

Proceedings of the Ninth Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly Assembled after the first General Election under the Sovereign Democratic Republican Constitution of India

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 10 A. M. on Monday, the 19th March, 1956.

P R E S E N T

Maulavi Faiznur Ali, Chairman in the Chair, the nine Ministers, the two Deputy Ministers, two Parliamentary Secretaries and fifty-seven Members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answer were given)

Appointment of Project Executive Officers and Assistant Project Officers

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU asked :

*4. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the responsible posts of Project Executive Officers and those of the Assistant Project Officers are advertised through the Assam Public Service Commission ?
- (b) If not, why not ?
- (c) Whether the Public Service Commission is consulted at the time of making appointments to these posts ?
- (d) If not, why not ?
- (e) How many persons had applied for the posts of Project Executive Officers and Assistant Project Officers (to be shown separately) during the year 1955 ?
- (f) How many of them were Plains Tribal applicants and out of them how many had been given appointment ?
- (g) Whether the ten per cent reservation for the Scheduled Plains Tribals has been maintained in the matter of appointment of the Project Executive Officers and Assistant Project Officers ?

- (h) Who are the persons who were given appointment as Project Executive Officers and Assistant Project Officers during the said year ?
- (i) Out of these, how many are Tribals (Plains) ?
- (j) Who is the appointing authority of these Officers ?
- (k) Whether Government propose to change the present method of appointing these Officers and get the appointment done through the Public Service Commission ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied :

4. (a) & (b)—No. The Public Service Commission are not required to be consulted under the A. P. S. C Regulations. The applications, however, are invited by open advertisement by the appointing authority.

(c) & (d)—As above.

(e)—313 for the post of Project Executive Officer alone ;

202 for the post of Assistant Project Officer alone ;
175 for both the posts.

(f)—Plains Tribal applicants were 52, 14 and 7 respectively among the above.

None of them has been so far appointed but one of the Plains Tribal who was considered suitable has been selected for appointment and a few months before the actual vacancy occurs he will be sent for training.

(g), (h) & (i)—The following persons were appointed during the year from the above applicants—

As Project Executive Officers—

- (1) Shri L. L. Yadan.
- (2) Shri E. Euzung.
- (3) Shri A. H. Zhimomi.

As Assistant Project Officers—

- (1) Shri N. N. Deka.
- (2) Shri Bijoy Sinha.
- (3) Shri Kan Singh.

There are 27 posts of Project Executive Officers and 9 posts of Assistant Project Officers in the sanctioned cadre. Of these, 21 Project Executive Officers and 6 Assistant

Project Officers were appointed by selection from the different Departments of Government. Out of the remaining 6 posts of Project Executive Officers and 3 posts of Assistant Project Officers, there is already one Plains Tribal as Project Executive Officer. As such, it will be seen that the Plains Tribals are properly represented in appointment of Project Executive Officers and Assistant Project Officers.

(j)—The Deputy Development Commissioner (Community Projects) assisted by an *ad-hoc* Selection Board consisting of three members.

(k)—Government would like to see the result of this method of selection by a Board.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: With regard to (a), may we know whether the posts are advertised in the official gazette or in the newspapers that are circulated in the State ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Yes, Sir, in some newspapers as well as in the gazette.

Shri MAHADEV DAS : এই Service বিলাকত জনজাতীয় লোকৰ লগে লগে অনুসূচিত লোকো তদনুসাৰে লোৱা হৈছেনে বা হবনে ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Government is committed to a policy of giving reservation in cases of direct recruitments both to the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes of the hills and plains on the basis of population. But there are some difficulties in regard to the hills. Take for instance, we have opened 5 National Extension Service Blocks in the Naga Hills and areas predominantly inhabited by 5 different principal tribes, naturally these appointments ; as far as possible, have to be made from candidates who are well acquainted with the dialect of the particular area. In such cases question of personality or percentage does not arise. But due consideration is given to tribals wherever possible provided they are suitable.

Shri KARKA CHANDRA DOLEY: এই বিভাগত বৰ্তমান অনুসূচিত জাতিৰ কেইজন অফিচাৰ আছে জানিব পাৰোনে ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): প্রথমতে বিভাগীয় বিষয়া কিছুমানকে Project Executive Officer নিয়োগ কৰা হয়। তেওঁলোকৰ কেইজনমান চৰভেপুটি কলেজৰ আৰু কেইজনমান একষ্টা এচিষ্টেণ্ট কমিচনাৰ। তেওঁলোক আকৌ নিজৰ বিভাগলৈ ঘূৰি যাব, এনে ক্ষেত্ৰত ইয়াৰ হিচাপ দিয়া টান।

As regards direct recruitment this rule is observed. But as regards promotions, Sir, it has been experienced that reservation on community basis is detrimental to efficiency of the administration. So in the matter of promotions merit and efficiency is the only criterion.

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU : May we know, Sir, whether any written test examination is taken in filling up these posts ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : No written tests are taken, Sir, but tests in other shapes are taken, namely, candidates for appointment in the Community Project areas are expected to have a nationalistic outlook, and have full belief in the community development work. They must also have natural aptitude to work in the villages just like ordinary cultivators. That is the test, Sir. Even after selecting a candidate he is put to this practical test during training and if during the period of training he is found unsuitable or does not show capacity to secure co-operation of the villagers, the candidate is not appointed.

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU : Is there any minimum educational qualification required for these posts ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : Yes, a candidate must be a graduate.

Shri PROBHA CHANDRA GOSWAMI : Is there any reservation for political sufferers ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : In all cases political sufferers, if meritorious, and all things being equal, get preference in the matter of appointment.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Co-operative Weaving Societies in Assam

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS asked :

14. Will the Minister-in-charge of Cottage Industries be pleased to state—

(a) The number of Co-operative Weaving Societies formed district-wise in Assam during the year 1954-55 ?

- (b) The amount of money spent in the formation of these Societies.
- (c) Number of Weaving Demonstrators appointed for the Societies (to be shown district-wise).

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) replied :

14. (a)—Altogether 311 Weaving Co-operative Societies were formed in the State in 1954-55 of which 74 were formed in the N. E. S. Blocks. The district-wise numbers of such societies are as follows :—

District				General	N. E. S. Blocks	Total
1. Lakhimpur	...	...	...	32	21	53
2. Sibsagar	...	...	...	55	21	76
3. Nowgong	...	...	...	22	9	31
4. Darrang	...	...	...	19	...	19
5. Kamrup	...	...	...	62	6	68
6. Goalpara	...	...	...	16	10	26
7. Cachar	...	...	...	20	3	23
8. United Khasi and Jaintia Hills	...	...	...	2	...	2
9. United Mikir and North Cachar Hills.	...	...	...	1	...	1
10. Naga Hills	...	...	...	3	2	5
11. Garo Hills	...	...	...	4	1	5
12. Mizo	...	...	...	1	1	2
Total				237	74	311

(b)—Government do not spend any money in organising a Weaving Co-operative Society but give interest free loans towards Share Capitals of the Members and Working Capitals of the Societies from the Cess Fund made available to the State Government by the All-India Handloom Board. Amount of Rs. 32,222 and Rs. 78,800 were given as loans in 1954-55 towards Share Capitals of Members and Working Capital of Societies respectively.

(c)—No Weaving Demonstrators have been appointed under the Handloom Development Schemes for inclusive supervision of Weaving Societies. The Weaving Demonstrators appointed with State finances for general supervision and development of the Weaving Industry in the State by introduction of new up-to-date appliances on modern methods render occasional helps to the Societies when their helps are sought for. The question of placing all the Weaving Co-operatives under the Weaving Demonstrator for technical assistance is under the active consideration of Government.

Rehabilitation of Mikir People in Wet Cultivation Areas in the Mikir Hills

Shri BARELONG TERANG asked :

15. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state —
- (a) Whether Government has any scheme for the rehabilitation of the Mikir People of the hills in wet cultivation areas within Mikir Hills ?
 - (b) If not, whether Government proposed to implement such a scheme ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied :

15. (a)—Yes. It is under active consideration of Government.
- (b)—Does not arise.

Minimum Wages Board for Press Workers in Assam

Shri RAMPRASAD CHAUBEY asked :

16. Will the Minister-in-charge of Labour be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government lately received representations from the press workers of Assam and the Assam Branch, I. N. T. U. C. for constitution of a Minimum Wages Board for press workers in Assam ?
- (b) Whether Government propose to constitute a Minimum Wages Board for this purpose at an early date ?
- (c) Whether Government conducted any enquiry as to the working conditions of press workers in Assam ?
- (d) If the reply to (c) above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to lay before the House a copy of the report on enquiry ?

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister) replied :

16. (a)—Yes.
- (b)—The matter is under consideration.
- (c)—No formal enquiry was conducted. The Labour Commissioner was, however, asked to furnish certain informations to enable Government to take a decision.

(d)—As this was a departmental enquiry only Government do not consider it necessary to lay it before the House.

Rehabilitation of Mikir People in the Mikir Hills

Shri NIHANG RONGPHER asked :

17. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether Government have any scheme or contemplate to prepare a scheme of rehabilitation for the Mikir People in the Mikir Hills ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied :

17.—Yes.

Cottage Industries Experts from Japan

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS asked :

18. Will the Minister-in-charge of Cottage Industries be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of Cottage Industries Experts brought from Japan ?
- (b) What sort of work they are undertaking now ?
- (c) The amount that will be spent in bringing these Japanese Experts ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) replied :

18. (a)—6 (Six).

(b)—Five Experts have returned to Japan after conducting necessary investigations and submitting two schemes namely (i) Establishment of Small Scale Industries in utilisation of Wood, Bamboo, Cane, etc., (2) Re-organisation of the Cottage Industries Training Institute, Gauhati.

One Expert after completion of a survey of production centres has prepared a plan and estimate for establishment of a Spun Silk Mill. He is also preparing a plan for a Muga cocoon drying chamber and is making experiments on Muga reeling to find out a suitable machine of Cottage Type.

(c)—Rs.48,090 only has been spent upto 29th February, 1956 in paying Honorarium, Pay, Travelling Allowance Passage, Accommodation charges, etc.

Number of High Schools where craft subject have been introduced

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS asked :

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

- (a) The number of the High Schools in the State where craft subjects have been introduced (to be shown district-wise) ?
- (b) The conditions required in a school to introduce such subjects ?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) replied :

19. (a)—Lakhimpur District	...	...	6
Sibsagar District...	...	...	9
Nowgong	...	...	4
Darrang	...	...	4
Kamrup	...	...	8
Goalpara	...	...	5
Cachar	...	...	4

(b)—The condition required of a school is a suitable enrolment with good general progress, the selection being subject to a fair geographical distribution.

Re : Campus Scheme

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS asked :

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

- (a) What is Campus Scheme ?
- (b) The number of High Schools where the Campus Scheme is introduced ?
- (c) The Officer who selected those High Schools ?
- (d) The conditions required to introduce this Campus Scheme ?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) replied :

20. (a)—The Campus Work Projects is a Government of India sponsored scheme, with a view to enable the students to undertake manual work of a character which would improve the amenities for physical education, games and other co-curricular activities in Schools and Colleges under different types of

projects, *viz.*, swimming pools, open-air theatres, small stadia, pavilion, recreational hall-cum-auditorium, gymnasium, cinder tracts.

(b)—None so far.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—Seventy-five per cent of the actual cost will be borne by the Centre subject to the prescribed ceilings for different types of approved projects. The students and teachers should contribute the whole of the unskilled labour and as much of skilled labour as may be possible towards the construction of the projects.

Labour Welfare Board

Shri RAM PRASAD CHAUBEY asked :

21. Will the Minister-in-charge of Labour be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether there is any Labour Welfare Board in Assam?
- (b) If so, the names of the members of this Board?
- (c) How many sittings of the Board have taken place since its inception?
- (d) What is the total amount of money spent for labour welfare work in Assam from 1952 to 1955?
- (e) Whether Government propose to draw up any scheme for labour welfare work in Assam under the Second Five Year Plan?
- (f) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a brief outline of the Scheme?
- (g) Whether it is a fact that the Tea Board makes regular contributions to the Government of Assam for labour welfare work?
- (h) If so, what is the total amount so far received from the Tea Board?

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister) replied :

21.(a)—Yes.

(b)—Sri O. K. Das, Labour Minister—Chairman.

Sri P. Chetia, Deputy Labour Minister.

Sri H. P. Duara, Labour Commissioner, Assam.

Sri B. Sarma, Deputy Labour Commissioner—Secretary.

Sri J. S. Hardman, Adviser, Indian Tea Association.

Sri P. K. Baruah, Jorhat.

Sri R. C. Das, Secretary, Assam Seva Samity, Gauhati.

Sri D. K. Dutta, Representative, A. B. I. T. A.

Srimati Amal Prava Das, Representative, Kasturba Gandhi Memorial Trust, Gauhati.

Sri Durgeswar Saikia, Hindustan Mazdoor Sevak Sangha, Sibsagar.

Sri B. C. Bhagabati, M. L. A., Tezpur.

Sri Mahitosh Purkayastha, Representative, Cachar Chah Sramik Union, Silchar.

Sri J. N. Bhuyan, M. L. A., Tinsukia.

(c)—Nine sittings.

(d)—Rupees 5,99,975.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—The copy has been placed on the Library Table.

(g)—The Tea Board grants from time to time certain sums for Labour Welfare in plantation.

(h)—Rupees 2,35,250.

Licence and Medical advice to use liquor

Shri RADHACHARAN CHOUDHURY asked :

22. Will the Minister-in-charge of Excise be pleased to state—

(a) How many persons applied to the Civil Surgeon, Gauhati to prescribe liquor for their use ?

(b) How many of such cases were recommended by the Civil Surgeon, Gauhati ?

(c) How many of them have got such licence from the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup ?

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister) replied :

22(a)—34.

(b)—20.

(c)—20.

Shri RADHACHARAN CHOUDHURY : Regarding No.22, what is the maximum quantity of liquor that is given to a particular person?

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister) : I do not know what is the exact quantity, the quantity necessary is prescribed by the Civil Surgeon. If the hon. Member wants this information, I may give him afterwards.

Report of the Assam Public Service Commission

Shri BISNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to lay the copies of the Report on the working of the Assam Public Service Commission for the year 1953-54 together with memorandum explaining as regards the cases, if any, where the advice of the Commission was not accepted and the reasons for such non-acceptance. I am glad that this is presented to the House and I am quite sure it is with the hon. Members in their respective tables.

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

Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Minister): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to present Notification No. LML.165/55/44, dated the 3rd March, 1956 under Section 296 of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923.

The Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings Bill, 1955

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings Bill, 1955.

The main provision of the Bill is to fix an upper limit of land which a family can hold. This limit has been fixed at 150 bighas per joint family. Joint family has been defined. Exception has been made in case of land held for special cultivation of tea as also for special cultivation of orange and sugarcane covering an area of not less than 150 bighas. Exception has been made in case of co-operative farming societies formed by landless actual cultivators and here the limit has been put at 500 bighas when the number of members does not exceed 20 and above 20, at the rate of 10 bighas per member subject to an overall limit of 1,000 bighas. In case of existing large scale farming done with power driven mechanical appliances the limit has been put at 500 bighas. This exception has been made not to disturb production of food.

Intermediaries in temporarily settled areas have not been abolished. So great difficulty was experienced in drafting a Bill of this nature. For example, an intermediary may be well within

the ceiling but his tenant may be above it. In that case only the rights of the tenant in the excess land have to be taken. Then the intermediary may be above the ceiling but his tenant within it. In that case only the rights of the intermediary has to be taken. Again, the tenant may be above the ceiling but his sub-tenants within it. The excess land taken from the tenant has to be kept with the sub-tenants. Thus various difficulties arise with regard to the distribution of excess land and apportionment of compensation among the different interested persons, particularly when sub-infeudation is high. It would have been a simpler proposition if all intermediaries were abolished and only one class of tenancy directly under Government was created.

In the original Bill lands under usufructuary mortgage were also included in the ceiling. But it was found to create complications. For example, if the mortgagor is within the ceiling but the mortgagee above it and the mortgagee selects the mortgaged land as excess, then Government will have to redeem the mortgage and itself become the mortgagee. This does not serve any useful purpose. So the Select Committee excluded usufructuary mortgage land from the ceiling.

With regard to compensation the Select Committee fixed 25 times the annual land revenue as compensation for fallow land and 50 times for other lands inclusive of value of trees. A definition of fallow land has been inserted and various rates of compensation for apportionment among different interests have been provided. In case of excess annual land, no compensation is provided, but the Select Committee provided a maximum compensation not exceeding 25 times the land revenue for value of fruit trees according to the nature and number of fruit trees on it.

