

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at
10 A. M. on Thursday the 30th August, 1956.

PRESENT

Shri Kuladhar Chaliha, B. L., Speaker, in the Chair, eight
Ministers, the four Deputy Ministers, and sixty-five Members.

Panel of Chairmen

Mr. SPEAKER : The following Members will form the
Panel of Chairmen for the present Session, 1956 :—

1. Shri Sarveswar Barua,
2. M. Moinul Haque Choudhury,
3. Shri Pratap Chandra Sarma, and
4. Shri Ranendra Mohan Das.

**Announcement by the Speaker of the number of days
allotted by him for Private Members' Business**

Mr. SPEAKER : In pursuance of Rule 22 of the Assam
Legislative Assembly Rules, I hereby allot, in consultation with
the Leader of the House, the following days for Private
Members' Business during the current Session of the Assam
Legislative Assembly :—

1st September, Saturday	} Motions and Resolutions.
10th September, Monday	

30th August, Thursday

31st August, Friday

3rd September, Monday

5th September, Wednesday

7th September, Friday

8th September, Saturday

Motions and Resolutions (if
time permits after disposal
of Government Business for
those days).

Statement by the Leader of the House about the course of Government Business

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): With your permission, Sir, I desire to make a statement about the course of Government business during the current Session.

2. The Government business which is to be taken up today and tomorrow is shown in the agenda which has been placed on each Member's table. I need not detail them again. If the motions for consideration of the Bills mentioned in the agenda are accepted by the House on any of these days, we propose to have these Bills considered clause by clause and then passed on the 5th and 7th September.

3. On the 3rd September, we propose to take up the following Government business :—

(i) Discussion, if any, of demands for excess expenditure charged upon the Consolidated Fund of the State for 1950-51.

(ii) Voting on Demands for Excess Grants for 1950-51.

4. On the 4th September, we also propose to take up the following Government business :—

(i) Discussion, if any, of Supplementary Statement of Expenditure charged upon the Consolidated Fund of the State for 1956-57.

(ii) Voting on Demands for Supplementary Grants for 1956-57.

5. On the 5th and 7th September, we also propose to introduce the (Assam Appropriation No. III) Bill, 1956 and the Assam (Appropriation No. IV) Bill, 1956 and then to move for

their consideration and passing. In addition to these, it is also proposed to take up the following Government Resolutions on those days :—

- (1) Resolution for Appropriation of Grants under “50—Civil Works (Excluding Establishment and Tools and Plants)”.
- (2) Resolution for Appropriation of Grants under “81—Capital Accounts of Civil Works outside the Revenue Accounts”.

6. Any Government business which remains unfinished on previous days will be taken up on the 8th September.

The Committee on Petitions

Mr. SPEAKER : Under Rule 84(1) of the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules, I nominate the following Members to constitute a Committee on Petitions relating to Bills for the current Session of the Assembly, 1956 :—

1. M. Moinul Haque Choudhury,
2. Mr. Maham Singh,
3. Shri Kamala Prasad Agarwala,
4. Shri Sashadhar Ghosh, and
5. Shri Rajendra Nath Barua, Deputy Speaker, who under the rule will be the Chairman of the Committee.

The House Committee

Mr. SPEAKER : Under Rule 167 of the Assembly Rules, I nominate the following Members to constitute a House Committee for the Autumn Session of the Assembly, 1956 :—

1. Shri Sarveswar Barua,
2. Shri Bijoy Chandra Bhagavati,
3. Shri Purandar Sarma,
4. Shri Hareswar Goswami,

5. Sriman Prafulla Goswami, and
6. Shri Dharanidhar Basumatari.

The Committee of Privileges

Mr. SPEAKER : Under Rule 139(i) of the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules, I hereby nominate the following Members to constitute a Committee of Privileges for the current Session :—

1. Shri Purandar Sarma,
2. Shri Mahendra Hazarika,
3. Shri Bijoy Chandra Bhagavati,
4. Shri Hem Chandra Chakravarty,
5. Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya,
6. Shri Ramesh Chandra Borooah, and
7. Shri Rajendra Nath Barua, Deputy Speaker, who under the rule will be the Chairman of the Committee.

Message from the Governor regarding Assent to Bills

Mr. SPEAKER : Information has been received from the Secretary, Legislative Department that, under the provisions of Article 201 of the Constitution of India, the President has assented to the following Bill which was passed by the Assam Legislative Assembly at its meetings held in the Budget 1956 Session.

1. The Assam (Sales of Petroleum and Petroleum Products, including Motor Spirit and Lubricants) Taxation Bill, 1956.

2. Information has also been received from the Secretary, Legislative Department that, the Governor of Assam has also assented under the provisions of Article 200 of the Constitution of India, the following Bills which were passed by the Assam Legislative Assembly at its meetings held in the Budget, 1956 Session :—

1. The Assam Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 1956.
2. The Assam Appropriation (No. II) Bill, 1956.

3. The Assam Deputy Speaker's Salaries and Allowances Bill, 1956.

4. The Assam Finance Bill, 1956.

5. The Assam Finance (Sales Tax) Bill, 1956.

6. The Prisons (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1956.

7. The Assam Liquor Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 1956.

8. The Industrial Dispute (Appellate Tribunal) (Extension to the Assam Autonomous Districts) Bill, 1956.

9. The Assam Aid to Industries (Small and Cottage Industries, (Amendment) Bill, 1956.

Point of order raised by Maulavi Md. Umaruddin for non-receipt of Bills

Maulavi Md. UMARUDDIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a point in this connection. So far as the item Nos. 13 to 21 are concerned, they refer to the introduction of certain Bills which are due to be moved today for their consideration. The copies of those Bills have been made available to us only today, but under the rule they should have been made available to us at least 7 days earlier. This principle has not been observed and as a result a difficulty has arisen that we have not been able to go into the implications of those Bills. It is desirable for the Government at least to move the Motion for consideration of those Bills on some other day so that the Members may get the opportunity of studying those Bills, and I do not think that the programme of this Session will be upset if this opportunity is given to us.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Sir, in support of Mr. Umaruddin I would also like to say that some of the Bills have just been received and they are lying on the table and so it will be very difficult for the Members to do justice to many of those Bills. I have just now received copy of the Municipal Bill which is lying here on the table. It has come out from the Select Committee and is a very big Bill and contains many important provisions. We find in the agenda of today that other Bills like Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) (Assam Amendment) Bill, Assam Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, etc., have come under today's business for consideration, though copies of those Bills were not sent to us earlier. Secondly, Sir,

even copies of other Bills which have come under today's business for consideration, were sent to us only 4 days back and thus the requisite number of days to which the Members are entitled has not been given to them. My request is that as we find that the business of today may not take much time, the Members may be given time to go through the Bills and discuss them fully. The Minister concerned can move the Bills today but the consideration can be taken up later.

Mr. SPEAKER: As the Bills are taken up one by one you can raise your objection then and not at this stage.

**Statement made by the Leader of the House about the
Hartal held in connection with location of Oil Refinery
in Assam**

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to make a Statement of facts and place certain important developments before this Honourable House in connection with the Hartal that was sponsored on the 28th August, with a view to indicate that there was no justification for a Hartal on the 28th; and why this so called peaceful Hartal was organised by all the leftist political parties and how it degenerated into various offences and crimes involving violence and breach of peace so that the hon. Members of this House as well as the public outside may have a clear picture as to why this Hartal was staged and may draw their own conclusions and inferences.

As soon as I learnt that an Action Committee was formed at Gauhati for the purpose of organising a Hartal, I contacted Shri Hareswar Goswami, Leader of the Opposition who was the Chairman of the Action Committee, on the night of 25th August over the 'phone and requested him to call off the Hartal as there was no proposal under consideration of the Government of India for not establishing the Oil Refinery in Assam. I also told him that I would like to meet him and also those who proposed to organise this Hartal and discuss matters with them and take them into confidence and disclose the substance of the correspondence that passed between me and the Prime Minister and Shri Malavyaji.

Immediately on my arrival at Gauhati on the 26th, I contacted Shri Hareswar Goswami and told him that I would be glad to meet him and other members of the Action Committee at 4-30 p.m. The Chairman and 6 or 7 other members

of the so called Action Committee sponsoring the Hartal met me at about 8 p.m. I explained to them that the Government of India including the Prime Minister and the Minister for Natural Resources were fully sympathetic towards Assam's demand that the proposed Oil Refinery should be located within the State, and that the Government of India had been considering the question of location of the Refinery from the angle that it should be established in Assam, and that Shri Malavyaji, Union Minister for Natural Resources, was also of the same view. I also disclosed to them that Shri Malavyaji in reply to my letter had definitely declared that the news item published in the Press that the Refinery should be located in Calcutta was baseless. He further stated that Assam Oil Company's advice to locate the proposed Refinery at Calcutta had not been accepted by the Government of India. The proposed Oil Refinery would be under complete control of the Government and the Government of India have been considering the question of location of the proposed Refinery from the angle that it should be established in Assam. No one had presumed that the Refinery should not be in Assam. Moreover, Shri Malavyaji is not aware of any other man who is trying more than himself to have the Refinery in Assam. Besides this, he told me that the Government of India would consult the Assam Government before coming to a final decision in this matter. I also informed them that Shri Malavyaji was coming to Gauhati on the 27th August and would discuss the matters with the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee and other public representatives including the members of the Action Committee who wanted to submit a memorandum before him.

Under these circumstances, I appealed to the Chairman and members of the Action Committee to withdraw the Hartal as I felt that it was not justified and was uncalled for and the staging of such a Hartal at this stage, on the wrong assumption that there was a move of the Union Government to establish the refinery outside the State in conjunction with the Assam Oil Company, might be very much against the interest of Assam and might prove detrimental to the very cause for fulfilment of which we are all striving. I tried to impress on them that such an action might prejudice the very interest for which the organisers wanted to stage the demonstration. This was the purport of the discussion that I had with the Chairman and the members of the so called Action Committee; I am only giving the substance of the discussion. I appealed to them and other political parties who proposed to stage the

Hartal to rise above the party politics and place importance on the larger interest of the country and review the position and decide to call off the Hartal, because the staging of such a Hartal as I have said, was likely to frustrate the very purpose for which they proposed to stage the Hartal. Moreover, it would be very much against the interest of the State to stage Hartal for demonstration when the atmosphere has been very favourable for location of the Refinery in Assam, particularly when the Union Minister for Natural Resources and the Prime Minister have full sympathy for such location, and Shri Malavyaji was coming to Assam to discuss matters with all those who were interested in the location of the Refinery in Assam. I impressed upon the Chairman and members of the Action Committee the desirability of calling off the Hartal and creating an atmosphere for a frank and dispassionate discussion with the Union Minister, Shri Malavyaji on the 27th, so that we could get a good response from him. I told them that a vital question like the location of an oil refinery could not be decided on the streets, it had to be decided only after a cool and dispassionate deliberation. Hartals or public demonstration of that sort does not help us arriving at a decision in a matter of such vital importance, viz. location of a refinery processing crude oil extracted in Assam.

I am glad that Shri Hareswar Goswami stated then that had he known all these facts before, he would not have been a party to the Hartal, and that even then he was prepared to review the position with regard to the staging of the Hartal after they had met Shri Malavyaji and discussed matters with him on the 27th evening. He gave that assurance that he would review the matter and finally decide whether the proposed Hartal should be withdrawn or staged. I have received information, however, that before Shri Hareswar Goswami met Shri Malavyaji in the evening of the 27th instant, telegrams were sent at about 2 P.M. on the 27th to different parts of Assam under his name to the following effect: "Strike decision stands. Please act accordingly". Sir, as a matter of courtesy this information should have been given to me as I place great reliance on a promise or statement of an hon. Member of this House, particularly the Leader of the Opposition. It was my natural expectation that when I had taken him into confidence that he would also similarly take me into his confidence and intimate me that he does not stick to his promise to wait till the evening before he had decided to send the telegram at 2 .pm. that "Strike decision stands. Please act accordingly".

before the Chairman and the Members of the Action Committee had the opportunity of meeting Shri Malavyaji and discuss in matters with him, as promised by him. I presume, Sir, he was overruled or outvoted by the majority of the extremist elements in the Action Committee. I hope he will now see the danger of alliance with such elements. Sir, I presume that the members of the P. S. P. and the Socialist Party are votaries of non-violence, but it will be clear from the facts I am going to place before the House that they played into the hands of those political parties who always seek an opportunity to create chaos and disorder in the country with a view to take advantage of such situation for their own political ends.

Sir, in view of the statement made by Shri Malavyaji on 27th in the public meeting and also in the meeting of the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee where he clarified the position, there were stronger reasons why the strike should have been called off. Shri Malavya's statement in the public meeting and in the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee where I was present can be briefly summarised into following points:

(1) The Government of India has not taken any decision not to have the oil refinery in Assam.

Now, Sir, in the Memorandum filed by the Action Committee, a copy of which was given to me, it is stated, "On behalf of the Oil Refinery Action Committee, Gauhati, Assam, representing all interests and public opinion, beg to place before you our demand for the location of the oil refinery in Assam. We deplore the reported move of the Union Government to establish the said refinery outside the State of Assam, in conjunction with the Assam Oil Company Ltd. There cannot be any other move more dangerous and harmful to the legitimate interests of Assam in the matter of her vital economic development". Now, Sir, in view of the statement by Shri Malavyaji that the Government of India have not taken any decision not to have the oil refinery in Assam there was no justification for the Hartal.

The second point clarified by Shri Malavyaji was that the proposal of the Assam Oil Company regarding the setting up of the oil refinery in Calcutta had been rejected.

The third point is that Shri Malavyaji had not so far received any formidable reason for not having the refinery in Assam, and that he would try his utmost to surmount any difficulty in setting up of a refinery in Assam.

He further stated that in accordance with the declared industrial policy of the Government of India, the disparities in level of development between different regions should be progressively reduced and the Government is pledged to develop the undeveloped areas in India. Assam was one of such undeveloped regions where the pace of development was not as speedy as it was in some other parts of the country. The question of Assam's all-round development was, therefore, always uppermost in the mind of the Government. If the proposed refinery would bring about Assam's development by an appreciable degree, the Union Government will surely do their utmost in this regard in favour of Assam by installing the refinery in Assam with the crude oil extracted in Assam.

Sir, this statement has made it clear that for the crude oil extracted from Assam, the Government of India will do all that is possible to set up a full-fledged refinery in Assam. I am sorry some of the members of the Action Committee did not fully appreciate the position and made a statement against the interests of the State by requesting Malavyaji to develop the existing Digboi refinery, which, however, cannot serve our purpose.

Then, Sir, Shri Malavya stated that the Government of India is not only anxious to locate the oil refinery in Assam but is appointing a committee of neutral experts to examine the technical and economic feasibility with a view to locate the refinery in Assam.

As a matter of fact, Sir, no responsible Minister of any Government can give any final decision on a matter of this kind on the spot without obtaining the sanction of the Cabinet, merely because there is a threat of a Hartal.

He further stated that politics should not be imported into a matter of this nature, where a Government's decision could not be announced on the spot nor made a plank for an election campaign. Sir, this matter of vital importance like the setting up of an oil refinery under the Central sector and locating it in a particular place cannot be decided and announced by a Minister on the spot without the approval of the Cabinet.

From the summary of what Malavyaji stated to clarify the position we find that the intention of the Government of India is to develop this under-developed State by locating the refinery in Assam is clear. In view of such a clear statement of a

responsible Minister of the Government of India, there was hardly any justification for not calling off the strike. I leave it to the hon. Members to dispassionately consider and also to judge whether it was justified to stage the Hartal under these circumstances.

Sir, it is extremely gratifying to learn that the college students in Gauhati and other places in general showed exemplary strength of character in refusing to be seduced to take active part in this Hartal, thereby upholding the honour and prestige of the students community, and I look up to them to show such strength of character in future also.

Sir, I am now giving some of the incidents which resulted from the Hartal. Sir, nobody can seriously object where there is a peaceful and voluntary Hartal and there is no interference with any member of the public or obstruction of a person's passage in the Public thoroughfare where in a democratic country everyone has got that right. But when a man's movement is sought to be obstructed by show of force and by causing obstruction on the road or by coercion, no Government can tolerate such things and must help those who want to exercise their right of freedom and free movement to go where they like. The instances which I will give now are merely illustrative as I have not yet received reports from all places. But these will give an idea as to how things happened and I particularly appeal to my Friend, the Leader of the Opposition, to take stock of this position and to realise how he is dealing with a volcanic situation and encouraging parties who are for creating chaos and disorder in the country.

In the Kamrup District, at Amingaon in the early morning about 200 persons formed themselves into an unlawful assembly and committed criminal trespass on the railway line and squatted on the railway tract and would not allow the engine to come out of the loco shed to prevent the North-Bengal Express from starting in time. The Police had to rush to the spot and failing to persuade them to leave the track to enable the North-Bengal Express to start according to schedule had to arrest 57 persons and cases under Section 143 and 128 of the Railway Act have been taken up against these persons and the matter is now pending before the Magistrate.

At Pandu a similar number of persons formed themselves into an unlawful assembly and squatted on the railway line and in front of the engine of the 513 Up train. I am sorry to note here that in spite of definite instructions from the responsible leaders of the Hartal that it should be done in a

non-violent way these ugly incidents took place. They committed acts of violence by trespassing into the railway lines and squatting there in order to prevent essential public utility services from moving and in this people of different organisations took part and the most regrettable thing is that the responsible leaders who organised the Hartal failed to control the unruly crowd committing violent criminal offence and forcibly interfering with the right of free movement of others. When they were squatting on the railway line and in front of the engine of the 513 Up train, they were requested to clear the line over which they were squatting after illegally trespassing into the area to enable the train service to proceed and on their refusal to clear the railway line and disperse, the assembly was declared unlawful and 21 persons had to be arrested. Cases have been taken up under Sections 147 and 341 I. P. C. and under Section 128 of Railway Act. The picketers trespassed into the loco repair workshop and the electric workshop and prevented the drivers and the workers in the workshop to continue in their legal activities.

My report is that some of the responsible leaders who organised the Hartal went from place to place but the unfortunate thing is that they did not care to persuade these unruly people not to obstruct the utility services from moving. It was the bounden duty of these leaders to see that innocent passengers were not put to undue hardship and it was their duty to stop these persons from acting in the unlawful manner and when they failed in this, it was the clear and bounden duty of the police to see that utility services were not forcibly obstructed and the passengers were not put to undue harassment and hardship and to remove such illegal obstruction.

Near Gauhati Station some of the members of the unlawful assembly climbed up the signal cabin and attempted to tamper with the signals. They were chased away by the Police. In the meantime a huge crowd of about 3,000 gathered and formed themselves into an unlawful assembly and trespassed into the Gauhati Railway Station. The Magistrate who was there tried his best to persuade them for about one hour to disperse and allow trains to pass, but this was in vain. On the other hand, the mob at the railway station became violent and when the 315 Up train was about to steam off, about 1,000 people forcibly squatted on the railway line to prevent the engine to proceed on its journey. The Magistrate tried to persuade them for about an hour to leave the tract and make way for the train to pass, but all this was in vain and the mob became violent and started pelting of stones causing injuries to 6 police officers and men. One of the constables received grievous injury

and one Magistrate was slightly injured. The Magistrate then declared the Assembly unlawful and directed to disperse and on their refusal the mob was dispersed with lathi-charge and tear gas to clear the railway tract to enable the 315-Up train to start its journey. The crowd again gathered near the signal point and damaged the lock and key of the point, signal wires, red glass, etc.

