতান্ত্রিক রাশিয়ার মত ঘুষখোরকে গুলি করে মারা। দ্বিতীয় নম্বর:—ঘুষখোরীকে আইন সম্মত করে নেওয়া এবং কোন ক্ষেত্রে কি পরিমাণ ঘুষ দিতে হবে তা নির্দিষ্ট করে দেওয়া। বর্তমানে প্রথমটি প্রয়োগ করা সম্ভব নয়—কারণ দেশে emergency চলছে। তবে দ্বিতীয় নম্বরটি চালু করা খুব কঠিন হবে না। একটি কমিশ্যন বা Sub-Committee করে তাদের মতামত নেওয়ার আইন পাশ করে দুর্নীতিকে আইন সম্মত করা। দুর্নীতি Convention হিসাবে চালুই আছে। শুধু লিখিত কোন কাজ বিনা ঘুষে করে নিতে গেলে আজকাল বিবেককে বড়ো দংশন করে। ঘুষখোরী আইন সম্মত হলে ঘুষ দিতে না পারার যে লজ্জা—সেটা থেকে অন্ততঃ রেহাই পাওয়া যাবে।

স্যার, এবারে আমি পাকিস্তানী অনুপ্রবেশকারীর কথা বলব। এই সমস্যা গত কয়েক বৎসর এই বিধান সভায় যথেষ্ট উদ্ভাপ সৃষ্টি করেছিল। রাজ্যপাল তাঁর ভাষণে কি পরিমাণ অবৈধ ভাবে বসবাসকারী পাকিস্তানীকে আজ পর্য্যন্ত এই রাজ্য থেকে বহিস্কার করা হয়েছে, কতটি আপীল ট্রাইবুনেলের কাছে আছে এবং আরো কত পরিমাণকে বিতাড়ণ করতে হবে—তার উল্লেখ করেন নি। এটার উল্লেখ থাকলে আলোচনার সুবিধা হতো। সরকারী হিসাবে ১৯৬১ সালের সেন্সাস কিগার মতে আসামে অবৈধ ভাবে বসবাসকারী পাকিস্তানীর সংখ্যা ২:২০ হাজার এবং পশ্চিম বাংলায় প্রায় ৪ লক্ষ বলা হয়েছে। রাজ্যপালের ভাষণে এই দুই রাজ্যের পাকিস্তানী বিতাড়ণের পদ্ধতি এবং কোন রাজ্যে কি পরিমাণ পাকিস্তানী আজ পর্য্যন্ত বিতাড়ণে করা হয়েছে তার একটি তুলনামূলক বিশ্লেষণ থাকলে মন্দ হত না। সকলের পক্ষে বিষয়টির আলোচনাও তখন সুবিধা হত। স্যার, বেআইনী ভাবে বসবাসকারী পাকিস্তানীদের পাকিস্তানে পাঠিয়ে দেওয়া সম্ভব। কারো দ্বিমত নাই—আবার পাকিস্তানীর নামে যাতে ভারতীয় নাগরিকের উপর উৎপীড়ন না হয় বা তাদের দেশত্যাগী না হতে হয়—আমি বিশ্বাস করি সে সম্বন্ধেও কারো দ্বিমত নাই।

পাকিস্তানী বহিস্কারের জন্য যে পদ্ধতি গ্রহণ করা হয়েছে—তাতে যদি আরো অধিক সংখ্যায় Tribunal গঠন করাও হয় তথাপি ভারতীয় মুসলমানের উপর উৎপীড়নের সমূহ সম্ভাবনা আছে এবং বস্তুতঃ কিছু উদ্বেগজনক ঘটনাও আমার জানা আছে।

যেমন ধরুণ—সকলেই জানেন ধুবরী মহকুমার দক্ষিণ পারের দক্ষিণ শালমারা এবং মানকাছার থানার কয়েক হাজার পারিবার নদীর দ্বারা সর্বস্বান্ত হয়েছেন। বার বার সরকারের নিকট এই হতভাগ্য লোকগুলির পুনর্ব্বসতির জন্য আবেদন বরা হয়েছে। সরকার তাদের জন্য কিছুই করেনি। অবহেলিত এই মনুষ্য সম্প্রদায় সরকারের সহানুভূতি থেকে বঞ্চিত।

বার বার নদী দ্বারা বিধ্বস্ত, সর্বস্বান্ত হয়ে এদের কিছু কিছু লোক বেচে থাকার তাগিদে—গারো পাহাড়ে আশ্রয় নিয়েছেন। কিন্তু সেখানেও তাদের নিস্তার নাই। কিছুসংখ্যক অতি উৎসাহী সরকারী কর্মচারীর দৃষ্টিতে তারা আজ পাকিস্তানী বনে গেছেন। টেপার পাড়া, দুঘরিপাড়া এবং কুলবাড়ীর আশেপাশে কয়েকটি গ্রামে যে ঘটনাগুলো ঘটেছে এবং এখনো ঘটে চলেছে—তা অবিশ্বাস্য। মাননীয়া মন্ত্রী মিষ্টার ইমনসিং সাংমার সমষ্টিতেই এই ঘটনাগুলো ঘটে চলেছে। দক্ষিণ শালমারার বিশিষ্ট সমাজকর্মী শ্রীপ্রকুল চক্রবর্তী মহাশয়ের নিকট আমরা কৃতজ্ঞ যে তিনি বিষয়টি সরকারের দৃষ্টিতে এনেছেন।

মানকাছার থানার কথায় আসেন। গ্রামের নাম উত্তর পিপুলবাড়ী এবং বংগি কালি। বহুদিনের পুরানো গ্রাম—গ্রামের গাছপালা এবং ঘরবাড়িগুলো দেখতেই তা বোঝা যাবে। সম্ভব মানকাছারের জন্মের সঙ্গে সঙ্গে এই গ্রামগুলিতে স্থাপিত হয়। গত সেপ্টেম্বর মাসে মানকাছার থানার তদানীন্তন ভারপ্রাপ্ত অফিসার পাবি স্থানী লোকের অনুসন্ধান করলেন এই গ্রামগুলিতে। তিনি অবশ্য গ্রামগুলিতে বাননি—পাশের একটি গ্রামে গ্রামশুদ্ধ লোক ডাকলেন। যারা বাড়ীতে ছিল সকলেই তাদের কাগজপত্র নিয়ে হাজির হলো। কয়েকমাস পর উত্তর পিপুলবাড়ী গ্রামের প্রায় ৬০ ঘর লোকের উপর এবং বরবিলাকান্দির ১৭ ঘর লোকের উপর Quit India notice জারী হলো। দারোগা বাবুর কাছে যারা কাগজ-পত্র নিয়ে হাজির হয়েছিল সকলের উপরে নোটিশ জারী হয়েছে। শুনেছি এই ঘটনার পরই নাকি উক্ত অফিসারের প্রমোশন হয়েছে। সম্ভবতঃ এতো বড় কাজের পুরস্কার হিসাবে।