For resumption for personal cultivation the original Bill provided that if the aggregate area of land held by a family did not exceed 30 bighas, the owner was entitled to resume the entire area, but the Select Committee reduced this area to 25 bighas. The maximum resumable area of 100 bighas was maintained. The Select Committee, however, made an important change in the definition of personal cultivation. An owner who seeks to resume land for personal cultivation is to reside in the village in which the land is situated or in a nearby village during the greater part of the agricultural season and personal cultivation must be accompanied by bearing of risks of cultivation by the owner. Then the right of resumption can be

exercised only by such landlords, whose income by cultivation of land is the principal source of income for their maintenance. A limit of 5 years from the commencement of this Act has been put for exercise of this right of resumption. After expiry of 5 years no tenant will be liable to eviction on this ground.

With regard to ejection of tenants by owners for personal cultivation, the Select Committee recommended giving retrospective effect for two years next before 12th November, 1955, *i.e.*, the date of publication of this Bill. That means that the provision of this Bill, in this respect, will apply from two years before 12th November 1955 and the cases of tenants, evicted within that period under any other Acts, will be re-opened.

In this connection, the Select Committee made another important change. In the original Bill, it was the owner, who was empowered to select the area he intended to resume for personal cultivation. The Select Committee gave this right of selection to the tenant.

This does not mean that the tenant under no circumstances, can be evicted. He can be evicted after giving 30 days' notice (1) for doing an act which is permanently injurious to the land, and which he fails to repair within 90 days from the date of notice, (2) if he fails to pay rent to the landlord within 90 days of its falling due and (3) if he keeps the land fallow for two consecutive years without reasonable grounds.

These are the main provisions of the Bill as reported by the Select Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, with these words I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings Bill, 1955, and to move that the Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

THE CHAIRMAN: The motion moved is that the Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings Bill, 1955 as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Bill, *i.e.*, the Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings Bill, 1955 as reported by the Select Committee is a very important measure. As a matter of fact, of all the agrarian legislations that were introduced in this House up till now this is very important. The Planning Commission had

decided, among other things, as a measure of land reform the fixation of ceiling on land holdings for the solution of land problem, though partially. The Planning Commission had expected that the different States would complete it within the First Five Year Plan period, and from that point of view we were rather late. It is good that this Bill is brought before this House.

Sir, so far as the principle is concerned, I think, the entire House will be unanimous that the Bill is good in principle. It is no doubt true that all sorts of land problems will not be solved by this measure, and I do not think, that is the aim of the Bill. The Bill seeks to give some sort of a palliative measure to the sufferers. So far as this Bill is concerned, there are three aims. Firstly, so far as the landlords, the feudal exploiters are concerned, there should be a limit to their exploitation. Secondly, the actual cultivators should get some right on their tenure and some incentive from such agrarian reforms for the landlord and the cultivators. Thirdly, it is not aimed as a sweeping step so as to alienate and displease the rich and the middle peasants. With this caution, the Planning Commission has suggested the fixation of ceiling on holdings throughout India. We find that only recently, I mean, on the 9th of February, 1956, the Planning Commission made a declaration as to what would be the criterion and what should be the holding that should be under the landlord. So, Sir, this Bill is a very important one from this point of view. We expected that when the Bill was referred to a Select Committee it would come back to us in a much improved form. I am glad that there has been some improvement which had been made by the Select Committee through certain things, which were not very clearly provided in the original Bill. But taking the Bill as a whole and looking it from that angle of vision, as amended by the Select Committee this Bill in the long run will be overwhelmingly in favour of the landlords. Certain measures which have been improved by the Select Committee rather encouraged the position of the landlords against the tenants. I shall show just now how they will affect the tenants. In the first instance, in the original Bill it was thought proper that the Bill, when enacted, should come into force at once. I am referring to Chapter I, Clause 1(3). Now the Select Committee instead of enforcing the Act at once decided to leave it to a date to be decided upon by the State Government and as an explanation it has been stated that the rules will have to be framed under the Act which will take

some time, and therefore, this cannot be enforced at once. Now, Sir, so far as the Bill is concerned, so far as its agrarian aims are concerned, this is not a new thing. The Government and the Department concerned are quite aware of this Bill and what it seeks to do. Therefore, while the Bill was under the discussion of the Select Committee the draft rules could have been made keeping room for modification in accord with the final Act. Instead of doing that, it has been left by the Select Committee to the discretion of the Government. Sir, our experience in the past shows that our Departments move very slowly. For example, this House felt the delay and a great accumulation of urgently necessary drastic amendments to the Adhiars Protection Act. On the initiative of the Government the amending Bill was passed. But the framing of rules under it took several months after the Bill had been passed by this House. In most of the places of this State this Act could not be enforced. The Conciliation Board which was envisaged in the Act itself has not yet been formed in most of the cases. So, Sir, in the case of this Bill also, if it is left to the discretion of the Government which means to the discretion of the Department, we shall see that by the time the rules are framed and published it will take several months and by that time even the first year of the Second Five-Year Plan will be over and we shall be lagging behind other States in India. Now, if we are to move with other States in the matter of planning of agrarian reforms, the planning and these land measures should go hand in hand. But while other States, I mean most of the other States, will be doing so, our Government if they do not move quickly in matters of land reforms and planning, they will be retarding our agrarian reforms, they will be retarding the economic condition of our peasantry, they will be retarding the public enthusiasm, etc., which are so vital for the successful implementation of our Five-Year Plan. I, therefore, say that the recommendations of the Select Committee on this Bill have not been made properly keeping in view the urgency of time, and specially keeping in view the steps to be taken for the implementation of the Second Five-Year Plan. We have also seen here that certain very weak reasons have been given for the proposed delay. I want to point out certain dangerous things involved, even at this stage, for example, we have seen that some exceptions have been made with regard to the land for religious and charitable institutions. Here the Select Committee has added—"Public nature". It has improved the position than before, but it does not improve the position to the desired extent. We know, Sir, that in the name of religion and charitable institutions a great deal of oppression on the

peasantry has been going on. On the the floor of this House, I have on many occasions referred to the type of exploitations. In the Hayagrib Madhab Temple of Hajo, the Doloi and his Peripheri are supposed to do service to the diety, fatten themselves on the Ghee that is being supplied by the poor peasants. The poor diety does not live on Ghee. The diety is satisfied with mineral oil. When I am attacking the religious institutions, it is far from my intention that these religious institutions should not be improved. I want that these institutions should be developed in proper standard, but in the name of religious institutions there should not be any exploitation of the poor people for the benefit of a small section. This could have been done if a specific portion of income which is absolutely necessary for the services of the diety could have been earmarked, for example, for the purpose of Bhogdami a part of income can be set apart and the rest could have been brought under the purview of the Bill. Otherwise the purpose of the Bill would be defeated. Similarly there are many bogus charitable institutions only in name which some people, in order to keep them free from family litigation, or to keep their privileged position, keep their lands in the name of Akhras. This sort of Akhras are found in abundance in the district of Cachar. Even in the town of Silchar there are a lot of such Akhras, and I hope the Revenue Minister has himself seen a lot of them. These Akhras are the veritable dens of exploitation by the Sebayets and the Mahantas. These Mahantas are exploiting poor people to a great extent. If these religious institutions are excluded wholesale, the exploitation of the masses of the peasantry will not come to an end. Unless this is done, their lot will be as miserable as it is now.

Now there is another condition for special cultivation. It is good that the Select Committee made things clear in its recommendation. The special cultivation includes cultivation of tea, orange or sugarcane. Here I want to speak something about tea. The statistical figures show that although tea has been cultivated in our country for over one hundred years past, not more than 25 per cent of the land which were reserved for tea cultivation, have been actually under cultivation for tea or for purposes ancillary to tea cultivation, such as for Office, Hospital, Mazdoor Lines, Workshops and so on. But apart from the land utilised for these purposes there is land which is neither given to any tenant nor utilised for any purpose for tea cultivation, but it is simply kept fallow. Some might say that some land is utilised for growing thatches or

there may be some land with some bamboo clumps. This is simply keeping the land fallow. If the expansion of the tea industry could not utilise the grant exceeding 25 per cent thereof for the last one hundred years past, there is no justification for keeping the entire area now free from the purview of this Bill. One might say that for the expansion of the cultivation, for the rotation of crop, for growing the seed, etc., some amount of fallow and reserve land is necessary. I concede that; but, Sir, to what extent they should be kept fallow? Surely the experience of the cultivation for the last one hundred years has given some idea as to how much land is necessary for such purposes. If you say 10 per cent is a bit too small then keep 20 per cent or 25 per cent. But there is no justification in keeping the entire land fallow. I do not know whether this exception has been made because there are some powerful tea interests represented in the Government itself. If these lands are kept outside the purview of the Bill what will the peasants get? We know, there are no big Zamindaries in our State wherefrom we can have some land for the landless peasants after their abolition. So, it is the tea grants where we shall have to make a search. I do not want to destroy the tea industry or do any harm to the Industry in any way. I want that they should surrender their surplus land after proper scrutiny and examination as to how much reserve is necessary in the interest of the Industry.

Then we find, Sir, in the name of mechanised cultivation, although there was provision for exemption of Co-operative Societies, now it is extended to any person including an individual. Sir, I have no personal experience of the whole State; but I have seen at least in Kamrup District some individuals were given some temporary grants of land for example in the Sonapur-Khetri area. We have seen, during the last few years, very little has been done by these individuals in the name of mechanised cultivation. Some of them have actually used lands for the purpose of subletting to others. Under the cover of a tractor for a few hundred bighas of land a person or persons get from the Government hundreds of bighas of arable land on the plea of mechanized cultivation, which in fact is being used for exploitation of peasants using them as Adhiars and Sukandars and so on. If the Minister wants me to give the names, I can give him here and now, but I hope the Minister himself knows the names. So in this respect there ought to have been greater

care taken. Because there are a few persons who are already in the list as mechanized cultivators but actually their mechanised cultivation is not even 5 per cent of the normal cultivation, or else they have some alibi in case of this exploitation.

The CHAIRMAN : I hope the hon. Member will shorten his speech.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : May I point out, Mr. Chairman, that rule 48, sub-rule (4) of the Assembly rules entitles me to unlimited time to speak on this subject. Even if there may be some more speakers to speak on the subject, this rule gives me protection.

The CHAIRMAN : The House is committed to the principle of this rule only when the Bill is referred to the Select Committee

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : General discussion on the Bill was not held before the Select Committee and this is the first time that the Bill is for general discussion before the House.

The CHAIRMAN : Under the rule hon. Member could have invoked the protection of the rule referred to by him only when the Bill was referred to the Select Committee and he could have then spoken on the principle of the Bill and discussed it. If he did not do it then, he cannot do so now. However, the Member may now either recommend the Bill or oppose the motion for consideration.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : All right, Sir, then I oppose the motion for consideration as amended by the Select Committee.

Now, here in clause 3 we expected that the Select Committee would clarify the word 'improvement'. But we see that the Bill as it has come from the Select Committee does not fully clarify it. For example, if a piece of land was taken under a landlord by a tenant and that piece of land was not even, some portion being high, another low, and in this way it was uneven, if the peasant levelled it down, made it plain and for that purpose expended the outturn that also may amount to an improvement. Here we find that if the

construction of wells, tanks, water channels, or other works for the storage, supply or distribution of water for the purpose of cultivation, etc., if these are done then only it is considered improvement. But in most of the cases, specially when lands are brought under the plough, tenant has got to take a lot of measures for the improvement of the land, and these factors should also have been taken into consideration and should have been included in the list of 'improvement'. As a result of this omission most of the poor section of the cultivators will suffer. Because it is not the poor cultivators who construct or dig wells or tanks or make some water channel, but it is the well-to-do peasant who indulge in such things. Under sub-clause (k) under the heading "personal cultivation" it has been stated that 'personal cultivation' means cultivation done by servants or hired labourers on fixed remuneration payable in cash or kind but not in crop-share under personal supervision of the person or any member of his family. Here, Sir, the word 'inclusion of any member of his family' gives a very wide scope even to a landlord because he may in that case be able to send a boy of twelve years to supervise his land. But in fact what a boy of twelve years can do? After all there is no end to human ingenuity. If sufficient care is not taken to curb such practice, then under cover of this loophole, the landlord will get any number of chances to evade the good purpose of this Bill. Then we find at (o) that when a tenant is defined, "it means only a person who holds land under another person and is, or but for a special contract would be, liable to pay rent for that land to that other person." Here apparently he who pays rent is included in the category of a tenant. But in our State a large number of persons are not actually payers of rent, but payers of crop shares, *e. g.*, the adhiars, sukandars and so on. So if they are also not brought in, a vast number of people will be excluded from the benefit of it. So we expected that the Select Committee would consider this aspect of the matter.

Coming to chapter II we find that a ceiling of 150 bighas of land has been fixed. Now, I have stated at the outset that not only that the Planning Commission has stated that there should be a ceiling fixed, but the Planning Commission has also suggested what the ceiling should be. In its declaration of 9th February 1956 it is stated that the ceiling should be a minimum of 3 times of the family holding, and the maximum of 6 times of family holding. Now the family holding in our State, we may call it so if we like, is the land that can be ploughed by one pair of bullocks. Thus the family holding in our State, at

least in 90 per cent of cases will not be more than 15 bighas for a pair of bullocks. Even if we give 3 bighas for the 'basti' then also it does not exceed 18 bighas.

Now, according to the standard set by the Planning Commission the ceiling ought to be 3 times of 18 bighas, that is to say, 54 bighas and the maximum ought to be 6 times of this 18 bighas, that is to say, 108 bighas. We find that our Bill exceeds that limit suggested by the Planning Commission, not only in the matter of minimum ceiling but also in the matter of maximum ceiling. Therefore, in this respect this Bill is far short of the expectation or suggestions of the Planning Commission. In our special circumstances in Assam we ought to stick to the suggestions made by the Planning Commission, because unfortunately in our State quite a large number of tillers are without land and so the very purpose of the Bill will be defeated, even if this Bill is passed, when some land is not made available or does not go to the tenants. Thus if some rights and benefits cannot be given at least to a fair percentage of the tenants in our State, as a result of this fixation of ceiling the Bill will be purposeless. I therefore suggest to the House that this matter should be considered in spite of the considered opinion of the Select Committee and reduce the ceiling from 150 bighas to at best 100 bighas. I mean to say that the top ceiling should not at any rate exceed 100 bighas. This is very important because this is the crux of the whole Bill.

THE CHAIRMAN : You have already taken nearly an hour. So, you should finish now.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Please give me 10 minutes more, Sir.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : Sir, let him have 10 minutes more time, because I find other Members are not taking part in the discussion of this Bill.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : We find that so far as the submission of returns of persons holding land in excess of the ceiling is concerned, the landlord will show his selection of plot or plots of land. If he is allowed to select, then the best or improved plots will go to him. So, if the tenant is given the first preference, he will be able to select the land first. If he fails to select his land then the landlord will select land for himself. Even at

the secondary stage of the Bill it will be better if we make provision to the effect that the landlord cannot make selection or fragmentation or subdivision of different plots. Because it may so happen that in the case of a long stretch of land in which a portion is good the landlord may select from that plot the good portion of the land and again he may select his land from another long stretch of land and in this way his selection may be scattered. So, there should be some check in such way of selection so that the tenant also gets some good land.

Now, I come to the next important point. / So far as the question of payment of compensation is concerned, the amount sounds too high. / For example, for fallow land it has been made 25 times the full rate of annual land revenue. If we take land revenue at Rs.2 per bigha, it will come to at least Rs.50. In the case of other land it is 50 times, that is to say, Rs.100 per bigha. It is in my opinion excessive. For giving periodic Patta to the annual Patta holders the Government has decided to charge only Rs.5 per bigha. To this even we objected. If this amount of Rs.5 is found high then the amount of Rs.50 or Rs.100 cannot be anything but too high. Therefore this ought not to be so high. If only a nominal premium does not satisfy the Government and the landlord, let it be 10 times instead of 50 times. There are some Rajas and Maharajas having thousands of acres of land and there are some who have only 200 to 300 bighas of land. So, Sir, this rate of compensation should have been in a sliding scale. That is to say, those having 300 bighas of land will get so much, those having 500 bighas will get so much, and so on. So, instead of a flat rate, this should have been in a sliding scale. /

Shri GAURISHANKAR ROY: इस बारेमें आपका suggestion क्या है ?

Shri GAURISHANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: My suggestion is that this payment of compensation ought to be in a sliding scale. / The bigger the landlord the smaller the rate of compensation be given to him. At any rate this flat rate would be very hard on the peasant. / Another point is that those landlords who have revenue free grants also have been given equal rates. Why should it be so ? When they themselves were not occupying them so long they should be given only a nominal compensation. Actually they do not deserve anything as they have enjoyed such land so long revenue

free. On this ground it would be unjust if they are also given the same compensation as is given to others. In the allocation of some price for building structure, we find that 25 per cent only has been made the limit. Here one thing is to be considered. There are some lands in which cocoanut, betelnut, Pan leaves and so on are grown. If the owners of these trees and plants are asked either to remove those or to sell them in auction naturally they will not fetch much price. So, there should be some amount of elasticity in this matter.