Near Kukurmuta the mob ripped up a section of the railway track and removed bolts and nuts of fishplates with intent to cause derailment of the train in utter disregard to human life. These offences are punishable with transportation for life under the Penal Code. The track was however repaired under armed police guard after several hours and the morning train could move off as late as 5. 10 P. M. This long delay of the train shows how the unruly crowd behaved and how exemplary forbearance and patience were shown by the police and the authority. Can these acts of the unruly crowd be called non-violent in the observance of the Hartal? Many police personnel were injured and some got their limbs fractured by these unruly persons. Did any of these leaders who organised the Hartal raise a voice of protest against such violent activities of these persons? As a matter of fact, violent crowd went beyond the control of these leaders. Can these acts be called non-violent?

The road transport was also paralysed by picketers who formed themselves into an unlawful assembly and trespassed into the Gauhati Motor Station and also in front of the State Transport terminus and intermediate places. At Paltanbazar in front of the State Transport Station the picketers formed themselves into an unlawful assembly and became violent. This assembly was declared unlawful and ordered to disperse. On their refusal lathi charge and tear gas had to be resorted to in order to disperse the unlawful assembly. Some arrests in this incident were also made. The Police and the Magistrates were continuously on duty since 4 A. M. in the morning and worked with commendable restraint in face of violence and provocation. In Gauhati so far my information goes 13 Police men sustained injuries caused by these violent picketers. 16 criminal cases have been taken up for various offences including uprooting the railway line punishable with transportation for life. Now all these cases are pending before Magistrate.

In Nowgong also the picketers formed into an unlawful assembly and became violent in different parts and attacked the public utility services, Police Station, State Transport Office and vehicular traffic was interfered with and was not allowed to proceed in their schedule times by threat of violence. 30 picketers had to be arrested by the Police. Immediately a procession was taken out at about 1 p. m. and about 30 processionists committed criminal trespass by entering into Police Station compound and attacked the thana and trespassed into the thana building to rescue the persons under arrest from the Police lock-up. Some of these rioters damaged the glass-panes, furniture and records of the thana and robbed the cash of the prisoners kept on the table. They kidnapped an A. S. I. for his refusal to handover the keys of the lock-up which the crowd could not break open. A few constables in the thana were beaten up and their uniforms and headgears taken away and burnt on the street. When the Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of Police went there with re-informement, the mob pelted stones damaging the Inspector's jeep and other Police vehicles. The mob under the circumstances was declared unlawful by the Magistrate and it had to be dispersed by lathi-charge as they refused to disperse to clear the thana building and the compound. They caused injuries to as many as 14 Police officers and men—two cases being serious had to be sent to hospital as indoor patients for treatment. The Inspector's jeep and three other vehicles were damaged by them. In the afternoon another attack was made on the Police station by these people causing injuries to policemen and officers. They took away the uniforms and headgears of Police personnel which were set fire to and thrown out. Some local leaders who tried to intervene for desisting from illegal activities were also assaulted. The Deputy Commissioner after giving the usual warning declared the assembly unlawful and directed them to disperse. On their refusal lathi charge was ordered to disperse the unlawful assembly and 10 persons were arrested. Several persons have been injured including the S. P. and D. S. P. and the Inspector, who sustained a fracture injury in his nose.

Train and road services were disturbed in every district but no reports have been received so far about violent activities.

In Nowgong and Kamrup the persons actively participating in the Hartal committed gross act of violence by forming themselves into unlawful assembly and causing violence,

robbery and dacoity in some cases. Six cases have already been started in Nowgong for attacking the thana, committing robbery, trespassing and causing hurt and damaging public property, dacoity and theft of cash and also for taking away the uniforms of the policemen and headgears and burning them.

I hope these instances which I am citing while making the Statement would receive serious consideration. It should be seriously considered how constructive activities could be hampered when violence is indulged in on the plea of observing a Hartal. I appeal to the countrymen to rise upto the occasion and to restrain themselves from all sorts of violence of this kind. I hope this will serve as an eye opener to my hon. Friend, the Leader of the Opposition, as to how his followers went out of his control, and how dangerous it is to play with this sort of agitation and Hartal to rouse passions which lead to mob frengy.

With these few words, Sir, I have placed the fact before the hon. Members of this House and also before the people outside this House so that they may know actual facts and draw their own conclusion.

Mr. SPEAKER : Mr. Barua, (at this stage Shri Hareswar Goswami rose up and wanted to speak).

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak a.....

Mr. SPEAKER : It is ruled out of order.

I would like to quote rule 106 of the Assembly rules which runs as follows:—

“A member asking for the consent of the Speaker under rule 103 shall—

(1) before the commencement of the sitting of the day, leave with the Secretary a copy of the motion together with a written statement of the matter proposed to be discussed, and”....

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Sir, I am not speaking about the adjournment motion ?

Mr. SPEAKER : Anyway, I received it here after the Chief Minister started his statement. Therefore, I think it is out of order.

Shri BIMALA KANTA BORA : Sir, after I have given notice of this Resolution certain things have happened, namely the visit of the Central Minister, Shri K. D. Malavya to our State and the statement made by the Leader of the House today in the House. In view of this it is not necessary for me to move this Resolution. According to the categorical statement made by the Central Minister at Gauhati no decision has yet been taken to locate the Oil Refinery at Calcutta. And that unless there is very insurmountable difficulty the Oil Refinery will be located in Assam. In view of this, I would not like to move my Resolution.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Leader of the House in making his statement has associated my name with certain activities and I feel it my duty to make my position clear. Sir, I am grateful to the Leader of the House for making this statement so that the hon. Members of this House can dispassionately take into consideration what happened on or before the 28th. Sir, I only wish that the Leader of the House who was at Gauhati on the 28th till 12-30 P.M. would have visited most of the trouble spots and ascertained for himself the actual facts because, Sir, I cannot disbelieve my own eyes and accept the statement of the Leader of the House which has been collected by officers who are themselves guilty of high-handedness and excesses. Sir, I am glad that the Leader of the House so far as events before the 28th are concerned has given an almost correct picture.

Mr. SPEAKER : Mr. Goswami, your time is very short.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** I will try to finish in time, Sir. Now, Sir, on the 25th the Leader of the House rang me up and I immediately responded to his call and consulted the Action Committee of which I am the President regarding meeting him on the 26th evening. We met, but it is not true that when the Leader of the House read out the letters of the Prime Minister and of Mr. Malavya before us I said that if I had known all this I would not have been a party to this. What I said was this, that if these letters were given to us we

*Speech not corrected.

could have placed them before the Action Committee and perhaps the Action Committee would not have taken this step. I do not.....

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): It comes to the same thing.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Whether it comes to the same thing or not it is not for Moti Bora or anyone else to judge. Secondly, Sir, on 26th evening we met Mr. Medhi and on 27th morning also Mr. Medhi was kind enough to call me to the Circuit House because there was picketing. I told him that we will do our best to see that the picketers are peaceful. I also said that we must not consider to put the law in all its technical implications as to make it an offence if some one with folded hands say, "Please do not attend office" or to take it as an obstruction.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Even lying on the road ?

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** I will tell everything, I will not conceal anything. Now, on the 27th we met Mr. Malavya and Mr. Medhi was also present. We discussed everything with him. I asked him what are the chances of Assam getting the Refinery. He replied in a very impressive manner that it is 1 to 100. Then I asked him point blank, "Are you also considering the question of Mokameh?" When the Expert who was with him, perhaps his Private Secretary, said, "Yes, Mokameh and other places also are being considered". All these things Mr. Malavya said and we took them to the Action Committee who made a decision because we feel that as citizens of India we have a right to cry when we are wounded, we have a right to speak out when we are aggrieved. So when these things which are detrimental to the cause of Assam come before us we must also register our protests and objections. We have all along seen reports in the papers that while in Calcutta, Mr. Malavya was reported to have said that the Refinery would be located outside Assam. But Mr. Medhi was not there to contradict these reports. He did not issue any statement in spite of having received these letters. These letters were received by Mr. Medhi on the 14th, but it was till the 27th that the Action Committee came to this decision. From the 14th till the 27th.....

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): I did not receive the letter on the 14th, Sir, but I said it was dated 14th. I was then out and on return and from mufasil I received it.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI**: All right, I accept that. But it was under these circumstances, Sir, that the decision of the Action Committee was taken. We consider it our rightful duty, we consider it purely legal and valid to stay ourselves from office and we consider it right for every man to refrain from work so long as it does not transgress the provisions of the law. I can say that no case under Sections 141 and 143 will be able to prove by the prosecution.

Now, Sir, the whole matter may be divided into two parts, *i. e.*, about the justification of this strike and the strike as it was conducted. So far as the justification of the strike is concerned I have said that we launched the strike after we have heard what Mr. Malavya said. On 26th Mr. Medhi issued a statement to the Press and it was not correct to say that we have come to a decision to call off the strike. That only creates misconception and wrong notion.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): I did not say that; I only made an appeal to the strikers to withdraw.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI**: If I had got a copy of the Press Report I would have shown it you, Sir. Unfortunately I have not. Then again, Sir, some telegrams were sent by me but three of these telegrams were held up by the police authorities—one was sent to Barpeta, another to Tezpur and I think the third was to Nowgong. These three telegrams were held up under instructions from the Government.

Now, so far as the happenings of the 28th are concerned Sir, I was myself present at Pandu because I considered that place to be the most troubled spot, at 5 o'clock, and I am in a position from my personal experience to tell the House that no assembly was declared unlawful on that day.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): It was at 7'0 clock.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI**: I left Pandu at 7 o'clock, and that time no assembly was declared unlawful. I

took particular care to see that no people would come on to the railway line. Even inspite of that, even though nobody came on to the railway line, two persons were arrested there.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Because they trespassed on the railway line.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Sir, that is a different matter whether it amounted to trespass or not, but they offered themselves to be arrested, and when they were arrested, there was no violence of any kind whatsoever.

I also went to the Loco Shed and Carriage Repair Shop. Nobody entered the Carriage Repair Shop or the Loco Shop because at the time of declaring the strike, particular emphasis was laid that no body should attempt to do so. Then about Amingaon, till 8-30 A. M. no Policeman went there but after 8-30 A. M. some people were arrested. So my submission is that so far as Amingaon and Pandu are concerned there was no violence and no unlawful assembly was declared there. As regards Gauhati also, Sir, I am really very sorry to express my disapproval of the manner in which the Police behaved or misbehaved there. At about 8-45 A. M. I was informed by Shri Bimala Prasad Chaliha, the Congress President, that there was a big assembly at Gauhati and that I should immediately go there. Immediately went there and saw a big crowd of about 3,000. The Police was there but they could not control the crowd.

(At this stage there was some interference from the Congress Benches).

Sir, I did not interfere even for a single moment when Shri Medhi delivered his speech, and I only request that the same courtesy will be accorded to me.

I went there and enquired about the whole affair. The people there including some Congress volunteers even, gave me the whole fact about the situation. They told me that people were lying on the railway line and the first batch of people were arrested. Some Police Officers, Shri Anil Chaudhury and Atul Das belaboured the volunteers and thereafter taking them into their custody. Then, of course, there was some pelting of stones from among the mob assembled there. I do not deny it, but that was after tear-gassing and bayenotting by the Police. Shri Medhi has stated that about 13 persons were injured. I have never encouraged the people to pelt stone

on the Police. In fact, it was I who, on one occasion, pointed out to Shri Satijiban Das, the crowd who pelted stones. This pelting of stones or removing of fish plate had never our support. On the 29th morning paper, if Mr. Medhi would have cared to read it, he would have seen what I stated. I said that such acts were definitely against the instruction of the Public Action Committee. I and Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya both decried such action even before the crowd and persuaded the crowd to disperse.

Before the State Transport Office also the same thing happened.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Goswami, you have only five minutes more.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** If, Sir, Mr. Medhi would have himself gone to the places of occurrence and collected all these facts himself, I would have accepted all that he said, but I cannot disbelieve my own eyes. What I have stated here, I do so from my spot study of the situation and if after all that I now say that the police gave provocation to the mob, then I am perfectly within my right to maintain that it is the police who misbehaved and not the crowd. Sir, removing of the railway line is a bad thing, and I said that to the crowd before their face, and while saying so, I controlled the crowd whereas the police sadly failed to perform the duties entrusted upon them. In spite of heavy engagements, in spite of the serious illness of my wife, I was moving about in all these places only with the hope that the crowd would behave peacefully, whereas contrary was the case in respect of those lovers of peace who profess in their lips the high ideals of non-violence.

I have stated already that political motive was far from our mind while organizing this strike. There was not the slightest intention to make it a political or election issue. It is true, Communists were also invited to take part in this strike. So also Shri Radhika Ram Das of the Congress Party and some other members of the Congress came and participated in the de-liveration. We were all agreed on one point, and that is not to make it a political issue. So, Sir, to impute political motive to an issue in which people of all parties without any distinction of caste or creed took part, drives me to one conclusion and

that is to make a political capital out of it. If we were all agreed to launch this strike, it was because, we all consider it to be a national issue. We organised this strike not because that we feel that this Refinery, if established here in Assam, will bring a millenium but the people had begun to feel, and that too with plausible reason, that Assam has been deliberately and persistently neglected by the Centre, industrialisation of our State has been sadly delayed, and all our efforts to bring home to the Centre the urgent needs and demands of our country proved to be a cry in the wilderness, that the people have taken resort to the only way that was left open to them and when such negligence and indifference became no longer possible to bear with equanimity, the strike was the logical sequence. Shri Medhi has stated that except at Nowgong and Gauhati, no violence took place in other places. In those 'other places' it is the same element who conducted the strike. Why then was there no violence? I put it to Mr. Medhi for an answer. If the ugly situation took place only in these two places and not in other places, it is not because the crowd wanted to take the law into their own hands, but because of unimaginative action of officers like Shri Atul Dutta, Shri Saradindu Sarkar and host of others who still live in the root of an age long gone by and have not yet been able to adapt themselves to the change of time and circumstances.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Sir, this matter is still *sub-judice*, and it is highly objectionable to bring in the names of the Government officers under such circumstances.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Sir, if you desire to omit these names, I have no objection. But what I want to say is that lack of tact imagination on the part of those responsible for maintenance of law and order is solely responsible for the situation assuming the turn it did in these two places. People have lost their faith on Governmental action. Government is after all the creation of the people and this Government is also a popular Government, I therefore request the Government to take into account the popular discontent over this matter. It was not this humble self Shri Hareswar Goswami who conducted the strike, but it was the people of Assam who launched this strike, and this last minute attempt by the Congress that they were disapproving the strike will not divest it of its real significance, the popular discontentment on the action taken by Government or will give it a political colour.

1480 STATEMENT MADE BY THE LEADER OF THE [30TH AUGUST,
HOUSE ABOUT THE HARTAL HELD IN
CONNECTION WITH LOCATION
OF OIL REFINERY IN ASSAM

With these few words, Sir, I refute the statement made against me.

***Sriman PRAFULLA GOSWAMI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, as regards the strike on the 28th, whether it was justified or not, it must be judged from the point of view of motive and the issue. My Friend, Shri Hareswar Goswami said that the strike was justified. Sir, we are accustomed to strikes or Hartals. During the British regime we observed many strikes and Hartals. It was done on some specific issue. Now let us see during this strike if there was any issue. A strike may be observed to protest against certain decision. But is there any decision of the Government of India or the State Government against which a Hartal is to be observed? Has the Government of India categorically stated that the Oil Refinery should not be located in Assam? The Members of the Action Committee stated that the Government of India had stated that the Oil Refinery should be located in Calcutta. Is is a correct statement? When the Prime Minister and Mr. Malavya have categorically denied that there is no move to locate it in Calcutta, how does that question arise? I hope Mr. Hareswar Goswami will please hear me (*laughter*), because I am going to refute his arguments.

Sir, we have been persistently trying to have the Refinery here in Assam. Not only outside this House, but this House also adopted a Resolution to this effect in the last Session of the Assembly. The Government and the Congress Committee also are trying in all possible means to have it here. Now when we have not heard anything just contrary to our demand, how can we make any agitation? What is the reason for any movement? It is purely a political move on the part of the Leftist Parties. They wanted to make a capital out of it, for catching votes in the next election. To day I take stand to throw a challenge. The coming election will show that they will not be able to catch votes by saying and doing all these. When our Chief Minister and the President, Pradesh Congress Committee said that there was no issue, that statement could reach other places of the State, because some people obstructed the message to go to other places. So this message could not reach Nowgong, Sibsagar or some other places. If the message would have reached the people in other places in time, people would not have observed the Hartal at all. Even in Gauhati when the people heard about the statements of the Chief Minister and Congress President, many shop-keepers wanted to keep their shops open. Actually in the morning many people started opening their shops,

but when some hooligans threatened them and when it was not possible to provide sufficient number of Police for their protection they had to keep their shops closed. Even the shop belonging to the Congress Organisation, I mean the Khadi Bhandar was opened, but when the salesmen and the Manager were threatened by the hooligans, it had to be kept closed, because there were not sufficient police personnel to provide protection to all shop-keepers and others. Sir, some of the hooligans entered into the workshop of the State Transport and threatened the workers there to leave the place. Actually in the morning the workers went to their respective posts in order to do their duties, but they had to leave the place of work because they were threatened by hooligans. They did not do it voluntarily as is stated by Mr. Goswami who said that the strike was a successful one. Sir, I have seen with my own eyes that hooligans were removing Railway lines and they were also not allowing the police to discharge their duties by obstructing these hooligans from damaging the national properties. When the hooligans were also assaulting the police who went to the spot to do their duties they made a mild lathi charge as our Chief Minister said now. Sir, compared to the gravity of the offence and provocation the Police used the minimum force; it was a democratic lathi charge (*laughter*) if I may say so. Had it been so during the British regime, hundreds of people would have been mercilessly beaten and injured. But our Police displayed great patience and tact in the face of grave provocation. Sir, in Nowgong it is reported that the hooligans entered the Thana building, kidnapped one Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police and burnt the uniform of Police. Now what is this, is this not violence? Is it not a grave offence? What would have the Police in other countries done in such circumstances? They would have opened fire to control the violent activities of the hooligans. But our Police showed exemplary patience. Sir, in England it is said that 'Even the Queen can be touched, but not the Police'. Sir, the strike was not spontaneous as my Friend, Mr. Goswami, has said. Many shop-keepers wanted to keep their shops open, but as Government could not provide sufficient police personnel for their protection, they had to close their shops and we also did not insist on keeping their shops open for that reason. We saw the driver of the railway engine and the drivers of the State Transport vehicles went to drive their engines and car respectively so also did the workers of workshop went to perform their duties. Had they not been threatened by the hooligans they would have performed their duties as

usual. Sir, the Congress did never support violence. Even from the jail, Mahatma Gandhi asked the people to stop the Movement when he found that there were some acts of violence. Mr. Bhattacharyya or Mr. Goswami are not repentant for the acts of violence committed in course of the so-called Hartal. Sir, is this the act of a Satyagrahi to enter into the Police Station, burn the uniform of a Police Officer and assault the Police? Is this called Satyagraha? It may be Communistic way of Satyagraha (*laughter*). Sir, had I been the Officer-in-charge of the Nowgong Police Station I would not have tolerated such acts of Hooliganism. Had I been the Superintendent of Police or the Officer-in-charge of the Police Station I would have opened fire. I would not have tolerated the sanctity of the Police administration being trifled within this way. But the fact remains, Sir, that our Police displayed exemplary tact and patience. I am not afraid of being assaulted. I am prepared to address any public meeting. But what happened at Gauhati, Sir, Mr. Goswami and Mr. Bhattacharyya were behind the scene. They instigated the people.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Sir, I take objection to Mr. Goswami's statement. Will he withdraw the word 'instigation' when there was no instigation at all?