আমি যতটুকু জানি আমার জ্ঞান এবং বিশ্বাসমতে এরা সকলেই ভারতীয়। সরকার বলবেন ভুলভ্রান্তি হতে পারে। এবং তারজন্য Tribunal গঠন করা হয়েছে। অশিক্ষিত অল্প গ্রামের এই লোকগুলিকে এখন আপীল করতে হবে। আপীল ডায়েরী করার জন্য একজন জানাশোনা মানুষকে সঙ্গে নিয়ে তাদের খুবড়ী যেতে হবে। উকীল ধরে আপীল ডায়েরী করতে হবে। দুজনের খুবড়ী যাওয়া আসার খরচ এবং উকীলের ফী তাকে যোগাতে হবে। স্যার, গত ১৮ বছর কৃষকের যে পরিমাণ উন্নতি হয়েছে সেটা কারোই অজানা নয়। হালের গরু বিক্রি করতে হবে অথবা বিঘা দুয়েক মাটি বন্ধ রাখতে হবে—আর যাদের গরু নাই মাটি নাই—সেই ভবিষ্যৎ চাখি? তাদের উপায় নাই।

স্যার, রাস্তাঘাটে চলাফেরা করাও আজ এক বিপদজনক অবস্থায় এসেছে। অতি উৎসাহী কিছু কর্মচারীর হাতে সম্প্রদায় বিশেষের লোকের দুর্গতির একশেষ। হ্যালিডেগঞ্জের Petrol Post এ এমনি কত ঘটনা যে ঘটেছে তার হিসাব নেই। নূতন ঘর করলে বা পেটের দায়ে—আশ্রয়ের আশায় নূতন জায়গায় বসতি করলে সি আই ডি পুলিশের আনাগোনা শুরু হয়। এক একটি গ্রামে দুইবার তিনবার পুণ্ডুখানুপুণ্ডু রূপে ধোঁকখবর নেবার পরও আবার তদন্ত হয়। এ বিরামহীন তদন্ত—এর যেন শেষ নাই। স্যার, আমি কিছু C.I.D. এবং পুলিশ কর্মচারীকে বলতে শুনেছি সপ্তাহে পাকিস্তানী বলে কিছু লোকের নাম নাপাঠাতে পারলে চাকুরী রাখায় মুক্তি। তারা গিয়ে আপীল করে আসুক। এইতো প্রকৃত অবস্থা। মাঝে মাঝে মনে হয় সম্প্রদায় বিশেষকে হররানী এবং আর্থিক দিক দিয়ে বিপর্যস্ত করার জন্যই যেন C.I.D. পুলিশকে লেগিয়ে দেওয়া হয়েছে।

ভারত পৃথিবীর বৃহত্তম গণতান্ত্রিক রাষ্ট্র বলে আমরা গর্ব করি। আরো গর্ব করি ভারতের ধর্মনিরপেক্ষতা বা Secularism এর। ভারতে যদি গণতন্ত্র না থাকে; ভারতে যদি নিরপেক্ষতা বজায় না থাকে—তাহলে ভারত। প্রকৃত ভারত নয়। শুধু কাগজপত্রে গণতন্ত্র এবং ধর্ম নিরপেক্ষতা রক্ষা না করে বাস্তবে যাতে এই মহান নীতিকে রক্ষা করা হয় সেদিকে আজ সজাগ হওয়া প্রয়োজন। পাকিস্তানী বহিস্কারনের যে পদ্ধতি গ্রহণ করা হয়েছে—এতে না আছে গণতন্ত্র না আছে ধর্মনিরপেক্ষতা। গণতন্ত্র আর ধর্মনিরপেক্ষতা সম্বন্ধে সরকার যদি আন্তরিক হন তাহলে পাকিস্তানী বিতাড়নের যে পদ্ধতি গ্রহণ করা হয়েছে তার পরিবর্তন করুন। যাতে একজন ভারতীয় লোকও বিতাড়িত বা লাঞ্চিত না হন। তার জন্য সন্দেহজনক ব্যক্তিকে কোর্টের সম্মুখে দাঁড় করান হোক। প্রতিটি case কোর্টের মাধ্যমে ফয়সালা করে গণতন্ত্রের মর্যাদা রক্ষা করা হোক। মুখ্য মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে আবেদন জানাচ্ছি তিনি যেন এই বিষয়টি বিশেষভাবে বিবেচনা করেন।

স্মাৰ, আৰ একটী মাত্ৰ কথা বলে আমি আমাৰ আসন নিতে চাই। ৰাজ্য-পাল মহোদয় তাঁৰ ভাষণেৰ শেষে বলেছেন—“In this task the hon'ble Members of this House will have a significant and vital rote to play, I am sure our joint efforts will be crowned with success.”

স্মাৰ, যাকে ম্যানেজিং কমিটি থেকে স্কুলেৰ সামান্য সেবা কৰাৰ অধিকাৰ থেকে বঞ্চিত কৰে ৰাখা হয়েছে—তাৰ কাছে সহযোগীতা চাওয়া একটা বিজপেৰ মতো শোনাৰ।

Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY (Patachar-kuchi): অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, বন্ধুবৰ শ্ৰীশৰং চক্ৰ গোস্বামী দেৱৰ প্ৰস্তাৱটো মই সমৰ্থন কৰিছো। এই বিধান সভাৰ জীৱন কালত দুখন যুদ্ধ আৰু প্ৰাকৃতিক দুৰ্যোগৰ বাবে দেশত হোৱা ১৯৬০ আৰু ১৯৬৫ চনৰ কৃষি বিপৰ্যায়ৰ পট ভূমিত দেশৰ অৱস্থা, ব্যৱস্থা আৰু ভবিষ্যৎ কৰ্মপন্থা লৈ ৰাজ্যপালে যি ভাষণ দিছে তাক মই ভাল পাইছো আৰু সেই বাবেই ধন্যবাদ দিছো। কিন্তু মই দুঃখ পাইছো যে যোৱা কালি বন্ধুবৰ শ্ৰীতাৰাপদ ভট্টাচাৰ্য্যই ৰাজ্যপালৰ ভাষণত অসমত ভাষা সমস্যাৰ ইঙ্গিত নথক বুলি এই চৰকাৰৰ তলত ভাষাৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত সুবিচাৰ নোপোৱা, ভাষাৰ কাৰণে অশান্তি হোৱা, ভাষাৰ বাবে কমিটি নিয়োগ কৰিব লাগে বুলি কথা কৈ গোস্বামীৰ প্ৰস্তাৱৰ সংশোধনী বিচাৰিছে।

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): চাৰ, আমাৰ সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱত সেই কথা নাই।

Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY: সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱ সমৰ্থন কৰি কৈছে, ১৯৬০ চনৰ পাচত অসমত ভাষাৰ বাবে আন্দোলন হোৱা বা দেশত অশান্তি হোৱা আমি নেজানো।

Mr. SPEAKER: তেখেতে নাই বুলি কৈছে।

Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY: অসমৰ বঙালী, বিহাৰী, পঞ্জাবী, নেপালী কোনেও ভাষাৰ বাবে অশান্তি বা আন্দোলন কৰা বুলি শুনা নাই। কেৱল বন্ধৰ ভাষা-ভাষী আন্দোলন সমিতিয়ে অলপতে ধুবুৰীত মিটিং পতাৰ কথা শুনিছো। কিবা আন্দোলন বা অশান্তি এই সমিতিয়ে কৰিবনেকি আমি নেজানো—বন্ধুবৰ শ্ৰীভট্টাচাৰ্য্যই জানে বোধ হয়। ভাষাৰ নামত আন্দোলন নকৰিবলৈ তেখেতক অনুৰোধ কৰিছো, নুমুৱা জুই যেন পুণৰ জ্বলাই নিদিয়। কাৰণ তেখেত এই আন্দোলন সমিতিৰ দ্বাৰা নিৰ্বাচিত বিধান সভাৰ সদস্য।