Now I come to the manner of payment of compensation. It has been said that the compensation may be paid in cash in one or more equal annual instalments within 5 years from the date of acquisition and if the same is not paid within six months of the date of acquisition, interest at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per annum shall be payable on the unpaid balance of the compensation. I do not think, Sir, that the peasant ought to have been made to pay this interest. This should easily be made interest free. Why should those peasants who are actually tilling the land bear the interest of compensation or should pay compensation at all when they are poor? Because they are poor they are not able to purchase land up till now. So, Sir, if this Bill is passed in its present form then this very clause will deprive most of the poor peasants in the long run of the very lands which they tilled so long. It has been said here that only on payment of full amount this land would be settled with him. I cannot understand why this cannot be done on receipt of some part payment. The tenant should be given a long stretch of time for payment of the full amount, e.g., in Uttar Pradesh they have given the tenant as long a period as 40 years in certain cases. I fail to understand why in our case it should be made 5 years.

Coming next to the question of co-operatives, which comes second in order of preference, I should like to submit, Sir, that though we are not against co-operative farming, we want that these co-operatives should be formed on the initiative of the tenants. The land should first be settled with the tenants and then these tenants should be encouraged to form co-operatives. Instead of land being allotted to the co-operatives, the land should be allotted to actual tillers and they should be encouraged to form co-operatives. This is the spirit of the proper co-operative movement. We have also seen that those who are said to be in unauthorised possession will be easily ejected. As all the hon. Members of this House know, most of the landholders do not keep any record and in some cases they do not give any receipt to the tenants for the revenue or

other payment in kind which they receive. These people might say that such and such were not my tenants. In that case, there will be no proof for the tenants to establish their claim as it is not the custom in some cases to give receipts. Thus these people, who actually were tenants, might be brought to Court as unauthorised persons and being poor they will be unable to fight the case. Therefore, this provision should be specially considered. We thought that the Select Committee would consider this carefully but we have been disappointed.

Coming now to my last and most important point, *viz.*, the provision for resumption, I do not see any reason why the landholder should be given the right of resumption to the extent of 100 bighas. The right of resumption should not under any circumstances exceed more than an economic holding, that is to say, 30 bighas. Fifteen bighas is the average holding of a family and at best we may allow double of that amount for resumption purpose. Under no circumstances there should be resumption beyond that limit, because if resumption to the extent of 100 bighas is allowed, it may so happen that being frightened by this Bill, many landholders will resort to evicting peasants. There will be more eviction of tenants in the hands of the uncanny landlords. This Bill, therefore, instead of giving any relief would cause hardship to the tenants.

Then with regard to the establishment of the Land Reform Board, I want to give a suggestion: at the time of forming the Provincial Board, Government should not make it a purely departmental affair or the affair of their party men only. It should be made as representative as possible. That will give the Board an opportunity of hearing the different points of view and settling matters by discussion round the table. In the lower rung also, in different localities if and when such boards are formed, the Rural Panchayats, the Kisan Sabhas and others should be associated with their work so that these agrarian disputes and quarrels may be settled locally and amicably. If all things are to be brought before a court of law or to the level of the State Government it will be too costly for the poor persons.

So, summing up the entire position, I may say, Sir, that though on principle the Bill is a good measure, in the actual provisions there have been so many gaps and so much lacuna that this Bill will not serve the purpose for which it has been introduced. Let me hope that even at this stage Government will consider whether they can accept further amendments in the light of my suggestions. With these few words and with gratitude for allowing me such a long time, I resume my seat.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you oppose the Bill ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : I oppose it in its present form. I submit that the Bill should be re-considered in the light of the suggestions I have given. Let it be recommitted to the Select Committee, if necessary.

The CHAIRMAN : You must make a Motion to that effect.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Sir, I shall get an opportunity of tabling amendments at the time the Bill is considered clause by clause. My observations now are of a general nature. It is not necessary for us either to accept or reject the recommendations of the Select Committee in toto. I have given my opinion on the report of the Committee. So far as moving concrete amendments is concerned, I shall do it to the relevant clauses when the Bill comes up for consideration clause by clause.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister) : Then there is no concrete Motion now ?

The CHAIRMAN : No. The question is.....

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister) : I should like to reply to the observations made by Mr. Bhattacharyya.

The CHAIRMAN : Not necessary. When amendments will be moved, you will get ample opportunity to reply to all the points raised by him.

Shri JOGAKANTA BARUAH : অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমাৰ চৰকাৰে মাটিৰ পৰিমাণ নিৰ্দ্ধাৰণ বিলখন অনাৰ বাবে চৰকাৰক ধন্যবাদ জনাইছো। কমিউনিষ্ট সদস্য ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য ডাক্তৰীয়া মুঠতে ইয়াক সমৰ্থন কৰাত সকলোৱে যে এই বিলখন বিচাৰিছে সি পূৰ্ণাৰ্ণ হয়। আশা কৰো মাটিহীন মানুহৰ যিবোৰ অভিযোগ ইমান দিনে শুনি আহিছে সেই অভিযোগ কিছু পৰিমাণে লাঘব হ'ব বুলি আশা কৰো। পুতি পৰিবাৰক ১৫০ বিঘাকৈ মাটিৰ অতিৰিক্ত পৰিমাণ নিৰ্দ্ধাৰণ কৰা বিষয়ত কেবাজনো সদস্যই আপত্তি কৰিছে। কিন্তু মাটিৰ বিষয়ে আইন হলে বেগতে কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰিব পৰা যাব সেইটো নহয়। যদি আমি দেখো যে মাটিৰ নিৰ্দ্ধাৰণ (ceiling of land holdings) বেচি হৈছে তেনেহলে আমি সেইটো পুনৰ আইন কৰি কমাও পাৰো। কিন্তু মই ভয় কৰিছো আমাৰ মানুহে যেনেকৈ ধান খেতিৰ মাটিতহে বিচাৰিছে, বাম পাৰ্টত হেপাহ নাই, এই বিলৰ পৰাও ৰাইজৰ বেচি উপকাৰ নহব।

যাত্ৰীক খেতিৰ বাবে যি ব্যবস্থা কৰিছে অৰ্থাৎ ৫০০ বিঘা নিৰ্দ্ধাৰণ কৰিছে সেইটো দেশৰ উৎপাদ বৃদ্ধি কৰাৰ উদ্দেশ্যেৰে কৰা হৈছে। কিন্তু মই কও যে চাহ খেতিৰ আৰু যাত্ৰীক খেতিৰ বাবে আছ তীয়া ব্যবস্থা যেতিয়া কৰাই হৈছে তেনেস্থলত যাতে তেওঁ বিলাক আৰু মাটি পাব নোৱাৰে তাৰ দিহা এই বিলত থাকিব লাগে। আৰু চাহ খেতিৰ বাবে লোৱা মাটিও যাতে এনেয়ে পৰি নাথাকে সেইটোও চাব লাগিব। চাহ খেতিক আমি উৎসাহ দিয়া উচিত কাৰণ চাহ খেতিৰ পৰা আমাৰ ৰাজহত যথেষ্ট আয় হৈছে। চাহ খেতিত হাত দিলে আমাৰ গোটেই অৰ্থনীতিয়েই খেলিমেলি হ'ব। সেইবাবেহে তাত হাত দিয়া নাই। কাৰোবাৰ স্বার্থ থকাৰ বাবে নহয়। ক্ষতিপূৰণ দিয়াৰ বিষয়ত শ্ৰীভট্টাচাৰ্য্য ভাদ্ৰবীয়াই যে কৈছে ক্ষতিপূৰণৰ হাৰ বেচি লৈছে মোৰ মনেৰে সেইটো একো বেচি হোৱা নাই। কাৰণ মাটিৰ যি মূল্য সেই হিচাবে ক্ষতি পূৰণৰ হাৰ প্রকৃততে বহুত কমহে হৈছে।

মাৰ্কেত ভেলু (Market value) যদি দিয়া হয়, তেন্তে বহুত বেচি পাব আৰু তেখেতে যে বেচি দিয়া হৈছে বুলিয়েই আপত্তি কৰিছে। মোৰ মনেৰে ইয়াত বেচিদিন হোৱা নাই কমহে হৈছে কিন্তু আজি যি নীতিত ক্ষতিপূৰণ দিয়া লৈছে, আন বিষয়ত ক্ষতিপূৰণ দিওঁতেও যেন এই নীতি চলায় তাৰ বাবে মই অনুৰোধ জনালো। ইয়াতে আৰু এটা কথা আছে সেইটো হৈছে এটা যেতিয়া নীলাম কৰিব লগীয়া হয় তেতিয়া যদি তাৰ লগত মাটি নাথাকে তেন্তে তাৰ উচিত মূল্য কেতিয়াও নাপায়। তেনেবিলাক ক্ষেত্ৰত সিবিলাক মানুহৰ পৰা এইদৰে ঘৰ লোৱা হয় সেই বিলাকৰ প্ৰতি যাতে অনায়াস কৰা নহয় তালৈ চকু দিয়া প্ৰয়োজন।

The CHAIRMAN: The question is that the Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings Bill, 1955, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration.

(The Motion was adopted.)

The Assam Finance (Sales Tax) Bill, 1956

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): I beg to present the report of the Select Committee on the Assam Finance (Sales Tax) Bill, 1956.

Sir, in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the necessity of the measure has been explained clearly. I don't think, further explanation is necessary. The Select Committee has gone into the provisions of the Bill and made thorough study and examination of the provisions and have made certain changes. The changes that are recommended are not of vital nature. Both the original Bill and the Report of the Select Committee have been placed before the hon. Members. I do not think, for these changes any explanation is necessary now by me.

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

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Sir, I want to speak a few words regarding some changes proposed by the Select Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I hope, you will confine yourself only to the changes made by the Select Committee.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Yes, Sir, I want to say two things, one about an omission and the other is about an insertion.

Now, for the purpose of the Bill it has been stated thus—“to impose a tax on sales of cigarettes, cigars, smoking tobacco in sealed containers, sugar, matches, bidi and finish tobacco used in the manufacture of bidi and other commodities in Assam”. On this point, I want to say that the day to day necessities, like sugar and matches, are very costly in our State. After the intervention of Supply Minister the other day while I was speaking, I made enquiries about sugar and come to know that in Calcutta retail price of sugar per seer is between As.-/9/- and As.-/11/-, whereas at Shillong itself we are to purchase it at As.-/15/- and when this tax will come into operation the price will go higher up and it will tell heavily on the poor customer. Match is a day to day necessity and this tax will make the common man suffer. Bidi is consumed by the poorer section of the people and increase of the price by this tax will tell upon the common man heavily. Apart from that, in clause 5, as amended by the Select Committee, it is said “No dealer shall carry on business in taxable goods unless he has been registered and possesses a certificate of registration ;

Provided that the Commissioner may exempt any person manufacturing bidis in his premises, by hand, either by himself or with the help of any member of his family, from registration”. Now it has been said, that no dealer shall carry on business in taxable goods. It seems it will cover sale and purchase of these things, at all stages. There are some very small shops and after aggregate sale such a shop may not come to taxable limit ; then it ought not to be taxed. I should like to get a clarification from the Finance Minister whether there has been any modification of this principle, that is to say when the total sale does not reach the taxable quantum whether this also comes under the purview of clause 5 of the Bill.

These are the two observations, I want to make on this measure.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Sir, on that point may I draw the attention of the hon. Member to the definition given to the word “dealer” ? Who is the dealer who will come within the purview of this Bill ? That definition is given

here. "Dealer" means any person who sells taxable goods manufactured, made or processed by him in Assam, or brought by him into Assam from any place outside Assam for the purpose of sale in Assam. So, Sir, the 'dealer' must be a man who either manufactured things by himself or who brings things in large quantities for sale in Assam.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : What about the small dealers who bring things from outside ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : Sir, these things, like bidis and other such things cannot certainly be brought in small quantities from outside. It is the big merchants who generally bring these things in large quantities and distribute them to the small dealers for retail sale. So this Bill is meant to touch only these big merchants and not the small retail dealers. I hope my Friend will understand the position and will not object to this small measure.

The CHAIRMAN : The question is that the Assam Finance (Sales Tax) Bill, 1956, as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

(The Motion was adopted.)

The Assam Finance Bill, 1956

The CHAIRMAN : I will read out this message from the Governor : 'I recommend under article 207(1) of the Constitution of India that the Assam Finance Bill, 1956, be introduced and moved in the Assam Legislative Assembly'.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Finance Bill, 1956.

Sir, the necessity of this measure has been explained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. It is a very simple measure and I do not think it needs further explanation from me.

So, Sir, I beg to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

The CHAIRMAN : May I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Finance Minister to Rule 61 of the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules which says—"When a Bill is introduced, or on some subsequent occasion the member-in-charge may make one

of the following motions in regard to the Bill, namely—(a) that it be taken into consideration by the Assembly either at once or at some future day to be then mentioned". It is clear according to this rule that the date should be mentioned on which the Bill will be taken into consideration. I do not know why this rule is not followed always.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): The practice that has been followed up till now is that when the Bill is moved for consideration it means that it is to be taken up immediately. After that you will then fix a date for consideration of the Bill clause by clause—that date will be fixed by you afterwards, Sir.

The CHAIRMAN: The question is that the Assam Finance Bill, 1956, be taken into consideration.

(The Motion was adopted.)

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

The CHAIRMAN: There is also a message from the Governor in this connection—I recommend under article 207(1) of the Constitution of India that the Assam Deputy Speaker's Salaries and Allowances Bill, 1956 be introduced and moved in the Assam Legislative Assembly. Again—I recommend under article 207 (3) of the Constitution of India that the Assam Deputy Speaker's Salaries and Allowances Bill, 1956, be taken into consideration by the Assam Legislative Assembly.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Deputy Speaker's Salaries and Allowances Bill, 1956.

Sir, the necessity of this measure has been explained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill. Sir, the Deputy Speaker in our Assembly is getting a pay of Rs 300 per month and he is also allowed to pursue his own avocations. By this Bill we want to fix his pay at a higher level. Sir, it is not unknown to the hon. Members of this House about the position of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the different States including Parliament. Recently a resolution was passed in a Conference of Presiding Officers where it was desired that the Deputy Speakers should be given higher status and if possible should be given higher pay than what they are getting at present. As far as possible there should be some amount of uniformity in respect to their pay and status. This resolution was sent to our Prime Minister and the Prime Minister in turn

sent that resolution to all the States with the recommendation that they should take up the matter and examine the possibility of giving higher pay and status to the Deputy Speakers. This Government has accordingly taken up this matter and feel that we should give a better pay and status to our Deputy Speaker on account of his position in the Assembly. It is recommended in that resolution that the status and pay of the Deputy Speakers should be equivalent to the status and pay of the Deputy Ministers. Accordingly, Sir, in view of that recommendation of the Speaker's Conference and also in view of the recommendation of our Prime Minister, we have brought in this Bill to give a better pay and status to our Deputy Speaker so that he can not only get adequate pay but enjoy the status of a Deputy Minister. Of course he will not be allowed to practice if this Bill is passed.

With these words, Sir, I beg to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in this problem State of Assam it seems that the biggest problem has become our Deputy Speaker. Where to keep him and how to keep him? There is something in Assamese which runs like this—“মুৰত ললে ওকনীয়ে খায়, নাচিতি থলে পৰৱৰ্ত্তাই খায়।”

The Government on a previous occasion brought a Bill fixing the salaries and allowances of the Deputy Speaker and allowing him free practice and it was quickly passed by this House. This time the Government has again brought a Bill that the salaries of the Deputy Speaker should be enhanced and that he should not be allowed to practice. By the previous Bill which was already passed, the salary of the Deputy Speaker was fixed at Rs.300 per month and that he should be allowed to carry on legal practice. At that time we submitted that in consideration of the dignity of the Deputy Speaker that Bill ought not to be passed. At that time, Sir, I pointed out to the House that some day in line with the Central Government our Deputy Speaker will become the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee and Estimates Committee. Moreover, I pointed out that there is the dignity of the office of the Deputy Speaker. At that time my counsel was ignored. But, Sir, now after one and a half year allegedly as per suggestion of the Presiding Officers Conference the Government has seen adequate reasons to give higher status to the Deputy Speaker with enhanced salary. In the State administration, of the three main branches, namely, the Legislative, Executive and Judiciary, it is the Legislative which is most important and so its dignity must be upheld. But, Sir, by giving higher emoluments

we expect something in return. What is our experience for the last four and a half years ? When we come to Shillong, very often we do not find either the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker. Committees are held without them. When Assembly questions are sent to the Assembly Secretariat, they are reposted to Jorhat with the result that most of the answers to the questions are received either at the end of the Session and the rest of the questions lapse. I think, this view is appreciated by the Ministers also. Either the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker must be at Shillong. If the Speaker is not available, we expect that the Deputy Speaker to be at the place where the Assembly is held. His usual place of residence should be at the place where the Assembly is held. But, Sir, we have not yet seen these things. If this is not done we will say that the status of the Deputy Speaker is for money alone. Sir, I do not think that it is the question of status and prestige for which the Government has brought forward this Bill, but it is the question of money only. Sir, if the Deputy Speaker is to live in Shillong, then the amount of Rs.300 as his salary is surely not enough. I could give my unqualified support to the proposition only on this assurance that the Deputy Speaker should be available here at Shillong.