***Sriman PRAFULLA GOSWAMI:** Is it proper on the part of the Leader of the Opposition to say like this when he did not dare to go there?

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** When Mr. Goswami did not go there I went there to face the crowd.

***Sriman PRAFULLA GOSWAMI:** I went to take the help of Shri Bimala Chaliha and then to go there.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** It is a travesty of truth.

***Sriman PRAFULLA GOSWAMI:** Sir, he himself said that there were 3,000 to 4,000 people whom the Police could not control. He ought to have controlled the crowd of such a number if it was not his intention to assault us including Shri Bimala Chaliha. Sir, this sort of violence should never be tolerated. This sort of violence is nothing but a rehearsal to paralyse the Government. In the name of a peaceful Hartal or strike they are making a rehearsal by

removing railway fish-plates or railway lines. Sir, I know what is Leftism. I was the General Secretary of a Leftist Party, but I did not apply such tactics when we made Hartals. With that sort of tactics and violence they cannot come to power. Indian people are conscious now ; Indian people are now contributing to the formation of Congress Government and this Government has the right to exist and to maintain law and order. Mr. Hareswar Goswami, I do not call him as Leader of the Opposition, has some right as a citizen of India and to that effect he has certain responsibilities as well ; but that right is not meant to be exercised in destroying our national property like railway tracks. Indian citizens have not been given that right to destroy public property. He should understand that right and responsibility and what lessons he should practise. But what he is now contributing is like his Communist Friends who take part in violent activities. Very shortly they will seek election in our democratic country. But what is the ultimate intention in their heart and what things they are now practising are only with a view to get votes in the election. They are now following the ideal of their Communist Friends to practise violence and disorder while they know well that through democracy they cannot come to power. They want to paralyse the Government. Our Government should be alert on this account. They take it to be a signal occasion because after about 4 or 5 months they will come for general election. Our Government should take note of it and should uproot such violent practices and Police should be given more power in handling such violent activities. Now, what I feel is that railway lines should be protected at all cost, even at the cost of some lives, if necessary, and if that is not done, then it will lead to greater violence when things will be absolutely out of control. I think this sort of hartal is meaningless. If it was decided by the Government of India that the oil Refinery should be at Calcutta then there should have been some Hartal. The Government of India has already indicated their intention in this respect and after the issue of our Chief Minister's statement and the statement of Malavayaji this Hartal is not justified. And yet the Hartal was organised and in this connection volunteers were collected who were no better than 'Goondas'. I congratulate the students of the Cotton College hostel because inspite of persuasion by so many people in their hostel, those students did not take part in the Hartal. People of the position of my Friend, Shri Hareswar Goswami, should not have gone to the hostel for that purpose. I saw with my own eyes that Shri Hareswar Goswami entered

the hostel without any permission from the authority concerned. I happen to visit the son of Shri Mohendra Mohan Choudhury in the hostel, but I never do it without previous permission from the authority. Even after persuasion, the students of the Cotton College hostel did not joint the Hartal—only some school students were found to be loitering near the incident.

***Shri NARNARAYAN GOSWAMI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I take my stand to support the statement made by the Leader of the House and strongly condemn the action of the Hartal Committee. I fail to understand what it actually means when the members of the Hartal Action Committee at Gauhati said that they started the Hartal for the benefit of the people of Assam. In the public meeting held on 26th and 27th of this month and in the A. P. C. C. meeting and in the conversation with Malavayaji by the members of the Hartal Action Committee it was made quite clear that the intention of the Central Government is to instal the Refinery in Assam. When I met the main representative of the Hartal Action Committee in the evening, after his conversation with Malavayaji, he mentioned to me that he was pleased with statement made by Malavayaji. Then I hoped under the circumstances that there would be no Hartal. But I do not know what has enthused my Friend, Shri Hareswar Goswami to take part in the Hartal. No person who has got the best interest of the country and the good wishes for the State of Assam should not have agitated the Hartal. But strangely enough the members of the Action Committee at Gauhati were very anxious to start the Hartal. Whether this Hartal is for the best interest of Assam or this was needed at all, will be judged by the Assamese people, will be judged by the Indian people or will be judged by the people at large. In installing good industries in Assam by the Central Government a beginning has been made by installing the Refinery. So long good wishes and assurances have been showed by us, heard by us, and realised by us. But yet, what the Opposition Party or the members of the Action Committee have done? The people of Assam would realise that the mischief has been done by the Leftise Party just to put India in an awkward position. The Communist Party want to put India in a chaotic condition. When general election is coming nigh they want to make a chaotic condition and through this they probably think that they shall be successful in the general election. Except that motive, what may be the other motives? What may be the motive for the persons

to go with the Hartal on the 28th in the face of a clear statement from the Minister? And, Sir, to what extent they had gone? They destroyed national property. The railways are our national property and it is our duty to protect the same. But what have they done? They have destroyed railway lines. Mr. Goswami was present. I think the members of the Action Committee should undergo a fast for the sin committed against the State of Assam. They should calmly think over the matter and realise what mischief has been done against the interests of Assam. By their action the decision of setting up the Refinery in Assam may be deferred though I hope it will not be deferred. If the leftist parties go in this way, the progress of Assam will be hampered. I want the people of Assam to realise this. They should realise that if the leftist parties are allowed to go on in this way, the interest of Assam will be greatly injured.

Then, Sir, Mr. Goswami spoke against the Police Force at Gauhati. We all realise, Sir, how they have tactfully handled and managed the situation. The police officers and men and the magistrates have handled the situation with great care and tact. Sir, allegations have been made that the police threw stones. If Mr. Goswami searches his heart he will find that it is not the Police Force who had thrown stones but his own followers did so. On the 28th, *i. e.*, on the Hartal day, I met a Communist Advocate at about 2 p. m. at Panbazar and I was told by him, "Mr. Goswami, the situation is beyond our control". I told him, "You should realise this. When we have got a clear statement from Malavyaji, what was the necessity of going through this Hartal?". Then he left me. The leaders of the Action Committee have no personality and they should have known that the situation would go beyond their control. The members of the Action Party and the leaders of the leftist parties knew that they had no personality and could not control a crowd, but still they went through with the Hartal. Could irresponsibility go further? I ask them to reflect on this and take guidance for the future. I also ask the people to ponder over this and decide what importance should be given to the words and action of these so-called leaders. So, my request to the Leader of the Opposition is to think it out calmly and not be a party to the doing of any mischief for the selfish interest of the party. Elections may come and elections may go, but the country will remain; the State will remain. For party ends nothing should be done which harm the country.

Lastly, I would like to request Mr. Goswami not to misguide young and innocent people. Sir, the aged and experienced people kept away from these demonstrations, which were led by some members of the leftist parties who cannot be relied upon, and who are selfish. They could not persuade the older people to join them and so they drew the young and unknowing, whom they misled. I am sorry to mention that some professors and one Principal led some students in the demonstration. These people being at the helm of the educational institutions should know their responsibilities. The students have been given to their care for education and not to be misled in this way. But the example they have shown is simply deplorable. I feel that the country should take note of this situation and the Government should give a lesson to them. There should not be any party politics in educational institutions. I am not going to mention names, but one Principal and some professors of educational institutions were involved. Such persons should be rooted out of the educational institutions. I hope the Education Minister will see to it. I hope the Governing Bodies of the respective institutions will see to it that they are not allowed to go on strike whenever there is any occasion. We have placed our boys in their hands not for being misguided like this and to be exploited to achieve the political ends of interested parties. So, my appeal to the Government is to root these people out of the educational institutions.

Then, Sir, there are some abettors and instigators who do not come to the surface but do mischief from behind. The innocent people are led astray by their supporters, but they themselves remain behind. I hope Government will see to it that those abettors and instigators are found out and penalised. This is my humble request to the Government. I hope the House and the country will be behind the Government in finding out these instigators and bringing them to book.

With these few words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you moving your short notice Resolution ?

Shri NARNARAYAN GOSWAMI: No, Sir.

Shri MAHENDRA HAZARIKA : মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমাৰ মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে যি বিবৃতি এই সদনত ডাঙি ধৰিছে তাকে সমৰ্থন কৰিবলৈ গৈ আমাৰ নগাওঁ জিলাত ষটা ষটনা সম্পৰ্কে দুই চাৰি আঘাৰ কম বুলি ঠিয় হৈছো। এই সম্পৰ্কে আমাৰ বিৰোধীদলৰ নেতা শ্ৰীহৰেশ্বৰ ডাঙৰীয়াই এই হৰটাল কৰা বিষয়ত ৰাজনৈতিক কোনো দৃষ্টি ভঙ্গীয়েই ইয়াত ঠাই পোৱা নাই বুলি কৈছে। আমি যেতিয়া কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰৰ প্ৰাকৃতিক সম্পদ মন্ত্ৰী মানবাজীৰ পৰা আমি নিচৰা প্ৰায় আশ্বাসেই পালো, তেতিয়া অসম প্ৰদেশ কংগ্ৰেছ কমিটি তথা অসম গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ তৰফৰ পৰা এই হৰটালৰ যে অনাবশ্যক তাক দঢ়াই কোৱা হৈছিল।

এই অয়ল বিলাইশেৰী যে অসমত লাগে সেই কথাটো আৰম্ভণীৰ পৰাই অসম প্ৰাদেশিক কংগ্ৰেছ কমিটি আৰু অসম গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে বহুদিনৰে পৰা প্ৰস্তাব লৈ আহিছে। সেই সম্বন্ধে কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰৰ লগত বহুদিনৰে পৰা বহু লেখা-লেখিও কৰিছে। তাৰ পাছৰ কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰ পৰা মানবাজীৰ আশ্বাস পোৱাৰ পিচত এই হৰটাল কৰা উচিত হোৱা নাই। তেখেত ইয়ালৈ ২৭ আগষ্ট তাৰিখে আহিছে আৰু সেই দিনাই আমাক আশ্বাস দিছে। তাৰ পিচত বিৰোধী দলৰ নেতা সকলে হৰটাল কৰাতো কোনো যুক্তি নেথাকে। ইয়েই বুজায় যে অকংগ্ৰেছী নেতা সকলে অহা নিৰ্বাচনৰ কাৰণে এটি সুবিধা লোৱাৰ ভাবটো ফুটি উঠিছে। এই হৰটাল শাস্তিপূৰ্ণ হোৱা নাই। ই যদিও নেতা সকলে হৰটাল শাস্তিপূৰ্ণ ভাবে হৰ বুলি ঘোষণা কৰিছিল, প্ৰকৃততে হিংসামূলকহে হৈছে। হিংসামূলকনহৈ নোৱাৰে। কিয়নো গান্ধী পন্থাৰ বিশ্বাসকাৰী সকলক আমি জানো যে তেওঁলোকৰ নীতি অহিংসামূলক আৰু আমাৰ কমিউনিষ্ট ভাই সকলৰ নীতি হল হিংসামূলক। গতিকে মূলনীতিত খাপ নোখোৱা দুটা দলৰ কাৰ্য্য পদ্ধতি এক হব নোৱাৰে। কমিউনিষ্ট ভাই সকলে তেওঁলোকৰ ৰাজনৈতিক কাৰ্য্যসিদ্ধিৰ সেইটো এটা সুবিধা বুলিহে ললে। উভয় দলৰ যে প্ৰকৃততে ৰাজনৈতিক উদ্দেশ্য সিদ্ধিৰ হে উদ্দেশ্য আছিল তেল সোধনাগাৰ স্থাপনৰ উদ্দেশ্য নাছিল তাকেই তেওঁলোকৰ হিংসামূলক কাৰ্য্যকলাপে প্ৰমান কৰিলে।

নগাওঁত বাতি পুৱা প্ৰায় ৬টা মান বজাত ষটনা স্থললৈ পুলিচ চুপাৰিণ্টেণ্ডেণ্টকে আদি কৰি পুলিচ অফিচাৰ সকল আহি হৰটালকাৰী সকলক কলে “আপোনালোকে হৰটাল কৰিব খুজিছে কবক ; কিন্তু চাব যাতে এইটো শাস্তিপূৰ্ণ হয়, যদি নহয় তেন্তে আমি আইন অনুযায়ী কাম কৰিবলৈ বাধ্য হম”। ইয়াৰ পিচত যেতিয়া হৰটাল কৰি সকলে বান-বাহনৰ বাস্তাত গুই কাৰ্য্যত বাধা দান কামত প্ৰবৃত্ত হৈছে তেতিয়া ও পুলিচ সকলে হাত-জোৰ কৰি মানা কৰিছে। তাৰ পিচতো নুশুনাত কেইজনমানক গ্ৰেপ্তাৰ কৰিছে। তাৰ পিচত আৰু কেইজনমানক গ্ৰেপ্তাৰ কৰি ভাল ভাবে থানালৈ লৈ আহিছে। সেই সময়ত মই আমাৰ কংগ্ৰেছ অফিচতে আছিলো। কিছু সময়ৰ পিছতে উপমন্ত্ৰী চেতিয়া ডাঙৰীয়া অফিছলৈ গৈ কলে যে মই প্ৰায় ৪৫ মিনিট সময় আটক আছিলো। মই যোৰহাট পাবগৈ লাগে তাৰ ব্যবস্থা কৰক, উপমন্ত্ৰী চেতিয়া ডাঙৰীয়াক আগবঢ়াই চহৰৰ বাহিৰ কৰি থৈ আহিব লগা হৈছিল। State Transport ৰ পৰা তেখেতৰ মেৰামত কৰা গাড়ী আনিব নোৱাৰত ডেপুটি কমিশনাৰ ডাঙৰীয়াই আন এখন গাড়ী আনিলতহে কোনো মতে তেখেতক পঠিৱাৰ পৰা হৈছিল। উপমন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াক থৈ অহাৰ অলপ পিচতে সদৰ থানাৰ কোনো দাৰোগাৰ ফনৰ দ্বাৰাই জনাইছে যে থানা আক্ৰমণ কৰিছে।

বহুত মানুহে থানা আক্ৰমণ কৰে, তেওঁলোকে থানাৰ ওপৰ তলালৈ উঠি গৈ চৰকাৰী কাগজ পত্ৰ সিচবতি কৰে আৰু চকী মেজ আদি ভাঙি ভীষণ বিশৃঙ্খলতাৰ সৃষ্টি কৰে গ্ৰেপ্তাৰ কৰি থোৱা তাত বন্দী সকলক মুকলি কৰি নিবলৈ থানা হাজতেৰ দুৱাৰ ভাঙিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰে। থানাত অসাবধান হৈ থকা কম পুলিচৰ লগত দুইটা তলাতেই পুলিচৰ লগত টনা অজুৰা লাগে। এনে অবস্থাতেই ডেপুটি কমিশনাৰ আৰু পুলিচ চাহাব ও ইন্সপেক্টৰ আহি পৰে

উভয় দলৰ ভিতৰত সংঘৰ্ষ হয়। পুলিচে মৃদু লাঠি চলাবলৈ বাধ্য হয় থানাৰ পৰা। মানুহ বাহিৰ কৰি দিবলৈ। জনতাই বাস্তৱলৈ আহি শিল গুটি দলিয়াবলৈ ধৰে। ফলত পুলিচ ইন্সপেক্টৰ আদি আহত হয়। লগে লগে ডেপুটি কমিশনাৰে 'ফন' যোগে আমাৰ সহায় বিচাৰে জনতাক শান্ত কৰিবৰ কাৰণে। আমি তৎক্ষণাত থানালৈ যাও। মই নিজে গৈ দেখিলো যে পুলিচে এনেকুৱা অৱস্থাত যথেষ্ট ধৈৰ্য্যৰ পৰিচয় দিছে। বিশৃঙ্খলাকাৰী লোক সকলে এনেকুৱা অৱস্থা সৃষ্টি কৰিছিল যে তাত হয়তো পুলিচে গুলি চলোৱা অৱস্থা হৈ পৰিছিল, কিন্তু তথাপি পুলিচে তেনেকুৱা অৱস্থাতো যিমান পাৰে শান্তি পূৰ্ণ ভাৱে শৃঙ্খলা আনিবৰ চেষ্টা কৰিছিল। তাৰবাবে পুলিচ কৰ্মচাৰীক তেওঁলোকৰ ধৈৰ্য্যৰ বাবে ধন্যবাদ নজানাই নোৱাৰিলো। যি হওক; আমি লোক সকলক হাত জোৰ কৰি মিনতি কৰাত মানুহ বোৰ আতৰি গল। তাৰ পিচত আমিও গুচি আহিলো। কিন্তু প্ৰায় ১১ ঘণ্টা মান সময়ৰ পাচতে আকৌ খবৰ পালো যে থানাৰ চাৰিও ফালে থকা বাস্তৱ মানুহে ভিৰ কৰিছে আৰু পুলিচক গালা-গালি বিদ্ৰূপ আদি কৰি অশান্তি অনাৰ চেষ্টা কৰিছে। তেতিয়াও পুলিচে যথেষ্ট ধৈৰ্য্য ধৰি আছে। ডেপুটি কমিশনাৰ ডাঙৰীয়াই ফোনৰে আমাৰ সাহায্য বিচাৰিলে ৰাইজক সান্ত্বনা কৰিবৰ কাৰণে আমি থানালৈ আহি ৰাইজক শান্তি শৃঙ্খলাৰ বাবে বহু মিনতি জনোৱা স্বত্বেও তেওঁলোকে স্থান পৰিত্যাগ কৰিবলৈ দেৱী কৰিছে এনেতে জনতাক সমজুৱা লোকসকলৰ কোনো এজন দুটো প্ৰকৃতিৰ মানুহে অপমান কৰে আৰু মাৰা-মাৰি কৰে। পুলিচৰ আৰু ডেপুটি কমিশনাৰৰ সন্মুখত অশান্তি হোৱাত তেতিয়া অৱশ্যে পুলিচে লাঠি চলাব লগিয়াত পৰিছিল।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, যি সকলে নিজে শোধনাগাৰনো কি বস্তু এডোখৰ ঠাইৰ নামেইনে নাই অন্যাকিবা এটা এই বিষয়ে একো নাজানে তেনে ধৰণৰ মানুহ গোটেই এই বিশৃঙ্খলতাৰ সৃষ্টি কৰিছিল। 'স্কুলৰ লৰা' 'মটৰ ডাইভাৰ' 'হেণ্ডমেন' বিজ্ঞাণুৱালা আদিৰ সন্মুখত ৰাখি কিছু মান দায়িত্বশীল লোকে এই 'হৰটাল' আৰু ধবংসমূলক কাৰ্য্যৰ পৰিচালনা কৰিছিল। তেওঁলোকৰ নাম মই এতিয়া উল্লেখ নকৰো সময় আহিলে কৰিম। এতিয়া তেওঁলোক এই শিলগুটি দলিওৱা, মাৰপিট কৰা, লুটকৰা, গাৰীভঙা, ঘৰভঙা আদি কাম কৰিবলৈ নাই যোৱা বুলি কৈছে। আনফালে তেওঁলোকৰ এই বিষয়ত যি বিলাক আলোচনা বক্তৃতা হৈছিল তাত শোধনাগাৰৰ কোনো কথাই নাই মাত্ৰ আছিল আমাৰ চৰকাৰে কি কি বেয়া কাম কৰিছে, কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰে কি বেয়া কৰিছে আৰু কংগ্ৰেছে কি বেয়া কৰিছে সেই বিলাকখহে উল্লেখ আছিল। তেওঁবিলাকৰ এই কাৰ্য্য পদ্ধতিলৈ চাই মই ভাটি কব পালো যে ইয়াত ৰাজনীতিৰ উদ্দেশ্য আছে বিফাইনেৰী স্থাপনৰ কোনো কথাই নাই। এনে অৱস্থাত যদি তেওঁলোকৰ উদ্দেশ্য ভাল হল হেতেন তেনেহলে আমি কংগ্ৰেছৰ তৰফৰ পৰা যেনেকৈ শান্তিপূৰ্ণ উপায়েৰে সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিবলৈ উপায় উদ্ভাৱন কৰি আগবাঢ়িছো তেওঁলোকেও ঠিক তেনে উপায় অৱলম্বন কৰিব পাৰিলে হেঁতেন তাকে ন কৰি তেওঁলোকে অহিংসা নীতিৰ নামত কালিমা মানি উশৃঙ্খলতাৰ সৃষ্টি কৰি, আমাৰ দেশৰ অগ্ৰগতিৰ পথত প্ৰতিবন্ধকতা কৰিছে। এই বিশৃঙ্খলতা, এই গুণ্ডামী আমাৰ চৰকাৰে এতিয়াই নিৰ্মূল কৰা একান্ত প্ৰয়োজন। আজি পুলিচক আক্ৰমণ কৰিছে, ডেপুটিকমিশনাৰক অপমান কৰিছে ডি.এস্ পিৰ হাত ভাঙিছে, এস্ পিক অপমান কৰিছে, পুলিচ এস্ আইক খুন্দিয়াইছে, পুলিচ কনষ্টেবলক মাৰি পাণ্ডৰী কাটি নি জ্বলাই দিছে শিলগুটি মাৰি পুলিচ-ইন্সপেক্টৰক জখম কৰিছে এই বিলাক গুণ্ডামী নহৈ কি হব পাৰে? আজি আমাৰ বিৰোধী দলে যদি অহিংসাৰ নামত—কমিউনিষ্ট 'বলসেবিক' আদিৰ হিংসা নীতি পৰোক্ষ ভাবে অৱলম্বন কৰে ই বৰ পৰিতাপৰ কথা আৰু তাৰ লগতে যদি অহিংসাপন্থী সমাজতন্ত্ৰী তেওঁলোক এই দলবিলাকৰ সংমিলন কামনা কৰে তেন্তে ই তেওঁলোকৰ বুদ্ধি-হীনতাৰহে পৰিচায়ক হব। আজিৰ এই বিলাক কাৰ্য্যৰ দ্বাৰাই কংগ্ৰেছ বিৰোধী সকলে আমাৰ কংগ্ৰেছ চৰকাৰৰ কাৰ্য্যকলাপৰ তীব্ৰ আলোচনা কৰি কংগ্ৰেছৰ তথা চৰকাৰৰ