আমাৰ স্বৰ্গীয় প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী শ্ৰীলাল বাহাদুৰ শাস্ত্ৰীক শান্তিকামী নেতা হিচাপে ৰাজ্যপালে উল্লেখ কৰিছে। দেশৰ দল-নিৰ্বিশেষে সকলো লোকে শাস্ত্ৰীজীক প্ৰশংসা আৰু সন্মান কৰিছে—বিশেষকৈ তেখেতৰ মৃত্যুৰ পিচত। তেখেতে খাদ্য সমস্যা সমাধানৰ বাবে অশেষ চেষ্টা কৰিছিল। প্ৰাকৃতিক বিপৰ্যায় নহলে বোধ হয় কিছু সমাধান হ'লহেঁতেন। দুদিনৰ মাজতো খাদ্য সমস্যা সমাধানৰ বাবে এটি সৰু অনুৰোধ ভাৰতৰ ৰাইজৰ আগত ভাঙি ধৰিছিল। সেইটো আছিল বয়লীয়া সকলক সপ্তাহত এসাজ সোম বাবে বাতি খাদ্য শস্য নেখাবলৈ অনুৰোধ। লগোন নহয়—উপবাস নাহয়, মাত্ৰ ভাত, আটা, ময়দা—শস্যৰ পৰা হোৱা বস্তু নেখাবলৈ অনুৰোধ। গাখীৰ, ফল-মূল খাবলৈ কৈছিল। কাৰণ একোজন লোকে সপ্তাহত এসাজকৈ নেখালে বছৰত

এমাহৰ খাদ্য শস্য বাহি কৰিব পাৰে, অৰ্থাৎ সপ্তাহত ৩০ কোটি বয়সীয়া লোকৰ ৩০ কোটি সাজ বাহি হয়। আধা পোৱাকৈ ধৰিলে সপ্তাহত প্ৰায় ৯ লাখ মোন বাহি হ'ব। যদি আমি তেখেতৰ গুণ গান গাওঁ, যদি সঁচাকৈ ভাল পাওঁ, প্ৰদ্বা কৰোঁ—তেনেহলে এইখিনি ক'বা একো টান নহয়। তাকে কৰিবলৈ আমি যত্ন ক'বা উচিত। মই অলপতে হাইদৰাবাদলৈ গৈছিলো। মাদ্ৰাজ আৰু অন্ধ্ৰ প্ৰদেশত প্ৰায় সকলো মানুহে এই দিনটো পালন কৰিছে। এনেকি হোটেল বিলাকত কাচ আৰু ভাত নিদিয়ৈ। আমাৰ অসমৰ লোকেও তেখেতৰ অনুৰোধ বাখি দেশৰ খাদ্য সমস্যা কিছু সমাধান কৰিব বুলি আশা কৰিলো।

এতিয়া খাদ্য সমস্যা সম্বন্ধে অলপ ক'ব খুজিছো। বতৰৰ দুৰ্যোগৰ বাবে খেতি ভাল নহল—সেইটো সঁচা। কিন্তু পঞ্চায়ত আৰু সমবায় বিলাকৰ শিথিলতাও কম দায়ী নহয়। পঞ্চায়তৰ গ্ৰাম সেরক সকলৰ কাম ব'ব শিথিল। পথাৰলৈ যোৱা আৰু সাৰ দিয়াৰ কথা বহুত সদস্যই কৈছে। মই ক'ব খুজিছো লংপেণ্ট পিক্সি পথাৰলৈ যোৱা বা পঞ্চায়তৰ কাম কৰাৰ বাবে কোনো মতে প্ৰেৰণা আহিব নোৱাৰে। কাম কৰাৰ সময়ত হাফ পেণ্ট পিক্সি কৰিব পাৰিলে বোধ হয় পথাৰলৈ যোৱা অভ্যাস কৰিব পৰা যাব। এই বিষয়ে বিবেচনা কৰিব বুলি আশা কৰিলো। সমবায় সমিতি—Service Co-operative প্ৰত্যেক গাঁও পঞ্চায়তত গঠন কৰা হোৱা নাই। খেতিয়কে ধান বিক্ৰী কৰে টকাৰ অভাৱত। Service Co-operative এ টকা দি কিনিব নোৱাৰিলে বেপাৰীৰ ওচৰত বিক্ৰী কৰে। গতিকে প্ৰত্যেক গাঁও পঞ্চায়ত এলেকাত গাঁও পঞ্চায়তৰ তত্ত্বাবধানত একোখন Service Co-operative গঠন কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে। এই Co-operative ক চৰকাৰৰ ফালৰ পৰা যথেষ্ট টকা দিব লাগে যাতে খেতিয়কৰ পৰা ধান কিনাৰ বাহিৰেও খেতিৰ বাবে টকা ধাৰে দিব পাৰে। গাইণ্ডটীয়া মানুহকো ধান কিনিবলৈ Agency দিয়া হৈছে। এইবোৰ লোকে সমবায়ৰ কাৰণে ধান নিকিনি নিজৰ বাবেহে কিনে। সমবায়ৰ শত্ৰু মহাজন সকল। মহাজন সকলে এই Agency লোৱা লোকসকলক টকা পয়ছা দি মহাজনৰ বাবে ধান কিনায়। গতিকে এই গাইণ্ডটীয়া Agency বোৰ তুলি দিব লাগে। প্ৰত্যেক গাঁও পঞ্চায়তত Service Co-operative থাকিলে আৰু এটা সুবিধা আছে। যি অঞ্চলত ধানৰ অনাটন হয়, সেই অঞ্চলৰ Co-operative এ বাহি অঞ্চলৰ পৰা ধান কিনি নি বাহিজক বিক্ৰী কৰিব পাৰে। তেতিয়া smuggling ও বন্ধ হ'ব পাৰে।

দুৰ্নীতি নিবাৰণ সম্বন্ধেও ৰাজ্যপালে উনুকিয়াইছে। যোৱা বছৰত Anti-corruption বিভাগে ১৩৮টা কেচ register কৰিছিল, ১৮৭টা বিচাৰ কৰে আৰু ১৩৭টা ভিত্তিহীন বুলি এৰি দিয়া হয়। ৩৬জন গেজেটেড আৰু ৪৪ জন নন-গেজেটেড কৰ্মচাৰীৰ বিৰুদ্ধে সোপৰ্দ্দ কৰা হয়। Criminal case ৮টাৰ ভিতৰত মাত্ৰ ২ জনক শাস্তি দিয়া হয়। বেচৰকাৰী বা আধা চৰকাৰী লোকৰ বিৰুদ্ধে কোনো কেচ নেপালে। বাতৰি কাগজ, সভা সমিতিত কিমান গোঁচৰ তৰা হয় তথাপিও ৮ টাতকৈ বেচি নেপালে।