Secondly, Sir, as this question involves not a small amount of money, it would have been better for the Government to wait for some time to come. These things were raised in the Presiding Officers Conference along with many other good things for which the Presiding Officers Conferences had made good suggestions. The Presiding Officers Conferences are held every year throughout India. The tradition of the Parliament and the recommendation of the Presiding Officers Conferences are that the Chairman of the Estimates Committee and the Public Accounts Committee should not be a Member of the Government but he should be either the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker as in our Parliament or a Member of the Opposition as in the Mother of Parliaments. But this Government has never paid any heed to such advice.

With all respects to our Finance Minister, Sir, who has been conducting the deliberations of the Estimates and the Public Accounts Committees splendidly much to his personal credit, an official Chairman for these committees is undemocratic in principle. In future the Finance Minister may not be equally capable and non-partisan and then all these committees will become farce. Therefore, Sir, it is not the question of how things are going on, but it is the question of principle. In this matter the Government has not followed the suggestion of the Presiding Officers' Conferences. The precedent of the Union Parliament is not

followed and the precedent of the Mother of Parliaments is not followed. This Bill could have waited for a few months more. This question could have been placed before the people in the next General Election. I do not understand this hurry on the part of the Government to pass this Bill. I do not expect that this Bill will improve matters immediately to any appreciable extent. Therefore, I want certain assurances from the Government side on the points that (1) as a result of the enhancement of the salary of the Deputy Speaker, things will improve, that (2) either, the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker shall be in Shillong all throughout the year. In giving any higher pay if these things are not done then it will be a sheer wastage of public money and it would not be proper to spend public money in this way.

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

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Mr. Bhattacharyya says that in many matters we have not been prompt. We are always prompt. It is not only the desire of the Prime Minister but also the desire of the Speakers' Conference to enhance the salary of the Deputy Speaker. My Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, also desired this. Some time back when a Bill pertaining to the removal of ban on Deputy Speaker's following an avocation was discussed on the floor of this House in the year 1954, he made an observation like this—"Rather if the Government comes forward with a proposal to give a salary of Rs.500 to the Deputy Speaker or to raise his pay to that of a Deputy Minister, I for one make this public declaration that I shall support that measure." Now my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, gives a qualified support. At that time there was no question of a qualified support. He made a public declaration in the House to the effect that if a Bill was brought forward to give the pay equivalent to that of a Deputy Minister, he would give his whole-hearted support. Now Government has followed the line of suggestion given by him in 1954.

Shri GAURISANAR BHATTACHARYYA: On a point of clarification, Sir, it was supported on the understanding that they should function as Deputy Speakers.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Sir, my Friend, Shri Hareswar Goswami, also said that he would not oppose any measure which is designed to enhance the salary of the Deputy Speaker to maintain the impartiality of character and impartiality of office. He also promised an unqualified support. It is on the line of these suggestions that the Bill has been brought forward. Sir, I quite appreciate the feeling of my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, that sometimes they experience

some difficulties. It may be true, but it is a matter for the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker as to who should remain at the headquarters of Shillong. At least there should be some arrangements between the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker in regard to this matter, and I feel it should be left to the discretion of the Speaker. There should be some such arrangements so that the difficulties mentioned by my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, may be obviated. I am quite confident, left to his discretion, the Speaker will make such arrangement. Now, if my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, wants a definite provision to this effect, he may bring forward an amending measure when we discuss it clause by clause.

With these words, Sir, I move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

The CHAIRMAN: The question is that the Assam Deputy Speaker's Salaries and Allowances Bill, 1956, be taken into consideration.

(The Motion was adopted.)

The Assam Liquor Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 1956

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Liquor Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 1956. Sir, this Bill has been introduced to bring only these three amendments. The amendments are very necessary. One is in regard to the definition of liquor. The definition of liquor in the principal Act includes Tari also but we find Tari has two stages: one is an unfermented condition and the other is fermented. We want to provide that Tari in an unfermented stage is not included within the term of liquor.

Regarding Pachwai there has been divergent opinion among plains tribals. Some are in favour of total prohibition and others are in favour of exemption from prohibition. Government consider it better to meet half way by introducing this amendment to Section 3. Pachwai will be allowed only to the extent of two and a half seers for home consumption per family for 3 years only in the prohibited area. In the non-prohibited areas also only $2\frac{1}{2}$ seers are allowed. Then there is also amendment to Section 21. It is considered that there should be power given to the Government to prescribe the conditions under which licenses may be issued for the purpose of *bonafide* medicinal, scientific, industrial, religious or such like purpose, and for sale to permit holders under Section 20. Hence we have introduced this Bill.

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

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

The CHAIRMAN: The Motion moved is that the Bill be taken into consideration.

(After a pause.)

The question is that the Assam Liquor Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 1956 be taken into consideration.

(The Motion was adopted.)

The Assam Municipal Bill, 1956

The CHAIRMAN: I read the following messages from the Governor of Assam, dated Raj Bhavan, Shillong the 14th March 1956.

“I recommend under Article 207(1) of the Constitution of India that the Assam Municipal Bill, 1956, be introduced and moved in the Assam Legislative Assembly.

Jairamdas Daulatram,
Governor of Assam.”

Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Minister): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Municipal Bill, 1956.

The CHAIRMAN: There is a second message from the Governor of Assam, dated Raj Bhavan, Shillong the 14th March, 1956, which I read :

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

Jairamdas Daulatram,
Governor of Assam.”

Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Minister): Sir, the Statement of Objects and Reasons attached to the Bill will disclose the purpose for which the Bill has been brought in.

I now move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri Abdul Matlib Majumdar, Minister in-charge, Chairman, Shri Purandar Sarma, Shri Kamala Prasad Agarwala, Shri Akshoy Kumar Das, Shri Bimala Kanta Bora, Shri Sriman Prafulla Goswami, Shri Ranendra Mohan Das, Shri Ananda Chandra Bezbarua, Shri Sarveswar Barua, and Shri Ramesh Chandra Baroah. Five Members will form a quorum. The Committee will report to the Assembly on or before the 30th June, 1956.

The CHAIRMAN: The Motion moved is that the Assam Municipal Bill, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following Members:—

- (1) Shri Abdul Matlib Mazumdar, Minister in-charge, Chairman.
- (2) Shri Purandar Sarma.
- (3) Shri Kamala Prasad Agarwala.
- (4) Shri Akshoy Kumar Das.
- (5) Shri Bimala Kanta Bora.
- (6) Sriman Prafulla Goswami.
- (7) Shri Ranendra Mohan Das.
- (8) Shri Ananda Chandra Bezbarua.
- (9) Shri Sarveswar Barua ; and
- (10) Shri Ramesh Chandra Baroah.

Five Members will form a quorum. The Committee will report to the Assembly on or before the 30th June, 1956.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: On a point of clarification, may I, Mr. Chairman, ask whether it is necessary to discuss the Bill at this stage, or after it comes from the Select Committee ?

The CHAIRMAN: Whenever a Bill is referred to a Select Committee, the whole House is committed to the principle, and accordingly it is necessary that the Members should give their opinion if they differ so that the Select Committee Members may know what the House desires. So, it is only on this point and not in general terms that any discussion should take place so that the House may give a mandate to the Select Committee.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Sir, in that case I would like to make a few observations.

Sir, in the Statement of Objects and Reasons given by the Minister while introducing the Bill, we find that, "the present Municipal Act was passed in 1923. Since then various amendments have been made to remedy, as far as possible, the facts found in the course of working of the Act and also to meet the needs of various activities and new ideas and ideals arising with the progress of time. Similarly, considerable amendments had to be made in the rules and regulations made thereunder."

Now, Sir, several things have been suggested by the Minister. Firstly it has been admitted that the existing Municipal Act has many defects which need remedy. Secondly, the experience has shown that some new provisions are to be incorporated and thirdly, in this changing world where our country has also changed and where democracy is being worked out in particular way, new ideas are to be incorporated in our Municipal administration also. Because if we cannot proceed with the progress of time, not only that we shall remain stagnant but we shall deteriorate. So very many factors are there which have demanded a complete overhaul of the Municipal Act. It has also been said that considerable amendments have to be made in the rules and regulations made thereunder. Due to these facts together with the change of circumstances after the attainment of Independence and also to keep pace with the progress of Municipal laws and administration in other States of India, it has been considered necessary to make a thorough revision and to overhaul the Act. So, this Bill is, as a matter of fact, thorough overhaul and review. The Minister says that he is bringing this Bill not only from the experience in our own State but also being enriched by the experience of our sister States; not only the experience but also ideas. Now if that be the statement of objects and reasons for this Bill let us see whether our object in this respect has been fulfilled. I do not propose to go into every aspect of the Bill or into every detail of the Bill but I wish to confine myself only to a few salient features to which I hope the Select Committee will give their considered opinion, give their mind and will suggest necessary changes. Firstly, in Chapter III where the constitution of the Municipal Boards has been provided, we find that contrary to the popular opinion and in spite of the experience of the Local Boards the provision of universal adult franchise has not been embodied in this Bill. Now, in Clause 14 of the Bill it has been stated that if one wants to be qualified to be a voter one must be—

- (i) during the twelve months immediately preceding the prescribed date, paid in respect of any rates an aggregate amount of not less than one rupee, or

- (ii) is a member of joint family of which any member is a voter under item (i), or
- (iii) being graduate of any University, or having passed the Intermediate or Matriculation Examinations of the Gauhati, or any other University, or the corresponding standard of the same or any other University, or Middle English or Middle Vernacular or an equivalent examination or senior or junior Madrassa Examination under the old or reformed scheme, or the Sanskrit Title Examination of the Calcutta/Assam Sanskrit Association, or having read upto Class VII of a High School or being a registered medical practitioner under the Assam Medical Act, 1916, or being an Advocate or holding a certificate authorising a person to practise as a Pleader or as a Mukhtar or as a revenue agent, occupies a holding or part of a holding, in respect of which there has been paid, during the twelve months aforesaid in respect of any rates and aggregate amount of not less than one rupee, or
- (iv) is a manager or person in charge of a company, firm, society or business owning or occupying any land or building within the limits of the municipality if the company, firm, society or business possesses the qualifications set forth in clause (i).

In this long list I find that tax has not been included. This is in my opinion a very important point which ought to have been considered. Now if we examine the funds at the disposal of the Municipalities we find that it is not only the rate payers who contribute to the coffer of the Municipal Board. The Municipalities get quite big amounts of money from the Government as grant or subvention and they also get money from indirect sources. This shows that from different sources, in addition to the collection from the rate payers, they constitute a fund, known as the municipal fund. And the services rendered by the Municipality also are not confined only to the rate payers. These services are enjoyed by all the people who reside within the municipality, but the way the residents of the municipal areas live is a reflection on the working of the municipality. So, Sir, at the time of giving the right of franchise all these matters are to be considered. I find

from the trend of this clause that the Government think that this franchise that is given is only a right. I submit, Sir, this franchise is not only a right but this is also a duty, an obligation. If one wants his country or any part thereof to be improved he must not only exercise his right of contributing his might but he must also do his duty for the improvement of the society. Then how is it that out of quite a large number of people, thousands in number, or 60 to 70 thousands of people in the case of Gauhati town, who live there and enjoy all the advantages or disadvantages that the municipality provides, only a few thousands of them participate in the management or in the improvement of the affairs of the municipality? Why should not all the able-bodied and able-minded people get the opportunity of doing their duty? After all, the municipal administration is not more difficult or more responsible than running the administration of the Union of India or the State of Assam. Here every adult citizen whenever he is 21 years of age and is of sound mind has got the right or duty of becoming a voter; not only becoming a voter but also becoming a member of the Legislature, and if necessary and possible, becoming the Prime Minister or the President of the Indian Union. If adult franchise may be the standard by which even Presidentship of the Indian Union or the Prime Ministership of our country can be adjudged why should the municipal administration be not done on that standard, if we look from the point of view of qualification? Some hon. Member has been whispering that the municipality has got some vested interest. In order to be a voter he must have interest vested in that area. Is this right acquired only by paying one rupee? There are so many people who not for their own fault have no land or building or who could not have the educational qualification as required under this clause and yet they may be quite capable or alert to do their duty as a citizen or as an inhabitant of that municipal area. Property cannot always be acquired by merit alone. This can be acquired by matrimonial relations as well. With regard to educational qualification, Sir, I do not understand how a man who as soon as he reaches the standard of Class IV becomes mature or fit to be a voter and just below that standard he is not granted that qualification to be a voter. There are some persons who have never passed Middle English or Middle Vernacular examinations and yet they may be much more educated in the real sense, much more public spirited than many graduates or masters of Arts and Sciences. So, Sir, this educational standard also does not show sobriety for

consideration of right and duty of a voter. Therefore, I should like to suggest to the Select Committee that the right of franchise and also the duty of franchise should be given to all the able-bodied and able-minded adult citizens as it has been given in the case of Local Boards or in the case of Parliamentary and Assembly elections. That will improve matters, because we know that whatever be the condition of a municipality if it has got much money it shall be able to make some progress. We find always that whatever services are given by the municipalities do mostly concentrate in those areas where the rich section of the people generally live—this I say from my experience of the Gauhati Municipality. Gauhati Municipality is very badly managed with worst possible drainage and full of dirt and filth. But even in that bad state of the municipality less bad areas are those where the “gentlemen” reside. Nobody comes to inspect the ‘Gallies’ of Rihabari or Tokobari or Kukurmata. People residing in these areas also pay rate. Some of them may not pay rate directly, because they pay rent for hired houses and so somebody else pays for them. But in those areas there is no arrangement for good water supply, good sanitation, etc. The reason is that there is no Commissioner or representative from these areas because there is less number of voters there, as some of them work in factories, workshops, and so on and have no vote. At any rate, in these areas it is shown that as the percentage of educated rate payers is less, the percentage of voters is also accordingly less than the percentage of so-called educated or “gentlemen” class of other areas. It is said, ‘He who pays the piper calls the tune’. He who has got franchise calls the municipal Commissioner to do something for his area and the backward and poor people, Mazdoors and others, are always deprived of municipal facilities. Sir, our State is a welfare State at least in profession and we always say that we want to upgrade all people, we want to do away with class distinctions, we want to create a society of the socialistic pattern. This being our professed aim, it is absolutely necessary that in municipal matters at least, where question of tackling their own home affairs is concerned, all citizens should be given equal opportunity. Be he rich or poor, educated or illiterate, every adult citizen of India should have that opportunity. Here in this Bill, we find that this has not been given; there is some qualifying limit to franchise. I hope the Select Committee will carefully consider this point and do away with the restrictive franchise and make it universal adult franchise.

Then, Sir, let me come to the question of nomination. We have seen that in the past quite a big percentage of Commissioners were used to be nominated by Government. In the British days the percentage was much higher. The result was that the municipalities were dominated by the Sahibs in those days. Of course, under this Bill the number of nominations is sought to be made less, but why should there be any vestige of nomination at all? It may be said that nomination is necessary for giving representation to under-represented sections; that it is necessary for giving representation to the Scheduled Castes or Tribes whose number is not sufficiently big to enable them to return a candidate from amongst them or they may not be so much willing to go to the hubbub of election while their services are necessary. These arguments may be given. Sir, there is no harm in Health Officers, Civil Surgeons, Executive Engineers or other experts remaining as members *ex-officio* without any right of vote. There will be necessity for expert advice. So, without giving voting rights let there be nominated member or members. If Government feel that there is an expert whose opinion is to be consulted or whose opinion will be valuable for the Board, let him be there as an expert in an advisory capacity, but not as one having the right to vote. Our experience in the past has been that Government take advantage of any lacuna and want to push their favourites to nominated places, sometimes with a view even to make them Chairman or Vice-Chairman. Sometimes it so happens that the majority is not so big; then by this sort of partisan nomination the balance is shifted. The effect is that those who are actually returned in a majority find that they are in a minority because the nominated members come and join hands with the minority. Thereby, Sir, the principle of democracy that the majority will rule and the minority will criticise and give suggestions is defeated. Moreover, it is not always clear what is the principle that Government follow in regard to nomination; sometimes it is communal, sometimes it is trade, sometimes it is sex and so on. What it is exactly we do not know, but one principle is always there and that is favouritism. The principle of nomination leaves room for favouritism and nepotism. Only the other day I met a gentleman at Nongpoh (I need not name him), who was coming upto Shillong. I asked him, "How is it Sethji, you are here? Where do you go?" He replied that he was going to Shillong to try to be nominated. I thought it was for the Council of States and so I told him, "That is over". He asked, "What

is over?" I told him the Council of States membership. He replied, "I am not yet such a big man to go to the Council of States. I am going for a nomination in the Municipality". He wanted himself to be nominated a Commissioner of the Gauhati Municipality. I do not know whether he said that in jest, but he said so in public in presence of other friends. Now, Sir, if he is a fit man why should he go to make representation in Shillong? If really he is a fit man, then in public interest he would be nominated. But he comes to canvass. This is how things are going on.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Please see the result (*laughter*).

