

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

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The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 A.M., on Saturday, the 17th March, 1956.

**PRESENT**

Shri Kuladhar Chaliha, B.L., Speaker, in the Chair, the nine Ministers, the two Deputy Ministers, one Parliamentary Secretary and seventy-three Members.

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**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**STARRED QUESTIONS**

(To which oral answers were given)

**Allotment of Corrugated Iron Sheets to Gauhati Subdivision**

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI** asked :

\*2. Will the Minister-in-charge of Supply be pleased to state—

- (a) How many bundles of Corrugated Iron Sheets have been brought to Assam during the months of November, December, 1955, January and February, 1956 ?
- (b) How many of such bundles have been allotted to Gauhati Subdivision during the said period (to be shown month by month) ?

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister)** replied :

2. (a)—Twelve thousand seven hundred and ninety-four bundles of Corrugated Iron Sheets were brought to Assam during the period in question.



(b)—Out of the above quantity of Corrugated Iron Sheets imported to Assam, the following quantities were brought to Gauhati—

November, 1955—Nil.

December, 1955—817 bundles.

January, 1956—613 bundles.

February, 1956—207 bundles.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** What was the total quota of Assam for the year 1955 ?

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister):** I want notice of that question, Sir.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** What was the percentage for Gauhati ?

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister):** It is generally fixed on the population basis ; but sometimes special demand is also considered.

#### *Re: Allotment of Cement*

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI** asked :

\*3. Will the Minister-in-charge of Supply be pleased to state—

(a) How many bags of cement have been brought to Assam in November, December, 1955 and January, February, 1956 ?

(b) How many of such bags have been allotted to the Gauhati Subdivision for the months stated above ?

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister)** replied :

3. (a)—A total quantity of 1,59,580 bags of cement was brought to Assam from November, 1955 to February, 1956.

(b)—Out of 1,59,580 bags, the Gauhati Subdivision received 22,840 bags of cement during the period stated above.



**Shri JADAV CHANDRA KHAKHLARI:** অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই এইটো কথা জানিব পাৰোনে—ডিফ্ৰগৰত যে ইমান বিলাক ডাঙৰ বिल्ডিং (building) উঠিছে তাৰ কাৰণে হাজাৰ হাজাৰ বেগ চিমেণ্ট কৰ পৰা পাইছে ?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** কোনে কৰিছে সেইবিলাক—মিঃ খাকলাৰী ?

**Shri JADAV CHANDRA KHAKHLARI:** ডিফ্ৰগৰৰ মাৰোৱাৰী বিলাকে ।

**Mr. SPEAKER:** You can get also at a higher price from South India—it is 10 rupees I suppose.

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister):** It is very difficult to answer such vague questions. Moreover this question does not arise. However the position is this that sometimes they get something from the Director of Consumer Goods, sometimes from District Committee where my Friend is also a Member or it might be from the South Indian source, etc.

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** There is also the industrial quota.

#### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

#### Construction Works done in the Goalpara District under Test Relief Work

**Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli** asked :

7. Will the Minister-in-charge of Revenue be pleased to refer to the interim reply given to Unstarred Question No.38(a) asked by the Questioner on the 25th November 1955 on the subject of construction works done in the Goalpara District under Test Relief Work and state if the report called for from the Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara, has been received by Government ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister)** replied :

7.—Yes, the Deputy Commissioner's report has since been received, a copy of which is placed on the Library Table.



# **Separate staff to check the unrestricted shooting in the Reserve Forest areas**

**Shri RADHA CHARAN CHOUDHURY** asked :

8. Will the Minister of Forests be pleased to state whether Government propose to create a separate staff in each Forest Range to check the unrestricted shooting in the Reserve Forest areas of the State ?

**Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister)** replied :

8.—No. A separate staff for the purpose is not necessary.

## **The Area of Land lying fallow in the Tea Garden Areas**

**Maulavi MEHRAB ALI LASKAR** asked :

9. Will the Revenue Minister be pleased to state—

(a) The area of land lying fallow in the Tea garden areas ?

(b) Whether Government propose to requisition these fallow lands for distribution amongst the landless agricultural workers ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister)** replied :

9. (a)—The exact area of land lying fallow in tea gardens is not known. But according to a recent survey by the Assistant Director of Land Records the following areas in tea gardens are lying fallow :—

Jorhat Subdivision	...	...	3719B—2K— 0L
Golaghat Subdivision	...	...	6900B—0K— 0L
Sibsagar Subdivision	...	...	3660B—0K— 0L
North Lakhimpur Subdivision	...	...	2374B—3K—10L

Figures for other Subdivisions are not available.

(b)—Yes, Government have already issued necessary instructions to the Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers to requisition such fallow lands for distribution amongst



the landless, flood-affected and displaced persons including agricultural workers.

**Grant received by Gohalkona Middle English School  
under Article 275 of the Constitution**

**Shri RADHACHARAN CHOUDHURY** asked :

10. Will the Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether any grant has been given to Gohalkona Middle English School out of the fund received under Article 275 of the Constitution ?
- (b) If not, why not ?

**Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister)** replied :

- 10. (a)—Yes.
- (b)—Does not arise.

**Conversion of annual leases into periodic lease**

**Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli** asked :

11. Will the Minister-in-charge of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) If the Government orders for execution of the Government declared policy of converting annual leases into periodic lease have been issued ?
- (b) If not, whether any action in this matter is going to be taken within the next year ?

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister)** replied :

- 11. (a)—Yes.
- (b)—Does not arise.

**Agricultural Loan**

**Shri RAMPRASAD CHAUBEY** asked :

12. Will the Minister-in-charge of Revenue be pleased to state in how many cases agricultural loan, under the Land Improvement Loan Scheme, has been granted in Sadar Sub-division of Cachar up till now ?



**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister)** replied :

12.—The question is vague as it does not mention any period of granting such loans. The Revenue Department did not grant any such loan from last year. The Agriculture Department generally deal in such loans.

### **Formation of Rural Panchayat Gauhati**

**Shri RADHACHARAN CHOUDHURY** asked :

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

- (a) How many Mouzas were recommended to the Government by the Development Board, Gauhati for formation of Rural Panchayats during 1955-56 ?
- (b) How many of such Mouzas have been granted Rural Panchayats ?
- (c) What is the reason for the delay in the formation of such Panchayats ?

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister)** replied :

13. (a)—The Development Board, Gauhati recommend for formation of 23 Rural Panchayats in the Subdivision.

(b)—Twenty-three Panchayats will be constituted this year.

(c)—The Assam Rural Panchayat Act, 1948 was amended by the Assembly in the last November Session of the Assembly and received the assent of the Governor of Assam on the 22nd December, 1955. The Panchayats are being formed.



### General discussion on the Budget

**Shri AKSHOY KUMAR DAS :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to draw attention only to a few aspects of the Budget. It is true these have been repeated, but still, probably there can never be too much of repetition in these important points. Sir, we are well known to be agriculturists or the agricultural people—we, meaning the Assamese. But unfortunately our position has been that we are agriculturists without agricultural lands and so the difficulty has been very great. Under such circumstance, any real relief may come only through small or cottage industries to the agricultural people. In Upper Assam area the agricultural people are surrounded by tea lands. From these tea lands different kinds of people are deriving different sorts of incomes. But the local agriculturists residing within those tea lands which are very good agricultural lands, are leading a very deplorable life in a majority of cases. Probably Government as well as labour organisations will do well to direct their attention and energy in organising tea labour from amongst these agriculturists who are compelled to live without work for want of necessary agricultural lands.

Again, Sir, in this respect another factor is to be considered, and that is the unrestricted importation of tea labour from outside. There may be some restrictions in paper but actually every year tea labour force is coming from outside the State. The number is certainly diminishing from what it was before, but this importation is still there. If the Government as well as the tea labour organisations, I mean the non-official organisations, all combine to see that the local agriculturists who are forced to remain idle for want of suitable agricultural lands, are organised and employed in tea labour, then a great problem is solved and another equally great problem is warded off. By the latter I mean this import of unemployed men from outside ; because there is no denying the fact that Assam's resources are also limited and as such, it cannot afford to have any number of unemployed people thrust upon her from outside.

As to supplementing the income of the agriculturists by small and cottage industries, I am simply repeating. But as I have already said, in drawing the attention of the Government and the people in general, there can never be too much repetition in this important matter. Sir, in this respect one factor appears to me to be very important and that is, publication of all details about small and cottage industries. Frankly speaking, we are almost ignorant of any details whatsoever and for want of details we cannot proceed



in any of the industries. At present we are aware of some names only, but how to take up any of such industries or how the work to be done or how to proceed, those details are not known to us. Probably the Industries Department and the Publicity Department may help the people a lot in this matter. Every detail is necessary to be published in a place like Assam because here there are very little of industry to be seen.

Another important factor in connection with the industry is the preservation of natural fisheries. There are very big natural fisheries in Assam, but gradually owing to different changes these natural fisheries are dying out and as such the quantity of fish is very fast diminishing. If Government pay immediate and proper attention to this problem then only this important foodstuff can be maintained, otherwise I for myself find it difficult to believe that any pisciculture scheme can successfully make up the loss. In preserving these natural fisheries, the first thing that is necessary is to spend some money by way of improvement. Some improvement has been necessary in a number of these natural fisheries and if we could have the original quantity of fish from these natural fisheries, there will be a very big industry of dry fish and this dry fish could be profitably sold to outside people. That will be a good income both to the Government as well as certain sections of local people. But till now no scheme for improvement of natural fisheries have been taken up. There may be some allotments here and there but those allotments have not been worked out till now. I hope Government will not lose further time in this important matter.

Another small industry is the preparation of bone-meal. That is also a matter which needs proper attention ; wastage of raw materials has to be stopped as early as possible. Tons of bones are every year being wasted in different parts of Assam. But Assam is very suitable for horticulture and for horticulture, it is well known, bone-meal is very necessary and if we import bone-meal from Calcutta and other places of India, generally the price becomes high and it becomes prohibitive to an average cultivator in Assam. So I hope some help by way of information and instructions will be made available to people for such small enterprises.

Then, Sir, is the oft-repeated question of transport. It touches every citizen of Assam and as such I cannot but associate myself with the grievances of our people in regard to transport—I mean Assam's connection with the



rest of India. Secondly, it is our usual experience now-a-days to wait for hours together in certain stations—I mean those stations between Amingaon and Fakiragram. It is almost a daily factor for passengers to wait for two to three hours for even the express trains. It is very uncommon for an express train to arrive in time ; it is habitually late and sometimes as late as 9 hours. The Brahmaputra bridge.....

**Mr. SPEAKER :** For Railway it is not the proper forum.

**Shri AKSHOY KUMAR DAS :** Incidentally I simply mention it because unless important articles are exported and imported regularly they will altogether become rare in the market.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The railway officials are now sitting with the Chief Minister

**Shri AKSHOY KUMAR DAS :** But somehow the feeling in Assam is that people from outside do not see the urgency and importance of this problem. So they are not so quick as we expect to be in solving this difficulty.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Shri Mathur, Sri Surendranath Barua and Shri B. Arora—all of them were here yesterday ; I do not know whether they are to-day also. They have discussed the various difficulties with our Chief Minister. Therefore, it appears, Government has taken all possible steps.

**Shri AKSHOY KUMAR DAS :** They are thinking of increasing the number of wagons. We also hope that the matter will draw greater attention for a quick solution of this important problem.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** At least a Committee is sitting. That shows our Government is quite alert.

**Shri AKSHOY KUMAR DAS :** As to Forest also, only one word. By way of utilisation of forest produce I simply say that huge quantities of timber flowing sometime from outside Assam, through Assam of course, and sometime from within Assam itself through different rivers are wasted every year. Instead of allowing this huge quantity of timber to be wasted, some plan for treatment of these timbers should be thought of by the Forest Department also so that soft timbers may be utilised for better work.



**Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister) :** That is being done.

**Shri AKSHOY KUMAR DAS :** Then my earnest request to the Department is that there should be greater speed in this also, because simply taking up these things for the last few years will not help us.

**Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister) :** That is for the Second Five-Year Plan.

**Shri AKSHOY KUMAR DAS :** I think that preparation for these schemes can be started any moment so that the Second Five-Year Plan does not mean the last year of the Second Five-Year Plan. Anyway, I am glad that it has caught attention of the Department and they are trying that way also in this matter.

Then also as to plantation. Scheme for plantation of different valuable timbers is certainly possible. Only three years or so back the then Senior Conservator of Forests, Mr. Stracy, was heard to say in a meeting of some Assembly Members in one of the Assembly rooms here that different kinds of valuable timbers could be grown in different areas suitably and profitably. By way of example, he mentioned Sisu and Segun as to be very suitable for Barpeta soil and climate, but I personally do not find any start in this matter. I think some plantations of these valuable timbers can actually be proceeded with. We have seen Sisu growing naturally and luxuriantly in many parts of Assam including Barpeta and its growth is also quick.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** It will require at least hundred years !

**Shri AKSHOY KUMAR DAS :** That is about Segun. In any way these are important timbers. These constitute our permanent wealth. We should take measures to start plantation of these timbers so that our next generation will enjoy the fruits. With these few words I conclude my speech.

**Shri KAMALA PRASAD AGARWALA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the Finance Minister for his long introductory speech while presenting the Budget Estimate for 1956-57. His speech is of historical importance being in between the end of the First Five-Year Plan period and threshold of the 2nd Five-Year Plan. Future generations will judge the merits and demerits of the policies, schemes, achievements and



objectives as well as the revolutionary changes that would take place in our socio-economic structure, as outlined in the speech. The First Five-Year Plan period is ending with a blessing of a rise in the national income by 12.3 per cent and in the revised 2nd Five-Year Plan as approved by the Planning Commission an increase of 15.8 per cent is envisaged. But one thing we have been noticing since the beginning of the Plan and in spite of the increase in the national income that the cost of living in Assam is mounting year after year defeating the very objective of the Plan namely to raise the standard of living. If this mounting cost of living cannot be checked with firm determination then our lot will be like moving in a vicious circle. If the ratio between cost of living and rise in the national income remains the same, how can the living standard be raised? The price index of food stuffs and other essential commodities of different States in India will reveal to any on what high prices we are paying for our food and essential materials. Unless, Sir, the cost of living is reduced and brought in par with other States, Assam will always lag behind and pace of progress slowed down to the point of suffocation and her very existence would be at stake. It is high time that we seriously think why this is so. I am not an economist but it passes my understanding, Sir, how in other States in spite of their having population, three or four times more than Assam articles of food and essential commodities are selling incredibly cheap and available in plenty? I had the very good fortune of visiting many parts of Northern India as far as Amritsar very recently and I was amazed to find at Amritsar milk selling at six annas per seer, Ghee at Rs.3-8-0 to Rs.4-8-0 per seer, mutton at Rs.1-4-0 per seer, cabbages at annas 2 per seer and every other article at almost half the price prevailing in any town and village in Assam. I had also compared prices at Delhi, Agra, Dehradun, Jaipur, etc., etc., but nowhere prices were so high as in Assam. It was a great revelation to me and I only wished if I could bring our people to these places how glad they would be and how much they would have learnt to grow things cheaper. Is not the boast of somebody saying that our people are better off than people of other States a mocking and harmful propaganda?

The real position is that, Sir, both the people and Government are not giving due attention to agriculture as it deserves. As a result nothing is grown except paddy in large scale, we have to import a huge quantity of foodstuffs from other States which can be grown easily in our State. Had these been grown in the country, transport of other essential commodities



would flow which we so much need for the development of the country. There is a saying, Sir, in Assamese that বৰৰ গৰুৱে আৰু বাৰিৰ বাঁহে বাহি নাহে।

I think I will be correct if I change the aphorism and say that আমাৰ মানুহ আৰু আমাৰ মাটিতল বাহি নাই। Sir, you will appreciate my saying so if you go round in our country-side both in the Hills and the Plains. Vast lands remain fallow for major portions of the year. Contrast this sight with any agricultural field in the up country States. You will, Sir, barely even find an inch of land lying fallow and without some sort of crop for a single month in the year. Why this is so? The answer was given by the Congress President, Shri M.M. Chaudhury, the other day in his Budget discussion. He said quoting from statistics that out of 365 days in the year our villagers remain active only for 145 days and for 220 days they remain idle. Is this, Sir, not a factor in making our cost of living high and congestion in the transport due to import of foodstuffs from other States? Sir, I have enumerated these facts only to show how poor we are in agricultural products and that the State has sufficient possibilities of agricultural products in different crops both for internal and external consumption. We have not exhausted our agricultural resources to switch over to industries and leave agriculture to take its own course. If our people do not cultivate more than one crop, means must be found to keep the lands cultivated throughout the year. The Mymensingia immigrants have changed the face of the country by their cultivation of rotation of crops. It may not matter who among us remain idle but it does matter to the country if the lands remain fallow. Government may consider the proposal of indenting seasonal cultivators from other States for special cultivation and specially during months when paddy is not cultivated. If lakhs of Noonianous can dig earth and make our roads and embankments, why not people like them come and do the seasonal cultivation? It can't be helped if people do not work. So, Sir, my request to Government is that our State must be made self-sufficient in matters of all foodstuffs. This position must be changed during the next Plan period.

Another great contributory cause to the cost of high living is the transport bottle neck to and from Assam. We cannot depend on the present system of transport by rail and river routes as inter-State communications. Unless Pakistan allows flow of goods *via* Parbatipur, the movement of goods *via* Maniharighat is bound to be costly and transshipment delays due to absence of bridges over the Ganges at Maniharighat and the Brahmaputra. If bridges are ever constructed that is long



term measure. The only cheap route throughout Assam is the steamer route from Calcutta and the other places. The foreign steamer services is primarily meant for tea at special freight rates and does not cater to the needs of the general merchandise. They also do not increase their shipping space to carry extra load in preference to tea and tea garden requirement for Calcutta. It is therefore of utmost importance and urgency to nationalise the services. If that is not possible immediately then Government should take the bold initiative of opening its own steamer service from Calcutta to Assam as quickly as possible if it really wants to serve the people from the greedy clutcher of the bulls and bears every year. Sir with the solving of these two problems of transport bottle-neck and self-insufficiency in food and agricultural products our State can hope to march ahead of other States and not before as many seem to think.