স্কুল, কলেজ, সংঘ, সমবায় সমিতিৰ টকা কেনেকৈ খৰছ কৰিছে—ভালকৈ কৰিছে নে চৰি কৰিছে—তাৰ কোনো হিচাব নাই। ফাকি দিয়া (Cheating) আত্মীয় ভোষণ, ভেজাল দিয়া, মজুত কৰণ, ক'লা বজাৰ, ভোট দিয়া, ভোট খোৱা, মাটি অধিগ্ৰহণ কৰা, ঠিকা বিতৰণ কৰা ইত্যাদি ঘটনা কাকতে পত্ৰই প্ৰকাশ পাই আহে, সভা সমিতিয়ে প্ৰস্তাৱ লৈছে; তথাপিও কেচ নোপোৱাটো আচৰিত কথা। মিছা কোৱা, ভোট খোৱা, ফাকি দিয়া, ভেজাল—আদি ইমান বাঢ়িছে যে আমাৰ

বুচিভাগ মানুহৰে যে চৰিত্ৰ নষ্ট হৈছে—তাবেই প্ৰমাণ । আমাৰ জাতীয় চৰিত্ৰত যেনে ধৰিছে । দেখা যায় যেন বাজহ, যোগান, পৰিহৰন, পুলিচ, গড়কাপ্তানী বিভাগত দৰমহা নহলেও কাম কৰা মানুহ ওলাব ।

আজি Police, Anti-corruption, Enforcement Branch, Vigilance Committee আদি বহু দুৰ্নীতি নিবাবণী বিভাগ থকা স্বত্তেও সদায় দুৰ্নীতি বাঢ়িছে গৈছে । ইয়াৰ কাৰণ সেইবিলাক বিভাগতেই দুৰ্নীতি শিপাইছে । গতিকে তেওলোকে কেনেকৈ দুৰ্নীতি দমন কৰিব ? তাৰোপৰি একেবিভাগৰ মানুহৰ বিৰুদ্ধে অনুসন্ধান কৰা টান ; মন্ত্ৰী, হাকিম, বিচাৰপতি বা ওপৰ খাপৰ বিষয়াৰ বিৰুদ্ধে অনুসন্ধান কৰিব নোৱাৰে বা ভয় কৰে—বহুত সময়ত আইনেও বাধা দিয়ে । Anti-corruption ৰ লোকসকল এটা বিভাগৰ তলত কাম কৰা কাৰণে এনে অন্তৰায় ঘটাইছে । সেই কাৰণে এনে এটা অনুষ্ঠান লাগে যি কোনো বিভাগৰ তলত নাথাকে ; আৰু যি মন্ত্ৰী, হাকিম, বিচাৰপতি নিৰ্বিশেষে সকলোৰে অনুসন্ধান কৰিব পাৰে । তেনেকুৱা অনুষ্ঠান Sweden, Norway, Denmark, United Kingdom, Newzealand আদি দেশত আছে । এই অনুষ্ঠানক Ombudsman বুলি কোৱা হয় । এই Ombudsman ৰ মানুহজনক পালিয়ামেণ্টে বাচি দিয়ে—কোনো দলবিশেষৰ নহয়—সকলো সদস্যই বাচি দিয়ে । তেওঁক ৩।৪ বা ৫ বছৰ কামত ৰাখে—কিন্তু কাৰো তলতীয়া নহয়—পালিয়ামেণ্টৰ প্ৰতিনিধি । য'ত আইনৰ বাধাত Anti-corruption সোমাব নোৱাৰে বা আইনৰ ফাকত দুৰ্নীতি কৰে Ombudsman য়ে সেইবিলাক অনুসন্ধান আৰু বিচাৰ কৰিব পাৰে ।

এনে এটা অনুষ্ঠান আমাৰ ইয়াত কৰাটো অত্যন্ত আৱশ্যক হৈ পৰিছে । নহলে জাতীয় চৰিত্ৰ অধঃপতনে যাব ।

চৰকাৰে মিতব্যয়ী কমিটি (Economy Committee) এখন কৰিছে ; সেইটো বৰ ভাল কথা । কিন্তু এই কমিটিয়ে অফিচ বিলাকত কামতকৈ কৰ্মচাৰীৰ সংখ্যা বেচি হৈছে বুলি প্ৰত্যেক অফিচৰ পৰা মানুহ কমাবলৈ উপদেশ দিছে বুলিহে জানিছো । এই কমিটিয়ে অকল মানুহৰ কথাহে চিন্তা কৰিলে ; বিভাগৰ কথা চিন্তা কৰা নাই । হাইদৰাবাদত National Institute of Community Development ত যোৱা ডিচেম্বৰ মাহত এই বিষয়ে এটা গবেষণা হৈছিল “Duplicity and Multiplicity in village level functionaries” । একোটা কাম কৰিবলৈ বেলেগ বেলেগ বিভাগৰ লোকক নিয়োগ কৰাত কৰ্মচাৰীৰ সংখ্যা বাঢ়ি যোৱাত টকাৰ অপব্যয় হোৱা কামৰ নিয়াৰি-শৃঙ্খলা নোহোৱা বিষয়ে আলোচনা হৈছিল—যেনে গ্ৰামসেৱিকা—

গ্ৰামসেৱিকা—১। পঞ্চায়তৰ আছে ।

২। Social Welfare বিভাগৰ আছে ।

৩। ভাৰত সেৱক সমাজৰ আছে ।

৪। সেৱা সমিতি ইত্যাদিৰো আছে ।

কিন্তু কাৰো পৰা ভাল ভাল কাম হোৱা নাই যেতিয়া এজন ৰাখিলেই হয় । তেনেহলত ইমান বিলাক বিভাগৰ পৰা গ্ৰামসেৱিকা নিয়োগ নকৰা ভাল ।

Industrial Officer—১। Development Block ৰ আছে ।

২। চৰকাৰৰ পক্ষৰো আছে ।

যিহেতু গাঁৱত শিল্প কম সেইকাৰণে গাঁৱত Industry ৰ কাম বিভাগীয় লোকেবেই কৰিব পাৰে।

Social Education Officer—১। Development Block ৰ আছে।

২। চৰকাৰী বিভাগৰো আছে।

ইয়াতো বিভাগীয় লোকেবেই কাম কৰিব পাৰি।

গ্রামসেৱকৰ লগত পঞ্চায়তৰ সম্পাদকৰ কামৰ ওতপ্ৰোতভাবে সম্বন্ধ আছে—দুয়োৰে কাম অতি কম আৰু প্ৰায় একে। গতিকে দুয়োটা বিষয় লগলগাই দিব লাগে।

আজিকালি প্ৰত্যেক Block তে B. D. O. এজনকৈ আছে। তেওঁলোকৰ কাম সকলো বিভাগৰ মাজত কামৰ সমন্বয় ঘটোৱা। আমাৰ দেশত আজিকালি কৃষিৰ উৎপাদন বঢ়োৱাৰ চেষ্টা চলিছে—তাব কাৰণে B. D. O. ৰ ওপৰিও Agriculture Graduate একোজন ৰাখিব লগীয়া হৈছে। গতিকে এই দুয়োটা কামৰ কাৰণে সেই B. D. O. জন এজন Agricultural Graduate ৰাখিলে ভাল হব। মধ্যপ্ৰদেশ আৰু মহীশূৰ প্ৰদেশত B.D.O. ৰ পদ উঠাই সেই কামত Agriculture Graduate ৰাখিছে। বিনোৱা ভাৱেই এইটো সমৰ্থন কৰিছে। এনেকৈ একে কাম কৰা বহু বিভাগ আছে, য'ত লোক কমাৰ পাৰি। আশা কৰে, এই বিষয়ে চৰকাৰে চোকা নজৰ দিব।