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Then, Sir, what did we find in Sibsagar? I am sorry the Sibsagar Members are not here. As a result of nomination to the Sibsagar Local Board, allegations and counter-allegations were being made in the Press and platform of favouritism regarding selection of persons. This happened inside the Congress party itself. Some people felt dissatisfied that their nominee was not nominated; others said that such and such should have been nominated but were not nominated because the nominees of such and such must be given a chance, and so on and so forth.

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister): There was no such thing so far as Sibsagar is concerned.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I would have been glad if the Sibsagar Members were present here. The Deputy Minister remains at Shillong now and he does not know the state of affairs there.

Sir, these are very unfortunate things. A democracy cannot work without discipline amongst the party rank and file. Once a decision is taken by the majority, that should be implemented without any rancour or internecine quarrels. The Sibsagar affair shows, Sir, that there is something wrong in the State of Denmark, it is not in this way that democracy can function. There should be a certain amount of discipline amongst the party members. We must have honesty of conviction; we may differ from each other in our views, that is a different matter. I may differ from the Chief Minister, and I do differ in many respects, but that is a difference on clear-cut principles. We each act according to our conviction. Unless we do that, as I said, Sir, democracy cannot function. Unfortunately this principle of nomination

helps to create difficulties and the spirit of indiscipline. In other words, this principle of nomination acts as a hindrance to the smooth working of parliamentary democracy.

It may be said that the number of nomination is not big, why do you bother? If the number is not big there will be greater competition. If the number is say 3, 4 or 5 then several candidates will think, "I may not get first but I may get the 4th or fifth chance." If the number is small there will be competition and that competition in these days will bring in corruption and efforts may be made at times to purchase. Sir, we cannot deny that this is becoming the rule of the day, when you can purchase politicians and this state of things is going on even in very responsible quarters. At the beginning, the object of the Bill is made comprehensive by the Government and in it they thought of past experiences not only of this State but of other States as well as the whole of the universe. But let you come nearer home, Sir, and you will find corruption, nepotism, favouritism in very sphere. If we sow the seed of a poison-tree, "Bish-Brikkhya," its poisonous fruits will harm the entire community or the nation. So, I hope, the Select Committee will fully consider this aspect of the Bill and will take into consideration all these things and will do away with the provision of nomination altogether.

Then, we find that when a new Board is elected this new Board cannot come into being for a long time. The old Board remains in office even after the new Board is elected. and it so happens that this old Board prepares the budget and presents it and when the new Board functions, it finds itself in a peculiar position as it has to carry on with the budget that has been prepared and presented by the old Board. It may so happen that the new Board is of a different political party from that of the old Board; this creates ill feeling. This long process, or red-tape causes concern to the new Board. That is not meet and proper, because the world is fast changing and with this all things are changing fast. Therefore, these few months or a year for which the new Board will have to take over charge from the old Board, is very material. Therefore, I shall request the Select Committee to give their full consideration to this important question so that installation of the new Board in place of the old is not delayed for the procedural matters.

Now in the appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman we find that they are to be elected by the members of the Board

but in this the Deputy Commissioner has been given over-riding powers. The Deputy Commissioner is not expected to know the details of the administration of a Municipality as he is mostly busy with many other things, such as, development activities which has grown and number of cases which has increased, besides attending to V.I.Ps, V.V.I.Ps and Ministers, who frequently visit his district. For these things he cannot be expected to attend to Municipal affairs. If that is the fact, why give over-riding powers to him by this Bill? Even then if he is given the power, he is not expected to do justice according to the instructions of the act, but he will merely carry out instructions from the hill-top, I mean, Shillong. This is a dangerous thing. Suppose there is a Coalition Ministry and the present Finance Minister becomes the Chief Minister and I myself become the Finance Minister, then regarding the Municipality of Gauhati or Nowgong the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup and Deputy Commissioner, Nowgong might get different instructions from both of us. This sort of thing may nullify or defeat the whole object of Local Self-Government.

Here, Sir, I can give an instance. At Gauhati there is a very rich businessman dealing in mangoes at Lakhtakia and the rotten mangoes create an atmosphere which is ludicrous. Big black flies, which are generally found in latrines and stinking dumps are found in abundance in Lakhtakia and Fancy-bazar area due to these rotten mangoes. But there is no remedy. Petitions after petitions were submitted by the public to the Minister, Deputy Commissioner and the Government but unfortunately nothing has been done to remove this business from the heart of the town. In spite of the fact that the Minister was represented, the Deputy Commissioner was represented, pictures and news about rotten mangoes and the dirty business area were published in the newspapers, nothing has been done and the Municipality is helpless. Why? The rich businessman has given big donations to some political party, so there cannot be any action against him. I can give such instances not only of Gauhati but of other places as well where the Municipalities cannot run their administration properly and efficiently due to the intervention which is given by this over-riding power of the Government through the agency of the Deputy Commissioner. The principle of Local Self-Government has got in it art and science but this cannot be acted upon properly unless it is given a free scope and this free scope cannot be fully utilised if there is intervention at every stage from the local Government.

Therefore, we find, Sir, that this over-riding and interfering powers of the Deputy Commissioner or Commissioner is actually the over-riding power of the Party in power that is ruling our State and this is detrimental to the healthy growth of Municipal Administration in our State. We also find that in the matter of appointment of Committees and also in the formation of Joint Committees there are rooms for improvement. I hope the Select Committee will carefully look into these things.

Adjournment

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

After lunch

(The Assembly re-assembled after lunch with the Deputy Speaker on the Chair)

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA: Sir, in connection with the sub-clauses (3) and (4) of clause 33 of the Bill, I said that the number to be appointed by the Government will not be more than two, yet in the name of giving representation to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes, Government is likely to nominate people who may not be real representatives of those communities. Therefore, it cannot serve the purpose apparently it seeks to serve. The principle of nomination, Sir, should altogether go.

Now, not to speak of Commissioners, if we go to clause 33, we shall see a very surprising thing. This Shillong is the Capital Town of the State of Assam. Here live our Ministers, high officials and also many educated and enlightened people. Therefore, everybody expects that the Shillong Municipal Administration will be the ideal of the whole State. But, Sir, what we find is that according to Schedule I, the Chairman of the Municipality will be a nominated one to be appointed by the Government. Here the authority does not have the consent of the voters in the matter of appointing the Chairman. Similarly, in Tinsukia, which is a commercial centre in Upper Assam and which is a fairly advanced place, the Government does not want that its Chairman should be elected. In these two places, the Government keeps people of their own as Chairman. Not only that; It shall be lawful for the State Government by notification to include in or remove from the said Schedule the name of any municipality provided that the name of any municipality not included in the said Schedule existing on the date on which this Act comes into force shall not be included in the same. So, Sir, Government also wants to add more than these two Municipalities to the list. My suggestion, therefore, to the Select Committee is that the principle of selection of the Chairman by the Government should be removed. The

residents of Shillong and Tinsukia can very well select their Chairman and run their Municipal Administration.

We also find in page 28, clause 36 that whenever for any cause the officers of Chairman and the Vice-Chairman are vacant in any Board, the State Government shall appoint any one from amongst the Commissioners as Chairman to hold office as such temporarily till a Chairman is elected. Here also, Sir, the State Government may select their own man from amongst the Commissioners to hold the office of the Chairman though temporarily for an indefinite period.

Then at page 30 under the head "Manner of deciding questions" we find that in the case of equality of votes on any question other than the election of the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman, the President, if there is one, shall have a second or casting vote. This should not be there. The Select Committee should remove this casting vote.

Then in Clause 211 at page 81 we find the establishments for removal of sewage, offensive matter and rubbish. In that also, Sir, there should be provision for removal of sewage, offensive matter and rubbish outside the municipal area in closed dumps. It should also be provided there that sewage, etc., should be deposited and closed or they should be buried in a place far away from human habitation so that it does not interfere with the health of the neighbouring people. If one goes to Gauhati, one will be horrified to see that at Palton Bazar, where our Finance Minister and others have taken lands, there is a sewage dump full of filth. No doubt, Sir, when our Finance Minister and others will construct their buildings, this will be removed from there. Now the poor people only are living there. There are Hindustanis, Nepalees, Khasis and other labourers. There is a labour depot. So, Sir, in this Bill there should be provision that the Municipality is responsible for the filth and dirt and that they should be buried or deposited in a place which is far away from the human habitation. There is no specific provision in the Bill to prevent this. By this I mean to say that there should be such provision in the Bill by which the Municipality will be responsible not only for removal of filth and rubbish but also for their proper disposal.

Then we find also in clauses 223 to 225 that the Bill provides for prohibition of unlicensed markets. That is good but the Bill should also provide that the Municipality is responsible for providing the necessary number of markets and in necessary places, because we find that it is mostly due to the dearth of markets that unlicensed markets are opened and foodstuffs are sold in the open where flies and other germ-carrier come and

many diseases are spread. So while on the one hand the Municipality should be given the power to prohibit unlicensed markets, on the other hand they should be made responsible for arranging proper markets. At Palton Bazar, for example, Government has been trying its utmost to remove the market from that place but people have been persisting for it because a market is absolutely necessary there. In spite of Government's reluctance a market is being held there because necessity is the most important and powerful thing. So this Bill should provide that the Municipality arranges the necessary number of markets also and that these markets are kept in proper hygienic condition.

Under clause 269 the State Government has retained the power to appoint an officer to execute certain specified works of the Municipality. While the State Government has retained the power to appoint an officer, the State Government should also take the responsibility of his wage bill. It may so happen that the State Government will appoint an officer but the Municipality will not have sufficient fund to pay his wage bill. So, while the State Government has retained the power to appoint the Executive Officer, the State Government should also be responsible for paying his wage bill.

We find also in clause 298 that the State Government has retained the power of superseding or dissolving the Municipal Board in case of incompetence, default or abuse of powers. The reason is very vague—"If in the opinion of the State Government the Board is not competent". This opinion may be for political reasons also. So this opinion of the Government is a very vague thing. The Government should not be given so much of a vague power; it should be more specific. If there be any specific case where the Board is found to be corrupt or absolutely incapable of carrying out its duties, then and then only Government should resort to this power. Then again, the supersession should not be for as long a period as one year. In any case it should not exceed 6 months. I hope the Select Committee will see to this also.

Next, I am referring to the Second Schedule, sub-clause (3)—"The Magistrate shall appoint a Member of the Board to preside at the meeting and may whenever he considers necessary vary the original or any subsequent order of appointment provided always that the person appointed is not a candidate for the office of Chairman". Here the procedure ought to be made more clear, because we know that once a gentleman is appointed to preside, he sometimes uses his powers for purpose other than that for which he was appointed. The Minister concerned will probably remember the case of Karimganj.

There a certain gentleman was appointed as President, but instead of conducting the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for which purpose he was so appointed, he adjourned the meeting *in die*. The reason was that in the meantime Government wanted to get more members on its side. So there should be a provision that the member who is appointed to preside at the meeting should only do the duty for which he has been appointed; there should be no question of postponement or adjournment of the meeting. The precaution should be there because of our past experience.

Towards the end of the Schedule we find that ultimately we are going to take resort to gambling. When Government is banning gambling and lottery, this new Bill is encouraging that gambling and lottery. I am referring to sub-clause (9) at page 126 of the Bill. "Where at any ballot any of three or more candidates obtain an equal number of votes and one of them has to be excluded from the election under rule (8) the determination as between the candidates whose votes are equal of the candidate who is to be excluded shall be by the drawing of lots". Sir, we know in the United Nations Organization voting takes place, if necessary, dozen of times. Even then they never take resort to lottery. It is neither an Islamic nor a secular law. The United Nations Organization determine matters by taking votes several times and yet they do not encourage this sort of unsocial thing like gambling or drawing of lots.

So these specific suggestion I have to place for the consideration of the Select Committee and I hope when the Select Committee will be in session and go through the Bill, they will remember these suggestions of mine and they will see that the Bill is improved. In spite of the great bulk of the Bill, we find that the Bill does not promise much improvement over the present Act. Let us hope that coming through the Select Committee it will be much better than what it is now and let us also hope that the Select Committee will see that in the matter of Municipal taxation as well the burden is not too heavy on the common people because here we find that the Bill provides for tolls in bridges on animals also. There are some people who have got only a donkey or a pair of bullocks. If these people are exempted from paying the tax, heaven will not fall either on the Government or the Municipality but these poor people will be getting much relief. Similarly when bridges are used by common people, they are to use them for various purposes and they are to use them very often and if they are to pay toll every time and for every purpose, in the long run they will be paying quite a lot. Therefore

in the end, in the form of toll, he may be paying a total amount of Rs. 30 yet he may not be a voter of the Municipality because these payments are not in the record. So these poor people who are sought to be taxed through these things should be exempted as far as practicable in order to guide us in the path of a Welfare State. Let us hope that the Select Committee will consider these things. With these observations, I resume my seat.

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN : Sir, I want to speak a few words with regard to this Bill. We find that the towns in Assam are daily growing and as such the new enactment is timely, but, in his connection, I want to make a few observations in the general running of the Municipalities as at present and what improvements can there be. Some 25 years ago in daily Batari I suggested that the town of Gauhati will naturally be the future city of Assam and as such I suggested that from then there should be a Trust of Development of Gauhati town. Of course nobody took any heed of that but at the present moment, our national Government is facing the difficulties in developing that natural central town of Gauhati into a city, and from our past experience we should now frame the new enactment in such a way that the difficulties that we have been experiencing in our Municipalities for the last decades should not be there any more. Therefore it should be so enacted and there should be so plastic principles thrown into the Bill that these things may not occur. At the present moment what is our experience? I come from a small town of Jorhat. During the last 3 or 4 years big fire occurred in the Bazar area three or four times. We have not yet got a Fire Brigade there. Today, just when I was coming here, I received a copy of a resolution from the Jorhat Municipality asking me to press the Government for providing fire fighting apparatus with the Municipality. I cannot understand why neither the Municipality nor the Government could not so long insist on having a Fire Brigade as a compulsory need. I charge the authority that are in the helm of affairs of sheer negligence of their vital duty. Sir, what are the reasons of this fire? In a congested area of Bazar, we find some tea stalls where the Hookas are also going on day and night. If there is a fire in small tea stall, the owner may suffer a loss of rupees one hundred or two hundred but that fire may cause a loss of Rs. 30 to 40 lakhs to neighbouring shops. Sir, is it not a criminal negligence on the part of the authorities to allow such congestion? I charge the authority whoever that may be. Therefore I suggest that such principle may be laid down in the new enactment so that no Municipal authorities due to their negligence and party faction should build up the

town in any way the party faction wants it to be. So I suggest that when there is a Town Planning Scheme in the Five-Year Plan, the new enactment should be so framed that the town planning principle should fit in with the principle that will be laid down in the new enactment. In the towns the big merchants build their buildings in the edge of the road. If there is a small drain, it is strangled to death. One shower is enough to inundate the whole town. My unfortunate experience, as I live in the very heart of a town, is this and I know what an amount of nuisance I am to put up with. The other day I asked the Minister-in-charge of Local Self-Government to come and see for himself these difficulties. Of course the Minister could not do so for want of time. Similar is the condition in most of the other towns including Gauhati. There is no proper drainage system and the water supply position is not at all satisfactory in almost all the towns. Sir, these things should be removed and the new enactment should provide for that. We find that the Municipalities in most cases are run by two factions. One party is led by the Chairman and the other party by the Vice-Chairman, the result being that the Vice-Chairman and the Chairman cannot come together and arrive at a decision.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it the case everywhere ?