বাইজৰ আগত হয় প্ৰতিপন্থ কৰিবলৈ বন্ধ পৰিকৰ হৈছে আৰু 'চচিয়েলিষ্ট' 'কমিউনিষ্ট' 'বলচেভিক' আদি পাৰ্টিয়ে—কংগ্ৰেছ চৰকাৰৰ অস্তিত্ব লোপ সাধন কৰিবলৈ ব্যৰ্থ প্ৰয়াস কৰিছে। ইয়াকে কৈ মোৰ বক্তব্য সামৰিলো।

Shri BIMALA KANTA BORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Goswami, the Leader of the Opposition has spoken with certain vehemence to-day. It appears that he was personally involved in this matter. So far as the report goes, violence took place in Gauhati and Nowgong alone and not in any other place. According to Shri Goswami the Police in these two places behaved most brutally, in other words, the Police were provocative to the people. Therefore there was violence. But it is quite a different thing. Mr. Goswami is a man of Gauhati. He is the President of the Action Committee and also the Leader of the Opposition. Nowgong is the headquarters of the President of the Proja Socialist Party. It is significant that violence took out in the headquarters of these two political leaders. They want to show that they had no responsibility in this matter. It is very palpable that they are all political aspirants with certain ideologies. My own reading is that they wanted to create a situation from which they would get some food for their political propaganda in the general election. Their power is now waning and there is terrible landside in the parties and everybody knows that their power is waning day by day. So with a view to revive their waning political power they wanted to make propaganda against the Government by making alliance with the Communists and other political parties. I never thought that all these parties would combine in a matter of this kind.

Sir, in Nowgong what I have seen that about one thousand Rickshawallas were requisitioned for this purpose. What these people understand about Oil Refinery in Assam? Even they do not know what is Oil Refinery. But the organisers of the Hartal wanted to increase the number of processionists and appealed to the Rickshawallas, refugees and others to join the movement with a view to have the Oil Refinery in Assam.

The leaders of the movement brought Rickshawallas, refugees, and school students to the procession and they ought to have anticipated that there might be violence specially when picketting was the object. I think they ought to have heeded the warning given by the Chief Minister on the day before the Hartal. The organisers of the movement

cannot say now that this movement was a bonafide movement. I can show definitely that their intention was political. In Nowgong after the demonstration a big meeting was held and in the meeting as many as 5 or 6 persons belonging to the Proja Socialist Party and the Communist Party delivered speeches but practically said nothing about the refinery but velified the Assam Government. It is reported that only one person spoke on Oil Refinery demanding its location in Assam. In the meeting long speeches were delivered. Even before the Hartal was announced by mike the announcer delivered a long speech in street corners saying, "the Assam Government is useless, weak and inefficient", and so on I would request Mr. Goswami to enquire about these matters, and I would like to know from him whether these things would not cast reflections on the various leaders of the movement. Therefore, it is our bounden duty to take the greatest possible precautions when we play with fire by leading processions and movement of this kind and by adopting so called non-violent means to achieve our political objective.

In these circumstances we cannot say that it is not political.

Now, Sir, about non-violence. My Friend, Mr. Goswami, said that as Indian citizens he has every right to speak and to appeal to the people with folded hands. Yes, that is right and we also used to do so in pre-Independence days and even now we support any movement of that type. But, Sir, I will cite instances which will show that it is to the contrary. Is it non-violence to lie down before a State bus? First there was an appeal with folded hands, but when they found that folded hands were of no use in these days of atom bombs, they began to lie down before the Bus to obstruct its movement. Is it non-violence to obstruct the Deputy Commissioner from entering his office in Nowgong? The Deputy Commissioner of Nowgong was outside the Court compound—of course he may not report to Government about this for some reasons—but he was not allowed to enter. That too was done by a petition writer of Nowgong Court. This petition writer had to be arrested before the Deputy Commissioner could enter the Court compound.—Is that non-violence? Then again, I must bring this to the information of my Friend, Mr. Goswami, who is the author of the Action Committee to think and ponder whether it is not his bounden

duty as a responsible citizen to see that the people do not behave in this way ? I am sure these things must appeal to all those who have the interest of the country at heart.

Now, about burning of the Police's *pagri* and removal of Police hat. I know the helmet of the Police Inspector of Nowgong, whose nose was smashed altogether and is now lying with injuries, was taken away and played like a football by these rowdy elements. *Pagri* of a Police Constable was removed by force and then set on fire. Besides these, the attempt to break the police lock out at Nowgong is something more than one can conceive. Then again about one ton of stones collected by the Public Works Department on the roadsides for repair of the roads were thrown at officers and their building causing injuries to the police—the Superintendent of Police was injured, the Deputy Superintendent of Police was injured, the Inspector's jeep was smashed. Are all these non-violence ? It may be my Friend would not have liked all these things but for the presence of the Communists. In Nowgong a large number of refugees are led by the Communists and they were there on the spot to take advantage of the already tense situation. So it is dangerous for my Friend, Mr. Goswami, to make unholy alliance with such people like the Communists.

Now, Sir, I am told that these people are going to stage a "Release Day" to-day.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Where ?

Shri BIMALA KANTA BORA: It may be throughout Assam.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: It may be at Nowgong, but not at Gauhati.

Shri BIMALA KANTA BORA: Yes, at Nowgong. The President of the Proja Socialist Party is at Nowgong.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: The President of the Proja Socialist Party is at Gauhati—I am the Chairman of the Proja Socialist Party.

Shri BIMALA KANTA BORA: However, Sir, what is the idea of observing this "Release Day"? If some people were arrested for some offences or other, they will be released

in due course. If they are not released on bail, they will be put in hajat and their cases will be tried in a court of law and ultimately they may be sentenced or they will be released. So in cases like these when people were arrested and put to hajat according to law to make speeches and observe "Release Day", will amount to forcing the hands of the Government. So I think this question of observance of the "Release Day" is not desirable. I don't like to make comments on the cases now because they are *sub-judice*. I only want to place these facts before the hon. Members to prove that the motive and object of this Hartal were not really a peaceful Hartal for observing the "Refinery Day" but it had a political motive behind it.

In this connection I cannot but praise our police who in spite of such acts of violence have shown exemplary patience in dealing with the situation. The situation was so tense in Nowgong town that we were expecting firing at any moment. We were waiting to hear gun reports, but thank God these things did not occur.

I have already said it is very dangerous to play with fire and I hope my Friend, Mr. Goswami, will try to appreciate the situation. He is quite welcome to observe any day but he should be responsible for the consequences that may follow afterwards.

With these words, Sir, I support the statement made by our Leader of the House.

Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, পোন প্ৰথমতে মই আমাৰ মুখ্য-মন্ত্ৰী শ্ৰীযুত মেধী ডাঙৰীয়াই দাঙিধৰা বিবৃতিটো সমৰ্থন কৰিছে। শ্ৰীযুত মেধী ডাঙৰীয়াই বিবৃতি দিয়াৰ পিচত মই ভাবিছিলো শ্ৰীযুত গোস্বামীয়ে অনুশোচনা কৰিহে বিবৃতি দিব কিন্তু তেখেতে অনুশোচনা কৰাৰ পৰিবৰ্তে তেওঁলোকে কৰা অন্যায় আৰু হিংসামূলক কামবোৰ চাকিবলৈহে চেষ্টা কৰিছে। যেতিয়া ২৮ তাৰিখে বেল লাইন উঠাবলৈ আৰু চিগনেলৰ তাৰ কটিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিছিল, তেতিয়া মই তাতে আছিলো। লবাবোৰ যেতিয়া মোৰ ওচৰেদি গৈছিল তেওঁলোকৰ বহুতক মই স্মিধিছিলো "হৰতাল কিয় কৰিছে জানানে?" তেতিয়া তেওঁলোকৰ বহুতে 'নেজানো' বুলি উত্তৰ দিছিল। মই গুৱাহাটীৰ পুলিচবোৰক ধন্যবাদ দিছোঁ। বেলৰ লাইন উঠাওতে আৰু চিগনেলৰ তাৰ কাটোতে পুলিচে হকা-বাধা কৰোতে পুলিচৰ গালৈ কিমান যে শিলগুটি দলিয়াইছে অথচ পুলিচে একো কৰা নাই।

শ্ৰীগোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াই ভাবিছে যে এই সুবিধাতে আগন্তুক নিবৰ্চাচনৰ কাৰণে সুবিধা কৰিব পাৰিব কিন্তু কমিউনিষ্টসকলে যে তেখেতক নচুৱাব খুজিছে তাক বুজিবই পৰা নাই।

তেখেত কয় এইবোৰ মানুহৰ লগত লগ লাগে মই বুজিবই পৰা নাই। আমাৰ মুখ্য-মন্ত্ৰী আৰু মাননীয় মালব্য মহোদয়েও দঢ়ায় দঢ়ায় কৈছিল যে তেল শোধনাগাৰ হলে অসমতে হ'ব। অৱশ্যে কলিকতীয়া কিছমান কাগজ আৰু মানুহে এইটো কলিকতাত বিচৰাটোও সচাঁ কথা। কিন্তু মুখ্য-মন্ত্ৰী আৰু মাননীয় মালব্যজীয়ে অভয় দিয়াৰ পিচত হবতাল কৰাৰ কোনো যুক্তি আমি বিচাৰি নেপাওঁ। আমি ভাবিছিলো যে মালব্যজীৰ অভয়বাণী শুনাৰ পিচত তেওঁলোকে হবতাল নকৰিব। কিন্তু বাতিপুৰা দেখিছো লবাবোৰ গৈছে হবতাল কৰিবৰ কাৰণে আৰু বিকছাৱালাবোৰে বিকছা বন্ধ কৰি দিছে। সিহঁতে যোক স্মৃতিছিল “তল শোধনাগাৰ কি?” আৰু কৈছিল “আমি নগলে হেনো আমাৰ লাইচেঞ্চ নাকচ কৰিব।” এই দৰে ভয় খুৱালে তেওঁলোক নিশ্চয় যাব আৰু হবতাল কৰিব। কিন্তু এইদৰে আমাৰ লবাবোৰ আৰু একো নজনা বিকছাৱালাবোৰক ভুল পথে নিয়া উচিত হোৱা নাই। হকে বিহকে যদি এই দৰে সৰু সৰু লবাবোৰক নি হিংসাত্মক কামত লগায় তেন্তে ভৱিষ্যত দেখব যে কি অৱস্থা হ'ব তাক শ্ৰীগোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াই ভাবি চোৱা উচিত।

এই কামৰ দ্বাৰা যদি দেশৰ উপকাৰ আৰু কল্যাণ হ'লহেঁতেন তেনেহলে আমাৰ কৰ লগীয়া একো নাই। কিন্তু বেললাইন ভঙ্গা আৰু বেলবোৰ জব্দ কৰাৰ কাৰণে যাত্ৰীসকলৰ কি দুৰ্গতি হৈছে তাক এবাৰ ভাবি চাওঁকচোন? তেখেত নিজেই সভাপতি হৈ বেলবোৰ জব্দ কৰাত যাত্ৰাসকলৰ দুৰ্গতিৰ প্ৰতি লক্ষ্য কৰা উচিত আছিল। হোটেলত ভাত খাবলৈ নেপায় তেওঁলোকৰ কি বিলাই বিপত্তি হৈছিল তেখেত নিজে গৈ চোৱা উচিত আছিল বুলি ভাবো। কমিউনিষ্ট, ভেংগাৰ্ড আদি দলবোৰৰ লগত লগ হৈ নিজৰ ব্যক্তিগত হে নষ্ট কৰিছে। আমি তেখেতক সন্মান কৰো, মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰীৰ পিচতে বুলি ভাবো; কিন্তু এই দৰে যাৰে তাৰে লগ লাগি তেখেতে তাকে হেৰুৱাইছে।

কমিউনিষ্ট সকলে তেল শোধনাগাৰটো অসমত হোৱা কেতিয়াও বাঞ্ছা নকৰে। তেওঁলোকে আগন্তুক নিৰ্বাচনৰ কাৰণেহে এইদৰে লগ লাগিছে। চৰকাৰক সমালোচনা কৰাটোৱেই তেওঁলোকৰ একমাত্ৰ কাম। তেওঁলোকৰ যি সভা হৈছিল তালৈকো মই গৈছিলো। তাতো তেওঁলোকে তেল শোধনাগাৰৰ কথা বিশেষ একো কোৱা নাই। পুলিচৰ অত্যাচাৰ আৰু চৰকাৰৰ দুৰ্নীতি আদিৰ কথাহে কৈছিল। সেই কাৰণে মই গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ কণ্ঠ তেখেতে যাতে কমিউনিষ্ট আদি নানা জোৰা তাপলি পাৰ্টিৰ লগ লাগি নিজৰে ভৱিষ্যত নষ্ট কৰি নলয়। মই জানো তেখেতৰ নিচিনা মানুহে কেতিয়াও হিংসাত্মক কাম সমৰ্থন নকৰে কিন্তু কৰিব কি বেচেৰাৰ উপায় নাই। দিনে দিনে চছিয়েলিষ্ট পাৰ্টি দুৰ্বল হৈ পৰাত কি কৰো কি নকৰো হৈ পৰিছে, সিদিনা যেতিয়া লবাবোৰে বেলৱেষ্টেচনত আহি নানা বকম অত্যাচাৰ আৰম্ভ কৰে তেতিয়া আমাৰ কংগ্ৰেছ সভাপতি চলিহা ডাঙৰীয়াই তেখেতক ফোন কৰি তালৈ আহিবলৈ অনুৰোধ কৰিলে। গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়া আহি বহুত সময় বক্তৃতা দি বেল লাইন আৰু চিগনেলৰ তাৰ আদি ভাঙিবলৈ হাক দিলে কিন্তু লৰা আৰু কিছমান মানুহে তেখেতৰ বক্তৃতা নুশুনি ষ্টেচনৰ পূৰ্ণ পিনে গৈ বেল লাইন ভাঙিবলৈ আৰম্ভ কৰিলে। মোৰ শ্ৰীগোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ প্ৰতি পুতৌহে হয় Sir, বেচেৰাৰ কাৰো প্ৰতি control নাই। নহলে নো তেখেতে হাক দি বক্তৃতা দি থাকোতে মানুহবোৰে বেল লাইন টেলিগ্ৰাফ তাৰ আদি ভাঙি জাতীয় সম্পদ নষ্ট কৰে নে? আমাৰ দেশৰ এই জাতীয় সম্পদ নষ্ট কৰা মানে আমাৰেই লোকচান, তেখেতে জানে। কিন্তু

কি কৰিব জোৰ। তাপলি দিয়া পাৰ্টিত যোগ দি এতিয়া উপায় নোহোৱাত পৰিছে। এইটো তেখেতে জানে কমিউনিষ্ট পাৰ্টিৰ কাম হৈছে জাতীয় সম্পদ আদি ধ্বংস কৰি হকে বিহকে সৰু সৰু কথাবোৰকে লৈ হৈ-টচ কৰা গতিকে এই সুযোগতে তেওঁলোকে হিংসামূলক কাম কৰিবই। তাত চছিয়েলিষ্ট পাৰ্টিয়ে যোগ দি ভবিষ্যত নষ্ট নহবলৈ অনুৰোধ কৰে।

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Friend, Shri Goswami has made a reference about me in course of his speech in connection with the Oil Refinery. So I want to make my position clear. Mr. Goswami called a meeting on the 16th or 17th August, and invited me and Shri Lakshi Bora to attend that meeting. We went to the meeting and before the commencement of the meeting we made the position of the Congress clear. We also stated that at this stage any other action would be premature and we requested them not to take any action and left the meeting then and there, before the commencement of the meeting. Now if they call it an All-Party Conference, we do not think it is correct, because the Congress was not represented in that meeting. The Congress being the biggest party was not represented and as such I do not understand how Mr. Goswami can call it an All-Party Conference. Moreover there was a motive behind the Hartal and it is evident from their action. Mr. Goswami knew it that Malavyaji was coming on the 27th. He was invited to the meeting by Shri Lakshi Bora, and Mr. Goswami assured him that he would attend the meeting. Mr. Goswami did not attend the meeting, while Mr. Bhattacharyya while passing by the side of the Nabin Bordoloi premises was requested to attend the meeting.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: We went there. Of course we did not address the meeting.....