**Swami KRISHNANANDA BRAHMACHARI:** মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, দেশৰ নানা সমস্যাৰ মাজেদি যিখন বাজেট এই সদনত মাননীয় বিত্তমন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে উপাৰ্জন কৰিছে তাৰ বাবে তেখেতক মই ধন্যবাদ দিছোঁ।

স্বাধীনতা পোৱাৰ অলপ দিনৰ পিচত এনে বৈদেশীক শাসনত প্ৰপীৰিত জুৰুলা দেশ এখনৰ সৰ্বস্বত্বীন পৰিপূৰ্ণ বাজেট এখন দাঙিধৰা কিমান সম্ভৱ দেশৰ ভাৱ চিন্তাশীল লোকমাত্ৰেই উপলব্ধি কৰিব পাৰে।

সদনৰ মাননীয় সদস্যসকলে এই বাজেট লক্ষ্য কৰি অনেক সমালোচনা কৰিছে। মইও সদনত এই বাজেটৰ সম্বন্ধে দুই এটা কথা মাত্ৰ কব খোজোঁ। প্ৰথমতে পৰ্বত ভৈয়ামৰ মাজত উদ্ভৱ হোৱা সমস্যাৰাশিৰ সমাধান কৰা অকল বাৰ্জনৈতিক দৃষ্টিভঙ্গিৰ পৰা সম্ভৱ নহয়। আধ্যাত্মিকতাৰ মাজেৰে মানবতাৰ ভাব লৈহে পৰ্বতীয়া ভাইসকলক আলিঙ্গন কৰিবলৈ হস্ত প্ৰসাৰণ কৰিব লাগিব। মহামানৱ মহাত্মা গান্ধীৰ পৰিকল্পিত শ্ৰেণীহীন সমাজ তন্ত্ৰসম্পন্ন ৰামৰাজ্য গঠন কেৱল অর্থনীতিৰ ওপৰতে গুৰুত্ব দিলে নহব; আধ্যাত্মিক আৰু নৈতিক ভিত্তিৰ ওপৰতহে বেচিকৈ জোৰ দিব লাগিব। স্বাধীনতা পোৱাৰ লগে লগে জাতিৰ নৈতিক বল আৰু আধ্যাত্মিক সমাজশক্তি ক্ষীণতৰ হৈছে। ব্যক্তিগত আৰু দলগত অভিসন্ধি সিদ্ধ কৰিবলৈ গৈ ৰাজনীতি ক্ষেত্ৰত অনেক ঠাইত বিপৰ্যায় অবস্থাব সৃষ্টি হৈছে। এই কথা চৰকাৰেও সম্ভৱ অস্বীকাৰ নকৰিব যেন লাগে।

তৈলখাৰাৰ নিছিনা পূৰ্বপাকিস্তানৰ পৰা বাস্তৱাৰা আহি আকৌ দেশৰ অবস্থা জটিলতৰ কৰি তুলিছে। কেৱল চৰকাৰৰ সদিচ্ছা থাকিলেও নহয় আমাৰ বাস্তৱাৰা ভাইসকলৰো দেশাত্মকবোধ লৈ বাচিবৰ ইচ্ছা হব লাগে। ন্যায় আৰু মানবতা তেওলোকৰো থকাটো আমি ৰাখা কৰোঁ। নহলে বাৰিত পানী দিয়াৰ নিছিনাকৈ চৰকাৰে কিমান তেওলোকৰ কাৰণে কৰিব পাৰে? উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে মই কও যে বহু বাস্তৱাৰাই দৰংজিলাত ৭৮ বছৰ বসবাস কৰি চৰকাৰৰ পৰা ঋণ লৈ আকৌ গোৱালপাৰা জিলাত যায় মাটিবাৰি লৈ ঋণ পাবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিছে। এইদৰে প্ৰায় ঠাইত অনেক বাস্তৱাৰা ভাইসকলৰ অপচেষ্টায় দেশৰ অৰাণ্ডিত অবস্থা এটাৰ সৃষ্টি কৰিছে।

যি নহওক শিক্ষা বিষয়ে মই এটা কথাটো চৰকাৰৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিব খোজোঁ। চৰকাৰে পঞ্চবাৰ্ষিক পৰিকল্পনাৰ জৰিয়তে ৰাজ্যৰ যথেষ্ট ৰকমৰ শিক্ষাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে,



কিন্তু সংস্কৃত শিক্ষাৰ উৎকৰ্ষ সাধনত জোৰ দিয়া দেখা নাযায়। মোৰ বোধেৰে ভাৰতৰ কৃষ্টি, সংস্কৃতি আৰু সভ্যতাৰ পূৰ্বৰ্ভাষ লবলৈ হলে সংস্কৃত শিক্ষা অপৰিহাৰ্য্য নহলে আমি পূৰ্বসংস্কৃতিৰ ফালৰ পৰা চ্যুত হম। ভাৰতৰ অন্যান্য ৰাজ্যত ইয়াৰ ব্যবস্থা যথেষ্ট পৰিমাণে লৈছে। কিন্তু অসম চৰকাৰে এই সংস্কৃত শিক্ষাৰফালে সন্মান যোৰ দিয়া দেখা নাযায়। এই বিষয়ে মই চৰকাৰৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিলো যাতে এই সংস্কৃত শিক্ষাৰ উৎকৰ্ষ সাধনৰ বিশেষ দৃষ্টি দিয়ে। গোৱালপাৰা জিলাৰ ধুবুৰীৰ পশ্চিম অঞ্চলত থকা হাইস্কুল সমূহত যি সাহায্য দিয়া হৈছে সি পৰ্য্যাপ্ত হোৱা নাই। অৱশ্যে জনজাতীয় সকলক কিছু সাহায্য দিছে কিন্তু সি যথেষ্ট হোৱা নাই। উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে মই সত্ৰশাল, চেপচেপি আঁশুগনি আদিৰ কথা কও। সেইবিলাকত সাহায্য দিলেও সেই পৰিমাণ যথেষ্ট নহয়। এই বিষয়ে মই মাননীয় শিক্ষামন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ৰ তীক্ষ্ণ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিলো।

আই নদীয়ে যি ধংশলীলা কৰিছে সেই বিধ্বস্ত অঞ্চললৈ মাননীয় মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী, বিত্তমন্ত্ৰী আৰু Public Works Department মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয় সকলে গৈ সেই বিধ্বস্ত ৰাইজৰ দুৰবস্থা নিজ চকুৰে চাই আহিছে মাননীয় বিত্তমন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ৰ সদৃচ্ছা থকা স্বত্তেও সেই বিধ্বস্ত লোক সকলৰ আজিও কোনো সুব্যবস্থা নোহোৱাত মই বৰ দুখ পাইছো। ইয়াৰ উপৰিও এই নদীটোৱে যাতে ভবিষ্যতে সেই ধংশলীলাৰ পুনৰ্ভাৰণ কৰিব নোৱাৰে তাৰো ব্যৱস্থাৰ কাৰণে আজি দীৰ্ঘ চাৰি বছৰে কোনো পৰিকল্পনা লোৱা যেন দেখা নাযায়। আকৌ এবাৰ বান আহিলে বিজিনি অঞ্চলৰ লোক সকলৰ কি হব, সেইটো কল্পনাভীত। ইয়াকে ভাবি চৰকাৰে যি ভাল বুজে তাকে অতি সোনকালে কৰিব বুলি মই চৰকাৰৰ তীক্ষ্ণ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিলো। এই ক্ষেত্ৰত মই এটা কথা কও যে এইবিলাক বিষয়ত চৰকাৰৰ যে সদৃচ্ছা নাই এনে নহয়, কিন্তু চৰকাৰৰ সদৃচ্ছা থাকিলেও যদি কৰ্মচাৰী সকল কৰ্মতৎপৰ আৰু কৰ্তব্যপৰায়ন নহয় তেন্তে ৰাইজে সেই সদৃচ্ছাৰ পৰা বঞ্চিত হয়। বান বিধ্বস্ত সকলক সাহায্য দিছে, কিন্তু কৰ্মচাৰীৰ দোষৰ কাৰণে সেই সাহায্য সময়মতে ৰাইজে নাপালে। তাৰ পিচত আমি বিধান সভাত বহু কামৰ কাৰণেই টকা মঞ্জুৰ কৰো কিন্তু সময়ত সেই টকা বিতৰণ নহয়, গতিকে চাব লাগিব যাতে যথাযথ টকা সময়মতে ব্যৱহাৰ হয়। তেতিয়াহে চৰকাৰৰ সদৃচ্ছা ৰাইজে গম পাব। সেই বান বিধ্বস্ত অঞ্চলৰ লোক সকলে মাটিৰ কাৰণে হাহাকাৰ কৰিছে। কিন্তু চৰকাৰৰ পৰা কোনো লক্ষ্য নোপোৱাত কোনো ফালে মাটি লোৱা নাই, কিন্তু কিছুমানে বাহিৰৰ পৰা আহি চৰকাৰী মাটি যতে ততে দখল কৰিছে, স্থানীয় অসমীয়া মানুহৰ লগত বহু গোলমাল হৈছে আনকি তাৰ কাৰণে এজনৰ মৃত্যু পৰ্য্যন্তও হোৱা দেখিছে। এইবিলাক তলতীয়া কৰ্মচাৰীৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰৰ কুনাং হয়।

বিজনিৰ বান-বিধ্বস্ত অসমীয়া মানুহবিলাকে ভাবিছে যে দৰ্শাস্ত কৰি গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ লক্ষ্য হলে মাটি লব পাৰিম। কিন্তু এনেকুৱা কিছুমান মানুহ আছে তেওঁলোকে ইচ্ছামতে যতে ততে মাটি লৈছে। একচনীয়া মাটিও কিনা বেচা হৈ বেজাদী পৰ্য্যন্ত হৈছে। চৰকাৰী আইনমতে একচনীয়া মাটি কিনা বেচা হব নোৱাৰে। যদি নহয়, তেন্তে সেইবিলাক বেজাদী বা কিয় হয়। এই বিষয়ে বিজনি অঞ্চলত ট্ৰাইবেল সকলৰ লগত সংঘৰ্ষও হৈছে, আনকি ডেপুটি কমিচনাৰও তালৈ আহিব লগা হৈছে। আশা কৰোঁ এইবিষয়ে চৰকাৰে বিশেষ চকু দিব।

তাৰ পিচত বিজনি অঞ্চলত কিছু নতুন বাস্তা হৈছে। কিন্তু বিজনি-পাদবাডী বাস্তাটো আজিলৈকে সম্পূৰ্ণ হৈ নাঠিল। মই P. W. D. মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ক অনুৰোধ কৰো যাতে এইবিষয়ে চকু দিয়ে। আজি ৫/৬ বছৰ হৈ গ'ল, মানাহ নদী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণৰ কোনো প্ৰজেক্ট লোৱা নহল। আৰু বন্যা আহিলে P. W. D. ৰ বাস্তা গোটেই



কেইটি দলং ধুংস কৰিছিল আই নদীৰ নতুন ধাৰা এটি আহিছে। বোধকৰো এইবাৰ বানপানী আহিছে সেই পিনৰ যি অংশ আমাৰ National High Way আছে মানিকপুৰ বানপানিত সেইটো ধুংস হ'ব। গতিকে সময় থাকোতেই তাৰ ব্যৱস্থা চৰকাৰে ল'ব লাগে।

মানাহ নদীৰ পাবত থকা বাইজে মনে কৰে যে এইবাৰ বান আহিছে আমাৰ গতি কি হ'ব। আমি সমূলয়ে মৰিম। এনেটক এটা বিভিষিকাৰ মাজত লোক-সকল জীয়াই আছে। মই চৰকাৰৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষন কৰিলো।

মদ নিৰাবণী কেইটামান জিলাতহে কৰিলে সাপনাৰি লেজত বিষ বখাৰ নিচিনা হ'ব। কাৰণ মদ কেবল ট্ৰাইবেল সকলেহে খায় এনে নহয় অট্ৰাইবেলেও তাতকৈ বেচিকৈহে খায়। কিছুমানক অলপ খাবলৈ দিয়াত এটা ছিদ্ৰহে বখা। সেইকাৰণে মই চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰো যাতে আইন কৰি গোটেই কেইখন দেশতে মদ খোৱা অতি সোনকালে বন্ধ কৰে।

চৰকাৰে কমিউনিটি প্রজেক্ট জাতীয় সম্প্ৰসাৰণ আদিৰ যোগেদি যি দৰে জাতি গঠনৰ কাম আগ বাঢ়িছে সেই কামবোৰ সম্পূৰ্ণ হৈ গলে কাৰো আৰু আপত্তি বা অভিযোগ কৰিব লগিয়া নাথাকিব। কাৰোবাৰ ব্যক্তিগত অভিযোগ হয়তো থাকিলেও থাকিব পাৰে কিন্তু সমষ্টি গত অভিযোগ যে নাইকিয়া হ'ব তাত কোনো সন্দেহ নাই। এতিয়াই আমি দেখিবলৈ পাইছো বিৰোধী দলৰো আপত্তি বা অভিযোগ কমি আহিছে। ইমান দিনে বিদেশী শাসনৰ তলত থকা এখন দেশত মানুহৰ আপত্তি অভিযোগ একেবাৰে আতৰাবলৈ কিছু সময় লাগিব পাৰে। দ্বিতীয় পাচ-বছৰীয়া পৰিকল্পনাৰ অন্তত আৰু বহু পৰিমানে আপত্তি অভিযোগ বোৰ কমি আহিব—আৰু আশা কৰো বিৰোধী দলে অভিযোগ আনিবলৈ কোনো কথাই বিছাৰি নাপাৰ।

যি হওক সময় যেতিয়া উকলি গল ইমানতে মোৰ বক্তব্যৰ সামৰণি মাৰিলো।

**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I offer my thanks to the Finance Minister for his able presentation of this bold Budget and the robust optimism which has been spread over in the pages of the Budget—the special feature being deficit and yet no taxation.

Sir, ours is an age of political power. Everywhere people are turning to Government to accomplish purposes that formerly were left to other institutions. The United States has had its New Deal. Great Britain has gone socialistic. Government in Russia is both totalitarian and dictatorial. India too has gone the way of socialism, nay a few months back the Indian National Congress which met at Amritsar had not only reiterated Abadi resolution of Socialistic Pattern of Society but had adopted and pledged to socialistic society. To cite instances, just after the attainment of Independence, India liquidated those big Rajas and Zamindars. The richest man in the world, the Nizam of Hyderabad—had been liquidated. The Company Law Amendment Act, controlling the powers of the Managing Agencies with a view to check the accumulation of wealth in the hands of a few, legislation of



marriage and divorce, the Hindu Succession Bill, the nationalization of the Life Insurance Societies are instances in point. In this way India is going to that end.

Sir, most of the things that are needed for India generally and for Assam particularly are being voiced by the hon. Members in the House. We are all grateful to the Finance Minister for his having said that this is an election Budget and the hon. Members are also making speeches in that view going out of bounds in most cases of party discipline, which I do not consider as correct.

Sir, Land Reform, Education, Untouchability, Prohibition, Major Industries, Minor Industries, Co-operation, Assam Link and such other vital subjects about which the hon. Members have already spoken elaborately. I do not propose to deal with them now. Prohibition and untouchability are things which cannot be attained by simply delivering lectures, unless it is done with the missionary zeal.

Sir, we are in the best of times as well as in the worst of times. Best because the Government and the Party in power, I mean the Congress, are in the overwhelming majority and the Opposition is thinning down to non-entity and, therefore, Government are not to think of their Party position. Worst, because Government may pass the Budget through with assurances given to the suggestions made by the hon. Members but this is not the end of it. Government must see that the suggestions given by the hon. Members are acted up to.

Sir, most of the things told in this House are not new. One very important thing and, in my opinion, a very vital subject in the present context, is family planning. We all want land and no Government can solve the land problem unless the family planning is undertaken to restrict the growth of population and bring about relief to the pressure on land.

Land reforms, family planning and industries big and small—all these combined alone will, I am sure, lead us to our desired goal. To achieve this end, one most primary thing needed is education. This is the panacea of all wits. In a poor country like India and particularly Assam, this must be free in all stages and if we could achieve this, 90 per cent of the so called troubles would disappear. Then the question arises—if free education is to be given as suggested whose is the money? My answer to it, Sir, is that when the boys and girls after finishing their



studies will enter into Government service and take to other avocations of life, a reasonable deduction from their income should be made. If we could arrange to have money that way, I am sure, the question of money may be effectively solved.

Sir, I may kindly be permitted to criticise the policy and the workings of the Government.

A Government, however proficient and efficient—it might be, must be criticised in its proper perspective. Its policy and its workings must be changed to suit the time and circumstances as exigencies arise. The Ahom students in the Government High Schools are granted free-studentships on the total rolls of the Ahom students but in case of the other students, free-studentships are granted on the total enrolment in the school. This in my opinion, Sir, is a clear case of discrimination and I would like to draw the pointed attention of the Minister-in-charge of Education to this with a view that he would be pleased enough to give due consideration to this matter and do away with the discrimination at his earliest. Yesterday, my Friend, Shri Lila Kanta Barah of Nowgong, mildly hinted that even though some of the constituencies of Nowgong have been greatly benefited from the developmental projects of the Government, his constituency has not at all been benefited. He further hinted that our Ministers have become constituency-minded. Rightly or wrongly—perhaps rightly—many Hon'ble Ministers have formed the opinion that our Ministers have become constituency-minded. In my opinion it is right. My request to the Ministers is that they must so behave that the hon. Members may feel that they are of the people, for the people. I would appeal to them to be less constituency-minded and that they would administer justice to the State as a whole and not to this or that constituency alone as complained of.

Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to one more thing which directly comes under the portfolio of our Chief Minister. The matter relates to the Demow C. D. Block in Sibsagar and it is in my constituency. I do not have much experience of the work of other N. E. S. or C. D. Blocks but so far the works of the Demow C. D. Block is concerned it is far from satisfactory. The workings of the P. E. O. in this Block is simply shocking. Here the P. E. O. had concrete reinforced rings manufactured with bamboo materials instead of iron ores and when one of the ring-wells was in the process of sinking, some rings were broken and a labourer had narrowly



escaped death. I hope the Chief Minister will kindly look into this and enquire about the matter.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Was it done on an experimental basis ?

**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI:** Do not know, Sir. The concrete reinforced rings of bamboo were being sunk and in the process one man was about to be killed as some rings were broken.

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** When the man died ?

**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI:** No death but narrowly escaped death.

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** Did you inform the S. D. O. about this?

**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI ;** Yes, Sir, both the S. D. O. and the Deputy Commissioner were informed.

Not only that. In October about 23 children of Tribal people died of dysentery. The area where this occurrence took place is a very backward one. It is in Panidehing.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** What is the name of the village ?

**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI:** The name of the village is Dolopa Miri Gaon and the name of the place where ring-well was sunk is the Kowarpore Mauza and in village Salapathar.

These are samples of the instances how the P. E. O. is behaving in his due discharge of duties.

With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

**Shri BIMALA KANTA BORAH:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, our Finance Minister has received congratulations from all quarters of the House including my Communist Friend, Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya, of the Opposition side, and I do not propose [to be an exception. Undaunted by 3 consecutive deficit Budgets behind him and with a four crores deficit Budget before him, our Finance Minister proposes not only to go ahead with the developmental programmes, but is determined to find out 11 crores of rupees to finance the Second Five-Year Plan. This, indeed, is a very good and welcome news to us, and I have nothing but praise for his boldness and optimism. Doubts have been expressed in certain quarters that on account



of the deficit Budget, the financial position of our country is not sound and some have even doubted the capacity of the Government to implement the Second Five-Year Plan. I am, Sir, not at all worried by the deficit Budget of our State. Even the Central Government, not to speak of other States, is facing a deficit of 16 crores of rupees. In fact, all the States in India to-day are having deficit Budget. I shall not be wrong when I say that in India to-day there is not a single State where the Budget is not a deficit one. Sir, I find, even though our Budget is a deficit one, sufficient funds have been provided for various developmental projects. If sufficient money is not provided for the various developmental projects, we cannot expect to achieve the prosperity of the country. Because the prosperity of the country or the introduction of the socialistic pattern of society as we call it to-day, all depend on the implementation of these projects. If the projects are not properly implemented and in proper time and without undue delay, then the dream of our people will not be fulfilled. If we want to achieve our dream of the socialistic pattern of society, greatest importance is to be given to the implementation of the projects under the next Five-Year Plan. Are we prepared to implement all the projects? Sir, I will refer to one thing which, to my mind, appears to be the snag in our administration. Next to Education, I feel that Co-operative, Agriculture and Cottage Industries are the most important Departments for the purpose of introducing a socialistic pattern of society. Unless the economic standard of the people is raised, it is of no use talking about such a society. Mere speeches will not solve the problems of the people. I would like to submit, Sir, that there must be regular planning, there must be proper thinking. As I have already submitted that these three Departments are the most important Departments, but I feel that these Departments have not received the necessary attention that they deserve. Since the resignation of Mr. Choudhury, these three Departments were divided and placed in charge of Ministers who are over-worked. Sir, the Co-operative Department is the most important Department of the present day. We cannot establish a socialistic pattern of society unless we work through the Co-operative Societies. Yesterday and last September, a proposal has been mooted in this House that a loan of Rs.1,000 be given to 20 lakhs families of Assam to improve their economic condition. The proposal was only in the germinating stage last year. In this Session, I find it has gone further and more Members have supported it. From a small germ this scheme has developed into a plan and this is likely to cause a headache to the Government in future. The



question now is how to counteract it. My submission is that its solution lies in the Co-operative Movement and we need more money to implement it. Sir, with regard to economic condition of the people, it has become very difficult now-a-days. We do not even get Rs.20 to borrow in the villages. How the poor people can then get money for improvement of their cultivation? It is only through the Co-operative Movement, and through it we can help the people. Of course some loans are granted to the people from the fund of the Community Projects and by Government as agricultural loans but that is not sufficient. Have we done our duty in this respect? But this important Department has been given to the Minister who is very much over-worked, I mean, the Public Works Department Minister who is in charge of the biggest spending Department in the State and he has to spend about..... (Mr. Speaker: 7 crores and odd). Yes, Sir, 7 crores and odd. Then there is again the Transport Department which is growing. Being in charge of such Departments, it is impossible for him to think and make plans. He has no time to think about all these things. I feel that the Co-operative Movement requires vigorous thinking and regular planning. Sir, it is said that there is everything in the Government except thinking because these Ministers have no time to think. It was stated by Shri M. M. Chaudhury that our Chief Minister works 18 hours a day. He is really so busy that he has no time to think about these Departments (*Laughter*). (Mr. Speaker: You want a gentleman who can think). Sir, yesterday and all these days we have been hearing speeches on land reforms and stopping of fragmentation of land from different speakers. Fragmentation of lands can be stopped only through the co-operative farming. In England in order to stop the fragmentation of land they have introduced the law of primogeniture. In Germany, it is the nominee of the father who is the right legal heir to the land and the lands remain in tact. No Government can stop the fragmentation of land unless the people understand the Co-operative Movement. Therefore, Sir, in order to pool these fragmentary units of land into a single co-operative farming, the co-operative farming is being extensively practised in China and Russia. In this view of the matter the Co-operative Department is the most important Department. If we really want to solve the problems of the agriculturists.....(Mr. Speaker: But there is caution both in China and Russia).