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN: It is the case in almost all Municipalities. I have no doubt about it. I take the risk of asserting it. The authorities may enquire and find out the truth. Now take the case of Jorhat. It is not built on proper plan. When I interfered one time, the Board passed a resolution to the effect that I was not putting the facts. I did put the facts, but they still passed that resolution. Before I came here I asked the authorities to give me matters so that I may place them in the Assembly. But I have not got anything from them. Therefore, Sir, in these Municipalities, as soon as a Member is elected, he forgets his duties. Therefore I suggest that some status might be given to the Rate Payers' Association in the Municipalities. One Member from such Association may be associated with the matter affecting the Municipalities. He may not be a Member but he may serve as an Advisor. Then I give another suggestion which is that under the Five-Year Plan, Government should make it compulsory for the Municipalities to complete their drainage system and keep them in proper order and they should be given a type plan for building in the various sites such as the Bazar sites, office sites, etc.

There is another matter. In every town, even in case of a small town like Jorhat there are more than 200 lorries and most of them are kept on the side of the road at night. The road is sometimes used as a workshop (*laughter*). Neither the Municipality nor the Police take any steps to remove this nuisance. I have drawn the attention of the Police several times. They have expressed their helplessness as they said they have no room in the Police compound to put them there. These are the things going on. The result is accident. People die because of these vagaries of the Police. Sir, these things I bring to your notice, and I am sure the Select Committee will give proper attention to these high principles to develop the towns so that they may fit in with the idea of town planning in the next Five-Year Plan.

I have also something to say about another matter. In these days we are trying to remove untouchability, trying to inculcate the idea of tidiness amongst the sweepers. Some of us are dining with them, and possibly after coming from the dinner together with the sweepers, some of our big men might have washed their faces just to check the tendency of vomiting. This sham preaching, this outward show of equality and removal of untouchability will not solve the problem so long as we cannot bring a psychological change in our very outlook towards these unfortunate class of our society. A method should be found out so that the sweepers who do these dirty works for the society may not remain dirty throughout the day. Simply an increase of rupees two or three or simply by having an open air meal once under a blue moon with the Harijans, we cannot improve matters. By these fake leap sympathies you cannot raise them to the status of self-respecting people. There should be sufficient provision for sweepers quarters. I suggest that these sweeper quarters should be in a broad open place, and their habitations should be so built so that they may feel that they are not one of the pigs they keep. Therefore I suggest that every sweeper's family should have a little bit of an independent house where the family can put up with a little bit of the idea of comfort and decency and every house should have also a separate kitchen so that they may shake off the idea that they are one of their own pigs. Unless we can afford to provide them with this minimum requirement of theirs, well, no amount of sweet words, no amount of sham large-heartedness, no profession of liberalism will improve the status of these unfortunate people.

Sir, another thing. Regarding the roads and drainage of the Municipal towns, I think these roads and drains should be

constructed and completed by somebody who is quite competent for the job. Now a days I find most of the Municipalities have no steam rollers. They borrow these things from the Public Works Department. The Public Works Department being themselves in dearth of these implements, say that they cannot spare whatever little stock of these things they have to the Municipalities. As a result things remain half done. So I suggest that things like these be done by only one competent body, preferably by the Public Works Department who have adequate men and materials for the purpose. Sir, while I suggest these things for the serious consideration of the Members of the Select Committee, I do not labour under any feeling of parochialism or narrow mindedness. The other day a friend of mine jokingly said to me, "Mr. Phookan, after your death, you should be reborn at Gauhati." I asked him "why"? He told me, "Because you have declared in the Assembly the other day that you want the Engineering College to be located at Jorhat." But in fact, it was I who suggested about 25 years ago that our Gauhati town, the premier town of Assam, should be properly developed and improved so that it may be an ideal for other towns of Assam. I want that other towns in Assam should grow and prosper in proper line along with Gauhati or Jorhat. But what I am opposed to is that buildings and roads should not be allowed to be constructed in a haphazard manner without the least regard to the hygiene, sanitation, and scenic beauty of the places. I have given my mind to the House, and I hope the Select Committee will take due consideration of these matters.

Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAJUMDAR (Minister) :
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members for their observations made in the house in regard to the Municipal Bill. Some of the points the hon. Members have referred to during the course of their speeches are very important indeed. Of course, I do not like to make secret of it that with some of the points referred to by my Friend, Shri Phookan, I find it difficult to agree. Because I find it difficult to believe that Vice-Chairman and Chairman in all the Municipal Boards are at logger-head. It may be a solitary case, for example, in the case of the Municipal Board at Jorhat. As a general rule, the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman in almost all the Municipal Boards belong to the same party, and they work quite in harmony and co-operation and in conjunction with each other.

As regards the observations made by my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, although for the present I would like to

reserve my own reaction to them, I cannot but help disagreeing with his remark that drawing by ballot is gambling. As a matter of fact in a Municipal Board or in any other public body some way must be devised to come to a decision in regard to any controversial matter having some difference of opinion. In fact most of the points referred to by Shri Bhattacharyya were carefully considered at the time of drafting the Bill. But as it has now been referred to a Select Committee, I am quite sure, the Select Committee Members will give their due consideration and their report will come before the House for consideration in proper time.

With these observations, Sir, I beg leave of you to resume my seat and beg that my Motion be passed.

(The Motion was then put by the Chair before the House in the form of a question and was adopted).

The Prisons (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1956

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Prisons (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1956. The necessity for this Bill is that whipping has been abolished by an Act of Parliament and that Act of Parliament does not affect the Prisons Act in Assam because the prisons and jails are subjects in the State list. Therefore it is necessary to introduce this Bill with a view to abolish whipping as a punishment and to make necessary amendments in the Prisons Act.

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

(The Bill was introduced.)

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister): Sir, I beg to move that the Prisons (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1956, be taken into consideration.

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

(The Motion was then put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted.)

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

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) (Extension to the Assam Autonomous Districts) Bill, 1956.

The object of the Bill is to extend the Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) Act to the Autonomous Districts. So long there was no necessity for this extension. But at present an emergency has arisen because of a dispute which has been referred to the Industrial Disputes Tribunal in respect of a coal mine in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and unless this Act is extended to the Autonomous Districts, the party concerned will be deprived of the right of appeal. Previously when this Bill was enacted in the Parliament in 1950, the provision under clause 19 under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution was not in force. As such it was not possible to enforce this Act in the Autonomous Districts. Therefore, I have to move for extension of this Appellate Tribunal Act to the Autonomous Districts.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that the Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) (Extension to the Assam Autonomous Districts) Bill, 1956, be introduced.

(The Bill was introduced.)

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) (Extension to the Assam Autonomous Districts) Bill, 1956, be taken into consideration.

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

(The Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted.)

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are two messages from the Governor of Assam in connection with this Bill. Both are dated Raj Bhavan, Shillong, the 12th March, 1956 which I read out:

(1) "I recommend under Article 207(1) of the Constitution of India that the Assam Aid to Industries (Small and Cottage Industries) (Amendment) Bill, 1956, be introduced and moved in the Assam Legislative Assembly."

(2) "I recommend under Article 207(3) of the Constitution of India that the Assam Aid to Industries (Small and Cottage Industries) (Amendment) Bill, 1956, be taken into consideration by the Assam Legislative Assembly."

JAIRAMDAS DOULATRAM,
Governor of Assam."

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister): Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Aid to Industries (Small and Cottage Industries) (Amendment) Bill, 1956.

The necessity for bringing in this Bill has been explained in the Statements of Objects and Reasons. It seeks to encourage the Co-operative Societies.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that the Assam Aid to Industries (Small and Cottage Industries) (Amendment) Bill, 1956, be introduced.

(The Bill was introduced)

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister): I beg to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that the Assam Aid to Industries (Small and Cottage Industries) (Amendment) Bill, 1956, be taken into consideration.

(The Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted.)

Government Resolution *re*: the approval of an expenditure of Rs.1,050 under the head "28.—Jails and Convict Settlements"

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.1,050 under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" for the items below from the sanctioned grant by re-appropriation.

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
"28.—Jails and Convict Settlements"—			
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	20,93,300	1,83,000	22,76,300
II.—Supplementary grant voted by the Assembly during the year.	...	...	...
III.—Sub-head under which the appropriation will be accounted for—			
E.—WORKS—			
(b) Repairs—Jails—Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas.	...	1,050	...
Sub-head from which the amount is to be re-appropriated—			
A—District Jails—			
Pay of Officers—General Areas	...	1,050	...
Total	...	1,050	...

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The excess grant is required to meet the repairing charge of bamboo walls of Tura Jail which were damaged by the earthquake during November 1955. There will be considerable saving out of the provision of Rs.17,300 under "Pay of Officers" due to the abolition of the post of Deputy Superintendent, Nowgong Jail.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.1,050 under the head "28.—Jails and Convict Settlements" for the items indicated in the Resolution from the sanctioned grant by re-appropriation.

(The Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted.)

**Government Resolution *re* : the approval of an
expenditure of Rs.5,500 under the head
“37.—Education”**

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.5,500 under the head “37.—Education” by re-appropriation from Savings from the sanctioned grant as indicated below:—

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Area	Total
“37.—Education”			
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	3,18,16,200	41,78,800	3,59,95,000
2. Head under which the appropriation will be accounted for—			
1. “37.—Education—			
General Charges—P.—			
Direction—(3)—Allowances and Honoraria—			
Travelling allowance, etc.”—			
(a) Travelling allowance of Officers.	5,000	...	5,000
(b) Travelling allowance of Establishment.	500	...	500
3. Head from which the account is to be re-appropriated—			
(I) “37.—Education—			
F.(a)—Government	5,500	..	5,500
Secondary for Boys—			
General—Voted”			

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. The excess amount is required due to increased tours of the Officers to attend various meetings and conference in connection with the implementation of the Development Schemes.

2. The Savings is due to non-starting of a Public School at Gauhati.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.5,500 under the head “37.—Education” by re-appropriation from Savings from the sanctioned grant as indicated in the Resolution.

(The Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted.)

**Government Resolution re: the approval of an
expenditure of Rs.2,934 under the head
"37.—Education"**

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.2,934 under the head "37.—Education" by re-appropriation from Savings from the sanctioned grant as indicated below.

Rs.

I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly 3,59,95,000

II.—Sub-head under which the appropriation will be accounted for—

	Grant originally voted by the Assembly	Additional amount now required
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Q.—Inspection—

	Rs.	Rs.
(1) Pay of establishment	2,96,985	1,728
(2) Allowances and Honoraria— General—Voted. ...	2,82,072	1,206

III.—Sub-head from which the amount
is to be re-appropriated—

"F—Government Secondary
Schools for Boys—Pay of
Establishment—General
Voted".

9,36,460

2,934

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The additional amount is required for sanctioning of additional posts in the office of the Inspector of Schools, Central Assam Circle.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.2,934 under the head "37.—Education" by re-appropriation from Savings from the sanctioned grant as indicated in the Resolution.
(The Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted.)

**Government Resolution re: the approval of an
expenditure of Rs.15,372 under the head
"39.—Public Health"**

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister): Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.15,372 under the head "39.—Public Health" by re-appropriation from savings from the sanctioned grant as indicated below.

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
"39.—Public Health"—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	59,51,200	(both for 'General' or Sixth Schedule Part 'A' Areas)	59,51,200
2. Sub-head under which the Appropriation will be accounted for—			
(1) 39.—Public Health Development—Schemes (Five Year Plan)—A —2.—Public Health—Establishment—(a) Maternity and Child Welfare Schemes—Grant-in-aid—Grant to the Gauhati Hospital Trust Committee.	15,372	...	15,372
3. Sub-head from which the amount is to be re-appropriated—			
1. 39.—Public Health—General—G—Works—(a) Original Works—	15,372	...	15,372
3. In-charge of Civil Officers.			

EXPLANATORY NOTES

2. (1) The amount is required for construction of staff quarters attached to the Maternity Home at Gauhati. As the matter was finalised late in the year no provision in the budget could be made.

3. (1) The saving is due to the fact that construction of buildings of the 10 Maternity Centres is not likely to be completed during the current financial year due to some technical difficulties.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Motion moved is that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.15,372 under the head "39.—Public Health" by re-appropriation from Savings from the sanctioned grant as indicated in the Resolution.

(The Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted.)

Government Resolution re: the approval of an expenditure of Rs.17,000 under the head "38—Medical".

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : (Minister) : Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of

Rs.17,000 under the head "38.—Medical" by re-appropriation from Savings from the sanctioned grant as indicated below.

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
38.—Medical—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	59,08,000	11,40,600	70,48,600
2. Sub-head under which the Appropriation will be accounted for—			
(1) "38.—Medical—Development Schemes (Five Year Plan)—D—2.—Medical School and Colleges—(b)—Assam Medical College Hospital, Dibrugarh—Other Non-Contract Contingencies."	17,000	...	17,000
3. Sub-head from which the amount is to be re-appropriated—			
(i) "38.—Medical—Development Schemes (Five Year Plan)—D—2.—Medical Colleges and Schools—(a)—Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh—Pay of Officers."	17,000	...	17,000

EXPLANATORY NOTES

2. (1) The amount is required for the purchase of a vehicle for the Assam Medical College Hospital, Dibrugarh.

3. (1) The Savings is due to the fact that no candidate could be appointed to some of the vacant posts of officers in the Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh though the posts were advertised through the Assam Public Service Commission.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.17,000 under the head "38.—Medical" by re-appropriation from Savings from the sanctioned grant as indicated below in the Resolution.

(The Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted.)

Government Resolution re: the approval of an expenditure of Rs.18,000 under the head "37.—Education"

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve

of an expenditure of Rs.18,000 under the head "37.—Education" by re-appropriation from savings from the sanctioned grant as indicated below.

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
"37.—Education"—°	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	3,18,16,200	41,78,800	3,59,95,000
2. Sub-head under which the re-appropriation will be accounted for—			
(1) "S.—Miscellaneous—			
(b) Examination Charges"			
(1) Allowances and Honoraria—			
Remuneration to Examiners.	10,000	..	10,000
(2) Contingencies—Other Examination Charges—General—(Voted).	8,000	...	8,000
Total	18,000	..	18,000
3. Sub-head from which the amount is to be re-appropriated—			
(1) "F.—Government Secondary Schools for Boys—General—Voted."	18,000	...	18,000
Total	18,000	...	18,000

EXPLANATORY NOTES

2. (1) The amount is required to meet the additional requirement for remuneration to the examiners due to the increase in the numbers of examination centres and examinees.

3. (1) The savings is due to non-starting of Public School.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Motion moved is that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.18,000 under the head "37.—Education" by re-appropriation from Savings from the sanctioned grant as indicated in the Resolution.

(The Motion was then put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted.)

Government Resolution re: the approval of an expenditure of Rs.86,200 under the head "41.—Veterinary"

Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Minister) :
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve on an expenditure of Rs.86,200 under head "41—Veterinary" by re-appropriation from savings from the sanctioned grant as indicated below.

"41.—Veterinary"—

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
(I) Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	23,81,900	2,42,400	26,24,300
(II) Sub-head under which the appropriation will be accounted for			
H.—Works—			
(a) Original Works ...	86,200	...	86,200
(III) Sub-head from which the amount is to be re-appropriated—			
D.—Hospitals and Dispensaries—			
(1) Pay of Establishment ...	66,200	...	66,200
(2) Allowances and Honoraria	17,000	...	17,000
(3) Contingencies ...	3,000	...	3,000
Total ...	86,200	...	86,200

EXPLANATORY NOTES

(1) The amount is required for the constructional works of the building of the Ghoongoor Cattle Farm in Cachar District.

(2) The savings is due to non-entertainment of the staff owing to dearth of qualified personnel.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved is that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.86,200 under the head "41.—Veterinary" by re-appropriation from Savings from the sanctioned grant as indicated in the Resolution.

(The Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted.)

Government Resolution re: the approval of an expenditure of Rs.9,000 under the head "41.—Veterinary."

Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.9,000 under the head "41.—Veterinary" by re-appropriation from savings from the sanctioned grant as indicated below.

"41.—Veterinary"—

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	23,81,900	2,42,400	26,24,300
2. Sub-head under which the re-appropriation will be accounted for—			
F. (e)—Scheme for the control and eradication of Stephanophilariasis (Humpsore) among cattle in Assam.	4,000	...	4,000
H.—Works—(a) Original works	5,000	...	5,000
3. Sub-heads from which the amount is to be re-appropriated—			
C.—Subordinate Establishment—			
(1) Pay of Establishment	4,000	9,000	4,000
F. (c)—Scheme for Establishment of Gosadhan.	5,000		5,000
			9,000

EXPLANATORY NOTES

(1) The amount is required for meeting the expenditure in connection with the implementation of the Scheme for control and eradication of Stephanophilariasis among cattle in Assam.

(2) The savings in due to late entertainment of staff.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved is that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.9,000 under the head "41.—Veterinary" by re-appropriation from savings from the sanctioned grant as indicated in the Resolution.

The Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted.)