Mr. SPEAKER : Mr. Goswami, you should not talk across the table.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : They were not in the meeting. They were in a place in front of the Sub-Judge's Court. Now as the leaders of the people if they have a good intention, they should have come when they were requested to make their position clear. Mr. Goswami was the leader of the Action Committee. He did not speak a single word in the meeting. On the other hand one Communist friend spoke in the meeting.

So Mr. Goswami had not the good motive or it may be that he could not prevail upon his friends. He played in the hands of his friends. It was clear with regard to the Hartal that it was far from a peaceful one. It was clear from the acts of violence committed in the Gauhati town specially in the Railway lines. Moreover the motive could be judged from the speeches they made in the public meetings on the 28th. In that meeting there were vilifications of the Government and in yesterday's meeting there were vilifications of the Chief Minister. That clearly shows that they were not very much anxious for the Oil Refinery, but they were very much anxious for their own power. With these words, I conclude my speech.

Shri DEBESWAR RAJKHOWA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let us see what is a Hartal. I know generally a Hartal is observed against a certain decision, if the people feel aggrieved by that decision. Sir, in this case it was clear from the speech of the Union Minister for Natural Resources that Government of India have not taken any decision, with regard to the establishment of the Oil Refinery. In the context of that I do not find that a Hartal was necessary at all. Over and above this it was said by the authors of the Hartal Action Committee that it would be peaceful. I leave for the people to judge whether it was peaceful. Sir, on the 28th I was at Gauhati. I heard some people removing railway lines, some people pulling the railway signals and some people were also found squatting on the railway lines. Some people tried to dislink the link of a train. That was really a horrible thing. If such things are committed in the background of a Hartal we do not find any meaning of the Hartal. Over and above this, the Leader of the Opposition Shri Goswami went to the Cotton College compound, asked the boys to come and join the Hartal. As a matter of fact the observance of a Hartal is a voluntary thing, there should not be any coercion. All these things are never thought of. We do not appreciate these things. I do not like to narrate the acts of violence committed at Gauhati on the 28th. Now what is the duty of the Police in such circumstances? When they find that some people are destroying a railway line, it is their duty to disperse them and in course of doing this they might require to disperse the crowd by mild lathi charge. The Police did not commit excesses. What was done in the 1942 Movement during the British regime? Our beloved leader, Kushal Kowar, was put to gallows on the charge of removing railway lines! But on the 28th some people were found removing railway line in

the broad day light. Still then the Police did not use much force. Sir, the Hartal was unwanted and we cannot support such things and with these words, I take my seat.

Adjournment

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

After lunch

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister) : Sir, I had no intention to take part in this debate since the Chief Minister has already made a statement about this Hartal. But I have had some experience, rather bitter experience about this Hartal which I could gather while going to Jorhat. Shri Hareswar Goswami stated that the Hartal was absolutely non-violent and peaceful and no force was applied to persons who did not like to observe it. He also stated that there was no political motive behind this agitation and programme of Hartal. But from what I could learn personally, I would like to state that the statement made by Shri Goswami has no bearing on actual circumstances. I proceeded from Nowgong on the 28th instant at about 10-30 A.M. to Jorhat and after coming about a furlong or so from the Circuit House, a few students surrounded my car and stopped it. They told me that it was a Hartal day and that I should not proceed on further. After my argument with them they allowed me to go a little. In the meantime some elderly persons numbering about 10 gathered around my car and within a couple of minutes the number swelled into a hundred. Some elderly persons incited the students not to allow me to go but to stop my car. I argued with them for about 5 minutes and explained to them the position about the location of the proposed refinery in Assam and the stand taken by the Government of Assam and the Government of India as well as the statement made by the Union Minister for Natural Resources in this regard in the public meeting held at Gauhati on 27th August. But even then they did not allow me to go and when the situation became tense, I thought it better on my part to withdraw from the scene. I came back and went to meet Shri Haladhar Bhuyan, leader of the Praja

Socialist Party. I could not meet him at his house and then proceeded to Nowgong District Congress Committee's office. There I met Shri Mahendra Hazarika, M.L.A. and Shri Lila Kanta Bora, M.L.A. They of course managed to take me by a different route to the Trunk Road where there was no picketing. I then proceeded to Jorhat and arrived Kaliabor at about 11-20 A.M. At Kaliabor I found some students numbering about 300 to 400 standing on the Trunk Road. I had to stop my car in front of the crowd. When they saw me they said : "You cannot proceed on because today is a day of Hartal". I enquired of them as to who conducted the Hartal. I then went to meet the President of the Action Committee and on enquiry I came to know that he was a member of the Revolutionary Communist Party of India. Not only this : I came to know that some other members of the Action Committee were also members of the Revolutionary Communist Party of India. I argued with them for some time, about 10 to 15 minutes and requested them to allow me to go as I had urgent business to attend. They told me, "Unless you bring some Police Force and unless you resort to violence through them, we will not allow you to go". I was standing there for about 4 or 5 minutes and in the meanwhile Shri Bhabesh Barua, a District Judge came to me. He was coming from Tezpur and was also held up there. My Friend, Shri Gahan Chandra Goswami, M.L.A. also was found sitting in a shop nearby. He also came from Tezpur and was held up there by the students. As we were not allowed to go we had to sit down in a shop of a Marwari gentleman near the Kuaritol Police Station. In the meantime at about 3 30 P.M. a meeting was organised by the crowd which was at a close proximity to the shop where we were sitting. In the meeting, I was told, that some leaders of the political parties opposed to the Congress, addressed the gathering and denounced not only the Government of Assam and for the matter the Congress, but also the Government of India for not taking steps for locating the proposed refinery in Assam. In that meeting there was, as far as I could gather, no provocation from any quarters. In spite of this fact, they denounced the Government and made the occasion a political platform. This shows that the statement made by my Friend, Shri Goswami, that this Hartal programme was not organized with a view to further any political aim or supporting the cause of any political party, is far from the truth. It must be remembered that although we were held up for about 5 hours we

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ASSAM

did not take the help of the police even though the Police Station was near at hand. I then proceeded to Golaghat at about 4-30 P.M. On arrival I contacted the Subdivisional Officer on the phone and enquired of him about the situation obtaining there. I was told that the Hartal was not so voluntary or peaceful as professed by the organizers. It was also made clear to me that the Hartal was made a political occasion for denouncing the State Government as well as the Government of India. At Jorhat also, I contacted the Superintendent of Police and enquired of him about the situation obtaining there and I was told that although all peaceful methods were applied by the officials and there was no provocation from any quarter, yet the hartal was not non-violent but forceful in many cases. Then again the meeting organized for the purpose of the hartal was not meant to be a political one and no speech was to be made against any party. But some of the leaders of the political parties who organized the meeting utilized the occasion for the purpose of furthering their political aims. This was reported to me by the Senior Extra Assistant Commissioner. They used the meeting as a political platform and not solely for the purpose of ventilating the grievances of the people in the matter of location of the proposed refinery. I would like to state in this connection that at Jorhat I was told that some picketers dragged out some assistants from their office in order to make them observe the Hartal. This I could learn from the Labour Officer who came to meet me in the Jorhat Circuit House. So it cannot be said that the Hartal was peaceful. On the whole I would like to stress the point that the statement made by Shri Goswami that the Hartal was peaceful is not correct. In my view it was indirectly designed to further the aims of some political parties.

Shri HARINARAYAN BARUA : মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, যোৱা ২৮ আগষ্টৰ হবতাল সম্পৰ্কীয় বিষয়ত মাননীয় মুখ্যমন্ত্রী মহোদয়ৰ বিবৃতিৰ ওপৰত আমাৰ এইসদনত যি আলোচনা হৈছে সেই আলোচনাৰ ভাগ লবলৈ ইচ্ছা নথকা স্বত্বেও কেইআঘাৰ-মানৰ কাৰণে ঠিয় হৈ দুঘাৰ কবলৈ বাধ্য হৈছে। অসমত তেল সংশোধনাগাৰ স্থাপনৰ কৰা সম্পৰ্কে মই ভাবো-যে ইয়াত দুটা মত নাই। আমি সকলোৱে ইচ্ছা কৰো যে এই সংশোধনাগাৰ অসমত প্রতিস্থা কৰিব লাগে। সেইবিষয়ে জনসাধাৰণে নিজৰ ইচ্ছা ও মনোভাৱ প্ৰকাশ কৰিছে। দেশৰ সমস্যা সমাধান কৰাত প্ৰত্যেক দেশবাসীৰেই তাত বৰঙনী যোগোৱাৰ অধিকাৰ আছে। সেই বৰঙনী যোগাবলৈ এই সদনৰ সকলো সদস্য নিশ্চয় সাজু আছে। এই মাত্ৰ আমাৰ মাননীয় শ্ৰীযুত হৰেশ্বৰ গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াই তেখেতৰ মত প্ৰকাশ কৰিছে যে তেখেত সকলে দেশৰ নাগৰিক হিচাবে তেখেতসকলৰ মত প্ৰকাশ কৰাৰ যি দায়ীত্ব আছে তাক পালন কৰিবলৈ কেতিয়াও কুণ্ঠিত নহয়; মই সেই

কথাত আপত্তি নকৰো। কিন্তু মই এইটোকেহে কব খুজিছো যে তেনেকৈয়ে এই সদনত আন সদস্য সকলৰো দায়ীত্ব আছে ; তাক পালন-কৰাত তেওঁবিলাক কেতিয়াও কুণ্ঠিত হোৱা নাই। এতিয়া কথা হল প্ৰত্যেকেই দায়িত্বশীল নাগৰিক হিচাবে দায়িত্ব পালন কৰিছে। বেচকথা, তাত আমাৰ বাধা দিয়াৰ কোনো অধিকাৰ নাই। এতিয়া কথা হল, তেখেতসকলে দায়ীত্ব পালন কৰি হৰতাল শোভাযাত্ৰা আদি পালন কৰিবলৈ আদেশ কৰাৰ ফলত দেশৰ যি ক্ষতি হল, জাতীয় সম্পদ যি নষ্ট হল তাৰ ক্ষতিপূৰণৰ দায়ীত্বও তেনেহলে লব লাগিব। কাৰণ তেখেতে কৈছে আমি অহিংস হৰতাল কৰিছো। অহিংস হৰতাল কৰিবলৈ যাওঁতে পৰিচালিত দল সনুহে ৰাজহুৱা সম্পত্তিকে নষ্ট কৰিলে। তেন্তে এই ক্ষতি পূৰণৰ দায়ীত্ব তেওঁলোকৰ ওপৰত নপৰিবনে? তেখেতসকলে আৰু নকৈছে যে দায়ীত্বশীল লোক হিচাবে শোভাযাত্ৰা হৰতাল আদি পৰিচালনা কৰিছিল; আৰু তাৰ ফলত ৰেল লাইন ভাঙা, মটৰ গাড়ী ধ্বংস, কাৰখানাৰ লোকচান আদি হল। এই বিলাক জাতীয় সম্পত্তি আৰু এইবিলাকৰ ক্ষতিপূৰণ তেনেহলে তেখেত সকলেই নিশ্চয় দিবলৈ ৰাজি হব লাগিব। এইটো শীঘ্ৰে গোন্ধাৰী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ কথাৰ ওপৰতহে মন্তব্য কৰিব লগা হৈছে। কাৰণ অহিংসা আন্দোলন কৰিবলৈ যাওঁতে হিংসাৰ আশ্ৰয় ললে।

আজি তেখেতে আৰু কৈছে যে কেবল হৰেন্দ্ৰ গোস্বামীয়ে অকলে অসমত তেল সংশোধনাগাৰ প্ৰতিষ্ঠা কৰাৰ কাৰণে হৰতাল কৰা নাই; সমগ্ৰ জনসাধাৰণে হৰতাল কৰিছে—সেইটো মানিলৈছে। তেখেতে আকৌ কৈছে যে তেখেতৰ দায়িত্বত হৰতাল পৰিচালনা হোৱা নাই; তেখেতৰ আত্মনত দলেদলে দেশৰ মানুহ সমবেত হোৱা নাই, হৈছে নিজৰ মৰ্ম বানী প্ৰকাশ কৰিবলৈ। ভাল কথা। যদি এয়েই হয় তেনেহলে বিৰোধীদলৰ নেতা ডাঙৰীয়াই হিংসাৰ কাৰ্য্যত প্ৰতিবাদ কৰিছে কিয়? তেওঁলোকৰ মুখত কংগ্ৰেছ তথা চৰকাৰৰ কাৰ্য্যপদ্ধতিৰ প্ৰতি ইমান তীব্ৰ কতাক কিয় আৰু তাৰ লগে লগে সেই অহিংসা জনতাই উদ্ভেজিত হৈ অহিংসাৰ কথা পাহৰি কিয় ধ্বংসাত্মক কাৰ্য্য কৰি দেশৰ সম্পদ নষ্ট কৰিলে? এই ধ্বংস কৰিদিয়া সম্পদ বিলাকৰ নিশ্চয় মূল্য আছে। আকৌ মই প্ৰশ্ন কৰিব খুজিছো এই বিলাকৰ ক্ষতিপূৰণ কোনে দিব? তেখেতৰ কথামতেই, যদি দেশৰ মানুহৰ নিজৰ মতামত প্ৰকাশ কৰাৰ অধিকাৰ আছে তেন্তে আন ফালেও বহুত লোক আছে যিবিলাকে নিজ অধিকাৰৰ কথা স্মৰণ কৰি তেওঁলোকৰ ধ্বংসাত্মক কাৰ্য্যৰ গৰিহনা দি ক্ষতিগ্ৰস্ত হোৱা দেশৰ সম্পদ বিলাকৰ ক্ষতিপূৰণৰ দাবী কৰিছে। মই এই কথা এইকাৰণেই কৈছো যে শীঘ্ৰে গোন্ধাৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই এই মাত্ৰ কৈ গল যে আমি অহিংসা বিশ্বাস কৰো আৰু এই হৰতাল অহিংসা উপায়েৰেহে পালন কৰিবলৈ আদেশ দিছো। আৰু তেখেতে কৈছে এই হৰতালত কোনো ৰাজনীতিৰ ৰহন নাই। ই ৰাইজৰ মৰ্ম ব্যথা প্ৰকাশ। যদি দেশৰ মানুহেই দেশৰ সমস্যা সমাধানৰ পথত এইদৰে ৰাজনীতিৰ সহায় লয় তেন্তে ই বৰ পৰিতাপৰ কথা। আৰু মোৰ বিশ্বাস ই সৰ্বসাধাৰণ ৰাইজৰ উদ্দেশ্য নহয়, বৰং মুষ্টিমেয় স্বাধীন লোকৰ ক্ষমতা হস্তান্তৰৰ ব্যৰ্থ প্ৰয়াস মাত্ৰ বুলি কব লাগিব। এইয়া খবৰ কাগজে কি কয় চাওক। কালি ২৯ আগষ্টৰ কাগজত তেখেতে এটা বিবৃতি দিছে সেইটো হৈছে এই:—

—“Sri Hareswar Goswami, Chairman of the Action Committee told me that the strike was complete and successful and it was peaceful barring one or two incidents here and there.”

He added: “So far as schools, colleges, bazars and shops were concerned, the hartal was spontaneous and no picketing was necessary. So far as railway, steamer, Government offices transport and Courts were concerned, some amount of picketing

had to be done. But the picketers were never obstructive and only appealed to the people concerned to refrain from attending their jobs. In majority of the cases they immediately responded and made the hartal complete and successful. The Action Committee, therefore, congratulates the people of Gauhati for observing the day in a most peaceful manner. The spontaneity of the hartal, in spite of the disapproval of the Chief Minister, and Sri Malavva, and dissociation by the Congress, proves how deeply the people feel for locating the refinery in Assam."

তেখেতে কৈছে যে তেখেত সকলে ইয়াত কোনো ৰাজনীতিৰ চাপদিবলৈ বা বহুণ মানিবলৈ বিচৰা নাই। সেইটো আমি মানিলৈছো। কিন্তু উল্লেখিত তেখেতৰ বিবৃতিয়ে কি প্রকাশ কৰে? "আমি হৰতাল কৰিছো; 'ডেমণ্ডেচন' দেখুৱাইছো—আৰু তাত আমি কৃতকাৰ্য্য হৈছো। প্রধান মন্ত্ৰী, মালব্যজী আৰু কংগ্ৰেছৰ সহায় নোলোৱাকৈয়ে কৃতকাৰ্য্যতা অৰ্জন কৰিছো। ইয়াতেই দেখোন ৰাজনীতিৰ কথা আহিল। অসম চৰকাৰ কংগ্ৰেছ, আৰু কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰ আদিয়ে প্ৰস্তাবিত তেল শোধনাগাৰ অসমত প্ৰতিষ্ঠা কৰিব খোজা নাই" সেই কথাহে প্রকাশ হল? আৰু কংগ্ৰেছে এই আন্দোলনৰ পৰা আতৰি থকাৰ কথাটোও স্পষ্ট ভাবে দেখুৱাই দিয়া হল। এতিয়া অলপ আগতে তেখেতে কৈ যোৱা মতে কব লাগিব যে তেখেত সকলে এতিয়া নিজৰ গা বচাবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিছে যেন অনুমান হৈছে। মোৰ বোধেৰে তেখেতে অৰ্থাৎ তেখেতৰ খবৰ কাগজৰ বিবৃতি আৰু এই সদনত দিয়া বিবৃতিৰ লগত সঙ্গত নাই। তেখেতে নিজৰ ডিঙিত নিজেই পৰা মেৰাই লৈছে। কাৰণ ওপৰোক্ত বিবৃতিটো তেখেতৰ নিজৰ। যদি বাতৰি কাকতে মিথ্যাপ্ৰচাৰ কৰিছে কব নোৱাৰো। এইখিনিতে এটা কথা উল্লেখ কৰিব খুজিছো যে আমাৰ নিচিনা সৰু মানুহে ডাঙৰ উপদেশ দিবলৈ যোৱাটো ঠিক কথা নহব তথাপি মই কব খুজিছো যে শ্ৰীযুত গোস্বামী নিজেও এজন অহিংসাত বিশ্বাস থকা লোক। উপৰোক্ত বক্তা জনচেৰেকেও কৈ গৈছে যে ইংৰাজৰ দিনত তেখেতেও আমাৰ লগত হৰতাল কৰিছিল বক্তা জনচেৰেকেও কৈ গৈছে যে ইংৰাজৰ দিনত তেখেতেও আমাৰ লগত হৰতাল কৰিছিল আৰু পুলিচৰ লাঠি পৰ্য্যন্ত খাইছিল। তেখেতৰ সেই অভিজ্ঞতা আছে। আমিও অনেক সময়ত দেখিছো যেতিয়া বজাবত হৰতাল বা আন গুণ্ডগোল হয় তেতিয়া লুটপাত কৰিবলৈ এটা সুবিধা হয় আৰু সেই সুবিধা বহুতে লয়। এইবোৰৰ দ্বাৰা আমাৰ যি অপৰণীয় ক্ষতি হয় তাৰ পৰা আমাৰ বহুত লোকচান হয়। সেই অনুযায়ী যোৱা ২৮ তাৰিখৰ হৰতালতো বহুতো অবাঞ্ছনীয় লোকে বেয়া কাম কৰি ক্ষতি সাধন কৰিছে। মোৰ বিশ্বাস তেখেত সকলে আৰম্ভনীতে যদিও অহিংসা হিচাবে কাম কৰিবলৈ সিদ্ধান্ত কৰিছিল শেষত কৰ্ম্মীসকলক শাসনৰ ভিতৰত ৰাখিব নোৱাৰিলে। ইয়াৰ পৰা দেশৰ সম্পদ নষ্ট হল। এতিয়া আমাৰ দেশত তেলৰ কথা ওলাইছে। ইয়াৰ আগতেও আমাৰ দেশত বহুত ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ ঘটনা হৈ গৈছে। Groupingৰ সময়ত অসমৰ মানুহৰ মুখত পানী আৰু চকুত টোপনী নাইকিয়া হৈছিল। সেই সময়তো অসমে অহিংসা আৰু ধীৰ-স্থিৰ ভাবে অগ্ৰসৰ হৈ সেই সমস্যাৰ সমাধান কৰিব পাৰিলে। ৰাজ্য পুনৰ্গঠণৰ সময়তো ধীৰ-স্থিৰ ভাৱেই সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিলে। এতিয়া তেলৰ সমস্যাটোও অসমৰ মানুহেই সমাধান কৰিব লাগিব আৰু কৰিব। গতিকে আমি যদি সমাধানৰ পথ এৰি হিংসাত্মক কাৰ্য্যৰ দ্বাৰ ওলোটা পথ অনুকৰণ কৰো তেনেহলে হয়তো শোধনাগাৰ অসমত প্ৰতিষ্ঠা নহৈ অসমৰ বাহিৰত হব। কাৰণ ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰা আমি অসমৰ বাহিৰৰ লোকৰ সমৰ্থন আৰু সহানুভূতি হেৰুৱান আৰু সেই কাৰ্য্যই হয়তো অসমত শোধনাগাৰ হোৱাত বাধা জনাব তেতিয়া তাৰ বাবে কোনে দায়ীত্ব ল'ব? আজি মই সদনত দাবী কৰি সুবিধা