Sir, co-operative farming is the order of the day, and that has been admitted by the Government as well. The willing co-operation of the people is necessary and there must be a man



who can think about these matters properly and who can make plans and schemes. Therefore, Sir, I feel that this Department has not been given the proper attention. Similar is the case with Agriculture Department. Co-operative, Agriculture and Cottage Industries are allied Departments. Agriculture has been placed under the Forest Minister. The Forest Department is a revenue earning Department. The Forest Minister has to devote his time to raise the revenue of the State. He has no time also and he generally deals with wild animals and game sanctuaries but in Agriculture Department we are to deal with the human beings.

Sir, about the Cottage Industries and the Publicity Departments, I want to make a few observations. These Departments were placed in charge of Medical Minister. So far as medical people are concerned, they are the most silent people and they never talk. But this Publicity Department is the propaganda Department. Sir, these three Departments, as I said are the most important Departments and I earnestly request the Chief Minister to consider the matter. Of course we have only one year and after the next election, we do not know what will happen. Still, when we are going to implement the Second Five-Year Plan, we must give our best thoughts to the three Departments. There is money of course for buildings and bridges but that will not be sufficient to raise the economic land of the agriculturists. Therefore, my earnest appeal to Government is that these Departments should be amalgamated and placed in charge of one Minister who can vigorously think and co-ordinate. I do not mind if a new Minister is appointed for these Departments.

Sir, being myself a lawyer, I would now like to speak a few words on Judiciary. There are Additional Judges in some Districts of Assam including Nowgong. These Additional Judges have no power to entertain appeal motions and other petitions. Great difficulty is arising after the amendment of the Criminal Procedure Code now. Recently, a man was convicted by the Third Class Magistrate at Nowgong and was fined Rs.15. He wanted to file an appeal and formerly such an appeal used to lie before the District Magistrate.

But now that law is abolished ; all such appeals now lie to the judges. As there is no Sessions Judge at Nowgong ; a man who is fined Rs.10 or 15 by a Magistrate of the 2nd and 3rd class has to run to Gauhati to file an appeal. There he engages a pleader on a fee of Rs.50 or so. Then, the appeal is heard at Nowgong by the Additional Judge and he is again to engage a pleader at Nowgong at Rs.50 or so. So, to appeal against a fine of Rs.10 he has to spend about Rs.100 without,



of course, knowing the fate of his appeal. Sir, this is very awkward situation. I think immediate steps should be taken to invest the Additional Judges with power to entertain appeals, petition, etc. Absence of powers is causing great hardship to the public.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Mr. Borah, can we legislate on that ?

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Yes, Sir, it is in the Concurrent List.

**Shri BIMALA KANTA BORAH:** So, Sir, I would request Government to examine the matter and arrange to delegate certain powers to the Additional Judge at Nowgong and other places. That can be done. Of course, I have not brought the book but I know there are certain provisions which enable Government to do that.

Another thing, Sir ; formerly offences under Section 304 were tried by Jury. But now these offences have been split up into two parts, part one has been made triable by Jury and part two by the Judge himself without the aid of Jury. Now, Sir, this has given rise to a peculiar situation. There is no preliminary hearing now-a-days before an accused is committed to the Court of Sessions. The Magistrate reads the police diaries and immediately commit the accused to the session. It is very difficult to decide under which part of Section 304, Indian Penal Code the accused is to be committed from a perusal of the case diary.

My third point is about the dress of the pleaders and advocates in Court. Formerly the British Government prohibited certain dresses for appearance in Courts. Dhoti was banned ; but now Dhoti is a respectable dress and it should be allowed. I hope Government will take steps to revise the rules relating to dresses in Court.

*(The bell rang)*

Another point regarding the Embankment and Drainage Department, which is very important. We are going to have embankments everywhere. There is a proposal for an embankment on both sides of the river Brahmaputra.

*(The bell rang again.)*

**Shri MANIK CHANDRA DAS:** মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, জয় জয়তে যই বিত্তমন্ত্রী মহোদয়ক মোৰ আন্তৰিক ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন কৰিছো। তেখেতে আমাৰ দেশখনক সকলো প্ৰকাৰে উন্নতিৰ পথত অগুৱাই নিবলৈ যি আপ্ৰাণ চেষ্টা কৰিছে তাৰ বাবে তেখেত সদৌ দেশবাসীৰ ধন্যবাদৰ পাত্ৰ।

মহোদয়, মোৰ ৰাজ্যটৰ বিষয়ে বিসদভাবে আলোচনা কৰিবলৈ ইচ্ছা নাই ; মোৰ আগতে ডালেয়ান সদস্যই ভালকৈ আলোচনা কৰিছে। আৰু বিশেষকৈ আমাৰ



প্ৰাদেশীক সভাপতি শ্ৰীচৌধুৰী মহাশয়ে কোৱাৰ পাচত মোৰ কবলগীয়া নাই। মই তেখেতসকলক সম্পূৰ্ণ সমৰ্থন কৰিছো, বৰ্তমান মই মোৰ মহকুমাৰ বিষয়ে দুম্বাৰণ কৰা।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মোৰ সমস্তিৰ দুখন মৌজাত বৰ্তমান অসম তেল কোম্পানীয়ে বিশেষভাৱে তেল উদ্ধাৰৰ কাম কৰিছে। সদনৰ সকলো মাননীয় সদস্যই জানে যে খেৰেনীয়া মৌজাৰ কঠালগুৰি তেলখাটটো এচিয়াৰ ভিতৰত দ্বিতীয় স্থান পাইছে। মই কব খুজিছো যে যিবিলাক মাটি উক্ত কোম্পানীয়ে লৈছে তাৰ ক্ষতি পূৰণ আৰু মূল্য উচিতি ভাবে খেতিয়ক সকলে পোৱা নাই। এতিয়াও কিছুমান গাওঁৰ বাইজে ক্ষতিপূৰণ মূল্য কম হোৱা কাৰণে গ্ৰহণ কৰা নাই।

মহোদয়, অসমীয়া মানুহৰ সেই তেল কোম্পানীৰ পৰা উপকাৰো একো হোৱা নাই কাৰণ স্থানীয় লোকসকলে ইয়াত কাম পোৱা নাই। পাকিস্থান আৰু আনপ্ৰদেশৰ পৰা মানুহ আনি ঠিকাদাৰ আৰু কোম্পানীয়ে কামত নিয়োগ কৰিছে তেওঁলোকৰ অসমীয়াৰ ওপৰত এটা ধাৰণা হৈ গৈছে যে, অসমীয়া মানুহে কাম কৰিব নোৱাৰে।

বানপানীত প্ৰতি বছৰে বিশ্বস্ত হৈ জীৱিকাৰ আন উপায় নোহোৱা অসমীয়া মানুহে ঘৰৰ মুখতে দিনে ৩/৪ টকা হাজিৰাৰ কাম দেখি কাম বিচাৰি যায়, হতাশ হৈ উভতি আহিব লগা হৈছে। কাৰণ কম, অসমীয়া মানুহ কামৰ উপযুক্ত নহয়। আনফালে চাঁবদিনলৈ সামান্য ক্ষতিপূৰণত পিতৃসম্পত্তি এৰি আনঠাইলৈ হাৰিৰ মাজলৈ মাটি বিচাৰি উঠি যাব লগা হৈছে। এতিয়া কামো পাবলৈ নাই আৰু মাটিও পাবলৈ নাই। মই আশাকৰো চৰকাৰে যেন এইবিলাক বিষয় চিন্তা কৰি চাই যাতে স্থানীয়লোকে উপযুক্ততা অনুসাৰে আৰু বিশেষকৈ মাটি এৰি দিব লগা মানুহে কোম্পানীত কামৰ সুবিধা পায়, তাৰ ব্যৱস্থা গ্ৰহণ কৰে।

মহোদয়, ডিব্ৰুগৰ মহকুমাত ১৯৫০ চনৰ ভূমিকম্পৰ পৰাই প্ৰতিবছৰে অহা বানপানীত বিশ্বস্ত পৰিয়ালৰ সংস্থাপন আজিলৈকে সম্পূৰ্ণ নহল। প্ৰায় দুহেজাৰ পৰিয়ালক এবিয়াও মাটি দি সংস্থাপন কৰিব পৰা নাই। চাহ বাগানৰ যিবিলাক উপযুক্ত মাটি আছিল প্ৰায়েই অধিগ্ৰহণ কৰি বিতৰণ কৰা হৈছে। অবশ্যে বিতৰণত কিছু পলম হৈছে। সাধাৰণতে চাহ বাগানৰ মাটি অসমীয়া খেতিয়কৰ কাৰণে উপযুক্ত নহয়। বাইজৰ চকু সদায় উপৰ বুঢ়িডিহিং বিজাৰ্ভৰ ওপৰত। মই কব খোজো চৰকাৰৰ উক্ত বিজাৰ্ভৰ খেতিৰ উপযুক্ত মাটি এই বিশ্বস্ত সকলক দি ১৯৫০ চনৰ পৰা উত্তৰ হোৱা সমস্যাৰ সম্পূৰ্ণ সমাধান যেন কৰি দিয়ে। এই বানপানীৰ পৰা ৰক্ষা কৰিবলৈ চৰকাৰে ডিহিঙৰ দুয়ো পাৰে প্ৰায় মথাউৰি বান্ধি সম্পূৰ্ণ কৰিছে। কিন্তু খেৰেনীয়া মৌজাৰ টেঙাখাট মথাউৰিৰ পৰা টিপ্‌লিঙৰ মুখলৈকে ১৯৫৪-৫৫ চনলৈকে যি পৰিকল্পনা হাতত লৈছিল এই বছৰো উক্ত কাম হৈ নছিল। বৰ্তমানে সমস্যা হৈছে যে দক্ষিণ পাৰৰ চাৰণী নাহৰ কটীয়া মথাউৰিটো সম্পূৰ্ণ হোৱাত গোটেই পানীটো আন ফালে বাগৰি যাবলৈ নাগায় খেৰেনীয়া মৌজালৈ আহিবলৈ সম্পূৰ্ণ সম্ভৱনা হৈ বস। আমি সময় থাকোতেই চৰকাৰৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিছিলো যদি এইবাৰ বানপানীৰ তাণ্ডৰ লীলা খেৰেনীয়া মৌজাৰ ওপৰৈদি যায় তেন্তে তাৰ বাবে কোন দায়ী হয় মই কব নোৱাৰো। এই মথাউৰি নোহোৱাৰ কাৰণেই শ্ৰীমহোদয়ে নিশ্চয় জানে লাহোৱাল-জয়পুৰ আৰু লাহোৱাল-তিনচুকিয়া অলিটো ১৯৫০ চনৰ পৰাই প্ৰতি বছৰে মে মাহৰ পৰা জুলাই মাহলৈকে পানীৰ তলত ডুবগৈ থকাৰ কাৰণে যানবাহন নেলাগে মানুহৰো পথ বন্ধ হৈ থাকে। এই অলিটোৱেই একমাত্ৰ ডিব্ৰুগড়লৈ আৰু তিনচুকীয়ালৈ যোৱাৰ বাস্তৱ। মই আশাকৰো ইয়াৰ এটা সুব্যৱস্থা যেন গ্ৰহণ কৰে।



মহোদয়, মই মদ নিৰাৱণী কৰাত সন্তোষ পাইছো। আৰু তাৰ বাবে ধন্যবাদ জনাইছো। আমাৰ ডিব্ৰুগৰ মহকুমাতই বোধহয় অসমৰ ভিতৰত বেচিকৈ মদ বিক্ৰি হয়, আৰু ইয়াৰ কাৰণ চাহ বাগান বিলাক। আমি যেনেকৈ জনজাতিৰ মাজৰ পৰা এই প্ৰথা বন্ধ কৰিবলৈ ব্যৱস্থা লৈছো সেই দৰে এই চাহ বনুৱা সকলৰ মাজৰ পৰা এই কুপ্ৰথা আঁতৰাবলৈ এতিয়াৰ পৰা ব্যৱস্থা লব লাগে। মই সেই বাবে কব খোজো যে কামৰূপৰ খিচতেই ডিব্ৰুগৰত নিৰাৱণীৰ কাম গ্ৰহণ কৰে যেন। মই দেখি সন্তোষ পাইছো যে চাহ বাগানৰ প্ৰাইভেট মদৰ দোকান বিলাক উঠাইদি চৰকাৰী দোকানত পৰিণত কৰি আন ঠাইলৈ আতৰাই নিছে। কিন্তু এখন দোকান ইয়াৰ মাজতেই কেনটিন হিচাবে আচৰিত ভাবে বৈ গল। সেইখন হৈছে বিখ্যাত ডিগবৈ দোকান।

অসমৰ ভিতৰত এইখন এখন আটাইতকৈ ডাঙৰ দোকান। কি যুক্তিত এইখন দোকান কেনটিন কৰি ৰাখিলে মই বুজিব পৰা নাই। আশা কৰো চৰকাৰে এতিয়াও এই দোকান খন চৰকাৰী দোকানত পৰিণত কৰি আন ঠাইলৈ উঠাই নিব। আৰু এটা কথা মই দেখিবলৈ পাইছো—আৰকাৰী বিষয়া সকলে প্ৰতিখন বনুৱা গাঁৱত শনিবাৰ আৰু দেও বাবে হাৰিয়া বা লাও পানী খোৱা মানুহক ধৰি আনি শাস্তি দিয়াত উঠি পৰি লাগি গৈছে। আন হাতে সুবিধাবাদী লোক সকলে প্ৰত্যেক চাহবাগানত তিনি চাৰিখনকৈ সৰু সৰু দোকান চৰকাৰী মহলৰ পৰা আনি বনুৱাক মদৰ যোগান দিছে। কিন্তু আৰকাৰী অফিচাৰ সকলৰ চকুত পেলাই দিলেও নেদেখে। মই অনুসন্ধান কৰি জানিব পাৰিছো যে মদৰ বিক্ৰী বঢ়াবৰ কাৰণে 2½ সেৰৰ অজুহাতলৈ লাওপানী বন্ধ কৰি আনহাতে মদ বিক্ৰী বৃদ্ধি কৰাৰ উদ্দেশ্যেই এই ব্যৱস্থা আৰকাৰী বিভাগৰ কৰ্মচাৰীয়ে লৈছে। আৰু এটা কথা মই শুনিবলৈ পাইছো যে মহলদাৰ সকলক জোৰ কৰি যিমান মদৰ প্ৰয়োজন তাতকৈ বহুত বেচি প্ৰতি মাহে কিনি ৰাখিবলৈ কয়। বিশেষকৈ বছৰৰ শেষত তিনি মাহ মান আৰু বেচিকৈ কিনি ৰাখিবলৈ মহলদাৰ সকলক কোৱা হয়। এই কাৰণে চলিত বছৰত মদৰ বিক্ৰীৰ বৃদ্ধি দেখুৱাই আৰকাৰী বিভাগে খোচ নাম অৰ্জজন কৰিছে বুলি মই মহলদাৰ সকলৰ পৰা জানিব পাৰিছো। মই আশা কৰো যাতে প্ৰতি বছৰ মদৰ বিক্ৰী কমি আহে তাৰহে ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে। ব্যৱস্থা স্বৰূপে মই কব খোজো যে প্ৰতি দোকানত এটা মাহেকিয়া fixed quota নিৰ্দ্ধাৰিত কৰি দিব লাগে।

শেষত মই নদী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণৰ বিষয়ে কব খুজিছো। চৰকাৰে ২য় পাচ বছৰীয়া পৰিকল্পনাত ইয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা হাতত লৈছে। সকলো মাননীয় সদস্যই জানে যে ন' ডিহিং আৰু বুচি ডিহিং লৈয়ে ১৯৪৬ চনৰ পৰাই প্ৰতি বছৰে প্ৰায় ১৭/১৮ খন মৌজাত বানপানী খেতি পথাৰ সমূলি নষ্ট কৰি দাৰিদ্ৰ্যতাৰ সৃষ্টি কৰিছে। ইয়াৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে নৈৰ দুয়ো পাৰে প্ৰায় ১০০ মাইল জুৰি মথোৱাব দিব লগা হৈছে। কিন্তু ই স্থায়ী নহয় আৰু ইয়াৰ অপকাৰিতাৰ বিষয়ে সদস্য সকলে ইতিমধ্যে আলোচনা কৰি গৈছে।

মহোদয়, সকলোৱে জানে নাহব কটিয়া, টিপলিং, হুগ্ৰীজান, মৰাণ আদিত A.O.C এ তেলৰ সন্ধান পাই দ্ৰুত বেগে আহৰণৰ কাম হাতত লৈছে। আন হাতেদি অসংখ্য চাহ-বাগান নৈৰ দুয়ো পাৰে আছে। তাৰ উপৰিও তিনিচুকীয়া, মাঁকুম, ডিগবৈ আদি ন ডিহিংতে Multi Purpose River Valley ৰ কাম হাতত লোৱা উচিত। ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰা বিদ্যুত শক্তি উৎপন্ন হোৱাৰ উপৰিও স্থায়ীভাৱে বানপানী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰা হব। গতিকে মই অনুৰোধ কৰিছো যেন ন ডিহিংক প্ৰথম স্তৰীয়া দি কাম হাতত লোৱা হয়। আমি জানিব পাৰিছো Oil refinery টো কলিকাতালৈ নিবলৈ চেষ্টা চলিছে। মই ইয়াৰ যোৰ প্ৰতিবাদ কৰো আৰু অসমতে এই refinery ৰখাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবলৈ চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ জনালো।

**Shri AARAN SANGMA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you that you have given me an opportunity to take part in the general discussion of the Budget.



Sir, first of all, I offer my thanks to the Finance Minister for his comprehensive and elaborate Budget, in which we have observed the achievement of past four years. No doubt that our Government with the limited fund at their disposal, done whatever possible on their part. As many of our Friends of this House have discussed all the aspects of the Budget speech, I shall confine myself within the aspects, as I feel important from my point of view.