কিছুমান ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ চাকৰীয়ালক সৰু কামত ৰাখি টকাৰো অপব্যয় কৰা হৈছে। যেনে Pine Wood Hotel চলাবলৈ I. A. S. কৰ্মচাৰী নিয়োগ কৰা হৈছে। ইয়াৰ পৰা ৰাজ্যৰ ক্ষতি হৈছে—সোনকালে তাৰ পৰা I. A. S. Officer গুচাব লাগে।

আমাৰ প্ৰশাসনৰ শিথিলতা সম্বন্ধে এয়াৰ ব'ঙ। সকলো জাতিৰ একোটা জাতীয় গল্প আছে। আমাৰো আছে। বেউলা—চান্দ সদাগৰৰ কথা। এই গল্প সকলোৱে জানে—এটা কথা সদায় মোৰ মনত পৰে—লক্ষীন্দাৰৰ মেঘৰ বহু টকা লৈ মিস্ত্ৰিয়ে সাজিলে—কিন্তু ছিদ্ৰ এটা এবাৰ কাৰণে লক্ষীন্দাৰক সুৰ্গত দংশন কৰিবলৈ সুবিধা পালে আৰু কৰিলে। বেউলাই দুখতে চান্দ সদাগৰৰ কৰ্মচাৰীক শাপ দিয়াৰ দৰে কৈছিল “আপোনাৰ মিস্ত্ৰি আৰু কৰ্মচাৰীয়ে মোৰ যৌবনৰ সংসাৰ ধ্বংস কৰিলে—মিস্ত্ৰি আৰু কৰ্মচাৰীয়ে কাম কোনো দিনে শেষ কৰিব নোৱাৰিব—শাপ মাৰিলেও শাপৰ লেজত জীৱ ৰ'ব।” সেই শাপ বৈ গ'ল।

আমাৰ কৰ্মচাৰীৰো সেয়ে হৈছে। কোনো কাম শেষ কৰিব নোৱাৰে শিথিলতাৰ বাবে—কৰ্মচাৰীসকলে আগলৈ চায়, কি হ'ল বুলি পিচলৈ নাচায়। ফলত ৰাইজৰ হাহাকাৰ—আৰু চৰকাৰক দিয়ে গালি শপনি। ৰিপোৰ্ট বা অনুসন্ধান কৰাত কি হৈছে চাওক। (হাঁহি)

বাৰু মই কেইটামান উদাহৰণ দিওঁ—

(ক) ১৯৬৩ চনত বনবিভাগত কি ঘটিল?

(১) ১৯৬৩ চনৰ নভেম্বৰ মাহত, ভ্ৰমদুৱাৰ বনৰ **Inspection Bungalow** ৰ চাকিদাৰে কাম কৰোঁতে পানীত পৰি মৰিল—বিভাগে কি কৰা উচিত বিবেচনা নকৰিলে আৰু আজিলৈ কোনো ক্ষতিপূৰণ নাই।

(২) ১৯৬৫ চনৰ ৮ নভেম্বৰত, চানফাল বেঞ্জৰ আঠিয়াবাৰী বিটৰ **Forest Guard** ৬ম নোবৰঞ্জান বৰ্মানক চোৰে কাটি শেষ কৰিলে—বিভাগে পিচত খবৰ নললে। ক্ষতিপূৰণ আজিলৈ নাই।

(৩) বোৱনীখাটা বেঞ্জৰ বৰভাদ্ৰি বিটৰ ৬প্ৰয়োগ কুমাৰ দেৱ ১৯৬৫ চনৰ নভেম্বৰত চোৰ ধৰোঁতে চোৰে হত্যা কৰিলে—অনুসন্ধান কৰা নহ'ল—ক্ষতিপূৰণ নাই।

(খ) গড়কাপ্তানী বিভাগ—

(১) আজি ১১ বছৰ পিচতো টিহু—শোলমাৰা বাস্তাটো শেষ কৰিব পৰা নাই।

(২) ১২ বছৰ পিচতো টিহু—অখোৰা বাস্তাৰ মৰা পাগলা দিয়া নদীৰ ওপৰত দলং নহ'ল।

(৩) ১২ বছৰ পিচতো কৰ্দেগুৰী—বামাখাটা—বৰমা বাস্তা টিহু নদীৰ দলং কৰিব নোৱাৰিলে।

(৪) বাঘমাৰাৰ ওপৰৰ কঠালমুৰী ঘাটৰ দলং ৮ বছৰ হৈ নুঠিল।

(৫) ১৪ বছৰ পিচতো **Dr. Jingram Road** ৰ খামুঠাৰ দলং নহ'ল।

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): সকলো ঠাইতে যে দলং দিব লাগিব তাৰ মানে নাই। নাৱেৰেও পাৰ হয়।

Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY: কিন্তু সেইবোৰ ঠাইত দলং দিয়াৰহে কথা আছিল। কিছুমান ঠাইত নাও নাই, কিছুমানত মাজে মাজে নাও থাকে।

(গ) জলসিঞ্চন—

(১) ময়নাজান **Sluice gate** নতুনকৈ বন্ধা সম্বন্ধে ৫ বছৰেও অনুসন্ধান শেষ নহ'ল।

(২) কৈঠালকুছি ষ্টেচনৰ উত্তৰে কালাইফুঙা জানৰ বান্দৰ অনুসন্ধান ৫ বছৰে শেষ নহ'ল।

Mr. SPEAKER: এইবিলাক ক'ৰ পৰা লেখিছে?

Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY:

(১) পাটীছাৰকুছি বামপুৰ **Road-cum-embankment** ৰ কাম ৩ বছৰৰ ভিতৰত মাত্ৰ ১ মাইলতকৈ অধিক আগবাঢ়িব নোৱাৰিলে।

স্কুল বিভাগ—কিছুমান স্কুলক Class VIII লৈ অনুমোদন দিয়া হ'ল কিন্তু 81৫ বছৰ পাচলৈ Class IX, X ব অনুমোদন দিয়া নহয়।

পঞ্চায়ত—গাঁও সভাৰ ঘৰ বিলাকৰ Frame সাজিবলৈ দিলে দুবছৰ আগতে—Frame হ'ল, কিন্তু টিন পাত যে দিব লাগে সেইটো মনত নাই। সেই-কাৰণে Frame পটি গ'ল। ব্লক হেড কোৱাৰ্টাৰৰ স্থান নিৰ্বাচন সম্পৰ্কে এতিয়াও চৰকাৰে প্ৰথম আৰু দ্বিতীয় Stage শেষ হবৰ সময়লৈকে স্থান নিৰ্ণয় কৰিব নোৱাৰিলে।

ডাক্তৰি বিভাগ—Subsidised Dispensary and State Dispensary চৰকাৰে মঞ্জুৰ কৰিলেহে কৰিলে কিন্তু ঔষধ, ঘৰ, আৰু ডাক্তৰ দিয়াৰ কথা ভবা নাই। Sir, আধা কৰা কাম নকৰা সমান। কাম বিলাক শেষ কৰিব পৰা কিবা উপায় কৰিব পাৰিলে ভাল হয়।