খুজিছো যে বিসকলে এই হবতাল কবালে সেই সময়ত শৌধনাগাঁৱ নোহোৱাৰ বাবদ তেওঁ লোকেই দায়ী নুবনেন? যদি ২/৪ জন অৰাটে গৈছে দেশৰ সমস্যালৈ চাই তেওঁলোকক সজ পথলৈ এতিয়াও বুৰাই অনা উচিত। ইয়াৰ বাহিৰেও মাননীয় মালব্যজীৰ বক্তব্যৰ পিচত হবতাল কবাৰ কোনো যুক্তিযুক্ততা থাকিব নোৱাৰে। যদি তেখেতসকলে হবতাল কবাৰ কিবা যুক্তি দেখিছিল তেন্তে কংগ্ৰেছৰ লগত আলোচনা কৰি লোৱা উচিত আছিল। তেওঁলোকে কব খোজেনে কি যে কংগ্ৰেছক তেল শৌধনাগাঁৱ অসমত নেলাগে বা তাত বাধা দিব? এই সদনৰ সদস্য সকলে আৰু কংগ্ৰেছেই প্ৰথমৰে পৰা ইয়াৰ প্ৰতিস্থা অসমত বিচাৰিছে আৰু ভবিষ্যতে প্ৰয়োজন হলে কংগ্ৰেছেই এই কাৰ্য্যত আগভাগ লব। তেন্তে আজি কিয় এই আন্দোলনত এদলৰ সমখন আছে আৰু কংগ্ৰেছৰ নাই বুলি বাহিৰত দেখুৱাৰ লগা হল? মই এই কথাত বৰ দুখিত হৈছো। মই সন্দেহ কৰিছো এই কাৰ্য্যই অসমৰ ক্ষতি সাধন কৰিব পাৰে। মই এইটোকেহে বজো যে দেশৰ সমস্যাবিলাক সমাধান কৰোতে কংগ্ৰেছকো লগত লব লাগে।

মই শ্ৰীযুত গোস্বামীক ভালকৈ জানো আৰু তেখেতেওঁ আমাক ভালকৈ জানে। আমি সকলোৱে একেলগে দেশৰ কাম কৰি আহিছো। দেশৰ অনিষ্ট হোৱা কাৰ্য্যত তেখেতে নিশ্চয় যোগ নিদিয়ৈ আৰু আমিও নিদিওঁ। কিন্তু তেল শৌধনাগাঁৱ সম্পৰ্কত কংগ্ৰেছক বিকৃতকপে দেখুৱাবলৈ যত্ন কৰাতহে দুখিত হৈছো। এই সদনত থকা কংগ্ৰেছ সদস্যসকলে অসমত তেল শৌধনাগাঁৱ স্থাপনৰ সম্পৰ্কত ন্যায়সঙ্গত ভাবে যি কৰা প্ৰয়োজন তাক কৰিবলৈ সদায় সাজু বুলি আমি বিশ্বাস কৰো। শ্ৰীযুত গোস্বামীয়ে নিশ্চয় জানে যে কংগ্ৰেছীসকল ভীক বা কাপুৰুষ নহয়। মোৰ এইকথা কোৱাৰ উদ্দেশ্য যে দেশৰ সমস্যা সমাধান কৰাত কেতিয়াও বাজনীতি মিহলি কৰিব নেলাগে। তেনে কৰিলে দেশৰ ক্ষতি হয়। মূঠৰ ওপৰত এনেবোৰ কাম কৰোতে সকলো দলৰ লগত পৰামৰ্শ কৰা আৱশ্যক। শ্ৰীযুত গোস্বামীক মই এই টোকে কব খোজো যে হৈযোৱা ঘটনাবোৰ চিন্তা নকৰি ভবিষ্যতলৈ যাতে ইয়াৰ পৰা আৰু অশান্তি নহয় তাৰ বাবে যেন বত্ন কৰে।

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I say a few words, not by way of reply.....

Mr. SPEAKER: By way of explanation?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Yes, Sir. Sriman Prafulla Goswami said in course of his speech that it was I who rang up the Congress President, Mr. Bimala Prasad Chaliha, and asked him to come to the site of the occurrence and disperse the crowd. Sir, I deny that. I once more reiterate that it was Mr. Bimala Prasad Chaliha who rang me up and asked me to come to the spot immediately.

Mr. SPEAKER: You said so already.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Yes, Sir, but although I said so, Mr. Goswami gave the wrong impression that I was trying to get the help of Mr. Chaliha.

Secondly, the question was raised about my not going to the meeting which was addressed by Mr. Malavya. As a matter of fact, Sir, I was informed about it by the Congress Secretary at 4-30 p. m. We had already fixed up a meeting at 5 o'clock and as President of the meeting I had to be there and, therefore, could not come to Mr. Malavya's meeting in time. I also thought that what I would say in the public meeting I would be able to speak to Mr. Malavya in the Circuit House at 6-30 p. m., when my interview with him was fixed. What I would have said to him in the public meeting I would say to him in the Circuit House and, therefore, Sir, no question of not hearing him comes in.

Also, regarding justification for the Hartal, both Mr. Medhi and myself agreed to differ on this point honestly. There was no question of dishonesty that I kept something away from him.

Mr. SPEAKER: There was no mental or judicial dishonesty!

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have come very late and so could not hear what the Chief Minister had said. But from what I could gather from my Friends here and also from the speeches of two of my hon. Friends opposite—I mean particularly, Shri Harinarayan Barua—I got the impression that he was merely professing Congress ideals. The Congress will do this, the Congress will do that, the Congress would have done that, the Congress will die, if necessary, and this sort of things, and that Proja Socialist Party has done something wrong. So far as refinery movement is concerned, it is not a political platform to say all these unnecessary things.

Shri HARINARAYAN BARUA: মই প্রজা চটিয়েলিষ্ট বা আন কাৰো নামলোৱা নাই।

Mr. SPEAKER: You accept it?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Yes, Sir. But he said in this way, Sir, we have seen that agitation is going on in some form or other for establishment of the Oil Refinery in Assam since some time past. It is going on in every corner of Assam, right from the top ranking persons in the Government to the lowest person in the country. Till the

arrival of the Central Minister we noticed that strong worded statements of responsible persons in the Government were published stating that we must have this Refinery at any cost in Assam and even if it is not agreed to by the Government of India or the Company every effort will be made to have this Refinery in Assam. In this move Proja Socialist Party or the Congress was not alone. Every body in the State of Assam wanted that the Refinery should be established in our State for the betterment of the economically backward State. In order to strengthen the hands of Government and also of the movement some parties wanted to have this Hartal as it is the past experience of the people of this State that so far as Assam is concerned, the Central Government have always neglected this State in all respects. In order that this does not happen again and the Refinery is established in Assam some parties organised a Hartal in order to ventilate public feelings for the rightful demand.

Now, the first point is that the people, - cent per cent, whether he is a Congressman, or whether he is Minister, or an officer, or a Proja Socialist Party man, or a man in the street or in the village, everybody wants that the Refinery should be established in Assam and for that purpose if there is a Hartal organised in a peaceful atmosphere and if it is observed in a peaceful manner in that case, I think, it is an unique achievement for the State of Assam to put its case more strongly to the Government of India.

Now, my Friend, Mr. Chetia, said that Police was as peaceful as could be and they followed the ideal of non-violence of Mahatmaji. I do not accept the statement as true. I shall give the reasons. At the present juncture what the Police is doing in the whole country? What they are doing in Bengal? What they are doing in Maharashtra? What they did the other day in Bihar and Ahmedabad? From these it is very clear that the Police administration in so far as the whole country is concerned is not at all non-violent. It is known to all alike that the Refinery should be in Assam and for that purpose if Hartal is organised then it is expected that this Hartal should be unique and there should be no opposition from any quarter. This Hartal which was observed would have been peaceful if there was no provocation from any side,

How can there be lawlessness unless there was some sort of obstruction from some quarter. So, it is obvious that obstruction came from the police.

Mr. SPEAKER: You should not make the case of Bengal and Madhya Pradesh same as that of Assam.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: It is the same. For instance, what happened in Karimganj on the 15th and the 18th August? I was an eye-witness of these incidents. I spoke about it all to the Chief Minister who was there at the time. One top-ranking Police officer, Superintendent of Police of Cachar has mercilessly beaten some students and young men dragging by their necks from the private houses without assigning any reasons. This was done without any provocation from the public. We cannot expect that a responsible Superintendent of Police should be have like a beast. He must be discharged forthwith and punished. There were 8 or 9 cases of this merciless beating of students. Indiscriminate arrest by Police was made with false charges. Is it not Police excess? We demanded a Judicial Enquiry.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): How this arises here?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: In order to show how your Police are behaving.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): But, I am sorry to note that Shri Das had not the courage to give a written statement to that effect.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: It has been posted and I think, he will get it soon.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think, you have got the disadvantage in putting forward your argument as you did not hear the full statement of facts and you are now trying to put arguments which are not relevant here.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: I am showing that the Police in Assam, and responsible Police Officers, are doing the same thing as in the other States. I am giving one instance and if required I can cite more of Police excesses.

In this case also there must have been some provocation from the side of the Police.....

Mr. SPEAKER: You will do injustice if you simply presume facts; if possible, make an authentic statement of facts.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: To my mind, there must have been some provocation from some quarters and unless and until an Enquiry Commission is established and the matter is fully enquired into, my Party or my Leader should not be blamed. Some people want to give expression in writing and some wanted to give expression by way of Hartal and for this Refinery this Hartal was observed, but if there was anything which is not conducive to the law and order of the country, let there be an Enquiry Commission to find out the reasons, whether the people observing or organising the Hartal were responsible or the authority dealing with law and order situation made excesses.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I expected that my Friend, Mr. Goswami, would realise the responsibility for the offences committed and that the peace of the State was disturbed by the forcible dislocation of railway movements and other public utility services and that he should admit that the picketers went beyond his control and committed all sorts of illegal acts. On the morning of the 27th, I definitely told him that we had no objection to the Hartal if it was observed peacefully with out any offence being committed; but if the people resort to any violent activities, no Government could remain a mere onlooker. In order to discharge their duties and responsibilities in a democratic country, a democratic Government must discharge its duty to preserve peace, and to see that freedom of movement of others are not forcibly interfered with. I am sure, that unlike the Communist Party, he and his Party believe in democracy and non-violent methods for achievement of political objective and he should not act in a way to obstruct others in their lawful activities. He should remember that others have the same right as he to move freely in public streets and go by a car, by rail and other public utility services and that he has no right, whatsoever, to obstruct them. For the information of the honourable Friend, Shri Goswami, I can tell him that not a single person has been arrested who did not commit an offence either under the Indian Penal Code or the Railway Act. I re-

quest my honourable Friend to take note of this fact. It is not a pleasant duty to arrest persons here and there. As a matter of fact, as the head of the Executive of the State, I always advise all my Police officers to take action very cautiously, specially in the matter of arresting persons. As the Police officers were being very cautious, I have been receiving complaints against them that they did not take stern action in dealing with these outbursts of violence and in arresting offenders. I expect that my honourable Friend will examine dispassionately whether lawlessness can be allowed to be let loose by any responsible Government of the people as long as that Government remains in power. Any party representing the Government, whether it be the Congress or the Praja Socialist Party, has to enhance the prestige of the Government so long as it exists, and it cannot allow any kind of chaos and disorder to commence or continue in the country. I am quite sure that the Praja Socialist Party and Communist, had they been in charge of Government, could not have allowed such lawlessness to break out. I would request my honourable Friend to see the danger of associating himself with these reactionary elements of the Communist Party. I still expect from my hon. Friend that he will take special care not to violate the provisions of the Indian Penal Code, the Railway Act and other similar laws. The persons who have been arrested by the Police were arrested only for having committed specific offences, and their cases are now pending before Magistrates. All these matters will be decided by the Court, and the Government will not interfere in the due process of law. I would like to remind the House that democracy stands on three planks *viz.*, executive, legislature and judiciary. Once an offence is committed under any law, the Police arrests the offender and then send him for trial by the Court. When the case goes to the Court, the Government allows the process of law to have its own course without interruption. I do not consider that Shri Ranendra Mohan Das, who unfortunately, did not hear what I stated before the House earlier would be right in suggesting that an Enquiry Commission should go into the details of the persons arrested in connection with offences committed in observance of the Hartal and the strike. Person shave been arrested who committed specific offences under the Penal Code or the Railway Act. I do not want to go into the individual cases, but place facts of the unhappy incidents that happened at Gauhati and Nowgong. The so-called leaders of the different parties who were and are making statements and who are suspected to have been squatting on the streets should

have instead appealed to the people and persuaded them not to adopt the violent means which they did. No one also has a right to interfere with those who wanted to enter the court of the Deputy Commissioner by squatting in front of it so that no one could go into the court to discharge their duties. Is this non-violence? Is this the way of democracy, by which people can interfere with the work of the Magistrates by not allowing anybody to enter, by obstructing the passage by squatting and picketting? On the 29th August, in the afternoon, in a public meeting, where my honourable Friend, Shri Goswami, was also present, a resolution was passed demanding the release of the arrested persons. It would amount to contempt of the court to demand unconditional release of the arrested persons against whom cases are pending before Magistrates. And it would encourage further lawlessness. After production of arrested persons before a court, the Government is to allow the process of law to go its own course without interruption.

I have also heard that the sponsors of the movement wanted to induce impressionable young students of Colleges to join the movement and having failed to do so the organisers of the movement went to seduce the young students of the age group of 12 to 13 years reading in schools and were trying to use them as pawns in their political game. Is it fair to use such tender impressionable students as pawns for achieving their political ends? Is it not our duty to enquire into such matters? My honourable Friend, Shri Hareswar Goswami, and other members of the Action Committee should see that our boys and girls who are reading in schools and colleges are not utilised for demonstration, etc., for achieving political ends. Is this the proper way to train our impressionable young boys who should be inculcated with a sense of responsibility so that they may be worthy citizens of the Indian Republic? The members of the Action Committee cannot absolve themselves of their responsibility for creating lawlessness in the country on the plea of staging a peaceful Hartal. I expected that my honourable Friends would set an example by not using the school and college students who did not like to take part in such movements as pawns for achieving their political end. It is not possible for our young boys and girls to judge on the spot and restrain themselves from illegal activities when they are particularly exploited by political leaders for achieving their political ends.

My point is that he should take the responsibility for the outbreak of violence as a result of this Hartal. I expect him to do so being the sponsor of this movement. But what happens now ?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Sir, I have never disowned responsibility. What I said is that these miscreants have gone against the instruction of the Peace Committee. That is what I said, but I have never disowned responsibility.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): I am glad to hear that. But any one could have anticipated that in such cases people, especially young students, would be going against the instructions. As such, there should not have been any Hartal or protest meetings with the help of school students. If the real intention of the members of the Action Committee was to remain nonviolent, then they should not plead for those people who have committed offences by transgressing the law of the land. How can they demand for unconditional release of these people who committed offences involving violence ? What is the reason ? These people who have been arrested for specific offences will not be judged by the Minister in charge of Law and Order, but they will be judged by the Court where they will have a fair trial and will have chance of appeal to higher judicial authorities. There is the High Court where the people can appeal—the Court will judge whether these people are guilty or not. My apprehension turned true and the persons participating in the Hartal had taken recourse to violent methods as a result of excitement and police had no alternative but to arrest them. I have already stated that police had shown exemplary restraint in dealing with such violent crowd. As a matter of fact I have been receiving complaints from various quarters that the police were not as active as they should have been in tackling the unruly and violent crowd and putting a stop to this interference with law and order in the State and with the rights and liberties of individuals.

Secondly, Sir, the following report was given to the Press by my Friend, Mr. Goswami—"Shri Hareswar Goswami on behalf of the Action Committee informed the Press later that they had told the Chief Minister at the Circuit House that they would review the position with regard to the Hartal after discussing the refinery issue with Shri Malavya in the evening of 27th." If that was so, how could he send telegrams at 2 P. M. before he had met Mr. Malavya and discussed the matter with

him ? What was the reason ? Probably he was outvoted.....

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : There is no question of outvoting. All citizens were unanimous in this matter. What I said.....

Mr. SPEAKER : All right. It was all enthusiasm—enthusiasm may lead to epidemic distemper—Voltaire said so during the French Revolution—that was for which you are not responsible.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : There may be enthusiasm on the other side also.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : My point is that when there are people under trial, let us examine what the Government can do. You should have some confidence in the Government. Passing of resolutions in a public meeting demanding the release of those who used violence and committed offence and whose cases are now pending before a magistrate will amount to contempt of court. Is it fair to demand unconditional release of those people who have been arrested for committing specific offences and whose cases are now pending trial ?

Again in Nowgong as far as my information goes.....

Shri BIMALA KANTA BORAH : This question was discussed in a meeting held at Gauhati where Mr. Goswami was also present.....