Sir, particularly in my district of Garo Hills, Government have done some improvement in various Departments but the Garo Hills District is so backward that the improvement so far done by the Government cannot meet the requirements of the district. There are much more to be done yet. In respect of education, our Garo people are too backward; they are poverty-stricken and therefore it is not possible on their part to bear the necessary expenditure for education. Of course, some help has been given in the shape of free studentship, stipends and scholarships to the poor, needy and intelligent boys and girls, but that is not enough.

Sir, I wholeheartedly support what has been said by my Friend, Mr. B. Das, regarding imparting free education to all the students of Hills and Plains tribals in all stages of education. I also think that this will go a great way to help and encourage our backward people in the field of education.

Then, regarding Agriculture, I want to say that our people are habituated with shifting cultivation. This should be substituted with modern type of cultivation. Arrangement should be made to introduce modern and scientific type of cultivation so that all people in Hill districts can adopt this method in order to help them to raise their standard of living and improve their economic condition.

Sir, regarding Cottage Industries, I want to speak that our people produce big quantities of cotton, Endi cocoon, Muga cocoon, etc., but they cannot produce cloths out of these things. So, we cannot derive the benefit which we should have. Therefore, I draw the pointed attention of the Government to this and would request the Government to appoint more Demonstrators in Sericulture and Weaving and to establish Sericulture and Weaving Schools in our district for the training of the Garo people.

We keep large number of cattle and sell them to the Plains people but for many of us owing to poverty, it is not possible to rear them. So, I would request the Government to sanction cattle loan to needy people.

Sir, in the last Budget Session, I moved in this House for another Subdivision in the district of Garo Hills nearabout



Rangenggiri. Tura Subdivision is not accessible from all parts of the district and it cannot cope with the administration in all its aspects efficiently. Therefore, I would request the Government again to make arrangement for the establishment of this Subdivision early.

Last of all, Sir, I want to say that communication of Garo Hills is not improved. There are only a few roads which are inadequate for trade, etc. So, I would urge upon the Government to take steps to have more roads in the district of Garo Hills in order to ease the situation in respect of communication.

With these few words, I resume my seat.

Jai Hind

**Maulavi KOBAD HUSSAIN AHMED:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcome the Budget and heartily congratulate the Finance Minister for his able presentation of the Budget Estimates for 1956-57. The budgeting in general is a difficult technical process. It is more so in the case of the Budget of an undeveloped State like Assam with limited resources but with many problems. Our Finance Minister has been able to overcome that difficulty by his proper understanding of the problems, deep thinking, clear vision and sound judgment. Even to a critical mind, I make bold to say that the Budget will prove to be comprehensive and sound. Though the Budget is a deficit one, it should not be a cause of concern. We are to consider whether there are provisions for development programmes needed for conversion of Assam into a welfare State. I personally believe that the development schemes on different heads, proposed to be undertaken in the Budget, when completed, will pave the way, to a great extent, of achieving our goal—a welfare State.

Sir, a strong and intergrated administration, in the region to the north-east of East Pakistan, is essential for the unity and security of our mother country. We are grateful to the States Reorganisation Commission for rightly rejecting the unsound and absurd demand for inclusion of Goalpara in West Bengal and all proposals for disintergration of our State. We welcome the merger of Manipur and Tripura with Assam if the people of Manipur and Tripura voluntarily agree to cast their lot with us.

Sir, the First Five-Year Plan was undoubtedly inadequate to the requirements of the problem Province of Assam. It has, however, helped us to lay the foundation of a bigger Second Five-Year Plan. As a result of the First Plan, we have been able to produce much more foodgrains than we require for our consumption. We should not, however, be complacent but should further step up food production to meet the



emergencies very often caused by natural calamities. It is also gratifying to note that under the First Five-Year Plan much progress has been made in construction of roads. The most remarkable success of the First Five Year Plan has been to make provision for training facilities by establishing some training institutions in the State. These institutions will, I think, remove the dearth of technical and trained personnel whose services will be essential to work out various development schemes under the Second Five-Year Plan.

Sir, I am very happy to find in the Budget that the bulk of the outlay of Rs. 60,12,00,000 on the Second Five-Year Plan will be spent on the rural areas. When we are aiming at a Socialistic Pattern of Society, when we are endeavouring to remove all social disabilities and economic disparities, it is in the fitness of things that we should make sincere and honest efforts to reorganise our villages to the fullest extent possible in all respects—educationally, economically and morally. India lives in villages. The all-round progress of the villages is the real progress of India. Democracy cannot thrive and prosper in ignorance. The first and the foremost duty of a democratic Government should be, above all, to give proper education and training to the hitherto sleeping masses living in villages. Liberal grants both recurring and non-recurring should be given to the educational institutions of all categories, from primary to secondary schools, existing in the rural areas.

We have really made wonderful progress since Independence. The foreigners are amazing at our speedy progress ; but it is a pity that our own people living in rural areas do not feel so much. It is so because the village economy is just the same as it was before. It needs immediate reconstruction. We must concentrate all our thoughts on this vital matter.

Assam is predominantly agricultural. Expansion of agriculture on a large scale is not possible as there is not much surplus land. The only alternative is intensive cultivation by scientific methods. Government are taking steps in this direction. But I venture to say that alone cannot solve such a big problem. Without a parallel development of cottage industries in the countryside with financial aid and training facilities from Government, the reconstruction of the rural economy is not possible. Our peasants, on an average, remain idle for about six months in the year. They must be employed in cottage industries or some other works to supplement their income. With the rise of their income the feeling of inferiority complex, helplessness and despair will automatically vanish from their minds and they will begin to feel their responsibilities as



citizens of a free country and will voluntarily come forward to build up a happy and prosperous Assam.

Sir, I appreciate the steps Government are taking to improve the health of the rural population by establishing Public Health Dispensaries, Leprosy Treatment Centres, Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, etc., in the countryside. But there are still many places in the interior both in the plains and hills where the unfortunate suffering people are going without any treatment facilities. In my humble opinion, a Departmental survey to ascertain the necessity of each locality of those institutions will be of much benefit to those unfortunate people who have not received such medical facilities before.

Our rural indebtedness is simply appalling. It is really a happy sign to find in the Budget that in the Second Five-Year Plan provision has been made for expansion of co-operative credit societies to cover 50 per cent of rural indebtedness. I would request the Government to see that such credit societies be first formed in those places where they are most needed.

Sir, the development of agriculture in our country depends to a great extent on development of cattle wealth. So it is natural to make provision of treatment facilities for them. It is gratifying to note that 16 Veterinary Dispensaries have been planned for the next year. But the condition for establishing such dispensaries are prohibitive. The poor cultivators are quite unable to bear the cost of the construction of necessary buildings. I would, therefore, request the Government to relax those conditions.

Sir, I think, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not mention some of the urgent problems of the south bank of the Dhubri Subdivision. The south bank consists of a narrow low-lying tract of land surrounded almost on all sides by rivers. This strip of land is becoming narrower every year as a result of erosion of the Brahmaputra and the Jinjiram rendering a large number of people landless and homeless. Flood is an annual feature there. It causes untold sufferings to the people every year. About 25 per cent of the crops—Ahu paddy, Bao paddy and jute—are damaged when the flood is normal, and wholly damaged when the flood is abnormal.

After the devastating flood of 1954 Government were pleased to construct an embankment from Kharmuja to Fakirganj on Test Relief basis to protect this area from the ravages of flood. From Fakirganj to Mankachar—a distance of 36 miles, is yet to be protected. A vast area of cultivable land of this unprotected portion had been damaged by sand deposit during the last flood. So, I would request the Government



to extend this embankment upto Mankachar within the next year.

The road communication is hopelessly bad. There is only one P. W. D. road of low standard from Fakirganj to Mankachar, the condition of which is deplorable. It is not even fit for pedestrian traffic. Government should take special steps to improve this road simultaneously with the construction of the proposed embankment.

It is indeed very sad that in the whole of the Mankachar Thana with a population of 42 thousand who are mostly agriculturists, there is not a single veterinary dispensary. I would, therefore, request the Minister-in-charge of the Veterinary Department to sanction two Veterinary Dispensaries for Mankachar—one at Jhawdanga and another at Kukurmara—as early as possible.

Of the Aided High English Schools in the South bank, the financial position of the Sukchar High English School is the worst. A nominal grant of Rs. 150 a month had been sanctioned to this school. Sukchar is a very backward and out-of-the-way place and as such it deserves special consideration. I would, therefore, earnestly request the Education Minister to enhance the grant of this school to the minimum rate of Rs. 520 a month within the next financial year.

With these few words, Sir, I conclude my speech.

**Shri NARNARAYAN GOSWAMI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Finance Minister for presenting a very bold and courageous Budget. The Finance Minister is the sole judge of the Budget. He is to determine the policy and programme. He has got a class of good thinkers who are known as Planning Commission. The policy and programme are predetermined by that Planning Commission. Here, in our State, also the policy and programme have been predetermined by the Planning Commission. The merit of the Budget is to be judged to what extent the social advantage is to be given to the people. According to the Budget, if we give an impartial view, this Budget has made sufficient scope for social upliftment of the country. For that, I give my thanks to the Finance Minister. Sir, our State policy is not to be guided by the whim of a person. Our State policy should be guided by the directive principles of the Constitution. Sir, the directive principles are in the nature of moral precepts. If we forget the letter and the spirit of these directive principles, we will be subject to criticism, we will fail in all our programmes. Now coming to the programme of the Budget and giving an impartial view, we will find that our Congress Government has been successfully guided by these directive principles. According to the directive principles we will find



that maternity centres and Panchayats have been started for the betterment and upliftment of the rural people. Our Government have also started cottage industries, housing plans and such other matters. Then compulsory primary education has been enforced and it will spread through the length and breadth of Assam very soon. Steps have also been taken for the improvement of our backward people. Under Article 46 of the Constitution we have provision for the improvement of the conditions of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes people, and our Government have taken it up. In this respect I beg to mention that our full attention should be given to the improvement of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes people in points of education, sanitation, and economically too.

Here I find the other day—Mr. Choudhury is not here—that the communal question was mentioned. But I feel that this communal question should not be brought here in this House because Article 46 is meant only for the improvement of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes people. That must be done and should be done. The communal cry should not be brought here in discussing these matters. Any attempt by any person to bring a communal tinge in this House should be nipped in the bud and should not be allowed. Sir, with regard to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes people I beg to request Government to see that in matters of appointment of inferior posts like Road Mohurrirs or similar appointments under the Transport Department, educational qualification should not be the bar, because there may be among them under-matric or people with lesser education. If this bar is there then there will be some hardship to these people. We must give them all facilities to bring them to a higher level in the standard of living. In this also the communal tone should not be allowed to stand ; it should, as I have said, be nipped in the bud.

Then again, Sir, under Article 51 we are to make efforts to promote good feeling between nations and to bring international peace and security. I am glad that our Government has been successful in this sphere also. Our Government has been able to bring about co-operation with China, Bhutan and other nations in point of flood control. I am also glad to note that our Chief Minister is soon going on a continental tour. I hope .....

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** Nothing has been finally settled as yet,



**Shri NARNARAYAN GOSWAMI:** But it is reported in the papers and there is no contradiction to that. However, Sir, when we look to the workings in this House we will find that our policy, I mean the policy of the Congress, has been successful and it is evident from the fact that some of our hon. Friends from the Opposition have joined our Party.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Mr. Goswami please do not go into that.

**Shri NARNARAYAN GOSWAMI:** This is a good sign, Sir, because even Acharyya Vinova Bhave expressed a view that there should be one Party Government in the country and that commonly agreed programmes are to be carried out by unanimous opinion. If, Sir, all parties are united for the good of the country it will mean that our party will consist of honest people and we will be able to carry out our programmes unitedly. If we work in a united spirit then in the coming elections of 1957.....

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Please do not discuss the elections here, I hope you will excuse me.

**Shri NARNARAYAN GOSWAMI:** All right, Sir. Now, with regard to education, under the First Five-Year Plan we have made a big endeavour in our country. I think for the information of the House I may refer to the note written by Shri Gulzarilal Nanda on the subject of the Second Five-Year Plan in which mention was made about the need for expansion of education. Sir, in the furtherance of the socialistic pattern of society, education is the means by which we are to make progress in our country. But how far have we been able to do this? I am sorry to point out that there is a big gap in the Budget, which might be through mistake or oversight, because I do not find in the Budget what should be there for the expansion of education in the Second Five-Year Plan according to the speech of the Finance Minister. The Finance Minister said in regard to education that the First Five-Year Plan period was mainly one of improvement and consolidation, rather than of expansion. But, Sir, expansion is the main thing, for the progress of the country as a whole. It is a good sign, Sir, that after the Cotton College at Gauhati, different colleges were started in different parts of the State, and in spite of having the Collegiate High School at Gauhati, other aided High Schools were started in all parts of Assam. Sir, I expect that there should be more scope for the expansion of education in our State.



I expected that there should be certain provision for the middle english schools for recurring grants. I expected that when there are some venture colleges there should be some provision for venture colleges also. But, Sir, I am sorry that no provision has been made. "To err is human" Sir. In Sanskrit it is called "गुणिनां गृह्णतः ।".

Then, Sir, I feel myself inspired about the First Five-Year Plan and the Second Five-Year Plan. These are good things. In a place like Bajali where two boys offered lives in 1942 Freedom Movement and where the writer of Kathabhogawat and Kathagita was born in the 16th century, the people of Bajali started the Bajali College in a planned way. So far the people of the locality have spent Rs.1½ lakhs and have constructed the buildings of the college and have appointed professors with pay from Rs.200 to Rs.400. I am glad that our Finance Minister in connection with a meeting in the Pragjotishpur College .....

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** Sir, he has said that we have not done anything for the Bajali College.

**Shri NARNARAYAN GOSWAMI:** I hope, Sir, the Finance Minister will look into this matter.

The people of Bajali have been greatly inspired by starting the college, and good sense of responsibility has prevailed on them. Atmosphere for higher education should be made. There should be higher educational institution. Without higher educational institutions we could not have got man like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Dr. Rajendra Prasad. Further without higher educational institution we would not have so many Ministers and legislators. So there should be higher educational institutions, and without higher education our people cannot progress. I am sorry to say that in spite of our Congress Government, in two-thirds of my constituency there is not a single graduate for want of a college there.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Mr. Goswami your time is up.

**Shri NARNARAYAN GOSWAMI:** With these few words, Sir, I would request the Government, more particularly the Education Minister and the Finance Minister, to look into the matter and to do justice to these people by making good provision for the venture colleges in the State.

**Pu LALMAWIA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy to take part in the discussion of Finance Minister's speech. As many of the previous speakers have said, the Budget for the



year 1956-57 with deficit of about three crores of rupees is a very bold one indeed. I have no doubt that the Government will be able to tide over the deficit Budget without proposing fresh taxation during the year.

Sir, the Finance Minister expressed the general satisfaction of the House on the recommendation of the States Re-organisation Commission in regard to our State. We cannot deny the fact that the majority of the Members of this House are satisfied with the recommendations of States Re-organisation Commission. It is true also that some of the Members of this same House are not at all satisfied with it. That being the case, occasionally we have been voicing our dissatisfaction over the recommendations. In doing so, I understand that we have aroused the displeasure of the State Government, and that we have been misunderstood even by the Chief Minister of Assam.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Mr. Lalmawia, what you have to do with this? You are making a speech on the Budget only.

**Pu LALMAWIA:** Sir, I would like to make my position clear, because the Finance Minister also said something about the recommendations of the States Re-organisation Commission. The Chief Minister alleged that during the debate on the Governor's Address on 12th March, 1956, that due to the contact with foreigners some of my honourable Friends have imbibed the idea of isolation and some sort of anti-Indian feeling so much so that Mr. Lalmawia as a member of the United Mizo Freedom organisation went so far as to demand secession of the Lushai Hills from India, and as a matter of fact, some of the members of the United Mizo Freedom Organisation went to Burma for negotiation with them for union with the United Mizo Freedom Organisation.

I presume that the Chief Minister completely misunderstood the true meaning of my previous statement on the floor of this House as well as the motive of the United Mizo Freedom Organisation of which I happened to be the President during the last eight years.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Did you go to Burma?

**Pu. LALMAWIA:** Yes, Sir, in the year 1947, and after that also some of our men went to Rangoon.

I would like to make it clear that at no time we did ever harbour any anti-Indian feeling as such, and we have never been imbibed with the idea of isolation.



Last year, during the debate on Governor's speech I said that I did not blame the Assamese people for trying to get the lion's share in everything from the Government. If we (the Lushais) happened to occupy their position as a single majority community we might have done the same or even worse. I never hate the Assamese or any other people only because they are Indians. Under some particular administrative set up of the Government like the one we have in Assam, where one community or one.....

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** Ma I understand whether at one time the Mizo United Freedom Organisation wanted secession of the Lushai Hills from India. This is all about which I made a reference in my speech. I also congratulate that the honourable Member after a lapse of few years has undergone a radical change in his outlook and feels the necessity of the Lushai Hills remaining a part of the Indian Republic. That was my idea.

**Pu LALMAWIA:** Sir, the Mizo Union who were a majority at that time were in favour of remaining in India. The Mizo United Freedom Organisation therefore discontinued their move for secession from India.

Then, Sir, where one community or one tribe is more numerous than all other communities put together, or combined there is a chance or possibilities for that big community to hold the rein of administration of the State. It may be in the name of some political organisation like Congress, and take advantage of their numbers for satisfying their selfish ends, and neglecting others. It is to counteract this possibility that we try to find some safeguards for the small communities in this eastern corner of India. The idea of some other fellow tribals may be different, but, frankly speaking, my idea is to find some safeguards from exploitation of the tribal communities by others.

**Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN:** Nobody wants to exploit you.

**Pu LALMAWIA:** If nobody wants to exploit us, it is well and good.

**Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN:** So your idea is secession of the Lushai Hills from India.

**Pu LALMAWIA:** My idea is not for secession of Lushai Hills from India.



(3) Mohmd. Shahabuddin, M.A. is (Double), M.A. in Arabic and Persian. He is the Secretary of the Board. He was formerly a Lecturer in the Islamic Studies, Cotton College.

Professor Abdul Latif, M.A. Head of the Department of Islamic Studies, Cotton College. He is certainly Arabic knowing.

(5) Moulana Islamuddin Ahmed, M.A., M.M., M.th. (Cairo), Principal Rangia Arabic College. He is certainly Arabic knowing.

(6) Moulavi Abdul Gafur, B.A. (Arabic as one of his subsidiary subjects), Superintendent, Bagariguri High Madrassa. He can be Arabic knowing and so on.

These are the persons besides others with whom we have consulted the Madrassa Education Board. However, subsequent remarks made by Moulana Abdul Jalil on the floor. I discussed with Maulana Jalil and I found that his objection is that they are not the products of the Madrassas though they had Arabic for University Degree.

Another point he mentioned was with regard to the curriculum. When the new curriculum was suggested to me, some of the Members led by Maulavi Faiznur Ali met me and represented that Government should not accept this curriculum without the sanction of the Madrassa Education Board. I assured him and the other friends that without consulting the Madrassa Education Board Government would not certainly introduce the new curriculums. The matter was then taken up with the Madrassa Education Board. But this Board had not yet been unanimous on this matter. Due to the persistence of Maulana Abdul Jalil I referred the matter to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, our Union Education Minister, being not myself a connoisseur of Islamic studies. I wrote a letter to him more than a year ago, but I did not get the reply from him till the end of December last.

In August last when I visited New Delhi I again personally met him and mentioned to him that this matter was still pending for a considerable time and that he should give his views on the matter. Then in the month of December last he wrote me a letter and that letter was placed before the Madrassa Education Board, and the Board after going through the letter passed a resolution which I am now reading out to the House:



"The Board have taken note of the Demi official correspondence between the State Education Ministry and the Central Ministry of Education and are of the opinion that before the Madrassa Curriculum of the 'Jamiat-ul-Ulama-i-Hind' is approved by the State Government with a view to its introduction in the Madrassas of the State, it should be examined in detail in the context of the genesis of the curriculum now in force in Assam with due regard to the principle so far accepted by the State of the secularisation of the courses—and their correlation with the High School and College courses as framed by the Gauhati University. The Board are further of view that Government may proceed to appoint a representative committee to go into the question thoroughly and to recommend such modifications as may be called for by the local conditions without lowering the standard of the various examinations to which the courses had."