নিবনুৱা সমস্যা—এই সম্বন্ধে ৰাজ্যপালে একো কোৱা নাই যদিও এইটো আমাৰ এটা প্ৰধান সমস্যা। নিবনুৱা সমস্যা দিনে দিনে বাঢ়ি গৈছে। ফলত ভিক্ষাৰীৰ সংখ্যা বাঢ়ি গৈছে। শিক্ষিত ভিক্ষাৰীৰ সংখ্যাও বাঢ়িছে। ১৯৬৫ চনৰ জুলাই এই এবছৰৰ ভিতৰত—

নিবনুৱা—৯৪৫৩২

নিয়োগ— ৭৮৪০

Under Matric নিবনুৱাৰ সংখ্যা.... ২১,৩৪৫

Matric নিবনুৱাৰ সংখ্যা.... ৭৮০১

নিবনুৱাৰ সংখ্যা.... ৬০৯
Intermediate নিবনুৱাৰ সংখ্যা ১৮৭২

Graduate নিবনুৱাৰ সংখ্যা.... ৬০৯

অসম State ৰ নিবনুৱাৰ সংখ্যা—

১৯৬০ চনত—২৯৮১৬

১৯৬১ চনত—৩১,৫০০

১৯৬২ চনত—৪৭,৪৭৩

১৯৬৩ চনত—৫১,৩৪৬

১৯৬৪ চনত—৫১,৭৪২

এই সমস্যাৰ সমাধানৰ বাবে চৰকাৰে কি ব্যৱস্থা লৈছে মই অলপ পঢ়ি দিওঁ—

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) :
এইখিনি ক'ব পৰা পঢ়িছে ?

Dr, HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY: মোৰ এটা প্ৰশ্নৰ
উত্তৰ—বিভাগে দিছিল—

(ক) অসমত শিল্প বাঢ়িছে কিন্তু প্ৰায়বোৰ বিদেশীৰ, মানে অনা-অসমীয়াৰ; তাত অসমীয়াৰ স্থান নাই। এই শিল্পানুষ্ঠান বিলাকত স্থানীয় লোক লোৱা নহয়, বিহাৰ, পাঞ্জাব, কেবেলাৰ পৰা লোৱা হয়।

(খ) Apprentice-ship training scheme এটা industry বিভাগৰ পৰা খুলিছে। মই এই scheme বৰ ভাল পাইছোঁ; সমৰ্থন কৰিছোঁ। মই আৰু বন্ধু শ্ৰীশিব শৰ্মা M.L.A. ডাঙৰীয়াই ইয়াৰ সুবিধা গ্ৰহণ কৰিছে। মই প্ৰায় ১০০ জন লোক এই training লৈ পঠাইছোঁ। apprentice-ship training ত চৰকাৰৰ পৰা বৃত্তি দিয়া স্বত্বেও training দিবলৈ এই শিল্পানুষ্ঠান বিলাকত মানুহ নলয়। Training পোৱাৰ পিচতো এই বিলাকত নলয়। মই এই বিষয়ে Director of Industry ক কৈছিলো কিন্তু তেওঁ এই ক্ষেত্ৰত একো কৰিব নোৱাৰি বুলি কলে।

(গ) তাৰোপৰি বহু কোম্পানী আৰু কোম্পানীৰ এজেন্সী আছে কিন্তু এই বিলাকতো আমাৰ মানুহ নলয়। সেই কাৰণে জাতি এটাক বন্ধা কৰিবলৈ এনে এখন আইন কৰিব লাগে যাতে অন্ততঃ ৫০./ মানুহ অসমীয়া হয়।

নিবনুৱা সমস্যা সমাধানৰ বাবে আৰু দুটা পৰামৰ্শ আগবঢ়াব খোজোঁ। প্ৰথমটো হৈছে কৃষিৰ বাবে land army গঠন কৰিব লাগে। আৰু দ্বিতীয়টো হৈছে চাকৰিয়ালৰ অৱসৰ বয়স কমাব লাগে।

Land army গঠন কৰি পতিত মাটিত উন্নত ধৰণৰ খেতি কৰিবলৈ দিব লাগে। ইয়াকে কৰিলে নিবনুৱা সমস্যা সমাধানৰ ওপৰিও কৃষিৰ উৎপন্ন বৃদ্ধি হব।

বেচি বয়স হলে চাকৰিয়াল সকলৰ ধৈৰ্য আৰু একাগ্ৰতা কমি আহে আৰু নতুন পদ্ধতি বিলাক গ্ৰহণ কৰিবলৈ টান পায়। গতিকে কামত লেহেম হয়। সোনকালে অৱসৰ দিলে নতুন মানুহ কামত সোমাব পাৰে। আৰু নতুন প্ৰথা গ্ৰহণ কৰি কৃষি বৃদ্ধি কৰাত সহায় হব আৰু ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰা নিবনুৱা সমস্যাও কিছু সমাধান হব। ইয়াকে কৈ মোৰ বক্তব্যৰ সামৰণি মাৰিলো।

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB (Kokrajhar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the motion moved by the hon. Friend, Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami. Sir, in view of the fact that there are many hon. Members who want to speak and also in view of the fact that almost all the points have been discussed, I won't take much time of the House. I will discuss only one point and a few others in the context of the conditions obtaining in my district.

Sir, the Governor in his speech has mentioned that the Government is concerned about the welfare of the people and holds out a hope that the administrative reforms will be done to make the administrative machinery perfect by giving proper training, etc, etc. Now, Sir what have we heard in the speeches of the hon. Members? We find that so far this inefficiency and consequent corruption and other things remain. All the hon. Members have spoken about that and some of them have gone to

the extent of saying that every official is corrupt and one member prescribed that there should be some law legalising the amount of bribery. But, Sir, anyway, the Governor holds out a hope that something will be done after the completion of the report of the Administrative Reforms Committee. Sir, this is not a new thing. As early as 1957, in this very House, a resolution was moved by the Opposition Member and Government by that time opposed the idea of constituting a Committee to go into the details of inefficiency and corruption. The then Finance Minister who replied on behalf of the Government, said that there is no necessity of a new Committee to go into the details of corruption and other things. He quoted a number of reports of different Committees which were available with the Government. He referred to the Bercal Administrative Enquiry Committee Report, the Government of India Officers' Shortage Committee Report, the Government of India Administrative Machinery Committee Report, the Economy Committee Report, the Hyderabad Committee Report and he also said that Assam has already constituted a Central Organisation and Methods Division and had sent out questionnaire to all Subdivisional Officers and Deputy Commissioners to give their suggestions how to improve the administrative machinery. But, Sir, unfortunately, after eight years we hear again the same thing being repeated. That means Government being very much alive to the welfare of the people have constituted a Committee, namely, the Administrative Reforms Committee and training centres and other things which were supposed to have been done long ago. Sir, the Committee and reports themselves do not contribute much to the eradication of evils of corruption. The Finance Minister of the time also said that what was necessary was the determination to implement those recommendations available at that time. He quoted the Gorwala report, a copy of which I have also got here.