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : There was a meeting yesterday. In that meeting a resolution was passed demanding.....(voices—release Day),..... No, no, you are misinterpreting the whole thing. That was a different thing altogether—I can only request Mr. Bimala Borah to read the report properly.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : My idea is that unless and until normalcy returns, nothing can be considered. Instead of helping Government to bring about normalcy in the situation, this sort of agitation makes things worse. It is the duty of everyone of us to create an atmosphere conducive for preservation of law and order. It definitely does not help to organise meetings and incite people, particularly our impressionable school students to join in Hartals or

processions, demanding release of persons arrested for specific offences. It is certainly not conducive to the welfare of the State. I appeal to his good sense to reconsider this matter in a cool and sober frame of mind. One day or other he may be called upon to shoulder the responsibility of running the administration of the country and he may be faced with a situation like this. Will he allow lawlessness and violence to continue? We all want to enhance the prestige of the Government so long as Government is in power. You have every right to replace the present Government by constitutional means as it is a democratic Government. But so long as Government remains, it should be allowed to maintain law and order. Innocent people should not be permitted to be victims of violence let loose as a result of Hartal. What happened the other day at the Air Lines Corporation office? I was not myself present, but from the reports I gather I am really surprised to find that a responsible person squatted in front of the Bus obstructing its passengers and refused to allow the bus to proceed. Surely, no one will have the heart of killing a person in that way by driving the bus over him. Now, if buses are obstructed in this way, what is to be done? People were scheduled to go to Calcutta and other places but were obstructed in this way. Is it not the duty of the police to remove such violent obstruction? For offence of this sort the police have arrested persons under Sections 341 and 143 Indian Penal Code. All these persons were arrested for specific offences on that very day. They were produced before the Magistrate and remanded to jail custody. Everything possible was done for the people under the direction of the Magistrate. Can any better action be taken by any Government? We do not like that the Police should commit any excess. But at the same time, the morale of the Police must also be kept up. If people enter the thana, take away money and other properties from inside the thana buildings, break open the prisoners lock-up and try to set them free, what can the police be expected to do except to use force in driving them out? There is no other alternative. Under such circumstances, is it not the clear duty of any responsible law abiding citizen to take upon himself the responsibility of restoring the law and order? But far from doing that the hon. Member has taken an active part in having a resolution passed demanding immediate release of the prisoners irrespective of the fact how and where these serious offences have been committed in order to keep up the temper of this agitation

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against Government by those who participated in the Hartal. I think, those who passed the resolution of release committed an offence of contempt of court.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: No, no, Sir, we can argue on that point.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Then I do not know what it is. In my humble opinion, Sir, the hon. Member should not show the bad example of defying the Court which is the independent judicial authority to give a verdict on such matters. Therefore, Sir, under these circumstances may I request the hon. Member to help Government in restoring an atmosphere conducive for preservation of law and order specially when he has owned the responsibility for these offences, and to withdraw the resolution. Let us then sit down round the table and find out ways and means so that no offence of this nature may be committed in future. But instead of that if he now persists on intensifying and worsening the already tense situation, by demanding unconditional release of the prisoners charged under specific offences and goes on raising all sorts of slogans, then, Sir, I do not know how he proposes to bring about a peaceful atmosphere. I hope he will appreciate my point when I say that no Government can think of releasing prisoners arrested for specific offences pending trial so long as this threat to law and order and breach of peace continue.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: May I request the Hon'ble Chief Minister to read the resolution? All we have said is to keep the movement alive for locating the oil refinery in Assam.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): What about the resolution demanding release of the prisoners? Here is the resolution: "The immediate and unconditional release of the arrested persons was also demanded by the Executive Committee of the Praja Socialist Party." That is the resolution.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Sir, he is speaking about the second resolution. The first resolution runs like this: "The meeting directs the Action Committee to convene an all Assam Convention with a view to taking steps to continue the State-wide movement for location of the proposed refinery for Assam oil within the State."

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : Sir, what about Mr. Bhuyan whose followers tried to remove some money from the table of the Police thana ?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Sir, is he sure that Shri Bhuyan has done this ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : I do not know about Bhuyan. But my point is that instead of acknowledging that violence was resorted to by those who participated in the Hartal and putting a stop to the outburst of violence, he is now pleading for release of the prisoners.

So, under the circumstances, I hope Mr. Goswami, and his other followers who are not present here, will try to rise above these petty political squabbles and help Government in restoring law and order and sober atmosphere so that such offences are not committed by any responsible person in future even in connection with staging of Hartals.

Mr. SPEAKER : For the information of Mr. Goswami I would like to read out a quotation :

“In relation to the freedom of speech and expression, there are three sorts of contempt of Court (a) one kind of contempt is scandalising the Court itself ; (b) there may likewise be a contempt of the Court in abusing parties who are concerned in causes in the Court ; (c) there may also be a contempt in prejudicing mankind against persons before the cause is heard.”

So, the present case comes under this third category of contempt of Court.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : I would like to argue on that point, Sir, as I have already said.

Presentation of Notification under Section 296 of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923

Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Minister) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the following Notifications under Section 296 of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923 :

- (1) Notification No. LML.190/53/108, dated the 4th May, 1956.

- (2) Notification No. LML. 15/55/98, dated the 14th June 1956, and
- (3) Notification No. LML. 33/54/79, dated the 16th June, 1956.

*Copies of the Notifications have been supplied to the hon. Members.

Election of Members to the Assam Text Book Committee

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do elect two Members in accordance with the instructions contained in the voting paper to the Assam Text Book Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that this Assembly do elect two Members in accordance with the instructions contained in the voting paper to the Assam Text Book Committee.

(The Motion was put and adopted).

I hereby fix Monday the 3rd September, 1956 as the date and Room No.2 of the Assembly Building as the place where election to the Assam Text Book Committee will take place. The voting will be held between the hours of 2. p.m. and 4 p.m.

Election of Members to the State Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that two Members of the Assam Legislative Assembly be elected by majority votes of the Assembly to the State Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board to be reconstituted by the State Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that two Members of the Assam Legislative Assembly be elected by majority votes of the Assembly to the State Soldiers' and Sailors' Airmen's Board to be reconstituted by the State Government.

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

I hereby fix Tuesday, the 4th September, 1956 as the date and Room No.2 of the Assembly Building as the place where election to the State Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board will take place. The voting will be held between the hours of 2 p. m. and 4 p. m.

1514 RESOLUTION REGARDING THE RATIFICATION OF THE SEVENTH SCHEDULE (ARTICLE 269 AND ARTICLE 286, OF THE CONSTITUTION BY THE CONSTITUTION (SIXTH AMENDMENT) BILL, 1956 [30TH AUGUST,

Resolution Regarding the Ratification of the Seventh Schedule (Article 269 and Article 286) of the Constitution by the Constitution (Sixth Amendment) Bill, 1956

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House ratifies the Amendments of the Seventh Schedule, Article 269 and Article 286 of the Constitution of India, proposed to be made by the Constitution (Sixth Amendment) Bill, 1956 as passed by the two Houses of Parliament.

Sir, the matter involved is a bit complicated one and with your permission I would like to make a short written statement.

Hon. Members are certainly aware of the recent legislation enacted by Parliament to amend the Constitution of our country. The Bill introduced in the Parliament to amend the Constitution is called the Constitution (Sixth Amendment) Bill, 1956. By this amending measure, the entry 92 of the Union List and entry No. 54 of the State List in the Seventh Schedule is sought to be amended besides other amendments to the Articles 269 and 286 of the Constitution. The Bill was passed in both the Houses of Parliament and under Article 368 of the Constitution such an amending measure needs ratification by the State Legislatures and hence I have come before this House with this resolution to obtain the ratification of that measure, by this august House.

The necessity for this Constitutional amendment arose from a variety of important and weighty reasons.

In item 54 of the State List of the Seventh Schedule,—“Taxes on the sale or purchase of goods other than newspapers” have been shown as a State subject and accordingly various States in the Union have been levying sales tax according to this item of the State List. But this power of the States to levy sales tax has been subject to four restrictions under Article 286 of the Constitution. This article of the Constitution was so drafted that it made various conflicting interpretations possible. As a matter of fact, different High courts used to interpret this article in a different way and even the Supreme Court could not be unanimous on the interpretation of the different provisions of this Article.

This led to a good deal of confusion in the administration of the Sales Tax among different States, especially with regard to the tax on Sales or purchases where such sales or purchases

take place in the course of inter-State trade or commerce. Again there has been widespread disparity among the different States with regard to rates of taxes and ranges of exempted commodities. This lack of uniformity in the administration of the Sales Tax has brought about a good deal of discontent among commercial community throughout the country. Dealers resident in one State are often subjected to the jurisdiction and procedure of other States with which they have dealings in normal course of business causing detriment to the even flow of Trade and Commerce in the country.

This very complex problem was discussed threadbare by the Taxation Enquiry Commission and after a thorough examination of the whole matter, they have made some recommendations to the Government which when acted upon are expected to bring considerable simplicity and improvement in the administration of the Sales Tax to the immense relief of the dealers and the people. Broadly speaking, the Commission recommended that inter-States Sales Tax, should be put within this sphere of Central Government to be administered through the agency of the States and for the benefit of the States. The income arising out of the inter-State Sales Tax will, however, not go to the Consolidated Fund of India but will be distributed among the States, according to the principles to be determined by Parliament. The inter-States Sales Tax is to be retained in the State List. In essence the Commission recommends that Sales Tax must continue to be a source of State revenue. The Commission have also recommended to define principles to determine when or at what stage a sale or purchase of goods takes place in the course of inter-State trade or commerce. The Commission also recommended that some restrictions should be placed on the imposition of inter-State Sales Tax on raw materials which are important for the point of view of consumers or industry in other States. Such cases of intra-State Sales should appropriately be brought under the full control of the Union.

The object of the amendment of the Constitution in the Constitution Tenth Amendment Bill, is to give effect to the recommendations of the Taxation Enquiry Commission. The Government of India had generally accepted the recommendations of the Commission and the accepted recommendations are embodied in the Bill and have been incorporated as

1516 RESOLUTION REGARDING THE RATIFICATION OF THE SEVENTH SCHEDULE (ARTICLE 269 AND ARTICLE 286) OF THE CONSTITUTION BY THE CONSTITUTION (SIXTH AMENDMENT) BILL, 1956 [30TH AUGUST,

amendments of the provisions of Articles 269 and 286 of the Constitution and item 54 of the State List and 92 of the Union List of the Seventh Schedule.

I should like to state, for the information of the House that the recommendations of the Taxation Enquiry Commission relating to *intra*-State and inter-State Sales Tax were accepted by the State Government after a careful scrutiny by the Finance Department and this decision of acceptance of the recommendations by the State Government was formally communicated to the Union Government some time back.

As I have already stated, this amending Bill has already passed through the Houses of Parliament. As it needs ratification by the Legislatures of the States, I have approached this august House with this resolution for having this amendment ratified by this House.

I hope the House will be pleased to accept my Resolution. With these few words I beg to resume my seat.

Mr. SPEAKER : The Motion moved is that this House ratifies the Amendments of the Seventh Schedule, Article 269 and Article 286 of the Constitution of India, proposed to be made by the Constitution (Sixth Amendment) Bill, 1956 as passed by the two Houses of Parliament.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Sir, we have been given this amendment only to-day.

Mr. SPEAKER : The copy of the Government Resolution for ratification of the Constitution (Sixth Amendment) Bill, 1956 was sent to all the hon. Members under cover of the letter No.9047-151/L.A., dated the 1st August, 1956. So, the copy of the Government Resolution was sent on the 1st August, 1956.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Sir, our difficulty is that we have received this amendment only to-day, and as this is a very important subject and as it affects the exchequer of our State also in a particular way we would request that this matter be discussed sometime afterwards.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : Sir, it was duly sent to the hon. Members. As soon as he got the Resolution he could take a copy of the Constitution and the relevant provision of the Constitution and the Resolution in question could have enlightened the hon. Member.

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THE SEVENTH SCHEDULE (ARTICLE 269 AND
ARTICLE 286) OF THE CONSTITUTION
BY THE CONSTITUTION (SIXTH
AMENDMENT) BILL, 1956

Mr. SPEAKER : What is your main objection ?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Sir, I do not know even if Shri Bora has gone through the proper provision of this Resolution.....

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : Sir, I have already stated that the recommendations of the Commission were examined by the State Government and they were accepted by us while considering the recommendations, it was examined thoroughly in all aspects.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Sir, what was the purpose of circulating this book to-day ? Whether it was not to help us in the deliberations ? If this is to be sent to us, it should be sent in time. We have received it just now. Sometime should have been given for studying the Bill. In my case I want some time at least because I understand things less than Mr. Bora, the Minister-in-charge, does.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : Sir, under item 54 of the State List, the sales-tax is a subject matter of the State Government and we can levy sales-tax under that item. When the sales-tax is a subject matter of the State Government, all kinds of sales, including inter-State sales come under that purview. Now, that inter-State Sales Tax is taken away from the purview of the State Government to be regulated by India, but the proceeds from such sales will be distributed among the States according to certain principles. The principles for distribution are to be made by Parliament and therefore we do not stand to lose anything. Rather we stand to gain out of this procedure and I hope we will get more money than before.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : But the point is how it will affect the Exchequer of the State ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : It will not affect us, and we expect to get more money thereby. We do not stand to lose anything.

Mr. SPEAKER : Then with your permission I can put the question ?

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TION OF THE SEVENTH SCHEDULE (ARTICLE 269
AND ARTICLE 286) OF THE CONSTITU-
TION) BY THE CONSTITUTION
(SIXTH AMENDMENT) BILL, 1956

Shri HARESWAR GOSAWMI: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that this House ratifies the Amendments of the Seventh Schedule, Article 269 and Article 286 of the Constitution of India, proposed to be made by the Constitution (Sixth Amendment) Bill, 1956 as passed by the two Houses of Parliament.

(The Motion was adopted.)

Presentation of the Demands for Excess Grants and appropriation for 1950-51

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the Demands for Grants and appropriation for the year 1950-51.

Sir, this is an unusual thing, but the reasons for this have already been given in the Bill. The excess expenditure incurred was in the year 1950-51. Question arose how to regularise it. Lots of correspondences went on, but there was no clear indication of any procedure in our State by which we were to do it. We made correspondence with other Governments to know how they did in such a case. We wanted the direction of the Government of India how to do it. That is the reason for delay in my coming before the House. I have already given the explanation how the excess expenditure was incurred. I now want to regularise it by way of demand for excess expenditure.

Mr. SPEAKER : I then take it that the excess grant is approved.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : As a matter of fact this is to be discussed.

Presentation of Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for 1956-57

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : Sir, I beg to present a Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for 1956-57.

Mr. SPEAKER: I should like to fix 4 P. M. of 31st August, 1956, that isto-morrow, as the time for discussion.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: To-morrow will be a very short time. Let it be the first September.

Mr. SPEAKER: I shall see to it.

Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Assam Municipal Bill, 1956

Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Assam Municipal Bill, 1956.

(After a pause)

I beg to move that the Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Sir, we have been supplied with a copy of this Report only to-day. We could not discuss the Bill when it went to the Select Committee and we reserved our comment till it emerged from the Select Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER: When do you want to do it?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: On Saturday next it can be done.

Mr. SPEAKER: All right, then Saturday next is fixed for this purpose.

The Assam (Sales of Petroleum and Petroleum Products including Motor Spirit and Lubricants) Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1956.

Mr. SPEAKER: In this connection I read out the following message from the Governor of Assam:—

“I recommend under Article 207 (1) of the Constitution of India that the Assam (Sales of Petroleum and Petroleum Products) including Motor Spirit and Lubricants) Taxation (Amendment, Bill, 1956, be introduced and moved in the Assam Legislative Assembly.

S. FAZL ALI,
Governor of Assam.”

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Sir. I beg to introduce the Assam (Sales of Petroleum and Petroleum Products, including Motor Spirit and Lubricants) Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1956. This has been duly published.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that the Assam (Sales of Petroleum and Petroleum Products, including Motor Spirit and Lubricants) Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1956, be introduced.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

I want to change the definition of "lubricants" by this amending Bill. The existing definition is a bit restricted one and some of the lubricating oils are not covered by this definition. So, I want to make it more comprehensive so as to cover all kinds of lubricants as far as possible.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: You want to make it more expensive for the motorists ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): No, Sir, I want more money for the Second Five Year Plan.

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion moved is that the Assam (Sales of Petroleum and Petroleum Products, including Motor Spirit and Lubricants) Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1956, be taken into consideration.

(The motion was adopted).

The Assam Good Conduct Prisoners' Probational Release (Amendment) Bill, 1956

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Good Conduct Prisoners' Probational Release (Amendment) Bill, 1956.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved is that the Assam Good Conduct Prisoners' Probational Release (Amendment) Bill, 1956, be introduced.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Sir, this Bill also suffers from the same difficulty. It has been sent to us only to-day. Of course, it is a good Bill but the technical difficulty is there.

Mr. SPEAKER: It can be put off till 1st September.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): All the motions in connection with this Bill can be taken up either on the 5th or 7th, so that the Bill can be passed.

Mr. SPEAKER: All right.

The Assam Cinemas (Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 1956.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Cinemas (Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 1956 and to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved is that the Assam Cinemas (Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 1956, be taken into consideration.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Bill seeks to amend the parent Act by inserting certain clauses. The Statement of Objects and Reasons says, "sub-section (2) of Section 5 of the Principal Act requires previous approval of the State Government to all licences issued under this Act by the Licensing Authority and Section 9 provides for an appeal to the State Government against all decisions of the Licensing Authority. It appears that Section 9 has been too broadly worded and provides for appeal to the State Government against its own order. This has raised a legal difficulty. The Act has therefore to be amended to avoid this difficulty." Section 4 of the parent Act is sought to be amended in this way: "Subject to provisions of Section 5, the District Magistrate within the jurisdiction of his district or any other authority constituted by the State Government by notification in the official Gazette (hereinafter referred to as the Licensing Authority) for the whole or any part of the State may grant licences under this Act:

Provided that no licence shall be issued by the Licensing Authority except with the previous approval of the State Government and in according such approval the State Government shall take into consideration all applications for the licence in question and after such consideration may accord its approval to the proposal submitted by the Licensing Authority or direct such authority to grant a licence to any of the other applicants with or without such conditions as it may deem proper and in such cases such direction shall be deemed to be the previous approval of the State Government."

Now, Sir, the position at present is this: if the Deputy Commissioner as the licensing authority recommends one person, the State Government's only duty is to approve or disapprove him, but the State Government cannot approve somebody else and on that there were many decisions also. Now, this Bill seeks to alter that and give the State Government power not only to approve or disapprove the man recommended by the licensing authority but also to go into the cases of all persons and approve one. My objection is that although this Bill seeks to clarify a particular provision, it also makes the licensing authority almost a non-entity. The State Government will be able to select any man, whether recommended by the licensing authority or not. Then, there will be another difficulty. The State Government may be approached directly also and extraneous considerations may come into play.....

Mr. SPEAKER: What do you mean ?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: I did not mean taking of money. An applicant may submit his application to the licensing authority with certain grounds supported by a certain set of papers, but he may approach the State Government with certain other sets of papers and that will be an extraneous consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER: There will be two ways; nobody will be barred.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: But if the State Government is given power to take into consideration all applications, then there will be the possibility of the party concerned to approach the State Government directly with papers not filed before the licensing authority.

Mr. SPEAKER: How do you infer that ?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Because it is laid down "Provided that no licence shall be issued by the Licensing Authority except with the previous approval of the State Government and in according such approval the State Government shall take into consideration all applications for the licence in question and after such consideration may accord its approval". Here "all applications" does not mean merely the applications submitted to the licensing authority. There may be new applications also. This provision does not debar any party to approach Government direct and also with papers other than which were submitted to the Licensing Authority.

Mr. SPEAKER: Do you read like this ?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: It is possible to give this interpretation.