Sir, this resolution was passed in the State Madrassa Education Board held in the month of December, 1955. On receipt of this resolution, the Government has taken up the question of constitution of the Committee as envisaged in the resolution. I must again mention that my friend Mr. Jalil need not be anxious about this matter as we are already pursuing this matter in right earnest. We would proceed with this matter as soon as this committee submit its considered views.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** মৌলানা সাহাব ক্বা চাহতে আদ !

**\*Maulana ABDUL JALIL** আমি কারিকুলামের বিষয় কিছুটা জানতে চাই।

**Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister):** Sir, although my Friend Mr. Jalil has been persistently pressing on these things, the details of the curriculum cannot be discussed here. He has to wait till the view of the proposed Committee is submitted.

**\*Maulavi ABDUL JALIL:** আমি যেগুলি বিষয়ের কথা বলছিলাম সেগুলো include করা হবে কি না ?

**Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister):** Sir, that is not the point. The Madrassa Education Board lays its emphasis on the introduction of certain subjects while my friend lays emphasis on the introduction of certain other subjects. So these differences are there. And I have already assured my friend that this question will be taken up separately by the Board, when the views of this proposed Committee is received. Regarding his suggestions for two



additional members I assure him that they would be included in the Board.

Sir, some mention has been made regarding sanctioning of more grant for improvement of Sanskrit education. Sir, as you are aware Government of India are also very anxious about the improvement of Sanskrit education in our country. An organisation known as the Biswa Sanskrit Parisad has recently been formed with no less a person than the President of the Indian Union, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, himself as the Chairman. This Parisad has been considering this question as to how we can improve the Standard of Sanskrit education in our country. But, Sir, there are some differences of opinion here also. Some persons want to give more emphasis on memorisation of Sanskrit 'sutras' or slokas, whereas the modern persons want to lay more stress on research. So these differences are there. In future, Sir, we will be guided by the suggestions made by the Biswa Sanskrit Parishad so far Sanskrit education of our country is concerned.

Sir, certain references have been made by some of my friends with regard to Basic Education. Sir, The Basic Education Act had been passed more than a year ago. Implementation of the provisions of this Act is certainly a very big task beset with many difficulties. Sir, we have not yet been able to train up personnel required for conversion of all primary Schools into Basic. The House may be aware that only a few months ago a Basic Education Assessment Committee constituted by the Ministry of Education (Government of India), visited some of our institutions in the months of January and February. Another officer was also sent to our State by the Ministry of Education to inspect and examine as to the manner in which we have been utilising the Central grants and how we are working in the field of Basic Education in our State. Sir, here I have a letter received from Shri P.D. Shukla of the Ministry of Education of the Government of India, who has, I have stated before, visited our State recently. I do not propose to read out the whole letter as the time at my disposal is very limited, but I would only quote certain important portions from his letter for the information of the House. Here he has stated,—

"The policy followed in your State to develop Basic Education on the compact-area basis is sound. This technique has been adopted in a few other States of the country as well." He has further stated, "The organisation in every subdivision of Basic Education Committees which include both official and non-official elements, is a healthy feature."



He has also mentioned in his letter about one of the features in our Basic Schools which is the holding of annual Melas. Annual Melas are held in the Schools where the people of the locality are also invited to take part and see the way in which the pupils of the Basic Institutions are shaping. Various products, arts and crafts produced by the pupils of the Basic Institutions are also exhibited in the exhibitions held for the purpose. Referring to this he has stated, "The Mela idea is excellent" and that this should be followed up by other States also.

With regard to a Basic Education Centre at Titabar he has stated, "My experiences at Borhalla Community Centre, I can only describe as thrilling. I must admit that from what I saw, I would put this Community Centre among the top few community centres in the country", *i.e.* India. "If you could arrange to send me a detailed account of the working of and the life in this particular community centre supplemented by some interesting photographs, we shall be glad to publish the same in our Education Quarterly which, as you know, has a circulation both within and without the country."

These are some of the remarks in appreciation of our work. He has also suggested on certain other points. For instance, he has suggested that we should bring in some more additional staff for strengthening the Basic Education Directorate.

The suggestion we would certainly consider.

**Shri GIRINDRANATH GOGOI:** Sir, may I know who is the author?

**Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister):** He is Dr. Shukla in the Education Ministry.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** He came to Shillong the other day.

**Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister):** Then Sir, with regard to tribal education, some of my friends have been pointing out that it was necessary that we should give free education not only to tribal pupils but also to scheduled castes pupils. This question has been under consideration since last year by the Government and we have made an estimate of the expenditure that would be incurred for this purpose. For scheduled castes, the number of students in Assam is estimated at about 7,000 and amount required would be Rs.1,97,000 for free education. For the scheduled tribes of the plains, the number of students estimated is approximately 6,000 and the expenditure estimated is 1,72 lakhs and for the scheduled tribes of the hills



the number of students is 15,000 and the amount required is Rs.5,40,000. Certainly we have not been able to provide for free education to all the children of these communities but we have, in our budget proposals made additional provision to the existing provision. Another additional amount of Rs.50,000 has been provided with regard to scheduled castes and for scheduled tribes. Sir, some of my friends have mentioned about improvement of education of the tea garden labourers. I am much anxious about this and for many years past, I have taken up this question of improvement of education of the children of the tea garden labourers. The difficulty had been that the Industry is not willing to give their co-operation in this connection to the extent desired. They might not have been as anxious as to have the children of the labourers educated. At the same time we had no legislative authority to have the schools inspected. In spite of this fact, we have been able by persuasion to introduce supervision of the schools located in tea gardens. That is why we could not move as fast as was expected of us.

**Shri BIMALA KANTA BORA:** Sir, how long will it take to produce one M. L. A. from the labourers ?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** You mean to say whether we have got any labour leader from the labour themselves.

**Shri JADUNATH BHUYAN:** May I know whether these schools can be included in the School Board?

**Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister):** Sir, with the enforcement of the Plantation Labour Act, I think these difficulties would be solved and we are taking the question of improvement of education in the tea garden areas. The question of including these schools under the School Board and also their inspection is under our consideration. I hope, the House will excuse me if I mention an instance as to how I have been trying to improve education in the tea gardens. Sir, some time ago some representatives of the Industry were invited to Titabar Basic Education Training Centre where we held a meeting and they were pleased to see the working of the Centre and we asked them to send their teachers for



training. I must mention that 5 teachers were sent by the Industry for training in the Titabar Training Centre. Our object is that they appoint qualified teachers. We are considering this while framing rules under the Plantation Labour Act. The question of appointment, inspection, etc., will be considered. The rules have been framed on some questions but there are other points on which rules have not been finalised. The Industry have been spending about 5 lakhs of rupees and all this expenditure had been more or less spent haphazardly. Sir, another point has been raised by Swami Krishnananda with regard to the border areas schools in Goalpara. Sir, the Chief Minister, the Finance Minister and myself are aware of this problem and we have been trying to give them grants to the best of our capacity. Sir, there is another question of the Diphu High School which has been raised by my Friend, Mr. Barelong Terang.

**Shri HARINARAYAN BARUA :** On a point of information Sir, Venture School বিলাকৰ কথা যে উল্লেখ কৰা হৈছিল, সেইবোৰৰ কি ব্যৱস্থা লোৱা হৈছে কিম্বা হব ?

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Venture School is a matter of planning.

**Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) :** Sir, with regard to the Diphu High School, this has been already in the Second Five-Year Plan. The question of upgrading of the M. E. School into a High School has been taken up and I am issuing orders for opening Class VII. To my knowledge, there are only 6 students who have passed from this M. E. School. It is expected that they would seek admission in Class VII. I have taken up the matter for its upgradation. Sir, I think I have sufficiently met the points and the other points will be touched upon by my Friend, the Finance Minister.

**Shri GIRINDRANATH GOGOI :** Sir, the Ahom students enjoy free studentship according to their number but the other students enjoy free studentship according to the total number of students in the School. This is the discrimination.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** You cannot have a second edition of your speech.



**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, a very large number of members of this House have spoken on the first three days of the Budget discussions. This had enabled me to take notes of the points raised by them and also to prepare a reply to meet those points. But, Sir, it has not been possible for me to have a prepared speech to meet the points raised by my Friends who took part in to-day's discussion. It has not also been possible for me to make reference to various Departments to get the necessary information on the points that have been raised to-day. Therefore, Sir, it has become a bit difficult for me to do justice to all the points that have been raised in to-day's debate. However, that cannot be helped. I would, therefore, like to take up first the points which were raised this morning by Friends, who have spoken to-day, so that I may not forget them.

I shall first take up the points raised by my Friend, Mr. Hareswar Goswami. I am thankful to Mr. Goswami and also to Mr. Bhattacharyya in the Opposition for the sobriety of their views and the practical suggestions of a constructive nature which they gave. My Friend, Mr. Goswami, expressed a feeling of surprise that unlike the members of the Opposition, some of our members, sitting on this side of the House, have gone beyond certain limits. Some of them, according to Mr. Goswami, have ruthlessly criticised the Government on certain matters. This has aroused a feeling of surprise in him and he asked, "Is there any rift going on inside the Congress Party?" To disabuse Mr. Goswami of any such misapprehension or misinformation that he might have got, I must most emphatically assert that this is far from truth. Rather, that shows that the Congress Government, which is a creature of the mighty Congress Organisation, can allow this kind of free criticism by their members. It is possible only in the Congress Organisation and not in any other organisation. And that redounds to the credit of the Congress Organisation. My Friend, Mr. Goswami, cannot conceive of such a thing because he is not in the organisation which is actuated by high ideals of liberalism and gives freedom of expression to its members.

He has also expressed some surprise how the Congress President and the General Secretary of the Congress could speak in the vein they had done. Here again he feels, "Is there any



rift going on between the mighty organisation and the Congress Government ; otherwise how could the Congress President and the General Secretary of the Congress speak in such a way ?” To disabuse Mr. Goswami of that feeling also, I can say that there is no such thing as rift between the Congress Organisation and the Congress Government. Probably Mr. Goswami was not present when Mr. Choudhury and Mr. Kakoti spoke. They did not speak ill of the Congress Government. They simply gave certain suggestions which, according to them, should be acted upon by this Government. I cannot understand how Mr. Goswami could put such a construction on their speeches. Possibly he heard something from somebody and thought that something was going on inside the Congress Organisation.

Now, Sir, I come to other observations of Mr. Goswami which are of a general nature. My Friend spoke about the deficit that confronts this Government. I have been placing deficit before this House and my Friend said that this was not an exception in Assam. Other States of India were also doing the same. As my Friend, Shri Bimala Bora, said deficit financing has become the order of the day. Mr. Goswami said that we should not be afraid of deficit financing, but he asked Government to be cautious and to take certain controlling measures. As a matter of fact, in an under-developed country like India, deficit financing in the initial stages cannot be avoided. There is no cause for apprehension on that account. Mr. Goswami said that certain precaution should be taken by Government to check inflationary tendencies and other undesirable results. I am thankful to him for this suggestion, Sir.

Another thing Mr. Goswami said is this : this Government have done well to try to stand on their own legs instead of looking up to India every time with a begging bowl. This Government, under the guidance of the able Congress Organisation, have taken measures to increase their resources and develop their power and thereby stand on their own legs. According to Mr. Goswami, this stand of ours is quite sound. It is also admitted on all hands that we should try to develop our own resources. How long can we go on looking to India for help ? It is better if we can develop our strength, financial and otherwise and try to stand on our own legs. From the budget proposals my Friends will find that we are moving in that line. We are trying to increase our resources and to finance a part of our development programme from our own resources. I have already stated in my Budget speech, Sir, that we spent a



sum of about 9 crores of rupees from our own resources for development in the First Five-Year Plan period, besides Rs.20 crores which was allotted to us. We have to do it if we want to develop our State. I am glad that this stand of Government has been appreciated by Mr. Goswami and I thank him for that. Now, after these things, Mr. Goswami, had spoken about certain difficulties in his own constituency and some other places. He also referred to the North Trunk Road. It is a fact that the communication in the northern part of Assam is not so much developed as it has developed in southern part. The condition of the South Trunk Road cannot be compared with the condition prevailing in the North Trunk Road. He wants that it should be improved upto a certain standard. My Friend, Shri Sarveswar Barua, also spoke about it. In my budget speech specific mention of that matter has been made and therefore I need not take it up here again.

Sir, my Friend, Shri Goswami, has given us left-handed compliment so far as road buildings programme is concerned. He said that we have made good progress in this respect during the First Plan period. He admits this but he does not or cannot give us a full compliment of achievements and therefore he has compared our achievement in this respect with achievements obtaining in other States of India, where according to him road programme has made great headway.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** It is not so.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) :** My Friend, Mr. Goswami has not seen the interior parts of other States. I have also not seen them. But what I find from reports are these, that we are not worse off in spite of the fact that we have greater hurdles and difficulties than these States Mr. Goswami has in mind. The inherent difficulties, which we experience in our State, are not the same as in Bihar and other States. Mighty rivers spreading throughout the State entail heavy expenditure and greater difficulties in bridge making. Then there is the labour problem. We have got to depend on labour from outside the State. They generally come to work for 3 to 4 months in a year and go back. We have got an extensive road programme but unless we get sufficient labour we cannot derive the desired results. In making bridges, we have got to depend on imported materials such as cement, joists, iron rod, etc, from outside the State and we cannot bring them timely and adequately for the transport bottle-neck. In some parts of India a road is made by cutting two drains on two sides but it is quite otherwise in our State.



But in spite of these difficulties of labour, transport, etc ; we have made considerable headway.

Regarding hill roads, even alignment of a hill road takes a couple of years. It is a difficult task. Some of the engineers whom we have from outside the State have no knowledge of such road making and it takes time for them to know to work.

I hope, all these difficulties will be appreciated by my Friend, Mr. Goswami and others.

Then Mr. Goswami made a grievance that in making selection of places for Community Projects and National Extension Service Blocks, we are not judicious and in some cases we selected areas where people are already advanced. I am sorry to say that he did not give an instance of such a selection. In this matter, Sir, we take the utmost care and select areas where the people are backward. My Friend mentioned that in making selection we did not include Boko, Pub Samaria and Paschim Samaria or such places. But these areas will get the chance in due course. That is always the policy of the Government to select only backward places. He ought not to have cast aspersion on us that we made discrimination in selection of these places and it is absolutely baseless. We have not selected a nice place where people are advanced. My Friend will himself admit that the areas we selected in Kamrup District are more advanced than Boko area.

Then, he came to land problem. This problem was also taken up by a large number of my Friends from this side of the House. It is only natural that land problem has caused a headache to us, as well as to them. It has become rather a perplexing problem. We have got a very large number of landless people and the number is increasing every year because of increase of population due to birth and exodus from East-Pakistan. We have to meet the need of the growing demand for land of the indigenous landless and river eroded people besides, we are getting demands from refugees for their rehabilitation. Where shall we get enough land for these purposes ? Not only this State but other States of India also have not been able to tackle this problem satisfactorily. We have therefore been trying to take full advantage of the Japanese and other scientific methods of cultivation to tackle this problem to a certain extent, if possible. Mr. Goswami has suggested that we should open the reserves, as if we have got many unwanted reserves. The policy of this Government is always to throw open any reserve not found



useful for the purpose it is meant into cultivable land. Although, he said that we could open reserves which are lying unused, he did not mention any name. He said that there are certain grazing reserves which are not used for grazing purpose, but he ought to mention the names, so that we can examine whether they are really so. On the one hand, he says that we should open the grazing reserves, but on the other hand, our people are saying that by opening such reserves Government are depriving the cattle population their grazing pastures. However, it appears to me that there is not enough ground for opening these reserves.

Further, Mr. Goswami. suggested that we should take to scientific method of cultivation and should have some industries by which we can shift our population from agriculture to industrial employment. As a matter of fact, Japanese method of cultivation and other scientific methods have been already introduced in our State by us.

### Adjournment

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

### After Lunch

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister)** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Friend, Mr. Goswami, had given some suggestions to enable Government to solve the problem of landless people. The first suggestion was the introduction of a scientific method of cultivation among our cultivators. That is a good suggestion and for his information I should like to state that this is not new to us. This Government have been working upon this suggestion for a long time. We have given considerable emphasis on the Japanese method of cultivation, etc ; Secondly, my Friend, Mr. Goswami asked us as to why we have not tried to shift people from agriculture to industry and suggested us to do so. That is also a good suggestion which is also not unknown to us. But we do not have industries in the State. I have already stated in my speech about the difficulties in setting up industries. But we are making a headway in this direction and when we have been able to have industries in sufficient number, it will not be impossible on our part to shift people from agriculture to industry and this will to some extent solve the problem of landless people. But this by itself cannot enable the Government to solve the problem of landless people in our State fully.



I do not like to go into the suggestion regarding lowering the ceilings because we are going to introduce a Bill before the House in a very short time and the House will have ample opportunity to go into the question and decide up the ceiling. But for the information of my Friend I should like to state that ceiling or no ceiling this will not enable our landless people to get land to any appropriate extent. It may help us to bridge over the gap that we have at present between the rich and the poor people the landlords and the tenants. But we cannot get enough surplus land from the hands of landlords. We cannot get surplus land by means of legislation. This, therefore, will not enable us to solve the problem of the landless people though it may help us in bridging the gap to a certain extent between the rich and the poor and also pave the way for ultimate establishment of a socialistic society in our country. My Friend also suggested for taking up some more reclamation projects like the Kaki Project. That is a good suggestion but the difficulty is where to find out land for this project. If land is available, Government will certainly take up such projects. Another suggestion of my Friend was for taking up family planning by Government. He also gave his support to Mr. Gogoi's suggestion about family planning. This is also a good suggestion no doubt. But here also there are certain difficulties in taking up family planning in a country especially like India where half of the population are still ignorant and superstitious. Among such people this will not be an easy task. This idea of family planning is an idea which can be successfully adopted by the educated people only. But in a country like India where the people are still conservative and orthodox in habit, adoption of the idea of family planning is not possible, especially when our country is populated by about 37 crores of people. In a small country some advance can be made in this direction but in a vast country like India, this will not be so easy.

My Friend, Mr. Goswami, had also spoken something about the tax structure of our country. He said that imposition of taxes on *biri*, match-boxes, and sugar was done in such a way that the ultimate burden will fall on the poorer section of the people. Sir, some of these are not new taxes. What we are doing is that we are simply enhancing the taxes. My friend said that the burden will ultimately fall on the poorer section of the people, but this is inevitable and cannot be avoided. I should like to place certain information before the House on this subject, Sir. In the life of a nation certain stages come when certain number of the people are required to make some amount of sacrifices and sufferings. This happened during the last 30 years when the country launched the freedom struggle against



the Britishers. A large number of the people had to undergo a lot of suffering and a good deal of sacrifices for the sake of freedom and for taking the powers in their own hands. Had the people of India not undergone such kind of sacrifices and sufferings, probably freedom would not have been obtained. But due to their sacrifices, the fruits of freedom are now enjoyed by their posterity. Similarly, after the attainment of Independence we are to build our country. We are now engaged in the task of constructing our country, to make it better and prosperous. This prosperity cannot be obtained without some amount of sacrifices and sufferings from some section of the people. Now in this constructional and transitional age, the country as a whole will have to come forward and make certain amount of sacrifices and sufferings. That will enable us to build the country as we like and our posterity will have the benefits of being prosperous. So far as tax burden is concerned, whether people are rich or poor, everybody will have to undergo some amount of sacrifices. This is my understanding of the situation. I, therefore, request Mr. Goswami to see things from that angle and with that perspective. Some sections of the people, whether rich or poor, have to make the sacrifices, otherwise we cannot build our country.