Government Resolution re: the approval of an expenditure of Rs.6,000 under the head "41.—Veterinary."

Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.6,000 under the head "41.—Veterinary" by re-appropriation from savings from the sanctioned grant as indicated below.

41.—Veterinary—

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	23,81,900	2,42,400	26,24,300
2. Sub-head under which the Appropriation will be accounted for—			
E—2.—Breeding Operation—			4,450
(2)—Pay of Establishment ...	4,450	6,000	...
(3) Allowances and Honoraria	1,550	1,550	6,000
3. Sub-heads from which the amount is to be re-appropriated—			
D—2.—Hospitals and Dispensaries—(a)—Veterinary Vaccine Section—(4)—Contingencies.	6,000	..	6,000

EXPLANATORY NOTES

(1) The amount is required for meeting the expenditure on account of pay of establishment and allowances and honoraria under Key Village Scheme.

(2) The savings is due to economy.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved is that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.6,000 under the head "41.—Veterinary" by re-appropriation from savings from the sanctioned grant as indicated in the Resolution.

(The Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted.)

Government Resolution *re* : the approval of an expenditure of Rs.2,46,643 under the head "29.—Police"

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.2,46,643 under the head "29.—Police" for the items below. The amount involved will be met from the sanctioned grant.

The main item of Rs.2,00,000 is required, as will appear from the Explanatory Notes, to meet the additional expenditure due to the grant of daily allowance to Police personnel engaged in border duties and operational duties at Naga Hills, grant of dearness allowance to all Government servants and grant of cycle allowance to subordinate police officers.

The others are minor items for which explanations have been given in the explanatory notes.

In view of this, I hope the hon. Members of this House will accept my Resolution.

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I. Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	1,51,17,900	20,21,900	1,71,39,800
II. Supplementary Grant voted by the Assembly during the year.	7,36,965	6,36,653	13,73,618
III. Supplementary Grant to be voted by the Assembly during the current Session.	2,22,383	...	2,22,383
IV. Sub-head under which Appropriation will be accounted for—			
A.—Superintendence—Contingencies—Contract.	5,300	...	5,300
B.—District Executive Force—			
(a) District Police—			
(1) Allowance and Honoraria.	2,00,000	...	2,00,000
(2) Hospital charges ...	15,200	...	15,200
(3) Contingencies—Contract.	..	23,743	23,743
(b) River Police—			
(4) Allowance and Honoraria.	2,400	...	2,400
Total ...	2,22,900	23,743	2,46,643

EXPLANATORY NOTES

There has been some increase of expenditure on account of advertisement charges in connection with the recruitment of Sub-Inspectors and Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Police, Wireless Operators and Office Assistants. Due to all-round increase of work, the expenditure on account of service postage and stationery also went up. Hence the necessity for the amount of Rs.5,300.

The amount of Rs.2,00,000 is required to meet the additional expenditure due to the grant of daily allowance to Police personnel engaged in border duties and operational duties at Naga Hills, grant of dearness allowance to all Government servants and grant of cycle allowance to subordinate Police Officers.

The amount of Rs.15,200 is necessary for the purchase of medicines and supply of diet to Tubercular Police personnel and purchase of equipments for hospital.

The amount of Rs.23,743 is required for the purchase of office furniture with other accessories for the office of the Superintendent of Police, Khosi and Jaintia Hills, which was gutted by fire in November 1955 and also for purchase of some utensils for new recruits for the Naga Hills and Mizo Districts.

The amount of Rs.2,400 is required to meet increased expenditure under dearness allowance, house rent allowance and some other fixed allowances for the River Police.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved is that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.2,46,643 under the head "29.—Police" for the items as indicated in the Resolution. The amount involved will be met from the sanctioned grant.

(The Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted.)

Government Resolution re: the approval of an expenditure of Rs.3,654 under the head "41.—Veterinary"

Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.3,654 under the head "41.—Veterinary" by re-appropriation from savings from the sanctioned grant as indicated below.

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Arcas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
"41.—Veterinary"—			
1. Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	23,81,900	2,42,400	26,24,300

General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.

2. Sub-head under which the re-appropriation will be accounted for—

41.—Veterinary—D.— Hospitals and Dispensaries—Contribution and grant-in-aid—Contribution in Veterinary Dispensary,	3,654	...	3,654
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3. Sub-head from which the amount is to be reappropriated—

41.—Veterinary—D.— Hospitals and Dispensaries— 1. Pay of Establishment	3,654	...	3,654
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EXPLANATORY NOTES

The amount is required for meeting the expenditure in connection with the payment of the arrear grants-in-aid of Rs.1,653-4-0 and Rs.2,000 for the years 1951-52 and 1953-54 to Golaghat and North Lakhimpur Local Board Dispensaries respectively.

2. The reasons for savings to the extent of Rs.3,654 is due to non-entertainment of staff for dearth of qualified personnel.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved is that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.3,654 under the head "41—Veterinary" by re-appropriation from savings from the sanctioned grant as indicated in the Resolution.

(The Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted.)

Government Resolution re: the approval of an expenditure of Rs.57,811 under the head "39.—Public Health"

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.57,811 under the head "39.—Public Health" by re-appropriation from savings from the sanctioned grant as indicated below :—

The position has been explained in the explanatory notes.

39.—Public Health—

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	48,85,700	10,65,500	59,51,200
2. Sub-head under which the appropriation will be accounted for—			
(i) “39.—Public Health—General—Development Schemes (Five Year Plan)—A. 2—Public Health Establishment—(a) Maternity and Child Welfare—6.—Works—Original Works.”	57,811	..	57,811
3. Sub-head from which the amount is to be re-appropriated—			
(a) “39.—Public Health—General—G.—Work—(a)—Original Works—3.—Incharge of Civil Officers.”	57,811	...	57,811

EXPLANATORY NOTES

2. (i) The amount is required for completion of incomplete works of the seven Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.
3. (i) The saving is due to the fact that the construction of buildings of the ten Maternity and Child Welfare Centres sanctioned during the current year is not likely to be completed before 31st March 1956 due to certain technical difficulties.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved is that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.57,811 under the head “39.—Public Health” by re-appropriation from savings from the sanctioned grant as indicated in the Resolution.

(The Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted).

Government Resolution re: the approval of an expenditure of Rs.63,89,717 under the head "50—Civil Works—State (excluding Establishment and Tools and Plant")

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.63,89,717 under the head "50.—Civil Works—State (excluding Establishment and Tools and Plant)" for the items below. The amount involved will be met from the sanctioned grant.

Sir, the details have been given in the Explanatory Notes.

"50.—Civil Works—State (excluding Establishment and Tools and Plant)."

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	3,52,01,200	2,97,94,300	6,49,95,500
II.—Supplementary Grant voted by the Assembly during the year.	20,34,405	1,49,213	21,83,618
III.—Sub-head under which the appropriation will be accounted for—			
NORMAL			
A.—Original Works—			
(a) Buildings—			
General Administration—	26,500	5,500	32,000
Voted.			
Education	2,000	...	2,000
Civil Works	9,000	...	9,000
Total—(a) Buildings ...	37,500	5,500	43,000
(b) Communications—			
Ordinary Road	31,222	28,000	59,222
Ordinary Road—Restoration of flood damages.	2,72,720	...	2,72,720
Air Field and Landing Ground.	5,150	...	5,150
Boat, Bridges and Ferries ...	7,200	...	7,200
Total—(b) Communications	3,16,292	28,000	3,44,292
(c) Miscellaneous	8,925	...	8,925

				General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
B.—Repairs—						
Communications—	{	Voted	...	16,00,000	6,50,000	22,50,000
		Five Year Plan.		87,000	...	87,000
		Restoration and flood damage.		22,13,000	1,14,000	23,27,000
		Art.275	...	...	36,000	36,000
Total—Repair				39,00,000	8,00,000	47,00,000
Total—Normal				42,62,717	8,33,500	50,96,217

DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES (ART.275)

A.—1.—Original Works—

(a) Buildings—

Education	...	..	5,000	19,500	24,500
Medical	..	...	7,000	7,500	14,500
Public Health	...	...	19,500	...	19,500
Total—(a) Buildings	...	...	31,500	27,000	58,500

(b) Communications— Ordinary Road

...	...	...	5,50,000	...	5,50,000
(ii) Projects financed out of the Special Reserve in the Central Road Fund.	10,000	10,000

Total—(b) Communications	5,50,000	10,000	5,60,000
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Total—A.—1	5,81,500	37,000	6,18,500
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DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES (FIVE YEAR PLAN)—

A.—2.—Original Works—

(b) Communications—

Ordinary Road	4,85,000	4,85,000
Total—A.—2	...	...	...	4,85,000	4,85,000

			General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (FIVE YEAR PLAN- CENTRAL)—					
A.—3.—Original Works —					
(a) Buildings—					
Education	...	...	1,90,000	...	1,90,000
Total—A.—3	...	...	1,90,000	...	1,90,000
Grand total	...	...	50,34,217	13,55,500	63,89,717

EXPLANATORY NOTES

(i) Necessity of each scheme has been explained against each in Appendix 'A'.*

(ii) There will be considerable savings in the current year's Budget under various minor heads subordinate to the major head "50.—Civil Works" for want of adequate supply of materials due to dislocation of communications caused by the flood of 1955 which made it difficult to obtain materials for buildings and bridges from outside the State as originally anticipated. Provision made for certain new buildings also will not be fully utilised as the estimates for some of the schemes have not been finalised during the year and for some there are delay in selection of sites. Savings thus accrued are proposed to be diverted to the new 'Original Works' mentioned in Appendix 'A' and also to 'Repairs'. To meet the additional requirement of funds for proper maintenance of the normal communications, as the current year's provision for the purpose has proved quite inadequate to meet the demands and also for restoration of damages done to the existing roads and bridges of the Department for which no provision have been made in the Budget a considerable amount are required under "Repairs" which is also proposed to be met out of savings thus accrued.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved is that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.63,89,717 under the head "50.—Civil Works—State (excluding Establishment and Tools and Plant)" for the items as indicated in the Resolution. The amount involved will be met from the sanctioned grant.

(The Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted).

Government Resolution re: the approval of an expenditure of Rs.2,98,520 under the head "81.—Capital Accounts of Civil Works outside the Revenue Account.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.2,98,520 under the head "81.—Capital Accounts of Civil Works outside the Revenue Account" for the items below. The amount involved will be met from the sanctioned grant.

The details have been given in the Explanatory Notes and Appendix A*

"81.—Capital Accounts of Civil Works outside the Revenue Account".

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	1,67,20,300	2,26,900	1,69,47,200
II.—Supplementary grant voted by the Assembly during the year.	...	10,000	10,000
III.—Sub-head under which the appropriation will be accounted for—			

**DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES
(FIVE YEAR PLAN)—**

A.—I.—Original Works—			
(a) Buildings—			
Medical	2,74,500	...	2,74,500
(b) Communications—			
Ordinary Road	24,020	...	24,020
Grand total	2,98,520	...	2,98,520

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved is that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.2,98,520 under the head "81.—Capital Accounts of Civil Works outside the Revenue Account" for the items as indicated in the Resolution. The amount involved will be met from the sanctioned grant.

(The Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted).

Government Resolution *re*: the approval of an expenditure of Rs.94,39,730 under the head '18.-B and 68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.94,39,730 under the head "18-B. and 68.—B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works" for the items below. The amount involved will be met from the sanctioned grant.

The details are explained in the explanatory notes and in the annexure.

"18-B. and 68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works"

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	4,96,85,000	11,51,400	5,08,36,400
II.—Supplementary Grant voted by the Assembly during the year.	...	..	...
III.—Sub-heads under which the appropriation will be accounted for—			
18-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works financed from Ordinary Revenues—			
(i)—A.—Works ...	1,500	...	1,500
(ii)—Maintenance and repairs—Restoration of Flood Damages.	1,97,300	...	1,97,300
(iii)—E.—Establishment— 4.—Contingencies.	88,530	...	88,530
(iv)—G.—Tools and Plant ...	60,400	...	60,400
68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works financed from Capital Revenues—			
NORMAL			
(i)—Unproductive Works— Flood Control.	38,06,000	...	38,06,000

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Development Schemes—			
(Five Year Plan)—			
(ii)—Unproductive Works—Additional Minor Irrigation Schemes.	2,31,000	...	2,31,000
(iii)—G.-M.-F. Schemes—Schemes for improvement of Scarcity Areas.	5,000	...	5,000
(iv)—G.-M.-F. Schemes—Major Irrigation Schemes.	50,000	...	50,000
(v)—Productive Works—Flood Control.	50,00,000	...	50,00,000
Total	94,39,730	...	94,39,730

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. 18-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works—

(i) For details please see Appendix 'A' *

(ii) A new sub-head "Protection of flood damages" under "Maintenance and Repairs" has since been opened in order to keep a separate booking of expenditure for F. D. R. Works. As there is no provision under the head in the current year's Budget hence this provision through Resolution.

(iii) & (iv) For details please see Appendix 'E' *

2. 68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works—

NORMAL

(i) For details please see Appendix 'A' *

Development Schemes—(Five Year Plan)—

(ii) For details please see Appendix 'A' *

(iii) Do. do.

(iv) Do. do.

(v) Do. do.

* Not printed.

3. Savings are due to the following reasons :—

18-B —Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works—

- (i) Amount is petty.
- (ii) Due to change of classification of certain works to “68-B N.E.D.” and also due to less requirement than anticipated under other heads.
- (iii) & (v) Due to better progress of work in the last part of the last financial year which could not be anticipated at the time of preparation of Budget, the current year’s provision resulted in savings and also due to want of labour and materials as well as want of settlement of land acquisition.

68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works—

- (i) & (v) Provision for all flood control works was made in lump in the current year’s Budget. Hence this requirement for flood control works will be met from this lump provision.
- (ii) Certain new works under the head were dropped during the current financial year and decided to be taken up in the Second Five Year Plan.
- (iii) Due to non-acquisition of land early the progress of work was held up.
- (iv) Due to non-payment of land acquisition cost as the matter has not been finally settled and also due to completion of certain works at a lower cost.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved is that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.94,39,730 under the head “18-B. and 68.—B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works” for the items as indicated in the Resolution. The amount involved will be met from the sanctioned grant.

(The Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted.)

Private Member's Resolutions

(Nos.1 to 5 not moved.)

Resolution re: the Shifting of Kamalpur Thana to a Central place, i. e., Baregaon

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that in view of recent abnormal rise in heinous crimes like murder, child lifting, etc., in the Kamalpur Circle of Gauhati Subdivision, this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take immediate steps to shift the Kamalpur Police Thana together with the Circle office from the present site to a central place, i. e., Baregaon.

Sir, unlike my resolutions in the past this resolution is of a very specific and local character and I have been prompted to table this resolution because things in the Kamalpur Police Station's jurisdiction has come to a terrible pass. In the past there was not a separate Sup-Deputy Collector's Circle and a separate Police Station at Hajo. The present area of Hajo Thana and Circle Office was in the Kamalpur Circle.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Sir, I want to raise a point of order. This resolution deals with two subjects, namely, Police Thana and Circle Office. These two subjects are dealt by to different departments. I think, this Resolution can be allowed if my Friend drops the words, "together with the Circle Office" from the Resolution.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Bhattacharyya, will you agree to omit the words, "together with the Circle Office" ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Yes, Sir, as I am more concerned with the life and property of the people.

Now, unfortunately, the number of crimes have increased and the administration has found it difficult to keep things in proper order, as the Chief Minister himself, perhaps, has been informed in the recent past that there were several cases of murders and child-lifting. When representations were made the officers in that Thana said that they were helpless as the Thana is situated in a corner and it is not accessible easily to all parts of its jurisdiction, also about dearth of personnel to cope with increasing crimes and also that the criminal section is increasing. Sir, this is also generally the thing in all other parts of the State. In this case, specific thing is that the Thana being situated in a corner of the area it is not possible on the part of the staff there to easily detect crimes as patrolling throughout is

not practicable and that if the Thana is situated in a central place they will be able to do things more efficiently. I do not know how far this is true but if by shifting the Thana the law and order situation can be better administered, I think, Baregaon will be a more central place for this purpose. Of course, there are some other places which might also be suggested, *e. g.*, Charali, which has got good road communication, but I am told that there is no land available for a thana and quarters for the staff and if land is going to be acquired for this it will be very costly. If it is shifted to Korora, I am told, there also land for the purpose is not available. I have no special fascination for Baregaon but as land is not available in Charali or Korora for the thana and staff quarters and it is available in Baregaon and people are ready and willing to offer land, Government may consider the matter for shifting the thana to Baregaon.