Mr. SPEAKER: You mean even applications not submitted before the Licensing Authority ?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not see how you can infer that with reference to the context.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Yes, Sir, that interpretation can be made. Nothing will debar a party from approaching the State Government directly and in doing so, a party can also approach the State Government with papers which were not placed before the Licensing Authority. It may be that the Licensing Authority will give its recommendations on the basis of certain facts and the State Government will decide on the basis of different facts.

Then, also, so far as clause 9 dealing with appeals and reviews is concerned, we find that whereas an appeal can lie before the State Government against the decision of the Licensing Authority if the State Government only approves or disapproves it, in case of State Government's setting aside the decision of the Licensing Authority, the only remedy lying with the party is to have it reviewed.

As you know better that appeals are made on different grounds and reviews are on different grounds, here they will take away the right of the party because the State

will abrogate to itself the power to substitute their decisions instead of the decisions of the Licensing Authority. The party concerned will thus lose a great right because in appeal you go into facts as well as law and because in the review jurisdiction is very limited and that right will be taken away.

Thirdly, there will be a difficulty in making appeals under clause 9(4). This clause reads:—"All appeals pending on the date of the commencement of this Act shall be disposed of in accordance with the provisions of this Act and for that purpose all appeals against an order under Section 4 of the Principal Act shall be deemed to be application for review under sub-section (3) of Section 5 of this Act." Now, if a pending case is to be decided not according to the old parent Act but according to this amended Act then scope becomes very much limited. How is it possible to take away that right because the appeal will be converted into review and thus the scope will be limited. Now, at that time when I appealed, this Act was not in force and this Act was not even enacted and then to meet the appeal on the basis of that this appeal will take away the vested right which will be taken away. Lawyers like us will agitate on this point.

Mr. SPEAKER: Review and appeal will probably be heard by the Deputy Commissioner.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: This is a pertinent case as the matter will not end here but it may go higher up to the High Court under Articles 227 and 228 of the Constitution. Thus the difficulty will be confronted. So this point should be clarified.

As regards clause 9(4) my submission is that this should be de eted.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I expected that Mr. Goswami would raise certain objection in connection with this particular Bill.

Sir, regarding his objection to clause 4.

Mr. SPEAKER: Regarding putting up of application directly to Government should be clarified.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): I do not understand there should be any objection if an application is submitted direct to the Government. What is the general procedure in such cases ?

Mr. SPEAKER: Either it goes back to the District Magistrate or the District Authority.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): Yes Sir.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: My point was not who decides but on what he decides.

Mr. SPEAKER: You said that you will be handicapped because some applications will be made direct to Government.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Not only that but the same application submitted to the Licensing Authority may be submitted to the State Government. I am speaking about the point of Law in this regard.

Mr. SPEAKER: Do not you see from the wordings that the Government can receive it ?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: I don't think.

Mr. SPEAKER: What the first paragraph says is that he can receive directly ?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: It says only of an application and not of applications forwarded by the Licensing Authority.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): Sir, sometimes more than one application, are received by the Licensing Authority and one of them is forwarded to the Government for approval. If the Government for any reason cannot approve the particular application, the Licensing Authority has in that case to put up fresh proposals one after another till the Government accord their approval. Undue delay in disposal is caused in such cases. To remove this

difficulty the present proposal empowers the Government to take into consideration all applications at a time and finally dispose of the matter. A confusion seems to have been arisen because of the unsatisfactory language of Section 9 of the Parent Act. This section permits appeal against the order of the Licensing Authority but not against the approval accorded by the Government or refusal thereof. Yet the distinction does not seem to have been well marked in the language used. If the decision of the Licensing Authority would include the orders of the Government in approving the proposal, it would create an embarrassing position in that an appeal would lie in that case to the Government against the order of the same Government. By the present proposal the language is now clarified and it also gives the aggrieved party a further remedy which is not now available, in form of a petition for review even against the order of the Government. Shri Goswami has contended that the Bill seeks to operate retrospectively. So far as the pending appeals are concerned the Bill has only stated the law in express language so that there may not be scope for further litigation. As to clause 3 of the Bill I have already stated that the amendment is sought to be made only in a matter of procedure and for administration convenience. It does not affect anybody's vested interest.

With these few words I would request my friend, Shri Goswami not to raise any more unreasonable objection at this stage.

Mr. SPEAKER: The provision is for the first part. His interpretation agrees with your interpretation. The provision is for the first part IV.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: The provision can do away also the right.....

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no word like this, unless it is clearly stated the provision is for the first part.

(After a pause).

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that the Assam Cinemas (Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 1956, be taken into consideration.

(The Motion is adopted.)

**The Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal)
(Assam Amendment) Bill, 1956.**

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1956 be introduced.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that the Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1956, be introduced.

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1956, be taken into consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that the Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1956, be taken into consideration.

(The motion was put and adopted.)

**The Assam Khadi and Village Industries Board
(Amendment) Bill, 1956.**

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Khadi and Village Industries Board (Amendment) Bill, 1956, be introduced.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that the Assam Khadi and Village Industries Board (Amendment) Bill, 1956, be introduced.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister): Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Khadi and Village Industries Board (Amendment) Bill, 1956, be taken into consideration.

The amending Bill is very simple. The word "Secretary" in place of the "Chairman" should be provided.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that the Assam Khadi and Village Industries (Amendment) Bill, 1956, be taken into consideration.

(The Motion was put and adopted.)

**The Assam Liquor Prohibition (Second Amendment)
Bill, 1956.**

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Liquor Prohibition (Second Amendment) Bill, 1956, be introduced.

Mr. SPEAKER : The Motion moved is that the Assam Liquor Prohibition (Second Amendment) Bill, 1956, be introduced.

I Now read the message from the Governor.
“Raj Bhavan, Shillong

The 28th August, 1956.

I recommend under Article 207 (3) of the Constitution of India that the Assam Liquor Prohibition (Second Amendment) Bill, 1956, be taken into consideration by the Assam Legislative Assembly.

S. FAZL ALI”
Governor of Assam.

Rev J. J. M. NICHOLS ROY (Minister) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Liquor Prohibition (Second Amendment) Bill, 1956, be taken into consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER : The Motion moved is that the Assam Liquor Prohibition (Second Amendment) Bill, 1956 be taken into consideration.

(The Motion was put and adopted.)

**The Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment)
Bill, 1956.**

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1956, be introduced.

Mr. SPEAKER : The Motion moved is that the Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1956, be introduced.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1956, be taken into consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER : The Motion moved is that the Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1956, be taken into consideration.

(The Motion was put and adopted.)

The Assam Sales Tax (Amendment Bill), 1956.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1956, be introduced.

Mr. SPEAKER : The Motion moved is that the Assam Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1956, be introduced.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1956, be taken into consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER : The Motion moved is that the Assam Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1956, be taken into consideration.

(The Motion was put and adopted.)

(After a pause)

Mr. SPEAKER : I think nobody wants to move any private Member's Resolution. There is still time.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 1-30 P.M. on Friday, the 31st August, 1956.

Shillong,
The 29th March, 1957.

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

The 4th May 1956

No.LML.190/53/108.—It is hereby notified for general information that in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 296 read with clause (i) of sub-section (2) of the same section of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923 (Assam Act I of 1923), which was extended to the notified area at Hojai in the district of Nowgong constituted under Notification No.LML.190/53/53, dated the 27th January 1956, the Governor of Assam is pleased, after previous publication, to make the following rules, to have effect for the purpose of holding the first and subsequent General Elections and Bye elections, under the Act, of the Hojai Town Committee, for the division of the said notified area into wards and for fixing the number of members to be elected from each of such wards.

Hojai Town Committee

1. The Hojai Town Committee shall be divided into three wards each within the boundaries described below:—

WARD No.1

North—Dankigaon and Pachim Dhoni Ram Pathar.
East—Nowgong-Hojai Public Works Department Road.
South—Railway line.
West—Barpukhurigaon.

WARD No.II

North—Pachim Dhoni Ram Pathar.
East—Pub Dhoni Ram Pathar and Golaghat Basti,
South—Railway line.
West—Nowgong-Hojai Public Works Department Road

WARD No.III

North—Railway line
East—Golaghatia Basti.
South—Rampur. Golaghatia Basti and Dakhin Baidya Nagar.
West—Uttor Bidya Nagar.

2. There shall be one elected member for each of Wards Nos.I and III and two elected members for Ward No.II.

A. M. DAM.

Secy. to the Govt. of Assam, Agri. and L. S.-G. Deptt.

The 14th June 1956

No.LML.15/55/98.—Consequent on the Constitution of a Municipality at Mangaldai in the district of Darrang, as published with Notification No. LML. 15/55/84-A, dated the 3rd April 1956, the Governor of Assam is pleased in exercise of the power conferred by sub-section (1) of section 296 read with sub-section (2) (i) of the said section of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923 (Assam Act I of 1923), and after previous publication to make the following rules for the division of the said Mangaldai Municipality into wards and for fixing the number of members to be elected for each of such wards.

Mangaldai Municipality

The Municipality shall be divided into ten wards each within the boundaries described below. Each ward shall elect the number of member noted against each.

Ward numbers and boundaries	Number of members to be elected from each ward
WARD No. I	1
North—North Trunk Road and Public Works Department Road between the Mosque and the pucca bridge. East—Nala.	
South—A line covering the entire road allotment to the south of Dag No.143, 107, 106, 93, 59, 47, 46, 21, 22 and 14 of Mangaldaigaon No.11	
West—A portion of Mangaldai-Bhutiachang Road (between the Mosque and junction of the North Trunk Road and the Mangaldai-Bhutiachang Road) and a portion of the North Trunk Road and the Mangaldai river.	
WARD No.II	1
North—Northern boundary line of the Municipality (a line of from Dag No.370 passing through Dag Nos.367, 368, 369, 375, 431, 429, 430, 524, 474, 485, 488, 563, 489, 243 of Mangaldaigaon No.1.)	
East—North Trunk Road.	
South—North Trunk Road.	
West—The Bega river.	
WARD No.III	1
North—New Municipal Road.	
East—The Bega river.	
South—Public Works Department Road.	
West—Mangaldai-Bhutiachang Road.	
WARD No.IV	1
North—Kerimari Road (East of Mangaldai Bhutiachang Road).	
East—The Bega river.	
South—New Municipal Road.	
West—Mangaldai-Bhutiachang Road.	
WARD No.V	1
North—Portion of the dead Mangaldai river and Municipal Road.	
East—Mangaldai-Bhutiachang Road.	
South—North Trunk Road.	
West—The Mangaldai river.	
WARD No.VI	1
North—Kerimari Road (West of Mangaldai-Bhutiachang Road).	
East—Mangaldai-Bhutiachang Road.	
South—Municipal Road.	
West—The Mangaldai river.	

Ward numbers and boundaries

Number of
members
to be
elected
from each
ward

WARD No.VII

1

North—North boundary line of the Municipality (to the North of Dhulachapai Local Bord Road at a distance of 462 ft. from the road and parallel to it).

East—The Bega river.

South—Kerimari road on both sides of the Mangaldai-Bhutia-chang Road.

West—The Mangaldai river and a line passing through Dag Nos.167, 175, 173, 172, 171 and 170 of Tangabari and by a line at a distance of 660 ft. from the Mangaldai-Bhutia-chang Road.

WARD No. VIII

1

North—A line passing through Dag Nos.117, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 138, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 190, 186, 185, 864, 181, of Bhebarghat.

East—The Mangaldai river.

South—Village road (up to the Mangaldai river.)

West—A line parallel to Majikuchi Local Board Road, passing through Dag Nos. 468, 462, 460, 455, 445, 444, 443/kha, 439/kha, 440, 435, 428, 416, 415, 414, 445 412, 274/kha, 303, 291, 290, 282, 104, 105, 107, 108, 110, 111, 115 and 117 of Bhebarghat.

WARD No.IX

1

North—Village Road.

East—The Mangaldai river.

South—North Trunk Road.

West—Majikuchi Local Board Road.

WARD No.X

1

North—Village Road.

East—Part of Majikuchi Local Board Road, part of North Trunk Road and portion of the Mangaldai river.

South—The Mangaldai river.

West—A line passing through dag Nos. 555, 663, 557/kha, 559, 560, 565, 566 of Upahupar and by a line passing through dag Nos. 567, 571, 763, 581, 582, 586, 434, 764, 590, 593, 592, 597, 606, 603/kha, and kha, 380, 381, 374, of Upahupar and a line passing through dag Nos.374, 367, 368, 309, 308, 301, 300, 281, 280 of Upahupar and through dag Nos.661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 655/ga, 670, 675, 586, 591, 595, 600 and 468 of Bhebarghat.

This notification supersedes Notification No.1061L-S-G., dated the 30th April 1925 relating to the rules for the Division of the Mongaldai Small Town into wards and the number of members to be elected from those wards.

A. M. DAM,
Secy. to the Govt. of Assam Agri. and Forest Department,

The 16th June, 1956

No.LML.33/54/79.—It is hereby notified for general information that in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 296 read with clause (i) of sub-section (2) of the same section of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923 (Assam Act 1 of 1923), which was extended to the notified area at Rangia in the district of Kamrup constituted under Notification No.LML. 33/51/41, dated the 3rd December 1955, the Governor of Assam is pleased, after previous publication, to make the following rules, to have effect for the purpose of holding the first and subsequent General Elections and Bye-elections, under the Act, of the Rangia Town Committee, for the division of the said notified area into wards and for fixing the number of members to be elected from each of such wards.

Rangia Town Committee.

The Rangia Town Committee shall be divided into four wards each within the boundaries described below and there shall be one elected member from each of these wards:—

WARD No.I

Norrrh—Full and part of dag Nos.641/kha, 756, 755, 752, 797 of Rangia Town, 52, 66, 67 of Pub Kachari Mahal Mauza.

South:—Full and part of dag Nos.714, 715 of Rangia Town, 947, 946/kha of Murara village and the Baralia river.

East:—Full and part of dag Nos.797/kha of Rangia Town and 235/kha, 1057/kha, 237, 245, 1070/kha, 1071, 957/kha, 256/kha, 1056/kha, 945/kha, 258/kha of Murara village of Pub-Barigog.

West:—Full and part of dag Nos. 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 542/kha of Rangia Town.

WARD No.II

North:—Full and part of dag Nos.258/kha, 221 of Murara village of Pub-Barigog Mauza, 717, 714/kha, 631/kha, 634, 525, 442/kha, 38/kha, 213, 212, 226/kha, 24, 222, 160/kha of Rangia Town.

South:—Full and part of dag Nos.281/kha, 265, 196, 261, 197, 199/kha, 1031, 200, 1030, 1026, 1013, 1027, 2/kha, 1/kha, of Murara village, 544 of Bangaon.

East:—Full and part of dag Nos. 946/kha, 1055/kha, 266 of Murara village, 705, 543, 542/kha, 541/kha, 699, 698, 834, 737, 692/kha, 634/kha, 525, 442, 389, 388, 387, 235 of Rangia Town.

West:—Full and part of dag Nos. 226/kha, 145/kha, 146/kha, 147/kha, 133/kha, 132/kha, 131/kha of Rangia Town, 542 of Bangaon.

WARD No. III

North:—Full and part of dag Nos. 127/kha, 140/kha, 123/kha, 304/kha, 262/kha, of Gogmalasa village, Part of Rangia Darranga road, 860/kha, 341/kha, 338/kha, 333/kha, 326, 325, 323, 322, 321, 320, 319, 318, 317, 316, 315, 281, 280, 279, 278, 277, 276, 272, 269, 268/kha, 26/kha, 25/kha, 7/kha, 6/kha, 4/kha, 201 and 381/kha of Rangia Town,

South:—Full and part of dag Nos. 236/kha, 233, 234 of Murara village 801/kha, 796, 542/kha, 692/kha, 628/kha, 629, 526, 532, 441, 439, 438, 437, 428, 427, 424, 426, 425 of Rangia Town.

East:—Full and part of dag Nos. 67, 54/kha, 53/kha, 52/kha, of Kachari Solmari village, 661/kha, 662/kha, 663/kha, 652/kha, 647/kha, 648/kha, 651, 650, 506/kha, of Rangia Town, 129/kha, 127, 126, 125, 120, 117, 118/kha, 123/kha of Gogmalasa village,

West:—Full and part of dag Nos. 38, 391/kha, 390/kha, 411/kha, 440/kha, 526, 527/kha, 629/kha and 697 of Rangia Town,

WARD No. IV

North:—Full and part of dag Nos. 35/kha, 34, 33, 13, 21, 22, 23, 24 of Dakhainsitara.

South:—Full and part of dag Nos. 236/kha, 235, 391, 217, 835, 214, 147/kha, 198/kha of Rangia Town.

East:—Full and part of dag Nos. 1, 2/kha, 3, 4/kha, 5, 6, 12/kha, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18/kha, 19, 20/kha, 37, 36/kha, 461, 35, 306, 304, 302, 251, 252, 253, 254/kha, 250, 249, 820, 248, 247, 236/kha, 214, 215, 219, 221, 227, 395, 394, 396, 398, 402, 404, 406, 407, 408, of Rangia Town.

West:—Full and part of dag Nos. 160/kha, 161/kha, 162/kha, 163/kha, 165/kha, 178/kha, 176/kha, 179/kha, 180/kha, 192/kha, 193/kha, 194/kha, 195/kha, 71 of Rangia Town, 274, 262, 241/kha, 242/kha, 245/kha, 252/kha, 251/kha, 248/kha, 249/kha, 255/kha, 256/kha, 230/kha, 231/kha of Gurkuchi.

A. M. DAM,
Secy. to the Government of Assam Agri. & Forest Depts.

AGENTS IN INDIA

1. Messrs. Thacker Spink & Co., Calcutta.
2. Messrs. W. Newman & Co., Calcutta.
3. Messrs. S. K. Lahiri & Co., Calcutta.
4. Messrs. R. Cambray & Co., 6 and 8/2, 'Hasting' Street, Calcutta.
5. Messrs. D. B. Taraporevala Sons and Co., 103, Meadow Street, Fort, Post Box No. 187, Bombay.
6. The Indian School Supply Depot, 309, Bow Bazar Street, Calcutta.
7. The City Book Company, Post Box No. 283 Madras.
8. The Director, The Book Company, Limited, Book Sellers and Stationers, 4/4A, College Square, Calcutta.
9. The Manager, The Imperial Publishing Co., 99, Ry. Road, Lahore.
10. Messrs. Chapala Book Stall, Shillong.
11. Messrs. Sirbhum Publishing Co., Calcutta.
12. The Proprietor, 'Graduates Union,' Gauhati.
13. Mr. Banwarilal Jain (Book Seller), 1719/2002, Mati Katra, Agra (India).
14. Messrs. Low Book Society, 65/3, Harrison Road, Calcutta.
15. The Director, Benares Corporation, University Road, P.O. Lanka.
16. Messrs. Law Book Society, 4A, Wellington Square, Calcutta.
17. Messrs. Bodh Raj Marwah, Booksellers, Shop No. 63, Pusa Colony Market, Delhi-Karol Bagh, New Delhi.
18. The Oxford Book and Stationery Co., Scindia House, New Delhi/17, Park Street, Calcutta-16.
19. Messrs Mokshada Pustakalaya, Publishers and Book Sellers, Gauhati.
20. Messrs Popular Book Depot (Regd.), Booksellers, Publishers, etc., Lamington Road, Bombay-7.
21. Messrs B.H.U. Press Book Depot, Booksellers, Publishers, etc., Banarās-5 (India).