My Friend, Mr. Goswami has raised another point whether we have been able to gear up administrative machinery to make it fit for a Welfare State. The administrative machinery that we are having in our State was created at the time when the Britishers were ruling our country and they were having a Police State. Then my friend has asked whether necessary changes have been made in that administrative machinery with a view to make it fit for a Welfare State. He feels that there is necessity for it. I agree with him that there is necessity for it. He says that there should be some changes in the attitude of our officers. In his opinion some of our officers are not properly behaving with the people after independence, the mentality of these officers has not undergone a change, and that should be done. That is of course not quite a true picture. There is, however, necessity for changes in the administrative machinery to gear it up, but I do not think that our officers have not changed their attitude, have not changed their outlook in life. After all, like yourself and myself they are also Indians they are our countrymen. As I have some duty towards my country, some obligations to the people, similarly our officers are also actuated by the same feeling. I cannot say that patriotism is my sole monopoly. There may, however, be some black sheep here and there but that does



not indicate that our officers are all bad, that our officers are not up to the mark and that our officers have not been able to discharge their duties satisfactorily. I submit it is the same set of officers who are responsible for successful implementation of our first five year development schemes. There may be some drawbacks, there may be good and bad things here and there, but taking it as a whole, it is these officers who have made a success of the five year development projects in this State. Therefore it is wrong to see the picture from one angle only; it should be seen from the other side also.

My Friend, Mr. Goswami wants that the work of the Pay Committee should be expedited and the Pay Committee should come to immediate decision. That is the view also expressed by some other hon. Members of this House in course of their speeches. I am taking up that point in my prepared speech and therefore I do not like to speak anything about it just at the moment. But only one thing I can submit to you and it is to have some amount of patience in a matter like pay structure. It needs comprehensive study of the whole question. Unless we can go thoroughly into the intricate problem, we cannot do justice to all sections of employees and we want to do justice to all sections so that no one can complain that discrimination has been made against him. That is why it needs some time and I would request the hon. member to have some amount of patience. While we have been waiting so many years, why cannot we wait for a few months more?

My Friend, Mr. Lalmawia from Lushai Hills had developed certain attitude of mind, certain temperament, certain kind of mentality which, I think, sooner he shakes off the better. He is looking at things with coloured glasses on his eyes. Therefore it is simply useless to argue with him—to have some altercation with him. Whatever is done by Government he looks at that with coloured glasses and hence he always sees a distorted picture. That is why I think it may be prudent on my part not to have any altercation with him on those points. Unless he shakes off his coloured glasses from his eyes, whatever he says will not carry conviction with me.

My Friend, Mr. Akshay Kumar Das from Barpeta has given certain suggestions to the Government and I will keep them in my mind. He wants why not Government resort to certain kind of policy whereby we can stop import of labour from outside, why not the tea gardens are compelled to stop recruitment of labour from outside the State? Sir, that is a suggestion of my



Friend which is not a new thing. We have been insisting on the tea garden authorities to engage as much of labours as is possible from inside the State, to restrict recruitment from outside as much as possible. For the information of the hon. Member I should like to say that already tea industry has been bringing from Cachar district quite a good number of labour population for work in the Assam Valley districts. We are not only talking about this problem, we consider it generally as a serious matter. Our unemployment problem cannot be solved if we allow this kind of unrestricted recruitment from outside. Unemployment is going on increasing on account of new people coming into our State and their unwillingness to go back. We are going on insisting on the tea garden authorities to accept our suggestion and I am glad to inform the hon. Member that they have also fallen in line with us and have agreed to work on this line as soon as possible and as far as practicable.

My Friend, Mr. Das, has also said that we have not done much for development of natural fisheries in our State. Sir, it is true that we have got a large number of natural fisheries in our State from which we can get good amount of money to our State Exchequer, but those are gradually drying up and Government have not taken step for reclamation of those fisheries in the interest of increasing the fishes and also in the interest of Government revenue. This is a good suggestion. For the information of my hon. Friend I may say that we have already provided money for this in our Second Five Year Plan, though it may not be ample.

He has also stated that there is ample possibility for encouragement of bonemeal industry in our State. It is true that there is ample possibility for the encouragement of that industry. As a matter of fact, Government is doing their best to encourage this industry. There are one or two such industries in our State and we have been helping them with loans. If more people come forward to take up this industry, Government will be only too willing to help such kind of cottage industry. It is not a big industry. It is quite good if our young people come forward to take up such industry. Government will be always willing to help them as much as possible.

My Friend, Mr. Das, further stated that at present we are having plenty of wastage of our timber materials in the State, a good quantity of timber is washed away by the



river Brahmaputra and by other rivers during the flood season. This is true and is not denied. But there are certain difficulties also in this respect. When the Brahmaputra is furious during the flood season it becomes very difficult to catch the floating timber and bring them to the bank. When it is difficult for the Government to tackle this problem departmentally, Government have encouraged a large number of people of this State living on both sides of the river to catch the floating timber as far as possible, and as a matter of fact they are doing it every year. The supply of fuel in the town of Dibrugarh is mainly from this source. For the other towns also the Government have encouraged the people to supply fuel from this source as far as possible and from this we are also getting some amount of revenue. When the people catch such floating timber and bring them to the bank they pay some dues according to the nature of the timber. In this way, Sir, we are utilising the floating timber as far as possible. But it is a fact that some portion of the timber goes to Pakistan which cannot be prevented during the furious flood season.

My Friend, Mr. Brahmachari, has given certain suggestions to Government for acceptance. He says that Sanskrit education is being neglected in our country and so due emphasis should be given to this education and as much encouragement as possible should be given by the Government for the spread of this education. For his information I should like to say that Government is not unmindful to the importance of such Sanskrit education. My colleague, the Education Minister, has already said that what is possible is done by the Government. Government do spend money for Sanskrit education, but if the people do not go for this education, then nothing can be done. It is marked that people now-a-days are less inclined to go for Sanskrit education though we are providing institutions for this. Government has substantially aided a Sanskrit college and a large number of Tolls, but the number of students attending them is much less than in the past. This shows that the people are not inclined to go in for Sanskrit education now-a-days and the reason is not difficult to find. It is mainly the economic reason. Unless you can make Sanskrit attractive from the point of view of economy, no amount of money spent on Sanskrit College and Tolls will enable us to attract students in sufficient numbers.

He has said that our refugee brothers who have come to Assam have complicated the refugee problem to a certain extent by their own behaviour. A large number of refugee population float from place to place, as it seems. Some refugees



found in the Nowgong District, for example, will be moving to the Kamrup District or Goalpara District in course of a few months. In this way, Sir, a large number of refugees float from place to place and thus they make the refugee problem or the rehabilitation of refugees problem more and more complicated. This Bohemian conduct so to say also makes the refugees disliked by some section of the local people. My Friend, Shri Brahmachari, gave another reason for this. He said that some refugees take land in one place and after doing so they move to another place and get themselves registered there in anticipation of getting more land. In this way also they make the refugee problem more complicated. I would request the Refugee Association to help the Government in tackling this problem or to make the solution of the refugee problem easier.

He also referred to certain High Schools in his areas and my colleague the Education Minister has already said that what is possible will be done in the near future.

I have already made mention in my budget speech about the damage caused by the river Ai. My Friend, Shri Brahmachari, has said that this river Ai has caused a great menace to a vast area. This river has really created a headache for us as to how to tackle the problem and how to protect the people from the damage caused by this river. Sir, this is a problem which cannot be tackled without much thought, much care and much study, and that is why this problem is taking some time for solution. I request my Friend, Shri Brahmachari, not to be impatient for solution of a complicated problem like this. The river Ai is a very furious river during the flood season, it is rather a treacherous river, I should say. Therefore, to tackle the problem it requires a great amount of thought, care and study, as I have said.

My Friend has also made a grievance against the Government saying that the reserves ordered to be thrown open for the rehabilitation of some flood affected people or the people eroded by the fury of this river, are not getting land and as a matter of fact the people from the south of the Kamrup District are occupying the land. The District officers are warned times without number to see that the land is settled with the people really eroded by the river. However, I assure him that something will be done in this regard in the near future and I request my Friend, Shri Brahmachari, to have some patience in this respect also.

My Friend, Mr. Gogoi from Sibsagar, has spoken about the family planning and I have already replied to it and I do not like to say more on this point. He has also said in his



speech that some amount of discrimination has been made against the Ahom students. Sir, this is a news to me. I have been meeting Mr. Gogoi for the last 4 or 5 years and during this period and also on the occasion of my last visit to Sibsagar, he never brought to my notice that there has been any case of discrimination against the Ahom students in the matter of obtaining free-studentship or scholarships. I request my Friend Mr. Gogoi to give me a specific note on this point and I can assure him that the matter will be given due consideration and the Education Minister will also go into the matter and try to find out if there is really any case of injustice done to the Ahom students and if there is any he will surely try to remove the injustice. I also assure him that no discrimination is sought to be done against any community. Mr. Gogoi has made certain aspersion on the Government saying that in certain community project areas some contractors—I do not know if this is in collusion with our officers—did not do the work according to specification and that the work done by them is not up to the standard. I have taken note of this matter, Sir, and I can assure my Friend that this will be gone into by the Department concerned.

My Friend, Mr. Gogoi also said that there were 26 cases of death from dysentery in a particular area in his constituency. I am not aware of that, and I have not the opportunity of consulting with the Department concerned. In this case also I assure my Friend that this matter will be taken up with the Department concerned. There may be some deaths in a certain locality caused by disease and mal-nutrition, but I don't know if my Friend has himself ascertained about this or he just got the information from some other source and has passed it unto us. I admit that if deaths are caused for want of medicines in the Dispensaries, there is something wrong in the State of Denmark. At any rate I will look into this matter and see how it can happen so.

My Friend, Mr. Bimala Kanta Bora from Nowgong has brought to the attention of the Government some difficulties experienced by the people in judicial administration in the State and he wants that Government should take steps to invest certain powers on the Additional District Judge, if possible. This matter will be gone into and I can assure him that if work warranted it, steps will certainly be taken to invest the necessary powers on the Additional District Judges. So far, the dress of an Advocate appearing in the district courts is concerned, I know there is no bar in respect of courts of the District Magistrates or Additional District Magistrate. While I myself was practising in Nowgong, nobody took any exception



to my dress which consisted of a Dhuti and a coat. I think it might be only in the High Court that this is insisted on. However, this matter rests with the High Court and not with the Government.

**Shri BIMALA KANTA BORA:** But the Sub-Judge at Nowgong does not allow it.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** In the Assam High Court, Sir, only the gown with a black coat is enough.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** But according to my Friend, Mr. Bora, the Sub-Judge of Nowgong does not allow it. Now my Friend has got his information from Shri Goswami who himself practises in the High Court that the High Court allows it, and it is not understood how a Sub-Judge at Nowgong do not allow it. At any rate, Sir, as I have said already that this is a matter which pertains to the High Court.

My Friend, Mr. Sangma from Garo Hills has spoken many nice things and he has also given many constructive suggestions, I can assure him that I have taken note of all he has suggested and everything will be done to relieve the difficulties and distress of our Garo brethren.

My Friend, Mr. Kobad Hussain Ahmed from Dhubri has also spoken many nice things and he has given some constructive suggestions and I have taken note of all these suggestions. We all know, Sir, that this area is a flood affected area, and there is no doubt about it. It is true that this area has no communication worth the name and that the Bund that has been made by Government is also not yet complete.....

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister):** As soon as the Bund is completed, the road will be constructed.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** About the difficulties of my Friend I personally know because I had been there sometime in 1954 and I moved from place to place. It was indeed like an ocean—wherever you look you will see only vast sheet of water. But as has been stated by my colleague, the Public Works Department Minister, with the completion of this Bund, road construction will be taken up. My Friend has also mentioned about his school, *i. e.*, Sukchar school. He wants some grant to this school. I can assure him that this question will be examined by the Education Department.

My Friend, Mr. Narnarayan Goswami, spoke something about Bajali College. I can inform him that in my written speech



which I am going to read now, I have touched something about this matter. That is with regard to the Venture College about which a question was raised by my Friend, Mr. Sarveswar Borooah of North Lakhimpur. In trying to give him a suitable reply, I have jotted down some points which will also cover Bajali College. Some hon. Members including my Friend, Mr. Goswami have made certain grievances that Government has not made any provision for expansion of educational facilities in the villages by way of more Lower Primary, Middle English and Middle Vernacular Schools. Sir, in my speech which I delivered the other day I clearly explained that there will be 25 per cent increase in the facilities for expansion of Lower Primary Schools in the State.

**Shri NARNARAYAN GOSWAMI:** I mean Middle English and Middle Vernacular Schools, Sir.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** There is also provision for expansion of Middle English and Middle Vernacular Schools in the Second Five-Year Plan. Therefore, my Friend need not have any grievance on this score. When there is plenty of money in the education budget under the Second Five-Year Plan, all these Middle English and Middle Vernacular and Lower Primary Schools will get due share. Of course, I have not shown separately as to what will be the number of schools, but that is not necessary—the provision for expansion is there.

Sir, this time unlike previous occasions, a very large number of members have taken part in the general discussion of the Budget.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Seventy-seven in all.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** Yes, Sir, but there are also 9 Ministers, two Deputy Ministers and two Parliamentary Secretaries. That means the total number may come to 90. So, Sir, a large number of hon. Members of this House have taken part in the budget discussion in this session. They have evinced keen interest in the development of our country. They have shown keen interest as to how to raise the standard of our people. They have also been making a large number of constructive suggestions in the course of the discussion of the budget estimates. Without any hesitation, Sir, I must say that these suggestions will be very helpful to the Government. Sir, it is not possible for me to cover all the points that have been raised by the hon. Members of this House during these four days. But this does not mean that points left untouched by me, will not receive attention of Government. I request the hon. Friends not to go away with the impression that their points which they have raised



during the course of the debate have not been replied to and will therefore be not attended to by Government. I am quite sure that the Departments will examine their suggestions in due course.

Sir, with these observations, I should like to read out my prepared speech.

I am happy to observe that the hon. Members have, in general, been appreciative of my labours and have made references to the same and I take this opportunity of extending my thanks to them. It is naturally not possible for me to deal exhaustively with all the points which have been raised in the course of the debate, within the compass of a brief reply. I shall, therefore, only attempt to refer to the more important points raised. I would, at the same time assure the hon. Members that due note has been taken of all that has been said, and in regard to the points which will not specifically be covered by my reply, action, as is necessary will also be taken by the Departments, concerned after due examination.

Government are in full agreement with the view expressed by Shri Bhagavati that the administration of Manipur, Tripura and the North East Frontier Agency should be integrated with that of Assam. I am also in agreement with him that there is scope for considerable improvement in the wage structure in the country, and steps are required to be taken to bridge the gap which now exists between the highest and the lowest wages. So far as the pay scales of Government employees are concerned, the matter is now before the Pay Committee. I am sure that the Committee will take all relevant factors into consideration before formulating its recommendations.

The need for permanent machinery in the State for planning, and for keeping a vigilant eye on the implementation of schemes included in the plan, is obvious. This function will primarily be discharged by the Planning and Development Department, and at the higher level we have the State Development Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister and consisting of the Ministers of the Development Departments and the Finance Minister. This high level body meets from time to time to plan for future requirements and take stock of progress in regard to the implementation of plans. We have also the State, Planning Advisory Board comprising of public representative and prominent non-officials to advise Government in the



matter of planning. Likewise, the various departments plan ahead in regard to their requirements for the future in the matter of technical personnel and other essential materials. These requirements are periodically reviewed by the Planning and Development Department, the Secretaries' Committee and the State Development Committee, and concrete steps are taken when necessary, to provide for these requirements. As I have stated in my budget speech, we have, during the First Five-Year Plan period laid the foundation for training programmes for the supply of the necessary technical and other personnel who will be required in connection with our ever-expanding developmental programmes. The position in regard to our requirements of technical and other personnel is under constant review.

Government entirely agree with Shri Bhagavati that if the country as a whole is to march on the road to prosperity there must be balanced development of the different regions. This means that comparatively backward areas should be given necessary weightage in the matter of development. This view has repeatedly been placed by us before the Government of India. It is true that the ceiling of about Rs. 60 crores which has been fixed by the Planning Commission for our Second Five-Year Plan is meagre taking into account our requirements. Our Draft Plan which envisaged an outlay of over Rs. 290 crores was designed to raise the standard of amenities in our State to a level comparable with that in the more advanced parts of the country at the end of the Second Five-Year Plan period. It is unfortunate that our Draft Plan was cut down so drastically. We have, as I pointed out in my budget speech, submitted a Supplementary Plan costing about Rs. 40 crores to the Planning Commission to make up for the deficiencies at least in some of the more important spheres. We shall press for the acceptance of this supplementary plan to the fullest.

Government have been concerned over the attitude of the managements of some of the tea estates towards labour. Cases such as those referred to by Shri Bhagavati of our new managements discharging their labour *en bloc* and recruiting new hands in their place have come to Government's notice. The question of undertaking legislation, if possible, with a view to prevent such action on the part of management is engaging Government's attention. Government have also been impressing on the I. T. A. and the representatives of the tea industry of the necessity



to recruit their requirements of labour from within the State, where there is considerable unemployment, instead of making fresh recruitments outside the State to meet their requirements. We have also made strong representations to the Government of India in regard to locating some of the important industries undertaken in the Central sector in Assam, and especially on the need to locate the oil refinery for processing the crude oil of the new Assam wells within the State itself. I am gratified that in the stand we have taken, we have the full support of the Members of the august House.

I have taken due note of Shri Bhagavati's valuable suggestion that a ceiling should be placed in regard to holdings in urban areas also. Government are already giving due consideration to this matter. In regard to the need to prevent fragmentation of holdings and the importance of consolidation of small holdings there can be no two opinions. As the hon. Members are aware, these matters have been engaging the attention not merely of the State Government, but of the Planning Commission and the Government of India for some time. Ways and means to tap our large resources in man-power for the successful implementation of development schemes are also being given constant attention.

I cannot agree with Sri Moinul Haque Chaudhury that Government have not been paying due attention to the development of some areas. He mentioned the difficulties of the people living in the Mizo, United Khasi and Jaintia Hills and Cachar Districts in the areas bordering on East Pakistan. Government have every sympathy for these people in their difficulties, and have been taking every step to alleviate them. The House will agree with me that the partition of the country from which these difficulties have sprung, is not the creation of this Government. I have referred to the comprehensive road programme undertaken in the border districts with a view to divert the produce of the border areas to alternative markets and to enable the unhampered flow of consumer goods into these areas from outside. Shri Moinul Haque is surely aware of the Pilot Fruit Preservation Factory we have established at Silchar. The object of this Pilot Factory is to show to the people how the fruit wealth can be conserved and utilised to advantage. Government hope that using the results and experience of the working of the factory, enterprising people will come



forward to establish large scale fruit preservations for gainful utilisation of the fruit wealth of Cachar and Lushai Hills. The need for a direct road link between Shillong and Silchar has been recognised and the highest priority has been accorded to its completion. The House is probably aware that the Chief Minister and the Public Works Department Minister travelled by this very road last December with a view to personally inspect the progress of the work and see how the work could be expedited. It is not a fact that the bridges on this road could not be completed according to schedule as indents were not placed in time, as has been alleged by Shri Moinul Haque Choudhury. My Friend should know that designs of bridges with large spans, especially over hill roads, take time to be finalised. These designs have in every case to be submitted to the Government of India for their scrutiny and approval. This process takes time. Sri Chaudhuri referred to the necessity for spreading over the expenditure on the plan evenly throughout the plan period, and keeping the tempo of work even. This is not always possible as the setting up of the administrative machinery, recruitment of necessary technical personnel for whom there is dearth and collection of materials, which are invariably in short supply, take time. With the foundation for large scale training programmes laid during the Five Year plan period, we have been able to achieve larger targets of work and expenditure during the last two years of the Plan, and it is expected that the tempo will get progressively accelerated during the Second Five-Year Plan period.