At any rate, my contention is that when heinous crimes are increasing daily, for efficient working of the Thana, it should be shifted to a central place and in my opinion, Baregaon will serve that purpose. Heinous crimes are not only occurring in that area but it is in the same manner occurring in Rangia and Barama Police Thana's jurisdictions and in order to efficiently run the Police administration and to make its jurisdiction easily accessible from a central place, I would suggest that the thana from Kamalpur should be shifted to Baregaon.

With these words, I move my resolution for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that "In view of recent abnormal rise in heinous crimes like murder, child lifting, etc., in the Kamalpur Circle of Gauhati Subdivision, this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take immediate steps to shift the Kamalpur Police Thana from the present site to a central place, *i. e.*, Baregaon.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Sir, I think, my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, has not seen the map. If he had seen it he would not have moved this resolution for shifting of the Kamalpur Thana to Baregaon. From the map it appears that Kamalpur is well connected with road and railway communications. There is a railway station adjacent to this place. Baregaon is only about 3 miles from this place, where there is no railway connection. Charali is connected

with a very good road and it is only $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Kamalpur. In comparison to these two places, it cannot be denied that Kamalpur is quite centrally situated and is connected with railway and road communication. Besides, there is a Circle office and an Inspection Bungalow, where officers on inspection can stay and do inspection work easily.

In the circumstances, shifting of the thana from Kamalpur to Baregaon will not in anyway improve the situation.

From the point of view of population also, there are altogether 183 villages under the jurisdiction of this thana. Of these villages, 91 with a population of 41,423 are in Baregaon side and 92 villages with a population of 54,400 are in Kamalpur side. The area of Kamalpur side consisting of 3 Mouzas is 86.632 sq. miles as against 80.368 sq. miles of Baregaon. On the basis of crime figures also from 1953 to 1955, the total number of crimes is 54 in Baregaon area as against 114 of Kamalpur area. On the basis of distribution of crimes, the existing thana at Kamalpur is better situated and there is no reason to shift it. Crime throughout the thana has again fallen from 69 in 1953 to 40 in 1955. There has been no increase of crimes as alleged. The Amingaon area where the incidence of crime is higher is better controlled from Kamalpur than from Baregaon. Apart from these considerations, Kamalpur is connected both by road and rail and there are schools and institutions at this place. So Sir, this place is more convenient for the people to have the thana there.

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

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Sir, under the circumstances, I withdraw.

(The motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn)

Resolution regarding the Sanction and selection of sites of irrigation Canals.

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly is of opinion that Government of Assam do issue immediate orders so that the sanctioning and selecting of sites of irrigation canals worked out by Agricultural Department are entrusted to the Subdivisional Development Boards.

Sir, every Subdivision has a Development Board, and these Boards are constituted of members of the Legislature, Heads of Departments, Chairmen of

Local Boards and Municipal Boards. These Boards are entrusted with selection of roads to be taken up, and also bridges, and sinking of wells, etc. They also grant money for some social works, Libraries and other things. But these irrigation canals are left to the discretion of the District Agricultural Officers who manage them through their Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors. It is experienced Sir, that these irrigation canals are not done according to the convenience of the public but according to the convenience of these officers. For instance, when these officers find the place to be too far off and not easily approachable, they do not go there with the result that many petitions in this regard are found to be pend for a long time. If however, these canals are also entrusted to the Development Boards then the people who want these canals can directly approach these Boards and submit their petitions. The Boards in turn can examine these petitions, make necessary enquiries through the District Agricultural Officers or their Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors and after enquiries are made and reports are received with estimates, etc., these Boards can select the site according to necessity and priority. So, I think this question of sanctioning and selecting of sites of these irrigation canals can be safely entrusted to the Subdivisional Development Boards because, as I have already said, these Boards consist of elected representative of the people.

So, Sir, I hope the House will agree to this Resolution of mine which has nothing harmful in it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The motion moved is that, this Assembly is of opinion that Government of Assam do issue immediate orders so that the sanctioning and selecting of sites of irrigation canals worked out by the Agricultural Department are entrusted to the subdivisional Development Boards.

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am thankful to my friend Raja Ajit Narayan Dev of Sidli who has moved this Resolution. I agree with him to allow the amount for irrigation to be spent through the different Development Boards of the different subdivisions. But I feel that if the work of selection and approval of the different schemes is left to the different Development Boards their might be delays caused by the different Boards in selecting the sites.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it not a fact that the District Agricultural Officer is a member of the Board?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): Yes, Sir. But my point is that if the whole thing is left out to the Development Boards, *i. e.*, for selection and approval of the different schemes, then there might be delay in execution of the work. I just give my opinion about this for the information of the members of the House. But when I have agreed on principle with the mover of this Resolution, I accept it and I shall issue orders accordingly.

(The Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House and adopted).

Resolution regarding grant of Travelling allowances for the Lower Primary and the Middle Vernacular School teachers on transfer

Shri RADHA CHARAN CHAUDHURY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that, in view of the fact that there is no provision of travelling allowance for the low paid Lower Primary and Middle Vernacular School teachers on transfer even on public interest, this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take necessary steps to provide travelling allowance for those teachers when transferred on public interest.

Sir, my intention in moving this Resolution is to give the Primary and Middle Vernacular School teachers allowance when they are transferred to different schools on public interest. Up till now there is no provision of giving such travelling allowance to such teachers when they are transferred even on public service interest. Sir, you may know that the Primary and Middle Vernacular School teachers get very low pay and with this low pay they can hardly maintain their families. So, Sir, to give relief to them there should be provision of travelling allowance when these teachers are transferred to different schools in the interest of public services.

Again, you know, Sir, that the other Government employees whether they are highly paid or low paid, get travelling allowance when they are transferred to different places on duty.

But in the case of these teachers even when they are transferred on public interest they do not get anything to move from place to place. So they are very hard-hit. In other services, when they are transferred to different places, they not only get travelling allowance for a single journey but tripple travelling allowance. They also get travelling allowance for carrying their luggages. Moreover, they get seven days' joining time when they are transferred from one place to another. But in the case of these low-paid teachers they do not get anything. Sir, it is the goal of the Congress as well as the Congress Government

that they will bring a socialistic pattern of society into. If that is their intention then the difference between service to service should not remain any longer. So with a view to give relief to these low-paid teachers and for the sake of equality and justice and to prove that the Government intention is real for the establishment of socialistic pattern of society, then the Lower Primary School teachers when they are transferred on public service interest should be given all facilities like other services under the Government. When this provision will be made, Government will not incur a huge amount because, when these teachers will be transferred they will not be transferred from one district to the other and from one subdivision to the other. So I appeal to the Government and to this House for acceptance of this Resolution.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Resolution moved is that in view of the fact that there is no provision of Travelling Allowance for the low-paid Lower Primary and Middle Vernacular School teachers on transfer even on public interest, this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take necessary steps to provide Travelling Allowance for these teachers when transferred on public interest.

Shri PRABHAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI: মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, শ্রীযুত.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: আপুনি মাইকৰ ওচৰলৈ আহক।

Shri PRABHAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI: মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আজিৰ এই সদনত আমাৰ বন্ধু শ্রীযুত বাধাচৰণ চৌধুৰী দেৱে যিটো প্ৰস্তাৱ দাঙি ধৰিছে তাক মই সৰ্ব্বাস্তঃকৰণেৰে সমৰ্থন কৰোঁ আৰু মই ভাবোঁ, আমাৰ আজিৰ সদনত যি সকল কংগ্ৰেচী সদস্য উপস্থিত আছে তেখেতসকলেও এই সমৰ্থোপযোগী প্ৰস্তাৱটো সমৰ্থন কৰিব। আজি আমাৰ যি সকল দুবেলা দৃষ্টি ভাত পেট ভৰাই খাবলৈ নোপোৱা শিক্ষক আছে তেওঁলোকৰ হকে এই প্ৰস্তাৱটো বিশেষকৈ ভাবি চাবলগীয়া। এই প্ৰস্তাৱৰ তাৎপৰ্য্যটো বিশ্লেষণ কৰি ইয়াকে পোৱা যায় যে ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰাই প্ৰাইমাৰী স্কুলৰ শিক্ষক সকলৰ ক্লান্তি হলেও কিছু উপকাৰ হব আৰু ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰাই তেওঁলোকৰ প্ৰতি সহানুভূতিও দেখুৱা হব। ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰা পৰিকাৰ ভাবে বুজা যায় যে আমাৰ কংগ্ৰেছৰ লোকসকলে সততে তেওঁলোকৰ সমস্যা বিলাক সমাধান কৰিবলৈ সজাগ। আজি আমাৰ বহুতো শিক্ষক নতুনকৈ গঠিত কিছুমান স্কুল বৰ্ডৰ অধীনত পৰি ইয়াৰ কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ শিথিলতাৰ বাবে বিশেষকৈ প্ৰাইমাৰী স্কুলৰ দুখীয়া শিক্ষক সকলে দুই তিনি মাহ পৰ্য্যন্ত দৰ্জহা নোপোৱা কৈ চলিব লগা হৈছে আৰু তাৰোপৰি তেওঁলোকৰ এখন স্কুলৰ পৰা আন এখন স্কুললৈ বদলা বদলিও হয়। এই বদলিৰ সময়ত অন্যান্য চাকৰীয়াৰ দৰে তেওঁলোকক T. A. দিয়াৰ ব্যবস্থা আজিলৈকে হোৱা নাই। অন্যান্য চাকৰীয়া চাকৰীয়া সকলে অন্যান্য সুযোগ সুবিধাৰ উপৰিও বদলিৰ সময়ত T. A. পায়। কিন্তু এই নিম্ন প্ৰাইমেৰী স্কুলৰ শিক্ষকসকলক যাব দৰ্জহা গাহে ৩০ টকা মাত্ৰ, যাক অন্যান্য চাকৰীয়াৰ দৰে বদলা বদলি কৰা হয় অথচ T. A. ব পৰাও আজিলৈকে বঞ্চিত। এই বিশেষ সমস্যাটোৰ সমাধানৰ কাৰণে, শিক্ষক সকলে ইমান দিনে চেপ্টা কৰি আহিছিল আৰু আজি সেই উদ্দেশ্যৰে এই বিধান সভাত শ্রীযুত চৌধুৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই যিটো প্ৰস্তাৱ দাঙি ধৰিলে তাৰ বাবে তেখেতক ধন্যবাদ জনাও আৰু

চৰকাৰক আৰু সদনৰ মাননীয় সদস্য সকলক অনুৰোধ জনাও যেন তেওঁলোকে আমাৰ ৰাজ্যৰ অন্যান্য গঠনমূলক কামত চৰকাৰৰ বহুতো অৰ্থৰ প্ৰয়োজন হ'ব যদিও সদায় অভাবত থাকিব লগীয়া হোৱা শিক্ষক সকলৰ অৱস্থা চাই ব্যৱস্থা কৰাৰ দিহা কৰিবলৈ এই প্ৰস্তাৱটি সমৰ্থন কৰে।

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN : উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় শ্ৰীযুত গোস্বামীয়ে এই প্ৰস্তাৱটো সমৰ্থন কৰিবলৈ সকলোকে আহ্বান জনাইছে। তেখেতে অনুৰোধ নকৰা-হলেও, মোৰ বিশ্বাস, সদনৰ সকলো সদস্যই সমৰ্থন কৰিলেহেতেন। এইটো বৰ পৰিতাপৰ বিষয় যে, চৰকাৰী কৰ্মচাৰী সকলে—তেওঁলোকৰ প্ৰাপ্য অনুযায়ী এনে বদলিৰ সময়ত Travelling Allowance আৰু আন আন সুবিধা পায়।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : আন আন কি সুবিধা পায়।

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN : আন আন সুবিধা এইবিলাককেই কৈছে যে Travelling Allowance পায়, Halting পায়, ৭ দিন preparatory leaveৰ সুবিধা পায়। এই কম বেতন পোৱা স্কুলৰ শিক্ষক সকলে যদি এনে অৱস্থাত নিজৰ পইচা খৰচ কৰি অহা যোৱা কৰিব লগা হয় তেন্তে—সেইটো বৰ দুখৰ কথাই নহয়, অত্যন্ত লাভবোৰো কথা। এই বিষয়ত মই আৰু বেচি কথা কব নোখোজো। পণ্ডিত সকলৰ অভাৱ অভিযোগৰ কথা নতুন কথা নহয়—সকলোৱে এই কথা জানে। আমাৰ চৰকাৰেও এই বিষয়ে চিন্তা কৰি আহিছে আৰু ১৬ অনাই চৰকাৰৰ সহানুভূতি ইয়াত আছে। কাজেই এই প্ৰস্তাৱটো চৰকাৰে সমৰ্থন কৰিব বুলি মই আশা কৰিলো।

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU : উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মোৰ বন্ধু শ্ৰীযুত বাৰাচৰণ চৌধুৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই প্ৰাইমাৰী শিক্ষকক ভ্ৰমণ বানচ দিয়া সম্পৰ্কে যিটো প্ৰস্তাৱ উত্থাপন কৰিছে। সেই প্ৰস্তাৱটো মই সমৰ্থন কৰিছো। ইয়াৰ লগতে আৰু এটা কথা যোগ দিবৰ ইচ্ছা কৰিছো যে তেওঁলোক যেতিয়া চৰকাৰী কামৰ কাৰণে চহৰলৈ আহে আৰু কাম শেষ নোহোৱাৰ কাৰণে থাকি যাব লগীয়া হয় তেতিয়া তেওঁলোকক সেই কেই দিনৰ থকা খৰছে দিব লাগে।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Pegu. I hope you will confine to the resolution only.

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU : বহুত ক্ষেত্ৰত, বিশেষকৈ ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ উত্তৰ পাৰে যি সকলে শিক্ষকতা কাম কৰিছে, তেওঁলোকে দৰমহা নিবৰ বাবে ডিব্ৰুগড়লৈ আহোতে কেতিয়াবা ১০।১২ দিন থাকিব লগীয়া হয়। বাৰিষা সময়ত কেতিয়াবা দৰমহা নিবলৈ আহি এমাহ পৰ্য্যন্তও থাকিব লগাত পৰে। বিভাগীয় বিষয়া যেনে, ডেপুটি ইন্সপেক্টৰ আদিৰ দোষতো তেওঁলোকে চহৰত বহুত দিন থাকিব লগীয়া হয়।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Pegu, I think you are going beyond the scope of the Resolution.

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU : মই এই কথাটো মাত্ৰ লগ লগাই দিব খুজিছো। এইটো সংশোধনী হিচাবেহে দিছো। মোৰ কথা এইটো যে শিক্ষক সকলক বদলি কৰোতে ভ্ৰমণ বানচ দিয়াৰ উপৰিও চৰকাৰী কামত বা দৰমহা লবলৈ আহোতেও তেওঁলোকক ভ্ৰমণ বানচ আৰু থকা বানচ দিবৰ বাবে বিবেচনা কৰিবলৈ চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰিছো।

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I must thank the hon. Mover of this Resolution, for giving me an opportunity to explain the position. Sir, I must mention that there has been no uniform policy with regard to the granting of Travelling Allowance to the primary School Teachers. The Primary School Teachers are not Government servants. They serve under the School Board. The amount needed for payment of the salaries of the primary school teachers is provided out of the Government funds and also from the funds of the Local Bodies, and I find that some of the School Boards grant Travelling Allowance while many others do not do so when they are transferred from one place to other. No uniform policy has been adopted on this question. I must mention that this has been under the consideration of the Government for some time past as it is included in the broad question of improved salary to the Primary School Teachers and the Government is agreeable to accept this resolution, because it is committed to improve the condition of the Primary School Teachers.

My Friend, Shri Pegu, has brought in another question with regard to some of the difficulties to which the Primary School Teachers are subjected to, in the matter of taking their salaries. He has mentioned the difficulties of some teachers of North Bank who are to come to Dibrugarh for receiving their pay. This is outside the scope of this resolution. Here I mention that under the rules the School Boards are to send the salaries by money orders. But in some cases there are difficulties in sending the money in that way and teachers are required to come personally to receive their pay. I do not know if some teachers come from the North Bank to Dibrugarh. But as regards the main resolution, Government is agreeable to accept it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that in view of the fact that there is no provision of Travelling Allowance for the low-paid Lower Primary and Middle Vernacular School teachers on transfer even on public interest, this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take necessary steps to provide Travelling Allowance for those teachers when transferred on public interest.

(The Resolution was adopted).

Announcement from the Chair *re*: submission of Amendments to Bills

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now there is another matter. The Bills, the motions for consideration of which have been adopted by the House to-day, will be considered Clause by Clause on the 31st March, 1956. Amendments, if any, to these Bills, should therefore reach the Assembly Secretariat by 3 P.M. on the 27th March 1956.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 a.m. on Tuesday the 20th March 1956.

<i>Shillong:</i> <i>The 14th December 1956.</i>	}	R. N. BARUA, <i>Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.</i>
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AGENTS IN INDIA

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