Now, quoting all these reports available to the State and the Central Government, Shri A. D. Gorwala said that all these reports contain valuable recommendations regarding the action to be taken. "They tell us what to do and what they tell us to do is for the most part worth doing." "The broad trends of reforms recommended are similar with a few exceptions sometimes but not always relatable to local conditions. Broadly speaking, it would appear that what has to be done is known and in some cases has been begun but the general defect is that action over the whole field has not been taken and pursued with vigour and determination." And the same report says—"The shortfall in administrative efficiency may be compared to the shortage in food. It is a problem of similar gravity, dimension and public import." Now again, regarding corruption, it is really not a happy affair to see that things today in 1966 are going on as before. In another report it is said that "because of such corruption in the administration, there is dilution of responsibility through various stages of delegation of powers unassociated with local opinion and there is constant possibility of the emergence of privileged groups; power tends to concentrate in a few hands and remain there." If we go through these reports we find that it is not the government officers alone that should be blamed but there are other factors which contribute to the growth of this evil. There are political parties and power politics which tend to bring corruption. "They can be eliminated only by constant and intelligent vigilance on the part of the citizens" as Shri A. D. Gorwala says. That is what is not happening. We start implementing a report, but the defect is that action over the whole field is not taken with vigour and gradually in the passage of time we forget it.

Sir, I cannot conclude this point better than by quoting Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy who said—"Whatever rules and procedures there may be, the attitude of the officers must impress upon the people that they are honest and righteous men and they have the spirit of service and they feel that it is their duty to serve the people." We must impress upon our people also about that. The Government officers under the British rule felt that they were the masters of the administration, but we cannot do so; our officers should know that our Government is not a foreign government. It is our own government; our officers should feel that they are working for the welfare of the people and they are the servants of the people.

Now, Sir, I would like to say a few words with regard to the conditions of my district. Sir, so far as the district of Goalpara is concerned, we have scarcity of essential commodities like mustard oil, sugar, pulses and lastly rice and paddy. Sir, at the time when paddy was selling at Barpeta at Rs. 14 per maund, it was sold at Rs. 45 on the other side of the district, i. e. in Goalpara, due to restriction of movement of rice from one district to another. Sir, due to Quit India Notice many of the Muslims have become panicky and they have stopped ploughing their lands. As a result, I am afraid, the next paddy will be worse than last year. On 25th December 1965 there was a conference with the Chief Minister at Dhubri of all the local M.L.As, M.Ps. and local officers. In that meeting we have pointed out the difficulties of our district to the Chief Minister and we made certain suggestions also. One of the points discussed was about Ahu paddy seeds. The Chief Minister was pleased to note all the points we raised. As regards Ahu paddy we have very little Ahu paddy this year and the price has gone up to Rs. 50 per maund. Moreover, seed is not available. The price of the seed is very high and it will be too much for our poor cultivator to manage. Sir, I request the hon. Chief Minister to take note of it and to see if some paddy seeds can be made available to our poor cultivators from the Government godowns. Sir, the people of Goalpara are very backward not only in literacy but in many aspects. Sir, the district of Goalpara is a border district—Pakistan is on the West and China is on the North. So, we have got many borders with foreign States. Luckily, due to Taskent talk, aggression in the West from Pakistan has stopped. We may be safe for the time being. But something may crop up any time.

Then with regard to China, Bhutan is not a very strong State to resist if it is attacked. Goalpara being in the forefront, its people must have very high morale as high morale is the foundation of courage and bravery. So we must see that some measures are taken up in this district for the upliftment of education of its masses and for bettering the condition of supply and such other things. The Governor mentioned about area development schemes but I do not know why such schemes cannot be introduced in the Goalpara district. There have been industrial schemes both in private and public sectors in all other districts but we do not hear of any such scheme of Government for the district of Goalpara.

Then, Sir, we are very pleased to know that we are going to have a second University in Assam but I do not know on what grounds the present place has been selected for this purpose and I do not know why Goalpara should not have been selected for this purpose.

Then regarding dispensaries. We have some dispensaries in our district but some of them are nothing more than medical in name. We have some dispensaries. Where there are no doctors, there is no medicine for patients either. But this is more or less a general cry all over the State. I can particularly name three places in my district where there are no patients but only dispensary buildings which do not justify such expenses in those places.

Sir, when the Governor mentioned about flood control and the Agriculture Minister spoke about measures taken in this regard. In reply to the debate I expected that the Minister would speak about Champamati river which is causing great havoc to its neighbouring people. For the control of flood in Champamati a bund was put and as a result water flowed through the silted bed creating great havoc on either of this bund, resulting in great loss to the villagers.

(The Chairman rang the bell).

Mr. Chairman, could you kindly allow me to speak for another two minutes?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry.

Mr. Hopingstone Lyngdoh.

Shri HOPINGSTONE LYGDOH (Nongstoin, Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): Mr. Chairman, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to take part in this debate on the Governor's Address to this August House and on the motion of amendment moved in this connection.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Governor has made a formal Address before the House. I do not want to say much on this but what I want to say is on the broad policies of the Government which have been referred to in his Address. Sir, first of all, I draw the attention of this House to the food crisis in the country. We have seen and we have heard that our country is facing a great problem of food shortage. I do not want to repeat what some of my hon. friends, both from ruling party and opposition, have spoken on this food crisis but I want to refer to some incidents here in our district and especially, in my areas which I represent. Mr. Chairman, the Government have adopted the grow-more-food policy and set out a food production campaign in the country and it seems such a campaign has been extensively carried on in this district, but the campaign is being defeated by the land policy of the Government. Our district physically is not so much different from other hill districts and here there are only a few low lands where people can carry on wet cultivation and it is very difficult to have plain land for wet cultivation in order to grow paddy and other cereals, but Sir, the policy of the Government in this respect is very discouraging. It is surprising to say that when the country is facing food crisis and food shortage Government is embarking on policies by which lands fit for agricultural purposes have been acquired for some other purposes, such as, electricity, residents and so on. An area which is not far from here, anybody can see it tomorrow or today, i.e., the Umroi Valley where Bhoi people are living and cultivated paddy and even supplied the same to feed the people of Shillong and who are in a precarious position—helpless condition after the main dam has been constructed as a huge area of cultivable land has been

submerged under water and nothing has been left for agricultural purposes and nothing has been arranged for irrigation from the project. The more surprising thing is, Sir, besides this calamity to the people of that area, the Government has announced to acquire on the other side of this Valley another huge area of cultivable land for construction of residential quarters for the border security force. Sir, Umiam Valley is the gift to the Bhoi people for cultivation.

But I wonder, Sir, during the food campaign why this force should be placed there and not in the border areas and why not acquire land which is not fit for cultivation? It is very very unfortunate to say that Government adopt one policy but implement the other thing. The Bhoi people are now crying and I do not want that any revolution should arise out of this policy of Government. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have just referred to some other matter and that is—the Government is intending to extend electricity which according to the Governor's speech—the electricity which has been generated by two or three projects has been able to supply outside the State. It is unfortunate to hear that Assam Electricity Board has decided to extend electricity by submerging some more cultivated lands and Government is also helping to do that for the purpose to acquire those lands. Sir, this morning people came and told me that survey people were coming and roaming in their gardens and also entered even to their kitchens. The Mawkriah people came and told me about this. They said the Electricity people have gone to the Myllem area, Mawkriah area and Sadew area. They are trying to get the project established there in the Myllem State and they are disturbing the cultivated paddy fields. These areas produce food, crops and grains considerably and stabilise food supply during the period of food shortage. From this area people produce paddy, potatoes, maize and various kinds of vegetables. They are carrying intensive cultivation, adopting the modern method with the use of fertilizers. These places are on the road side of Shillong-Cherra and Shillong-Mawngap where people coming from the south and from the whole western side can see them serving as model or demonstration farm. It helps other people for adopting new process of cultivation. But now these people are being disturbed at a time while they are ploughing and sowing seeds in the fields.