I agree that so far as is practicable, it is desirable to decentralise the industries. But the locations of industries have to be decided upon, on a balancing of all relevant factors including availability of raw materials, power, labour etc. and transport facilities. When the industries are mostly left to the private sector, the industrialists' view point in regard to the selection of sites has also to be considered. It is surely not a fact that Government have been concentrating all their institutions in any particular place. Two of the important advanced technical institutions, *viz.*, the Medical College and the Agricultural College are located respectively at Dibrugarh and Jorhat. But again in the matter of locating the important institutions, the deciding factor must be the maximum convenience of the maximum number. Sri Moinul Haque Chaudhuri also made a reference to the Deaf and Dumb School being located near Gauhati. I do not know whether my hon. Friend is aware that this School owes its existence to a handsome donation of a benevolent personage,



and not to Government effort alone. Government would be glad to see the buildings at Arunachal utilised to advantage. A junior technical school has been temporarily located there. In all the technical schools recently established, viz: at Nowgong, Tezpur and Silchar local candidates are also admitted. The non-recurring expenditure on all these three institutions are shared by the Government of India and the State Government in equal proportions. Both the Governments of India and Assam are of the view that the facilities in all the institutions set up or sponsored by the Relief and Rehabilitation Department should be availed of by the local candidates also. The necessity for upgrading the Junior Technical School at Silchar has been stressed by Sri Hem Chandra Chakravarty and Moinul Haque Chaudhury. The matter is under Government's consideration and was also discussed by me with the Union Rehabilitation Minister. Sri Hem Chandra Chakravarty and Sri Moinul Haque Chaudhury have also suggested the provincialisation of the Guru Charan College. This does not appear to be practicable. The Guru Charan College at Silchar has been receiving financial assistance from the State Government along with other non-Government colleges in the State. Government are aware that there is a very large proportion of displaced students in the college and have accordingly recommended to the Government of India that a grant-in-aid of Rs.40,000 be paid to this institution during the current year for improvement of the Library and Laboratory facilities. The State Government are examining a scheme for the development of this College submitted by the College authorities, and will submit their recommendations to the Government of India in regard to the essential requirements of this institution in due course.

I do not know the basis for my Friend, Sri Moinul Haque's statement that the condition of teachers in Middle Vernacular Schools has deteriorated since the School Board took them over. While generally the pay scales of teachers of Middle Vernacular Schools taken over by Government have improved, the teachers are also allowed the option of retaining their old pay scales should they so desire. Any particular case of hardship will be duly examined if brought to the notice of Government.

My Friend has also questioned the propriety of the nomination of a person who is only third class matriculate as a chairman of a School Board. Government see nothing wrong in this as education qualification is not the sole criterion of an administrative post like this. Sri Ramesh Chandra Barooah and



Sri Radhika Ram Das have also been critical of the nominations made by the Government. In the matter of making nominations it is not possible to satisfy every one. Government are satisfied that the nominations they have made are as good as any that could have been made. In regard to primary education, the entire policy, such as curricula, standard of examinations, the qualifications of teachers to be recruited, etc., is laid down by Government. The Deputy Inspectors of Schools, who are well conversant with Government policy and the rules and regulations of the Education Department are the Secretaries of the Boards. The Chairmen are only required to administer the affairs of the School Boards within the broad framework of Government policy, with the assistance of the Secretaries. I do not think that any minimum academic yardstick could be laid down for the selection of Chairmen of the School Boards. I would emphasise that in practical administration, academic distinction is not the sole factor making for success. I know of some, who for some reasons or other could not pass the matriculation examination and who have been selected as Chairmen of School Boards, are doing remarkably well. I am sorry that Sri Moinul Haque should have gone to the extent of questioning the ability of an hon. Member of this House, who has been chosen as the Chairman of one of the Boards. Sri Hem Chandra Chakravarty in the course of his speech has rightly refuted the arguments of Sri Moinul Haque.

As to the point that the Deputy Inspectors are very hard worked, and as such cannot discharge their onerous duties as Secretaries of School Boards properly, I would inform my Friend that wherever warranted, necessary relief has been given to the Deputy Inspectors in the matter of their routine duties by appointing additional Deputy Inspectors. It has to be remembered that the duties of the Secretaries of the School Boards are such that some background and experience as well as knowledge of rules and regulations are necessary for those selected to fill them.

I was feeling very distressed to hear my Friend, Moinul Haque Chaudhury, complaining that justice had not been meted out to Muslims in the matter of appointment and nominations. He was in particular referring to appointments in the Assam Civil and Police Services, in the Assam Agricultural and Forest Services, in the Community Projects, State Transport, Excise and other departments. My Friend is surely aware that all important appointments under the State Government are made by the Assam Public Service Commission on the basis of merit



assessed on the basis of performance in competitive examinations. The Public Service Commission is an independent body and there is a Muslim Member on it. In the case of these posts to which recruitments are not made through the Public Service Commission, there are Committees specially constituted for the purpose of selection. My Friend has mentioned the Community Projects Department as one of the departments where Muslims have not had a fair share of the appointments. I have ascertained that there are nine Gazetted and six Extension officers, who are Muslims in that department, in addition to a large number of non-gazetted officers.

The Constitution of India provides for reservation in favour of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Services only. There is no such reservation for Muslims who have to compete with others on merit. It is not proper to expect Government to show special favour to any community for which no reservation has been provided. My Friend also alleged that in the matter of nominations to School Boards, Muslims, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes have not had their fair share. Here are some figures which speak for themselves. Out of the members nominated to School Boards, 18 are Muslims, 6 are Scheduled Castes and 18 are Scheduled Tribes. Shri Moinul Haque and Shri Abdul Jalil said that Government had not made any provision for Madrassa education in the coming year. My esteemed colleague, the Education Minister, has given a fitting reply to that question and I need not take the time of the House to reply to those questions again.

I have examined the case of water supply loans to Silchar. I am sorry that the points referred to by my Friend, Shri Moinul Haque Chaudhury are not quite correct. However, we are giving due attention to it and it is hoped that everything will be done to set at rest all these things in the near future.

Shri Moinul Haque Chaudhury has also complained of the slow progress in the improvement of the Surma Trunk Road. It has been decided to blacktop the portion of the Surma Trunk Road from Karimganj to Tripura border and work of raising the road in the lowlying portions and soling it has already begun. The portion between Karimganj and Badarpur is also expected to be black-topped during the Second Five-Year Plan period, and this stretch is already being improved in places. Some portions of the road from Silchar to Dholai have already been black-topped and a few more selected portions will also be black-topped in the near future. It is not the intention, however, to black-top the entire length from Silchar to Dholai at present, as scheme have to be taken up in order of their importance and relative priorities with an eye on the available resources.



The question of increasing the hostel accommodation for the Members of the Assembly is already engaging Government's attention. The establishment of a township at Dudpatil opposite to Silchar on the other side of the Barak to accommodate displaced and local people has also been taken up, and I have already asked for plans to be made for the purpose after proper survey. An expert with knowledge of town planning will be deputed by the Ministry of Rehabilitation to help us in preparing the plans. Government have taken note of my Friend's complaint that since the coming into force of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, there have been difficulties in obtaining copies of Police dairies, and I assure my Friend that steps for improving the position will be taken.

I have taken due note of Shri Harinarayan Barua's suggestion that with a view to avoid road accidents the condition of the roads within the towns as also arrangements for traffic control require to be improved. The departments concerned will be requested to examine these questions. My Friend also raised the question of increasing the provision for self-help grants, as these grants have been of great encouragement to people in the rural areas to undertake development projects. In fact self-help grants have helped in harnessing the vast population in the rural areas for construction of developmental works such as roads, embankments and the like, and for this reason the provision on this account has been increased from year to year and I expect to be able to provide larger amount for this purpose in the coming years also.

Shri Harinarayan Barua and some other Friends have also urged the expansion of primary education facilities and the taking over by the School Board of more Venture Lower Primary Schools. I have indicated in my Budget speech that the Second Five-Year Plan envisages expansion of educational facilities for the age groups 6-11 by 250 per cent. This will enable a considerable number of Venture Lower Primary Schools to be taken over by the Board and properly developed.

A large number of Members from Upper Assam have urged on the necessity of establishing a Mechanical and Electrical College at Jorhat. As my leader, the Chief Minister, has already given a reply to this point, I need not take further time of the House by reverting to this subject once again.

The delays in disposal of loan applications in district and subdivisional offices referred to by my Friend, Shri Abdul Jalil, are regretted. Government have again issued instructions to the district and subdivisional officers to



ensure that loan applications are enquired into and report submitted thereon within a reasonable time. I have enquired into the reasons for the delay in disbursement of compensation to those whose lands near Badarpur were acquired for the railways. The compensation payable were assessed by the State Government as early as 1950 and submitted to the railway authority. The difficulty here has been that though we have made several references including nine reminders, the last one being on 24th February 1956, to the Railways in regard to this matter, there has been no response from their end. I am having this matter taken up again. I regret the delay and difficulty it has caused to those whose lands were acquired. My Friend will be glad to know that provision for one of the two roads mentioned by him, *viz.*, Bhangamayonkanchi Road by the alternative alignment suggested by him will be taken up in the near future. Government appreciate the necessity for protecting the low-lying areas referred to by Shri Jalil from the encroachment of the Barak river. The matter will receive due consideration, though it has to be remembered that we have to take up schemes in order of preference and priority and with due regard to our resources in funds and technical personnel. We have taken up with the Government of India the provision of an over-bridge at the Railway Junction at Badarpur which is badly needed. They are again being reminded.

Reference is made in my budget speech of the Government scheme for converting some of the existing schools into multi-purpose schools during the Second Five-Year Plan period. The cases of the school referred to by my Friend, will be considered along with others in this regard in due course by the Education Department.

My Friend, Shri Mahendra Hazarika and others have stressed the importance of undertaking river valley projects in the State both with a view to control rivers and for the general development of the State. We have been impressing upon the Government of India the need for undertaking river valley projects in the State and necessary investigation and collection of data are in progress. Some Friends have even indicated that they are getting impatient over the delay. The fact is that planning for a river valley project, which entails an outlay of several crores, needs reliable data of a number of years. For some of the major projects in execution in other parts of the country, data for periods ranging from 30 to 50 years, were available. It is unfortunate that no such



data were collected in respect of the Assam rivers before the advent of Independence. Government are anxious to provide increased facilities in respect of training in technical and vocational courses. Government regret that there have been several deaths in Goalpara, Nowgong, Mikir Hills and other places due to *Kala-azar*. The area around the Laupani Dispensary is heavily infected with *Kala-azar*. The Public Health Department has arranged for the survey of the extent of *Kala-azar* in this area and has also arranged for the treatment of the patients. The Laupani Dispensary was without a doctor for some time as he had to go on short leave. A survey of *Kala-azar* in the Bhuragaon area which includes Bokani, Dhing and Lahorighat has been completed. As a result of the survey two out-centres for treatment of *Kala-azar* have been opened at Lahorighat and Bhuragaon. The Bhuragaon Centre has been provided with some indoor beds and steps are under way to open more such out-centres. I can assure the House, that all that is necessary to be done to combat the spread of *Kala-azar* will be undertaken.

I entirely agree with Shri Hazarika that the schemes in regard to removal of untouchability should not be confined to urban areas alone. In fact the propaganda and other schemes in regard to the removal of untouchability, extend to rural as well as urban areas. Government recognise the importance of providing greater educational facilities to the pupils of the scheduled castes. In fact during 1955-56 in addition to continuing existing schemes out of the normal budget, Rs. 15,000, Rs. 45,000 and Rs. 20,000 were spent out of the grants-in-aid made available by the Government of India for the award of scholarships, grants-in-aid to schools to compensate the loss of fee income, and grants-in-aid to primary schools on account of Scheduled Castes pupils, as against an expenditure of Rs. 5,000, Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 10,000 respectively on the same accounts during the previous year.

I agree with Shri Dalbir Singh Lohar that effort should be made to improve the conditions of the agriculturists as far as possible. Shri Lohar's suggestion in regard to the establishment of industry for the manufacture of card-board has been noted. Maternity and Child Welfare Centres are being established in the rural areas in increasing numbers. My Friend, will be glad to learn that in the Second Five-Year Plan, the Agriculture Department has a scheme of making the State self-sufficient in pulses. As such steps will be taken to increase the area under Dal cultivation with a view to reduce the dependency on imports from outside.



I appreciate Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya's assurance that he would co-operate with Government, and offer constructive suggestions in regard to the implementation of the development schemes. I cannot, however, agree with his view that the condition of the people has not improved during the First Five-Year Plan period. The surveys conducted by our Statistics Department clearly established the fact that it has substantially improved. He is not correct when he says that since 1948, the rate of land revenue in the State has doubled. Of course the receipts from land revenue have increased to some extent. This is more because of reclamation of lands which were formerly lying waste, requisition of surplus lands from tea gardens and bringing them under cultivation, and other steps taken by Government to provide lands to landless people. As I have explained in my budget speech, a proportion of the increase in the land revenue for the coming year is accounted by the receipts which are expected on account of the premia and fees charged for the conversion of annual Pattas into periodic. It is true that there is a certain degree of disparity between the pay scales of high paid and low paid Government employees. The Pay Committee is examining the question of improving the pay scales of low paid employees. It has always been my endeavour to see that incidence of taxation on our low income group is not heavy and the extra resources required to be raised, are found by taxing the richer sections. All the taxation measures which I have had the occasion to introduce in recent years will bear testimony to this.

I have enquired into my Friend, Shri Mal Chandra Pegu's complaint that the Majuli National Extension Service Block has been going without a medical officer for a long time. The fact is that though the post of the medical officer was sanctioned for this block early in 1953, in spite of repeated advertisements no candidate was available for the post. Government therefore decided that part-time services of the medical officers serving in the existing dispensaries in the blocks should be utilised to the extent possible by granting them additional remuneration and in fact their services have been so availed of. Thereafter in July 1955 a full-time medical officer was appointed and he has joined the Block. With effect from first April this National Extension Service Block is being converted into a Community Development Block, and as the pay scale of the medical officer of Community Development Block is higher, it is hoped that a qualified doctor will be available to fill the post. The other suggestions made by Shri Pegu, especially in regard to the need for development of the transferred areas of Dibrugarh Subdivision



have been noted. As regards his reference to Miris not securing their due share in Government services, I should remind my Friend that reservation has been provided in the services for the Scheduled Tribes of the plains and the Scheduled Tribes of the hills separately. There is however no separate reservation for any group within the plains tribes or the hill tribes. Government have taken note of the observations of Shri Pegu, and other Plains Tribal Members of the House on the inadequacy of representation of the plains tribal candidates in non-gazetted posts and subordinate and district offices.

I am thankful to Shri Mahendra Mohan Chaudhury for his valuable advice and suggestions. I agree with Shri Chaudhury that housing conditions both in the villages and urban areas require improvement. I have briefly indicated in my budget speech the steps being taken by Government to develop housing sites according to plan in and near the bigger towns in the State, and to provide better houses for the sweepers. Rural housing will also receive attention. Considerable progress has been made both in the hills and the plains in the construction and development of roads ; but the progress in the hills is comparatively slower, in view of the difficulties of terrain and alignment, dearth of labour, etc. I share Shri Chaudhury's anxiety that in the interest of the nation's welfare steps should be taken to attract the best talents to the teaching profession. He and Sriman Prafulla Goswami and some other Friends have expressed anxiety over what they called delay in the submission of its report by the Pay Committee. The Pay Committee has so far examined a large number of witnesses and recorded their evidence. The Committee is naturally anxious that its enquiry should be comprehensive so that all factors bearing on the pay scales of the different classes and types of Government employees are duly considered, and no injustice or inequitable treatment is meted out to any group or class. Every effort is, however, being made by the Committee to complete its work early.

The valuable suggestions of my Friend, Shri Mahendra Mohan Chaudhury and Shri Robin Kakoti in regard to the development of cottage industries, strengthening of the co-operative movement, and the revitalisation of the Panchayat movement have been duly noted. The Department of Flood Control will give careful consideration to the problems that may arise from construction of embankments on both banks of the rivers referred to by Shri Mahendra Mohan Chaudhury, Shri Bhagavati, Shri Robin Kakoti, Shri Khagendra Nath Nath, Sriman Prafulla Goswami, Shri Jadunath Bhuyan and



other Friends have expressed concern over what they have referred to as the slow pace of land reforms, and the delay in the taking over of Zamindaris.

Government are anxious to speed up the pace of land reforms and much has already been done in this direction. I do not see how the delay caused in the acquisition of Zamindaries as a result of suits pending before law courts could have been avoided. We won the case in the High Court, where the matter was pending for about two years, and the matter is now pending in the Supreme Court. Shri Chaudhury's suggestion in regard to the need for preventing alienation of land from the hands of the agriculturists to non-agriculturists will receive due attention. Government have been extending liberal assistance to non-official social service organisations to undertake welfare work. The great Congress organisation and individual Congressmen can do a good deal in organising social welfare institutions and Government welcome every effort in that direction. I am in entire agreement with Shri Chaudhury that for the success of the Plan small savings have to be harnessed and pooled by encouraging the people to practise thrift and austerity and invest their savings in financing development projects.

Shri Mahendra Mohan Chaudhury, Shri Robin Kakoti, Shri Romesh Chandra Borooah, Shri Bhagavati, Shri Rajendra Nath Barua and other Friends have emphasised the importance of enthusing people and taking steps to secure their help, co-operation and active participation for the successful implementation of the development programmes. In my Budget speech I have referred to the encouraging measure of people's participation in the community development, National Extension Service, road communication and local development works programmes. I would request Shri Mahendra Mohan Chaudhury and other leaders, who can enthuse and educate the people, to do everything possible to organise public opinion in the matter of active co-operation and participation in the development programmes by the people.

Sir, I have listened with great interest and sympathy to the speeches of Shri Barelong Terang and Shri Nihang Rongpher. I can assure them that Government would do everything possible to promote the welfare of the Mikirs, which they regard as a sacred charge. The need for development of permanent and fixed villages amongst the Mikirs and for the Mikirs to have permanent dwellings is obvious. The Mikirs are accordingly being encouraged to take up wet cultivation in



the plains. I assure my Friends that Government would sympathetically examine every proposal, including the grant of loans for purchase of plough cattle and seeds to facilitate the achievement of the aforesaid objective. Government agree with the view that the available plain lands in the Mikir Hills should be reserved for the Mikirs and protected from encroachment by others. Government are aware that a large number of refugees and others have encroached on lands in the Mikir Hills and are taking steps to have them evicted. Efforts are being made to provide deserving refugees with land for homestead purposes elsewhere. I would assure the District Council of full help and co-operation in the administration of all subjects, including land, now falling within its purview.

I appreciate the need for better medical and public health facilities in the Mikir Hills, especially the need to provide adequate treatment facilities for leprosy. Government have taken due note of the suggestions for the establishment of new dispensaries in this area. I agree that there is need for a full-fledged high school in the Mikir Hills and the Middle English School at Diphu will be developed into a high school in due time. The Basic Education Training Centre recently established in the Mikir Hills would help in providing trained teachers to man the schools. Being a backward area, the need for better road communications in the Mikir Hills is obvious. I am glad to say that the Amsoi-Laopani-Jukuta-Singimari Road mentioned by my Friends has been included in the Second Five-Year Plan. I agree with Shri Nihang Rongpher that the schools in the hill areas should be given increased grants-in-aid in view of the special requirements of the backward and hilly regions.

Sir, Shri Tajuddin Ahmed has merely repeated again what he has been saying in the past years and as I have replied to him on more occasions than one in the past, it is not necessary for me to take the time of the House by dilating over them again here.

I am sorry that my Friend, Shri Basumatari, should have expressed the view that the State Government did not, or could not, put the case of Assam properly before the Government of India and the Planning Commission in regard to the Second Five-Year Plan, and he has no knowledge of all that Government have done in this respect. I can assure him that he could not have done better than ourselves, had he got a chance to do so. The rapid strides made in the development of road communications improvement of schools, provision of hostel facilities in the plains tribal areas in recent years clearly contradict my Friend's



contention that little has been achieved. During the current year itself, 49 Middle English, 29 Middle Vernacular and 27 High Schools in the plains tribal areas have been assisted with grants-in-aid, totalling Rs.2,76,950 for improvement and Rs. 94,804 spent for provision of hostel facilities. In the Five-Year Plan period the amount spent for these purposes alone amounts to Rs.12,25,000. Besides the school facilities, there have been other facilities provided in the tribal areas in the shape of dispensaries, kala-azar hospitals and things of this sort. A length of 155 miles of road has been constructed in the plains tribal areas at a cost of over Rs. 30 lakhs. In view of all these, I am surprised to find that some of my Friends expressed the opinion that not much had been done by this Government in the plains tribal areas.

I share Shri Robin Kakoti's anxiety that agricultural production should be further increased and arrangements made to ensure a fair price to the agriculturist for his produce. I fully agree with him that it is very important to have the work of the different departments properly co-ordinated. In fact, the Secretaries' Committee and the State Development Committee at the Ministers' level, which meet frequently, serve to effect the necessary co-ordination to a great extent. It is true that the District and Subdivisional Officers are heavily worked. But they have vital role to play in the implementation of development programmes and in co-ordinating the activities of the different departments in their areas. Attending meetings is an essential part of their duties. However, wherever necessary and whenever it is possible, assistance has been provided to them to relieve them of routine duties. I would assure my Friend that Government would take every step necessary to see that the targets set for the Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Departments are achieved. His suggestions in regard to the acceleration of land reforms, co-operative institutions and Panchāyats have been noted. Instructions have been issued by Government Circular No.AAP-234/55/3, dated 12th August 1955, directing all Subdivisional authorities to ensure that departmental proceedings are completed with the least possible delay, and the attention of every one concerned will again be drawn to this matter. In fact, quarterly returns of pending disciplinary proceeding cases are insisted upon by Government now. My Friend's observations in regard to the necessity for taking measures to tone up the efficiency and discipline in local bodies have been taken note of by the Local Self-Government Department for appropriate action.



My Friend, Shri Khagendra Nath Nath, has drawn attention to the need for the improvement of rail communication between Assam and the rest of the country and also within the State. The State Government have repeatedly been urging the Government of India to take effective steps in this regard, and also offered concrete suggestions as to how the position could be improved. They hope the Government of India would take action on the lines suggested by them. The spread of Kala-azar in Goalpara and other areas of the State is causing concern. We have issued instructions to Health Officers to take effective steps to check the spread of this disease and to provide adequate treatment facilities to those afflicted, by opening out-centres, providing indoor beds at dispensaries and out-centres, etc. I would request hon. Members to bring immediately to Government's notice any cases of Kala-azar or outbreak of epidemics which they might become aware of. Shri Khagendra Nath's suggestion in regard to long-term co-operative loans will be duly examined. Shri Debeswar Rajkhowa has spoken of the importance of Technical education in the context of the development of the country. Government recognise this and have recently sanctioned the post of a Deputy Director for Technical Education to give more concentrated attention to the problems of technical education. His suggestion in regard to the establishment of a Town Committee at Dergaon and holding of Session Circuit Courts at Golaghat and construction of roads have been noted and will be examined. A guest house attached to the Medical College has already been sanctioned. Regarding the points raised by Shri Ananda Chandra Bezbarua, I have stated in my budget speech that adequate provision has been made for expansion of the facilities for primary education in the Second Five-Year Plan period. Government will take necessary steps to ensure that there is no undue delay in making enquiries into and disposal of loan applications. The position in regard to the electrification project for Sibsagar has been explained by the Chief Minister. The recommendations of the Taxation Enquiry Commission in regard to the augmentation of the finances of local bodies are under examination. My Friend's suggestion in regard to the construction of roads, and to the improvement of the Veterinary dispensary at Nazira will be carefully considered in due course.

Shri Davidson Bhobora has pointed out the need for providing improved training facilities in cottage industries, and for an increased number of scholarships and hostel facilities



for nurses' training ; these will be examined and given due weight at proper time.

I thank Shri Purandar Sarma for his appreciative remarks. Government are taking steps for the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive, but complete separation has to be phased over a period.

Shri Chaubey's suggestion with regard to the construction of Jaipur Hai Nagar Road, and the Laitkor Basti Road will receive due consideration. The improvement of pay scales of teachers, and the increased grants-in-aid to schools and colleges referred to by Shri Mehrab Ali are matters which are constantly under Government's consideration.

I am afraid that Sriman Prafulla Goswami's suggestions in regard to the settlement of town lands in Gauhati and Shillong do not very much appeal to me. The question of legislation to provide for the proper administration of temples is engaging attention, and the suggestion in regard to the improvement of the Medical College Hospital will be duly considered.

A large number of the five hundred families who were displaced as a result of erosion by the Pagladia river, as has been mentioned by Sriman Goswami, has been allotted lands in a V.G.R. Rehabilitation loans amounting to over Rs.1,20,000 have been sanctioned, and these are now being distributed by the Sub-Deputy Collector. Regarding the remaining persons orders have been passed by the Government asking the Deputy Commissioner to open a certain Reserve for their rehabilitation and also to give them loans after allotting them land.

Regarding the case of the Mandal who is alleged to have misappropriated some rice meant for relief this matter was enquired into by an Assistant Commissioner and again by the Additional District Magistrate and they report that there is no proof.

Shri Hemchandra Hazarika has referred to the need for development of the Dhemaji and some areas, and for providing adequate facilities for the treatment of Leprosy in the North Lakhimpur Subdivision. These have been noted. The question of establishing a telegraph office at Dhemaji will be referred to the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

I shall now deal with the points raised by Shri Harrison Momin and Shri Emerson Momin. Government are aware of the economic difficulties to which the people in the border



areas have been put to as a result of loss of their age-old markets due to Partition and I have referred to the measures which are being taken to rehabilitate the economy of these areas in my budget speech. Steps are being taken to have the Dalu-Baghmara road completed as expeditiously as possible, as Government recognise the importance of this road for the people of the border areas. I would also assure my Friends that the question of providing increased accommodation in the Tura High School to meet with the large enrolment there will receive due attention. The suggestion of Shri Md. Idris that embankments should be provided with sluice gates will be duly examined. The question of providing sluice better communications in the areas where jute is grown, is uppermost in the mind of Government, as they appreciate that jute is one of the most important crops in the State and a large amount of tax from jute comes to the coffers of Government. My Friend's suggestion that Char areas should be settled with landless people has been taken note of. As I have mentioned earlier, in addition to grants-in-aid being given to Madrasahs as in previous years, provision has also been made for increased financial assistance to some Madrasahs during the coming year. The question of enforcing the Assam Standard Weights and Measures Bill, 1955, has been under Government's consideration. The delay has been due to Government of India's suggestion that as they are contemplating comprehensive legislation on the metric system of weights and measures, other similar legislative measure may be stayed for the time being.

I agree with Shri Harihar Chaudhury, Shri Biswadev Sarma, Shri Jadunath Bhuyan and other Friends that increased attention should be paid to the education of the children of tea garden labourers. The question of taking over of some of the schools in the tea gardens under the School Board will be examined and something will be done in this regard. The Inspectorate will also be strengthened to provide for proper inspection of tea garden schools. Shri Harihar Chaudhury's suggestion that forest plantation should be increased and that the settlers in the Philbari Reclamation Area should be given adequate loans for purchase of cattle and seeds will be duly examined.

I thank Shri Mahendra Deka for his appreciative remark on the budget. He has answered all the points raised by Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya, and pointed out how Governmental efforts in recent years have contributed to the



in-crease in the prosperity of the people and has also shown that the contention of Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya that the rate of land revenue have been increased steadily in recent years, and that the incidence of taxation of the low-income groups has been higher, is not founded on facts.

I would assure Shri Baikuntha Das that the department is doing its best to complete the embankments which have been started on the Pagladia river, as also the repairs to the embankment damaged or washed away by the last floods.

The question of extending the embankments upto the course of the river, as suggested by him, will be examined. The question of free education for children of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been raised by almost all the Members representing the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the plains. As I have stated in my budget speech Government's aim is to provide for free education of the children of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes of the hills and plains, but in view of the financial implications, the programme has to be phased over a period. Measures to provide irrigation facilities in the Subankhata Reclamation Area are being taken up by Government. A survey for this purpose has been completed by the Public Works Department who have been entrusted with the project.

Shri Hakim Chandra Rabha has also referred to the menace of Kala-azar in the Harimura area, and to the need for increasing the number of beds in the Dudhnoi Kala-azar Hospital. The instructions issued by Government to their officers on the steps to be taken to combat the menace of Kala-azar have been mentioned by me earlier and it is not therefore necessary for me to repeat them again. Regarding the appointment of tribals in the various departments, and in the non-gazetted posts Government will take steps to see that the tribal candidates secure their reasonable share in all services. In this connection, I would refer to the contents of the following circular issued by Government. I am having this important matter looked into again. The circular reads as follows: "I am therefore directed to request you to kindly note that at the time of appointment to the posts of office assistants, Tribal and Scheduled Castes candidates, if qualified, should be invariably appointed to fill up the quota of their representation according to the proportion prescribed by Government already. Any instance where no such appointment is possible due to reasons beyond control, may please be reported to this Department with full details".



This circular explains the anxiety of Government to do justice to our less advanced brethren of the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes communities.

I agree with Shri Rajendra Nath Barua that there is need for a rest house at Kaziranga where people with comparatively lower incomes can stay. I shall have this matter examined by the Forest Department. The need to amend the Village Panchayat Act to suit present conditions as pointed out by Shri Barua will receive due consideration. His suggestion that an institution to train Homeopathic physicians should be established and Homeopathic dispensaries should be subsidised will be examined. I am sorry that Shri Jadav Chandra Khakhlari is under the impression that the suggestions made by some Members are not receiving due attention. I would assure him that all suggestions made by the Members are examined with great care. His suggestion that the system of subsidising dispensaries should be given up and that steps should be taken to provide better medical facilities to the rural areas will be examined by the Medical Department. On receipt of the scheme which he proposes to submit in respect of collective farming in the Philobari area, the question of making loans available for the purpose will be considered if the scheme is considered deserving of support. Shri Khongphai has referred to the necessity for railway links to the Garo Hills and United Khasi and Jaintia Hills Districts. As has been stated in this House on more than one occasion, Government have repeatedly emphasised the urgency and importance of a railway line to the Garo Hills. Some survey work in this regard has also been completed. I appreciate Shri Khongphai's anxiety that more roads should be constructed in the hill areas,

Shri Ramesh Chandra Borooah and some other Friends have drawn attention to the fact that Sub-Deputy Collectors are overworked as they have to attend to multifarious duties. In the context of an expanding developmental programme it is unavoidable that Government officers including S. D. Cs have to attend to multifarious duties. Government, are however, examining the question of reducing the areas of circles and increasing the number of S. D. Cs, so as to enable them to cope with the work properly. Shri Borooah has suggested that for the planned development of the Medical College, the Principal and the Professors should be appointed on a more suitable and other than temporary basis. Temporary appointments are not expected to serve the purpose we have in view. This matter has been engaging the attention of Government.



Shri Emonsing Sangma has made several important suggestions in regard to the development of the autonomous districts in general and Garo Hills in particular. I agree with him that a separate Hill State is not in the interest of the tribal people, and every effort should be made to bring the Nagas round to work the provisions of the Constitution in regard to their district. I have taken note of his suggestion that gratuitous relief should be given to those whose crops have been destroyed by wild elephants and have already issued necessary instructions in that regard. The necessity for opening cheap grain shops in the border areas will be duly examined. It is Government's policy to popularise cash crops like cashewnuts, pepper, etc., in the hill areas and steps are being taken in that regard. The Second Five-Year Plan has made large scale provision for the improvement of agriculture and cottage industries in the autonomous districts. Shri Emonsing Sangma's suggestion in regard to establishment of weaving demonstration centres, agricultural demonstration farms and training of students in fruit preservation and canning will receive due attention. Shri Radha Charan Chaudhury's suggestion that National Extension Service Block should be allotted to the Boko thana for the development of the tribal people has been duly noted. Agricultural loans will be sanctioned in accordance with necessity. Shri Sarveswar Boruwa would have seen from my budget speech that the North Trunk Road will be greatly improved during the Second Five-Year Plan period and all the necessary bridges constructed. Large portions of the road will also be blacktopped. The suggestion in regard to the establishment of a junior technical school at North Lakhimpur and the conversion of the North Lakhimpur Town Committee into Municipality will be duly examined. It is Government's policy to reclaim areas at present lying waste for purposes of cultivation, and specific suggestions, if any, made by Shri Sarveswar Boruwa in regard to the reclamation of land in North Lakhimpur Subdivision will receive careful consideration.

I am sorry to note that Shri Biswadev Sarma has the impression that Government have not done much for the welfare of the labourers. I would inform the House that Government have been lending their support to every reasonable demand of the labourers for the improvement of their conditions and taking every possible step for the promotion of their welfare. I am in agreement with his suggestion that the tea gardens should employ qualified people of the State to their clerical and supervisory posts, and Government have drawn the attention of the tea companies to this matter from time to



time. I welcome the co-operation of the INTUC in the successful implementation of the prohibition programme. I would mention for Shri Sarma's information that the State Government did not exclude the Bhorali river from the purview of investigations for river valley projects ; technical advice was, however, against the feasibility of this project. Shri Karka Chandra Doley's suggestions in regard to the necessity for improving the ferry services across the Brahmaputra are important. Government are providing better steamers for the ferry service from Kamalabari to Neamati. The question of improving the ferry services connecting North Lakhimpur with Dhemaji and Badatighat with Majuli will be duly considered. I agree with Shri Doley's suggestion that Medical facilities in the tribal areas should receive more attention. The suggestion that increased grants-in-aid should be paid to schools in hill areas, so that teachers may be properly paid, as I have earlier said, deserves consideration. Shri Lila Kanta Bora referred to the necessity of completing the Rupahi-Laokhowa-Nowgong road and the Laokhowa-Silghat road expeditiously. The Public Works Department are doing everything possible to have these roads completed early, Shri Alley considers the provision made for the development of the autonomous districts in the Second Five-Year Plan inadequate. We have already submitted supplementary schemes for the welfare of the backward classes including the promotion of welfare of the people of the autonomous districts costing about Rs.2 crores for the approval of the Planning Commission. Apart from the schemes which will be separately undertaken for the development of the autonomous districts, these districts will also benefit greatly by the setting up of a number of high academic and technical institutions in the State. Shri Jogakanta Barua and some other Friends have referred to the problem of beggars in the State. I am glad to say that Government's attention has already been drawn to this matter. Shrimati Usha Boithakur has stressed the necessity for more maternity and child welfare centres in rural areas. Government realise the importance of establishing these centres, but the lack of sufficient number of trained personnel stands in the way of very rapid progress in this regard.

She and Sri Baliram Das have also drawn the attention of the Government to the need for giving more attention to female education. Government are alive to the importance of female education, and I can assure them that more attention will be given to this subject in future.

Different opinions have been expressed in the House as to where the spun silk mill should be located. This is a matter on



which Government will have to be guided by the opinions of experts.

Shri Mahadev Das has pointed out the need for allotting more lands to the Scheduled Castes people. Government are allotting lands as far as possible to landless Scheduled Castes families. But it will be appreciated that there is dearth of cultivable land in the State to meet the requirements of the vast number of landless people. In regard to the concessions granted to the co-operative societies of fishermen, Government do not see sufficient justification for any immediate change in the present policy either way.

Shri Jadunath Bhuyan has referred to the need for fixing ceilings on urban holdings, for improvement of the pay scales of lower primary teachers, on the need to provide more financial assistance to Middle English Schools and for taking over garden schools under the School Board. As I have already dealt with this matter, I need not dwell upon this again here. All the points raised by him will receive due attention from Government.

The question of opening a sub-treasury at Tinsukia will be considered by Government in due course.

Government appreciate Shri Pratap Sarma's sentiments in regard to the development of the University, and the creation of a proper atmosphere for higher studies.

Shri Hem Chandra Chakravarty has suggested that loans sanctioned to refugees should be given in one instalment. In fact this is already being done as far as possible.

I have mentioned earlier in my speech that the question of upgrading the junior Technical School at Arunachal is under examination. His suggestion in regard to the development of roads in Cachar and for according priority to the Barak Project have been noted. I would like to inform my Friend that preliminary investigations in regard to the Barak project are in progress.

Shri Raghunandan Dhubi has made constructive suggestion in regard to the schemes to be undertaken for removal of untouchability. These will be examined.

Shri Chanoo Kehria has spoken of the need to sanction repair grants to Lower Primary Schools and the necessity of taking over garden schools by the School Board and for sanctioning cattle loans and agricultural loans to those in need. These matters, as I have earlier stated, will receive due attention.

Shri Dandiram Datta has referred to the necessity of expansion of the Mangaldai Government high school to meet the increased enrolment. The matter will be looked into. As regards his suggestion for grants-in-aid to the Mangaldai College, the



case will be examined along with cases of similar colleges, provided the enrolment justifies and other necessary conditions are fulfilled. He has also referred to the need for taking effective steps to check the spread of *Kala-azar* and Leprosy. As I have mentioned before, concerted and concentrated attention will be given to this matter.

Shri Radhika Ram Das has mentioned that some schools not affected by floods have received grants whereas some others actually affected by floods have not received such grants. Grants are sanctioned on the basis of reports submitted by local officers. Specific instances, if any, brought to notice will be duly enquired into.

Shri Baliram Das has, apart from referring to matters on which other Members have dwelt, suggested that the Dungabari dispensary which has been built by the local people should be taken over by Government. My Friend, the Medical Minister, will give due consideration to this matter. He has also referred to the urgent need for checking erosion in the Chaparmukh areas. This is important and will receive due attention. His suggestion that weaving demonstrators should be provided for West Nowgong area has already been agreed to.

All the suggestions made by Shri Gaurisankar Roy in regard to the development of the South Hailakandi Subdivision have been carefully noted. As the entire State is expected to be covered with National Extension Service Blocks within the near future, the case of South Hailakandi in this regard will automatically receive attention in due course.

Shri Pravat Goswami has pointed the need for increasing the number of officers to cope with the work in connection with the large scale development programmes which are being undertaken. I would inform him that more officers are being appointed as and when circumstances necessitate.

Shri Tamizuddin Pradhani has asked that more grants should be sanctioned to subsidised dispensaries and that housing and agricultural loans should be given for flood affected areas on a more liberal scale. I would only mention that funds are always sanctioned by Government for this purpose in accordance with necessity. Government are also taking steps to see that grants for improvement and development schemes like rural water-supply and rural communications are made available sufficiently early in the year, so as to prevent lapse of funds at the close of the year.

Sir, my Friend, Mr. Ghosh from Mangaldai, Mr. Santosh Barua from Gauripur, Mr. Agarwalla from Tezpur and Mr. Nurul Islam from Nowgong and others have also made very useful suggestions in their speeches to the Government. I would like



to tell them that all the points raised by them have been duly noted by the Government and action will be taken as warranted and as funds justify.

Sir, with these observations I should like to bring an end of my speech in connection with the discussion of the Budget. Before closing I should like to offer my thanks to the hon. Members of the House for giving me a patient hearing and the considerations that they have shown to me will never be forgotten.

With these words, Sir, I beg to close my speech. (*cheers*)

### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M., on Monday, the 19th March 1956.

Shillong :  
The 6th December, 1956.

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



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