I also want to refer to some other matter in my constituency. Some Survey people, I do not know, but I have received report that the people have been disturbed when they are working in their fields. The people of Rangshken came to me yesterday to ask me why they have been disturbed by those unknown people when they are busy in their fields. I have been reported that the land boundary pillars were destroyed and used for making tents of those survey people (according to reports and complaints). They have disturbed the whole western area where thousands of people are living. I do not know why at the moment of production campaign nothing has been done for the agricultural development of the area but while cultivators are busy in the fields, they are being disturbed by such careless personnel if they are surveyors at all. I am afraid, Sir, if things go on like this the situation will be very very critical. Although, we have been trying always to convince the people about their co-operation in Government's efforts they are now feeling something against the wishes of the Government itself. Government has laid great importance on national integration but it is reported that in Mawdoh area the Survey people are cutting down forest trees where people perform religious ceremonies and now with this incident the religious right of the Khasi is being threatened. I am sorry that I had to

refer to so many things which are not nice to the ears of the Government doing this so called great emergency. Sir, my time is short and I would like to refer to another matter ; and that is about the indiscipline amongst the Government officials in dealing with their respective matters and also matters of administration. Last time when I came here on the 25th and 26th January after my touring into the interiors, I saw a motor accident at a place 2 miles from Boko. There the people were lying right and left of the road from Hahim and crying for help. The bazar bus tumbled down in the field and I saw the unfortunate people. At that moment I ran to the Boko Police Station to tell them to go to help the people, but the Police Officer told me—why should the Police go there ; the people should come to them with a report in writing. It seems that these officers have no responsibility and it is not their duty to help those people. I told them, to the Police, that they may take any vehicle in their jurisdiction to go there and help the dying people. I ran to the Health unit and told the Doctor, Nurses and the Compounder to rush to the place with some first-aid medicine, bandage, etc., but in reply they told that the wounded people should be brought to the hospital. It is very unfortunate to note that in the emergency time Doctors, Nurses and Police Officers do not realise their responsibility even to help people meeting with road accidents like this.

Shri EMERSON MOMIN (Tura, Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the first instance I would thank hon. Member Shri Goswami for bringing the motion of thanks to the Governor's Address. I would also like to thank the other hon. Members who spoke on behalf of the Hill people and about their upliftment. I would particularly mention the name of Shri P. K. Choudhury who made mention of the backward Garo people living in his constituency. Sir, I want to say here for the information of the August House that the geographical position of the Garo Hills is known to all, but I am afraid details of the district are not known to many. The Governor could not give the detailed information of the district in his short speech. I would now speak a few words on the following : roads, medical, agriculture, education, general administration and supplies, and industries.

The Government proposed to construct roads on top priority basis on the border areas but it has failed. In the last two years the road construction in the Garo Hills district has not been as expected. The reasons are known to us. Last month in a meeting of the officers presided over by D. G., the Executive Engineer, said that the bottleneck is there, in not having adequate grants for the construction of roads. Surely, if grants are not forthcoming sufficiently the construction could not be made in scheduled time. It is hoped that this time enough grants would be provided. The road from Baghmara to Nangal Bibra was taken up since 5/6 years but every time when questioned about the completion of the road the reply is that due to infestation of wild elephants the road could not be completed. Also another road, the Manikchar road to Mahendraganj and Moheskhola, is also not complete. Government, I hope, will kindly look into this very important work. Shri Tarlok Singh, a Member of the Planning Commission has been visiting Garo Hills recently, and I hope he will be able to properly assess the real necessities of the district.

I now come to the medical aid to the people of the district. The Medical Minister has been visiting the district, Tura and other places very often. It can be understood that he must have been well acquainted with all

the places and their special needs. During the last four years four hospitals with staff quarters were constructed. They are so long without even a Chowkidar. It is learnt that last year about four months back Chowkidars were appointed. But they are still without any doctor or compounder to give relief to the ailing people. If dearth of doctors is the problem then at least compounders could be appointed to serve the people with common ailments. If qualified compounders are also wanting then retired compounders may be appointed on contract basis. If Minister wants I could give the names of some willing retired compounders for employment. The Tura Civil Hospital is too much congested. There was a proposal to shift the present hospital to a newly selected site. It is the desire of the public that the shifting be effected soon. The Medical Minister knows that the kitchen where food is cooked for the patients is just close to the T. B. hospital and the morgue is on the southern side and there is a one foot-path to carry dead bodies to that morgue. The path passes the kitchen, the maternity ward and the T. B. ward. It is unsanitary to carry dead bodies through this foot-path. If the shifting of the hospital is not possible at an early date then a new foot-path should be constructed through the outskirts of the hospital compound just evading the passing through the different wards mentioned above.

I am speaking now about the agriculture. It is encouraging that all available flat lands are being converted into wet-cultivation lands. If proper irrigation facilities could be provided to these newly reclaimed lands then the 'Grow More Food Campaign' can be expected to prosper. Further so many other dry lands require water. People themselves are trying to irrigate their lands by constructing dams to take water to their fields, but sometimes they fail. In such cases they look for some help from the Government, but it is a sad thing that they do not get any help. Another most important thing for the farmers is the supply of plough. Cattle-lifting is still going on in the border areas and these farmers are incapable of purchasing cattle for ploughing their lands. I would, therefore, request the Government to give liberal help to these farmers to buy plough cattle with which alone they would be able to start their cultivation this year. Last year they somehow could do some cultivation by hiring cattle from the neighbouring places like Mankachar and Kakripara in the Goalpara district. But this may not help this year. Paddy seeds of Ahu and Sali also will be required by these farmers. Fertilisers may kindly be introduced among the farmers of the border areas.

Sir, in the matter of education I draw the kind attention of the Education Minister to give liberal aids to the educational institutions of the Garo Hills—Venture M. E. Schools, L. P. Schools and High Schools.

Sir, in the matter of education, though I am saying this in later portion, the Education Minister knew it very well that more liberal help is necessary in the district of Garo Hills with the grants of money for maintaining schools, the State managed schools as well as the Venture Schools. There was a proposal for opening a Normal School in Tura, but we are sorry that we have not heard any more of its being established. I hope the scheme is not thrown out and soon it will be brought to action. It was learnt that some thousands of money have been sanctioned for the purpose but we do not know any more what has happened to it. There was a proposal that the Tura College will be taken over by the Government; therefore may I request the Government that the College be taken over by the

Education Department this year? It is also requested that more grants may kindly be allotted for maintaining Venture Schools of L. P. and M. E. standard in the district of Garo Hills also. There was also proposal for constructing a hostel of hundred seats for boys to be adjusted with the Multipurpose High School of Tura, but sad to mention that no construction has been started up till now. With this important suggestion I would again say that I am grateful to the Governor for delivering his speech on behalf of his Government. Yet I am to add that at page three the Governor has mentioned the Village Defence Parties. It is indeed true that the Defence Parties are useful organizations. And they are useful in maintaining peace in the village. But what I would say here is this—that nominal grant of Rs. 10 per defence organisation is very inadequate. It must be raised to Rs. 30 for necessary expenses. Sir, I had more points but as there is no time, I conclude.

Adjournment

The Assembly then adjourned till 10 A. M. on Monday, the 28th February, 1966.

Shillong,

The 25th June, 1966. }

R. C. CHAUDHURI,

Secretary,

Legislative Assembly, Assam.